



# The CommUUnicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship of Waynesboro

## Turn, Turn, Turn

i. We are entering the season of the grass in our lawns turning brown. So my eyes tell me. Not yet sere and brittle, but no longer needing to be mowed as frequently. It's also the season with a couple of significant dates for Walter and me: our thirty-eighth anniversary and my birthday. We have always been quiet celebrators of special days, never making a big fuss, but we do note them as they pass. For most of the year, when he was lucid and communicative, Walter has expressed a great doubt that he would make it to this anniversary. But we are quite close, now.

ii. We are also almost to Father's Day, a day when lots of fathers are recognized in stereotype, at least, with archaic gifts of neckties. Taken all together, Walter and I have five children alive and well, ten grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. With their spouses, next generations of our combined families include five fathers. The extended family includes two stepfathers who have both played positive roles. The cycle of life is a great image for this human continuation, generation to generation, through the changes of time. But day to day we see only a tiny portion of this truth.

iii. For about a decade now, I have been listening now and then to music played on the

reed organ by Rodney Jantzi, a restorer of those now archaic instruments. Growing up in rural south-central Illinois, I developed an appreciation for the sound of reed organs as part of the explorations of youth. I would go into unlocked country churches, and some would have a no-longer-used reed organ, which I would pump and try to play. It's a different sound than pipe organs or electronic organs. A sound that is mostly gone from our musical landscape. Last night when I was up taking care of Walter, I listened to Jantzi's recording of the Welsh hymn "All Through the Night," and was filled with memories from another life.

iv. A few months ago, I started watching the weekly cultural explorations of Ben Maton, who dubs himself the Salisbury Organist. He takes his video camera into English village churches, some officially closed, shows us ways religion once was a vital part of village life, and plays the pipe organ for us. He begins each video with his own beautiful composition "Postlude for Mechanical Action," whose title refers to the old-style clacking of the mechanisms of pipe organs from the pre-modern age. It is an exercise in memory and preservation because English culture, a few steps ahead of American culture, is leaving behind most religion as part of life in any ordinary week. The world changes. We adapt in ways both positive and not.

v. Next week is the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association – 100% online this year. Our delegate Steve Maxwell will have the opportunity to vote on the business of our association, including the new words of values and covenants among the member congregations. Please remember to thank him for acting on our behalf. The new words are part of the development of our movement into the future while honoring our past.

Happy Father’s Day!  
Peace and Blessings,  
Rev. Paul

**Member News**



**Stephen and Kristin Maxwell** (pictured here with daughter Alicia) celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on May 31! They hosted 17 friends and relatives for a weekend in Colonial Williamsburg, staying at Market Square Tavern, where they held their wedding ceremony on May 31, 1974. Most of the anniversary guests had a connection to their small wedding. The parents of the bride and the groom worried that they were too young to get married!

**Joann Loring**, a friend of our Fellowship and dear friend of Roberta Patterson, passed away on June 1. The Staunton News Leader published her [obituary](#) with details about a celebration of her life on June 19.

**Looking Forward to a New Year**

At Sunday’s Annual Meeting of the Congregation, a healthy quorum of 60 members elected new Board members for Fiscal Year 2025. Beginning July 1, Marilyn Nash will serve as Vice President. Nancy Trimble and Peggy Anders were elected members-at-large. Wayne Nolde was elected to follow Blake Clark as one of our three Trustees. The proposed budget was accepted as presented. Prior to the meeting, all members received detailed reports of accomplishments by members of the Board and ministry teams.



*Incoming President Margot Kephart presented outgoing President Kay Yost with a thank-you gift of a lovely tote bag.*

**Community News**

This Saturday, June 15, historian Nancy Sorrells will present a program, “From Bondage to Freedom: Our Local Story,” at Staunton’s Montgomery Hall Park as part of the area’s Juneteenth celebration. She will present the program twice, at 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Various pictures and history on Montgomery Hall Park will be on display.

