



# The CommUUnicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship of Waynesboro

## In the Bleak Season

By Donna Moriarty

Not long ago, I reached a turning point in a major writing project to which I'd given my heart and soul—a memoir about the stillbirth of my first child. I stumbled across a photo of the obstetrician who had delivered our baby. Stunned and triggered by the long-buried memory, I couldn't write. After months of agonizing writer's block, I set the manuscript aside and tried to accept that it was over.

Easter was approaching, and I caught myself thinking about the stories I'd grown up with: Good Friday, the day Jesus was crucified. Sunday, with its empty tomb, and three startled women who had come to ritually anoint the body.

But what about Saturday? I imagined what that day was like for the women, who were required by Jewish law to wait until the Sabbath passed before proceeding with their sorrowful task. I imagined what it must have been like to see their dream of a better world die along with their beloved teacher.

When life deals a hard blow—a death or diagnosis, a loss of job or home—it rocks our world and changes everything. After the shattering, all that remains is another ordinary day. We rise, wash, and put the kettle on. We sit down to a manuscript that's a holy mess.

In the bleak season that followed the loss of my daughter Jennifer, I didn't know if I'd have another child. Even on days when I wished I

could stay under the covers—or not wake up at all—I'd drag myself out of bed. I'd choose a small task to accomplish or obligation to meet, and I'd muster the energy to do it. I kept on that way until something shifted, and hope and purpose returned.

When surrounded by our dashed hopes, we might still be blessed with something we never expected—the grace to carry on. The ordinary day that dawns between desolation and the rebirth of hope is where we find our deepest faith, strongest reserves, and simple gratitude for our lives and the living.

*This essay was posted to [Braver/Wiser](#), the weekly inspiration on the UUA website, three weeks before the election. Maybe it can help put our pain in perspective and provide some reassurance.*

## What's New at the Garden Club? Part 1 of 2

By Carla Throckmorton

The grounds of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waynesboro have a history rooted in our values. The landscaping of the UUFW grounds was started about the same time the Fellowship Hall sanctuary addition was completed. Rae Kasden wrote in 2018:

As a first step, an ad hoc committee developed a list of goals for the new “garden” that would be consistent with UU spiritual values. These included installing native plants that would be wildlife

friendly, avoiding the use of pesticides... Most of the ground preparation and plant installation was done between 2009 and 2013, as funds permitted.

After some preparatory site prep, the actual installation was done by the congregation, starting with the strip of no-man’s land between the parking lot and the alley. Today that area is an attractive border of evergreens, native hollies and ornamental grasses. Next, the plantings on the west side of the buildings were installed. Lastly came the lovely “hospitality” garden in front of the Chalice House. The paver circle with the chalice in the center constructed by Andrew Schmidt’s friends and family was an Eagle Scout project. Another Eagle Scout project is the unique butterfly garden at the far end of the property, which was built and designed by Alex Schmidt.

The Morning Glories, under the direction of Joe Good among others, has continued to



maintain the gardens around the UUFW grounds. The Garden Club transitioned

from the Morning Glories this past summer, and I am now the facilitator. The mission statement of the original landscape committee, as written by Rae Kasden in 2008, is true to our Fellowship today and has been adopted by the Garden Club.

Mission of UUFW Garden Club  
October, 2024

To plan gardens consistent with UU values, recognizing that we are stewards of our property. We strive to create a healthy and beautiful environment that nurtures our members and the neighborhood. We are creating a space that sets an example of environmentally sound gardening practices to our members and the community. We are making our grounds better suited to be a refuge for our wildlife. We are doing this by:

- ❖ Limiting the use of pesticides and herbicides
- ❖ Removing invasive plants
- ❖ Incorporating (as far as possible) plants native to our area
- ❖ Planting low maintenance plants that have low water requirements

The goals of the Garden Club are:

- ❖ To first maintain and refresh current gardens
- ❖ Remove old dying plants
- ❖ To rebuild soil where possible
- ❖ Plan and plant new plants as space and funding allow
- ❖ Label plants so people can see what a variety of plants we have

