



The CommUUnicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waynesboro

New Member Spotlight



Cal Hauptle is something of a renaissance man. His multiple interests have taken him many places and led to many fascinating experiences. Service to others is the thread running through the range of his life's

work, including careers in theater, law and education.

Cal was born in Delaware, but as a child, he moved frequently with his family. As a student at Yale, he developed a love of theater. After graduation, he worked for several theater companies, including the San Quentin Drama Workshop. Cal claims one of his most memorable life experiences was when, as a very young man, he went to Berlin and other European locations to help the Workshop stage the plays of Samuel Beckett in the American vernacular, directed by Beckett himself.

Moving on from theater work, Cal went to law school at American University and eventually established his own law firm in the Northern Virginia area. He has been a practicing attorney for forty years of helping clients find justice. He still practices today out of his home office, focusing mainly on estate planning and business operations.

Later in life, an interest in how we communicate led Cal to get a Master's degree in writing and rhetoric, which he has taught in college classes. He enjoys applying all of his skills to tutoring students and helping people making major transitions. He is also a certified yoga instructor.



Ben Blankenship felt a connection to this Fellowship due to our commitment to social justice. It makes sense as Ben is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at JMU with areas of expertise in social justice, cultural psychology and diversity issues. Dr.

Blankenship's research interests are primarily related to the study of stigma, social identity and socio-political outcomes, like voting and activism.

Ben lives in Staunton with his husband, Steven Woodruff. They have been together for several years, having met at the University of Michigan as PhD students. Steven teaches structural engineering in the Engineering Department at JMU and researches origami-inspired structures. Ben and Steven were married this past May by our own Annie Foerster in the beautiful caverns of Luray.

Outside of work, Ben enjoys fencing. He and Steven spend as much time as they can outdoors, camping and hiking. Indoors, he reads historical non-fiction and science fiction and enjoys caring for his fish tanks and other animals. He looks forward to getting involved in UUFW social justice activities and is also interested in helping out with our technology and social media initiatives.

Please welcome Ben and Cal into our congregation and help them feel at home.

In 2024, Sunday service attendance averaged 59.3.
RE attendance averaged 5.8 children and 3.7 teachers.