

# The CommUUnicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship of Waynesboro

## What is to be Done?

This past Sunday, our Social Justice Team held a service titled “What is to be done?” It was created as an attempt to allow Fellowship members to discuss current events in a safe, communal space and to consider ways that we can work together and take action. We hosted breakout discussions for twenty minutes on seven different topics: LGBTQ+ Rights, Immigrant’s Rights, Medical/Disability Justice, First Amendment Rights/Censorship, Reproductive Justice, Environmental Justice, and Imperial Expansion (Gaza/Ukraine).

The first ten or so minutes in these breakout discussions were spent expressing concerns and personal connections to the chosen issue. Then participants compiled lists of actions we can take. Not only is there plenty to be done but members of our Fellowship are personally connected to each of the issues in many ways, often directly. In this first article of the series, we would like to share what was discussed in the Reproductive Justice and the LGBTQ+ Rights breakout groups.

## Reproductive Justice Word Cloud

no longer protected   people need choices  
get out of my bedroom   abortion  
bias against women   birth control  
doctor’s rights?   necessary healthcare  
reproductive justice is about abortion but also healthcare access for all women  
paralyzed - no voice

## What can we do for Reproductive Justice?

- Write letters to state representatives
- Donate to [Planned Parenthood](#) and [Blue Ridge Abortion Fund](#)
- Volunteer with Planned Parenthood (Charlottesville), Blue Ridge Abortion Fund (Charlottesville), [Whole Woman’s Health](#) (Charlottesville), or Planned Parenthood (Roanoke)
- Protest in person
- Meet again as a group of concerned folks

## LGBTQ+ Rights Word Cloud

friends are leaving the US  
deeply personal   pride   support our community  
want to provide safe harbor   trans friends terrified  
worried about safety   protect queer kids  
want to help any way i can   friends & family in danger  
important more than ever to show allyship

## What can we do about LGBTQ+ Rights?

- Support [Shenandoah LGBTQ Center](#) and their programming
- Keep attending local pride events in Waynesboro & Staunton
- Table at student volunteer fair (under the specific lens of being a welcoming congregation) at Mary Baldwin College
- Volunteer/figure out how to support the Lavender Lounge LGBTQ+ safe space at Mary Baldwin

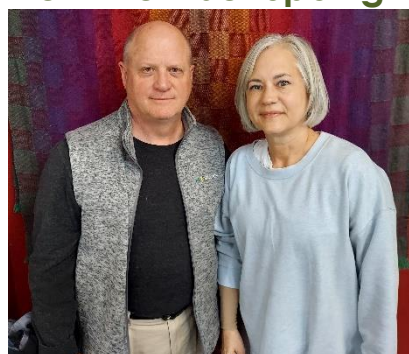
- Generally, have more information about how UUs support LGBTQ+ community (takeaway cards defining welcoming congregations, for example) at all tabled events including Tree Streets Yard Sale
- Put together a brochure-style resource list for members and visitors that includes regional resources for LGBTQ+ community members
- Make sure that the Social Justice Team keeps sharing upcoming opportunities for allies to volunteer with local LGBTQ+ groups
- [Shenandoah Valley Equality](#), a local LGBTQ advocacy group, has a potluck every first Friday. Mike Drumheller is hosting the next one at his home on April 11th, contact him for info
- Restart our once-active LGBTQ Ministry Team at UUFW
- Support the [Waynesboro Virginia Organizing chapter](#)'s current campaign to protect queer high school students at Waynesboro High. Social Justice Team can boost events related to this campaign (such as attending or speaking at School Board meetings)



*The Social Justice Service concluded with an interpretive dance by Shannon Hummel, a professional dancer and teacher. Look for summaries of more topics addressed during the service in upcoming newsletter issues.*



## New Member Spotlight



**Elizabeth and Andrew Jones** have recently moved to Stuarts Draft from Chesterfield County. They both grew up there and have

lived there all their lives until now. Their move came about as a quest for a slower pace and a change of scenery.

The Jones' were high school sweethearts and have been married for 39 years. They have two adult daughters, who live and work in the Richmond area. Andrew is a manager for the Southern States Cooperative Insurance Agency. He travels quite a bit serving agricultural and feed businesses. Elizabeth is a retired K-5 teacher, primarily of 4<sup>th</sup> graders.

Andrew and Elizabeth love gardening and following their favorite sports teams. They are avid campers and hikers and enjoy visiting our national parks and forests in their RV. They are the parents of three dogs and have been involved in pit-bull rescue in the past. Andrew loves to cook and has experience feeding large groups, including catering events. Brunswick stew is his signature dish.

The couple attended a UU church in Richmond, so they're not new to our denomination. They look forward to taking part in our ongoing landscaping efforts and contributing to our social events.

**Your Eyes**  
**I cannot memorize the sunrise,**  
**Nor the flowing river,**  
**Not the wind in the trees,**  
**Not the restless seas,**  
**Though I study them forever –**  
**None of these;**  
**But I have memorized your eyes.**  
*Joe Good*

