



The CommUUnicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Waynesboro

New Member Spotlight



Jed Baul received his Bachelor degree from Virginia Commonwealth University, having studied Political Science and International Relations. He continued his formal

education at UVA, completing his Master of Arts studies in Media, Culture, and Technology. For the last few years, Jed has worked in digital fundraising and strategy for Democratic political campaigns and organizations, including work on campaigns for immigration rights and on Arizona's Prop.139 to protect reproductive rights. In addition to working on campaigns for Senators Amy Klobuchar and Dick Durbin, Jed also worked to elect Senator Lisa Blunt Rochester, the first Black senator from Delaware.

Jed was born in Japan and lived there until his family moved to Chesapeake, Virginia, when he was four. Jed's parents lived for years in the Philippines and Guam, where many members of their respective families still live. He looks forward to visiting both places and getting to know more of his family. Having not practiced Catholicism for some time, Jed first attended UUFW in late 2023 with his partner Garreth Bartholomew (also a new member) and was immediately impressed by the values of caring, fairness, justice, and transformation. With no immediate family in the area, Jed feels quite

comfortable with the sense of community and family at UUFW. Indeed, Jed feels that he has found his people at UUFW and in the SAW area.

A self-described "big foodie," Jed enjoys finding and trying various restaurants and coffee shops in the area (he might welcome suggestions for good eateries). Along with weightlifting and going to the gym, Jed also enjoys reading, gaming, and listening to alternative/pop music. Jed has lived mostly in larger population centers, but now he finds that he also enjoys the great views of the Blue Ridge Mountains and the peaceful nature of the Shenandoah Valley.

Jed volunteers with the Shenandoah LBGTQ+ Center, and is looking forward to becoming more deeply involved in the community and in UUFW. He really hopes "to find joy for himself and others" through friends, connections, fellow members, and volunteer efforts. Jed is a delightfully welcome and welcoming member to our UUFW community.



Garreth Bartholomew was born in Nashville, Tenn. but has lived in many different places, including on a canal boat in the U.K., a stint in Morocco, and several years in Milwaukee, before coming to Virginia, a move that is

a sort of homecoming, as Garreth's family, mostly Scots Irish, was originally from Highland County, and has been in Augusta and the Central Valley area since the early-mid 1700s.

Garreth works as the transportation planner for the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission, and with Metropolitan Planning Organizations in Harrisonburg/Rockingham and across the SAW area, assisting localities throughout the Valley in strategic and practical planning needs. He has also been an active participant in party politics, including in the 2020 Iowa Caucuses. He is a CORE volunteer in remote area pop-up clinics, providing medical, dental, and vision assistance across the country, including this month's clinic in Lexington and next year at Augusta Expo.

At UVA, Garreth, received a BA in Politics and Environmental Thought and Practice, and his Master's in Public Policy. As a UVA graduate student, Garreth worked with students with disabilities, building sustainable food systems, and helped with research in promoting economic development in the Appalachian Region.

Garreth is an avid hiker and enjoys the many local hiking options. On a larger scale, he loves travel and exploring new travel opportunities both nationally and internationally. But his greatest passion is clean energy, especially in the transportation arena. He is proud to own a thirteen-year-old electric vehicle and to promote clean transportation options from walking to biking to using public transit. He is always glad to engage with anyone interested in clean and green transportation choices.

Garreth is excited to be a new member of UUFW (along with his partner Jed Baul), but his interest in Unitarian Universalism dates back many years, beginning in high school. Having studied John Adams and John Buehrens' *A Chosen Faith*, Garreth embarked on his own spiritual search for faith, and found himself fascinated and enthralled by the UU philosophy. He was particularly inspired by the idea of a

caring, committed community which was also focused on "actionable justice." For Garreth, finding UUFW is in many ways like coming home, and helping Jed find a home. He has joined the choir and is excited to become more involved in the many activities of UUFW. He is happy to be a part of our congregation, and we are happy and fortunate to have him and Jed.

Clint Nicely interviewed these new members and wrote their spotlights.

April 5th Activities



Our Fellowship was well represented at the Hands-Off protest in Staunton. Those attending joined hundreds of thousands around the country to protest the actions of the current administration.



The Fellowship celebrated the life of Walter Lazenby with "Poetry+Music+Nosh" and Rev. Paul's remembrances of their life together. We welcomed members of their families to a joyous occasion.

