



The CommUUnicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Waynesboro

Plus ça change... or learning how to age

This Sunday, I will turn sixty-five years old. When I was a young adult, thirty was no trouble to me, but thirty-three was emotional, on the verge of traumatic, and I never imagined myself being around to see forty. But forty came and went, and I adjusted my field of vision. Then fifty. And sixty, and now sixty-five. And once again, as constantly, there are adjustments to make in relation to what the numbers mean to me. But this is easier, so far, than thirty-three was. Maybe it's easier now because I'm learning how to age. Somehow, it seems like that is one of the jobs of growing up.

Around 2,500 years ago, the pre-Socratic Greek philosopher Heraclitus taught that change is the one constant of the world. And once again I'm experiencing it. I will be going to Baltimore for the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association. It is the first time I have been able to go to General Assembly since 2019, when I went to GA in Spokane, Washington. Because of his condition, my partner Walter could not stay alone, and so he went with me, and after GA, we drove to Lewistown, Montana, to visit my daughter Elisabeth, her husband, and four of my five grandchildren, as well as my youngest daughter Suzanne. It's a long way from Waynesboro there, so Spokane was within comparatively easy striking distance. In the six years since then, my grandson has entered the Army National Guard, my oldest granddaughter has added two of her own

children to the family, and Elisabeth and her family have all moved down the road to Great Falls because of a career change. Suzanne has gotten married. My oldest daughter, Mary, has had a career change. My mother died. Then Walter died. And I had been thinking that I would make some time to visit Mary and her family while I was in Baltimore for GA. But, *plus ça change*, this week they are in the middle of a move to Melbourne, Florida, where, in the fall, my granddaughter will begin high school. By the time I get to Baltimore, their house will be someone else's home.

At the Fellowship, we've had plenty of new members join. We've had members move and members die and members focus their commitments and efforts elsewhere. We've had transitions in Religious Education leadership. We've seen new programs develop. There have been good solid throughlines, but the constant is change. And this summer, our Fellowship turns seventy years old. It's five years older than I am. And one of the jobs of growing up is, for this Fellowship too, learning how to age. Paying attention to how we use our experience to weather the shifts of the inevitable change that comes – some good, some less good.

From time to time, our members who have been with us the longest draw our attention to ways this congregation has matured, has learned to roll with the punches, how to work with gravity, rather than against it. We've had seventy years in which to develop the culture and commitments of this caring and justice-seeking

congregation. Some of us are comparatively new here, but we entered the stream and experience it as it is now. Let us all continue to learn how to age better as time goes on.

Peace and Blessings,
Rev. Paul

Get to Know our Musicians

This is the third in a series featuring the wonderful musicians who provide special music during Sunday services.



The trio of musicians who perform each month became **blue stone sky** in 2006. They are **Sarah Cheverton,**

Kevin Caran and Julie Caran. These three have developed a style characterized by three-part harmony in the folk-rock and Americana music genres. Their name, blue stone sky (always lower case), comes from their mutual connection with James Madison University.

Julie, Kevin and Sarah first got together while they were members of Harrisonburg UU. Playing at church events quickly led to gigs at coffee houses, farmers markets and music events around our area. They've had the honor of opening for big names in folk music, including John McCutcheon, Bill Stains and Robin/Linda Williams. And they have performed at the Oak Grove Music Festival.

Julie and Kevin met in Atlanta at an open mike night. They began dating after a period of meeting up just to play music. They moved together to Harrisonburg for positions at JMU.

Currently Kevin teaches in the JMU Chemistry Department and Julie is an English teacher and Director of Spiritual Life at Stuart Hall School. Sarah is also at JMU as the State Authorization and Compliance Officer for Online and Distance Learning.

These days blue stone sky has slowed down as kids and other obligations have taken priority. Kevin and Julie now live in Staunton and Sarah resides in the Harrisonburg area. Where they once got together to practice weekly, now their rehearsals seem to be motivated by their UUFW gig. They have enjoyed finding music to fit the themes of our services.

A blue stone sky concert, scheduled for June 28, at 7:00 P.M., is a joint fundraiser to benefit the Waynesboro and Harrisonburg UU congregations. It will be held at HUU, 4101 Rawley Pike (US Rte. 33 West), Harrisonburg. Sarah, Kevin and Julie have promised an evening of folk and UU favorites plus some of their original songs.

2025 Annual Meeting

The UUFW Annual Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, June 11, following the service. The Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget was approved and new members were elected to the Board. They are Jean St. Clair (vice president), Clint Nicely, Mike Drumheller and Madeleine Dupre. Incoming president, Marilyn Nash thanked



outgoing Board members for their service and presented a thank-you gift to Margot Kephart for her fine leadership as our president this past year.

