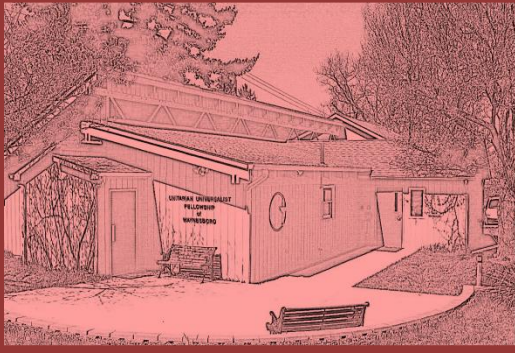




The CommUUnicator

**Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Waynesboro**

Crossing the Lines

By Clint Nicely

In case you missed the link to this article in a recent newsletter issue, it is reprinted here. Since its publication on September 17 in [Braver/Wiser](#), the UUA website's weekly inspiration, our own Clint Nicely has received praise from UUs in many places.

Age 6, Christmas: I received a Paint by Number art kit. I was experienced with crayons, and I colored outside the lines sometimes. But Paint by Number presented a more serious challenge, and I made an extra effort to respect the lines—after all, this was big time art. I did my best, but it was tedious and trying.



Age 8, the Smithsonian: I learned that lots of great art doesn't have clearly defined lines. It was an epiphany, and within a few years I was questioning everything. Some musicians, as it turned out, didn't always play the music as

written. Teachers didn't always follow the textbook. My mother often took liberties with recipes. Though I was not yet consciously aware of it, crossing and blurring the lines had become a metaphor for everything in my life, a new way of experiencing the world.

Age 12, Church: I'd never doubted what I had been taught to believe by the Methodist church, but a young new preacher with a Ph.D. changed that. He didn't interpret the Bible in literal terms, and in Youth Fellowship he actually asked questions of us. Soon my belief system took a drastic shift: I was unsure of what I believed, but certain about what I could no longer accept. I still wanted to believe—I just couldn't find a way to do so.

College: A Philosophy and Religion major, I learned the particulars of how to question and doubt. The entire world became an open forum. I was free. Words, like lines, I now realized, could do as much to limit and restrict as to illuminate and clarify.

Today: I try to appreciate people as works of art, not defined by words and lines and boxes others have placed them in, but as individual expressions of uniqueness. Discovering my path through life is an ongoing and rewarding journey: a way of questioning, a way of seeking truth beyond a face value as defined by the lines drawn by others. The freedom to seek, discover, and accept others' truths is

indeed a sweet path to follow. Blessedly, I share in a faith community who value and appreciate the same sweetness of truth of individual expression.

Children's UU Education Update

By Shannon Mills, Director of Religious Education

I am so excited to share with you all the wonderful growth in our children's education here at UUFW! We have a strong educational program offering spiritual growth and learning from kindergarten through fifth grade, and our teen program offered to middle and high schoolers.

With growth comes important changes to our RE classes. We will be transitioning over the next month into two separate classrooms! One class will offer programming for kindergarteners up to third graders, and a new class will offer programming for fourth and fifth graders. These new changes will be seamless due to the amazing growth of the RE volunteer group that we have here at UUFW! Our volunteers are both life-time members of our Fellowship and some brand-new members! All of them have a passion to offer meaningful learning experiences to our children and teens.

The RE class curriculum will continue through the rest of this fiscal year to provide opportunities for our children to learn about Unitarian Universalist values and sources, with activities and crafts focused on building with LEGO blocks. The RE teen curriculum has a strong focus on social justice and justice making, allowing teens to dive into much needed conversations on topics that directly affect them within our community and society at large.

Our children and teens will be learning to navigate the world around them, comforted and strengthened by Unitarian Universalist values and our strong sense of community. They will be offered opportunities to participate in outreach within our greater community as well as within our Fellowship. You will see them participating in our all-ages services and in special events in our Fellowship throughout the year!

If you would like to learn more about the Children and Teen Religious Education Programs here at UUFW, please reach out to me by email at dre@uufw.org. If you are interested in joining the Religious Education Team, please reach out to Laura Riggan the RE Team Leader at re@uufw.org.



Children learned about free and fair elections while voting on the names of their new classes. They loved the idea of using a secret ballot box.

Flotsam

They are not homeless,
America is their home.

They are unhoused,
Because America does not care.
Joe Good

