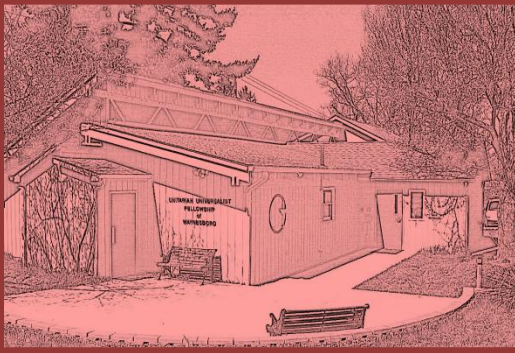




The CommUUnicator

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

We have Outstanding New Members!

By Florence Ferguson, Membership Team Leader and Marilyn Nash, Board President

Before the Service last Sunday, the Membership Team hosted a light breakfast for all of those who have joined the Fellowship during the past 12 months. Members of our Board joined in to better know our new members. We have had a get-together for new members many times in the past but never for so many. We had a great response to the breakfast with 22 of our 27 new members and 5 Team and Board members in attendance. It was cozy in the Chalice House, but we made room for everyone.

The purpose of this gathering was to hear from members who have recently joined the UUFW. We wanted to know how they are feeling about connecting to our community and try to answer their questions and gather their ideas about things they would like to see the Fellowship do. And wow! Did they ever have ideas. Here are some of the topics we discussed:

- **Opportunities to socialize and participate in shared interest groups.** Participants loved the picnic we had this summer and hope it will be continued. Having special groups around an interest such as an open mic music event, a UUFW book club and more adult education classes were suggested. One idea was to have some events on Saturdays to be more accessible by parents and working adults. Our description of Circle Dinners, which we have done in the past, was well received. Finally, the subject of our informal after-

services gatherings at local restaurants came up. One new member volunteered to get that initiative going again.

- **Congregational Surveys.** Our discussion led to the idea of surveying the congregation to learn more about what sorts of groups or activities generate the most interest. The new members thought surveys are also good ways to identify members' interests, skills and abilities; connect them with various groups and activities; and identify specific ways that members can contribute to the work of the Fellowship. One of our new members with expertise in this area volunteered to help the Board develop an interest survey.
- **Products that communicate identity with UUFW.** New members who have seen other members wearing our t-shirts wondered how they can obtain one. We need to have another bulk t-shirt purchase. This led to more discussion about using our stained-glass image on other things that could be purchased, such as sun catchers, jewelry, etc. One of our new members offered to create some possibilities and has been provided with the stained-glass jpeg files.
- **Ways of getting information out and communicating with each other.** The new members seemed to appreciate the opportunity to get together and express their ideas. They thought it is something that could be implemented for the whole congregation from time to time, maybe around a special potluck or a town hall meeting. There was

discussion of ways for members to communicate personal needs or interests, for example, "Can someone recommend a plumber?" Using the newsletter to help build community in this way would be one possibility, but there may be others. One member offered to help out with our social media presence to enhance our communication with each other and the larger community.

Members of the Board and Membership Team are thrilled with the enthusiasm shown by our new members. We all recognize that great ideas always require follow-up and good leadership to make them a reality. So, we encourage congregation leaders to actively engage our new members, who are eager to be involved, and take advantage of their interests, skills and talents.

Another Successful Service Auction

The 2025 UUFW Service Auction on Sunday, November 9, was successful in raising nearly \$14,000 for UUFW. Thank you to everyone who turned out to bid on the many offerings this year, to everyone who donated, and to the many volunteers who made this event possible.

The auction task force this year consisted of Kay Yost, Marilyn Nash, Nancy Trimble, Jim Kephart, and Sarah Fritts. The task force is especially grateful for our auctioneer, Bill Harouff, bid recorders Lorain Harouff and Renee

Herrell, Abbie Edwards, emcee, Daisy Schrock and Margot Kephart who helped on Saturday with set up, and Jed Baul and Garreth Bartholomew who helped display items during the live auction. And a big thanks to our Hospitality Team for helping out with our potluck and to everyone who stayed to clean up!



UUA News

Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) President, the Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt, is joining ten other heads of diverse religious traditions in issuing a landmark statement proclaiming that transgender, intersex, and nonbinary people are worthy of love, support, and protection. The statement is addressed to the American public, its political leaders and moral teachers. It proclaims that:

"Our scriptures vary, but they share a common conviction. As we make justice our aim, we must give voice to those who are silenced. Our shared values, held across many faiths, teach us that we are all children of God and that we must cultivate a discipline of hope, especially in difficult times. As such, we raise our voices in solidarity to unequivocally proclaim the holiness of transgender, nonbinary, and intersex people, as well as the recognition of the entire spectrum of gender identity and expression."

You can read the complete statement and see all signatories representing the different religious traditions [here](#).

