



The CommUUnicator

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

A Letter from Our Board President

Dear UUFW members and friends:

As Board President, I'd like to share an update on what your Board has been working on. Our responsibilities include:

- Discerning and articulating UUFW's mission and vision
- Setting goals
- Providing financial oversight, and
- Developing policies

Our dedicated staff and Ministry Teams take the lead on the essential day-to-day work and decisions that keep our Fellowship running smoothly.

The 2025–26 Board has been busy, and here are some highlights:

Memorial Garden: After receiving inquiries from members, we explored the possibility of creating a Memorial Garden where members' ashes could be spread. Peggy Anders, our Treasurer, led a task force that did an outstanding job developing thoughtful policies for such a garden. Planning is ongoing, and you'll be hearing more about this soon.

Termite Treatment: Yes—unfortunately, we discovered termites on the property! Thankfully, the issue was minor. Margo Kephart, our immediate past president, researched options and found a company that has since treated the problem.

Pine Avenue Sidewalk: Last year's Board approved funds to construct a sidewalk along Pine Avenue to improve safe access to our

buildings. Wayne Nolde and Carla Throckmorton have been coordinating with the City of Waynesboro and contractors to move this project forward.

Fundraising Success: Nancy Trimble, Board Chair of the Stewardship Committee, along with many wonderful volunteers, has coordinated several successful fundraisers—Oktoberfest, the Service Auction and Winterfest so far. More events, including an English Tea, are planned for the spring.

Garden Refresh: Funds were allocated for a "Garden Refresh" to address landscaping that requires professional attention. Jean St. Clair, our Board Vice President, has developed a plan and secured a contractor to begin work as weather permits.

One final—and very important—item: Through conversations with members, the Board learned that not everyone is aware of the many volunteer opportunities at UUFW or how to get involved. With only three employees (two part-time) and one contracted staff member, volunteers are vital to the life of our Fellowship. Just as importantly, the Fellowship can be a vital source of connection and purpose for our members. To help bridge this gap, we've created a survey that shares information about volunteer opportunities and allows team leaders to learn about members' interests and availability. We understand that everyone has busy lives and many responsibilities, but we hope you'll find a way

to contribute your talents—whether in large or small ways. You'll be receiving information about this survey soon.

Minutes from all Board meetings are kept in a binder in Chalice House and are available to all members. We also warmly invite you to reach out to any Board member with questions, ideas or feedback: Marilyn Nash, Jean St. Clair, Madeleine Dupree, Peggy Anders, Nancy Trimble, Clint Nicely, Mike Drumheller and Margo Kephart. We truly are a friendly bunch and welcome your input!

Finally, I want to personally thank my fellow Board members for their hard work, dedication and leadership. What a great group it is to serve alongside.

Warmly,
Marilyn Nash, Board President

Reminders from Our Treasurer

By Peggy Anders

We have now put 2025 in our rear-view mirror. As we move forward into 2026 you can look for your 2025 donation statement for tax purposes. Savannah, our administrative assistant, will email them by the end of January. If you don't receive yours, please contact her at administrator@uufw.org.

If you have not paid your 2025 Service Auction bill, could you do so as soon as possible? You can pay by a mailed check, by check or cash in the Sunday collection or by electronic payment at the website. If you choose to pay this way, in the "use this donation for" box, scroll down to auction and then select your method of payment. Contact me with any questions at treasurer@uufw.org

Member News

For the second time in nine months, **George Thompson** has had a life-threatening medical crisis. Last week, he unexpectedly was hospitalized for pneumonia and was recovering when a major blood vessel in his right abdomen ruptured, the result of six weeks of severe coughing associated with chronic bronchitis. He lost 30-35% of his body's blood in five hours. By all accounts, it was a miracle that an ambulance got him to UVA hospital in time, and four world-renowned surgeons successfully performed surgery. He is home now and recovering from both the pneumonia and the surgery but will need a little more time (possibly a few weeks) to get his strength back. He is grateful for great medical science and providence providing the spiritual path to wellness as well. Cards and phone calls are welcome.

Eric Milnes has been hospitalized at Augusta Health for several days. He will remain in the hospital until they can stabilize his standing blood pressure, and then he will have physical therapy at Augusta Rehab in Fishersville. He appreciates phone calls to the AH switchboard or his cell phone. Call ahead if you plan to visit.

Eric's mom, **Charlotte Shnaider** has been getting help from neighbors and our Caring Network. They appreciate the support.

This newsletter is seeking stories and/or photos from the great snow and ice storm for next week's issue. If you have something to share send it to newsletter@uufw.org.

