



# The CommUUnicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship of Waynesboro

## Beltane

By Sarah Fritts

As I wake up every morning and check my local weather app to see if I will need a coat or short sleeves in this mercurial spring, I can't help but think of the cycle of the seasons. Wiccans and other pagan traditions celebrate this cycle as the Wheel of the Year, eight holidays, or 'sabbats', that mark major turning points of the seasons.

The [Wheel of the Year](#) starts with Samhain, pronounced 'saw-win', which takes place halfway between the autumn equinox, or Mabon, and the winter solstice, or Yule. The two equinox holidays are Ostara for spring and Mabon for autumn, while the solstice holidays are Litha for the summer and Yule for the winter. The other four sabbats are called cross quarter days, and take place halfway between each of the equinoxes and solstices. We have Imbolc between Yule and Ostara, Beltane between Ostara and Litha, Lammas between Litha and Mabon, and then the Wheel starts again with Samhain.

Beltane, also known as May Day, is this week, bringing hope for the end of the chilly weather we've been having and a start to full spring. Beltane is a fire festival, celebrating growth and fertility in all things. Besides the well-known dance around the Maypole young people would take part in, other traditional ways to celebrate Beltane include lighting bonfires, gathering flowers and rinsing your face in the early morning dew.

It's harder to find a Maypole these days, but you can still light a fire to welcome in the new fertile energy of spring and burn away the old

energies of the winter. Both the wild flowers and trees are blooming, as the pollen on my car attests, so this May 1st is the perfect time to stop and appreciate the beauty of nature and growing things all around us. If you decide to join me in lighting a fire this Beltane, the website [Llewellyn](#) suggests a chant:

*Beltane fires,  
Sacred and wild,  
Bring me love,  
Both sweet and mild;  
The kind of love  
I need and desire.  
Come to me  
With Beltane's fire.*

## New Member Spotlight



**Lee Terrell** says that he found UUFW on the Internet. At the time, he was searching for a caring community during a difficult period in his life. He grew up feeling forced to attend nondenominational Christian churches with his family, which made

him wary of all religion. Much later, an acquaintance told him about Unitarian Universalism and how it is a different kind of community from traditional Christian churches. Becoming a UUFW member is his first affiliation with a religious organization.

Lee was born and raised in this area and has lived here all his life, except for brief stints working in Northern Virginia and North Carolina. He has a BS degree in computer science from JMU. Lee has extensive experience in information technology, including telecommunications, and programming websites and applications.

Currently, Lee is a specialist in cyber security. He works from home to protect his company from being hacked. He has also been a contractor in cyber security. As a hobby, and occasionally for money, he will do "ethical hacking," which involves using the same techniques as malicious hackers to identify system vulnerabilities.

Lee has several other hobbies and interests. He likes all kinds of games, from pool and darts to video games. He often plays Texas Holdem with family and friends. He likes to paint with water colors and colored pencils, and he has a keen interest in Greek philosophy.

Lee is looking forward to getting more involved in the life of our Fellowship.



**Mary Speed** is an artist and a theater enthusiast. She has been able to merge these two passions through her involvement with community theater, first in the Northern Virginia area, and more recently near where she lives in Stanardsville. She

has directed plays, designed and painted sets for which she has won awards. She currently volunteers with the Four County Players in Barboursville, where she directed the play *Misery* in 2024, and was the set designer for several other plays.

Mary is a graphic designer by training, with a degree from the Art Institute of Pittsburg. She worked for Goodwill Industries International, Inc. for 12 years as a social-media marketing and content creator until recently being laid off, along with many others. So, she is looking for paid work in graphic design, brand management, website design or a related field. In the meantime, she will spend time with her art interests, painting scenery, water colors, acrylics and stained glass.

Born in New York City, Mary grew up in the Dulles area of Northern Virginia, where she returned after college. She moved to Stanardsville several years ago when her former husband got a job in Charlottesville. After divorce, the connections she developed in the arts community made her stay. She lives with her two dogs.

Although raised Catholic, Mary was never very serious about religion and was not affiliated with any religious organization until now. Through her relationship with fellow new member, Lee Terrell, she was introduced to UUFW. She expresses surprise and gratitude for finding a spiritual community that reflects her values.



*This recent Circle Dinner group at Suzy and Otis Huston's is getting ready to enjoy Daisy Schrock's delicious Black Forest cake.*

