



The CommUUnicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Waynesboro

Resilience

By Jack McClenahan

The 1957 Nobel Prize for Literature winner, Albert Camus, offers us timeless counsel on being resolute and carrying on regardless of the "life cards" we are dealt within our individual and collective lives. Camus has been one of my companions and mentors along my life's journey.

My dear Friend

In the midst of hate, I found there was, within me, an invincible love.

In the midst of tears, I found there was, within me, an invincible smile.

In the midst of chaos, I found there was, within me, an invincible calm.

I realized, through it all, that...

In the midst of winter, I found there was, within me, an invincible summer.

And that makes me happy. For it says that no matter how hard the world pushes against me, within me, there's something stronger – something better, pushing right back.

*Truly yours,
Albert Camus*

Camus, most surely, was an overcomer in his life. He was born in 1913 in extreme poverty in what was then French Algeria. His father was killed in WW1 when he was less than a year old, so he never knew him. His mother moved into her mother's squalid two-bedroom apartment that had no running water or bathroom. His mother was illiterate, as was the

rest of the family, and did not have a book in their home.



A turning point in Camus's life came when a school teacher, Louis Germain, recognized his brilliance, advocated for him, and secured a college scholarship. In school, Camus contracted

tuberculosis, which affected the rest of his life and ended his ability to play his beloved soccer. He was very active in the resistance against fascism in WW II. Throughout his later life, he was often attacked by the far left and right for his moderate political viewpoints. His life ended tragically in a car wreck in 1960.

Another note on Camus: His viewpoint on religion was interesting. He famously rejected both traditional religious belief and dogmatic modern atheism, stating, "I don't believe in God and I am not an atheist." He seemingly focused on his lived life and was content not defining the unknown mysterious, ultimate realities of the Universe but still had respect for the sacred.

Yes indeed, as I stated earlier, Camus counsels us yet from the grave, reminding us to be resolute and carry on regardless of the cards we are dealt in our individual and collective lives.

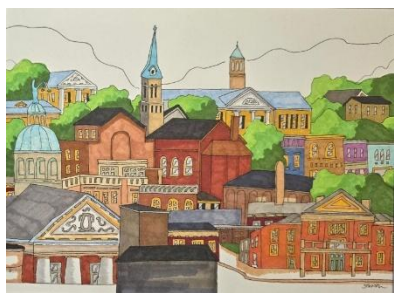
Our New Board of Directors

The newly elected Board met on August 11th for a retreat at President Jean St. Clair's house. Members had fun getting to know each other and learning a little about each other's backgrounds. After a good discussion on the Board's goals for the year, they had a wonderful pot luck dinner and departed happy and fed and ready to govern the Fellowship.



Board members for the 2026-27 year are (from left) Rev. Paul Oakley (Minister), Garreth Bartholomew (Treasurer), Steve Keller, Annie Garrison, Clint Nicely, Jean St. Clair (President), Marilyn Nash (Immediate Past President), Mike Drumheller, and Jordan Norton (Vice President).

New Art Show at the UUFW



Sue Peason, a member of our Fellowship, uses her artwork to express her love for Staunton and surrounding areas. Works in

this art show, entitled "Drawn to Staunton," will be available to purchase at UUFW from September 6 through October 26. Sue expressed that in her 23 years of living in the Valley, she still is surprised and delighted by Staunton's

evocative and ornate buildings with their curlicues and cupolas. They give her a sense of pride and maybe even ownership in them. Sue is drawn to the possible lives they have housed and the passing years they have witnessed. Time spent in her studio attempting to capture these structures only deepens her fondness for them. She hopes her artworks bring you the joy she feels when creating them.

Member News

Our member, **Anne Armentrout**, lost her husband Russell less than one month shy of their 50th wedding anniversary. He passed away on June 11, 2026, at Shenandoah House Hospice. He also didn't quite make it to his 97th birthday, which would have been celebrated September 14th. With his first wife, he was the father of five children, and subsequently grandfather of seven, and great grandfather of nine.



Russell Armentrout was a master calligrapher and a graphic artist, who worked as a federal government employee and subsequently as a self-employed creative. He was particularly proud of—and loved to share stories about—his time at the White

House as Chief of the Social Entertainments Office, where he served five Presidents and First Ladies.

Russell was not a UUFW member, but he was entirely supportive of Anne's membership and engagement. He did occasionally attend services and participate in social events.

