

# The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Harford County



**Building Liberal Religious Community — Please Join Us!**

**Summer 2024**

Our Sunday Schedule  
Worship at 10:30 am  
is now in-person and virtual via Zoom

## July & August Sermons

### What Does it Mean to be a Patriot?

*Kim Roberts*

*July 7*

What makes us American? Patriots? As Americans, what do we love and value? Inspired by a video narrated by John Cena, we will be exploring these questions and sharing our answers.

### Words of Wisdom

*J. Sue Henry and the OWLS Group*

*July 14*

The Older Wiser Loving Souls Circle (OWLS) represents a total of approximately 1,544 years of life experience. We have done many things and learned a lot during this time! Through these variety of life events both tragic and exhilarating, words of wisdom have evolved. Members of the Circle will share an experience as well as their words of wisdom in a format that mirrors their sessions.

### Fantastickal Sunday

*Youth Camper-Led Service with Jenn Blosser*

*July 21*

Summer campers will plan and lead this service for all ages, based on their recent experience at the Univelarian University of Fantastickal Arts summer camp.

### Songs of the Heart

*Jasmine Stock and Homemade Jam*

*July 28*

The universal language of music has an enigmatic way of moving the spirit. What songs have resonated with your joy and awe? What songs have carried you through sorrow and strife? In this worship service the house band Homemade Jam and members of the Fellowship share their songs of the spirit.

If you are interested in participating, especially if you have a song you wish to sing but are in need of accompaniment, please contact Ami Silberman (ami\_silber-

man@hotmail.com) and Jasmine Stock (jasmine.f.stock@gmail.com) by July 7.

### On War

*Sandy Gibbons and Mike Johnson*

*August 4*

Sandy and Mike will explore the human capacity for waging warfare, its penetration in our cultures, its impact on our physical and spiritual lives, and whether there can ever be a moral justification for this (unfortunately) most human of activities.

### Loafing

*Rev. Jaye Brooks*

*August 11*

“Loafing” is a word offered up by the Chinese inventor and author Dr. Lin Yutang in his book, *The Importance of Living* (1937). Dr Lin, born in China in 1895, studied at Harvard University and spent many years in New York City. His observations on American and Chinese Culture, written more than 80 years ago, resonate strongly with our lives today despite changes in both societies. Relax with Rev. Jaye Brooks as she offers languid encouragement to appreciate one of summer’s greatest pleasures: loafing.

### Love At the Center

*Laura Bianca-Pruett*

*August 18*

The new Article II places love at the center of our shared values. It is not just love in action but is agapé love—an unconditional love that is full of compassion that we share altruistically to create justice and transform the world. Laura Bianca-Pruett will share a sermon/talk on agapé love based on Christian scripture and traditions (“Love is Patient, Love is Kind” - 1 Corinthians 13) and how we can apply these teachings to Unitarian Universalism.

### Hearing With the Heart

*Rev. Jaye Brooks*

*August 25*

In every encounter with another human being, there’s an opportunity to listen—to go deep; to forge, even briefly, an authentic connection. To help illustrate the balance that’s necessary if we’re to hear with the heart, our house band Homemade Jam contributes to Rev. Jaye’s sermon with culturally distinct versions of *The Sloop John B*—a

song that was popularized in the US in 1965 by the Beach Boys. But the origins of the song go back to the Caribbean and West Africa. This voyage of discovery is a service for all ages.

## From Our Minister

### Summertime

**AS I WRITE**, predictions for the end-of-June temperatures in the Baltimore-DC metro area are mid- to high-90s. That's hot—though nothing near the recent 126-degree temperatures in India or the 100+ heat in the southwestern US. I find myself taking stock: how has the planet changed so much in just my lifetime?



Summertime in our part of the world has traditionally been a time for hot weather and a slower pace. School's out and families have time for vacation and recreation—often outdoors. And yet we must heed ever-more-frequent cautions about using sunscreen, drinking water, paying attention to the air quality, and avoiding strenuous physical activity in the hottest part of the day. To say nothing of the unexpected tornadoes.

And that's us, here, in the mid-Atlantic. People elsewhere must cope with far greater dangers from the Earth's increasingly overheated climate.

Lest anyone stop reading in discouragement, there is hope. Beyond the sound and fury of partisan politics and religious division, people everywhere are working together for positive change. The noise of the news keeps these hopeful efforts hidden—but they exist and they're promising. As UUs, we can support and learn from the UU Ministry for the Earth. For an impressive list of UU groups dedicated to climate action in the UU Climate Justice Revival, go to: [Climate Justice Coalition](#). You'll find there a link to the source materials, *Blueprint for a Multi-Racial, Cross-Class Climate Movement Workbook*. And there's individual and congregation-level UU engagement with the coalition for Climate Justice Revival. UUFHC is registered with me as the contact person—a role I would like to hand off to a Fellowship member willing to take it on.

I need hope. I don't want my childhood of pleasant summer days to be nothing more than memories. True, there are many areas that need our time and attention. Yet it's promising that this new UU movement for the Earth is informed by the many intersections of our UU

concerns. Maybe climate and coalition can combine to help us make a difference *in our own lifetimes*.

- Rev. Jaye Brooks



## From Our President

We've had an active start to our new fiscal year. Let me start with gratitude for our Fellowship and Rev. "Jaye" Brooks reaching a unanimous decision to extend our interim ministry from two years to three years. We've made tremendous progress over the last year. That said, both the Board and Rev. Jaye agreed we will be in a better position to start a called minister search next year. This will also allow us to focus on our interim ministry goals this coming year.

To re-affirm this point we just held a check-in with our Central East Region liaison, **Lenore Bajare-Dukes**. She came to meet with Rev. Jaye, our Board representatives, and several committee leaders to discuss our journey over the past year. The feedback from everyone was very positive with a strong sense of engagement, connection and progress. It was extremely exciting to see the energy around the room. Many of the participants specifically spoke positively about the Faithful Conversations for both the Program for Children and Youth and Article II. It was refreshing to see such a common assessment from all present. The group did identify areas that we want to continue to strengthen including succession planning, leadership development, membership, as well as promoting adult spiritual development. I'm confident we will continue to address these topics during our Board retreat in August.

Our new Board members have voted to approve **Jasmine Stock**, **Sue Knause**, and **Kim Roberts** to repre-

sent our congregation at General Assembly from June 20 to June 23. This year's GA will be a virtual event. It's both a time and financial commitment for these members to represent us. I encourage you to thank them for their dedication to our congregation. I was truly pleased that following our Faithful Conversation around Article II, the congregation voted to empower our delegates to vote their consciences.

As always, I appreciate any of your feedback for me after the service or at any time on my email at [president@uufhc.net](mailto:president@uufhc.net).



*Yours in service,  
- Mark Davis*

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## What's New in Faith Formation

### **Making Summer Fantastickal for our Children & Youth!**

Our summer programming promises to be adventurous and imaginative this year, thanks to the support of so many wonderful volunteers who are eager to share their time, energy, and interests with our young folks! Here's more information about both our Sunday morning programming through July & August as well as this summer's camp—which is free to children / youth of all UUFHC members!

### **Summer Sundays: Bel Air Park StoryWalk® Project**

Children and youth will collaborate with one another to write, illustrate, and assemble a StoryWalk® which will then be installed in a public park in Bel Air. Laura Bianca-Pruett will be steering this project which is a spin off of a class we held earlier this year about accessible playgrounds. This project doesn't require continued attendance for children / youth to participate, so any Sunday they can join in, they're welcome to! And if you're the sort of person who likes weekend construction projects working with wood and would enjoy helping to design and build the stands for our StoryWalk®, please reach out to Jenn or Laura and let us know! We could use some skilled folks to help lead this part of the project! To find out more about the StoryWalk® project, go to the link: [StoryWalk](#).

### **Summer Camp: The Univelarian University of Fantastickal Arts (UUFA)**

Our summer camp returns with the promise of immersive learning and imaginative community building from Monday, July 15 through Friday July 19 from 9:00 am 4:00 pm. Registration is open to everyone ages 5 - 13

through [this form](#). Please make sure you have registered your young folks so they can join us at UUFA! What have the Guardians gotten up to over the past year? What special things has the Jimmy McTophat Foundation accomplished? What sorts of new perspectives and discoveries are there to be made? Who will remember the whole memory chant and be able to say it all the way through? And more importantly, what new, deep understandings of this wonderful Unitarian Universalist faith of ours will we gain through all of this silliness? We'll find out together at UUFA!

How much does it cost? If your child is...

- registered in our Sunday Program for Children & Youth, summer camp is FREE!
- a relative of a UUFHC member, summer camp is \$150 per child;
- from the wider community and unrelated to anyone from UUFHC, summer camp is \$250 for the first child and \$225 for each additional sibling.



**Univelarian University**  
of  
**Fantastickal Arts**

A huge shout-out to all the marvelous folks, adults and youth 14+, who have already clamored to sign up to volunteer to help bring camp to life - it means more to our children and youth than we could ever say! And if you'd like to join in the fun, please reach out to Jersey Dustan for more information: [jerseydunstan@gmail.com](mailto:jerseydunstan@gmail.com).



*- Jenn Blosser,  
Director of Faith Formation*



## Corner on Finance

Welcome Summer! I hope you all have fabulous vacation plans and special time set aside to visit and reconnect with loved ones you may not get to see often. This is my time of year where I'm challenged to keep my kids busy and take them on as many adventures as I can. But first, we UUFHC finance friends have been working diligently to close out FY23-24 so we can get our FY24-25 reporting in full swing.

I had thought the busiest time of the year for Treasurer duties was with Stewardship and Budgeting, but the push has remained strong as we've audited and reviewed FY23-24 financial to produce our FYE statements. I'm pleased to announce we are finalizing and releasing them on the Member Only website for member access. You still need to log-in, but here's a link for ease of access: <https://www.uufhc.net/members.php>

### FYE 2023-24: April 30, 2024

Our April 30, Fiscal Year End (FYE) net income was \$13,199. Our pledge receipts were strong and we even received some prior year pledge payments we had not counted on. Our members also gave frequently beyond their pledge amounts to special purpose funds and the collection plate. Thank you!

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### **Profit & Loss Statement: FYTD April 30, 2024**

Description FYTD	Actual FYTD	Budget
Income	\$282,117	\$240,585
Expenses	\$268,918	\$271,674
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 13,199</b>	<b>\$ 31,089</b>

### **CASH FLOW ADJ**

Depreciation	\$ 31,800	\$ 30,000
Capital Expense	\$ 9,577	\$ 11,000
Other Accruals	\$28,949	\$ 0
<b>Cash Flow (+/-)</b>	<b>\$ 6,473</b>	<b>\$ 12,089</b>

### **UNBUDGET ITEMS:**

Directed Gift Income (Chairs)	\$ 5,000
Additional Approved Funds	\$ 6,770

**Reconciliation to FY23-24 Budget** **\$ 319**

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### **Cash Flow Statement: FYE April 30, 2024**

<b>Beginning Balance May 1, 2023</b>	<b>\$ 197,481</b>
Net Cash Flow Activities	\$ 6,473
<b>Ending Balance April 30, 2024</b>	<b>\$ 203,954</b>

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The above statements show that for the twelve (12) months ending 04/30/24 we had net income of **\$13,199** and our cash in FY23-24 increased by **\$6,473**. Our cash position remained strong even with the expenses we covered early on for the previous fiscal year, and the fact that we received less deferred pledge income than previous years

I thank all members for your diligence in getting your pledge forms in and updating your monthly amounts accordingly. I love all the fun notes I receive too! They brighten my day when dealing with otherwise boring numbers. I also appreciate everyone's responsiveness to my inquiries as I remain committed to keeping an eye on our receivables and making sure all records are accurate.

If you have any questions or concerns about our financials or your member statements, please reach out to Karen or me to clear things up. I enjoy keeping our lines of communication open and fun. 😊

As always, I can be contacted at [treasurer@uufhc.net](mailto:treasurer@uufhc.net), [brinkers@aol.com](mailto:brinkers@aol.com) or call me at **(410) 878-6337**.

Thanks for your continued commitment to, and interest in, the financial well-being of our UUFHC.

*Warmly,*  
- Shawna M. Brinkerhoff  
UUFHC Treasurer

## Volunteers of the Month

The Volunteers of the Month recognized this summer are the **Johnson Family** – Dad Mike, Mom Elesha, and Livia, Hannah and Maya.

Whenever there is a call for help, the Johnson family is there—at workdays for the Building and Grounds, for the flea market—wherever extra hands are needed. With all their help everything goes quickly and more smoothly! Also they contribute so much to our Faith Formation program. Thanks so much for all you do!



## Household and Hygiene Product Pantry

The Outreach Committee is coordinating a UUFHC initiative to serve unhoused individuals and families and those with limited financial resources in Harford County. To supplement existing services focused on food resources, our Fellowship has installed a household goods and hygiene product pantry in our parking lot. The pantry is open 24/7 every day of the year.

In order to serve as many residents in need as possible, we are providing you a [link](#) to an Amazon Wishlist of household and hygiene items for the pantry. The purchased items are delivered directly to one of our committee members for inclusion in the pantry. Lists of items for the pantry are also available on a table in the foyer or on the website [pantry needs](#).

Beginning June 30, the pantry will be stocked and available for those in need. Please share our information with anyone who could benefit from the house goods and hygiene product pantry.

- Mary Slade

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## Bookbag / School Supply Drive

We will be having our annual Bookbag Drive this summer and have partnered with SARC and Church Creek Elementary School in Belcamp to donate bookbags and school supplies for children in need.



The plastic bin will be in the church lobby from **July 3 through August 2**, so please feel free to donate new school supplies during this period of time.

In addition to the church lobby, donations may also be dropped off from **July 27 through August 2** on the porch of Paul and Maureen North's house (300 Sparta Court, Bel Air) or Dan and Laurie Feldman's house (2320 Calvary Road, Bel Air).

The list of needed school supplies will be published in NUUwsbytes during the month of July.

Thank you again for your donations. The students will be so happy to receive new bookbags and supplies to start the school year!

- Community Outreach Committee

## Climate Justice Revival Scheduled

Mark your Calendars: the UU Climate Justice Revival will happen Saturday, September 28-29. This is a workshop for interested members of the Congregation. It will be held in person at UUFHC or on another date of our choosing.

UU Ministry for Earth is happy to be one of the primary organizers of the Climate Justice Revival. The Revival events will be held in your congregational setting. Gather your justice teams, problem solvers, and dreamers. The Revival planning team will provide everything needed: facilitation toolkits, training, music, projects, coordinated justice action focused on the election and climate justice, and more. No matter your congregation's size or resources, you can join and together we will enter a new era of climate action. Let's go—appoint two volunteer facilitators who will be trained to participate. A resulting service can be held Sunday, September 29 or on a different, convenient date.

If you are interested in being part of a group organizing this conference, check out the website at [uuclimatejustice.org](http://uuclimatejustice.org) and speak to our minister or a member of our Board.



**Reimagine Together**  
From An Extractive  
Age To A New Era

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## Summer Birthdays

Summer is such a special time to celebrate a birthday. Opportunities are endless—celebrate at a pool party, by taking a hike, or by going on that special vacation. Congratulations to our members with birthdays in July and August. May your celebrations be memorable.

### July

Paul North	July 1
Jean McKendry	July 7
René Varela	July 7
Diana Rudolph	July 11
Melvia (Mel) Hagan	July 14
Glenn Brown	July 16
Karen Pearsall	July 16
Karin Johnsgard	July 19
Sara Brinkerhoff	July 19
Valerie Greene	July 19
Joy Mullen	July 20

Emery Cook	July 21
Mark Gallihue	July 23
Erica Fineman-Bertoli	July 26
Shawna Brinkerhoff	July 26
Rob Lieb	July 30

**August**

Connor Magrath	August 8
Suzanne Gallihue	August 11
Jasmine Stock	August 16
Marge Calvert	August 17

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## Chalice Lighter’s Corner

The Summer 2024 Chalice Lighter Call has been announced! The UU Church of Wyoming Valley in Wilkes Barre, PA received the grant to achieve its goal of being completely accessible to everyone in the congregation and in their broader community in Northeast Pennsylvania. Their \$20,000 grant, combined with other fundraising, will provide funds to add a passenger lift and complete other projects to make their 175 year old building handicapped accessible, allowing people who use walkers and wheelchairs to participate fully in the life of the congregation.

The CER Chalice Lighter Grant Program uses the spark of small contributions from individual UUs to ignite the growth of our UU faith, in numbers and in justice, compassion and spirituality. Many members of UUFHC are Chalice Lighter members, and UUFHC has been the beneficiary of **many** Chalice Lighter Grants. The most recent grant is helping us update our technology. You can see the benefits by seeing the monitors in the sanctuary and in the foyer. It’s easy to see the words of the hymns posted on the monitors as we worship, and Zoom participants also receive the benefits of the latest technology to enable them to attend the service at home. Getting everything perfect is a work in progress, but we are getting there thanks to the Chalice Lighter grant we received two years ago.

I personally invite you to become a Chalice Lighter member. Rick and I have been Chalice Lighter members since the program began when we were members of the Joseph Priestley District, the first Chalice Lighter program in the denomination. And UUFHC received the very first Chalice Lighter grant to call Rev. Alice Blair Wesley as our settled, called minister.

It’s easy. There are only three calls per year—in the Fall, Winter and Summer. The average pledge is \$20 per person per call, but you can pledge more or less. You will

receive “The Spark” newsletter letting you know of the latest grant being funded. You can pay via check or online, and you have the option of paying for all three calls at once. You can get the newsletter and call via snail mail or email. To learn more, go to the Chalice Lighter Sign-up Page [Chalice Lighter](#). You are urged to sign up and donate by July 15 so that the Summer Grant amount can be reached.

- Kay Saucier

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## Let’s UU the Vote Again

UU the Vote is a national campaign by UUA. UUFHC participated in this in the last presidential election by writing **thousands** of letters to voters to encourage them to vote in swing states. This is our opportunity to have some agency in the democratic process.

We need a chairperson for the UUFHC effort. If you are interested in leading this effort, please contact Susan Knause at [susan.knause@gmail.com](mailto:susan.knause@gmail.com).

The link about the effort is located here including a launch guide and other resources: [uuthevote](#).



- Sue Knause

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## Be In the Know: It’s Easy!

Our congregation, UUFHC, is part of the Central East Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association (CER-UUA). Beth Casebolt of the Central East Region sends a monthly newsletter with news, upcoming events, inspirational messages and opportunities for on-line learning to church leaders and of course, the Newsletter editor. Recently, our CER Primary Contact, Lenore Bajare-Dukes, mentioned that anyone interested can be put on this email mailing list.

If you are interested in connecting with the Central East Region, send an email to Beth Casebolt at [bcasebolt@uua.org](mailto:bcasebolt@uua.org) and she will put you on the mailing list. The menu also includes a job board, a link to *In-Spirit* - The UUA Bookstore and so much more!

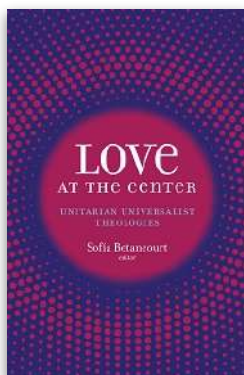
## Love at the Center

At press time, the General Assembly is more than a week away, so we don't know the results of the vote on the Article II revisions and whether language concerning our values centering around love will replace our seven principles in the formal Article II. I was glad that Rev. Jaye said we don't have to replace the UUA seven principles completely if the revision passes. Here at UUFHC we have discussed the proposed Article II changes and even had Faithful Conversations about the proposed changes. But if you would like to learn more about the UUA's concept of Love at the Center, UUA's president, the Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt has written a book, *Love at the Center*.

The Article II Study Commission asked more than 10,000 Unitarian Universalists complex questions about the values that guide their faithful living. In Betancourt's book, you will find personal testimony to love's power, reminders of the centrality of love throughout the long histories of Universalism and Unitarianism—from the natural world to the justice rally, to a loved one's deathbed, to the quiet moment before a worship service begins. *Love at the Center* can serve as an invitation to deepen your own understanding and practices of love.

*Love at the Center* will be updated after the General Assembly. If you order the book through *InSpirit*, the UUA Bookstore, you will receive the latest edition of the book this coming fall. The book is also available in ebook format from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Kobo, and wherever ebooks are sold. If you want to begin reading the ebook edition this summer, you will be able to update to the expanded edition for free from the same site.

If you are already excited about the new Article II language placing Love at the Center, you can order a bookmark, notecards (two styles) or a tote bag. More information about the book and the accessories can be found at [Love at the Center](#). Visit [uuabookstore.org](http://uuabookstore.org) for all your summer reading.



## UU Virtual Hymnal Task Force

I've often marveled that many of the UU hymns we sing on Sunday appear on the screens and over Zoom with beautiful pictures or with members of the choir from a fellow UU congregation. Most of these are available via the UU Virtual Hymnal Task Force.

The Task Force has steadily worked towards its mission of building a living collection of song resources through an accessible, equitable online platform grounded in UU values. The Task Force will soon unveil a virtual hymnal prototype. Camille Halton, the virtual hymnal consulting manager, and Rev. Erica Hewitt, the UUA Minister of Worship Arts will soon offer Zoom presentations to reveal the working model, explain the testing phase, and other information leading to the final virtual hymnal.

To receive updates about the Task Force's work—including Zoom gathering dates and times—you are invited to subscribe to UUA's WorshipWeb newsletter, "From the Muse to the Pews." Visit the Worship and Information page on the UUA website, [www.uua.org/inspiration](http://www.uua.org/inspiration) for the signup.

- Kay Saucier

## UUFHC Blood Drive

UUFHC is holding a blood drive from 11:30 am to 5:00 pm on Friday, July 12. A good friend of mine, Jenn, was 20 weeks into the pregnancy of her first child when she received a leukemia diagnosis. She waited until baby Anne was born and then spent 30 days in the hospital receiving chemotherapy and will soon undergo a stem cell transfusion. In honor of her 40th birthday, she asked that friends donate blood in her honor. I can't donate blood for medical reasons so I decided to host a blood drive here instead! I hope you give if possible! Watch the NUUwsbytes for the link to sign-up, or contact Erin Gallagher at [emgallagher81@gmail.com](mailto:emgallagher81@gmail.com).

## Congratulations to Our Graduates

We honor two recent high school graduates who attended our Faith Formation Classes before the pandemic. **Tesher Kupferman** graduated from Aberdeen High School and is headed to Harford Community College. **Kyler Hunnell**, grandson of the Van Dusens graduated from Penn Manor High School in Millersville, PA and is headed to Penn State. Good luck, Tesher and Kyler!

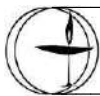


The Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship of Harford County  
2515 Churchville Road  
Churchville, MD 21028

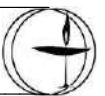
Building Liberal Religious Community  
*Please Join Us!*

Sunday Services: 10:30 am; coffee follows

Please visit us online at [www.uufhc.net](http://www.uufhc.net)



Please note: Next Newsletter deadline is Sunday, August 11, 2024



Minister:	The Rev. Jennifer Brooks
Director of Faith Formation:	Jennifer Blosser
Church Administrator:	Karen Kurrle
Newsletter Editor:	Kay Saucier
Webmaster:	Rick Saucier

Fellowship Office Hours (Karen Kurrle):  
Tues & Thurs: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm  
Wed (Home Office): 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Minister's Office Hours:  
Sun, Wed & Thurs: Afternoon

Director of Faith Formation Office Hours:  
Thurs: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm  
Tues, Wed & Fri (Home Office): 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Office Phone:	410-734-7122
Office Email:	<a href="mailto:office@uufhc.net">office@uufhc.net</a>
Minister Email:	<a href="mailto:revjaye@uufhc.net">revjaye@uufhc.net</a>
DFF Email:	<a href="mailto:dff@uufhc.net">dff@uufhc.net</a>
Newsletter Email:	<a href="mailto:newsletter@uufhc.net">newsletter@uufhc.net</a>
Webmaster Email:	<a href="mailto:webmaster@uufhc.net">webmaster@uufhc.net</a>
Website:	<a href="http://www.uufhc.net">www.uufhc.net</a>

## Wayside Pulpit

For beautiful eyes, look for the good in others; for beautiful lips, speak only words of kindness; and for poise, walk with the knowledge that you are never alone.

– Audrey Hepburn