

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Harford County



Building Liberal Religious Community — Please Join Us!

Summer 2025

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

Summer Services

— July Services —

Integrity

Rev. Jaye Brooks

July 6

During this time of national turmoil, on the weekend we celebrate our nation's founding, having integrity means having a reaction. Maybe it's sorrow. Maybe it's loss. What clarity can we find in this moment? How do we center our own integrity and respond from the center? What will strengthen and calm us spiritually?

There Are No Others

Brenna Kupferman

July 13

When questioned on how we should treat others, Hindu sage Maharshi replied, "there are no others." In this Service, Brenna Kupferman, her mother April Soule, and her sister Iselin Dimacchia will explore how this concept can guide us in how we view and care for ourselves and those around us.

WWJD? WWUUD?

Kimberly Roberts & Laura Bianca-Pruett

July 20

What would Jesus have said about our UU values of justice, equity, transformation, pluralism, interdependence and generosity? Let's explore his words and actions to find out!

The OWLS View of Living in the Moment

UUFHC OWLS Group

July 27

The OWLS (Older Wiser Loving Souls) meet twice a month to discuss the shift from traditional views on aging to sage-ing. These conscious elders will conduct a lively service regarding their experience of aging and facing their mortality, to be actively and gratitude living in the moment. There are potential insights for individuals of all ages.

— August Services —

The Intersection of Yoga and Unitarian Universalism

Elesa Johnson

August 3

The millennia-old practice of yoga is not just about being flexible and physically strong. Yoga is an ethical practice that combines actions, purpose, and values; the foundation of which are the ancient principles for living, known as the yamas and niyamas. Yoga invites spiritual and sacred moments in the everyday. If you feel like this sounds very familiar, I agree! Join Elesa as she asks, "Is yoga a religion?" as we explore the intersection of Yoga and Unitarian Universalism.

Faithfully Fantastickal

Jenn Blosser and Youth

August 10

Join us this Sunday to celebrate the 2025 term of the Unitarian University of Fantastickal Arts (UUFA), our week-long summer camp of make-believe and magic! UUFA students will be exploring themes of anti-oppression through fantasy this year, and you'll hear all about it in this colorful, all ages service. Celebrate the graduating UUFA students and all of the teen and adult volunteers who help to bring UUFA to life!

The Amazing Life of Crows

Rev. Jaye Brooks

August 17

Birds are remarkable creatures, who, in many ways, live in close relationship with humans—even if we don't really notice. Many birds are intelligent and tool-using beings. Some (crows for example) are not well-regarded. Yet they are constantly around us and living an amazing life despite our inattention or negative attention. What might the human relationship with crows suggest about human relationships in general?

Lighting the Beacons

Sandy Gibbons

August 24

In this fantasy and science-fiction inspired service (think Lord of the Rings, Star Wars, Dune, etc.), we will explore how our actions, both public and subtle, kindle hope in our world and inspire others to action. Come in costume from your favorite epic and share the fire of your commitment to justice in this world!

Maintaining Balance In These Volatile Times

Beth Wood-Roig

August 31

At the 2025 Spring Retreat, we focused on a simple cup as a metaphor for our life and reflected on the ways that it is sometimes overflowing and sometimes empty. We also talked about how much it matters what we fill it with and what we pour out of it. This got Beth thinking about the need for maintaining inner and outer balance as we face the challenge of these times. How do you fill your cup? And what do you pour into your life and the lives of those around you? Beth will reflect on these ideas with some wisdom from several sources that might be helpful.

From Our Minister

Simple Kindness

The other day my young adult son and I were talking about the level of unnecessary cruelty and petty meanness that seems to be all around us. He said, calmly but with some frustration, “Why can’t people just be kind?”



And that’s a very good question—which I’m sure I cannot answer in a newsletter column. But I can endorse wholeheartedly the idea that being kind is important in a world that seems increasingly to lack kindness. I can also quote the Dalai Lama, who famously said, “My religion is simple. My religion is kindness.”

Unitarian Universalism is well-suited to the Dalai Lama’s idea of religion. Our values are aimed at supporting one another and all the human beings out there who need support. We may not be able to do something for every person who needs a little kindness, or justice, or equity, or love. But we are able to be kind, speak up for justice and equity, try to live a life with love at the center.

I have a friend whose life was turned upside down by the attempt to do the right thing, and then the next right thing, and then the next, and all the while the situation he was trying to change did not get better. “All it needed was a little attention, a little empathy, a little kindness,” he said.

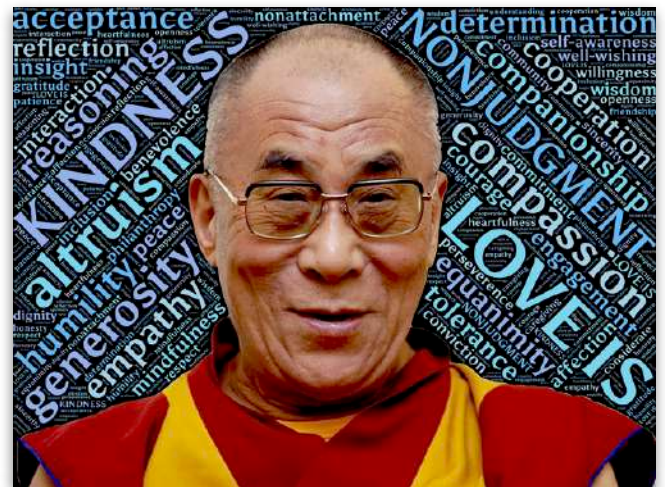
Have you watched the PBS Masterpiece documentary, *Mr. Bates vs. the Post Office*? Ordinary people, trying to figure out why their British Post Office location’s new computer system was glitching, were told repeatedly, “No one else has reported that.” But many people had. And the Post Office sued people personally for the false

deficits the system reported. It drove many of them out of their positions. It bankrupted many more. And one man took his own life.

These tragedies happened because of the petty cruelty of the “help” desk saying that no one else had the same problem—though others did. These tragedies happened because of the casual viciousness of upper-level managers who knew there was a problem—and were unwilling to admit it.

So, kindness. Let’s make kindness a personal credo. Let’s decide to be kind whenever we can and with conscious intent. Let simple kindness be the touchstone for all our values and beliefs.

The world urgently needs the presence of every one of us who is willing to pay attention, show some empathy, and extend a little kindness.



- Rev. Jaye Brooks

From Our President

Our annual meeting is rapidly approaching on Sunday, June 29 from 12:30 to 2:00 pm. I have truly enjoyed serving as your Board President over the last three years. I have learned a great deal over that time and have truly enjoyed working with so many of you to advance the mission of UUFHC. I am excited to turn the leadership of the congregation to the new Board and I’m confident that they will continue to move the Fellowship forward.

Our May Board meeting was primarily focused on preparing our Annual Meeting. The Board approved the draft FY25-26 budget to be presented to the congregation for final approval. I am very pleased to report that

our Fellowship is on sound financial footing as we enter into the new fiscal year.

We also finalized the names of the Search committee to be approved at the congregational meeting. The UUA recommended process for identifying the search committee worked exceptionally well. By soliciting input from our members, and confirming the willingness and availability of those nominated, we were able to quickly identify some highly regarded members that the Fellowship trusts to represent us on the committee.

The proposed budget, slate of officers, and the search committee members are available to review in advance of the annual meeting on the bulletin boards or on the members only website.

Finally, I'd like to encourage anyone who is interested in becoming more involved with the Fellowship to speak to myself or any other Board member. We have several areas that could benefit from your time and talents including, fundraising/stewardship, social justice, safety and technology to name a few.

As always please feel free to reach out to me at any time with your questions or feedback. You can reach me after service or at any time on my email at president@uufhc.net.

*Yours in service,
- Mark Davis*



What's New in Faith Formation

Building Community, One Story at a Time

This summer, children and youth will be exploring community and collaboration—and what better way to live into that spirit than by creating something beautiful together?

Back by popular demand, our children and youth will once again be crafting a brand-new **StoryWalk™** to share with our wider community!

If you wandered through Rockfield Park last fall, you may remember the whimsical tale of *Jimmy McTophat*—a charming little six-legged spider dreamed up, written, and illustrated entirely by our young folks. That original story was such a hit that it's even being showcased at the UUA General Assembly this year!

This summer, we'll pick up where we left off—using the kids' many spin-off and sequel ideas as inspiration for a brand-new tale. Just like last year, participants will brainstorm together, shape a plot, create characters, write the story, and bring it to life with artwork. In September, the finished StoryWalk™ will debut right here at church before being installed at Rockfield Park for all to enjoy.

And here's the best part: This is a *drop-in friendly* project! Families can participate as their schedules allow—perfect for those busy summer months when folks are in and out of town.

We hope you'll join us in the faithful work of creativity, connection, and community this summer. Let's build something wonderful—together.

*- Jenn Blosser,
Director of Faith Formation*



Volunteers of the Month

This month we honor the Rental House Improvement Crew: **Ed Roberts, Bob Veidt, Pat McQuate, Bill Hofherr, Dwain Felts and Dan Feldman.**

They've been hard at work at getting the rental house ready for new tenants. They have installed a kitchen counter, sink and faucet, changed all the electrical outlets; worked on the grounds, did numerous small jobs. They provided the time and expertise as well as materials. They kept our total cost low: only \$16.35! And they were ready for the new family to move in by June 1!

A Salute to Our Graduating Seniors

This year we say congratulations to this year's two Faith Formation graduates, **Connor Magrath** and **Charlie Slentz**. They shared their experiences and future plans for The Newsletter:

Connor Magrath graduated from Bel Air High School and was dual enrolled at Harford Community College. Connor is twice recipient of the Principal's Award of Honor. He said that attending UUFHC and being part of the Faith Formation program helped him navigate

through the challenging high school years, and UUFHC has certainly helped put personal issues in perspective. He participated in the Coming of Age program with mentor, Dyrck Van Dusen, and had good talks about spirituality and religion.

As to future plans, Connor relates: "I plan on attending HCC for a year or two to study computer science then getting a bachelors at Towson in a more specific field." He is in a challenging Artificial Intelligence research project with other students at HCC, helping to build an AI curriculum. Perhaps Connor will specialize in AI.

Charlie Slentz graduated from Havre de Grace High School. his interests include history, art, but most of all, music. He is lead singer in a band, "Insignia" which performs in the Baltimore Area, not only covers, but their own original songs. Charlie has made many personal accomplishments in this area.

In the fall, Charlie heads off to Sheffield Institute for the Recording Arts here in Maryland to become an Audio Engineer and music producer. "My plan is to continue making music. I want to learn how to record and mix my music and eventually make an album."

Best wishes to Connor and Charlie in their education and careers, and we hope to see them often at UUFHC.



Bookbag Drive Begins July 4 through August 1



The Bookbag/School Supply drive is becoming an annual event, since our effort is much appreciated in the community. Laurie Feldman is again leading the drive to provide bookbags and school supplies to both Church Creek Elementary School and SARC. We are mainly looking for small, elementary student sized bags. There will be a plastic bin in the church hallway. Watch the

NUUwsbytes for a list of school supplies needed. Alternative drop-off locations are available July 28 through August 4 at the North and Feldman homes. Contact Laurie and Maureen at outreach@uufhc.net for addresses. We will deliver the bookbags and supplies on August 5 and 6.

Health and Hygiene Pantry

Thanks to everyone who has been bringing supplies and donating to the Second Sunday collection to support our Health and Hygiene Pantry. Maureen North and Laurie Feldman also shop bi-weekly to stock the pantry. We are planning a drive for cleaning supplies during the month of September to lessen the shopping load, at least for awhile.

Silent Witness

Erin Gallagher and Kathy Kraft set September 28 as the Silent Witness Kick-off date. Rev. Jaye is willing to plan a service around Silent Witness, making a smooth transition from the service to the Silent Witness Ceremony. There will be more information about our plans in the September newsletter and the NUUwsbytes. Watch the NUUwsbytes for a summer workday to get the figures ready, with plaques for more recent victims.

Sharing Table

UUFHC will host our next Sharing Table on October 4. UUFHC usually provides lunch for those in need twice a year. The location is changing! The Sharing Table will serve the public at Prince of Peace Church on Saturdays through June. Then the Sharing Table will take a month's hiatus while they get their new site ready at the American Legion location. The Sharing Table will operate out of three sheds with ramps to each. Work is in progress to provide electrical wiring to commercial code for the sheds, and paving for sidewalk and the ramps. Two gentlemen from the community donated \$50,000 worth of new commercial grade refrigerators and freezers.

The new Sharing Table site is expected to open in August. There will be an open house so all volunteers can see how the facilities and learn the flow of operations for the Saturday lunches. Watch for information in the fall about UUFHCs plans for the October 4 Sharing Table.



New shed for the Sharing Table

Still Time to Register for Summer Camp August 4-8 at UUFHC

Children and youth are once again invited to join in the magic of our summer camp program, the Univelarian University of Fantastickal Arts (UUFA) in the first week of August! All children and youth registered in our Sunday program can attend camp for free (they must still be registered through the link below). This camp is essentially a live action role play offering offering immersive, experiential learning opportunities. Children and youth related to UUFHC members receive a discounted rate! Click this link for more info re: cost and content of our summer camp: [UUFA Summer Camp](#).

Children/youth 5-13 can register to attend. Youth 14+ can volunteer as youth counselors (and earn volunteer hours!). Young adults 18+ can volunteer as facilitators or assistants. And adults of course are welcome and needed to volunteer. Contact Jenn Blosser dff@uufhc.net for more information.

The congregation will hear about camp experiences at the Sunday Service on April 10.



July and August Membership Anniversaries

The summer is certainly less busy at UUFHC as members go on vacation and enjoy the warmer weather. We do have services every Sunday, often lay-led, but committee meetings, regular Faith Formation classes and many activities, including new member classes, are taking a break. Nevertheless, we actually did have two members join us in the summer months. Congratulations, Jeff and Darlene of your many efforts to support UUFHC through the years.

July:

Jeffery A. Matthews 2005

August:

Darlene Rothwell 1991

ACLU: Know Your Rights

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is a non-partisan, nonprofit group that works to protect constitutional rights. It was founded following the Palmer raids of 1919 and 1920, when US Attorney General Mitchell Palmer began rounding up and deporting so-called radicals. Thousands of people were arrested without warrants and without regard to constitutional protections against unlawful search and seizure. Those arrested were brutally treated and held in horrible conditions.

Today the ACLU provides legal representation to peoples whose constitutional rights have been violated and brings lawsuits challenging unconstitutional governmental actions. It also provides information about civil rights, including the rights of peaceful protesters. To learn more about your rights, or to find out how to volunteer, check out the ACLU's website: www.aclu.org.



UUSC on Defending Democracy and Civil Liberties

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) released the following statement on June 6 regarding the ICE raids and protests and the recent travel bans. Contact Eric Grignol, media@uusc.org for more information. The statement is for immediate release:

“This past weekend’s Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids and Trump’s subsequent deploy-

ment of the national guard have shown how far the US administration will go to manufacture chaos, undermine human rights, and suppress dissent. The administration's intensified attacks on dignity and democracy have caused immense harm to our communities and are an affront to our shared values.

The events in Los Angeles and across the United States emerge against a backdrop of the xenophobic and contradictory travel ban, criminalization of protest, gutted international humanitarian aid, and more. Such tactics seek to undermine democracy and demolish civil liberties. This strategy intentionally sows chaos to create public exhaustion and fear.

"The administration will not, however, stop human rights defenders from advocating for freedom. UUSC continues to work in solidarity with frontline communities whose rights are under attack.

"At UUSC, we continue to be grounded by the courage of our partners in Haiti and Burma, two countries cut off by the recent travel ban. We act in solidarity with protestors in Los Angeles and around the United States who are putting themselves on the forefront of resistance in defense of people's right to migrate.

"All attacks on human rights and dignity are intertwined. While it is easy to become inundated by the deluge of crises, it is essential that we view our work for justice with a singular focus. We push back against state violence not simply to defeat fascist advances but to build a world of collective liberation.

"As people of faith and conscience, it is our responsibility to maintain clarity and act in defense of human rights. We continue to distribute UUSC's Emergency Community Protection Grants to organizations in the United States under threat, responding to urgent developments and sustaining long-term support. We encourage you to sign up for our Resistance Network, a rapid response system for advocacy and education. On the Resistance Network Resource Hub you'll find information about migration rights, ICE defiance, and protest safety. We urge you to contact your members of Congress to oppose this administration's rampant abuse of power.

"We know that this presidential administration will continue to use every tool of force at its disposal, legal or otherwise, to threaten people in migration, protestors, the LGBTQIA community, and dissenters at large. Their agenda is built upon breaking community bonds. UUSC is honored to be an organization that connects human rights defenders domestically and worldwide. No state violence can deter our work toward collective liberation."

UUSC is very active in many arenas during this time of world conflicts. Our Service Committee works with 66 grassroots partners to improve the lives of people all over the world. You can donate to help their efforts at www.uusc.org. The secure donate button is on the upper right corner of the home page.

Summer Institutes Reminder

CERCI

July 6-12, Oberlin, Ohio

CERCI is our Central East Region's Summer institute. This year's theme is *Live a Life on Fire: Change the World With Your Love*. The Summer Institute takes place on the Oberlin College campus; the town is across the street and the hospital is on the corner of campus. You will stay in traditional dorm housing—most dorms are air-conditioned and all dorms have air-conditioned lounges. Registration is still open, but act quickly.

The theme speaker is Rev. Joanna Fontaine Crawford. There are a variety of morning seminars and afternoon workshops, and programs for children and teens. Go to www.cersiui.org for more information.

SUUSI

July 20-26, Radford, Virginia

The Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute takes place on the campus of Radford University, in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Go to www.suusi.org and browse the catalog. There are many morning workshop options and opportunities for hiking and enjoying the Blue Ridge Mountains in the afternoon. And there are programs for children, teens and young adults. Marlene and Rob Lieb are long time SUUSI attendees, so you can talk to them about the SUUSI experience. This year's theme is *Love is Central*.

For Your Summer Reading

Love at the Center

Sofia Betancourt, editor

Skinner House Books, \$18.00

Last summer, the book *Love at the Center* was available as an e-book, but was in the process of being updated as last year's General Assembly voted to accept the final

language of Article II. As of February 2025, the revised edition is now available in paperback!

Unitarian Universalists as a progressive religious community holds a humbling expectation to periodically re-evaluate the freely chosen covenant that holds us together. While this work impacts the by-laws that define UUA's governance structures, it also gives life to the values we express in common cause. We do this work to live into the Unitarian Universalism of the future.

In response to the Article II Study Commission and the final adopted language of Article II outlining our shared values, it is clear that the value most describe as central to our faith, to their living and to the mission of their congregations is love itself. We are a people guided by, and centered in, our engagement with all that love requires. The Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt states, "Given everything our world faces today, having faith in love is no small thing."

In these pages, you'll find personal testimony to love's power, reminders of the centrality of love throughout the long histories of Universalism and Unitarianism, and theologies of love drawn from many different expressions of Unitarian Universalism—from the natural world to the justice rally, to a loved one's deathbed, to the quiet moment before a worship service begins. May Love at the Center serve as an invitation to deepen your own understanding and practices of love.

Love at the Center is available from *InSpirit*, the UUA Bookstore, www.uuabookstore.org. Browse the site: there are many excellent books on Unitarian Universalism, spirituality, children's books as well as gift items.

- adapted from the *InSpirit* website



Building and Grounds

The Fellowship, School and House Maintenance are fluid categories and when one is high, another can make up the shortfall. Unfortunately, this year expenses were a lot higher. This is due partially to the 14 month fiscal year. May and June are expensive months for B&G, particularly with mowing which affects both the school and Mow/Snow categories.

The Fellowship building maintenance came in at \$3,169.91, which was \$330 under budget. There was a \$1,435 well pump replacement. The Board authorized an additional \$823 for 20 sanctuary chairs to handle larger crowds.

The school received much needed repairs. The work crew of Ed Roberts, Bob Veidt, Dwain Felts, Pat McQuate, Bill Hofherr and Dan Feldman installed new skirting, rebuilt half the handicapped ramp, replaced the soffits, re-shingled the school shed etc. They donated their time and talent and even provided some of the materials. Without them, the expense would have been **far** more. The year ended with raccoons under the building which were removed for \$525. Mowing was \$1,595. The school portion was over budget \$1,104.

As of June 1 the rental house has tenants! The same work crew stepped up again; this time re-shingling the front section of the house, replacing all the electrical outlets, doing some grounds work, and installing a base cabinet, countertop, sink, faucet and reworking plumbing in the kitchen. With a home inspection and mowing exhausting the budget, the volunteer work and the crew members donations of material made this work possible. There were also monetary donations for work house repairs. The tenant is a painter, landscaper, handyman and has plans to make major upgrades like painting the entire house that we could not do. The house portion was \$44 over budget.

There was good news in the Mow/Snow/Waste category as we switched to can service from the dumpster. We now receive trash and recycling pickup for \$46/month instead of \$217 for trash only. We also pay \$41/month for the school's trash service as they no longer have use of our dumpster. The three small snows ate into this savings at a cost of \$1,885. The temperatures were so cold we couldn't wait for it to melt. This put us \$729 over budget in this category.

The total for the above categories was \$,1547 over budget.

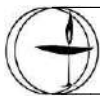
- Cindy Veidt

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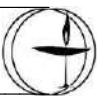
Building Liberal Religious Community
Please Join Us!

Sunday Services: 10:30 am; coffee follows

Please visit us online at www.uufhc.net



Please note: Next Newsletter deadline is Sunday, August 10, 2025



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

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Wayside Pulpit

He who lives in harmony with himself lives in
harmony with the universe.

– *Marus Aurelius*