

# The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Harford County



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

**Summer 2023**

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

## Summer Sermons

### **Blessed are the Peacemakers**

*Laura Bianca-Pruett*

*July 2*

In the (US) Roman Catholic Church, there is a special mass that can be done on July 4, called the “Mass for Peace and Justice.” Laura Bianca-Pruett will share a sermon/talk on The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-12), which is a part of the mass liturgy, from a Unitarian Universalist perspective.

### **The UU Patriot**

*Sandy Gibbons*

*July 9*

What does it mean for a UU to celebrate the July 4th holiday? Can we in good conscience, and in accordance with our Principles, still claim the label of “Patriot”? In this service, I will argue that we can, and should do so, and will explore what it means as a UU to express patriotism toward our admittedly imperfect union. I will also explore how our UU principles can guide us in how we can express our love for our United States of America, both as they are today, and as we might help them truly become “The Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave.”

### **Making Magic. Exploring Your Power**

*Jenn Blosser and UUWA*

*July 16*

Join us for stories and learnings from the UUFHC’s Univelarian University of Wizarding Arts summer camp.

The Univelarian University of Wizarding Arts (UUWA) summer camp program is a week of fantastic fun! Embracing make believe and magical thinking, student wizards explore Unitarian Universalist values rooted in liberation. UUWA offers a fully immersive experience with a focus on community building and sacred silliness where our students get to embrace their creativity, put their imagination into overdrive, and be welcomed and

celebrated for exactly who they are. Our radical inclusion and diverse activities encourage our students to be unashamedly themselves as they explore their magic.

### **Gathered Here in the Mystery of the Hour**

*Paul Seadler*

*July 23*

The mystery of creation and the world in which we live. Have you ever wondered about the universe? About what is real and what is not. Or what real means? Well, perhaps we can spend a few minutes thinking about these questions.

We can evaluate Bishop Berkeley, an earlier philosopher. We can review the ideas of Pierre Teilhard de Chardan. We can ask questions and give ourselves a more complete view of our world today.

### **Shifting from Role to Soul**

*O.W.L.S. with J. Sue Henry*

*July 30*

The Older Wiser Loving Souls (OWLS) will share portions of their spiritual journeys to the point of becoming an older wiser loving soul. Then we shall explore the opportunities to become who we really are and find the many blessings of later life. Learn the possibilities of aging as a spiritual journey and that it is more than a declining body, a resume that is ending and a social life of medical appointments!

### **The Earthling Fellowship**

*Marc Petrequin*

*August 6*

In the wake of global biodiversity loss from centuries of human development that threatens the very life force of our planet, humanity faces an existential crisis that requires a fundamental reassessment of our relationship with the animal kingdom. Join us as we explore our spiritual connection to the natural world and how we can establish an enduring fellowship with our other earthlings.

### **Ever Willing: Becoming the People the World Needs**

*Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti*

*August 13*

Join us for a powerful communal worship service from the largest annual gathering of UUs. This sermon is from the latest General Assembly held in June.

The pandemic has wrought change and created uncertainty for institutions, like our Unitarian Universalist congregations, and our wider world. Who and what are we becoming, individually and collectively? Our GA Sunday service explores these themes as we gather in community to celebrate the best of who we UUs are.

### **The Center of the Universe**

*Rob Lieb*

*August 20*

The evolution of consciousness has led humankind to think of themselves as very special. From the beginning we had a tendency to think what we saw was all there was. As we saw more and were able to make sense of it, our position shifted. The center of our universe shifted as well until we finally realized that we are not the center of anything big. Although, for about four million years we thought we were. It is really hard to leave that belief behind. However, to continue to get a better understanding of who we are, we must. This sermon will address the implications of this along with the rise of AI and the development of other possible sentient beings.

### **Enter, Rejoice and Come In**

*Rev. Jaye Brooks*

*August 27*

*The Rev. Jaye Brooks will be delivering her first sermon at UUFHC.*

In her own words, “My Philosophy of Worship: in the original sense of the word worship, (the old English *we-orþscipe*), on Sunday morning the gathered community considers what is worthy—what gives life meaning and purpose. To each service I bring the intention to touch both mind and heart, to offer some meaningful insight, and to give people hope. Although I love writing sermons, I also love to plan services that spotlight the experiences and ideas of congregation members.”

*Don't miss this service so we can share a very warm welcome to UUFHC with our new interim minister. **and**, be sure to bring lots of delicious snacks for an extra-special coffee hour: meet, greet & treat!*

*To learn more about Rev. Jaye, visit [www.revjenniferbrooks.net](http://www.revjenniferbrooks.net).*

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### **From Our President**

I am looking forward to welcoming Rev. Jennifer (Jaye) Brooks to our congregation in August as an Interim Minister. I want to acknowledge the effort of the Interim Search committee and Kim Roberts as the committee chair to help us ensure a smooth Ministerial transition.

Rev. Jaye will plan to join our Board and Staff retreat on August 19, and will give her first sermon on August 27. As an Interim Minister, she will be with our congregation for a limited period (likely one to three years) and will be focused on ensuring we are prepared to receive our next settled minister.

During our Staff and Board retreat, we will be working on agreeing on our current fiscal year priorities. Some of the topics we've discussed are to adopt a Safe Congregation Policy, build a Strategic Plan for UUFHC, increase Board transparency, empower a Right Relations team, and support Congregational growth and engagement. I'm sure we will have a robust discussion as a Board and align on a set of priorities. As soon as we have done that, I'll be eager to share them with the congregation.

While speaking of the Board, I'm pleased to welcome Kay Saucier to our UUFHC Board in the role of Recording Secretary. Kay was unanimously voted in during a special congregational meeting on June 11.

I know that Faith Formation is very important to members of our congregation, and we have many youth participants signed up to attend this year's summer camp from July 10 to July 14. I encourage those that are interested in learning about and supporting the Faith Formation program to sign up for one of the sessions during the week. Please reach out to Jenn Blosser at [dff@uufhc.net](mailto:dff@uufhc.net) or during service to learn about opportunities to help.

Our UUA General Assembly (GA) takes place this year from June 21 to June 25 in Pittsburgh PA. We have three member delegates attending: Sue Knause, Jasmine Stock, and Sara Brinkerhoff. Rev Maria and Jenn Blosser are also delegates on behalf of UUFHC. As many have heard, one of the key votes will be around a proposal to modify Article II, which covers the principles and purpose of UUA. I am grateful that our delegates have helped us have some proactive discussions around Article II in advance of the meeting and I look forward to hearing their feedback after the GA concludes. I also realize we can get better in ensuring our Congregation is informed of the topics in advance, and we will work to ensure we improve prior to next year's GA.

As I mentioned last newsletter, we still have a variety of key committee roles to be filled. I plan to organize a volunteer day over the summer, where the committees can discuss roles and openings available. It's a great opportunity for new members to engage with our community, and for existing members to stretch some new muscles. Look for more to come in the NUUwsbytes.

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



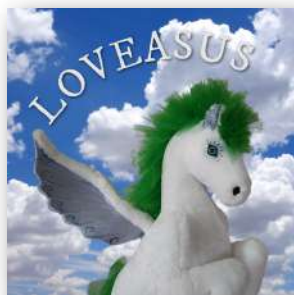
*Yours in service,  
- Mark Davis*

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## What's New in Faith Formation

This Summer, after summer camp concludes, our children and youth will be invited to spend Sundays working on building our two final Faith Formation Hall rooms: Loveasus and Hoppix!

**Loveasus** is our room dedicated to Art & Nature. We have a lot of fun projects in store, including building terrariums and aquariums, propagating plants, collaborating on art projects, and more! We'll be exploring what it means to actively love the world we live in and how we can express that love creatively. We know without a doubt that our children and youth will simply love getting a chance to participate in activities in the Loveasus room!



Meanwhile, **Hoppix** is our Social Justice Room. Our youth have already prepared a long list of causes to investigate and support, so in this space we will be spending time researching and discussing the issues and finding ways large and small to take action.



We will be looking for volunteers who are passionate about the topics covered in each of our rooms to join the Faith Formation Team and help facilitate exploration with our children and youth on Sundays. Before the start of the next church year, there will be a Faith Formation Team Retreat held at the Fellowship to prepare our volunteers for another, even more successful year of programming.

So if you're interested in or passionate about the ways your faith intersects with...

- world religions
- art & nature
- social justice
- community building & covenant

... consider joining us in the Faith Formation Hall and sharing your passion with the next generation of UU leaders and thinkers! Email Jenn Blosser to join us: [dff@uufhc.net](mailto:dff@uufhc.net).



*- Jenn Blosser*

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## Corner on Finance

Hello! It's Shawna, not Dick this month. Thank you to Dick for his final message and sign-off last month for the March financials. I was busy learning the new processes of this acclaimed Treasurer position and knee deep in numbers, helping close out the fiscal year. I've also been busy inputting the approved FY2023-24 budget into QuickBooks so we can responsibly track our May financials to our new targeted spending limits and goals.

With that being said, I'm presenting below financial data for both our April fiscal year-end information (FY2022-23) as well as our May (start of our new FY2023-24). For those of you who are new or fairly new, our current fiscal year runs from May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024. We worked extra hard this month to complete reconciliations and management reports early as David Callan has a trip away to Ireland early this month... so jealous! Also, the next newsletter isn't until the September issue, and I'd rather get information to everyone when it's more current and relevant.

These are simplified financial statements. For more detail, please look for the full statements (Balance Sheet, Profit & Loss, and Cash Flow) posted in the 'Members-Only' section of our website.

### **FYE 2022-23: April 30, 2023**

We closed our 2022-23 Fiscal Year (FY) on April 30 with Fiscal Year End (FYE) net income of \$93,528, which as Dick mentioned previously is mainly due to the \$100,000 gift (additional income) we received. We used this gift to pay down the mortgage at the end of March,

and we subsequently paid off the remaining balance of \$9,047 in April. We have no mortgage going into the new fiscal year!

**Profit & Loss Statement: FYE April 30, 2023**

Description	Actual FYTD	Budget FYTD
INCOME	\$393,256	\$261,216
EXPENSES	\$299,728	\$286,672
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$93,528</b>	<b>\$25,456</b>

**Cash Flow Statement: FYE April 30, 2023**

<b>Beginning Balance May 1, 2022</b>	<b>\$194,496</b>
Net Cash Flow Activities	<u>\$ 2,985</u>
<b>Ending Balance April 30, 2023</b>	<b>\$197,481</b>

The above statements show that for the 12 months ending April 30, we had net income of **\$93,528** and our cash was increased by **\$2,985**. Effectively we were deficit free!

**FYTD 2023-24: May 31, 2023**

We began our 2023-24 Fiscal Year (FY) on May 1, and ended the month with Fiscal Year to Date (FYTD) net income of \$16,090. We were under budget slightly due to receiving lower pledges than anticipated, but overall our expenses were in range despite some extra building and maintenance expenses incurred. Please be vigilant in sending in your pledge payments!

**Profit & Loss Statement: FYTD May 31, 2023**

Description	Actual FYTD	Budget FYTD
INCOME	\$38,903	\$41,279
EXPENSES	<u>\$22,813</u>	<u>\$22,137</u>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$16,090</b>	<b>\$19,142</b>

**Cash Flow Statement: FYTD May 31, 2023**

<b>Beginning Balance May 1, 2023</b>	<b>\$ 197,481</b>
Net Cash Flow Activities	<u>\$ 26,099</u>
<b>Ending Balance May 31, 2023</b>	<b>\$ 171,382</b>

The above statements show that for the month ending May 31, we had net income of **\$16,090** and our cash was decreased by **\$26,099**. Much of the de-

crease in cash is a result of paying annual insurance premiums that were due in May. We don't book all this expense hitting in May since we must spread the cost across the FY on a monthly basis.

That's it for this round. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have about these financial statements, or any other issues related to the financial health of UUFHC. I can be contacted via email at [treasurer@uufhc.net](mailto:treasurer@uufhc.net) or call me at (410) 878-6337.

Again, to see full detailed statements (Profit & Loss, Balance Sheet & Cash Flow), go online to our website at: <https://uufhc.net> and select the Member's section at the top right of the screen. Once you've entered the password, just scroll down and the most recent statements will be located under the "Financial Statements" header. Other financial statements and documents can be located via the menu to the left. The password can be obtained by sending an email request to: [office@uufhc.net](mailto:office@uufhc.net) or [webmaster@uufhc.net](mailto:webmaster@uufhc.net).

Thanks for showing interest in the financial well-being of our congregation. Have a great summer,

- *Shawna M. Brinkerhoff,*  
Treasurer



**Volunteer of the Month**

We honor **Kim Roberts** as Volunteer of the Month for quickly forming a search committee to choose an interim minister for the new church year. The UUA had a tight deadline, and UUFHC found out late that we needed to prepare for a ministerial search. Kim and her team quickly learned the necessary protocols, prepared all the paperwork and other preliminary steps, and interviewed several candidates. Kim and her committee unanimously chose Rev. Jennifer (Jaye) Brooks, all in the space of seven weeks! Rev. Jaye Brooks will begin serving UUFHC as Interim Minister in August.



Kim was able to prepare quickly with the help of her large search team, consisting of: Mark Davis, Beth Wood-Roig, Mary Slade, Leigh Faunce, Barbara Bowman, Sue Knause, Paul Seadler, Erin Gallagher, Trisha Tatam-McQuate and Cindy Veidt.

Kim is active at UUFHC in many capacities, and she has been honored in the past for her many volunteer roles. Thanks, Kim, for making UUFHC a vibrant and well-run congregation!

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## Honoring Kit Brown Saturday, July 8, 12:00 Noon



A celebration of the life of Kit (Catharine) Brown will be held at UUFHC on **Saturday, July 8**. All members and friends of UUFHC are invited to come to remember Kit and her many years with us. Kit joined our Fellowship with her husband Glenn in 1985. We will gather with Glenn and Kit's family and friends at 12:00 noon followed

by a luncheon at the Fellowship. If you need further information contact Rob or Marlene Lieb: [roblied@comcast.net](mailto:roblied@comcast.net) or [marlenelieb@comcast.net](mailto:marlenelieb@comcast.net).

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## Support Our Bookbag Drive July 31 - August 4



Our Community Outreach Committee has partnered with the Havre de Grace branch of the Boys and Girls Club of Harford County to donate book-bags and school supplies to children in need. The most needed supplies are bookbags for elementary and middle school kids. Also on the list of most needed items are glue sticks, yellow highlighters, crayons (24-pack), spiral notebooks, composition books and school size scissors.

Visit your local Dollar Store, Walmart, Target, Amazon or your favorite vendor for school supplies.

Drop off locations include the Church lobby (in the plastic bin labeled "Bookbag Drive" or the Front Porch of Paul and Maureen North or Laurie and Dan Feldman in Bel Air (see the member directory on the website for addresses or check the NUUwsbytes).

If you have any questions or need to drop off items before July 31, please email Laurie at [laurief1956@gmail.com](mailto:laurief1956@gmail.com).

## Salute to Our Graduating Senior



Congratulations to **Will Perdue**, who recently graduated from Havre De Grace High School. I recently connected with Will, who told me about his experiences in school and here at UUFHC and about future plans. Will was a member of the Coming of Age group prior to this year's group.

*What are your hobbies, interests, sports or best subjects in school?*

I graduated from the Bio-Med program, which I had been going through for all four years of high school. I've also really enjoyed Track and Field.

*Any Awards or Accomplishments?*

In Track and Field I came in first this year in the long jump event, and I also was given the most improved award for this year.

*What are your plans for next year?*

I'll be attending Towson University, and I'm going into the nursing program.

*Any travel plans?*

I would like to travel at some point soon; my dream has always been to go to Iceland someday.

*How long have you attended RE classes at UUFHC?*

I started attending RE classes in 2008.

*Any special memories (good or bad) of your experience in RE classes?*

Connecting with everyone in my classes and making friends was a favorite part of RE.

*Did you have a favorite RE curriculum?*

**Coming of Age** was the one that stuck out most to me, probably because it was more recent, but it was still a great experience. I learned more about myself, and I just had a better understanding of myself.

*Anything else you'd like to relate?*

I just wish everyone in the church best of luck, and keep doing what makes you happiest.

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## Exploring Right Relations

I was wondering about the expression, "Right Relations." Where did this term originate? Does it have a meaning outside of Unitarian Universalism, or did we

make it up? Have any connotations—negative or positive—accrued to this term?

Members of the Team exploring Right Relations hunted for answers.

We found “right relations” referenced by groups seeking to address climate change and heal the earth.

We found initiatives by those seeking to “decolonize” relationships with indigenous people in the USA and in Canada, who teach that right relations ultimately means respecting the Sacredness of all Life.

We found a Marketing firm named Right Relations!

We found a Johnny Rivers single, released in 1968 in the “psychedelic rock” genre, called Right Relations.

We found Christian sources offering variations on the idea that “if our relationships with our fellow human beings are wrong, our relationship with God cannot possibly be right.”

All of the definitions mentioned taking responsibility for one's own acts, and for respecting others.

Would you like to join us in exploring Right Relations, the significance to UUs, and how RR teams can help congregations work through disagreements and conflicts lovingly in covenant?

Our goal is to offer a selection process for a RR team to the Board, and to then select a team in the fall! There is UU Institute Training that offers guidance about what traits tend to make a good RR team member, and how RR teams serve congregations when there is need. The more of us who understand this work, the more effective a team can be.

Please contact me, Kathleen Mader, Board Vice President, to let me know you are interested. We will soon be offering informal meetings to review and discuss the training materials and topics, and we would love to include you!

- Kathleen Mader

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## Summer Flea Markets

Flea Markets have become an important fund-raiser for UUFHC. Thanks to Russ Poulsen and Nyla Mueller for all their hard work to bring community to UUFHC. The

summer fundraisers are on Saturdays July 15, August 12 and August 26. Please help Russ and Nyla by volunteering, for the day even for a few hours, so day-long volunteers can take a lunch break. Also, as you finish your spring cleaning, you can donate unneeded items—just look for the area in the cloak room. Contact the office if you would like to volunteer, or contact Russ and Nyla directly.

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## Expectations

This is the Summer Newsletter. It covers two months: July and August, even though it goes to press in mid-June. That's the way publishers work; some Newsletters are in the works a few months in advance. Ours is one month in advance.

Typically, at UUFHC the month of July is the vacation month. Most members are on vacation, but it wasn't always this way. The members closed up the church building for nearly two months a few decades ago. When the Rev. Blair Wesley began with us in 1988, she said we would be open all summer. And we have been since 1989. The Sunday Worship Services are covered by members: *lay preachers*, we call ourselves. Over the years we Unitarian Universalists have come to expect the sharing of ideas and opinions. What's more—we find inspiration from our members who share their beliefs.

We also find inspiration from books such as *Our Chosen Faith* by Rev. John A. Buehrens (1998). He wrote about the expectations we inherited from our Jewish and Christian ancestors: Hanukkah and Christmas, Passover and Easter. “We expect holidays, we look forward to them. They come in a regular cycle, seemingly as natural and universal as the seasons themselves.” More recently, Americans have recognized and celebrated the Islamic holy days as well.

Phillip Hewitt, a Canadian Unitarian minister, was quoted in Buehrens' chapter 8, *Expectations*: “The bond of unity in a church is not a shared belief but a shared worship. Worship (worth-ship) is an act of reverence for what is regarded as of great, or supreme, worth. In the ultimate analysis this is but another way of capturing the real meaning of love. What is of real worth to us, in the full sense, we cannot help but love. Love is reverence for life, to use Albert Schweitzer's phrase, and reverence is a mode of worship. Worship in a Unitarian setting becomes a shared act of celebration expressing our love for things of worth—those values by which and for which we live, in whatever picture-language they may be symbolized.”

May your summer be filled with *satisfied expectations!*  
See you in August!

- JoAnn Macdonald

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## Sue Knause, Aspirant

An “Aspirant” is an individual working toward the goal of becoming a UU Minister. **Sue Knause** is now a ministerial aspirant sponsored by UUFHC! The Board voted to sponsor Sue in her journey at the May Board meeting. She will attend classes on-line to earn her degree.



As a sponsor, our role will be to provide emotional support, as opposed to financial support. Typically, home congregations sponsor ministerial candidates.

UUFHC has sponsored at least one other ministerial candidate. About 20 years ago, we sponsored a member, E. Scott Michael (now Sammler-Michael) who received his degree at Meadville-Lombard, a UU Ministers college. Scott went onto a successful career. He is presently co-minister, with wife Anya Sammler-Michael at the UU Congregation of Montclair in New Jersey. A retired UU minister, Gail Collins-Randive, was a member UUFHC in the 1970s and later became a UU minister with an active career.

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## Get the App!

Don't forget to download the UUFHC App. You can either download using the QR code or enter the App Store on your Apple or Google smart phones. Just type in UUFHC or our entire name, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Harford County. Download the app and set up your profile to access all the features.

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## Keep Kids Busy This Summer

*InSpirit*, the Unitarian Universalist Association's bookstore, has a wide variety of books for kids for all ages, including story books, board books for the youngest, activity books and books to help strengthen UU spirituality. Here are a couple of activity books for summer fun and learning.

**Protecting the Planet**, by Louise Spillsbury and published by Free Spirit Press, is written for children 6-10. It offers straightforward information on plastic waste, pollution and global warming, and shares the small changes we can make for the earth. The book shares ways kids and the adults in their lives can look after the planet. The book is a hardback and priced at \$12.99.

**Seven Principles Activity Booklets** is published by Skinner House Books and contains mazes, hidden pictures and puzzles and can be done individually or as a group. The booklets have some words but are appropriate for pre-readers ages 3 to 6. Author Terry Stafford has a UU religious education background. For \$14.00 you will get enough booklets for 10 children.

Visit [www.uuabookstore.org](http://www.uuabookstore.org) to browse the other selections for children. Click on “children” on the left menu. You can also focus on the type of books you wish to search.

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## Summer Birthdays

Summer is the perfect time to celebrate—a beach party, a lawn party, a celebration in the park—so many options for our lucky Members with summer birthdays. May your birthday be fantastic, and your year great!

### July Birthdays

Paul North	July 1
Jean McKendry	July 7
René Varela	July 7
Gail Drew	July 11
Diana Rudolph	July 11
Melvia (Mel) Hagan	July 14
Glenn Brown	July 16
Karen Pearsall	July 16
Sara Brinkerhoff	July 19
Valerie Greene	July 19
Karin Johnsgard	July 19
Joy Mullen	July 20
Emery Cook	July 21
Mark Gallihue	July 23
Shawna Brinkerhoff	July 26
Erica Fineman-Bertoli	July 26
Rob Lieb	July 30

### August Birthdays

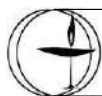
Julia Cosentino-Tich	August 5
Suzanne Gallihue	August 11
Jasmine Stock	August 16
Marge Calvert	August 17
Natalie Gallagher	August 18
Lisa Hixon	August 27

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 13, 2023



Minister:	The Rev. Maria McCabe
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:  
Tues: 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
Thurs: 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Director of Faith Formation Office Hours:  
Sun: 8:30 am to 1:00 pm  
Tues, Wed & Thurs: 9:30 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:minister@uufhc.net">minister@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>
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Website:	<a href="http://www.uufhc.net">www.uufhc.net</a>

## Wayside Pulpit

You don't develop courage by being happy in your relationships everyday. You develop it by surviving difficult times and challenging adversity.

– *Epicurus*