May 2024 Volume 30 Issue 5

NUUsletter

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of

A Welcoming Congregation

Sunday Services

May 5, 10:30 am, "UUA Article II" Principles, Sources and Values, Making Sense of UUA Article II. We are just a month away from General Assembly, when our delegates will vote on changes to the UUA Bylaws. This morning we will consider the recommendations to change the wording of Article II which includes the wording on our Principles and Sources. Rev. Terre

May 12, 10:30 am, "Nurturing, Mothering, and Caring for All" In our multi-generational service we will explore our shared responsibility to care for and nurture one another, no matter our age. Courtney Sinha, Rev. Terre

May 19, 10:30 am, "Beginner's Mind" Daily life invites us to re-engage with the Buddhist ideal of Beginner's Mind. So often we see someone and their clothing, accent, skin color and develop a snap judgment in our head. Often, we forget how to see the sacred in the midst of the mundane. Join us to re-awaken Beginner's Mind in your own life and see it all anew!

The Rev. Eve Stephens grew up in the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Clemson, SC, where she discovered her love of congregational life and began to consider ministry. She studied social ethics and pastoral counseling at Union Theological Seminary. Once ordained, Eve served as a minister for four years each at the UU Church of Utica, NY and the UU Community of Charlotte, NC. She went on hiatus from full time ministry after welcoming her second child and spent a year earning a certification in Health & Wellbeing Coaching from Duke University while enjoying longer hours with her kids, six-year-old Ethan and four-year old Hank. Eve now works as a Health Coach at Waterleaf Naturopathic Medicine in Asheville, NC.

You can check out her blog here:

https://www.anatomyofchange.life

This is also a Generosity Sunday.

May 26, 10:30 am, "Jungle Larry and the Astronomical Event" Garry DeVol will lead a service centered around viewing the recent total solar eclipse in Mansfield, Ohio, with his wife, Sarah, Mike and Betty Corbin, and Barb LeFleur and Chuck Morrison. If you are another member of the congregation who traveled to see the eclipse and wish to contribute to this service, please contact Garry.



Minister Column



Friends,

May is upon us. Beltane, May 1, marks the balance point of the year, the balance of dark and light. It celebrates the return of spring. Although we live in climes that have already experienced some very warm days, the rhythms of the earth mark the progress of the year. While we flow from one month to the next, May marks other rituals for many: young people graduate from high school and college. The school year ends for most young people.

May holds an amazing array of special days, including Star Wars day on May 4, so we will greet David Wilson. This month, we will participate in the Holocaust Remembrance day on May 5 at First Christian. Thanks to our folks who will participate in an interfaith choir for the service. Additionally, the Unitarian Universalist Association was founded on May 12. There are celebrations in many cultures and religious traditions.

In many parts of the northern hemisphere, it is just getting warm enough for crops to be planted and spring to burst out. As I drove to South Carolina a couple of weeks ago, I once again was awestruck by the number of greens that emerge in the spring. Every year, I see the seasonal changes in the world around me and yet I never grow tired of the amazing changes. When I got to SC, I found two blossoms on my pomegranate tree. Perhaps this year I will have my first fruit.

Our lives hold such disparate realities: our wonder at renewal; our pain as we see suffering in our community and our world. Somehow, we find ways to live in the tension and paradox of wonder and suffering, mystery and the banality of human actions. Yet, we still manage to find hope and love. Our community, family, and friends help us find a balance in life as seasons move through our lives.

Blessings, Terre



Betty Corbin

My year as president of the congregation is nearing an end. Stacy Yoder starts his term as president on June 1. Stef Nicovich ended his year as president, and I started my year with the congregation choosing our new name: Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lynchburg. Last fall under Makanah Morris's leadership, we renovated the lower level of Unitarian House. We are happy that a young member of our congregation has leased the space. We also have rented a spare RE room to a music teacher for use other than on Sunday mornings. It is good for our spaces to have more use. Soon, we will raise funds to repair the sanctuary bell tower. Our sanctuary building is nearly 100 years old and our congregation is over 110 years old.

Many members have served on the board over these years in various capacities. I encourage each of us to say yes to service on the board; on a committee; as a teacher or helper in RE. Truly, the more you give the more you receive. Friendships form and grow as you serve with others. I hope you have found and continue to find this a caring community of kind-hearted and spiritually and intellectually curious persons who also love to have good times together.

Speaking of good times together, I hope you will participate in our Marvelous May service and goods auction. On **Saturday**, **May 4**, a lasagna dinner will be served at 5:30 pm followed by a live auction for some of the donated items. It will be a fun filled evening with great food. There will be a Zoom link for folks who can't attend in person. Of course you can bid online for items not included in the live auction starting **Sunday**, **April 28th** and continuing through **Monday**, **May 6th**.

The annual meeting to elect officers will be on Sunday, May 19th immediately after the service. The congregation's board meets on the second Wednesday of each month. If you have business for us to consider or you wish to attend, please let me know at betty.corbin@protonmail.com.

As we continue to work for justice and live love in the world, may we remember that together we are stronger.

Blessed be, Betty Corbin, President

DISCUSSION GROUP

May 5, 12,19, 26

We will be meeting in the UHouse at 9:20 am and hope that participants will attend in person. However, Zoom will be available for those who are unable to attend due to mobility limitations or other reasons.

Discussion Group link: https://zoom.us/i/955583755? =YTFFbm01MlpYdjY1UkdCYU8yTOYyQT09 Dial-in: (301)715-8592 Meeting ID: 955 583 755

Password: 040542

ZoomNOTE FROM ZOOM ADMINS

Here are the ways to connect with us on Zoom!

Weekly Sunday Service

Time: 10:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada). Every week on Sunday. Join Zoom Meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86315352706? pwd=S1M1eFZVd1ZBK0RJblp2dnN5WEc1UT09

Meeting ID: 863 1535 2706

Passcode: 318498

Discussion Group:

Link: https://zoom.us/j/955583755?
=YTFFbm01MlpYdjY1UkdCYU8yT0YyQT09

Dial-in: (301) 715-8592 Meeting ID: 955 583 755 Password: 040542

Alliance, BookwUUrms, and one time programming

Room: Rachel Carson Room

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85658301039

Dial in: +1 309 205 3325 Meeting ID: 856 5830 1039

Other meeting links:

Available from the relevant group upon request.



Pat Bower, Generosity Sunday team

In March, our generosity yielded **\$86**1 for Habitat for Humanity. Thanks to everyone who participated in this offering.

On **May 19**, Amy Bonnette, Executive Director of Camp Kum-Ba-Yah at Cosby Woods, will bring us an update on programs and other developments at the camp. A recent brochure points out that "We grow gardens, we grow hearts, we grow minds, and we grow community. When we intentionally invite children from every corner of our community to participate in adventures, we see relationships being built; we provide our children with the practice of working toward a solution with everyone contributing. We find common ground". Our church has had a long relationship with Camp KBY over the years, with children attending camp there, teenagers serving as counselors, and adults as board members.

To make a contribution to Camp KBY in May, you may:

- · Place cash or a check in the offering basket when you are with us in the sanctuary
- · Click the DONATE button on uulynchburg.org
- · Mail a check to the church at 818 Court St. 24504. The check may be made out to CAMP KBY or to Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lynchburg with Camp KBY in the memo line.

The Generosity Sunday team also includes Barbara LaFleur, Molly McClenon and Finis Southworth



MUUvies that Matter Tuesday, May 14 at 7:00 pm Zoom

"A Brief History of the Future" is a unique PBS documentary series about our futures and how we can reimagine them. Hosted by renowned futurist Ari Wallach, the show invites viewers on a journey around the world that is filled with discovery, hope, and possibility about where we find ourselves today and what could come next.

In May we will be watching "Chaos and Complexity". In this episode, Ari Wallach explores the historically transformational moment we are currently living in, why it causes so many of us to feel overwhelmed and afraid, and how it actually offers unprecedented possibilities for new and exciting futures we can create together.

We hope you can join us on Tuesday, May 14 at 7:00 pm via Zoom to view this movie and for a lively discussion time to follow. You can also watch the movie on your own and join us for the discussion time.

Be in touch with Makanah/Bob Morriss at revs2uu@ aol.com for the Zoom link.



BookwUUrms Wednesday May 15 3:00 pm



BookwUUrms will meet at 3:00 pm on May 15 at U House and on Zoom. Rosemary will lead the discussion of "Dragonflight" by Anne McCaffrey. "On a beautiful world called Pern, an ancient way of life is about to come under attack from a myth that is all too real. Lessa is an outcast survivor. But when an ancient threat to Pern reemerges, Lessa will rise—upon the back of a great dragon with whom she shares a telepathic bond more intimate than any human connection." ~ Amazon

Alliance News

Westminster Canterbury
May 9 at 12:00 pm

The Alliance will meet on May 9 at noon at Westminster Canterbury for lunch with our friends there. You can buy lunch in the cafeteria or bring your own.

Poplar Forest May 23 at 10:30 am

On May 23, we will go to Thomas Jefferson's retreat home, Poplar Forest. We will take a tour of the restored home and we'll also have lunch at nearby Millie's Living Cafe. We aim to arrive at Poplar Forest for a 10:30 am tour, but we may have change that depending on docent flexibility. Details will be sent out closer to the date.

JART

Justice Action and Resource Team

Tuesday, May 21 at 7:00 pm on Zoom.

Jim Barton will lead the meeting and the note taker is TBD.

Email Pat Bower at bowerpatricia2@gmail.com if you'd like to be added to our email list. The Zoom link will be sent out on the morning of May 21.



50TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Steve Glenn and his wife Nita are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary at a picnic (catered dinner) in Taughannock State Park on **August 17th** hosted by their son, Matthew and his wife. They have planned other possible activities for folks traveling a

distance. Enjoy a respite from Virginia's summer heat in the Finger Lakes area of upstate New York. Follow the wine trails or visit the natural and historical places. Matthew and his wife run a CSA. Steve is a member of our congregation and a former co-director of RE with Tina Barnes. He and Nita retired to Trumansburg, NY to be nearer their son and his wife who run a CSA. If you are interested in attending, please contact Steve who will email you all the details.

Email: Stevenglenn612@gmail.com or (607) 237-5203 (cell)





Kroger Community Rewards: Fundraising at No Cost to You

If you're a member or friend of our church, and you do some grocery shopping at Kroger, we hope you will join their **Community Rewards** program and designate your "rewards" (a tiny percentage of your purchases) to *The Alliance of First Unitarian Church*. It's such an easy way to contribute to the work of the church and the Alliance because half of the proceeds go to the church operating budget and the other half stays with the Alliance to be available for special church projects.

The KCR program has changed a great deal over the years and it used to be a lot easier to tell you how to join! I can't give exact instructions that will apply to everyone – it depends if you already have an account, whether Kroger has your current email address, etc. To apply for membership in KCR, I would go to one of these websites and follow the instructions from there:

www.Krogercommunityrewards.com www.Kroger.com Organization name: Alliance of First Unitarian Church

Organization number: FL228

For questions, the Kroger Customer Service number is 1-800-576-4377. Their agents in the Live Chat have been helpful. I'll be glad to help if I can: Pat Bower, bowerpatricia2@gmail.com or (434) 386-3944.

Notice of UUCL Annual Meeting Sunday May 19, 2024 after the service

UUCL Annual Meeting will be on **Sunday, May 19th** immediately after the church service to

- elect officers
- vote on modifications to church's by-laws to update pronouns to be more inclusive
- permit written proxy voting on all business matters. Currently the by-laws only allow proxy voting for election of officers.

Slate of officers and by-law wording updates will be distributed by email prior to the meeting.

UUCL Marvelous May Service & Goods Auction Saturday May 4th 5:30—8:00 pm

Link to the online (silent auction): https://auctria.com/auction/marvelousmaymarket

Join us for a fun-filled evening on **Saturday, May 4th.** Ingathering is at 5:00 pm. Dinner will be served at 5:30 pm. Live auction starts at 6:30 pm. Please join by Zoom for the live auction if you are not able to attend in person. Alternatively, you may have a friend bid for you. Online bidding started Sunday, April, 28th and ends at 2 am on **Monday, May 6th.** Selected online bidding items will be displayed at the church the evening of May 4th. A modest donation of \$10 per adult is requested to cover food costs. Dinner menu: lasagna (veggie and meat), tossed salad, bread, dessert and beverage.

Dates:

- * Sunday, April 28th: Online Bidding Started
- * Saturday, May 4th: Dinner & Live Auction 5:30 8:00 pm
- * Online Bidding Ends at 2:00 am Monday, May 6th

CARING & SHARING

In Our Thoughts



Don't hesitate to contact the Care Coordinator of your Community Group if you need help or have a concern.



"The Kindness of Others"

By Rayla D. Mattson

My youngest child, who is autistic, has taught me so much—and yet there are times, like our morning bus routine, when her autism causes me anxiety. We have to wait for her bus for up to twenty minutes on a small strip of grass on a busy road, and I have to be very creative to keep her not only entertained but out of the street. (I wonder how many people *we* entertain each morning.)

One day last month, a white woman pulled over and ran over to us with a shopping bag. She said she sees us every morning and is so moved by my obvious love and adoration for my daughter that she felt compelled to do something kind for us. She noticed that I never have on a coat and I often stand in the rain. She didn't know if the things would fit, she said, but the receipt was in the bag. She smiled and drove away.

As I looked down at the bag, I had very mixed emotions. I have a winter coat, but my worn-out sweatshirt is comfortable and too bulky to fit under my coat. I stand in the rain because umbrellas cause anxiety for my little one. Did she do this because I'm black? Why did she feel I needed these items?

I put my daughter on the bus, went inside, and found a note in the bag. She said she'd wanted to stop now for weeks. She was a single mom who had struggled for years to raise her boys. She didn't know if I needed anything, but was drawn to me and my daughter. The note said to return the items and get what I wanted if I didn't want what was in the bag.

My eyes filled with tears. Amid these racially tense times and political unrest and horrible acts of violence we see almost daily, she just needed to do something nice for someone. Seeing my daughter and me every day reminded her of the good this world has. I think she needed that connection.

Although I have what I need for the winter, I'm still a struggling single mother of three. I took the items to the store and exchanged them for items I'd been wanting. I sent out a blessing for her to the universe and held on to the notion that there are those of us who want to reach out to others; who believe that there's goodness in the world, and want to find it. And I am grateful.

Source: WorshipWeb









Thanks to everyone who helps to make coffee hour possible this year by bringing healthy snacks and especially by helping with clean-up!

How do you know who shares "your" Sunday? Or another Sunday, in case you are looking for someone to trade with?

Check the online **Directory of Members and Friends**. It is available via the email you receive each month which announces that the new nUUsletter is available, with a link to past nUUsletters and to the directory. Usually they both are in the second line of text. Just click on the link!

This month's volunteers are: May 5 N-Z

May 12 A-C May 19 D-M May 26 N-Z

Our weekly Sunday Services nourish our minds, souls, and spirits. Our Coffee Hours provide connections, conversations, and fellowship. Our Coffee Hour is a ministry of hospitality that we all offer and share with each other.

Thank you for participating.

Please label snacks that contain any form of nuts, or other allergens, for those with nut sensitivities / allergies.





Dear Families,

I hope you are prepared to welcome May and that you find many delightful flowers along your path this month. It's time to embrace a new theme into our hearts and minds as we anticipate the month ahead. We've spent the past month exploring the beauty of *interdependence*, delving into the connections that bind us all together in this vast and intricate web of life. It's been a journey filled with discovery, reflection, and growth, and we're immensely grateful to have shared it with each and every one of you. It was a delight looking at the many connections between ourselves and our families, friends, and communities, and how all of those things weave into the wonder of life in the natural world.

A special note: We are actively looking for volunteers for both of our Sunday morning children's classes: Prek-4th grade and 5th-8th grade. We will need volunteers for our younger class starting in mid-June as we phase out of paid staff. We need volunteers for our 5th-8th grade class effective immediately. Please contact DLE, Courtney Sinha if you would like to find out more about either of these opportunities.

Now, as we step into the month of May, we embrace a new theme that calls us to expand our understanding even further: *Pluralism*. Pluralism reminds us that the world is a rich tapestry of diverse beliefs, perspectives, and experiences. It invites us to celebrate the myriad ways in which people seek meaning, find connection, and navigate their spiritual journeys.

Throughout this month, we'll embark on a new adventure together, exploring what it means to honor and respect the multiplicity of voices that enrich our communities. From discussions and activities to stories and reflections, there will be countless opportunities for us to learn, grow, and deepen our appreciation for the beauty of diversity.

As always, we want our Religious Education program to be a welcoming space where all are valued and embraced. Whether you're a longtime member of our community or joining us for the first time, we're excited to embark on this journey with you. Together, we'll continue to nurture curiosity, foster empathy, and cultivate a spirit of love and understanding. If you ever need anything to help you feel more included in our community, please let me know.

We look forward to the month ahead and all the wonders it holds in store. May it be a time of learning, connection, and profound discovery for us all.

This month, our younger Religious Education classes will continue with the Soul Matters curriculum as we will delve into the UU value of Pluralism.

If you have a child in preschool to 4th grades, here is what you can expect: Soul Matters is a hands-on, exploratory curriculum. We use multiple learning modalities including books, music, movement, arts and crafts, sensory experiences, and shared experiences to learn the values in this curriculum. We will be studying and exploring:

May 5 - Many Views: "We Need Each Other to Perceive the Whole!"

May 12 - Many Sources: "We Are Made of Many Roots!"

May 19 - Many People: "No One Gets Left Out!"

May 26 - Many Things to Celebrate

Our older kids (5th to 8th grades) are on a temporary pause from their **Building a Better World** curriculum as we work to transition it to the next phase. During this time, our youth have several options:

They can make use of the temporarily empty RE room to play board games, read, or make free form art.

They are very welcome to join the Soul Matters class for learning and activities. Finally, they are invited to remain in the sanctuary with their grown-ups for the service.

Thoughts on Pluralism

"Blessed are we who gather with open hearts, together, in this space, today.

Blessed are we: the chalice-lighters of resistance, justice, love, and faith.

Blessed are we: the heretics, the outcasts, the walkers of our own way.

Blessed are we: the border-crossers, the refugees, the immigrants, the poor, the wanders who are not lost.

Blessed are we: the transgressors, the trespassers, the passers-by, the cause-takers, the defiant, the compliant.

Blessed are we: the hand-extenders, the sign-makers, the protestors, the protectors.

Blessed are we: the trans women, the trans men, the non-binary, the cisqender, the multigender, the no gender.

Blessed are we: the friend, the stranger, the lonely, the hidden, the visible, the authentic.

Blessed are we who rise in solidarity, blessed are we who cannot, blessed are we who do not.

Blessed are we for this is our Beloved Community, and this is who we are."

Blessed Are We, Andrea Hawkins-Kamper

 λ

We have great Adult RE programming this season as well! If you haven't found a spot for yourself yet, it's not too late. There are several interesting options for adults of all ages and stages! Soul Matters Small Groups meet once a month. It is not too late to join the in-person cohort or one of the online cohorts, so if you are interested, reach out to DLE Courtney Sinha for more information. See below for more on Adult Faith Development opportunities.

Just like the changing seasons bring a sense of renewal, our Religious Education program aims to provide a nurturing and inclusive environment where you and your whole family can grow and flourish spiritually. If you ever have any questions or would like to get more involved, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Blessings, Courtney

Director of Lifespan Engagement Contact Info

courtney.sinha@gmail.com 434-509-5821 text or call

Office Hours:

Sunday mornings you will find me around church, usually in the RE spaces.

I am off on Mondays and Saturdays. Tuesdays: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Wednesdays and Thursdays: 10:30 am - 2:00 pm Fridays and Evenings: By appointment only.

Adult Religious Education Offerings in May

Discussion Group meets on **Sunday mornings** at 9:30 am.

Soul Matters Small Groups meet at various times, in-person and online. If you wish to join us, reach out to DLE Courtney Sinha.

The **Young Adult Social Group** (ages 18-35) will meet on **May 7** and **May 21**. Check with Rev. Terre to confirm meeting information before attending.

Alliance usually meets on the **2nd and 4th Thursdays** and for special events. Watch your email and announcements for May dates and events.

MUUvies that Matter will meet on **May 14** at 7 pm via Zoom.

Silent Book Club - 3rd Thursday of the month (meets **May 16**) at 6:30 pm. Please see flier for details and talk to DLE Courtney Sinha if you have any questions or need more info.

Children and Youth Religious Education Offerings in May

Our Pre-K-4th graders continue with the Soul Matters curriculum on Sunday mornings. This month they will be exploring the theme of Interdependence.

See above for information for 5th-8th graders.

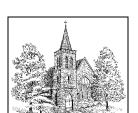
Multigenerational Offerings in May

May 4 - Please join us for the Services and Goods Auction at 5:30 pm. Delicious dinner provided and lots of fun and excitement for the evening. Children welcome to join!

May 18 - Boards and Boards Potluck and Game Night! Please see flier for more information.

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------|---|
| | | | 7:00 pm Connections Committee | 2 | m | 5:30 pm Spring Service Dinner & Live Auction [see p. 5] |
| 9:30 am Discussion Group 10:30 am Service "UUA Article II" Rev. Terre [see p.1] Religious Education 11:30 am COFFE HOUR | 7:00 pm Committee On Ministry | 7:00 pm Young Adult Group | 8 6:30 pm Board Meeting | 9 12:00 pm Alliance [see p. 3] | 10 | = |
| 9:30 am Discussion Group 10:30 am Service "Nurturing, Mothering, and Caring for All" Courtney Sinha, Rev. Terre [see p.1] Religious Education 11:30 am COFFEE HOUR 12:00 pm Sunday Services Committee | 13 | 7:00 pm mUUvies that Matter [see p. 3] 7:00 pm JART meeting [see p.4] | 3:00 pm BookwUUms [see p. 3] | 16.30 – 8:30 pm Silent Book Club | 71 | 18 5:00 – 8:00 pm Boards & Boards Potluck Social [see p. 6] |
| _ | 20 NUUSLETTER DEADLINE | 21 6:30 pm Young Adult Group | 22 | 23 10:30 am Alliance [see p. 3] | 24 | 25 |
| 9:30 am Discussion Group 10:30 am Service "Jungle Larry and the Astronomical Event" Garry DeVol [see p.1] Religious Education 11:30 am COFFEE HOUR | 27 | 28 | 29 6:30 pm Soul Matters Group | 30 | 31 | |

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lynchburg 818 Court Street Lynchburg, VA 24504 RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED



THIS MONTH: • Service & Goods Auction, 5/4; p.5

Boards/Boards Potluck; 5/18; p.6
 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, 5/19; p.5

Church Staff

Rev. Terre Balof.......Minister
Maile Shay-MountainAdministrative Assistant
Courtney Sinha Director of Lifespan Engagement

Ernest Berry Sexton

Church Officers

Trustees

Audrey DeJarnette (2024)

Jim Barton (2025)

Miles Dolihite (2026)

Nominating Committee

Joan Lewis-Yoder (2023)

Makanah Morriss (2024)

Committee on Ministry

Briana Valone

Endowment Committee

Joan Lewis-Yoder (2023)

Office Phone: (434) 528-0744 Email: office@uulynchburg.org Website: www.uulynchburg.org

Content Deadline for the June nUUsletter:

Monday, May 20th

Submit Info at:

https://uulynchburg.breezechms.com/form/20746f

Jane Pianowski Fagiano, Editor

Directions: The Church and Sanctuary may be accessed from the top of Monument Terrace steps. Unitarian House is at 818 Court Street. If the steps are a problem, handicapped parking spaces can be reached by driveways on either side of the Unitarian House. Once on the lower level, enter the Addition, where there is an elevator to access the Sanctuary level.

Notes: For files, please submit as Word document. Submissions prepared on Apple computers should be submitted as text within the body of the Breeze message.

If you would like your name to be removed from the nUUsletter mailing list, please leave a message at (434) 528-0744 or email office@uulynchburg.org.