



March 2021 e-Newsletter

UUCY's NEW Website

As some of you may have noticed already, the revamped UUCY website has been created and **is live!**



If you have any questions or feedback regarding the new site, please contact Rev. Terry (revterry@uucy.org)



Looking to have something included in our next monthly e-Newsletter? Please contact Rachel Schmidt, Communications Coordinator (communications@uucy.org)



UUCY Ramblers: Walk safely with UUCY Friends!



L-R: Sue Bupp, Cho, Kate Haldeman, David MacVeigh, Carol Stowell, Joel Piperberg, Sherry Lookofsky, Marta Smith, Joan Fulton and Deb Gogniat (behind the camera).

Are you a walker and eager to reconnect with UUCY friends in a safe outdoor environment? Consider joining us for one or more of our four neighborhood rambles hosted by members of UUCY. We started Rambles in December and an average of 10 walkers showed up each time. **Each Ramble is held on Tuesdays at 10:00 AM** and average 2- 3 miles ; we wear masks and socially distance. Whether you prefer brisk or leisurely walking, all are welcome to come and walk at your own pace. If weather is an issue, contact the host to see if it is canceled. Here's the schedule for March

Week 1 (March 2) - Eastern Ramble meeting at John Rudy Park (main entrance, near BR), hosted by Joan Fulton (joanfulton60@gmail.com or 717-873-7541)

Week 2 (March 9) - Central Ramble- UPMC Wellness Trail. (Parking lot B park in lots overlooking Roosevelt ave. marked Wellness Trail) hosted by Julie Amberg (juliesamberg@gmail.com or 717-654-4203)

Week 3 (March 16) - Northern Ramble meeting at Cousler Park (Entrance A on Church Road with largesign & BR)hosted by Joan Fulton (joanfulton60@gmail.com or 717-873-7541)

Week 4 (March 23) - Southern Ramble meeting at York Township Park. (25 Oak Street, York) Hosted by Deb Gogniat (gogniatd@gmail.com or 717-578-3085)

Week 5 (March 30) - Northern Ramble meeting at Cousler Park (Entrance A on Church Road with largesign & BR) hosted by Carol Stowell (stowellcarol@gmail.com or 717-292-0708)

Adult Faith Development Corner

March Congregational Read: *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson

"In this brilliant book, Isabel Wilkerson gives us a masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America as she explores, through an immersive, deeply researched narrative.

She tells us stories about real people, how America today and throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system—a rigid hierarchy of human rankings." ...LITLOVERS

Numerous copies are available through Martin Memorial Library.

We will gather to discuss the book on Monday, March 29th – 7 – 8PM

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3685600239?pwd=UGs1TXplQXhLcEF5TnlHRDd3R3pvZz09>

Meeting: 368 560 0239

Passcode: 1955

Racial Justice Resources:

<https://www.resources.soundstrue.com/podcast/rachel-ricketts-unplugging-from-the-matrix-of-white->

Mindfulness Exploration Discussion Group Sunday

Sunday Evenings 7–8PM

Facilitator: Donna Alcorn

Interested in exploring or deepening your spiritual practices? Come and join us on Sunday evenings as we nourish our capacity to keep an open heart and mind, lean into discomfort, and strengthen our own flourishing in this world. Feel free to attend when the spirit calls you.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85324406194?pwd=d1pNZjZyd1c1VmFCd29RSWxWdVI2dz09>

Meeting: 853 2440 6194

Passcode: 1955

March 7th



Why Zebras Don't Get Ulcers
Dr. Robert Sapolsky, 2017

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9H9qTdserM>

March 14th



The Science of Happiness

Laurie Santos, 2021

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HLWVyaf2--Y>

March 21st



Uncertainty

Ajahn Brahm, 2011

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pswsVGVdISY>

March 28th



The Noble Journey from Fear to Fearlessness

Pema Chodron, 2017

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6t SGso 1PY>

UUCY's Knitting Group



We meet from 10 a.m. to 11:30 AM every Tuesday morning. All year long!

Our traditional meeting space is the Carriage House Sun Room where we have pretty good light and can sit in a circle. In nice weather, we bring lawn chairs and sit outside.

If you like to knit or crochet or even have spare time to have a conversation, please feel free to drop in as often as you want. We have spare yarn, patterns and needles in the closet in the Leader Room so we can even get you started if you want to learn! Not everyone makes things and not every member is a UU. Most of us are retired, though we always enjoy hearing a younger perspective! This group has been meeting for many, many years and welcome new comers!

Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85673585334?pwd=UDFrSGM4NnJYdFppRFpHdHlMVHh5QT09>

Meeting ID: 856 7358 5334

PassCode: 714721



DATES: APRIL 17-APRIL 24

WE BELIEVE OUR MISSION MUST GO ON! RUNNERS AND WALKERS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE VIRTUAL RACE AGAINST RACISM BY RUNNING OR WALKING A DISTANCE OF 5K OR 3.1 MILES BETWEEN APRIL 17 AND APRIL 24. THIS CAN BE DONE WHEREVER YOU ARE— ON A TREADMILL, ON A RAIL TRAIL PATH, AROUND A TRACK, OR IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!



PRESENTING SPONSOR:

The GIANT Company

ENTRY FEES:

***T-SHIRTS: \$10**
(YOUTH S-L, ADULT S-3X)

RACE AGAINST RACISM
eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

THEN, PARTICIPANTS WILL SHARE HOW THEY SUPPORT OUR MISSION OF PEACE, JUSTICE, FREEDOM, AND DIGNITY FOR ALL BY **POSTING A PHOTO ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, OR TWITTER, TAGGING YWCA YORK AND USING THE HASHTAG #YORKRAR.**

15 YEARS RUNNING!

- AGES 5 & UNDER: FREE!
- AGES 6-21: \$10
- AGES 21-64: \$25
- AGES 65+: \$15

TO REGISTER:

**To register, visit www.ywcayork.org.
For questions, call 717-845-2631.**



The **“Aims of Scouting”** are character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness.

CUB SCOUTING is for boys and girls in kindergarten through fifth grades, or 6 to 10 years of age. Children who are older than 10, or who have completed the fifth grade, are eligible to join the [Scouting BSA](#), or [Sea Scouting](#) or [Venturing programs](#). **Cub Pack 37** (K-5th grade) meets in the sanctuary during the school year on Wednesday nights from 7-8 PM. **Our Cub Pack 37 program is eagerly welcoming new members!**

For more information on Cub Pack 37, contact **Cub Committee Chair George Kain**, cell 717-880-8730, email ghkain3@gmail.com

Scout Oath

On my honor I will do my best to do
My duty to God and my country and to
obey the Scout Law; To help other people
at all times; to keep myself physically
strong, mentally awake, and morally

Scout Law

A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly,
Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty,
Brave, Clean, and Reverent

Scout Motto

Be Prepared

Scout Slogan

Do a Good Turn Daily



UU Principles

We, the member congregation of the
Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant
to affirm and promote:

- The inherent dignity and worth of every person;
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

Writers Group

Please note that the UUCY Writers Group, which has traditionally met on Thursdays, is moving their meetings to the fourth Tuesday of the month. **Meetings will be held via Zoom from 7-9 PM.**

Zoom Meeting—

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88543509027?pwd=VTdiTnYvRDNOMzgwREdSWkVYVy93QT09>

Meeting ID: 885 4350 9027

Passcode: 1955

For additional information on the schedule change or to learn more about Writers Group, please contact Pamela Moore at psmoore2@comcast.net.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Children & Youth RE Small Groups in March

- March 7th - Monthly Worship Video Released
- March 14th - Small Group Meetings
- March 21st - Review Monthly Worship Video (HS Youth Group to meet)
- March 28th - Small Group Meetings

Times for RE Small Group Meetings

- Elementary - 9:00-9:50am
- PreTeen - 11:30am-12:30pm
- Middle School - 1:00-2:15pm
- High School - 3:00-4:15pm

Adult Faith Development Opportunities in March

Congregational Book Read - *Caste: The Original of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson

Take the month of March to read this book which examines the unspoken caste system that has shaped America and shows how our lives today are still defined by a hierarchy of human divisions. We will gather in April (date TBD) to discuss as a congregation. Books can be ordered online or found at your local library. Please [email](#) our Dir. of Lifespan Faith Development if you are having difficulty finding a copy.

Politics: Can We Talk? - Sunday, March 21st @ 2:00PM

Join us for the first of our facilitated “Living Room Conversations,” where we offer a simple, sociable, and structured way to practice communicating across differences. We will break into groups of 4-6 people to explore how we talk about politics and our hopes for improving how we do that. We will share stories about what has happened around our political conversations and consider the impact this has on our relationships with friends and family. Rather than a debate or a conversation about issues, this will be a discovery of the ways our knowledge of others’ political views impact how we decided who to relate to and at what depth we feel comfortable talking. We will take turns sharing, learning, and being curious. No preparation is required. Please [RSVP](#) to our Dir. of Lifespan Faith Development to receive the Zoom link.

Here is the Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3685600239?pwd=UGs1TXplQXhLcEF5TnlHRDd3R3pvZz09>

Meeting ID: 368 560 0239

Passcode: 1955

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

I heard yesterday on PBS that we are coming closer to passing through the 'acute' stage of the Covid pandemic. This means a significant number of people are stepping up to do what needs to be done, adapting to the situation in spite of some resistors and deniers. Here at UUCY we're happy to see folks adapting as well. In spite of covid restrictions and the confines of Winter, we're seeing higher numbers of people signing in to our virtual Sunday services. These higher numbers have been consistent, week after week since before Christmas. We're doing more positive work to stay engaged with our UUCY family. Those folks attending regularly are appreciating all the best our services have to offer; meaningful and inspiring sermons; great music including voices of the choir(!) and more volunteers in the role of Worship Associate. Our engagement is expanding. And now, gratitude to Sue Bupp and Erica Caldwell who have stepped forward to help create montages for hymns and some of the wonderful musical interludes that Gretchen provides week after week.

To me it is so heartwarming to see us coming together, even though we are still physically apart, making the best of what is important to us. Sunday services are still the number one way in which we gather as a family to worship, share our joys and sorrows and engage socially.

As we continue to move toward what will surely be a bright and budding springtime, let us continue to plant new seeds, nurture each other and come into full bloom. Know that we are always welcoming more volunteers to serve as Worship Associate, more help with creating music montages and, before too long you'll be hearing from Doug Hober, lovingly referred to as our technology wizard, offering a timeline to recruit and train volunteers in helping present both our virtual services and our in-person services. That will require more stretching of ourselves but isn't that what we're here for?.....growing and moving forward together!

If you're interested in learning how you can get more involved in the creativity of our services, contact anyone on the Worship Committee...Donna Alcorn, Robert Felton, Carol Stowell, Corlyn Griggs and Erica Caldwell.

**Blessed be.
In service,
Robert**



In an earlier newsletter, we were privileged to read the wonderful story of members, Ron and Mary Toomey. **The Membership Committee** would like to make this a monthly column in order to fight the isolation caused by the Pandemic, and to simply help us to get to know each other better. This will be an opportunity to learn about each other, and to develop our interpersonal relationships for the future. We are inviting all members, and friends of UUCY to participate. We will provide you with a set of common questions, such as "How many years have you been a UU?" and "How long have you been attending UUCY?" There will also be a set of fun, and thought provoking questions such as ---- "What is your favorite book?, or "What would your theme song be?", or "What was the best advise you were ever given?. " Or you may choose to share your story with us, as the Toomeys did so beautifully.

If you are interested in participating please contact the membership committee membership@uucy.org. Or be prepared for the membership committee to contact you!

CURRENT EVENT DISCUSSION GROUP PILOT – Monday evenings in March **March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 7:00-8:00 PM**

In light of the intensity of what is happening in the country and the world, the Membership Committee thought there might be interest in convening a group to discuss observations and insights related to current events. Rev. Terry said there was such a discussion group at the Arizona church where she served a few years ago, and it was a very engaged group who met weekly for years.

During the month of March, we will hold these informal sessions on Monday evenings as a pilot. Initially the gatherings will simply be conversations with no formal presentations or format -- the key being that every voice is heard and respected. With time we might choose to add structure to make the most of our time together. Towards the end of the month, we will assess whether to continue with the group, and if so, consider possible format changes.

It should be an interesting way to connect with one another. **Please join us!**

Here is the Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87044647017?pwd=UldLRWxMTkFIYnBobFdhZWtzeXR6dz09>

Meeting ID: 870 4464 7017

Passcode: 713843

BUILDING & GROUND

Save the Date: Spring Cleanup - Saturday April 17

Our annual cleanup of grounds and gardens is schedule for Saturday morning, April 17. Mark your calendar and plan to join us. Rain date is April 24.

Goodbye Snow

Thank you to Marta Smith, Jim Hershey, Ed Briercheck, Craig Zumbrun, Sandy Rushton and Don Emig for snow removal. This team kept our lots and walkways useable through this snowier than usual winter.

Hello Grass and Weeds

Once the snow is gone, the grass and weeds will start to grow. We need volunteers to help mow and trim. If you can spare a few hours a month or a week, you could make a difference. Helping to care for our property lets you spend time outdoors while contributing to our community.

Please contact Deb Lord (lord.deb@gmail.com) to volunteer or if you have any questions. Scheduling for the mowing season will happen soon, so act now!

SOCIAL JUSTICE

The UUCY Social Justice Committee's charge is to create bridges with likeminded community organizations and to present opportunities for members of our congregation to actively work on social justice. In bringing our Seven Principles into the wider world, we hope to create a more just and equitable community for all of our neighbors. This month we really want to focus on how you as a member of the UUCY can engage with our community and actively promote our shared faith and values through action.

For starters, we want to make sure that you know about UUJusticePA. Formerly known as UUPLAN, UUJusticePA is filled with Unitarian Universalists working together in common cause to EMBRACE, ARTICULATE, AND ADVOCATE for all goals of social and environmental justice. They focus on specific justice issues including: criminal justice reform, economic justice, environmental justice, good government, gun violence prevention, and reproductive justice. We are encouraging members of the UUCY congregation to bring their voices into the public square with UUJusticePA by becoming a member and by joining their focus team meetings. Learn more about this wonderful organization doing great work for our faith and statewide community at: uujusticepa.org/

Needing to get some time outdoors as we head into the warmer months? Sign up for this year's VIRTUAL Race Against Racism! Participants in the virtual event will run or walk a distance of 5K or 3.1 miles between April 17 and April 24 and will share how they support the YWCA and UUCY shared mission of PEACE, JUSTICE, FREEDOM, AND DIGNITY FOR ALL by posting a photo on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter, tagging YWCA York, UUCY, and using the hashtag #YORKRAR.

Learn more about this event and the great work of the YWCA York Racial Justice Program (which we supported as our Share the Plate Partner last month) at: www.ywcayork.org/blog/2021/02/04/rar/

Did you hear about the recent happenings in the local LGBTQIA+ community? The Rainbow Rose Center, York County's LGBTQIA+ resource center, announced the first ever York County PRIDE for Saturday, June 5th! Now, this event will be taking over for both Equality Fest and Equality Fest Jr, and it will be virtual this year, but there will also be opportunities to celebrate PRIDE in person throughout downtown York that weekend. How can you get involved? Check out the Rainbow Rose Center website, sign up to be a volunteer, and if you know of any organizations that might be interested in sponsoring the event then spread the word or make a donation yourself! Learn more at: www.rainbowrosecenter.org

The weather is about to turn and Spring is just around the corner, which means our very own UUCY Community Garden is about to ramp up its efforts to fight food insecurity! Partnering with St. Paul's Food Pantry and the Fresh Foods Farms, our dedicated UUCY Community Garden provides fresh organic fruits and vegetables for those who don't have other access to fresh produce. Volunteers are needed to tend to the grounds, including planting, weeding, and cultivating during the producing months. Get connected with nature and give back to the community in this socially distanced and safe activity by contacting Richard Burrill at brych@earthlink.net.

That's all we wanted to really highlight for this month, but we'll post more activities and opportunities to engage in Social Justice on the Community Facebook page. If you have ideas, questions, or want to get engaged, please always feel free to email the Social Justice Committee at socialjustice@uucy.org



Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation Announces its Annual sermon award.



Our Minister—Rev. Terry is on the Board of Trustees of UUWF

Sermon Award Call for Submissions Deadline: Monday, March 22

As part of a disproportionately white denomination, Unitarians, Universalists, Unitarian Universalist women and the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation have contributed to the damage that White Feminism has done to women of color in the United States. White women contributed significantly to the election of Donald Trump and perpetuate the oppression of our sisters of color regularly in many more damaging ways (some overt and some more subtle).

Therefore, we challenge our fellow white UU women to do the work we need to do to understand our unique role in upholding white patriarchy and do so without depending on the labor of BIPOC, women in particular. We further challenge all UU women to embrace the wisdom and leadership of women of color for a more intersectional, inclusive, and just approach to women's liberation.

We ask ourselves:

- How can white feminists help heal the harm done by excluding and diminishing women of color in feminist theory and practice?
- How can white feminists become more racially conscious participants in feminist thought and address the toxicity of white-centering feminist practices?
- How can white feminists more effectively invite and center the contributions of feminist women of color? How can UUs, in particular, humbly welcome and embrace the feminist thought leadership of women of color?
- How can we navigate "right" roles for white women and women of color in feminist healing?
- How do we avoid tokenism, fragility, and over-reliance on women of color to carry the burden of this work?
- How can white women expand their understanding and practice of feminist theory from a womanist or BIPOC perspective, and how can white women and women of color join forces more authentically, equitably, and fully?
- *We use the general term "women" to include cis-gendered women, femme/nonbinary identifying folks, and trans women.*

On this theme, we invite all UU religious professionals and laypeople of all identities and genders to submit their sermon text. The deadline is March 22nd. Please see the UUWF site for additional information; www.uuwf.org.



March Worship Schedule

ZOOM Meeting
Meeting ID: 92120756270
Passcode: 1955
10 AM Virtual Service

March 7th-Women of Spiritual Leadership



The month of March commemorates Women's History, and we begin our tribute to women by celebrating their role as pastors and spiritual leaders. Women ministers have become the norm in Unitarian Universalism in recent decades, but that wasn't always the case, nor is it the case in other faith traditions. Please join us this Sunday as Rev. Terry reflects on the ways in which women occupy a place of spiritual leadership in the lives of millions of people around the world.

March 14th-White Women Feminism



This Sunday we continue our celebration of Women's History Month by lifting up the accomplishments and pitfalls of the predominantly white feminist movement. Rev. Terry's homily will explore the impact of white privilege on women of color, the intersectionality of race, gender and white privilege, and how our Unitarian Universalist faith can be a force for radical change.

March 21st-Spring Equinox



We welcome our dear friend Rev. Joan Sabatino back to our pulpit this Sunday. Rev. Joan is the director of UUJusticePA, formerly UUPLAN, and is a former parish minister with many years of experience. Her sermon topic will be related to matters of current interest regarding social justice and democracy in our state. As this Sunday also marks the first day of Spring, our service will also celebrate the change of the seasons in an appropriate way.

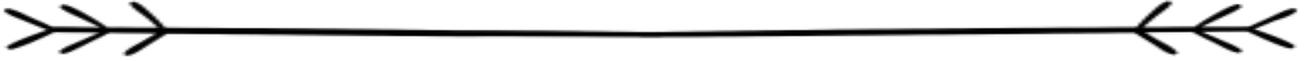
March 28th -Celebrate Survivors of Domestic Violence



On average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States. During one year, this equates to more than 10 million women and men. We conclude our services celebrating Women's History Month by lifting up the survivors of domestic violence, and reflecting on ways in which our UU Faith's affirmation of the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and justice, equity and compassion in human relations, can make a difference in our community. We will provide a safe space for those among us who are survivors to receive the love and empathy of our beloved community. In her homily, Rev. Terry will share some of the things she learned from her training as a hotline volunteer in the Boston area.

Staff & Board Reflections

“My favorite movie, play, opera or other form of entertainment that touches my soul.”



There's a milestone to mark this month.

It was March a year ago that COVID shut down the United States. We had been watching as the virus made its deadly sweep around the world, going from China to Europe and beyond like some kind of bizarre tsunami.

It was in March that big-time sports canceled their seasons, that Gov. Wolf and states around the country issued their first shutdown and stay-at-home orders, that all but essential businesses would have to pause and workers would have to stay home.

One year later, the virus is still with us. Life for many of us has been turned upside down, or in too many cases, tragically, ended. We are grieving or feeling tired or anxious.

There are signs, though, that maybe better times will be here soon. Recent warm weather has finally melted the snow that has been with us for who knows how long. I saw a few green stalks beginning to poke up out of the ground in one of our gardens. Longer days and warm evenings will follow, as they always do.

One of the ways people have been able to stay centered in these past 12 months has been to go outside. York County, even in the winter, offers an abundance of opportunities. We have one of the finest set of county parks in the state. There are trails for hiking and biking, state parks for camping and lakes for boating. The Susquehanna River, a recreational jewel for all of eastern Pennsylvania, is right in our back yard.

We should be using as many of them as possible this spring and summer.

There are other signs, too. The COVID vaccines are reaching more people every day. Schools are moving closer to returning to all in-person learning. Our elected leaders in Washington, D.C., appear -- finally -- ready to provide sweeping economic relief to families and small businesses.

Nearly 60 years ago, Sam Cooke sang words that were meant to respond to the issues of his day, but I've found they speak to me in our current times:

There've been times that I thought I couldn't last for long
But now I think I'm able to carry on
It's been a long, a long time coming
But I know a change gon' come, oh yes, it will

It's been a hard year. But a change is going to come. And it starts in March.



—Dan Fink
Chairman, Board of Directors

Staff & Board Reflections

At the tender age of 14, I was introduced to Shakespeare's plays by my High School English Literature teacher.

In my school, English Language and English Literature were taught as separate subjects. The former was all about punctuation and paragraphs and proper sentences, and was quite tedious and boring. I retained very little from four years of English Language, at least consciously, never thinking about participles and conjugative verbs in my adult life. It wasn't until I went through my gender transition in 2008 that the word pronoun, or rather the careless use of pronouns, took on a real meaning for me, but that is a column for another day.

I do give my High School English Language classes credit, though, for teaching me at a fairly early age how to write fairly well.

By contrast, my English Literature classes were for the most part, a joy – especially the Shakespeare plays that we read, and performed, and exegeted.

I say “for the most part” because some of the things we read did not resonate with me at all. I don't know whether it was the teachers or the material, but I could never get enthusiastic about Jane Austen. And spending a term reading Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* was not exactly engrossing for this sixteen-year-old.

But Shakespeare, -- Shakespeare I loved. There was something quintessentially British, and shamelessly patriotic (England being my country of origin) about studying Shakespeare. I guess for Americans the equivalent might be studying Walt Whitman or Mark Twain, the latter of which we also studied in my English High School.

I can still remember to this day some of the lines from *Julius Caesar* (“Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears...”), and *King Lear* (“I am a man more sinned against than sinning.”) And I can remember the seemingly absurd essays we were required to write in our final exams (“King Lear was ‘a man more sinned against than sinning.’ Discuss in at least 500 words.”).

For all the tedium, my study of Shakespeare 50 years ago made a lasting impression on my life, bringing meaning into my everyday experience. Like an old friend, Hamlet's soliloquy (“To be or not to be”), challenges me to think about the meaning of life and living in the present, and not worry about my dying, “the undiscover'd country, from whose bourn no traveler may return.”

My justice work, and my being in the presence of people with power, always triggers in my memory a wonderful set of lines of Shakespeare that begin by describing “proud man, dress'd in a little brief authority.” (*Measure for Measure*)

As the 2021 Ides of March approaches, I have found myself reminiscing once again about the connection between Shakespeare's wisdom and my ministry. He (or whoever actually wrote the plays), had an insight into the human condition that was deep and unique. An uncanny way of storytelling about historical events that is relevant to modern times, and likely will be as long as there are humans alive on fragile planet.



My life has been enriched in countless ways by great literature. There is something spiritual about seeing ourselves through the lens of a great storyteller. One who can see through us, see through our opacity, and reveal our true selves to ourselves in the stories they tell about others.

I think Shakespeare would have made an excellent minister. What amazing and meaningful sermons he would have delivered. Those sermons are there, in his plays, if we look deep enough, methinks.

Staff & Board Reflections

“Spirituality means waking up. Most people, even though they don’t know it, are asleep.”

- Anthony DeMello

“The authorities of the universe put you here with some tasks strictly appointed you in your constitution, and so long as you work at that, you are well and successful.”

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Developments in Faith

Groundhog Day - talk about something that connects with me on a spiritual level! I know you’re probably thinking, “Um, Matt, that was last month.” No, not February 2nd. Groundhog Day, as in the 1993 comedic classic starring Bill Murray. THAT Groundhog Day. It might be one of the most spiritual movies I’ve ever seen.

I can picture you, reading this now, rolling your eyes. Bill Murray, spiritual? I’m not sure I understood it this way the first couple of times I watched it, but my understanding of the movie has changed as I have grown up. Let me set the stage for anyone who has not seen the movie:

This movie is about a TV weatherman covering the annual Groundhog Day ceremony in Punxsutawney, PA. He thinks himself above the entire thing, demeans the process, and is eager to leave town but is prevented from doing so by a massive blizzard. When he wakes up the next day, he hears the same radio show, with the exact same dialogue, playing on his alarm clock. It’s February 2nd, again. And then again. And then again, and again, and again, etc. No matter what Bill Murray’s character does, he relives this day over and over all while everyone else lives as though it’s their first and only time.

SPOILER ALERT: Eventually, Murray’s character starts to fall in love with his co-worker and slowly becomes a better person in the process. We are unsure exactly how long this actually takes, but the philosophical wonderings have guessed anywhere between 38 days and 10,000 years. The late director of the film, Harold Ramis, once remarked that he figured Murray’s character lived in this endless loop for between 30 and 40 years at least. The movie gives very little in the way of clues, but leaves us wondering ourselves. Because, even though this is a comedy, the questions at the core of this movie are, “What are we doing with our lives?” and “How long does it take to become a good person?”

Each religion has a different answer for those questions, but ultimately, they are the same questions all religions ask. To be honest, most non-religious people ask similar questions. As I mentioned earlier, the film has taken on greater significance as I have gotten older. What once was merely a funny movie now hits me deeper than some serious movies could. Here is what I’ve gleaned from Groundhog Day:

- We have no clue how much time each of us have here among the living.
- What we do with our time matters.
- You cannot go through life alone.
- There’s always room for growth and improvement.
-

There is a quote by Pamela Payne Hardin that says, “Relationships provide the fastest and clearest way to see shadow parts of ourselves that we have denied or buried.” While we embrace individual freedom of thought as Unitarian Universalists, relationship and community are at the core of our religion. We are not a creedal faith bound together by a single faith statement, but rather a covenantal faith bound together in relationship. Perhaps it seems a bit self-serving to say this as your Director of Lifespan Faith Development, but the truth is, none of us are done growing. Every single one of us, from the babies among us to our most senior elders, is still in process. Embrace the notion that there is still more to learn, more to do, and more to become. And then? Embrace this community as your support along that process, knowing full well that not only is everyone else still growing, but also that none of us can do this alone.



**Grace and Blessings,
Matthew Shineman
Director of Lifespan Faith Development**

Staff & Board Reflections

“March on. Do not tarry. To go forward is to move toward perfection. March on, and fear not the thorns, or the sharp stones on life's path.”— Kahlil Gibran

It's usually right around early March that everyone in our family hits the skids, emotionally. Winter will drag on for at least a few more weeks (never mind the calendar) and although the lengthening light has started to become noticeably warmer, the ground is sloppy with ice and the sky is still gray. Marking St. Patrick's Day with some hearty corned beef and cabbage (and my mom's peerless mustard sauce) is a little mid-month pick-me-up but to be honest, March in Pennsylvania has little else to recommend it.

In a normal year, this month would be one of the busiest for a musician. The concert season would be in full swing along with all the rehearsing and practicing that entails. Plans would be being finalized for everything from summer festival programs to next season's recital repertoire. Until Daylight Savings Time spoils it, the still-early (and chilly) evenings would be a good time to settle in to read books, listen to music, or watch new programs. Best of all there can't be any guilt about yard or garden work left undone, because it's still too cold and wet. The weather may not reflect it, but March can absolutely be springtime for the creative mind.

March is also usually a planning month – a month to take the long view about what comes next. Planning ahead is second nature for musicians – it's called practicing. I spend hours each week patiently trying to explain to students that they need to have a “practice plan” to make progress. Yes, I tell them, it's fun to browse and graze and dream outside the box about putting together programs that will dazzle, but long-term success comes down to making decisions and sticking with a diligent, regular schedule of practice to confirm and complete those decisions. When the novelty of sight-reading has worn off and the drudgery of refining begins is when we all tend to lose interest. To succeed, we must find pleasure in the process.

Still, I know that by March I've hit that point in my personal practice plan where the road I'm traveling seems littered with metaphorical stones and thorns (and snow). The journey toward a once anticipated destination has become wearying (are we there yet?) and the view seems less-than-inspiring. In other words, it's “March” in every way. I'm so ready for this pandemic winter to be over. But – as with March in Pennsylvania – it's not over. March is a cruelly long month, and sometimes we get our biggest snowstorms just as spring crests the horizon. While the promise of renewal is real – the birds are definitely singing these days! – the reality is that we are a long way from the end of this road, and we need to March on. It's the only way to April, and beyond.



**Music Director,
Gretchen Dekker**

An important message from Rev. Terry

Dear members and friends of UUCY,

Over the past several months there have been a number of attempts by internet email hackers to steal money from some of you by sending an email, purporting to be from me, asking for money. The email requests have not been from me, nor from an email address that is connected to me.

This is a common form of internet fraud. Fortunately, to the best of my knowledge, so far no one in our beloved community has fallen victim to the fraud.

Yesterday, someone sent a text message to the cell phones of a number of you requesting that you urgently send money in my behalf to assist a cancer patient. This is a novel form of fraud of which I have not previously been the subject.

If you receive any request from me for money or financial assistance, whether by email, text message, or other electronic means, you should PLEASE IGNORE IT. DON'T SEND ANY MONEY.

Please be assured that under no circumstances will I ever request personal financial assistance from the members or friends of our congregation. To do so would be a gross violation of my responsibilities to you as your minister. Accordingly, please assume that any such purported request is a fraud, and should not be responded to.

Similarly, I will never request financial assistance for a good cause, such as a patient in need of medical assistance, as was the fraud perpetrated yesterday, via an individual text or email.

I am in awe of the generosity and kindness of all of those who are in the community I serve, and deeply grateful for the opportunity to be of service to you. I am also deeply touched that some of you would consider sending money if I requested it. It breaks my heart that there are individuals who will seek to exploit such open-hearted generosity by seeking to use my name for fraudulent gain. I pray for such individuals, whoever they are.

Once again, I ask you to please never send money to anyone at my request unless it is through the usual channels used by our church, e.g., announcements from the pulpit, or in the monthly newsletter or weekly "EBeacon." If in doubt, please call me before giving money.

Thank you for reading this lengthy, and overdue, message.

Yours in faith and love, Rev. Terry



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