



January 2017 UNlverse

NWUUC NORTHWEST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

Renewing in the New Year

Dear Friends,

As we begin 2017 together, I'm aware that in this new year, I will be taking my first-ever sabbatical leave. As part of my contract with Northwest, I'm granted a sabbatical once every four years. I will complete my fifth year of ministry at Northwest on June 30, and so will be taking a five-month sabbatical from July 1 – December 31, 2017.

Many UU congregations have sabbatical agreements with their ministers. And, I'm keenly aware of just how important this generous opportunity is – for me and for you.

For me, my sabbatical will be a time of rest and renewal. It's also a time to go *deep* . . . to explore those passions and interests that will sustain, shape and define my future ministry and enable me to further contribute to a vibrant spiritual life at Northwest.

For you, my hope is that you will have the opportunity to experience the preaching, pastoral care, and ministry of different and talented ordained ministers . . . and that you'll experience spiritual growth during this time of change (just as I hope to during mine).

What will I be doing?

During my leave, I plan to rest, play, explore and reflect. Specific activities planned so far include leading a Northwest group on a pilgrimage to

Transylvania, Romania (August) and participating in at least one immersion experience at a contemplative spiritual community. I will be staying in touch with Northwest through a regular column in the monthly UNlverse newsletter. I also will be in contact with the Northwest Board leadership periodically.

Who will handle my responsibilities to Northwest while I am away?

We are fortunate to have a number of experienced and progressive ministers in the metro Atlanta area, four of whom will provide preaching, leadership, staff support and pastoral care to Northwest during my sabbatical leave.

Northwest also has a very capable Worship Associates team, who will continue to offer lay-led worship services during the summer months and once a month during the regular program year. The Worship Associates will also provide support to services led by ordained ministers.

From August through December, Sunday worship services will be led by the following ministers:



Rev. Marti Keller – Rev. Keller is the affiliated minister with the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation and an independent consultant on congregational ministry. She has been both a parish and community minister, serving congregations in the Mid-South since 1998, and is endorsed by the Humanist Society as a humanist celebrant.

Rev. Keller is past president of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice Council and served as vice president of the board for the Society for Humanistic Judaism. She is a member of the UU Society for Community Ministers, a published poet and co-editor of *Jewish Voices in Unitarian Universalism* (Skinner House, 2014).

Rev. Keller will lead worship one Sunday a month from August – December and provide oversight and support to the Northwest staff.



Continued on page 2

Renewing in the New Year (Continued)



Rev. Joan Armstrong Davis – Rev. Armstrong Davis is an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister with more than 30 years of experience as a parish-based pastor, educator and counselor. Since 2013, Rev. Armstrong Davis has served as Northwest’s affiliated community minister, focusing her ministry on officiating weddings and providing pre-marital counseling to couples of all faiths, ethnicities and cultural backgrounds. She has also had an active role on Northwest’s Care Corps pastoral care team. **Rev. Armstrong Davis will lead worship one Sunday a month from August – December and will lead the Northwest Care Corps team.**



Rev. Dr. Cindy Brown – Rev. Dr. Brown was ordained by Oakhurst Baptist Church in Decatur, Georgia, where she and her wife Sharon

McMahon are members. In 1987, Oakhurst became the first church to affiliate with the newly formed Alliance of Baptists, a group of dissident moderates within the Southern Baptist Convention who felt basic Baptist freedoms were being lost to fundamentalists.

After teaching photojournalism at colleges and universities in Florida, Indiana and Mississippi, Rev. Dr. Brown returned to her hometown of Atlanta to pursue a Master of Divinity degree at Emory’s Candler School of Theology. Her passion for storytelling with her camera, along with her interest in religious and cultural diversity led her into the field of wedding photojournalism. **Rev. Dr. Cindy Brown will lead two worship services.**



Rev. Jennifer L. Dalton – Rev. Dalton was born and raised in the Appalachian Mountains of Virginia. Spiritually, she was raised Mormon and Southern Baptist. She spent four years as an aircraft technician in the US Air Force before completing her bachelor’s degree in political science and, many years later, her Master of Divinity degree from Emory’s Candler

School of Theology. She is ordained and recognized by the Alliance of Baptists and considers herself a Unitarian Universalist Baptist.

She has been married for 16 years, is raising three daughters, ages 21, 17, and 15 and they all live with three dogs and a cat. Rev. Dalton currently works at WellStar Atlanta Medical Center as a patient advocate. **Rev. Dalton will lead three worship services.**

Revs. Keller, Armstrong Davis, Brown and Dalton will be joining me at my last worship on June 18, where we will officially install them in their roles and you will have an opportunity to meet them.

I believe that matters of the heart and spirit at Northwest are being left in capable hands! And, my hope is that I will return to you renewed for the next New Year (2018) and ready to serve with creativity, energy, compassion and courage.

Warmly,

Terry
Rev. Terry Davis



Make Plans Now for General Assembly June 21-25, New Orleans, LA



General Assembly is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to send voting delegates.

The 2017 General Assembly will be June 21-25 in New Orleans, Louisiana. Most General Assembly events will be held at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, 900 Convention Center Blvd, New Orleans, LA 70130.



About New Orleans

Steeped in a history of influences from Europe, the Caribbean, and Africa, New Orleans is one of America's most culturally and historically-rich destinations. It is a city known for its music, food, architecture, and festivals. The average high temperature in June is 89 degrees and the average low is 71.

New Orleans is also known as a place of rebirth following the devastation of Katrina in 2005. Many Unitarian Universalists have contributed time and funds in the effort to rebuild both the city and the congregations in the area. By going to New Orleans, we can both celebrate our successes and recommit to the relationships that have been forged with this community.

Registration and Housing Open March 1

GA Registration and the GA Housing Reservation System open at 9 a.m. CST.

GA Theme: "Resist and Rejoice"

We will gather in New Orleans, Louisiana for a General Assembly experience focused on solidarity with the movements for racial, economic and climate justice. We will invite the culture, history, geography, and people of New Orleans to be our teachers.

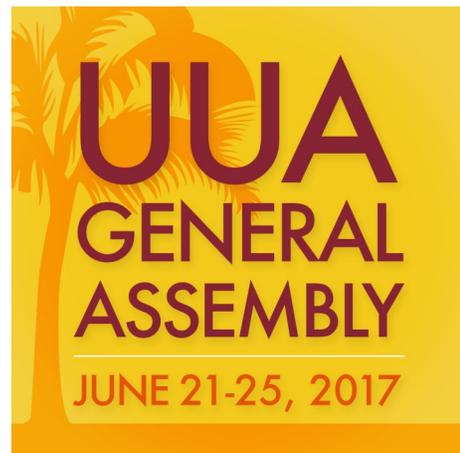


Excellent Programming

GA will offer more than 175 programming selections over the course of five days. More programming details will be available in 2017.

Financial Aid Available

The UUA is committed to the goal of making GA accessible to as many attendees as possible. Go to uua.org/ga to learn about scholarships to support delegates—particularly those from marginalized groups—and volunteer opportunities (work in exchange for registration).



Worship Services for January 2017

Sunday services start at 10:00 am

Focusing on Justice

The Nursery is staffed and available during services and Fellowship. Our Sunday worship services are led by our minister Rev. Terry Davis, guest ministers or members of the Northwest Worship Associates team. The weekly NeUUs has additional information about the coming week's service. Contact our Office Administrator at office@nwuuc.org to sign up for the NeUUs.



January 1– Walk the Labyrinth 10:00 am—12:00 pm

Worship Leader – Rev. Terry Davis
Begin the New Year with Rev. Terry Davis and others in the Northwest Sanctuary as we give ourselves the gift of walking the labyrinth, which has been generously provided to us by The Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta. The Sanctuary will be open from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. Please drop in at your convenience and join the countless many who have found this ancient spiritual practice moving, soothing and refreshing.

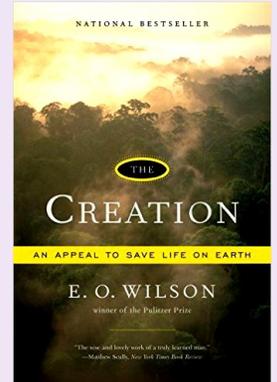
The labyrinth and its many designs date back to prehistoric times. Some think of the labyrinth as symbolic of a spiritual pilgrimage, and walk it with an intentional “destination” in mind. Others use the labyrinth to help them quiet the mind and achieve a contemplative state. For the New Year, you may choose to “leave” your hopes and wishes in the center. Each person does the walk at his or her own pace.

Note: The labyrinth walk will replace our regular worship service. To facilitate a quiet and meditative experience for all participants, there will be no coffee and fellowship hour in the Lobby this Sunday.

January 8 – Letter to a Southern Baptist Pastor

Worship Leader – Rev. Terry Davis
Worship Associate – David Morgen
Music – Dr. Grace Fowler

“Pastor, we need your help. The Creation – living Nature – is in deep trouble.” This appeal can be found in the opening pages of *The Creation: An Appeal to Save Life on Earth*, the national bestseller written by E.O. Wilson, a world-renowned Harvard biologist and winner of the Pulitzer Prize. The subject of Rev. Davis’s “Second Sunday Sermon Series,” *The Creation* takes an honest look at Earth’s rapidly vanishing biodiversity and proposes an historic partnership between scientists and religious leaders to reverse this trend. Let’s discover together what’s happening and what’s possible.



The Second Sunday Sermon Series will run January – March, with a discussion of the sermon following each worship service. Read along! Copies of The Creation can be purchased at Northwest’s Bellwether Bookstore.

January 15– Bending Toward Justice (MLK Sunday) Worship Café, multigenerational service

Worship Leader – Rev. Terry Davis
Worship Associate – Hannah Cowart
Music – Northwest Passage

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King’s words – “the moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends toward justice” – offer a vision of hope and, perhaps, an invitation to be patient with progress. How do we find our footing between patience and action? Is it within our power to bend the moral arc any faster?

Continued on page 5

Worship Services for January 2017, *continued*

Sunday services start at 10:00 am

Focusing on Justice

January 22 – One Small Thing

Worship Leader – Rev. Terry Davis

Worship Associate – Glenn Koller

Music – The Northwest Choir and Dr. Grace Fowler

Climate change, racial injustice, gender inequality, violence, poverty – the problems of the world comprise a very long list and can sometimes feel overwhelming to those of us who'd like to make a difference. Does our one, small action really matter? How can we stay positive and stay engaged?

**SMALL ACTIONS
× LOTS OF PEOPLE
= BIG CHANGE**

January 29 – Creating a Cycle of Justice

Worship Leaders – David Morgen and David Stewart

Music – Northwest Passage

To those who have the least, small things make a huge difference. UUs often have the luxury of discussing justice in the abstract, but to have an impact we must share our message outside of our congregation. Join us to learn about a specific set of actions couched in UU moral principles that can help you create a cycle of justice in your community.

Waiting For Inspiration



I write a lot of music for both our band and choir. Most music directors don't write music for their groups, but I can't seem to help it. I've written for most of the groups in which I've performed. I even wrote music for my high school band, and I first recall writing music when I was in 7th grade.

As much as I write, I don't often feel inspired. Many people seem to have the notion that a composer, writer, or other artist receives divine inspiration. This hardly ever happens. We just

start writing. If we waited for inspiration to begin a new project, most of us would never get started. Stephen King reportedly blocks out his mornings and aims to write 2,000 words a day. I am willing to bet that not all 2,000 words make it through the editorial process, but the point is that, whether he feels like it or not on any given day, he is writing.

When I'm writing music for one of Northwest's ensembles, I don't usually have a lot of great ideas at the beginning. I simply sit down and start writing, and the ideas begin to flow as I get deeper into the process.

I'm the first to admit that not all of my musical arrangements are gems. Sometimes the most honest thing I can say is "of all my arrangements, that was one of them," and sometimes a piece of music turns out so

well that I can hardly believe it's mine. I wouldn't have come up with that special piece of music if I hadn't made myself sit down and just get started.

As we arrive at another January, many of us are thinking of goals and aspirations for the coming year. My advice is this: Once you've decided what you want to do, don't wait for inspiration. Just start.

Tom Godfrey
Director of Music



Adult Learning for January 2017, *continued*

January 15

Share the Plate Recipient Presentation: Literacy Action

Watch the weekly NeUUS for specifics about this session.



Open Meditation

Session Leader: Gregory Byrd

See description under January 8.

Art Exploration

Session Leader: Kristina Banks

See the upcoming issues of the NeUUs for details.

January 22

Northwest Senior Network

Session Leader: Renee and Mike Burke

The Senior Network started in the Spring of 2015 with 18 members and has now grown to 55. Our group comprises seniors, retirees, grandparents and family care-takers. We meet monthly on the fourth Sunday with a special topic of interest. We have had programs on such topics as Hinduism, famous UU women, cruising, African art in the gallery, behavioral styles and others that are suggested by the group. We invite the group to LUUnch BUUnch and the Hungry Ear Coffee House, along with any other events someone may announce, including concerts, special speakers, films, etc. Contact Renee and Michael Burke for further information at reneeandmike@mindspring.com.

Board Discussion

Watch the weekly NeUUS for specifics about this session.

January 29

Sierra Club's Diversity, Equity and Inclusiveness Initiative

Session Leader: Brionté McCorkle

Hosted by the Earth Ministry

Brionté McCorkle, Assistant Director of Sierra Club of Georgia, will join us to speak about Sierra Club's Diversity, Equity and Inclusiveness Initiative, how it came to be, and how important it is to doing successful environmental work today. Ms. McCorkle is also a leader in Sierra Georgia's political and legislative efforts and will include in her presentation ways we can support legislation for positive environmental impact or take action or petition to discourage adverse effects.



Most of us know the Sierra Club, founded by renown conservationist John Muir in 1892, as an organization with power and access that has made great strides in protecting the environment. A number of us are members and are engaged in the work they do. However, how many of us realize that Sierra Club's historic mission statement "to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment" has this new, dynamic impetus to insure diversity, equity and inclusiveness as an integral part of that mission? Today's Sierra Club is not your grandfather's Sierra Club! Join us to hear Ms. McCorkle on Sierra in the 21st century. Email Tom or Linda Couch at tcouch4921@aol.com or call them at 706.766.7847 for more information.



WhaleCoast Alaska 2017

Have you ever dreamed of visiting Alaska?

If so, WhaleCoast Alaska 2017 is for you! Four Alaska UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program next summer! See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Seward, and Sitka with friendly homestays and unique tour activities. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture.

Significant funds raised through WhaleCoast Alaska helped finance the construction of the farthest north UU church in the world in Fairbanks. The Anchorage UU congregation recently moved into a beautiful new sanctuary with the help of tour proceeds. Over the past 24 years, a total of over \$495,000 has been raised for the work of these congregations. More than a thousand guests have visited Alaska with our program.

We travel throughout Alaska to see wildlife in their natural habitats – humpback and killer whales, sea lions, seals and sea otters; bears, wolves, moose, caribou, Dall sheep, eagles, murrets, puffins and other birds in some of North America's most beautiful scenery. We have planned two exciting tours for 2017:

National Park Tour—June 10-20

All-Alaska Tour—July 7-19

Forget the cruise ships – our program is the best way to visit Alaska! Programs are led by Dave Frey, member of the Fairbanks UU congregation and Alaska travel expert. Find out more about this Alaskan trip of a lifetime before our tours sell out! Visit www.WhaleCoastAK.org, email dfrey@whalecoastak.org, or call [907-322-4966](tel:907-322-4966). We would love to share our Alaska with you!



Atlanta March For Social Justice and Women, January 21

The Atlanta March for Social Justice and Women will be a peaceful demonstration of solidarity bringing together members of underrepresented communities, women, and their allies in Georgia and nationally. The march will be held at 1:00 pm on January 21 beginning at the Center

for Civil and Human Rights and ending at the Georgia State capitol.

Rev. Terry Davis would like to organize a group from Northwest to participate. If you are interested, please contact her at minister@nwuuc.org by January 14.

There are so many justice issues that impact the welfare of women and girls! Let's come together for this important one-time event and bring attention to the need for change.



I march because I am an African American, lesbian, sexual assault survivor. I know what it is like to have my voice silenced and to be treated unjustly. It is my responsibility to make sure that no other individual knows that reality.

Kenni York - Founder of Let Your Voice Be Heard

#WHYIMARCH



I march for:

- Women's Equality - Thank You to Hillary and our Foremothers
- LGBTQ Community - Protect my Family and Friends
- End Racism - May no Child Fear
- Public Education - An American Institution
- Disability - Protect and Empower

#WHYIMARCH



I march because I cannot be silent in the face of racial disparities, oppression, injustice, division and the visible rise of polarizing forces. I march in an effort to make reality the naive impression my children have of a wholly accepting world.

#WHYIMARCH

“In the Spirit” Contemplative Worship, January 17

Starting in January, Northwest's contemplative worship service returns to the third Tuesday of the month. Join Rev. Terry Davis and Northwest member and musician Traci Montgomery for a 30-minute respite from stress and concerns as we come together to sing simple hymns, meditate on thoughtful words, light candles, and hold the silence.

The service begins at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary.



January Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

Raegan North	01/04
Sophie Smith	01/04
Zachary Smith	01/04
Fay Mann	01/05
Sharon Beecher	01/06
Sydney Kahn	01/07
Marc von Mandel	01/09
Shirley Banks	01/10
Jared Freeman	01/11
John Marroquin	01/11
Mani Subramanian	01/11
Neal Steffin	01/12
Daniel Smith	01/13
Marian Langham	01/14
Jamie Williams	01/19
Marti Wilson	01/25
Suzy Alford	01/27
Clarence Rosa	01/27

Joining Anniversaries

Peg Gary	01/03/2004
John Reeves	01/04/1987
Rebecca Reeves	01/04/1987
Glenn Koller	01/06/2013
Nancy Tartikoff	01/09/1977
Peter Tartikoff	01/09/1977
Darrick Alford	01/13/2013
Suzy Alford	01/13/2013
Bill Peterson	01/13/2013
Gwen Kahn	01/22/2005
Steve Stern	01/24/1993
Sharon Cameron	01/27/2007
Ilene Goldman	01/27/2007
Bill Cox	01/28/2001
Marilyn Matlock	01/28/2007
Greg Pattison	01/28/2007



LUUnch BUUnch on January 18!



Luunch Buunch meets on the third Wednesday of each month from 11:45 am to 1:15 pm in the Art Gallery and is an opportunity to gather with others and engage in a lively discussion on the topic chosen by the group. Join us on Wednesday, January 18. Bring your own lunch.

UNiverse

UNiverse is published monthly by the Northwest Unitarian Universalist Congregation
1025 Mount Vernon Highway, NW
Sandy Springs, GA 30327
(www.NWUUC.org) 770.955.1408

Northwest is a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

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Accompanists **Dr. Grace Fowler and William Fowler**

Sexton **Kevin Coleman**

Affiliated Community Minister

Rev. Joan Armstrong Davis,
joan@yourvows.net

Board of Trustees

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Imm. Past President **David Morgen**

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Board Secretary **Becki Gregory**

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Hannah Cowart, Bill Cox, Glenn Koller

January

January 1

Walk the Labyrinth, 10 am-noon

January 4

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary

January 7

Hungry Ear Coffee House, 8 pm,
Sanctuary

January 8

Worship Service, 10 am
Supervised Play, 10:15 am
Fellowship, 11 am
RE and Second Hour, 11:30 am

January 10

Book Groupies, 7 pm, Art Gallery

January 11

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary

January 15

Worship Service, 10 am
Supervised Play, 10:15 am
Fellowship, 11 am
RE and Second Hour, 11:30 am
Band Rehearsal, 11:30 am

January 17

“In the Spirit” Contemplative
Worship, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary

January 18

LUUnch BUUnch, 11:45, Art Gallery

January 21

March For Social Justice and Women,
1 pm

January 22

Worship Service, 10 am
Supervised Play, 10:15 am
Fellowship, 11 am
RE and Second Hour, 11:30 am

January 25

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary

January 29

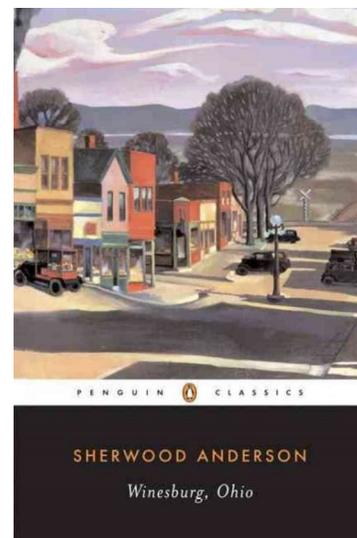
Worship Service, 10 am
Supervised Play, 10:15 am
Fellowship, 11 am
RE and Second Hour, 11:30 am

Book Groupies Discuss *Winesburg, Ohio*, January 10

The Northwest Book Groupies will meet on January 10 to discuss the classic *Winesburg, Ohio* by Sherwood Anderson. This collection of interrelated short stories influenced many of our most prominent American writers—Hemingway, Faulkner and Fitzgerald to name a few—and draws a vivid portrait of a typical small Midwestern town in the early 1900s, just before the Industrial Revolution. These stories also give some insight into Midwestern America today. We will meet at 7 pm in the Art Gallery.

Copies of *Winesburg, Ohio* are available in our Bellwether Bookstore.

Contact [Penny Raney](#) to learn more.





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1025 Mt. Vernon Highway, NW, Sandy Springs, GA 30327

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

January 2017 UNiverse Newsletter

Publications Available Online

If you have a print version of the UNiverse and want more information, please go to our website (nwuuc.org) and access the electronic version under the Publications tab. You can use the live links in these electronic publications to easily contact event organizers and read more about our congregation, its programs and services.

Northwest UUC Mission Statement

Our congregation creates loving community, inspires joy and spiritual growth, and supports courageous action.

Unitarian Universalist Principles

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

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