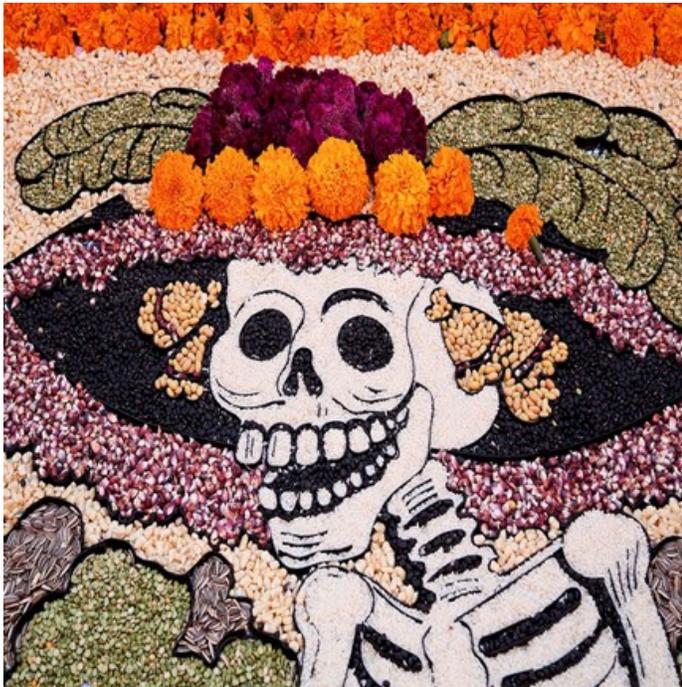




October 2017 UNlverse

NWUUC NORTHWEST  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CONGREGATION

## Join Us for Dia de Los Muertos, October 29



The holiday is celebrated in Mexico on November 1 and 2 with festivities and food. Dia de Los Muertos incorporates aspects of an ancient Aztec harvest festival with elements from the Catholic traditions associated with All Saints' Day, celebrated on November 1, and All Souls' Day, celebrated on November 2.

It is believed that on these days the souls of loved ones who have passed on return to Earth to celebrate with their families and friends. Traditionally, people leave toys and sugar skulls called calaveras for children and favorite foods, mementos and drinks for adults on altars for the visiting souls.

Northwest will celebrate *Dia de Los Muertos*, the Day of the Dead, on Sunday, October 29 during and following the morning worship service. The holiday highlights the passage of life into death with wonder, humor and joy. Please bring pictures of your loved ones, trinkets and food they loved to help build and decorate the altars in the sanctuary and on the porch.

Following the service, CUUPS invites all to celebrate with them with grand festivities. It will be a family affair. We will have skull-shaped sugar cookies for the children to decorate as well as bean bag toss, coloring sheets and other activities. There will also be a remembrance circle for adults to talk about their loved ones, share photos and light candles.



# Worship Services for October

Sunday Services Start at 10:00 am

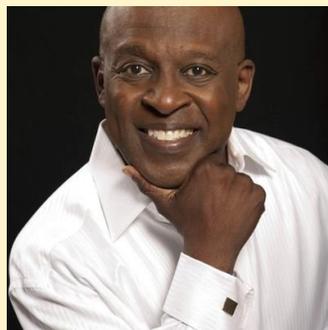
Our Sunday worship services are led by our minister, Rev. Terry Davis, guest ministers or members of the Northwest Worship Associates team. The Nursery is staffed and available during services and fellowship.



## October 1 – Called to This Faith (Installation of Religious Education Director Christina Branum-Martin and Director of Music Dr. Philip J. Rogers)

Worship Leader – Rev. Terry Davis  
Worship Associate—Tony Barbagallo  
Music—The Northwest Choir

Music and Religious Education are special ministries . . . and we are fortunate that Dr. Philip Rogers and Christina Branum-Martin feel called to serve as their leaders! Join us for this special service as we officially install Christina and Philip in their roles and we are reminded of the reasons why we are all called to this faith.



## October 8 – Rethinking Goliath

Worship Leader – Rev. Dr. Cindy Brown  
Worship Associate – Marie Molinet  
Music – Tom Godfrey and Will Fowler

Guest minister Rev. Dr. Cindy Brown will explore with us how thinking outside the box and playing to our personal strengths can help us overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles in our lives.

*Rev. Dr. Brown was ordained by Oakhurst Baptist Church in Decatur, Georgia, where she and her wife Sharon are also members. Cindy's passion for storytelling with her camera, along with her interest in religious and cultural diversity led her into the field of wedding photojournalism. She has documented weddings large and small, Unitarian and Pagan, indoors and out, Christian and Muslim, in backyards and in churches.*

## October 15 – Keeping the Faith

Worship Leader –  
Rev. Terry Davis  
Worship Associate –  
John Montgomery  
Music – Northwest Passage

As Unitarian Universalists, the “god of understanding” is varied and often not the god of our childhood. In what or whom do we place our faith during times of difficulty? Does our concept of god hold up under these conditions?



# Worship Services for October, continued

Sunday Services Start at 10:00 am

## October 22 – The Thing You Never Knew You Had

Worship Leader – Rev. Jennifer Dalton  
Worship Associate – John Maynard  
Music – The Northwest Choir

The word “privilege” is used a great deal in current conversation, but what does it mean? Is privilege some tangible moment or series of moments in our lives? Is it something we may have in one area of our lives, but not another? Perhaps the best definition of privilege is, in the words of one man, “the thing I never knew I had.” Let’s gather together and explore what can be a difficult topic, but one that is absolutely necessary to explore as we move through the world with one another.

*Rev. Dalton was born and raised in the Appalachian Mountains of Virginia. Spiritually, she was raised Mormon and Southern Baptist. She is ordained and recognized by the Alliance of Baptists and considers herself a Unitarian Universalist Baptist. She is raising three daughters, ages 21, 17, and 15 and they all live with three dogs and a cat. Jennifer works at WellStar Atlanta Medical Center as a patient advocate.*

If you don't  
have to think about it,  
**it's a privilege.**



## October 29 – Day of the Dead An All Ages Service

Worship Leader – Christina Branum-Martin, Director of Religious Education  
Worship Associate – David Stewart  
Music – Tom Godfrey and Will Fowler

When we allow ourselves to feel our place along the continuum of life and death, it can move us deeply and remind us of what is most meaningful in the world. Join us in this joyous celebration of *Día de Los Muertos* and life. Please see page 1 for more information on the activities we have planned for the day for all ages.

## Save the Date: Northwest 101, Nov. 4

Have you been wondering if membership at Northwest is the next step for you? Interested in learning about Unitarian Universalism and the Northwest UU Congregation? If so, please plan to attend the semi-annual Northwest 101 class on Saturday, November 4 from 9 am - noon.

Recent newcomers and friends will receive an invitation. Please contact Gina Sample at 706.339.0104 or [ginamaddox86@gmail.com](mailto:ginamaddox86@gmail.com) for more information.



# Toward a Beginning

***What we call a beginning is often the end  
and to make an end is to make a beginning.***

***The end is where we start from.***

**T.S. Eliot**

Dear Friends,

With my announcement of my departure from Northwest on December 3, this quote reminds me that endings are also beginnings. I have never ended a relationship, left a job, or moved to a new city without experiencing feelings of both loss and anticipation (although one feeling might temporarily overshadow the other).

And, so, I'm discovering that my decision to leave this faith community after over five years of ministry is no different. I'm sad at the prospect of saying good-bye to all of you. And, I'm looking forward to beginning a new chapter in my professional and personal life, where I can spend more time tending to my relationship with Gail and with myself, which includes boosting my spiritual practices of running and hiking outdoors and focusing on those justice issues that feel most vital to me.

In these remaining two months, as we anticipate and begin to feel our mutual losses, I am also wondering if this congregation might begin to intentionally explore where and how it might make new beginnings.

The capital campaign, for example, which has been enormously successful, promises to open the way for more fellowship and worship space – which means there is room for more people.

What if Northwest were to use this ending and beginning time to examine how the congregation welcomes the newcomer? We still have more people visiting our congregation each year than staying. Why is that? Is it cramped quarters alone, or are there other factors? Do we want to change that ratio and, if so, how might we do that?

Northwest's children's and youth religious education program has started off with a bang. We have close to 40 children actively participating in classes and groups this

year and the Nursery is overflowing. One ongoing challenge is having enough volunteer teachers and caregivers to keep it all going. Is this time of endings and beginnings also the time to start thinking of Religious Education as Northwest's primary ministry? What changes might be made to other priorities if this were the case?

Issues of persistent racism are exploding in the public square and in our own denomination. How might Northwest use this time of ending and beginning to examine its own hopes, assumptions and challenges and move forward in awareness and action?

If I embrace my ending at this wonderful congregation as a journey towards a beginning, I am hopeful that greater personal growth and transformation are in store for you and for me.

May it be so.

Warmly,

*Terry*

Rev. Terry Davis



# The Outlook

As the previous month has passed so quickly with the accompanying world and natural events to influence it, I have come to realize more that community is a critical aspect of humanity. Without community, we are incomplete beings without interpersonal external influences to build on and thereby grow. Once we discover the beauty of the “other” whom we allow into our space for a season or for a life time, growth results and fears abate. Becoming involved in the essence of “the other” creates a trust in personal vulnerability. A harmony begins to emerge as communication reveals the depth and breadth of “the other’s” inner beauty. We were placed on the earth to be blessings to “others” at whatever level, for however long, so both our lives can benefit and bloom beyond imagination.



The essence of art is to speak to “others” with a common theme of personal reflection and hope. There is a hope in each of us to be part of a whole, and a creative whole at that. The creative arts speak to a myriad of personalities and levels of thought. Whether painting, writing, poetry, storytelling, dance, sculpting, fashion design, playing an instrument, or singing, your creative personality, whatever your age, can be a critical asset to any community, especially the Northwest community.

Are you willing to answer the call to share your gift with the Northwest community? Feel free to communicate your willingness to us. With regards to music, we send out a call for singers and instrumentalists to consider sharing your latent or otherwise utilized gift on any level, whether weekly or every once in a while. Your willingness to share your creative vulnerability will benefit this community in ways unimaginable. We especially reach out to our high school and college students as well as millennials through senior citizens. Consider sharing your creative edge, however frequently or infrequently. All are welcome to inquire. We look forward to hearing from you, NWUUC family. ([music@nwuuc.org](mailto:music@nwuuc.org))

*Dr. Philip Rogers*  
Director of Music

## Religious Education Is Off to a Wonderful Start This Year *Come see for yourself what all the excitement's about!*

The Chalice House abounds in energy and engaging curriculum. All age groups have new curriculum in place to explore the topics of social justice, sacred spaces, world religions, and the topic of God and religion as it is portrayed in pop TV culture. Even the youngest in class is engaged in storytelling and intentional contemplative activities.

Religious Education at Northwest aims to support faith development as a lifelong endeavor. The core elements of faith development for children, youth and adults are the same. They address the big religious questions such as: Who or what is God? Why are we here and what is expected of us?

What is the meaning of life and death? Why do good and bad things happen? Is the universe a friendly place?

The answers to these big questions start in small ways in the classrooms on Sunday mornings. Come share in this meaningful endeavor. See the light in the eyes of our children and youth as they explore new questions about themselves and their ethical, spiritual and Unitarian Universalist identities. Become a class leader for a short while, a playground volunteer or offer arms to hold little ones in the nursery once a month. You will be well rewarded!

May this congregation live into the full vision of lifespan religious education as these children grow up within this dear community.

*Christina Branum-Martin*  
Director of Religious Education



# October Second Hour

Adult learning sessions are held in various rooms on the congregation's campus from 11:30 am-12:30 pm during Second Hour, the hour immediately following the post-worship refreshment break. Check the weekly publications for room assignments.

You are invited to participate in our Adult Learning program by attending sessions, suggesting learning topics for future sessions, and/or offering your services as a session leader. To submit suggestions, please contact Laura Hall at [laurahallatl@gmail.com](mailto:laurahallatl@gmail.com)

## October 1



### STP Recipient Presentation

The director of the Certificate in Theological Studies program at Lee Arrendale Women's Correctional Facility, Rachele Green, will provide information about the vital needs that this special program—our October Share the Plate recipient—meets within the Georgia corrections system. Students attest that participation helps them develop self-esteem; tolerance; and a sense accomplishment, purpose and hope. They often describe their theology classes as a "sanctuary," where they are free to express themselves, ask questions, practice constructive dialogue and build up spiritual community.

## October 8

**Congregational Retreat:  
No Second Hour programming**

## October 15



### An Overview of Non-Violent Communication

Session Leader: Sandra Niven

Suppose you were on a desert island with people who thought and acted differently than you. Suppose your safety was dependent on everyone getting along. How would you communicate, so you could help everyone (including yourself) understand and value each other and work together? Join us to explore these and other communication issues on October 15 during Second Hour.



### Northwest Persons of Color Conversation

Session Leader: Rev. Terry Davis

At the direction of the Northwest Board of Trustees, Northwest will explore ways in which our congregation can collectively engage in anti-racism, anti-oppression and

multi-cultural spiritual work. As part of this journey, Rev. Terry Davis will host a meeting for Northwest members and friends who identify as persons of color (not white) on Sunday, October 15 from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm in the Chalice House Founder's Room.

The purpose of the meeting is to start a conversation about shared experiences, observations and concerns. The meeting is only open to persons of color. For more information, contact Rev. Terry Davis at [minister@nwuuc.org](mailto:minister@nwuuc.org).



### Pride Parade Piedmont Park

Northwest and other area UU congregations will have a booth during Pride weekend and a place in the Pride Parade line up. Please see the NeUUs and Updates in October for more information.



# October Second Hour, continued

October 22



## New Adult Social Group

A new social group for adults who do not yet identify as members of the Senior Network Group will meet during Second Hour on October 22. Whether you are a Millennial, Gen X, Baby Boomer or other, join us! All who wish to attend are welcome.

Getting to know others, participating in discussions, planning activities of mutual interest and developing a support network are long-range goals for the group. Stop by to learn more and share your ideas. We will meet in the Chalice House Chapel at 11:30 am. Childcare is available until 12:30 pm. Looking forward to seeing you on October 22!

If you are interested but unable to make the meeting, contact Gina Sample at [community@nwuuc.org](mailto:community@nwuuc.org) to be added to our Facebook group.

## Northwest Seniors Network

Session Leaders: Renee & Michael Burke

The Senior Network welcomes seniors, retirees, grandparents and caregivers to discuss life issues, provide support to one another, and plan social activities at various times and places around town. The group meets during Second Hour on the fourth Sunday of each month.

For more information, please contact Renee and Mike Burke at [reneeandmike@mindspring.com](mailto:reneeandmike@mindspring.com). Or just come to the gathering in the Art Gallery to meet other group members and join in the fun.



October 29

## Day of the Dead Celebration

Session Leaders: Cynthia Flot and Christina Branum-Martin

It will be a lively Day of the Dead at Northwest! See page 1 for details.

## CUUPS Samhain Earth-Based Ritual (12:30 pm)

Session Leader: Cynthia Flot Gardens/Stan's Circle

Watch future publications for a description of this session.

## Earth Ministry Presentation

Session Leaders: Linda & Tom Couch

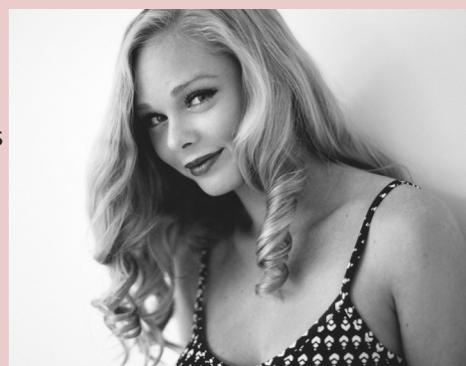
Watch future publications for a description of this session.

# Hungry Ear Coffee House™, October 7

Hungry Ear Coffee House presents Bob Bakert with Dustin Cottrell and soulful, jazz singer Kylie Odetta on October 7. Bob Bakert has become a fixture in the Atlanta music scene with his acoustic performances of original music, and his full band performances of covers. Indie/Soul singer-songwriter Kylie Odetta is lighting a fire within the underground music

scene with music that is powerful, dreamy and full of passion.

Once a month, our sanctuary becomes the Hungry Ear Coffee House. Doors open at 7:30 pm; performance starts at 8 pm. \$5 donation is requested and canned goods for CAC are always appreciated.



# Save the Date: Fall Auction, November 11

Northwest's Fall Auction is quickly approaching!

How would you like to have an opportunity for seven days in a condominium in Hilton Head, Asheville or Myrtle Beach?!

That is just one of the items up for auction!

**Reserve the date of Saturday, November 11.** Dinner and drinks at 6:30 pm and the auction will start at 7 pm. Admission is \$20 and includes dinner prepared by our congregation's well known culinary experts. Auction items include:

- Specialty dinners cooked by your friends
- A chance to participate in Linton's Putting Championship
- A Murder Mystery Dinner where YOU might be the murderer!
- A walk-through of your home with John Hagler during which he will answer home improvement questions that you might have
- Works of art, jewelry and other fabulous items!

Support Northwest and have fun doing it! If you have something to donate, send an email, with a SHORT description and suggested minimum bid to [jtmonty20@gmail.com](mailto:jtmonty20@gmail.com).

Planning to attend? Send an email to [jtmonty20@gmail.com](mailto:jtmonty20@gmail.com) detailing the number of people attending. To pay for the dinner tickets, you can:

1. Send a check for your tickets to Northwest and write in the memo line Fall Auction Ticket(s).
2. Place payment in the box that will be in the lobby.
3. Give a check to John or Traci Montgomery, Stewardship Ministry.

Please reserve a seat by November 4 to ensure we have plenty of food. See you there!



## UNiverse

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

Northwest is a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

**Newsletter submissions deadline: 15th of the previous month.**

Send to [nwuupublications@gmail.com](mailto:nwuupublications@gmail.com)  
Editor, Lil Woolf

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### Board of Trustees

President **Dave Zenner**  
Imm. Past President **Kristen Fowks**  
Finance Trustee **Michael Dierickx**  
Board Secretary **Letitia Sweitzer**  
President Elect **Hannah Cowart**  
Trustees at Large:  
**Bill Cox, David Stewart and Barbara Peterson**

# Board Notes

Your Board of Trustees met on September 19 and we have so many updates to share!

## **Religious Education: World Religions Picture books, Harry Potter and The Simpsons!**

DRE Christina Branum-Martin's report highlighted the growing number of children in our RE program (almost 60!). This has been evident in past weeks with the loads of children crowding the floor during Story Wisdom. Christina has been diligently recruiting RE volunteers to help sustain the dynamic programming that includes age appropriate Harry Potter and The Simpsons discussions. Despite these efforts, she only has about 15 steady assistants.

We envision Northwest as a congregation where EVERY member volunteers in some way throughout the year with the RE program. This can be as simple as spending one hour on the playground with the children every couple of months. Please reach out to Christina or a member of the RE Committee to discuss how you can help. Working with RE may require a modest time commitment, but the energy you receive in return from our vibrant young people is incredible!

## **Money Matters: Finance Committee and Rental Management**

As directed by our bylaws, the Board formally approved a Finance Committee including our Finance Trustee Michael Dierickx, Stewardship Ministry Team Co-Leader Traci Montgomery, and former, long-time Finance Trustee Nancy Warnick. This strong team brings many years of experience. One of its first projects will be developing new initiatives and sound policies for rental management.



## **Minister Transition: Interim Minister Search**

The Board had a very informative conference call with Christine Purcell, UUA Southern Region Transitions Program Manager. We discussed the Interim search process in detail and are pleased that Christine was impressed with many of the things going on at Northwest. Application for an Interim Minister is due October 13 and we hope our Interim will begin their 18-month tenure in January 2018. We will also be assigned a UUA transitions coach to guide us. Our goal is to maintain a high level of communication throughout this process, so keep an eye out for updates.

## **Anti-Racist, Anti-Oppression, Multi-Culturalism (ARAOMC) Initiative**

The Board will be forming an ARAOMC Committee and has asked Rev. Terry to lead it. Our hopes are that this Committee will help lead us through a year (or more) of discussion, discernment and self-reflection. We will announce Committee members soon and encourage all members/friends/visitors to participate in upcoming programs as they are announced.

## **Ministry Team Update:**

### **New Worship Associates MTL**

The Ministry Teams have hit the ground running this program year. These groups carry the lion's share of the load in developing and delivering programming at Northwest and over the coming months their programming will be focused on Racial Justice. We had a great time at the Ministry Team Meet & Greet in September and look forward to seeing new members and friends get involved!

We are delighted that Marie Molinet will be our new Worship Associates Ministry Team Leader. She will be coordinating our strong and growing group of Worship Associates. With Marie's leadership, the WA Team will be working hard to ensure we have full coverage during our Interim Minister transition this winter.

*Thank you to all of the busy hands who helped clean up our beautiful home in the woods after Tropical Storm Irma. They moved furniture, picked up debris and did a lot of leaf blowing.*

## **Installation of DRE and DOM**

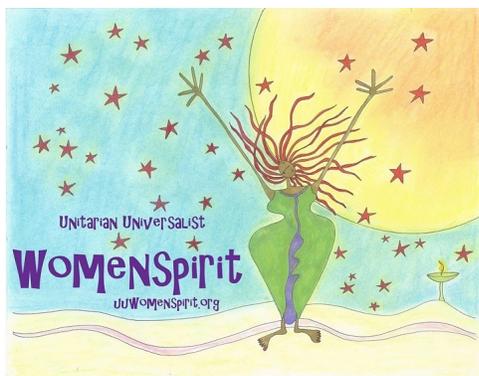
In closing, we hope that everyone will make a special effort to attend service on October 1 to formally welcome our newest staff members: Christina Branum-Martin, Director of Religious Education, and Dr. Philip Rogers, Director of Music. The energy and enthusiasm that they bring to Northwest is palpable and this is an opportunity for us to recognize the importance of their professional ministries, share ideas and just join in the excitement. We also believe there will be cake!

*Hannah Cowart*

# Mountain Time

## Womenspirit, October 11-13

Join with other women this fall as we gather in the beautiful setting of The Mountain near Highlands, NC, where for 30 years, a sacred web of women has assembled to celebrate the power of the Divine Feminine. We will find the courage and strength to meet our challenges and accomplish our goals as we awaken to the gifts we find in the lengthening nights and embrace the lightning in our blood, bringing us to fruition in these times for which we were born. Delving deeply into Earth-centered themes of power, we will explore the Goddess through workshops, worships, dancing, drumming and more! Learn more at [uuwomenspirit.org](http://uuwomenspirit.org).



**Thanksgiving:** For 36 years, The Mountain has hosted a traditional Thanksgiving celebration for family and friends. In addition to the festive and delicious groaning board, participants enjoy sharing and fun activities. There are workshops, evening programs, bonfires, and hot chocolate. Hardy souls hike Mountain trails while many gather round roaring stone fireplaces for storytelling, games, and relaxation. This traditional weekend of blessings and thanks ends with Sunday Morning Community worship, full hearts and minds.

See [www.themountainrlc.org](http://www.themountainrlc.org), the What's Happening Table in our lobby or call 828.526.5838 for more information.



## October Joining Anniversaries

Penny Raney	10/22/1978
Nancy Warnick	10/28/1990
Sharon Beecher	10/10/1993
David Cohen	10/06/2002
Michael Manely	10/28/2004
Shelia Manely	10/28/2004
Deborah Andrews-Gautney	10/30/2011
Helen Borland	10/18/2014
Harry Trendell	10/19/2014
Peggy Emrey	10/11/2015

## October Birthdays

Ed Kilbourne	10/01	Tony Barbagallo	10/14
Gregory Byrd	10/02	Edward Lawrence	10/17
Lissa Newman	10/04	Terry Davis	10/1
Logan North	10/05	Lynne Dale	10/19
Karen Reagle	10/07	Kathy Frost	10/21
Jordan Taylor	10/07	Phoenix Light	10/21
Hannah Johnson	10/09	Tami Smith	10/21
Charlotte Alyea	10/11	Benjamin Manely	10/22
Eileen Taylor	10/11	Alison Williams	10/23
Earl Daniels	10/12	Alaine Harris	10/24
Cathryn DuBow	10/13	Fried Alyea	10/26
Helene Johnson	10/13	Julie Jordan	10/27
Gus Newman	10/13	Laura Hall	10/31





# OCTOBER

## October 1

**Worship Service**, 10 am  
**Second Hour**, 11:30 am  
**RE party**, 11:30 am

## October 4

**Choir Rehearsal**, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary

## October 6-8

**Congregational Retreat**,  
 The Mountain, Highlands, NC

## October 7

**Hungry Ear Coffee House**, Sanctuary

## October 8

**Worship Service**, 10 am  
**RE**, 10:15 am

## October 10

**Book Groupies**, Art Gallery

## October 11

**Choir Rehearsal**, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary

## October 14

**Second Saturday Workday**, 8-noon

## October 15

**Worship Service**, 10 am  
**RE**, 10:15 am  
**Second Hour**, 11:30 am  
**Pride Parade**, 12 pm, Piedmont Park

## October 18

**RE-creative BUUnch**, 10 am  
**LUUnch BUUnch**, 11:45 am  
**Choir Rehearsal**, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary

## October 22

**Worship Service**, 10 am  
**RE**, 10:15 am  
**Second Hour**, 11:30 am

## October 25

**Choir Rehearsal**, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary

## October 29

**Worship Service**, 10 am  
**Dia De los Muertos Celebration**,  
 11:30 am  
**Second Hour**, 11:30 am

## SAVE THE DATES!

**Northwest 101**, November 4  
**Fall auction**, November 11

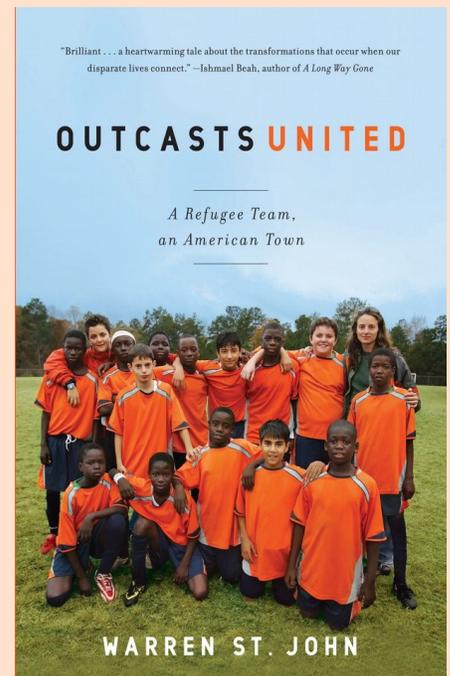
## Book Groupies Discuss *Outcasts United*, October 10

The Book Groupies will meet on October 10 at 7 pm in the Art Gallery to discuss *Outcasts United* by Warren St. John. This nonfiction book is set in Clarkston, GA (a suburb of Atlanta) and is the story of a soccer team composed of refugee youth and their feisty female coach who helps them navigate through the culture and manufactured obstacles in Clarkston.

This story will tug at your heart strings and is particularly appropriate as we start our refugee outreach program at Northwest. We will be reading the adult version of this book (320 pages),

not the young adult version which is shorter. Buy your copies at Bellwether in the lobby!

On October 10, we will also discuss and pick our books for the next few months. All readers are welcome.





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

*A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association*

## October 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](http://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.