



February 2018 UNlverse

**NWUUC** NORTHWEST  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CONGREGATION

## Welcome Rev. Jonathan Rogers



On February 1, Rev. Jonathan Rogers will join Northwest as our interim minister. We are excited to welcome Rev. Jonathan to Northwest and are certain that he will bring his own brand of energy and enthusiasm to his new role.

Rev. Jonathan Rogers comes to us from the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, where he has served for 4-1/2 years as associate minister.

He is originally from central Maine and grew up attending the Waterville Universalist Unitarian Church. He earned his BA degree from Brown University and his Master of Divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School. His sources of spiritual wisdom include Buddhism, Integralism and process theology.

At UUCA, Rev. Jonathan served first as youth program coordinator before accepting the call to associate minister. He has served UU, Quaker, UCC and Renewal Jewish faith communities in many roles for over a decade. He is married to Annie Massart, who is from Rhode Island, and they reside in Decatur with their three dogs, Tony, Grover and Pickles.

Rev. Jonathan's arrival at Northwest from his ministry at UUCA marks another milestone in the long and loving relationship between our two congregations. As both Northwest and UUCA undertake challenging and courageous changes to enhance the impact of Unitarian Universalism in Atlanta, we at Northwest are mindful that our congregation was established as a mission to grow Unitarian Universalism by visionaries at UUCA, our "mother" congregation.

Our enduring bond of love and gratitude to UUCA continues through this transition, and we hold our dear friends at UUCA in our hearts as we both begin an exciting new chapter in the lives of our congregations.

Please take a minute to thank the members of Northwest's Interim Minister Search Committee – Hannah Cowart, Gwen Kahn and Aruna Rao-McCann – for their hard work in helping our congregation take this important step. Then, please join us in welcoming Rev. Jonathan at a cookie reception following the worship service on February 4. (See more on page 13.)

# Worship Services for February

Sunday Services Start at 10:00 am

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



## February 4: Wu Wei (無為)

Worship Leader—Rev. Jonathan Rogers  
Worship Associate—Brian Freeman  
Music—Northwest Passage

Interim Minister Rev. Jonathan Rogers will share about one of his guiding philosophies, the Daoist notion of "wu wei." How can this idea help us in our individual and collective spiritual journeys?



## February 11: An Invisible Disability

Worship Leader—Rev. Jonathan Rogers  
Worship Associate—Barbara Peterson  
Music—The Northwest Choir

The Census estimates one in five Americans has a disability. Some are visible; others are not. Rev. Rogers reflects on what having an invisible disability has taught him about justice, equity and compassion in human relations.

## February 18: A Time for Neuroplasticity

Worship Leader—Rev. Jonathan Rogers  
Worship Associate—Lil Woolf  
Music—Northwest Passage

Neuroplasticity, the lasting changes to the brain made throughout a person's life, is an important concept to those of us who believe that we can change ourselves, our communities, and our world. Let's ask together: how can we cultivate and nurture neuroplasticity in our lives and in our congregation?



## February 25: Pro-Science, Pro-Future: Inspiration for Chaotic, Contracting Times

Worship Leader—Rev. Michael Dowd  
Worship Associate—Glenn Koller  
Music—The Northwest Choir

Rev. Michael Dowd will share why a deep-time big picture is vital for staying sane and sober in chaotic and contracting times, and why "dark optimism" can help us accept what is inevitable, attend to what is urgent, and be a blessing to friends, family and neighbors.

# Building Steering Committee Reports on Use Permit Process

by Kristen Fowks, Steering Committee Co-chair

Our congregation voted last summer to construct a fellowship hall, to expand our sanctuary and to conduct a capital campaign to finance the expansion. The steering committee charged with implementing the expansion has been working toward securing the necessary approval from the City of Sandy Springs and recommending the contractor-architect team.

The committee members gave a progress report to the congregation on Sunday, January 14, during a Second Hour session. As of that date, Northwest had collected \$251,637 of the \$619,021 pledged. Northwest will need about \$700,000 for construction based on preliminary estimates.

Committee member Glenn Koller and Northwest President Dave Zenner reported on a meeting they attended at the Sandy Springs Zoning Department. During this meeting, they learned that Northwest will be required to apply for a Conditional Use Permit. The use permit application process typically takes a minimum of four months.

The process requires two public hearings and two community meetings to be hosted by Northwest. The first step in the application process is a pre-application meeting with the City of Sandy Springs which was set up for January 22.

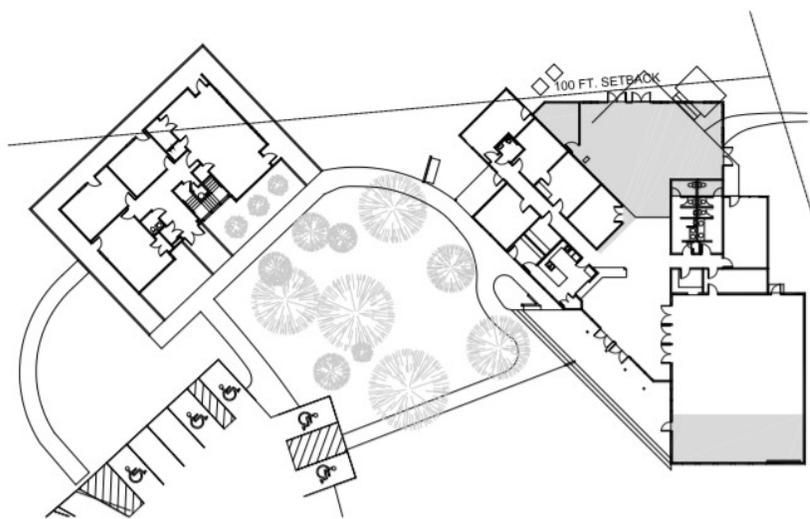
Sandy Springs has several requirements including a 100-foot set back from the property line for any church construction. In order to meet this requirement without applying for a special variance, some adjustments were made to the fellowship hall plan. This revised plan meets Northwest's needs and has 150 square feet of additional space over the previous plan. The revised plan is available to view on the Northwest website.

The committee reported that a boundary survey, tree survey, and a hydrology study are required by the city. The cost quoted for the surveys from a civil engineering firm is \$7,000. The City of Sandy Springs has water retention and water quality requirements that may result in changes to Northwest's current retention pond.

While the City of Sandy Springs requirements and Conditional Use Permit application process may sound daunting, the committee members assured the congregation that the requirements are not unusual and can be met by Northwest.

The steering committee continues to work on finalizing the contract with the contractor-architect team. The steering committee will make recommendations to the Northwest Board of Directors which has the authority to sign a contract as a result of the congregational vote. The committee will consider whether to recommend moving forward with the architect design phase before the use permit is issued.

The design development cost is \$30,000 and will take about two months to complete. Once the design is complete and approved, the construction plan quotation and permitting will take about two months before construction can start.



NORTHWEST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

# January Board Meeting Notes

Your Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, January 16--the onset of Atlanta's most recent winter storm. Here is a brief summary of our accomplishments and status reports:

## Religious Education

DRE Christina Branum-Martin reported that 62 children and youth are enrolled in our RE program! It is such a pleasure to have such a vibrant program in our midst and the board is well aware that RE continues to attract new members and friends to our beautiful community. We hope that even those without children of their own will reach out to volunteer during activity time or even as an RE teacher to support our program. Specifically, we need a female to help teach our upcoming sexual education program, Our Whole Lives (OWL). See page 8 for details.

## ARAOMC (Anti-Racist Anti-Oppression Multi-Culturalism) Committee

We have tentatively identified the founding members of our first ARAOMC Committee and will announce the members as the committee is finalized. As our efforts are more meaningful when we are all "at the table," the board ensured that individuals holding broad perspectives and opinions were included in this initial committee.

## Finance and Process Improvements

Finance Trustee Michael Dierickx delivered a positive financial report to the board. Several projects are coming to fruition including: transitioning to a new payroll vendor, improving pledge record management, and continued great work by our new Finance Committee to improve rental management.

## Job Descriptions and How-To Guides

The board has committed to closely examining Rev. Terry's final report to identify opportunities for improvement. A small group will begin by establishing job descriptions and tasks associated with Northwest roles. This will complement our ministry team leaders' work to establish "How-To Guides" for their ministries. If you are interested in this type of work, please contact a board member.

## Building Expansion

About 40 people attended the Building Expansion Steering Committee's Second Hour program on January 14. The

committee is working hard to bring our dreams of a larger space into reality. See page 3 for details.

## February 18 Congregational Meeting

Our last winter storm led to our having to reschedule our December Congregational Meeting to February 18. The meeting agenda and supporting documents will be sent out at least two weeks prior to the meeting. We will vote on some bylaw changes and hear further updates on our building expansion and our settled minister search.

## Ministry Team Update

The ministry teams are well underway with this semester's focus on food justice! We hope that this method of focusing our efforts can continue into the future. As a great example, in January our youth group led a service project with our Share the Plate recipient, Community Assistance Center (CAC). Many hands make light work!

## Transitions Update: Welcome Rev. Jonathan Rogers!

February marks the beginning of our 18-month journey with our Interim Minister Rev. Jonathan Rogers. We will hit the ground running with a Cookie Welcome Reception on February 4 after the service. See page 13 for details.

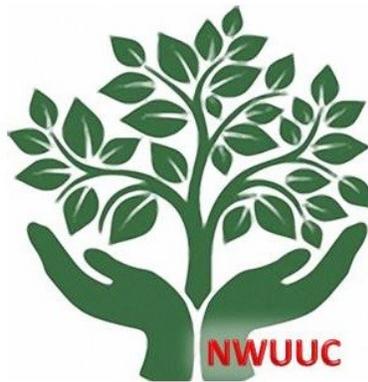
## Transitions Committee

We are forming a Transitions Committee to assist Rev. Jonathan throughout his time with us. According to UUA's guidelines, this committee's role is "to provide the Interim Minister with insight, organizational and facilitative talent, and willing hands."

## Kickoff Transitions Program

The UUA has assigned Northwest Transitions Coach Rev. Ann Marie Alderman to guide us through our search for a settled Minister. Rev. Ann Marie will meet with the board in February and then join us in person March 17-18 for a Kickoff Transitions Program. That Sunday, she will lead the service and offer a Second Hour program centered on our transition. She will also lead a Saturday evening meeting with the board and congregational leadership.

We have much to celebrate at Northwest and your board is in awe of what each member and friend brings to our community. Let us enjoy this journey together.



# Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education— What is religious about sexuality education?

*by Christina Branum-Martin,  
Director of Religious Education*

In the coming months, our children and youth will begin sessions of Our Whole Lives (OWL). OWL is the lifespan sexuality education curricula co-created by the Unitarian Universalist Association and the United Church of Christ.

OWL is a cornerstone of lifespan Unitarian Universalist religious education. UUs believe that honest, accurate information about sexuality changes lives. The OWL programs dismantle stereotypes and assumptions, build self-acceptance and self-esteem, foster healthy relationships, improve decision making and have the potential to save lives.

There are seven OWL curricula available, organized by developmental age groups:

- grades K-1
- grades 4-6
- grades 7-9
- grades 10-12
- young adults
- adults
- older adults

What is religious about sexuality education?

Our Whole Lives is religious because it seeks to nurture:

- religious community
- spiritual depth
- prophetic vision and action for justice.

OWL is the embodiment of the religious principle that each person has inherent worth and dignity.

For these reasons, the religious education program at Northwest seeks to offer all the available sessions for children and youth. Class leaders are needed still for sessions in the spring and fall of 2018. Contact DRE Christina Branum-Martin at [re@nwuuc.org](mailto:re@nwuuc.org) to be trained and participate in this wonderful program.



## Soothe Your Soul at the Contemplative Service, February 27

*be still*

A CONTEMPLATIVE  
WORSHIP EXPERIENCE



Northwest members Lil Woolf and Traci Montgomery will present “In the Spirit,” a contemplative service that provides a quiet, stress-releasing 30-45 minutes of music, readings, candles and meditation. Join the core group of participants on Tuesday, February 27, at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary as we invite peace into our beings.

# The Nature of Art

by Philip J. Rogers, D.M.A., Director of Music

As an expression of the human experience, creative art has the power to move us intellectually, emotionally and spiritually. The human experience is effectively and succinctly shared through the creative mystery of art in the form of a song, a painting, a sculpture, a poem, a symphony. At one time or another we are moved by an artistic expression. That expression impacts us somehow and causes a reaction that we remember for days and even years thereafter. According to Megan Bostic,



*Art is an expression made visible by a form. . . . Intrinsic to our existence as humans is our quest to create meaning, and art allows that process to take place. Making meaning involves understanding our surroundings and marking our experiences.*

*Art, at its root, is an expression and the artist is an expresser, translating in order to create meaning.*

Each Sunday we employ the art of music to underscore our quest for meaning of the spiritual journey that we share with one another. Although each of our paths and pasts are different, our humanity is enjoined by the

power of the unifying nature of music and storytelling. Collectively we find meaning for our lives. As Bostic states, we gain “understanding of our surroundings” and in so doing we take note of or mark (honor) significant experiences.

One of the critical concepts that I share with the Northwest Choir each week is the critical nature of internalizing the lyrics and their assigned melodies, so we can more effectively communicate to the

multi-faceted universes of the congregation. Singing “words and notes” is mere entertainment, while communicating with the spirit of humanity “creates meaning” that impacts thought and actions. As artists, our job is to facilitate allowing the recipients of our art to find meaning in “being” what we say we believe.

It is our pleasure to be an integral part of making meaning in the lives of those we serve musically. We do what we can to underscore the essence of our collective quest for leading better lives to benefit those we encounter on a daily basis. We can be the smile, the encouragement and the hope people seek as we demonstrate the meaning we gain from the art that is shared whenever we congregate together.

## Children and Youth Art Exhibit

On Sunday, February 4, during the cookie reception for our interim minister, take a minute to grab your refreshments to see art created by the talented children and youth who attend Northwest. The 2018 Children and Youth Art Exhibit will be on display in the Art Gallery through February.

Parents, if your children have work that you want to include, please send the information to Helene Johnson for

“Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up.”  
line and pins to hang unmatted or unframed pieces.

- Pablo Picasso

the art labels. Bring the work on Sunday, February 4 or drop it off at Northwest by Wednesday afternoon, January 31, when Katie Lockhart and Helene will be putting up the show after 4:30 pm. It would help if the work were matted or framed ready to hang, but there will also be a clothes-

The information to Helene should include: title, medium (materials used, such as tempera paint, pencil, etc.) and artist’s name. For children age 5 and under, please add their age. Please text Helene Johnson at [404.771.9832](tel:404.771.9832) or e-mail her at [helenejohnson299@gmail.com](mailto:helenejohnson299@gmail.com).

# February Share the Plate Recipient: Wholesome Wave Georgia

This month, Northwest continues to explore food justice issues by partnering with another organization committed to creating better access to healthy food and to eliminating hunger. You will recall that throughout January, we supported the Community Assistance Center, which provides a crucial food pantry to its clients in our Dunwoody and Sandy Springs neighborhoods.



This month, we are pleased to partner with Wholesome Wave Georgia. Wholesome Wave seeks to increase access to fresh, healthy, locally grown food for Georgians living at or below 130% of the poverty line.

WWG was founded in 2009 by renowned Atlanta restaurateur (and daughter-in-law of Northwest member Linton Hopkins) Gina Hopkins, with help from cofounders Judith Winfrey, Jonathan Tescher and Kate Barney. Today, WWG serves Georgia's 1.7 million food-insecure residents through its two primary programs: Georgia Fresh for Less and the Fruit and Vegetable Prescription Program.

The Georgia Fresh for Less program provides access to fresh, locally grown food to recipients of Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. WWG matches SNAP benefits—dollar for dollar—at participating farmers markets. Recipients can spend \$10 in benefits and receive \$20 worth of fresh, local, higher quality food, and reduce dependence upon low cost, processed foods among benefits recipients. In addition to providing better nutrition, the program supports local farmers. The program has put more than \$2 million into the local food economy since its inception in 2009.

WWG's Fruit & Vegetable Prescription Program promotes affordable access to fresh, healthy food in underserved communities through partnerships with healthcare providers, community organizations and produce retailers.

The evidence-based program allows healthcare providers to give food-insecure patients with chronic health problems innovative "prescriptions" that can be spent on fruits and vegetables at participating farmers markets. By providing low-income patients with the resources to improve their diet, the program improves health outcomes.

To learn more, please join us on February 11, when we will be joined during the service and Second Hour by Sara Berney, WWG's first full-time executive director. In her four years at WWG, Sara has successfully led, managed and supervised the development and expansion of programs and services. She has grown WWG's flagship healthy food incentives program from 14 to more than 50 partners to serve 20,000 Georgia families and is responsible for the launch of the Fruit and Vegetable Prescription Program, the first of its kind in the Southeast.

Prior to this role, Sara worked as a Public Health Consultant for Deloitte Consulting LLP, supporting clients at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and public health non-profits including the Flour Fortification Initiative. Sara is also an alumnus of Emory University, the Atlanta Regional Commission's Regional Leadership Institute and the Peace Corps.



Each Sunday during the month of February, half of all non-designated funds collected during the Sunday offering will go to Wholesome Wave Georgia. Please give as generously as you are able and join us on February 11 for more information about how we can support WWG's work.

# Second Hour February 2018

by Laura Hall, Learning Ministry Team Leader

*At 11:30 on most Sunday mornings, one-hour adult religious education sessions are offered on a variety of topics of interest to our congregation. This meeting time, which we call Second Hour, follows the worship service and a 30-minute social time/refreshment break. Note that nursery care and activities for children are provided until 12:30 pm so that parents can fully participate in the adult education program.*

## Food Justice Focus Update

February marks the second month of our congregation-wide *Food Justice Focus*, in which the ministries of Northwest have united to offer opportunities to learn about issues of food insecurity and hunger in our local communities. In addition, the focus will look at the ways in which food is produced and how the food we purchase and eat impacts the environment and our health.

We began last month with our support of the Community Assistance Center (CAC), our January Share the Plate recipient. We were pleased to have Tamara Carrera, CEO of the CAC, as our guest speaker and hear her presentation during Second Hour.

One of the things she shared was her excitement about the move of the food pantry to the building that currently houses the shopping boutique, a change that will double the size of the food pantry. This move will require many helping hands to pack and unpack food items, and at the end of the presentation, eleven attendees signed up to volunteer!

And that's not all. The Northwest Youth and their sponsors have agreed to visit the CAC on February 3 to assist

in the moving project. See page 11 for additional information. We appreciate those who are supplementing their education about food issues with hands-on work with an organization at the forefront of alleviating hunger and food insecurity.

This month we continue our focus on outside organizations by welcoming a representative from Wholesome Wave Georgia to speak to us. See page 7 for more information.



In addition to Second Hour sessions focusing on food justice, the adult education program will continue to offer other interesting sessions throughout the month, including the following:

## February 4: Imbolc Earth-Centered Ritual

Northwest's Hawk's Hoop Chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) will celebrate the Imbolc Ritual (also known as Candlemas, Brigid's Day, Imbolg, or Imbole) in Stan's Circle in the forest behind the Sanctuary building. This ritual is one of the four Celtic "Fire Festivals" in the Pagan Wheel of the Year.

With Imbolc, we celebrate the promise of spring, as the days are becoming noticeably longer even though the land still lies in the grip of winter.

Awareness of Earth-Centered religions and their rituals is integral to the UU commitment to inclusiveness and the many paths to spiritual enlightenment. All are invited to this 20-minute ritual, especially if you are a "pagan curious" long-time or new member or attendee of Northwest.

## February 11: Wholesome Wave Georgia

See page 7 for details.

## February 18: Congregational Meeting

See page 4.

## February 25: Northwest Senior Network and the Beyond Coffee Social Group

**The Senior Network** is comprised of individuals who gather to discuss topics such as retirement, elder care, and grandparenting, provide support to one another, and plan social activities around town. To join the group, please send your name and phone number to [Renee and Mike Burke](#) or just come to the gathering in the Art Gallery to meet other members and join in the fun.

The **Beyond Coffee Social Group** is for all those who don't yet identify as members of the Senior Network and want to connect with others in a relaxed, informal setting. Whether you are a Millennial, Gen X, Baby Boomer, etc. – all who wish to attend are welcome.

Hope to see you at Second Hour!

# Dining For Women Promotes Food Justice, February 11

Dining for Women gets underway for 2018 on Sunday, February 11. All women are invited to join us from 5 pm to 7 pm as we gather to share a meal and support the advanced nutrition certification program in Ollantaytambo, Peru.

The program addresses malnutrition in Peru's Sacred Valley communities by disseminating targeted nutrition education via specialized community health workers. It is overseen by [Sacred Valley Health](#), which promotes health in the rural, underserved communities of Peru's Sacred Valley through education, access and women's empowerment.

Contact Mary Perloe at 404.217.8201 or [maryperloe@gmail.com](mailto:maryperloe@gmail.com) for more information and dinner location.



## Won't Back Down: Celebrating The Music of Tom Petty, February 24, UUCA

Join us at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta (UUCA) for a fun evening of great music: *Won't Back Down: Celebrating the Music of Tom Petty*.

Local musicians will be singing their favorite tunes by Tom Petty (& the Heartbreakers)—whether recent or classic, hit single or deep cut!

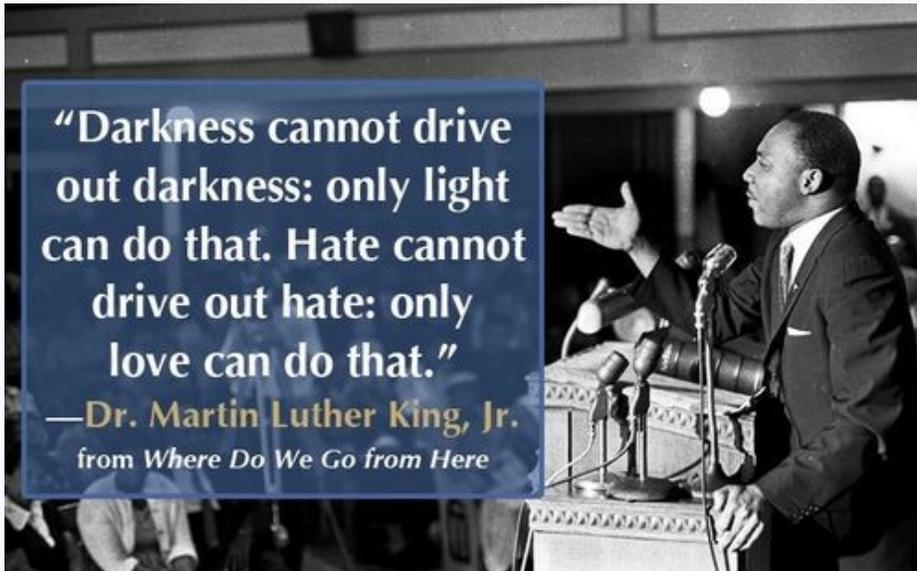
At the end of the night, we will all join in a sing-along of "Refugee" and "Free Fallin'."

Doors open at 7 pm and the show starts at 7:30 pm. Suggested donation is \$10, but no one will be turned away.

The UUCA is located at 1911 Cliff Valley Way, NE, Atlanta 30329.



# A Little History on Beacon Press, the UUA Imprint



In January Beacon Press, the UUA publishing division, provided a timeline of key moments from Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life highlighting his commitment to the vision he had for America and the world.

The end of this essay honoring the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. mentions the King Legacy Book series, published by and available from Beacon Press.

The Series includes:

- A Gift of Love
- All Labor Has Dignity
- A Time to Break Silence
- Daddy King
- In a Single Garment of Destiny
- MLK: A Celebration in Word and Image
- Redemption
- Stride Toward Freedom
- The Radical King
- The Trumpet of Conscience
- Thou, Dear God
- Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?
- Why We Can't Wait

If you would like any of these books, generally available in both hardback and paperback with some titles also on audio, let us know in the bookstore and we can save you the shipping costs as well as make a small percentage for Northwest. It was a great honor for Beacon Press to be awarded the privilege of being the sole publisher of these books by the King family.

The following articles by Beacon Press may also interest you:

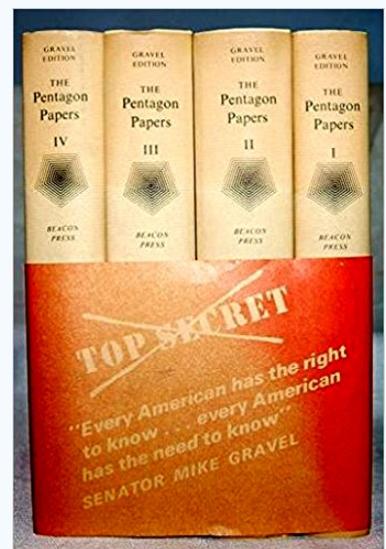
- [Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "A Christmas Sermon on Peace" Still Prophetic 50 Years Later](#)
- [The 50th Anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "What Is Your Life's Blueprint?"](#)
- [Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "Where Do We Go from Here?" Sermon, 50 Years Later](#)
- [The Radical King We Don't Know](#)
- [MLK Was an Interfaith Visionary](#)

## The Pentagon Papers

In connection with the release of the film *The Post* about that newspaper's publication of the Pentagon Papers, there was also an email about how Beacon Press became the only publisher to step up and publish the Senator Mike Gravel edition of *The Pentagon Papers: The Defense Department History of United States Decisionmaking on Vietnam* - a four volume set.

Not coincidentally, Gravel was a UU. Publishing the papers was "a watershed event in the UUA's history and a high point in Beacon's fulfilling its role as a public pulpit for proclaiming Unitarian Universalist principles." It was also a huge financial and political risk. Hey, Steven Spielberg, this would make a gripping movie too!

This history of Beacon Press is not widely known even among UUs. We should be very proud of our publishing division and all the wonderful books it publishes. Come on in to Bellwether Books in the lobby and check some of them out!



# The Mountain News

The Mountain Learning and Retreat Center has a packed schedule of great programs coming up this spring. Check out the links and sign up now for the March and April programs to ensure you have a spot as some of these are expected to fill up quickly!

## **March 16-18: [Creating Heart Space in These Turbulent Times](#)**

This will be a contemplative and experiential program with time for presentation, practice, guidance, reflection and dialogue. Enjoy opportunities to learn spiritual practices that open us to personal awareness and mutual connection.

## **March 30-April 1: [Work Weekend and Easter Program](#)**

Celebrate the season with traditional Easter activities for the children, quiet reflection, UU fellowship, an Easter Feast and the choice to participate in Saturday work projects to benefit the

Mountain. Labor is appreciated with a 100% lodging discount!



## **April 1-6: [Music Week](#)**

Come learn more about music and your abilities to make music from popular professional musicians from the Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute (SUUSI) as well as national tours. Focus will be on voice as well as instruments. Bring your dulcimers, flutes, drums, guitars and instruments of your own.

## **May 20-25: [From Sustainability to Climate Justice](#)**

This conference will help us broaden our understanding of climate change and environmental justice and deepen our resolve to work together for climate justice.

## **May 25-28: [Homecoming Weekend and Annual Membership Meeting](#)**

This Memorial Day tradition is an intergenerational three-night weekend full of fun, family and fellowship with a diverse set of workshops for all ages. The

Mountain's Annual Meeting and the Report to Mountain Members takes place on Saturday.

In addition, [MountainCamps](#) start June 10 and our annual retreat is October 19-21.

## Volunteer at the CAC Food Pantry This Month

The Community Assistance Center (CAC), our long-time partner in helping to alleviate hunger and food insecurity for families in Sandy Springs and Dunwoody, will be moving their food pantry to a larger space over the next month and needs our help.

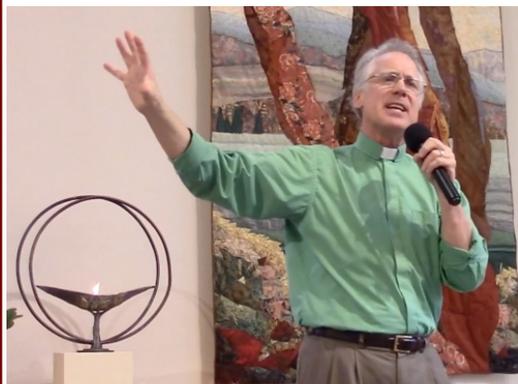
Because of outstanding response from Northwest's youth and adults, the CAC has reached its capacity for volunteers on February 3.

The organization will continue to need volunteers to help with the move throughout the month, however. Please contact the CAC to find a date that works for you. They can be reached at 770.552.4889 or download a volunteer application [here](#).

This will be our first opportunity to jointly take our Food Justice Focus out into our wider community. Let's put our UU principles into action by supporting the CAC throughout the move and into its new facility!



# Faithful to the Future: Big Picture Inspiration for Chaotic Times, February 25



Join us for a powerful program with Rev. Michael Dowd on climate, survival, faith and science.

We each have experienced times of trouble that threaten to overwhelm our individual lives. In such times, a vision of possibility is essential. The same holds for the punctuations in history when whole societies face troubles of an immense and

uncharted variety. Truly, we here and now have arrived at such a time. Humans, unwittingly, have become a planetary force. We are changing, irreversibly, the very climate of our world. Henceforth, any actions we take as individuals and societies will be done in the new light of climate change.

What vision will carry us forward through such times and inspire us to work together? How shall we frame the need to shed our business-as-usual outlook on life and take on a new vision of possibility that can unite us as a species in joyful self-sacrifice and service? What vision will charge us with a sense of heroic purpose that the future is, indeed, calling us to greatness? We will address these questions and others during the program on February 25, starting at 7 pm. Child care will be provided.

Science and religion are not enemies; indeed, they must work together if humanity is to survive the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Given our impact on Earth's climate, the seas, and other species, humanity is about to experience what could be called *The Great Reckoning*. The good news is that this will also be *The Great Homecoming*: the prodigal species coming home to Reality. This presentation will focus on six points of agreement held in common by tens of millions of religious and non-religious people across the globe — and how to stay deeply inspired in the face of changing climate and other large-scale challenges.

**Rev. Michael Dowd** is bestselling eco-theologian and pro-science prophetic voice whose work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *LA Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, *Discover*, in two TedX talks and on television nationally. His bridge-building book, *Thank God for Evolution: How the Marriage of Science and Religion Will Transform Your Life and Our World*, was endorsed by six Nobel Prize-winning scientists and by religious leaders across the spectrum.

Michael and his science writer/evolutionary educator wife, Connie Barlow, have spoken to more than 2,000 groups throughout North America since 2002, including some 500 UU churches. Their work has been featured on the cover of the UU WORLD twice, in 1997 and again in 2006. At the 2016 General Assembly, Michael and Connie were honored as UU Religious Humanists of the Year.

## 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:**  
**15<sup>th</sup> of the previous month.**

Send to [nwuupublications@gmail.com](mailto:nwuupublications@gmail.com)  
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NoShell Suite

**Sexton** Kevin Coleman

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**Finance Trustee** Michael Dierickx  
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**President Elect** Hannah Cowart  
**Trustees at Large:**  
Bill Cox  
Barbara Peterson  
David Stewart

## Come to the Cookie Reception for Rev. Jonathan Rogers, February 4

Please join us immediately following the service on February 4 for a welcome reception for Rev. Jonathan Rogers, our interim minister.

In honor of his favorite dessert, chocolate chip cookies, the reception will be a "cookie social." If you have a favorite cookie recipe (or favorite store-bought selection) and feel inclined to contribute, please bring a batch to share with everyone!



## Enjoy Great Music at the Hungry Ear Coffee House, February 3

Louis Robinson is a British singer/songwriter now residing in Atlanta. In 1969, Louis was a member of the popular London folk band, Green Ginger, which performed at venues throughout the UK and Europe. He will be joined by Atlanta-based Veronika Jackson, an authentic grass roots American folk blues artist, and Joe Capo, a guitarist whose acoustic playing blends delta blues and jazz to form a unique style of parlor guitar.

Doors open at 7:30 pm on Saturday, February 3. The performance starts at 8 pm. A \$5 donation is requested and canned goods for the Community Assistance Center (CAC) are always appreciated.

Bring a friend and a few extra dollars to buy refreshments during the break and to support the performers.



# The Talk: Race in America

At 7 pm on February 15, UUCA Third Thursday Cinema will present **The Talk: Race in America**, which documents the increasingly common conversation taking place in homes and communities across the country between parents of color and their children, especially sons, about how to behave if they are ever stopped by the police.

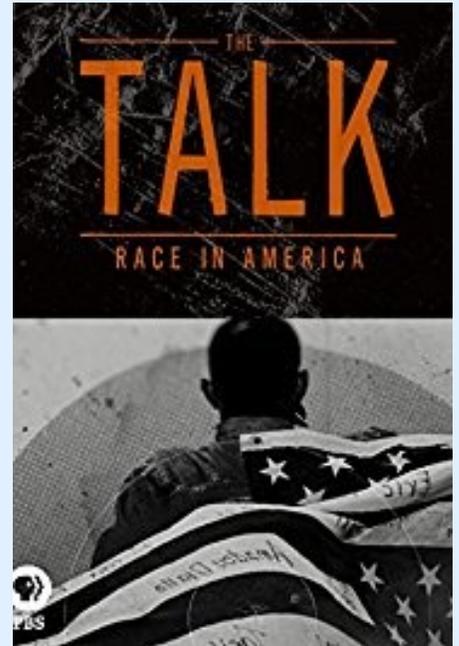
In many homes, "The Talk," as it is called, usually contains phrases like this: "If you are stopped by the police: Always answer 'yes, sir; no, sir'; never talk back; don't make any sudden movements; don't put your hands in your pockets."

The filmmakers speak to parents, children, family members, academics, police force members and community

activists to illustrate the issue from multiple points of view and bring the discussion out of the kitchens and living rooms and into the public sphere.

A \$3 donation is suggested for the evening, which includes refreshments and a moderated discussion. The evening is sponsored by the Peace Network.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta is located at 1911 Cliff Valley Way, Atlanta 30329. Enter top steps. Proceed down left hallway to last room on the left, Room 210.



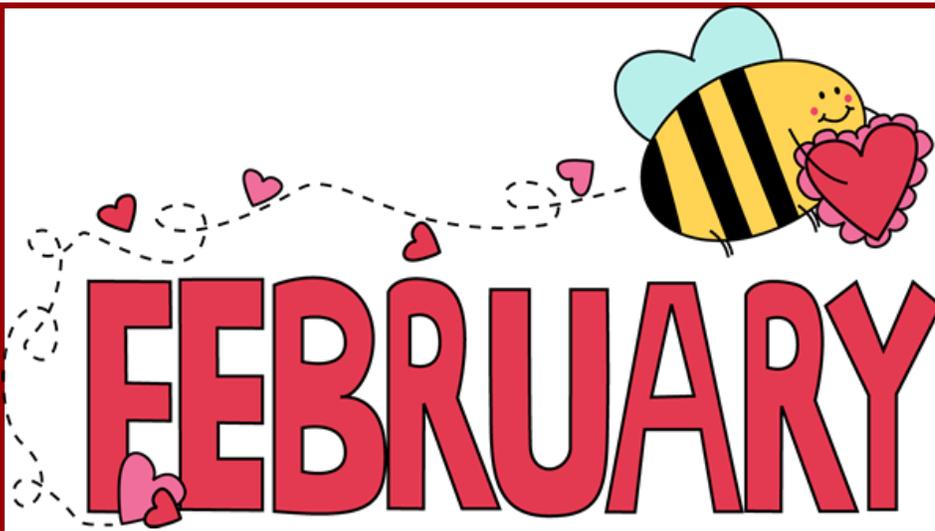
## February Joining Anniversaries

02/08/1975	Hugh Fordyce
02/05/1995	Chrissy Haddad
02/13/2005	Laura Hall
02/15/2009	Karen Reagle
02/15/2009	Allen Rider
02/14/2010	Tom Godfrey
02/07/2013	Julie Jordan
02/16/2014	Jane Echols
02/16/2014	Laura Kearns
02/08/2015	Barbara Stewart
02/08/2015	David Stewart
02/14/2016	Danny Sample
02/14/2016	Gina Sample
02/26/2017	Kim Kendall



## February Birthdays

02/02	John Reeves
02/03	Penny Raney
02/05	Elizabeth Hickman
02/07	Sharon Cameron
02/07	David Stewart
02/15	Anne Coogler
02/15	Fran Wolff
02/15	Dave Zenner
02/17	Bruce Niedermeyer
02/19	Jordan Dale
02/24	Dianne Cox
02/25	Ella Morgen
02/25	Larry Wallis
02/28	Deborah Ross



**February 14**  
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary

**February 18**  
Worship Service, 10 am  
RE, 10:15 am  
Congregational Meeting, 11:30 am

**February 21**  
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary

**February 25**  
Worship Service, 10 am  
RE, 10:15 am  
Second Hour, 11:30 am  
Faithful to the Future, 7 pm

**February 27**  
"In The Spirit" Worship Service,  
7:30 pm Sanctuary

**February 28**  
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary

**Mark Your Calendars:**  
**March 17-18**  
Kick-Off of Ministerial Transitions  
Program

**February 3**  
Hungry Ear Coffee House, 8 pm,  
Sanctuary

**February 4**  
Worship Service, 10 am  
RE, 10:15 am  
Cookie Reception, 11 am  
Children Art Show, 11 am  
Imbolc Ritual, 11:30 am

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

**February 10**  
Second Saturday Work Day,  
9 am-noon

**February 11**  
Worship Service, 10 am  
RE, 10:15 am  
Second Hour, 11:30 am  
Dining for Women, 5 pm

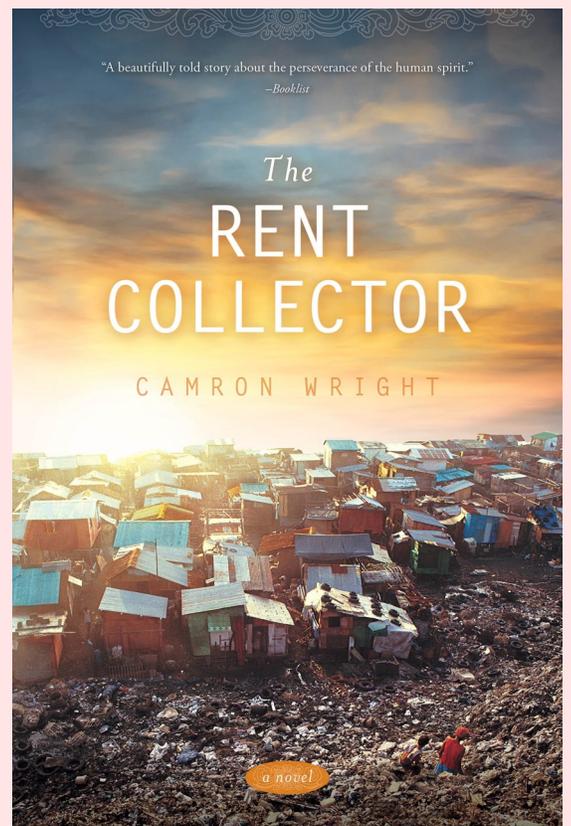
**February 13**  
Book Groupies, 7 pm, Art Gallery

## Book Groupies Discuss *The Rent Collector* February 13

The Northwest Book Groupies will discuss *The Rent Collector* by Cameron Wright on Tuesday, February 13, at 7 pm in the Art Gallery.

This uplifting story of hope and perseverance was inspired by Wright's son's documentary, *River of Victory*, filmed at the largest municipal waste dump in Cambodia and following the family written about in *The Rent Collector*. The author has written a beautiful short novel based on this actual family and their circumstances, a story not to be missed. It will leave you smiling. As one reviewer said: "It shimmers!"

Copies of *The Rent Collector* are available in our bookstore.





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

*A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association*

## February 2018 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.