



July 2018 UNiverse

**NWUUC** NORTHWEST  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CONGREGATION

## Congregational Leaders for 2018-2019

As we begin our new church year July 1, it is good to know who our leaders will be from now till June 30, 2019. All are here to serve us, the congregation, and to work with us and our professional staff as we navigate our way in searching for a new settled minister. To help you know who they are, here is a listing of names and titles. Look for them on Sunday mornings and be sure to thank them for their service to us!

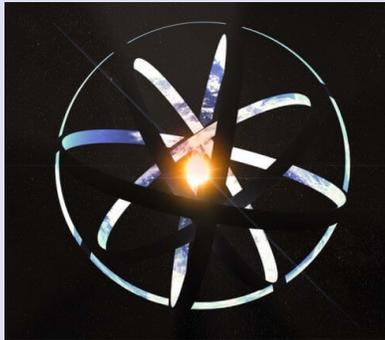
Board of Trustees	
President	Hannah Cowart
President Elect	David Stewart
Immediate Past President	Dave Zenner
Finance Trustee	Michael Dierickx
Secretary	Letitia Sweitzer
Trustee-at-Large	Katy Lockhart
Trustee-at-Large	Pam Freeman
Trustee-at-Large	Barbara Peterson

Ministry Teams	Ministry Team Leaders	Co-Leaders
Community	Gina Sample	Danny Sample
Communications	Sandy Davis	Joe Keller
Gardens and Spaces	John Hagler	Beryl Grall-Petty
Social Justice	Jill Benton	
Stewardship	John Montgomery	Traci Montgomery
Adult Learning	Marilyn Matlock	Greg Pattison
Earth Ministry	Tom Couch	Linda Couch

# Worship Services for July

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.



## July 1: The Aestivation Hypothesis

Worship Leader:  
Rev. Jonathan Rogers  
Worship Associates:  
Lil Woolf and Bob Kent  
Music: Jim Pearce

As the Universe expands and cools, is the evolution and spread of intelligent life in danger? A 2017 physics hypothesis suggests that a much colder Universe might actually be the necessary condition for a flourishing of civilizations that want to maximize computational power. Join us to explore this idea, and its implications for Fermi's paradox and the future of civilization.

## July 8: Compassion: A Path to Personal Freedom



Worship Leader: Brian Freeman  
Worship Associate: Lynne Dale  
Music: Jim Pearce

Truly living the seven principles can help us free ourselves from the trap of tribalism or us vs. them. Looking through the lens of compassion to find the inherent worth and dignity of every human can help us bridge the divide that is gripping the nation. Compassion allows us to see through another person's eyes and realize how we're more alike than different. Join us as we explore paths to inclusion.

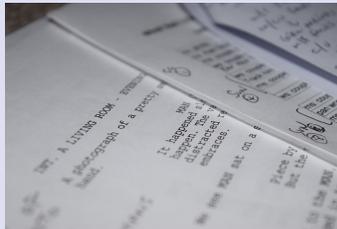
## July 15: Things I'd Tell My Son

Worship Leader: Lynne Dale  
Worship Associate: Tony Barbagallo  
Music: Jim Pearce

What are the life lessons that we would like to share with our young adult off-spring, if only they'd listen? In her Pulitzer Prize winning book, *One of Ours*, Willa Cather says: "The dead might as well try to speak to the living as the old to the young." While that's not completely true, it is hard to impart our own learned wisdom to others through words. Come, listen and judge for yourself.

## July 22: Changing Life Scripts

Worship Leader: Brian Freeman  
Worship Associate: John Maynard  
Music: Jim Pearce



We live our life according to scripts that we've developed. Our memories and self-talk reinforce what we expect from life and those around us, but what happens when our script brings sadness and pain? Join me as I share my experience and insight from evaluating and changing erroneous scripts in my life.

## July 29: Putting Values into Action

Worship Leaders: Hannah Cowart and David Morgen  
Music: Jim Pearce



At this year's UUA General Assembly, delegates voted to select a Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) for four years of study, reflection and action from 2018-2022. This process allows all UUA member congregations to mobilize energy, ideas and resources around a common issue. The UUA will post a resource/study guide relative to the CSAI by November 2018 and after a few years of contemplating and discussing the issue, a Statement of Conscience regarding the CSAI will be presented at General Assembly for a vote. Join us as we discuss this process for putting our values into action, introduce the new CSAI and begin exploring Northwest members' positions on this issue.

# Notes from the June Board Meeting

## Goodbyes and Welcomes

The board wished a heartfelt goodbye and thank you to



Kristen Fowks and Bill Cox, two individuals that really put the “trust” in trustee and welcomed our newest trustees: Katy Lockhart and Pam Freeman.

## DRE Update

There’s no rest for the weary in Northwest’s growing RE program!! The board was excited to hear that the RE Committee planned to meet before the end of June to plan next year’s programs. Each trustee recommitted to setting the example in volunteering for activity time and other RE programs when needed.

## Minister Update

Rev. Jonathan joined the board in excitement regarding Northwest’s first ARAOMC Second Hour program that was held on June 10. He also mentioned a number of exciting new opportunities for Northwest related to social justice, process improvements and leadership development. Some process improvements are already taking place behind the scenes and others will be brought forward for discussion as appropriate. Keep an eye out for updates including “Siding with Love” opportunities and workshops galore!

## MTL Update



Welcoming new ministry team leaders (MTLs) for Adult Learning and Communications, our congregational leaders are continuing to make us proud. Their annual retreat will be held on July 28.

Also, all members are encouraged to take the opportunity to nominate a

special nonprofit as a potential 2018-2019 Share the Plate recipient. Contact Social Justice Ministry Leader Jill Benton for more information or check the weekly and monthly newsletters!

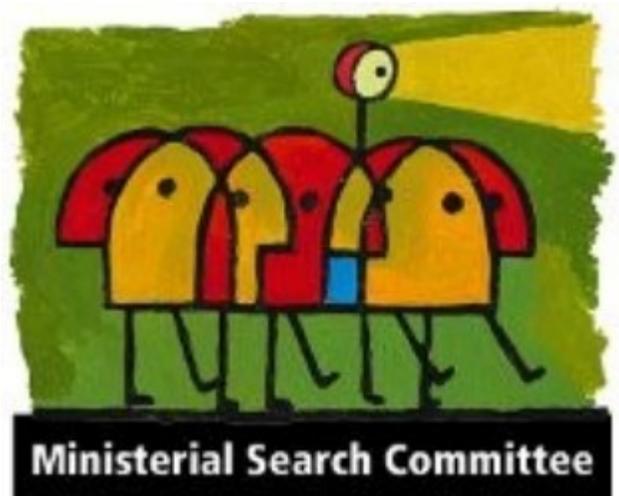
## Finance Update

As of mid-June, our 2018-2019 pledge campaign closed about \$7,000 behind our goal. Even though we have focused largely on our 2018-2019 campaign, please remember that fulfilling pledges to our 2017-2018 fiscal year is essential to our financial health.

## Building Expansion Steering Committee

The board signed an architect contract presented by the Building Steering Committee. The contract will allow the newly hired architect to complete building plans this summer. With all signs pointing towards approval of the use permit by the City of Sandy Springs this summer, progress is continuing towards enhancing our home in the woods!

## Ministerial Search Committee



The board approved a slate of candidates for the Ministerial Search Committee. Throughout the application and discussion process, the board remained focused on creating a committee that is representative of the many facets of Northwest and is delighted with the group elected by the congregation on June 24: Helen Borland, Maria Drinkard, Kuru George, Elizabeth Hickman, David Morgen, Lil Woolf and Jeremy Zierler.

*Hannah Cowart*

Incoming President, Northwest Board of Trustees

# Building Steering Committee Update

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 special use permit approval from the City of Sandy Springs and is working with contractor-architect team on the building plans.

Over the past two months, the team has submitted the application for permit which requires several surveys. We have held two community meetings and are proceeding with the formal process of submitting documentation and answering any



questions that the City of Sandy Springs zoning team may have. The application review process is expected to be complete in August.

While the permit review process is underway, we will be proceeding with the architectural drawings. Our steering committee has recommended

and the Northwest Board has approved the architectural contract with McMillian Pazdan Smith. The firm comes highly recommended by previous clients and was the architect for the Kirkwood United Church of Christ.

The committee is tracking our progress on collecting capital campaign pledges. As of this writing, Northwest has collected \$300,000 of the \$619,021 pledged. Northwest will need about \$700,000 for construction based on preliminary estimates. The committee is asking members to fulfill pledges as soon as possible so we can proceed with the building. Additional pledges are welcome.

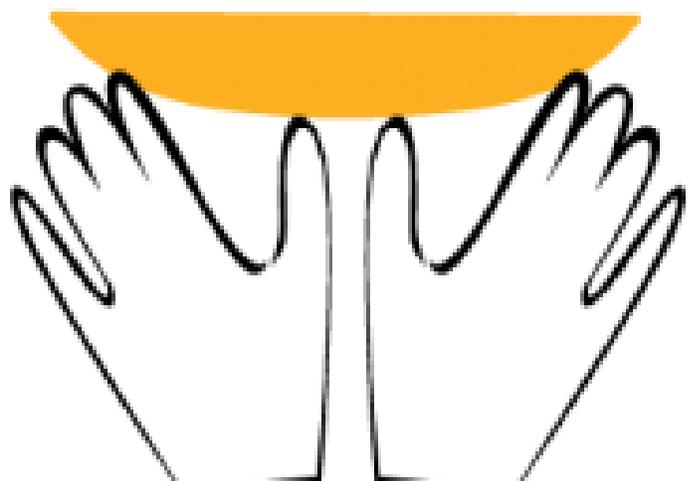
## Share the Plate Supports the Minister's Discretionary Fund

This month, Share the Plate supports the Minister's Discretionary Fund, which the ministers of this congregation utilize in responding to requests for help within and beyond our congregation. Rev. Erika Hewitt summarizes the reasoning for such a fund in today's world thusly:

"I've worked in enough soup kitchens, mental health clinics, and Habitat for Humanity sites to believe (that) most people ask for help only when they're so trapped by their need that they're willing to exchange a piece of their dignity by calling attention to it. I've come to believe that most people will ask for help only as long as they need it, and—moreover—that giving is helpful to both the recipient and the giver: in helping, in giving, we come to see and appreciate our own resources more deeply. There's a vast expanse between being responsible with our resources and fearfully hoarding what we have, attributing others with greed or laziness when their resources run thin."

Please give as generously as you are able.

Share the Plate





# Hungry Ear Coffee House™ Showcases Emerging Artists, July 7



This month's young singer-songwriters write from the heart and perform with passion, style and technique! Each one of the artists selected has already made their mark in the Atlanta area and beyond, and appreciate a supportive and attentive audience like the Hungry Ear Coffeehouse.

This is an all original, acoustic show with a few special surprises. The Emerging Artists Showcase features Aspen Anonda, Carter Horne and Kate Coleman.

Doors open at 7:30 pm on July 7, when Northwest's sanctuary once

again becomes the Hungry Ear Coffee House™. The show starts at 8 pm.

A \$5 donation is requested and canned goods for the Community Assistance Center are appreciated. Bring a friend and a few extra dollars to buy refreshments during the break and to support the performers.



## Wine, Cheese & the Spoken Word at UUCA, July 28



Shay Alexi is a radically tender poet and performance artist. Her chapbook, *Diary of a Ghost Girl*, is forthcoming from Glass Poetry Press. She was the winner of the 2017 Brett Elizabeth Jenkins poetry prize and the 2017 Java Monkey Slam champion. Her work has been featured by Button Poetry, Write About Now, Tinderbox Poetry Journal, Glass: A Journal of Poetry and FreezeRay Poetry.



Chris Fontes has written and published a collection of poems that embodies his passion to inspire, encourage, empower and awaken. *Let LOVE Remain* explores the cycle of love, heartbreak, pain, anger and the ultimate healing that comes with clearing out the negativity and letting love remain. Chris was a prize winner in the Feed a Starving Artist competition and performed in the play, *The Odds Against U.S.*, a story of urban youth told from their perspective.



Carol Welter and Terry Carpenter take the pre-show stage at 7 pm. Readings begin at 7:30 pm and end at 9:30 pm, with an open mic in the middle.

Admission donation \$5, but no one will be turned away. The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta is located at 1911 Cliff Valley Way, NE, Atlanta 30329.

# A Wonderful Musical Year: *My Stone of Joy*



There is no greater joy than knowing you are where you are supposed to be at a particular time. My season among the Northwest Unitarian Universalist community has been insightfully fulfilling both musically and relationally. After becoming a part of the Northwest music ministry team, I have begun to establish new relationships and learn of their various life journey universes. As with any new relationship, musical or otherwise, there is a season of courtship and mutual adjustment as time progresses. I continually increase in my awareness of and appreciation for the Northwest family. The warmth has been refreshing, especially amid our country's current emphasis on separation and animosity.

Teaching vocal music is a calling I cherish and regard with honor. My teachers taught me to assess the environmental landscape as well as the singer's capabilities, goals and musical potential. It is then incumbent upon me to do what is necessary to observe the musical culture of the singers and with that give the voices direction so they can

be their musical best regardless of ability, genre or musical style.

The amateur choir has the responsibility and the right to develop a beautiful sound that is indicative of their talent base – and that base is more than capable within this community at Northwest. Also, I say to the members of Northwest Passage, thank you for your enthusiastic dedication to making beautiful instrumental music. It is obvious that you are appreciated among the Northwest family.

Understanding the need for musical variety among this community beyond choral voices makes the musical balance of the Northwest Choir and Northwest Passage significant components within the ministry. We will maintain that balance with even more creative means that will include the non-musicians within the Northwest family. Stay tuned!

Thanks to the encouragement, support, patience and affability of this community I can honestly say that becoming an integral part of the

Northwest ministry team has been gratifying and appreciated. The smiling faces, substantive conversations and laughter have incited an increased freedom to function creatively from service to service. Several of us have already discussed creative plans for the fall and winter. Finally, I personally thank the Northwest Choir, past and present, for allowing me to learn with you during my first year adjustment period. Developing a team is equally challenging and rewarding, so we forge ahead.

Finally, my appreciation goes to Rev. Jonathan, Christina Branum-Martin, Shirley Banks, David Zenner and Hannah Cowart for your kindness and assistance and your service to this community. May you and the entire congregation have a delightful summer.

*Dr. Philip Rogers*  
Director of Music

# Keeping It Green: Northwest's Green Sanctuary History And Future Building Expansion

At a recent meeting of the Northwest Earth Ministry Team, the question came up: "What is being done to incorporate green practices into the planned building expansion?" Answers ranged from, "Well of course they'll be green" to "I guess we have just taken being green for granted." A palpable spark went through the group faster than electricity generated by a solar panel.

Someone grabbed a laptop to capture all the ideas. A motion was made, a proposal drafted and sent to the Northwest Board and the Building Steering Committee reading:

*To: Board of Trustees and the Building Steering Committee*

## *MAKE IT GREEN*

*Northwest Unitarian Universalist Congregation has taken a leadership position in environmental initiatives since Earth Ministry Team was established in 2007. So in keeping with the positive initiatives such as the solar array and Green Sanctuary status, we strongly urge the continuation of those green standards in our current project expanding the facilities. NWUUC was the first in Georgia to have a solar array and the first to achieve Green Sanctuary status.*

*In order to sustain our green leadership, we feel strongly that a major undertaking like the expansion of our building maintain sustainability ideals. We are conscious that buildings contribute around 35% of greenhouse gases which come from buildings through energy use and material use.*

*Knowing the architect is about to be retained, we unanimously request that sustainable design practices be fully incorporated into the building to the highest degree practical and possible.*

Writing the proposal that day, we knew the Board's allegiance as well as the congregation's to the covenant for keeping Northwest green, but realized we in Earth Ministry needed renewed commitment to work for it, not only in our buildings but in ourselves, never taking the effort for granted.

(Note the following history and date correction since the proposal was sent. In the Earth Ministry Archives, it is documented that an Earth Ministry group was formed at NWUUC in 2005. The NWUUC Board of Trustees named Earth Ministry the Seventh Ministry Team in 2009 and accepted the Green Sanctuary Covenant on behalf of the NWUUC congregation on September 13, 2011. NWUUC became the only Certified Green Sanctuary in Georgia at that time on October 5, 2011.)

*Linda & Tom Couch*  
Earth Ministry Co-Team Leaders

## UNiverse

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

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Barbara Peterson  
Katy Lockhart  
Pam Freeman

# RE-Creation: Religious Education Making Space for Recreation and Re-Creation

Years ago, when I was a member of First UU Houston, I met a family that was visiting the congregation for the first time. They had three children with them and each had a clipboard and a camera in hand. They were “church-shopping” as a family and this was their fourth place to visit. The children were really excited to record their experiences and rate the congregation on the criteria they had decided were important to them in a religious home.

One of the children showed me her clipboard, her ratings,



and her photos she took of the categories. I watched her go around taking pictures of the elements and it allowed her to interact with the place and the congregants, too, in the process. She shared that at lunch they all shared their scores and a final score was given. Her opinions mattered and the process was fun.



So, this summer the children and youth will be participating in a broad congregational review, too. They will share their own experiences at Northwest and want to know about yours, too. Expect to see our children and youth on Sundays with clipboards, cameras and meaningful questions for you about our religious community and your experiences of these elements at Northwest:

- Beauty
- Joy
- Children’s Ministries
- Music
- Preaching
- Body
- Green
- Outreach
- Spirituality
- Fun
- Travel



They look forward to learning more about you. Please ask them in return about their own experiences. Collages of the pictures taken will be built all summer. We hope this review surveys our experiences and gives us all a chance to deepen our vision for what Northwest can be and our relationships with each other in the process.

*Christina Branum-Martin*  
Director of Religious Education

# Put the Retreat on Your Calendar

It's time to put Northwest's annual congregational retreat at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center in Highlands, NC, on your calendar. This year we have reserved the best weekend for fall foliage, October 19-21. Registration is now open and the early bird discounted rate (\$20 off!) is available through September 19. Children seven and under are free!

The retreat planning committee is hard at work to make it a memorable weekend, so if you have any suggestions or would like to be involved with the planning team, please let Penny Raney know.

## SUUF1

Also coming up at The Mountain this October is the fifth SUUF1 - Southern UU Fall Institute. This year's theme is Aging to Saging: Designing Extraordinary Elderhood. Registration for this event is now open and early bird discounts are available until August 17.

More information on both events is available in The Mountain notebook on the What's Happening table in the lobby or by calling 828-526-5838, ext 263.



## NWUUC Book Groupies

NWUUC Book Groupies are taking a summer break. Read some good books and report back at our next meeting, September 11. Our next book, *Lights Out* by Ted Koppel, will be described in the August UNiverse.



## We're Moving to Google Drive

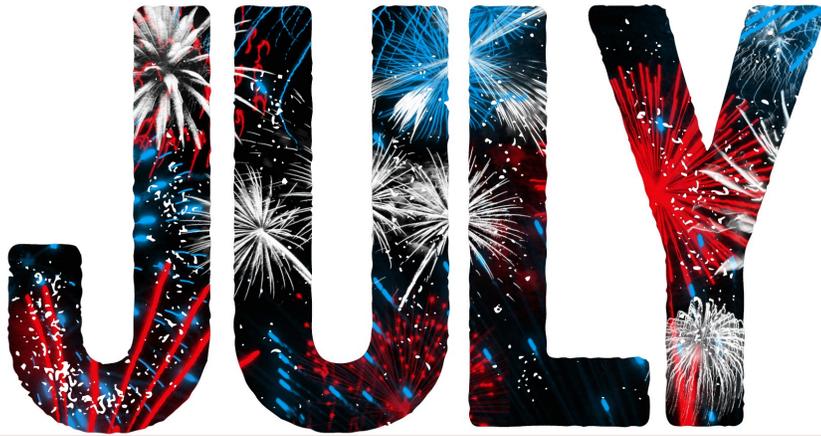
As part of our commitment to collaboration and inclusion, Northwest will transition from Box to Google Drive for document sharing starting on August 14. The primary advantages of Google Drive are:

- Sharing documents on an unrestricted basis is simpler;
- Directly editing documents in Google Drive requires only a web browser;
- Newcomers joining in on existing committees and projects are much more likely to already be familiar with Google Drive.

We will be sharing a link to the new NWUUC Google Drive "umbrella folder" as we get closer to August 14. Please contact our office administrator, Shirley Banks, at [office@nwuuc.org](mailto:office@nwuuc.org) if you have any questions or concerns.



Google Drive



**Save the Date!**

*Congregational Retreat at the Mountain, October 19-21*

**July 1**

Worship Service, 10 am

**July 7**

Hungry Ear Coffee House, 8 pm,  
Sanctuary

**July 8**

Worship Service, 10 am

**July 15**

Worship Service, 10 am

**July 22**

Worship Service, 10 am  
Senior Network, 11:30 am

**July 28**

Wine, Cheese & the Spoken Word,  
7pm, UUCA

**July 29**

Worship Service, 10 am

## July Birthdays

Aruna Rao-McCann	07/01	Pam Zenner	07/12
Sean Appel	07/02	Nick Barbagallo	07/14
Kitty Meyers	07/02	Henry Zierler	07/16
Richard DuBow	07/04	Bianca Orfica	07/19
Gabriel Stewart	07/04	Micah North	07/20
Dempsey Hickman	07/06	Lil Woolf	07/21
Sarah Beth Nelson	07/07	Lina Zierler	07/21
Sandra Niven	07/07	Shelton Chau	07/24
Brian Freeman	07/12	Pam Freeman	07/27
Beryl Grall-Petty	07/12	Shelia Manely	07/27





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

*A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association*

## July 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.