



June 2018 UNlverse

**NWUUC** NORTHWEST  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CONGREGATION

## Farewell to Tom Godfrey

As stated by American poet Langston Hughes, "... seasons come, seasons go..." So, it is with regret that we say farewell to our guitarist, vocalist and Northwest Band leader Tom Godfrey as he steps into a new season of life in New Mexico. Tom's emergence from choir member to eventual developer of the Northwest Band, composer of the UU youth theme song, and previous director of music and choir director has allowed him to become a beloved asset to the ministry of Northwest.

Goodbyes are never easy, but we know that time brings about change and evolution, especially in the lives of creative arts professionals who desire to expand and grow with their craft. As we all know, decisions to relocate are never easy, especially once bonds of friendship have been established over time. The Northwest family has had the benefit of Tom's creative resources and calm, easy going persona. His presence and influence will be missed, yet remembered for years to come.

Members of the Northwest Passage Band relayed such remarks as:

*"Tom has a unique skill set as a trombonist and guitarist. He can play anything from jazz to swing, rock and roll and folk. He brings a huge skill set to the band. If something gets out of whack, he will adjust his playing, bring us together again so the song can continue. All of us put together cannot do what Tom can do, so he will be sorely missed."*

*"Tom has been a highlight of coming to Northwest. The band grew from Tom playing his guitar, then the addition of bass, then percussion, piano and another guitar."*



*I enjoyed playing music with him and will really miss him when he's gone."*

*"When we sang together in the choir, he was one of the persons who could read music. The music is the church for me. I was glad when he took over the music program because I felt he really understood the church*

*and would not push us into many different directions. I was delighted to play with him in the band, so for me reading lead sheet was a lot of fun. I'm sorry to see him go, but people have to move on."*

*"I am not the best instrumentalist, but I was accepted and given the platform to develop my skill and use it on a regular basis."*

As you can tell by these few comments, Tom Godfrey will leave us having made a dynamic impact on the Northwest congregation. We, with abundant gratitude, wish him all the best as he ventures onto his new professional journey and makes his mark in his new community of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

*Dr. Philip J. Rogers*  
Director of Music

### Farewell Reception, June 3

Please join us for a farewell reception for Tom Godfrey following the service on June 3, his last day with us at Northwest. Take the opportunity to wish him well and enjoy some sparkling grape juice, cake and other delicacies, too!

# Worship Services for June

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.*



## June 3: Woyaya

Worship Leader: Tom Godfrey  
Worship Associate: Lil Woolf  
Music: Northwest Passage

In this all-music service featuring Northwest Passage, Tom Godfrey bids a musical farewell, reflecting on time spent and lessons learned at Northwest as a member and as the former Director of Music.

## June 10: From Rivalry to Inclusion

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



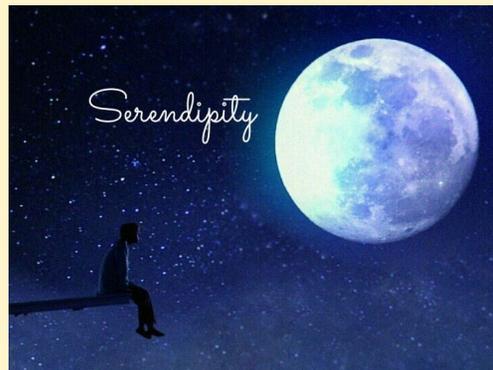
Drawing on the work of Dr. James Fowler, late of Atlanta, this sermon on the stages of faith development will address some of the challenges we all find on our faith journeys. Join us for an examination of one framework that can help us as UUs to live into the principle of "Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations."



## June 17: Blessing of the Animals

Worship Leaders: Rev. Jonathan Rogers  
Worship Associate: David Stewart  
Music: Jim Pearce

Our Blessing of the Animals service is an annual favorite! Bring your pets and animal friends and we will affirm these important relationships in our lives in this service for all ages! To honor pets who have passed away, you are invited to bring photos and other mementos, to go on our altar. See page 4 for additional details.



## June 24: Serendipity and Happy Accidents

Worship Leader: David Stewart  
Worship Associate: Joe Keller  
Music: Jim Pearce

Sometimes the universe throws good things to us in unexpected ways. When we are mindful of their arrival, these silver linings can help us flourish in the face of challenging times.

# “We’re Not in Kansas (City) Anymore . . . Oh, Wait, Yes, We Are!”



*This month’s column is adapted from a 2016 piece I wrote before attending GA for the first time as a parish minister.*

This month, I will be heading to our Unitarian Universalist Association’s General Assembly. 2018’s GA will take place in Kansas City, Missouri. Since 2011, attending General Assembly has become an important practice for me, and I am eager to make this my eighth consecutive one to attend.

This year’s theme is “All Are Called.” According to our UUA: “Grounded in a deep belief that we are all prophets, Unitarian Universalists ask, ‘How can we faithfully meet the demands of our time?’ The call to witness and act for justice in our society and in the world is clear. So, too, is the call to examine our structures and practices, dismantling and transforming those which fail to recognize the full humanity of all people and to honor the interdependent web of life.”

When I went to my first GA as an adult in 2011, I was nervous about the time and the money I was spending on it, and as an introvert, about being in a convention center with thousands of people for five days in a row. What I found was that the time I spent in workshops, worships, and socializing helped to deepen and renew my sense of calling; my desire to become a minister didn’t have to endure GA, it was enhanced by it.

The positive social connections were the most surprising to me: I tend to have a small, tight-knit social circle, and so thousands of people at a gathering is in theory terrifying to me. What I found, however, was not terror but rather a combination of mild discomfort and gratifying

connectivity. It was still uneasy for me to be around new people, but meeting others who shared my passions and experiences as a religious professional, especially other UU young adults, reminded me I was not alone in this work and helped me create a network of support that I continually draw on.

This experience of getting to spend time with folks at GA who you are not normally around in your home congregation is a big part of the reason we do GA in the first place. For many people of color, LGBTQ, and disabled folks, GA is an opportunity to connect and bond with others who share those identities; most do not have the chance to do that in their home congregations. There was a big discussion of whether to change GA to every two years, but removing the opportunity for folks with marginalized identities to make connections within UUism beyond their local congregation was a primary reason for keeping GA as an annual event.

In recent years, our UUA Board has pledged millions of dollars to empowering people of color in our movement, and a good portion of that money is going to scholarships for General Assembly. As a former recipient of GA scholarship funds based on my status as a young adult, I highly encourage everyone to apply for GA scholarships. At GA, we act for social justice, and we also act to make our Association more just. I hope that you will join me in 2019 for GA in Spokane, Washington!

*Jonathan*  
Rev. Jonathan Rogers

# Building Steering Committee Update



We have submitted our application for a Conditional Use Permit to the City of Sandy Springs. The process of preparing the application is long and, dare we say it, not the most fun. We will spare you the details but it does require a lot of 'under the hood' work, including meetings with the city planners, hiring and coordinating with the surveyor, meeting with the architects, back to the city, etc.

We have engaged an architect, interviewed another contractor and selected a civil engineering firm. If you are at Northwest during the week, you may notice trucks in the parking lot or people walking about the property. It could be the engineer, architect or a contractor . . . or perhaps one of us.

The next step is another meeting at Sandy Springs City Hall in June. After that, the Planning Commission will review our application in July and, finally, the City Council will consider our application.

## Pets Welcome for Blessing of the Animals, June 17

Bring your well-behaved animal friend with you to the service on June 17 and join Rev. Jonathan Rogers as we offer a blessing to our furry, feathered, finned and other animal companions and remember with love those pets we have lost.

For safety and comfort, dogs must be on leashes and cats in kennel crates. Dogs and their human guardians will sit on the left side of the sanctuary; cats and guardians may lounge on the right. All other pets and guardians are to sit near choir, in the front row or wherever they are most comfortable.

If you would like to honor your deceased pet, please bring a photo or other memento and place it on the front table as you enter the sanctuary.

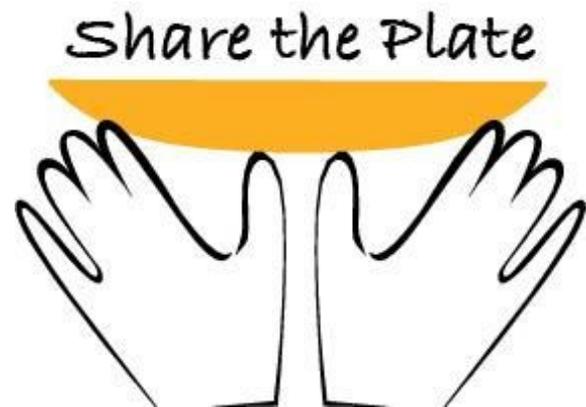


# Nominate Your Favorite Nonprofit To Be A 2018-2019 Share-the-Plate Recipient

Do you have a favorite charitable organization to whom you donate your time, money or talent? Does that organization do important work that furthers our seven spiritual principles? Have you always wished that Northwest could partner in their work? Tell us about them!

We are now accepting nominations for Share-the-Plate recipient organizations for the 2018-2019 church year. As you know, each month, Northwest donates half of all the Sunday offerings for a given month to a partner organization that does important work in the service of compassion, peace, equity or justice. During that month, we invite a representative of the organization to join us during second hour to tell us more about the global and community needs that they serve, and to identify ways in which interested Northwest members can help.

The social justice committee will establish the Share-the-Plate schedule for the 2018-2019 church year by selecting from among the nominees this summer. The committee will consider the priorities of the congregation, the needs of our larger Sandy Springs community, and the learning and service opportunities that an STP partnership could provide. Prior STP recipients will automatically be considered for next year, but if you have a favorite that you do not want to see eliminated, please be sure to tell us that!



Email your nominations to [socialjustice@nwuuc.org](mailto:socialjustice@nwuuc.org) and include the following:

- Name of the charitable organization
- The web address, if available
- A brief description of the organization's work and how it aligns with our principles
- A brief description of any prior experience you have with the organization
- The name of any contacts you have at the organization
- Whether there are service opportunities at the local chapter

The deadline for submissions is Monday, July 2.

## Come to The Mountain



MountainCamps 2018 begin on June 10, with the Counselors in Training, ASCENDERS and Senior High campers' arrival. Our Camp Staff has some great experiences and activities planned. The best news is that there are still a few openings available for some of the weeks. Learn more [here](#) or check out the Mountain notebook on the What's Happening table in the lobby.

Rock with friends and family at The Mountain! In addition to summer camp for kids, The Mountain hosts an [Intergenerational Camp](#), July 22-29, with all the traditional camp activities—music, storytelling, hiking, crafts and more!

Contact The Mountain at .828.526.5838 or go to the [website](#) to learn more.

# June Share the Plate Supports Our Sister Church in Transylvania

The Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council fosters and supports relationships between UU congregations in the United States and Canada with Unitarian and UU congregations, orphanages, and schools in all other countries. These are mutually beneficial and responsibly sustained partnerships that seek to connect churches across boundaries and provide opportunities for pilgrimage, hospitality, learning and service.

Northwest's sister church is the Szekelyudvarhely Unitarian Congregation in Transylvania. Unitarianism traces its roots back centuries to Transylvania, in Eastern Romania, where some of the oldest

Unitarian and UU churches on the planet are located.

June's Share-the-Plate will go to supporting the work of our sister congregation in Szekelyudvarhely. Half of all undesignated funds collected during each of the Sunday services in June will be sent to our sister congregation. If you wish, you may designate all of your donation to the organization by writing "sister church" in the memo line of your check. Please consider donating as generously as you are able.



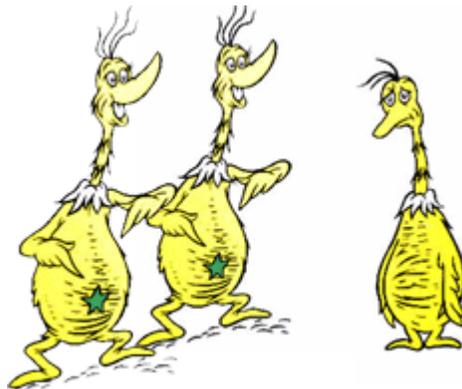
## US vs. Them

Come join us June 10 in the Chalice House Chapel for a Second Hour program on the phenomenon of *tribalism*. Tribalism is a word we have become accustomed to hearing and reading, but do we really know what it means and how it affects our daily lives, our communities, the nation and the world?

The online *Oxford Learner's Dictionaries* define tribalism as:

- *Behavior, attitudes, etc. that are based on being loyal to a tribe or other social group; and*
- *The state of being organized in a tribe or tribes.*

These definitions do little to explain the mechanisms of tribalism or what is commonly seen as its pervasive influence on our discourse and our



relations with one another, locally, nationally and worldwide.

In October 2017, The Northwest Board of Trustees formed ARAOMC (Antiracism, Anti-Oppression and Multi-cultural Committee) and charged the committee with the responsibility to lead a year of discernment at Northwest leading to a deeper understanding of systems

that manifest racism, mono-culturalism, tribalism and other oppressions that exist in our society and may be unintentionally manifested in Unitarian Universalism and at Northwest.

The Second Hour program on June 10, will be the first product aimed at fulfilling the ARAOMC charge. Committee members will have a panel presentation on tribalism followed by a discussion with Northwest members and friends. An additional Second Hour program on tribalism is planned for August. In the coming months, ARAOMC will be examining racism, other oppressions, and mono-culturalism.

All members and friends of Northwest are invited to journey with us during this year of discernment.

# Participate in the Veterans' History Project

The Library of Congress created the Veterans' History Project to capture oral histories of military veterans which will be catalogued, digitized, and made available to researchers. Currently most interviews are only available by visiting the library in Washington, DC, but eventually they will all be available online.

Northwest member Michael Cain has been conducting video interviews for the Veterans' History Project for the past eight or nine years. Beginning on the first Sunday in June, Michael will be available during Second Hour to interview veterans from our congregation. The interviews typically take about an hour, so he can only do one per week, by appointment only. Please call Michael at 678.296.7919 to reserve your time.

The interview is free-form and intended to give veterans an opportunity to share their experiences in their own words. Michael may help with some leading questions if you get stalled, but it's your story. Your words will not be edited in any way, and once submitted to the library, the interview will be available to researchers and the general public. Each participant will receive a copy of the interview for their records and to share with family and friends.

All veterans are encouraged to participate, regardless of branch, MOS or types of deployments. There are brochures in the lobby which may answer some of your questions or you may simply catch Michael at the coffee pot after the service.



## Clarifying Joys and Sorrows Guidelines

Joys and Concerns. A ritual we practice during nearly every Sunday worship service at Northwest. This is a way we share personal events about ourselves in a safe and caring space. It is a time to seek comfort from our friends during hard times in our lives and a time to joyously share milestones in our lives.

The Worship Associates Team and Rev. Jonathan have been discussing the nature of Joys and Concerns ritual and we want to offer some guidelines.

- **Keep it brief.** A lot can be said in 60 seconds, and we ask you to speak no longer than that. Remember, this is a worship service.
- No announcements or political statements. The lobby at coffee hour is a great place to discuss politics.

Shared joy is a  
double joy;  
shared sorrow is  
half a sorrow.

Swedish Proverb

- This sacred time should not be used to praise or pan the sermon. A word to the minister or worship associate after the service is a better time to do this.

The Worship Associates Team is renaming this ritual Joys and Sorrows because the idea is to share not only joys but someone's personal experiences of grief, sadness or sorrow. Non-personal concerns, as

troubling as they may be, are not appropriately shared in the context of the worship service.

Let us all respect this time of intimate sharing to preserve it for those who revere it most.

# Don't Turn Our Recycling into Trash



Waste Management has informed us that they are experiencing high levels of contamination from trash in the recycling stream. Please keep in mind that **NON-RECYCLABLE ITEMS CAN TURN AN ENTIRE LOAD OF RECYCLABLES INTO TRASH.** Under Waste Management service terms, faulty customers may be charged \$69 per yard in contamination fees. If you happen to see trash in the recycling bin, please remove it and throw it in the trash bin.

Remember to:

- Recycle all empty plastic bottles, cans, paper and cardboard.
- Keep plastic bags out of recycling. Plastic bags and film get tangled in the machinery.
- Keep food-soiled items out of recycling. They will ruin an entire recycling load.



## UNiverse

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([www.NWUUC.org](http://www.NWUUC.org)) 770.955.1408

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

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

### Interim Minister

Rev. Jonathan Rogers  
[minister@nwuuc.org](mailto:minister@nwuuc.org)

### Affiliated Community Minister

Rev. Joan Armstrong Davis  
[communityminister@nwuuc.org](mailto:communityminister@nwuuc.org)

### Director of Religious Education

Christina Branum-Martin  
[re@nwuuc.org](mailto:re@nwuuc.org)

### Director of Music

Dr. Philip J. Rogers  
[music@nwuuc.org](mailto:music@nwuuc.org)

### Band Director

Tom Godfrey  
[band@nwuuc.org](mailto:band@nwuuc.org)

### Office Administrator

Shirley Banks  
[office@nwuuc.org](mailto:office@nwuuc.org)

### Nursery Attendants

Nancy Johnson  
Adia Fields

**Sexton** Kevin Coleman

### Board of Trustees

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# Hungry Ear Coffee House™ Presents Gibson Wilbanks, June 2

Hungry Ear Coffeehouse is proud to present the Soulful Roots and Folk/Blues duo, Gibson Wilbanks, on June 2. Carly Gibson and BJ Wilbanks are taking the city by storm with their individual solo and band projects in the Atlanta area, but together as Gibson Wilbanks, these two have been called “Gregg Allman meets Bonnie Raitt.” They have combined their considerable songwriting and musical skills to create their unique and popular Southern bluesy sound.

Cody Marlowe opens the show. A roots-rock artist, Cody Marlowe found

his inspiration at an early age in the soulful sounds of B.B. King, Merle Haggard and the Allman Brothers.

Doors open at 7:30 pm on June 2, when Northwest’s sanctuary once again becomes the Hungry Ear Coffee House™. The performance 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.



## Notes from the May Board Meeting

**Finance Updates:** With about \$230,000 pledged for 2018-2019, we continue to move closer to our goal of \$240,000. Still, the gap required some cuts to our budget which were discussed at the congregational meeting on May 20.

We are behind on pledge payments for the current year as well. A budget shortfall in our current budget will have to be transferred to 2018-2019, requiring further cuts.

Northwest is charged a 2% fee for credit card contributions made in Realm. To eliminate this expense, we may add a 2% convenience fee to credit card gifts or only accept debit payments via Realm.

**Office Administrator Function:** Our Office Administrator Shirley Banks can be inundated with requests especially considering her part-time hours. Help us implement a few changes that could make a big difference:

- Provide as much lead time as you can on tasks and avoid last minute requests when possible.



- If working with a group, establish one point of contact for Shirley to reduce confusion and duplicate requests.
- Include Rev. Jonathan in email requests so that he can help manage day-to-day work load.

**Minister Search Committee (MSC):** Board members, ministry team leaders (MTLs) and other volunteers made phone calls, solicited nominees via announcement(s) in service and received self-nominations to serve on the MSC. Taking into consideration the number of times individuals were nominated and our commitment to develop a group that represents a

cross-section of interests and involvement at Northwest, the board generated a list of 15 members to invite to apply for the MSC. Once we receive applications, a final slate will be brought to the congregation for a vote.

**New Leadership:** The new MTLs are:

- Community—Gina and Danny Sample
- Communications—Joe Keller and Sandy Davis
- Gardens and Spaces—John Hagler and a co-chair
- Social Justice—Jill Benton
- Stewardship—John and Traci Montgomery
- Earth Ministry—Tom and Linda Couch, with Morning Washburn
- Adult Learning—Marilyn Matlock and Greg Pattison

New board members and MTLs will be invited to their respective June meetings. This allows an overlap of incoming and outgoing leadership, which nurtures camaraderie and provides continuity in operations.

# Want to Be a Delegate to General Assembly?

Any Northwest member who wants to go to the UUA General Assembly June 20-24 in Kansas City, Missouri, as a voting delegate of Northwest should let the board know by contacting [LetitiaSweitzer@me.com](mailto:LetitiaSweitzer@me.com) or [David.zenner55@gmail.com](mailto:David.zenner55@gmail.com).



## UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

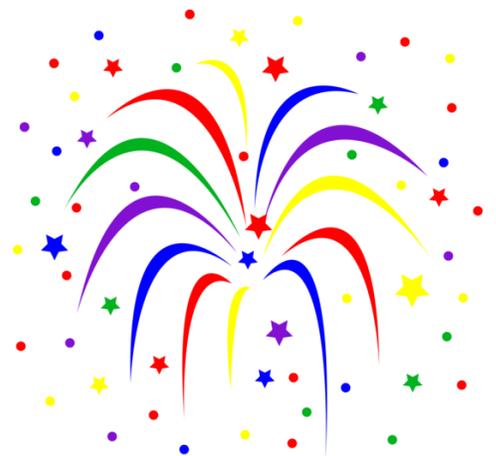


## June Joining Anniversaries

## June Birthdays

James Underwood	6/02
Jackie George	6/03
Laura Kearns	6/03
Linda Irving	6/04
Caleb North	6/05
Christina Branum-Martin	6/06
Jay Kiskel	6/12
Nathan Roberts	6/13
Jo Williams	6/16
Sally Mitchell	6/17
Audrey Marroquin	6/20
Martha Spencer	6/21
Constance Dierickx	6/26
Jemma Zierler	6/26
Mark Livezy	6/30
Karin Stern	6/30

Cathryn DuBow	6/02/1993	Jessa Fagan	6/08/2014
Richard DuBow	0/02/1993	Marc von Mandel	6/16/2014
Tammy Clabby	6/28/2009	Linda Couch	6/07/2015
Hannah Johnson	6/09/2013	Tom Couch	6/07/2015
Valerie Johnson	6/09/2013	Verna Barrett	6/14/2015
Gregg North	6/09/2013	Jay Hall	6/14/2015
Melanie North	6/09/2013	Julie Medlin	6/14/2015
Kristan Wagner	6/23/2013	Michael Cain	6/12/2016
John Maynard	6/23/2013	Athena Nawar	6/12/2016
Alison Williams	6/01/2014	Kester Chau	6/19/2016
Brian Williams	6/01/2014	Sonny Chau	6/19/2016
Jamie Williams	6/01/2014	Kathy Miller	6/19/2016
Jesse Williams	6/01/2014	Bob Kent	6/04/2017





**June 2**

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

**June 3**

**Multigenerational Worship Service**, 10 am  
**Farewell Reception for Tom Godfrey**, 11 am

**June 6**

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

**June 9**

**Second Saturday Gardens and Spaces Workday**, 9 am-1 pm

**June 10**

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

**June 12**

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

**June 13**

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

**June 17**

**Multigenerational Worship Service and Blessing of the Animals**, 10 am

**June 20**

**LUUnch BUUnch**, 11:45 am, Art Gallery

**June 20-24**

**UUA General Assembly**, Kansas City, MO

**June 24**

**Worship Service**, 10 am

**Mark Your Calendar:**

**Congregational Retreat**  
 October 19-21

## Book Groupies Discuss *One of Ours*, June 12

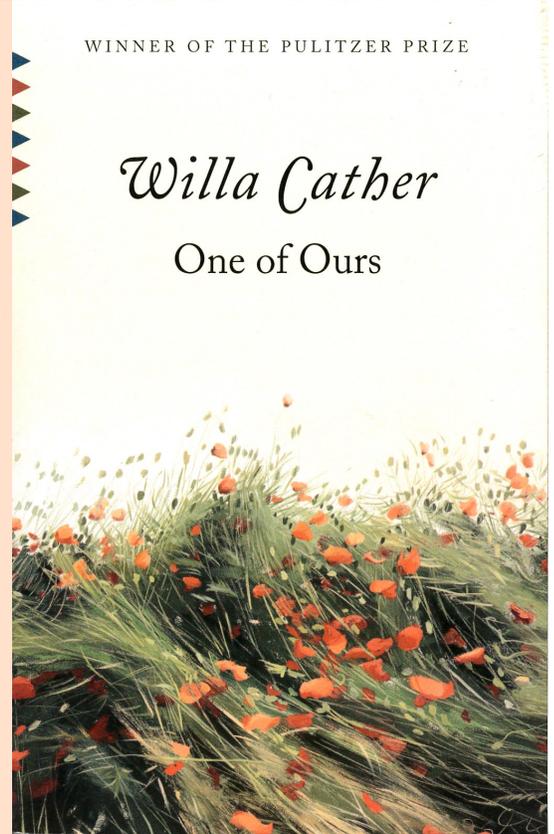
The Book Groupies will meet Tuesday, June 12, at 7 pm in the Art Gallery to discuss *One of Ours* by Willa Cather, the last book in our classics series this year. This 1923 Pulitzer Prize winner is set on the prairies of Nebraska in the early 1900s and tells the story of a restless, questioning farm boy. When WWI starts up in Europe, he feels he has found the answer to his restless discontent with farm life and enlists as a soldier.

Cather's evocative and insightful writing make this an enjoyable and worthwhile read. All readers are welcome to join us and the book is available in our bookstore.

WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE

*Willa Cather*

*One of Ours*





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

*A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association*

## June 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.