



# August 2018 UNiverse

# NWUUC

NORTHWEST  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CONGREGATION

## Worship Services for August

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.*

### August 5: My Spiritual Journey Is a Contact Sport

Worship Leader: Hannah Cowart  
Worship Associate: Lynne Dale  
Music: Jim Pearce



Physical contact is one of the most basic and efficient ways that we communicate and connect with each other. But what messages are we communicating in

full contact and extreme sports? Can physical touch have a spiritual component in day to day activities we love? Join us as we explore some non-traditional aspects of our own spiritual journeys.

### August 12: Weapons of Math Destruction

Worship Leader: David Morgen  
Worship Associate: David Stewart  
Music: Jim Pearce

We live in the age of the algorithm. Increasingly, the decisions that affect our lives—where we go to school, whether we get a car loan, how much we pay for health insurance—are being made not by humans, but by mathematical models. In theory, this should lead to greater fairness but all too often the opposite is true. The models being used today are opaque, unregulated, and uncontestable, even when they're wrong. Most troubling, they reinforce discrimination.



### August 19: Ingathering: The Tide Is Rising, and So Are We

Worship Leader: Rev. Jonathan Rogers  
Worship Associate: Lil Woolf  
Music: Jim Pearce

As a new program year begins, how are we being called to rise together? We will literally and metaphorically gather in, as all are invited to bring water from the sources of it that you encountered this summer for our Ingathering of the Waters ritual.

### August 26: Resonating Rationality

Worship Leader: Rev. Jonathan Rogers  
Worship Associate: Brian Freeman  
Music: Jim Pearce

As UUs, our most prominent and important contribution to theology is Transcendentalism. This sermon will examine our Transcendentalist roots and why that concept is relevant and insightful in 2018.

THE ONLY PERSON  
YOU ARE  
DESTINED  
TO BECOME  
IS THE PERSON YOU  
DECIDE  
TO BE  
~ RALPH WALDO EMERSON ~

## Care Corps

One of my most treasured tasks as a minister is getting to be there for folks when life happens. To accompany another person as they navigate a difficult period is not only a gift to the receiver, but also benefits the caregiver as well. This type of caregiving helps one to learn and grow in unique ways, and brings the good feelings generated by being trusted on a deeper level.

It is because of these benefits that sharing the work of pastoral caregiving with trained lay leaders is an important principle in my ministry. I believe that it is important for a minister to have help in caring for a congregation, but I also feel that the act of empowering others to help care for the congregation, helping folks to tap into this spiritual gift, is positive in and of itself. At Northwest, I feel very fortunate and grateful to partner with the Care Corps, our pastoral care team.

The current Care Corps members are Linton Hopkins, Lil Woolf, Maria



Drinkard, Rev. Joan Armstrong Davis and myself. If something happens in your life or if you just need someone to talk to, we are usually the folks who will reach out from Northwest, and you are always more than welcome to reach out to any of us. Our team gathers regularly to keep each other informed (to the extent that we have permission from those involved) about current pastoral care matters in the congregation, to do ongoing training as pastoral caregivers and to support each other in this work. We know that in order to help others heal, we need to be healed ourselves.

The most common circumstances we get called in for are deaths and illnesses; we are also here for

anything from work or school transitions to relationship struggles. There are some issues that only a professionally trained minister can or should address with folks, and we make sure to deal with such requests accordingly.

We believe that caring for one another is a primary expression of Unitarian Universalist theology and is foundational to the ministry of Northwest. Even if you do not have an emergency, you are always welcome to approach any of our Care Corps members to introduce yourself, chat and thank them for their service to this congregation. Northwest would not be the congregation we are without them and their willingness to be there when needed most. Thank you to all of you who care for one another in our congregation and who make this community the special place that it is.

*Jonathan*  
Rev. Jonathan Rogers

## LUUnch BUUnch Explores Customs and Culture in Southeast Africa, August 15

Northwest friend Jean Ellis will share with us the interesting customs and culture associated with coming of age and with marriage in southeast Africa. Jean recently completed a 16-day wildlife tour of Zimbabwe, Zambia and Botswana, including two days in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

Jean's primary interest was in viewing the ubiquitous and varied wildlife but found personal and cultural aspects of the tour just as fascinating. Her tour included visits to a small village and school in Zimbabwe as well as three-

night stays in each of four tented camps:

- Kashawe Camp in Hwange National Park (Zimbabwe)
- Lufupa Camp in Kafue National Park (Zambia)
- Baobab Lodge in Chobe National Park (Botswana)
- Santawani Okavango Delta Camp (Botswana)

This will be an interactive discussion with questions and answers. Come as you are. Reservations are not required. Bring your lunch and

convene in the art gallery at 11:45 am. We'll begin with lunch, introductions, and personal updates and the program will end at 1:15 pm. You may come late or leave early, as your schedule dictates.



# Notes from the July Board Meeting



Your Board of Trustees typically refrains from meeting in July, but there are too many

balls in the air this summer. Here are some brief notes from our July 17 meeting.

## Beginning the Church Year

Let's get the party (ahem . . . church year) started! We can't wait to celebrate Ingathering and the beginning of RE on August 19.

## Speaking of Religious Education (RE)

Excited souls came out of the cypress woodwork last year when we put the call out for more RE volunteers. Let's keep that momentum going and continue to fully support our robust RE program. To maintain a healthy program, it's essential for our non-parents (or empty nesters) to volunteer in addition to our already strong group of RE parent volunteers. We will need some help at The Mountain during our congregational retreat in October as well. This retreat is a phenomenal opportunity for us to journey deeper together as a

community. We hope you plan to attend and that you're able to throw in an "adventure shift" with our children and youth. Please let Christina Branum-Martin or an RE Committee member know if you'd like to help out. Scholarships are available.

## Wrapping up 2017-2018 Budget

As of mid-July, we have about \$23,000 in outstanding pledges from 2017-2018 pledge year. Sometimes pledge fulfillment can slip through the cracks, but please remember that our operating budget and the health of our congregation depends on honoring our financial commitments. It is important for 2017-18 pledges to be fully paid so that we don't carry a deficit into 2018-2019. A huge thanks to everyone for their ongoing support.

## Settled Minister Search

With the approval of our Minister Search Committee, our search for a settled minister is officially underway! The committee will have their retreat in August. Operating as its own entity, the committee will provide updates as needed. We may not be privy to the inner workings, but rest assured the members will always appreciate a pat

on the back or an encouraging word along the way. This group has taken on a huge responsibility on our behalf; let's throw all of our support and encouragement behind them!

## Southern Area Extended Leadership Experience (ExLE)

We are excited to announce that Northwest has been chosen to host one of the four ExLE sessions this fall. This four-day (one day per month) training session is fashioned after the Dwight Brown Leadership Experience (DBLE) and the Southern Unitarian Universalist Leadership Experience (SUULE). We have solicited nominees from lay leaders and our new Leadership Development Committee will follow up with nominees directly so that we can be well represented.

## Medical Preparedness

Nearly every modern profession is represented amongst our membership base. We are hoping to take advantage of this strength to develop a more comprehensive approach to medical preparedness at our facility. Stay tuned for more information.

*Hannah Cowart*

President, NWUUC Board of Trustees

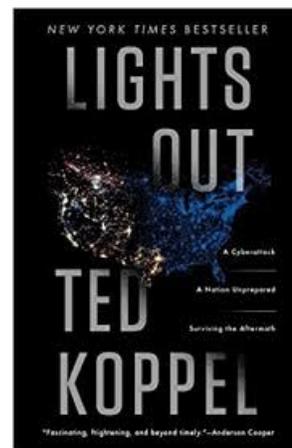
# Book Groupies Resume in September

The Book Groupies are reading *Lights Out* by Ted Koppel this summer for our next meeting on Tuesday, September 12 at 7 pm in the art gallery.

This is a real thriller which will keep you on the edge of your seat. It is also eye-opening nonfiction about the vulnerability of our power grid. Don't keep your eyes shut, join our discussion September 12!

As one reviewer said, "this is possibly the most important book of the decade."

Copies of *Lights Out* are available in our bookstore in the lobby.



# Building Expansion 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 a contractor-architect team on the building plans.

On July 10, the Northwest Board hosted a Second Hour session to answer any questions regarding the expansion. The board will continue to hold Second Hour sessions as our building project continues. Please look for announcements in the weekly news e-mail regarding upcoming information session. In addition, the steering committee will update information in the Northwest lobby.

Here are some facts that were presented during the July Second Hour session:

- Congregational vote authorized a budget up to \$700,000
- Capital campaign pledges = \$619,000
- Pledges fulfilled = \$329,494
- Building expenses paid as of 7/9/2018 (permit fee, civil engineering) = \$3,200
- Architect and structural engineer fee estimates = \$33,700
- Civil Engineering fees estimates = \$7,500
- No loans have been entered into by NWUUC.
- Use permit expected to be granted August 28.
- Architect's design development phase completion will allow the contractor to generate a quotation for the construction.
- Additional pledges and pledge payments are encouraged.
- We expect the city to require Northwest to clean out the current water detention pond.

In the past three months, the steering committee has submitted the application for permit which requires several surveys. Committee members have held two community meetings and are preparing for the City of Sandy Springs zoning meeting. The application review process is expected to be complete in late August when the city council meets.

While the permit review process is underway, we have proceeded 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. We are currently in the schematic design phase, which will be followed by design development and construction development. Once the design development is complete, the contractor will generate a price quotation based on the design.

Please look for additional information on the project timeline in the lobby and in upcoming Second Hour sessions.

## UNiverse

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

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# CommUnity: It's Music to My Ears

*"Music for a while, shall all your cares beguile . . ."*  
—John Dryden, Oedipus, A Tragedy (1678 - 1692)

Whether Sia or Shostakovich, Beethoven or Bono, Aretha Franklin or Renee Fleming, we are each equally beguiled (captivated or mesmerized) by the innate beauty of what our individual ears find artistically appealing. Our diverse tastes combined allow us to learn one from the other "our individual and beautiful ways of being and doing" so each can grow, understand and appreciate the wealth of another's universe. Each of our perspectives differ and neither is better than the other. Our coming together to learn one from the other grants us the unique opportunity to value our individual cultures and ideologies that contribute to making the world a beautiful place.

In these times of choosing sides by diminishing this one to promote the other we find that the creative musical arts possess the unique ability to allow us to listen and find a common place of agreement through melody, beat and harmony.

Singer/composer Joan Baez rephrased the famous John Dunne poem to create the following lyric:

*No man is an island, no man stands alone  
Each man's joy is joy to me  
Each man's grief is my own  
We need one another, so I will defend  
Each man as my brother  
Each man as my friend*

None of our human experiences are exclusively better than the other. Each has a wealth of wisdom, hope and



possibilities that can enhance and enrich the other. We are born, we laugh, we cry, we bleed, we grieve, we rejoice, we smell the roses and admire nature – we die. The roads are diverse, varied and worthy of sharing and enjoying . . . together. John Dunne said it thusly:

*No man is an island,  
Entire of itself,  
Every man is a piece of the continent,  
A part of the main.  
If a clod be washed away by the sea,  
Europe is the less.  
As well as if a promontory were.  
As well as if a manor of thy friend's  
Or of thine own were:  
Any man's death diminishes me,  
Because I am involved in mankind,  
And therefore never send to know for whom the bell  
tolls;  
It tolls for thee.*  
-John Dunne (1572 – 1631)

Let us come together in harmony to find common ground to grow and proceed forward with Peace, Love and Joy.

*Dr. Philip J. Rogers*  
Director of Music

# Reserve Your Space at the Retreat, October 19–21

Time to plan your trip to The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center in Highlands, NC, for our congregational retreat October 19-21. This is a great opportunity to connect with your fellow congregants amid the breathtaking autumn colors and vistas from the top of our mountain.

Northwest's ARAOMC (Antiracism, Anti-Oppression, Multicultural Committee), charged by our board to lead a year of discernment leading to a deeper understanding of systems that manifest racism, monoculturalism, tribalism and other oppressions that exist in our society, will lead us in a dialogue on race Saturday morning.



After lunch there will be opportunities to learn about and participate in spiritual practices like meditation, yoga, journaling, hiking, crafts or just relaxing! There will also be time to practice your talent for our popular Saturday night talent show, followed by a campfire and yummy S'mores.

The cost is \$170 per adult until September 19, for the two-night weekend room and meals, then the price increases to \$190. It's \$70 for youth 8-17; children 7 and under are FREE.

For more information, see The Mountain notebook on the What's Happening table in the lobby or call 828-526-5838. See Mani Subramanian if you would like to know about scholarships for the weekend.

## Summer of Love Returns!

We are excited to bring you our annual Summer of Love concert on Saturday, August 4! Join us at the Hungry Ear Coffee House™ for a celebration of the music from the 50s, 60s and 70s. Some of our favorite artists will share their interpretation of the songs that influenced and inspired three generations of singer songwriters and musicians.

This year, we are thrilled to have the following lineup:

- John Godwin (of Young Again)
- Don Sechelski & Wendy DuMond (of Blackfoot Daisy)
- Heidi Pollyea (with Brian Walkabout)
- Louis Robinson
- David Leonard
- Downing Street (with Troy & Rhonda Lashbrooks)



Doors open at 7:30 pm on August 4, when Northwest's sanctuary once again becomes the Hungry Ear Coffee House™. The performance starts at 8 pm. You'll want to show up early; our Summer of Love performances are often standing room only!

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.





# NWUUC NORTHWEST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

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

*A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association*

## August 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.