



8/13/2017  
CALENDAR EVENTS

**Sun. Aug 13**  
Share the Plate –  
Area Agency on Aging

**Tues, Aug. 15**  
6:30 pm CYREC  
7:00 pm Meditation  
with Shell Fischer -  
Purging the Poison of  
Greed

**Wed. Aug. 16**  
2:00 pm Third Wed.  
CG  
5:30 pm Community  
Dinner  
6:30 pm Board  
Meeting

**Thurs. Aug. 17**  
6:30 pm Course in  
Miracles – Darwin’s  
Fish Room

**Sat. Aug. 19**  
9:00 am Grounds  
Crew Workday

**Sun. Aug. 20**  
11:00 am Worship



**Sat. Sept. 9**  
Public Retreat



Narthex Collection  
for August will be the  
Henry & William  
Evans Home for  
Children. Please place  
items listed on the  
back in the Narthex.



Don't forget to buy  
your Food Lion,  
Martin's and Shop n'  
Save grocery cards.



PO Box 1574, 6380 Valley Pike, Stephens City, VA 22655  
Regular Office Hours: Mon - Fri. 10:00 am-2:00 pm, 540.869.6965

**FROM THE MINISTER, REV. RUSS SAVAGE**

There were 14 of them, men and women, all nicely dressed, scooped down hiding behind a row of bushes in the middle of the park where I had gone to do my exercises. Off to one side stood another man with a boom box and a camera. What in the world was going on?

I tried not to spy as I went about doing my exercises. In a minute or so a young couple entered the park from one end and started walking toward the bushes. When they got within a few feet, everyone stood up and clapped and cheered. The man with the boom box turned on some music, and everyone started to dance. They danced around the couple and danced them down to the other end of the park, where they formed a canopy with their arms. They directed the woman through the canopy while the man ran around to the front of the canopy and got down on one knee.

When the woman emerged from the canopy, the music stopped and everyone got very quiet. The man was saying some words which I couldn't hear (but I could guess). Then the woman said a word or two and everyone clapped and cheered and the man stood up and the couple hugged. The boom box music started up again and everyone started to dance, including the happy couple.

Who knew I was going to witness all this when I was just out for some exercise? It reminded me that moments of joy and grace come to us when we least expect them. May such moments come to you.

Russ



**Ministerial Search Update:**

Your Ministerial Search team has begun its work again! Thanks to exceeding our goal for the 2017 pledge drive, any prospective minister will see that the congregation has made the financial commitment required to support such an endeavor. So, the search for a settled minister continues in earnest!

In the near term, your Search team will be working with the Board of Directors to draft the ministerial compensation package as well as the Ministerial Agreement. The team will also be working on preparing the Congregational Record and packet of information that goes to prospective ministers. Due to the fact that the congregation called a minister in the relatively recent past, the team can use much of the material developed by the previous ministerial search team.

In the upcoming several months, members and friends will be hearing more about (and hopefully participating in!) several upcoming events/activities to continue our process of calling a settled minister. One event is the "Beyond Categorical Thinking" workshop that is put on by the UUA. It is designed "to promote inclusive thinking and prevent unfair discrimination during a congregation's search for a settled minister" according to its description on the UUA web site. More information about the workshop is available here: <http://www.uua.org/careers/ministers/transitions/bct> This event will take place this fall, in the September/October timeframe. Additional details will be forthcoming as we approach this date.

Another activity this fall will be Cottage Parties. These are small group meetings designed for members and friends to better understand the choices and issues surrounding the search for a new settled minister. This will be another opportunity to get your feedback directly to the Ministerial Search committee! Stay tuned as we approach the dates as details are finalized. As always, we want your questions and/or feedback! Please contact one of your Ministerial Search team members at your convenience: Cal Allen, Bob Haskins, Rachel Hanks, Claire Henderson, Lana Hurt, Gail Vasta, and Bruce White.

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

If you are a visitor, please fill out a yellow "Welcome Card," found on the Welcome Table in the Narthex and place it in the collection basket or in the basket on the Welcome Table. This way we can welcome you personally and provide information about future events. Questions: Contact Dixie Wiles, 540-955-2942

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: ONGOING FOR EVERYONE

### Book Club

**September - Evicted by Matthew Desmond**

**Facilitation:** Rotating

**Date:** Wednesday, September 27th @ 10:15 a.m.

– from iTunes Preview - **WINNER OF THE 2017 PULITZER PRIZE GENERAL NON-FICTION & NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER**

**From Harvard sociologist and MacArthur "Genius" Matthew Desmond, a landmark work of scholarship and reportage that will forever change the way we look at poverty in America.**

### Covenant Groups

Covenant groups begin in October! This offering is viewed in our denomination as "small group ministry". Many of you have participated in these monthly gatherings with other UUs as we explore our views in an atmosphere of trust and commitment to honor each other's personal experiences and confidences (hence the name covenant group.)

Each small group (6 to 10) people will meet on a variety of days/locations. Whether you are a first-time participant or a returning one, we encourage you to join a covenant group! Sign-ups have begun and will continue through **September 17.**

This year's topics include:

October: **Why attend church?**

November: **Call to Vision**

December: **Call to Vision**

January: **Call to Love**

February: **Call to Love**

March: **Call to Imagination**

April: **Call to Imagination**

May: **Saying Goodbye Well**

June: **Relationship in Action**

July: **Relationship in Action**

The first group meetings will begin in October. For more information, please contact Cory Ness, [corythedre@gmail.com](mailto:corythedre@gmail.com) or 717-487-8036.

## SOCIAL ACTION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

### Share the Plate

Today the Share the Plate recipient will be the 'Area Agency on Aging'. This worthy organization provides a wide variety of support service to enable seniors to continue living in their own homes and provides these services in Frederick, Clark, Shenandoah and Page counties. As always, a representative of the Agency will be available to give more detailed information on their services and answer questions

### Share the Plate Report

The generosity of this Community continues to amaze. You have provided needed funds for many worthy organizations this year, both local and in the wider world. In the last year,

you have supported organizations for children (Barr Children's Home, Evan Home for Children in Winchester, environmental groups (Friends of the North Fork, Audubon (NVAS). a public advocacy group (UULMVA), victims of natural disasters (Baton Rouge Flood Relief, West Virginia Flood Relief, Haiti relief), a hot line for individuals in crisis and started a fund to enable our minister to help individuals.

Share the Plate collections for the 2016-2017 fiscal year totaled over \$4,200.00. There is a report on the table in the Narthex with details of each month's collection.

In addition to the monetary support you have also provided material support for many worthy organizations via the monthly Narthex collections. That list will also be on the table in the Narthex (the table under the Black Lives Matter banner).

### Narthex Collection for August



Henry & William Evans  
Home for Children, Inc.

The Evans Home for Children first opened in 1949. It is a private, not-for-profit home for abused/neglected children ages 5 - 17. All children must attend school. In 2011, they opened their doors to local homeless children. The program believes that children have a right to have their basic needs met and to be protected from harm. It also aims to help children in process of recovery to live together and begin to trust and embrace their lives. The residential program provides access to counseling, socializing, academic support, independent living preparation and family support.

A few of the most needed items are:

- Essential Oil Diffusers (electric). Helps children fall to sleep.
- Shower radio
- Batteries (all kinds: AA, AAA, C, D)
- 100w, 75w LED soft white light bulbs (regular kind)
- Bath Towels and Washcloths

If you have any questions please email or call me, 540-903-9271. Thanks, Elaine

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

### **Community Dinner:**



**Community Dinner  
Wednesday, August 16 at 5:30 pm**

For the month of August there will be a community dinner the night of the Board Meeting on August 16. This lets us have a bit of community before the work of the church begins. You do not need to attend the meeting! Please come as you can.

**This coming week we will provide Asian Salad with Grilled Chicken (without chicken for vegetarians) and Fresh Bread!** If you plan to attend please bring a dish to share. Bring your feastware (place setting) so we won't have to spend too much time in the kitchen cleaning up or use paper products.

Help is always welcome. If you'd like to come early and set up tables at 5:00 or help clear up at 6:30, it would be appreciated. Contact Mary Haskins with your questions: [mehaskins@gmail.com](mailto:mehaskins@gmail.com)