



## Encouraging Spiritual Growth

What's your most memorable story about getting lost? What do you remember about finding your way home?

One of my stories is about getting lost in the woods during my first October in Maine. That's where I went running—naively or foolishly, depending on how charitable you want to be—around twilight. Dark fell fast. I'd been following blue blazes painted onto trees, but took a wrong turn and spent a long time questioning my life choices. Once I was home, it occurred to me that fear—not the cold or the steep trail zigzagging into darkness—had presented the greatest danger.

Just a few months later, a painful betrayal threw me into a different kind of wilderness. I found myself with neither a place to live nor a job to secure one. For months, I tossed between despair and survival, too ashamed to ask for much help.

It was a gentle ministerial colleague who offered me a lifeline. Tell me the story, she prompted during one of our conversations, about the night you got lost in the woods.

So I explained. As I wandered that night, I realized that I didn't have to deduce the mountain's topography or the entire trail. I managed to find a single tree hatched with blue paint, and ventured out in loops to find just one more. Then another, and another. Blaze by blaze—however haphazardly—I moved toward safety. Toward home.

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*"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade."*

Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations*



## The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Jonesboro

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### Board Members

Dr. Karen Yanowitz, President

Dr. Norman Stafford, Vice President

Betty Stafford, Treasurer

Sue Garrison, Secretary

### Newsletter

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## WANT TO ADD TO OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER?

Please email [info@jonesborouu.org](mailto:info@jonesborouu.org) by the 25th of each month any information you would like included in the monthly newsletter. This includes any community events you would like to share, an article you found interesting on a UUA related site, a recipe to share with the fellowship, etc.

# FEBRUARY FELLOWSHIP

The Fellowship meets on Sundays at Temple Israel, 203 W. Oak Ave., Jonesboro. Fellowship starts at 10 a.m. followed by the sacred coffee and discussion ending at noon.

**In the case of inclement weather, watch our Website, Facebook Page, and Email.**

## March 3

Norman Stafford will speak "In Defense of Old Men," or the Virtues of a Created Community (with Application to the Young).

**March 10 - Daylight Savings Time begins. Remember to turn your clocks AHEAD one hour before retiring on the 9th.**

Ramadan, the holiest month in the Islamic calendar, begins this evening. Norman Stafford will explore "The Many Faces of Islam—Brought Together by Ramadan." Although Islam is widely perceived as a monolithic religion, this stereotype is from the truth.

## March 17

Ashley Stone will explore "Dignity in Dying—Death on Your Own Terms."

## March 24

Mitchell Clay will help us understand the total solar eclipse. Many Arkansans, including those of us in the northeastern part of the state, will have prime viewing opportunities.

## March 31 - No Fellowship

Enjoy your Easter Day with family and friends.



## Sunday Funday!

### FIRST SUNDAY The Lunch Bunch

Interested in going out to eat after services? Gather after services with other like-minded (and hungry!) people to decide where to go as a group. If the numbers get large, we may arrange this before services and make reservations, we'll see how it goes

### Second SUNDAY Peanut Butter Sunday



Please contribute peanut butter or other wholesome foods to Helping Neighbors. The Fellowship's February donation to the Food Pantry was 57 lbs. plus our service project of birthday cake supplies.

### THIRD SUNDAY Potluck

**Potluck!** Please bring a dish to share as we enjoy each other's company after services

### FOURTH SUNDAY Funday!

Bring a sack lunch and stay after Fellowship for games, crafts, or any fun you want to bring and share!

### FIFTH SUNDAY Any ideas?

Some Fellowships do a "Fifth Sunday" activity since it does not happen every month. If you have any ideas, please let us know!



## Encouraging Spiritual Growth

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Maybe in this wilderness, my colleague offered, you don't need to figure out the entire mountain. What if you don't need to know more than the very next sign? And when you need to know more, you will.

We talked about where, in all of my lostness, I sensed a single sign forward. I felt hope catch, which allowed me to risk asking for more help—from Spirit, and from other humans. Very slowly, I emerged from a fearsome wilderness into something that felt like safety.

You've been lost, too. Maybe you're there right now. I know that fear. I also know that whether it's deep in the woods or in the belly of shame, fear is a con job—it tells lies about everything from our options to our own worth.

Lift your head above those lies and borrow some hope. Through both human companionship and a Knowing greater than our own, sometimes we find our way home. May it be so for you.

*Rev. Erika Hewitt (she/her) serves as the UUA's Minister of Worship Arts*





## Celebrating Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month, a good time to draw attention to one source with a gender problem —Wikipedia. And, according to London-based materials physicist Dr. Jessica Wade, women are causing this problem.

Although most of us know better than to use it as our only source, Wikipedia is generally our first port of call for unfamiliar topics. The site attracts around 70 million unique users every day. Despite being the largest encyclopedia ever created, less than 20% of the biographies on Wikipedia's English language site are of women. But the lack of women's representation leaves a lasting impression.

Dr. Wade, based at the Centre for Plastic Electronics at the Imperial College London, has spent much of her PhD giving talks and doing outreach to encourage more women and minority groups to study STEM subjects. However, as she explained at TED London Women in 2018, Dr. Wade realized the problem was more deep-rooted than that. Actually, she noted, "the majority of history has been written by men, about men, for other men ... and the majority of content on Wikipedia is written by white men in America." Since 2018, Dr. Wade has added more than 875 biographies of women scientists to Wikipedia, tweeting them out to a wider audience, and urging more people to do the same. It's an effective way to turn frustration into action.

So how does one edit Wikipedia entries, or write new ones? Wade has some tips for beginners. Readers will notice edit links on each section of a Wikipedia page (they're quite small, and they take the form of the word [edit] appearing right after the title of each section). Those are there for everyone to click on. You do not need to know much about how the site works to correct or update an existing page; it's set up for anonymous editing to be quick and easy. This facilitation of free knowledge-sharing is a goal of the Wikimedia Foundation, the non-profit that operates Wikipedia. The Foundation ensures web hosting and tech support. However, if you want to add a new page, you will need to create an account.

Another avenue for expanding Wikipedia's coverage of women will occur on March 27, 2024, with the launch of the Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon, sponsored by the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum and supported by Wikimedia DC. Attendees will edit and create Wikipedia articles about American women represented in the museum's digital exhibition, "Becoming Visible," among others. Editors who have never contributed to Wikipedia before will receive on-site training. For more information, visit the Smithsonian's Newsroom.

### HAVE YOU UPDATED YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION YET?

Please click the link below or scan the QR code to submit or update your information for the fellowship. Your information will be used for internal communication, creation of name badges, an internal membership directory, and business purposes.

**It is important to fill this out even if you have been a long time member or have been visiting for a while!**

**[MEMBERS & FRIENDS  
INFORMATION FORM](#)**



*We need not to  
think alike to  
love alike.*



**UU World**

## FELLOWSHIP BUSINESS & IMPORTANT DATES

### May 5th - Fellowship Annual Meeting

#### Order of business:

- Voting on updated bylaws
- Voting for 2024 - 2025 Executive Board Members
- Voting on the 2024 - 2025 Budget

**You must be present to vote for these issues.**

#### Bylaw Revisions

The first draft of the Bylaw Revisions will be given to the Fellowship by the Bylaws Committee on March 10th for review. On March 14th we will have a Zoom Meeting to present the changes to those interested in joining. Feedback on the Bylaw Revisions will be due by March 17th. The final Bylaw Revisions that will be voted to accept into motion will be sent to the Fellowship by April 7th. Voting will be on May 5th.

#### Executive Board Members

The Nominating Committee will send our recommendations for the ballot for the Executive Board Members by April 7th. Voting will be May 5th.

#### Budget

The Budget will be sent to the Fellowship by April 7th for review. Feedback will be taken into consideration through Voting for approval will be on May 5th.

## THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF JONESBORO

### WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

We come together in freedom,  
for pursuit of truth,  
service to humanity,  
and fulfillment of self.





## Our Interdependent Web

In 2022, around 96 million people in the U.S. closely observed, fed, or photographed birds; visited public parks to view birds; or maintained plantings and natural areas around the home for the benefit of birds. That's more than 35% of the nation's population aged 16 or over.

The eye-popping figures come from the latest Survey of Fishing, Hunting, & Wildlife-Associated Recreation, conducted by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The estimated total number of birdwatchers is more than double the figure cited in the previous USFWS survey in 2016.

The new survey results were released amid trending social media chatter and newspaper headlines that reflect a worldwide birding boom in the years since the Covid outbreak in 2020. The USFWS survey also shows that birding is big business. More than six out of every ten dollars spent in 2022 on wildlife-related recreation (including hunting and fishing) came from wildlife watching, with birds cited as the greatest focus for wildlife watchers. Altogether, wildlife watchers spent more than \$250 billion last year to engage in their hobby—including more than \$24 billion on equipment such as binoculars, cameras, and bird food—an average of \$2,188 per person.

Sometimes that spending can add up just by virtue of a single rare bird. A 2023 study published in *People and Nature* documented that, when a Steller's Sea-Eagle showed up on the New England coast in the winter of 2021-22, eager birders pumped more than \$750,000 into the economies of Maine and Massachusetts.

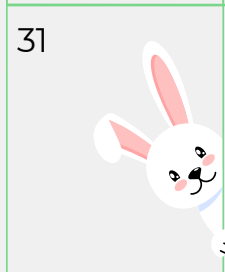
Amanda Rodewald, at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, says such reports are important sources of information to share with elected officials and shows how many of their constituents care about the environment and conservation, and underscoring "how wildlife, especially birds...are economic engines that sustain local, regional, and national economies.

Because so many birds are migratory, revenue from wildlife related recreation in a given state may be linked to healthy environments elsewhere. For instance, ducks fly from the Prairie Pothole region—Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Alberta in Canada; and Minnesota, Iowa, North & South Dakota, and Montana in the U.S.—to Arkansas, where hunters might pay to harvest them, or birders might travel and spend money to watch them.

Living Bird, Winter 2024

# March

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 	11	12 	13	14 	15	16
17 	18	19 <b>HELLO SPRING</b>	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 	28	29	30



**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

6th - Mitchell Clay  
18th - Jonathan Wagner

- 10 - Daylight Savings Time
- 10 - Ramadan begins at Sunset
- 12 - Plant a Flower Day
- 14 - National Equal Pay Day
- 14 - National Pi Day
- 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- 26 - National Epilepsy Awareness Day
- 27 - National Scribble Day
- 30 - Good Friday
- 31 - Easter