



A Spirit of Gratitude and Hope

Here I am again, stopped at a traffic light, a sea of cars surrounding me. Stationed on the median strip, someone visibly in need, likely unhoused, walks the line of momentarily-stopped cars, cardboard sign in hand, asking for money.

I find myself praying. Not for their wellbeing. Not for solutions to our broken housing system. Instead, I perversely pray that the light will change before they arrive at my rolled-up window.

Perhaps you follow the dictum of the 19th century poet Walt Whitman, “give alms to everyone who asks,” and this frees you to know you have done your part. Perhaps, because you intentionally support community organizations that provide direct service or address systemic issues, you pass by and experience no unease. Perhaps.

Personally, I swim clumsily between these two approaches. I find myself struggling to keep my head above these ethical waters.

Because any liberation must be collective liberation, I know it’s critically important to keep at the center of our attention those most directly, most direly impacted. That being true, I have also come to believe that, no matter one’s privilege status, at this point in late-stage capitalism with its rot of the social safety net, we are all constantly swimming in a sea of moral injury.

No matter our social location, we regularly witness—or fail to prevent—harm caused by systems not of our making. This causes us to grapple with not only our place in the shadow sides of the interdependent web of all existence, but also the harm we experience.

In response, I sometimes turn away, scroll on-and-on, numb out. Sometimes I pray for the wrong things. Yet my faith, values, and principles tell me that there is a different option—to turn towards. And when I turn towards that sense of complicity—that pain of moral injury—it becomes a message from the interdependent web: harm of one is harm of all.

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“May we think of freedom, not as the right to do as we please, but as the opportunity to do what is right.”

Peter Marshall



The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Jonesboro

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AUGUST 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.

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF JONESBORO WILL ADOPT THEIR SUMMER FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE JUNE - AUGUST. The Fellowship will meet the first and third Sundays of each month with an optional 2nd Sunday Brunch.

August 4 - Norman Stafford will address the question "Should We Be Unitarian Universalists or Universalist Unitarians?" Norm will consider how Universalist values have permeated the denomination since 1961.

August 11 - Second Sunday Brunch - Optional

Brunch will be at 10 am at a location decided the previous Sunday during announcements. An email with details will be sent out!

August 18 - Friends of the Library Guest Speaker

Our very own Valerie will be speaking about the Friends of the Library organization. We will also have a book drive that day for FOL. Bring your gently loved books for a donation. Services will be followed by our Third Sunday Potluck.

August 25 - NO SERVICES

**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.

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



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

Peanut Butter Sunday



Please feel free to bring Peanut Butter any Sunday throughout the summer! Last month we collected 22 lbs.

THIRD SUNDAY Potluck

Let's share a simple Potluck Lunch after services this day!

Book Club

Book Club meetings will vary per month. Please ask to join the Book Club GroupMe to stay in the know!

Fourth Sunday Game Day

Game Days will be paused during the summer months.



UU World

A Spirit of Gratitude and Hope *Cont. from p1*

When I can pause, even for just a moment, I can recognize my unease for what it is—not a reason for disconnection or seed of resentment, but a niggling hello from the interdependent web, reminding me of a deep connection with my fellow earthling; a dogged attempt to stir me from the illusion of separation; an abiding call to save me from the false promise of safety by materialistic individualism.

When I can position myself to hear this universal and universalist message, I am better able to know which direction to swim.

May it be true that there is a moral arc of the Universe. May it be true that when we come together, centering those most harmed, we can bend it towards justice. May we recognize each other as we swim in these roiling waters of late-stage capitalism, being for each other rafts and bridges and islands of respite til we make it to the further shore, til we make it to the other side.

Rev. Karen G. Johnston is the Senior Minister at First Unitarian Universalist Society Burlington, VT. Before becoming a minister, she spent 20+ years as a clinical social worker.



The Right to Flourish

According to the British daily, The Guardian, 2023 was the most dangerous year to be a journalist worldwide since 2015. Global unrest and laws restricting journalists' abilities to report have left many stories untold, allowing impunity to thrive globally, as in Honduras. Since the 2009 coup that left former president Manuel Zelaya briefly exiled in Costa Rica, "the environment for the Honduran media has been worsening steadily." Reporters Without Borders describes the control of much of the country's press by politicians and multinational corporations, resulting in major gaps and unreliable stories.

However, since 1980, one Honduran radio station has been providing trustworthy community and international journalism. Radio Progreso is committed to, "the construction of a just, equitable, and sovereign society." The station's slogan "la voz que está con vos" translates to "the voice that is with you."

The station is a nonprofit, with no government or private sector funding. Three daily news broadcasts provide engaging, informative, and accessible content to listeners worldwide. Radio Progreso relies on a network of 30 community journalists throughout Honduras to gather stories and report with accuracy and integrity.

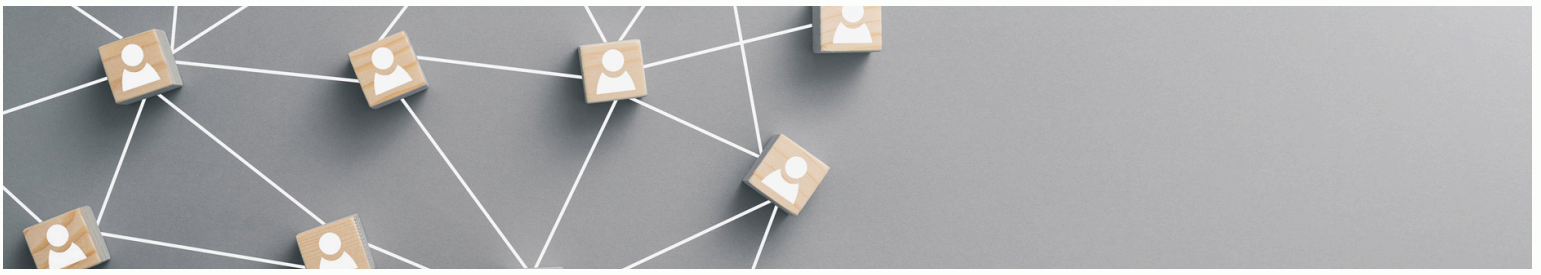
The station is also home to the Reflection, Research, and Communication Team (ERIC, for its name in Spanish). ERIC supports the health of communities and the land. For example, the team works with volunteers to care for La Milpa, a stretch of rehabilitated land growing sustainable crops.

Another ERIC project involves the Garifuna community in Triunfo de la Cruz, whose residents rehabilitate land previously used as an industrial farm. Garifuna is composed of Afro-Indigenous descendants of migrants from the island of St. Vincent in the Caribbean, and have faced discrimination and human rights violations throughout the nation's history. Its major exports are palm oil, tobacco, and sugar cane—all notoriously unsustainable crops. As private investors and the Honduran government demanded more land to grow these products, the Garifuna community was forcibly removed from their land.

Cont. p4

Look I don't know how we got here but in the year 2024 the two most wholesome people on the television are Snoop Dogg and Flavor Flav.





Our Interdependent Web

Fayetteville, AR, is on track to become the site of Arkansas' first certified Passive House. Magnolia House, located in the Washington-Willow historic district, uses advanced heating, cooling, and insulation equipment, consuming just 20% of the energy of comparable code-built homes—efficient without sacrificing comfort. This 3-bedroom, 1,780 sq.ft. home is set back from the street and is surrounded by trees, greenspace, and a creek.

The homeowners will pay just a fifth of normal utility bills. Although the up-front cost of the home is 5%-10% higher than average because of the detail and materials, the long-term energy savings are appealing. The home's selective air circulation system is a key factor in energy savings. Typical homes lose heat, and money, as air is exhausted out of the home by fans in the bathroom and kitchen. Magnolia House, by contrast, is able to run its cycle without wasting cool or hot air.

The water heater will pull heat from the ambient air inside the house and concentrate it into the water in the tank. On the other side of that process, cool, dry air will be expelled out of the top of the unit. Three inches of insulation was installed under the floor slab, plus exterior insulation extending from the foundation, in essence applying Yeti cooler technology to the house through continuous insulation.

The home will probably remain above 55 degrees for a week of below-freezing temperatures with no active heating happening whatsoever because human bodies will produce enough heat to keep the building in a habitable zone. This robust design pathway delivers comfortable, healthy, and durable homes—conceived for people and taking care of the planet. The U.S. has 11 million feet of Passive House buildings, and Fayetteville's is the first in Arkansas.

The Passive House pilot project was the Kranichstein in Darmstadt, Germany, in 1990. Europe's first multi-family house achieved heating energy consumption below 10 kWh/(m²a), a level confirmed through years of detailed monitoring. In the U.S., the Passive House Network works across all building sectors—government, manufacturers, builders, labor organizations, and educational institutions. PHN provides training and conferences to educate design and building professionals, policy makers, and the public to make low-energy Passive House design and construction the accepted standard.

Michael Main, Arkansas Democrat Gazette, 7/6/24

The Right to Flourish *Cont. from p 3*

Today, the community of Triunfo de la Cruz has begun to reclaim their ancestral territory, implementing sustainable agricultural practices rooted in Indigenous and African knowledge.

ERIC also supports shelters around the country that house or provide resources to families and individuals who have been affected by violence and organized crime, major contributors to displacement. Reporting on these outrages contributes to safer communities, allowing people to remain and thrive. In this way, ERIC and Radio Progreso contribute to protecting people's right to stay, an indelible facet of human rights.

The UU Service Committee supports organizations like ERIC/Radio Progreso that protect the human rights of all people to live healthy, secure lives in their communities. At the same time, Radio Progreso's reporting on national and international immigration policy helps to keep politicians accountable, protecting people's right to move safely and without discrimination. UUSC flanks ERIC/Radio Progreso in its efforts to support and protect all people in migration as well as those who choose to stay.

Deanna Johnson, UUSC, 7/17/24