

# QUEST



**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine Newsletter**  
St. Augustine Beach, Florida

**May 2019**

**2487 A1A South, St. Augustine, FL 32080**  
**3/4 mile south of State Road 312**

[uufsacontact@gmail.com](mailto:uufsacontact@gmail.com)   <http://www.uufsa.org/>

**Fellowship services are held Sundays at 10:30 a.m.**

**A program for youth is provided at 10:30 a.m.**

**Refreshments are served after the service so all may socialize.**

Audio transcripts of most presentations are available on our website.

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## **Board of Trustees 2018 - 2019**

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**Materials for the June issue are due by May 17.**

Don Brandes, Editor: [donaldbrandes@gmail.com](mailto:donaldbrandes@gmail.com)

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David Wright for printing each issue of the *Quest*.



# From Your President



Participating: to be active in something; to take part; to share in something.

The more you participate in something, the more you get back. We all know this. But our lives are often so full that it seems we can't squeeze another activity into the schedule. We know that participating in a voluntary activity is usually fun. We feel good about the activity and often make and strengthen friendships. When we make the time to participate in something new, new paths open. We learn new things and meet new people.

"But I'm so busy I can't take on another thing. My schedule is full." But is it? I am often reminded of the simple science lesson we may have all seen and heard at some point. But it bears repeating.

The teacher takes an empty jar and fills it to the brim with rocks. "Is this jar full?" asks the teacher. Some in the class answer that the Jar is indeed full. Others are quiet. Then, the teacher adds a sizable amount of fine – grain sand into the jar, filling the spaces around the rocks. "Now is the jar full?" asks the teacher again. More of the class now says that the jar is finally full and laugh about how they were fooled. A few remain quiet. Then the Teacher takes a cup of water and proceeds to add it to the jar, filling the spaces around the grains of sand. "Now the jar is full" says the Teacher. "There is often room for more."

Is your life like the jar filled with just rocks? Maybe some sand? Full, yet probably room for some more? Use some of that empty space in your jar to participate in something new. The UUFSA offers many activities in which you can participate. Each one you choose will pay you back. You know this to be true, but inertia may be keeping you tied to the old routine. It is as simple as reading this Quest with a seeking eye, looking for something that interests you, something you have been wanting to do. Go to a movie. Work for social justice. Sign up for hospitality duty. Attend a committee meeting (you are always welcome, you know). Help clean the highway. Throw a dart. Attend an adult education class. And much more.

But we all find reasons we can't. We have other responsibilities. We don't know anybody in that activity. We don't know who to talk to about getting started. We don't know enough about it and don't want to look ignorant. Somebody else will want to do that and you wouldn't want to push them aside. We are too old. We are too tired. We have this or that other reason that keeps us comfortably in the same old rut even though we complain to ourselves (and maybe others) about being bored, about feeling empty, about wanting to make new friends.

As Woody Allen said so many years ago, "Showing up is 80% of life." You have already shown up by being at the UUFSA. Being part of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship means having the opportunity to participate in many varied activities with many interesting people. Don't be shy. Don't make excuses. Don't forget there is always more room in the jar.

**Chuck Chambers**

**904-679-1853**

**[Johnchuck1@yahoo.com](mailto:Johnchuck1@yahoo.com)**

**Sunday, May 5, 10:30 a.m.**

**“Reflections on the Jewish Tradition of Ethical Wills:  
Transformative Insights and Enduring Blessings”**

**Rev. Dr. Nadia Siritsky**

Service Leader: Gina Jonas

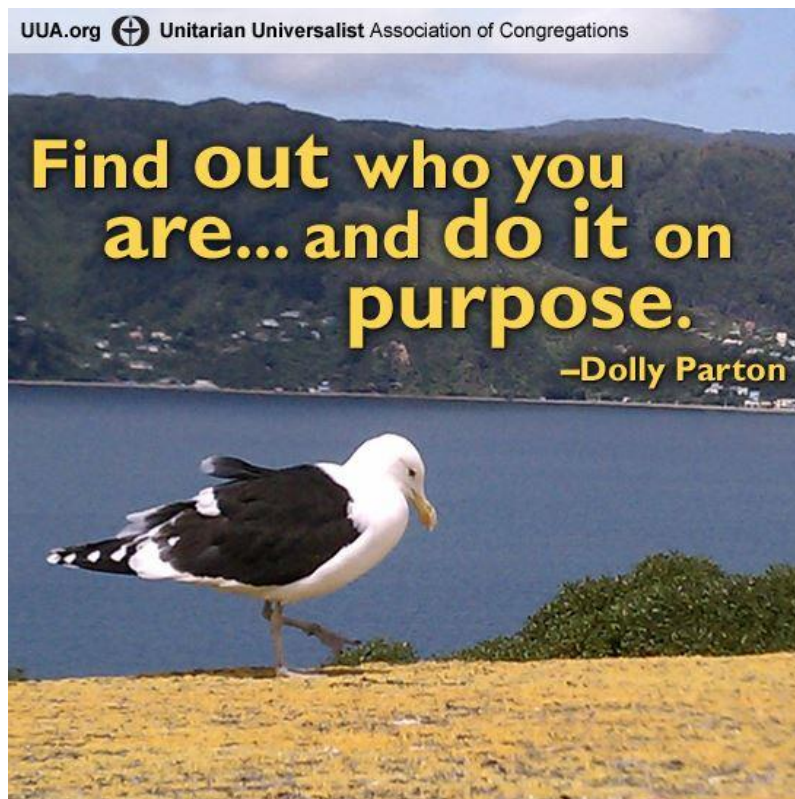
Music: Alex Soltow

Story for All Ages



What spiritual lessons can we learn from the biblically based tradition of ethical wills, and how can this practice transform our lives and the lives of those we love?

Rabbi Dr. Nadia Siritsky, MSSW, BCC serves part-time as rabbi for Temple Bet Yam, while also working as a hospital leader and administrator in Louisville, Kentucky. She fell in love with the St. Augustine community while leading Bet Yam for High Holy Days and has welcomed every opportunity to return since then. She has extensive experience as a congregational rabbi, an interfaith hospital and hospice chaplain and social worker, as well as a psychotherapist.



**Sunday, May 12, 10:30 a.m.**  
**“Mother's Day: From Gaia to Grandma”**  
**Robin Mahonen**

Service Leader: Chris McDermott

Music: Taffy Rook

This I Believe: Sandy Crane



Mother's Day in the US was first officially celebrated in 1908, to honor the mother of Anna Jarvis, a peace activist during the Civil War. But honoring those who gave birth to us is not a novel concept, nor is the loving sentiment confined to our actual birth mothers. This service will explore our sacred relationship to mothers. Through science, we know we are all made of stardust, and through our spirit, that we are golden. Sometimes we forget these sacred origins.

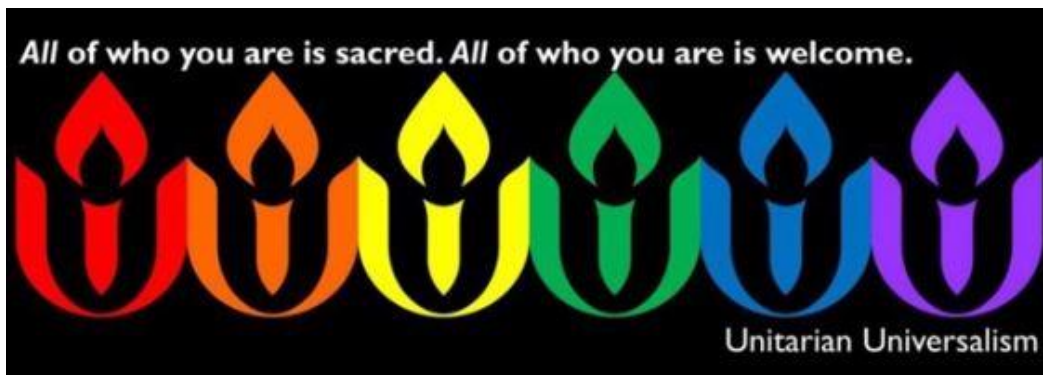
Robin is a graduate of Hunter College of City University of New York (CUNY) with a BA in psychology and sociology. She also holds a Master's in Social Work from Adelphi University, as well as additional post-graduate training at the University of Pittsburgh in social work and public health. She had a private mental health practice for 15 years in Washington, PA. She is a lifelong UU, and has served as an officer on the Board of Trustees at the Ohio Valley

Unitarian Universalist Congregation as well as here in St. Augustine. She is a mother of four.

Robin and her husband Ed, as “Uncle Eddie & Robin,” have conducted services and performed at UU congregations throughout Florida as well as nationally. They are also social and environmental activists, having founded the Wheeling Water Warriors, organized the Great Ohio River Relay, and attended Occupy Wall Street, the People's Climate Change and Standing Rock.

They have two original CDs: "My Own Words" and "When We're Together," and will soon be releasing their third, “With a Lot of Help from Our Friends.”

Look them up on the web at <http://uncleeddieandrobin.com/>



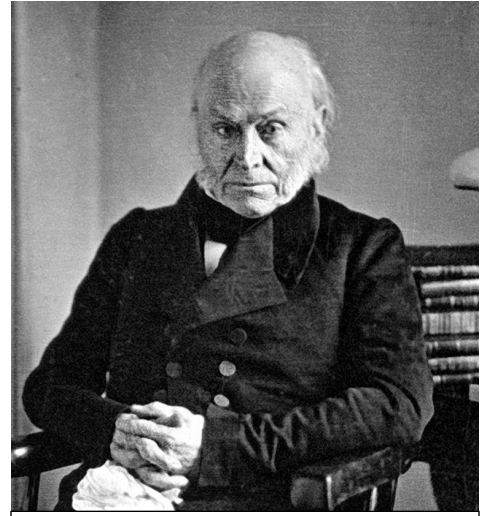


**Sunday, May 19, 10:30 a.m.**  
**"Adams and the Amistad"**  
**Barbara Brenner**

Service Leader: Jane Maloney  
Music: Alex Soltow  
Third Sunday Children's Food Collection  
Third Sunday Plate Donation: Food Pantry

The story of the Amistad Mutiny has been told and re-told. Still, the saga of the band of the captive black Africans who won their freedom in the US is so rich in humanity, so revealing of the political, social, and religious life of the time, that there's always more that can be told.

Barbara Brenner will present a dramatic retelling with special focus on the role of Unitarian Abolitionist John Quincy Adams, his personal relationship with the Africans, his famous defense of them in the Supreme Court and what happened after. Barbara is a writer and educator with a special interest in American history. She's the author of more than 75 books for children and adults, among them "If You Were There in 1776," and "Wagon Wheels," a true story about the founding of the first all – black community in Kansas. She moved to St. Augustine from Pennsylvania in 2010 and became a Unitarian Universalist shortly thereafter. She says that this presentation partly came about as a result of her discovery that John Quincy Adams, our sixth U.S. president, was a Unitarian.



John Quincy Adams

**Sunday, May 26, 10:30 a.m.**  
**"Community Work"**  
**Jerome Fosaaen**

Service Leader: Palmer Short  
Music: Taffy Rook



Every organization must somehow arrange to have essential tasks performed. In our fellowship, "Community Work" gets done mostly through our own volunteer efforts. What motivates and rewards those who volunteer? How do people volunteer in other societies around the world, and what can we learn from history? A discussion will follow.

Jerome Fosaaen has been a Unitarian Universalist for almost 45 years. He joined the UU Church of Jacksonville in 1974. He moved to St. Augustine in 2001 for his work, is a past president of the UU Fellowship of St. Augustine, and is an occasional speaker at the Fellowship.

# Annual Congregational Meeting

## May 5, after Sunday service

All members please attend.

## The New Budget

The budget for next fiscal year (July 2019 – June 2020) will be voted on at the annual meeting of the Fellowship on May 5<sup>th</sup>. The pledge drive has raised about \$54,000 for next year. Those who attended the budget workshops or have looked at the tentative budget adopted by the Board will recall that we hoped for Pledges of \$58,000 as a minimum. While we hope for some additional pledges to come in yet, we will be short of the amount we had hoped for.

The Board adopted a tentative budget at their April meeting to present to the Fellowship. A copy of that budget was emailed or mailed to each Member. It is based on pledges of about \$54,000. It is a balanced budget. We do have about \$500 more in pledges since the budget was balanced. The changes made to the tentative budget presented and discussed at the budget workshops are summarized as follows:

- The publicity line item was reduced from \$7,000 to \$1,000.
- Leadership training has been reduced from \$500 to \$0.
- Green Sanctuary has been reduced from \$400 to \$200.
- Building enhancements were eliminated.

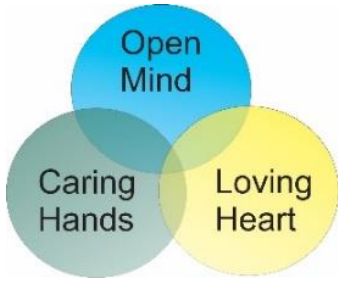
The remainder of the budget is as previously presented. The budget as proposed will be tight but it will work. We will try to answer any questions you may have at the annual meeting.

## May Calendar



- 3 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 5 – Deadline for art show submissions
- 5 – Annual Congregational Meeting after Sunday service
- 5 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 6 – Program Team 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 9 – The Meaning of Life Adult Ed. 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
- 9 – Indivisible St. Augustine 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 10 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 12 – Spring art show opens
- 13 – Board of Trustees meeting 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- 17 – Deadline for May Quest contributions
- 17 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 19 – Third Sunday food donation during service
- 20 – Great Decisions 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- 21 – Book Group 1:00 – 2:45
- 23 – The Meaning of Life Adult Ed. 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
- 24 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 24 – Movie, *Jesus Christ Superstar* 6:30 p.m.
- 31 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.





## Programs for Children and Youth

It's SPRING and time for the children to plant flowers in their garden.

They trimmed, weeded, prepared the soil, planted then watered. Then, April showers helped the flowers grow. Come look at the garden and find some "happy rocks" to take home.



The children and their teachers had their annual Easter Egg Coloring Party on Easter Sunday --- always a happy, messy time!

We are close to the end of our congregational year, and sadly, at the end of June, we must say farewell to both of our wonderful teachers. Maggie is off to college and Liz will assume greater responsibilities in the St. Johns County Public School System.

Maggie and Liz are a great teaching team and our children love them. We will miss them, terribly. As you will see elsewhere in the Quest, we are advertising for new teachers, so if you know of energetic people who love teaching kids and would be comfortable teaching our UU curriculum, please let Jindy Gelow or Barbara Battelle know!

## **The UUFSA has a position open for a lead teacher in our Program for Children and Youth Beginning August 1**

**Position:** Lead Teacher in our Program for Children and Youth

**Where:** Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine (UUFSA)  
2487 A1A South, St. Augustine, Florida 32080

**When:** For two hours every Sunday from 10:15 AM – 12:15 PM  
Beginning August 1 through December 31, 2019 with the  
possibility of an extension through June 30, 2020.

**Compensation:** \$60/Sunday

### **Brief Job Description:**

- Prepare and present lessons based on UUA curriculum for school-aged children. An additional staff person will be available for care of infants and toddlers.
- Present an intergenerational story one Sunday each month in the sanctuary.
- For a more detailed job description, contact Barbara Battelle (904-540-3720).

### **Qualifications:**

- Knowledge of (or a willingness to learn about) Unitarian Universalism and a respect for our values and traditions.
- Experience or training in early childhood development is highly desirable but not required.

### **To apply:**

Please submit a cover letter describing why you are interested in this opportunity and any relevant experience. Also include a resume describing your educational background, work experience and contacts for three professional references. Please submit your application via email to Barbara Battelle ([battellebarbara@gmail.com](mailto:battellebarbara@gmail.com)) with the subject line "Children/Youth Teacher." All attachments should include the applicant's last name in the file name. Contact Barbara Battelle if you would like more information about this position (904-540-3720).

To learn more about our Fellowship and our denomination check out our website: [UUFSA.org](http://UUFSA.org) and the website of the Unitarian Universalist Association ([UUA.org](http://UUA.org))



## The UUFSA has a position open for a Child Care Provider Beginning August 1

**Position:** Child Care Provider

**Where:** Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine (UUFSA)  
2487 A1A South, St. Augustine, Florida 32080

**When:** For two hours every Sunday from 10:15 AM – 12:15 PM  
Beginning August 1 through December 31, 2019 with the  
possibility of an extension through June 30, 2020

**Compensation:** \$25/Sunday

**Brief job description:**

- Provide safe and nurturing care for children from infants to age 4.
- Collaborate with a lead teacher or the Children/Youth Program Team to design and present age-appropriate engaging activities for these children.
- Knowledge of (or a willingness to learn about) Unitarian Universalism and a respect for our values and traditions.
- Experience or training in early childhood development highly desirable but not required.

**To apply:**

Please submit a cover letter describing why you are interested in this opportunity and any relevant experience. Also include a resume describing your educational background, work experience and contacts for three professional references. Please submit your application via email to Barbara Battelle ([battellebarbara@gmail.com](mailto:battellebarbara@gmail.com)) with the subject line "Children/Youth Child Care." All attachments should include the applicant's last name in the file name. Contact Barbara Battelle if you would like more information about this position (904-540-3720).

To learn more about our Fellowship and our denomination check out our website: [UUFSA.org](http://UUFSA.org) and the website of the Unitarian Universalist Association ([UUA.org](http://UUA.org))



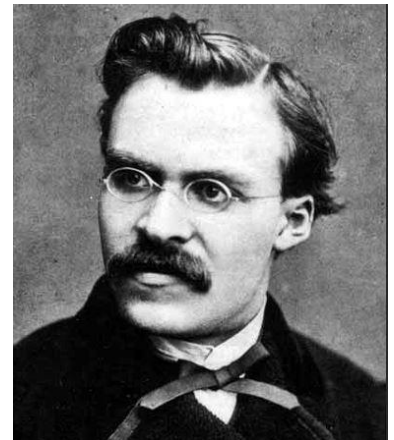
**“The Meaning of Life”**  
**Wisdom and Knowledge from the World’s**  
**Great Intellectual Traditions**  
**Thursday, May 9 and 23, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.**

Downstairs Meeting Hall, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.



On May 9<sup>th</sup> We will be focusing on **David Hume’s Skepticism and the Place of God.** Hume argues that God may not be accessible to reason but this need not matter to us. We can choose to have a theological life or we can choose not to if we want. The break between reason and faith forced an emphasis on the primacy of the individual and rise of rights. The doctrine of **foundationalism** emerged, the idea that we know things because of our observations or by reasoning, not through scriptures

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, the central theme is **Friedrich Nietzsche’s idea of creativity and authenticity** and that we lead our lives as great novels or works of literature which we leave behind as worth living. He launched the movement called **Postmodernism**, which questions the sovereignty of the individual and rejects the idea that human history is progressive. For Nietzsche, a meaningful life is one of authenticity, in which we create our own goals and values and live up to them.



Contact Surindar Paracer (904-217-3802 [sparacer@worcester.edu](mailto:sparacer@worcester.edu)) or  
Charlie West (904-471-0335, [westjrcw@gmail.com](mailto:westjrcw@gmail.com)) for more information.  
Co-chairs – UUFSA Adult Learning

We extend our warm welcome to all. Please come and join us to discuss “The Meaning of Life.”

## **Book Group, May 21, at 1:00 p.m.**



The UU Book Group will meet on Tuesday, May 21, at 1:00 p.m. The book under discussion will be ***A Tale of Love and Darkness***, by Amos Oz. Janet Jamal will lead.

Interested book-lovers welcome. Come join us and sit in, even if you haven't read the book. Friends of UUs are welcome.

***Bobbie Brenner***  
***Group Coordinator***

## **UUFSA Spring Art Show**

Have you missed artwork hanging on our downstairs walls? Well, get your art ready for our next show. We encourage all members and friends to submit their already-made creations or get busy with new ones. The next show will open on Sunday, May 12. Please bring in your artwork on or before Sunday, May 5.

Questions? Contact Joyce Peterson, 904-515-6860 or [joyce.peterson1@gmail.com](mailto:joyce.peterson1@gmail.com)

## **Great Decisions** **Monday, May 20, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

Great Decisions is an initiative of the Foreign Policy Association – [http://www.fpa.org/great\\_decisions/](http://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/) Interesting topics are discussed as seen through the lens of US foreign policy. The discussions are always stimulating. For more information, please contact Yosi at [jomcintire@bellsouth.net](mailto:jomcintire@bellsouth.net) or 904-461-3175.



## From the Food Pantry



I am happy to tell you that Chris Fosaaen is joining me and will be the UUFSA Co-Coordinator of the St. Johns Ministries Food Pantry. Chris will be learning the various duties involved and we will be splitting them. Many thanks to Chris for helping me out. It will also free me up to actually work some Fridays at the Pantry, which I miss very much. For now, if you have questions about or an interest in volunteering at the Pantry, please call me.

***Cherie Dolgin***  
***UUFSA Food Pantry Coordinator***  
***904-461-1604***

## Care Connection



Our Care Connection group provides short-term support and assistance for members of the Fellowship during times of difficulty. We thank everyone for their generous support with transportation to medical appointments, making meals, assistance with errands, visiting and sharing. The Care Connection serves everyone in our Fellowship willing to receive and give support at times of difficulty. Contact one of our members listed below if you are in need of assistance or would like to be involved in the Care Connection Team. We accept and appreciate donations.

Claudia Atkins, Chair ..... 386-717-6765  
Adele DelSavio ..... 315-529-6287  
Cherie Dolgin ..... 904-461-1604  
JoAnne Engelbert ..... 904-460-1190

Maureen Herth ..... 904-463-1032  
Cynthia McAuliffe ..... 904-863-1303  
Rosemary Wheeler ..... 352-339-4157  
Anne Wilke ..... 904-797-1944

## Dining With Dignity

Our next opportunity to provide a nourishing meal for the homeless will be **Sunday, May 5, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.** For more information, contact a member of the Dining with Dignity Team:

***Mary Kellough, 904-217-9837***



## **Palmer's Pic May 24, 6:30 p.m.**

### ***Jesus Christ Superstar***



The movie for May 24th is a revisit with ***Jesus Christ Superstar***. Once again I'm going to rely on Roger Ebert, my favorite reviewer. Here is the link to get there hoping it will work this time. If not, we will find another way to get it to you. <https://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/jesus-christ-superstar-1973>

*Palmer*

## **Friday Darts Nights May 3, 17 and 31, 7:00 p.m.**



Darts nights are held at the Pub UU (downstairs at UUFSA) at 7:00 p.m. on the first and third Friday of each month and the fifth Friday if there is one. Contact Palmer Short, [palshort@gmail.com](mailto:palshort@gmail.com), for details.

## **Beyond Our Congregation**



For information about events beyond our Fellowship, check the UUA Southern Region event calendar at <http://www.uuasouthernregion.org/home.html> and the UUA website at <http://www.uua.org/>

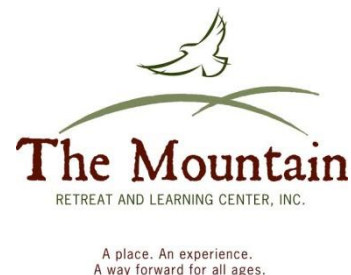


## UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY Spokane, Washington | June 19-23, 2019

General Assembly is an unforgettable experience for the thousands of Unitarian Universalists who attend each June. Attendees leave with a renewed sense of energy, inspiration, and innovative ideas to take back to their congregations and communities. GA is even more enjoyable if experienced with a delegation of congregational peers who can share expenses and meals and provide mutual support during the conference. This year, in addition to Theme-Based Programming, the schedule will feature Role-Based Track Programming, including time for discussion among attendees, sharing inspiring models and stories, and concrete suggestions for how to further the work or "take it home."

In order to raise interest and to help your congregations learn more about General Assembly, we have assembled [promotional resources](#) to download, copy, or print for further distribution.

## *Happenings at The Mountain*



*Come to The Mountain for a great program at an amazing place in the Blue Ridge Mountains – join us and let your spirit soar!*

*Womenspirit ..... May 25-19*  
*Youth Mountain Camp & Farm Camp ..... June-July*  
*Climate Justice ..... August 4-9*  
*Aging to Saging..... October 6-10*

For more information: [www.TheMountainRLC.org](http://www.TheMountainRLC.org) or 828-526-5838, or contact Beverly Cree at UUFSA.