

SUMMER 2013 WELCOME & OVERVIEW

It's 2013!

We've opened, cleaned, planted, and refurbished for this season of services and events.

[Summer 2013 brochure.](#) [June 2013 newsletter.](#)

Dear Friends,

It's with a happy heart that I write to invite You to join us this summer at the Washington UU Church. Because we get to meet on a regular basis only in the summer, there's something very special about our few months together. We get to savor our time together. This Summer, our theme is *“Awakening the Heart, Living the Love.”* We'll explore together how we can become more loving, more compassionate people. The Universalist message is, “God Is Love.” How do we live this message, not as a theory in the head, but as a way of the heart that is evident in all we do, think and say? We'll celebrate a “Summer of Universal Love” as we share stories of where and how love has triumphed in our lives. Those who are inclined are invited to read and be challenged to practice from Karen Armstrong's Book *“Twelve Steps to a More Compassionate Life.”* Some of our summer Adult Religious Education Programs will be on this theme.

We have a much more happening besides our [Sunday Morning activities](#).* [The newsletter](#) has details on the [upcoming film series, potlucks, sing-a-longs, summer solstice celebration, book discussions, hikes and more](#). I hope You'll join us. In addition, we are planning to offer a year-round program “The Universalist University” which will give those of us who are interested, an opportunity to get together on a monthly basis to keep growing in our capacity for [compassion](#).

See you at Church!
with Love, Rev. M'ellen

PS. [Here is a lovely article on compassion](#) by Tenzin Gyatso, HH the 14th Dalai Lama.

* Words and phrases which are underlined and highlighted in letter above and elsewhere are links to click for more information.

WELCOME LETTER

From Sue Stukey, President

The Washington Unitarian Universalist Church will begin [summer worship services](#) at 10 am on Sunday, June 23. This will be an exciting year for the church, with a focus on returning to our Universalist roots of love and [compassion](#). Worship and discussion will explore this theme, including how to actually live compassionately in our world today.

There will also be lots of [summer activities](#), (a summer camp for UU's?) with two sing-a-longs, a hike in the hills, and maybe even campfires. Please join us!

[Rev. Dr. M'ellen Kennedy](#) continues as minister, sharing the pulpit with guest ministers and lay speakers throughout the summer. As always, each Sunday service will be filled with music, thoughtful reflection, and meaningful discussion. Children are always welcome to stay during the service and/or childcare upstairs in the loft will also be available.

Each Sunday morning, following the service, we'll continue our tradition of hosting a potluck lunch on the front lawn, around our community picnic table. All are welcome!

Please note one very special event: at our church service on **August 18**, we will have the honor and privilege, along with our friends from the St. Johnsbury UU church, of participating in the **ordination** of our friend, website designer and frequent guest speaker, [Laelia Tawnamaia](#), to the Unitarian Universalist Ministry. Laelia is a graduate of Meadville Theological Seminary and was granted Fellowship by the Unitarian Universalist Association this past fall.

The UUA receives a UU minister into Fellowship, but only a congregation can "ordain" a minister. By ordaining Laelia, we will not be "calling" her as our very own minister, but simply and officially recognizing her as a minister and conferring upon her all the rights and privileges of the ministry, including the use of the term "Reverend" before her name.

It will be a moving and wonderful ceremony and we hope you can all be there. [[Details here.](#)] Your participation is welcome. (If you would like to join a special choir, contact Steve Finner or to help organize the potluck for that event, contact Rev. M'ellen Kennedy.)