

# The Washington Unitarian Universalist Church

August 18, 2014

Route 110, Washington, Vermont  
[www.washingtonvtuu.org](http://www.washingtonvtuu.org)

*Worship Service Sundays at 10 AM, followed by a potluck lunch.  
All welcome. Childcare provided.*

**Adult Religious Education Post Potluck Small Group** on most Sundays.

Films, Singalongs, Volunteer Opportunities,  
Adult Religious Education, & Potlucks throughout the week.

*"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other."  
Mother Teresa*

Dear Friends and Members of the Washington UU Church,

It's been a rich summer at the church! There are members from our church who have been active in the summer food and enrichment programs at the Calef Library. We had six kids in childcare two weeks ago. We're having more participation from folks who actually live in Washington including Kat, Ed and Edith and the Royle family. Dalice and Josh Costa just joined. Kat is organizing a yoga class (wanted to use our building but it would have been too cold). We're looking for a date to show the film debut of "Brujo" which Glenn Mack and his team made two summers ago -- actually filmed in Washington. George has offered his lovely poetry hike. Then there are many more visitors, regular friends and members who continue to treasure our time together in Washington. We've had the pleasure of having been lifted musically by our various accompanists including this Sunday by Catherin Orr and Raymond Malone. Folks are enjoying our guests in the pulpit and seemed to have especially resonated with the message on Universalism and Real Religion from Richard Trudeau last month.

So a lot is happening. It feels to me that there is momentum. In consultation with the Board, we've decided to plan one more gathering possibly on a weekend in September. The purpose of the gathering will be an opportunity for conversation about the possibility of continuing to meet in the winter, about the future of the church, and for

folks to share what's on their hearts and minds. Are You interested? Please let M'ellen and /or Sue know. Possible dates Sun 9/7, 4-6ish, Sat., 9/13 midday, Sun. 9/21, 4 – 6ish. If You would like to participate, please let us know what date(s) would work for You.

It's been a very full summer. We have just a few weeks left. I love the Washington Church and am very grateful for our time together. There are still many activities to enjoy as the summer winds down, including tonight the sing-along and potluck; on Thursday, the lunch and art exhibit in Waitsfield followed by the hike; then next Monday, the book discussion; and of course worship services the next two Sundays. I hope You'll join us for the fun, community and worship. Further afield in Strafford, is the "Our Children, Climate, Faith" Symposium.

I also want to let You know that I will be out of town for Labor Day weekend so I'm sorry that I'll miss our final service. I'll be away in Detroit attending the Islamic Society of North America Convention, [like our UU General Assembly (GA) but way bigger]. Jimmy Carter is a keynote speaker, among others. As some of You know, I do work in the larger community on Islamophobia. With the endorsement of this Washington congregation, I founded the organization Peace and Unity Bridge ([www.peaceandunitybridge.org](http://www.peaceandunitybridge.org)). In June I offered a worship service on "What I love about Islam" along with my colleagues Jaye Star, a Muslims UU. Over 300 folks attended the program with standing room only. Jaye was articulate, gracious and beautiful. I felt privileged to have been there. I also collaborate with an organization called The Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign, ([S2S](http://S2S)), ("Standing with American Muslims, Upholding American Values"). [S2S](http://S2S) has organized a Seminars Interfaith Seminar (SIS) program for emerging religious leaders to provide them with experience and training in interfaith work. Specifically ten seminarians will be attending the convention and also meeting for discussion and training on interfaith work during the weekend. I will be attending and will have the honor of serving as a mentor for the ten seminarians in this endeavor. I'm honored and grateful to have this opportunity. So, I'm sorry to miss the service and wanted to let You know why. From the convention in Detroit, I'll be thinking of all of You in Washington.

I look forward to seeing You at this week's activities and hopefully again at our planning meeting in September

With Love,

Rev. M'ellen

# Sunday Morning Worship Services 10 AM

**August 24 “Becoming More Compassionate People: How Our Amygdalae Got Smaller!” with Members of the Universalist University Course Members including Rev. M’ellen Kennedy.** This past year, eleven of us have been meeting about monthly and working our way slowly through the book, “Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life”, by Karen Armstrong.” At each meeting we would discuss a chapter in the book. More importantly, with the intention of becoming more compassionate people in the course of our year together, we’d explore how we were learning to live the lessons from that chapter in our everyday lives. During this service, we’ll share some of what we learned in this collective endeavor. We had such a fun time that we want to do something similar next year. Accompanist to be announced. Please join us for a Post Potluck Small Group sharing on learning to live more compassionately.

**August 31 “A Homily on Uncertainty” with Dr. Seth H. Frisbie.** Our guest speaker will discuss the uncertainty in our daily lives, scientific discovery, historic records, and religious scripture. Accompanist Helen Wilson! This will be our final service for the season. No Small Group today. Happy Labor Day Weekend!

## **Vespers, Fall & Winter Planning Discussion Followed by a Potluck**

**Date & Time TBA** Led by Rev. M’ellen Kennedy. Childcare will be provided.

Given the momentum at the Church, with new members and friends, let’s keep the conversation going about how we can stay connected and active through the winter. Are You interested? If so, what would that look like for You? Last year we had a group that met monthly for potluck, book discussion and spiritual conversation. We need not limit our ideas to what we did last year. Please let M’ellen and/or Sue know if You’re interested and also if there is weekend date in September that would work for You. Possible dates Sun 9/7, 4-6ish, Sat., 9/13 midday, Sun. 9/21, 4 – 6ish?

## ***Sunday Post Potluck Small Group Discussions and Programs: From about noon until 1:30 at the church***

**Aug 24 “Learning to Live Compassionately” a Small Group offered by the Universalist University Course members including Rev. M’ellen**

**Aug 31 None** We typically don’t have a group on our last Sunday since it’s Labor Day and our closing worship for the season.

## **Report on New Member Sunday**

We’re delighted to welcome Dalice and Josh Costa as new members. They signed the book during the worship serve on Sunday, August 17. Along with their children, Casper, CJ and Jack, they feel very much at home here. We’re so pleased to have them with us.

If You’ve found a spiritual home at the Washington UU Church, You’re invited to join the congregation. Please speak with president, Sue Stukey or with Rev. M’ellen.

## ***Art Exhibit Outing This Thursday, August 21***

*You're invited to Waitsfield (about half an hour from Montpelier) for lunch at an area restaurant followed by a trip to the Waitsfield United Church to view the art exhibit "Holiness and the Feminine Spirit: The Art of Janet McKenzie." We'll meet for lunch at 11:30 (to beat the noon rush) at Sweet Pea Natural Food Café, 5031 Main St, Waitsfield. Menu at [sweetpea@gmavt.net](mailto:sweetpea@gmavt.net)). They have picnic tables outside, so feel free to bring a sandwich if You'd prefer not to purchase one there. Then we'll head to the church to view the exhibit at 1PM. You're invited to look at the short film about her work beforehand on her web site ([www.janetmckenzie.com](http://www.janetmckenzie.com)). Below is a description of the exhibit which is opening August 2 and showing for the month of August. So even if You can't join us on the 21<sup>st</sup>, perhaps You can catch the exhibit at some other time. And if You've got energy for more adventure, You're invited to join us for a short hike on the Long Trail not far from Waitsfield (see details below).*

***Holiness and the Feminine Spirit: The Art of Janet McKenzie*** - the Waitsfield United Church of Christ will exhibit the paintings of Vermont artist, Janet McKenzie, during the Vermont Festival of the Arts in August. This summer will be our second annual Art Exhibit in collaboration with The Festival of the Arts event in the valley. We are enormously privileged to be hosting Janet McKenzie and her beautiful paintings. Holiness and the Feminine Spirit is an exhibit of fifteen paintings modeled on two groups (women and people of color) that have been under-represented in traditional Christian imagery. Her painting Jesus of the People will be on view, offering a rare opportunity to see the original painting. Selected First Place Winner of the National Catholic Reporter's global competition for an image of Christ for the new millennium, the painting invariably generates conversation. Janet's paintings reflect her hope for greater love among all of us, for seeing with honest eyes, having an open heart, and an open mind. She strives to create art that celebrates our inherent similarities rather than our differences. What lies beyond skin and gender, within the depth of our universal soul is more alike than we'll ever know. Contact: 802-496-3065 (church), 802-723-4122 (artist)

**Location:** Waitsfield United Church of Christ, 4335 Main St. (Rte. 100), Waitsfield, VT

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM, Saturday, August 2, Artist's Talk

4:30 PM - 6:00 PM, Saturday, August 2, Opening Reception

12:00 PM - 5:00 PM, Thursdays - Monday, August 1-31, Exhibit open

## ***Hike This Thursday, August 21***

*You're invited to take a hike with Rev. M'ellen on the Long Trail. We'll meet at 2:30 PM at the Lincoln Gap parking area just off of Route 100 south of Waitsfield/Warren. We'll take a short, moderately difficult hike of 2.2 miles out and back, south from the parking area to Sunset Ledges. From there, weather permitting, we'll have a gorgeous view of Lake Champlain, the Adirondacks, and the Champlain valley. Hope You'll join us. And if You're up for more adventures that day, join us beforehand for lunch and an art show in Waitsfield (see detail above). ~Rev. M'ellen*

## SUMMER READING

We're hosting some book discussions this summer on titles that some of us have been reading and are eager to talk with others about including.

**Date To Be Announced, “Cold Mountain” by Charles Frazier Potluck at 5:30, Book discussion at 6:30.** *“Cold Mountain, is a 1997 historical novel which won the U.S. [National Book Award for Fiction](#). It tells the story of W. P. Inman, a wounded deserter from the [Confederate](#) army near the end of the [American Civil War](#) who walks for months to return to Ada Monroe, the love of his life; the story shares several similarities with Homer's [The Odyssey](#).”* The novel, interestingly enough, also has Universalist connections! Rev. M'ellen learned about the Universalist connections while she attended the Universalist Convocation in Cincinnati this Spring. In real life, there is a Universalist Inman Chapel in North Carolina where Frazier's ancestors were members. One of the main characters, Ada, is the daughter of a minister. If You read the text with a theological eye, You can tell that they are Universalist, although Frazier doesn't spell that out. There is a fascinating article in the Universalist Herald that delves into the Universalist heritage of this inspiring novel.

**Monday, August 25 “Salt Sugar Fat: How the Food Giants Hooked Us” by Michael Moss Healthy Potluck at 5:30, book discussion at 6:30.** Michael Moss was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for explanatory reporting in 2010, and was a finalist for the prize in 2006 and 1999. He is also the recipient of a Loeb Award and an Overseas Press Club citation. Some of us started reading this book last summer, but we didn't have a chance to discuss it.

**YOGA ANYONE?** There are 6 folks who would like to have a weekly yoga class in Washington. We're looking for a space to hold it and we may have already found a teacher. If You're interested in joining us contact Katharina Mack and let her know: 1) what day/time of the week would work for you? 2) how much would you be willing to pay? 3) what type of yoga, if any, would you prefer? 4) anything else you would like to share. [Katmack@gmail.com](mailto:Katmack@gmail.com)

## OUR CHILDREN, CLIMATE, FAITH – Strafford Symposium

This event, held in the Strafford Town House on Aug. 23 & 24, will be “an inclusive symposium on moral, ethical, spiritual, and religious consciousness addressing climate disruption, social justice, and the rightful future of all children.” The churches of Strafford are co-hosting the symposium. The keynote speakers will be Starhawk and Tim deChristopher. To find out more and to register, go to: <http://faithclimateconference.org>

If You're interested in volunteering , You can sign up at the web site.

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Help make our dear congregation function smoothly by volunteering. We need a few folks to arrive early on Sunday morning, greet folks, make coffee, etc... Please speak with M'ellen or sign up on the clip board at the back of the church.

Thanks to all those who have already pitched in to make Sunday mornings enjoyable and smooth flowing. Thanks especially to George who painted the ramp and to Seth who has brought and set up the equipment for our videos and Skyping.

### **Washington UU Church Staff & Board**

Minister: Rev. Dr. M'ellen Kennedy

President Pro-Tem: Sue Stucky

Clerk: Art Stucky

Treasurer: Robert Youngberg

Board Member-at-Large: George Plumb

Board Member-at-Large: Roberta Carrier

We welcome Robert Youngberg as our newest board member and appreciate his enthusiasm about serving as treasurer. Thanks to Art Stucky for his service as treasurer these years and his willingness to begin serving as clerk. Thanks to departing Board member, Steve Finner and his years of service. And deep appreciation for continuing board members Sue Stucky who has served as our president for many years, and to Roberta Carrier and George Plumb who are members-at-large. This congregation is fortunate to have such capable, dedicated lay leaders!