

Weekly Message August 4, 2015

from

The Washington Unitarian Universalist Church

Route 110, Washington, Vermont www.washingtonvtuu.org
Worship Service Sundays at 10 AM, followed by a potluck lunch.
All welcome. Childcare provided.

Adult Religious Exploration Group following the potluck on most Sundays
Films, Singalongs, Volunteer Opportunities, Adult Religious
Education, & Potlucks throughout the week.

**Theme for the Summer: Cultivating the Art of Optimism:
Responding Spiritually to Cultural Shifts and Climate Change**

*“ The biggest challenge we face is shifting human consciousness,
not saving the planet. The planet doesn’t need saving. We do”*
Xiuhtezcatl Martinez

Upcoming Worship Services at 10 AM

August 9 . “Security and Insecurity” with Rev. Deb Robinson It will include discussion of the effects of seeking security on ourselves and the world, and finding ways to live hopefully and lovingly in the midst of insecurity. Deb is a member of the Washington Unitarian Universalist Church and the Montpelier Unitarian Church. She is also an ordained Methodist minister. Wonderful that she will gift us with her spiritual insights this Sunday. With accompanist, Ron Cameron. We’ll have a small group discussion after the potluck on the theme of the service.

August 16, “Dancing Across Difference: We Refuse To Be Enemies!” with Rev. M’ellen Kennedy The demographics of the US are changing dramatically. We can respond in fear like the shooter in Charleston, SC. A myriad of other creative responses are arising in responses to our shifting demographics. We’ll hear real-life stories of collaboration, hope and spunk. Some of the examples will be drawn from the work on countering Islamophobia which Rev. M’ellen does throughout the denomination and larger community ~ under the gracious auspices of this congregation. Join us in allowing your heart and mind be stretched in Love. Accompanist With accompanist, Ron Cameron. We’ll have a small group discussion after the potluck on the theme of the service.

August 23 “A Scientist’s Beliefs” Seth Frisbie Our guest speaker, Seth, is a member of the Washington UU Church and also a professor of chemistry. He will share the evolution of his own theology in the face of significant life experiences. He has worked on drinking water and public health in Bangladesh and other developing countries for the last 18 years. His team has helped improve the health of over 60,000,000 Bangladeshis and is helping to prevent hundreds of thousands of cancer deaths around the world. He will discuss his spiritual beliefs. Please read more at <http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/289495.shtml> . Accompanist to be announced. We’ll have a small group discussion after the potluck on the theme of the service.

August 30 “How Can We All Get Along?: The Art of Community” with Rev. M’ellen Kennedy Across the globe, individuals are creating innovative answers to pressing problems: from food cooperatives to immigrant services to performance art. For any of these worthy endeavors to be successful, the participants need to learn how to get along! The art of living, walking and working well together is necessary for creating our new world harmony. In spiritual community we call this “covenanting.” How do we engage in the world from a place of artful community building? What have we learned this summer about the art of getting along? How much Love did we manage to fit into one summer? With accompanist to be announced.

2015 Poetry Hike

Wednesday, August 6, 10:30 AM

George Plumb will be hosting a “poetry hike” on his land in Washington on Wednesday, August 6th. The prime sponsor is the Green Mountain Club but the public is invited. Because it is also somewhat spiritual in nature people from George’s churches and the Buddhist Peace Fellowship are also invited.

This will be a moderately strenuous walk up a hill and along a plateau where we will stop, have lunch and enjoy the views. There are gorgeous views at different points which include all the way from Belvidere to Killington including Camel’s Hump and the Mt. Mansfield Range. Photos are attached or can be sent. It will take about an hour and a half to get to the lunch place as we will stop along the way to recite poetry, preferably a “memories” which is this year’s theme, but any nature poem will do. Please bring one or two but if uncomfortable doing that don’t worry. There will be plenty. Binoculars are good.

We will take a different route back down stopping at a point where someone’s ashes were spread just a few weeks ago. We will end up at the “sacred circle” where we will meditate for a few minutes and enjoy the view. If you feel you can only go part way that is fine, you are then welcome to just sit and enjoy the view. Part of the trail may be a little muddy so it is good to wear hiking boots but if you don’t have any then bring a change of sneakers in case the ones you do wear get wet. I have picked up ticks this year so precaution is in order and be sure to check yourself when you get home.

The land used to be a dairy farm and remnants of the old barn can still be seen. George has researched and written a detailed history of the place if anyone would like to see it. Interestingly a couple of times it was owned by General Stephen Thomas of civil war fame, a painting of him is in the Cedar Creek Room of the State House, but there is no documentation that he actually lived there.

Meet at George’s house in Washington at 10:30. Please let him know if you will be participating by emailing him at plumb.george@gmail.com or calling 883-2313. In case of bad weather it will be held on Thursday.

Directions to Plumb's: Take route 302 from Barre to E. Barre. At E. Barre, just past Roland's quick stop, turn south down route 110. Arriving in the village of Washington take the first left just past the post office on the W. Corinth Rd. Bear right ¼ mile in staying on the W. Corinth Rd. Take the third left which will be part way up the hill and about 2/3 mile from the village. This is coincidentally (we had nothing to do with it) named "Plumb Rd." It is on the corner opposite the fenced in village water storage tank. The Plumb house is at the end of the road, 1/3 mile, and is just past a large solar panel. Park in the driveway. **Please arrive by 10:30.**

Superior Tag Sale , Swim, Potluck & Meteor Shower Viewing! Tuesday August 11 Fun Starts at 5:30 PM

at the summer residence of Dania Leslie,
288 Cityside Drive Unit 65 upstairs (Murray Hill), Montpelier, VT

Dania is clearing out the contents of her mother's condo and all proceeds from the sale will go to the Washington UU Church. Come and support the church and have some fun.

5:30 Tag Sale

6:30 Swim

7:30 Potluck. Beverages will be supplied.

9:00 Meteor Shower Viewing. Bring a blanket or a chair if You'd like. Because we're close to the New Moon, the viewing should be especially good.

Come for any or all of the festivities Any questions? Call Dania at 802-917-1242.

Thanks to Our Musicians!!

We have been gifted this summer by the presence of a number of talented musicians. Thanks to our regular Helen Wilson, from Vershire. Helen has played for us some this summer and is taking a break to let her tendonitis rest. Thank You, Helen, for your dedicated service to us over these years. We'll miss You and Betty this summer.

Other guest musicians have been Joan Stepenske and Lindsay Wade. Ron Cameron will be playing the next two weeks. What talent they have brought us! Thanks to each of You! We're still looking for an accompanist for our final two Sundays. If You' know of someone speak with Sue Stukey or Rev. M'ellen

Rise Up Singing! Potluck and Sing-Along Mondays, August 17

Gather starting at 5:30, Potluck at 6, Sing-Along starting at 7.

Come lift your voice in song! We will gather together to sing songs from the "Rise Up Singing" songbook. Each person will have a chance to choose a song or two, and the group will share the songs together. Bring your "Rise Up Singing" songbook if you have one, or there will be some extras to share. Erica Mitchell and friends will lead the singing.

YARD SALE on CHURCH LAWN SATURDAY AUGUST 22

The Church doors will be open on Saturday, August 22 for visitors to tour the building and learn more about our wonderful little church. The occasion is that a local person (not a church member) named Ragan, will be using the church lawn for a yard sale. We 're piggy backing on this event. If You 'd like to participate, please speak with Sue Stukey or Rev. M'ellen. We 'd like a few

volunteers to greet visitors, hand out brochures of the church, perhaps bring some baked goods to sell, or whatever other ideas we can come up with to take advantage of this opportunity of having local folks in our building. We'll have a brief organizational meeting on Sunday August 16 after the worship service for anyone who wants to help plan the church presence at this event.

From our nearby neighbors:

3rd Annual “Our Children, Climate, Faith” Symposium

Making and Being the Change We Need

***Faith-driven climate leadership from the boats,
the banks, and the grassroots***

**Saturday & Sunday, August 8 & 9, 2015,
at the Town House, Strafford, Vermont**

Hosted by the Strafford UU Church and others. Jay O'Hara, who used a lobster boat to blockade coal shipments, is one of four Keynote speakers. Get the details and register here: www.FaithClimateConference.org Walk-in registrations are also accepted.

Bravo Brujo!

The showing of the film “Brujo” at the Church last weekend was a hit! Thanks, to Glenn and Kat Mack for offering to show it. And to Seth Frisbie for setting up the equipment. More than 40 folks turned out to enjoy this locally made, beautiful film and the reception afterwards. What a great evening. You can find photos on Glenn's Face book news feed at <https://www.facebook.com/glenn.mack.75?fref=ts> More Brujo screenings in Central Vermont will follow. Check www.brujothemovie.com for dates and locations.

It would be wonderful to have more such events at the church. Let's brainstorm and see what we can come up with.

OPPORTUNITIES TO PITCH IN

You can help make our dear Washington congregation function smoothly by pitching in. We need a few folks to arrive early on Sunday morning, greet folks, make coffee, etc... Please speak with Rev. M'ellen or Sue Stukeley or sign up on the clip board at the back of the church. Thanks to all those who have already volunteered to get the church ready for the summer and to help out on Sunday mornings and for other activities.

Calef Memorial Library Summer Food and Fun

FROM APRIL JOLLEY, CALEFLIBRARY@GMAIL.COM, Director, Calef Memorial Library, Washington

Come join us for free meals (meals available for purchase for adults). All children 18 and younger are eligible. June 29th-August 13th 12:00-12:30pm. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. Lunch every day, Activities on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 12:30-1:30. Calef Memorial Library, Main Street, Washington, Vermont

Volunteer Drivers Needed

LYNN CRAIG, LCRAIG1974@GMAIL.COM, Assistant Town Clerk/Assistant Treasurer, Orange Volunteer with Meals on Wheels: Miles of Smiles!

There is an immediate need for volunteer drivers to deliver Meals on Wheels to seniors in the area. If you are available to lend a hand to your neighbors once a week or once a month, your help and support is invaluable.

As a Meals on Wheels driver with RSVP, you make a real difference in the lives of local seniors by helping to improve their nutrition, maintain social connection, and supporting their overall well-being while enabling seniors to remain living independently.

For more information on how to volunteer, please contact Kate Reilly-Fitzpatrick, RSVP Coordinator at the Central Vermont Council on Aging, at 802-479-1953 or kreilly-fitzpatrick@cvcoa.org.

*“There is need for awareness
that the mountains and rivers and all living things,
the sky and its sun and moon and clouds
all constitute a healing, sustaining sacred presence
for humans which they need
as much for their psychic integrity
as for their physical nourishment.
This presence, whether experienced
as Allah, as Atman, as Sunyata, or as the Buddha-nature
or as Bodhisattva; whether as Tao or as the One
or as the Divine Feminine,
is the atmosphere in which humans breathe deepest
and without which they eventually suffocate.”*

.Thomas Berry

Washington UU Church Staff & Board

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Clerk: Art Stukey

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