

Weekly Message July 24, 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

July 26 "A Living Religion" with Rev. Joan Javier Duval More and more people in the United States identify as “spiritual but not religious.” What would it mean for Unitarian Universalists to embrace both of these characteristics of our faith? Can ours be a church of the spiritual AND religious? The Rev. Joan Javier-Duval is a Unitarian Universalist minister living in Montpelier, VT. Joan recently served the Unitarian Society of Germantown in Philadelphia, PA as a Consulting Minister where she focused on social justice ministry, adult spiritual development, and young adult ministry. She is a graduate of the Yale Divinity School. Before entering the ministry, Joan worked for several years as a community and political organizer and leadership development trainer. In the past year, Joan has embraced the life of part-time itinerant preacher and full-time mother of a curious and active toddler. Joan was recently called to serve as the next

settled minister of the Unitarian Church of Montpelier where she will begin in August. With accompanist, Lindsay Wade and worship associate, Sue Stukey.

August 2 “Living Nature, Breathing Peace” with Rev. M’ellen Kennedy We humans are an integral part of the natural world. Our disconnect from this fundamental truth is a cause of great suffering in more ways than we perhaps understand. Let’s explore and reconnect with the livingness of Nature and with our own hearts. Accompanist to be announced. We’ll have a small group discussion after the potluck on the theme of the service.

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.

Summer Films

“Brujo” Saturday, August 1, 2015 Gather starting at 6:30, Film starts at 7, Refreshments to follow. This film, presented by Glenn and Katharina Mack, Washington residents, is a dramatic feature film that revolves around the activity at a modern dance workshop in beautiful rural Vermont. The story traces the arc of jealousy to its disastrous result and, at the same time, chronicles the creative intensity of artists coming together to collaborate on a project. Both of these dual narratives provide context for each other. *Brujeria* is the Spanish word for witchcraft. Both men and women can be witches, brujos and brujas, respectively. Donations are welcome and will go in part to the church.

Rise Up Singing! Potluck and Sing-Alongs

Mondays, July 27, and 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.

CLEAN UP MONDAY, JULY 27 5 to 6 PM & OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO PITCH IN

It's midsummer and a good time to do a bit of tidying up of the church and grounds. If You'd like to help, please come early on Monday , July 27 from 5 to 6. The Potluck and Sing-Along will start at 6. Let's get the place looking shipshape especially for all of the guests we'll have at the Film Showing on Saturday, August 1.

In addition, we need a few folks to arrive early on Sunday morning, greet folks, make coffee, etc... Please speak with Rev. M'ellen or Sue Stukey 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.

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.

Washington UU Church Staff & Board

Thanks to our newly elected Board Members (at the July 12th Annual Meeting).

President: Sue Stukey, Clerk: Art Stukey, Treasurer: Robert Youngberg

Board Member-at-Large: George Plumb, Roberta Carrier

Minister: Rev. Dr. M'ellen Kennedy

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 everyday, 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.