

Chalice in the Mountains

The Universalist Unitarian Congregation of St. Johnsbury, Vermont



June 2022

Services Each Sunday at 10:30 am via Zoom

June 5

Deepening the Potential of Love

The Rev. Susan-Lynn Johns, Minister

12:00 Noon



There are too many varieties and definitions of love to pinpoint exactly what it is, how it operates, and what makes us successful at it. But one thing I do know is that there's not enough of it in our lives and in our country today. This Sunday I'll be taking a look at love through the metaphorical eyes of our Universalist heritage, Greek philosophy, and the Beatitudes.

Susan-Lynn will be preaching live via Zoom at Emerson Unitarian Universalist church in Houston, Texas this morning. **Please join by clicking on the Sunday Service link in this week's eblast.** This will be livestreamed, so you won't be seen and there will be no interaction like we have in our Zoomed services. You should be able to get in from 11:50 on.

There is an interactive social hour following the service which will provide a chance to meet some Texas UUs. Just click on the Social Time link in the eblast for this week.

June 12

Be The Flaming Chalice

David Harrison, Guest Speaker

To many UUs, the flaming chalice is a representation of hope, the warmth of community, and the search for truth, among many other ideas. It's one thing to say that the flaming chalice represents these things, but what if we were to become the flaming chalice ourselves and put into practice everything we say it represents? Join David Harrison as he talks about manifesting the meanings of the chalice.

David Harrison is a former board member of First Universalist Parish of Derby Line who now resides in Florence, Texas, near Austin. He started a UU Fellowship in the Killeen, Harker Heights, Fort Hood area and acted as interim minister for a year before moving to the Austin area. A writer, singer, musician, artist, and speaker, he is an alumnus of the Community College of Vermont, the former Johnson State College, and Burlington College. He's a chicken farmer, operates the local farmers market, and owns a delivery service. He is now an active online member of our congregation and has just been elected to the Board of Trustees.

June 19

Beyond Thoughts and Prayers

The Rev. Graci Kenyon-Rudolph



The daily news brings us the stories of lives lost; lives changed forever, similar characteristics of the perpetrators of such devastation, and the same ineffective and overused responses from elected politicians and for-profit enterprises that benefit financially from the carnage. Though the locations may be different each time—schools, grocery stores, theaters, places of worship, concerts, etc.—the circumstances have similar features, and tragic outcomes. Always the response from those who are representing voters on a federal level is simply “Thoughts and Prayers.”

Certainly, there have been enough of these events that demonstrate that what's being done in the US, isn't stopping what's happening. When compared to other countries with regard to shooting sprees and multiple deaths and injuries in each event, the United States is in a category of its own for such frequent violence.

So what are we to do if things are to change? How can this be stopped? What can one person do that will matter?

Our service together will explore where we are, what might be done, and touch on how we each can make a difference toward a better and more just world.

Rev. Graci Kenyon-Rudolph is Minister for The House of Grace, in Boi-setown, New Brunswick, Canada, which serves as a non-denominational community and ministry through the arts in the local and larger community. She and her husband, Dr. Frank Rudolph, have an organic farm in Holland Vermont, and three rescued Mexican street dogs who keep them laughing, on their toes, and well loved.

June 26

Annual Flower Communion

The Rev. Susan-Lynn Johns, Minister

As no two flowers are alike, so no two people are alike, yet each has a contribution to make. Thus, this service is a statement of our community. We are joining with First Universalist Parish of Derby Line for our Flower Communion this year. In preparation, please send a picture of yourself with a flower to Lorie at stjuuc@gmail.com. Lorie will be creating a slideshow of flower pictures for the service. Please send your pictures to her by Wednesday, June 22nd. Your flower can be a real flower or from a piece of artwork; as long as you are also in the photo. You're also welcomed to draw or paint your flowers!

Proposal with First Universalist Parish of Derby Line

Our collaboration with First Universalist Parish is moving forward!

Thanks to many team conversations, listening to questions and concerns from members and friends of both FUP and UUCStJ, and some creative initial planning, there has been a strong positive vote from both congregations to move ahead on this new collaborative vision. For this, we reside in hope, faith, and trust that the remaining details will be worked out over the next few weeks and into early summer. Our goal is to start this collaboration by the end of summer. As you may know, we will endeavor to be in a hybrid or multiplatform Sunday structure, although any in-person services will remain an option only as time and COVID dictate.

We hope to create opportunities where both congregations can plan some fun times to get together, come to know one another, and strengthen this collaboration in response to the needs of each congregation. We will not be driving back and forth to Derby Line although folks from either congregation will always be welcome to join a service in either place.

The team would love to continue to hear your questions and your ideas for how to make this really work well. We will keep you posted as the plan becomes more complete. Advantages for both congregations include the potential for a vibrant Religious Education (SEA) program for kids, a much welcomed pastoral presence for FUP, an opportunity for both congregations to attend 23 shared services, and a healthier fiscal arrangement that continues to support a 3/4 timeshared ministerial position for Susan-Lynn.

This exciting collaboration will be regularly assessed for its viability for one trial year. We hope that our collective support and participation will see this collaboration into the future. This is an enormous opportunity and we hope that those who are still questioning what this means for us will hang in, remain open and curious about possibilities, and participate in working through all the bumps that may be in the road.

This is the true work of a healthy, vibrant and committed community. May it be so.

From the team,

Libby Hillhouse, Judith Hutchinson, Charlie Emerson, Susan-Lynn Johns

Announcing the New UUCStJ Board of Trustees

Co-Moderator: Judith Hutchinson

Co-Moderator: Bill Coleman

Treasurer: Charlie Emerson

Clerk: Jeffrey Perry

Trustee, term ending 2023: Jane Brickett

Trustee, term ending 2024: David Harrison

Trustee, term ending 2025: Sarah Bengston

Endowment Trustees

Endowment Trustee, term ending 2023: Michelle Rutman

Endowment Trustee, term ending 2024: Bill Coleman

Endowment Trustee, term ending 2025: Ed Zuk



Happy Birthday

1st ~ Dana Karuza-Tulp

8th ~ Suzy Burns

9th ~ Cynthia Steil

12th ~ Sandy Bergquist

15th ~ David Harrison

17th ~ Judith Hutchinson

25th ~ Ronan Perry

26th ~ David Partington

26th ~ Graci Rudolph

Cerebrations ~ Ministerial Meanderings for June

Happy Pride Month, when the world's LGBTQ+ communities come together to celebrate the freedom to be ourselves. Pride Month is a time for giving thanks for the rights we have achieved over the years. However, some states have chosen to actively target transgender youth through discriminatory bills that defy our nation's values of inclusivity and freedom for all. The rights of many people who are perceived as being "outside of the norm" are being threatened all over the world.

Our congregation has been certified as a Welcoming Congregation by the Unitarian Universalist Association. As such we welcome and affirm all people, regardless of their sexual or gender orientation.

On a tragic note, the surge in gun violence is frightening. As of this Wednesday, there have already been 200 mass shootings in the US this year—20 since the horrific killing of 3rd and 4th graders in Uvalde, Texas. With over 400 million guns in civilian hands in this country, finding an effective way to curb the violence will be a herculean task, but how much longer can we accept living with mass violence in places that have been traditionally safe—schools, houses of worship, grocery stores, movie theatres—and how many more children must die before our leaders decide to put their constituents before their ambition. The Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, President of the UUA urges us—we the people—to use "everything within our toolboxes to demand action, from electing leaders who will act to running for office ourselves, in order to make our communities free of violence and hate. We must invest in equity and human thriving instead. We all deserve to live in our communities without fear." One way we can be of help in this effort as individuals and/or as a congregation is to work with "UU the Vote" to help elect responsive leaders who share our values to public office.

On a personal note, I want to share with you a wonderful thing that happened to me earlier this spring. The Monday after Easter, Melanie and I headed to South Carolina to meet my two sisters and several cousins. As an adopted child whose birth records were sealed, I will be forever grateful to *Ancestry.com* and *23andMe* for making it possible for me to finally find my family on my mother's side—or for them to find me! The most amazing thing about all of this for me has been to finally meet people I look like. The photo at the left is of me



with my two sisters, Regina and Janet. The photo on the right is of Melanie and me at the Unitarian Church of Charleston. This is where I first joined the UU church back the late 1990s. Lots of nostalgia going on!

Also amazing was the fact that I was able to drive us there and back (@2,600 miles) with no incidents! I'm hoping to return soon in order to meet some of my father's family who live in Savannah.



Community Inreach Ministry

We, the Caring Committee are here for you to offer support through those times that you may need a helping hand or just someone to listen. We are only a phone call or email away. Rest assured that any information shared with the Caring Committee will remain confidential.

Here are the names and information for the members of the committee:

Marguerite Bruno (802-892-1256) mbruno2@mac.com

Jane Brickett (603-788-2220) silofarm@gmail.com

Melanie Pudvah (802-424-1380) m_lindberg49@hotmail.com

Brendan Hadash (802-748-8074) bhadash@sover.net

Susan-Lynn Johns (cell: 802-473-8110) uustj.revsusanlynn@gmail.com



Rent The Universalist Unitarian Meeting House in St. Johnsbury For Your Special Event



The Universalist Unitarian Congregation of St. Johnsbury offers a beautiful setting for your Wedding, Memorial Service, Community Gathering, Celebration, Meeting.

ALL ARE WELCOME!!

Choose from any or all of these available ADA-accessible spaces:



Upstairs (2nd floor, accessible outside entrance):
Sanctuary, kitchenette, meeting room and bathroom.
Capacity 145 people. Moveable pews. Space for tables or dancing.

Downstairs (1st floor):
2 Meeting Rooms, full kitchen, and bathroom.
Capacity 61 people. Moveable tables and chairs.



Sanctuary Winter View



Sanctuary Summer View

Convenient Parking

All faiths are welcome. A UU minister may be available for services or you may hire your own officiant.

To reserve: Contact stjuuc@gmail.com or 802-748-2442.
Include date(s), your contact information, which space(s) you are interested in, and approximate number of attendees expected.

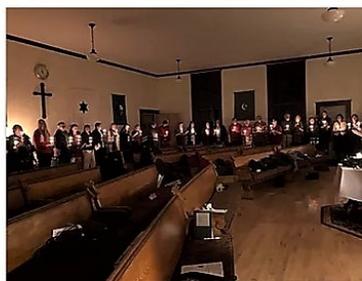
All gatherings are required to comply with current Vermont Covid regulations and guidelines.



2nd Floor Meeting Room



2nd Floor Kitchenette



Candle Light Sanctuary Service



1st Floor Kitchen



1st Floor Meeting Rooms

