

THE ORACLE

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF MEADVILLE
346 Chestnut Street Meadville, PA 16335
(814)-724-4023
WWW.uumeadville.org

AUGUST 2021

The Six Sources of Unitarian Universalism

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

Join us for our weekly online worship service, religious education and social hour Sundays at 10:30 am.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Our **COVENANT** is to be a loving, joyful community that nurtures spiritual growth, promotes compassion, social responsibility, and service in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

Our **MISSION** is to be a faith community devoted to love and respect, reason and justice.



— THE MONTH OF —
AUGUST

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MINISTER'S MUSINGS AMONG THE MOUNTAINS

So we start again with mutual care



Hello beloveds of UUCM,

So we start again after nearly 18 months of anxiety, rapid changes, and adapting to new conditions not experienced in our lifetimes.

Now we start to be person with person in community...Carefully. Here are some thoughts about this coming year as we come back together.

Picnic:

The annual picnic this year will be on August 15 from 11 to 2 at Stainbrook Park here in Meadville. We usually go to Bicentennial Park but it was already reserved. Jodi will have more information in the B&B but we will bring our own food and beverages. The new strain of covid is complicating the national recovery and likely here as well. Anyone who feels they need to wear a mask should do so.

Here's an ice breaker for those who are interested: wear a visible piece of clothing that is your favorite color. We can try to guess what it is. We'd enjoy hearing why (and if) you have a favorite clothing color as we prepare to eat together.

Homecoming/Ingathering Service September 12

Normally, the Ingathering service would include bringing water from travels or your own home. We would then use the water for various rituals.

This year is special. The last time we did a Sunday service together in the sanctuary was March 1, 2020. Instead of water, I'd like to invite everyone to bring non-perishable food items for the food pantry like we did for Christmas last year. Bring a can or fill a bag...anything you can bring is good. I'd also invite us to bring a pebble up to about the size of a quarter as well. Those pebbles will be used for a special project to be revealed later.

I had hoped to do a catered lunch for everyone on September 12 but it looks like covid will delay that until later in the year. People are still nervous about potluck items to be shared. I do have a backup plan for after the Sunday service coffee hour so stay tuned. Please plan to stay and catch up with friends you've not seen for a long time

New Weekly Meditation Group in September

I'd like to begin a weekly meditation group at 7 pm likely on Wednesday evenings. This will be an in-person group for now. No meditation experience necessary and I can do basic instructions. There won't be any uncomfortable positions and we'll share tea afterward. I'd like to aim for September 15 in the dining room. You're also welcome to bring anyone else you want. Children are welcome if you can let me know in advance.

Children's Religious Education

We haven't had in person church so there was no children's Religious Education program since March 2020. Director of RE, Kristina Brink, has moved on to other educational and work projects in her life. Several parents have asked about RE status. We don't have a committee right now and I'm thinking we should create a longer range plan to renew RE. It could include an "Our Whole Lives" (OWL) program for sexuality education. This has often been co-taught by the UCC churches who worked with the UUA to create the program.

For right now, my suggestion is that we do what many of our congregations are doing: keeping children and adults together in the service. Children would have play-bags of items to keep their attention. We are still working on this and your suggestions are most welcome.

That's it for now. Debra in Oregon and I wish you all a pleasant summertime. I look forward to seeing your smiling faces soon.

Bows and blessings for us all,

Alex



WORSHIP MATTERS – AUGUST 2021

As a reminder, there will be no services in August and on September 5th. We will have a homecoming service on September 12th.



CHURCH PICNIC SUNDAY, AUGUST 15TH

2019 Picnic will be held Sunday August 25 at Stainbrook Park Shelter 2, located at 21762 German Road Meadville PA. We are asking that everyone brings their own food and beverages. Set-up will begin at 11:00am. This is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect!

FRENCH CREEK CLEAN-UP 2021

Saturday, September 11th

We will organize another team for this year's clean-up. We have not been assigned a site yet, and the meeting time has not been determined. Please call or email Jodi to sign up. The drop off and after party will be held at the Voodoo Brewery Production Facility from 12:00-3:00pm. If you are unable to be involved in the event, please consider donating. The French Creek Valley Conservancy is August's Share-the-Plate recipient. Checks can be made payable to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Meadville with French Creek Conservancy in the memo.



FAITH IN ACTION

SOUP KITCHEN

Every second Friday each month a group of UU volunteers serve meals at the Meadville Area Soup kitchen as a way to help alleviate some of the symptoms of poverty in our region. You are welcome to volunteer. Our congregation's contact is Marty Thaeler, mthaeler@zoominternet.net 814-807-1480



BIG BROTHERS AND BIG SISTERS (affiliated with Family Services of NW PA)

Is looking for mentors to help with their program. For more information, contact the office or check out the poster in the Parish House. For more information visit <http://www.fsnwpa.org/our-services/parent-education/big-brothers-big-sisters-program/>

WHY WE SHARE: AUGUST'S SHARE-THE-PLATE

RECIPIENT: FRENCH CREEK VALLEY

CONSERVANCY

The French Creek Valley Conservancy is a private 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization dedicated to maintaining and enhancing the exceptional water quality, natural habitat, biological diversity and recreational opportunities of the French Creek Watershed in Northwest Pennsylvania.

Thank you for all who donated in July. The recipient was the UUPLAN. We donated \$65.00.

AUGUST SAVE THE DATE



BOARD MEETING

Wednesday 4th at 6:00 pm

SOUP KITCHEN

Friday 13th at 10:00 am

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday August 15th at 11:00am

ORACLE SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE

Monday 24th by 9:00 am

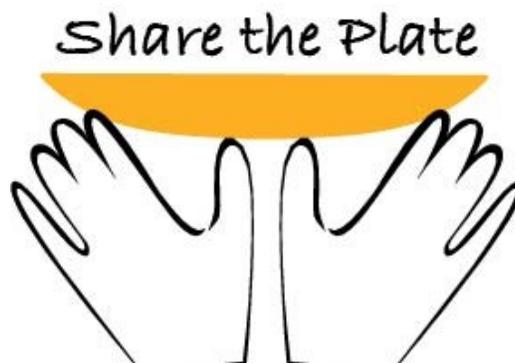
COMING UP:

FRENCH CREEK CLEAN-UP

Saturday September 11th

HOMECOMING SERVICE

Sunday September 12th 10:30am



RESOURCES

UU-seful Web Links
UU Church of Meadville:
www.uumeadville.org

Oracle: www.uumeadville.org/Oracles

UUA: www.uua.org

UU Service Committee: www.uusc.org

Ohio-Meadville District:
www.ohiomeadville.org

RIDES TO SERVICE

If you need a ride to any event or to Sunday's worship service, please call the church office by 9:00 am on Fridays and leave a message (814-724-4023)

Amazon Associates Shop

Remember that our church is a member of the Support us when you shop at amazon. smile.amazon.com/ch/25-1322866 and Amazon donates.



2021 Church Officers

President: Rick Holmgren
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Church Staff

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Monday-Friday: 8:00 AM – 2PM