

# THE ORACLE

DECEMBER 2025

Unitarian Universalists embrace six shared values:

- **Interdependence:** We honor the interdependent web of all existence and acknowledge our place in it.
- **Pluralism:** We are all sacred beings, diverse in culture, experience, and theology.
- **Justice:** We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all feel welcome and can thrive.
- **Transformation:** We adapt to the changing world.
- **Generosity:** We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope.
- **Equity:** We declare that every person is inherently worthy and has the right to flourish with dignity, love, and compassion.



In This Issue.....

Worship Matters- 2

Christmas Eve Reception- 2

Holiday Cheer Sing Along—3

Hanging of the Greens- 3

Angel Tree- 3

Wreaths and Poinsettias- 4

Pagan Group- 4

Soup on Saturday—5

Faith in Action- 6

Share the Plate- 6

Save the Date – 6

Resources-7

## **WORSHIP MATTERS – SUNDAY SERVICES 10:30AM**

### **December 7, 2025**

"Give and Take"- Rev. Jane Ellen Nickell

December ushers in a season full of holidays when many of us will both give and receive gifts. This service looks at the challenge of giving in a culture that encourages taking, the joy of discovering how much you have to give, and the grace in receiving gifts from others.

### **December 14, 2025**

“ "Intelligent Tinkering" and The Land Ethic"- Annie Maloney

In this season of reflection and good will, we discuss the complex relationship between people and forests, and Aldo Leopold's Land Ethic as a form of giving and receiving that supports a healthy future for our region's forests, and for us.

### **December 21, 2025**

"Reflections on Light “-Joyce Milberg

December 21st will be the last night of Hannukah, eight lights brightening the night. Can you guess how many cultures and religions of the world celebrate light at this time of year?

### **December 24, 2025 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE AND RECEPTION 5:00PM**

"Peace on Earth"- Rev. Jane Ellen Nickell

Throughout the centuries, even in times of conflict, the holiday season has served as a beacon of hope, joy, and peace. Through readings and music, our candlelight service will affirm the promise of peace that is embodied in the stories and songs of this season.

If you have a favorite Christmas poem or reading, we may still be able to include it in our Christmas Eve service. Please send it to Jane Ellen at [minister@uumeadville.org](mailto:minister@uumeadville.org) before December 10th.

### **CHRISTMAS EVE RECEPTION**

In keeping with long-standing tradition, the church will offer a reception after the Christmas Eve service. Everyone is invited to contribute cookies or other goodies to share at the reception. Please contact Deb Lehman with questions.

### **December 28, 2025**

There will not be a service this Sunday.

## HOLIDAY CHEER SING ALONG SATURDAY DECEMBER 6TH

Holiday Cheer Sing Along with Sandy Ball and Sharon Kaplan at the piano. Join the fun with the 1825 Meadville Committee 1:30-3:00pm on Saturday, December 6 for our final event of the year. Song lyrics provided and a special reading of "The Night Before Christmas" will certainly bring the cheer to the season. All are invited to stay for chili—regular and vegetarian available—for Soup on Saturday. Let's mingle and sing!



## HANGING OF THE GREENS SATURDAY DECEMBER 13TH

Annual event to set up the Christmas Tree and decorate the Sanctuary will take place on Saturday December 13 at 1:00 pm, led by Dave and Jane Anderson. Everyone is welcome to take part in this fun event. Please contact Jane Anderson if you have questions.

## ANGEL TREE

Once again members of UUCM will participate in the season of Gratitude and Giving by purchasing gifts for the residents of Liberty House Transitional Housing. The "Wish Tags" this year are located on the Christmas Tree in the Parlor, available for adoption. Please bring your wrapped donations with the wish tag to the Parish House by December 17th. Questions? Contact Deb Lehman





## OPPORTUNITY TO ORDER CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS AND WREATHS

The church will again offer the opportunity to honor or memorialize a loved one at the Christmas Eve Service. A special insert will be prepared and included in the order of service. Deadline for purchasing a poinsettia is Sunday December 14th, 2025. Poinsettias (6" pots) will be available to take home after the service on December 24th. Cost for a Poinsettia is \$15.00. We have ordered a dozen of them.

Two wreaths will decorate the sanctuary doors but are not available to take home. You may dedicate one of these for a donation of \$50.00. There will also be seven window wreaths. You may dedicate one of these for a donation of \$25.00.

Order forms are located in the Parish House. You can also contact Jodi to order. [church@uumeadville.org](mailto:church@uumeadville.org); 814-724-4023.



## PAGAN GROUP

A new group has formed to explore a variety of Earth Centered beliefs and practices. They plan to focus on energy work, including Qigong, meditation, personal connection to the elements of earth, air, fire and water, and celebrating the Sabbats. The group meets Friday evenings at 7:00pm in the Parish House, approximately every other week.

The next meeting is on Friday December 5th at 7:00pm for a Full Moon ritual and planning for the Solstice Celebration on December 19th. Anyone interested in participating is invited and welcome to join the group.

## SOUP ON SATURDAY



Below is our tentative menu for December. Each week will also have a vegetarian option.

Date	
December 6	Chili
December 13	TBA
December 20	Turkey and Dumpling Soup
December 27	Spaghetti and Meatballs



## 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.



### **WHY WE SHARE: DECEMBER'S SHARE-THE-PLATE RECIPIENT: ST. JAMES HAVEN**

St. James Haven is a twelve bed, temporary, over-night shelter for homeless men located at 779 North Main St. in Meadville, PA. The Haven provides homeless men with a comfortable bed and clean, dry shelter on a first come-first served basis. A simple evening meal is served. The facility is staffed by a resident manager and is open 365 days/year from 6pm to 8am.



Thank you for all who donated in November. The recipient was Center for Family Services. We donated \$227.50.

## DECEMBER SAVE THE DATE

### **CHOIR PRACTICE**

Sundays 9:00-10:00 am

### **MEDITATION GROUP**

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:00 am  
Fridays 12:00 pm

### **SOUP ON SATURDAYS**

Saturdays 3:00-5:00 pm

### **PAGAN GROUP**

Friday 5th at 7:00 pm

### **HOLIDAY CHEER SING ALONG**

Saturday 6th at 1:30 pm

### **WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING**

Tuesday 9th at 11:00 am

### **SOUP KITCHEN**

Friday 12th at 10:00 am

### **HANGING OF THE GREENS**

Saturday 13TH at 1:00pm

### **SOLSTICE CELEBRATION**

Friday 19th at 7:00 pm

### **CHRISTMAS EVE RECEPTION**

Wednesday 24th Following the Service

### **ORACLE SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE**

Monday 29th by 9:00 am



## RESOURCES

UU- Useful Web Links

UU Church of Meadville:

[www.uumeadville.org](http://www.uumeadville.org)

Oracle: [www.uumeadville.org/Oracles](http://www.uumeadville.org/Oracles)

UUA: [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org)

UU Service Committee: [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.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 Wednesday and leave a message (814-724-4023).



## 2025 Church Officers

President: Rick Holmgren

Vice-President and Liaison to Events  
Committee: Deb Lehman

Treasurer and RE Liaison :  
Jane Anderson

Worship and Bicentennial Teams :  
Josh Searle-White

Liaison to the Caring Committee and  
the Soup on Saturday Team :  
Todd Fox

Board Member:  
Melissa Mansfield

Church Staff

Community Care Minister:  
Rev. Jane Ellen Nickell

Music Director: Aimee Reash

Office Administrator: Jodi Sipos  
([church@uumeadville.org](mailto:church@uumeadville.org) or  
(814)724-4023)  
*Monday-Friday: 7:30 AM – 1:30PM*