

# UCN JUNE 2022 NEWSLETTER



## Minister's Musings by Rev. Julie Lombard

June brings us a new worship theme: **Compassion**. It is a sympathetic consciousness of others' distress together with a desire to alleviate it. Jesus comes to mind when we think of this definition, yet we know that compassion is human condition and no religion tradition has a corner market on this idea. The Dalai Lama said, *"Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them, humanity cannot survive."*

Arthur Schopenhauer said, *"Compassion is the basis of morality."* Schopenhauer was a 19<sup>th</sup> century philosopher to contend that the universe is not a rational place. A contemporary of Lord Byron, he was inspired by Plato and Kant, whom regarded the world as being more amenable to reason. Schopenhauer developed their viewpoints into an instinct-recognizing and ultimately ascetic stance, emphasizing that in the face of a world filled with strife, we ought to minimize our natural desires for the sake of achieving a more tranquil frame of mind and a disposition towards universal beneficence.

Compassion has become a buzz word today. With over use, the word seems to have lost its power. We will use it to introduce some old and new ideas. Pentecost and Trinity Sundays are as familiar as the hills here while Juneteenth and the Flower Communion are newer ways to explore compassion within our community.

You may know plenty about Pentecost or Trinity Sundays, but did you know that Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States? From its Galveston, TX origin in 1865, the observance of it as the African American Emancipation Day has spread across America. Today it commemorates for POC freedom and emphasizes education and achievement. The Flower Communion is an annual UU ritual that celebrates beauty, uniqueness, diversity, and community. Created in 1923 by Unitarian minister Norbert Capek of Prague, Czechoslovakia, the Flower Ceremony was introduced to America by Rev. Maya Capek, his widow. In this celebration, everyone brings a flower and places a flower on the altar. The congregation and minister bless the flowers, and they're redistributed. Everyone brings home a different flower than the one they brought.

Whether you agree with Hawn or Einstein, compassion is a concept we'll explore all month long. Goldie Hawn said, *"The lotus is the most beautiful flower, whose petals open one by one. But it will only grow in the mud. In order to grow and gain wisdom, first you must have the mud --- the obstacles of life and its suffering. ... The mud speaks of the common ground that humans share, no matter what our stations in life. ... Whether we have it all or we have nothing, we are all faced with the same obstacles: sadness, loss, illness, dying and death. If we are to strive as human beings to gain more wisdom, more kindness and more compassion, we must have the intention to grow as a lotus and open each petal one by one."* Albert Einstein said, *"A human being is a part of the whole called by us universe, a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feeling as something separated from the rest, a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty."*

The time has come to free ourselves by widening our circle of compassion in all that we do as we worship and live out this faith we share. We may need to navigate the muck and mud as we go, but I am certain we will find beauty if it is indeed what we seek.

## JUNE'S WORSHIP THEME: COMPASSION

*(Focus Scripture readings highlighted)*

### **June 5 Pentecost:**

#### **Creating a World of full of Compassion, Justice, & Peace**

by Rev. Julie Lombard

Fifty days after Easter, the Spirit of Life and Love exhales her intentions for our world. As new chapters arise in our lives, we are invited to know the Spirit's wisdom that only comes from within you. Come, open your soul to the wonders of being this Communion Sunday where we will commemorate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the followers of Jesus during this first Sunday of Pride Month. Together, we will settle our hearts when questions surround us and fill ourselves with the knowledge the Spirit leads us towards. Readings: Acts 2:1-21, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, Romans 8:14-17, **John 14:8-17 [25-27]**. Today's Musical Guest is Daniel Bruce. OCWM Special offering: Strengthen the Church Offering.

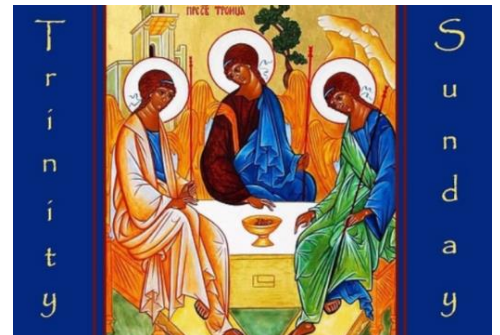


### **June 12 Trinity Sunday:**

#### **Athanasius –vs- Origen**

by Rev. Julie Lombard

Trinity Sunday is the result of the 4<sup>th</sup> century battle against Arianism, the heresy that Jesus was a creature like, but not the same as God. Athanasius believed in the doctrine of the Trinity - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Origen believed that while humankind is made in the image of God, we only come to the likeness of God through grace and effort. Both were Christian leaders within the early church when it was plagued by contrary views. See how far we have come to become the United Church of Northfield and have compassion for our differences. Come, here a bit of our history that brings about this day. Readings: **Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31**, Psalm 8, Romans 5:1-5, **John 16:12-15**. Today's Musical Guest is Daniel Bruce.



### **June 19**

#### **The Father of Juneteenth**

by Rev. Julie Lombard Proper 7

On this Father's Day, we will honor Albert Ely Edwards who dedicated his career to championing Black causes, such as bringing attention to the significance of Juneteenth to all Americans. In an effort to have Juneteenth officially recognize as a federal holiday, he collaborated with various states to get the law passed over a series of decades. Black leaders who were aligned with his mission include Rev. Jesse Jackson, Congresswoman Maxine Waters and Representative Sheila Jackson Lee. For over 40 years, Edwards endlessly advocated for Juneteenth's national recognition, leading to how we've come to celebrate it today. Readings: I Kings 19:1-4 (5-7), 8-15a & Ps 42 & 43 or **Isa 65:1-9 & Ps 22:19-28**, Gal 3:23-29, **Luke 8:26-39** Today's Musical Guest is Alison Cerutti.





**June 26**  
**Flower Communion Sunday**

by Rev. Julie Lombard Proper 8

For decades, Unitarian Universalists in Americas have been gathering at church and bringing a flower from their gardens, from a field, roadside, or shop. All blooms are welcome! This ritual signifies that it is by our own free will that we join together. Our gathered flowers are a symbol of our unity. The significance of the service is that as no two flowers are alike, just as no two people or faith journeys are alike, yet each has a unique contribution to share. Our bountiful bouquet gathered would not be the same without you and all you share. Please join us for this first annual Flower Communion Sunday– an affirmation of our ever-blooming beloved community. It promises to be as beloved as the Water Communion Service.

Readings: 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14 and Ps 77: 1-2, 11-20 or 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21 & Ps 16, Gal 5:1, 13-25, Luke 9:51-62 Today’s Musical Guest is Bob Merrill.

**June Hymns 2022**

- UU Hymn - #396 I Know This Rose Will Open SLT <https://youtu.be/PKYoF-4swxo>
- Children's Hymn - #402 From You I Receive SLT <https://youtu.be/k7a0Lei2OCA>

DATE 2022	Deacon in Charge	Sunday	LAY READER
June 5	Laura Ranker & Shae Martin Communion Stewards: Judy and Lauren Howard	Communion Sunday Pentecost Sunday Strengthen the Church Offering	Dexter Rowe
June 12	Judy and Lauren Howard	Trinity Sunday	Laura Ranker
June 19	Laura Ranker & Shae Martin	Second Sunday after Pentecost	Peter Evans
June 26	Judy and Lauren Howard	Third Sunday after Pentecost	Lauren Howard

**HELP FOR THOSE SUFFERING FROM THE UKRAINE CRISIS:**

Here are two organizations people can use to make donations to support the Ukraine people and those suffering from the crisis. <https://www.vox.com/future-perfect/22955885/donate-ukraine>  
<https://help.unhcr.org/ukraine/>

### A PRAYER FOR THE UVALDE TRAGEDY

Gracious God, we seek your grace, healing and balm in the face of the unspeakable act brought on innocent children and teachers in Uvalde, Texas by a young man that was near a child himself. We lift to your loving embrace the souls of the nineteen children and two teachers who were killed on Tuesday.

We ask for your healing presence among those who were injured and for all the children and families of Uvalde. We commend to your care and guiding light any who tended to those who were murdered and injured, and their families and friends — medical care workers, nurses, physicians, first-responders, counselors, and those within communities of faith.

We ask for the healing of our country. As we pray for those who have been lost by gun violence, may our petitions of justice lead us to action the that is needed, that we will be vessels of change and peace. We ask that you guide and govern our public officials and all of our people to make this world a safer place for our children. In all that is holy, we pray. Amen.

Peace, Julie

**Spirit of Grief,**

hold our shattered hearts as we attempt to comprehend the incomprehensible.

**Spirit of Compassion,**

hold the mourning families when despair threatens to overwhelm them.

**Spirit of Rage,**

hold our elected officials accountable for their reckless inaction.

**Spirit of Love,**

hold us and show us a new way forward.

*Rev. Lindsay V. Ulrich*





**Spring cleaning?** Donate your items to the United Church of Northfield for our yard sale fundraiser with proceeds benefiting the work of the United Church of Northfield. We are accepting items in good working order and condition. Any items not sold will be returned to you, the donor, after the sale. *We ask you to price your items if you are looking for a particular sales price.*

**CHURCH YARD SALE FUNDRAISER:**

**June 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.** (3 p.m.– 4 p.m. Everything must go Hour!)

**Drop off donations at the church  
June 2<sup>nd</sup> or June 3<sup>rd</sup>:**

**Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.**

**Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.**

- ✓ Donations are needed for this church fundraiser in support of the church. Unsold items will be returned to the donor.
- ✓ Volunteers are needed to work the Saturday Sale. We need cashiers and general works to help keep items neatly displayed throughout the sale.

Please contact team committee members Mary McDaniel or Laura Ranker if you are able to volunteer on Saturday or if you have questions concerning the sales. We appreciate and need your support.

*Thank you from the Fundraising Team:  
Mary McDaniel, Laura Ranker,  
Elizabeth Redmond, Harriet Hirst,  
Bonnie Gayle, and Rev. Julie Lombard.*



**UNITED CHURCH OF  
NORTHFIELD**

**Saturday, June 4, 2022**

**9am -4pm**

**58 South Main Street  
Northfield, VT  
Rain or Shine**

Proceeds benefit the work of the  
United Church of Northfield



## **SAVE THE DATE**

**June 25<sup>th</sup>**

**SATURDAY**

**12:00 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.**

**United Church  
of Northfield**

## **STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL**



**Strawberry  
Shortcake with  
Homemade  
Biscuits and  
local VT berries**



**Strawberry  
Sundaes with  
Ben and Jerry's  
ice cream**



**TAKE OUT  
AVAILABLE**



**Gluten Free  
Biscuits  
Available**

Contact Laura Ranker 229-4351 or  
lranker@myfairpoint.net

## **UUA NEWS**

*We, Rebecca Mattis and Beverly Seese, are requesting that you publish the announcement below in your congregational newsletter to inform your members and General Assembly delegates that there is an actual election for UUA Board members at this year's Portland General Assembly. This election is required since we petitioned to have our names placed on the ballot to provide delegates an opportunity to participate in the selection of our UU leaders.*

### Announcement of Elections at General Assembly

At this year's General Assembly in Portland, Oregon, delegates will be given the opportunity to vote on candidates to serve on the UUA Board of Trustees. We, Rebecca Mattis and Beverly Seese, petitioned to be placed on the ballot providing delegates a choice on who will serve as future UU leaders.

**Please visit our personal campaign websites,  
[RebeccaMattisUU.Blogspot.com](http://RebeccaMattisUU.Blogspot.com) and [BeverlySeeseUU.Blogspot.com](http://BeverlySeeseUU.Blogspot.com)  
to learn about our backgrounds and campaign platforms.**

We have arranged to hold three Meet the Candidates Townhall meetings on May 25 and June 2. Details can be found on our campaign websites.

Delegate voting opens June 1. We encourage you to become informed voters and live into our Fifth Principle, the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

## **ARPA FUNDS**

(American Rescue Plan Act)

ARPA was signed into law on March 11, 2021, awarding millions of dollars directly to cities and towns for response to and recovery from the Covid-19 Pandemic. Northfield will receive nearly \$2 million in ARPA funds. Town governing bodies have discretions over how to spend their local ARPA funds.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS! Attend a Community Forum and let the Selectboard know how you think our community should use the money. And complete the community survey – copies found at the Town Offices and Brown Public Library or use the QR code found printed on the community's informational literature.

### In person forums:

May 31<sup>st</sup> 5:00 – 6:00 pm at the Woods Lodge

June 4<sup>th</sup> 11:30 am – 12:30 pm at the Falls General Store

June 7<sup>th</sup> 5:30 – 6:30 pm at the American Legion, Sorrel-Maynard Post 63

**September 11<sup>th</sup> 11:30 am – 12:30 pm at the United Church of Northfield**

September 14<sup>th</sup> 6:30 – 7:30 pm at the Northfield Senior Center

### Virtually:

June 9<sup>th</sup> 6:30-7:30 pm

September 9<sup>th</sup> 6:30 – 7:30 pm

## Interfaith Opportunities

Rev. Laura C. Engelken [she/her]  
Director of Interfaith Education & Engagement

### FILM SCREENING: *Aware: Glimpses of Consciousness*

Fri May 27 – Sun May 29

Milarepa Center (Barnet, VT via online)

The film [Aware: Glimpses of](#)

[Consciousness](#) explores the questions:

“What is consciousness? Is it in all living beings? What happens when we die? Why do we seem to be hardwired for mystical experience?” After four centuries of silence, scientists are confronting these big questions, cutting a window into a realm previously held tightly by philosophy and religion. Access to the online screening will be made available upon donation. The link will be sent out on Friday morning to all who register and make a [donation](#). For questions, email [milarepa@milarepacenter.org](mailto:milarepa@milarepacenter.org)

### PRESENTATIONS: Three Modern Mystical Women

Tuesdays @ 6:30 – 8:30 pm (May 31, Jun 7, & Jun 14)

Spiritual Life Center (Hartford, CT via Zoom)

Attend one or all three sessions featuring a different modern mystical woman,” Rev. Darlene Cohen (Zen Buddhist), Anandamayi Ma (Hindu), and bell hooks (Africanist and Feminist). The sliding scale cost for the entire series ranges from \$10 - \$80. For more details and to register visit [here](#).

### EVENTS: Faith For Pride

Month of June

Interfaith Alliance

Recently, Interfaith Alliance released [new data](#) showing the vast majority of religious Americans support federal nondiscrimination protections for LGBTQ+ people. *Faith for Pride* is a month-long effort to include the fight for LGBTQ+ rights in religious services and programs. Learn more about this campaign and browse event listings by state [here](#).

### SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: Cultivating the Seeds of Zen: A 90-day Online Commit – to – Sit Practice Period Starting Wed Jun 1

New York Zen Center for Contemplative Care (online)

Join Zen teachers from across the U.S. and Japan for an in-depth, 90-day exploration of Zen practice and study guided by the study text, *Zen Seeds: Reflections of a Female Priest*. This work is a collection of short personal reflections, Zen parables, Buddhist scripture and spellbinding poetry from Shundo Aoyama Roshi, one of the foremost contemporary Japanese Zen teachers and the highest-ranking nun in Soto Zen history. The series involves weekly online dharma talks, daily practice emails, group discussions, and meditation. For more details and to register visit [here](#).

## WOMEN'S VOICES RISING by the SEA

# ChoralFest

July 16 to 22, 2022

Ferry Beach Conference Center, Saco, ME

*A week long choral conference for women who love to sing in harmony*



Join your voice with ours this summer as we explore music that showcases the special sound that women's voices can create. Our songs will celebrate how love, hope and resilience can inspire and sustain us.



Our music director is choir and choral director and vocal teacher Molly J. Webster of Bangor, ME.

Go to [www.ferrybeach.org](http://www.ferrybeach.org) to learn more about Ferry Beach and our ChoralFest program and staff. We guarantee that spending the week singing together and relaxing by the ocean at ChoralFest will be a vacation to treasure.



Ferry Beach Conference Center  
Saco, ME  
207-282-4489  
[www.ferrybeach.org](http://www.ferrybeach.org)

**RITUAL: Shavuot & Havdalla**

**Sat Jun 4 @ 7 – 8 pm**

**Congregation Ruach haMaqom (at the UU Meeting House, 152 Pearl Street)**

Celebrate the mythic moment when the Israelites received the Torah at Mt. Sinai (even though that story doesn't appear that way in the Torah!). Food, music, and a general celebratory attitude will prevail. All are welcome and weather permitting it will be held outside. For more info visit [here](#).

**WORKSHOP: Reimagining Loneliness and Grief through Liberatory Practices**

**Mon Jun 6 @ 6 – 8 pm EST**

**Garrison Institute (virtual workshop)**

Join in a conversation with three extraordinary leaders with expertise and experience in awareness-based contemplative wisdom, the science of interconnection, generative action, and collective healing. Together they will reflect on how their commitment to embodied living has revealed radical ways of understanding loneliness and its potential to inspire liberatory practices of intimacy, compassion, and joy. Visit [here](#) for details about the presenters and to RSVP.

**RITUAL: Famine Relief Ceremony**

**Thur Jun 9 @ 6:30 – 8:30 pm**

**Vermont Zen Center (480 Thomas Rd., Shelburne or via Zoom)**

The Famine Relief Ceremony is a concrete way to express compassion for those suffering from the deprivations of hunger. Some people choose to fast that day according to their desires and abilities (e.g., forgoing solid food, skipping a meal). The ceremony includes chanting, prostrations, circumambulations, a vegetarian food offering (to be donated to the local food bank) and monetary donation (sent to Oxfam). For more details visit [here](#).

**RETREAT: Circling Weekend**

**Fri Jun 10 – Sun Jun 12**

**The Connection Institute (Starksboro, VT)**

Circling is a practice of being with self and others in the present moment. Gather to learn new ways to relate to others, create deep and meaningful connections, and have a safe space to express yourself. For more info and to sign up visit [here](#).

**SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: Five Day Directed Retreat**

**Sun Jun 19 @ 7 pm – Fri 24 through lunch**

**St. Anne's Shrine (92 St. Anne's Rd, Isle La Motte)**

The Society of St. Edmund will be conducting this retreat using the principles from the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Retreatants are invited to contemplate scripture passages in a silent environment, celebrate daily Eucharist, and meet with a Spiritual Director each day. Applicants should be comfortable maintaining an atmosphere of silence and be able to share their prayer experience with a Spiritual Director in a daily meeting of about 45-minutes. Cost is \$550. For more details and to apply visit [here](#).

**ARTS: The Queer Jewish Arts Festival**

**Thur Jun 16 – Mon Jun 20**

**Gordon Center for Performing Arts (Washington, DC and virtual opportunities)**

Participate in a series of programs celebrating multiple facets of queer identities including gender, race, religion, and class through film and theater. The festival will highlight local, national, and international artists making art with Queer and Jewish content and examine the complexity of how Queer Jews present themselves and move through life. For more info visit [here](#).

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**Rev. Laura C. Engelken [she/her]**

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