



First Universalist Parish of Chester

WELCOME TO OUR STONE CHURCH IN CHESTER VERMONT

First Universalist Parish Newsletter

April 2019

April 14 - Palm Sunday

April 19 – Good Friday

April 20 - Passover

April 21 – Easter Sunday

April 22 – Earth Day

Church Events

Sunday Services begin at 9:30
Childcare Provided



April 7, 2019, by Kevin Carson: “Returning to Gaia”

Taking a fresh look at the idea that all life on Earth is part of one superorganism

April 14, 2019, by Kevin Carson: “Tending the Garden of the Soul”

In this season when the warm rays of the Sun reawaken the Earth, it is time tend our gardens, and a good time, I think, to tend the garden of our soul.



April 21, 2019, by Rev. Dr. Nancy Jay Crumbine.

“Easter Service”



April 28, 2019, by Buffy Boke: “Busy Being Born”

Bob Dylan sang, “He not busy being born is busy dying.” Thoughts on the diastole and systole of living.

Principles in Action April 2019 Collection

This month we will collect money to support the **Springfield Area Parent Child Center**. The Parent Child Center serves 3000 individuals in Windsor and Windham counties, helping families to get off to a healthy start and supporting them through a range of programs. Programs include home visits, play-works child center, childcare support, parent education and support, information and referral, playgroups, community collaboration, reach up, welcome baby bags and child advocacy. Strong families are a cornerstone in a strong and resilient community, and we are lucky to have the Springfield Area Parent Child Center supporting local families.

President's Message - April 2019

Note from the President:

I've been reflecting on the quality of our services. We are so fortunate to have the ministers that we do, their experience and expert sermons lend an unmatched quality to our worship services each Sunday. The choir and music program are thriving and continues to make our services rich and full-bodied. The Peace Choir led service, Imagine Spring, was uplifting and so positive after a long winter of disturbing affronts to our senses via the news media. Spring teases us with a couple warm days and then plunges us back into winter and cold ,temperatures.

The back roads are going through their thaw and refreeze cycle, and the mud is deep. But oh, to smell the earth again! We had a male raccoon scouting around our place searching for a mate. I spotted a couple robins pecking around a bare spot in the meadow the morning of the Super Worm Moon, right on schedule as surely worms have begun to poke their heads out toward the warmth of the sun. The red-winged black birds are singing once again in the brush behind the church, a most glorious sound. While I am enjoying these small hints of spring, at the same time I feel a sense of urgency bubbling up as the sun lingers a bit longer into each evening. Spring showers have brought unprecedented flooding around the world, and I feel a sense of urgency for the entire planet due to climate change. We've also experienced a much welcomed and broad awakening stirring with the youth of the world. It brings me hope and courage to keep going. Before we know it, the snow will be gone! Our yards will need raking, flower beds will need dividing, and our houses will beg for spring cleaning.

While on that subject, please keep the church sale (Saturday, May 25th) in mind. The sale includes a plant sale which was very successful last year. With all your enthusiasm and wonderful help, the sale continues to be one of our biggest fundraisers. Thank you! As April 1st approaches, don't be fooled, May is right around the corner!

Take care,

Melody Reed, Board President

The board meeting will be held after coffee hour, Sunday, April 21. Members and friends are welcome to attend. If you have an item, you'd like added to the agenda please email me at melodious54@gmail.com.

The congregation is currently raising funds to help Linda Wright (our church housekeeper, neighbor and friend) to rebuild her roof which blew off her mobile home in a recent wind storm. Just days after that event she found out her grandson had passed away suddenly. Your gifts will be much appreciated. Please make checks made out to First Universalist Parish of Chester with a notation at the bottom stating it is for Linda Wright and give to Scott Wunderle. Thank you.

Music News April 2019

April 7: Anthem – The Song that Nature Sings

April 14: Anthem – In Every Soul

April 21: Easter – Anthem – Lift Up Your Hearts and Voices, with Scott Wunderlee on trumpet

April 28: TBA

We had a lovely letter to the editor which was published in the Shopper, regarding the Peace Choir. Here it is:

March 21, 2019

To the Editor:

On March 17, I had the pleasure of joining the Peace Choir at the First Universalist Parish in Chester for their celebration of the Vernal Equinox, and I appreciate this forum for the opportunity to commend this unique congregation for their commitment to providing a respite in these stressful times that help keep us from yielding to hopelessness and despair.

I also want to thank their Music Director Julane Deener for her role in creating a spiritual haven by choosing healing songs and words, interspersed with moments of silent reflection. Julane pours her heart and soul into the theme, selecting songs and poetry from around the world, and from a wide variety of genres, to help us stay hope-filled, inspired, and motivated to keep doing what needs to be done to make this world safer and more just for all living beings. The March 17 service was especially meaningful to me, with its songs both familiar and new; a beautiful interpretive dance to John Lennon's *Imagine*; Valerie Linck's supportive piano accompaniment; and Olivia Bernier's violin with its unmistakable notes of chirping birds, soon to return.

I find myself eagerly anticipating their New Year's Eve Vespers service, and if I weren't blissfully nurtured by my beloved community in Westminster West, you would find me in the front row, or in the choir, on a regular basis!

If you're looking for a change of pace from the 24/7 clamor of social media and cable TV, you might want to stop by on a Sunday morning around 9:25 and let your mind and spirit be nurtured for the week ahead. All are welcomed, unconditionally.

In faith and Love;

Rev. Catherine Aiken Cadieux, UCC, Ret'd.

For information about music at First Universalist Parish, contact Julane Deener at (802) 463-9719 or julanejulane@comcast.net

April Church Activities



Wendy Schwarz, Laurel Green, Melody Reed, and Steve Crofter stand outside the church during a "honk and wave" in solidarity with the world-wide School Strike for the Climate



Climate Action Group

350VT Chester Climate Action Group will meet **Wednesday, April 10 at 5:30 p.m. in the Social Hall** downstairs beginning with a pot luck supper and good conversation. We are working toward a single project which will help address climate change. We also may participate in state-wide events sponsored by 350VT or individuals can take smaller actions such as organizing plant-based potlucks or creative workshops, etc. Our mission is to educate ourselves and others to act to reverse human induced climate change for a habitable Earth. For more information contact either Laurel Green at Laurel1planet@gmail.com or Melody Reed at Melodious54@gmail.com.

Vegan Food Pot Luck April 17 – 5:30-7:30 in church Social Hall

Vegan Food Pot Luck & a Movie

THE HUMAN ELEMENT
By director Mathew Testa

We humans are a force of nature. At the same time human activities alter the basic elements of life – earth, air, water, and fire – those elements change human life in turn. In this riveting and visually rich drama, blending art and science, we follow renowned environmental photographer James Balog as he explores wildfires, hurricanes, sea level rise, a struggling coal mining community, and our changing air supply. With rare compassion and heart, THE HUMAN ELEMENT highlights Americans who are on the frontlines of climate change, inspiring us to re-evaluate our relationship with the natural world

VEGAN FOOD Pot Luck

**Third Wednesday
March 20th
Potluck 5:30 - 6:15
Movie 6:15 - 8:00 PM**

Herbivores and Omnivores Welcome!

First Universalist Parish Of Chester
211 North Street, Rt 103
In the Historic Stone Village
Chester, Vermont

**Bring a 100% Plant-Based Dish
Free of Meat, Eggs, Dairy,
Honey and Gelatin**

For info contact: Melody Reed
at Melodius54@gmail.com
Or call 802-875-5414

~ Sponsored by 4 Rivers Climate Action ~

First Universalist Parish is hosting a monthly "vegan food pot luck" each 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Social Hall. April's is slated for **Wednesday, April 17 at 5:30-7:30**. Besides delightful food we will enjoy a movie, presentation or food prep demo. If you're interested in transitioning to a plant-based diet for health or to lessen your carbon footprint, or are just curious about the food, the vegan food pot luck is a good way to try it out. Omnivores and herbivores welcome!

You don't have to be vegan to attend but the food does. 100% vegan means no meat, dairy, eggs, honey or gelatin. There are thousands of vegan recipes online, and part of the fun is learning to adapt some of your own tried and true recipes to vegan. I hope to see you all there for good food, and good times! For more information contact Melody Reed at Melodius54@gmail.com

*Note: I am not a full-fledged vegan. I eat meat occasionally and look at it as a treat rather than a staple. I support small farms whether they raise animals or vegetables (including dairy). I have learned that in certain settings and on a smaller scale, animals benefit the land. But I do not support "factory farms" and

I'm against animal cruelty. ~ Melody

Dinner begins at 5:30 (I'll be there at 5) and movie begins at 6:15. If you can't make it for the potluck but want to join us for the movie that's fine too. Whatever your schedule allows. Here's the trailer for the movie, The Human Element. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k34FhplukXQ>

Contact Information Change – Please note this is your First Universalist Parish Directory

Betty Boyd has new contact information. Her address is the same.

bettejobc1@gmail.com Cell: 503-704-7474

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P.O. Box 90
211 North Street Chester, Vermont 05143
Telephone: (802) 875-3257

Our updated Web Site - <http://www.chestervtuu.org/>

like us on Facebook!

Newsletter: firstparishebulletin@gmail.com

E-Mail address: firstuniversalistparishchester@gmail.com

Sunday Social Hour after the service.

Everyone is welcome to join us after the service in the downstairs social hall for a Social Hour.

Set-up and clean-up for these fellowship times are taken care of by regular volunteers, but refreshments are potluck.

Goodies are bring what you have, ready to serve, when you can. If there are leftovers, please give them away or take them home.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Reversing Global Warming: Introduction to Drawdown

This two-hour workshop is designed to shift the conversation around global warming and is useful to anyone interested in climate crisis issues. It is meant to give people an encouraging place to stand and a clear idea of what actions they can take to contribute to reversing global warming. Laurel Green is presenting the workshop and would especially like to have young people and adults of all ages participate.

The workshop, developed by the Pachmama Alliance in collaboration with Project Drawdown, includes several short videos, listening exchanges and group activities. A handout with 100 Drawdown Solutions will be available to take home. "Introduction to Drawdown" fits well with the local climate action groups such as local climate action groups, church climate action teams, or town energy committees.

This program is free and open to the public. For more information contact Laurel Green, 802-275-4646 or <laurel1planet@gmail.com

Presentations scheduled for April

April 5, Westminster West Library, Westminster, VT 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Everything Spring
at the Chester Andover Family Center

Spring shopping Starts Now!

Volunteers have changed out all winter clothing with new spring fashions for men, women and children.

Spring trousers and tops
Shorts
Dresses
Lightweight sweaters

Thrift Shop Hours
Thursday and Friday
10-4
Saturday
10-3

Shop now for the best selection!

The Prom Room is open for Prom Shopping during
Thrift Shop Hours or by appointment.
Thursdays and Fridays from 10-4
Saturdays from 10-3

Over 100 dresses, suits and accessories.
Suggested donation, \$20
