

# The Oracle

“You need not think alike to love alike.” Francis David, 1568

July 12, 2010

## Unitarian Universalist Church of Meadville

346 Chestnut Street  
Meadville, PA 16335  
814.724.4023

Email:  
[church@uumeadville.org](mailto:church@uumeadville.org)  
Website:  
[www.uumeadville.org](http://www.uumeadville.org)

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Our mission is to offer a welcoming and safe community that reaches out to and receives spiritual seekers. We provide a voice for religious diversity and encourage personal transformation as we strive toward a better world.

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

## Sunday Services

*Services begin at 10:30 AM unless otherwise noted.*

### July 18

## Desert Solitaire

Regardless of whether or not we have spent time in a literal desert, all of us have experienced “desert” times in our lives. We may feel parched and in need of a spiritual oasis. We may find the landscape of our lives harsh and unforgiving. We may also experience profound beauty in the midst of difficult times. In this service, we will reflect on time spent in deserts, both literal and metaphorical, and discover their unique gifts.

*Rebecca Hecking*

## July 25 The Great Adventure

Adventure stories seem to have some common elements, like climbing mountains, fighting monsters, taking leaps of faith, and (maybe the biggest adventure of all) learning to love. These kinds of events might be more common in everyday life than we realize. Come and join us as we celebrate the spirit of adventure through stories and songs.

*Josh Searle-White*

As you travel this summer or enjoy the beautiful creeks, lakes, and rivers of our home region, please remember to collect some water for our annual Gathering of the Waters service this fall.

## News from the President

As you may know, one of the Board’s priorities for this year is renewing our fund-raising and stewardship efforts. Two related events are about to happen in the church that I wanted to let you know about.

The first is that through the diligent efforts of Ted & Sue Mallick, the Properties Committee, the Fellowship Committee, Betsy Scheuerman, and a number of other church members, we are about to welcome a new addition to our community – an industrial-strength, high-speed dishwasher! We’ll give you more details once the machine is actually installed in our kitchen, but the brief overview is that it replaces the non-functioning 40-year old machine that is currently there, and it will make it possible for us to serve

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food at fund-raisers that are open to the public.

Speaking of which, the first public use of our new dishwashing capacity will be on Saturday, August 7, when our church will provide a pancake breakfast for participants in Meadville’s second annual “Thunder in the City,” which is a free classic car and bike show sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. On that day there will be a classic car rally in the Diamond, and we have the opportunity both to support the local community and to make money for the church by offering breakfast to those who will be attending. We’ll need volunteers to help out with this effort; if you have any experience with cooking, serving, or doing publicity for a pancake breakfast-kind of event, please call the church or me directly, and we’ll get you involved.

I’ll have more announcements for you as we welcome Carmen into our community next month. As always, if you have issues that you would like the Board to consider, please give me a call. In the meantime, see you in church!

Josh Searle-White, President

### Name Tags

As we approach August when our new minister arrives, it would be helpful for us all to have our name tags on. If you haven't received one or misplaced it, please consider ordering another one. Replacement cost is around \$7. Email [suemallick@windstream.net](mailto:suemallick@windstream.net) or call 382-0381.

### Fellowship Corner

Check out this column in each Oracle to see what events are planned and how things are shaping up.



### Bay at the Moon !

On **Monday July 26** Jim and Cindy Snyder will host a “**Bay at the Moon**” party at their home at 17167 State Hwy 86, Saegertown.

There will be a full moon that night, so be prepared to baaayyy!

Yes, this is again a week-day evening, but as before, we are unable to dictate the phases of the moon. Hot dogs and condiments, paper plates and plastic flatware will be provided. We ask that you bring something to drink and another dish to share with others. Perhaps a community bonfire could be arranged if every-one brings a log or kindling to contribute.....



### Church Picnic !

Reserve time after church on **Sunday August 8** for the **end of summer all-church picnic**, again at the Allegheny College picnic pavilion. Fellowship committee will provide chicken, lemonade and iced tea. You are asked to bring your own table service and a dish to share. Pets, musical instruments, lawn chairs, and games are also welcome.

Directions to pavilion: drive north on Park Avenue to the Allegheny football field, turn left there and follow the road to the west end

of the field, turn left again and follow that road (drive slowly!) to the pavilion.



### June’s Picnic !

Last fall June Kleeman, a former member of our church who now resides in Florida, arrived in Meadville for a visit, and at that time was able to connect with several old friends. Guess what! She’s visiting again in early September. Miriam Bowman and Ginny Crowe are organizing a picnic at the Club House in Forest Hills (Meadville) on **September 6 – (Labor Day)** – for everyone who’d like to reconnect with June, or connect for the first time, and, well, it’s Labor Day, so *everybody* come and let’s enjoy each other’s company!

The festivities will last from 12 noon to 6 PM; bring food and drink to share, and relax! Directions to the Club House will be available in future Oracles and at the parish house.



We fed 80 folks with 24 coming back for seconds on Friday July 9. They must have liked the pizza, along with the parsley potatoes (yummy!), fruit, beverages, and desserts. Five UUs plus Bev Nutter and 3 additional volunteers stayed pretty busy, and the rain that greeted us outside when we were finished felt wonderful!

The volunteers were (and thanks to each one) –

- ★ Emmy Boughton
- ★ John Stewart
- ★ Bob Templeton
- ★ Marty Thaeler
- ★ Ron White

Our next date will be **Friday August 13** – another one of those lucky days – at Stone Methodist Church, 10 AM to approximately 1 or 1:15. See you there! We would love to see some new faces.

## Grey Pilgrim

Several years ago our high school class took a trip to Gettysburg. When they returned it was obvious that they had been deeply stirred by the experience. Everyone I've talked to has had the same experience.

It is a space of quiet memorial. The spirits of the many men who died in this major battle of the Civil War are said to still walk the battlefield. Many claim to have felt or actually seen their ghosts. It is truly hallowed ground.

Now there is a change in the wind that will desecrate these holy grounds and dishonor those who gave their lives there. Walmart has already been approved by Orange County Virginia to build a super center right at the edge of the Wilderness Battlefield. There are already 3 or 4 Walmarts within 30 miles of Gettysburg. Harper's Ferry, site of John Brown's uprising, almost lost out to a 189 unit housing development, and nearby Antietam Battlefield is threatened by commercial development. Antietam alone commemorates 23,000 casualties – the bloodiest day in American military history.

This week, I got a letter from National Parks Conservation about a casino proposed to be built on "land so close to the park that it would have been within range of the Civil War cannons that once filled the air with thunder".

What's next? A supermarket at the Washington Monument, and a casino at the Statue of Liberty?

*Mary-Lib Whitney, just me*

## Assignments

Here is your 'heads-up' for the next two weeks. Thank you, everyone, for your participation!

### Greeters

**July 18:** Rob Sharp & Michelle Robinson

**July 25:** Rob Sharp & Michelle Robinson

### Ushers

**July 18:** John & Jill Hyatt

**July 25:** Deb Lehman & Amelia Carr

### Coffee Hour Hosts

**July 18:** Lisbet Searle-White

**July 25:** Carlin & Jerry Almes



**As always, if you are not able to serve on this date, please make an attempt to find someone to replace you. Thank you.**

## Oracle Deadline

**Next deadline** for submitting items for the newsletter is **Friday July 23**. You may email your articles to [mthaeler@zoominternet.net](mailto:mthaeler@zoominternet.net); or leave items in the *Oracle* folder in the parish house **by noon** on Friday. The hard-copy or email at hand on Saturday morning will appear in the subsequent *Oracle*. When emailing material, please write "oracle" in the subject line. Phone: 877-580-3760. Thank you.

**2010 Church Officers**

President: Josh Searle-White  
Vice-President: Laurie Parendes  
Secretary: Cynthia Burton  
Treasurer: Ron White  
Coordinator of Mission and Outreach: Deb Lehman  
Stewardship Chair: Cheryl Burkey

**Church Staff**

Minister (August 1): The Rev. Carmen Emerson  
R.E. Director: *To be selected*  
Administrative Assistant: Carole Schenberg  
*Office Hours: Mon-Tue-Wed-Fri 8:30 -12:30;  
Sunday 10:30-12:30*  
Music Director: Aimee Reash  
Custodian: Doug Schenberg