

The Oracle

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

July 26, 2010

Unitarian Universalist Church of Meadville

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The *Oracle* is published bi-weekly



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.

August 1

First Loaves

On this day, our ancestors of northern climes baked the first loaves of this year’s harvest – Lammas. The first fruits, so to speak, of the season, are enjoyed, and the full harvest yet to come. The crops we have sown, the plans we have set in motion, have begun to bear fruit, enough for us to sample and imagine what is yet to come. Beyond the work in the fields and gardens, we have other fields to tend. Students are planning a return to class or perhaps are going to a new life at a college or uni-

versity. Our church is welcoming a new minister and a new Director of Religious Education and beginning a new chapter in our living history.

For each of us, our personal gardens of life are blooming and growing. Take a stroll – how are things growing? Do you need to tend your fields more often? Enjoy and appreciate them more? (Everyone knows flowers love to be noticed!) Let us celebrate this day of first loaves while we look to the future as well.

Cynthia Burton



August 8

Thunder in the Temple

In the 1975 brochure about our historic sanctuary, “The Unitarian Temple”, a distinction is made between our lovely building, the temple, and our church, the *people* of this congregation. Following a noisy Saturday of Thunder in the City, we’ll consider what it means to be a loud and proud liberal religious community, what it means to be thunder in the temple.

The Rev. Carmen Emerson



Rev-Elations

July 23, 2010

Hello, and thank you so much for the warm welcome we have received from you! Jim and I arrived in Meadville over 2 weeks ago, and have enjoying spotting you, and being spotted by you, as we explore our new hometown. Unpacking and settling in will continue for awhile, as will certain home improvement projects that will make our new

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house feel truly like our place. It is good to *finally* be here, and to continue our adventurous journey together as I immerse myself into life and ministry in this congregation.

My first Sunday in the pulpit will be August 8 – a busy weekend for the Church that begins with our fundraising breakfast on Saturday, August 7, when we’ll offer a pancake breakfast to folks attending the “Thunder in the City” car and motorcycle rally in Diamond Park. On Sunday August 8, I’ll preach my first sermon as your new minister, “Thunder in the Temple” and our worship service will be followed by the Church Picnic.

Although I am not in the pulpit until August 8, I officially begin on August 1 and I look forward to seeing you on that Sunday. My office hours begin on Monday, August 2 at 9 AM!

There is much for us to do, together, for one another and for the larger community of which we are a part! I look forward to hearing more of your ideas, your needs, your wants, and your dreams for our faith community, and I look forward to sharing my ideas and dreams with you. As we begin our important first year together, please know that I am thrilled to be serving as your minister, and that I am inspired by all the possibilities that lie ahead of us.

In our faith,

Carmen

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.

We Remember...

This month saw the passing of two of our members. **Marjorie Katope** died at the age of 91 on Sunday July 11 at Wesbury. **Chuck (Charles) Berry** died at the age of 80 on Tuesday July 20 at his home.

Both Marge and Chuck were very long-time members of our church, and extremely active in its activities, as well as pursuing many interests in the Meadville community as a whole. We will miss them both, and extend our thoughts and prayers to their families and friends.

To All Members and Friends of Our UU Church, Meadville – Annual Budget Drive

Shortly we will begin preparing for our Annual Budget Drive as we all think of the possibilities for our Church’s mission and ministry for 2011. Our approach this year will be centered around stewardship discussions with each of our members and friends to find out more of your needs and desires, and also provide an overview of the Church’s programs and ministry we’re seeking to support.

Many of you have been involved in previous annual budget drives; and since we have some new members and friends, our Leadership Team would like to hear from those who would like to be among the Visiting Stewards for this year. Support materials are now being prepared and an orientation workshop will be scheduled to assist the Visiting Stewards in understanding and presenting our Church’s ministry for 2011.

If you would like to be a Visiting Steward please either mention

this to me at the church or coffee hour, give me a phone call at (814) 676-2902 in Oil City or send an email to jerry@jalmes.com. If it’s more convenient for you, you can also contact either Amelia Carr or Lisbet Searle-White. Thanks for your attention to this important event of our Church.

Jerry Almes, Annual Budget Drive Chairman

Thunder in the City Pancake Breakfast Fund Raiser

August 8



As part of the second annual Thunder in the City event the UU Church will be hosting our first annual Pancake Breakfast, Saturday August 7. Many hands make light work, the committee is actively recruiting ‘worker bees’ for all aspects of operation pancake. Steady hands are needed for pouring coffee, smiling faces for serving guests, cooks for flipping pancakes. We will be serving from 7 AM ‘til noon so workers will have the rest of the day to enjoy the festivities in Diamond Park. We hope this will be a major fund raiser and we’ll have the opportunity to use our new warewasher. If able to help please contact Fran Smith or Deb Lehman. Come on down – for those nostalgic for our booth at the Fair, it beats funnel cakes under the grandstand on tractor pull night.

-Special Request-

For the **Pancake Breakfast** on August 7, from 7 AM til noon, we need a screen or two to separate a preparation area. We also need some 10 inch glass bowls for mixing and some old bath towels. If you can help with this, email Sue Mallick at suemallick@windstream.net or call at 382-0381.

And please plan to attend in support of this fundraiser. Thanks.

Fellowship Corner

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. Please note there will be no coffee hour that day. The 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.

-Special Request-

The church picnic on August 8 is an opportunity for us to meet and welcome our new minister, Carmen

Emerson and her husband, Jim.

This is also an opportunity for you to have your picture taken so they can recognize us.

Please join us.

June in September

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.

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 or call 382-0381.

Lughnasadh

Druid Public Ritual

The ADF Druids of Snow Water Grove invite all members of the community to our next public high day ritual: Lughnasadh on Sunday August 1, 2010 at 3 PM.

This will be a Celtic style ADF Rite, and will be at our outside Nemeton on the Quinet Mothers Land out on Route 27 at the

Crawford/Venango County line (between Fauncetown Road and Lesh Road on the North side). Come dressed for the weather, and prepared for primitive facilities (the land has no electricity, running water, or structures). If you need a chair, please bring one along (we run out fast).

We will be celebrating the first harvest of the year, and the Lady of Sovereignty.

Come help us bless the land and feel our connection to the land around us at this time of bounty. Pre-ritual briefing will be at 3 PM, and ritual to start at 3:30 PM. A camp fire style potluck will follow the rite.

For more information, come talk to Grey or Rachael, alternatively we can be reached at 814 406 9794 or email at

info@snowwatergrove.org

For those that like to plan ahead: * **Autumnal Equinox** – Sunday September 19th 2010 @ 3 PM * **Samhain** – Sunday October 31, 2010 @ 5 PM * **Winter Solstice** – Sunday December 19, 2010 @ 3 PM.

*Bright Blessings, Grey Whittney,
Snow Water Grove, ADF (Senior
Druid)*

Justice GA

Delegates at GA 2010 overwhelmingly endorsed a resolution to hold a special "Justice General Assembly" in Phoenix in 2012. The resolution called upon the UUA Board of Trustees to transform the usual annual gathering into a unique justice-oriented meeting. It also asked the UUA administration to work with leaders in Arizona UU Congregations to establish an Arizona immigration ministry. The resolution was drafted in response to outrage over Arizona's new anti-immigrant law, SB1070. An invitation from leaders of Puente and the National Day Laborer Organizing

Network to develop a partnership with the UUA included a vision of a transformed annual meeting in Phoenix. Delegates decided that the justice gathering would be a more effective response than boycotting the state altogether.

The UUA board had placed a resolution on the agenda to boycott Phoenix and move General Assembly to another location. This proposal was initially supported by several groups including DRUUMM (Diverse and Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries), ARE (Allies for Racial Equality) and LUUNA (Latina/o UU Networking Association) with the major concern being safety of the Latina/o/Hispanic UUs and UUs of color attending GA 2012. But after Rev. Peter Morales, UUA President issued a letter asking that we consider the justice GA option, DRUUMM advocated careful discussion of the issue at GA.

The proposed change was presented and accepted at the mini-assemblies before the vote on Saturday. The stipulation that the absolute minimal business be done at this GA was also part of the change.

UU World has covered this issue extensively and additional details can be found at <http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/167428.shtml>. Rev. Morales' letter can be found at <http://www.uua.org/news/newssubmissions/166693.shtml>.

Assignments

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

Greeters

Aug 1: Gay Lynch & Ed Nelson

Aug 8: Gay Lynch & Ed Nelson

Ushers

Aug 1: Shawna Bryan & Ginny Crowe

Aug 8: Josh Searle-White and

Mary Spicer

Coffee Hour Hosts

Aug 1: Josh Searle-White

**Aug 8: No coffee hour –
COME TO THE PICNIC!**



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 August 6**. You may email your articles to mthaeleer@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.

Reprise –

The Annual Fund Drive

A pastor was talking to the church organist. "What I finish my sermon," he said, I'll ask for all those in the congregation who want to contribute \$400 toward the church mortgage to stand up. In the meantime, you can provide appropriate music."

"Any suggestions?" the organist asked.

"You might try *The Star-Spangled Banner*", the pastor replied.



During a test, a rookie police officer was asked what strategy he would use to disperse a threatening crowd.

"I would take up a collection," he wrote.



Bumper sticker sighted in Martins Creek, PA: "If you love Jesus, tithe! Anyone can honk!"



A notorious gambler offered to

donate \$1000 to a church project for the homeless. The offer greatly upset a church elder. She confronted the pastor: "We can't take his money. It's the devil's money."

"If that's the case," the pastor replied calmly, "the devil has had his hands on it long enough. Now let's see what God can do with it."



The Lord loveth a cheerful giver. He also accepteth from the grouch.

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: 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