

***United Church of Strafford, Vermont***  
**William Sloane Coffin Weekend of Events**  
March 22-24, 2019

***Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>***

**7:00 PM J. S. Bach Concert**, Annemieke McLane, piano and Emily Taubl, cello, with refreshments to follow *Bill would have loved this concert, so while this is not directly affiliated with him it is a very fitting way to begin our celebration.*

***Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>***

**1:30 PM The First Annual William Sloane Coffin Address, The Rev. Jim Antal: “He Asked of Us Something Great”**  
*(see biographical notes on the next page)*

**2:30-3:00 PM Reception**

**7:00 PM William Sloane Coffin on Film**, *featuring the documentary, An American Prophet*

***Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>***

**10:00 AM A Community Worship Service, Featuring a recorded sermon by Bill**, “Preached from the Piano Bench” recorded at Riverside Church, New York City, July 24, 1983. A joint service with Strafford’s Unitarian-Universalist church of poetry, music and Bill’s voice. People of all faiths are invited.

**After Worship and Refreshments: A Circle Conversation** about what we appreciate and remember about Bill and, “What would Bill do in our day and what does his spirit call us to do?”

***William Sloane Coffin***

*from Jennifer Brown’s Randolph Herald Article, March 14, 2019*

William Sloane Coffin, or “Bill” to his friends and neighbors here in Vermont, was born in New York City on June 1, 1924 and died in Strafford, Vermont on April 12, 2006.... He served as chaplain at Yale and played a prominent role in the freedom rides challenging segregation and oppression in the South. He served as Senior Minister at the Riverside Church in New York City and became President of the peace and social justice group, SANE/Freeze. He was an important figure in the history of the Upper Valley and the nation, a force for progressive religion in America. During the years he lived in Strafford, he preached at the church, chatted with people at the store, and supported young people aspiring to be activists and ministers. [He also was a concert pianist who studied in Paris under Nadia Boulanger and performed here. He would have been pleased that Annemieke McLane, our church pianist, was a finalist at the Nadia and Lili Boulanger International Competition in Paris.]

***Jim Antal***

Climate activist and author Bill McKibben says, “As long as there has been a serious climate movement in the United States, Jim Antal has been at the forefront.... He is on the short list of heroes who have given their all.... Jim’s never-ending witness is the best incitement to optimism that I can imagine.... The world owes him a mighty thanks.” The Rev. Jim Antal serves as Special Advisor on Climate Justice to the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. In Antal’s superb, timely and much needed book, *Climate Church, Climate World*, he cites Bill Coffin as an inspiration and model. From 2006-2018, Antal led the 350 UCC churches in Massachusetts as their Conference Minister and President. In 2017, Yale Divinity School honored him with the William Sloane Coffin Award for Peace and Justice. Antal was a local pastor for twenty years, in Newton, Massachusetts and then Shaker Heights, Ohio. In the mid-80s he served as Executive Director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (USA), an interfaith pacifist organization.



*The Rev. Jim Antal being arrested in front of the White House as an act of nonviolent civil disobedience to urge action on climate change. Climate activist and author Bill McKibben says in the forward to Antal's book, Climate Church, Climate World, "I have stood with him at a hundred demonstrations, languished with him in jail, sweated next to him in paddy wagons. I have listened to him preach the powerful good news—and bad news—about the energy and climate crisis from pulpit after pulpit. And I've watched as his cheerful, insistent, relentlessly loving approach has allowed so many Americans to join in this fight."*

***Thank you to all who have made this weekend possible!***



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### ***United Church of Strafford***

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