

A United Service Open to All



Universalist Society of Strafford and United Church of Strafford

July 28, 2024, 10:00 AM

at the Strafford Unitarian Universalist Church
2 Justin Morrill Highway
South Strafford, Vermont

*Universalist Society of Strafford, Vermont
United Church of Strafford, Vermont
July 28, 2024
A united service open to all!*

“To what is One, sages give many titles.” *Rig Veda*

“Every blade of grass, every tree, every plant, every creature large or small are children of the planet Earth and have Buddha nature. The Earth herself has Buddha nature, therefore all her children must have Buddha nature, too.” *Thich Nhat Hanh*

Spiritual theologian, Matthew Fox, proposes in his book *One River, Many Wells: Wisdom Springing from Global Faiths* that the spiritual traditions of the world must combine their wisdom if the human race is to survive. The title of the book derives from a saying from Meister Eckhart: “God is a great underground river that no one can stop and no one can dam up.” Fox believes that there is one underground river but many wells into that river—a Buddhist well and a Taoist well, a Jewish well and a Christian well, a Muslim well and a Celtic well, a goddess well and an indigenous well, the well of today’s science and more. Fox calls on the wisdom of all these wells to lead us down to the one underground river of Wisdom.

Gathering Music

The Cantornote Church Musicians

Silent Prayer of Invocation

Pastor Tom Kinder

Prelude “Fairest Isle” from *King Arthur* Henry Purcell 1659-1695

Blessing and Lighting the Candles

Leader: The light shines in the darkness,

People: And the darkness does not overcome it.

Leader: Let us pray for peace and the things that make for peace as we light the peace candle.

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Introit “Song of Celebration” Randy Coffin and Joey Hawkins

Welcome, Announcements and Call to Worship

Responsive Reading *adapted from Proverbs 8* Gayle Giovanna

Leader: Does not wisdom call,
and does not understanding raise her voice?

People: **On the heights, beside the way,
at the crossroads she takes her stand;
beside the gates in front of the town she cries out:**
Leader: “To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live.
Add thoughtfulness and care to simplicity;
increase intelligence and intuition where they are lacking.

People: **“Take my instruction instead of silver,
and knowledge rather than choice gold;
for wisdom is better than jewels,
and all that you may desire cannot compare with her.**

Leader: “I love those who love me,
and those who seek me diligently find me.

People: **“I walk in the way of right mindfulness
and right action,
along the paths of justice,
endowing all who love me with richness of life
and the goodness of the earth.**

Leader: “And now, my children, listen to me:
happy are those who keep my ways.

Hear instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it.
People: **“Happy is the one who listens to me,
watching daily at my gates, waiting beside my doors.
For whoever finds me finds life
and obtains spiritual grace.”**

***Hymn** #113 Where Is Our Holy Church

Readings John Freitag

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Anthem “To Mercy, Pity, Peace, and Love”

Words: William Blake; Tune: Nikolaus Herman, 1480-1561,
Harmony by J.S. Bach, 1685-1750

Sermon “Many Retailers, One Wholesaler”

***Hymn** God of Change and Glory *hymn folder*

Sharing of Joys, Concerns, Prayer Requests and Reflections

Reflection Questions: Matthew Fox believes that the spiritual traditions of the world must combine their wisdom if the human race is to survive. How do you respond to that idea, and why? What would it look like at the local level?

Time of Prayer

Call to Offering

***Hymn** #318 We Would Be One

***Benediction**

Silent Prayer *We invite you to end the service in a spirit of prayer.*

Postlude Doen Daphne d'over schooner Maeght Jacob Van Eyck

** Those who are comfortably able may stand.*

**Please stay for refreshments and neighborliness after the service.
Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!**

**The text and video recording of this service
along with the readings and bulletin will be available at
<https://unitedchurchofstrafford.com/past-services/>**

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Thank you to the UU and UCS Choirs and Thank You to The Cantornote Church Musicians, including Sarah Cantor, Edward Cipullo, Susan Hodges, Michael Lauer, Sara Lisniansky, Tory Rhodin and Adeline Sire!

July 28th United Service at the UU Church in South Strafford We will have a united service of the Universalist Society of Strafford (UU) and the United Church of Strafford in the UU sanctuary across from Barrett Hall at 10:00 AM on Sunday, July 28th. The Cantornote Church Musicians will provide the music as well as the churches' combined choirs. Please be sure to let people know of this opportunity to worship in a wonderful space with wonderful neighbors!

Daily Inspiration Strafford UU member John Freitag sends out a daily email inspiration often with poems or readings from the UU hymnal or collections such as *Life Prayers* and *The Poetry of Impermanence, Mindfulness and Joy*, as well as poets that speak to our New England weather and heritage like Robert Frost, David Budbill, and Emily Dickinson, and Native American poets like Joy Harjo and Joseph Bruchac. If you are interested in starting your days with something other than the news, send John an email at jfreitag7 at hotmail.com

In Person and Zoom Meditation Sessions Silent Meditation continues every Tuesday at 7:00 PM in the Universalist Church till the weather gets too cold. A bring your own meditative practice or just silent contemplation for 20 minutes with a time for sharing thoughts and experiences afterwards. In addition, the **Heartfulness Circle** offers an informal meditation gathering on Zoom every evening from 7:30 to 8:10 PM. See the unitedchurchofstrafford.com website Welcome page for the Zoom link and details.

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UCS Election Speaker Series We feel the choices we make in this election will shape our future and are extremely important to discuss. By IRS rules, a church cannot endorse or oppose any candidate, directly or indirectly, but it can offer education on issues that will be affected by an election. Our speaker series is designed to do that, entitled "Election 2024: What Is at Stake?" Our two goals are: 1) to educate people about what is at stake in the election in a variety of issue areas; and, 2) to inspire people to become active and devote time and resources to help elect candidates who are more aligned with the nation and world they want to create, whoever those candidates may be. We ask each speaker to make clear the difference between the two major parties and their candidates on one particular issue or set of issues. We hope people will come away with a good overview and examples of the starkly contrasting worlds the two different approaches to the issue would create. **The talks will be available to livestream** on Zoom and we hope to post a recording afterward. See the Welcome Page of our website for more about this. Please spread the word about these events!

August 7, 7:00 PM Election Speaker Jim Wilson on "Economic Issues within an Election Circus" In addition to providing context for the 2024 election, this talk will clarify where each of the candidates stands on critical economic issues. Please come with questions and substantive comments! Jim Wilson is a retired secondary school teacher of history and economics. For the past decade he has taught Osher courses on political economy, most recently one entitled "Democracy, like Humpty Dumpty, is Teetering." He lives in Strafford, loves most outdoor activities including gardening, hiking, golf, and snowshoeing, is an avid photographer, a "news junkie," and loves to travel.

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Sunday August 25, 2:00 PM Election Speaker Jameson Davis on Individual Rights in America: Understanding the Stakes

“Election 2024: What Is at Stake?” presentation will aim to provide an educational and balanced overview of key individual rights issues at stake in the 2024 election. We will explore the contrasting approaches and policies of the major political parties and candidates. The presentation will delve into the significant differences between these parties, focusing on how their policies impact BIPOC and LGBTQ+ individuals and communities, while gaining a deeper understanding of how different electoral outcomes could shape the future of individual rights in America. **Jameson C. Davis** holds a Juris Doctor (JD) and a Master of Environmental Law and Policy (MELP) from Vermont Law and Graduate School. Throughout his career, Jameson has worked with sacrificed communities and underserved populations. He has worked for positive change as a Selectboard Member for the Town of Hartford, Vermont, President of Writing Wrongs LLC, and co-founder of the Environmental Justice Law Society (EJLS) at Vermont Law School.

Video Recording of Rod Smolla’s and Jim Antal’s Election Presentations

Presentations You can find descriptions and watch video recordings of the first two events in our Election 2024: What Is at Stake? series by going to the Welcome Page of our website at <https://unitedchurchofstrafford.com/>

Church Calendar:

Sun. July 28	Service in the UU Sanctuary, 10:00 AM*
Tues. July 30	Silent Meditation in the UU church 7:00 PM*
Sun. Aug. 4	Suzanne Lupien & Mel Goertz lead worship on “Meeting Teilhard de Chardin” at the UCS*
Wed. Aug. 7	Jim Wilson, Election: Economic Issues 7:00 PM*
Sun. Aug. 11	Herbert Goertz leads worship at UCS*
Sun. Aug. 18	Rachel Guaraldi leads worship at UCS*
Sun. Aug. 25	Jameson Davis, Election: Rights 2:00 PM*

**see the announcement about this*

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United Church of Strafford Mission Committee Update: Supporting Noah Kahan’s The Busyhead Project and Doctors

Without Borders and Third Act Recently, UCS congregation members mentioned two non-profit organizations they are passionate about during the Joys and Concerns part of the Sunday service. Our committee enthusiastically decided to support those organizations with donations on behalf of our church. First, we sent a contribution to The Busyhead Project (TBP), “a non-profit mental health foundation founded by Noah Kahan aimed at raising awareness, reducing stigma, and providing resources.” Working through the Vermont Community Foundation, TBP supports about 40 local nonprofits in Vermont and around the country. We are proud of you, dear Noah, and we are happy to support this important work! Secondly, we sent off a donation to Doctors Without Borders, a hard working organization which helps bring health care to those who are in desperate need around the world. We thank you for these ideas..... and please keep them coming! Also, to honor our Election Series speaker Jim Antal, we made a donation to Third Act that describes itself this way: “Third Act is the first nation-wide effort to organize older Americans for progressive political and environmental action.” Thank you, Jim, for speaking at our church recently and for sharing about Third Act with us! With gratitude and love, Danette Harris, Maggie Hooker and Cameron Speth

More information about the Universalist Society of Strafford can be found at our website: www.strafforduu.org or by contacting John Freitag at 802-765-4003

Haiku by Mel. Goertz

I love to watch caterpillars.
They have their place
in the Universe.

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