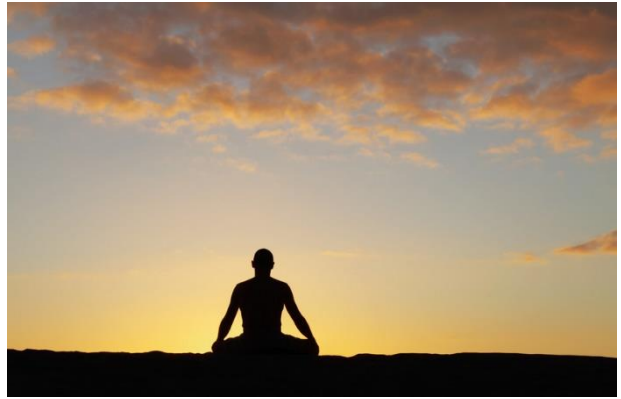


UCN MAY 2022 NEWSLETTER

Minister Musings by Rev. Julie Lombard

*“Let us not mock God with metaphor,
analogy, sidestepping, transcendence:
making of the event a parable, a sign
painted in the faded credulity of earlier age:
let us walk through the door.”*

~ John Updike



Transcendence is a worship theme that makes us a wee bit nervous because it suggests that we cannot navigate this theology concept from within. Instead, we will look to stories of transcendence from stories about a few burnt out fishermen, a pandemonium of dividing voices, and a love strong enough to unite many. Stories offer us examples of the way folks tap into something larger than themselves. They can also offer folks a much-needed experience of wholeness and holiness in the midst of difficulty, but we must also remember that not all stories of transcendence are rooted in hardship.

A. Powell Davies said: *“We must find our faith, not in the daylight, but in the dark. If we are ever to come to the light of morning, we must carry our own light with us through the night.”* And so, transcendence stories are often tinged with trauma and the darker sides of life.

Transcendence is a spiritual concept that’s tricky to grasp, it points us to a reality beyond something we can put into words, a reality many people have experiences but few talk about. Yet it is an important theme to what we believe. In the UUA sources of authority, we find: *“The living tradition we share draws from many sources,”* and the first source on that list is *“Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life.”*

This is where we will journey in May- towards a renewal of the spirit born from transcending mystery and wonder we call the ‘Spirit of Life and Love’. We will let story be our guide to this holy wonder and mystery. This exploration requires an openness to all that upholds life to order to enter the unknown or back to where you once started. I’m unsure where we will go or whether we will have the same experience- that doesn’t matter. What does matter is that we share our stories, the ones we’ve heard, the ones we experienced, and even the ones we hope to have.

Come and journey with us to this sacred place we called the united church. We will learn as we go and listen to one another with open minds and loving hearts.

Peace, Rev. Julie

May's worship theme: Transcendence

May 1 Embracing Reality by Rev. Julie Lombard



Easter has come and gone, but Jesus is with us in many ways. Join us for this special Communion Sunday. Jesus has been visiting his followers after the resurrection and discovering they seem to have lost their faith. He doesn't get frustrated with them or angry; instead, he inspires them to continue their work when all they want to do is go home and go to bed. It's worth the extra effort. Even more surprising, Jesus then makes Peter the rock of the church and asks him in a most peculiar way to continue to "follow me" and feed my flock. We are asked to embrace the strangest realities –

Jesus places the future church in the care of a leader who nearly abandoned it. How are we today to embrace such outrageous realities? Readings: Acts 9:1-6 [7-20], Psalm 30, Revelation 5:11-14, John 21:1-19. **Today's Musical Guest is Daniel Bruce**

May 8 Embracing One Truth by Rev. Julie Lombard



In our busy lives we listen to many voices- the voices from our family and friends, the voices from the multimedia sources that surrounds us, and the voices from other cultural influences. Today, we are asked to hear the one true voice and to disregard the rest. Is there a force strong enough to overcome the clamor of division? Where do we find the Good Shepherd in the chaos that seems to lure us away from all that is holy?

Readings: Acts 9:36-43, Psalm 23, Revelation 7:9-17, John 10:22-30. **Today's Musical Guest is Daniel Bruce.**



May 15 Embracing Vision by Rev. Julie Lombard

It is not by our theological correctness, not by our moral purity, and not by our impressive knowledge that folks will know that we are his followers. It is only through our loving acts—acts of service, acts of sacrifice, and acts that point to Divine Love for the wider world. How shall we embrace this vision? How shall we call folks to receive such love? The Good News today required us to ponder how we might embrace such a holy vision in order to spread it widely. Readings: Acts 11:1-18, Psalm 148, Revelation 21:1-6, John 13:31-35

Today's Musical Guest is Bob Merrill

May 22 TBD by Peter Evans

Readings: Acts 16:9-15, Psalm 67, Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5, John 14:23-29

Today's Musical Guest is Alison Cerutti

May 29 TBD by Lauren Howard

Readings: Acts 16:16-34, Psalm 97, Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21, John 17:20-26

Today's Musical Guest is Daniel Bruce

UU Hymn - #1008 When Our Heart Is In a Holy Place STJ (Teal)

https://vimeo.com/526163218?gclid=CjwKCAjwjZmTBhB4EiwAynRmDys7uytAoMe5iEG8Pt8_jeLCuQPomdLdTcoi1VqYxA7QDfEOwBIKShoCYKgQAvD_BwE

Children's Hymn - #8 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee PH (Verse 1)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H0wElwpimmk>

OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE YOUR TIME AND TALENTS!!

MAY FELLOWSHIP/COFFEE HOUR HOST.

Sign up to be host/cohost for a given Sunday in May. The church will provide the coffee and creamer and will start the coffee pots and hot water. As host, you will set up the coffee hour, provide a couple food items, and clean up. Anyone is welcome to bring a food item to share for coffee hour. You don't need to do it alone, ask a partner to help.

CHURCH YARD SALE FUNDRAISER:

June 4th Saturday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. (3 p.m.– 4 p.m. Everything must go Hour!)

Drop off donations at the church June 2nd or June 3rd:

Thursday, June 2nd from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Friday, June 3rd from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

- ✓ Donations are needed for this church fundraiser in support of the church. Unsold items will be returned to the donor.
- ✓ Volunteers are needed to work the Saturday Sale. We need cashiers and general works to help keep items neatly displayed throughout the sale.

Please contact team committee members Mary McDaniel or Laura Ranker if you are able to volunteer on Saturday or if you have questions concerning the sales. We appreciate and need your support.

Thank you from the Fundraising Team: Mary McDaniel, Laura Ranker, Elizabeth Redmond, Harriet Hirst, Bonnie Gayle, and Rev. Julie Lombard.

CHURCH PAINTING FUNDRAISING GOAL MET!

We're happy to announce that we have met our \$56,000 goal to pay for painting of the church. Painting will begin in July of this year and is expected to take about a month to complete.

We thank the fundraising committee composed of Debra Maloney-Evans, Chair, Lauren and Judy Howard, Peter Evans and Rev. Julie Lombard. The generous outpouring of donations from the congregation, the community and grants rewarded their work.

Joe and Mary McDaniel kicked off the fundraising with an \$8000 match challenge. The response was strong! Thank you, Mary and Joe. Grants were received from The Charles Foundation and The Dolly Stone Fund, for which we are so grateful. Thank you to the many others who made this fundraiser such a success.

Look for photos on our FACEBOOK page as the work progresses!

THANK YOU ~~~ THANK YOU ~~~ THANK YOU ~~~ THANK YOU ~~~ THANK YOU

UPCOMING CALENDAR DATES

- Sun. May 8 9:00 a.m. Church choir practice
10 a.m. Sunday Worship with Reverend Lombard – Forth Sunday of Easter
Music by Daniel Bruce.
5:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. Dirt Road Theater classes in Howe's Hall.
- Mon. May 9 7:00 p.m. Men's AA in Howe's Hall.
- Tues. May 10 1:00 p.m. Chalice Circles: Small Group Ministry will discuss the 4th UU Principle Meeting at the parsonage, 356 Central Street, Northfield.
5:45 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. Zumba classes in Howe's Hall.
- Wed. May 11 1 p.m. Weekly Bible Study meeting at Church Parsonage, 356 Central Street.
3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Dirt Road Theater classes in Howe's Hall.
- Sat. May 14 1:00 p.m. Celebration of Life service for Christine Barnes in UCN Sanctuary followed by a reception in Howe's Hall.
- Sun. May 15 10 a.m. Sunday Worship with Reverend Lombard - Fifth Sunday of Easter
Music by Bob Merrill and Mary McDaniel
5:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. Dirt Road Theater classes in Howe's Hall.
- Mon. May 16 6:00 p.m. Stewardship Committee/Howe's Hall Restoration Committee meeting.
7:00 p.m. Men's AA in Howe's Hall.
- Tues. May 17 5:45 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. Zumba classes in Howe's Hall.
6:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting.
- Wed. May 18 1 p.m. Weekly Bible Study meeting at Church Parsonage, 356 Central Street.
3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Dirt Road Theater classes in Howe's Hall.
- Thu. May 19 7:00 p.m. Meeting of the Fundraising Yard Sale Committee via Zoom.
- Fri. May 20 start of Rev. Lombard's vacation.
- Sun. May 22 9:00 a.m. Church choir practice
10 a.m. Sunday Worship with Peter Evans leading worship. Sixth Sunday of Easter
Music by Alison Cerutti.
5:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. Dirt Road Theater classes in Howe's Hall.
- Mon. May 23 7:00 p.m. Men's AA in Howe's Hall.
- Tues. May 22 5:45 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. Zumba classes in Howe's Hall.
- Wed. May 23 No Bible Study this week.
3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Dirt Road Theater classes in Howe's Hall.
- Sun. May 29 9:00 a.m. Church choir practice
10 a.m. Sunday Worship with Dr. Lauren Howard leading worship.
Seventh Sunday of Easter. Music by Daniel Bruce.
5th Sunday Mission Moment.
5:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. Dirt Road Theater classes in Howe's Hall.
- Tue. May 31 Rev. Lombard returns from vacation.
- Wed. June 1 1 p.m. Weekly Bible Study meeting at Church Parsonage, 356 Central Street.
3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Dirt Road Theater classes in Howe's Hall.
- Thu. June 2 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Drop off donated items for church Yard Sale at the church.
- Fri. June 3 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Drop off donated items for church Yard Sale at the church.
- Sat. June 4 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Church YARD SALE (3:00 – 4:00 Everything must go Hour).





Spring cleaning? Donate your items to the United Church of Northfield for our yard sale fundraiser with proceeds benefiting the work of the United Church of Northfield. We are accepting items in good working order and condition. Any items not sold will be returned to you, the donor, after the sale. Drop off times are on Thursday, June 2nd from 4-6 p.m. and Friday, June 3rd from 5-8 p.m. We ask you to price your items if you are looking for a particular sales price.

HOWE'S HALL 2022 SCHEDULED GROUP USAGE:

If you or a group you know wishes to rent Howe's Hall, please contact Laura Ranker, Howe's Hall Coordinator at 802-229-4351 or email at lranker@myfairpoint.net

MEN'S AA (ongoing weekly)

Monday Evenings - 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.; set up begins at 6:30 p.m.

DIRT ROAD THEATER CLASSES (February 6, 2022 – June 1, 2022)

Sunday Afternoon to Evening 5:30 P.M. - 7:45 P.M. (5/1-5/29)

Wednesdays from 3:30-5:30 (4/13 – 6/1)

ZUMBA CLASSES with Robin Combs (ongoing weekly) -

Tuesday 5:45 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.

Thursday Zumba classes have been cancelled until further notice.

LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

DATE 2022	Deacon in Charge	Sunday	LAY READER
May 1	Judy and Lauren Howard	Communion Sunday	Laura Ranker
May 8	Laura Ranker & Shae Martin	Fourth Sunday of Easter	Laura Ranker
May 15	Laura Ranker & Shae Martin	Fifth Sunday of Easter	Marilyn Bruce
May 22	Laura Ranker & Shae Martin	Sixth Sunday of Easter	Debbie Maloney-Evans
May 29	Judy and Lauren Howard	Seventh Sunday of Easter	Judy Howard
June 5	Laura Ranker & Shae Martin Communion Stewards: Judy and Lauren Howard	Communion Sunday Pentecost Sunday Strengthen the Church Offering	Bev Tucker
June 12	Judy and Lauren Howard	Trinity Sunday	Karen Taylor
June 19	Laura Ranker & Shae Martin	Second Sunday after Pentecost	Peter Evans
June 26	Judy and Lauren Howard	Third Sunday after Pentecost	Lauren Howard