

JUNE 2023

MONTHLY MUSINGS FROM UUMFE

uumfe.org

Welcome to Monthly Musings from UUMFE

The Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth is delighted to share worship and small group ministry resources that are Earth-centered and focused on climate justice. They are organized by our theory of change and what we call our "Three Es":



June: Joy

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UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
MINISTRY FOR EARTH

Respect Life. Restore Earth. Renew Spirit.



EMBODIMENT - Spiritual Grounding

CHALICE LIGHTING

Let There Be Light by Andrew Pakula

Let there be light

The light of joy, the light of happiness, and the light of contentment

May it illuminate our paths and fill our lives with peace

And let there be dark

For it is from our dark places that we are brought forward

Tried and tested

And impelled toward growth

It is in these places that we realize compassion and learn to love

And there was day and there was night.

And there was joy and there was sorrow.

And it was good.

OPENING WORDS (two choices)

In The Book of Delights, Ross Gay asks, “What if we joined our sorrows, I’m saying. I’m saying: What if that is joy?”

Or

“I choose joy over despair, not because I stick my head in the sand, but because the Earth gives me joy everyday, and I must return the gift.” Robin Wall-Kimmerer, Braiding Sweetgrass

SERMON PROMPT:

The climate movement has been built largely on guilt, shame, fear and individual actions. What could be possible if we felt our grief together and let it turn us toward joy? What if we create a movement that is life affirming and focused on a future we dream about? We’re not talking about positivity washing here. We’re talking about the spiritual practices of lament and grief that then make room for joy, hope and action. Margaret Klein Salamon, in her article *On Climate: Grieve, Cry, But Don’t Give Up*, says, “By grieving what we have lost, we free ourselves to take joy in life again; not all climate emotions are negative.”

READING

Where the Circles Overlap by Ada Limón -
Poet Laureate of the United States
We burrow.
We hunch.
We beg and beg.

The thesis is still a river.

At the top of the mountain
is a murderous light, so strong

it's like staring into an original
joy, foundational,

that brief kinship of hold
and hand, the space between

teeth right before they break
into an expansion, a heat.

We hurry.
We hanker.
We beg and beg.

When should we mourn?

We think time is always time.
And place is always place.

Bottlebrush trees attract
the nectar lovers, and we
capture, capture, capture.

The thesis is still the wind.

The thesis has never been exile.
We have never been exiled.
We have been in the sun,

strong and between sleep,
no hot gates, no house decayed,

just the bottlebrush alive
on all sides with want.

MUSIC

All I Need by Facesoul
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b9seLHk3LNs>

Wonderful by Gretchen Parlato
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KLGQcFjA4JL>

Hymn 100 - I've Got Peace Like a River

RITUAL

Each person is invited to write on a piece of paper the
sorrow, loss and sadness they feel related to the climate
emergency.

Invite people forward to put all the sorrows in a bowl.
Offer a blessing on the sorrows.

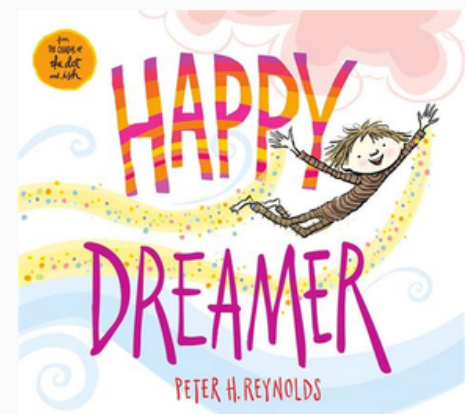
Now imagine it's 2050, and we have won. Everything
goes right. Draw something that symbolizes that joyful
state.

Invite people to share with their neighbors - as they are
willing. If not, invite them to cross their arms on their
chest

Invite the group to express the energy of joy
however they'd like (shouts, whoops, dancing, arms
up in the air, etc.)

TIME FOR ALL AGES

Inspires readers of every
age to find their own
unique path to happy, and
to always follow their
dreams.



EMPOWERMENT - Lifelong Learning and Community



BOOK SUGGESTION

The Book of Delights by Ross Gay, especially Essay 14: “Joy is Such a Human Madness”

ARTICLES and SITES OF INTEREST:

- On Climate: Grieve, Cry, But Don't Give Up!
 - <https://www.commondreams.org/opinion/grieve-and-cry-for-climate-but-don-t-give-up>
- Ricardo Levins Morales on knowledge, grief, hope - plus some amazing art!
 - <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=WCJOLamgVEQ&feature=youtu.be>
- Visit these sites that remind us of the good news related to climate:
 - <https://www.edf.org/good-climate-news>
 - <https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/tag/climate/>
 -

FOR SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES

- Read the article On Climate: Grieve, Cry, But Don't Give Up
- “Feeling grief reinforced my recognition of the seriousness of the climate emergency and the seriousness of our collective loss. But grief did something else, too. It reminded me of how much I love this world. The depth of my grief was a direct response to how connected I am—and want to be—to the living world. It gave me a new breath of life.”
- Each person is invited to write on a piece of paper the sorrow, loss and sadness they feel related to the climate emergency. Share as willing.
- Put all the sorrows in a bowl in the center of the group.
- Bless them with Ross Gay's words: “What if we joined our sorrows, I'm saying. I'm saying: What if that is joy?”
- Reflect individually on a time when you felt connected to the living world. Draw something that symbolizes that joyful state.
- Share.

ENGAGEMENT - Partnering and Support for Climate Justice Activism



UUMFE and UUA Side with Love are partnering with People vs. Fossil Fuels to End the Era of Fossil Fuels. There are actions in June, 2023 which culminate at Climate Week in NYC in September 2023. Here's how you can engage right away.

Review the Action Toolkit for planning your action

Add your event to the Action Map or join an existing effort in your area

<https://tinyurl.com/actionmap-EndtheEra>

If you're hosting an event, request coaching support from PvFF

Join PvFF Action trainings

Add Your Event to the Side With Love Action Center so other UUs can find you!

Tell us what you did! Add your action to the Side With Love Story & Report form

RSVP for Movement Chaplaincy with UUMFE to debrief: June 15, 2023 4PT-5MT-6CT-7ET

Monthly Musings will be taking a break in July and August, returning in September with new themes. Thank you for your work and commitment to climate justice!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE UUMFE.ORG

QUESTIONS ABOUT MONTHLY MUSINGS? PLEASE EMAIL

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