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".

**EMPOWERMENT**
- Life-long learning
- Skill building
- Community

**EMBODIMENT**
- Spiritual grounding
- Worship
- Earth-centered practices

**ENGAGEMENT**
- Partnering and spiritual support for activists

June: Joy

EMBODIMENT
PAGE 2

EMPOWERMENT
PAGE 4

ENGAGEMENT
PAGE 5
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=KLGQcFjA4JI

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.
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](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](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.edf.org/good-climate-news)
  - [https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/tag/climate/](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 REV KELLY DIGNAN AT KELLYDIGNAN@UUMFE.ORG
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