

MAY 2023

# MONTHLY MUSINGS FROM UUMFE

[uumfe.org](http://uumfe.org)

## Welcome to Monthly Musings from UUMFE

The Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth is delighted to share our newest endeavor designed to help your congregants connect their spiritual practice to care for Earth and all her inhabitants. We invite you to commit to supporting the flourishing of all life!

Each month, your congregation will get a copy of MONTHLY MUSINGS FROM UUMFE focused on a different theme and filled with materials to help with your EMBODIMENT, EMPOWERMENT, & ENGAGEMENT in the face of climate chaos and environmental injustice. We hope you use these resources for worship, contemplative practice, and religious exploration in your congregation.

This month, let us consider creativity - how our imaginations might shape our relationship with Earth and how we might learn creativity from biodiversity.

## MAY: CREATIVITY

EMBODIMENT  
PAGE 2

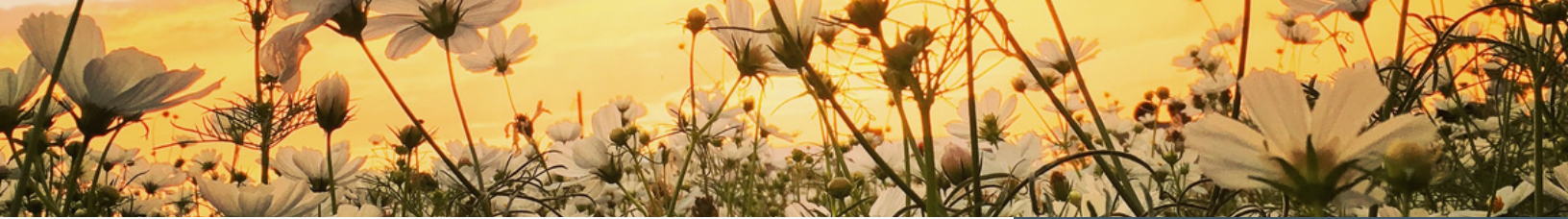
EMPOWERMENT  
PAGE 4

ENGAGEMENT  
PAGE 5



# UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST MINISTRY FOR EARTH

*Respect Life. Restore Earth. Renew Spirit.*



# EMBODIMENT - SPIRITUAL GROUNDING

## CHALICE LIGHTING

Biodiversity Sunday Chalice Lighting

We light this chalice in honor of the Web of Life.

We honor this sacred ecosystem of ecosystems we call home.

We honor all of our diverse animal, plant, fungal, and insect relatives,

And the land, water, and air we all share.

May we remember that all life is worthy, all life connected, all life is sacred.

## OPENING WORDS

IWe gather here to worship

By Gary Kowalski

We gather here to worship:

to seek the truth, to grow in love, to join in service;

to celebrate life's beauty and find healing for its pain;

to honor our kinship with each other and with the earth;

to create a more compassionate world,

beginning with ourselves;

to wonder at the mystery that gave us birth;

to find courage for the journey's end;

and to listen for the wisdom that guides us

in the quietness of this moment.



## TIME FOR ALL AGES

Everything is Connected,  
by By Jason Gruhl

A lovely story about the interdependent web of all existence that links the universe.

## SERMON PROMPT:

Biodiversity Sunday is May 21st! This is a day for honoring, celebrating, and committing to restore and protect the Web of Life. Encourage creative expression with your local Procession of Species!



## PRAYER

This is what was bequeathed us - By  
Gregory Orr

Listen

This is what was bequeathed us:

This earth the beloved left

And, leaving,

Left to us.

No other world

But this one:

Willows and the river

And the factory

With its black smokestacks.

No other shore, only this bank

On which the living gather.

No meaning but what we find here.

No purpose but what we make.

That, and the beloved's clear instructions:

Turn me into song; sing me awake.

## READING

"We Americans are reluctant to learn a foreign language of our own species, let alone another species. But imagine the possibilities. Imagine the access we would have to different perspectives, the things we might see through other eyes, the wisdom that surrounds us. We don't have to figure out everything by ourselves: there are intelligences other than our own, teachers all around us. Imagine how much less lonely the world would be."

– Robin Wall Kimmerer, Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants

## MUSICAL MEDITATION

ENGAGE THESE SONGS FROM  
OUR UU HYMNALS:

#203 "ALL CREATURES OF THE  
EARTH AND SKY"

#1052 "THE ONENESS OF  
EVERYTHING"



# EMPOWERMENT - LEARNING & TRANSFORMATION

## BOOK SUGGESTION

[The Seed Keeper](#) by Diane Wilson

“A haunting novel spanning several generations, *The Seed Keeper* follows a Dakota family's struggle to preserve their way of life, and their sacrifices to protect what matters most.”

## ARTICLE OF INTEREST:

[Learn about the International Day for Biological Diversity](#)

[Learn about UUMFE's multi-generational, arts-based faith formation curriculum "May You Survive and Thrive"](#)





## ENGAGEMENT - ADAPTATION & INNOVATION

### ACTIVITY

Discover the biodiversity in your local ecosystem! Throughout your day, notice the various species of plants and animals that populate your local area - or just in one spot! Find a creative offering to remember and celebrate this biodiversity.

### MAY EVENTS WITH UUMFE

5th - Monthly Full Moon Spiritual Gathering (7-8pm EST)

10th - Preview our May You Survive and Thrive curriculum. Register here.

21st - Biodiversity Sunday!

22nd - International Day for Biological Diversity.

From Side With Love: sign up for all Side With Love climate justice events at [SideWithLove.org/ClimateJustice](https://SideWithLove.org/ClimateJustice)

May 17: Funding for Congregational Clean Energy & Climate Solutions

June 19: Climate Justice Brainstorm!

DETAILS AT [UUMFE.ORG](https://UUMFE.ORG)

QUESTIONS ABOUT MONTHLY MUSINGS? PLEASE EMAIL

REV KELLY DIGNAN AT [KELLYDIGNAN@UUMFE.ORG](mailto:KELLYDIGNAN@UUMFE.ORG)

SUPPORT UUMFE - CONSIDER MINISTRY FOR EARTH FOR YOUR  
CONGREGATION'S SHARE THE PLATE OFFERING