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.
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.

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!

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.
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
I “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.”

MUSICAL MEDITATION
ENGAGE THESE SONGS FROM OUR UU HYMNALS:
#203 “ALL CREATURES OF THE EARTH AND SKY”
#1052 “THE ONENESS OF EVERYTHING”
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"
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
May 17: Funding for Congregational Clean Energy & Climate Solutions
June 19: Climate Justice Brainstorm!

DETAILS AT UUMFE.ORG
QUESTIONS ABOUT MONTHLY MUSINGS? PLEASE EMAIL REV KELLY DIGNAN AT KELLYDIGNAN@UUMFE.ORG
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