



The Flaming Chalice

THEOLOGICALLY DIVERSE • RADICALLY INCLUSIVE • JUSTICE CENTERED

Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church | October 2020 Newsletter



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Due to COVID19 shelter in place orders, the church office is closed until further notice.

Kelli is working from home and can still be reached via

office@starrking.org

For pastoral care, please reach out to Rev. Maria Cristina via email or phone (617)895-9267.

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Newsletter

Kelly and Nathan Heigert

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OCTOBER 4

Vote Love Defeat Hate

A National UU The Vote Worship Service with a special message from UUA President, Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray.
Service led by Rev. María Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa

OCTOBER 11

Indigenous People's Day

In 2020, the United States will approach the 400th anniversary of the much-mythologized encounter at Plymouth between colonists and those native to the land. Our Unitarian Universalist Faith calls us to change the national narrative around this anniversary and Columbus Day and instead honor Indigenous Peoples' Day and the larger history of Indigenous people.

Service led by Rev. María Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa

OCTOBER 18

Committed

What does it mean for us to be committed at this time in our nation's history, in this particular state, in this community of faith? What challenges are we prepared to face, what obstacles are we prepared to overcome, and what sacrifices are we prepared to make to uphold the values – social, religious, and democratic – that are most dear to us?

Service led by Rev. María Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa

OCTOBER 25

Trees

Inspired by their love of nature and in the face of so much devastation from forest fires, our youth have created a service to honor the trees. They have written their own stories, poems, and created art to share with us. Let us support our youth as they develop their leadership skills and offer us a wonderful opportunity to live into our UU values to honor and protect nature.

Service led by Rev. María Cristina Vlassidis Burgoa

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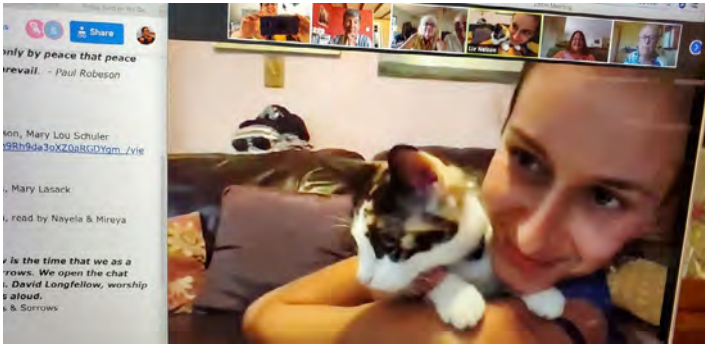
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September Highlights



EvenSong

A Five Week Series of Gatherings

“The Most Precious Gift We Can Offer Others is Our Presence.”

-Thich Nhat Hanh

As we count down to Election Day, November 3rd, we offer a contemplative space where the love and compassion from friends might lessen our anxiety and reinforce our commitment to Peace and Justice.

In the Taize tradition, we will light candles and together chant prayers. We will practice deep listening as we share joys and sorrows and listen to meditative music. All are welcome. Join us!

Schedule: Mondays from 7-8 pm via zoom. Zoom links will be sent with Weekly Announcements.

October 5, 12, 19, 26, and November 2nd.



From Peace and Justice Action Team

UU Organizations Dedicated to Overcoming Racism and promoting Multicultural Transformation

For all UUs of Color: DRUUMM – Diverse Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries

Who are we?

DRUUMM is a Unitarian Universalist People of Color Ministry and anti-racist collective bringing lay and religious professionals together to overcome racism through resistance and transform Unitarian Universalism through our multicultural experiences. We developed from several older ministries, namely the African American UU Ministries and Jubilee World anti-racism change trainings.

For Black/African Descent UUs: BLUU – Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism

What is the Black Lives of UU Organizing Collective?

Formed in the wake of several conversations among Black UUs at the July 2015 Movement for Black Lives Convening in Cleveland, OH - the BLUU Organizing Collective is committed to to:

- *Expanding the power & capacity of Black UUs within our faith*
- *Providing support, information & resources for Black Unitarian Universalists.*
- *Justice-making and liberation through our faith*

For White UUs: ARE - Allies for Racial Equity

We are all called to take bold steps to undo white supremacy in our Unitarian Universalist faith communities.

Allies for Racial Equity disrupts oppression, uproots white supremacy, and plants seeds of justice. This is a ministry of faith which leads all who participate to spiritual growth and wholeness. We honor each other's humanity and capacity for growth by offering ourselves and each other grace and accountability.

Please take the time to learn about all three organizations, and join the one that seems right for you. And all of them need financial support!

Bits from Your Board

Current Board Business

- Supporting our sustainability by assisting with the Online Service Auction, our every-two years major fund raiser!
- Our new Board liaisons (as required by our bylaws) are: Membership and Hospitality – Ethel-May Shaw; Nominating Committee – Mileva Lewis; and Family Ministry – Mary Swain. THANK YOU, Ethel-May, Mileva, and Mary!
- Bylaws revisions: We're finalizing the language and will bring proposed revisions to the congregation in early 2021.
- Racial Justice Efforts: Draft statement of support in solidarity with the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band; the Widening the Circle Initiative continues.

Those are the bits from your board this month.

In gratitude for our beloved community

– Jennifer Koney

Examples of White Allies*

Excerpts from White Allies – The Struggle for Racial Justice

by Drick Boyd, 2015

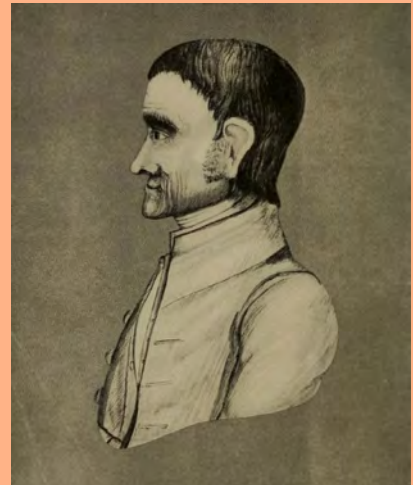
*(*Please note: While it is my hope to show examples and the legacy of Whites who have taken action for racial justice in their time, in no way is this meant to position White ally action as more important or a stronger voice than the actions of People of Color. – J. Koney)*

John Woolman

1720-1720

A Lone Clear Voice

In 1758, at a time when the Atlantic slave trade was booming business and growing ten-fold within his lifetime, the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (Society of Friends) met to discuss whether or not as Quakers they should engage in the commonly accepted practice of owning Africans as slaves. John Woolman, a church leader,

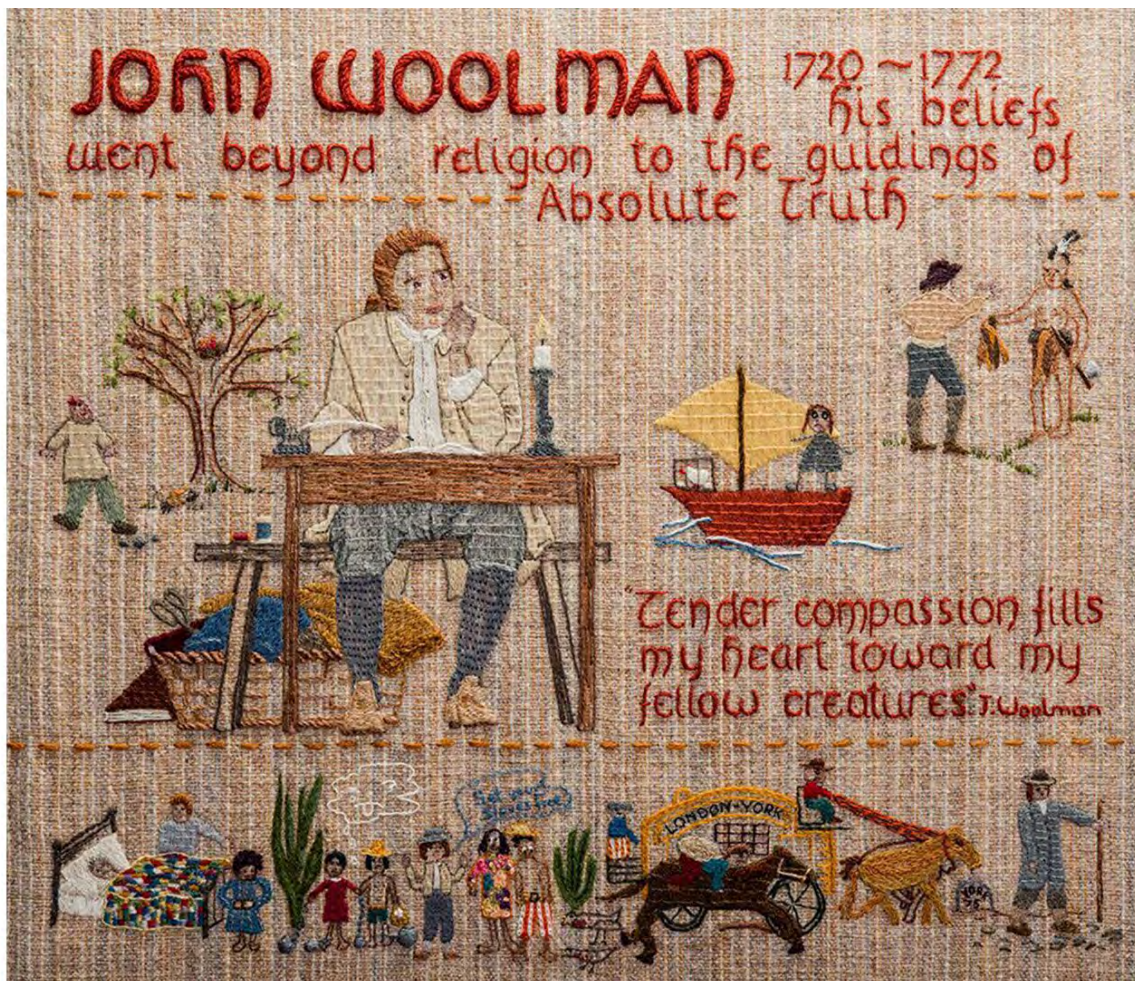


Bits from Your Board

Current Board Business

a vocal opponent of slavery and a strong advocate for Quakers relinquishing their slaves, rose to speak and issued one of the strongest public statements he had ever made. A resolution was later passed expelling members who engaged in the slave trade and a committee appointed to visit slaveholders and persuade them to release their slaves.

John Woolman spent the rest of his years voicing the ethical inconsistencies of slaveholding while advocating for meaningful change, person by person. In his commitment to living by example, he eventually came to refuse any practice, service, or goods that in any way supported slavery thus refusing sugar, molasses, housing, and transportation, etc. if they were connected to slaves or slaveholders. John Woolman perhaps is best known for his convincing of fellow Quakers to fully embody their beliefs of all life being sacred and all humans being equal and to abandon the practice of owning slaves. By doing so, John Woolman woke the conscience of the Western world to the moral evil of slavery.



SoUUful Family Ministry

September's theme "Renewal"

Where did the time go?

What fun we had creating a healthy garden all the while conserving water and watering bees!

Recycling is so important. It saves our Earth plus we got to explore a different kind of a "toy box".

Composting completes the cycle of green waste to new life. Our enriched soil helps our plants to grow strong. Most important, composting limits the unnecessary waste in our land fills.

Seeds is where it all begins. We can find seeds in our garden plants and pantry! Germinating seeds begins in your kitchen with a damp paper towel and a warm place to rest.



Fun Art for the month

It was like magic watching paper flowers bloom in a bowl of water. The "Mask of Truth" was decorated with some recycle art pieces. Mother Earth's clay was fun to make. Those mud pies looked yummy. The bean mosaic pictures and the garden hat can be planted in the spring.

Thank you all who contributed to our SoUUful Family Ministry.

Theme presenters:

Lea Casini: Gardening and conserving water

Claudia McDonagh: The importance of Recycling

Lorie Miller: Composting

Sheila McClellan: Preparing Your Winter Garden

Donation Appreciation

Natalie Sprague

Henry Spague

Rev. Maria Cristina

Shiela McClellan

Stephanie Smith

Katrina and Lilly Homerick

-Lorene Miller

Starr King Online Service Auction

Week of Monday 18 October to Saturday 24 October

The Starr King Service Auction, the major fundraiser for our beloved community, is almost here!

We are grateful for the wonderful creative donations that have been made...so far. The donations include baskets of goodies, wonderful baked goods, delightful hand crafted items and beautiful photographs, just to mention a few.

If you haven't made a donation yet, it isn't too late. Whether you have 1 item or 100 to contribute, your participation is an invaluable part of our fundraising efforts. To make a donation contact Terri Owen at towen4321@gmail.com or Allison Prout allisonprout@gmail.com.

As we get closer to the date look for a Starr King Service Auction Constant Contact e-mail or go to <https://starrking.org>. Events which will explain how to register, review the auction catalog and bid. There is no cost to register.

Starr King Service Auction Grand Finale

Saturday 24 October at 6:00
Join us for a Zoom Halloween Party and Virtual Live Auction

The Service Auction fundraising event of the prior week will be celebrated with a Zoom Halloween Party and Virtual Live Auction. Come in costume or at least wear a mask (a fun one) and join the party! Oh...and do a little competitive bidding during the Virtual Live Auction. Some of the fabulous live auction offerings include: a weekend in a mountain cabin which sleeps 7; wonderful dinner options which may be delivered to your door; an afternoon sailing on the bay; and many others.

Look for a Starr King Service Auction Constant Contact e-mail which will provide a link to the event once we get closer to the date.



Protect Juristac

Resources

This guide accompanies the Protect the Sacred Land of Juristac presentation and was last updated in September 2020. For more information or to schedule a presentation, contact Colleen Cabot at colleencabot@earthlink.net.

Websites

protectjuristac.org – The Amah Mutsun Tribal Band's official Protect Juristac campaign website where you can find a wealth of information and resources.

amahmutsun.org – Learn more about the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band and its history.

amahmutsunlandtrust.org – Learn about how the Amah Mutsun are restoring Indigenous stewardship practices to their ancestral lands and rekindling traditional ecological knowledge.



Ongoing Activities

All in-person activities done virtually or on hold until further notice.
Please check the website at starrking.org for updates.

Drum Circle	First Friday of the month, 7–9pm on Zoom. For adults and mature kids. Contact: Kathryn LaMar
Evening Meditation	Every Wednesday, 7:00–8:30pm on Zoom. Open to all. Contact: Diane Meyerson
Small Group Ministry	Contact sgm@starrking.org for more information.
Board Meeting	First Thursday of the month, 7–9pm on Zoom. Open to all. Contact: Jennifer Koney
Family Storytime	Every Friday 5:30pm on Zoom. Contact: Dr. Rev. María Cristina
Adult RE	Second Tuesday of the Month from 11–12 noon on Zoom Contact: Mileva Saulo Lewis
Book Group+: Trans Inclusion for Congregations	(On hold) Meets every 1st and 3rd Monday at 7:15pm in the sanctuary. Contact: Beth Ogilvie
Choir Practice	(On hold) Meets every Sunday from 9–10:15am in the Fellowship Hall. Contact: Lea Casini
Church Bookstore	(On hold) Open on the third Sunday of the month, after the service. Contact: Evelyn Cormier



October Birthdays

October 2

Carl Fink

October 8

Scott Kinnear

October 23

Erik Walter

October 3

David Longfellow

October 16

Kelly Heigert
Sheila McClellan