

May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society Newsletter



We embrace all spiritual journeys and encourage service as we build a more loving and just world

February 2023
Volume 86
Issue 2

Love Shows Up

Rev. Jo VonRue

Love makes your soul crawl out from its hiding place.
—Zora Neale Hurston



As a child I didn't always have access to the basic necessities for thriving. We often didn't have food to eat; at times, we were homeless. As you can imagine, I sometimes showed up to school wearing dirty clothing and smelling unpleasant. I was the brunt of jokes, the target of bullying, and generally kept my head down trying to get through each day.

I was not very good at school. Because of my ineptitude for learning, most of my teachers didn't pay much attention to me, especially because I was my mother's daughter (most of my teachers had her as a struggling student, too). I knew myself to be a frustration for most of my teachers—at least that's how they made me feel—who seemed to avoid me as much as possible.

My 5th grade teacher was called Mrs. Fong. She was a formidable woman who did not tolerate any shenanigans. Though she was never unkind towards me, I was terrified of her.

One day after class, Mrs. Fong pulled me aside and said, "Do you know what deodorant is? It's time for you to start wearing some." I was absolutely mortified that a teacher had to tell me to wear deodorant.

But when I was recently asked about a time when someone stuck their neck out for me, Mrs. Fong was the first person I thought of. It's funny how perspective changes over time: somethings that once seemed mortifying now strikes me as a gesture of caring; of love.

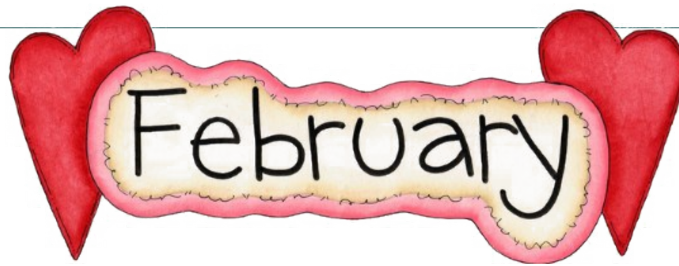
Love shows up in soft, easy comfortable places: a new baby in the delivery room; a meal train when you're ill; a hug, or the sweet smile of a stranger.

But here's the thing: love shows up everywhere.

We don't always recognize it, but love shows up even more in the messy, vulnerable places. Love shows up in the form of a friend seeking forgiveness. Love shows up every time we interrupt bad oppressive comments and jokes. Love shows up in every complicated conversation—and for me, love showed up in the simplicity of a teacher awkwardly reminding me about deodorant.

Prayer

Spirit of life and love, help us to open our souls so that we may recognize where your spirit exists in our lives—especially the messy, complicated places where it's harder to find.



Worship Service Information

2/5/2023	Greetings of Love	Multi-gen	Rev. Jo VonRue and Stacy Sceiford
2/12/2023	Stewardship Sunday		Rev Jo VonRue and Stacy Sceiford
2/19/2023	Side With Love, Embodiment : LGBTQIA+, Gender & Reproductive Justice	No RE	
2/26/2023	Side With Love, Resilience : Climate Justice	No RE	

Join us Sunday at 10:30am For our Worship Service

<https://zoom.us/j/95127684023?pwd=aERpeGNVUWZIZjIMQUtZcDVJMENYQT09>

Meeting ID: 951 2768 4023

Passcode: 607275

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,95127684023# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)



Sign up for usher/greeter slots for upcoming services here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0A4CA8AC28A4F94-user>

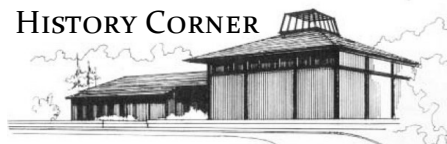


Do you join services by calling in?

If so, please let Teri in the office know, so if there are changes, you can be notified

It doesn't happen often but when it does we want you to be informed of changes.

HISTORY CORNER



Reverend John Papandrew - Civil Rights Activist



The moving and inspirational service (“The White American Dream”) on January 15th got us thinking about a sermon that was delivered on January 12, 1997, by Rev. John Papandrew, an interim minister who spent just one year with us (1996-1997). In his sermon, titled, “Remembering Martin Luther King, Jr.” he recalled how he came to know and work with Dr. King. Some of the memories he shared are recounted here.

In 1959, when John Papandrew was associate minister of the Community Church of New York (a racially diverse UU church in NYC) he was asked to give the invocation and benediction for a service at the annual meeting of the National Urban League. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was the preacher that night, and Rev. Papandrew was sitting behind him on the platform. He listened and watched as Dr. King delivered his powerful sermon on non-violence and loving one’s enemies. That was “the most overwhelming experience” of his life, and from then on, he was committed to following Dr. King and working for racial justice.

In the summer of 1962, at Dr. King’s request, Rev. Papandrew and many other ministers traveled to Albany, GA, to participate in the civil rights protests there. Seventy-five were arrested for witnessing at a local jail. When Rev. Papandrew returned to his church in New Hampshire, some members wanted to fire him for “disgracing the ministry and the church.” An angry mother asked, “What can we tell our children?” He answered, “Tell them about Jesus and Gandhi - and sometimes good people go to jail, too.” John was not fired, but he felt unsupported, and the next year he accepted a call from the UU Church of Miami.

Rev. Papandrew became active in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the ACLU, working in Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi, as well as Florida. Following Dr. King, he accepted assignments from the ACLU and the Delta Ministry, which provided essential services for black citizens. He received death threats and was shot at, and the KKK burned a cross on his church’s lawn.

In 1963 Rev. Papandrew was at the March on Washington, and in 1965 he participated in the walk from Selma to Montgomery, AL. He had dinner with fellow UU minister Jim Reeb the night Reeb was murdered.

John Papandrew passed away in 2003, at the age of 82. He had been a minister for over 40 years and had served eight churches. At the time of his death, he was Minister Emeritus at South Church in Portsmouth, NH. More information about his life and work can be found in his obituary: <https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/24350484/in-memoriam-unitarian-universalist-ministers-2002-a-2003/19>

Mary Louise Edwards

MMUUS History Committee history@mmuus.org



It was reported to Reverend Jo that sometime on Sunday afternoon, a visitors wallet was stolen out of her purse that was left alone in the social hall, the thief immediately began trying to use her credit cards.

Please do not leave your valuables lying around the church anywhere.



let's do lunch The MMUUS Choir, Finance Committee, Personnel Committee and Twisted Sisters invite you to a First Sunday Lunch at 11:30 on Sunday, February 5th. This lunch will feature an extensive Taco Bar, with choices to fit almost every diet and palate. Please join us for this delicious fundraiser and community building event. Suggested donation is \$5-\$10 per adult, and \$2 per child.



Going Green and Seeking Social Justice

by Bess Kamerance

In December of 2022, the New York State Climate Action Council approved plans to phase out furnaces burning fossil fuels. For every new home built in 2025 and thereafter, energy-efficient electric heat pumps or other non-combustion heating sources will be required. For existing homes, owners would have to replace a furnace with zero-emissions after 2030. This plan was reinforced by the recent projections that global warming is increasing at a faster rate than expected due to the continued usage of fossil fuel energy sources.

In Onondaga County, over 80% of household heat with fossil fuel sources (oil, natural gas, propane). This is 5% less than the state average. Though heat pumps cost more to install, they cost less and less to operate given the successive and expected increases in fuel costs. There are two kinds of heat pumps; ground-source (geothermal) accounting for 20% of the market and air-source heat pumps. Geothermal units are the most effective, and the ability to install vertical ground coils means that even homes with small yards would be able to have a system that provides warmth and air conditioning. Air-sourced heat pumps extract heat from outside and operate much like an air conditioner in reverse. The Kamerance household has had geothermal-based heat and air conditioning for 13 years with a heat pump. It provides plenty of heat and cooling for our home. There are other members of May Memorial who also use a geothermal-based heat pump.

To provide incentives for homeowners, the state of New York will provide discounts and rebates as much as 30% for transferring to heat pump sources. Federal Residential Energy Tax Credits have been restored by the present administration that enables tax payers to decrease their federal tax.

Source reference: NY Plans to Change the Way You Heat your Home. Gas, oil, propane furnaces to be phased out. Tim Knauss, Syracuse.com, Dec. 19, 2022



February is “May Memorial Loves the Arts” Month!

When you step into the Social Hall on Sunday, February 5, you will be surrounded by wonderful works of art by your friends here at May Memorial. Take your time looking at the paintings, sketches, photographs, and more, created by members of the congregation, and then enjoy a second cup of coffee while you read the creative words of the writers in our community. February may be cold and dark, but the atmosphere in our Social Hall will be decidedly warm and wonderfully colorful as we celebrate the arts!



In an effort to keep us all as healthy as possible during these never-ending pandemic times, please consider the following:

Stay home when you are feeling unwell. During these times, consider the Zoom options that may be available for Worship, Vespers and many of the meetings and gatherings at May.

If you find you or your child has tested positive for COVID within 10 days of attending an in person May Memorial function such as Worship, a Memorial Service, Choir Practice, Religious Education, or a meeting, please inform Teri in the office of the date and name of the activity. She will send out an email to the congregation letting them know of the possible exposure without giving out your name unless you expressly give her your permission to do so.

The 2023-2024 Stewardship Campaign: February 12 - March 19

Preserving and Growing Our Welcoming Religious Community



KICKOFF SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12!

- Muffins for Money: Come early or after worship to the Social Hall to pick up your pledge packets describing how to make your pledge. Tea, coffee, juice and home-baked goods (some gluten-free!) will be available.
- During the campaign, we will hear testimonials that reflect individual members thoughts on our community and its future. During the campaign, we ask that you carefully consider your pledge with generosity to support our mission. "We embrace all spiritual journeys and encourage service as we build a more loving and just world"
- Making your pledge as early as possible will help our leaders make plans for next year.
- Thank You! All together, we can make a more loving and just world.

*You're
Invited!*

MMUUS COMMUNITY
BUILDING ACTIVITIES



Saturday February 18th (1-4pm) There will be a Family Feud game at May Memorial. This is an all-ages event; we will create mixed teams and have a grand time laughing and competing for the grand prize!
Pre-registration is a must 5 days prior to the event by contacting the office.

Saturday March 25th (1-8pm) We will have an all-ages board game day. We are asking if you come to please bring (along with a game if you have any) some kind of delicious dip to share for snacking!!

Saturday April 15th (6-9pm) We will have an all-ages Trivia night! Come with all your awesome and weird knowledge. We will create mixed teams and have a great time together!
Pre-registration is a must 5 days prior to the event by contacting the office.

Monday May 1st We will do something to celebrate the First of May with FUUS!!

Saturday May 20th will be our annual church auction! This year we are hoping to have a live auction as well as a silent one, it will be a night of great fun and giving to our congregation!

Sunday June 11th We will wrap up our church year with our annual flower communion and annual meeting.



Please let the office know if you have any changes that need to be reflected in the directory.

Updates to the directory are vitally important so we may effectively communicate with you.



Vespers

Join us on Wednesday evenings at 8pm for a short 30 minute time of connection and reflection. We will listen to a short reading, a piece of music that expands on the topic, and we connect with one another through check-ins and conversation. You can find a zoom link each week on our website!

<https://zoom.us/j/97595560626?pwd=Sk5EL1lKd2xPNTJoUHUvYWQ0NjRGQT09>

Meeting ID: 975 9556 0626

Passcode: 210723

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,97595560626# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Join Us for Our Social Justice Vigils
First Tuesday of the month at noon!



Please join us on the first Tuesday of the month at noon in front of the church.

Bring your own signs or borrow ours!

Please remember to wear your mask and observe physical distancing.



Church Office

Teri Coon

office@mmuus.org

Minister

Rev. Jo VonRue

ministerjrev@gmail.com

DRE

Stacy Sceiford

dre@mmuus.org

Dir of Music

Glenn Kime

gkimeorganist@gmail.com

Board President

Don Milmore

president@mmuus.org

Book Keeper

Leslie Dendy

ldendy@mmuus.org

Finance

Jane Fagerland

finance@mmuus.org

May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

3800 East Genesee Street
Syracuse, NY 13214
315.446.8920
office@mmuus.org



Office Hours:

Sunday: 7am-12pm

Mon - Thurs: 8am-4pm

Days off are Friday and Saturday

- **Calendar Items:**

All zoom meetings must be scheduled through the Office Administrator.

- **Deadlines to remember:**

E-Blast and Order of Service need to be to me by *5pm on Wednesday*.

- **Newsletter:**

Deadline 20th of preceding month, please adhere to this deadline to allow for the newsletter to be sent out in a timely fashion.

Please keep word count to 300-400 to allow room for everyone to have a voice in the newsletter