

ST. JOHN NUUSLETTER: April 2022

Happy April St. John Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. In April religions around the world reflect and celebrate rebirth with Ramadan, Passover, Easter, and Earth Day. Don't forget to stay on your toes Friday for April Fool's Day!

At the fellowship, we will kick off the month with Rev. Charles Stephens visiting us from Maine. He will be our last visiting minister of the season. The next three weeks will be community lead services that you will not want to miss.

As a reminder we meet at the **Giff Hill School Lower Campus** Sundays at 10am. We hope you can join us!

SUNDAY SERVICE - 10am - Lower Giff Hill Meeting Hall

April 3: Dealing with Anger, Ours and That of Others - Rev. Charles J. Stephens

We don't always deal well with emotions, especially when the emotion is anger. In some instances, anger can be a healthy reaction but it can also be problematic, both when internalized and when expressed in destructive actions. The covid pandemic and political unrest of the last several years has left our country and world deeply divided. Is it possible to maintain a circle where we can listen and reason with one another in a world filled with agitation, change and danger?

Charles Stephens, Minister Emeritus of the UU Congregation in Washington Crossing in Titusville, NJ and also of the UU Congregation in Ellsworth, ME. Early in his ministry he trained in hospital chaplaincy. He and Alison, his wife, moved to Blue Hill, ME in 2012 when he retired. As a side endeavor, he and Alison have a large garden, cut and process their firewood, do various building projects on their forested land and rent out two seasonal cabins which they built on their property.

During sabbaticals, Charles studied in Oxford, England, studied with Matthew Fox at the University of Culture and Creation Spirituality in California, traveled to Israel and Palestine with an Interfaith Compassionate Listening group, and trained with the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Guidance & Direction.



April 10: Why sing? - Kristen Carmichael Bowers & the St. John Recovery Chior

We are in for a treat this week as the St. John Recovery Choir joins us. Kristen Carmichael Bowers, the rockstar executive director and director of choirs for Sing St. John encourages St. John residents young and old to use their voices joyfully. Kristen will also share with us her personal vocal journey and why she firmly believes that singing is a birthright, and a joyful vehicle for social change and community building.

April 17: Easter Sunday Flower Ceremony - Gail Karlsson

Gail Karlsson will lead a ceremony giving thanks for these gifts from nature that sustain and delight us. Attendees are invited to bring flowers, plants or cuttings from their yard and exchange them with other members, describing why the plants have special significance for them and/or the community.

The flower ceremony was introduced in 1923 by Norbert Capek, who founded the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia, as a symbolic ritual that would bind people more closely together, based on the natural beauty of their shared world.

Gail Karlsson is an environmental lawyer, writer and photographer, and a member of the UU Fellowship of St. John. She is the author of *The Wild Life in an Island House*, plus the guide book *Learning About Trees and Plants - A Project of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. John*, and writes a column on Connecting with Nature for the online *Virgin Islands Islands Source*.



April 24: The Spirit of Memoirs - Viki Brown

Viki Brown is a storyteller, often choosing paints and spiritual journeying as her mediums. On April 24th she will share her recent passion for writing memoirs, and how through this process she has found self-discovery, transformation, and healing. This will be an interactive discussion where members will gain insight into her past and personal identity through her stories of traveling the Caribbean, and have the opportunity to share a piece of their life story if they so wish. Join her in discovering the memoir process, and uncovering some gems from our community.

May 1: Beach Day

May 8: Mother's Day - Lina Guild

May 15: Holding the Hope - Erin Lieb

STJUUF EVENTS

****TOMORROW** Wednesday, March 30: Creation Spirituality in the face of Climate Change**

5:00p - 6:30p, Lower Giff Hill Campus Great Room

Join Rev. Charles Stephans in a presentation and discussion of the meaning and power that Creation Spirituality can provide as we enter the challenging time of Climate Change. Those of us who live close to the ocean, be it in Maine, the Caribbean or so many other places love being near the ocean, so we have already seen some of the impacts of Climate Weirding. All welcome.

Wednesday, April 6: Ukranian Eggs

7:00p, Lower Giff Hill Campus Great Room

Let's make Ukrainian Easter Eggs together. We'll light the chalice, and share some words of hope for the Ukrainian people —those who had to flee, and those who stayed at home. We'll make Ukrainian Easter Eggs in celebration of the hope and renewal that spring brings us, and learn something new and creative together. Please call Leeanne at 303.638.4309 if you'll join us as we need to know how many eggs and supplies to bring. We'll meet at the Giff Hill School Lower Campus Great Room. All welcome.



We Are All in This Together

If you have information you would like to distribute, please let me, Erin Lieb, know. If you have a community event that you would like to submit for the May newsletter, pass it my way. If you have ideas for programs, outings, weekday classes/discussions, I am all ears.

MARCH COMMUNITY EVENTS

Saturday, April 9: Get Trashed and Dulce Vita Sails

10am-3pm, National Park Dock

Rescheduled due to high seas, you still have a chance to join in a unique ocean trash pick up. Dulce Vita Sails has offered to take 12 of us to pick up trash on remote northeast shorelines. Please RSVP to Erin Lieb at erin.lieb@gmail.com.

Participants should be able to get in and out of a dinghy in rocky conditions. Sturdy shoes such as tennis shoes or hiking sandals are REQUIRED.

We will meet at the NP dock at 10am sharp. Please pack your own lunch and beverages. We will have a fulfilling and successful Saturday. Thanks Dulce!

<https://fb.me/e/1e6JsY6GZ>

Wednesday, April 20: Earth Day Plant Give Away

8am - 9:30am, National Park Dock

In celebration of Earth Day, Friends of the Park in partnership with the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands will sponsor a plant give away. Our own Gail Karlsson is instrumental in growing plants to contribute to this event. Over 300 plants will be given away on a first come first serve basis so get there early. There will also be UU tree books there to give away to community members. Please contact Gail or Friends of the Park if you would like to volunteer.