



# Chalice in the Mountains

The Universalist Unitarian Congregation of St. Johnsbury, Vermont

September 2020

## 250 Years of Universalism

September 30, 1770

the moment when Love caught Fire



No matter what you call it – sestercentennial, semiquincentennial, bicenquingenary, or just plain 250<sup>th</sup> – 2020 is a big year for Universalism. It is the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John Murray’s famous 1770 sermon in Thomas Potter’s chapel in Good Luck, New Jersey, where Universalism got its start in our country. On three Sundays leading up to the September 30th Anniversary, Rev. Brendan Hadash, our Minister Emeritus, will be joining Susan-Lynn in presenting services introducing you to some of first Universalist ministers in America, all of whom have a Vermont connection. We hope you’ll join us for these services to learn more about the Universalist half of our heritage and continue with the story by joining a world-wide Zoom service on October 4th, led by Rev. Justin Schroeder, senior co-minister of the First Universalist Church of Minneapolis.

### September Services ~ Sundays at 10:30 am

#### September 6

The Rev. Susan-Lynn Johns, Minister  
*Reflecting in Streaming Water*



In years past, we’ve celebrated the beginning of the church year by bringing water from a meaningful place to merger with that of others during our annual Water Ceremony. Since this year few of us have been very far from home, it’s okay if your water doesn’t come from some exotic locale! Your trusty garden hose, your well, or rain water from a bird bath can provide tiny, often profound moments to share with others. “Symbolic” water will be provided if you didn’t get your actual water to us in time. Susan-Lynn will briefly ponder water and change.

#### September 13

The Rev. Susan-Lynn Johns, Minister  
*But for the Winds of Change*



At the end of September in 1770, had the winds changed, John Murray would have sailed away from Good Luck, New Jersey, and the birth of Universalism in America would have been postponed. Murray’s message of a loving God who would not damn anyone to hell—the idea of universal salvation—was welcome news in America. Murray wrote his “Treatise on Atonement” here in Vermont.

#### September 20

The Rev. Brendan Hadash, Minister Emeritus  
*Hosea Ballou and Ethan Allen*



John Murray founded Universalism in America. However the person called the father of Universalism was Hosea Ballou. Through his writings, Ballou defined Universalism in such a way that it rapidly spread and became at one point one of the largest denominations in the United States. This Sunday, Brendan would like to compare and contrast the ideas of Hosea Ballou with philosopher Ethan Allen (yes the same Green Mountain Boy who captured Fort Ticonderoga).



#### September 27

The Rev. Susan-Lynn Johns, Minister  
*Afflicting the Comfortable*



Olympia Brown, the first woman to be ordained as clergy with the consent of the Universalist denomination, forged a path for other women that led to over 60% of ministers in the UUA being women. Brown was also an articulate advocate for women’s rights and one of the few first generation suffragists who were able to vote with the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment. Although her own daughter described her as “unpopular” and “uncompromising,” circus empresario and Universalist P.T. Barnum found her delightful.

## September Birthdays

10th ~ Shane Tulp  
12th ~ Abigail Richwien  
18th ~ Nate Brimmer  
18th ~ Libby Hillhouse  
19th ~ Laurel Campbell  
20th ~ Leigh Grace  
23rd ~ Gudrun Ullman-Hawk



### *Me and White Supremacy*

We will begin our study of Layla Saad's book *Me and White Supremacy* later this month. The first group will be made up of members of the Social Justice Team. Once this group has completed its work on the book, we will start another group of eight people. If you'd like to be a part of the second group, please let Susan-Lynn know.



### Zoom Etiquette & Helpful Hints

**Muting:** We may be running into confusion with muting and unmuting in Zoom. I have usually been able to mute and unmute people when needed but sometimes we cancel each other out, so if you try to unmute yourself once and it doesn't work, know that I will do it for you.

Please keep yourself muted unless you are speaking to everyone in order to cut down on background noise during the service.

**Movement:** If you move around too much it's very distracting when we're in gallery view. If you must move from place to place in your house, please cancel your video by clicking on the camera icon beside the mute/unmute microphone, and then when you're settled, turn your picture back on.

Susan-Lynn discovered an online video by a very funny UU minister who explains Zoom etiquette better than I can. We've shared this short video to our Facebook page, so if you get a chance please check it out.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?ref=external&v=209599687060439>

Wishing you all a Safe and Happy Autumn!

Hoping to see you on Zoom!

Lorie

## Cerebrations ~

*Ministerial Meanderings for September*



I hope you all had as pleasant a summer as possible in the midst of the pandemic. We've been enjoying lots of home-grown vegetables and flowers from Melanie's gardens despite the often oppressive heat. As I write this, it truly feels like fall, my favorite season, is on its way. Isn't it nice that leaf peeping is still something we can do in the time of COVID?

I've enjoyed seeing some of you in person as I've collected your water for Sunday's water ceremony. By the way, it's still not too late if you want to participate. I can pick up your water or you can drop it off in the tote at the upper entrance to the sanctuary through Saturday at 5:00.

As we enter a new church year still grappling with the grand experiment that is Zoom, I'd like to ask all of you to be as forthcoming as you can about what's working for you and what's not, and I encourage you to offer up any suggestions that you think might help enhance our worship experience.

I'm excited about the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Universalism, having always been partial to the Universalist side of UUism. I hope you'll join me for the celebratory service from Minneapolis on October 4<sup>th</sup>.

In faith and love,  
Susan-Lynn

### Caring Network

Welcome to fall and a new church year! As I write this, it feels like fall is coming . . . too soon. Although things remain different due to COVID-19, the Caring Network remains available to assist members and friends.

We bid a fond farewell to Trish Turner who had to resign from the core committee due to work demands, but we are also delighted to welcome Melanie Pudvah to the committee. She has already taken on the task of sending out notes and making many phone calls.

Following CDC and state guidelines, we continue to meet. Therefore, if you or someone you know could use a bit of support from the Caring Network, please contact a member of the core committee:

Jane Brickett (603-788-2220) / [silofarm@gmail.com](mailto:silofarm@gmail.com)

Brendan Hadash (802-748-8074) / [bhadash@sover.net](mailto:bhadash@sover.net)

Melanie Pudvah (802-424-1380) / [m\\_lindburg49@hotmail.com](mailto:m_lindburg49@hotmail.com)

Susan-Lynn Johns (802-473-8110) / [uustj.revsusanlynn@gmail.com](mailto:uustj.revsusanlynn@gmail.com)

Marquerite Bruno (802-892-1256) / [mbruno2@mac.com](mailto:mbruno2@mac.com)

Rest assured that any information shared with the Caring Network will remain confidential.