

KVUUC News



Kittitas Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation

September 2017

Worship in September

September 3

On Beauty: Readings from Touchstones
Green Sanctuary/Social Justice Councils, 12 :15 pm

September 10

“Our Theological House” – Rev. Bill Graves
Worship Council, 12:15 pm

September 17

Water Communion
Membership Council, 12:15 pm

September 24

ComNet, 12:15 pm

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*Adult Discussion Group 9:45–10:45am
Every Sunday (except 5th)*

9/3: Bring discussion ideas

Sunday, September 3

*Special Collection for
UU Association &
UU Service Committee
Hurricane Harvey
Recovery Fund -
focus on at-risk populations
and affected UU congregations*

OR DONATE ON-LINE AT UUA.ORG

Upcoming Meetings & Special Events

Wed, 9/6	• Board Meeting —(Time TBA)
Thu, 9/7	• Coffee & Conversation with Rev. Bill, 8:30-10am, Dakota Café • Choir Practice, 5:15-6:30 pm at KVUUC • Adult Seminar: Building Your Own Theology with Rev. Bill Graves, 7:00-8:30pm at KVUUC (veggie pizza at 6:30p.m. RSVP to Bill)
Fri, 9/8	• Council on Ministry, 8:30 am Dakota Café
Mon, 10/2	• Religious Education Council, 7 pm (new time)
Fri, 10/6 - Sat, 10/ 7	• Fall Retreat at Lazy F, Cost \$68 - \$75 per adult (less for children)
Sun, 10/1	• Celebration Sundays (1st Sundays) all children will together for RE during the service in the zendo
Sun, 10/8	Children’s Religious Education Resumes. Older children at 9:45 in the zendo; younger children during service in the zendo

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An Eclipse Experience

Rev. Bill Graves

It has been a fabulous summer. We have had over two months on Whidbey Island virtually without rain-fall. Crabbing and clamming has been good. We have a bumper crop of succulent tomatoes. The grass is yellow. Frances and I have been preoccupied by hosting and entertaining a succession of children and grandchildren visitors.

And then there was the solar eclipse. We threw caution and practicality to the wind and drove 15 hours to join about 100 friends and friends of friends camping in the Little Lost River Valley in eastern Idaho. I will try to describe it even though there is simply no substitute for being there. We were standing on a ridge at an elevation of about 7,500 ft. with a sweeping view of perhaps 20 miles in the direction of the eclipse path.

Then, a wall of darkness

Through NASA-supplied glasses we watched the sun reduce to a crescent sliver as light dimmed and temperatures dropped. Then, a wall of darkness, the moon shadow, rushed towards us across the valley at about 1900 mph. On cue our assembled party turned and beheld the full eclipse without protective glasses and a simultaneous "ahhh" arose. Several of us could not withhold tears. The sun's glorious corona formed a halo around a perfect circle. Planets and a few stars were visible. Two minutes later a diamond of light appeared and we were instructed to put our glasses back on.

As the writer Nicolas Kristoff, describes it, "The appeal of the solar eclipse is not just its rarity, but the way it puts us in our place. It disrupts the routines we rely on and reminds us of the vastness, beauty and rigor of the solar system."

For me it was a peak experience of reverence and



awe comparable to hearing the hum of wing beatings of millions of migrant Monarch butterflies high in the mountains of Mexico. That, also, took a bit of "crazy resolve" to make it to the destination and that may have contributed to the magic of the event.

KVUUC is at a crossroads

In life we certainly cannot always go for the equivalent of a full eclipse experience but maybe we should recognize that at times 90% just is not a satisfactory substitute. KVUUC is at a crossroads in making decisions about its future. We have recently participated in a "Dreamcasting" process in which each focused on what have been peak experiences in their involvement here and what their dreams for the future were. Those dreams were bold and are reflected in the specific goals of our Board of Trustees formulated at their July retreat. Why not aim for a full eclipse experience?

Blessings, Rev. Bill

"The appeal of the solar eclipse is not just its rarity.... It disrupts the routines we rely on and reminds us of the vastness, beauty and rigor of the solar system."

Bill's Blurbs for September

Adult R.E. , September 7, 7 pm (Veggie pizza, 6:30)

Building Your Own Theology is a systematic, disciplined and group process assisting participants to develop credos, or statements of individual beliefs. This classic curriculum designed by Rev. Richard Gilbert discusses all the important questions of religion from a UU perspective, allowing each student to come to their own understanding of what makes sense and works.

Our September session will be the final, wrapping-up session. All are invited to come and listen to participants share (as they feel comfortable) , such as their religious world tree, their ethical ten commandments and their personal credo.

For this session: Chapters: 8 (So What? Imperatives of My Theology) and 9 (Wrapping It Up—A Credo) in the BYOT curriculum book. Homework: Reading for Ch. 8 (p. 77) and The Purpose in Life Test (pp. 78-80). Optional: Finish writing your credo considering the questions on pp. 84

Sunday Service September 10

"Our Theological House"
with Rev. Bill Graves

Given our aversion to being told what to believe it is sometimes assumed pejoratively that a UU can believe whatever he or she wants.

Bill will show why this false and begin our year together with a small dose of UU history and theology showing how we have actually arrived at a rather commonly held, if not required, faith. What is the foundation, the surrounding garden, the structure and the roof of that faith? The choir will be singing and we will be delightfully back together again.

Sunday Service October 8

"The Gospel According to John, Paul,
George, and Ringo"

with Rev. Bill Graves, Jan Jaffe, & Friends

Included in the Beatles repertoire are songs of depth that fit well with our liberal religion. We will explore these and generally make a joyful sound. The choir will provide special music.

KVUUC Board Interprets Our Dreamcasting

At its retreat on July 8 the KVUUC Board of Trustees along with staff (Rev. Bill, Maggie Patterson, Jan Jaffe) considered congregational responses to the three Dreamcasting Questions:

- 1) *Remembering your entire experience at KVUUC, when were you most alive, most motivated and excited about your involvement?*
- 2) *What do you value most about KVUUC? What are the best features of this church?*
- 3) *What are your dreams for KVUUC?*



Rev. Bill Graves

Informed by this input the following goals were agreed upon:

FEASIBLE GOALS FOR 2017-2018

1. Search for ministerial successor
2. Resolve church ownership
3. Strengthening community social justice connections
4. Aesthetics Committee up and running
5. Sound system update
6. Office space for RE & Music Director
7. Continue to cultivate and expand our leadership
8. Renew Welcoming Congregation certifications
9. Outreach to CWU
10. Put 1-2 adults in OWL training
11. More social evening events (ie movie nights, "soulfood" Bahai events)
12. Formalize a Caring Council
13. Develop a sustainable legacy giving/fundraising program
14. Welcoming of diversity

LONG-TERM GOALS FOR KVUUC:

1. Expanded space/new building
2. Expanded OWL/RE program
3. Mentor program – all ages/outreach
4. Yearly congregational retreats
5. ½ or full-time, permanent minister
6. People *clamoring* to be in leadership and teaching roles
7. Paid office staff
8. Prominent visibility in community
9. Communications, outreach and interaction with community
10. Increase welcoming to diversity and diverse families
11. Develop sustainable fund-raising programs.

KVUUC Skills & Services

If you would like advertise your skill or service to our congregation, contact Jim at 509-933-3198 or Paula at 405-312-2786

DON GALLAGHER - Quality Carpentry

Remodeling, painting, roofing, plumbing and electrical repairs. **509-306-0608.**



RICHARD GALLAGHER - Experienced auto trouble-shooter. Services: repairs, carpooling, garden prep, snow & unusables removed, needed items located.

You have needs? Richard has solutions! **509-306-9329.**

BRUCE HAGEMeyer - Bruce Custom Remodeling

- Licensed General Contractor - Building - Remodeling - Carpentry - Plans & Permits **509-964-2086**



LENA RENEE - Find Your Story, Your Path, Your Purpose.

C. Rhalena Renee, CSH is a guide and teacher for helping you find what makes you vital, happy and living your beauty. Lena is available for Healing Sessions, Private Readings (in person/via phone), Inspirational Speaking & Classes. **509-312-0220.** Follow her blog! Visit her at CRhalenaRenee.com.



JAN JAFFE - Adult music lessons! Also available as a performance coach for individuals, ensembles, bands, worship teams, etc. Improve skills and build confidence for talent shows, competitions, and workshops.

\\Piano, guitar, voice \\Master of Music Education CWU, 2009 \\Flexible evening schedule for regular or special occasion lessons \\Experienced teacher \\Specializes in beginner & hobby adult lessons \\All music styles, songwriting, & theory



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DEBBIE WILLIAMS - Brick Road Books.

Used and new books. Turn your lightly used current reads into a donation to KVUUC -just tell Daniel or Debbie that the proceeds from selling your books should go to KVUUC. Family-owned and operated.

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KVUUC Board and Staff

Board

Co-Presidents:

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Staff

Minister:

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- Available by arrangement
- Call (360) 661-7289 or email wcgraves@whidbey.com

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Connect With Us

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