

# KVUUC News



Kittitas Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation

October 2017

## Worship in October

### October 1

St. Francis & Blessing of the Animals—Lita Malone  
Green Sanctuary/Social Justice Councils, 12 :15 pm

### October 8

The Gospel According to John, Paul, George, Ringo  
– Rev. Bill Graves, Jan Jaffe & Friends  
Worship Council, 12:15 pm

### October 15

On Hospitality: Readings from Touchstones  
Membership Council, 12:15 pm

### October 22

Immigration—Chuck Reasons  
CommNet, 12:15 pm

### October 29

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck, followed by Intergenerational Book Club

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

10/8: Hospitality 10/15: (cont'd) 12 Steps to a Compassionate Life

**NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION**  
**Saturday, November 18**

*For those interested in deepening their understanding of Unitarian Universalism, or considering becoming a member of KVUUC.*

*Lunch provided.*

PLEASE RSVP TO LIZ,  
(509) 899-0357, OR  
WHITAKERLIZ@HOTMAIL.COM

## Upcoming Meetings & Special Events

Mon, 10/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Religious Education Council, 7 pm (new time)</li> </ul>
Thu, 10/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Choir practice, 5:15 KVUUC sings The Beatles</li> <li>Adult RE, 7 pm KVUUC. "A Conversation on White Privilege"</li> </ul>
Fri, 10/6 - Sat, 10/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 pm—4pm, or Sat only. Fall Retreat at Lazy F. Contact Maggie (509) 925-2552 or margaretfultonpatt@gmail.com</li> </ul>
Sun, 10/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children's Religious Education Resumes. Older children at 9:45 in the zendo; younger children during service in the zendo</li> </ul>
Sat, 10/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fall Clean-up at KVUUC. 9am—Noon. Bring gloves, rakes, truck. Donate your Waste Mgmt Coupon! Bring, or give to Jim Schwing.</li> </ul>
Sat, 10/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7pm "A Holy Conversation on Race &amp; Justice, Part II". Methodist Church, 3rd &amp; Ruby. Kittitas Valley Interfaith Alliance</li> </ul>
Sun, 10/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck at 11 am (no worship service)</li> <li>Intergenerational Book Club "Chains" by Laurie H. Anderson</li> </ul>

## In This Issue

♦ Worship & Upcoming Events	1
♦ Rev. Bill's Column	2
♦ Religious Education	3
♦ Oct. 1 Sermon	3
♦ Rev. Bill's October Schedule	5
♦ Board & Staff, Advertisements	6

# Walk, Eat, Sleep, Repeat

Rev. Bill Graves

Dear beloved friends of KVVUUC:

My message to you is being written as I fly over the Atlantic from Lisbon. I just finished walking about 180 miles over 11 days on the Portuguese Route of the Camino to Santiago. Along the way I am doing a couple of pretty severe blisters, a mattress or two that could well have been filled with sand, and times of exhaustion. One sign summarized the experience: "walk, eat, sleep, repeat." I am challenged to explain why I would do this.

I guess there is something about subjecting myself to physical challenges involving repetitive motions that has always attracted me. Like meditation it cleanses and stills and refreshes the mind and spirit. I like the simplicity of paring your worldly possessions down to only what you need to use every day; less than 10 kg . And daily expenses often less than 20 Euros. I like to have time to really contemplate the beauty around me; to contemplate the trajectory of my life; to memorize poetry. I like the adventure of finding your way and a place to rest each night. I like it that we are surrounded by historical reminders of a pilgrimage route over 1,000 years old.

Fellow pilgrims from a variety of nationalities are truly friendly and helpful to each other and I like that. Maybe I'm just crazy.

I hope to share more with you in the upcoming retreat at Lazy F, October 6 to October 7.

How blessed I am! Rev. Bill



## Bill's Blurbs for October

Adult R.E. , October 5, 7 pm

(Veggie pizza, 6:30)

**"A Conversation about White Privilege, White Supremacy"** The subjects of white privilege, white supremacy, and even white fragility when confronting those subjects, dominated our UU General Assembly last June and will be the main topic of our Fall ministers retreat in October. It was the subject of a teach-in held last May in which almost 70% of UU congregations participated. It is the backdrop for a conversation that is coming to us soon concerning whether we should adopt an 8<sup>th</sup> Principle that specifically commits us to dismantling structures of white supremacy and the effects of continuing racism. I have been slow to join this conversation perhaps because I sensed it might be shaming, divisive, just plain hard, and that "I'm not really part of the problem." But, I have been changed by what I have been exposed to and I think I need to bring it home so people at KVVUUC can make up their own minds. I know I am not qualified to talk about how people of color experience racism but I am qualified to talk about my white experience and how I unavoidably am a product of white dominated culture, education, etc. I can also convey some of the thinking of leaders in this movement, in video clip and in writing.

**For November 9:** Book discussion on "Just Mercy" by Bryan Stevenson who gave the Ware lecture at the June GA. It is a terrific and eye-opening read, about his work in the criminal justice system of Alabama, the effects of racism and what we all can do about it.

## 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.

# What's New for Religious Education

Maggie Patterson, Religious Education Coordinator

## Autumn Greetings!

We have a fun year ahead, starting new curricula and a different set-up than last year for our children's RE classes. I will be passing out registration forms these next few weeks, which includes a small fee from each family interested in participating. It is \$15 per child or \$25 per family. Checks can be made out to KVVUUC and given to Jim Schwing or myself.

## Are you looking for a way to serve KVVUUC and our children's RE program?

We are actively looking for KVVUUC members and friends who are interested in leading a Celebration Sunday class. We are also looking for teacher's assistants for both the older and younger children's classrooms.

## What is a Celebration Sunday class?

Celebration Sunday is the first Sunday of every month. It is a time for all ages of children to get together during the service in the Zendo. Instead of having our regular RE lesson, they get to learn a little about our guest lead teacher and the teacher does a short activity with them. An assistant to the guest lead teacher and a childcare provider will be present to help. Two examples from last year: Jan Jaffe taught the children how to make friendship bracelets and shared memories about her time leading summer camps. Liz Whitaker performed for and taught the children a traditional folk dance. Please let me know if you are interested in this. Its a great way for the children and adults to get to know each other better.

## Important dates for Children's Religious Education (RE):

- **Sun, Oct. 1:** Intergenerational Blessing of the Animals service, with childcare provided
- **Mon, Oct. 2:** 7pm RE meeting at KVVUUC
- **Fri/Sat, Oct. 6-7:** KVVUUC Retreat at Lazy F Retreat Center
- **Sun, Oct. 8:** RE begins
  - Preschool-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Meet in Zendo during the service
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade-8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Meet in Zendo from 9:45am-10:45am
- **Sun, Oct. 29:** Potluck, No RE

Enjoy the crisp fall air and the crunchy leaves that are ahead of us. Autumn is here! I am looking forward to the retreat at Lazy F that many of us are going on.

Maggie Patterson

## No More Pre-Service Slideshow

The pre-service slideshow with announcements about community and congregational events has been suspended.

Thanks to Martha Kurtz for three years of time to this effort to help get information out to the congregation.

If you have comments, or suggestions on how to replace this feature, contact Martha or Jim.

# St. Francis of Assisi and Henry Bergh, UU

*Sermon for the Blessings of the Animals Service, October 1*

By Rev. Lita Malone

St Francis of Assisi was an ecstatic, a mystic whose legacy of joy in creation still influences Popes and paupers, Catholics and Protestants, and lovers of the earth across the globe almost 800 years after his death....After a rather decadent youth and life threatening illness, Francis of Assisi, son of a wealthy merchant renounced his family and all his wealth. Legend has it that he walked into the church stark naked and the bishop placed his cloak around him, welcoming him. Now, in truth, St Francis might have actually been totally mad, but that is not the legacy we honor today. It is the legacy of his hospitality in welcoming the leper; it is the legend of him extending hospitality to the wolf which had been harassing the people of Gubbio. Francis negotiated a settlement between the wolf and the villagers, in which both fear and hunger were banished. We are acknowledging the peacemaker who prayed:

Make me an instrument of thy peace.  
Where there is hatred let me sow love  
Where there is injury, pardon  
Where there is doubt, faith  
Where there is despair, hope  
Where there is darkness, light  
And where there is sadness, joy  
O divine master grant that I may  
not so much seek to be consoled as to console  
to be understood as to understand  
To be loved as to love...

We are celebrating the lover of creation, the one who wrote in his Canticle of Creation of the Sun as his brother, the moon, the water & the earth as his sisters.

## Our 7<sup>th</sup> Principle: Respect for the Interdependent Web

When we invite you to bring your pets, it is an invitation for you to participate in the presence of joy, selflessness and communion with all of creation, a window which the love that is shared with our pets opens for us. It is a tangible expression of our 7<sup>th</sup> principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. And it is an opportunity to deepen that respect

to a joyous embrace of the complex beauty of all of creation.

As Unitarian Universalists we are bereft of saints, however, we have a plethora of candidates for

the Justice League and I would be remiss if Henry Bergh was not also invited to join us this day.

John Gibb Millspaugh in the Summer 2011 UU World writes about Henry Bergh:

On a New York street corner on April 22, 1866, Unitarian Henry Bergh gathered his courage and approached a cart driver unmercifully beating his exhausted horse. "My friend, you can't do that anymore." Astonished, the driver exclaimed, "Can't beat my own horse?—the devil I can't," and resumed. Bergh added, "You are not aware, probably, that you are breaking the law, but . . . I have the new statute in my pocket, and the horse is yours only to treat kindly." Mouth agape, the driver advised, "Go to hell—you're mad!"

That unpromising encounter launched two intertwined North American social movements: prevention of cruelty to animals and to children. Nothing in Bergh's early life foretold of his call to compassion. A

*(Continued on page 5)*

*As Unitarian Universalists, we are bereft of saints, however, we have a plethora of candidates for the Justice League*

## St. Francis of Assisi and Henry Bergh,

UU (Continued from page 4)

dilettante playwright with no children or pets... Yet in his early fifties, while serving as President Lincoln's envoy to Czar Alexander II in 1863, Bergh witnessed cruelties in the streets of St. Petersburg that awoke his humane impulse. He resigned his diplomatic post in Russia to study England's Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals—founded after Unitarian legal scholar **Jeremy Bentham** asserted that the moral “question is not, Can [animals] reason? nor, Can they talk? but, Can they suffer?”

So Bergh commenced his life work not from an affinity with animals, nor as a squeamish sentimentalist, but stirred by suffering and injustice. “This is a matter purely of conscience,” he said. “It has no perplexing side issues. . . . It is a moral question in all its aspects.” Unitarian newspaper magnate Horace Greely and seventy other prominent citizens signed **Bergh's “A Declaration of the Rights of Animals.”** The Albany legislature passed an animal welfare statute in response, also chartering the continent's first humane organization: the **American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.** Bergh's minister Henry Whitney Bellows (of what is now Manhattan's Unitarian Church of All Souls) served as one of the ASPCA's first vice-presidents, urging “zeal and . . . fearless arrests.” Some newspapers labeled Bergh “the Great Meddler”; others, “An Ass That Should Have His Ears Cropped.” Bergh believed that “Men will be just to men when they are kind to animals.”

### Stirred by suffering and injustice

Two men pursue their passion, living over 600 years apart on two different continents from two different religious traditions. Francis casts off worldly wealth and immerses himself in an ecstatic relationship with creation and divine source, he welcomes the

leper and the wolf. As John Gibb Millspaugh tells us, “Bergh commenced his life's work not from an affinity with animals, nor as a squeamish sentimentalist, but stirred by suffering and injustice.” Henry Bergh enlists prominent citizens and enters into a legal battle to end suffering and succeeds in passing legislation to protect animals. Adding the power of the courts to the words of St Francis, “God wants us to help animals if they need help. Every creature in distress has the same rights to be protected. ”

...*“The moral question is not  
“Can animals reason?...but  
“Can they suffer?”*

We aren't all designed to be ecstatic mystics nor even outstanding members of the Justice League. We can, however, all chose to STAND ON THE SIDE OF LOVE. We can celebrate creation, we can recognize the suffering of others, we can work to alleviate that suffering. And today we can be especially thankful for all our relations, the furred, the feathered and the finned, who have brought into our lives, comfort, wisdom, and joy.

### Rev. Bill's Ellensburg Schedule October 2017

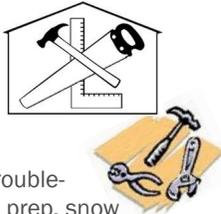
- 4-8 Ellensburg office hours at KUUUC \*\*
- 4 Board meeting: 6pm
- 5 Open time for coffee/conversation at  
Dakota Café – 8:30-10:00am
- 5 Choir practice - 5:15
- 5 Lead Adult RE class on White Privilege and White Supremacy”. See p. 2 for information (pizza 6:30pm; class 7-8:30pm).
- 6 Council on Ministry, Dakota Café – 8:30am
- 6-7 Attend and help lead KUUUC all-congregational retreat at “Lazy F Camp”
- 8 Lead worship service; “Gospel According to John, Paul, George and Ringo”; attend Worship Council meeting
- 28 Lead “A Holy Conversation on Race and Justice, Part II at Methodist Church; 7pm )

# 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

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**509-679-1383** [janjaffe@gmail.com](mailto:janjaffe@gmail.com)  
[www.linkedin.com/in/missjan](http://www.linkedin.com/in/missjan)

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**305 N. Main Street 509-925-1999**

KVUUC Board and Staff

### Board

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Kristen Paton & Debbie Williams  
[copresident1@kvuu.org](mailto:copresident1@kvuu.org)  
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#### Past Co-President:

Karen Johnson  
[pastpresident@kvuu.org](mailto:pastpresident@kvuu.org)

#### Secretary:

Vivian Dunbar  
[secretary@kvuu.org](mailto:secretary@kvuu.org)

#### Financial Secretary:

Jim Schwing  
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#### Treasurer:

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#### Music Director:

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October  
Theme:



## Connect With Us

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