



# Universalist Society of Strafford

Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

September 2019 Newsletter

*"To love and be loved is to feel the sun from both sides."* David Viscott

**ALL ARE  
WELCOME!**

**Services**  
1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays  
at 10 am

*Childcare and  
spiritual exploration  
offered for our  
young ones.*

*Coffee & Conversation  
following services*

We hold our  
**Summer Services**  
in our Church at  
2 Justin Morrill  
Highway, Vt. Rte. 132  
in South Strafford.

**Fall and Winter  
Services** across the  
street at Barrett Hall.

## **Contact Information**

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[www.strafforduu.org](http://www.strafforduu.org)

Rev. Telos Whitfield  
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## **2018-2019 Church Officers**

Moderator – John Freitag  
Assistant Moderator –  
Marissa Mazzucco  
Treasurer –  
Suzanna Liepmann  
Secretary – open  
Trustees – Katie Botsford  
Andrew Lane and  
Lee Funston

## **Worship Services**

**Sunday, Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, 10am on Strafford Green, *Community Worship Service***

**Co-hosted by United Church of Strafford and Universalist Society.** Rev. Jim Antal, author of [Climate Church](#), [Climate World](#) to preach. Join us for music and words that will unite us in our commitment to preserving our planet! A community choir to sing; arrive at 8:30am to take part.

**\*\*Sunday, Sept. 15, 10am Our Ingathering Service and Water Ceremony -**

***Gathered Here At Our Common Bowl.*** We gather together for our first service of the Fall, bringing water and sharing stories of our lives. Water can come from rivers, lakes or ocean where you have travelled, or from your very own tap. All are welcome!

## *Message from our Minister*

*"Come, Come, Whoever You Are, wanderer, worshipper, lover of leaving,  
Ours is no caravan of despair. Come, yet again, come." [words adapted from Rumi]*

Come, come, whoever you are, a song that we have in our hymnal that I remember singing in many a circle of people, young and old. Often it is sung when people who don't often come together find themselves across from each other. It is an invitation, a reminder that we are all traveling through our individual lives but do remain always, part of a larger circle. We are gathering on Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup> as a larger community of Strafford to re-commit ourselves to the important actions and work of facing climate change. It is a time of reckoning; a time to recognize the stark realities of what human beings have created. The creatures that are being driven to extinction, the lands that are burning, the waters that are rising. The Rev. Jim Antal has dedicated his life and work to combatting climate change. He offers education and facts but also wisdom and advice for congregations and communities. The time is now, and has been for awhile, to act, to do what we can. To speak, to write, to protest, to come together and find strength and solace in communities of faith. We are a part of this movement whether we feel that way or not. And to remember our own strength and our ability to help in making change - reducing fossil fuel use, bringing our own bags when we shop, writing an article in our paper, adding our name to a petition, joining our local climate change group, or sitting in meditation in honor of the earth, every action matters. Every drop in the bucket, as the children's story goes, adds to the strength and turning of the tides. The tides of human greed and forgetfulness, isolation and cruelty can be turned. Actually, they are turning. There is much to be despondent and overwhelmed by, but there are also many glimmers of hope and renewal.

*“Come, come whoever you are, wandered, worshipper, lover of leaving. Come, yet again, come.”* So come, yes, come on Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup> to the Strafford Green. We will create a mandala in celebration of the earth with seeds and petals, stones and grasses. It will only be visible during our service and then will return to the ground but it will be a reminder that sometimes our actions are only visible for a brief moment. And we will most likely not receive credit or recognition for that action. That isn't why we are doing it. We are part of the human family that must show up and open our eyes to the realities. The time is now. Let us honor and remember the earth and the circle we are a vital member of. Every voice and action makes a difference.  
with care, Rev. Telos

***Holy Days, Days to Remember***

*September 1<sup>st</sup> - Hijra - New Year\* - Islam*

*September 3<sup>rd</sup> - Paryushana Parva\* - Jain*

*September 8<sup>th</sup> - Nativity of the Virgin Mary - Christian*

*September 10<sup>th</sup> - Ashura\* - Islam*

*September 23<sup>rd</sup> - Fall Equinox - Mabon-Ostara\* - Wicca [Northern and Southern hemispheres]*

*September 29<sup>th</sup> - Michael and All Angels - Christian*

*September 30<sup>th</sup> - October 1<sup>st</sup> - Rosh Hashanah\* - Jewish*

\*holiday begins the evening before.

\* \* Local and regional customs may vary on the dates.

\* \* \*

Our next Business Meeting will be **Wed. September 4<sup>th</sup>**, 6:30pm  
at the church. Everyone is welcome!

As always, if you have questions or ideas, and wonder about ways you can be involved in the work and life of our congregation, please contact our board members: Moderator, John Freitag, Assistant Moderator, Marissa Mazzucco, Treasurer, Suzanna Liepmann, or our Trustees, Katy Botsford, Lee Funston and Andrew Lane.

You can also speak with our minister, Rev. Telos Whitfield about your gifts and perspectives.

*Thank you for being part of this community!*

\* \* \*

My heart is moved by all I cannot save;  
So much has been destroyed  
I have to cast my lot with those  
Who, age after age,  
Perversely, with no extraordinary  
Power, reconstitute the world.

Adrienne Rich