

The Bridge

You are encouraged to join us for 11:00 a.m. church services.

No Sunday School programs and no childcare.

The playroom is clean and open for parents who wish to use it.

April 6: "Greece is the Word" – Jimmy Merritt – What can events from 2,428 years ago tell us about ourselves? I once lived in Athens, GA. And the mascots of my current job at James Sprunt are the Spartans. This service will explore those connections and we will be introduced to a brilliant scholar of History, or maybe (Her-Story!) Be there!

April 13: "Hydroclimate Whiplash" – with Ed Clark – Sub-title: Hurricane Helene and the Palisades Fire: What the Planet is Telling Us.

April 20: "The Great Oneness" – Reverend Brian Clougherty – Have you ever experienced awe, the feeling that you are witnessing, in the presence of, a part of something much greater than yourself? That is your experience of some small measure of The Great Oneness. It is humbling in its sense of perspective. It can be exhilarating; it can be euphoric. I'll try to tell you about it and reflect on how the Great Oneness and Easter are related.

April 27: "Black History Month in April" – with Linda Jones

April 2: Universalist Convocation is launching Zoom Monthly Vesper Services held on Zoom on the first Wednesday of each month. Today is the first service. To receive a Zoom link, visit Universalist Convocation Monthly Vesper Schedule Page to see dates, topics and speakers and learn how to receive the Zoom link.



Dates to Remember

April 3: 11:45 a.m.: Dutch-treat lunch followed by AUW meeting at 1:00 p.m.

April 12: Lunch Meeting with UUFRC Coming of Age.

April 13: Lunch and Board Meeting Following Services.

April 20: Easter Breakfast & Egg Hunt – Breakfast at 9:30 a.m. Have a favorite breakfast casserole? Bring to share! Bring eggs to hunt!

**May 4: 1:15 p.m. Musical Concert with Jimmy Merritt, Chris McNally and Adita Harless.
Spaghetti lunch.**

**May 11: Homecoming Service with Clark Lane.
Covered-dish lunch.**

EXCERPTS FROM “FROM EASTER TO EARTH DAY: REFLECTIONS ON THE LESSONS OF THIS TIME OF YEAR”

BY: JOHN A LANIER (April 19, 2022)

For Christians, Easter is about much more than just observing one day of the year. That is the same lesson for Earth Day, and this year, I hope people commit to more than just one day of action. This week is a confluence of two things I hold very dear to my heart – my faith and the environment. As a Christian, this past Easter Sunday was the highest holiday of the year, a day filled with joy and celebration. As an environmentalist, Earth Day this Friday is the one day each year where society in general acknowledges the importance of caring for the planet. Rather than dive into some wonky economic analysis of an environmental issue or wax poetically about the potential of a clean tech innovation, I want to simply share a reflection about these two days. When COVID began two years ago, much of the rhythm of my religious life was disturbed. We resumed our church going ways in late February, and it's been wonderful to be back. It genuinely adds joy to our family life. And so, I found myself fully experiencing the happiness of Easter this Sunday. For obvious reasons, Easter has theological undertones of new life and renewal and it feels like our family gets a restart on the practice of our faith. At its core though, Easter isn't just one day. Yes, we Christians celebrate one particular moment in the life of Jesus, but it is THE moment. Our entire theology is underpinned by that day, so we don't get to check a box and forget about Easter until the next one comes around. If we are doing it right, everything that Easter represents should be a part of our daily lives as Christians. That takes work though, and it's the work I am committing myself to over the coming year. Which brings me to Earth Day. I want to be very clear that I am grateful for all the mindfulness that Earth Day brings. Literally millions of people observe it and take some sort of positive action to help our planet. Of course, that is a good thing. I know it's a silly trope to say, “every day is Earth Day,” but the truth of that sentence is plain to see for anyone who thinks about it for even one second. It's why I blanch a bit when I see Earth Day campaigns that involve just one single moment of action. Cleaning up trash for one afternoon does not satisfy a year's worth of obligations toward environmental stewardship. Environmentalism isn't an on/off switch. How carbon intensive is your diet? Have you switched your home to energy-efficient appliances? Have you cut fast-fashion out of your wardrobe? Do you drive a gas-guzzler? Do you vote for political candidates who take environmentalism seriously? Do you include environmental organizations in your charitable giving? And on and on and on. My ask is that you don't commit to doing one good thing this Earth Day. Instead, spend some time reflecting on how you can get better at being environmentally responsible every day.



HAPPY EASTER/HAPPY EARTH DAY!