

The Goodwill Messenger

Published by the Village Church of Cummington

Minister: Rev. Jon Rehmus

Organist: Morgan Markel

Church Office: 634-5508

Service 10:00 AM, 1st & 3rd Sundays

Editor & Graphics: John Maruskin • Reporting & Mailing: Pat Keith

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cummingtonvillagechurch.org

Village Church—Open and Affirming—You are welcome here

Minister's Message

Dear Friends,

When we first moved to the hilltowns more than 20 years ago, a neighboring farmer left a bag of potatoes with a pint of maple syrup at our door in welcome. I'll never forget that neighborliness or how it initiated long-term, face-to-face conversation and reciprocation that cannot be replaced.

Little gestures make up the life of a village, and it is as important to remember those who we don't see often as those who are part of our routine. Pausing for conversation on Main Street when we could just roll by; stopping by when there's word of sickness or a celebration; noticing the bulbs blooming in that patch of carefully-worked garden: these are priceless acts which otherwise get devalued in our lives of screens and rushing past to the next thing.

Strangers become neighbors when we remember the little acts that help appreciate this Great Love of sharing our world.

In faith and service,

Jon

Interested in Hosting Greenwood Parents?

Please consider hosting a set of Greenwood parents for the August 6-7 parents weekend (they arrive Saturday afternoon and depart Sunday morning). Information packages are soon going out to camp families, and this program last year provided delight to both guests and hosts. Along with meeting nice folks and offering small town hospitality, this also serves as a fundraiser for the church: in lieu of payment for this B&B arrangement, we ask for a donation to Village Church. Contact Rev. Jon if you're willing (jonrehmus@gmail.com; 413-624-3025).

Sure Sign of Spring—the ducks are back in the river!



Ministry Hours and Peaceful Thursdays

From Rev. Jon: Most Thursday afternoons I am in Cummington and am happy to schedule appointments for mornings and evenings those days. I can often make in-person appointments Tuesday afternoon or 1st & 3rd Sundays after lunch. I am also glad to talk by phone, and please do call (413-624-3025) and leave a message in emergencies or if you seek 24-hour turn-around. I do not check email every day.

After 4:45 PM on Thursdays, you can find me in our lovely church study. This spring, Darlene Graham and I again invite you to sow awareness and peace into your approach to the weekend with the body-mind exercises of Yoga, 4:00-5:30 PM and Silent Meditation, 5:45-6:15 PM.

Feel free to attend either program or both. Those who would like to ring the church bells—reminding all of us to breathe peace into our lives—can also arrive at the conclusion of meditation.

April At the Village Church

April 7, 14, 21, 28—Yoga, 4:00-5:30 PM and Silent Meditation, 5:45-6:15 PM.

April 3—Service 10 AM

April 8—Friday Night Café

April 15—Friday Night Jam

April 17—Service 10 AM

April 22—Friday Night Café

“For winter's rains and ruins are over, And all the season of snows and sins;

The days dividing lover and lover, The light that loses, the night that wins;

And time remembered is grief forgotten, And frosts are slain and flowers begotten,

And in green underwood and cover Blossom by blossom the spring begins.”

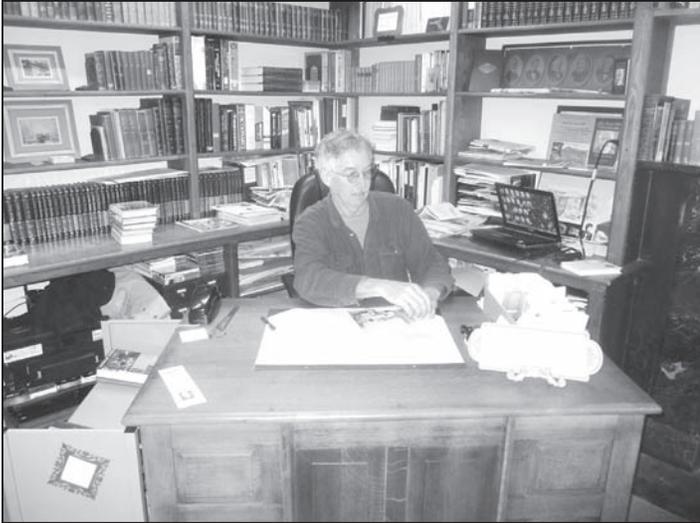
—Algernon Charles Swinburne, 1890

For personal, church needs or questions please contact one of the Deacons, John Maruskin at 634-5320, Susan Riley at 634-8055, Kathleen Knox at 634-8041 or Pat Keith 634-5084 or leave a message at the church 634-5508.

To rent the church space for classes, concerts, meetings, etc., please call Scott at 634-5084. The church charges a very nominal fee to cover upkeep & heat. We love having the building used!!

From the Librarian's Desk

The Bryant Free Library is fortunate to have Mark DeMaranville for a librarian. He is hard-working, courteous and helpful. Come in and visit Mark on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6-9 PM and Saturdays from 8:30 AM-12:30 PM. There is always a lively conversation going on. If we don't have the book you are looking for Mark can order it for you through the inter-library loan system.



Our intrepid librarian at work.

Friday Night Café in April

- 4/8—Sean Kimball & Heather Cupo present Guilty Pleasures! An evening of music you know you love (Come on...admit it!)
- 4/15—Jam—Bring an instrument & a song or just come & listen. All levels welcome—3rd Fridays, 7-10. More info: John or Peg @ 634-5398
- 4/22—Radio Free Earth—Join Josh & Kim Wachtel for a night of fresh Crossover Music served hot.

Gardening is about enjoying the smell of things growing in the soil, getting dirty without feeling guilty, and generally taking the time to soak up a little peace and serenity.

—Lindley Karstens, noproblemgarden.com

"Ah! Spring is here. The rabbits quit their dens,
The dormant grass begins once more to grow.
The trees release their airborne allergens.
It's time to tune the Toro and to mow,
To fertilize and lime and thatch and seed
As-groveling on dirty, servile knees—
You pluck the dreaded dandelion weed
And rub your itching eyes and start to sneeze.
Wherever grass encroaches, you must edge,
And don't forget to stir the compost heap
And trim the junipers' unruly hedge,
While forfeiting a needed hour of sleep.
Those poets penning praise to spring and tillage
Are domiciled in lofts in Greenwich Village."

—Bob McKenty, A Sonnet for Spring

Visit the Village Church website at cumingtonvillagechurch.org

Friday Night Café

There was more great jazz at the Café on March 11th with Blue Jazz. Dave Bartley played with Dave Christopolis, bass, Aaron Dean, sax, and Fran Curley on drums. Over twenty people came to hear this fine performance.



Dave Bartley, Fran Curly, Aaron Dean and Dave Christopolis
2015 archive photo

Viatsa played on March 35th to an appreciative crowd. Viatsa are Tatiana Berindei and Daniel Plane, who were joined by their friend Max Wareham, of the bluegrass band Morning Bugle, for the first set. They played an eclectic mix of blues, jazz and folk, and had the audience singing along several times. Dancing even happened.



Come to the Friday Night Café. It's here, it's near and it's FREE!

You don't have to drive far, and you can still get to bed on time.

Max, Tatiana, and Daniel



Dancers



Viatsa

The Goodwill Messenger, deadline for the May 2016 issue is April 25. Any personal news, an event, a business to promote with a paid advertisement or anything else worth noting please send to John at mrblooz@verizon.net or Pat at patakeith@gmail.com, mail to VCC, PO Box 76, Cumington, MA 01026 or leave it in the drop box, marked GWM located in the back entryway of the Village Church. Please be sure to include all the details, and a contact number in case we have questions.

Lunch Bunch Returns

The Cummington Lunch Bunch will be meeting on April 13 at the Spruce Corner Restaurant in Goshen.

Reservations are for 12:15 PM. Carpool from the Village Church at noon. For more info contact Edith Morton.

Thanks

Janet & Jim Martin and family would like to thank those who sent cards, prayers and called them following the death of her brother Richard R. Jasmin, Sr., of Greenfield on March 7th.

It is times like this that make having friends like you very special.

Native American Event

The Cummington, Plainfield, and Charlemont-Hawley Cultural Councils have a public event in April. The program is Native American Cultural Persistence in Massachusetts, and it takes place on Sunday, April 17, 1–3:00 PM, at the Plainfield Town Hall.

Willow Greene, an Abenaki storyteller, will share the experience of being Abenaki in today's society. David Brule will speak about the Nolumbeka Project and the National Battle site grant for Peskeompskut/ Turners Falls.



Willow Greene, right, and daughter Liz

Hilltown Solarize Partnership Forming

The towns of Windsor, Worthington, Cummington, and Goshen (WinsWorthCummGo) are in the planning stages of forming a partnership to apply for a Solarize Mass grant. Solarize Mass is a group-purchasing program that results in savings of about 20% below the statewide average for solar photovoltaic (PV) installations. Businesses, homeowners, and non-profits are eligible for the discounts.

The grant would provide up to \$5,000 for each town to promote and publicize solar PV as well as technical and other assistance. Each town must have a solar coach, a municipal representative, and an additional rep. The teams of three from each town then collectively pick the official Solarize PV installer.

In 2015 the Solarize Plainfield-Ashfield-Buckland program concluded with 116 new solar systems sold or about 8% of homes in that area. Those systems added about 858 kilowatts to the grid. That equates to reducing greenhouse gases by 717 tons per year or taking 137 cars off the road.

For more information or to help serve on one of the Solarize committees, please call Jan Bradley in Windsor at 413-684-3732, Marie Burkart in Worthington at 413-238-5930, Bill Adams in Cummington at 413-634-5342, or Dave Chrisopolis in Goshen at 413-296-4536.

Editor's Note: Please remember to send family news or photographs, town news, items of Cummington historical interest, to the Goodwill Messenger. This paper is here for you and we need your news. Items should arrive by the 25th of the month to one of the addresses noted at the bottom of page 2. Thank you.

Friday Night Café: cummingtonvillagechurch.org/FNC.html

An Excerpt...

From *When Churches Want a Pastor Who Can "Bring In Young Families"*

By Rev. Jan Edmiston (with permission)

<https://achurchforstarvingartists.wordpress.com/>

Almost every church I've ever known has wanted to attract Young Families. The reasoning behind this includes the following:

If we don't regenerate, everyone will eventually get old and die.

It's energizing to have young people around.

Younger members can do the work that older members can't/won't do anymore.

Young families (i.e. mom, dad, and kids) remind us of church when we were (or wish we were) part of young families.

There are a few things wrong with this reasoning, including the fact that "attracting" people in general feels manipulative—as if people are "targets" to be used for our own purposes. Yuck.

Let's be honest about the "why?" Are we saying that we want these rare and valuable Young Families for what they can give to us?

What if—instead—the "why" of this demographic quest was about feeding souls and sharing authentic community? I always hoped—as a young mom—that church would provide adults that could help me nurture my children. I always wanted to know that—if my kids couldn't come to me with a problem—they would have other trustworthy adults to whom they could go (and they did.)

Young families are great. Old families are great. Families made up of child-free couples are great. Families of single people are great. Imagine if every church simply wanted A Pastor Who Could Bring In Broken People. Now that's a church.

So how can we be the kind of congregation that welcomes Young Families for more than their energy and wallets? We can:

Be real. Deal with real issues in sermons, classes, retreats, conversations, prayers.

Listen to parents' concerns. Listen to children's concerns.

Ask how we can pray for them. And then pray for them.

Give parents a break. Really. Help struggling parents get coats and hats on their kids. Hold an umbrella. Assist in wiping spills.

Give parents a break administratively. Make it easy to participate. Minimize the unnecessary.

It's also okay not to have Young Families in our congregations. Some neighborhoods have very few young ones living nearby. But there are still people who crave some Good News.

I want a Pastor who can minister to whoever lives in the neighborhood in the thick of these cruel and beautiful times.

Arts Alive Show

Arts Alive in the Hilltowns presents "*Stumbling Artists Sketch Show—Drawings, Sketches, and Sketchbooks*" at the Worthington Historical Society, 6 Williamsburg Road, Worthington. The opening will be Friday, April 1, 7–9 PM. The show will also be open on April 2 and 3 from 10 AM–2 PM. This show will include drawings, sketches, or sketchbooks that show the development of ideas and will include a variety of styles. The show will highlight all the talents or artists in the hilltowns.

If you would like to participate or for more information contact Natalie Stafford, 413 238-0192 or natstafford72@gmail.com

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P.O. Box 76
Cummington, MA 01026

Schedule of Ongoing Events – all at the Community House unless specified

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Admin. Assistant Hours 9–11 AM	Admin. Assistant Hours 9–11 AM	Family Center Play Group 9:30–11:30 AM	Finance Office (Tax Collector, Treas., Acct.) open 6–7 PM	Admin. Assistant Hours 9–11 AM	Transfer Station open 7–11 AM
Veterans Agent 9–11 AM	Board of Health 1 st & 3 rd Tues. 7 PM (2nd floor)	Council on Aging Office Hours 9–noon (C.H. Annex)	Town Clerk 6–7:30 PM (2nd floor)	Family Center Play Group 9:30–11:30 AM	Bryant Library open 8:30 AM–12:30 PM
Assessor Office Hours 9:30–11:30 AM (upstairs in C.H.)		Bryant Library open 6–9 PM	Selectboard meets 7 PM		
Bryant Library open 6–9 PM		Transfer Station open 5:30–7:30 PM	Building Inspector 7–9 PM (upstairs in C. H.)		
		Planning Board 2nd, 4th weeks 7 PM	Board of Assessors meets 2 nd , 4 th Thursdays 6–8 PM		

If you would like an electronic copy instead of a paper one, include your email on the form below and we will email the Goodwill Messenger to you.

Free computer services offered by Ken Graf to Cummington senior citizens

634-8860

<http://kensstuff.blogspot.com>

Yes! I would like to subscribe to the Goodwill Messenger.

Name _____ email: _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Enclosed is my donation of \$10.00 for a one year subscription.

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