

# 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

Volume LXVI, Number 4 • May, 2016 • P.O. Box 76, Cummington, MA 01026

[cummingtonvillagechurch.org](http://cummingtonvillagechurch.org)

*Village Church—Open and Affirming—You are welcome here*

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## Minister's Message

Dear Friends,

Unitarians are known to be wordy. Take Emerson: "The Soul abolishes time and space. The influence of the senses has, in most people, overpowered the mind to that degree, that the walls of time and space have come to look real and insurmountable; and to speak with levity of these limits is, in the world, the sign of insanity. Yet time and space are but inverse measures of the force of the Soul."

Long before Einstein "made sane" aspects of what he was saying, Emerson is talking about our direct experience of the Divine through our larger connection of Soul or what he termed the "Over-soul." Words and terms: my grandfather on my mother's side was a Universalist. He had no time for wordy theology but plenty for direct experience of the Divine. "God is love," he'd say.

In faith and service, Rev. Jon

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## Night Sky Tour with Ron & Jon

Ron Woodland & Jon Rehmus lead another sky watch on Friday, May 6, 8:00 PM at the church (Sat., May 7 alternate night in case of cloud cover)

The Earth has moved about the Sun! Springtime evenings, Corvus the crow soars up out of the southeast while this spring, Jupiter sets with Leo and the Winter Hexagon in the west. Combining instrument use with naked-eye observation while sharing fact and lore, we welcome all ages to this quarter's edition of sky watching. Dress in layers with attention to boots, socks, hats, etc. Latecomers can come behind the Harrison home on Main Street for the outside program. Contact info for Jon is below if you have questions or want to confirm program status.

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## Ministry Hours and Peaceful Thursdays

From Rev. Jon: Most Thursday afternoons I am in Cummington—in the office after 4:45 PM—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 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.

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.

Visit VC Church website at [cummingtonvillagechurch.org](http://cummingtonvillagechurch.org)

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## 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). 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](mailto:jonrehmus@gmail.com) 413-624-3025).

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## Discussion Group

A Community discussion group, sponsored by the Council on Aging focusing on Living Fully, Aging Gracefully and Befriending Death is forming and is open and welcoming to all residents of the Hilltowns.

The group will meet once a month on Tuesday afternoons, the second Tuesday, from 1–3 at the Cummington Community House Library, Main Street starting Tuesday, May 10th.

For further information or to RSVP please contact Wynne or Lucy, 413 634-5576 or mail to: [wynnlucy@verizon.net](mailto:wynnlucy@verizon.net) or [annieb@crocker.com](mailto:annieb@crocker.com).

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## May At the Village Church

May 5, 12, 19, 26—Yoga, 4:00–5:30 PM and Silent Meditation, 5:45–6:15 PM.

May 1—10 AM— Why Family History Matters. Co-led by Bill & Elaine Streeter and Jon Rehmus. A fellowship time honoring Barbara Goldsmith—who is moving to Colorado—follows the service.

May 13—Friday Night Café

May 15—Service 10 AM— Restorative Circles. Co-led by Josh Wachtel and Jon Rehmus

May 20—Friday Night Jam

May 27—Friday Night Café

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 2015 Town Report is now available, and we have copies here at the BFL for those who would like one. The cover artwork includes a fine engraving of our founder William Cullen Bryant, incorporated within the Town Seal. It's different from our traditional Town Seal, which last appeared on the cover in 2002.

Speaking of town reports, for those who you who may have some of the earliest ones gathering dust on some attic shelf, the BFL is in need of the following years: 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1894, 1896, 1897, 1899, 1901, 1906, 1907, & 1909.

In fact, if you have any old town reports you're thinking of throwing away, please give them to us and we'll deal with them. Thanks.

See you at the library!  
—Mark

## Friday Night Café in May

May 13—One Part Luck, John Bye and Peg Cowen—present their smart, funny, thoughtful original music. Expect tight vocal harmonies, guitar, bass, banjo, harmonica and various percussive devices served up with honesty and humor. They will be joined by special guest Nate Treloar.

May 20—Jam

May 27—Louise Mosrie—Nashville's loss is our gain! Now settled in Williamsburg, Louise is a southern poet and storyteller, with a guitar and a voice like an angel. This nationally acclaimed and award-winning performer presents a night of literate, soulful, original songs.



Dan Friedman, Dave Bartley and Heather Cupo



James Kitchen, Heather Cupo and Sean Kimball



James Kitchen, Kim Wachtel and Josh wachtel



James Kitchen, Kim Wachtel and Josh wachtel

## Arts Alive Fundraiser

Arts alive in the Hilltowns will hold a fundraiser featuring The Old Country Road Band at the Blackburn Inn, 144 Huntington Road, Worthington on Saturday, May 21 at 7 PM. Old Country Road, dedicated to keeping the sound of "true" or vintage country music alive, features songs from the 1950's and 1960's. The Western MA country band consists of five Western MA residents. They include Ron Jackson (vocalist and rhythm guitarist), Dan Pilachowski (lead guitar), Dave Helman (bass), all of South Hadley, Mark Lavalee (mandolin) of Easthampton, and Peter McLean (Dobro) of Worthington.

The tickets for this event are \$20 and include the music and after-dinner treats at the Blackburn Inn. There will be a cash bar. For reservations call 413-238-5593. Tickets will also be available at the door.

## Friday Night Café

On April 8, Guilty Pleasures—Heather Cupo and Sean Kimball—appeared at the Café and brought some friends along to play on a few songs. Dave Bartley, piano, James Kitchen, singing saw and harmonica, Kim Wachtel, vocal, and Dan Friedman on sax joined in at various times. It was a capacity crowd and Heather and Sean had folks up on their feet a couple of times.

Radio Free Earth played at the Café on April 22. Kim and Josh Wachtel were joined by ubiquitous sideman James Kitchen (he's everywhere!) on drums, saw and harmonica. RFE's cross-over repertoire delighted the crowd. Dancing occurred.

## Selectboard Write-In Candidate

Citing encouragement of friends and neighbors, Bill Adams has decided to run for the Cummington Selectboard as a write in candidate in May. Bill is running for the seat currently held by James Drawe, who is on the ballot seeking re-election.

As a retired Navy Captain, Bill started coming to Cummington in 1991 to take up agriculture by raising and selling quality Christmas trees out on Porter Hill Rd. In 2001, Bill and his wife Jane purchased Maple East Farm on Dodwells Rd. from Jane's Uncle Frannie Wells' estate who in his own right served as First Selectman here in Cummington for over 25 years. In 2013, Bill and Jane became full time residents and now call Cummington home making them the fourth generation to occupy the farm. Born and raised in Canaan CT, Bill's family has a long history here in West-ern Mass that dates back to the time of the Revolution.

Bill has had a long and proud history of loyal service to the country and navy he loves. Even though he has retired, Bill continues to believe in service before self and actions for the good of the whole. He sees and firmly believes that, even though it might be an uphill battle, he has a unique opportunity to use his lifelong skill sets and work ethic to make a meaningful difference as member of the Selectboard team.

Bill currently serves as a member of the Cummington Ad Hoc Education Committee; A Trustee at the Village Church, Vice President of the Franklin County Harvest Club and most recently Cummington's Solarize Mass Solar Coach leading "Team Cummington" in partnership with Windsor, Worthington, and Goshen to bring affordable solar energy to the member communities.

Bill looks forward to the challenge in the weeks ahead and asks for your "write in" vote on Election Day.

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## Seed Savers

The Hilltown Seed Saving Network will hold its fourth annual Spring Seed and Plant Exchange on Saturday, May 14th, from 10 AM to 1 PM, at the Community House in Cummington. Find the perfect plant for your garden, or the right variety of seed for summer crops. Bring seeds, seedlings, and perennial divisions to share. Anyone who brings at least one plant to exchange will be eligible to win a \$20 gift certificate from Fedco Seeds.

Last year we had an abundance of both familiar and unusual plants to give away, so don't feel you need to bring anything in order to participate!

There is no scheduled programming at this event, but experienced seed savers will be on hand to answer questions. This is also a great opportunity to meet other Hilltowners who are interested in seed saving, and compare notes. You may drop off seeds and plants as early as 9:30 AM.

For more information contact Sadie Stull at 413-634-5013, or Michael Alterman at 413-358-6919 or alterman@speakeasy.net.

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The Goodwill Messenger deadline for the June issue is May 25, 2016. 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](mailto:mrblooz@verizon.net) or Pat at [patakeith@gmail.com](mailto:patakeith@gmail.com), mail to VCC, PO Box 76, Cummington, 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

Cummington Ladies Lunch Bunch will be meeting on May 11 at 12:30 PM at the Trail TOC Diner, 1105 Mohawk Trail, Shelburne, MA. Carpool leaving the Village Church at noon.

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## Bryant Home Celebration

Visit the country home of William Cullen Bryant, a great American poet, on Saturday, May 21 10 AM-5 PM, 207 Bryant Road, Cummington, and celebrate the Trustees' 125th anniversary! Ramble the same fields and trails that inspired Bryant's poetry and explore his home. Guided tours offer visitors the opportunity to relive this house's incredible past through stories and antique objects on display. Join us for celebratory cake and enjoy history in a memorable way. FREE. For more information call The Trustees at 413.532.1631x3110; email [westregion@thetrustees.org](mailto:westregion@thetrustees.org)

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## Mother's Day at the Homestead

Relive the elegance and charm of the past with Mom on Mother's Day on Sunday, May 8, 1-3 PM at the William Cullen Bryant Homestead, 207 Bryant Road, Cummington. Enjoy a proper afternoon tea with all the refinery and delight of Bryant's era. Pastries, scones, sandwiches, and tea served on beautiful china accompanied by interludes of Bryant's poetry read aloud.

Trustees members \$24 ; non-members \$30. Member's family rate (3 or more) \$60; Nonmember family rate (3 or more) \$75. Pre-registration is required. Call the Trustees at 413.628.4485x3; email [hltoutreach@thetrustees.org](mailto:hltoutreach@thetrustees.org)

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## Quilt Documentation

At the William Cullen Bryant Homestead, 207 Bryant Road, Cummington, on Saturday, May 14 at 10 AM Jane Crutchfield of the Massachusetts Quilt Documentation Project will have a free public documentation of the Bryant Homestead quilts as well as others from The Trustees' properties in Western Massachusetts. Afterwards, from 1-4 PM, quilt owners can receive documentation reports for \$15 per quilt by signing up at the program as they arrive. In celebration of The Trustees' 125th anniversary quilts documented at 125 years old receive quilt documentation for FREE. For information on the Massachusetts Quilt Documentation Project please visit [www.massquilts.org](http://www.massquilts.org). Pre-registration is recommended. Call the Trustees at 413.532.1631x3110; email [westregion@thetrustees.org](mailto:westregion@thetrustees.org)

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## Native-American Story-tellers

April 17th on a fabulous spring afternoon 60 people gathered in the Plainfield Town Hall. Willow Greene, Abenaki storyteller, and David Brule, a founder of The Nolumbeka Project, shared current Native regional issues and indigenous stories. David introduced information about the Nolumbeka Project's work to protect burial and ceremonial sites from development.

Willow enthralled all with stories, passed orally from past generations to the present. Her "index cards" were painted story stones, picked by children from her beaded story bag. Each story providing wisdom and guidance about how to be in good relationships, safe and healthy relationship with each other, our environment, our elders, and ourselves. This event was generously sponsored by the Cultural Councils of Plainfield, Cummington and Charlemont-Hawley.

Goodwill Messenger  
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 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursdays 6–8 PM		

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