

The Goodwill Messenger

Published by the Village Church of Cummington

Ministry: All of us

Church Office: 634-5508

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

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cummingtonvillagechurch.org

Village Church—Open and Affirming—You are welcome here

Doings at the Village Church

On Sunday, May 6, we dug really, really deep into our roots for a Beltane ceremony (traditional ancient Celtic holiday) led by Sarah Stockwell-Arthen. She led us in song and told stories about the holiday.

On May 20th, Ron Woodland, our own astronomer, led us through the endless mystery of the universe, as it was known in the past and as it is known today.

On Sunday June 3, we will have a special guest minister, Lance Humphrey. He is a Licensed Minister with the UCC of Hampshire and Franklin Associations. He serves as Associate Pastor for United Congregational Church of Holyoke, and Faith and Ministry Leader for Cathedral in the Light, Greenfield. He loves to share God's grace.

And don't forget—the Greenwood Music Camp returns to Village Church on July 8!



Josh Wachtel and Sarah Stockwell Arthen lead the congregation in song.

Homesteading Skills: Beginner Cheesemaking

William Cullen Bryant Homestead, Sat., June 2, 1 PM to 3 PM

Learn to make simple cheeses at to enhance your home cooking! This class is intended for those without any prior cheesemaking experience. We'll be making simple soft cheeses that are easy, delicious, and a lot of fun! Workshop includes a discussion on the basics of the cheesemaking process, cheesemaking in the 19th century, basic recipes, and a hands-on demonstration. Participants will taste the cheeses they make as well as some local cheeses produced in the area.

Space is limited and registration is required.

Member: \$24, Nonmember: \$30.

For more information call 413-200-7262 or contact acaluori@thetrustees.org

To rent the church space for classes, concerts, meetings, etc., please call Scott at 413 320-6544. The church charges a very nominal fee for upkeep & heat. We love having the building used!!

Hilltown Bash Returns!

News from Kim Wachtel: "The Hilltown Bash was so much fun last year, we have to do it again! I hope you can make it!

There's a number of reasons that I organize this party. The most meaningful is bringing people together, for some fun, to celebrate the start of summer. I know you all through different connections and I know that we all work hard in a world that can be challenging, chaotic and disconnected. We need reasons to come together and celebrate the beautiful place we call home, celebrate the short and sweet season of summer, and connect with old and new friends. Let's eat good food, have a beer or glass of wine, talk, play and dance together!

This year, at the Pettingill Memorial Park Pavilion in Cummington, on Sunday, June 17th, 5 PM, I'm excited to have Jared Quinn and The Psychic Friends (R Sturgis Cunningham, Kara Rose Wolf, Darby Wolf) playing deep cuts of soul and funk for us. I've seen them play a couple times, you will not want to sit still. Radio Free Earth opens and we're celebrating our new studio album, hot off the press! Joined by R Sturgis Cunningham, Dave Christopolis and Christopher Haynes! We've been working on this record for a year and we're so excited to get it out in the world. Community Potluck, BYO, playground and river wading. There's something for everyone! Wear your dancing shoes. This is an all ages event. Suggested donation \$5-10. Thank you to the Cummington, Worthington and Plainfield Cultural Councils for helping fund this event!"

See you soon!

Kim

Kingman Tavern Museum Seeking Guides

High School students, ages 15 (with note from their school Guidance Counselor) and older to work Saturdays in July and August, 3-hour shifts, \$15.00/hour-\$45.00/week. The season begins July 14th. Shifts rotate start times that begin at 1:30, 2:00, or 2:30 PM. Please e-mail Carla Ness at carla@delaprealstate.com. Great experience and a plus on a college application! Interested adults are also invited to apply.

For personal, church needs or questions please contact one of the Deacons, John Maruskin at 634-5320, Kathleen Knox at 634-8041, Josh Wachtel at 634-5005 or leave a message at the church 634-5508.

From the Librarian's Desk

The Story of the "Volk"

Recently at the library Marc Hoechstetter said to me "I hope you're putting the things you've written and produced and collected here into some sort of organized form that will become part of the permanent collection." It was a good idea and one that I hadn't been doing, so I picked-up a binder and a few packages of plastic sleeves and began to rummage through various files, piles, drawers, and shelves gathering together appropriate materials. I found lots of interesting stuff, such as fliers for book readings, book signings, travel lectures, Summer Reading Programs, esoteric presentations, and jazz shows, along with press clippings, programs, obits, and photos. Familiar names that came up again and again were Bill Streeter, Richard Wilbur, William Jay Smith, Barbara Goldsmith, and Stephen M. Howes. All of those were self-explanatory, but I came across a couple of odd items related to our late Town Moderator Bill Volk and thought "My God, if someone looks at these a hundred years from now without an explanatory note they won't have a clue as to what they're all about." Rather than just compose it and put it in the notebook, I thought I'd share it with you. One word of caution though: In order to be perfectly truthful, which for me is the only way, I've had to use a wee bit of language not normally associated with church newsletters. But as Joan Rivers used to say, "We're all adults here, right?" I think even the most pious among us can handle it, so here's what happened sometime around the year 2000:

Bill Volk was a frequent patron at the library, usually coming in on Saturday mornings. You never knew what to expect from Bill, he was a pretty hard guy to read. So one morning when nobody else was there he said to me "You're a very creative guy and I'd like your help. I want the name Volk to be known for something. I want it to have a special meaning. I want it to be remembered. And I think you can do it." I wasn't sure whether he was kidding or serious, but he spoke with a passion that left me feeling he was more serious than kidding. It was a dangerous proposition given my third-grade sense of humor, but I told him I'd give it a try. He nodded his approval and left.

The next week he came in again, and I said "I've been working on your request and I think I've got something." He eyed me suspiciously, peering over his reading glasses Chuck Schumer style, and just stared at me. I was beginning to wonder if he even remembered what he'd asked me to do when he spoke. "I've got just one question" he asked seriously. "Does it have to do with sh-t?" I laughed and replied "As a matter of fact it does." He grimaced as if he should've known better, then smiled and said "All right. What is it?" "Well" I began, "you know when you step in a dog mess and need to find something to scrape it off the sole of your shoe? You may use a stick or a nail or a screwdriver or a piece of wire, but there's no name for what you need, no matter what form that might take. At that unfortunate moment what you need is a volk."

I wasn't sure how he'd take this, but it turned out to be a Eureka! moment for him. "A VOLK!" he cried out. "That's brilliant! Yes! This may even have commercial potential! All those dog people at the shows... I bet they'd snap-up a custom volk with a nice medalion featuring a picture of their breed." He left the library a happy man.

The next week he returned with a prototype he'd fashioned from a leather-handled golf club. He'd cut it off about two-thirds of the way down the shaft and attached a curved end with a point.

"This deluxe volk is for the library" he proudly stated, "and I've printed up some directions." He handed me two pages he'd carefully composed in varying font sizes and bold type.

The first one was: **Instructions for volking:**

1. Use the wall to lean against while volking.
2. Grasp the volk firmly in your hand so that it does not slip.
3. Remove soiled material from your shoes.
4. As a courtesy to others kick the soiled material well away from the volking station.
5. Wipe the volk off on the nearby grass so that it is clean for others.
6. Thank you for using the William Cullen Bryant Free Library Volking Station.
7. Please tell others (especially from other towns) of the definition of the word "volk".

The second one was: **Please don't volk in the library. Use the library's deluxe volk around the side.**

Thank you for volking outside.

So now you know the story of the volk. It made Bill, may he rest in peace, happy, so I guess it was worth it just for that. But I must say, my family has continued to use that term ever since that time, and when someone says "I need a volk!" you know exactly what the situation is!

See you at the library,
Mark

Friday Night Café

On April 27, Larz Young appeared at the FNC, with Dave Christopolis on base—familiar to patrons from appearing with "Blue Jazz."

They were followed by Jack Swindlehurst with his poetry and guitar. He was joined by Muddy Roads—Karen Simon & Bob Lovell, and accompanied by Carolyn Hooks.

It will be Friday night on Saturday night! Please join One Part Luck on Saturday, June 2 at the Village Church in Cummington from 7–9 for their CD release show, rescheduled from May 11. John and Peg will share songs from their new CD "Every Hour." They'll be joined by their talented musical friends, Nate Treloar and Keith Orcutt. They aim to make you sigh, think a bit, laugh, and want to get up and dance!



Jack with Carolyn Hooks, Bob Lovell and Karen Simon



Larz Young



Jack Swindlehurst

On Friday June 8, the Café will have its Season Finale. The theme this year is "1968—50 years later." Many of the past performers at the Café will return for this musical celebration.

The Café will resume in September.

Hilltown Open Studio Tour

The Hilltown Arts Alliance is pleased to launch their first ever Open Studio Tour on June 23rd and 24th, 2018, and welcome visitors to view their work as well as the great beauty of the region. The tour will wind its way amongst majestic mountain views, streams, timeless backroads and old growth forests to visit the work places of some of our finest artists. Guests will get a glimpse into both the creative process and the physical work which make up the daily lives of these creative and visionary "Hilltowners".

There will be 26 artists participating at 24 locations, plus a group exhibition at the Cummington Community House Gallery. Hilltown Open Studio Tour is taking place in the towns of Chesterfield, Cummington, Plainfield, North Chester, and Worthington. This is the first year of what is hoped to be an annual event.

"As artists we spend hours alone working in the studio creating our art. We welcome the opportunity to share it with the public and give them a glimpse into our private workspace," explains participant Peggy Klineman for her passion to make this event part of the Hilltown arts scene.

The times are 10-5 on Saturday June 23rd and 11-5 on Sunday June 24th, 2018. Maps are available at each location or at <http://www.hilltownartsalliance.org>. A good starting point to pick up your map would be the Cummington Community House at 33 Main St, Cummington, MA 01026

The weekend will include unique workshops and demonstrations—Please see the website for the full schedule.

For more information contact Kate Bavelock at kateb@hilltowncdc.org.

The Goodwill Messenger deadline for the July, 2018 issue is June 25. Any personal news, an event, 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, Cummington, MA 01026 or leave it in the drop box, marked GWM, in the back entryway of the Village Church. Please include all the details, and a contact number in case we have questions.

Stone Walls II Farewell

STONE WALLS II, the revived arts and literary journal for and about the hilltowns of Western Massachusetts, announces the publication of its final issue.

A farewell celebration, featuring readings from the final journal and light refreshments, will be held at 4 PM on June 3 at the Worthington Historical Society building in Worthington.

Stone Walls II was inspired by the original Stone Walls journal published from 1975–1993, and aimed to capture the spirit of the small rural towns that scatter among the hills west of the Connecticut River Valley to the Housatonic watershed.

This issue will be available for purchase from June 3 at selected retail outlets in the hilltowns and Connecticut River Valley and by mail (for \$8 plus \$2 shipping) addressed to Stone Walls II, P.O. Box 285, Worthington, MA 01098.

For more information, call Helena Alves at 413-667-2251 or Wil Hastings at 413-441-1379 or go to www.stonewallstwo.com

Aging Gracefully in the Hilltowns!

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

The group—always open to new members—meets at the Cummington Community House library, Main Street on the second Tuesday of each month from 1–3 PM.

For further information please contact:

Wynne or Lucy 634 5576 wynlucy@gmail.com or Annie annieb@crocker.com

What touches me most: the quiet, spacious, caring listening—mostly strangers sharing this awe-inspiring stage of our lives. I might have the exact same experience being shared, yet hearing how another takes a totally different approach is enlightening and often up-lifting.

—Susan Brown (participant)



Our Hilltown Community Market
www.oldcreamery.coop
413-634-5560

Summer Ice Cream Window is NOW OPEN

Sunday-Thursday 10-7:30
Friday & Saturday 10-8:30

NEW Summer Store Hours:
Mon-Thurs 7am-7:30pm
Friday 7am-8pm
Saturday 7:30am-8pm
Sunday 7:30am-7:30pm

Featuring Local Bart's Ice Cream!



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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		

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634-8860

<http://kensstuff.blogspot.com>

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