



# West Paris Universalist



West Paris, Maine

Worship Service, Sundays, 9 A.M.

November 2010



## Chicken Pie Supper

The annual chicken pie supper will be held at the church with tickets going on sale at 4:30 and the supper starting at 5:30. The charge is the same as last year at \$3.00 for those under 12 and \$8.00 for those 12 and over. The usual delicious menu will be the order of the day. See you there!

## Calendar

Oct. 31, Sunday, Lay service with Robert Clifford

Oct. 31, Basket Bingo at the American Legion in Locke Mills. 12:30

Nov. 13, Craft fair at the Agnes Gray School

Nov. 18, Chicken Pie Supper at the church 5:30

Nov. 21, To Be Announced

Nov. 22, Goodwill Fellowship at Beverly Stevens's 5:00

## Scryings

Nov. 7 Diwali is the Indian festival of lights celebrating the triumph of good over evil. It is a five day festival which will have begun on Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>. We'll learn a bit about this important celebration in three of India's important religions: Hinduism, Sikhism, and Jainism.

Nov. 14 Assessing "C Street" Jeff Sharlet is the author of the best selling book "The Family." He continues his examination of the political influence of fundamentalism in Washington, D.C. in his latest book "C Street." The service will explore whether or not Sharlet exposes a true danger to American democracy and what his work could mean for liberal religion.

Nov. 21 A Worship Committee Service

Nov. 28 A Pleasure of Customs This first Sunday in Advent ushers in a plethora of customs throughout the month. Some a pleasure. Some confusing or aggravating. Some downright tiresome. Let's consider getting through the season.



## WAYWARD PULPIT

*"We Will Remain."* ~ Tecumseh, Shawnee chief

### COMMENTARY

The PBS series "We Will Remain" has been showing again. It deals with stories of the Native American's contacts with Europeans coming to this continent and eventually occupying almost every portion of it. They are almost uniformly sad stories about clashes of cultures, clashes of spiritual and secular world views, clashes of mismatched numbers and power. They're similar to the stories of the encounters of indigenous peoples with Europeans all over the world. Stories in which the accidents of history and geography, the development of technology, and the peculiar imperialism of monotheism led to the assumption of superiority by those with guns, metal armor and God-on-their-side.

The behavior of powerful leaders like Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson was not unknown in human history. (Jefferson had no qualms about pushing the tribes of the Northwest Territories across the Mississippi and Jackson gave not a second thought about de-populating the Southeast of our country and sending the Cherokee – who, by that time, were often more "civilized" than the settlers who were hungry for their lands – on the genocidal "Trail of Tears") Ask the victims of Ghengis Khan, the Incas, or the President of Sudan about their experiences with better armed and willful predators. The milk of human kindness has soured too often in the world's history.

It's not asking too much of us to remember the full history of the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag, which includes not only the cautious friendship extended by Ousamequin, the Massasoit (or Great Sachem) of the Wampanoag Confederacy, and the help he gave the Pilgrims in surviving their first years in Plymouth, but also the near extinction of the tribes when Pilgrim and Puritan immigration so expanded that all tribal lands were wanted. Thanks were given by both peoples at the "first Thanksgiving", but only by the settlers at the subsequent ones.

As descendants of the Pilgrims (the church they founded in Plymouth was among the early congregational churches to become Unitarian) it behooves us to remember the entire history of our forebears' encounters with First Peoples... not out of guilt, because times were very different and it was a very long time ago, but rather, to remember because over these past almost 400 years we have learned many lessons. Unitarian Universalism is no longer the religion it was when, in embryo, it arrived on these shores. It pays to remember these lessons because they are still so desperately needed in both America's domestic and international affairs.

It has been a custom to pass out four grains of corn at the service before Thanksgiving to remember the daily ration (four grains of corn per person) the Pilgrims were reduced to during the horrible first winter in which over half of them died. That hardship is worth the recollection if only to render our own sense of blessing, indeed of plenty – and hence thankfulness – deeper. Perhaps we could use those little grains of corn to also help us recall the far greater sacrifices made, not by our religious ancestors, but by the peoples who first welcomed and then were victimized by them.

~ Richard

## Joys & Concerns

We are sending our thoughts and best wishes to Arlen Riis as she recovers from a hip replacement, and to Joyce Lamb and Beryl Bonney who have been under the weather. We want you all back pronto!

## Recipe Book

The Goodwill Fellowship is thinking about putting out a new recipe book. It has been years since we have done so. We would like some new recipes. You don't have to be a member to send in a recipe. Just give one to any of us and we will include it. Thank you.

## Board News

The board met on Oct.21, but there was not a quorum, so nothing major was decided. We will be meeting at the church on Nov. 18, (Chicken Pie Supper day), and will have more definite news to report. We are continuing to work on the front steps project, the Memorial Garden project, a new directory project, and thinking about Dec. and the timing for our Christmas Eve service. So do tune in next month for all this information.

## Goodwill Fellowship

The Goodwill Fellowship met at the home of Eleanor Inman on Oct 25. As always a delicious pot luck supper was enjoyed by members and guests. The guests were Milton Inman and Joe Perham. Along the way, Joe was presented with a birthday muffin, complete with candle, and we all sang to him even though it was one day early.

Plans for the Basket Bingo were wrapped up and plans for the Nov. 18, Chicken Pie Supper were made. We are also going to have a craft table at the Nov. 13, Christmas Fair at the Agnes Gray School.

Our craft and food sale held on Oct. 23 was very successful and we send out thanks to all who helped with that.

Our Nov. meeting will be at the home of Beverly Stevens on Monday, Nov. 22.

Minister: Richard Beal 744-9031  
Minister Emeritus: Herbert Adams  
Board Chair: Nancy Willard 665-2788  
Clerk: Marta Clements 674-2143  
Treasurer: Donna Marshall 207-515-0595 (cell)  
Goodwill Fellowship: Joyce Lamb 674-2002  
Facilities Manager: Joyce Lamb 674-2002  
Music: Jim Burke 674-2006  
Newsletter: Marta Clements 674-2143

### Trustees:

Jim Burke 674-2006  
Joyce Lamb 674-2002  
Jim Marshall 207-515-0595 (cell)



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**“At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.”**

**~Albert Schweitzer**



