

Order of Service

INTRO. Video: Waiting for THE World to Change. John Mayer

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP – With the lighting of this chalice we are called to worship.

***Reading in unison Together: -from Albert Schweitzer**

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

***Video and sing along: Spirit of Life. OP Hope**

Vignette #1: Norman 1968

JOYS AND SORROWS

Vignette #2: Mike A. 1992

OFFERTORY and Video: Changes. David Bowie

Vignette #3: Norman 2024

**BENEDICTION & EXTINGUISHING THE CHALICE
Our worship ends. Our service begins.**

OUTRO. Video: Change is Gonna Come. Sam Cooke

*** Please rise in body or spirit**

A2U2 SHARE THE PLATE

The Share the Plate recipient for August is the Mano a Mano, which provides a safe space, loving peer support, outreach, and education to farmworkers statewide and immigrants in Downeast Maine. You can learn more at <https://www.manomaine.org/>.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS today include Norman Stickney, Mike Argondizza and Mike Luce. We are grateful for our tech & Zoom team, too, and all those working behind the scenes to make multi-platform worship possible!

Norman Stickney is a retired communication worker. He is happily retired and feels passionate about changing our political system.

Mike Argondizza is an artist, musician and also is employed at Casco Bay Frame Shop in Portland.

MISSION: At Allen Avenue Unitarian Universalist Church, we are a growing community that transforms lives through the power of love. We celebrate diversity, encourage spiritual growth, and promote social responsibility as we travel with care on this earth. We empower members to share their gifts to build a world of compassion, equality, and freedom.

Allen Avenue Unitarian Universalist Church

524 Allen Avenue, Portland, ME 04103

207-797-7240 | www.A2U2.org

Reflection before the service:
from *The Van Gogh Café*

by Cynthia Rylant

The Van Gogh Café sits on Main Street in Flowers, Kansas, and the building it was in was once a theater, which may be a reason for its magic. Anyone who has ever seen anything happen on stage—anything—knows that a theater is so full of magic that after years and years of opening nights there must be magic enough to last forever in its walls. The Van Gogh Café is lucky it hasn't found itself in a building where people had their broken arms fixed or their teeth pulled out. These are not the sort of walls that harbor magic. But theater walls do.

Magic is a powerful word and often misused. Some say magic comes from heaven, and others say it comes from hell, but anyone who has ever visited the Van Gogh Café knows that magic comes from a building that was once a theater; from a sign above a cash register that reads BLESS ALL DOGS; from a smiling porcelain hen on top of the pie carousel, from purple hydrangeas painted over the ladies' bathroom; from a small brown phonograph that plays "You'd be so nice to come home To." Magic is in the Van Gogh Café in Flowers, Kansas, and sometimes the magic wakes itself up, and people and animals notice it. They notice it and are affected by it and pretty soon the word spreads that there is a café—the Van Gogh Café—that is wonderful, like a dream, like a mystery, like a painting, and you ought to go there, for you will never forget it. You will want to stay if you can. Some have for a while, like the possum

Change



noun

1. The act or instance of making or becoming different. “the change from nomadic to agrarian society.”
2. Coins as opposed to paper currency. “a handful of loose change.”

Allen Avenue Unitarian Universalist
Sunday Services at 10:00 am
524 Allen Avenue Portland, Maine