

Invitation to Meadville Lombard Week

Sunday, June 13 to Sunday, June 20, 2021

Dear Meadville Lombard alum,

I believe in the transformative power of theological education. UU theological education can cast a view of radical hospitality and healing open to people who are exploring the faith for the first time, even as it seeks to deepen the faith of those in this movement for a long time. It should train religious professionals committed to working with lay leadership and community partners for the benefit of communal context, the parish outside the congregation's walls. I see our work as Meadville Lombard Theological School to be one for the enrichment of those who are enrolled as students and the larger Unitarian Universalist community.

To this end, we are planning our first ever Meadville Lombard Week, June 13-20, and I invite you and your community to join us. It is a week packed with daily events that we hope would engage both your mind and spirit and allow us to strengthen and widen our ML Community.

We're kicking it off with an amazing concert by [Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout](#), Director of Worship & Music at First UU of Ann Arbor, on **Sunday night, June 13 at 6:00 pm CDT**.

Also on Sunday, June 13, 6:45 - 7:30 pm CDT

Directly after the Opening Concert, we will hold the [Alum Association Annual Meeting](#). This past year, the officers of your Association have made great progress in reviving this vital organization for Meadville Lombard and its alums. Please join us to celebrate! For more information and to register, go to <https://ml-alum-meeting2021.eventbrite.com>.

[Register for Alum Association Annual Meeting](#)

Monday, June 14, 6:00 pm CDT

[Rev. Dr. Nicole Kirk](#) will deliver a brief lecture on the topic of *"Wanamaker's Temple: Creating Sacred Space in a Department Store."*

Wednesday, June 16, 6:00 pm CDT

[Dr. Dean Bell](#), President of Spertus Institute of Jewish Learning and Leadership, and I will have a dialogue on contributions of religious and theological education to the public good.

Friday, June 18, 6:00 pm CDT

[Rev. Dr. John Buehrens](#) and [Rev. Dr. Stephanie May](#) will speak about the future directions of the UU History and Heritage Society and UU Collegium and their future partnership with Meadville Lombard.

We are planning fun events on **Tuesday** (Knitting Circle with [Elena Jimenez](#), [Tomo Hillbo](#), and [me](#)) and **Thursday** (Library & Archives with [John Leeker](#) and [Sarah Levine](#)) to hang out with ML staff.

Saturday, June 19, 7:00 pm CDT

Rev. Tandi Rogers and I will lead rituals of mourning and hope, a space for grieving what we have lost since the pandemic started and tending the energy of hope together.

Sunday, June 20, 11:00 am CDT: *Meadville Lombard in the Pulpit*

A week of these thought-provoking talks and other events will lead to very special closing worship. On **Sunday, June 20 at 11:00 am CDT**, Rev. Nancy McDonald-Ladd, MDiv '04, Senior Minister of River Road UU Congregation in Bethesda, Maryland, will preach on "*Going to the Well of Living Waters*," based on the Gospel of John 4:1-26. A special musical guest is Mark Miller, faculty at Drew Theological School, and the Institute of Sacred Music at Yale University. This will be a worship service not to be missed, not only for UU audiences but for liberal Christians as well.

We invite you to consider making this service your community's Sunday worship on June 20. If that date is not amenable to the worship planning of your community but you would like to share ML in the Pulpit service during the regular worship times of your community during the summer, we offer to make the link to the original recording of the service available by June 19. If you choose to make use of ML in the Pulpit service, we would be very grateful if you would consider a Share-the-Plate Offering with Meadville Lombard Theological School during that service. Here is the link to the request form for the video

link: <https://forms.gle/UtXnqEFw7hgFpVoJ6>

Also on Sunday, June 20, 6:00 pm CDT: *Support MLTS*

Our goal is to raise \$100,000 at this fundraiser event to continue our work. Please invite people in your circle who might be want to support MLTS. Any gift to Meadville Lombard is a direct action of liberation and justice.

Keynote for this event is Dr. Nicole Kirk. She will give a talk on a piece of very fascinating UU history, entitled, "*A 'Congregation of the Air': Ministry, Technology, and American Religion.*"

All events are free to the public.

Visit our website <https://www.meadville.edu/ml-week-2021/> for the full schedule and to register.

As an alum, you are one of our best advocates. Please spread the word to make this event successful. And I hope you will join us for these events during Meadville Lombard Week. It promises to be interesting and fun!

In faith,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'EOA' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Elías Ortega

President
Meadville Lombard Theological School