

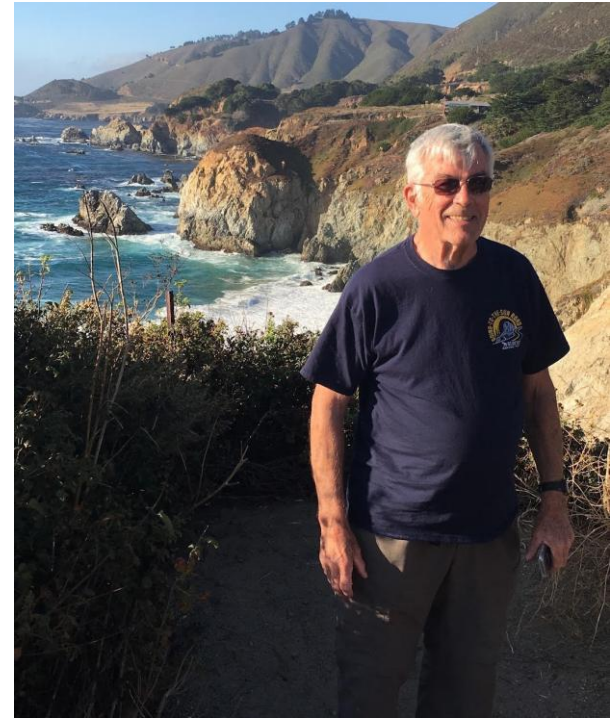
Celebrating the Life of Walter Ronald Pirie

Epitaph by Merrit Malloy

When I die give what's left of me away
to children and old men that wait to die.
And if you need to cry,
cry for your brother walking the street beside you.
And when you need me, put your arms around anyone
and give them what you need to give me.

I want to leave you something,
something better than words or sounds.
Look for me in the people I've known or loved,
and if you cannot give me away,
at least let me live in your eyes and not your mind.

You can love me best by letting hands touch hands,
and by letting go of children that need to be free.
Love doesn't die, people do.
So, when all that's left of me is love,
give me away.



December 31, 1934 – May 3, 2026

Find obituary here:



August 22, 2026, 12:00 noon
Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Blacksburg, Virginia

In Blackwater Woods by Mary Oliver

Look, the trees
are turning
their own bodies
into pillars
of light,
are giving off the rich
fragrance of cinnamon
and fulfillment,
the long tapers
of cattails
are bursting and floating away over
the blue shoulders
of the ponds,
and every pond,
no matter what its
name is, is
nameless now.
Every year
everything
I have ever learned
in my lifetime
leads back to this: the fires
and the black river of loss
whose other side
is salvation,
whose meaning
none of us will ever know.
To live in this world
you must be able
to do three things:
to love what is mortal;
to hold it
against your bones knowing
your own life depends on it;
and, when the time comes to let it go,
to let it go.

Order of Service
August 22, 2026

Entering Music Jared Gibbs

Opening Words Rev. Pam Philips

Lighting the Chalice

Hymn #346, *Come, Sing a Song with Me*

Reflections & Readings Kirsten Miles
Margaret (Maggie) Kleiber

Hymn #311, *Let it Be a Dance*

Community Sharing of Memories and Gratitude
Please come to the front to speak so all may hear.
Raise a hand if you need to speak from your seat.

Hymn #21, *For the Beauty of the Earth*

Reflection Rev. Pam Philips

Hymn #1064, *Blue Boat Home*

Benediction & Extinguishing the Chalice

Postlude Jared Gibbs

Greeters: Lisa & Greg Evanylo, Laura Robinson, Karen
Holstein, Crosby Houston; Online Greeter: Akiko Nakata
Audio Visual: Lucas Machi