



JANUARY 2016

The First Universalist Society of Hartland

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Services & Religious Education Classes, Sundays, 10 am, in the Church

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

JAN 10 The Worship Team — Resolutions

The collection will benefit Friends of the Hartland Library.

JAN 10 Union, Communion, and Community

Some introductory reflections on this month's worship theme of "Communion" focused mostly on the idea of sacred relationship, with just a few thoughts about the ancient Christian sacrament. *The collection will benefit The Good Neighbor Health Clinic.*

JAN 17 Then and Now: MLK and BLM

On Martin Luther King Day weekend, we'll use the words of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to explore civil rights, human rights, Black Lives Matter, social change, and justice in our times. *The collection will support the Black Lives Matter Ministry of the Church of the Larger Fellowship.*

JAN 24 Communion of Saints—Our Windows and Our Memorialized Ancestors, Part 1

Using the symbols and the names memorialized on the stained glass windows of our sanctuary, we'll explore the values and gifts of our ancestors in faith and what they may mean for our congregation now and into the future. *The collection will benefit Hartford Dismas House.*

JAN 31 Communion of Saints—Our Windows and Our Memorialized Ancestors, Part 2

Using the symbols and the names memorialized on the stained glass windows of our sanctuary, we'll explore the values and gifts of our ancestors in faith and what they may mean for our congregation now and into the future. *The collection will benefit the Burundi Appeal of the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists.*



*A ring of candlelight as our church community sings
"Silent Night" during the 7pm Christmas Eve service*

LOVE IS THE DOCTRINE OF THIS CHURCH

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Our beautiful, robust community in our sanctuary decked out for the December holiday season.

"UU 101" A BASIC INTRODUCTION TO UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

In the coming months, we'll offer a three-session Introduction to Unitarian Universalism, led by the Rev. Paul Sawyer, and hosted by our our Connections Circle.

Each session will take place on a Sunday, after the service and coffee hour. We'll share a light lunch, and then explore information on various aspects of our faith tradition—some basics to help newcomers get a sense of the broader grounding of our congregation, and some details and conversations to help even long time Unitarian Universalists develop a deeper sense of our faith.

Everyone is welcome to attend, whatever your connection to our congregation or our faith tradition—seekers, people considering membership, life-long members of our faith—anyone!

SESSIONS WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE FOLLOWING SUNDAYS:

January 31—Unitarian Universalist Theology

March 6—Unitarian Universalist and FUSH History

April 24—An introduction to our Congregation

1ST PRINCIPLE: THE INHERENT WORTH AND DIGNITY OF EVERY PERSON

The Principles are not dogma or doctrine, but rather a guide for those of us who choose to join and participate in Unitarian Universalist religious communities.



WEEKLY COLLECTION INFORMATION

We rely on the planned, committed, pledged support of our members and friends to support the needs of our church.

WE DEDICATE OUR COLLECTIONS DURING SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP TO ORGANIZATIONS DOING GOOD WORK IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES OR IN SOCIETY AS A WHOLE.

To contribute to the collection: *Cash and checks made out to "FUSH" will be consolidated and passed on to the organization.*

To make a pledge payment, or a donation to support our congregation's budget: *Use the box on the welcoming table at the back of the sanctuary, the small manila envelopes available on that same table, or mark "for FUSH" in the memo line of your check.*

Please contact Paul if you have nominations for organizations you feel would be good choices for our support.

JANUARY OFFERING RECIPIENTS:

JAN 10 **The Good Neighbor Health Clinic**

The Good Neighbor Health Clinic is a non-profit free health care facility established in 1992 to offer free primary medical and dental care to the people of the Upper Connecticut River Valley who are in need and lack the resources to obtain adequate care. Their main facility is in White River Junction, Vermont, and they also operate satellite clinics in Lebanon and Enfield, NH. The Good Neighbor Clinic never charges for its services, and is staffed by medical professionals who volunteer their time and skill. Several members of our congregation have benefitted from the services of the Good Neighbor Clinic, and we also have members who serve as volunteers at the clinic. More information is available at www.goodneighborhealthclinic.org

JAN 17 **The Church of the Larger Fellowship's Black Lives Matter Project**

The Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) is a Unitarian Universalist congregation without walls. Using on-line, postal mail, and other means of communication, CLF provides opportunities for worship and connection for people without access to a traditional UU congregation and others who are simply looking for additional resources they cannot find in their home communities. As the largest congregation in our movement, CLF has been a particularly important resource for connecting with our faith. In addition to their regular worship and programs, CLF offers several specialized ministries that work to reach out to special needs in our faith community and beyond, including the very successful CLF prison ministry program, military families program, and Spanish language resources. Currently CLF is working on implementing a new ministry focused on Black Lives Matter, with a goal to serve people of color who are not currently being fully served in predominantly white congregations by offering on-line presentations of vigils, worship services, public events, and other means of expression and connection compiled and curated by Unitarian Universalist persons of color. You can learn more about CLF at www.questformeaning.org

JAN 24 **Hartford Dismas House**

Dismas of Vermont is a non-profit agency committed to "reconciling prisoners with society and society with prisoners." They operate residential centers and support programs that help individuals transition from incarceration back into the community. They have successful programs currently operating in Rutland and Burlington, and their newest center recently opened in Hartford Village, Vermont. The founders of Dismas of Vermont shared their inspiration and dedication in a service with our congregation in January 2012. More information is available from Sue Buckholz, who serves on the board of the Hartford Dismas House, or at www.dismasofvermont.org

JAN 31 **ICUU Burundi Appeal**

Many of you will remember the Rev. Fulgence Ndagijimana of the Unitarian Church of Bujumbura, Burundi from his appearance in our congregation as a guest minister in January of 2014. As violence in Burundi has escalated in recent months, our dear siblings in faith at the Unitarian Congregation of Bujumbura have seen their building and finances attacked, Rev. Fulgence, arrested, and their future in turmoil. While most members of the congregation, including Rev. Fulgence, have been able to find a safe haven in another country (because of the situation, their exact location is not public information), a few have remained in country to monitor the situation, to provide what protection they can to the assets of the church, and to gather for worship from time to time when it's deemed safe to do so. The International Council of Unitarians and Universalists has created a fund to provide for the Unitarians of the area, maintaining and managing the funds safely outside of Burundi, and allowing the ICUU to respond to the many and various needs as they arise. You can learn more from Paul, or from Gary Shapiro, who has visited the congregation in Bujumbura. You can also find out more about the current situation on the ICUU page on Facebook, or on-line at uwww.icuu.net (scroll down the page until you see Rev. Fulgence's photo).

FROM YOUR TRUSTEES

A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO FULFILL YOUR PLEDGE AND/OR MAKE A GIFT TO FUSH.

We would like to make you aware of the fact that the government decided to make the IRA Charitable Rollover Now Permanent! Here are a few details that we wanted to share with you about the bill that passed on December 19, 2015:

- The IRA rollover allows donors who are 70½ or older to transfer up to \$100,000 directly from their IRA to charity each year.
- You pay no income tax on the gift. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, you benefit even if you do not itemize your taxes.
- An IRA rollover gift can be used to meet all or part of an IRA required minimum distribution.
- The new law has no expiration date. You can make gifts in 2016 and beyond!
- The bill is retroactive to 12/31/2014. If you made a gift directly from your IRA to us at any point during 2015, your gift will qualify as a rollover gift.

When you read this It is too late for your tax year 2015, but not for 2016. Please contact any of your trustees who are happy to talk to you more about this wonderful gift opportunity.

Don't let this great opportunity slip by for fulfilling your PLEDGE or making any other GIFT to secure the future of FUSH.



Thank you to our members who help us celebrate our many faith traditions, including lighting the menorah and the Advent wreath in December.

ADULT CHOIR

Adult Choir will rehearse at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 10, and Sunday, Jan. 17, to sing in the service on the 17th.

Patty Talbot

FOLK CHOIR

Folk choir will be performing during the February 14 service. Look for updates in Paul's weekly emails about upcoming practices. All ages and abilities are welcome and encouraged to sing or bring an instrument to play.

SOME GUIDELINES FOR CANDLES OF JOY AND SORROW

Our Candles of Joy and Sorrow are an important aspect of our worship in our congregation. As such, it's worth spending some energy from time to time thinking about how to make them meaningful and connecting.

There is a lot of latitude as to what is appropriate to share during Joys and Sorrows, and I certainly don't want to discourage you from lighting candles when the spirit moves you. Also, I firmly believe that Candles of Joy and Sorrow belong to you—to the congregation—and that they are not mine to limit or control except perhaps in extreme circumstances.

Still, there are some good general guidelines for Joys and Sorrows, and I invite you to work with me to keep those guidelines in all of our thoughts as we experience this time each week:

- First and always, simply remember that lighting a candle is a form of prayer, and offer only in that time something that is worthy of a prayer.
- It is ok to light a candle silently, if you prefer.
- Candles aren't time for announcements. If you have an announcement that you feel wasn't covered appropriately in announcement time, don't make it during candles. You are welcome to make announcements during coffee hour.
- Offer what comes from the joys and sorrows of your own heart and your own life. Watch the line between prayer and gossip. Don't light a candle for someone else unless they ask you to, or unless you at least get permission to do so.
- Notice that we consciously use language of "joys and sorrows" and not "joys and concerns". That's a reminder that not everything that is "concerning" rises to the level of sharing for this time.
- Avoid purely political reflection, especially if you feel you need to explain an entire situation—though lighting a candle and briefly noting a cause that brings you personally, joy or sorrow is generally fine. If you have a political cause you want to express in more depth, speak with me and we'll find a way to get your information out to the congregation.
- In all cases, short and general is better than long and detailed—particularly in the cause of surgeries or injuries!
- Remember that our candles are a time for all ages. We believe that our children should know about the world and about what brings us joy and sorrow, but it's good to keep your language and your descriptions appropriate for all.
- Also, honoring that this is a multigenerational time—give extra leeway to children, as to what brings them joy or sorrow. Don't be quick to declare something a child says as trivial. Remember being that age and what truly mattered to you. And if you happen to be one of those with relatively low tolerance for children, at least notice that our children, whatever they're sharing, are generally very good about being brief. And remember, too, that some of our most poignant candles ever have been brought by our children.

If you have questions about what is appropriate, or how to offer feedback to someone who you feel has overstepped one or more of these lines, please let me know!

In faith and love,

Paul



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



On December 13, 2015, we commissioned our new director of religious education, Samantha Cronin, (left) with our minister Paul Sawyer, and (below), encircled by our children.

We believe that faith is a journey we take together.

Religious education takes a lifetime. It happens both within and beyond a congregation's walls. We support one another as individuals, families, and communities in an ongoing search for truth and meaning. We strive to guide one another—all ages among us—in religious questioning, personal change, and discovering ways to better live in faith.

- From the UUA website www.uua.org/re



JANUARY 2016 CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE

JAN 3 — Children in Service: Road Map of Life & Resolutions with Becca

JAN 10 — Winterim: 1st Day with Laura & Tom

JAN 17 — Be Peace: Bineke & Sam

JAN 24 — Faith in Action: Snow Fun Art with Sam & friend
PLEASE BRING SNOW CLOTHES/GEAR (and pray for snow to play in!)

JAN 31 — Children's Chapel with Sam & friend





YOUTH GROUP NOTES

YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE JAN - FEB

All events are on Sundays unless otherwise noted**

- | | |
|--------|--|
| JAN 6 | Parent Meeting for High School Our Whole Lives (OWL) at the UCC Church
Wednesday 7:00-9:00 pm |
| JAN 10 | Parent Meeting for High School Our Whole Lives (OWL) at the UCC Church
Noon-2:00 pm |
| JAN 10 | Youth Group Meetings at the UU Church
Jr. 5:00-6:15 pm • Sr. 6:30-8:00 pm |
| JAN 17 | Mission Trip Fundraiser Brunch at the UU Church
9:00 am-1:00 pm |
| JAN 17 | High School OWL at the UCC Church
6:30-8:30 pm |
| JAN 24 | High School OWL at the UCC Church
Special Double Session! 3:00-8:30 pm |
| JAN 31 | Junior Youth Group Meeting at the UCC Church
5:00-6:15 pm |
| JAN 31 | High School OWL at the UCC Church
6:30-8:30 pm |
| FEB 7 | Junior Youth Group Meeting at the UCC Church
5:00-6:15 pm |
| FEB 7 | High School OWL at the UCC Church
6:30-8:30 pm |
| FEB 14 | High School OWL at the UCC Church
6:30-8:00 pm |
| FEB 14 | High School Game Night at the UCC Church
8:00-10:00 pm |
| FEB 21 | Junior Youth Group Meeting at the UCC Church
5:00-6:15 pm |
| FEB 21 | High School OWL at the UCC Church
6:30-8:30 pm |
| FEB 28 | Mission Trip Fundraiser Brunch at the UCC Church
9:00 am-1:00 pm |
| FEB 28 | High School OWL at the UCC Church
6:30-8:30 pm |

Our congregation offers activities for youth in grades 7-12 (or the homeschool equivalent) through two youth groups—the **Junior Youth Group, for those in grades 7 & 8**, and the **Senior Youth Group for high school students**. Both groups are offered in conjunction with our friends and neighbors from the Hartland Congregational Church, and are led by the Revs. Lucia Jackson and Paul Sawyer, with dedicated support from David Morin.

Both groups offer fun, fellowship, games, and a youth-centered exploration and development of faith. We gather to support one another, to have a good time, and to think about some of the big questions of life in a safe environment. We have regular meetings with activities, time to check in, reflection, and games. We also offer special events throughout the year including service opportunities, fundraising brunches at both churches, trips to Dartmouth sporting events, game nights, and, for senior youth, our annual week-long mission trip to New Haven, CT in July.

For further information about our youth groups and youth events, please contact Paul or Lucia. To stay in touch with youth group happenings, make sure that Paul and Lucia have your e-mail address, follow the youth group Facebook page, keep an eye on the newsletters and weekly e-mail updates of both churches, or better yet, come to church and read the bulletin!

HIGH SCHOOL OUR WHOLE LIVES (OWL) BEGINNING IN JANUARY

Our Whole Lives helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. With a holistic approach, Our Whole Lives provides accurate, developmentally appropriate information about a range of topics, including relationships, gender identity, sexual orientation, sexual health, and cultural influences on sexuality.

Please see Paul and/or Lucia with any questions. Parent Meetings will take place on January 6 and 10. OWL will begin on January 17 during the normal high school youth group time, 6:30-8:30 pm.

SAVE THE DATES: THIS YEAR'S MISSION TRIP WILL TAKE PLACE JULY 24-30, 2016!

FUND RAISING NEWS & EVENTS

GET READY FOR THIS YEAR'S CHOCOLATE AUCTION!

February 14th following the service

Our annual chocolate auction fund raiser is a great opportunity to bring out those fun, fancy, unusual or exciting chocolate recipies. Make something to donate to the auction. Then join us that day and bid on some great treats for your valentine.

Bring your friends and neighbors! This is a great event and everyone is welcome.



IF WINTER IS PARTY TIME...

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www.hartlanduu.com/redaprons/
redapronsuu@gmail.com

All proceeds benefit Hartland Universalist Society



Save the date!

3RD ANNUAL HARTLAND COMMUNITY PROM

Saturday, March 12th

Everyone is welcome to this fun event. Dress up, dress down, wear whatever makes you comfortable.

This event is a fundraiser for our church.

SHARE YOUR PASSION SILENT AUCTION

Coming this April: the return of the Share Your Passion Silent Auction. This is a chance for you to share an experience, and opportunity, a learning process, an adventure, or something that means a lot to you, something you have a passion for. During our last Share Your Passion auction, bidders won delicious meals, music, food and art instruction, outdoor experiences, specialty trips, party opportunities, and more. Think about what you love the most and how you can spread that joy. Need help framing your passion into something you can share with others? Email sara.d.morin@dartmouth.edu for assistance.

We'll put the call out for auction "items" in March. The silent auction will run through the month of April and is a fundraiser for our church.

CONNECTIONS CIRCLE

CONNECTIONS CIRCLE: The present members of our circle are: Patti Eckels, Joan Fariel, Debra Hart, Judy Howland, Bineke Oort, and Sue & Dave Taylor. Our next meeting will be on Friday, March 11 at 3:30 in the Parsonage. We want to add a few more people to our circle. If you are interested talk to one of our members and we'll have you come to our March meeting.

COFFEE HOUR: A big "thank you" to all the people who have worked hard to make sure we have a Coffee Hour after services. We appreciate the efforts of Sara Bruce and Mariet and Rob Jaarsma; Joan Fariel and Michael Theroux; Sue Buckholz and Jim Dow; and Ariel Arwen for December. They all provided us with delicious snacks! Coffee Hour will be hosted January 10 by Rickey and Dan Poor; January 17 by the Youth Groups; January 24 by Chris Husmann and Colleen Spence; and January 31 by Helen and Gary Shapiro. We also appreciate the people who stay to help clean up and wash dishes after the Coffee Hours. Sign up sheets are on the snack table so everyone can volunteer to

work with a partner to be in charge of one Coffee Hour for the remainder of the year. We will send directions to each team the week before and the directions are on the coffee pots and on the wall by the coffee pots. There is always someone to help when you are doing coffee hour for the first time!

PICTURES OF OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS: Nancy and Glenn Walker have done a terrific job in painting the bulletin board and organizing all the pictures. If you are not on the bulletin board either bring a picture or David Taylor will take your picture so we can include you in our gallery. If you need a name tag you can sign the sheet at the back of the Sanctuary and Cynthia Thompson will make you one.

CIRCLE DINNERS: We will be having Circle Dinners in March, April, and May to avoid some of the transportation problems we had last winter. If you are interested in hosting a Circle Dinner please contact Sue or Dave Taylor at 603-675-6566 or at dstaylor342@gmail.com.

PHOTOS FROM OUR SOLSTICE CELEBRATION ON DEC 21

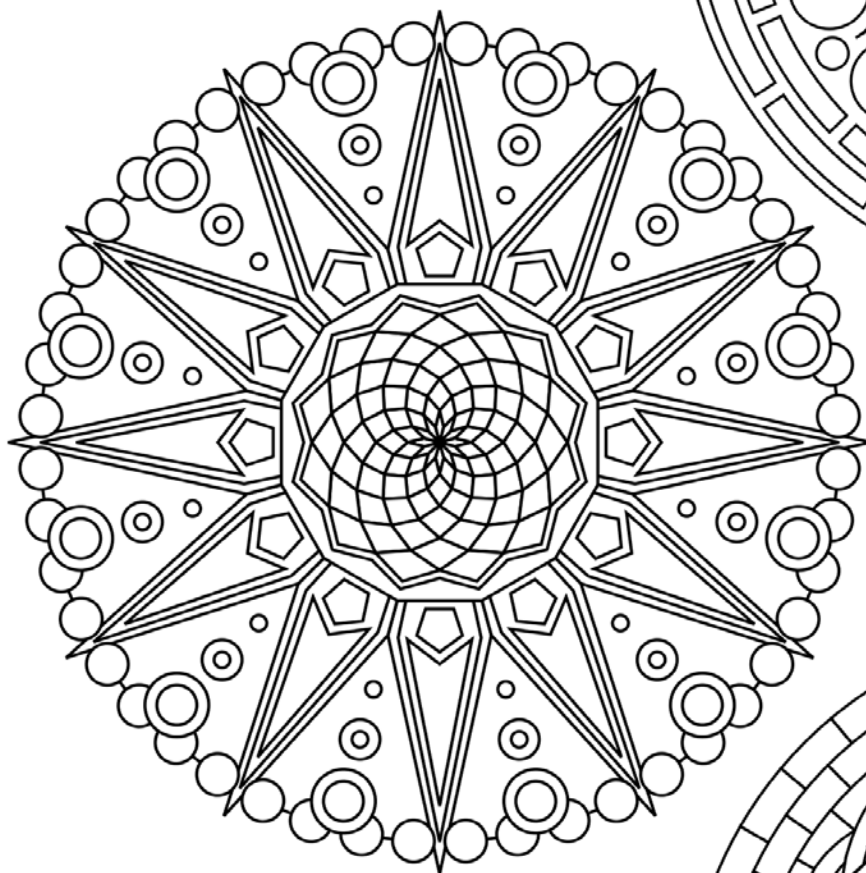


WELCOME 2016

As we welcome in a new year, new beginnings, and new starts, take a moment to find your peace. Enjoy finger-tracing or coloring these mandalas and reading these words from the great Wendell Berry.

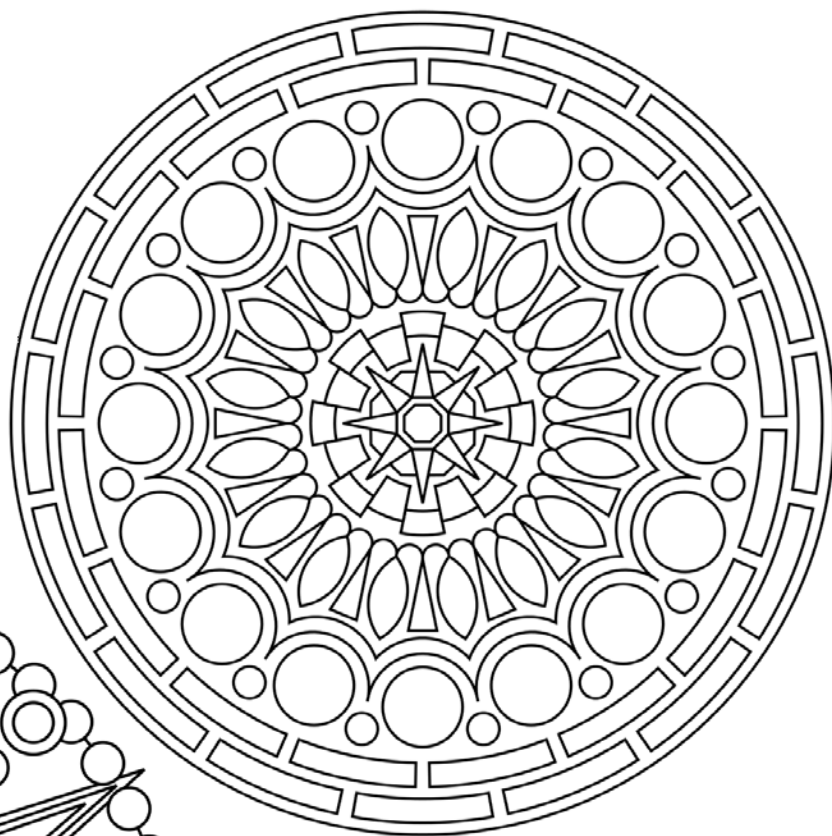
"It may be that when we no longer know which way to go that we have come to our real journey. The mind that is not baffled is not employed. The impeded stream is the one that sings."

Wendell Berry



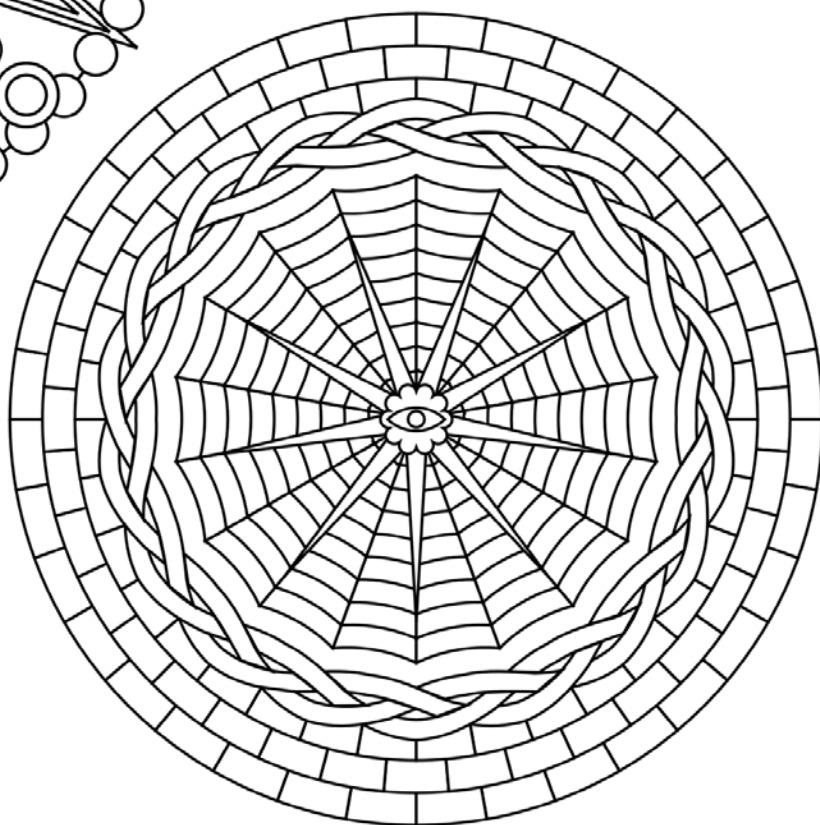
"When despair for the world grows in me and I wake in the night at the least sound...I come into the peace of wild things who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief. I come into the presence of still water. And I feel above me the day-blind stars waiting with their light. For a time I rest in the grace of the world, and am free."

Wendell Berry



"It is not from ourselves that we learn to be better than we are."

Wendell Berry



JAN 2016 CALENDAR

DEADLINE FOR
FEBRUARY
NEWSLETTER
CONTENT:
JANUARY 18

WE ARE A
WELCOMING
CONGREGATION

JANUARY			
03	SUN	10 am	Worship Service & RE
06	WED	7-9 pm	Parent Meeting for High School Our Whole Lives (OWL) at the UCC Church
08	FRI	8-10 am	Food Shelf
10	SUN	10 am after service 12-2 pm 5-6:15 pm 6:30-8 pm	Worship Service & RE SoUUpper Sunday SoUUp Sale Parent Meeting for High School Our Whole Lives (OWL) at the UCC Church Junior Youth Group at the UU Church Senior Youth Group at the UU Church
11	MON	7 pm	Governing Board Meeting
15	FRI	8-10 am	Food Shelf
17	SUN	10 am after service 6:30-8:30 pm	Worship Service & RE Mission Trip Fundraiser Brunch at the UU Church High School OWL at the UCC Church
18	MON	all day	Newsletter Content Deadline
22	FRI	8-10 am	Food Shelf
24	SUN	10 am 3-8:30 pm	Worship Service & RE High School OWL at the UCC Church
29	FRI	8-10 am	Food Shelf
31	SUN	10 am after service 6:30-8:30 pm	Worship Service & RE UU 101—Unitarian Universalist Theology High School OWL at the UCC Church



*Enjoying the bonfire at our
Solstice Celebration.*