



MARCH 2016

The First Universalist Society of Hartland

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

MAR 06 RE Winterim Presentation

The children of our Religious Education program will lead our service as the culmination of their Winterim activities. *The collection will benefit the Upper Valley Haven.*

MAR 13 The Passion of the Sufi Saints

We'll explore one spiritual side of our worship theme for March, "Passion," through the poetry of ancient Sufi masters, and their unique and passionate sense of connection to God. *The collection will benefit The Turning Points Network "Steppin' Up to End Violence" project.*

Please note that Daylight Savings Time starts this week—Turn your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday Night, so you're not late for church!

MAR 20 Sharing Your Passion!

Paul Sawyer, with special guests Sara Morin and Posie Taylor
As we welcome in spring, with its passion-filled buds, waiting to burst and share their flowers and leaves that have been lying-in-wait all winter long, we'll explore passions in general, and why it's important to share your passion—to inspire yourself into new hobbies, new jobs, and new forms of self expression. Sara Morin will join us to talk about the importance of the "Share Your Passion" silent auction (hint: it's not the money), and Posie Taylor, a strategy and development consultant, former executive director of the Aloha Foundation, and board chair for The Family Place, will join us to talk about her life-long commitment to sharing her passions and the impact it's had on her and the people around her. *The collection will benefit the Upper Valley Cinderella Project.*

MAR 27 Easter Sunday

Come celebrate Easter, the joy of new life, and the miracle of resurrection. *The collection will benefit Willing Hands.*

If you would like to attend a traditional Christian Easter sunrise service, we have been warmly invited to join the First Congregational Church of Hartland at their service at 6:00 am on the hill behind Mike's Mobil in Hartland Village.

LOVE IS THE DOCTRINE OF THIS CHURCH

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: Hartland Four Corners • 8 Brownsville Road, Corner Rte. 12 • Hartland, Vermont

WEBSITE: www.hartlanduu.com • **E-MAIL:** hartlanduu@vermontel.net • **PHONE:** 802-436-2592

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 75 • Hartland Four Corners, VT 05049

*A chalice drawn in the sand of
our sorrows and joy candle space.*

FROM YOUR MINISTER

PAUL S. SAWYER

MARCH 2016

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil...you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

—From Isaiah 58

Dear friends,

Easter comes early this year, so in March we are already in the second half of the Christian season of Lent. I'm betting that most of you haven't really done much about Lent, this year or maybe ever. Maybe you come from a non-Christian tradition, or maybe you remember Lent as a remnant of a tradition you left behind. Or maybe, like me, you were raised in one of the Calvinist-inspired Protestant traditions that held that 40 days of fasting and prayer seemed short by about 325 days (326 this year!).

Whether you've been following a Lenten discipline or not, and whether or not you feel a connection to the Christian story in any way, I invite you to reflect just a bit, in these last few weeks of Lent, as winter begins to give way to spring. Because the reality is that most of us could use a few weeks of focus and renewal of the Spirit, and if nothing else, this is as good a time as any.

But in doing so, I'd remind you that you don't have to think about Lent in the old way, of being a time that you "give up" something that brings you pleasure. I tend to look at Lent, or any other time of attention and renewal, as a time for what the Quakers call "clearness." It's an invitation to clear away whatever habits or thoughts in you that somehow have muddled your path, and that are keeping you from being the person you wish to be.

Think about following the advice of the ancient Hebrew prophet, Isaiah who says the true fast is one that brings freedom and increases justice—for you and for others.

If you feel called to give up something, maybe find a place in your life to give up "the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil." Give up a judgmental response to certain situations or people. Give up beating yourself up over your imperfections.

If you feel called to take on something, instead of giving something up, take on five minutes of mindfulness in each day, or the writing of a hand-written letter once a week to someone you love, telling them what they mean to you. Take on the practice of looking for the tiny sparks of hope that rest somewhere, even in

PEOPLE YOU NEED TO KNOW:

Minister

REVEREND PAUL S. SAWYER

802-299-7530

uupaul@vermontel.net

Director of Religious Education

SAMANTHA CRONIN

dre@hartlanduu.com

Music Director

PATTY TALBOT

802-436-2085

talbotsfarm@gmail.com

Office Administrator

NANCY WALKER

In the office on Fridays

Governing Board

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DOUG HART

ROBERT JAARSMA

Newsletter

SARA & DAVE MORIN Layout

newsletter@hartlanduu.org

LYDIA JOHNSON

PHYLLIS TUCKER

Printing

CYNTHIA THOMPSON

JOAN FARIEL

Copy Editors

FROM YOUR MINISTER

TAKE ON THE PRACTICE OF LOOKING FOR THE TINY SPARKS OF HOPE THAT REST SOMEWHERE, EVEN IN THE HARDEST AND DARKEST SITUATIONS, AND CELEBRATE AND HONOR THAT HOPE HOWEVER YOU CAN.

of your very own soul.

I wish you all a meaningful March, wherever it is that you find your hope rising up like the warm sunshine of spring.

In Faith and Love,

Paul

the hardest and darkest situations, and celebrate and honor that hope however you can.

In the end, whether you consider yourself Christian or not, that's where you will find Easter, the place where the possibility of true resurrection lies. It's in those little sparks of hope, found at the end of a long cold time, at the end of the season of fasting. It's in those little sparks of hope that are there in the wonder of the Universe, that are there in the still small places

FROM YOUR TREASURER

DAN POOR

MARCH 2016

I'd like to clarify a few items that were rather vague at our annual meeting in December.

Net fund raising for 2015 was far more than budgeted and a record - a bit less than \$23,000! Thanks to the efforts that produced this total, we ended the year with more than \$25,000 in our checking account. To be sure, some of this was from those who paid their 2016 pledges early, and some was from withdrawals from our endowment over the course of the year, but we did end the year on a positive note.

As for the endowment withdrawals. At the end of 2015 the UUA changed the corporate structure of the entity that manages the endowment funds for all the societies that keep funds there. They sent us forms to complete and included the current withdrawal rates for our two funds. The rate for our regular endowment was 6%. I don't know who set that rate, and the Trustees and I have not explored this situation in depth, but I do know that although I did not ask for funds from the UUA, we did receive a quarterly payment throughout 2015. Perhaps my predecessor requested these funds. Or perhaps the UUA just sent us 6% of our balance quarterly. In any case, when we signed the paperwork for the new arrangement, we set our withdrawal rate at 2%. I have asked the Trustees to set that withdrawal rate to 0% and request that the UUA not transfer any funds except as we request them. Given our successful pledge drive, if our fund raising for the year is as successful as last year, we may not need to take any funds from our endowment.

Some people are making their pledge payments monthly directly from their bank account to the church account. Three folks contacted me in June last year wondering why they had not had any pledge money transferred from their accounts to FUSH. There was no good reason that I could find, so we made some adjustments to their payment schedule. This year, there were two folks who might have come to me eventually with a similar question – turns out they had forgotten to complete the back of the pledge card directing a monthly transfer. And, if you thought you were getting money taken out of your account monthly to make your pledge payments and have not seen any evidence that this has started, let me know.

I'd be happy to set up anyone else who would like to be on this plan. The transfers are made about the 10th of each month. I could also accommodate transfers quarterly or twice a year. (I have one of the latter on the books now.) I need your signature on a form, the account number and bank routing number – and the amount of the transfer of course.

If you are old enough to have to make withdrawals from your IRA, you are also old enough to have a portion of those withdrawals sent directly to FUSH as your pledge payment. Withdrawals from an IRA are generally taxable, but if you make a payment directly to a charity from the institution that holds your IRA, that portion is not taxable income.

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.

MARCH OFFERING RECIPIENTS:

MAR 06 The Upper Valley Haven

For more than 30 years, the Haven has provided emergency housing and other services to those in need in the Upper Valley. Currently, the Haven operates a shelter, a food shelf, case-management services, and other forms of support and in 2011 their services helped more than 10,000 people in our region. More information is available at uppervalleyhaven.org. This organization was chosen for our support by the children of our Religious Education program, who will be leading the service this Sunday.

MAR 13 Turning Points Network

Based in Claremont, NH, Turning Points Network strives to end all forms of domestic abuse, sexual assault and stalking. Founded in 1977, Turning Points Network serves Sullivan County and surrounding areas and offers emergency shelters, education, support services, advocacy programs for children and victims of abuse. This collection will be part of our effort to field a team to participate in the TPN "Steppin' Up to End Violence" march, taking place in Claremont on April 30. More information is available at www.free-to-soar.org

MAR 20 The Upper Valley Cinderella Project

The Upper Valley Cinderella Project is part of a national organization helping young women to attend their high school formal occasions without worrying about the financial burden associated with attending such events. Our local organization has been serving the Upper Valley since 2009, and they give young women FREE dresses for their special occasions. They accept donations of gently used prom dresses, and Wendy Windsor, project founder, and Betsy Durkee, seamstress, work hard to organize and present the dresses to girls, and to help them with fitting and adjustments as needed. More information is available at <http://promamama.wix.com/cinderellaproject#!our-story/cee5>. In addition to our financial contributions, if you have dresses you'd like to donate to this cause, we'll gladly collect them at this service and bring them to the Cinderella Project for you. This organization was nominated for our support by Sara Morin who is co-leading the service on this Sunday.

MAR 27 Willing Hands

Willing Hands was founded in 2005 by employees of the Hanover Food Co-op. Their mission is to keep food from going to waste by distributing fresh produce and other perishable items from 25 grocery stores, restaurants, and other providers to more than 50 social service agencies in our region, including our own Hartland Food Shelf, which takes place in our church every Friday morning. 95% of the food Willing Hands donates is fresh fruit and vegetables and all the food they distribute is given free of charge. For more information contact David Day, or www.willinghands.org.

ADULT CHOIR

Adult Choir will rehearse at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday March 20th and Sunday the 27th, to sing on that date (Easter).

- Patty Talbot

FOLK CHOIR

Folk choir will be performing during the March 20 service. Practices will be on Sunday, March 6, and March 13 at 9:15 am in the yurt. All ages and abilities are welcome and encouraged to sing or bring an instrument to play.



PHOTOS FROM THE CHOCOLATE AUCTION, FEBRUARY 2016 - TAKEN BY EMMA SAWYER



FUND RAISING NEWS & EVENTS

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, an 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.

To share your passion fill out the form below & send it to Sara Morin (9 Elm Street, Windsor, VT 05089) or hand it off in person at a service by March 27. You can also email these details to Sara at sara.d.morin@dartmouth.edu

Need help framing your passion into something you can share with others? Email sara.d.morin@dartmouth.edu for assistance.

● **The passion you'd like to share:** _____
(Examples: Tour of the Barre Granite Industry / Learn to Knit / A Year Worth of Pies)

● **This passion is being shared by:** _____
(Your name the way you'd like to appear)

● **Description of your passion & what the winners experience will be like:** _____

(Examples: My passion is sculpting. Join me on a tour of the Barre Cemetery, Carving Studio and Art Galleries / Pies are my passion! Win this item and you will receive a homemade pie made by me, each month for a year. You choose the flavor, I'll bake it and bring it to you at church.)

● **Depending on your passion, you may want to share it with multiple people. Please choose one:**

_____ The top bidder wins. This passion will go to the top bidder alone.

_____ The top bidder wins but can invite _____ to share in the experience/event/item.

_____ The top _____ bidders will win this experience/event/item and will both pay bid and receive separate experiences/events/items (aka, the top 2 bidders will each receive homemade dinner for themselves and 3 guests)

_____ Other: _____

● **Estimated Value:** _____

The silent auction bidding will run through the month of April and is a fundraiser for our church. All expenses related to your shared passion will be your responsibility. Our expectation is that all winnings will happen between May 2016 and April 2017.

FUND RAISING NEWS & EVENTS



3RD ANNUAL HARTLAND COMMUNITY PROM

Saturday, March 12 • 7 pm - 10 pm • Damon Hall

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

We'll have DJ Jaxon Morgan, everyone's favorite photobooth, and a table full of cupcakes for refreshments.

\$10 per person, maximum of \$25 per family.

Invite your friends and neighbors.

We are asking for cupcakes of all sizes with bright frosting or sprinkles to serve for refreshments.

Please see Katy Sawyer or Sara Morin if you are able to help.

Thank you to the Red Aprons for their help with food & kitchen management for this event!

This event is a fund raiser for our church.

Here's a special message from our Chocolate Auction Champion, Nancy Walker:

February's Chocolate Auction fundraiser brought in \$883.50 while the raffle for the Windsor Station Restaurant brought in \$487 with the grand total coming to \$1,370.50. This year's one day fund raiser has surpassed all previous Chocolate Auctions. A big thank you goes out to those who bought raffle tickets, baked chocolate desserts, bid on the desserts, and especially those who helped set up, break down, record, collect and basically made things go smoothly during the auction.



SAVE YOUR STUFF!

Our annual Rummage Sale will take place April 8 & 9 and what makes this one of our most profitable fund raisers is **YOUR STUFF!** Spring cleaning? Changing out your seasonal clothes? Organizing your basement or attic? Bring us your stuff. Clothes, gently used household items, small appliances, furniture, books...we'll take it. Please see Nada Pierce with any questions about items.

SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 8 & 9

Come to the rummage sale to purchase quality items at low prices! Great deals, great treasures!

IT'S TIME TO PLAN YOUR SPRING & SUMMER PARTIES!

Don't get stuck in the kitchen while your guests have all the fun. Let the Red Aprons take the work out of your party and serve you and your guests like royalty.

RED APRONS CAN EXPERTLY HANDLE:

Planning • Food & Kitchen management
Serving • Clean up



(802) 738-0255 • www.hartlanduu.com/redaprons
redapronsuu@gmail.com

All proceeds benefit Hartland Universalist Society

YOUTH GROUP NOTES

YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE MARCH - JULY

All events are on Sundays unless otherwise noted**

- MAR 6** Junior Youth Group Meeting at the UCC Church
5:00-6:15 pm
- MAR 6** High School OWL at the UCC Church
6:30-8:30 pm
- MAR 13** High School OWL at the UCC Church
6:30-8:30 pm
- MAR 20** Mission Trip Fundraiser Brunch at the UU Church
9:00 am-1:00 pm
- MAR 20** Junior Youth Group Meeting at the UCC Church
5:00-6:15 pm
- MAR 20** High School OWL—snow day at the UCC Church
6:30-8:30 pm
OR regular Senior High Youth Group Meeting,
6:30-8:00 pm
- APR 3** Youth Group Meetings at the UU Church
Jr. 5:00-6:15 pm, Sr. 6:30-8:00 pm
Mission Trip commitment and \$100 due to Lucia!
Mission Trip paperwork will be available.
- APR 17** Youth Group Meetings at the UU Church
Jr. 5:00-6:15 pm, Sr. 6:30-8:00 pm
- MAY 1** Youth Group Meetings at the UU Church
Jr. 5:00-6:15 pm, Sr. 6:30-8:00 pm
- MAY 15** Junior Youth at the UU Church
5:00-6:00 pm
- MAY 15** Mission Trip Logistics Meeting at the UU Church
6:00 pm — All Paperwork Due!
- MAY 15** Senior Youth at the UU Church
6:30-8:00 pm

Mission Trip 2016 July 24-30, with Worship on July 31!

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!



Members of the 2015 Mission Trip working on siding.

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

NOTE: MISSION TRIP COMMITMENT AND \$100 DUE TO LUCIA ON APRIL 3!

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 then just 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 Chris Husmann & Colleen Spence; Helen and Gary Shapiro; Nancy and Glenn Walker; Doug Hart and Judy Howland; and Sarah Doolan and Molly Keating for the month of February. They all provided us with delicious snacks! Coffee Hour will be hosted by Jill and Todd Lloyd on March 6; the Youth Group on March 20; and Ariel Arwen on March 27. We need two people for March 13 and one person to work with Ariel on March 27. 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. 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. Sign ups for March will be on the bulletin board in the Social Room.



MEMBER MELINDA MEYERHOFF SHARES THIS ANNOUNCEMENT & CAN ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT:

Fair Trade and Environmental Justice in Nicaragua

May 21-28, 2016

Join the Unitarian Universalist College of Social Justice (UUCSJ) on an immersion-learning program traveling to Nicaragua. Through advance study, group reflection, and meetings with some of the most vibrant rights organizations in Nicaragua, we'll consider what it means to engage in fair trade in today's economic climate and how to forge ties of solidarity as climate change starts to impact vulnerable coffee-producing areas.

Find out more, and register to join us May 21-28!
uucsj.org/journeys/nicaragua/

GET READY TO WALK/RUN

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

Join Team FUSH as we support Turning Points Network at their 10th Annual 'Steppin' Up Walk to End Violence, Saturday, April 30 in Claremont, NH. More information will be forthcoming in the following weeks. Kerry Rochford Hague, Community Educator for Turning Points Network, will be at FUSH on Sunday, April 3 to share information about the agency and the upcoming walk!!

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM 101

SUNDAY, MARCH 6 • 12:00-2:00 PM

Our minister Paul Sawyer will lead a discussion of Unitarian Universalism history and theology after the Sunday service. This is a workshop for people who are new to the Church and who want to explore our faith or who have questions about UU theology. Members and friends who want to learn more about Unitarian Universalism are welcome too. Lunch and childcare provided.

Please RSVP to Sue and David Taylor at dstaylor342@gmail.com or at 603-675-6566.

It is especially to let us know if child care is needed so we can hire a child care person.

MAR 2016 CALENDAR

DEADLINE
FOR APRIL
NEWSLETTER
CONTENT:
MARCH 18

WE ARE A
WELCOMING
CONGREGATION

MARCH			
04	FRI	8-10 am	Food Shelf
06	SUN	10 am 5-6:15 pm 6:30-8:30 pm	Worship Service & RE Junior Youth Group at the UCC Church High School OWL at the UCC Church
11	FRI	8-10 am	Food Shelf
12	SAT	7-10 pm	Hartland Community Prom at Damon Hall
13	SUN	10 am after service 6:30-8:00 pm 8:00-10:00 pm	Worship Service & RE SoUUp Sunday SoUUp Sale High School OWL at the UCC Church High School Game Night UCC church
14	MON	7 pm	Governing Board Meeting
19	FRI	all day 8-10 am	Newsletter Content Deadline Food Shelf
20	SUN	10 am 5-6:15 pm 6:30-8:30 pm	Worship Service & RE Junior Youth Group at the UCC Church High School OWL snow day or regular High School Youth Group at the UCC Church
25	FRI	8-10 am	Food Shelf
27	SUN	10 am	Worship Service & RE



The Folk Choir sang "Lava" during the February 14 service.



Auctioneers Remy and Glenn shake hands after an event well done.