



APRIL 2016

The First Universalist Society of Hartland

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

APR 03 A Fenn-Tastic Sappy April Fools!
Celebrate April Fools' Day with some foolish worship. Wear foolish clothes (if you like), be ready for some silliness, as we shake the mud off our boots, the cold from our joints, and the winter cobwebs from our spirits and minds. This year, we'll especially remember our beloved Mary Fenn, who died in September, and who truly enjoyed the April Fools' service every year. If you like, you can wear a flowered hat, or flower-patterned anything, in Mary's honor. We'll also celebrate the season with some fine local maple treats after the service, so you might also choose to wear something maple-themed! *The collection will benefit our team in the "Steppin' Up to End Violence" 5K walk/fun run on April 30 in Claremont.*



APR 10 Love and the Transforming Fire of Life Changes
Lay-led by Gary Shapiro
This service will focus on renewing and transforming ourselves by experiencing life changes with love, compassion, and gratitude. *The collection will benefit the West Windsor FAST Squad.*

APR 17 Roots Hold Me Close: Honoring the Land and its Riches
Lay-led by Chuck Fenton, Becca White, and Dave and Sue Taylor
With special guest speakers: Stephen Leslie and Kerry Gewalt from Cobb Hill Community Farm. They will be addressing our theme, Roots Hold Me Close.

APR 24 Rejoice, Rebuild, the Storm Has Passed
Reflections on renewal, healing, and building a more hopeful world after a long hard winter of unfortunate weather and unpleasant happenings seemingly every day in the news. (The title comes from a wonderful current song by Frank Turner). *The collection will benefit Vermont Interfaith Power & Light.*

Paul Sawyer will be out of town on vacation April 9-18. In case of emergency, you can contact Paul during this time by leaving a message on his cell phone. For all other church business please plan to contact Paul after April 19.

LOVE IS THE DOCTRINE OF THIS CHURCH

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Coffee hour conversations



FROM YOUR MINISTER

PAUL S. SAWYER

APRIL 2016

Renewal is the basic grounding action of all life. To be alive means to be ever renewing. This time of year it's hard to miss the spirit of renewal shining in life all around. Brown barren treelines explode in green with the renewal of the leaves, and scratchy dead fields rise up in renewal with grass, wildflowers, and the actions of critters of all kinds great and small.

To be ever alive means to be ever renewing, and that is true for us as well as for the rest of the natural world. When I remember that fact, I see possibility all around, in my life and in society, and everywhere I go. When I lose sight of the truth of renewal...well, it's pretty easy to end up thinking that just about everything good in the world is in danger of coming to an end.

THE BEST AND MOST HEALING FORMS OF RENEWAL DON'T ALWAYS JUST ARISE WITHOUT WORK, AND INTENTION, AND CARE.

Renewal doesn't always mean that everything will be just as we hope it will be. Invasive species are really good at renewing themselves, a fact that becomes very clear to me as well this time of year, as I find buckthorn trees growing everywhere, not far from where I got rid of a bunch last year. The best and most healing forms of renewal don't always just arise without work, and intention, and care. But renewal is always possible, and that is the lesson of life I want to carry with me into this shining month of emerging spring.

There is nowhere in life—in my own life, in our community, in our society, in our world—where renewal is not possible. And while our hearts still beat, there is no moment of life when we cannot choose to see our path as one of ever-renewing compassion, connection, and hope. The compassion, the connection, the hope—with renewal, they may all take different forms than we once thought they would. But they can arise, always, because renewal is the basic grounding action of life.

THERE IS SO MUCH THAT IS POSSIBLE—FAR MORE THAN WE COULD EVER DREAM.

And even in death, renewal lives there, too. Love continues to live, even when someone we love dies, and relationships can continue to heal, long after we share our last conversations. And because life is truly ever renewing—if we're lucky, even the atoms that make up our very bodies will live to rise again in new life, as the relentless and hopeful possibility of renewal goes on, and on, and on.

It is April and the truth of renewal is shining alive all around. There is so much that is possible—far more than we could ever dream. Let us all rejoice for all that can be. And let us all work to help life renew our world.

In Faith and Love,

Paul

PEOPLE YOU NEED TO KNOW:

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Engaging the Spirit—Upcoming Themes

Here are our monthly Engaging the Spirit worship themes for the next few months. If you have a personal story, or suggested worship materials, or possible related worship topics, or any thoughts at all about any of these themes, please share your ideas with Paul. Thank you!

April—Renewal

May—Mindfulness

June/July—Reflection

August—Journey

September—Kindness

October—Generosity

November—Inherent Worth & Dignity

December—Soul



*We say 'Good-bye'
to our friends
Helen and Eric*

SUGAR ON SNOW

After Church Coffee Hour April 3, 2016

Homemade Raised and Cake Donuts

Maple Cream Cheese Frosting

Pickles

FROM YOUR TREASURER

DAN POOR

APRIL 2016

A Generous In-Kind Donation Received

FUSH recently received a substantial credit on our church electric bill – enough to cover several months of our normal usage. The credit came from a friend of the church (who wishes to remain anonymous) with solar panels that generated far more electricity than they consumed in the year. Vermont regulations specify a few ways a net metering customer can use such a credit – and one of the ways is to transfer it to another customer of the same utility. (They also have the option of creating a group of customers who would share the power. Without far more research, it is not entirely clear how this would work, and this particular GMP customer was interested in helping the church budget.) My understanding is that if the credit is not applied to either your own bill, or used in some other way, it disappears.

This is a fine example for others in our congregation who have solar arrays that are generating excess power. If you have such a credit and don't have a way to spend it on your own account, I would be happy to discuss this with you. If you have excess credits but are not a GMP customer, you could probably find a willing recipient in the service area of your utility.

While I was at it, I checked the New Hampshire regulations on this matter. If a NH net metering customer has more than 600 kWh in their "bank" at the end of the March billing cycle, on or before June 1, the utility must offer them a check for the unused kWh, a credit on their bill for that amount, or let the "bank" continue to accumulate. Since the net metering does not cover the monthly connect fee (which for the NH Electric Coop is pretty steep), a credit could make some sense. Since we have the option of allowing the "bank" to continue to grow, Rickey and I will probably do that this year. We did not have to clear our panels of snow very often this year, and it does look as if we generated more this winter than some months last winter. That small cushion carried forward might be nice to have if next winter is closer to a normal snow fall.

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.

APRIL OFFERING RECIPIENTS:

APR 03 **Steppin' Up to End Violence—Turning Points Network**

This is the second collection to support our team for the upcoming "Steppin' Up to End Violence" 5K walk/fun run, taking place in Claremont on April 30. This is an annual event, sponsored by 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.

Our team, (named by our champion, Dianne Rochford, the "SUUper TrUUpers"), will raise money to support this good cause, and will also represent the strength and spirit of our congregation. More information is available from Dianne, or at www.turningpointsnetwork.org

APR 10 **The West Windsor Volunteer FAST Squad**

The West Windsor Volunteer FAST (First Aid Stabilization Team) Squad provides emergency treatment and support for many of our friends, members, and neighbors in West Windsor/Brownsville. This is the next in a series of offerings to our local rescue squads, in an effort to connect with and support those doing effective and important work in our member communities. This idea was suggested by our own governing board member, Dan Poor, who served for several years on the Cornish Rescue Squad. You can speak with Dan or with Paul (who is also a former volunteer rescue squad member) for more information.

APR 17 **TBA**

The leaders of this week's service will choose an organization to support.

APR 24 **Vermont Interfaith Power and Light**

Vermont Interfaith Power and Light (VTIPL) is a collection of faith communities and individuals working for a faith-based response to global warming. They offer collaboration, education, and inspiration for practical actions and deepening spiritual connections with earth and with the possibility of a resilient future. VTIPL offers a membership program for churches, which requires a commitment to action and responsibility and which we will consider as a future possibility for our congregation. In the meantime, our offering will support their work and help us maintain our connection with this important organization. More information is available at www.vtipl.org. (this organization was rescheduled from a Sunday in February in response to a request by a service leader).

ADULT CHOIR

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

- Patty Talbot



After thoughtful consideration, the champions of the Fourth of July booth have decided to not have a booth at this year's festivities. We would love to have a champion come forward to lead a group in making a great float for the parade. If anyone is interested, please talk to Sara Morin or Jill Lloyd for details.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

SAMANTHA CRONIN

APRIL 2016

Winter Reflections & Spring Connections

Gently taking in these early spring moments, one cannot help but feel filled with gratitude. We are actively engaging in plans for the months ahead, while also mindfully allowing space for final meditations on the past months. As I reflect on the winter months, I feel wholly welcomed, loved, and accepted. The cozy blanket of community surrounded me as I got comfortable in this new position. I have now reached a stage in this process of transition, in which I feel fully prepared to co-create enriching educational opportunities for the First Universalist Society of Hartland, as Director of Religious Education.

This winter, my core focus was to get familiar with the heart of FUSH, which is held by its members. I was warmly welcomed first by coming to Sunday service and coffee hour, and then by assisting with children's RE in the sacred yurt space. Approaching new experiences with a "beginner's mind," I quickly learned that these children are lovely little teachers! Their connection with the inner and outer world is amazing to witness, and I learn from them in every interaction. Week after week, we follow a flexible curriculum of rotating lessons which include: Children's Chapel, Spirit Play, Be Peace, Children in Service, Guest Artist, and Faith in Action, plus special events each season. Each time I arrive in service I have been blessed in the opportunity to deepen relationships with the children, as well as those who dedicate volunteer time to enhance the children's RE program. As a result, I have come to understand that FUSH RE is much more than the planned lessons in the yurt for the children. I feel honored to share the more broad purpose of religious education: growing together in faith and love as a whole congregation.

As winter fades and spring arises, I feel confident in the act of weaving monthly themes from Reverend Paul's services into the children's program, as well as creatively integrating the children's lesson into congregational life. In this way, we can all share our perspectives, thus staying in tune with the overarching vision of religious education. Now that we have "tapped" into that springtime flow--- let us taste the sweetness of opportunity and growth! The children's RE program will continue with the current curriculum while we collectively shower the lessons with connection to the Earth during this time of rebirth. Some activities we have planned: meditative Spring cleaning, gift making for our mothers, seed-starting, tales of transformation and more! Feeling renewed and inspired? If you are drawn to lead or assist in any of these activities, please let me know! I am continually thrilled by the abundance of love and special gifts each individual brings to this community. By connecting with our children--- our future, we strengthen the bonds of our congregation as a whole.

In closing, I would like to share a quote which perfectly illustrates my UU experience thus far. A quote from Rumi, a 13th century Sufi mystic: "Let the beauty of what you love, be what you do." What a joy; I love what WE do! Thank you to all who make this congregation a safe and loving place to learn and grow together. I look forward to getting to know more of you, and envision us spending time together through our Religious Education program at the First Universalist Society of Hartland.

TIMELINE APRIL/MAY:

APR 3 Children in Service: April Fools!

APR 10 Spirit Play

APR 17 Be Peace: Celebrate the Earth

APR 24 Guest Artist: Seed starting

MAY 1 Children in Service: May Day

MAY 8 Faith in Action:
Mother's Day Surprise

MAY 15 Spirit Play

MAY 22 Children's Chapel

MAY 29 Be Peace



A cast of characters worked hard and entertained us during the Winterem performance.



Members of the cast of the Winterem performance posing for a photo.

FUND RAISING NEWS & EVENTS



NEW ENGLAND HAM & BEAN SUPPER

Saturday, April 16 • 4:30-7:00 pm

Maple baked Beans with Pork • Maple Vegan Beans
Green MT Smokehouse Maple Hams • Cole Slaw
Homemade Dinner Rolls • Homemade Steamed Brown Bread
Homemade Gingerbread with Whipped Cream or Homemade Ice Cream
Beverages

Adults \$12.00 • Ages 6-12 \$6.00 • Preschool Free

This is a great dinner, similar to our beloved Turkey Suppers. Food, made from scratch in the tradition of New England-style ham and bean suppers. Using family recipes and local ingredients, this is a great church supper. Tell your friends and neighbors to come join us for a terrific community dinner.

Please consider helping with this event. Many hands are needed to make this a successful fundraiser, and a number of our members will be away for school vacation week.

Please sign up at our SignUp Genius link (watch email, facebook and website for link)

This event is a fund raiser for our church.

FUND RAISING NEWS & EVENTS

RUMMAGE SALE

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:

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All proceeds benefit Hartland Universalist Society



SIGN UP TO JOIN THE SUUPER TROUUPERS

For the past 10 yrs. Turning Points Network (TPN) has had a walk/fun run entitled 'Steppin' Up to End Violence'.

This year's 5K walk/fun run will be Saturday, April 30 at the Claremont Middle High School. By joining our team you are **NOT** committed to walk/run 3 miles. In fact you can walk as few or as many steps as you choose. Time commitment is approx. 2-3 hours.

FUSH will join with 60+ teams...together we walk to raise money so that TPN can continue their work by:

- Providing FREE services to adults and children who have experienced Sexual or Domestic Violence, Court Advocacy, Support Groups, 24-Hour Crisis Line and a 16 bed shelter. (The only one in Sullivan County)
- Providing Prevention Education in the schools and the community.

This year's goal is to raise \$100,000 to support programs and improve the 16 bed shelter.

If you are not free on that day, you can become a "Virtual Walker". Questions? Ask Joan Fariel or Dianne Rochford or go to turningpointsnetwork.org

The 'After Walk Party' is an enthusiastic, yummy time. **BE SURE TO STAY!!**

Joan Fariel and Dianne Rochford

**Become a
sUUPER
troUUPER!**



YOUTH GROUP NOTES

YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE APRIL & MAY

All events are on Sundays unless otherwise noted**

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 posing after a hard-day's work. This year's group will need your support. Sign-ups for food to send with our workers, which they use for meals, snacks and sustenance, will be coming soon.

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.

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 Jill and Todd Lloyd and Ariel Arwan and Michael Denmeade for the month of March. They provided us with delicious snacks! In addition Bineke and Bram Oort planned a special "goodbye" Coffee Hour for Helen and Eric Dicke. We will miss the Dickes a great deal! We also enjoyed the tasty brunch prepared by the youth of FUSH and the UCC Church.

April Coffee Hours will be hosted by Clyde Jenne and Bruce Locke on April 3 when they will treat us all to "Sugar on Snow"! Then on April 17 Nancy and Rob Foote and Laurence Matson will host and on April 24 Sarah Bruce and Phyllis Tucker will be in charge. 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 April will be on the bulletin board in the Social Room.

April 1 at 6 PM Sarah Bruce will host a Circle Dinner in Hartland. If you would like to go you can contact Sarah at: brewsterscroft@vermontel.net

April 30 at 6 PM Nancy and Glenn Walker will host a Circle Dinner in Unity. If you would like to go contact them at: nancy.mr.walker@gmail.com

WORK PARTY: Save May 1 for the "Spring Clean-up Work Party"!

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM 101 AND THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF THE FUSH

SUNDAY, APRIL 24 • 12:00-2:00 PM

Our minister Paul Sawyer will lead a discussion of Unitarian Universalism history and theology as practiced in the First Universalist Society of Hartland Four Corners. The workshop will be an opportunity to have your questions answered and to explore the workings of our Society, the activities available, and the privileges and responsibilities of membership. 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 history or theology. Members and friends who want to learn more about our community are also welcome. Lunch will be provided. If you need baby sitting please let us know so that we can schedule a sitter.

Please RSVP to Sue and David Taylor at dstaylor342@gmail.com or at 603-675-6566 up until April 21. After that date let Paul know you are coming.

Members of our choir



APR 2016 CALENDAR

**DEADLINE
FOR MAY
NEWSLETTER
CONTENT:
APRIL 18**

**WE ARE A
WELCOMING
CONGREGATION**

*Photos from our 2016 Hartland
Community Prom. Many more
can be seen on our Facebook page.*

APRIL

| | | | |
|----|-----|------------------------------------|--|
| 01 | FRI | 8-10 am | Food Shelf |
| 03 | SUN | 10 am 5-6:15 pm 6:30-8:00 pm | Worship Service & RE Junior Youth Group at the UU Church High School OWL at the UU Church Mission Trip commitment and \$100 due |
| 08 | FRI | 8-10 am 8 am - 6 pm | Food Shelf Rummage Sale |
| 09 | SAT | 8 am - 4 pm | Rummage Sale |
| 10 | SUN | 10 am | Worship Service & RE |
| 15 | FRI | 8-10 am | Food Shelf |
| 16 | SAT | 4:30-7 pm | Ham and Bean Supper |
| 17 | SUN | 10 am 5-6:15 pm 6:30-8 pm | Worship Service & RE Junior Youth Group at the UU Church High School OWL at the UU Church |
| 18 | MON | 7 pm | Governing Board Meeting Newsletter Content Deadline |
| 22 | FRI | 8-10 am | Food Shelf |
| 24 | SUN | 10 am | Worship Service & RE |
| 29 | FRI | 8-10 am | Food Shelf |
| 30 | SAT | 10 am-12 pm | Stepping Up to End Violence Walk/Run |

