

JUNE 2016

The First Universalist Society of Hartland

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

JUN 05 Children's Program Celebration Sunday and Flower Communion

Bring a flower to share! In this special service, we will honor our children and their teachers in this fun annual intergenerational service of recognition and celebration, and this year we'll also return to honoring a traditional Unitarian celebration of the season, the Flower Communion. The Flower Communion was created by Rev. Norbert Capek, the founder of the Unitarian Church of Czechoslovakia, and it was first practiced in that church in 1923 (you can read more about the history and tradition of the Flower Communion on-line—just search for "Flower Communion UUA" and the story on the UUA website should be among the top results). We'll all bring cut flowers to share—from our gardens, from a store, from anywhere—and we'll gather our flowers together, and then we'll distribute the flowers so everyone will go home with some beauty shared by someone else. *The collection will benefit The Hartland Cooperative Nursery School*

SAVE THE DATES:

We have two joint worship services with the First Congregational Church of Hartland (The Brick Church) this summer:

Sunday July 3 at the First Congregational Church of Hartland—Joint Independence Day worship service with both ministers leading worship.

Sunday July 31 at our church—our annual Mission Trip celebration service led by the youth with Paul and Lucia.

Sunday August 28 at the Universalist Church of Barnard—Annual Combined Upper Valley UU Service at the Barnard Church, followed by time for conversation and recreation at Silver Lake State Park.

JUN 12 Annual Outdoor Worship at Connie's!—"Love Saves"

Join us under the maples (or under the tent if needed) at Connie Tessier's, for a service filled with songs, stories, and a celebration of free faith. Connie's house is on Mace Hill Road, just a quarter-mile from the church. We'll also welcome new members to our society during this service. Come for the service! Bring a picnic to enjoy after the service! *There's no collection at this service.*

JUN 19 Tom Haushalter

The collection will benefit Good Beginnings of the Upper Valley

JUN 26 "Word"—Dianne Rochford

The collection will benefit The Books for Babies Program of the TLC Family Resource Center of Claremont

The **General Assembly** of the Unitarian Universalist Association will be held in Columbus, OH, June 22–26. Even if you can't make it to GA, you can follow the action and watch many of the major events on-line at www.uua.org, beginning with the Opening Ceremony and Banner Parade on Wednesday, June 22. This year, Paul Sawyer and Sue Buckholz will be attending GA and serving as delegates from our congregation.

Sunday July 24 will be our annual "**Sermon from the Question Box**"—During this service, Paul will respond to questions you send him in the coming month. The questions can be theological or spiritual, or personal, or informational, or random. Look for the official box to appear soon on the information table in the sanctuary, or simply send or give your questions to Paul by hand or electronically.

LOVE IS THE DOCTRINE OF THIS CHURCH

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FROM YOUR MINISTER

PAUL S. SAWYER

JUNE 2016

**From "Staying Put: A Look at the First Ten Years of Ministry"
by Israel Galindo, Alban Institute:**

"If you have lasted up to the tenth year and have invested well in your tenure of ministry, you and your congregation share a mutual relationship of trust, a shared corporate identity, and a common vision of ministry. Your relationship with the congregation can provide the resources to begin working on whom you can become Now is the time to begin thinking about the life of this congregation two or three generations into the future. Now is the time your ministry begins."

As you have likely heard by now, May 28, 2016, marked the tenth anniversary of my call to serve you as the minister of the First Universalist Society of Hartland. After church on Sunday May 28, 2006, my family and I (there were only three of us then!) wandered over to Lull Brook and watched the water flow by as the congregation met to vote on my candidacy. We had spent the previous eight days getting to know the people and the community of our congregation, and we were delighted to accept when you called us back into the sanctuary to joyful applause, and said that the vote had been a positive one.

I will remember that moment for the rest of my life, just as I will remember so many other profound moments that have happened through our connections together over the years that have followed. In those early days, I was filled with a profound sense of hope and possibility about all that we could and would do in the time to come. During these last ten years, my sense of hope and love for this community and our ministry together has certainly changed, but it's never diminished. In fact, I find that it's expanded, as the depth of our relationships, and of our shared experience has grown.

The average length of stay for Unitarian Universalist ministers these days is about six years. Most of the ministers that have served our congregation have served far shorter tenures than that. Looking at our history, there are only two other ministers that made it

to ten years: the Rev. Oliver Gordon Woodbury who served from 1852-1862, and the Rev. Dr. William Forkell, who served the United Hartland Churches (when we were yoked with the Congregational Church) from 1930-1942. If you count every minister that is listed in our history, I am the 72nd minister to serve our church. If you take out the ones that were students and short-term pulpit supply preachers, I am the 47th (in contrast, a friend and colleague of mine was recently installed as just the 12th senior minister of the First Unitarian Church of Worcester, which was founded in 1985, 17 years earlier than our congregation).

DURING THESE LAST TEN YEARS, MY SENSE OF HOPE AND LOVE FOR THIS COMMUNITY AND OUR MINISTRY TOGETHER HAS CERTAINLY CHANGED, BUT IT'S NEVER DIMINISHED. IN FACT, I FIND THAT IT'S EXPANDED, AS THE DEPTH OF OUR RELATIONSHIPS, AND OF OUR SHARED EXPERIENCE HAS GROWN.



Making Mother's Day gifts during RE

PEOPLE YOU NEED TO KNOW:

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FROM YOUR MINISTER

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The reasons for the short tenures of my predecessors are many. A number of them went on to serve bigger churches. Several others came to us in near retirement, looking just to fill out their last few years of work. Some left the ministry, and in a few cases, some had to leave because the finances of the congregation simply couldn't support any kind of professional ministry. I find this history interesting, and a bit troubling, but I also find it—and this is an odd thing for me to say about history—pretty irrelevant.

WE'RE HERE TO BUILD A CONGREGATION AND A WIDER COMMUNITY THAT'S WORKING TO BUILD A BETTER, MORE LOVING, MORE JUST, MORE HOPEFUL WORLD.

Our congregation has been built over the last 214 years by all our predecessors, 72 or more of

us in the pulpit, and many, many more in the pews. We're standing in part on the foundation they built, but we're also standing on a great deal we've built ourselves, together, in our most recent years. And we're looking toward a future that none of our ancestors could have imagined, and that none of us can be sure about either—except that we know we'll face it together, as a community, grounded in faith.

While many ministries in our tradition of faith, both now and in the past, have been shorter ones, there comes a time in the life of a church when a congregation and a minister can learn to walk together in faith for a longer time, and can commit to one another to stick around, and to work together to build a community that serves our present day in love as best we can, and that looks and plans together in hope and possibility toward a future that will last beyond any of our current lives.

It's my belief that this is the kind of relationship we're building together as we celebrate ten years of shared ministry, and as we begin to plan for many more years of shared ministry to come. In short, I want to be clear with you that I'm not planning to go anywhere else anytime soon, and I hope that's true for you as well.

Some of you may be relieved by hearing me say that. I hope that at least a number of you will be happy about it. And I'm sure that for at least a few of you, it's a disappointment. That's ok. We're not here to please each other. We're here to build a congregation and a wider community that's working to build a better, more loving, more just, more hopeful world. We don't have to agree on every point along the way. In fact, it's my hope that as our relationship deepens with the years, we'll also get better at sharing the places where we differ, and at working out how we can walk together in faith despite our differences, and hopefully, in some cases, even in celebration of them.

There are both benefits and challenges to longer term ministries, and we'll have ample opportunities to explore those in the years to come, and to work together to leverage the benefits, and to address the challenges. And, of course, if we ever reach a point where it seems that our shared ministry together is not supporting the needs and energy of our congregation, or the needs and energy of my spirit or my family...well, we'll deal with that if we come to it.

For now, I'm simply grateful for the chance to celebrate together for a time, to share some joy for bucking the trends of our times and our history, and simply to revel for a moment, in gratitude and love, at the energetic and hopeful congregation we've built together, on the strong foundation built for us by our ancestors and predecessors through two centuries of faith, hope, and love.

I am deeply grateful for all the luck, work, intention, and inspiration that brought us together in 2006, with hope and possibility filling all our hearts. And I'm deeply grateful every day for your spirit, and your care, and the work of your hands, hearts, and minds, joining with mine to build a better world.

Now is the time our ministry begins!

In Faith and Love,

Paul

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.

JUNE OFFERING RECIPIENTS:

JUN 05 Hartland Cooperative Nursery School

For several generations now, the Hartland Cooperative Nursery School has offered a nurturing, developmentally focused early childhood education program for children in Hartland and the surrounding communities. Many families in our congregation have been part of HCNS in the past, and most of our youngest children are currently (or about to be) students in this wonderful program. This organization was suggested for our support by the children of our Religious Education program. You can learn more about HCNS from current parents, Heather Findlay and Samantha Cronin, from recent HCNS board member, Sara Doolan, or from their website at hcnsvt.org

JUN 19 Good Beginnings of the Upper Valley

Founded in 1986, Good Beginnings of the Upper Valley offers a free home visitor program for families with new babies, offering all manner of flexible support for babies and families. Their services are available to any family that asks for them, and are grounded in the simple idea that "any family with a new baby can use a helping hand." This program was suggested for our support by Tom Haushalter, who will be leading the service this day. You can learn more about Good Beginnings at gbuv.org

JUN 26 The Books for Babies program at the TLC Family Resource Center

Located in Claremont, NH, the TLC Family Resource Center provides respectful and non-judgmental services to assist families to meet their needs, make loving connections and raise their children for success. The Books for Babies program is a special service, supporting the development of language and literacy skills for children born to very young parents. The program begins during pregnancy, and continues through the first two years of a child's life, providing books for both children and parents, and opportunities and education supporting regular shared reading in the family. This program was nominated for our support by Dianne Rochford, who will be leading the service this day. You can contact Dianne for more information, and you can learn more about the TLC Center in general at tlcfamilyrc.org



The Choir, with guest flutist Kim Akre.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SUMMER RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: LET THE FUN SHINE!

SAMANTHA CRONIN, DRE

JUNE 2016

As we sail into sweet summertime, may we all take a few moments to gaze deep into the expansive waters of our minds and reflect upon our roles in the collective journey. Woah—did I just sneak in all the May-August themes into one sentence? I think so! Mindfulness. Reflection. Journey. What do these words mean to you? Through our vibrant Religious Education program can we share our thoughts, feelings, and experiences with these words. Let us mindfully reflect on that and make this an amazing journey—oh, there I go again!

Jumping right into summer, a time of carefree and free-flowing fun. Our RE program is going to be just that! We have some exciting offerings to engage the happy inner child within us all. Gardening by day and campfires by night. Finding the balance of work and play in summer is a delightful challenge and we aim to blend them up quite nicely with our flexible program.

The highlights of our summer RE program are: "Roots & Shoots" Permaculture Gardening Project, Friday Night Firelight Storytelling, and a Mid-Summer Campout Celebration.

I invite you to check out some of our adventure plans:

Out in the yard by the yurt, you may notice the children have been tending the earth by planting in various containers. Some of the plants will remain in containers while others we have decided to plant around the church yard using permaculture techniques. We will be looking for UU member volunteers throughout the summer, who have specific skills or a general interest in gardening, outdoor survival skills, and connection with the earth. We also plan to welcome professionals from local community organizations to come and guide the children.



One such professional is Autum Siegler, a certified permaculturist and hard working mama. Autum will be sharing her knowledge of plants and wisdom of working in harmony with nature. She will also play an integral role in preparing the nursery-aged children for their time in the yurt this fall. For the summer, we will be combining the Nursery and Yurt

groups for a mixed age program, with activities appropriate for each stage of development.

The overarching goal of our Permaculture Gardening Project is to link self-development with global change. We were inspired by a program founded by Dr. Jane Goodall called

"Roots & Shoots." In our Permaculture Gardening Project, we will be following guidelines from this program as we tap into the beautiful



Jane Goodall's
roots & shoots

energy in which Dr. Goodall carries, and her compassion for all beings. More information can be found on Dr. Goodall's webpage: rootsandshoots.org.

Also following the UU way of community and sharing with an open heart, we are full of joy to announce an opportunity to connect with the crew of the Hartland Farmers' Market and put on a once-a-month Friday Night Firelight Storytelling. The first occasion will follow the market on June 17 at 7:15 p.m. (Exact location and more details to be determined.) During this time together, we will get a chance to share legends and ancient tales with community members. Sit back, relax and enjoy the show by the warm fire. Just like the good old days... before TV!



The children have also expressed great interest in having a campout, so we are also planning, in collaboration with Harmony Farms, a Mid-Summer Campout Celebration. We have set a date for August 20th. More details to come!

These past months have been so special. The building energy of Spring and all the new connections made. A big thank you to all who have contributed to the RE Program and those who make our congregation whole. As we move into the next season, we may find ourselves busy traveling, committed to other activities for summer fun, or just plain wanting to take a break, but to stay in the loop, please check for updates through email, facebook, and our monthly newsletter.

More information about our RE program can be found on our webpage: hartlanduu.com/religious-education.

And as always, for questions, feedback, or to volunteer with RE activities, please contact Samantha by email at dre.hartlanduu@gmail.com.

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF MINISTRY



In the late spring of 2006 our congregation held the instillation of Paul Sawyer as our minister. Since that time, the Sawyers have added another child to their family, and our congregation has more than doubled in size. This month we celebrate our beloved Paul, Katy, Emma, and Aidan and their time in our community.

Keep On Moving Forward

Original lyrics by Emma's Revolution, updated for the May 22, 2016 service in celebration of Paul's ten years.

Gonna keep on moving forward
Keep on moving forward
Keep on moving forward
Never turning back
Never turning back

We want to thank the Sawyer family
Thank the Sawyer family
Thank the Sawyer family
For all the love they've shared
For all the love they've shared

Gonna keep on ministering passionately
Keep on ministering passionately
Keep on ministering passionately
With voices filled with love
Voices filled with love

Gonna keep on singing loudly
Keep on singing loudly
Keep on singing loudly
To fill the world with joy
Fill the world with joy

Gonna keep on loving boldly
Keep on loving boldly
Keep on loving boldly
Never turning back
Never turning back

Gonna keep on moving forward
Keep on moving forward
Keep on moving forward
Each and every day
Each and every day

JOIN US IN CELEBRATION

We look forward to celebrating Paul, Katy, Emma, and Aidan at our annual Tent Service on June 12, with cake, a gift for Paul, and gift cards for the family to two local restaurants. We'd love for you to join in the celebration.

IF YOU ARE LIVING LOCALLY:

Please see Sara Morin or Michael Theroux to sign a card and leave a note for the Sawyers (there are three cards for ease of circulation, your welcome to sign any of them). Michael and Sara are also collecting donations towards the gift cards. Join us on June 12 to celebrate with the Sawyers in person.

IF YOU ARE NOT LIVING LOCALLY:

You can still be part of the celebration! Feel free to send along a card or letter to Paul or to the Sawyers and we will give it to him on June 12. If you'd like to donate towards the gift certificate, you can send a check, made out to Sara Morin. Please mail your card and/or contribution to:
Sara Morin, 9 Elm Street,
Windsor, VT 05089



FUND RAISING NEWS & EVENTS



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All proceeds benefit Hartland Universalist Society



RUMMAGE SALE CONTINUES!

Thank you all that contributed to and helped set up the Rummage Sale in the Ladies Aid Hall. It was a huge success, bringing in almost \$1500.

We still have lots more. It has been decided to have it open for more Sales and also to accept more donations. Expected opening on Friday mornings 8:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m. starting June 3 and continuing one Saturday per month, future dates to be determined. Questions? Call Nada Pierce at (802) 436-2336.

HELP NEEDED: JAZZ FEST

Saturday, June 18

Thank you to Joan & Melinda for championing a booth to sell baked goodies during Jazz Fest. Help is needed in the form of baking treats ahead of June 18, or sitting at the booth, selling goods and listening to some great music. Please be in touch with Joan or Melinda if you are able to help in either way.

FOURTH OF JULY BOOTH

A champion and two followers have stepped forward to take on the Fourth of July booth. We will be selling hot dogs and ice cream from 5:00 p.m. to the beginning of the fireworks. We are looking for people to help:

- With a truck to move freezer before and after event
- Canopy and lights set up & take down
- Ice cream scoopers
- Brownie bakers
- Hot dog cookers
- Money collectors

If you are able to help, please contact Joan Fariel (802) 436-1770, Chuck Fenton (802) 436-3354 or Nada Pierce (802) 436-2336



YOUTH GROUP NOTES



Members of the Mission Trip working at a Habitat for Humanity house, Summer 2015

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!

MISSION TRIP 2016 JULY 24-30, WITH WORSHIP ON JULY 31!

SUPER TRUUPERS HELP RAISE RECORD-BREAKING FUNDS

Paul Sawyer and family took part in the 2015 'Walk to End Violence'. After the walk Paul stated, "Next year our church should have a team!" And so we did...

The kick off began in mid-March with a presentation by Kerry Rochford Hague, educator with Turning Points Network. Kerry gave us important information about TPN, an agency that offers 'Prevention' programs in the schools, serves folks who have been victims of Sexual and Domestic Violence and runs

a 16 bed shelter, the only domestic violence shelter in Sullivan County. We also learned the particulars about the upcoming 'Steppin' Up Walk to End Violence'.

Folks were inspired to join the team, and as we already had the team name thanks to Pat Whitney, WE WERE SET TO GO!!

The following weeks, we gathered pledges, created a team t-shirt and prepared to be part of a record breaking event.

On April 30 we were among the 950 walkers/runners and one of 83 teams. The day of the event, money raised totaled \$96,000.00 toward the hoped for goal of \$100,000.00. Our very own team was one of 18 teams to raise \$1,000.00+, contributing \$3,037.00 in support of TPN. The latest figure from TPN is \$99,000.00 and counting.

We are already talking about the 2017 WALK. Won't you join us? It is an inspirational, empowering experience as we walk together for Social Justice.

We are grateful for our team and for the support from our beloved community.

Dianne Rochford and Joan Fariel, Co-Champions



ADULT CHOIR

Adult Choir will not rehearse and sing on the usual second and third Sundays of June, but are invited to sing in the ecumenical choir for the July 3rd service, hosted by the Brick Church.

Evening Rehearsal Date: Thursday, June 30th.

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: The Brick Church

Ecumenical Choir Director: Clydene Trachier.

Sunday morning Rehearsal: 8:30 a.m. July 3rd at the Brick Church.

Patty plans to sing in this choir and looks forward to our church choir members joining her!

FOLK CHOIR

Folk Choir will be rehearsing in the yurt at 9:15 on Sunday, June 5, and will sing at the June 12 tent service. Folk Choir is an all-ages/all-abilities sing and play-a-long. We will provide chords and lyrics, bring an instrument if you'd like. All are welcome to join.

CONNECTIONS CIRCLE

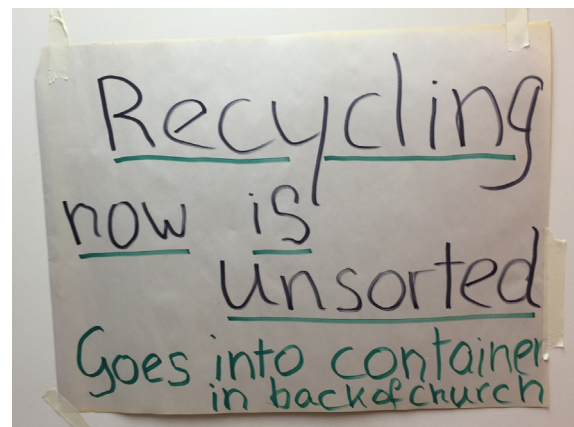
CONNECTIONS CIRCLE: The present members of our circle are: Sarah Bruce, Patti Eckels, Joan Fariel, Debra Hart, Judy Howland, Laurence Matson, Bineke Oort, and Sue & Dave Taylor. We will have a luncheon on June 24 at 11:00 a.m. at Sue and Dave Taylors' home just for fun and to discuss the reorganization of the Connections Circle with the Taylors stepping down from being Chairs. We have a lot of committed members who want to continue working on connections. The Connection Circle facilitates the work of champions for the Greeting and Welcoming of Newcomers; Newcomer Workshops; Coffee Hour; Circle Dinners; Work Parties; and the Annual FUSH Social Gathering. If you are interested in being involved in any of these areas and/or have any ideas to make these areas run more slowly please join us for lunch at the Taylors' home on June 24. RSVP to dstaylor342@gmail.com.

COFFEE HOUR: A big "thank you" to all the people who have worked hard to make sure we have a Coffee Hour after services for the last 9 months. We appreciate the efforts of Mariet and Rob Jaarsma and Zara Reeves; Chris and Michelle Scelza; and Lydia and Dick Johnson and Phyllis Tucker for the month of May. They provided us with delicious snacks! We also appreciate all the people who

stay to help clean up and wash dishes after the Coffee Hours week after week. We will move to summer coffee hours for June, July, and August since we've had trouble getting people to sign up in the nice weather. If someone wants to make coffee and/or bring snacks you are welcome to do this, but you just need to be sure to arrange for a cleanup crew.

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. A big "thank you" to Cynthia Thompson for making our beautiful name tags for many years. Pat Whitney has graciously offered to continue Cynthia's good work.

CIRCLE DINNERS AND WORK PARTY: Thank you so much to all the people who hosted and attended the Circle Dinners. A great time was had by all! And we so appreciate all the work and great community spirit at the Work Party! We accomplished a great deal and had lots of fun!



FUSH RECYCLES!

Recycling has been something our church has been doing for a while now—thank you to Bram and Bineke for their oversight and the work they have put into this program. recycling is **required** across the state as part of Vermont's Universal Recycling Law. We now have a recycling container at the back of our church, and the bins, in their usual spot in the kitchen, can now be used for all unsorted recycling. Please help us by recycling all recyclable materials you use while you are on church property. Be green!!

JUNE 2016 CALENDAR

DEADLINE FOR JULY
NEWSLETTER
CONTENT: JUNE 18



LGBTQ

Welcoming Congregation

This Unitarian Universalist community
welcomes and celebrates the
presence and participation of people
who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual,
transgender, and queer.



JUNE

03	FRI	8-10 am	Food Shelf
05	SUN	10 am	Worship Service & RE
10	FRI	8-10 am	Food Shelf
12	SUN	10 am	Worship Service & RE
13	MON	7 pm	Governing Board Meeting
17	FRI	8-10 am	Food Shelf
18	SAT	ALL DAY	Newsletter Content Deadline
19	SUN	10 am	Worship Service & RE
24	FRI	8-10 am	Food Shelf
26	SUN	10 am	Worship Service & RE



Nancy and Glenn Walker have done a terrific job in painting the bulletin board and organizing all the pictures of our Members and Friends. If you are not on the bulletin board either bring in a picture or David Taylor will take your picture so we can include you in our gallery.