



SEPTEMBER 2015

The First Universalist Society of Hartland

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

SEP 06 **Blessing of the Animals!**

Back by popular request! A multigenerational service celebrating all the wild and domestic animals that live among us. If you have an animal or animals in your life that would enjoy the social setting of a service with humans and other animals, bring them along for a hands-on blessing. Or feel free to bring a photo. *The collection will benefit the Lucy MacKenzie Humane Society.*

SEP 13 **Welcome & Water Ingathering!**

Join us as we come together in this intergenerational service of ingathering after a fine summer. Be sure to bring some water to share from any place that feeds your soul. It could be somewhere you visited, or it could be from your own back yard. Salt water, fresh water, and murky water are all welcome! And some fine Hartland Four Corners water will be available if you forget to bring your own. The water we collect will be filtered and boiled, and then used this year in child dedications and baptisms, and in any other services of blessing we decide to share. *The collection will benefit the Connecticut River Watershed Council.*

SEP 20 **Rev. Kalen Fristad on Universalism: Destined for Salvation**

Rev. Kalen Fristad is the Director of Destined for Salvation Ministries, through which he speaks to churches and other groups across the country about Universalism, planting seeds of hope and spreading the wonderful news of God's unconditional love and unlimited salvation. He is a United Methodist minister, who has served churches in Iowa for twenty-seven years. He will come with copies of his book *Destined for Salvation*. *The Collection will benefit Silent Warriors of the Upper Valley*

SEP 27 **Remember the Sabbath**

Reflections on intentional inaction, with some help from Wendell Berry and his decades long practice of Sabbath-keeping. *The collection will benefit the Hartford High School Laos Service Trip.*

LOVE IS THE DOCTRINE OF THIS CHURCH

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FROM YOUR MINISTER

PAUL S. SAWYER

SEPTEMBER 2015

A window just popped up on my computer, reminding me that I needed to restart my machine to allow for an “important” operating system update. I’d just finished a major project, so it seemed a good time to take a moment and heed the reminder before I got on to the rest of the day’s tasks.

A few seconds later I was rewarded with a new window that said “Updating, 10 minutes remaining.”

Ten minutes! It’s safe to say I was not prepared for that. I had things to do, important things that needed doing. I needed my computer now, not in ten minutes. I spent a little time and energy cursing the OS manufacturer for not warning me the task would take this long, and then some more time and energy beating myself up for not hitting restart before I headed out to a meeting earlier, or before I went to bed last night—so that those ten minutes would have been a time I was doing something else, not just waiting for the little update progress bar to advance ever so slowly to the end.

By the time it said “9 minutes remaining” I’d recovered a bit, and I’d been able to laugh at myself a bit, too. What has become of my life, or at least of this day, that ten minutes away from the computer seemed like something I needed to protest? Anyone who has ever been near my office knows that there’s plenty to do here that doesn’t require my computer. Heck, just putting some books back on the shelf would probably take me three times that long. But my mind was on this message that needed to be written, and a couple of e-mail messages I’m waiting to see, and several other tasks that need doing. And ten minutes not being able to do what I had planned to do—that just seemed like a long time.

It’s become so common as to be cliché—the religious or spiritual leader reminding people of the need for a time of Sabbath. We harken back to the ancient words of Genesis when God rested on the seventh day, and to the commandment many of us who grew up Jewish or Christian learned as a child to, “Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.” We refer to modern studies and self-help guides that lament our too-busy ways, and we call out to you, to everyone—“Slow down! Take a day off! Turn off your phone and your computer and everything for just a minute, and just sit, and just be.”

So I guess that I’m joining all of them—the religious and spiritual leaders who try somehow to pop up in your life from time to time and to remind you to stop it all for a moment—all the activity, all the busyness, all the worry—and to slow down and breathe. But I’m also doing so a little reluctantly. Because my own reaction to spiritual leaders like that is often, “Yeah, right, like that’s going to happen....” I have two children and an extended family with needs and concerns. I have a job that I love and that, left to its own devices, can take as much time as I can possibly give it. I have a house and a yard and cars and lawn tractors to maintain. And I have a stack of books waiting to be read, and e-mail and Facebook messages that need attention going back to the dawn of time. “Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.” Sure, right after I cross a few things off my to-do list, I’ll get right on that.

But I’m also back from a glorious couple of days in Maine, where some generous dear friends let us stay at their home and gave us the freedom just to spend some time communing with the ocean, which I have learned I simply have to do on a

WHAT HAS BECOME OF MY LIFE, OR AT LEAST OF THIS DAY, THAT TEN MINUTES AWAY FROM THE COMPUTER SEEMED LIKE SOMETHING I NEEDED TO PROTEST?



Annual tent service, June 2015

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FROM YOUR MINISTER

Continued from previous page

regular basis if I want to stay connected and whole and sane in my own life. And I didn't look at my e-mail for those couple of days, and I worried about that a bit. And I put off writing this message until the last minute, and I worried about that a bit. But mostly I was able just to be present, and to be connected to the earth, the sea, and to my family in a way that I struggle to find time for in the rest of my life. And I know, even with just that little time away, I am returning more able to live and work in a more effective, more efficient, more energized manner than I could before. So I am grateful to our friends, and to you, and to my family, and to the sea and the state of Maine, and to everyone and everything else that made it possible for me to sit in the ocean for a time, and to remember who I am, and why I believe I am here in the world.

I AM BEGINNING TO BELIEVE THAT DISCERNING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHAT IS TRULY IMPORTANT, AND WHAT IS SIMPLY PRESENTED TO US AS URGENT IS THE GREAT NEEDED SKILL OF LIFE IN OUR TIMES.

We live in urgent times. Notification screens on our phones and computers, voice mail messages, e-mail subject lines—even posters in the center of town—they scream at us to pay attention, and to show up here, there, and everywhere. Our calendars are full of events and meetings and Things We Need To Do.

And many of those things we need to do are important. And many of them (like coming to church!) we know will bring us more connection and energy for all the rest of our lives. And showing up, as they say, is more than half the battle.

But not everything that demands our attention really is important. And on occasion, even important things may have to wait a few minutes before we can get to them. Especially if we are able to take those few minutes just to stop, and to check in with ourselves, and to remember who we are.

I am beginning to believe that discerning the difference between what is truly important, and what is simply presented to us as urgent is the great needed skill of life in our times. We schedule our leisure time and our children's activities as if they're work, and we do things like use electronic devices to count our steps, so taking a walk becomes something we measure, something we can prove to other people is an accomplishment, and not just something we like to do, not just a moment to remember and to reconnect with why any of our activities matter in the first place.

I don't know what kind of Sabbath you need in your life right now. I don't know what kind of sacred inactivity will touch your soul. And I know you're busy. We all are. I know, for many of you, you're dealing with things no person should ever have to deal with at all. And I don't know how to change that fact. I don't even know how to change that fact in my own life, let alone in yours. But I do know that I am better at all of it—all of life—when I can take even a few minutes from time to time just to be, without expectation, without goals, without descending into the anxiety of everything I'm not getting done. I do know that even ten minutes of unexpected Sabbath in the middle of a busy day is a gift, worthy of my attention, worthy of my time, for which I can be truly grateful. I know I need that time, regularly, to help me remember who I am.

CONNECTIONS CIRCLE

We are exploring new ideas as to how we can achieve more "connections" within FUSH and within the community. We would love to have anyone interested join us. The present members of our circle are: Patti Eckels, Joan Fariel, Debra Hart, Judy Howland, Bineke Oort, Sue & Dave Taylor, and Nancy Walker. **Our next meeting will be at 3:30 on Friday, Sept. 25 at 3:30 in the Parsonage. Everyone is welcome!**

COFFEE HOUR: We didn't have a formal coffee hour during the summer but we hear that many different people pitched in - especially our minister. Thank you to Bineke Oort and Joan Fariel who organized the coffee hour for the joint service. We will begin the formal coffee hour on Sun. Sept. 20 but it would be great if two people volunteered to be in charge on Sept. 13 since that's the traditional beginning of the Fall. There will be sign up sheets so everyone can volunteer to work on one coffee hour the first half 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. Thank you!!! 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.

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.

SEPTEMBER OFFERING RECIPIENTS:

SEP 06 **Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society**

Founded in 1915, the Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society in Brownsville, VT is one of the oldest Humane Societies in the United States. Following their motto of "improving the lives of people and pets" Lucy Mac offers shelter, adoption, and training programs for pets and the people who love them. As a no-kill shelter, Lucy Mac often cares for animals for months before they are available to be adopted. More information is available at www.lucymac.org.

SEP 13 **The Connecticut River Watershed Council**

It's hard to imagine a more important resource and landmark in our communities than the great Connecticut River. Founded in 1952, the CRWC works to protect the river watershed "from source to sea". From their headquarters in Greenfield, MA, and through field offices in various regions of the river, including the Upper Valley, the CRWC both advocates for the protection of the river and its surrounding watershed and works directly to keep the river clean, safe, and available as a resource to all. Please join in this special collection for our annual Water Ingathering service. More information is available at www.ctriver.org.

SEP 20 **Upper Valley Silent Warriors**

Silent Warriors is a local organization working to offer practical assistance to those who are homeless in our region. They offer food support, warm clothing, sleeping bags, bicycles and other transportation support, personal hygiene items and any other needed supplies, and they also are working to build a network of support in our region for this very significant area of concern. Started just a few years ago by Enfield resident Bev McKinley, Silent Warriors has grown to be an important, growing, and needed resource for those struggling in our midst. You can learn more at silentwarriorsnhvt.org.

SEP 27 **Hartford High School Laos Service Trip**

In February 2016, four young people from our church youth group and Hartford High School will be traveling to Vang Vieng, Laos to spend ten days learning and working on service projects with the residents of the community. They will be helping school children with their English language skills, helping with building projects, and working on a local organic farm. They'll also spend some time being introduced to the culture of Laos through visits to temples and other sites important to the community. This is a wonderful opportunity for the youth of our community to learn about themselves and how to interact, and to be of service, in a culture very different from their own. Students are responsible for raising the funds to attend, and so our collection will be an important contribution to support the Hartland youth who will be taking the trip: Belle Leister, Lyndsie Rice, Brandon Dole, and Parker Strawbridge. You can speak with any of them or their families for more information, or with Paul.

FUSH PLEDGE COMMITTEE

The FUSH Pledge Committee has been formed, with Dianne Rochford, Mindi Laine and Ellen Sauer as volunteers. This year, the goal is to get the annual pledge letter out to everyone in September to better accommodate the needs of our Finance Committee. If anyone has any suggestions or questions, please feel free to contact Dianne, Mindi or Ellen.

YOUTH GROUP NOTES

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.

Events for both youth groups will begin later this month, and we'll send along a detailed schedule for the year to all youth soon. If you are a youth in our community, or if you know someone who you think would like to be involved, make sure we've got your information so we can keep you in the loop!

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!

Save the Dates: This year's mission trip will take place July 24–30, 2016!



The crew on the 2015 Mission Trip

ADULT CHOIR

The Adult Choir will rehearse at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 13th, and Sunday, September 20th, to sing in the service on the 20th.

FOLK CHOIR

The all-ages Folk Choir looks forward to rehearsing and performing more work this fall. Please contact Dave Morin or Heather Findlay for more information.

If you have photos of people or places in our church community, please send them to saradmorin@gmail.com for possible inclusion in the newsletter.

PARTY: YOU'RE INVITED!

END OF SUMMER FLING

- WHEN:** Saturday, October 3 from 5:30 pm on
- WHERE:** Dave & Sue Taylor's home at 158 Freeman Rd. Plainfield, New Hampshire
- WHAT:** Pot luck supper and activities for the children
Bring an appetizer, drink, salad, main dish, or dessert to share.
- WHO:** Everyone connected to FUSH is welcome & it will be a chance to catch up with old friends
- GIVEN BY:** The connection circle (Patti Eckels, Joan Fariel, Debra Hart, Judy Howland, Bineke Oort, Dave & Sue Taylor, & Nancy Walker)
- QUESTIONS:** (603) 675-6566 or dstaylor342@gmail.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NOTES

Fellow FUSH members and friends,

As many of you are aware, Sara Doolan stepped down as our director of Religious Education at the end of the spring. We have yet to find someone willing and able to fill this important position within our community. In the meantime, I have stepped forward to plan a curriculum for the fall, so that we can—as a community—continue to share our UU principles by engaging the hearts and minds of the children of our congregation.

Planning a curriculum is only one of the tasks that needs to be undertaken to move our RE program forward, and I need to ask your assistance in bridging this extended transition. First and foremost, **we need people to volunteer to lead and assist with the children's programs in the yurt.** The programs will be planned out ahead of time, it generally takes less than an hour, and we have a very intelligent, insightful, and engaging group of children to work with. Sometimes, working with the kids might even be more interesting than Paul's sermon. (Don't tell Paul I said that). If that sounds impossible, volunteer for a Sunday and find out.

I also need two to three people who would assist me in supporting and promoting the RE program within the congregation, primarily helping me recruit volunteers to work with the kids in the yurt.

If you have **suggestions for Guest Artist leaders** from across our larger Upper Valley community, please let me know. "Artist" in this sense is very broadly defined. In the past, it has included naturalists, gardeners, musicians, photographers, and writers; the kids have practiced martial arts, meditated, participated in drumming circles, and gone for nature hikes. It is an opportunity to share a source of solace, joy, and inspiration with the kids. If you know someone we should ask to be a guest artist, please let me know.

Similarly, **if there is a story, or a piece of history, or a particular seasonal celebration that you would like to share with the kids,** call me and let me know your ideas. I'm new to curriculum planning and if you are willing to spend the time in the yurt, I'd be interested in hearing your idea.

Finally, **if you know someone in our area who would be willing to take on the Director of Religious Education position on a permanent basis, please connect them with Paul.** I am happy to do this work on a temporary basis to ensure that the good work our previous DREs have put into creating a vibrant program does not fall apart. But working with children is neither my calling nor my gift. There is someone in our larger community who will be better at this task than I am. Let's work hard to find them.

Thank you for reading, and please let me know if you can help.

Laura Bergstresser
(802) 436-6660
dre@hartlanduu.org

WORK PARTY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3RD

A work party will get together on October 3rd to lay back down the side walk with pavers on the front lawn and lay a brick pad for the dumpster. If you would like to help, please contact Jill Lloyd.

**DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER
NEWSLETTER CONTENT:
SEPTEMBER 18**

DAY OF PEACE



Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.

In our community, we will celebrate with a walk. Please stay tuned for details or see Michael Denmeade for more information.

**PARTNERSHIPS
— FOR PEACE —
DIGNITY FOR ALL**

 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE
21 SEPTEMBER 2015
www.un.org/peaceday | #peaceday

FUND RAISING NEWS & EVENTS



Be a guest at your own party

THE RED APRONS

The Red Aprons Event Service is happy to notify you that **we have raised over \$5100** for the Church during the past year. We have several more events coming up through the end of September including programs for other congregations, reunions, house parties and receptions.

Red Aprons provides support for all kinds of gatherings. Our services include:

Event Planning | Kitchen and food management | Buffet and serving | Clean up

The program is not only a fund raiser for the Church but also a great way to promote it to the wider Upper Valley community. **If you are planning an event, please see our web page at www.hartlanduu.com/redaprons or call us at (802) 738-0255.**

If you would like to participate in this work, please contact Joan Fariel or Chuck Fenton at (802) 738-0255. **We always need more volunteers. And for those who have volunteered, a BIG THANK YOU!**

COOKIE SALES

Thank you to all the bakers who made cookies this summer for the Windsor Farmers Market, Bineke Oort, Colleen Spence, Heather Findlay, Nancy Walker, Nancy Foote, Sue Botzow, Jill Crowley, Elaine Hart, Phyllis Tucker, Sue Taylor, Katie Sawyer, and Joan Fariel. **We took in \$210** and have two more weeks to go. Aug 29th will be our last farmers market sale date.

QUILT RAFFLE

Civil War Chronicles, a beautiful king sized quilt donated by Elaine (both pictured here) is to be raffled off at the end of October. The quilt blocks tell the stories of 12 women who encountered their own struggles on the home front while their husbands were away at war. Please see Nada Pierce (802) 738-0102 for tickets to buy or sell. Friends, family, co-workers all make great buyers. Tickets are \$5 for a single ticket, \$20 for 5 tickets.



WHOOPIE PIES

We will again have a booth at the Windsor Autumn Moon Festival on Friday, October 9, selling custom-made whoopie pies, root beer floats, coffee and hot cocoa. We'll be looking for people to help make whoopie pie cakes, and a few people to help at the booth. If you're able and interested, please be in touch with Sara Morin or Katy Sawyer.



PRINTS

We have available for sale a beautiful print of a painting by artist Bertil (Rick) Whyman of Hartland Four Corners, which includes our picturesque church. Prints are frame-ready and make good gifts. A print cost \$20 and can be purchased after any church service. See Sara Morin for more information.



SILENT AUCTION & TURKEY SUPPERS

It's that time of year again. As we head into fall, please remember to set aside gently loved items, heirlooms, treasures and fun items for our annual silent auction. This is a great fund raiser and people look forward to it each year. Look for info in the next newsletter about where and when to bring in your items. Thank you to Nada for again championing this terrific event!

Thinking ahead to October, please keep in mind the dates of October 10, 17 & 24. These are the dates we'll hold our Turkey Suppers and Silent Auction this year and we'll be looking for people to help work and people to help eat and bid. Please keep an eye out for the sign up sheet online and at church events.

SEPTEMBER 2015 CALENDAR

4	FRI	8-10 am	Food Shelf
6	SUN	10 am	Worship Service (multi-generational)
11	FRI	8-10 am	Food Shelf
13	SUN	9 am 10 am after service	Adult Choir rehearsal Worship Service & RE (multi-generational) SoUUPER Sunday SoUUP Sale
14	MON	7 pm	Governing Board Meeting
18	FRI	8-10 am	Food Shelf
20	SUN	9 am 10 am	Adult Choir rehearsal Worship Service & RE
21	MON	all day	International Day of Peace
25	FRI	8-10 am 3:30 pm	Food Shelf Connections Circle meeting
27	SUN	10 am	Worship Service & RE

HELP NEEDED

On October 3rd, the Governing Board of the church will hold an all-day session to work on needed updates to our bylaws and other church documentation. We are looking for a few people who would be willing to provide a simple lunch for them. If you are willing to help with this effort, please contact Sara Morin (saradmorin@gmail) who will be coordinating the food that day.

Thank you!

WE ARE A
WELCOMING
CONGREGATION

DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER NEWSLETTER CONTENT: SEPTEMBER 18



UU SUMMER ADVENTURES (top left) The Red Aprons work some great events, including this pig roast! (top right) The Mission Trip crew takes a deserved break at the beach. (bottom row) FUSH members Jo Knowles, Todd Lloyd and Debbie Hart were the 3 adults sharing the Mission Trip experience this year with 20 youth and 3 youth leaders.

