

OCTOBER 2015

### The First Universalist Society of Hartland

## **UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST**

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

#### **SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE**

OCT 04 Reverence for the Natural World—Autumn Reflections
Welcome October with reflections on the beauty of autumn in our region and an introduction to this month's theme of "Reverence." The collection will benefit Naturally Curious.

OCT 11 Michael Denmeade: Indigenous Peoples' Day
This lay-led service will celebrate our local native American culture. The collection will benefit the Winter Center for Indigenous Traditions.

OCT 18 Reverence—Everything is Holy Now

An exploration of what is worthy of our gratitude and our reverence in special occasions, sacred places, and everyday life. The title is taken from a song by singer-songwriter Peter Mayer, which Paul will share during the service. The collection will benefit the Reading-West Windsor Food Shelf.

OCT 25 Reverence for Each Other

The Unitarian Universalist first principle states that we affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Two hundred years before those words were included in the by-laws of the Unitarian Universalist Association, our Universalist ancestors declared that God's love included all people, regardless of their beliefs or actions or anything else. During this service, we will reflect on the depth of our reverence for all people in light of the Syrian refugee crisis, and the Black Lives Matter movement. The collection will benefit the Association for Africans Living in Vermont.

Members of our community enjoying a 2014 Turkey Supper. 2015 dates: October 10, 17 & 24



### LOVE IS THE DOCTRINE OF THIS CHURCH

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### FROM YOUR MINISTER

PAUL S. SAWYER

OCTOBER 2015

"A Scout is Reverent."

I'm pretty sure that when I was 11 and first learned that line in the Boy Scout Law, the twelfth of twelve qualities every Scout promises to embody, it was the first time I had ever heard the word, "reverent" or any description of what it might mean. And so as I think about this month's Engaging the Spirit theme for worship, "reverence," perhaps it is not surprising that what comes to mind for me right away is another moment from my Boy Scout experience, one that happened several years later, when I first felt the depth of what reverence could mean, deep in my soul.

I was 16 years old, and I had joined with some friends from another troop to travel to the Maine High Adventure Scout Base on Grand Lake Matagamon in the Great North Woods of Maine. We spent a week there, paddling down the East Branch of the Penobscot River.

Frankly, when I remember that trip I experience many mixed emotions. As a canoe trip leader myself many years later, I came to realize that there were a lot of problems with how we were taught and led on that particular experience. But that's another story. I have no ambivalence about the awakening of reverence I experienced one beautiful night in the middle of that trip.

I HAVE NO AMBIVALENCE ABOUT THE AWAKENING OF REVERENCE I EXPERIENCED ONE BEAUTIFUL NIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THAT TRIP.

We were camped after a long day of paddling which included not just the regular hard work of wilderness travel, but also some bad weather and some unexpected swimming in rapids, when at least half our boats were swamped about midway through the day. The weather cleared, though, by the time we stopped for a night, in a beautiful spot right along-side the twenty-foot waterfall we were working to portage around.

With the rain long gone, a couple of us got permission to sleep out under the stars that night, and so we set up our sleeping bags in a small clearing right above the falls. I can't even come close to putting my experience of that night into words, but I'm guessing that many of you can imagine what it was like—lying there, far from any light pollution so that the stars and shooting stars and the Milky Way shone so brightly, lying there, with the waterfall singing its journey down the rocks so beautifully, lying there after a hard day on the river, and thankful for the warmth of my sleeping bag, and the comfort of nearby friends. That night I almost couldn't go to sleep, I was so full of awe and appreciation and joy.

I know that I will never forget that moment, though life has been kind enough to let me experience so many more such moments in the years that have followed. That particular night was so special. It was a moment of awakening. Looking back, I know that evening was the moment in my life when I began to understand what reverence really is.

THE MOST IMPORTANT
THING I'VE LEARNED ABOUT
REVERENCE IS THAT IT ISN'T
JUST ABOUT BEAUTIFUL
PLACES, OR STARS SO
BRIGHT THEY THREATEN TO
KEEP YOU AWAKE

I've learned a lot about reverence in the time that has passed since that night. I even spent several years working hard to be able to add "The Reverend" to the beginning of my name. And though I continue to remember and to mark that night in Maine as a touchstone of my understanding of, and sense of, reverence, the most important thing I've learned about reverence is that it isn't just about beautiful

### FROM YOUR MINISTER

Continued from previous page

places, or stars so bright they threaten to keep you awake, or special moments of any kind.

That night in the Maine woods I had to be shocked into reverence—because I hadn't really noticed the beauty and power of the natural world before. And so the natural world had to work extra hard and shine especially brightly in that moment to wake me up, and to pound the idea of reverence into my un-reverent mind.

These days, though, I'm more lucky. I've learned to see the beauty and power of the natural world, and of the human world, everywhere I go. I know now—a mushroom rising overnight in my back yard is as beautiful as a shooting star on a dark wilderness night. Certain moments in church when we are singing all together sound in my soul as deeply as a raging waterfall singing beside me all night

CERTAIN MOMENTS IN CHURCH WHEN WE ARE SINGING ALL TOGETHER SOUND IN MY SOUL AS DEEPLY AS A RAGING WATERFALL SINGING BESIDE ME ALL NIGHT LONG.

long. And I could go on and on, and you could too. We are surrounded by holiness, and we know, when we remember to see, that our whole beings can be filled with reverence, if we simply work to stay awake, and to notice the beauty and power that is everywhere and always all around.

When I was 11, and was asked in a badge review meeting whether I was "reverent" in accordance with the Scout Law, I answered that I went to church regularly, and listened to the minister, and said my prayers. I thought that was all that "reverent" meant in those days, and it wasn't a bad start, all in all. I had a great church community with a caring, wise minister, that held me and loved me, and helped me be, more than I can know, the person I've become. But just going to church and saying prayers isn't what reverence really is at heart. I began to learn that on that magical night along the Penobscot River. And I continue to learn that in all the magic shining all around me, every day.

I know, I am surrounded by beauty in every moment, and everywhere. It shines like a sky full of stars in the natural world. It sings like a waterfall in you. And all I can do is bow my head, in reverence, and say "thank you," and "amen."

# CONNECTIONS CIRCLE

COFFEE HOUR: Please consider signing up to be in charge of a coffee hour. You can sign up as a family, as a team of friends, as a circle, etc. Coffee hours help to build a sense of community and encourage the inclusion of new members by continued conversation and fellowship. Sign up sheets are in the fellowship hall. We will send directions to the team in charge the week before and 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.

#### NEWS FROM THE HARTFORD DISMAS HOUSE

Hartford Dismas House, a transitional home reconciling prisoners and society, needs volunteers for both occasional/ substitute cooks and regular monthly slots throughout the year.



You may prepare dinner at home or at Dismas House (we have an outdoor grill available for the warmer months), then join residents for the meal, which is served at 6 pm. You'll generally be cooking for 8-12 residents and staff. Cooks may be individuals, friends, families or members of organizations. (One to three volunteers per meal isideal.)

For more information, please contact Dismas at debbie@dismasofvermont.org or 802-698-8661. Thank you.

Hartford Dismas is very grateful for the support of the Upper Valley community! Without you, our work wouldn't be possible.

### 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.

#### **OCTOBER OFFERING RECIPIENTS:**

### OCT 04 Naturally Curious

Naturally Curious is an on-line (and in-person, too!) resource for natural history information, created by Hartland's own Mary Holland. Mary is a gifted naturalist, a skilled writer, and a dedicated natural history photographer. Her daily updates are filled with beautiful photos, and detailed information and inspiration, so that even many life-long naturalists find they learn something new with every one. You can find Naturally Curious on Facebook, or visit the site directly at naturallycuriouswithmaryholland.wordpress.com.

### **OCT 11** The Winter Center for Indigenous Traditions

Based in Hanover, the Winter Center for Indigenous Traditions is a Native-coordinated, service non-profit that focuses on issues of Indigenous people and culture in the northeast. Through a variety of events and programs, the Winter Center helps Native communities and families in health crises and many other aspects of Native community survival. They also work to preserve Abenaki burial grounds, sacred places, and ancient sites, and to repatriate Abenaki ancestral remains, grave goods, sacred items, and artifacts that have been disturbed in the Abenaki homelands including Vermont, New Hampshire, northern Massachusetts, western Maine, and southern Quebec. This organization was nominated for our support by church member Michael Denmeade, and you can contact Michael for more information.

#### OCT 18 Reading-West Windsor Food Shelf

Situated in the old stone school in South Reading, the Reading-West Windsor Food shelf is a non-profit, all-volunteer organization whose primary mission is to provide nutritious, high-quality food to anyone who needs food assistance in Reading, West Windsor and adjacent communities. RWWFS has served more than 80 families in the past year. With several of our members living in the area served by RWWFS, we're honored to be able to support their work in our region. More information is available at rwwfoodshelf.org.

#### OCT 25 The Association for Africans Living in Vermont

AALV is a small non-profit organization that works with refugees and other recent immigrants in Vermont. Begun specifically to assist immigrants from African countries, in 2009 they expanded their work, and their mission now is to help new Americans from all parts of the world gain independence in Vermont communities. They offer a range of integration services, including bridging case management, workforce development, behavioral health awareness, and interpreter services programming, all designed to help people transition as smoothly as possible to our region, and to support refugee and immigrant families in their new homes. More information is available at aalv-vt.org.

# 7TH PRINCIPLE: RESPECT FOR THE INTERDEPENDENT WEB OF ALL EXISTENCE OF WHICH WE ARE A PART

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

### **FUSH BUDGET PROCESS**

Submitted by Dan Poor, Treasurer

In previous years, the Board has presented a budget to the congregation at the semi-annual meeting in December – about the same time that the pledge letters go out. If this sounds a bit odd – after all we are proposing expenditures without much of an idea of what our income will look like – you're right. Last year, the board presented multiple budgets each based on a different pledge total – only one of which would allow us to give raises to our staff. This is not a great way to run a business.

In budgeting remarks to the congregation last year, I mentioned that no amount is too small. I added that historically, we have had pledges from 2-digits to 4-digits, but to that point we had not had any in the 5-digit range. We got one of that size within a month. Another one or two would be very nice indeed.

Perhaps if I mentioned the acceptability of a pledge in the 6-figure range, do you think one would appear? Probably not. A

donation that size likely would be in a legacy gift rather than an annual pledge. Absent specific instructions to the contrary from the donor, any legacy gift would be added to one of our endowment funds, potentially increasing the regular contribution to our operating expenses from the endowment and reducing the need for us to invade the principal of those funds for operating expenses.

But the real variables in the budgeting process are other fund raising activities. The suppers (turkey and ham and bean), rummage sale, chocolate auction, and silent auction are fairly predictable, SoUUper Second Sundays seem to have become a reliable and fairly predictable source.

WE RELY ON THE PLANNED, COMMITTED, PLEDGED SUPPORT OF OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS TO SUPPORT THE NEEDS OF OUR CHURCH.

Others efforts may need a longer track record to let us know to what extent we can count on them. Last year the concert series was a real plus; I don't know if there are more concerts planned. Now it is the Red Aprons who are carrying a major share of the load.

The Red Aprons have generated significant income with little to no offsetting direct expense. But like so many other fund raisers, there is a huge offsetting drain of energy. If we are to continue to get the revenue we so desperately need to supplement our pledges from this source, we need some more people volunteering to work as a Red Apron. (I should add that Rickey and I used the services of the Red Aprons at a family gathering at our house before my brother's memorial service in August; their work was outstanding! We really could be a guest at our own party. And then Rickey and I worked a three-hour stint as Red Aprons for a last-minute gathering in Cornish over Labor Day weekend. It was tiring but a lot of fun. Give it a try.)

### **FUSH PLEDGE COMMITTEE**

Submitted by Mindi Lane, Dianne Rochford, and Ellen Sauer

By now you have received your 2016 pledge letter. Please...Carefully consider what our church means to you, to Hartland, and to the greater Community.

### **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 NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER CONTENT: OCTOBER 18

### YOUTH GROUP NOTES

#### YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE SEP - DEC

All events are on Sundays unless otherwise noted\*\*

SEP 27 First Youth Group Meetings at the UCC Church
Jr. 5:00–6:15 pm • Sr. 6:30–8:00 pm
Senior youth please bring your \$20 pizza donation
for the fall.

OCT 4 All youth trip to Six Flags New England!
After church until about 8:00 pm
Commitment and payment (\$35) due to Lucia by Sep 27.

OCT 18 Youth Group Meetings at the UCC Church
Jr. 5:00–6:15 pm • Sr. 6:30–8:00 pm

OCT 25 Mission Trip Fundraiser Brunch at the UCC Church 9:00 am-1:00 pm

NOV 1 Junior Youth at the UU Church 5:00–6:00 pm

NOV 1 Mission Trip slide-show, and introductory information session at the UU Church 6:00 pm
For all 8th graders, senior youth, parents, and anyone else who is interested!

NOV 1 Senior Youth at the UCC Church 6:30–8:00 pm

NOV 13 Junior Youth Game Night at the UCC Church
\*\*Friday\*\* 7:00-9:00 pm
Sardines and Sundaes!

NOV 15 Youth Group Meetings at the UCC Church Jr. 5:00-6:15 pm • Sr. 6:30-8:00 pm

NOV 20 Theater Night!

\*\*Friday\*\* Leaving from UCC church at 6:00 pm
All Youth invited. Sharon Academy play: Spamalot,
Randolph, VT. Cost \$7 for youth, \$12 for adults.
Contact Lucia to buy tickets. Adult drivers needed!

NOV 22 Mission Trip Fundraiser Brunch at the UU Church 9:00 am-1:00 pm (joint Thanksgiving service 10-11:15 am)

DEC 4 Dartmouth Women's Basketball Game
(vs. Boston University)

\*\*Friday\*\* Leaving from UCC church at 6:00 pm.
Register and pay Lucia by Nov 23, cost to be
determined. Some adult drivers needed!

DEC 13 Youth Group Meetings at the UCC Church
Jr. 5:00-6:15 pm • Sr. 6:30-8:00 pm
Christmas Project work, followed by holiday
parties with Yankee Swap!







Throwback: Youth group members at the 2014 trip to Six Flags

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!

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

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NOTES**

Hello FUSH members and friends,

### THE RE PROGRAM NEEDS YOUR HELP!

There are several ways you can assist us...

First, the fall RE schedule is now planned out. It includes a fun and hopefully educational mix of guest artists, service projects, child-led services, and Spirit Plays. **We still need yurt assistants for many Sundays.** If you are willing and able to help out, please contact me at dre@hartlanduu.org.

Next, the RE circle is currently only three members strong. We'd love to have **more people participating** in this important facet of FUSH life. Circle members generally assist in planning and advising the RE director, and will be vital in assisting our new RE director (when we find one) in their transition into this important role. If you are interested, please contact Paul or me.

Finally, we are still looking for **candidates to fill our RE director position** on a permanent basis. If you know anyone who might be a good candidate, please let Paul or me know.

Thanks for your help,

Laura Bergstresser, interim RE Director (802) 436-6660 dre@hartlanduu.org



Photos from the second annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists from all over the Upper Valley, including our congregation, the congregations of North Universalist Chapel Society in Woodstock, The Universalist Society of Strafford, and, of course, the members of the First Universalist Church and Society of Barnard, VT, who served as the host of the gathering. After the service, we gathered for fellowship at Silver Lake State Park.





Above: Rev. Telos Whitfield, from Strafford; Rev. Wendy Pantoja, from Woodstock, and Rev. Paul Sawyer, from Hartland.



### 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

### **ADULT CHOIR**

The Adult Choir will rehearse at 9:00 am on Sunday the 11th & Sunday the 18th to sing in the service on the 18th.

### **FOLK CHOIR**

We will be performing during the service on November 8. Please watch the weekly email for updates on practice times.

### **LADIES AID BUILDING**

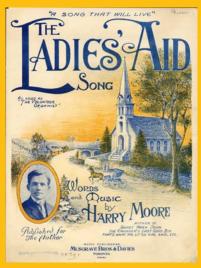
Several dedicated members of the congregation have invested time over the

summer months exploring opportunities for the use/reuse of the Ladies Aid Building. A special thank you to all who have worked on this project.

Now that it is early autumn, it is time to regather to discuss the findings and look ahead to explore the opportunities and possibilities.

The group will next meet on Sunday Oct. 4 at 11:30 PM (after Church) to review the summer work and set up next steps. Any and all members are invited and encouraged to participate.

Chuck Fenton & Doug Hart



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.

# 4TH PRINCIPLE: A FREE AND RESPONSIBLE SEARCH FOR TRUTH AND MEANING

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

### **FUND RAISING NEWS & EVENTS**

### SILENT AUCTION & TURKEY SUPPERS: OCTOBER 10, 17 & 24

We need people to help staff this year's Turkey Suppers and Silent Auction. We are looking for people to help work and people to help eat and bid. There are many different jobs available for all ages and abilities. Please look over the sign up sheet and email sara.d.morin@dartmouth.edu with any questions.

#### TO SIGN UP, GO TO: BIT.LY/1WRJIPU

To donate items to the silent auction, please bring in gently loved items, heirlooms, treasures and fun gadgets. This is a great fund-raiser and people look forward to it each year. Thank you to Nada for again championing this terrific event!



Stove with pots boiling, steam rising and 30-dozen homemade rolls waiting for one of the 2014 Turkey supper's rush of eaters.

# 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 or sign up online: bit.ly/1WrluB7

Even if you can't help beforehand, be sure to come by our booth & get a whoopie pie!

### 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.

## THE RED APRONS The Red Aprons Event Service is

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.



Be a guest at your own party

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!** 

## OCTOBER 2015 CALENDAR

		•	Governing Board Retreat End of Summer Fling
4	SUN	10 am after service 11:30 am	Worship Service & RE Youth Trip to Six Flags New England Ladies' Aid Study Group Meeting
9	FRI	8-10 am	Food Shelf

**Food Shelf** 

**Landscaping Work Party** 

DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER CONTENT: OCTOBER 18



**CONGREGATION** 

7	FKI	5-70 am 5-7 pm evening	Turkey Supper Preparations WhUUpie Pie Booth—Windsor Moonfest
10	SAT	4:30-6 pm	<b>Turkey Supper &amp; Silent Auction</b>
11	SUN	10 am after service	Worship Service & RE SoUUper Sunday SoUUp Sale
12	MON	7 pm	Governing Board Meeting
16	FRI	8-10 am 5-7 pm	Food Shelf Turkey Supper Preparations
17	SAT	4:30-6 pm	<b>Turkey Supper &amp; Silent Auction</b>
18	SUN	•	Worship Service & RE Junior Youth Group at the UCC Church Senior Youth Group at the UCC Church

23 FRI 8-10 am Food Shelf 5-7 pm Turkey Supper Preparations

24 SAT 4:30-6 pm Turkey Supper & Silent Auction

18 SUN 10 am Worship Service & RE

after service Brunch at the UCC Church to benefit the

Youth Mission Trip

#### PHOTOS FROM THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS, SEPTEMBER 2015

FRI

SAT

8-10 am

morning



















