



NOVEMBER 2015

The First Universalist Society of Hartland

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

NOV 01 **All Souls, Samhain and Remembrance of Those Who Have Gone**

On Samhain, the ancients say, the veil between the worlds is at its thinnest, and spirits can pass from one to the next. Join us for an Earth-Centered celebration of remembrance, as we note the passing of the world into winter, and honor those who have died but who still guide and hold us in our lives. You're invited to bring a photo or a small object as a memento of a loved one who has died. *The collection will benefit the Hartland Food Shelf.* Please remember that Daylight Savings time ends this morning—turn your clocks back Saturday night—Fall Back!

NOV 08 **Patty's Choice—Celebrating Patty Talbot's 40 Years of Service to our Church**

Patty Talbot became the music director of our congregation in August of 1975. Since then, Patty's dedication, skill, and care in leading our music program have strengthened our community in so many ways. Through good times and bad, through the tenure of (at least) nine ministers, Patty has been a rock of dependability and spirit. Paul is working with Patty to plan this service, which will include some of Patty's favorite music (of course) and her reflections, as well as words from Paul. *The collection will support an organization chosen by Patty Talbot: Upper Valley Humane Society.* We'll also enjoy an all-congregation fall clean-up after the service!

NOV 15 **Our Children Face An Unknown World**

Warmer temperatures are causing changes around the world, such as melting glaciers and stronger storms. The Earth's climate has changed before, but this time is different. People are causing these changes, which are bigger and happening faster than any climate changes that modern society has ever seen before. In this service younger members of our Congregation will speak about their reflections and fears on climate change and the world we are leaving for them. *The collection will benefit the Reading-West Windsor Food Shelf.*

NOV 22 **Giving Thanks—Annual Thanksgiving Service with the First Congregational Church of Hartland (at our church)**

Join us for our annual joint Thanksgiving service with our neighbors from the First Congregational Church of Hartland (the Brick Church). Paul will co-lead the service with the Rev. Lucia Jackson. The youth group will be offering a pancake brunch after the service to raise funds for this summer's mission trip. *The collection will support the Hartland Christmas Project—and please bring canned goods and/or some hearty fall vegetables to help a "harvest table" of donations for our food shelf and the Hartland Christmas Project!*

NOV 29 **Worship Team Service**

The collection will benefit support an organization chosen by the worship leaders.

LOVE IS THE DOCTRINE OF THIS CHURCH

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FROM YOUR MINISTER

PAUL S. SAWYER

NOVEMBER 2015

I am grateful for so much in this season of reflection and gratitude.

I am grateful for the old paths opening up in the woods, rising up from the underbrush, calling me to walk out into the trees and to see and hear the Spirit of Life all around me.

I am grateful for my wonderful family and the friends we have made here in our community.

I am grateful for orderly stacks of wood waiting to keep us warm all winter.

I am grateful for the snow boots and snowshoes and skates and sleds and skis waiting for winter fun.

I am grateful for cheering fans at championship soccer tournaments, and track meets, and football games, and for young people I have grown to love pushing themselves to be the best they can be—in sports, in school, in youth group, in our church community, in life.

I am grateful for those of you who serve as leaders in our congregation—lay leaders and staff leaders, offering your dedication and your time and your skill to keep our faith vibrant and alive.

In particular, I am so grateful for our beloved music director Patty Talbot, and her 40 years of music ministry in our congregation, and for the 10 years (with more to come!) that she has been my dedicated and skillful partner in our shared ministry.

And I am grateful for all of you—for our congregation, this hopeful and devoted gathering of faith and possibility and love.

I am grateful for all you do, for all you are; for your support and your challenges; for your integrity, your engaging minds, your deep spirits, and your deep care for one another.

I am grateful that we are walking this path of faith and life together, doing what we can to build the beloved community in our midst, and to share what we can with our waiting, needing world.

Thank you, one and all.

Happy November! Happy Thanksgiving!

In Faith and Love,

Paul

**AND I AM GRATEFUL FOR
ALL OF YOU—FOR OUR
CONGREGATION, THIS
HOPEFUL AND DEVOTED
GATHERING OF FAITH AND
POSSIBILITY AND LOVE.**

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*Members of our community
enjoying a 2015 Turkey Supper.*



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.

NOVEMBER OFFERING RECIPIENTS:

NOV 01 **The Hartland Food Shelf**

The Hartland Food Shelf is a joint project of our congregation and the First Congregational Church of Hartland. It provides basic food supplies, including fresh produce, milk, and meat as well as non-perishable items for people in need through donations from community members and through the Willing Hands project of the Hanover Food Co-Op. The Food Shelf is open 8-10 am on Friday mornings, and can be accessed at other times by appointment. For more information contact Carol Perry.

NOV 08 **Upper Valley Humane Society**

The mission of the Upper Valley Humane Society is "to compassionately connect people and pets." Since 1959, UVHS has worked to promote the humane treatment of animals in our region through adoption services, care and management of stray pets, and cruelty-prevention programs. More information is available at their website at <http://www.uvhs.org>. This organization was chosen for our support by Patty Talbot, whose 40 years as our music director we are honoring at this service.

NOV 15 **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.

NOV 22 **The Hartland Christmas Project**

The Hartland Christmas Project is a year-round, combined effort among the three churches in town, the schools, and the town of Hartland. Throughout the year, the Christmas Project provides financial and material support for Hartland residents in need. In the holiday season, the Christmas Project works with families and individuals to ensure that all members of our community have gifts and food with which to celebrate the holiday. For more information, contact Jill Lloyd, Beth Rice, or Paul Sawyer.

NOV 29 **TBA**

The Service this week will be led by our lay worship team. The collection will benefit an organization chosen by the worship leaders.

6TH PRINCIPLE: THE GOAL OF WORLD COMMUNITY WITH PEACE, LIBERTY, AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

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.

YOUTH GROUP NOTES

YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE NOV - EARLY JAN

All events are on Sundays unless otherwise noted**

- 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 UU 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 UU 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: Spamalat, 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!
- JAN 6** Parent Meeting for High School Our Whole Lives (OWL) at the UCC Church
Wednesday 7:00–9:00 pm
- JAN 10** Parent Meeting for High School Our Whole Lives (OWL) at the UCC Church
Noon–2:00 pm
- JAN 10** Youth Group Meetings at the UU Church
Jr. 5:00–6:15 pm • Sr. 6:30–8:00 pm

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!

HIGH SCHOOL OUR WHOLE LIVES (OWL) BEGINNING IN JANUARY

Our Whole Lives helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. With a holistic approach, Our Whole Lives provides accurate, developmentally appropriate information about a range of topics, including relationships, gender identity, sexual orientation, sexual health, and cultural influences on sexuality.

Please see Paul and/or Lucia with any questions. Parent Meetings will take place on January 6 and 10. OWL will begin on January 17 during the normal high school youth group time, 6:30–8:30 pm.

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



Senior and junior high youth group members & chaperones mug for the camera during their October trip to Six Flags.



Thank you to Jill Lloyd and the work crew who recreated our beautiful front walkway (above). It's a great welcome to all our visitors.



(Right top and bottom) A group met outside next to the labyrinth to discuss possible next steps for the Ladies Aid Hall, the white building seen in the background of the top photo.



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!**

THINK OF THE RED APRONS FOR ALL YOUR HOLIDAY GATHERINGS!

CONNECTIONS CIRCLE

The present members of our circle are: Patti Eckels, Joan Fariel, Debra Hart, Judy Howland, Bineke Oort, Sue & Dave Taylor, and Nancy Walker.

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 Bineke and Bram Oort, Nancy and Rob Foote, Coral Ovitt and Mary Erdei, Judy Howland and Melinda Meyerhoff, Dianne Rochford and Debra Hart, and Patti Eckels. One of the highlights of the Fall was the amazing coffee hour brunch we all enjoyed in the lovely setting of Nancy and Rob Foote's '92s home. For the month of November Kelly and Malcolm Blue will be in charge 11/1; Sally Bemont and John Hickory on 11/8; and Jill Crowley on 11/15. We need someone to help with cleanup on 11/15 and partners to do coffee hour on 11/22 and 11/29. Sign up sheets are on the snack table so everyone can volunteer to work with a partner to be in charge of one Coffee Hour the first half of the year. If everyone does one coffee hour in the Fall we will have the calendar covered. 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. We have been making regular coffee in the large perc pot with 30 cups of water and 3/4 of a pound of coffee. Then we make one pot of drip decaf by filling the drip pot with water and 3/4 cup of decaf according to the directions. 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.

ADULT CHOIR

In November we are hosting the ecumenical Thanksgiving service November 22, so there will be an ecumenical choir. Thus the usual schedule of rehearsing on the second and third Sundays to sing on the third will not be followed. The November schedule will be:

Choir will rehearse at 9:00 am Sunday November 15, 7:00 p.m. Thursday November 19 (in our sanctuary) and 9:00 am Sunday November 22 to sing in the ecumenical Thanksgiving service we will host that morning.

Patty Talbot

FOLK CHOIR

Join us for practices on Nov 1st and 8th at 9:15. We will be performing during the service on November 8. All ages and abilities are welcome to sing or bring an instrument to play.

PHOTOS FROM OUR END OF SUMMER FLING



Thank you to Sue and Dave Taylor for hosting our fun end of summer gathering.



The church governing board at the October day-long meeting.

WORK PARTY ON NOV. 8:

Wear your old clothes and bring your rakes, gloves, clippers and trowels to do our semi-annual Fall clean up. We will clean up the outside gardens, rake leaves, put on the Winter steps, remove debris from the steeple, and clean the inside of the Church after Turkey Suppers. We will work for about 1 1/2 hours right after the worship service and then share a meal together. There will be jobs for all ages and everyone is welcome! We always have a great time getting our FUSH home in shape!

THE WEATHER AND SUNDAY SERVICES

As we get ready for the usual “interesting” weather of winter in our region, here’s a reminder that, in general, we do not cancel services because of storms.

It’s not that we never would, if significantly extenuating circumstances made that the best choice. But since several of our members, including our minister, live very close by the church, unless something is wrong with our church building or grounds, we will likely hold services whenever they are planned.

Also, in the case of weather that keeps guest speakers, or Patty and other musicians away, we may alter the program as needed.

However, if you have any concern about the weather and your travel, PLEASE STAY HOME! We don’t believe in salvation by attendance, and in the good free church tradition of Unitarian Universalism, we leave the decision of whether you should come in the snow up to you. We love to see you in church, but not at the expense of safety.

PLANNING FOR OUR DECEMBER 2015 HOLIDAY SERVICES

It’s only November, but good celebrations take good attention and good time, so we’re already beginning to plan for next month’s special Holiday services. In addition to regular seasonal observations and reflections during the December Sundays, we’ll also have a special Earth-centered Winter Solstice celebration the evening of December 21, and two services on Christmas Eve, one at 7:00 pm and one at 9:00 pm.

So please contact Paul now if you would like to:

- Serve as a reader on Christmas Eve
- Offer special music or artwork for any of our services
- Join with your family to light the Advent wreath or the Hanukkah menorah on a Sunday morning
- Participate in any way in our Winter Solstice service and celebration
- Suggest stories for our impromptu multigenerational pageant on Sunday December 13
- Offer any ideas or suggestions for our services, or to share anything else that’s on your mind related to this festive season in our church community!



Crowns (above) from our 2014 Solstice service.

A few younger members of our community enjoy an early 2014 snowfall.



2ND PRINCIPLE: JUSTICE, EQUITY AND COMPASSION IN HUMAN RELATIONS

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.

PHOTOS FROM OUR TURKEY SUPPERS & SILENT AUCTION



Thank you to everyone for helping to make these events so much fun and a successful fundraiser for our church community.



NOVEMBER 2015 CALENDAR

DEADLINE FOR
DECEMBER
NEWSLETTER
CONTENT:
NOVEMBER 11

****NOTE THE
EARLY DATE!****

WE ARE A
WELCOMING
CONGREGATION

1	SUN	10 am after service 5:00-6:00 pm 6:00-6:30 pm 6:30-8:00 pm	Worship Service & RE SoUUp Sunday SoUUp Sale Junior Youth Group at the UU Church Mission Trip slide-show at UU church Senior Youth Group at the UU Church
7	FRI	8-10 am	Food Shelf
8	SUN	10 am after service	Worship Service & RE Work Party
9	MON	7 pm	Governing Board Meeting
11	WED	all day	Newsletter Content Deadline
13	FRI	8-10 am 7-9 pm	Food Shelf Jr Youth Group Game Night at UCC Church
15	SUN	10 am 5:00-6:15 pm 6:30-8:00 pm	Worship Service & RE Junior Youth Group at the UCC Church Senior Youth Group at the UCC Church
20	FRI	8-10 am 6 pm	Food Shelf Theater Night - leave from UUC Church
22	SUN	10 am after service	Worship Service & RE Brunch at the UU Church to benefit the Youth Mission Trip
27	FRI	8-10 am	Food Shelf
29	SUN	10 am	Worship Service & RE

Paul and our church governing board members at their all-day work meeting.

