



The First Universalist Society of Hartland Unitarian Universalist

APRIL 2015

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Sunday Services & Religious Education Classes 10 am in the Church

Sunday Services

April 2

Special Service

7:00 pm

Maundy Thursday Communion Service

A 30-minute special evening service, honoring our liberal Christian roots, Holy week, and the community spirit inspired by the ancient rite of communion. All are welcome. Further information on page 4.

April 5

Easter Sunday

Paul Sawyer

Come celebrate Easter, the joy of new life, and the miracle of resurrection. If you would like to attend a traditional Christian Easter sunrise service, we have been warmly invited to join the First Congregational Church of Hartland at their service at 6:00 am on the hill behind Mike's Mobil in Hartland Village.

The collection will benefit the Hartland Rescue Squad.

April 12

Freedom and Unity

Paul Sawyer

Vermont's famous state motto expresses well the tensions involved in creating and sustaining a community of faith. We'll explore the joys and the challenges of real religious freedom, and what it means in our congregation, our local communities, our nation, and the world. *The collection will benefit the Turning Points Network.*

April 19

Caught Between Two Worlds

Jill Lloyd

Exploring community, technology and real relationships. *The collection will benefit Outright Vermont.*

April 26

Paul Sawyer
Annual Intergenerational May Day Celebration!

Come join us as we enact a multigenerational impromptu pageant for Earth Day, based on the Great Story of the Universe, and dance around the May Pole to celebrate this energetic Earth-centered ritual of Spring. (We'll hope that the snow is mostly melted away by this Sunday!) *The collection will benefit Vital Communities.*

OFFERING RECIPIENTS

APRIL

We rely on the planned, committed, pledge 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. Checks for the collection can be made out to "FUSH" and we will consolidate donations to pass on to the organization.

For those wishing to make a pledge payment, or a donation specifically to support our congregation's budget, there is a box on the welcoming table at the back of the sanctuary, or you can use the small manila envelopes available on that same table, or simply mark "for FUSH" in the memo line of your check.

Please contact Paul if you have nominations for organizations you feel would be good choices for our support.

April 5 — Hartland Rescue Squad

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

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From Your Minister

Religious Freedom

Our historic traditions were pioneers in thought and action working toward a true spirit of religious freedom. The Unitarian king of Transylvania, John Sigismund signed a statement of religious freedom in 1557, which was then later further established by the Edict of Torda in 1568, which declared, in part:

In every place the preachers shall preach and explain the Gospel each according to his understanding of it, and if the congregation like it, well, if not, no one shall compel them for their souls would not be satisfied, but they shall be permitted to keep a preacher whose teaching they approve....No one shall be reviled for his religion by anyone, according to the previous statutes, and it is not permitted that anyone should threaten anyone else by imprisonment or by removal from his post for his teaching.

Though it was limited, in that the freedom offered by the Edict of Torda was meant only to apply to the Christian faith, given the religious atmosphere of those times in Eastern Europe, with the Reformation in full force, and people regularly condemned, imprisoned, and even executed for which side, or which branch of the Reformation they chose, the Edict remains a milestone of freedom, which was enacted, and supported by the early Unitarians.

Just over two centuries later, in another time of religious fervor and division, this time in our own region, the early American Universalists were among the first to challenge the established Puritan-founded Congregational churches of New England, and to fight for the end to local taxation that covered the expenses of the Congregational minister and church. Our first formal indication that there were Universalists in our area comes from a petition in the Pomfret tax files, in 1789, asking that Lieutenant Israel Keith be excused from his church taxes because he was a member of the Universalist Society in Woodstock.

We no longer are subject to taxes to support public worship, and we live in a country, at least, if not a world, where freedom of religion is a basic tenet of our constitution. But our tradition and our faith encourages us to continue to work for true freedom of religion, beyond even the simple words of the First Amendment.

In particular, I see two challenges to religious freedom that I believe continue to deserve our attention.

The first is to ensure that there is true freedom of practice for all religions. Religious clothing, the right to assemble, the freedom to build places of worship, and other free expressions of faith should

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Offering Recipients
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April 12—Turning Points Network

Based in Claremont, NH, this Network strives to end all forms of domestic abuse, sexual assault and stalking. Founded in 1977, it serves Sullivan County and surrounding areas and offers emergency shelters, education, support services, advocacy programs for children and victims of abuse. More information is available at www.free-to-soar.org

April 19—Outright Vermont

Outright Vermont was founded in 1989, following the release of a national study that showed that lesbian and gay youth had particularly high rates of depression and suicide. The mission is to build safe, healthy, and supportive environments for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning youth (ages 13-22). As they say on their website, by mobilizing youth and other advocates and allies, and by creating healthy and healing community support networks, "Our goal is to make Vermont the safest, most supportive and empowering state for queer youth in the United States of America." More information is available at www.outrightvt.org.

April 26—Vital Communities

Vital Communities is a regional non-profit organization based in White River Junction that works to engage organizations, individuals, and communities to find creative ways to address our region's challenges. Its projects cover a wide range of important issues, and include working to establish more efficient and convenient transportation resources, promoting more sustainable energy use, supporting farms and other local sources of food, helping make sure children have

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re: RE

We had a busy March with five Sundays. The children were treated to drumming with Jaxon, Bineke's Cosmic Creation Spirit Play, and learning about important history in Selma fifty years ago regarding equal rights and bravery. During our "Bonus Sunday," Todd explained to the children about our commitment to being a Welcoming Congregation. Many children took part in both the community prom and the baked bean supper—great dancers and great helpers! Thank you to Jaxon, Coral, Bineke, Mariet, Todd, Colleen and Chris for sharing their time with our children in March.

We look forward to warm weather (maybe, finally), signs of Spring, and fun RE programs in April. We'll start the month off with some Easter activities. Playing hide and seek in the Yurt is difficult, but we usually have better luck in hiding and hunting Easter eggs. At the end of the month we'll be dancing around the Maypole.

Happy Spring,

Sara
DRE



April RE Calendar

5	10:00 am	Easter
12	10:00 am	Guest Artist
19	10:00 am	Children's Chapel
26	10:00 am	Multigenerational Service: May Day

Youth - Be the Change

Our congregation offers activities for youth (or the homeschool equivalent) through—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 the First Congregational Church in Hartland, and are led by the Reverends Lucia Jackson and Paul Sawyer.

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.

All events are on Sundays unless otherwise noted.

April 12 — 5:00-6:15 pm, Jr. Youth Group at UU Church
6:30-8:00 pm, Sr. Youth Group at UU Church
Mission Trip commitment due.

April 26— 5:00-6:15 pm, Jr. Youth Group at UU Church
6:30-8:00 pm, Sr. Youth Group at UU Church

Save the Dates: This year's trip will take place July 26–August 1 and we will lead worship for both churches in a joint service on August 2.

Offering Recipients
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opportunities to get in touch with nature, and ensuring that leaders doing good work in our region have resources to support and improve their skills and effectiveness. Several members of our community have worked with various Vital Communities projects, and Hartland's own Tom Roberts was recently named executive director of Vital Communities. More information is available at www.vitalcommunities.org.

Maundy Thursday Communion Service

Thursday, April 2
7:00 pm

Maundy Thursday is the date in the Christian calendar when tradition holds that Jesus ate his last supper (a Passover meal) with his followers, and gave to them the practice of holy communion. Some elements are even older than the Jesus tradition, and communion remains a beautiful and faithful practice for many people across all the lines and disputes of Christianity.

The founders of our church would have practiced a simple form of communion. We will hold a similar service, grounded in the liberal Christian tradition of our forebears. We will share a brief service of readings, reflection, prayer, and a communion ritual with bread and grape juice.

In accordance with our liberal religious tradition, we practice open communion, meaning that there are no restrictions on participation. Though the rite itself is Christian, you do not have to hold a particular belief to partake in our ritual. We also welcome participants of any age.

For questions, please contact Paul.

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not be restricted, by law or by societal pressures. Of course, living in a multi-cultural society means that we will have to work out the places where the practice of one religion may conflict with other freedoms. Left unchecked, people have been known to claim all manner of needs and privileges based on religious belief. We do not say that religious belief trumps the rule of law, or that people should be able to be harmed, or compelled against their will, because of faith. In many cases the right path of freedom has seemed relatively easy to discern—we don't allow animal (or human) sacrifice, for instance. But in many cases, such as the use of medical care, immunizations, and even plural marriage, the discussions and the practices of law have been famously more complicated, and right actions for law and society less sure.

One thing is sure, however, and that's the fact that religious freedom is not meant to guarantee that every one of us will never feel discomfort, or confusion, or concern about the practice of another's religion. And religious freedom also is not a right to be free from others' religion, or from all public expression of religious faith (and do note that there's a difference here between what I mean by "public expression" and what would be more accurately called "state-sponsored expression" of religion, which our tradition has historically opposed). It cannot be a tenet of true religious freedom to restrict the rights of others who do not share your faith.

Trying to get much further into detail about the implications of freedom of religion on public policy, and on the many conflicted and complex challenges of faith in our multi-cultural society would take way more space than I have in our simple church newsletter—so we'll continue to find other venues for that discussion. And I'll leave you with the second, more personal challenge for religious freedom that I hope you'll explore in your own heart in this season of Passover, and spring, and Easter, and in this month, when "Religious Freedom" is our Engaging the Spirit theme.

In this case, I'm not talking about legal or formal freedoms, but an internal freedom of religion for each of us—an invitation to open your heart, and to feel as free as you can to explore the true depths and breadth of all that is highest and holiest and most true for you.

In some cases, people will restrict their searching and their language, and their practice of faith based on the dogma and doctrine they've learned as "correct," and depending on your religious upbringing, whether you were raised in another tradition, or even if you were raised Unitarian, Universalist, or Unitarian Universalist, you may feel that kind of restriction or concern about doing things right, believing just right.

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Engaging the Spirit Upcoming Themes

Here are our monthly Engaging the Spirit worship themes for the next few months.

If you have a personal story, or suggested worship materials, or possible related worship topics, or any thoughts at all about any of these themes, please share your ideas with Paul.

Thank you!

April—Freedom

May—Mercy

June/July—Compassion

July/August—Harmony

September—Sabbath

October—Reverence

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But honestly, in our tradition, what I see more often is a kind of exact opposite of that form of restriction—it's a casting aside of the tenets of an old faith, often with very good reason—and then assuming that nothing of that old path of faith is welcome, or useful, or possible, in our church, or in your life.

Freedom, and our tradition, doesn't ask you to throw out everything you learned or believed in another faith. It doesn't ask you to set aside an old hymn that you enjoyed, or a ritual that you found meaningful, even if it's not part of our regular practice. Freedom, and our tradition, encourages you to integrate all your experiences of faith and practice and belief—and to hold on to what is good, whether you think it's "what we do" or not. Not every path is for everyone, and not every practice, or hymn, or prayer, or religious language will shine for you as your own. But our tradition values freedom over orthodoxy of any kind, and we work for "the unity of the spirit"—not uniformity of any kind—in all we do.

So as we celebrate Easter, and Passover, and Maundy Thursday, and Earth Day, and May Day, and April Fools' Day—remember, you are free to find depth and meaning where it is right for you, and you are asked to make space for language and music and ideas that aren't your own as well—and together we'll work to build this community of freedom, and unity of the spirit, imperfectly, but progressively growing in depth, in pursuit of the truth—along a path that we know will never truly come to a close.

(1st Annual) FUSH Passover Seder

Saturday, April 4, 5:00-7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Please RSVP by April 1.

The 8 day Jewish holiday of Passover commemorates the freedom of the Jews from slavery in ancient Egypt. But this holiday is not just for those who are Jewish, because Passover's themes of liberation, faith, hope, community, joy and the coming of spring are universal ones that are relevant for all of us, thousands of years later. At the Seder, we experience the Passover story - and its connection to our own lives today - through shared rituals, reflections, readings, songs, conversation, food, and loving companionship. Gary Shapiro will lead the Seder.

Some traditional Passover foods will be provided at the Seder, but those attending are asked to bring certain dishes for the main meal itself. Helen Miller-Shapiro will let attendees know what is needed. Grape juice will be available for the traditional wine blessings (but people may bring real wine if they choose). Everyone is welcome, including families with children. (Childcare for young children will be provided) Because of the meal and other preparations, it is very important to RSVP, by contacting Gary or Helen at 802-674-6116 or email gshapcra@sover.net, no later than April 1. We look forward to sharing the joy of Passover with you all!

Calling All Circles

Fundraising

Rummage Sale

Friday, April 10 - 8:00 am to 6:00 pm
Saturday, April 11 - 8:00 am to 1:00 pm

Helpers Needed:

April 7, 8 and 9 to sort and arrange items

April 10 and 11 to help with the sale



Items needed:

Clothing, toys, white elephants, books, etc are graciously accepted, but please don't give us any ripped or stained clothing. Electronics have to work and preferably have directions for use and suggestions for price.

You can start leaving items at the church or parsonage (on the back porch if locked) after Easter.

Call Nada Pierce if you are able to volunteer with this fun event. You never know what you will find. We also need two trucks to carry things away after the sale on Saturday.

Second Sunday SoUUp Sale

Look for us after the service on April 12 in the Fellowship Hall for homemade soups, great for an easy, quick meal. We'll have \$5 and \$10 containers. If you are willing and able to make soUUp for this month's sale, please contact Sara Morin (saradmorin (@) gmail.com) before April 8.

Hartland Four Corners Print Available for Sale

We now have the prints of the painting by then-local artist Rick (Bertil) Whyman. We'll have them available for sale at upcoming events, but if you'd like to order one now while you're thinking about it, send your check for \$40, made out to FUSH, to Sara Morin, 9 Elm Street, Windsor, VT 05089 and we'll get it to you during the next church service. Prints are 12" x 18" and ready for framing.



The "Red Aprons"

Motto:

*Be a guest
at your own party.*

The Red Aprons are volunteers from the church who can take the work out of your party by organizing and managing food service, clean up and other things you may need done.

If you are having a wedding reception, birthday party, graduation party, or reunion think of us.

We are looking for more volunteers. If you would like to be put on the e-mail list, please contact Joan Fariel or Chuck Fenton.

Contact: 802-738-0255

Proceeds for these services are donated to FUSH.

Bulletin Board

Adult Choir - rehearsal at 9:00 am on Sunday, April 5 to sing in the Easter service.

The choir will not sing again in April. Next will be the rehearsals on May 10 and 17, to sing on the 17th

Ice Cream Sauce Contest - Sunday, April 26 following Church Service. Recipes for the top 4 winners will be used to make sauces for ice cream sundaes for the Old Home Day booth on the 4th of July. Bring your sauce to church for sampling. Let your creative cooking juices flow! For questions contact Jill Lloyd.

As You are Planning Your Garden, Think Turkey - Turkey Suppers that is. Over the course of those three weeks, we need 375 pounds of butternut squash, 135 pounds of cabbage and 9 bunches of celery. If we purchase it all, it usually runs to more than \$180. I know that we don't want to rely on our members coming up with all that, but if you are planting squash, or cabbage or celery anyway and have some extra room, why not plant some extra -- and let the Turkey Supper folks know about it come Fall. Thanks.

Dan Poor



Calling All Circles

Connections Circle

Coffee Hour

We thank Nancy and Rob Foote; Chris Husmann, Colleen Spence, and Katy Sawyer; Jill Crowley and Mariet and Rob Jaarsma; Ricky and Dan Poor; and Bruce Locke and Clyde Jenne, who have provided delicious snacks and organized coffee hour for us in March. The "Sugar on Snow" event planned by Bruce and Clyde is always an extra special treat!

Coffee Hour will be provided on April 5 by Joan Fariel and Ellen Sauer; on April 12 by Debra Hart and Dianne Rochford; on April 19 by Elaine and Doug Hart; and on April 26 by Mary Erdei and Melinda Meyerhoff.

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 also always someone to help when you are doing coffee hour for the first time! The hospitality and hard work are appreciated by the congregation.

We hope that everyone will sign up to host two coffee hours a year so that we can all enjoy a cup of coffee after the services. If everyone signs up then we have one person in charge of set up and one in charge of clean up so it is not overwhelming for anyone. We have a few slots to fill in for May and June before we go on summer schedule without a formal coffee hour.

Unitarian Universalism 101

Sunday, April 26
12:00-2:00 pm

Our minister Paul Sawyer will lead a discussion of Unitarian Universalism history and theology after the Sunday service. This is a workshop for people who are new to the Church and who want to explore our faith or who have questions about UU history or theology. Members and friends who want to learn more about Unitarian Universalism are also welcome. Lunch and childcare provided.

Please RSVP to Sue and David Taylor at:
dstaylor342@gmail.com or at 603.675-6566.

We especially need to know if childcare is needed so we can hire a childcare person.



APRIL

Calendar - April 2015

1	Weds.	6pm	Circle Dinner at Patti Eckels
2	Thurs.	7pm	Maundy Thursday
3	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
4	Sat.	5-7pm	Passover Seder
5	Sun.	9am	Adult Choir rehearsal & sing
		10	Easter Worship Service & RE
10	Fri.	8am-6pm	Rummage Sale
11	Sat.	8am-1pm	Rummage Sale
12	Sun.	10am	Worship Service & RE
		After serv.	2nd Sunday SoUUp Sale
		5-6:15pm	Jr. Youth at UU
		6:30-8	Sr. Youth at UU
13	Mon.	7pm	Governing Board
17	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
18	Sat.		Deadline for February newsletter
19	Sun	10am	Worship Service & RE
24	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
26	Sun.	10am	Intergenerational May Day Service
		After serv.	Ice Cream Sauce Contest
		12-2pm	UU 101
		5-6:15pm	Jr. Youth at UU
		6:30-8	Sr. Youth at UU
27	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf

