



# The First Universalist Society of Hartland Unitarian Universalist

JANUARY 2015

First Universalist Society  
Hartland Four Corners  
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## Sunday Services & Religious Education Classes 10 am in the Church

### Sunday Services

**January 4**

**Led by the Worship Team**

A panel of community people discussing the problem of addiction, especially as it impacts on our youth.

*The collection will benefit Second Growth.*

**January 11**

**By What Authority**

**Paul Sawyer**

George Carlin said, "I have as much authority as the Pope. I just don't have as many people who believe it." In this service, we'll introduce January's Engaging the Spirit theme, "Religious Authority," with some reflections on authority and faith in our tradition and our society.

*The collection will benefit The Good Neighbor Health Clinic.*

**January 18**

**Paul Sawyer**

**Authority, Justice and "Black Lives Matter"**

On Martin Luther King Day weekend, some reflections on recent events, and authority and justice on the streets, for the people, the police, and those who speak out—and why "Black Lives Matter" is important in a world where we, in our faith tradition, affirm clearly that ALL lives matter.

*The collection will support the rebuilding of the Flood Christian Church in Ferguson, Missouri.*

**January 25**

**The Authority of Not Knowing**

**Paul Sawyer**

Knowing, not knowing. Leading, parenting, governing, managing when you haven't got a clue.

*The collection will benefit Hartford Dismas House.*

## OFFERING RECIPIENTS DECEMBER

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.

### ***January 4 -- Second Growth***

Second Growth's mission is to reduce substance abuse and violence for adolescents. Based in White River Junction, Second Growth works in schools and in the community to provide training, individual counseling, group support, and prevention education for young people. Second Growth strives to build the strength and resiliency skills of youth in order to improve their outcomes and help them safely navigate adolescence. More information is available at [www.secondgrowth.org](http://www.secondgrowth.org).

*continued on pg. 3*

*re: RE*

Happy New Year!

The Gingerbread Church is such a festive sight in front of the congregation during December. Thank you to Jill Lloyd and Bruce Locke for the creative and fun holiday projects last month.

We have had a dozen members of our church help out with our Religious Education program so far this year. Consider volunteering one Sunday in RE for one of your New Year's goals. It is always a rewarding experience, and you'll get to know the children that much better!

We really do have great and talented children in our program! Our 5th annual Winterim program continues until the middle of February. We will practice and produce a creative worship service that includes a bit of theatrics during the service. Laura Bergstresser has written the play, "If We Agree in Love" which is about the history and theology of Hosea Ballou. The RE children will be rehearsing lines, practicing their acting skills, gathering props and working on set design.

Students in 5th and 6th grades have the opportunity to attend the Our Whole Lives human sexuality classes starting in January. Tom Haushalter and I have recently been trained to lead 5/6 OWL, and we are really energized and looking forward to this eight week course.

Peace,

***Sara***  
DRE

### January RE Calendar

4	10:00 am	Winterim: "If We Agree in Love" read through
11	8:30 am	5/6 OWL Class
	10:00	Winterim: assign parts, practice
18	8:30 am	5/6 OWL Class
	10:00	Winterim practice
25	8:30 am	5/6 OWL Class
	10:00	Winterim practice



Offering Recipients  
*continued from pg. 3*

### ***January 11—The Good Neighbor Health Clinic***

The Good Neighbor Health Clinic is a non-profit free health care facility established in 1992 to offer free primary medical and dental care to the people of the Upper Connecticut River Valley who are in need and lack the resources to obtain adequate care. Their main facility is in White River Junction, Vermont, and they also operate satellite clinics in Lebanon and Enfield, NH. The Good Neighbor Clinic never charges for its services, and is staffed by medical professionals who volunteer their time and skill. Several members of our congregation have benefitted from the services of the Good Neighbor Clinic, and we also have members who serve as volunteers at the clinic. More information is available at [www.goodneighborhealthclinic.org](http://www.goodneighborhealthclinic.org).

### ***January 18—Rebuilding the Flood Christian Church near Ferguson, Missouri***

Just before midnight on November 24, 2014, the Flood Christian Church near Ferguson, Missouri was attacked and burned by arsonists. The family of Michael Brown, the young man whose death sparked protests in Ferguson, attends Flood Church, and have continued to worship with the congregation, using borrowed space, and for a time, a tent in the church parking lot. Setting fire to a church is a Federal offense, so the ATF and other agencies are still investigating the fire, but already the church's insurance company has stated that they will not cover the costs of rebuilding, because the arson occurred in an area and a time where rioting was occurring.

*continued on pg. 4*

## ***Youth - Be the Change***

Our congregation offers activities for youth in grades 7-12 (or the home-school 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 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.**

**January 11—** 5:00-6:15 pm, Jr. Youth at UU Church  
6:30-8:00 pm, Sr. Youth at UU Church

**January 18—** 9:00 am-1:00 pm, Mission Trip Fundraiser Brunch at UU Church

**January 25—** 5:00-6:15 pm, Jr. Youth at UU Church  
6:30-8:00 pm, Sr. Youth 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.

***HURRY HURRY don't be late  
For the January 31st date!***



Please send or bring in your pledge cards soon.

Three budget possibilities are being discussed. The one which will be chosen by the Finance Committee is dependent on the amount of pledge money received by the end of January.

For more information on the budget, please see Dan Poor's message on page 4 and the budgets on page 5.

In grateful thanks,

Dianne Rochford, for the Stewardship Circle.

Offering Recipients  
*continued from pg. 3*

Flood Church is an independent African American Baptist-based congregation without a large national denomination or other structure to support their work. Though our theologies differ vastly in many ways, it's our honor to stand and support Flood Church in this time of need. You can find out more about Flood Church and the fire through many on-line news sources (just Google "Flood Church Missouri" it, and several stories will come up), or you can view their crowd-funding campaign directly at [www.gofundme.com/huw1h0](http://www.gofundme.com/huw1h0)

### **January 25—Hartford Dismas House**

Dismas of Vermont is a non-profit agency committed to "reconciling prisoners with society and society with prisoners." They operate residential centers and support programs that help individuals transition from incarceration back into the community. They have successful programs currently operating in Rutland and Burlington, and their newest center recently opened in Hartford Village, Vermont. The founders of Dismas of Vermont shared their inspiration and dedication in a service with our congregation in January 2012. More information is available at [www.dismasofvermont.org](http://www.dismasofvermont.org)

## *from the Assistant Treasurer*

*It has been suggested that my budget presentation might be of interest to those who were not able to make the Semi-Annual Meeting. What follows, is the prepared text for my presentation on December 7. The following is close to what I said. I will add one comment in brackets [ ] that I wish I had thought of.* — Dan Poor

A few years ago when John Osborne was president and Doug Hart was making noises about giving up being Treasurer after a decade, we created a Finance Circle. At the moment, John, Doug and I are the members. Doug and I used information provided by our Treasurer, Tamara Ross, and Doug's experience preparing FUSH budgets over the last decade or so, to present a budget to the Board for discussion and eventual adoption. In the end, we decided to present three spending plans to the Board and congregation; these were included in the December newsletter and this newsletter on pg. 6 as part of the warning for today's meeting.

Ever since I have been a member of this congregation, each year at this time we have been told that our endowment will not last forever. I don't recall the earlier numbers, but it is clear that at our current investment performance and our rate of withdrawal from the endowment, it will be gone in 5-6 years. Being around an organization with no endowment and an income far below what is needed to run it properly is no fun. I've been there twice – once at a non-profit agency and once at a former UU congregation in the Upper Valley. Neither is still in existence; I'd rather not see that happen here.

We can take some comfort from the fact that our investments for many years did far better than average more often than not. We can take more comfort from the increased participation (both in dollars and in the numbers of people participating) in our pledge campaigns over the last several years. We can take even more comfort from the extraordinary fundraising efforts that Sara Morin and others have spearheaded this year. But for these factors, we'd be in far

worse shape than we are.

However – quite frankly – as impressive as these gains have been, they are not enough.

Our pledge goal for this year was \$80,000. When we prepared the budget, we thought we might reach about \$75,000, but it looks as if the total will be closer to \$70,000. If we can do no better than matching this year's total pledges, we will give no raises to our employees, and we will need to make some other cuts to keep our draw from the endowment close to \$20,000. A better figure for that withdrawal would be \$15,000 – in which case we would need to have pledges totaling \$86,000.

Actually, an even better figure – one that would keep someone from having to deliver this dire warning about the fate of our endowment for the next several years – would be closer to \$105,000. I hope we do, in fact, get there in the very near future, but it is unrealistic to expect that much growth in one year.

Our average pledge this past year was about \$960 with amounts ranging from 2 digits to 4. [The median gift – as many above as below – was closer to \$650. Clearly, we have many 2- and 3- digit gifts and not a few 4-digit gifts that raise the average.] But there are many who are not pledging – yet. Clearly we need everyone to pledge. As they say on public radio, "No amount is too small." To which I'd add "or too large."

So we celebrate Dianne Rochford's willingness to put her energy and leadership into this year's pledge drive. You now see more clearly the work she is helping us do.

# **First Universalist Society of Hartland – Budget Planning – 2015**

	2013	2014 BUDGET	2014 YTD 9/30/14	EST 2014	2015 Proposed 1 No raise	2015 Proposed 2 COL raise	2015 Proposed 3 2% raise
<b>INCOME</b>							
Pledges	71,347	80,000	53,152	75000	75000	82000	86000
Fund-raising (Net)	13,975	12,500	6,809	17000	15000	15000	15000
Non-Pledge Gifts	589	600	510	600	600	600	600
Funds, Memorial. Etc.	648	500	630	630	500	500	500
Misc	<u>1,693</u>	<u>1,600</u>	<u>1,144</u>	<u>1600</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>88,252</b>	<b>95,200</b>	<b>62,245</b>	<b>94,830</b>	<b>91,600</b>	<b>98,600</b>	<b>102,600</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>							
Salaries							
Minister	43,392	44,268	31,274	44280	44280	45033	45,166
RE Director	9,000	9,180	6,120	9180	9180	9336	9,364
Music Director	7,512	7,662	5,108	7662	7662	7792	7,815
Administrator	3,396	3,468	2,312	3468	3468	3527	3,537
Sexton	<u>1,830</u>	<u>1,872</u>	<u>1,248</u>	<u>1872</u>	<u>1872</u>	<u>1904</u>	<u>1,909</u>
Total	65,130	66,450	46,062	66,462	66,462	67,592	67,791
Fringe Benefits	10,378	10,590	4,481	10590	10590	10815	10847
Minister's Prof. Exp.	6,037	6,000	3,102	6000	6000	6000	6,000
Property, Church							
Utilities, Services	6,498	7,200	4,890	6500	5500	5500	5,500
Insurance	3,877	4,000	2,016	4032	4032	4032	4,048
Maintenance	<u>1,334</u>	<u>2,400</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>1,200</u>
Total	11,709	13,600	6,906	11,732	10,732	10,732	10,748
Property, Parsonage							
Utilities, Services	3,015	3,200	2,021	2800	2800	2,800	2,800
Maintenance	<u>1,309</u>	<u>2,400</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>1,200</u>	<u>1,200</u>
Total	4,324	5,600	2,050	3,100	3,100	4,000	4,000
Other Expenses							
Membership, Publicity, Communications	2,334	2,400	316	500	500	750	1,000
Administration, Supplies, Misc.	2,805	2,400	1,785	2400	3000	3,000	3,500
RE: Supplies, Training, Equip't	949	1,200	1,538	1600	1300	1,500	1,600
RE: Professional Expenses	600	600	450	600	600	600	750
RE: Childcare	1,300	1,500	585	1300	1400	1,400	1,400
Music: Supplies, Conferences	2,029	2,200	1,441	2200	2200	2,200	2,200
Dues, UUA & Dist.	3,364	3,364	3,148	3148	3148	3,250	4,000
Debt Service	3,046	3,045	0	3045	3045	3,045	3,045
Sabbatical Fund/Worship Circle	0	600	156	600	600	600	600
Training	60	0	0	0	0	100	100
Total	<u>16,487</u>	<u>17,309</u>	<u>9,420</u>	<u>15,393</u>	<u>15,793</u>	<u>16,445</u>	<u>18,195</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>114,065</b>	<b>119,549</b>	<b>72,020</b>	<b>113,277</b>	<b>112,677</b>	<b>115,584</b>	<b>117,581</b>
NET OPER INCOME (LOSS)	-25,813	-24,349	-9,775	-18,447	-21,077	-16,984	-14,981
From Endowment	27,329	25,000		19,000	21,000	17,000	15,000

D Hart, 11/1/14, D Poor 11/3/14, Dpoor 11/9/14



# Calling All Circles

## Fundraising

A sincere THANK YOU to everyone who made fundraising so wonderful this year. Soup, Chocolate, Prom, Concerts, Baked Beans, Rummage Sales, Coffee Houses, Bed and Breakfast stays, JazzFest, Red Aprons, 4th of July booth, Sharing your Passion, Whoopie Pies, Turkey Suppers and more.

We had a FUN and profitable year of fundraising. I look forward to another wonderful year of fun, community building, bottom-line-helping projects in 2015.

Thank you!  
Sara Morin

### Dates to Keep in Mind:

**January 11** - First SoUUp sale of 2015 - See Sara Morin if you're able to make soup.

**February 8** - Chocolate Auction - start thinking about your delicious contribution. Something new this year - we will be raffling off a dinner for two on Valentine's Day at a local restaurant. Tickets will be on sale starting the end of January. See Nancy Walker for more information.

**March 14** - Community Prom - Open to everyone...dress up or come as you are..

### In 2015 we will have a print of this beautiful painting for sale.

The Footes have had this wonderful piece of art, showing our church, the newly acquired Ladies Aid Hall and our wonderful friends the Skunk Hollow Tavern, which was painted by then-local artist Rick Whyman (who now goes by Bertil Whyman). Mr. Whyman generously has given us permission to reproduce his painting. We will have prints for sale starting sometime in January. The prints will be ~12" x ~8", printed on a beautiful Mohawk stock, ready for framing. We expect the cost to be between \$40 and \$50 a print.

See Sara Morin for more information.



### Do you have ideas for future fundraisers?

We had some great ideas come out of our last brainstorming session, so we're holding another. Look for an announcement about an after-church date in January where you can share ideas, find out about getting involved, and hear what's coming up next.

Hope to see you there.

### The Fundraising Circle would like to hear your thoughts on these 2 questions. E-mail your feedback at [saradmorin@gmail.com](mailto:saradmorin@gmail.com):

**A.** Is it too soon to hold another "Share Your Passion" auction in late spring? We'd like to hold this event in the spring to help with timing of outside-based passions, so should we hold one this spring, or wait until spring of 2016?

**B.** If we made t-shirts to sell, what would you like to have on it (aka, what would make you buy one?): an image of our new weather vane; a great UU quote, saying or lyric; an illustration depicting the FUSH favorite song Blue Boat Home; other ideas??. If we had a couple of choices of design, would you buy more than one?

## Bulletin Board

**Adult Choir** - rehearsal at 9:00 am on Sunday, January 11 and Sunday, January 18, to sing in the service on the 18th.

**Hartland Food Shelf** - The food shelf needs plastic shopping bags. If you can contribute some bags please drop them off at the food shelf room downstairs in the church. Thank you.

### Ladies Aid Hall Purchase Update

Final cost:  
Building price: \$49,600  
Attorney's fees: 200  
Other closing fees: 709  
Total Cost: \$51,509

Contributions:  
Priscilla Richardson Fund: \$22,865  
Members' contributions: 27,250  
Total toward purchase: \$50,115

Shortfall and additional  
donations needed: \$1,394

It was Gordon's wish that we could keep \$1,000 in the Priscilla Richardson Fund as seed money for the architectural/engineering studies and renovation costs to come. The UU Common Endowment Fund requires a minimum investment of \$10,000 so we had to withdraw all that we had in the fund. I hope that we can honor Gordon's wishes by raising another \$1,000 beyond the \$1,394 needed to pay back the church Operating Fund from which it was borrowed.

Thus let's go for \$2,400 from members willing to help (in addition to the 14 who have already stepped up with \$27,250).

— Doug Hart

## Calling All Circles

### Connections Circle



### Circle Dinners

Do you wish there were more time at the coffee hours to get to know your fellow congregants? Are you willing to drive to someone's home for an enjoyable get together? Do you like to eat while having good conversation?

Circle Dinners are hosted by church members who are willing to open up their homes for a social gathering. There is no agenda except to enjoy each others' company and eat delicious food. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share.

If you are interested, you can sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board downstairs in the church Fellowship Hall or call the host of the dinner. On the sign up sheet there will be space for your name, phone # and the dish you will be providing.

There is one planned in January:

**Saturday, January 24**  
(snowdate Sat., January 31)

Hosted by Bram & Bineke Oort at 6:00 pm in their home in Hartland, VT. They are able to accommodate a maximum of 6 people

We are looking for hosts for Circle Dinners in February and March. If you would like to open your home please get in touch with Nancy Walker. You pick the date, time and how many people you can accommodate.

*A woman is like a tea bag - you can't tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water.*

Eleanor Roosevelt



JANUARY

Calendar - January 2015

2	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
4	Sun.	10am	Worship Service & RE
9	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
11	Sun.	8:30am	5/6 OWL
		9	Adult Choir rehearsal
		10	Worship Service & RE
		After serv.	SoUper Sunday Sale
		5-6:15pm	Jr. Youth at FUSH
		6:30-8	Sr. Youth at FUSH
12	Mon.	7pm	Governing Board
16	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
18	Sun	8:30am	5/6 OWL
		9	Adult Choir rehearsal & sing
		10	Worship Service & RE
		After serv.	Youth Fundraiser Brunch at FUSHs
			Deadline for February newsletter
23	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
24	Sat.	6pm	Circle Dinner at Oorts
25	Sun.	8:30am	5/6 OWL
		10	Worship Service & RE
		5-6:15pm	Jr. Youth at FUSH
		6:30-8	Sr. Youth at FUSH
30	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
31	Sat.	6pm	Deadline to submit pledge cards
			Snowdate for Oort's Circle Dinner

