



The First Universalist Society of Hartland Unitarian Universalist

JULY/AUGUST 2014

First Universalist Society
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Sunday Services & Religious Education Classes 10 am in the Church

July Sunday Services

July 6

Paul Sawyer & Lucia Jackson

**Annual Joint Independence Day Service
with the First Congregational Church of Hartland
at the Congregational Church.**

Join us at the Brick Church on Station Road in Hartland Village as we team up with our Congregationalist friends and neighbors in our annual celebration for the 4th of July.

The collection will benefit the 2014 Youth Mission Trip.

July 13

"Word"

Dianne Rochford, worship leader

A service with short reflections from some members and friends of our congregation—exploring one word that has deep, special meaning for them. A chance to get to know people, and to reflect on the words of our lives.

The collection will support the Newport Adult Learning Center

July 20

Paul Sawyer

Love Reaches Out—General Assembly Reflections

Join us as our members and friends who attended General Assembly in Providence share their learning and inspiration. *The collection will support an organization chosen by our GA participants.*

July 27

Sermon From the Question Box

Paul Sawyer

Do you have a theological or other question you've been dying to ask your minister? Put it in the Question Box in the back of the sanctuary, or send it to Paul by e-mail by July 24, and during this week's sermon time he'll address the questions he receives. This service always promises to be fun and at least a little unpredictable. We'll also take a moment in the service to send off our youth and adults heading to New Haven on the Mission Trip.

The collection will benefit the Minister's Charitable Fund.

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OFFERING RECIPIENTS

JULY

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.

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

July 6— Youth Mission Trip 2014

Help support our Youth Mission Trip to New Haven, taking place July 27-August 2. Your donations support our expenses for food, transportation, small donations to our partner organizations, and other needs.

July 13—The Newport Adult Learning Center

The Newport Adult Learning Center is a new program being started by the Newport Food Pantry and the Newport, NH Area Churches Association. Located in the same building as the regular food pantry, the Learning Center will offer GED programs, job interview and resume support, keyboarding classes, and other programs to support members of the Newport area community. This organization was nominated for our support by our member Dianne Rochford, who volunteers at the food pantry and who will be leading our service.

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Sunday Services continued from pg. 1

August Sunday Services

August 3

Mission Trip 2014

Led by the Participants on the Youth Mission Trip at Our Church

Join us for this special intergenerational service welcoming home youth and adults from both our churches who participated in the Mission Trip, and hear the reflection and spiritual learning from the week. *The collection will benefit Mission Trip 2015.*

**August 10 The Sister Societies—Remembered and Reimagined
At the First Universalist Society of Barnard**

Our congregation was founded in 1802 in close partnership with fellow Universalists in Woodstock, Barnard, Bethel, and Bridgewater, and together our congregations were famously known far and wide as the "Sister Societies." In those earliest days the Universalist faith in our region was able to grow and to thrive largely because of the strong bonds of connection that we shared with our neighboring congregations. Currently, the Upper Valley region is home to five Unitarian Universalist congregations, and this combined service will be an opportunity for us to begin to re-imagine and re-build the kind of connections of mutual support and encouragement among us as neighboring congregations that were a key component of the foundation of our faith. Plans for this service are still being formed, so be sure to look for more details and updates in the weeks to come.

August 17

Star Island Reflections

Led by Sara Doolan

Fresh from her second year attending the Unitarian Universalist Religious Education Conference at Star Island, the UU Conference Center off the coast of New Hampshire, our Director of Religious Education, Sara Doolan will share reflections on her learning and experience and how it informs her work in our own religious education program. Sara has a long history of connection with Star Island, having served there as a staff member (a "Pelican") as a youth.

The collection will support the scholarship fund for the Star Island Religious Education Conference.

August 24

Our Annual Hymn Sing!

Come and share in a simple service of singing and fun. *The collection will support the UU Musicians Network Scholarship Fund.*

August 31

Blessing of the Animals!

Paul Sawyer

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 and we'll carry out the blessing that way. We'll also take some time in this service to remember our beloved pets that have died.

The collection will support White River Animal Rescue.

Offering Recipients
continued from pg. 2

July 20—TBA—General Assembly Participants Choice!

This service will offer reflections by our members, youth, and friends who attend GA in Providence, and while we're there we'll put our heads together to decide on an organization that could use our support and that reflects this year's GA theme: "Love Reaches Out."

July 27—The Minister's Discretionary Fund

The Minister's Discretionary Fund is used by our minister to support those in need in our congregation and wider community. It is funded entirely by donations from members and friends of our congregation and allows Paul to offer small, targeted, meaningful help in times of need. For more information, please speak with Paul Sawyer.

August 3—Youth Mission Trip 2015

At this service led by our returned mission trip participants, help us kick off our efforts for next year's Youth Mission Trip to New Haven, taking place next summer!

August 10—TBA

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From Your Minister

During our busy summer worship schedule, we'll spread two Engaging the Spirit themes over the course of June, July, and August. The first half of the summer we'll explore "Mystery" and I wrote about that theme a bit for the June newsletter. The second half of the summer we'll explore "Faith Formation."

The idea of faith formation is central to our religious tradition. In many more orthodox traditions, "faith formation" is understood as the process of an individual gradually learning and more closely following the foundational truths and doctrines of the faith. In those traditions, those foundational truths and doctrines are largely already set in place and unchanging, so faith formation is seen as a process of conforming the individual to the deeper and larger picture of the tradition.

In our tradition, however, we see faith formation in a bit of a different light. Certainly, we have some grounding tenets and ideas, and we have a rich history that offers inspiration and engagement from both the Unitarian and the Universalist paths of our modern faith, as well as from the liberal Jewish and Christian traditions that preceded and birthed both those paths, and from many other sources of faith that people in our tradition have found meaningful for generations. And part of faith formation for Unitarian Universalists does, in fact, relate to learning about our grounding understandings and our history and tradition.

But a more important aspect of Unitarian Universalist faith formation lies in our basic understanding of religious truth. From our earliest years, our faith has held that religious truth, as well as all human knowledge as a whole, just isn't something that can ever exist as whole and complete in any moment in history. We see all human understanding of truth and knowledge as always emerging, never finished, always growing and changing, over the course of our lives and countless generations of human experience. "Revelation is not sealed" is an ancient maxim of our faith, and that understanding is reflected at the deepest levels of how we practice our faith, organize our congregations, and think about religious authority.

So in the Unitarian Universalist context, "faith formation" refers to the process that each of us undertakes from childhood through all of life to deepen and expand our sense of what is holy and true, and to learn to integrate our understanding of faith in our daily lives. And it also refers to the process we all engage in, together, with Unitarian Universalists all over the world, to reach out to all the sources of our ever-evolving faith in our ever-expanding, ever-growing universe. In both the individual and the communal sense, we know that revelation is never sealed—and that the process of faith formation is one we engage in not just for a short time on a specific predetermined

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Offering Recipients
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**August 17—Star Island
Lifespan Religious Education
Week Scholarship Fund**

The Lifespan Religious Education Week at Star Island is a chance for Unitarian Universalist religious educators to gather and to share opportunities for learning and inspiration as well as to build a community of mutual support and creativity for those doing the important work of faith development in our congregations. Star Island is one of the Isles of Shoals off the coast of Rye, New Hampshire, and is home to a beautiful conference center that offers programs for both UU and United Church of Christ members, friends, and religious professionals. This program was nominated for our support by our own DRE, Sara Doolan, who will be leading worship for this service, and who has received important support from this fund. More information is available from Sara, or at <http://starreweek.com>.

**August 24—The UU Musicians
Network Scholarship Fund**

The Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network inspires and supports high quality music in our faith tradition. The UUMN scholarship fund helps UU musicians attend UUMN events, workshops and conferences. More information is available at www.uumn.org. This organization was suggested by Patty Talbot, who notes that the UUMN has been central in her work, particularly in inspiring new music for our choir and congregation.

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From Your Minister
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path, but one that we take on for the entirety of our lives, and one that will continue on in the lives of generations of Unitarian Universalists that will find ever new revelations after our own lives are through.

There's no end to our learning. There's no end to our formation and the deepening of our faith. And I find in that particular truth an amazing source of inspiration.

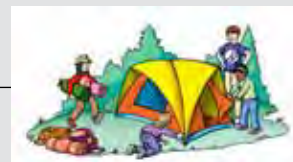
re: RE

During this summer, the children have an opportunity to come together on Sundays and enjoy each other's company while playing games and taking part in creative activities.

Because attendance drops a bit and we are on hold from our regular RE schedule, the varied grouping allows the children to develop different relationships. We'll discuss the benefits of playing together and how interpersonal skills are practiced through playing and working together.

Happy Summer!

Sara
DRE



Summer RE Calendar
July

6	10:00 am	Intergenerational Joint Independence Day Service at Congregational Church
13	10:00 am	Every Body is Beautiful
20	10:00 am	FUSH RE Has Talent! Talent Show
27	10:00 am	"Freeze Silly" and Other Team Building Activities

August

3	10:00 am	Craft Day: Creations from the Closet
10	10:00 am	Tag, You're It!
17	10:00 am	Ice Cream Party
24	10:00 am	Music Making: Bells, etc.
31	10:00 am	Flowers: Cut and Hang

Mark your calendars:

September 7—Annual Ingathering and Water Ceremony

As is our tradition, we'll start the fall season off with our annual gathering of the waters celebration. As you travel about this summer—around the world, or just around your own home, gather some water here and there from places that feed your soul. Salt water, fresh water, and murky water are all welcome! And even if you forget, since all water is one water in the deepest sense of spirit and ecology, some fine local water from Lull Brook will be available at the service as well.

Offering Recipients
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August 31—White River Animal Rescue

Since their founding in 2008, White River Animal Rescue has helped more than 2000 neglected or abandoned dogs find new, safe & healthy forever homes. This all-volunteer organization works to rescue dogs that are in need for any reason, and they specialize in removing animals from high-kill shelters in other areas of the United States, offering needed veterinary care, and securing appropriate adoptions. This is a special collection in honor of our “Blessing of the Animals” service. Learn more at <http://www.whiteriveranimalrescue.org>

Paul’s Summer Schedule

My time in the office will be somewhat sporadic during the summer as I try to take a little time, here and there, to catch up with my yard and family.



So please, please! leave a phone message (at my cell phone) or e-mail if you need anything.

Our family will be out of town camping July 10–16.

We will also be away at Ferry Beach UU Conference Center in ME, August 18–24 where I will be co-leading a workshop on contemporary Universalist theology.

I will also be in New Haven, CT working with our church youth group on the mission trip, July 28–August 2.

During any of these times, if you have an emergency, please feel free to leave me messages by e-mail or on my cell phone—802-299-7530—though please understand that I may not be able to get back to you immediately.

Contacting Paul Some Notes on Your Minister’s Schedule and How to Reach Him

Hello all! Given all the many ways we are able to communicate these days, I want to take this moment to let you know the best ways to reach me, and to share some simple notes about my schedule that I hope will help us keep in touch in meaningful ways.

First of all, if you have a true pastoral emergency—if you or someone you love is in the hospital or in trouble of some kind—call or text me on my cell phone, 802-299-7530. My cell phone now works at my house, and it is, in general, a better way to get me than calling my home number. Unfortunately, one place it doesn’t work all the time is at the church or in my office—so if you know I might be there, call the church number, too. You may have to leave a message, but I do usually get messages on my cell phone in a more timely fashion than any of my other sources. If you text me or leave me a message on my cell phone for an urgent situation, I’ll do my best to get back to you as soon as possible.

For regular church business, or to set up a time to meet, or to contact me for any other reason, you can also leave a message or send a text using my cell phone number, or you can send me an e-mail. Many of you have noticed that I have a number of e-mail addresses, and I know that can be confusing. All you need to know is that it doesn’t matter which of my e-mail addresses you use—they all are set to forward to the same in-box, so I will get your message. If it helps you to have one address to focus on, the simplest address I have is uupaul@gmail.com, and that’s the one I give out to people almost exclusively these days.

Some of you have noticed that I don’t always manage to respond to my e-mail or phone messages right away. And as time goes on, it becomes more and more clear to me, and to most other ministers I know, that that’s likely to be the case for all of time. I get a lot of messages every day—well more than I can respond to, especially since a number of the requests I get have no clear answers, or require some significant time to respond to in any sort of meaningful fashion. I hope that you will trust and understand that I’m always trying to do my best to respond to your requests in a timely fashion, but that sometimes, because of my schedule or the nature of what you’re asking, it may take a while. And I also hope that you’ll understand that my in-box does get quite full at times, and so it is possible that a message will get lost in there from time to time—so I’d also like you to know that *you are always definitely welcome to send me a nudge or reminder if you’re waiting for a response.*

It’s also important to understand a bit about my schedule. Officially, I serve our congregation as a $\frac{3}{4}$ -time minister. Defining just how $\frac{3}{4}$ -time ministry works is a very challenging task, and it’s not something that works definitively in a particular way. In general, I try to hold to our $\frac{3}{4}$ -time agreement by working an average of 4 full days a week, with allowances for the fact that some days are longer than others, and that some events or

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Bulletin Board

Adult Choir - rehearsal for the July 6 Joint Independence Day Service at the Brick Church on Wednesday, July 2 at 7:00 p.m. There will also be a rehearsal before the service on Sunday morning the 6th, time TBA. Even if you don't sing regularly with our choir, you are encouraged to participate in this joint choir. Rehearsals and service are at the Brick Church. You may get the music in advance from Patty.

Patty will be attending the UU Musicians' Network Conference in San Diego July 21-26, and Phyllis Tucker will play for our service on July 25

Watch for the Hymn Sing in August!

The Adult Choir will resume rehearsals and singing in the service in September.

Under the Tree - Looking for runners or volunteers. Mark your calendars for the morning of Saturday, August 16 for the "Under the Tree" 5K/10K race to benefit the Hartland Christmas Project. Plan to register, run, and/or to help. We'll need volunteers for many aspects of the event. All runners and volunteers will be registered for the prize raffle that will take place after the race!

Contact Beth Rice for more information: brice@vermontel.net. The Hartland Christmas Project is a year-round effort by our congregation, working jointly with Hartland's churches, several organizations, and the town itself to support those in need. This race is a major fundraiser for the Project, and I hope you'll join in to help make it a huge success!

Contacting Paul, *continued from pg. 5*

commitments require occasional longer weeks. In general, I try to schedule things so that I work Monday, Thursday, Friday, and Sunday, leaving me off on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday. It's rarely the case that things work quite that clearly, but that's a good general guideline.

So if you're trying to reach me, one important guideline to remember is that I may not check my e-mail or respond to routine phone messages on one of my off-days—so particularly mid-week, I may not see your message for a day or two after you send it. And during the few times each year when I happen to be on vacation, it may take longer than that.

But please, always know that whatever day it is, wherever I am, in the case of a true pastoral emergency, call or text me at 802-299-7530, and I will do my best to get back to you as soon as I possibly can.

Calling All Circles

Connections Circle

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.

The next Connections Circle meeting will be on Friday, September 5 at 4:00 pm in the Parsonage.

Coffee Hour

We thank Melinda Meyerhoff, Joan Fariel, Sue Buckholz, Becky Howe, and John Osborne who provided delicious snacks for us these past months. We will now be going on our summer schedule for July and August where we will not have a formal coffee hour. Anyone is always welcome to make coffee or to bring snacks. Just be sure that you get a group to pitch in with the clean up.

The Tent Meeting and Welcoming of New Members

On June 1 we had an extra special tent meeting and party to welcome our new members at Connie Tessier's home. Our congregation is very blessed to have Chris Graham; Mindi Laine and Tom Haushalter; Laurel Lakey and Jared Ullmer; Melinda Meyerhoff; Coral and Pat Ovitt; and Dianne Rochford as new members of FUSH. Thank you Connie for making this such a special day!

Save The Date

Saturday, September 6 FUSH Welcome Back Party
starting at 5:00 pm.

All members, friends, and newcomers of all ages are welcome.

The Party will be at the Taylor's Home
and will be sponsored by the Connections Circle.

Calling All Circles

Fundraising



Fourth of July Booth July 3-4



Each year we have a booth at the Fourth of July festivities

Help us with this annual fundraiser, setting up the tent, selling ice cream, sundaes and later in the evening hot dogs and glow sticks.

Please volunteer a few hours of your time to this event by going to <http://bit.ly/Taq2RO> or e-mail saradmorin@gmail.com to sign up.

SoUper Sunday Soup Sale July 13

Going into the summer months, we will begin to offer both soups and salads (potato, pasta, etc). Look for us at coffee hour, purchase home-made soups and salads to enjoy at home. We will sell until supplies run out.

This month many of our usual chefs are away, if you are interested in making soup or salads for this monthly fundraiser, please contact saradmorin@gmail.com

Summer Coffee House/Open Mic

Date to be announced soon.

Join us for a (hopefully) outdoors version of our fun Coffee House/Open Mic event.

Check the church Facebook page and website for dates.

Thank you, Joan Fariel

for hosting 2 recent Bed & Breakfast stays at your home. To find out more about our B&B program, go to <http://www.hartlanduu.com/bnb/>

More to Come

This September we will hold a **Share Your Passion** silent auction and ending reception. We'll be in touch in August to ask you to donate/volunteer something you are passionate about for others in our church community to bid on and receive. Ideas might include: a guided afternoon canoe trip down the Connecticut River; a gourmet-style meal for four; a writing session; a personal organization consultation; a birding trip; music lessons; an afternoon class of canning food; a fancy birthday cake; a watercolor painting trip to Saint Gaudens...anything you are passionate about. More details to come, but please start thinking about your passion and how you can share that with others. Contact saradmorin@gmail.com with questions.

Family Photos – this fall we will bring in a photographer to take individual or family photos. For a small charge you sign up for a time slot...he/she takes your photo...you get 1 photo included in your sitting cost and can pick and choose others to buy at an additional cost. Non-church attending family is welcome to join you in your sitting. If we have time, we'll open this up to other friends in the community via word-of-mouth. Photos should be ready in time to give for holiday gifts. More info to come.

Calendar - July/August 2014

July

2	Weds.	7pm	Choir rehearsal, Congregational Church
3	Thurs.		Setup for 4th July Booth
4	Fri.		4th of July Booth
6	Sun.	TBA 9:30am	Choir rehearsal to sing Intergen. Joint Independence Service at Congregational Church
10-16			Paul away
11	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
13	Sun	10am After serv.	Worship Service & Children's activities SoUper Second Sunday Sale
14	Mon.	7pm	Governing Board meeting
18	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
20	Sun.	10am	Worship Service & Children's activities
25	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
27	Sun.	10am	Worship Service & Children's activities
27-Aug. 2			Youth Mission Trip

August

1	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
3	Sun	10am	Worship Service & Children's activities
8	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
10	Sun	10am	Worship Service & Children's activities
11	Mon.	7pm	Governing Board meeting
15	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
16	Sat.		Under the Tree Race
17	Sun	10am	Worship Service & Children's activities
18	Mon.	Noon	Newsletter Deadline
18-24			Paul away
22	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
24	Sun	10am	Worship Service & Children's activities
29	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
31	Sun	10am	Worship Service & Children's activities

THE FIRST UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY

Unitarian Universalist

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JULY/AUGUST