



The First Universalist Society of Hartland Unitarian Universalist

JUNE 2014

First Universalist Society
Hartland Four Corners
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Tamara Ross, Treasurer

Mary Erdei, Sara Morin,

Coral Lydon Ovitt, Dan Poor,

Michael Theroux

Trustees

Jill Crowley, Don Foster,

Robert Jaarsma

Buildings & Grounds

Jill Crowley, Chair

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Sunday Services & Religious Education Classes 10 am in the Church

Sunday Services

June 1

Paul Sawyer

Annual Worship Under the Tent!—"Love Saves"

Join us under the tent at Connie Tessier's, just a quarter of a mile from the church on Mace Hill Road, for a service filled with songs, stories, and a celebration of free faith. We'll also welcome new members to our society. Come for the service! Come for the potluck picnic that follows! *There's no collection at this service.*

June 8

Children's Program Celebration Sunday

We will honor our children and their teachers in this fun annual inter-generational service of recognition and celebration.

The collection will support Girls on the Run.

June 15

What Just Happened?

Paul Sawyer

Reflections on fatherhood, parenting, being someone's child, and the mystery of it all.

The collection will benefit Planned Parenthood of Northern New England.

June 22

TBA

Led by the Worship Circle

The collection will support Upper Valley Silent Warriors.

June 29

TBA

Led by the Worship Circle

The collection will benefit an organization chosen by the Worship Circle.



OFFERING RECIPIENTS

JUNE

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.

June 8— Girls on the Run Vermont

Girls on the Run (GOTR) is a non-profit organization with a mission to inspire girls to be joyful, healthy and confident, using a fun, experienced-based curriculum that creatively integrates running. GOTR includes running workouts and games that teach important skills, such as how to make healthy decisions and resolve conflicts. The program challenges and encourages each girl, whatever her fitness level. It also provides positive peer group experiences and role models for healthy living. Leaders of local GOTR groups include our members Sara Doolan and Leah Gartner in Hartland and Molly Keating in Brownsville. More information is available from them at girlsontherunvermont.org

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From Your Minister

June is always a time of transition in the life of our church. We begin June in busyness, with our annual tent worship, and welcoming of new members, and then marking the shifting of our energy and focus in our religious education program as we recognize transitions and connections on Children's Sunday. General Assembly is a busy time of connection and energy for those of us who are able to attend. This year, with GA taking place relatively nearby in Providence, I know we'll have a few more folks from our congregation there, if not for the whole time, then for the Sunday morning worship service on June 29, which is free and open to the public.

Beginning this month we also have a bit fewer meetings and big events in the life of the church, though we continue on throughout the summer with regular worship and religious education. We're gearing up for the youth mission trip, taking place in July. Otherwise our regular youth group meetings have ended until the fall, which creates some space in my own schedule, which I appreciate—though I definitely miss my regular connections with the young people of our extended community.

The summer in our church is, I hope, a somewhat lighter time. We have our regular events to prepare for, including our important fundraiser at Hartland's Old Home Day on July 4. In worship and in our church life in general, I always hope that there's also a simpler spirit, and a freedom to try some new things, and to let our energy and imagination stretch, and to let ourselves enjoy our time together with a spirit of fun.

Because we have several "set" services in the summer time—like the tent meeting at Connie's, Children's Sunday, our joint Independence Day service with the Congregational Church, and the youth mission trip service—we have fewer "regular" worship services. In the three months of summer, we'll use just two "Engaging the Spirit" themes. For June and the first part of July, our theme will be "Mystery." And then for the rest of summer, we'll explore "Growing Faith."

As we deepen into "Mystery" in the weeks to come, I can think of no better introduction than this poem by Mary Oliver, which many of you know has become one of my favorites:

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Paul will be away in Providence at the UUA General Assembly and ministers meeting June 22-30.

From Your Minister
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Mysteries, Yes
Mary Oliver
From *Evidence*

Truly, we live with mysteries
too marvelous to be under-
stood.

How grass can be nourishing
in the
mouths of the lambs.
How rivers and stones are
forever
in allegiance with gravity
while we ourselves dream of
rising.
How two hands touch and
the bonds
will never be broken.
How people come, from
delight or the
scars of damage,
to the comfort of a poem.

Let me keep my distance,
always, from those
who think they have the
answers.

Let me keep company
always with those who say
“Look!” and laugh in aston-
ishment,
and bow their heads.

re: RE

Welcome to Summer!

After our traditional June services, we'll start our summer program, “Laughing Together, Playing Together.” I am so proud of how well the RE Children get along, appreciate and support each other, and are tolerant of one another when differences arise. We will spend the Sundays during the summer enjoying each other's company through play in many forms. We will have active outside games, indoor board games, team building, arts and crafts, music, and discussion around play and togetherness.

Thanks again to our RE volunteers in May: Heather Findlay, Laura Bergstresser, John Osborne, Mariet Jaarsma, Sue Taylor, Dianne Rochford and Deb Hart. The RE program finished a very important year of studying the principles of Unitarian Universalism. The children are shining examples!

Sara
DRE

June RE Calendar

1	9:00	Planting Flowers in the FUSH Garden
	10:00	Tent Meeting
8	9:30	Children's Choir Practice and Sing
	10:00	Intergenerational: Children's Celebration
15	10:00	Welcome to Summer: Friendship Bracelets
22	10:00	Craft: Summer Solstice
29	10:00	Board Games: Clue and others



In order to allow the newsletter team and those who write columns to have a summer break the next month's newsletter will cover two months. Which means that the next newsletter deadline will be Wednesday, June 18 and will cover July and August.

Offering Recipients
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June 15 — Planned Parenthood of Northern New England

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England offers reproductive and general health care services across our region, including through clinics located in West Lebanon and Claremont. Planned Parenthood's work in advocacy, education, and direct services is a vital force in promoting sexual health in our wider society. Planned Parenthood is also a strong supporter of our Our Whole Lives comprehensive sexuality education programs. More information is available at www.plannedparenthood.org/ppnne.

June 22 — Upper Valley Silent Warriors

Silent Warriors is a local organization working to offer practical assistance to those who are homeless in our region. They offer food support, warm clothing, sleeping bags, bicycles and other transportation support, personal hygiene items and any other needed supplies, and they also are working to build a network of support in our region for this very significant area of concern. Started just a few years ago by Enfield resident Bev McKinley, Silent Warriors has grown to be an important, growing, and needed resource for those struggling in our midst. You can learn more at silentwarriorsnhvt.org

June 29 — TBA

Semi-Annual Meeting of the First Universalist Society of Hartland Four Corners May 18, 2014

The Semi-Annual Meeting of our Society was held on Sunday, May 18, 2014, following the service. With Sue Buckholz serving as the moderator for the meeting, the congregation approved our nominating committee's recommendations, electing Coral Lydon Ovitt and Michael Theroux as new members of our Governing Board, joining five others who are serving in continuing terms: Mary Erdei, Sara Morin, Dan Poor, Tamara Ross, and Colleen Spence.

Written annual reports from volunteer leaders and staff members were circulated before the meeting to those on our newsletter mailing list (by e-mail and regular mail), and comments and questions were taken at the meeting. If you didn't get a copy of the annual reports, contact Nancy Walker in the office for a copy, and to be sure that you're on the mailing list for our monthly newsletter.

Also at this meeting, we recognized John Osborne and Becky Howe, who are completing terms of service on the Board as President and Secretary, respectively. A special recognition was made to Doug Hart, who is retiring from membership on our Governing Board after a remarkable 18 years of service, including a term as President, and serving the last 11 years or so as our Treasurer. Paul Sawyer presented Doug with a hand-forged Swedish axe, noting that like the axe, Doug has been durable, reliable, useful, strong, and especially—sharp—in service to our congregation.



Save the Dates:

We have two joint worship services with the First Congregational Church of Hartland (The Brick Church) this summer:

- Sunday, July 6 at FCCH at **9:30 am**
Joint Independence Day worship service with both ministers leading worship.
- Sunday, August 3 at our Church
Our annual Mission Trip celebration service led by the youth with Paul and Lucia.
- We're also working on the possibility of a very special worship service for Sunday, August 10—a shared celebration and picnic with all of the Unitarian Universalist congregations of the Upper Valley!

Bulletin Board

UUA General Assembly

June 25-29

Providence, Rhode Island

Even if you can't make it to GA, you can follow the action and watch many of the major events on-line at www.uua.org, beginning with the Opening Ceremony and Banner Parade on Wednesday, June 25.

Also, if you're interested, there are three events at GA that are free and open to the public without needing to register:

Friday, June 27

7:30-9:00 pm

Service of the Living Tradition

A special worship service celebrating professional ministry in all its forms.

Saturday, June 28

7:30 pm-Midnight

Worship and

Art Event at WaterFire

An opportunity to share worship and to celebrate the local community of artists in Providence in their annual waterfront WaterFire extravaganza (you can learn more about this at waterfire.org).

Sunday, June 29

11:00 am-12:30 pm

Sunday Morning Worship

An exciting service with special music, wonderful preaching, and thousands of Unitarian Universalists sharing worship together!



The Board's Broadcast

The Board met on May 12. Present were Dan Poor, Becky Howe, Mary Erdei, Paul Sawyer, Colleen Spence, and John Osborne.

The Board reviewed the minister's report.

Paul, Sara Doolan, Katie Sawyer and family attended the Northern New England District (NNED) Annual Meeting in Concord, NH. Paul reviewed the status of the NNED redistricting to become part of a larger organization, and that the districts are combining staffs and proposing a redistribution of their efforts to provide essentially more flexibility in the support of the member districts.

There is a communications issue with the various Circles between the Board and the congregation. The Circles need to be aware that communicating changes to the membership and the Board is important to prevent the congregation being surprised by changes and plans that they are not aware of.

The issue of funding for people attending the General Assembly in Providence came up, with a request to perhaps give one or two of the weekly collections to this purpose, but it was generally agreed not to do this, as the weekly collections are designated to go to community support, and not functions within the church. The possibility of a fundraiser to support the GA attendees was also discussed, but at this late date, seems unlikely. The possibility of maintaining a special fund for attending GA was also discussed, as the location and dates of GA are known years in advance.

The Treasurer's report was deferred, as the Treasurer was not present.

The Board discussed the issue of having an Assistant Treasurer, which was discussed in December and earlier, and dividing the Treasurer's duties between two people. The Finance Circle was formed in support of the transition to a new Treasurer, but an Assistant Treasurer was never nominated. Tamara may be overwhelmed by the amount of work involved in being the church Treasurer, and there had been discussions in the past about dividing the duties between receipts and expenditures, but this was not implemented.

Dan Poor proposed that the Board, with new members, meet informally after the Semi-Annual Meeting and elect the new officers. The alternative is that the Board will elect officers at the June meeting. The newly elected and re-elected Board will meet briefly after the Semi-Annual Meeting.

John reported on his attendance at the Vermont – Quebec Convention that took place in Barre on May 3. The meeting was an annual meeting that covered business topics of the Vermont – Quebec Convention. The meeting discussed the bylaw changes that are proposed, election of new officers, the role and need for Trustees of the endowment, and the distribution of funds from the endowment's income.

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Bulletin Board

Adult Choir - No rehearsals in June, but will meet at the Brick Church to rehearse with their choir for the combined service which they are hosting to celebrate July 4th (on Sunday, the 6th).

Rehearsal details for July:

Date: Wednesday, July 2

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: the Brick Church

The Service in which the combined choir will sing is on Sunday, July 6, at the Brick Church.

Children's Choir - Rehearsal at 9:30 am on Sunday, June 8 to sing during that day's worship service.

Our annual "Sermon from the Question Box" - Sunday July 27 During this service, Paul will respond to questions you send him in the coming month. The questions can be theological or spiritual, or personal, or informational, or random. Look for the official box to appear soon on the information table in the sanctuary, or simply send or give your questions to Paul by hand or electronically.

The Boards Broadcast continued from pg. 5

The bylaw discussion centered on the requirement that members of the Convention have in their bylaws that should a church fail, the property of the church will automatically become the property of the Convention. This does not impact us, as we already have this in our bylaws.

The discussion of the Trustees is that since the entire endowment, about \$600,000, is in the UUA General Endowment Fund, there is no need for Trust Advisory Committee in the Convention. This is countered by the point that the UUA Fund is performing poorly, and an active group of Trustees could search for funds which perform better. This might also be instructive to us.

The distribution of the earnings was described by the Treasurer. Essentially, there is a 5% of earnings distribution to specific "restricted" funds, of which this church has one, the Spear fund. This amount to us will be \$152.31. The remainder of the earnings, \$18,825.49, will be divided equally into 20 shares, so we will be receiving \$941.27 from the Convention, in addition to the amount for the Spear fund.

Finally, John volunteered our church for the location of the next Vermont-Quebec Convention annual meeting, on May 9, 2015. In addition to providing the church space, this will entail providing refreshments and a post-meeting luncheon for about 30 people.

Mary Erdei continued to send out thank-you notes this month.

The agenda of the Semi-Annual Meeting was briefly discussed. It is a short agenda, namely:

- Questions and discussion of the various Circle and Chairs reports.
- Elections of the new Board members.

There will be a potluck luncheon after the meeting; the Board decided on the contributions of the various Board members.

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm. This was the last meeting to be attended by John Osborne and Becky Howe, who have resigned from the Board. Paul thanked them for their service. The next meeting of the Board will be on June 9 at 7:00 pm. As always, members of the congregation are invited to attend.

Happy Father's Day



Calling All Circles

Fundraising

SoUper Sunday Soup Sale

June 8

Going into the summer months, we will begin to offer both soups and salads (potato, pasta, etc). If sales go well, we will continue this until the fall. Look for us at coffee hour. Until supplies run out purchase home-made soups and other similar foods to enjoy at home.

If you are interested in making soup or salads for this monthly fundraiser, please contact saradmorin@gmail.com

Fourth of July Booth

July 4

Save the date!

Each year we have a booth at the Fourth of July festivities, selling food and ice cream.

We'll be looking for lots of folks to help out with this annual money-maker. Look for sign-ups online and during coffee hours during the month of June.



The "Red Aprons"

This is a UU fundraising group looking for volunteers to manage parties (birthday, graduation, weddings, reunions etc.) so the hosts can relax and enjoy their event.



We could be serving food, bartending, managing the kitchen and cleaning up.

Proceeds for our services will be donated to FUSH.



Sensible and responsible women do not want to vote. The relative positions to be assumed by man and woman were assigned long ago by a higher intelligence than ours.

Grover Cleveland

Calendar - June 2014

1	Sun.	10	Annual Worship Under the Tent
6	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
8	Sun.	9:30am	Children's Choir rehearsal to sing
		10	Children's Program Celebration
		After serv.	SoUUp Second Sunday Sale
9	Mon.	7pm	Governing Board meeting
13	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
15	Sun	10	Worship Service & RE
18	Weds.	Noon	Deadline for July/August newsletter
20	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
22-30			Paul is away
22	Sun.	10	Worship Service & RE
25-29			GA, Providence, RI
27	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
29	Sun.	10	Worship Service & RE



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