

The First Universalist Society of Hartland Unitarian Universalist

MARCH 2015

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

Sunday Services

March 1 **Paul Sawyer**
Forgiveness—To Come Round Right, Part 1

Reflections on forgiveness, and working to make things right, even when it's difficult to do.

The collection will benefit COVER Home Repair.

March 8 **Paul Sawyer**
Forgiveness—To Come Round Right, Part 2

Reflections on forgiving, and opening to wholeness, even when it's difficult to do. *The collection will benefit Willing Hands.*

March 15 **Dianne Rochford**
By What Paths Have You Been Led to Our Church?

Dianne Rochford will lead this service, where three members and friends of our congregation, Tom Haushalter, Nancy Pedrick, and Michael Denmeade, will reflect on how they came to be a part of our community. *The collection will support Newport Food Pantry Backpack Nutrition Program.*

March 22 **Welcome Spring!** **Paul Sawyer**
with the choir from Kurn Hattin Homes

In all aspects of our lives, spring is an invitation to new growth and new energy. We'll celebrate the arrival of spring (on the calendar at least...) and we will welcome the choir of Kurn Hattin Homes for children, who will offer an extended musical offering for our reflection and enjoyment. *The collection will benefit Kurn Hattin Homes.*

March 29 **The Spirit of the Fool!** **Paul Sawyer**

Celebrate April Fools' Day with some foolish worship. Wear foolish clothes (if you like), be ready for some silliness, as we shake the mud off our boots, the cold from our joints, and the winter cobwebs from our spirits and minds.

The collection will benefit the Upper Valley Trails Alliance.

OFFERING RECIPIENTS FEBRUARY

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.

March 1—COVER Home Repair

COVER Home Repair, located in White River Junction, Vermont, works to ensure warm, safe, dry housing for people in need in the Upper Valley. COVER works together with homeowners, and volunteers to provide urgently needed home repairs, and they also offer a weatherization program empowering homeowners and volunteers with knowledge and supplies to button up homes and reduce fuel/energy usage. They also operate the ReCOVER store, which resells used but useful building products at low rates. More than simply providing services, the mission of COVER is to build community and foster hope through cooperation and fellowship among all home repair and reuse participants. More information is available at: www.coverhomerepair.org.

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From Your Minister

Welcoming the Ballou Pulpit to Hartland!

Hello Friends,

If you've been in the church office in the last couple of months, you may have noticed a new, large addition to the décor. At the end of last year, we were asked to serve as the caretakers of an important artifact of Universalist History.



The interior of the Oxford, MA Universalist Church in the mid-19th Century

The "Ballou Pulpit" once stood proudly in the Universalist church in Oxford, Massachusetts. The Oxford congregation was one of the earliest Universalist societies to be formed in the United States, with the initial members chartered in 1785, and the church built in 1792. It was at the Universalist General Convention of 1794 in Oxford that a young Hosea Ballou was spontaneously ordained by Elder Elhanan Winchester. Hosea Ballou later served as an itinerant minister in Oxford, along with nearby Dana, Massachusetts, from 1801-1802, when he came north to serve as the settled minister for our congregation, and our fellow "Sister Societies" of Barnard, Bethel, Bridgewater, and Woodstock.

It's Hosea Ballou's famous ordination in Oxford that gives the "Ballou Pulpit" its name, but it's doubtful that the pulpit itself is quite that old. I'm still working on researching the provenance, but it seems most likely that this pulpit dates from the time of a major renovation in the Oxford church, taking place about 1845, and it is known that Hosea Ballou did speak from this pulpit in the later years of his ministry, at about that time.

The pulpit is large and made of solid wood covered in a fine dark wood veneer. Its top is upholstered with burgundy-colored velvet, and the set also includes two wooden side pillars, and two antique brass oil lamps with etched glass shades.

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Offering Recipients
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March 8—Willing Hands

Willing Hands was founded in 2005 by employees of the Hanover Food Co-op. Their mission is to keep food from going to waste by distributing fresh produce and other perishable items from 25 grocery stores, restaurants, and other providers to more than 50 social service agencies in our region, including our own Hartland Food Shelf, which takes place in our church every Friday morning. 95% of the food Willing Hands donates is fresh fruit and vegetables and all the food they distribute is given free of charge. For more information contact David Day, or www.willinghands.org.

March 15—Newport Food Pantry Backpack Nutrition Program

The Newport, NH Food Pantry is operated by the Newport Area Association of Churches, and serves people in need across Sullivan County, including residents of Newport and Unity, where a number of members and friends of our congregation reside. Each Friday, their Backpack Program provides backpacks full of nutritious food to school children across the area, to take home to provide needed food support for the weekend. This project was nominated for our support by Dianne Rochford, who has worked with the program, and she welcomes you to contact her for more information.

March 22—Kurn Hattin Homes

Founded in 1894, Kurn Hattin Homes is a first-rate residential home and school providing education and intensive support to children in need and their families. All year long, more than 100 children live, play, learn, and
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re: RE

Our five week Winterim Program and Worship Service on February 8 seemed to fly by this year. The fifteen member cast presented a fabulous service and I am so thankful to Laura Bergstresser for writing the play. It is always very fun to have the children shine up in front of the church.

We are settling back into our normal routine with special Guest Artists, Faith in Action, Spirit Plays and Children's Chapels. The sixth graders will also work on their spiritual histories; we haven't had a chance to do this with such a busy December and then the Winterim Program.

Tom Haushalter and I have been working with a wonderful group of 5th and 6th graders during the OWL sessions for eight weeks. We finish up the lessons on the first of the month, but will continue to be resources for the children.

Sincerely,

Sara
DRE

March RE Calendar

1	8:30 am	5/6 OWL Class
	10:00	Guest Artist: Jaxon Morgan, drumming
8	10:00 am	Faith in Action
	11:30	RE Circle Meeting
15	10:00 am	Spirit Play: Cosmic Creation Story
22	10:00 am	Children's Chapel
29	10:00 am	Bonus!

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.

March 8 — 5:00-6:15 pm, Jr. Youth Group at UCC Church
6:30-8:00 pm, Sr. Youth Group at UCC Church

March 15— 9:00 am–1:00 pm—Mission Trip Fundraiser Brunch at the UCC Church

March 22— 5:00-6:15 pm, Jr. Youth Group at UCC Church
6:30-8:00 pm, Sr. Youth Group at UCC 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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grow at Kurn Hattin, supported in all aspects of life, including support for developing high quality relationships, addressing emotional needs, and receiving an effective and well rounded education. Our members Mary and Bill Fenn have both served on the board of Kurn Hattin Homes, and our own Gwen Hunt, granddaughter of Rod and Sue Patch-Crandall, is currently thriving in the Kurn Hattin environment. More information is available from Mary, Bill, Rod or Sue, or at www.kurnhattin.org.

March 29—Upper Valley Trails Alliance

The Upper Valley Trails Alliance supports active lifestyles and a strong sense of place through the development and maintenance of hiking, skiing, biking, and other recreational trails all across the Upper Valley. UVTA also maintains an on-line database of trails in our region and works to ensure that information about trails is kept up-to-date. UVTA also works with schools and other organizations to encourage healthy activity and further trail development for children and adults in our area. More information is available at: www.uvtrails.org

From Your Minister continued from pg. 2

The distinctive engraving in the large marble piece in the front of the pulpit is a quote from the Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians, "I am set for the defence of the gospel." It's a phrase that was often used to describe Hosea Ballou, himself, who saw it as his call in life to serve the hopeful possibilities of the gospel of love in a time when fear and the threat of divine punishment was the predominant religious language of the day. The true meaning of the passage is clear in its broader context: "Some proclaim Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from goodwill. These proclaim Christ out of love, knowing that I am set for the defense of the gospel."

The importance of this pulpit in our faith tradition lies not only in its original history, but in a more recent event as well. In May of 1961, the Ballou Pulpit was chosen to represent the Universalist Church of America on the stage of Symphony Hall in Boston at the celebration ceremony for the consolidation of the UCA with the American Unitarian Association to form our present Unitarian Universalist Association. William Ellery Channing's pulpit from the old Federal Street Church in Boston stood for the Unitarian side.



The Ballou Pulpit on the stage at Symphony Hall at the founding of the UUA

By the time of the 1961 consolidation, the Oxford, Massachusetts congregation had gone out of existence, and the pulpit became the property of the new Unitarian Universalist Association, and was housed at nearby Universalist churches, and at the headquarters of the Council of Liberal Churches in Boston.

In 2008, the UUA offered to loan the pulpit indefinitely to the newly-created Universalist Heritage Foundation, so it came north to the historic Universalist Memorial Church in Winchester, New Hampshire, where it resided until November of last year.

At that time, the governing board of the Universalist Heritage Foundation, of which I am a member, decided to sell the Winchester

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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



Turn your clocks forward
before going to bed on
Saturday, March 7.

From Your Minister continued from pg. 4

church building to a local social service agency, and that forced a decision—What would happen to this large, important piece of the history of our faith?

We offered the Ballou Pulpit back to its owners, the Unitarian Universalist Association, but our Association officials had just completed their move to new headquarters in Boston, and they felt there was no place in the new building where the pulpit could be displayed appropriately.

After a great deal of discussion, the board of the Universalist Heritage Foundation determined that we hoped the pulpit could come to an active church community, with a strong Universalist identity, who could be counted on to serve as long-term stewards of the pulpit. I felt strongly that we fit that description as well or better than most congregations, and so I spoke with our governing board, and they agreed.

A few weeks later, Michael Theroux and I traveled to Winchester and transported the pulpit to our office, using a moving truck and equipment generously provided by Michael's employer, the Chase the Mover company of Claremont.

So the historic Ballou Pulpit is here now, at our church, for the moment resting in the meeting room in our church office in the parsonage. It continues to belong to the UUA, but as long as we feel we can care for it, it's ours to use as we see fit. Our own resident historic furniture expert, Eric Dicke, is taking a look at it, both for historical interest's sake, and to help us think about how and where we might like to use it. In the years to come, we may well find a place for it to be used regularly in the chancel, or somewhere else, or we may simply keep it safe and secure and respected, here in our midst, until it is called to be used in some other service to our larger faith tradition.



The Ballou Pulpit, resting happily in our church office

Today
Billy Collins

If ever there were a spring day
so perfect,
so uplifted by a warm intermit-
tent breeze

that it made you want to throw
open all the windows in the
house

and unlatch the door to the
canary's cage,
indeed, rip the little door from
its jamb,

a day when the cool brick paths
and the garden bursting with
peonies

seemed so etched in sunlight
that you felt like taking

a hammer to the glass paper-
weight
on the living room end table,

releasing the inhabitants
from their snow-covered
cottage

so they could walk out,
holding hands and squinting

into this larger dome of blue
and white,
well, today is just that kind of
day.

Source: Poetry (April 2000)



The Board's Broadcast

The Governing Board met on February 17, 2015. In attendance were: Colleen Spence, Dan Poor, Sara Morin, Coral Lydon Ovitt, Tamara Ross

December meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report was reviewed and discussed. We are in the process of distributing accounting responsibilities. The Treasurer will continue to take in funds and make deposits, an Assistant Treasurer (Dan Poor) will disburse funds and make account transfers when necessary, our church Office Administrator will list incoming funds and bills as they arrive by mail and an outside accounting service will enter all banking transactions into a general ledger for tracking and reporting purposes. Our accountant is currently working on reconciling the 2014 transactions and will meet with the Finance Committee for additional clarification on any outstanding questions.

Our pledge drive has come to an end. Although we hope and in part expect additional pledges to trickle in, last night we made the hard decision to adhere to the constraints of the budget proposal we all approved together in December. To date, our pledge total is approximately \$79,000. We will not be giving raises to church staff this year. If the pledge amount increases to 82,000 at a later date, the Board will take up the discussion of adding cost-of-living raises going forward but we will not make the raises retroactive. This is hard news to deliver but we are committed to bringing our accounts into alignment with our expenditures and this just is where we are today.

One thing we hope to do next year is put the pledge drive ahead of the Semi-Annual Meeting so that we vote as a congregation on a budget that is directly based on our pledges for the year. This means possibly beginning the drive in September vs November.

Sara Morin reported on fundraising activities. Our Chocolate Auction was again a huge success, raising nearly a thousand dollars, \$577.00 in chocolate sales and another \$400-something in raffle sales. The raffle was a surprising boost to the success of the day. Thank you, Nancy Walker and Nada Pierce! We have some beautiful prints of the church available for sale. Check in with Sara for details. The Prom is coming (March 14) as well as the Baked Bean dinner (March 21). By the time this goes out a fundraising meeting will have been held for anyone interested in joining in the fundy fun! A number of topics will have been discussed including the possibility of grouping fundraising types – general fundraising activities, pledge contributions, on-line sales and grants.

We've had to do some long-needed work on the elevator to keep it running. My understanding is that it was way over-due for some general maintenance and now needs some additional repairs if we hope to keep it running. The Board will discuss whether or not the repair expenses should be taken from the Building and Grounds funds. The total costs will be approx. \$3000. \$1500 has already been spent. The heater went out this past Sunday, as well. The cost was around \$500 and will not be paid from the Major Repairs fund.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 9 at 7 pm. Our meetings are open for all to attend. You are always welcome.

Thank you to all, Colleen Spence, FUSH Governing Board President

Calling All Circles

Fundraising

Second Sunday SoUUp Sale

Look for us after the service on March 8 in the Fellowship Hall. Purchase a wide variety of delicious home-made soups (and sometimes bread). Large containers for \$10, small containers for \$5.

Hartland Community Prom Saturday, March 14 7:00 - 11:00 pm

A prom! Yes, for everyone!

Come alone, come with a date, come with your family.

Wear what you did wear to prom, what you wish you wore to prom, or anything else that makes you happy! DJ Jaxon Morgan, sundae bar, fun dancing. This is a fundraiser for the First Universalist Society. \$10 per person, maximum of \$25 per family.

We are looking for a few people to make/buy sundae toppings like nuts, cherries, whipped cream, caramel sauce, oreo cookie crumbles, gummy bears, etc. See the sign-ups at church.

New England Ham and Baked Bean Supper Saturday, March 21 4:00 - 6:00 pm



ONE NIGHT ONLY

Enjoy traditional New England Baked Beans made with maple syrup, ham from Green Mountain Smokehouse, steamed brown bread, coleslaw and rolls. Top your evening off with home-made gingerbread served with either real whipped cream or ice cream.

This is a not-to-be-missed meal!

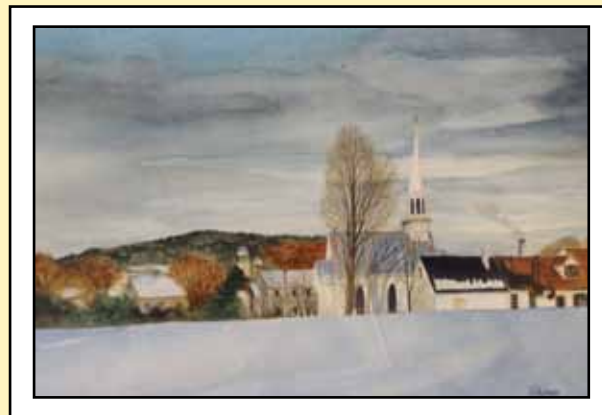
\$12 adults, \$6 for children 6-12.

We'll be looking for help with this event, cooking, serving, washing dishes, baking gingerbread at home, carving ham, etc. Look for sign-up information in Paul's weekly e-mails and online. Or come and eat, invite your friends, spread the word!

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 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.



Calling All Circles

Fundraising

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.

Proceeds for these services will be donated to FUSH.

Connections Circle

We are exploring new ideas as to how we can achieve more “connections” within FUSH and within the community. 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.

Coffee Hour

We thank Coral and Eve Ovitt, Jill and Todd Lloyd, the Youth Group, and Patti Ekels who have provided delicious snacks and organized coffee hour for us in January. And we thank Sara and David Morin, Nancy and Glenn Walker, the Youth Group, and Tamara and Jake Ross and Bineke Oort who worked hard in February to provide delicious snacks and coffee. We also greatly appreciate all those who have pitched in to help and clean up.

Coffee Hour will be provided on March 1 by Nancy and Rob Foote; on March 8 by Colleen Spence and Chris Husmann; and on March 22 by Bruce Locke and Clyde Jenne. We still need people to organize Coffee Hour on March 15 and March 29. 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.

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.

Thank You to Everyone Who Helped with the Chocolate Auction!

It was a smashing success and couldn't have been pulled off without the help of: Nada Pierce, Glenn Walker, Todd Lloyd, Joan Fariel, Sara Morin, Sue Taylor, Dianne Rochford, Debbie Hart and all those generous people who made chocolate items, those who bid on them and those who purchased the raffle tickets (which Don & Betty Munro won). The \$1,012 we made would never have happened without everyone's help. It astonishes me how each year there are new and different chocolate recipes that appear.

Nancy Walker

Bulletin Board

Adult Choir - rehearsal at 9:00 am on Sunday, March 8 and Sunday, March 15, to sing in the service on the 15th.

Anyone wishing to participate in the Folk Choir on the 8th is welcome to rehearse with both choirs.

Adult Choir will also rehearse at 9:00 am Sunday, March 29, to sing in the Easter service on April 5.

Multigenerational Folk Choir - rehearse Sunday, March 1 at 9:15 am in the sanctuary and Sunday, March 8 at 9:15 am in the sanctuary to perform that day during the service. Open to all ages, voices and musical instruments. "Lift every voice and sing!"

Rummage Sale News - During these cold and snowy days you could go thru your closets and cupboards and find things to donate to the Rummage Sale. This event will take place April 10 and 11. You can start leaving items at the church or parsonage after Easter. Please don't give us any ripped or stained clothing. Electronics have to work and preferably have directions for use and suggestions for price.

Helpers are needed, as well as, a couple of trucks on Saturday after the sale to take things away. If you are able to volunteer, please contact Nada Pierce.



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 next to the outside door 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 are two coming up in March and one in April:

Saturday, March 7

Hosted by David & Sue Taylor at 6:00 pm in their home in Plainfield, NH. They are able to accommodate a maximum of 8 people.

Saturday, March 21

Hosted by Gary Shapiro & Helen Miller at 6:00 pm in their home in West Windsor, VT. They are able to accommodate a maximum of 6 people.

Wednesday, April 1

Hosted by Patti Eckels at 6:00 pm in her home in Lebanon, NH. She is able to accommodate 5 people.



MARCH

Calendar - March 2015

1	Sun.	8:30am 9:15 10	5/6 OWL Multigenerational Folk Choir rehearsal Worship Service & RE
6	Fri.	8-10am 6pm	Food Shelf Circle Dinner at Taylors
7	Sat.	9am 9:15	Turn your clocks forward 1 hr. Adult Choir rehearsal
8	Sun.	10	Multigenerational Folk Choir rehearsal Worship Service & RE
9	Mon.	7pm	2nd Sunday SoUUp Sale
13	Fri.	8-10am	RE Circle Meeting
14	Sat.	7-11pm	Jr. Youth at UCC
15	Sun.	9am 10	Sr. Youth at UCC Governing Board
18	Wed.	After serv.	Food Shelf
20	Fri.	8-10am	Hartland Community Prom
21	Sat.	4-6pm	Adult Choir rehearsal & sing
22	Sun.	6 10am	Worship Service & RE Youth Fundraiser Brunch at UCC
27	Fri.	6:30-8 8-10am	Deadline for February newsletter Food Shelf
29	Sun.	9am 10	Ham & Baked Bean Supper Circle Dinner at Shapiro/Millers
1	Weds.	6pm	Worship Service & RE Adult Choir rehearsal Worship Service & RE
1	Weds.	6pm	Circle Dinner at Patti Eckels

