

The First Universalist Society of Hartland Unitarian Universalist

OCTOBER 2014

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

Sunday Services

October 5

Led by Chuck Fenton

A Conversation about Climate Change

We will be breaking from our traditional format today substituting for the sermon a conversation with several community members who are or have been involved with recent climate change and environmental activities. What is the role of the faith community? Is our very survival at stake? There will be time for dialog and engagement with the entire congregation. Please attend and participate in this important discussion. *The collection will benefit 350VT.*

October 12

Paul Sawyer

Creation—"Vayar Elohim Ki Tov"

"And God saw that it was good." An exploration of the Genesis story from the Torah, with some thoughts about Creationism, and our own rational faith. *The collection will benefit Hutt Family Fund.*

October 19

Creation—The Creative Spirit

Paul Sawyer

We do not only live in a world created for us by or through some force beyond us, every day we help create the universe through the work of our hearts, hands, and minds. We make art in all its forms, we build communities, and we find inspiration in the power of the creative spirit.

The collection will benefit the Reading-West Windsor Food Shelf.

October 26

Led by Don Foster and Andrew Kingsley Masks and Media

Halloween is a good time to be thinking about the masks we wear and the masks the media encourage us to wear. The talk will be given by Andrew Kingsley, the youngest film critic (chosen at the end of his freshman year) of the Dartmouth student newspaper.

The collection will benefit the Upper Valley Haven.

OFFERING RECIPIENTS

OCTOBER

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.

October 5— 350VT.org

350VT is our local chapter of the international organization 350.org, working to counter the impact of climate change in our region and all around the world. 350VT organizes direct action events, works to advocate for meaningful governmental response, and otherwise works to inspire people to an effective response to the challenges of the current state of our climate. The name comes from the scientific assertion that the maximum concentration of carbon in our atmosphere to avoid serious consequences for our climate is 350 parts per million. Unfortunately, the current concentration is about 392 PPM and climbing. More information is available at 350VT.org. This organization was nominated for our support by the worship leaders of this week's service.

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From Your Minister

Engaging the Spirit—Creation

For as long as there have been humans to contemplate the universe we have wondered where it all began. For most people wondering about creation is simply an impulse that comes and goes, and most of the time we just file it away with all those other odd unanswerable thoughts and questions that run through our heads every now and then.

But for some, that very same deep unanswerable quality is a calling. They just cannot let go until they have made some sense of how the universe began, how the world arose, how humanity came to be. And so they spend lifetimes searching, and wondering, and asking.

From these rare people over the course of human history we have received incredible gifts—amazing stories of creation. In all times, these stories have given the rest of us a way to understand our own occasional wondering. "Where do we come from? Ah, the stories say that..." and then we can get back to making the rest of our lives work.

Every one of these stories, every creation story ever told contains a part of the truth. And yet no story ever told has ever contained all of the truth—at least not yet.

This dual condition—this paradox of the drive to know more, and the reality that there will always be more than we can know—it has inspired amazing thinkers and leaders in our society—storytellers, philosophers, scientists, theologians, and artists.

In early societies, the scientists, the philosophers, the religious leaders, and often the artists, too, were all the same people. They were the ones who paid attention to the workings of the world and cared to notice how things were. It was the priests of the society that built Stonehenge who knew just where to place the stones, and how big they needed to be, because they knew where the sun would rise on certain days of the year. The discoveries they made that could assure the people that the sun was returning to bring spring were scientific and holy.

The shaman and the scientist, the priestess and the astronomer, the monk and the biologist, they have been one and the same throughout much of human history.

In our day and age we've come to see the science and the spiritual as separate entities, and as incompatible paths in the search for what is true. And so for many of us, on the liberal side of the religious world, that very word, "creation" brings with it some suspicion and some looks of rolling eyes.

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From Your Minister
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But creation is what we do. And creation is where we live. And every tendril of unfolding knowledge in our world is a great gift of the spirit. Religious conservatives often complain that modern science pulls people away from their religious grounding. As a religious liberal, I'd say it almost exactly the other way around—that religious understanding has too often neglected to see the wonder and amazement that our science affords, and also that those of us with “scientific” minds too often fail to understand our commitment to exploration and the increase of knowledge as an act of faith.

The universe is an amazing place. All of creation is the home of the spirit. All our creation is an act of the spirit. The wonders of science are a meaningful and fundamental part of my faith. And all the ancient stories of wonder from long ago are a meaningful and fundamental part of my faith. Because I know that both the science, and the ancient stories carry a part of the truth of creation—a truth that no story, whether we call it science or religion, has ever been able to tell in full.

re: RE

We are off to a great RE year! It is so nice to see all the families each Sunday. We have such a fun, energetic group of children joining us for the various programs.

I want the fifth graders, who will be heading to the youth groups before we know it, to have a solid understanding of the Seven Principles that guide Unitarian Universalism. Also it is a great chance for the other large sub-group, the kindergarteners and first graders, to be introduced to the principles.

Each month during Children's Chapel we will review a principle with discussion about the meaning, interpretations and relationships to their own lives and choices. September's focus was on the first principle and October's will be the seventh.

We have made some changes in the Nursery. Each Sunday there will be two youth babysitters taking care of the toddlers and babies. Jandra Oliver will be coming in for three weeks (9/29, 10/6 and 10/13) to do activities with the children and “mentor” the babysitters. Jandra has experience working in early childhood education and has some creative ideas for the nursery.

Happy fall!

Sara
DRE

October RE Calendar

6	9:30 am	Children's Choir Practice and Sing
	10:00	Faith in Action: Flower Basket Arrangements
13	10:00 am	Guest Artist
20	10:00 am	Spirit Play
27	10:00 am	Children's Chapel: The Seventh Principle/ Samhain



Offering Recipients
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October 12— The Hutt Family Fund

As many of you will remember, Patience Hutt, a Hartland mother of four, died tragically in a car accident in 2013. As the Hutt family continues to recover from her loss, it's become clear that some additional financial assistance and other forms support from our community would go a long way toward providing for the immediate and future needs of the family, and particularly toward ensuring that the family has a safe and adequate place to live. Bill Gaucher, the owner of BG's Market, has established a fund to support the family, and he has also been instrumental in bringing neighbors and friends and builders together to do the needed work at the family's home. Speak with Paul for more information, or feel free to contact Bill Gaucher directly—at BG's or Paul can get you his phone number.

October 19— Reading-West Windsor Food Shelf

Situated in the old stone school in South Reading, the Reading-West Windsor Food shelf is a non-profit, all-volunteer organization whose primary mission is to provide nutritious, high-quality food to anyone who needs food assistance in Reading, West Windsor and adjacent communities. RWWFS has served more than 80 families in the past year. With several of our members living in the area served by RWWFS, we're honored to be able to support their work in our region. More information is available at rwwfoodshelf.org.

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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 Hartland Congregational Church, 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

October 12— 5:00-6:15 pm, Jr. Youth at UCC Church
6:30-8:00 pm, Sr. Youth at UCC Church

October 19— 9:00 am-1:00 pm, Mission Trip Fundraiser Brunch at UCC Church.

October 26— 5:00-6:15 pm, Jr. Youth at UCC Church
6:30-8:00 pm, Sr. Youth at UCC Church

November 9— 5:00-6:00 pm, Jr. Youth at UU Church
6:00 pm, Mission Trip slide-show at UU Church
Information session for all 8th graders, Sr. youth, parents, and anyone else who is interested!
7:00-8:00 pm, Sr. Youth at UCC Church

November 14— 6:30-9:00 pm, Friday, Jr. Youth Game Night at UCC Church, Sardines and Sundaes!

November 21— 6:00 pm, Friday, Theater Night! leaving from UCC
All Youth invited to enjoy the annual Sharon Academy play in Randolph, cost \$7 for youth, \$12 for adults. Contact Lucia to buy tickets. Some adult drivers will be needed!

November 23—9:00 am-1:00 pm, Mission Trip Fundraiser Brunch, at UCC Church
(joint Thanksgiving service 10:00-11:15 am)

November 30— 3:00 pm, Dartmouth Hockey Game (vs. Boston University), leaving from UCC church
Register and pay Lucia by 11/23, \$6 for youth, \$10 for adults. Some adult drivers needed!

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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October 26— Upper Valley Haven

For more than 30 years, the Haven has provided emergency housing and other services to those in need in the Upper Valley. Currently, the Haven operates a shelter, a food shelf, case-management services, and other forms of support and in 2011 their services helped more than 10,000 people in our region. More information is available at uppervalleyhaven.org



The Board's Broadcast

The Governing Board held its monthly meeting on September 8, 2014. In attendance were: Colleen Spence, Sara Morin, Tamara Ross, Michael Theroux, Mary Erdei, Paul Sawyer and Dan Poor.

Meeting minutes were reviewed briefly and it was decided that all meeting minutes for the summer would be reviewed at once and voted on for approval at the October meeting.

The Minister's report was reviewed.

There will be a training held for volunteer leaders at the beginning of November. The cost is a flat fee for 3 – 5 attendees. Paul hopes to get some key members of the church to attend.

It was noted that Dianne Rochford has graciously volunteered to be a part of the Stewardship Committee. We look forward to her participation in the effort to encourage stewardship. We think it is a great fit considering her enthusiasm and love for the church!

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed. Progress is being made to align categories of funds so that we can see what money is coming in and going out. The reporting needs of the Minister and the church are not quite being met by the documents presented currently. Tamara and Doug are working together regularly to improve the process. The Board approved the Treasurer's work to keep making forward progress.

The Fundraiser's Report was reviewed. Sara communicated her concern that marketing for the upcoming concert is a task that runs in conflict with her profession. It is a job she cannot do, ethically. And she points out that it is a job that needs to be done as a part of holding such an event. The Board agrees and will make sure to communicate with future event champions and followers to be sure the message is clear that marketing of the event is an important part of the organizational tasks of holding such an event.

The FUSH Coffee House and Open Mic is being held again on September 27. Always a good time – and the music is fabulous. Please contact Dave Morin or Leah Gartner if you are interested in performing or for more information.

The Autumn Moon Festival is coming up October 10. The church will again be sponsoring a Whoopie Pie sales tent. Please contact Sara Morin or Katy Sawyer for details if you would like to participate by making or selling pies or helping with set up or take down.

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Bulletin Board

Adult Choir - Rehearse at 9:00 am on Sunday, October 12 and October 19, to sing in the service on the 19th.

Invitation to All the FUSH Congregation

Gary Shapiro and Helen Miller
Marriage Celebration Party

Saturday, October 11
beginning 12 noon & ending ???

At our home - 1643 Hammond
Hill Road (off Hartland-Brownsville Rd) West Windsor, VT.

Potluck food and/or beverage requested. (We'll coordinate and add, as necessary, to ensure wide range and balance.)

Plus dance, bonfire, fun games and activities, rituals for the heart and soul, and the autumn beauty all around us. And music too – Dave Keller, blues musician, will be performing early-mid afternoon

We would be so delighted to have you with us to celebrate !

For more information, email us at gshaperc@sover.net or call us at our home # 802-674-6116.

RSVP requested, but not required. Hope to see you !

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The Turkey Supper dates are set for October 18, October 25 and November 1. Start dusting off your red aprons and pie plates and turkey roaster pans. It will be here before you know it.

Mary Erdei asked to discuss the possibility of creating a Social Action committee. With a champion and three followers, the Minister and Board will support the development of any positive changes or endeavors.

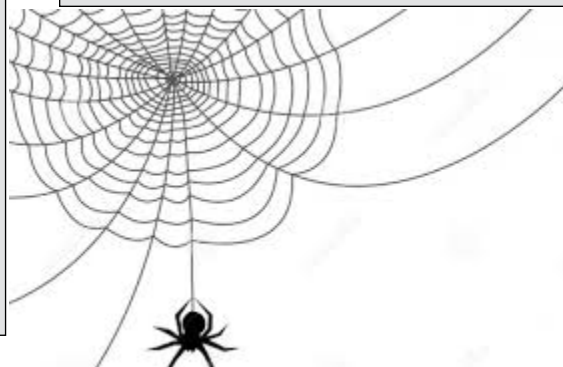
A Google Calendar has been added to the Church web page and is available to view. It includes upcoming events and church space rentals. The Worship calendar is kept separately. Some of its challenges are that it looks great on line but does not print well. Nancy will eventually – if she is not currently – be the point person for adding events to the calendar. A limited number of people will have access to add items directly to the calendar for now. Please send your add requests to Nancy Walker at the church office: hartlanduu@vermontel.net.

And finally, a quick note to update you all on the progress being made to purchase the Ladies Aid Hall. The development of the contract has been delayed for a number of reasons. New lawyer, lawyer out of town, owner(s) closing on other properties, etc. No delays that are relative to any hesitation on the behalf of either party, just timing and travel constraints. We expect to hear from Jack's lawyer as soon as she returns from a three week trip that began September 4. As soon as I know something new I will make sure you all know as well!

The next Governing Board meeting is scheduled for October 13 at 7:00 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

Welcoming Congregation

After church on a Sunday in November the Welcoming Congregation initiative is hosting a Workshop entitled “What Next?” This is the last in the series prior to the vote to amend our by-laws and adopt official “Welcoming Congregation” status in December. A copy of the proposed amendment is on the back table in the Sanctuary. It will also be posted in November’s newsletter. The initiative has been a year-long exploration of the experience in society of our fellow shipmates (think ‘Blue Boat Home’) who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, or who question their sexual orientation (LGBTQ).

There is a committed group in our congregation who have been key to the progress of the Welcoming Congregation initiative, and you’ll see rainbows on many nametags. These signify, if not active involvement, support for the effort and its outcomes.

However, what we haven’t done, or not done well, is invite other voices into the conversation. At this point, to some of you, it may seem that becoming a Welcoming Congregation is a done deal. You may have questions or concerns that, because of the momentum of the initiative, you have been reluctant to share.

Those of us leading this effort want to hear from everyone. As much as we are committed to seeing this initiative through, we believe strongly in our UU ideals, and everyone should be heard. To that end, we will have a box, in the Food Pantry downstairs, where questions, comments, or concerns can be contributed anonymously. We will share and address all contributions in early November, both in the newsletter, and at a Sunday service.

Fundraising

Turkey Suppers & Silent Auction

October 18, 25, November 1

4:30-6:30 pm

In the Fellowship Hall we’ll be serving a delicious, made-from-scratch turkey supper, complete with stuffing, mashed potatoes, squash, cranberry sauce, homemade pickles, rolls and a large variety of pies.

At the same time there will be unique, wonderful items available to bid on in our Silent Auction which takes place upstairs in the sanctuary. We had 150 donations last year and will need as many this year in order to make it a success. If you have something to donate please bring it to the church on Sunday, October 12. If you can help with the set up of the Silent Auction, please get in touch with Nada Pierce.

This is one of our largest fundraising events of the year and we would appreciate any help you are able to give during this event. There are lots of opportunities to pitch in before and during the event: cooking, serving, donating, baking, cleaning, etc.

Sign up to help at

<http://goo.gl/XgZIMW>

or look for the hard copy sign-up sheets at church.



Calling All Circles

The "Red Aprons"

Motto: *Be a guest at your own party.*

The Red Aprons had their second event on Saturday, September 13 - Kate Ripley's wedding reception held at her home in Hartland. Eight "red aprons" were there (in shifts) to help make it all go smoothly (we had fun too).



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.

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.

SoUper Sunday Soup Sale

October 12

Look for us at Coffee Hour, purchase homemade soups to enjoy at home for \$5 and \$10. Please be in touch with Sara Morin if you would be willing to make soup this month.

Autumn Moon Festival

October 10

5:00 - 11:00 pm



We will be taking part in Windsor's Autumn Moon Festival (formerly Moondance) this year selling WhUUpie Pies, Root Beer Floats, Coffee, Hot Chocolate and glow sticks. We'll be looking for people to help make whoopie pie cakes and to help staff the booth.

Please see Katy Sawyer or Sara Morin if you are able to help.

Share Your Passion Silent Auction

THANK YOU to everyone who took part in the Share Your Passion silent auction. At press time we did not have totals for how much we made, but watching people make connections and talk about pastimes, shared interests and passions was wonderful. Thank you to passion-sharers and to bidders alike for making the auction possible.

The Healing Moment

Rev. Elizabeth Tarbox, From *Life Tides*

Each day I am newly reminded of my unworthiness—a dozen thoughts misspoken; another day when the good I do falls short of the good that I could do; myriad small interchanges; moments of sharing that strain to the breaking point my desire to be generous, helpful, and kind; months of careful work lost by a moment's impatience, a careless word.

But when I am here at the edge of creation, breaking with the small tide over the sand, the need to do good rolls away; the question of what is right diminishes to insignificance and is easily borne away by the tiny waves. Here, where no words are spoken, none are misspoken.

I am with the broken stubble of the marsh grass that holds on through the wrecking wind and the burning

flood. I am with the grains that mold themselves around everything, accepting even so unworthy a foot as mine, holding and shaping it until it feels that it belongs. I stand somewhere between truth and vision, and what I don't know ceases to embarrass me, because what I do know is that the water feels gentle like a lover's touch, and the sand welcomes it.

What I have done or failed to do has left no noticeable mark on creation. What I do or don't do is of no moment now. Now I am here and grateful to be touched, calmed, and healed by the immense pattern of the universe. And when I die, it will be an honor for my blood to return to the sea and my bones to become the sand. Reassured, I am called back to my life, to another day.

CONCERTS AT FOUR CORNERS
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4 AT 7:30 PM

**THIS ACOUSTIC MUSIC SERIES BRINGS ANOTHER GREAT SHOW
TO HARTLAND FOUR CORNERS.**

**A NIGHT OF MUSIC AND LAUGHTER
WITH CHRISTINE LAVIN AND DON WHITE**

They have packed audiences wherever they've played, from the Regent Theatre in Boston to The Ark in Ann Arbor Michigan. Audiences get a shot of each performer during their solo sets, and then a free-for-all when White and Lavin take the stage together and display the kind of chemistry you get from old friends and seasoned performers.



TICKETS: \$25

**CAN BE ORDERED AHEAD OF TIME BY CALLING 802-738-0149 OR
AT THE DOOR IF STILL AVAILABLE.**

**SEE [HTTP://WWW.HARTLANDUU.COM/CONCERTS/](http://www.hartlanduu.com/concerts/) FOR VIDEOS, MUSIC CLIPS
AND MORE INFORMATION.**

Calendar - October 2014

2	Thurs.		Announcements due
3	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
4	Sat.	7:30pm	Concert at 4 Corners
5	Sun.	10am	Worship Service & RE
9	Thurs.		Announcements due
10	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
		5-11pm	Autumn Moon Festival, Windsor
11	Sat.	Noon	Shapiro & Miller marriage celebration
12	Sun.	9am	Adult Choir rehearsal
		10	Worship Service & RE
		After serv.	SoUper Second Sunday Sale
		5-6:15pm	Jr. Youth at UCC
		6:30-8	Sr. Youth at UCC
13	Mon.	7pm	Governing Board
16	Thurs.		Announcements due
17	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
			Prep for Turkey Supper
18	Sat.	Noon	Deadline for November newsletter
		4:30-6:30pm	Turkey Supper & Silent Auction
19	Sun	9am	Adult Choir rehearsal & sing
		10	Worship Service & RE
		9am-1pm	Youth Fundraiser Brunch at UCC
23	Thurs.		Announcements due
24	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
			Prep for Turkey Supper
25	Sat.	4:30-6:30pm	Turkey Supper & Silent Auction
26	Sun.	10am	Worship Service & RE
		5-6:15pm	Jr. Youth at UCC
		6:30-8	Sr. Youth at UCC



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