



The First Universalist Society of Hartland Unitarian Universalist

JUNE 2013

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

Sunday Services

June 2 **Annual Worship Under the Tent!—"Love Saves"** Paul S. Sawyer

Join us under the tent at Connie Tessier's, just a quarter of a mile from the church on Clay Hill Road, for a service filled with hymns, poetry, 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 9 **Children's Program Celebration Sunday** Paul S. Sawyer

We will honor our children and their teachers in this fun annual inter-generational service of recognition and celebration.
The collection will benefit Girls on the Run.

June 16 **Celebrating Fathers of All Kinds** Led by Jill & Todd Lloyd.

The collection will benefit Planned Parenthood of Northern New England

June 23 **Solstice Celebration Led by the Worship Circle**

The collection will benefit Upper Valley Farm-to-School.

June 30 **Inspiration from General Assembly Paul S. Sawyer**

Every year the UU Association holds its annual General Assembly to conduct business and to inspire a sense of faith in congregational life. There are workshops and beautiful worship services, and presentations by wise thinkers—this year's speakers include Eboo Patel and Wendell Berry. It's part meeting, part UU county fair, part educational workshop. This year we will be represented at the GA in Louisville, Kentucky by Paul Sawyer, Sue Buckholz, and Jill, Todd, and Mallory Lloyd. In this service our delegation will share from the inspiration they glean at the event. *The collection will benefit Association Unitarienne Francophone Africaine (rescheduled from May).*

OFFERING RECIPIENTS

JUNE

We rely on the planned, committed financial pledges 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 9—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 and at girlsontherun-vermont.org.

continued on pg.3

From Your Minister

Dear Friends,

As you read this, I will have been back from my three-month sabbatical for just over a month. I've been busy, trying to keep up with all the wonderful events going on in our congregation and dealing with some challenges as well as we face the loss of some truly wonderful people in our extended community.

My sabbatical was a wonderful time of ideas and engagement, and I know that its effects will play out in my ministry and our work together for years to come.

I had an active and busy sabbatical. I didn't go anywhere on extended retreats or anything like that. At this stage in my life, with my family active in the community and both children experiencing their last year out of full-time school, probably for a long time, that kind of "away from it all" sabbatical just wasn't in the picture. And that's just fine. What I needed was some time to think, some time to plan, some time to organize, and I got just that.

Among other activities, I attended two conferences during my time away, and I particularly enjoyed the sense of being able to be present at those events in a different way than if I were already writing the next three weeks' sermons in my mind—which is what my mind tends to do in ordinary times.

I've returned with some new ideas for how we plan worship (you'll hear more about those ideas soon), some new inspiration for all areas

of my work, and at least a little more ability to find files and books in my office when I need them.

A number of you have asked me if, after my sabbatical time, I'm feeling "rested." And a couple of you have even looked at me and said something like—"Hmmm, you don't look very rested at all!"

I don't know. I think part of what I've learned during my sabbatical is that "rested" isn't really something I need, or even want right now. Which is good, because, truly—how many working parents with a deep commitment to their family, and a deep connection to their community, do you know that would describe themselves as "rested"? Ha!

My friends, I don't need, we don't need to feel rested. There's too much we need to do, too many connections to build, too much love to share.

We don't need to feel rested, we need to feel inspired. We need to feel connected. We need to feel engaged. Because of your great gift of sabbatical time—inspired, connected, engaged—that is exactly what I feel.

So thank you, thank you,
thank you, so much!

We have some wonderful work to do together in the years to come.

Paul

Paul will be away in Louisville at the UUA General Assembly and minister's meeting June 16-25.

June 16—Planned Parenthood of Northern New England.

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England offers reproductive and general healthcare 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 23—Upper Valley Farm-to-School Network

The Upper Valley Farm-to-School Network is a collection of educators, farmers, parents, and students, all working together to integrate local farms with local schools. They support education programs, nutrition programs, special events, and strong relationships that encourage children to learn about farming in their community and that encourage strong farms and good food. A dear friend of our congregation Peter Allison is the founder and director of UVFTS, and our own Amy Richardson and Emma Sawyer are among the FTS volunteers in our community. More information is available at www.uvfts.org.

continued on pg. 4

re: RE

We have a handful of children growing up and moving from the nursery to the elementary RE program this summer. We welcome their energy and look forward to helping them adjust to a new setting and structure in the yurt and beyond! On the older end of our great group, we will miss having Emma Sawyer with us each Sunday. She has been such a wonderful, thoughtful and active participant and a tremendous helper. She will be assisting in the nursery and hopefully joining us whenever she wants!

In May the children cleared a path behind Connie Tessier's house in preparation for June's Tent Meeting. We also started an activity that will be enjoyed by all at that meeting. On Mother's Day, Bess Klassen-Landis was our guest artist, working with the children making some beautiful painted paper vases of flowers to decorate Mother's Day cards. Near the labyrinth, the children planted herbs and vegetables to be used next fall in the turkey suppers! Thanks again to our RE volunteers in May: Laura Bergstresser, Colleen Lannon, Todd Lloyd, Dan Lambert and Molly Keating.

Sara, DRE



June RE Calendar

2	10:00 am	Tent Meeting
	11:15	Potluck Picnic and Games
9	9:30 am	Children's Choir Practice and Sing
	10:00	Intergenerational: RE Celebration
16	10:00 am	Welcome to Summer
23	10:00 am	Gardening/Planting Flowers, Sarah Milek
30	10:00 am	Introduction to Zen

Treasurer's Notes

UUA Fair Share Membership Dues

UUA is supported in some measure by membership dues assessed against active members. Our requested contribution this year is \$58/member which would amount to \$5,336, an amount that your Board considers well beyond our means in that we run a deficit operating budget, so we have budgeted \$1,800. What we have done successfully in the past and wish to continue this year, is to ask willing members to contribute their \$58 fair share.

Please put your check for \$58 in the collection plate or give it to me. Make the check out to "FUS" noting on the memo "UUA Dues." I shall combine all these payments and include the total when I send our payment to UUA in June.

Doug Hart

June 30—Association Unitarienne Francophone Africaine

This offering recipient was rescheduled from May due to an immediate need in our community. The AUFA is a small but dedicated and growing group of UUs in French-speaking Africa. Centered in the UU congregation in Bujumbura, Burundi, the AUFA has already established satellite groups in other areas of Burundi as well as in Congo Brazzaville and Kigali, Rwanda. This organization has arisen among the local peoples of the region (it is not an American UU missionary effort), and they are doing remarkable things in a tough place, professing a liberal message of hope in an area that has known so much war and destruction. A few leaders of our congregation had the opportunity to meet the president of the Bujumbura congregation at a Northern New England district event in New Hampshire last fall, and our congregation member Gary Shapiro was able to attend worship in Bujumbura in March while he was working in the region. Those of us who have been lucky enough to have contact with this remarkable group of Unitarian Universalists have found the story of their efforts inspirational and hopeful. We will be sending our collection to the Concord, NH UU Congregation, which works closely with the AUFA, to be bundled with funds from their own special collections. For more information, speak with Paul Sawyer, and read more about this group on the International page of the UUA website: www.international.blogs.uua.org/uu-judicatories/africa/unitarians-of-bujumbura-burundi-dedicate-new-church-home.

The Board's Broadcast

John Osborne and Becky Howe could not attend this meeting. Minutes were taken by Dan Poor.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed, and the Board discussed possible committees or circles to support the Treasurer. The Stewardship Circle will help with fundraising, communicating with pledging members, etc. The Finance Circle will work with the Treasurer on details of the church financial management.

Paul Sawyer gave the Minister's report orally. FUSH is among growth leaders in the District. He is exploring collaborations among 5 UU congregations in Upper Valley, and is one of three "Good Officers" in the District who will be available to other ministers to help with conflicts/issues with congregations and governing boards.

The Board discussed Governing Board membership. It is not clear whose term is up and/or which folks (other than Dan) need to be officially elected. All the present members are willing to continue their membership. There are no specific records of when the current members joined the board. The most reliable source of this information is the Board minutes.

Also we need a new Trustee, as there are currently two of the three required by our bylaws. The Board will ask the current trustees for suggestions for a third member.

The Board discussed the yearly audit, and how often it should be performed. It will be done at least at the close of a Treasurer's term. Also discussed was who is required to do the audit, is a CPA required, or an accounting firm that specializes in auditing non-profits? Doug Hart will contact district offices for guidelines on how to find an auditor/reviewer of books and how often this should be done.

The Treasurer's laptop has been replaced with one donated by Elaine Hart, and the data and applications have been moved.

The issue of the visitor cards will be delegated to the Connections Circle for resolution.

Upcoming events discussed were Old Home Day on July 4th and the Semi-annual Membership Meeting. Sara Morin will contact Sue Buckholz to moderate the Semi-annual Meeting and Jill Lloyd to lead the preparations for the Old Home Day event.

The next meeting will be on June at 7:00 pm.

As always, any member of the congregation is welcome to attend.



Calling All Circles

Connections Circle

Coffee Hour

Thank you to all those of you who have hosted the Coffee Hour in May! Sara Doolan and Joan Fariel, Bridget Fariel, and Amy Nickerson worked hard to make sure we could have good conversation, hot coffee, and tasty treats after the services.

We still need hosts for May 26 and the rest of June. We appreciate all of your generous hospitality!

Work Party

The congregation really gave the work party their all this Spring and so much was accomplished. Thank you to all of you who worked so hard to get our yard, gardens, and painting in shape. We also are very appreciative of the delicious meal prepared by Joan Fariel, Becky Howe, Bineke Oort, and Nancy Walker. And Diane Rochford generously planned and donated the delicious cake to welcome Paul back.



Building and Grounds Committee

Painting - While Jan and his crew are working on the framing of the steeple we are preparing to use volunteers to do the priming (both sides) and first coat of the boards to sheathe the steeple. We are looking for an indoor space to do this, if at all possible. Please let us know if you have one. I believe Jan is also doing some minor repair on the belfry and it would be a good time to get that painted. We have had Leonard Spencer come down to have a look and to give us an estimate for both the last coat on the steeple, once the boards are up, and the belfry. He is a well known expert for painting historic buildings and a friend of Jan's. As for painting the rest of the church, we have deferred this for the time being as with a little touch up in a few spots and a good power washing we think we will be ok for a bit longer.

Weathervane - Jim Dow is working on the new shaft and cap for the weathervane while Jill Lloyd is coordinating the choice of the decorative portion.

Front Steps - This has become a priority since, with the railing down, it has become quite a hazard. John Hickory has been looking into getting someone to redo the front steps ASAP so stay tuned. When this happens, probably June, we will need some help cleaning the granite blocks that are used for the steps for reuse since replacing these is quite expensive.

Parsonage - Jake Ross is replacing the faucet in the downstairs bath and also the hose for the sump pump which should help in keeping the basement area drier.

Well - We have asked Valley Artesian to replace the well cap on our well and to shock chlorinate our water (it takes 24 hours for this to dissipate).

Grading - We met again with Jarvis Excavating who will be doing the grading around the church. We will need to have the big tree next to the driveway on the parsonage side taken down before this can happen. Jarvis will remove the debris but cannot fell the tree. Any ideas on getting this done? Time frame is probably July.

PLEASE let us know if you have any time to spare to help with the following:

- Evaluate options for next year's heating oil (all you need is a phone and the materials Jill Crowley has collected)
- Power washing front of church
- Cleaning granite steps of old mortar
- Painting steeple boards
- Finding someone to take down tree by driveway

Thank you!

Volunteering for tasks such as these really helps keep expenses down and often provides new ways to connect with others at the church.

Jill Crowley

Calling All Circles

Capital Campaign Committee

Because the Steeple was much more rotten than expected we will go over budget by at least \$6,000 and we also need to fix our front steps and banisters which are deteriorating. We hope that everyone in the congregation will be able to make a contribution. We are in the last phases of our campaign to raise the money we need to repair our building and grounds and to have a fund for building maintenance. Overseen by Jill Crowley and her circle, Jan Lewandoski's work is well underway on the steeple.

There has been help in addition to the hard work of Jill and the Build-

ing and Grounds Circle from many people in the congregation. Jim Dow has been working with Jan to facilitate the attachment of the weathervane when it is ready and to ensure that it will be very stable. John Hikory is working hard to find a way to repair the front steps. And Jill Crowley and Rob Jaarsma are painting three coats on all the boards which will go onto the steeple to save the Congregation a large expense.

There will be two upcoming fundraisers for the "Save the Steeple Fund." Paul will be the champion for the "Country Eastern Concert" with Davey Davis and Friends on

June 9 as you will find on page 7 in this newsletter. It would be great if people in the congregation can make cookies or small cakes which could be served at the intermission.

Also, we will be providing food for the Jazz Concert in Hartland on June 22 from 1:00-8:00 pm. We will need people to staff our booth and to make cookies and cupcakes to sell. Both of these events will be an opportunity to raise money for the building projects, to connect with the community, and to have some fun.

Bulletin Board

Adult Choir will sing in the ecumenical July 4 service, to be held on Sunday, July 7, at our church. Rehearsals will be Tuesday evening, July 2, at 7:00 pm and Sunday, July 7 at 9:00 am, both at FUSH.

The Adult Choir will not sing in June or August, but will resume in September.

Our annual "Sermon from the Question Box"

Sunday, July 28. 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 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association will be held in Louisville, KY, June 19-23. 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 19.

Save these dates:

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

Sunday, July 7 at our church—Joint Independence Day worship service with both ministers leading worship.

Sunday, August 4 at FCCCH—Mission Trip celebration service led by the youth with Paul and Lucia.



A COMMUNITY WIDE
“SAVE THE STEEPLE”
CELEBRATION AND THANK YOU

Friday, May 31

at The First Universalist Society Of Hartland At Four Corners



6:00 pm Buffet Supper

**7:30 pm A Presentation By
Preservationist Jan
Lewandoski**

*“The Construction Of
18Th And 19Th Century
Church Steeples In
New England”*

**Given By: The Hartland
Historical Society**

**The First Universalist
Society Of Hartland
Four Corners**

**The First Congregational
Church Of Hartland**

**For More Information
Please Contact
Dave And Sue Taylor
603:675-6566**



JUNE

Calendar - June 2013

2 Sun.	10am	Worship Service Under the Tent
3 Mon.	7pm	Potluck luncheon
7 Fri.	8-10am	Governing Board meeting
9 Sun.	9:30am	Food Shelf
	10	Children's Choir rehearsal & sing
14 Fri.	8-10am	Children's Celebration Service
16 Sun.	10am	Food Shelf
16-25		Worship Service & RE
18 Tues.	Noon	Paul away at GA
21 Fri.	8-10am	Newsletter deadline
22 Sat.	1-8pm	Food Shelf
23 Sun.	10am	Hartland Jazz Concert
28 Fri.	8-10am	Worship Service & RE
30 Sun.	10am	Food Shelf
		Worship Service & RE

