

The First Universalist Society of Hartland Unitarian Universalist

SEPTEMBER 2014

First Universalist Society
Hartland Four Corners
8 Brownsville Road, Corner Rte. 12
Hartland, VT 05049

Website: www.hartlanduu.com

E-mail: hartlanduu@vermontel.net

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 75

Hartland Four Corners, VT 05049

Phone

802-436-2592

Office Administrator

Nancy Walker

In the office: Fridays

Minister

Reverend Paul S. Sawyer

802-436-3366 (h), 802-299-7530 (c)

uupaul@vermontel.net

Religious Education Director

Sara Doolan, 802-436-3220

dre@hartlanduu.com

Music Director

Patty Talbot, 802-436-2085

pttalbot@comcast.net

Caring Circle

Sue Botzow, 802-436-3035

Nada Pierce, 802-436-2336

Connie Tessier, 802-436-2323

Governing Board

Colleen Spence, President

Dan Poor, Vice President

Tamara Ross, Treasurer

Mary Erdei, Sara Morin,

Coral Lydon Ovitt, Michael Theroux

Trustees

Jill Crowley, Don Foster,

Robert Jaarsma

Buildings & Grounds

Jill Crowley, Chair

Jake Ross, Sexton

Newsletter

Layout - Nancy Walker,

nancy.mr.walker@gmail.com

Printing - Lydia Johnson, Phyllis Tucker

Copy Editors- Cynthia Thompson,

Joan Fariel

Sunday Services & Religious Education Classes 10 am in the Church

Sunday Services

September 7

Paul Sawyer

Welcome & Water Ingathering!

Join us as we come together in this intergenerational service of ingathering after a fine summer. Be sure to bring some water to share from any place that feeds your soul. It could be somewhere you visited, or it could be from your own back yard. Salt water, fresh water, and murky water are all welcome! And some fine Hartland Four Corners water will be available if you forget to bring your own. The water we collect will be filtered and boiled, and then used this year in child dedications and baptisms, and in any other services of blessing we decide to share.

The collection will benefit the Connecticut River Watershed Council.

September 14

Paul Sawyer

The Beloved Community: Catching a Glimpse

From our world and from the depths of our imagination, exploring some visions of the world we hope to build through the work of our hearts, minds, spirits, and hands.

The collection will benefit Friends of Lemax Farm.

September 21

Paul Sawyer

What We See: Vision, Perception, and the Colors of Fall

As we welcome autumn and all the beauty and change of a New England fall, some reflections on what we see, and how we make sense of the world, from your colorblind but beauty-loving minister.

The Collection will benefit Silent Warriors of the Upper Valley.

September 28

Be Thou My Vision

Paul Sawyer

A Meditation on divinity and spirit, inspired by the words of the ancient Irish hymn, and the sacred season of the Jewish Days of Awe.

The collection will benefit Hand in Hand Community Suppers.

OFFERING RECIPIENTS SEPTEMBER

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.

September 7— The Connecticut River Watershed Council

It's hard to imagine a more important resource and landmark in our communities than the great Connecticut River. Founded in 1952, the CRWC works to protect the river watershed "from source to sea." From their headquarters in Greenfield, MA, and through field offices in various regions of the river, including the Upper Valley, the CRWC both advocates for the protection of the river and its surrounding watershed and works directly to keep the river clean, safe, and available as a resource to all. Please join in this special collection for our annual Water Ingathering service. More information is available at www.ctriver.org

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From Your Minister

Engaging the Spirit—Vision

As we return to the more active season of our church year with the arrival of September and the beginning of the fall, we'll be re-connecting more directly with our "Engaging the Spirit" monthly worship themes, and the theme for September is "Vision."

The word "vision" carries many different meanings in our language. It refers to everything from the physical act of visual perception to a much grander notion, the sense of an all-encompassing understanding of direction and purpose for an organization or for our individual lives.

In the world of faith, the word "vision" has been associated since ancient times with many forms of direct communication sent from the realm of the Divine into the human world.

Indigenous religions from many parts of the world include rites of passage that in English we've come to call "Vision Quests"—dedicated periods of time when a person steps outside of the accumulated habits of their regular lives to seek out a special sense of spirit, and to open themselves to guidance, direction, and a grounding vision of faith, received from a sacred source of wisdom and spirit.

In the Hebrew scriptures, the prophet Joel tells the people a message that he's received from God, about how the people will respond when they're touched by God's Spirit: "I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions."

And also in the ancient Hebrew scriptures, in the Wisdom sayings of the book of Proverbs, tradition says that Solomon spoke the famous lines, "Where there is no vision, the people perish."

The Hebrew word translated as "vision" in the book of Proverbs in the King James Version, is in more modern versions translated as "revelation." And perhaps you can see that the two words, vision and revelation, are deeply connected, particularly in the language of faith. We hold a vision of the world we are working together to build. And for each of us, we look to, reach out to, our deepest sources of spirit, to find where the greatest possibilities of that hopeful vision might be revealed in the course of our lives.

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From Your Minister
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As we begin a new church year, and as we continue, as always, to come together to do the work of building the kind of beloved community we know we are meant to be a part of, in our congregation, and in our wider society, we are following an ancient vision, passed down to us by our ancestors from many different paths of faith. We are also seeking to discern and to form and to hold a new vision of faith, grounded in our own place and time, in our own community, and shining, alive, revealed, in the deepest places of our own souls.

Whatever this year will bring our church community, whatever joys and sorrows, whatever new opportunities, new activities, new build-ings(!), we may experience, may we always work to seek out, and to build, and to share the visions that guide us on the path of faith—new visions, ancient visions, and visions just now barely coming into form—our precious glimpses of the shining possibilities of the world we are working to build.



re: RE

Welcome to a new RE year!

This year our theme will be the history of Unitarian Universalism. We have several children who are in their last year of the K-6 RE program and my hope is that they have a broad education of our tradition. Last year our focus was on the principles, this year we'll look at the people and events that have been a part of UU. The older children will also have the opportunity to reflect on their own histories and to share these thoughts with each other and perhaps the whole congregation.

We will also be incorporating Spiritual Practices into our time in the Yurt. The children will be practicing quiet contemplative time; I am excited to try out various examples that I learned during my RE week at Star Island. We will continue to follow the RE schedule of Faith in Action, Guest Artist, and Spirit Play for the first three Sundays of each month. I appreciate any suggestions for Guest Artist and Faith in Action!

Last year, we were unable to hold the fifth/sixth grade OWL (Our Whole Lives) sexuality courses because we had no trained instructors. Hopefully that will be resolved this year and we can offer the classes during the winter.

On September 14, registration forms will be available for new families to complete, and returning families can update any information. The RE schedule will be posted and the congregation is invited to sign up to volunteer to teach or assist in classes through December.

Happy fall!

Sara
DRE

September RE Calendar

7	10:00	Intergenerational Service: Annual Water Ingathering
14	10:00	Welcome to RE! Introductions and Activities
21	10:00	Fundraiser Project
28	9:30	Children's Choir Practice
	10:00	Children's Chapel: In the Beginning

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.

Events for both youth groups will begin later this month.

Offering Recipients
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September 14— Friends of Lemax Farm

The Lemax Farm in North Hartland is an iconic and important working farm, a remarkable example of 19th century agricultural architecture still functioning in a 21st century family farm. Ed and Kelley Meacham have been operating the farm for more than 20 years, and in recent years it's become clear that the reality of current dairy prices and expenses do not allow for the needed upkeep on these historic and beautiful ancient buildings. In addition, Ed and Kelley Meacham have consistently been leaders in our wider community, particularly concerning farm-to-plate and other agricultural education programs. Recognizing the Meacham's significant role in the community, as well as the importance of the Lemax Farm for the social, agricultural, and visual atmosphere of our area, a group of local residents has come together, in partnership with the Vermont Land Trust, to work through donations, grants, and other fundraising opportunities, to build a fund to repair and preserve this landmark farm for the generations to come. More information is available from the leaders of this effort, Hartland residents and friends of our congregation, Matt Dunne and Nichole Boynton. You can also learn more about the project on the Facebook page www.facebook.com/lemaxfarm or contact Paul and he will send you additional information.

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A NEW WAY OF SHARING SPOKEN ANNOUNCEMENTS ON SUNDAY

Beginning this September, we'll be trying out a change in how we handle spoken announcements at the beginning of the service on Sunday mornings.

We'll be collecting announcements in writing, preferably by Thursday afternoon, and a member of our Governing Board will read all the announcements from the microphone. So individual people won't have to come forward to make separate announcements any more.

If you can't get the information to us in advance, we'll also have some index cards available on Sunday morning, so you can write down what you'd like said (hopefully well before the service begins). And if you let us know in advance, we'll certainly make space if you'd like to make a special announcement, or present your announcement in a creative fashion, (like the famous and wonderful Todd/Mallory turkey supper announcements!).

We'll include your spoken announcement, and we'll also include any information you like in the printed bulletin, in Paul's weekly e-mail, and on the church on-line calendar (which is available on our web site, and which we also plan to begin using much more effectively beginning this fall).

Our hope is that this new process will help us improve both the timing and the clarity of our announcements before the service, and that it will also help us get important church information to a wider audience through our other forms of communication, since our spoken announcements each week reach

only a small percentage of our total population of the members and friends of our congregation.

We ask that for all announcements, you follow these simple guidelines to help ensure that we're communicating needed church information effectively:

- Announcements should generally be limited to church information or information about church-sponsored events.
- If time and space allow, announcements with a less direct but still significant connection to our church community are also welcome, but please understand that we are active people, living in an active region, and it's clear that if we don't place some limits on

what we're trying to share, particularly in our spoken announcements, we could quickly overwhelm our ability to communicate information specific to our church community in an effective manner.

- Spoken announcements should be brief, with more detailed information or instructions available in writing if needed.
- And also, especially as we get used to this change in our practice, please remember that our Candles of Joy and Sorrow are meant as a time of prayer, not as a time for informational announcements.

If you have questions, comments, or concerns, please contact our minister, Paul Sawyer. As with any change in the way we do things in our worship services, we'll try this change for a while before we make it permanent, and we'll be sure to assess how it's working, and make any needed adjustments along the way.



**Please submit announcements by
Thursday afternoon to:**

⇒ hartlanduu@vermontel.net
(Our office e-mail account.)

or

⇒ **Leave a message at 802-436-2592**
(The church answering machine)

Offering Recipients
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September 21 — 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. 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 www.silentwarriorsnhvt.org

September 28—Hand in Hand Community Suppers

Hand in Hand Community Suppers take place each week in the Fellowship Hall of our neighbors at the Unitarian Universalist church in Woodstock (the North Chapel Universalist Society). These meals are open to everyone, and provide both food support for those who need it, and a place for conversation and connection for anyone, regardless of their state of material needs. The effort is supported by several individuals and organizations in our area, and members of our community have been participants in this program for several years. This program was nominated for our support by Judy Howland, and you can contact her for more information, or just show up at the Woodstock church any Thursday at 5:00 pm.

The Board's Broadcast

Submitted by Colleen Spence, President

It is my privilege to serve you all as President of the Governing Board for the next two years. I have been sitting on the Governing Board as a member and then Vice President for nearly two years, to date. Along with my appointment, Dan Poor graciously accepted the position of Vice President and Coral Lydon Ovitt, the position of Secretary.

I had put together a formal account of our summer meetings and realize it is way too long for the newsletter so I decided to summarize. These documents are available upon request, if you have a desire to wade through the minute-by-minute details of our monthly meetings.

It is an exciting time for the church. We learned very shortly after I took this position that the Ladies Aid Hall building was being put up for sale. The Trustees Committee urged the Board to act as quickly as possible to assure that we would be in position to purchase the building as soon as the opportunity arose. We pulled together an Ad Hoc Committee and researched and discussed the pros and cons of obtaining the building and then brought these thoughts to the congregation so that we could all vote together on the decision of purchasing. The result of that vote was in favor of purchasing the building at or close to the assessed value of \$49,600. We currently have on hand, thanks to Gordon Richardson and the Richardson fund, granted specifically for the purpose of this purchase, approximately \$23,000 dollars, as well as, commitments from two families of \$10,000 each, for a total of \$43,000. If there are any major changes to the price and what we expect to be the contingencies in the contract, we will bring the decision back to the church to vote again. We are currently waiting for the arrival of the contract while the owner and his daughters have been busy with other property sales.

The prize for our newest fundraising endeavor goes to the Red Aprons, who have come together to provide event service for gatherings around the community. Red Aprons is available to set up, serve and clean up for the low, low price of \$500 or so depending on the party. They have a desire to purchase some chairs and tables to make available for rental, upon the approval of the Board.

At our June meeting, reporting on behalf of the Building and Grounds Committee, Doug Hart gave an update of the grading and draining work currently under way which includes tree removal and head-in parking along the street. Several projects are under consideration including some electrical work needed for the Steeple, a sound system upgrade (that would not come out of the capital renovation fund), and a hearing assistance system. He requested and received approval from the Board to proceed with a Line-Burying project which the Board approved.

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Bulletin Board

Adult Choir - Rehearsal on Sunday, September 7 and Sunday, September 14 at 9 am to sing in the service on the 14th. Please note that the usual Adult Choir rehearsal schedule, of practicing on the second and third Sundays of the month to sing on the third, will resume in October. In September, Patty will be away on the third Sunday, and Phyllis Tucker will be playing in her stead.

Children's Choir - Rehearsal on Sunday, September 28 at 9:30 am in the sanctuary.

The Boards Broadcast continued from pg. 5

At our August meeting, we celebrated the success of the Cross-Congregational service held August 10 in Barnard, VT. Paul shared his desire for our church to be a leader in continuing to help develop meaningful relationships with other UU churches in our area.

We also discussed the need for some members to join the Pledge Committee to help drive stewardship in the church. A necessary component of any fellowship is the support of the pledge contribution flow into the church. Hard to talk about but necessary to do.

The summer is wrapping up and fall is on its way. I am looking forward to the coming of Turkey Suppers and all the other fun things that Fall brings.

Our next meeting is scheduled for September 8 at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to attend.



We Have Not Come to Take Prisoners

*We have not come here to take prisoners,
But to surrender ever more deeply
To freedom and joy.*

*We have not come into this exquisite world
To hold ourselves hostage from love.*

*Run my dear,
From anything
That may not strengthen
Your precious budding wings.*

*Run like hell my dear,
From anyone likely
To put a sharp knife
Into the sacred, tender vision
Of your beautiful heart.*

*We have a duty to befriend
Those aspects of obedience
That stand outside of our house
And shout to our reason
"O please, O please,
Come out and play."*

*For we have not come here to take prisoners
Or to confine our wondrous spirits,*

*But to experience ever and ever more deeply
Our divine courage, freedom and
Light!*

Hafiz/Daniel Ladinsky
from *The Gift*

Calling All Circles

Connection Circle

We would love to have anyone interested join us. The present members of our circle are: Patti Eckels, Joan Fariel, Debra Hart, Judy Howland, Bineke Oort, Sue & Dave Taylor, and Nancy Walker.

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

Coffee Hour

We thank all those who provided coffee and snacks for the summer months and who cleaned up even when there was no formal coffee hour. We especially appreciate the efforts of Sara Doolan, Joan Fariel, Mariet and Rob Jaarsma, Bineke Oort, and Tamara Ross who took over one or more Sundays. We will be returning to our regular schedule starting September 7 and hope everyone will sign up for Coffee Hour once before December.

END OF SUMMER FLING

When: Friday, September 19 from 5:00 pm on

Where: Dave & Sue Taylor's Home
158 Freeman Road
Plainfield, New Hampshire

What: Potluck Supper and activities for the children

Bring: An appetizer, drink, salad, main dish, or dessert to share.

Who: Everyone connected to FUSH is welcome -- it will be a chance to catch up with old friends.

Given By: The Connection Circle

Questions: 603-675-6566



Calling All Circles

Fundraising

The “Red Aprons”

Be a guest at your own party.

The Red Aprons had their first event on Saturday, August 16 - Amy Wischart's wedding reception held at the Wilder Center. Nine were there (in shifts) to help make it a big success.



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.

This UU fundraising group is looking for 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.

Fourth of July Booth

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Fourth of July. We raised \$900+/- which was a great amount considering the weather. Thanks!!

Autumn Moon Festival

Windsor's Moondance event is now called Autumn Moon Festival, this year happening Friday, October 10 from 5-11 pm rain or shine. For the 3rd year we'll have a booth at this event and will be selling whoopie pies, root beer floats, coffee, hot chocolate, glow sticks, etc. We'll be looking for folks to help with working the booth and making whoopie pie fixings ahead of time. This is a fun event & helps raise awareness of our great UU church in the surrounding community.

Share Your Passion Silent Auction

We will be asking you to donate a service or experience you are passionate about (a guided afternoon canoe trip down the Connecticut River; a gourmet-style meal for four; a writing session; a personal organization consultation; a birding trip; music lessons; an afternoon class of canning food; a fancy birthday cake; a watercolor painting trip to Saint Gaudens).

Others in our church community will bid on the opportunity to be on the receiving end of your service or experience. In the past, this has given folks a chance to get to know each other better, to forge new friendships and to try something new. More details to come shortly.



SoUper Sunday Soup Sale

September 14

Look for us at Coffee Hour, purchase homemade soups to enjoy at home. If you are interested in making soup for this monthly fundraiser, please contact Sara Morin at saradmorin@gmail.com

Bed and Breakfast

If you need extra room for your visiting guests this fall, remember our Bed and Breakfast program.

Go to <http://www.hartlanduu.com/bnb/> for more information.

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: \$20

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

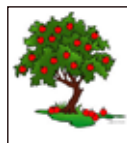
**SEE [HTTP://WWW.HARTLANDUU.COM/CONCERTS/](http://www.hartlanduu.com/concerts/) FOR VIDEOS, MUSIC CLIPS
AND MORE INFORMATION.**

Calendar - September 2014

4	Thurs.		Announcements due
5	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
		4pm	Connections Circle
7	Sun.	9am	Adult Choir rehearsal
		10	Ingathering Worship Service
8	Mon.	7pm	Governing Board meeting
11	Thurs.		Announcements due
12	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
14	Sun.	9am	Adult Choir rehearsal & sing
		10	Worship Service & RE
			RE registration
		After serv.	SoUper Second Sunday Sale
18	Thurs.		Announcements due
			Deadline for October newsletter
19	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
		5pm	End of Summer Fling
21	Sun	10	Worship Service & RE
25	Thurs.		Announcements due
26	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
28	Sun.	9:30am	Children's Choir rehearsal
		10	Worship Service & RE



THE FIRST UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY
Unitarian Universalist
P. O. Box 75
Hartland Four Corners, VT 05049



SEPTEMBER