



The First Universalist Society of Hartland Unitarian Universalist

JULY/AUGUST 2013

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

Sunday Services

July 7

Paul S. Sawyer and Lucia Jackson

Annual Joint Independence Day Service

This service is with the First Congregational Church of Hartland at our church. Join us as we team up with our friends and neighbors from the Brick Church in our annual celebration for the 4th of July. *The collection will benefit the 2013 Youth Mission Trip.*

July 14

Guest speaker Matt Starr

"Facing Fear, Finding Healing"

By request of the speaker, the collection will support Integrative Mental Health University.

July 21

Blessing of the Animals!

Paul S. Sawyer

Back by popular request! A multigenerational service celebrating all the wild and domestic animals that live among us. If you have an animal or animals in your life that would enjoy the social setting of a service with humans and other animals, bring them along for a hands-on blessing. Or feel free to bring a photo.

The collection will support Ben Kilham's work with black bears.

July 28

Sermon From the Question Box

Paul S. Sawyer

Have a theological or other question you've been dying to ask your minister? Put it in the Question Box in the back of the sanctuary, or send it to me by e-mail by July 26. During this week's sermon time I will address at least a number of the questions I receive. It should be fun and at least a little unpredictable. We'll also take a moment in the service to send off our youth and adults heading to New Haven on the Mission Trip.

The collection will benefit the Minister's Charitable Fund.

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OFFERING RECIPIENTS JULY & AUGUST

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.

July 7—Youth Mission Trip 2013

Help support our Youth Mission Trip to New Haven, taking place July 28-August 3. Your donations support our expenses for food, transportation, small donations to our partner organizations, and other needs.

July 14—Integrative Mental Health University

Integrative Mental Health University is an effort led by Woodstock therapist Emma Bragdon, working to provide courses for medical and mental health professionals in holistic treatment of mental health concerns, including building strong resilient communities, and integrating spiritual, physical, and emotional needs. More information is available at imhu.org and at em-mabragdon.com. This organization was suggested by our guest speaker, Matt Starr.

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Sunday Services

August 4 Led by the Participants on the Youth Mission Trip Mission Trip 2013

This service takes place at the First Congregational Church of Hartland. Join us for this special intergenerational service welcoming home the youth and adults who participated in the mission trip from both our churches, and hear the reflection and spiritual learning from the week.

August 11 The Spirit of the Song Paul S. Sawyer

Calling all singers and musicians! Is there a song that’s played an important part in your spiritual life or one that’s just touched your spirit in some way? This is a service of performing songs and sharing reflections. You’re invited to sing or play an instrument—don’t worry if you’re not feeling like a professional musician—all levels of ability are welcome—so long as you’re willing to share from your heart. Contact Paul by August 4 if you would like to be a part of this service. *The collection will support youth music scholarships through Hartland Community Arts.*

August 18 “Word” Led by Dianne Rochford

A service with short reflections from some members and friends of our congregation—exploring one word that has deep, special meaning for them. A chance to get to know people, and to reflect on the words of our lives.

The collection will support Good Beginnings of Sullivan County.

August 25 Our Annual Hymn Sing! Paul S. Sawyer

Come and share in a simple service of singing and fun. *The collection will support the UU Musicians Network Scholarship Fund.*

And mark your calendars:

September 8—Annual Ingathering and Water Ceremony

As is our tradition, we’ll start the fall season off with our annual gathering of the waters celebration. As you travel about this summer—around the world, or just around your own home, gather some water here and there from places that feed your soul. Salt water, fresh water, and murky water are all welcome! And even if you forget, since all water is one water in the deepest sense of spirit and ecology, some fine local water from Lull Brook will be available at the service as well.



Offering Recipients cont. from pg. 2

July 21—Ben Kilham's Black Bear Rehabilitation Work

Ben Kilham is a remarkable man. Ben has been studying black bear behavior for more than 20 years, and at his home in Lyme, NH, Ben also rehabilitates wild bear cubs who have lost a parent, become injured, or who need assistance for some other reason before they can be returned to the wild. Ben is also an advocate for people with learning disabilities, speaking with great thoughtfulness about his own experience with dyslexia. You can read more about Ben's work, and watch wonderful videos of black bear behavior at benkilham.com

July 28— The Minister's Discretionary Fund

The Minister's Discretionary Fund is used by our minister to support those in need in our congregation and wider community. It is funded entirely by donations from members and friends of our congregation and allows Paul to offer small, targeted, meaningful help in times of need. For more information, please speak with Paul Sawyer.

August 11—HCA Youth Arts Scholarships

Hartland Community Arts is a local non-profit organization supporting concerts and other artistic endeavors in our home community of Hartland. They offer scholarships of up to \$200 for art camps, lessons, or classes for young people from Hartland or who have participated in HCA events, such as the Christmas Concert. More information is available at hartlandcommunity-arts.org/scholarships.

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Engaging the Spirit:
Piloting a Thematic Approach to Worship
First Universalist Society of Hartland Four Corners
Fall 2013

Welcome to "Engaging the Spirit"—an effort to deepen and extend the spirit, effectiveness, and energy of worship and spiritual life in our congregation.

Beginning in September 2013, we will pilot a new process that organizes our worship services around a series of monthly themes. As part of this process, on a regular basis, Paul will invite members and friends of our congregation to submit ideas, resources, and suggestions that engage a sense of spirit around the themes.

A brief overview of the time-lines involved may help clarify the intended process:

◆ Beginning in the spring, Paul will solicit suggestions for themes for the coming church year, beginning in September, and running through next May. (For now June, July, and August will remain outside the theme-based process).

◆ By July 1 (August 1 this year), we'll set the intended general monthly themes for the coming year.

◆ On the 1st of each month, Paul will send a brief message to the Worship Team and others in the congregation with a very short overview of the theme and an invitation to submit ideas relevant to the theme (So, on August 1, 2013, the notice will go out for the September 2013 theme).

◆ Over the following two weeks, by the 14th of the month, members and friends will send Paul any ideas or suggestions that come to mind when they think about the general theme, including (but not limited to):

- * Their own thoughts on the theme, in any form they like
- * Poems, readings, quotations, songs and hymns, movies, books, images and photographs, prayers, stories, etc.
 - Including both resources useful for worship, and those that go beyond the time and scope of our worship services.
- * Personal experiences related to the theme and matters of the spirit
- * A sense of willingness to share a particular story or poem or song or anything in one of the services related to the theme.
- * Suggestions for specific service topics related to the theme
- * Ideas for spiritual practices and activities that people might engage in related to the theme
- * Ideas for children's programs, youth programs, adult or multi-generational discussion groups
- * Connections to justice issues or local events and organizations
- * Suggestions for offering recipients
- * Suggestions for service projects or volunteer opportunities

◆ By the newsletter deadline on the 18th of the month, using the submitted materials, Paul will set titles for the month's worship services.

◆ Paul will also work with and share materials with Sara Doolan, who will decide how and when to coordinate children's activities with the monthly theme.

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Offering Recipients cont. from pg. 3

August 18—Good Beginnings of Sullivan County

Based in Claremont, Good Beginnings supports healthy children and families through education, counseling, and support services, particularly for families with new children. They also advocate for children's needs in the wider community and offer developmental screening for children. More information is available at www.gbnh.org. This organization was suggested by our liturgist for this service, Diane Rochford.

August 25—The UU Musicians Network Scholarship Fund

The Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network inspires and supports high quality music in our faith tradition. The UUMN scholarship fund helps UU musicians attend UUMN events, workshops and conferences. More information is available at www.uumn.org. This organization was suggested by Patty Talbot, who notes that the UUMN has been central in her work, particularly in inspiring new music for our choir and congregation.



Engaging the Spirit cont. from pg. 3

◆ For the newsletter (or as an adjunct to the newsletter—the exact process will be worked out with our newsletter volunteers), Paul will pull together a short (4 pages or so) packet of material to be distributed to the congregation.

◆ The packet will include:

- * A deeper introduction to the theme and its meaning in our context
- * A few of the poems, readings, stories, etc., that were submitted
- * Some suggestions for spiritual activities and engagement with the theme beyond Sunday mornings
- * Links to further resources
- * Questions for thought and discussion

◆ Given the time constraints of the monthly process, as soon as the monthly themes are set for the year, the Worship Team will begin to consider appropriate guest speakers and lay-led services related to the theme. In this way, we'll be able to invite speakers and other participants in a more timely fashion.

The goals of this effort include:

◆ Increasing the spiritual depth of our worship by allowing extended reflection on a spiritual theme across several services.

◆ Increasing collaboration among the minister and congregation in worship by creating a structure that regularly invites participation and idea-generation.

◆ Providing a supportive structure for planning lay-led and guest speaker services.

◆ Inviting an extension of spiritual reflection and practice in people's lives beyond Sunday morning.

◆ Providing the opportunity to link children's activities with our adult worship themes.

◆ Offering a connection to the worship life of our congregation to those who may not be able to attend church regularly.

◆ Offering a starting point and resources for both informal spiritual conversations and potential future formal congregational spiritual development programs.

The intent is that the chosen themes will be specific enough to allow for a sense of continuity, but also broad enough to allow for adaptation and connection to the emerging spiritual needs of our congregation. When holidays or other timely events occur, if it makes sense to address them in the context of the theme, we'll do so.

To get the program started, Paul has chosen the theme for September 2013—"Engaging". You are invited to submit ideas for future themes, either in general or connected to specific months any time.

Several other congregations in our movement have adopted similar processes in recent years. We'll have examples, suggested themes, and other materials from these congregations available to assist our work.

Thank you for your commitment to high quality worship in our congregation!

Paul's Schedule During the Summer

My time in the office will be somewhat sporadic during the summer as I try to take a little time, here and there, to catch up with my yard and family. So please, please! leave a phone message (at my cell phone) or e-mail if you need anything.

Our family will be out of town camping July 10–16.

And we will also be away at Ferry Beach UU Conference Center in Maine August 18–24 where I will be co-leading a workshop on contemporary Universalist theology.

I will also be in New Haven, Connecticut working with our church youth group on the mission trip, July 28–August 2.

During any of these times, if you have an emergency, please feel free to leave me messages by e-mail or on my cell phone—802-299-7530—though please understand that I may not be able to get back to you immediately.

Nancy's Office Hours for the Summer

Because of summer fun and creativity during Friday mornings, my hours in the church office will fluctuate between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm. I suggest you call first if you need to come to the office or to get ahold of me.

Nancy Walker
Office Administrator

re: RE

We celebrated the year with recognizing all of the children and volunteers who are part of our fantastic Religious Education Program. I just love how the children are comfortable and talented in participating in the services, both in the sanctuary and out in the yurt and beyond.

This summer, the RE time will offer various experiences of the Art of Zen. We will briefly go over Zen philosophy and hear from Michael Denmeade about his Zen practices. Then during July and August, we will experience some art practices that Zen scholars have used to live in the moment, to let go of beliefs and preconceptions. We'll be spontaneous in our creations, and enjoy my favorite Japanese art term: shibui. We'll see if we can gain the realization that there is nothing to gain and take a step closer to enlightenment.

Happy Summer!

Sara
DRE

Summer RE Calendar

July

7	10:00 am	Zen Project: Brush Painting on Scrolls
14	10:00 am	Story and Craft
21	10:00 am	Intergenerational Service: Blessing the Animals
28	10:00 am	Zen Project: Clay with Bruce

August

4	10:00 am	Mission Trip Service at Brick Church
11	10:00 am	Zen Project: Karate with the Carinis
18	10:00 am	Summer Program
25	10:00 am	Zen Project: Painting- acrylics on canvas paper



4th of July/Old Home Day

We celebrate with the town of Hartland at their 4th of July/ Old Home Day with a booth at the Recreation Center. Many hands are needed to set up the booth, to bake brownies for the brownie sundaes, to staff the booth, and to take down the booth. Take a peek and decide how you can contribute at the internet sign up sheet at: <http://www.signup-genius.com/go/5080C48AEAD22A46-fourth>.

The Board's Broadcast

Present: John Osborne, Becky Howe, Paul Sawyer, Doug Hart, Colleen Spence, Sara Morin, and Dan Poor via phone.

The minutes of the May meeting (taken by Dan Poor) were reviewed and accepted as written.

Doug presented the Treasurer's report. There was some discussion of the presentation and questions on the budget. Doug pro-rates the budgeted income and expense based on past years' performance, to better reflect the anticipated balance for this year. We are running a little behind on receipts of pledged income and returned pledges. Fortunately, we are also saving money on expenses, so are not getting further behind in our cash flow.

We have enough cash in our capital fund to pay Jan Lewendowsky for the steeple work.

Paul will make a note in the weekly e-mail regarding pledges and the UUA membership dues.

Paul presented the Minister's report. This report represents the time period from January through present. Paul will be away June 17–25 at the UU Ministers Meeting and General Assembly in Louisville, Kentucky. Sue Buckholz, Jill and Todd Lloyd will be attending as delegates. This is the first time in known history that we can have 3 lay delegates to the convention. The UUA will be discussing regionalization, to replace districts. We will be within the New England Region.

The Minister's report was accepted as written.

The Bylaws of the church require that the election of officers within the Board occurs at the first meeting of the Board after the Semi-Annual Meeting of the congregation. The following officers of the church were nominated and elected:

- President: John Osborne
- Vice President: Colleen Spence
- Treasurer: Doug Hart
- Secretary: Becky Howe

Becky Howe has been added as a member of the Board, having served for nearly a year as a non-voting member facilitating and recording the meetings. Welcome, Becky. We also welcome Colleen as Vice President; the board has not filled this important position for over a year.

The Board discussed the problems with the semi-annual meeting. There was no meeting agenda prepared, and the reports were prepared late, so congregational members did not have time to read them. In general, the Board

began too late to prepare for a well-organized meeting. It was voted that preparation for the Semi-Annual Meetings begin 2 months in advance, to give time for preparations and warnings for the congregation. It was also voted by the Board that the reports given at the Semi-Annual Meetings will not require an acceptance vote by the congregation. A standing agenda for the Semi-Annual Meetings will be developed.

Sara Morin has volunteered to coordinate and organize the fundraising efforts of the church. The Board expressed its appreciation for taking on this important work. We discussed ways in which the Board can support Sara in this effort. One important way is to help fundraising volunteer leaders with directions and ideas, through a "cookbook" for each fundraising event. Some events already have a partially complete but not fully organized "cookbook". John volunteered to help Sara with assembling and organizing these cookbooks as quickly as possible. The Board discussed additional fundraising ideas, including a series of dinners in the spring, similar to the turkey suppers, and a set of concerts.

Doug Hart led discussion of the need for a Finance Circle to assist in several financial efforts, including getting the books reviewed, organizing and assisting with use of Quicken and Excel spreadsheets, and preparing reports. John and Dan Poor volunteered to support these efforts. Doug, John and Dan will be meeting shortly with a CPA located by Dan shortly, to review the books. Requests to the congregation need to be made to create this circle. Paul offered to help begin this process.

The immediate upcoming fundraising event is of course our tent at Hartland's Old Home Day. Jill Loyd has volunteered to lead this, and is looking for volunteers to help. This will be one of the first "cookbooks" to be compiled.

The Board discussed the practice we began last year of sending thank-you cards to people who had provided special service to the congregation. We have been lax in doing this for lack of time at the meetings. It was suggested that Board members bring prepared cards to the meetings for the Board to sign. This vote is postponed to July.

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for July 1 at 7:00 pm. As always, the members of the congregation are invited to attend Board meetings. If you have questions or concerns about the church functioning, feel free to speak to any Board member, or send e-mail.

Calling All Circles

Connections Circle

Coffee Hour

Thank you to all those of you who have hosted the Coffee Hour in June! Jake Ross filled in many times in June when we had no one to make coffee and Sara Doolan and the RE girls and boys worked hard on June 30 to make sure we could have good conversation, hot coffee, and tasty treats after the services. We need everyone to pitch in for the joint service with the Brick Church which will take place in our building on July 7. There are “sign ups” on the table in the social room for people to set up and clean up. In addition it would be great if some people could bring additional snacks so we will be sure to have plenty of food for the two congregations. After the July 7 service, there will be no scheduled coffee hour until September 8. (If people are so moved during the summer months they are welcome to make coffee and/or bring a snack and be responsible for clean up.)

New Members

As a part of our Service Under the Tent at Connie Tessier’s home on June 2 we joyfully welcomed five new members to our church: Patty Eckels, Don Foster, Debra Hart, Jandra Oliver and Laura Bergstresser. These friends have already greatly enriched our FUSH community.

FUSH Party

Save Saturday, September 14 from 4:00-8:00 pm for our FUSH potluck picnic at the Taylor’s home. There will be outside activities for young and old.

Next meeting for the Connection Circle is on Friday, September 6 at 4:00 pm in the parsonage.



Capital Campaign Committee

Kim Dittrich, Doug Hart, Judy Howland, Rob Jaarsma, Nada Pierce, and Dave and Sue Taylor want to thank everyone for helping us to have a joyous celebration and a successful night with the Historical Society and Brick Church on May 31. The committee worked hard but could not have done it without all the support from all who pitched in and brought delicious dishes for the buffet.

We also want to thank those who went “above and beyond”! Debbie Hart; Bruce Locke; Mariet Jaarsma; Bineke and Bram Oort; Diane Rochford; and Jake Ross worked tirelessly to set up and surprise us by having all the dishes washed by the time the program was over.

Davey Davis Concert

We also want to thank Paul Sawyer for running the Davey Davis Concert on June 16. Everyone had a great time and \$350 was raised for the Steeple Fund.

Jazz Festival

On June 22, Sue Botzow, Karen Coombs, Patty Eckels, Mary Erdei, Joan Fariel, Don Foster, Debra Hart, Judy Howland, Becky Howe, Sara Morin, Jandra Oliver, John Osborne, Gary Shapiro, Alberta Snow, and Nancy Walker all worked together at the festival for the “Save the Steeple” fundraiser. Chili, hot dogs, bread, drinks, and large cookies were sold at the FUSH booth. This was a fun fundraiser because we were able to enjoy good music while making money for the capital campaign. Thank you all for making this a good day for everyone!

Nada Pierce and Sue & Dave Taylor

Bulletin Board

Adult Choir - Rehearsal on Tuesday, July 2 at 7:00 pm at our church, with all who wish to participate in the ecumenical choir for the joint service we are hosting on Sunday, July 7. We will also rehearse at 9:00 am the morning of the service. After this, the Choir will take a break for August and resume in September.

Under the Tree 5K and 10K – August 24 at the Hartland Recreation Center. Start time 9:00 am. Sign up to run the day of or at www.Signmeup.com. We are also looking for volunteers to help along the course. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Beth Rice at brice@vermontel.net or 436-3168. All proceeds benefit the Hartland Christmas Project.

DailyGood is a portal that shares inspiring quotes and news stories that focus on the “good” we can find in our world daily along with a simple action to continue that goodness. Since 1999, it has delivered positive news to subscriber inboxes for free by volunteers every day. You can find it at www.dailygood.org. It is well worth a peek.

Calendar - July/August 2013

July

1	Mon.	7pm	Governing Board meeting
2	Tues.	7pm	Adult Choir rehearsal at FUSH
4	Thurs.		Booth at 4th of July/Old Home Day
5	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
7	Sun.	9am	Adult Choir rehearsal
		10 am	Worship Service & RE
10-16			Paul's away
12	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
14	Sun.	9am	Adult Choir rehearsal
		10	Worship Service & RE
15	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
21	Sun.	10	Worship Service & RE
26	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
28	Sun.	10	Worship Service & RE
28-Aug. 2			Youth Mission Trip

August

2	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
4	Sun.	10am	Worship Service & RE
9	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
11	Sun.	10am	Worship Service & RE
16	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
18	Sun.	10am	Worship Service & RE
		Noon	Newsletter deadline
23	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
18-24			Paul's away
25	Sun.	10am	Worship Service & RE
30	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf



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JULY/AUGUST