

The First Universalist Society of Hartland Unitarian Universalist

NOVEMBER 2013

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

Sunday Services

November 3 Special Guest the Rev. Gary Smith Giving Thanks for Mentors and Students

Paul will be joined in leading this special service by his mentor minister and dear friend, the Rev. Gary Smith. Paul and Gary will both share reflections on the deep learning they've experienced in the mentor/mentee relationship.

The collection will support the mentoring program at Windsor County Partners.

Ordained in 1972, the Rev. Gary Smith served in active ministry for forty years, most recently spending 23 years as the beloved senior minister of First Parish in Concord, Massachusetts, where he was Paul Sawyer's internship supervisor in 2004-5. A native of the great state of Maine, Gary is currently "blissfully retired" though he still serves on the board of the Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council, on the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, and as minister emeritus at First Parish.

Please remember that Daylight Savings time ends this morning—turn your clocks back Saturday night—Fall Back!

November 10 Guest Speaker Dr. Jennifer Fluri

Paul will serve as liturgist for this service, with our special guest speaker, Professor Jennifer Fluri. Dr. Fluri is an Associate Professor of Geography and Women's Studies at Dartmouth College. Her research has focused on security, aid, and development in the conflict zones of South and Southwest Asia, and she has done extensive research in Afghanistan, particularly among the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA), a clandestine feminist-nationalist organization.

The collection will support the Afghan Women's Mission.

continued on pg. 2

OFFERING RECIPIENTS SEPTEMBER

Our regular collections during Sunday morning worship are dedicated each week to an organization 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 the church, you can use the small manila envelopes available on that same table, or simply mark "for FUSH" in the memo line of your check.

Please contact Paul if you have nominations for organizations you feel would be good choices for our support.

November 3— Windsor County Partners

Since 1974, Windsor County Partners has been connecting young people in need of support with one-on-one mentors and programs that help them embrace positive life choices and learning and build healthy, trusting relationships. In addition to financial contributions, WCP is always in need of adults willing to volunteer as mentors in our region. For more information, contact Bineke Oort, who serves as a mentor for WCP, or check them out at www.windsorcountypartners.org

continued on pg. 3



continued from pg. 1

Sunday Services

November 17 Giving Thanks Paul S. Sawyer Stewardship and Our Community

Stewardship is the human quality of taking care. Particularly in these challenging times, we are called to be good stewards of our earth, our families, ourselves, and our communities. As we carry out our fall work day after the service, and prepare for our annual canvass fundraising season, we'll explore the idea of gratitude through stewardship for our congregation and community.

The collection will support the Claremont Soup Kitchen. We'll enjoy an all-congregation fall clean-up after the service!

November 24 Giving Thanks Paul S. Sawyer Annual Thanksgiving Service with the First Congregational Church of Hartland (at our church)

Join us for our annual joint Thanksgiving service with our neighbors from the First Congregational Church of Hartland (the Brick Church). Paul will co-lead the service with the Rev. Lucia Jackson. The youth group will be offering a pancake brunch after the service to raise funds for this summer's mission trip.

The collection will support the Hartland Christmas Project.

Engaging the Spirit

November 2013—"Giving Thanks"

"Thank you." The words are automatic. We say them every day, and often we even say them back and forth in a kind of carousel of gratitude that we're not sure how to escape, "Thank you!" "No, thank YOU!" "No, really, thank YOU!"

And then, on occasion, we feel so grateful, so profoundly touched—by another's actions, by the simple beauty of the world, by something real, and meaningful, and close to our hearts—that no words could ever be enough.

Gratitude encompasses it all. Gratitude is the simple "thanks" to the waitness who fills up a coffee mug. And it's the deep, involuntary prayer of "Wow!" at the sight of a sunrise. It's holding the hand of a loved one in a time of need. It's spending the time and energy and money you're not sure you have to support a cause you believe in. It's stopping, and acknowledging the goodness that comes at us in all times from all directions, even in the midst of the toughest moments in our lives. What do you have to be thankful for? Look for a moment, and to that question, it's clear there's no end.

continued on pg. 3

Offering Recipients cont. from pg. 2

November 10—The Afghan Women's Mission

Founded in 2000, the Afghan Women's Mission is an organization based in the United States, working closely with women's groups in Afghanistan and in Afghan refugee communities in other nations. Their work focuses on providing adequate health care, ensuring educational opportunities, particularly for women, and advocacy for human rights for Afghan women and refugees. This organization was recommended for our collection by our guest speaker, Professor Jennifer Fluri, who works extensively on women's issues in Afghanistan. More information is available at www.afghanwomensmission.org

November 17—The Claremont Soup Kitchen

Established in 1983, The Claremont Soup Kitchen is an independent not-for-profit organization that provides regular meals to over 100 people every weeknight, and in addition, their food pantry gives out boxes of food to about 50 people every day during the week, as well as providing toiletries, winter clothes, and other needed items. The past year has seen a significant increase in the number of people served by the Claremont Soup Kitchen, while it's also seen a decrease in the amount of food and funding available. This organization was nominated for our support by Dianne Rochford, and you can contact Dianne or Paul Sawyer for more information.

continued on pg. 4

Engaging the Spirit continued from pg. 2

"Come from gratitude" Joanna Macy says, when you are overwhelmed by the deep pain of the state of our society and our planet. Start by giving thanks. Look at all that is right around you. Look at the great opportunity we have to be alive now, when we know what we know, and can work to make a difference. Approach the work of your life, the pain of your life, the joy of your life, all the same way—from gratitude. Give thanks, often, and for real, and the possibilities unfold.

As Joanna Macy implies, giving thanks is integral to the many practices of meditation. The great goal of mindfulness meditation is to be so engaged and present in this sacred essential moment now that we see its wonder above all—how grateful we can be for this moment, and all the wonder it embodies!

Loving-kindness meditation is a practice that directs us to call forth an image of a person, and to feel and to share love and gratitude for that person in the depths of who they are. It's a practice that's quite easy when the relationship is loving to begin with, and the reasons for the gratitude arise without much thought. But the great spiritual depth of the practice lies in the fact that it works even when the relationships are strained, and the gratitude is hard to find. Imagine and give the love and thanksgiving first, before the reasons are clear, loving-kindness says. Come from gratitude before pain, and the inherent worth and dignity of every person shines out. Start with gratitude, and the relationship—or at least your part in it—can heal.

And gratitude is the heart and soul of prayer. Maybe you've noticed, almost every prayer I offer begins with the words, "We give thanks..." And in many ways, every prayer is a prayer of thanksgiving. A prayer of awe is thanksgiving for beauty. A prayer of forgiveness is thanksgiving for the chance to begin again. A prayer of petition is thanksgiving that there is possibility to which we aspire. A memorial prayer is filled with thanksgiving for the life that touched our own. In the words of the ancient Christian mystic Meister Eckhart, "If the only prayer you said was thank you, that would be enough." To that we can all say, "Amen."

Close your eyes and let the images play on your soul. Let the gratitude come from Spirit, and don't worry about the words. See the faces, and the connections, and the ideas, and the places, and the love for which you give thanks. Let your heart shine with thanksgiving as it will if you just give it a moment's chance. There is pain in this world, for sure, and there is trouble, and there is fear. But there is so much more. Stop for a second, give thanks. Come from gratitude and let the possibilities, let the love, unfold.

Some Words of Giving Thanks

Marcel Proust

Let us be grateful to the people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.

Epicurus

Do not spoil what you have by desiring what you have not; remember that what you now have was once among the things you only hoped for.

continued on pg. 4

Offering Recipients cont. from pg. 3

November 24—The Hartland Christmas Project

The Hartland Christmas Project is a year-round, combined effort among the three churches in town, the schools, and the town of Hartland. Throughout the year, the Christmas Project provides financial and material support for Hartland residents in need. In the holiday season, the Christmas Project works with families and individuals to ensure that all members of our community have gifts and food with which to celebrate the holiday. For more information, contact Jill Lloyd, Beth Rice, or Paul Sawyer.

Engaging the Spirit cont. from pg. 3

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Cultivate the habit of being grateful for every good thing that comes to you, and to give thanks continuously. And because all things have contributed to your advancement, you should include all things in your gratitude.

Maya Angelou

Let gratitude be the pillow upon which you kneel to say your nightly prayer. And let faith be the bridge you build to overcome evil and welcome good.

A.A. Milne

Piglet noticed that even though he had a Very Small Heart, it could hold a rather large amount of Gratitude.

Meister Eckhart

If the only prayer you said was thank you, that would be enough.

continued on pg. 5

re: RE

Gratitude is our theme this month, and I know I speak for most when I say we have a wonderful community in Hartland and in the surrounding towns. There are so many opportunities for our children to learn and grow, and the UU families are well represented in all activities and events that I have seen this fall. The children fill up the soccer fields, take advantage of after-school projects and programs at the school, are members of the track and spelling teams, sing in the town children's chorus, act and sing in musicals and plays. It is amazing to think about the web of activities and all who are involved and invaluable that the children get to build relationships with one another outside of church while holding their UU connection.

With gratitude,

Sara DRE

November RE Calendar

3	9:30	Children's Choir Practice and Sing
	10:00	Faith in Action: Gratitude
10	10:00	Guest Artist: Finnie Trimpi
17	10:00	Spirit Play: "Promises"
24	10:00	Children's Chapel: The Second Principle/
		Giving Thanks (Joint Service)





Picking carrots and herbs for the Turkey Supper stuffing.

Engaging the Spirit cont. from pg. 4

Thích Nhật Hạnh

Walk as if you are kissing the Earth with your feet.

Joanna Macy, "Come From Gratitude"

To be alive in this beautiful, selforganizing universe—to participate in the dance of life with senses to perceive it, lungs that breathe it, organs that draw nourishment from it—is a wonder beyond words. Gratitude for the gift of life is the primary wellspring of all religions, the hallmark of the mystic, the source of all true art. Furthermore, it is a privilege to be alive in this time when we can choose to take part in the self-healing of our world.

William Shakespeare, King Lear

How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is To have a thankless child.

Lucius Annaeus Seneca

True happiness is to enjoy the present, without anxious dependence upon the future, not to amuse ourselves with either hopes or fears but to rest satisfied with what we have, which is sufficient, for he that is so wants nothing. The greatest blessings of mankind are within us and within our reach. A wise man is content with his lot, whatever it may be, without wishing for what he has not.

James Herriot

If having a soul means being able to feel love and loyalty and gratitude, then animals are better off than a lot of humans.

Dietrich Bonheoffer

In normal life we hardly realize how much more we receive than we give, and life cannot be rich without such gratitude. It is so easy to overestimate the importance of our own achievements compared with what we owe to the help of others.

continued on pg. 6

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. We also offer special events throughout the year including service opportunities, fundraising brunches at both churches, trips to Dartmouth sporting events, game nights and for senior youth our annual week-long mission trip to New Haven, CT in July.

Events for both youth groups will begin later this month, so see the calendar below for the currently scheduled dates, times, and places of our meetings.

For further information about our youth groups and youth events, please contact Paul or Lucia. To stay in touch with youth group happenings, make sure that Paul and Lucia have your e-mail address, follow the youth group Facebook page, keep an eye on the newsletters and weekly e-mail updates of both churches, or better yet, come to church and read the bulletin!

Youth Group Schedule Fall 2013

November 3	5:00-6:00 pm 6:00	Jr. Youth at UCC Church Mission Trip slide-show, and infor- mation session for all 8th graders, senior youth, and anyone else who is interested! At UCC Church
	7:00-8:00	Sr. Youth at UCC Church
November 17	5:00-6:15 pm	Jr. Youth Group at UCC Church
	7:00-8:00 pm	Sr. Youth Group at UCC Church
November 24	9:00 am-1:00 pm	Mission Trip Fundraiser Brunch at UU Church (joint Thanksgiving service 10-11:15 am)
December 1		Youth Group Meetings at UCC Church
December 15		Youth Group Meetings—Holiday parties with Yankee Swap at UCC Church

Save the Dates: This year's trip will take place July 27–August 2, 2014 and we will lead worship for both churches in a joint service on August 3.



Engaging the Spirit cont. from pg. 5

Irving Berlin

Got no checkbooks, got no banks. Still I'd like to express my thanks— I've got the sun in the mornin' and the moon at night.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

For each new morning with its light, For rest and shelter of the night, For health and food, for love and friends,

For everything Thy goodness sends.

Poem in Thanks Thomas Lux From Good Poems, Garrison Keillor, Ed.

Lord Whoever, thank you for this air I'm about to in- and exhale, this hutch in the woods, the wood for fire, the light—both lamp and the natural stuff of leaf-black fern, and wing. For the piano, the shovel for ashes, the moth-gnawed blankets, the stone-cold water stone-cold: thank you. Thank you, Lord, coming for to carry me here—where I'll gnash it out, Lord, where I'll calm and work, Lord, thank you for the goddamn birds singing!

The Music Rumi From The Essential Rumi, translated by Coleman Barks

For sixty years I have been forgetful, every minute, but not for a second has this flowing toward me stopped or slowed.

I deserve nothing. Today I recognize that I am the guest the mystics talk about.

I play this living music for my host. Everything today is for the host.

The Board's Broadcast

The Governing Board met on October 7, 2013 at 7 pm. In attendance were Sara Morin, Colleen Spence, Paul Sawyer, Doug Hart, Mary Erdei, John Osborne, and Dan Poor via phone. Becky Howe was unable to attend; the minutes were taken by Colleen Spence Thank you, Colleen, for filling in on short notice.

In reviewing September's meeting minutes, Doug raised a question regarding statement of new spending policy issued in previous month's meetings. He agreed to review and reword policy for clarification purposes.

Minutes of the September meeting were accepted.

The Minister's report from Paul was accepted.

Among the issues discussed was the church's need for a Nominating Committee dedicated to the effort to seek out and recruit new church leadership as the need arises. In the near future we will be seeking new Governing Board members as well as a new Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. John Osborne agreed to research Leadership Development Committee models and job descriptions, using the National UU website as a potential resource.

Paul suggested using the new Treasurer deadline as a possible goal date for establishing a committee or new leadership development model. In the meantime, Doug Hart agreed to begin seeking a possible replacement for Treasurer.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed and accepted.

Doug provided a first draft of the job description for a new Treasurer or Treasurers after Doug retires (this January). The Board agreed to review the job description and discuss it at the next meeting. The review of the job description is progressing via e-mail.

Doug projects that after the final payments are made toward the Steeple project, the stairs and railing are completed and the grading/drainage work is completed, the church will have approximately \$25,000 left in the Building Maintenance and Renovation Fund.

Doug submitted an application to Staples for a set of expense cards (three) for church admin. use.

John Osborne, Dan Poor and Doug Hart will work together to review data from the previous year's budget and this year's budget in order to develop a proposed budget for the coming year.

There was a brief discussion of the upcoming fundraising events: the whoopee pie sales at the Windsor Moondance, and the Turkey Suppers. These events are proceeding well without any need for Board actions, thanks to Sara Morin and Jill Lloyd.

The next meeting date was set for November 4 at 7:00 pm. As always, members of the congregation are invited to attend Governing Board meetings, and to contact Board members with issues and concerns.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Calling All Circles

Buildings & Grounds

With any luck, by the time this letter gets published, the steeple will have found its rightful place gracing our lovely church. Thank you all for your patience as we worked through this process. And the new railings for the front steps won't be far behind. An on site visit to Bob Bartlett's workshop showed that one side is assembled and the other pretty far along as well. They are quite the works of art.

The fall cleanup party at the church is scheduled for November 17, after the service. We will need to put the wooden treads in place on the front steps. There will be the usual cleanup of the grounds and putting the gardens to rest for the winter. If anyone has access to a power washer it would be great to wash down the front facade of the church. Even if you can't help with this task but know of a power washer, we would like to hear from you. Any other projects you want on the list, please let Building and Grounds know.

We also need a volunteer to either organize a chili cook-off contest for lunch or just organize a big crock or two of chili.

Jill Crowley

Connections Circle

Coffee Hour

Thank you to Sue Buckholz and Katy Sawyer who provided coffee and snacks on Oct. 20 and Nancy and Glenn Walker who provided coffee and snacks on Oct. 27. The following people are in charge for November. Nov. 3: Debra Hart and Dianne Rochford; Nov. 10: Patti Eckels and Mary Erdei; Nov. 17: Jandra Oliver and; Nov. 24: Youth Breakfast. Their hospitality and hard work are appreciated by everyone. We hope that everyone will sign up to host two coffee hours a year so that we can all enjoy a cup of coffee after the services. If everyone signs up then we could have one person in charge of set up and one in charge of clean up so it is not overwhelming for anyone.

Sue & Dave Taylor

Treasurer's Notes

We are wrapping up our fiscal year and I am very impressed with how you all keep up with your pledges; seems like I never have to remind anyone nowadays. The good news is that it looks as though we will exceed our budgeted pledge income.

Please start thinking about your 2014 pledge as the canvass will take place this month (November). As always, we need increases from all who can afford them so we can close the gap between our vital expenditures and our income which has to be made up by withdrawing from our shrinking investment portfolio.

We continue to search for my replacement(s) as Treasurer. Please talk to me if you have even a whisper of interest or if you could suggest someone else too modest to step forward.

Doug Hart



Making rolls for the Turkey Supper.

Calling All Circles

Fundraising

Moondance Whoopie Pie Booth

A big thank you to everyone who helped make the Moondance Whoopie Pie Booth a success. We raised \$700 and had a fun time doing it. To everyone who baked, whipped up filling, staffed the booth or bought whoopie pies:

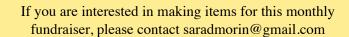
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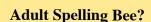
Hartland Four Corners UU Bed and Breakfast Program

Want to learn more about our new Bed and Breakfast program? Want to sign up to be a host? Need extra space for family or friends visiting the Upper Valley? Visit www.hartlanduu.com/bnb for more information.

SoUUper Second Sunday November 10

This is a new fundraiser which will take place on the Second Sunday of the month. A table will be set up during coffee hour downstairs in the Fellowship Hall which will offer delicious homemade soups, mac 'n cheese, chili and similar foods. You will be able to purchase the items to take home and have a hearty meal ready to heat up. Containers will be provided so all soups will be the same size and no one has to worry about returning them.





Interested in exploring the idea of a community adult spelling bee fundraiser? Please e-mail saradmorin@gmail.com

By the time you receive this newsletter there will be at least one more and maybe two Saturdays for a Turkey Supper and Silent Auction. Tell your friends, relatives and neighbors there are 130 spectacular items offered for the auction and delicious eating of turkey, potatoes, stuffing, squash, coleslaw, all the fixings and homemade pies.

Saturday, October 26 and November 2 Seating is 4:30-6:30 pm with the auction ending at 6:30 pm on the Nov. 2.

Bulletin Board

Giving Thanks for Our Congregation! It's Time for Our Annual Stewardship Campaign!

As the year comes to a close, our church leaders are working hard on our budget for 2014. We need your help! Nearly all the funding for our programs and dedicated staff comes from the generous annual gifts of our members and friends.

Look for our stewardship materials in the mail this month, and be sure to make a pledge for your commitment for the coming year. And in particular, consider making your donation by a monthly automatic withdrawal from your bank account, a process which is a great help to our church's planning and cash flow needs.

And also, please consider helping our stewardship campaign by sharing your own gratitude for our beloved church community. Contact Paul if you would be willing to:

Write a short piece, or even a sentence or two expressing your gratitude for some aspect of our church life.

Share a very short reflection in worship about why you support the work and ministry of our congregation.

Share an idea to increase energy and commitment to the work and ministry of our congregation.

In the next few weeks, Paul will also be collecting digital photographs of our church activities—send along any good images you have of any aspect of the life of our church!

Adult Choir - Because our church is hosting the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service, the Adult Choir will rehearse Sunday November 17 at 9:00 am, Thursday November 21 at 7:00 pm, and Sunday November 24 at 9:00 am, to sing in that morning's service. All rehearsals will be at our church. Friends and community members are welcome to join this ecumenical choir.

Children's Choir - Rehearsal will be on Sunday November 3 at 9:30 am in the sanctuary and to sing during the service.

A Big Thank You To -all the donors who gave their treasures to the Silent Auction and to those who helped: Debbie Hart who sold raffle tickets on the wonderful quilt made by Sandy Palmer for the Historical Society who gave it to the Church Steeple Fund, to Phyllis Tucker, Sue Botzow, Cynthia Thompson, and Nancy Walker for helping to set up the Silent Auction.



Do you receive our weekly e-mail updates?

Each week, usually on Friday, Paul sends out an all-church e-mail with a calendar of events and some basic information about what's going on in our community. This weekly communication is one of our most effective tools for keeping you informed about our activities. If you have an e-mail account, make sure you're receiving these important messages, and if you're not, contact Paul Sawyer at paul@hartlanduu. org to get on the list!

Turkey Suppers only come together and are successful when many, many people help. This year's Turkey Suppers were no exception, and we have all of you to thank for three weekends of having our community come together, work together, support each other, share a meal together, have spirited conversations, bid on unique items, and enjoy being together. If you scraped a plate, counted money, made a pie, donated an item, donated your time, worked here at the church, cooked in your home, came to eat a meal, peeled a vegetable, poured coffee, mopped a floor, we thank you. If you helped in any way make this year's Turkey Suppers happen, this thanks is to you. We couldn't have done it without you.

Calendar - November 2013

1	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
		6:30pm	Preparation for Turkey Supper
2	Sat.	4:30-6:30pm	Turkey Supper & Silent Auction
3	Sun.	9:30am	Children's Choir rehearsal & sing
		10	Worship Service
		5-6pm	Jr. Youth Grp, UCC
		6:00	Mission Trip information session, UCC
		7-8	Sr. Youth Grp, UCC
4	Mon.	7pm	Governing Board meeting
8	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
10	Sun.	9am	Adult Choir rehearsal
		10	Worship Service
		After service	Second SoUUper Sunday
15	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
17	Sun.	9am	Adult Choir rehearsal at FUSH
		10am	Worship Service
		After service	Cleanup party & chili cookoff
		5-6:15pm	Jr. Youth Grp, UCC
		7-8	Sr. Youth Grp, UCC
18	Mon.	Noon	Newsletter deadline
21	Thurs.	7:00pm	Adult Choir rehearsal at FUSH
22	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
24	Sun.	9:00am	Adult Choir rehearsal to sing at FUSH
		9am-1pm	Mission Trip Fundraiser Brunch
			at FUSH
		10	Joint Ecumenical Worship Service
			at FUSH
			# Sec.



Turn your clocks back 1 hour before going to bed on Saturday, November 2.

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



NOVEMBER