



# The First Universalist Society of Hartland Unitarian Universalist

DECEMBER 2013

First Universalist Society  
Hartland Four Corners  
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Hartland, VT 05049

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Sunday Services & Religious Education Classes  
10 am in the Church

## Sunday Services

**December 1**

**Guest Speaker—Gary Shapiro**

**December 8**

**Peace on Earth, Goodwill to All Paul S. Sawyer**

An exploration on true peace in these difficult times and this busy season. We'll also be decorating the sanctuary tree during the service. This service will be followed by the Semi-Annual Meeting of our Society.

*The collection will benefit the Children's Literacy Foundation.*

*The Semi-Annual Meeting will take place after the service.*

**December 15**

**Paul S. Sawyer**

**Peace—Annual Intergenerational Impromptu Holiday Pageant!**

In the darkest week of the year, we'll warm our hearts by singing and sharing in acting out a lovely holiday story for all ages. Gifts for the Hartland Christmas Project will be collected in this service.

*The collection will benefit the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.*

**December 21 7:00 pm**

**Paul S. Sawyer**

**Welcome Yule! Celebration of the Solstice**

Our annual celebration of Yule and the Earth-Centered New Year! A brief service followed by a bonfire and fellowship. Come help us welcome back the sun!

**December 22**

**Sleep In Heavenly Peace**

**Paul S. Sawyer**

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, a service for the Christmas Spirit, whatever your faith. *The collection will benefit the Minister's Discretionary Fund, used to support people in need.*

*continued on pg. 2*

## OFFERING RECIPIENTS DECEMBER

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.

### *Dec. 1—Volunteers in Action*

This is a community program that brings together caring volunteers with neighbors in need of a helping hand in the seven towns surrounding Mt Ascutney: Windsor, Weathersfield, Hartland, West Windsor and Reading, VT, and Cornish and Plainfield, NH. Volunteers in Action coordinates all the volunteer activity at Mt Ascutney Hospital and Health Center, the community Meals on Wheels program, and hosts Community Meals each month in Hartland, Windsor, and Ascutney. They also provide transportation services to help people get to appointments and other events in the area, and they offer simple human connection as well through conversations, activity groups, and light yard-and-house-work opportunities. For more information: [www.mtascutneyhospital.org/careers/volunteer-opportunities/volunteers-action](http://www.mtascutneyhospital.org/careers/volunteer-opportunities/volunteers-action). *continued on pg. 3*

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## Sunday Services

**December 24, Tuesday - 7:00 pm & 9:00 pm**

**Paul S. Sawyer**

### **Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**

Join us for our annual spirited celebrations of Christmas Eve! The 7:00 service will be our traditional service of Lessons, Carols, Candles, and Joy. The 9:00 service will also honor the story and songs of the season in a fashion that is a bit shorter and more meditative.

### **December 29—NO WORSHIP OR RE !**

We take one Sunday off from worship each year, the Sunday after Christmas. Take this opportunity to worship and celebrate the season in your own way at home!

**January 5**

**Grace**

**Guest Minister Rev. Ndagijimana Fulgence**

Join us for this special service with a visit from The Rev. Fulgence, founder and minister of the Unitarian Congregation of Burundi. Rev. Fulgence will speak about his work and the practice of our shared faith in his region of Africa in the context of our theme for January—Grace. *The collection will benefit The Burundi AIDS Project.*

Rev. Ndagijimana Fulgence, minister of the Assembly of Unitarian Christians of Burundi, first discovered Unitarianism online while he was training to become a Dominican priest. He and four other people then started a Unitarian fellowship in his home, which has since grown into a thriving congregation. Rev. Fulgence is very active in the social justice and humanitarian needs of his region, and in spreading the good news of liberal religion in Francophone Africa.

## *Engaging the Spirit*

December 2013 —"Peace"

A Joyous December to you all!

As part of our project exploring monthly themes, we subscribe to "Touchstones Journal" a resource provided as a joint effort of the Mountain-Desert District of the Unitarian Universalist Association, and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Denver, Colorado. The journal for this month's theme, "Peace," included the following meditation by the Rev. Victoria Stafford, and prayer by the Rev. Tess Baumberger. They are beautiful reflections on this holiday season, and on our spirits in these difficult times. I offer them to you here as simple messages of peace and possibility and hope amid our busyness and our celebrations.

HAPPY HANUKKAH

JOYOUS SOLSTICE

Merry Christmas

*Peace on Earth, Goodwill to You All!*

In Faith and Love,

*Paul*

*continued on pg. 3*

*Offering Recipients cont. from pg. 2*

*December 8—The Children's Literacy Foundation*

Based in Waterbury, VT, the Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF) works "to inspire a love of reading and writing among low-income, at-risk, and rural children up to age 12 throughout NH and VT." In particular, at the suggestion of our member Sue Buckholz, our collection will support their efforts to provide books for the children of inmates in NH and VT prisons, and literacy programs for prisoners and their families. For more information, contact Sue Buckholz or see their website at [clifonline.org](http://clifonline.org)

*December 15—The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee*

Growing out of the merger of the Unitarian Service Committee and the Universalist Service Committee, the UUSC is an independent organization (not a branch of the Unitarian Universalist Association) that works to advance human rights and justice around the world by partnering strategically with local groups working to do justice work in areas of need. Both original Service Committees were formed in the 1930s and 40s in response to the growth of Fascism in Europe in the wake of World War I. In those years members of both groups worked bravely to bring people to safety in the face of Nazi oppression. In more recent years, the UUSC has worked hard to identify and support organizations based in troubled areas that are effective at making a change in those areas. For more information speak with Paul Sawyer, or check out their website at [uus.org](http://uus.org). This collection is taking place in conjunction with our RE program's involvement in the UUSC "Guest at Your Table" program.

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*Engaging the Spirit continued from pg. 2*

**The Moment of Magic**

Rev. Victoria E. Safford

Now is the moment of magic,  
when the whole, round earth turns again toward the sun,  
and here's a blessing:  
the days will be longer and brighter now,  
even before the winter settles in to chill us.  
Now is the moment of magic,  
when people beaten down and broken,  
with nothing left but misery and candles and their own clear voices,  
kindle tiny lights and whisper secret music,  
and here's a blessing:  
the dark universe is suddenly illuminated by the lights of the menorah,  
suddenly ablaze with the lights of the kinarah,  
and the whole world is glad and loud with winter singing.  
Now is the moment of magic,  
when an eastern star beckons the ignorant toward an unknown goal,  
and here's a blessing:  
they find nothing in the end but an ordinary baby,  
born at midnight, born in poverty, and the baby's cry, like bells ringing,  
makes people wonder as they wander through their lives,  
what human love might really look like,  
sound like,  
feel like.  
Now is the moment of magic,  
and here's a blessing:  
we already possess all the gifts we need;  
we've already received our presents:  
ears to hear music,  
eyes to behold lights,  
hands to build true peace on earth  
and to hold each other tight in love.



**Pastoral Thought: December 16, 2001**

Rev. Tess Baumberger

The holiday season is upon us  
But this year many of us  
Move toward it with leaden feet.  
It has been such a year.  
And because it has been such a year  
It may feel forced to enter into  
The jolly spirit of Christmas,  
The joyful spirit of Hannukah,  
The reflective spirit of Solstice,  
The hopeful spirit of New Year's.  
Thinking of all this, I would like to offer this prayer, with you.  
It is a responsive prayer, please respond with the words "May we find peace."  
Spirit of Life, Goodness and Peace:  
May we find peace.  
When our world is worn with war:  
May we find peace.  
When our lives are ruled by fear:  
May we find peace.  
When loss ladens our days:  
May we find peace.  
When loneliness weighs heavy in our hearts:  
May we find peace.

*continued on pg. 4*

*Offering Recipients cont. from pg. 3*

*December 22—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.

*January 5—Burundi AIDS Project*

Among the 8 million inhabitants of Burundi, at least 180,000 people are currently living with HIV. In addition, more than 200,000 children in Burundi are orphans as a result of AIDS. The Unitarian congregation in Bujumbura, Burundi actively partners with Unitarian Universalists from the United States and around the world to reach out and serve the needs of those affected by HIV/AIDS in their region. In particular, the Burundi Unitarians seek to ensure the health, welfare, and nutritional needs of children affected by the disease. You can read more about this program in an article on the website of the Unitarian Universalist Global AIDS Coalition: <http://uuglobalaids.org/news/article01.pdf>

*Engaging the Spirit cont. from pg. 3*

When despair takes hold of our souls:  
 May we find peace.  
 As we give help to those in need:  
 May we find peace.  
 As we go about our daily duties:  
 May we find peace.  
 As we make holiday preparations:  
 May we find peace.  
 As we gather in this place of grace:  
 May we find peace.  
 Spirit of Life, Goodness and Peace:  
 May we find peace.

*continued on pg. 5*

If December is like November, October and September, the yurt will be brimming with active and creative children.

We'll start off the month with Sue Buckholz sharing information about the Children's Literacy Foundation's program that helps VT and NH inmates connect with their children through literacy seminars, storytelling events and children's books. Our curious children will gain an understanding about one positive way families can stay connected when a family member is in prison.

The following week, Jill will bring back the popular tradition of decorating the gingerbread church! I can think of some children (and some adults) who won't want to miss this activity.

Our annual Winterim session will begin on January 5. This year the children will prepare a service entitled "Babble." This service was created by UU Minister Erika Hewitt, based on the story of the Tower of Babel. The RE children will practice their parts and roles over five weeks in January into February, then give the service on February 9. Mark your calendars now!

Peace,  
**Sara**  
 DRE



December RE Calendar

1	10am	Faith in Action: Justice System and Families
8	10am	Guest Artist: Gingerbread Church with Jill bring in Hartland Christmas Project gifts
15	10am	Intergenerational Service: Impromptu Holiday Play Bring in UUSC collections RE hosts Coffee Hour
22	10am	Children's Chapel: The Sixth Principle/Peace
29	NO service	

January RE Calendar

5	10am	Winterim begins: "Babble"
12	10am	Winterim practice
19	10am	Winterim practice
26	10am	Winterim practice

*Engaging the Spirit cont. from pg. 4*

### Some Words of Peace

#### **Mahatma Gandhi**

There is no 'way to peace,' there is only 'peace.'

#### **Thich Nhat Han**

It is my conviction that there is no way to peace—peace is the way.

#### **Geshe Kelsang Gyatso**

Without inner peace, outer peace is impossible. Only by creating peace within our own mind and helping others to do the same can we hope to achieve peace in this world.

#### **Virginia Woolf**

You cannot find peace by avoiding life.

#### **Albert Einstein**

Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding.

#### **Albert Schweitzer**

Until he extends the circle of his compassion to all living things, man will not himself find peace.

#### **Robert Fulghum**

Peace is not something you wish for, it is something you make, something you are, something you do, and something you give away.

#### **Jane Addams**

True peace is not merely the absence of war, it is the presence of justice.

#### **Thomas Merton**

Instead of hating the people you think are war-makers, hate the appetites and disorder in your own soul, which are the causes of war. If you love peace, then hate injustice, hate tyranny, hate greed—but hate these things in yourself, not in another.

#### **John F. Kennedy**

Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process, gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures. And however undramatic the pursuit of peace, the pursuit must go on.

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## Youth - Be the Change

Our congregation offers activities for youth in grades 7-12 (or the home-school equivalent) through two youth groups—the Junior Youth Group, for those in grades 7 & 8, and the Senior Youth Group for high school students. Both groups are offered in conjunction with our friends and neighbors from the Hartland Congregational Church, and are led by the Reverends Lucia Jackson and Paul Sawyer.

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 December 2013/January 2014

**December 1**— 5:00-6:15 pm Jr. Youth Group at UCC Church  
6:30-8:00 pm Sr. Youth Group at UCC Church

**December 6—Friday—7:00-9:00 pm**—Junior High Game Night at the UCC Church! Plan on some fun games—friends welcome! Also make your own sundaes & sardines—not in the same bowl!

**December 15**—5:00-6:15 pm Jr. Youth Group at UCC Church  
6:30-8:00 pm Sr. Youth Group at UCC Church  
Holiday parties with Yankee Swap!  
Bring a silly, cheap, found, or regifted wrapped gift!

**January 12**— 5:00-6:15 pm Jr. Youth Group at FUSH Church  
6:30-8:00 pm Sr. Youth Group at FUSH Church  
(Hockey Game \$ due—see below)

**January 17—Friday—7:00-9:00 pm**—Moonlight Sledding and bonfire at the Cone's house, off Webster Road in Hartland—Bring your own sleds!

**January 19**— 5:00-6:15 pm Jr. Youth Group at FUSH Church  
6:30-8:00 pm Sr. Youth Group at FUSH Church

**January 26**—Mission Trip Brunch at FUSH

**January 31**—Friday—Trip to Dartmouth Men's Hockey vs. Quinnipiac--\$7/youth, \$10/adults—Pay Lucia by January 12!

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*

### **Maria Montessori**

Establishing lasting peace is the work of education; all politics can do is keep us out of war.

### **Mother Teresa**

If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.

### **Nelson Mandela**

If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner.

### **Jean Vanier, from *Finding Peace***

Peacemaking is not just doing big things to solve big conflicts, in the way of Nelson Mandela, Mahatma Gandhi or George Mitchell. We are not all called to work for peace on the international level, but we are all called to become ...[people] of peace wherever we may be....—open and welcoming to others inside and outside of our community, our culture and our faith group. To be a peacemaker means not to judge or condemn or speak badly of people, not to rejoice in any form of ill that may strike them. Peacemaking is holding people gently in prayer, wishing them to be well and free. Peacemaking is welcoming people who are weak and in need, ...and opening our hearts to them. It is welcoming those with whom we may have difficulty or whom we may not especially like, those who are culturally, psychologically, or intellectually different from us. It is to approach people not from a pedestal, a position of power and certitude, in order to solve problems, but from a place of listening, understanding, humility, and love.



The Governing Board met on November 4. Attending were: Doug Hart, John Osborne, Colleen Spence, Becky Howe, Mary Erdei, Dan Poor. Also as guests: Jill Loyd and Tamara Ross.

The minutes from the October meeting were approved as written.

The Minister's Report was deferred until the next meeting. The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and accepted. Revenue from the Turkey Suppers did well this year, final net income is awaiting rollup of costs.

A discussion ensued regarding next year's budget and the pledge campaign. There was also discussion regarding the need for an audit of the accounts. The new treasurer should start out with a clean slate.

The Finance Circle (Doug, Dan and John) met to discuss the budget and the Treasurer's Job Description. In this meeting, the job description was separated into a job description and a procedures document. The procedures document requires more work; the Finance Circle is working on this. Incorporated into this document will be more security procedures. The estimated cost of a simple audit was added to the expense budget.

There was a brief discussion of the canvass for this year, and how to encourage support for the Congregation. Paul will be working on the canvass this year. John has sent printable files of a previous year's mailings to Paul.

John gave a presentation on leadership development from UUA web site. One idea from the web site is to have a board member attend every new member meeting and present leadership opportunities within

the church. We need a leadership development program, not just a nominating committee. The UUA does offer training in these areas. John is going to investigate what it would cost to have training in leadership development in the local area. This discussion will continue.

Jill Loyd spoke to the board regarding the need to develop a way to support people who want to attend the General Assembly (G.A.) in Providence next year June 25-29. The cost for registration for the entire meeting is \$330, and for one day \$130. Room and board also need to be considered. Registration deadline is March 1, 2014. It is possible that some people may only want to go for one day while others may stay the entire time. John proposed that the first thing to do is determine approximately how many members would like to attend G.A. He will investigate using the polling web site Survey Monkey to help determine interest within the congregation. Jill will send an article to Paul for the November newsletter.

The Semi-Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place on the second Sunday of December, as usual. The budget needs to be voted on, and will be "warned" in the newsletter.

The next meeting will be on December 2, 2013 at 7:00 pm in the parsonage. As always, members of the congregation are invited to attend. Dan Poor has suggested that the Board meet on the second Monday of the month, to give the Treasurer and Minister more time to prepare written reports, and the Board to read them. We will vote on this at the December Board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

## Treasurer's Notes

### **2014 Budget Proposal**

In the worksheet, on the next page, the left column gives us the final numbers for 2012. The second column contains the operating results for the period January-October, this year which we have used with our budgeted November-December numbers and some judgments on my part to predict how 2013 will come out. The right column is the budget proposal adopted by the Finance Circle (and approved by the Governing Board).

### **INCOME**

**Pledges.** Based on results this year we have set a goal of \$80,000, about a 14% increase. We might be a little more bullish once we complete our pledge drive.

**Fundraising (net).** We are encouraged by Sara Morin's energy and activity and hope to see some serious increases from the approximately \$11,500 we shall realize this year. Pending actual results, we have suggested a modest increase for 2014.

**Collection.** This is money contributed by non-pledging members and guests and is adjusted downward to reflect this year's reality. We are convinced, however, that our getting away from any reliance on the "plate" has greatly helped our pledge results.

**Funds, Memorial, Etc.** Always a guess. Fortunately it is not a major income source.

**Miscellaneous.** Probably this should be relabeled "Rent" as that is the major source. We believe it reasonable to see our facilities used at the same level.

### **EXPENSES**

**Salaries.** We have put in a 2% raise for our five part-time staff: 1.5% COL (Social Security's number for 2014) and .5% merit. Based on this year's \$65,130 in salaries, 2% will add \$1,303.

**Fringe Benefits.** Paul has a medical plan allowance of 6%; we match his retirement contribution up to 5%, and give him 7.65% to help offset the 12.2% he must pay in self-employment FICA. For everyone else we match FICA at 6.2% and Medicare at 1.45%. We also include here the Workmen's Compensation insurance we must pay which aggregates to \$470.

**Minister's Professional Expenses.** This continues at the \$6,000 level started in 2011.

**Property.** Here we've simply figured "a little more" than current expenditures.

**Membership, Communications, Publicity.** Budget proposed by Dave and Sue with just a \$200 increase to \$2,400.

**Administration Supplies.** Major increase of \$1,000 for a one-time audit when the treasurership changes. The additional funds recognize that more members means more paper supplies.

**RE Supplies, Training & Equipment.** Extended at 2013's expected level.

**RE Professional Expenses.** Same as 2013.

**RE Childcare** is the \$30 we pay our teenagers each Sunday times 50 Sundays. When they provide care for other events such as the member-

ship party or a fundraiser, that budget is charged.

**Music, Supplies, Conferences.** Modest \$100 increase.

**Dues, UUA and District.** Proposed to be level-funded at \$3,364, \$1,564 for the District, meeting their requested amount per member; and \$1,800 for UUA which is about one-third what is asked of us. We do add to this thru a special collection from members who agree to pay their own UUA dues. In 2013 we added \$1,247 to our budgeted \$1,800 for a total of \$3,047.

**Debt Service.** This is the payment of principle and interest on the money we borrowed from the District's White Fund to erect the Yurt. The current balance is \$14,835 and will be paid off in February, 2019. At 4% interest, I think we should be in no hurry to pay it off as long as our portfolio is earning better than 4%.

**Worship Circle.** While Paul was on sabbatical, we had a fund from which to pay speakers. We are proposing a modest continuation for times when the Worship Circle needs or wishes to pay someone to fill the pulpit when Paul is off; \$600 would pay for just two UU minister speakers at the current rate, or perhaps three or four lay-persons at \$150-\$200.

**Training.** We have not used it all year and just once last year. We think we can drop it.

**From Endowment.** If we can make this budget work in 2014, we can continue to reduce our "take" by \$5,000 or better a year and could balance our budget in five years or less. This needs, at minimum, to be our goal, and for the first time, seems possible.

Doug Hart  
11/16/13

FIRST UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY			
BUDGET PLANNING, 2014			
	2012	2013 YTD	2013 EST'D
<b>INCOME</b>			
Pledges	\$61,326	\$61,075	\$70,000
Fund-raising (Net)	12,182	8,775	11,500
Collection	5,096	539	650
Funds, Mem. Etc	156	648	650
Misc	1,344	1,581	1,600
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$80,104</b>	<b>\$72,618</b>	<b>\$84,400</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>Salaries</b>			
Minister	42,660		43,392
RE Director	8,550		9,000
Music Director	7,380		7,512
Administrator	3,328		3,396
Sexton	1,312		1,830
<b>Total</b>	<b>63,230</b>	<b>54,274</b>	<b>65,130</b>
Fringe Benefits	9,966	8,648	10,378
Minister's Prof. Exp.	5,887	5,639	6,000
<b>Property, Church</b>			
Utilities, Services	7,768	4,773	6,250
Insurance	3,131	3,877	3,877
Maintenance	4,015	1,334	1,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,914</b>	<b>9,984</b>	<b>11,627</b>
<b>Property, Parsonage</b>			
Utilities, Services	2,394	2,406	3,000
Maintenance	0	1,309	1,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,394</b>	<b>3,715</b>	<b>4,500</b>
Membership, Communications, Publicity	2,533	1,947	2,200
Administration, Supplies, Misc.	2,174	2,152	2,450
RE: Supplies, Training, Equipment	986	949	1,200
RE: Professional Expenses	250	500	600
RE: Childcare	1,555	1,110	1,420
Music: Supplies, Conferences	2,189	1,815	2,100
Dues, UUA & Dist.	3,245	3,364	3,364
Debt Service	3,046	2,284	3,045
Sabbatical Fund/Worship Circle	1,500	0	0
Training	88	0	100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$113,957</b>	<b>\$96,381</b>	<b>\$114,114</b>
<b>NET OPER INCOME (LOSS)</b>	<b>(33,853)</b>	<b>(23,763)</b>	<b>(29,714)</b>
From Endowment	\$35,000	\$27,239	\$30,000
D Hart, 11/16/13			

Dear FUSH member,

As your trustees, we would like to make you aware of the fact that the IRS has extended the Charitable IRA Roll-over for 2013.

This means that if you are 70 1/2 or older and MUST take money out of your IRA or are any age and want to transfer money from your IRA to the church for your pledge or any other purpose, you will NOT have to pay taxes on it. The process is very simple but the check or transfer must be made directly to our Treasurer before December 31, 2013.

For help and more details, account numbers, etc. please contact Robert Jaarsma at [rmjaars@gmail.com](mailto:rmjaars@gmail.com) or 603-675-6622.

Your trustees,  
Jill Crowley, Don Foster, and Robert Jaarsma



### Welcoming Congregation Circle

“Becoming a Welcoming Congregation? We’re welcoming...aren’t we?”

This is a common response to the suggestion that FUSH become officially recognized by the UUA as a “Welcoming Congregation.” While it’s true that we are generally known to be a friendly bunch of folks, and in the words we speak together at the start of services, we pledge “...to serve humanity to the end that ALL souls grow into harmony with the divine...” but it’s worth taking a look to see if there are more subtle messages that we may be giving each other without even thinking about it.

Discrimination of any sort, be it racial, sexual, religious or gender based, isn’t always something the majority notice, but for the affected minority, it is a part of daily life, and sometimes survival. We recognize that equality isn’t achieved by insisting everyone be the same, but by accepting, respecting and celebrating human diversity and enriching all of our lives in the process by gaining a deeper understanding of what it means to be human.

With this goal in mind, a circle has formed to share our personal stories and learn about the experiences of people identifying as Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, Transgender and Queer (Questioning), both historically and in the present, through books, film, conversation, interviews and offering workshops and other events to the FUSH community.

The Welcoming Congregation Circle (WCC) has met twice this fall, led by Todd Lloyd, to discuss what this process means to our church. Our next meeting will be held in the parsonage on Sunday, December 8, after service. Dave Morin and Katy Sawyer will lead Workshop #1 titled “Introductions and Expectations” for the committee members. Stay tuned for more workshops and activities for interested members of the congregation.

### Connections Circle

#### Coffee Hour

We thank Debra Hart & Dianne Rochford and Patti Eckels & Mary Erdei who provided tasty food and drink for all of us in November. In addition Becky Howe, Judy Howland, and Jandra Oliver worked hard to provide a delicious lunch for all of the hard workers at the November 17 work party. And then the Youth Group put on an amazing breakfast for the joint service. The following people are in charge of Coffee Hour for December: Dec. 1 - Jill & Todd Lloyd; Dec. 8 - Rickey & Dan Poor; Dec. 15 - Sara & Chris Doolan & the RE Youth; Dec. 22 - Sue & Dave Taylor. The hospitality and hard work are appreciated by the congregation. 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.

Our next meeting will be on Friday, December 6 at 4:00 pm in the parsonage. 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.

#### Circle Dinners

Do you wish there were more time at the coffee hours to get to know your fellow congregants? Are you willing to drive to someone’s home for an enjoyable get together? Do you like to eat while having good conversation?

Circle Dinners are hosted by church members who are willing to open up their homes for a social gathering. There is no agenda except to enjoy each others’ company and eat delicious food. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share.

If you are interested, you can sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board downstairs in the church Fellowship Hall or call the host of the dinner. On the sign up sheet there will be space for your name, phone # and the dish you will be providing.

There are two planned in January:

#### **Saturday, January 4**

Hosted by Patti Eckels at 6:00 pm in her home in Hanover, NH. She is able to accommodate a maximum of 7 people

#### **Friday, January 31**

Hosted by Elaine and Doug Hart in their home in Hartland. They are able to accommodate a total of 8 people.

We are looking for hosts for Circle Dinners in February and March. If you would like to open your home please get in touch with Nancy Walker. You pick the date, time and how many people you can accommodate.



## Warning of the Semi-Annual Meeting

Sunday, December 8, 2012

The semi-annual meeting of the First Universalist Society of Hartland will be held approximately at 11:30 am, after the regular Sunday service.

All are invited to attend and participate in this very important meeting. All members are invited to vote on issues facing the church:

- ♦ 2014 Budget will be presented, reviewed, and voted for approval. The budget is in this newsletter, along with a description from Doug Hart.
- ♦ Other issues may be presented and voted, not determined at this time.

### Calling All Circles

#### Fundraising



## OPEN MIC & COFFEE HOUSE

Saturday, December 7 • 6:30pm–9pm

*Join us for an evening of live music,  
coffee and desserts.*

See Dave Morin or Leah Gartner if you are interested in performing or for more information.

UU Church Fellowship Hall, Hartland 4 Corners

### SoUUpper Second Sunday December 8 January 12

Our first month's SoUUpper Second Sunday was a success! Thank you to all who made or bought food. Look for us in December and January at table set up during coffee hour downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Delicious homemade soups, mac 'n cheese, chili and similar foods are available for purchase. Take them home and have a hearty meal ready to heat up during the week.

If you are interested in making items for this monthly fundraiser, please contact saradmorin@gmail.com and she will get you information and containers.

### Kid-Free Evening Saturday, December 14

Parents will get a chance to have a kid-free evening to shop or enjoy a relaxing dinner. A few adult members of the church will have the kids, grades K-5 in the Fellowship Hall to enjoy pizza, a project and games and a movie.

See Sara Doolan for more information.

## Bulletin Board

In January, 2014 an ongoing UU dialogue group will be launched, held in the parsonage on Thursdays 7:00–8:30 pm, beginning on January 9.

“Dialogue” process, according to the physicist David Bohm, can be seen as an arena in which collective learning takes place and from which a sense of increased harmony, fellowship and creativity can arise.

### **Hartland UU Dialogue Group**

Dialogue comes from the Greek dia, meaning through, and logos, meaning word. The image is of a stream of meaning flowing among us, through us and between us – a flow of meaning in the whole group, out which will emerge some new understanding, something creative. Dialogue is different from discussion, which means to break things up.

The central subjects of the dialogue group’s sessions will follow the monthly worship service themes.

Facilitators will follow clear guidelines to assure safety and consistency of the group’s process.

The group will be on-going and open to all. Registration is not necessary. For more information, call or email Bineke or Bram Oort: 802-436-1136, bineke@vermontel.net.

**Adult Choir** - December rehearsal at 9:00 am on Sunday, December 15 and Sunday, December 22, to sing in the service on the 22nd.

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

**Children’s Choir** - Rehearsal December 8 and 15 at 9:30 am to sing in the service on the 15th. There will be NO rehearsal November 24, December 1, or 29.

**Children’s Choir** -January rehearsal and sing at 9:30 am Sunday, January 5.

**Missing** - A white cable knit sleeveless sweater has been missing since the Turkey Suppers. If you mistakenly brought it home with you, please get in touch with Connie Tessier. It is her favorite and she would like it back.

**Hartland Christmas Project** - This project helps our neighbors in need throughout the year and especially during the holiday season. We work to ensure that all our community members will have food and gifts with which to celebrate the holiday. Please help us with our efforts by taking a Christmas Mitten off the board, purchasing the gift and returning it no later than Sunday December 15. Please securely attach the mitten to the gift so that it reaches the correct recipient. On Sunday December 15 you will be invited to place the gift under the tree at church as part of the service. There will also

be a designated spot downstairs that you can put gifts if you bring them in before then. If for some reason you are unable to return your gift by the 15th please contact Beth Rice at 436-3168 or brice@vermontel.net.

**Chili Cookoff Winners, Congratulations!** - The winners of the 1st Annual Chili Cookoff which took place during the Annual Clean up day on Sunday, November 17 are: 1st place - a tie between Katy Sawyer (#3 chili) and Colleen Spence (#8 chili); 2nd place - unknown entry of the recipe “Winter Vegetable Chili (#2 chili); 3rd place - Leah Gartner (#5 chili).

*Greetings dear friends from tropical Panama!  
We are amazed by this fascinating & interesting country.  
Each day there is a new adventure whether trying to learn more Spanish or shop in the super mercados (grocery stores). We’re living in an apartment in sight of the Pacific Ocean & a short walk to the beach - a lifetime dream. As exciting as all this is there is a big price to pay, missing family, friends, our dog, Lucy & our church.  
Love to all, John & Joan Keramis*



## Calendar - December 2013

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1	Sun.	10am	Worship Service
		5-6:15pm	Jr. Youth Grp, UCC
		6:30-8	Sr. Youth Grp, UCC
2	Mon.	7pm	Governing Board meeting
6	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
		4pm	Connections Circle meeting
		7-9	Jr. H. Game Night, UCC
7	Sat.	6:30-9pm	Open Mic & Coffee House
8	Sun.	9:30am	Children's Choir rehearsal
		10	Worship Service
		After service	SoUper Seconds Sunday
		5-6:15pm	Jr. Youth Grp, FUSH
		6:30-8	Sr. Youth Grp, FUSH
13	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
14	Sat.		Kid-Free Evening
15	Sun.	9am	Adult Choir rehearsal
		9:30	Children's Choir rehearsal & sing
		10	Worship Service
			Christmas Project gifts due
		5-6:15pm	Jr. Youth Grp, UCC
		6:30-8	Sr. Youth Grp, UCC
18	Weds.	Noon	Newsletter deadline
21	Sat.	7pm	Solstice Celebration
22	Sun.	9am	Adult Choir rehearsal & sing
		10	Worship Service
		5-6:15pm	Jr. Youth Grp, UCC
		6:30-8	Sr. Youth Grp, UCC
24	Tues.	7 & 9pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
27	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
29	Sun.		NO Worship Service

### January

4	Sat.	6pm	Circle Dinner at Patti Eckels
5	Sun.	9:30am	Children's Choir rehearsal & sing
		10	Worship Service
9	Thurs.	7-8:30pm	Dialogue Group

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



DECEMBER

