



The First Universalist Society of Hartland Unitarian Universalist

MAY 2014

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

Website: www.hartlanduu.com

E-mail: hartlanduu@vermontel.net

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 75

Hartland Four Corners, Vt 05049

Phone

802-436-2592

Office Administrator

Nancy Walker

In the office: Fridays

Minister

Reverend Paul S. Sawyer

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

uupaul@vermontel.net

Religious Education Director

Sara Doolan, 802-436-3220

dre@hartlanduu.com

Music Director

Patty Talbot, 802-436-2085

ptalbot@comcast.net

Caring Circle

Sue Botzow, 802-436-3035

Nada Pierce, 802-436-2336

Connie Tessier, 802-436-2323

Governing Board

John Osborne, President

Colleen Spence, Vice President

Tamara Ross, Treasurer

Becky Howe, Clerk

Mary Erdei, Sara Morin, Dan Poor

Trustees

Jill Crowley, Don Foster,

Robert Jaarsma

Buildings & Grounds

Jill Crowley, Chair

Jake Ross, Sexton

Newsletter

Layout - Nancy Walker,

nancy.mr.walker@gmail.com

Printing - Lydia Johnson, Phyllis Tucker

Copy Editors- Cynthia Thompson,

Joan Fariel

Sunday Services & Religious Education Classes 10 am in the Church

Sunday Services

May 4

Paul Sawyer

Truth—Aren't We Already Welcoming?

Reflections on truth, reality, and the importance of becoming recognized as a UUA Welcoming Congregation.

The collection will support The Family Place.

May 11

Welcoming Congregation Committee Reflections

The collection will support PFLAG.

May 18

Truth is Here

Paul Sawyer

Some thoughts on Universal and Universalist truth as we all work together to "seek truth in freedom."

The Semi-Annual Meeting of the Society will follow this service.

The collection will benefit Newport Food Pantry Backpack Program.

May 25

Remembering Well

Paul Sawyer

Reflections for Memorial Day and honoring those who have given their lives in service.

The collection will support Vermont Vet-to-Vet.





Warning of the Semi-Annual Meeting

Sunday, May 18, 2014

The Semi-Annual Meeting of the First Universalist Society of Hartland will be held Sunday May 18, 2014 at approximately 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:

- ◆ New Board members will be elected. The Nominating Committee will be nominating potential new Board members, and elections will be held to replace Becky Howe and John Osborne, who are resigning from the Board.
- ◆ Reports of the Circles and Chairs will be provided, but not presented, at the meeting. The reports will be emailed prior to the meeting, and printed reports will be available at the meeting. Members who have questions or comments for the Circle leaders or Chairs can raise them at the meeting.

Other issues may be presented and voted, not determined at this time.

There will be a potluck lunch immediately following the meeting.

Following is an article that had been posted 100 years ago in the Vermont Standard.
No spell check in those days!

Hartland Four Corners -- Yew are ast to a Poverty Party that us wimmen fokes of the Universalist Sassietie air goin to hev at the Town Hall Tuesday nite. Rewis an Regulashuns. First -- Every womin what kums must ware a Povetty dress and apern. Phines will be kollected on juilry and onnessessary firbelos. A prize given for the very worstest dress pusson. Dance at five cents a figger. Grand March of the hoboes at 9. Cold vittles, ten cents.

from the Thursday, February 28, 2013 newspaper.

OFFERING RECIPIENTS

MAY

We rely on the planned, committed, pledge support of our members and friends to support the needs of our church. We dedicate our collections during Sunday morning worship to organizations doing good work in our local communities or in society as a whole. Checks for the collection can be made out to "FUSH" and we will consolidate donations to pass on to the organization.

For those wishing to make a pledge payment, or a donation specifically to support our congregation's budget, there is a box on the welcoming table at the back of the sanctuary.

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

May 4— The Family Place

Founded in 1985, The Family Place is a parent-child center serving the entire Upper Valley region. They offer comprehensive services for families and children, including home visits, training and support for new parents, early intervention for children with special needs, and ongoing education, playgroups, resources for financial aid for child care, and other support for families. They also operate an important service through their child advocacy center, working with state agencies to offer a safe environment for legal testimony and follow-up support for children who have made a disclosure of abuse. Rev. Paul Sawyer has recently accepted an offer to serve on the board of the Family Place, and you can contact him for more information, or see their website, www.familyplacevt.org

continued on pg. 6

From Your Minister

"It's cold in here."

"No it's not, it's fine."

"No way, it's not fine! It's cold!"

Sound familiar? I suspect that some version of that kind of conversation takes place nearly every day in each of our lives.

"The quest for truth is our sacrament," we say, so boldly, each week in our unison affirmation. Our sacrament we say—our place where we find humanity and divinity touching in a real and tangible way. But what exactly can we possibly mean by "truth," in the course of lives where we can't even agree with our closest loved ones on simple things, like whether it's hot or cold?

"Just go look at the thermometer," some more reason-centered folks will say. "That will tell you whether it's hot or cold." And they would have a point. The temperature of the room is a fact that can be measured, and it's very useful information to have. But if you are cold or hot—if that experience of cold or hot is your truth, then it matters little to you what the thermometer says. Truth has a relationship to the facts of a situation, but the facts are never the whole story, no matter how well we can measure them or agree on what they are.

When we are dealing with relatively simple truths, like feeling hot or cold, most of us find ways to work out whatever disagreements arise from our different understandings of the truth. But all across our world, we are struggling with larger and more dangerous conflicts of truth, and we are every day faced with the consequences of those conflicts in ours and other people's lives.

Did Russia annex the Crimea to protect the rights of Russian Crimean citizens, or did they do it to reestablish power over an area they dominated for years and years? Diplomats and historians and the people of the region will be sorting out the facts involved for generations, and yet the facts may not have much bearing on people's differing understanding of the truth, and of the issues of injustice that those differing understandings of truth cause to arise.

A century and a half after the end of slavery in the United States, and more than five centuries after the beginning of the European subjugation of the indigenous population of the Americas, our culture still holds vastly differing views of the truth of racism, colonialism, and genocide that arose from these realities in our past.

continued on pg. 4

From Your Minister
continued from pg. 3

And as you may have noticed—the language I choose to use in talking about these particular truths, and our history as a nation, is simply overflowing with my own understanding of my sense of truth. I know for sure that people who hold a different sense of truth would (and maybe will) catch and call me on that language right away—before we could ever get to any kind of reasonable discussion of where we might find some morsel of common truth in the midst of our divergent ways of seeing the world.

Fortunately for us, however, we live in a time when a “quest for truth” is a relatively safe sacrament to hold dear. Viewers of Neil De-Grasse Tyson’s revival of the show “Cosmos” were reminded recently that such a quest wasn’t always a healthy choice, for even the most imaginative and brilliant of souls. In the 1590s, the astronomer and Dominican monk, Giordano Bruno, searching for the truth of the stars, experienced an epiphany which led him to proclaim the truth that the earth revolved around the sun, and that every star was another sun somewhere, encircled by an infinite number of other worlds.

For Bruno, this revelation was a deeply faithful one—it lifted his soul to know in his heart that his God was not

continued on pg. 5

re: RE

We are in our last month of the RE year, then we’ll head into our summer program in June after our end of year Children’s Sunday. Thank you to Jill, Jaxon, Mariet, Dianne and Emma for sharing their time with our children in April.

After we formally welcome Spring with our dance around the recently re-ribboned Maypole, we’ll enjoy our regular programs of Children’s Chapel, Guest Artist and Spirit Play.

During Children’s Chapel, our yearlong focus on the UU Principles will finish up with a review of the principles. All year, the children have been discussing the various ways that they put their faith into action and think of how they can apply these principles in their everyday lives.

We have such a wonderful, spirited group of children!

Sara
DRE

May RE Calendar

4	9:30 am	Children's Choir Practice and Sing
	10:00	Children's Chapel: Review of UU Principles
11	10:00 am	Guest Artist: Mother's Day Project
18	10:00 am	Spirit Play
25	9:30 am	Children's Choir Practice
	10:00	Children's Chapel: Review of UU Principles and Guest Speaker: Deb Hart



If the world were merely seductive, that would be easy; if the world were merely challenging, that would be no problem. But I wake up each morning torn between a desire to save the world and a desire to savor the world. This makes it very hard to plan the day.

E. B. White

From Your Minister
continued from pg. 4

limited to human experience, but that creation, and therefore God, was, in truth, infinite beyond what anyone had ever dreamed.

In 16th century Europe, Bruno's vision of truth, as faithful as he found it to be, was not one that he could proclaim without retribution. Bruno was imprisoned, and tried by the inquisition, and eventually burned in St. Peter's Square, along with his books, filled with all his dangerous ideas. In Bruno's time, almost everyone else in the world held a different vision of truth than he did—all of the people in power, all of the experts and academics, all of the most imaginative and brightest people he could ever find. Among them all, Bruno was alone, even though for the most part, the truths that cost him his life we now take as common facts, taught to our youngest children, before they can even really understand what infinity might mean.

In our sacrament of questing for the truth, we need to hold dear to the related phrase that stands out in the second half of our affirmation—the part where we covenant with one another and with the Source of our Being, “to seek knowledge in freedom.” We may never, as a congregation, as a nation, as the human race, be able to come to

continued on pg. 6

Youth - Be the Change

We're nearing the close of another successful school-year of youth programs. We'll end the year on May 4 with a full schedule of events—the final session of the grand 7&8 OWL program, the last meeting of the high school Affirmation class, our annual Mission Trip kick-off logistics meeting, and the final senior youth meeting.

Look for announcements of special events taking place throughout the year, and we'll see you all for more fun and faith this fall!

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 May 2014

Please note:

All remaining events for this spring are taking place at the First Congregational Church of Hartland (the Brick Church)

May 4

4:15-6:15 pm, Gr. 7&8 OWL at FCCH--Last session!

5:00-6:30 pm, Sr. High Affirmations at FCCH

6:15-7:00 pm, Mission Trip Logistics Meeting for all Mission Trip participants at FCCH

7:00-8:00 pm, Sr. Youth Group Meeting at FCCH--Last meeting of the year!

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



There is never time in the future in which we will work out our salvation. The challenge is in the moment; the time is always now.

James A. Baldwin

From Your Minister
continued from pg. 5

any kind of simple agreement on what exactly counts as truth. But we can work to ensure that our search for the truth, in whatever form we find it, isn't limited by fear of ridicule or violence, or by any kinds of limitation to possibility at all.

This I know—much of what I hold dear as truth, in future generations, is likely to come to be known as naive and uninformed. It's our sacred duty to ensure that the Brunos of our age, those daring to see past the limitations we've made so firm, are never left to feel all alone, and that are never threatened by our ignorance and our unwillingness to understand that the real truth is, where truth is concerned, we are almost always simply wrong.

Offering Recipients
continued from pg. 2

May 11 — PFLAG

Founded in 1972 with the simple act of a mother publicly supporting her gay son, PFLAG is the nation's largest family and ally organization. Made up of parents, families, friends, and straight allies united with people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender, PFLAG is committed to advancing equality and societal acceptance of LGBT people through its threefold mission of support, education and advocacy. Our collection will be used to support the work of PFLAG in our region. This organization was nominated for our support by the Welcoming Congregation Committee. You can learn more about them online at pflag.org.

continued on pg. 6

The Board's Broadcast

The Governing Board held its monthly meeting on April 14, 2014. In attendance were: Mary Erdei, Paul Sawyer, John Osborne, Sara Morin, Colleen Spence, Dan Poor, Becky Howe, and Tamara Ross.

The March Board minutes were unfortunately not sent out to the Board in time for the Board to review them. They are provisionally accepted.

The Minister's report was reviewed. Paul commented that it is easier to prepare a monthly report when the Board meeting is on the second Monday of the month, instead of the first.

In the month since the last Board meeting, a Nominating Circle has come together to bring forward nominations for elections to the Board. They are hard at work at this task of replacing two members of the Board at the next Semi-Annual Meeting.

The upcoming Semi-Annual Meeting was discussed at length. The date of the Semi-Annual Meeting will be May 18, the third Sunday in May, as required in the bylaws. Traditionally, though not required by the bylaws, the various circles and chairs prepare reports for this meeting. Presenting the reports during the meeting, however, is very time consuming, so written reports need to be made available before the meeting and sent to the membership. During the Semi-Annual Meeting, questions about the reports can be raised by the membership and answered by the circles and chairs. Ways of meeting this need, along with a providing a meeting warning required by the bylaws, were discussed. It was decided that the meeting warning would go out in the newsletter, and a second email would be sent at least a week before the meeting, detailing:

- The members to be brought forward by the nominating committee for election to the Board
- The reports of the circles and chairs.

The Board also discussed the meeting agenda, and recruiting a moderator and recording clerk. Becky Howe volunteered to be clerk. Dan Poor volunteered to solicit a moderator; because of elections of new Board members, no current Board member can be moderator.

The Semi-Annual Meeting agenda was set; there will be a potluck lunch following the meeting.

The Minister's report was accepted.

Tamara Ross provided a detailed report of the financial activities. The financial reporting will be driven directly from Quicken from now on, so long as the reporting is sufficiently but not overly detailed to meet the needs of the Board meeting. Tamara is working hard to align the Quicken structure to the needs of the Board. John will assist her in getting this done.

continued on pg. 7

Offering Recipients
continued from pg. 6

May 18— Newport Food Pantry Backpack Nutrition Program

The Newport, NH Food Pantry is operated by the Newport Area Association of Churches, and serves people in need across Sullivan County, including residents of Newport and Unity, where a number of members and friends of our congregation reside. Each Friday, their Backpack Program provides backpacks full of nutritious food to school children across the area, to take home to provide needed food support for the weekend. This project was nominated for our support by Dianne Rochford, who has worked with the program, and she welcomes you to contact her for more information.

May 25— Vermont Vet-to-Vet

Vermont Vet-to-Vet is a veteran-run support network that provides peer support, counseling, and other recovery services to veterans of all ages, branches, and experiences of military service. With regular meetings in White River Junction and Burlington, and counselors offering connections and services wherever they are needed, Vet-to-Vet serves veterans from all across our region. Particularly now, as we welcome home thousands of veterans who have spent most of a generation at war, such peer support services, along with official VA services, are a necessity to support the ongoing health of those who have served. This organization was nominated by Jake Ross, and you can learn more about them from Jake, or through their web site, vtvettovet.org.

The Boards Broadcast continued from pg. 6

Dan Poor provided a resolution for the upcoming changes to the UUA Retirement Plan. All member congregations that use the UUA retirement plan must submit an Employer Participation Agreement by the end of June. Dan's resolution covers how we will be participating in the plan. The Board accepted the resolution as written. John will fill out and sign the Employer Participation Agreement document, along with input from Tamara, and mail it to the UUA.

Sara Morin provided a detailed report of fundraising activities. A very hectic March presented a number of fundraising events, and many more are scheduled. Sara provided a detailed breakdown of earnings from the various fundraising events. The Ham and Bean Supper was well received, a tremendous effort from Bruce and Clyde; we will be making this an annual event. The Rummage Sale was awesome, as always. We have our first Bed-and-Breakfast customer signed up.

The next Board meeting will be May 12 at 7:00 pm in the parsonage. As always, members of the church are invited to attend. If you have items that you believe the Board should be addressing, please speak to or email any Board member.

Calling All Circles

Welcoming Congregation

We are becoming a Welcoming Congregation. 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.

The Welcoming Committee is going to put on the May 11 Sunday service. Our message will be explaining to the congregation the purpose of our Committee. Please join us to hear our stories.

Gender Socialization and Homophobia Workshop

May 11

Noon-2:00 pm

Despite the fact that Sunday is Mother's Day, after our service on May 11 we are going to meet for Workshop #4: "Gender Socialization and Homophobia." We bring a bag lunch and there are always snacks and something to drink. The group always feels a real sense of community, learns a great deal, and has fun too! Sue and Dave Taylor will lead this workshop. All are welcome! Please let the Taylors know if you are able to attend or if you have any questions.

Our March workshop titled "Oppression" was well attended and full of amazing insights. If you haven't been able to join us, please consider coming in May.

Calling All Circles

Connections Circle

Coffee Hour

We thank Debra Hart and Dianne Rochford, Jill and Todd Lloyd, and Coral Ovitt and Jake Ross who provided delicious snacks for us in April. Joan Fariel and Melinda Meyerhoff will be in charge of Coffee Hour May 4 and the Board will sponsor a potluck for the May 18 Semi-Annual Meeting. We still need two people to make coffee for May 11 and May 25. We will send directions to each team the week before and the directions are on the coffee pots and on the wall by the coffee pots. There is also always someone to help when you are doing coffee hour for the first time! 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 and fellowship 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.

Pictures of Our Members and Friends

We want to have a bulletin board of all the members and friends who are connected to FUSH! Please bring a 3x5 picture of yourself or a 4x6 picture of your family with names written on the back of the picture. Place the pictures in the marked box in front of the bulletin board. Nancy Walker and Paul Sawyer have graciously offered to make labels for the pictures.

The Nuts and Bolts of FUSH

Sunday, May 4
12:00-2:00 pm

This workshop will be led by Paul Sawyer, our minister, and members of the Connection Circle. The gathering will be an opportunity to have your questions answered and to explore the workings of our Society, the activities available, and the privileges and responsibilities of membership. This workshop is appropriate for anyone who just wants to know more about the First Universalist Society of Hartland and/or those who might be interested in exploring membership. History of Unitarian Universalism will also be explored.

Lunch and childcare provided.

Please RSVP to Nancy Walker at nancy.mr.walker@gmail.com or Paul Sawyer.

We won't schedule the childcare until we know that it is needed

Fundraising

The "Red Aprons" are a UU fundraising group looking for volunteers to manage parties (birthday, graduation, weddings, reunions etc.) so the hosts can relax and enjoy their event.



We could be serving food, bartending, managing the kitchen and cleaning up.

Proceeds for our services will be donated to FUSH.

Nothing you do for children is never wasted. They seem not to notice us, hovering, averting our eyes, and they seldom offer thanks, but what we do for them is never wasted.

Garrison Keiller

Adult Choir - Rehearsal at 9:00 am on Sunday, May 11 & 18, to sing in the service on the 18th.

Children's Choir - Rehearsal at 9:30 am on Sunday, May 4 & 25, to sing in the service on the 25th.

New Beginnings

From Gary Band

Greetings from Rochester, NY. During this holy time of the year -- Passover, Easter, and the merciful end of a wicked winter -- I wanted to say hello to the wonderful people who gather in the amazing place that made my time in Vermont more meaningful and memorable and inspiring than it would have been otherwise.

After four years in the Green Mountain State, I moved on from my job at the Message for the Week in Chester in mid-October, and relocated to Rochester to be with Marne in mid-November. We got engaged on New Year's Eve and married on April 1 (our three-year anniversary). The small wedding (I wish it could have been in Vermont and led by Paul), was held at the Cobblestone House at Mendon Ponds State Park on what turned out to be a sunny day in the 50s.

A few days earlier, we also bought/closed on the townhouse where Marne had been renting since moving here in December 2012 to take a job with the Northeast Organic Farming Association. And now, a week after returning from a week-long honeymoon in St. Croix, life has returned to normal.

We miss Vermont and plan to visit soon. If anyone wants to say hello, I can be reached at garyband@rochester.rr.com.

IN GRATITUDE

Our congregation runs on the energy of its members and participants – your gifts of time, of skills, of resources of every kind. Without these, without your commitment and contribution, the engine of our spirit falters.

We cannot always recognize and appreciate the many contributions large and small that together weave the sustenance of our congregation, but the Governance Board would like to thank, every month, some of these contributors, knowing there are many we may unintentionally overlook.

The Board expresses deep gratitude for the leadership of **Bruce Locke**, always, but particularly this month as he—with help from **Clyde Jenne**, of course—served as the true champion and lead organizer, and key worker for both the Soup Bowl lunch and the Ham & Bean supper. And as if that weren't enough, Clyde and Bruce also led our children's RE program one Sunday, and organized our annual sugar-on-snow coffee hour following the service on March 9. I can't thank these two fine folks nearly enough!

Sara Morin and **Katy Sawyer** served as champions for our first Hartland Community Prom, and much of the success of that event is directly a result of their vision, spirit, energy, and work. We are deeply appreciative of their creativity in imagining what an effective event this could be, and then of their dedication and hard work in making it happen.

Thanks go to Board members **Mary Erdei**, **John Osborne**, and **Colleen Spence**, for taking a whole day out of their lives to attend the district leadership training on March 15. As we continue to work to build an ever more effective and healthy congregation, events like this are important to our progress and to our deeper understanding of our work together.



Nada Pierce is a true champion for the Rummage Sale, and in contemplating both that event and our Silent Auction in the fall, it seems clear that she is our congregation's true queen of creating money from nothing. In addition, both these events provide both an opportunity for members of our community to let go of things we don't need, and to get amazing bargains for some things we do need. These events are the true definition of win-win-win all around, and anyone who's watched Nada doing all the tasks required knows just how hard and how long she works to make them the great events that they are.

Finally, the Board is deeply appreciative for **Dave & Sue Taylor**, **Judy Howland**, and **Doug Hart** serving on our much-needed Nominating Committee. Their very important work will ensure that the Board continues as an effective and creative force in the church.

Calendar - May 2014

2	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
4	Sun.	9:30am	Children's Choir rehearsal to sing
		10	Worship Service & RE
		Noon-2pm	Nuts & Bolts of FUSH
		4:15-6:15	7&8 OWL, FCCH
		5-6:30	Sr. High Affirmations, FCCH
		6:15-7	Mission Trip Logistics Meeting
		7-8	Sr. Youth Grp., FCCH
9	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
11	Sun.	9am	Adult Choir rehearsal
		10	Worship Service & RE
		Noon-2pm	Welcoming Cong. Workshop
		After service	SoUUpper Second Sunday Sale
12	Mon.	7pm	Governing Board meeting
16	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
18	Sun.	Morning	Deadline for June newsletter
		9am	Adult Choir rehearsal to sing
		10	Worship Service & RE
		After service	Semi-annual Meeting
			Potluck lunch after
23	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
25	Sun.	9:30am	Children's Choir rehearsal
		10	Worship Service & RE



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



MAY