

SEPTEMBER 2016

The First Universalist Society of Hartland

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Services & Religious Education Classes, Sundays, 10 am, in the Church

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

SEP 04 **Blessing of the Animals!**

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

The collection will benefit the Lucy MacKenzie Humane Society.

SEP 11 **Welcome & Water Ingathering!**

Join us as we come together in this multigenerational service of ingathering after a fine summer. Be sure to bring along some water to share from any place that feeds your soul. It could be from your own back yard, from a place you've visited, or from anywhere that's been meaningful to you. Salt water, fresh water, and murky water are all welcome! And some fine Hartland Four Corners water will be available if you forget to bring your own. The water we collect will be filtered and boiled, and then used this year in child dedications and baptisms, and in any other services of blessing we decide to share. *The collection will benefit the Flood Fund of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Baton Rouge, Louisiana.*

SEP 18 **"What Would Feel Like Help to You Now?": Kindness, Service, and Care**

In the midst of this painful political season, a reflection on this month's worship theme, "Kindness" with thoughts about understanding, listening, and moments when "kindness" isn't all that kind. The Interim Annual Meeting of the Society will follow this service. *The Collection will benefit Silent Warriors of the Upper Valley.*

SEP 25 **Guest Speaker/Worship Team**

Information available soon from our worship team. *The collection will benefit an organization chosen by the worship leader.*

LOVE IS THE DOCTRINE OF THIS CHURCH

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: Hartland Four Corners • 8 Brownsville Road, Corner Rte. 12 • Hartland, Vermont

WEBSITE: www.hartlanduu.com • E-MAIL: hartlanduu@vermontel.net • PHONE: 802-436-2592

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 75 • Hartland Four Corners, VT 05049

FROM YOUR MINISTER

PAUL S. SAWYER

SEPTEMBER 2016

This past month I've had the chance to think a bit about the spiritual idea of "kindness," as I prepare for September's worship services, where "kindness" will be our Engaging the Spirit theme. And on several occasions my thoughts have turned to the Hebrew word, *chesed*, which occurs regularly in the ancient Jewish scriptures. I've been thinking about *chesed*, because it is often translated as, simply, "kindness," but it's also often translated many other ways, depending on the context and the understanding of the translator.

Since I began studying biblical texts, I've assumed that the varied translations of *chesed* were due to a complexity of meaning carried in the Hebrew that doesn't have a direct parallel in English—and it's possible that's true. I certainly don't know enough about Hebrew (or English for that matter) to say for sure.

But recently it's occurred to me that the complexity of *chesed* is also present in our own understanding of "kindness." And I've also found that some of the varied biblical translations of *chesed* are helpful in exploring and deepening my own understanding of what "kindness" might mean in a spiritual life.

Older Christian translations of the Torah and Prophets, like the King James Version of the Bible, tend to translate *chesed* as "mercy," and there's a sense of "kindness" that clearly follows that direction. Mercy, at heart, is about relief—a relief from pain, from ongoing misery, from punishment, or from overwhelming circumstances of many kinds. The English expression, "It would be a kindness..." carries a similar idea.

KINDNESS IN THIS SENSE IS ABOUT MAKING SPACE FOR OTHERS IN OUR LIVES.

People facing the flooding in Baton Rouge these past weeks have needed that kind of kindness. Not just a "kind" word or "thoughts and prayers," and certainly not a political photo-op, but real help—a boat ride to safety, a promise of relief, cash to buy clothes and food, hands to work on what needs doing, a sense that this will all be over one day, and they will be able to go home.

Likewise the Syrian refugees soon to be settled in Rutland, and perhaps one day in our own towns and communities nearby need that kind of kindness as well. Not just a hand-out, or our pity, or our various deeply held opinions on what our country, or some other country, should do to end the suffering in theirs, but real relief—a chance to breathe, to work, to recover, and just to live with their families in a place where they are not in danger for their very lives in every moment.

So, it's true, kindness, sometimes can be an act of mercy.

More recent Christian translations tend to translate *chesed* simply as "kindness." And "kindness" certainly carries a kind of a simple sense in our understanding, as well. We talk about valuing kindness in our own hearts, and helping our children to be kind. We talk about being kind to animals, and to each other. And sometimes we even talk about being kind to ourselves, and to our planet.

Kindness in this sense is about making space for others in our lives. It's not about being deferential, or passive, or weak in any way. And it's not about self-deprivation in favor of other's needs. In the 1980s, developmental researchers Lyn Mikel Brown and Carol Gilligan called out that kind of "kindness" when they found that many young girls tended to be raised in a fashion that they named, "the tyranny of the nice and kind."

Continued on the next page.



Ryder and Becca work on a castle at Silver Lake State Park.

PEOPLE YOU NEED TO KNOW:

Minister
REVEREND PAUL S. SAWYER
802-299-7530
uupaul@vermontel.net

Director of Religious Education
SAMANTHA CRONIN
dre@hartlanduu.com

Music Director
PATTY TALBOT
802-436-2085
prtalbot@comcast.net

Office Administrator
NANCY WALKER
In the office on Fridays

Governing Board
COLLEEN SPENCE, President
DAN POOR Treasurer
CORAL LYDON OVITT Secretary
LEAH GARTNER
SARA MORIN
MICHAEL THEROUX

Assistant Treasurer
NANCY WALKER

Trustees
JILL CROWLEY
DOUG HART
ROBERT JAARSMA

Newsletter
SARA & DAVE MORIN Layout
saradmorin@gmail.com

LYDIA JOHNSON
PHYLLIS TUCKER
Printing

CYNTHIA THOMPSON
JOAN FARIEL
Copy Editors

FROM YOUR MINISTER

Continued from the previous page.

Kindness at its best is an awareness of the fact that others exist in our world in ways that we may not understand or enjoy. And it's about taking the actions we take with other's experience and understanding in mind. It's about learning, as we all should at a very young age, that while each of us is important in our own right, the world does not revolve around us. It's about understanding that each of us has a lot to learn, and if we can look outside our own experience, we can learn from everyone and everything around. It's about treating everyone and everything in our midst as important, and making room for their presence in our own actions, understanding, and words.

KINDNESS AT ITS BEST IS AN AWARENESS OF THE FACT THAT OTHERS EXIST IN OUR WORLD IN WAYS THAT WE MAY NOT UNDERSTAND OR ENJOY.

So it's true, kindness is often just...kindness—in its simplest sense, the kindness we try to teach our children, the kindness we try to learn to live ourselves.

And finally, in current English-language versions of Hebrew

scriptures translated by Jewish scholars and organizations, *chesed* most often is translated yet a third way—as "lovingkindness."

And this idea of lovingkindness shares yet another deep sense of what kindness is, and how it rises up in the midst of a spiritual life well lived.

Lovingkindness is active kindness. It's reaching out to the world and holding others, not just in a place of tolerant coexistence, or even of understanding, but in a place of celebration, and hope, and light.

Lovingkindness is what the Dalai Lama is talking about when he says "My religion is kindness." It's what the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King meant when he said that he'd come to the conclusion that "I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be."

And it's true, kindness is sometimes very deeply held indeed—in the way expressed in the idea of lovingkindness.

Lovingkindness, simple kindness, mercy—in all these forms, and in many more, kindness, *chesed*, is central to our practice of faith. Learning kindness is, at least, the work of our whole lifetimes, and working to live kindness in the midst of an often unkind world is a practice of the spirit worthy of our every breath.

7TH PRINCIPLE: RESPECT FOR THE INTERDEPENDENT WEB OF ALL EXISTENCE OF WHICH WE ARE A PART.

The Principles are not dogma or doctrine, but rather a guide for those of us who choose to join and participate in Unitarian Universalist religious communities.

ADULT CHOIR

The Adult Choir will rehearse at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 11th, and Sunday, September 18th, to sing in the service on the 18th.

FOLK CHOIR

The Folk Choir will rehearse at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 11th, to sing in the service on the 11th. All are welcome to join.

DAY OF PEACE



THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

BUILDING BLOCKS FOR PEACE

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.

un.org/peaceday • #peaceday

WEEKLY COLLECTION INFORMATION

We rely on the planned, committed, pledged 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.

To contribute to the collection: Cash and checks made out to "FUSH" will be consolidated and passed on to the organization.

To make a pledge payment, or a donation to support our congregation's budget: Use the box on the welcoming table at the back of the sanctuary, the small manila envelopes available on that same table, or 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.

SEPTEMBER OFFERING RECIPIENTS:

SEP 04 **Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society**

Founded in 1915, the Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society in Brownsville, VT is one of the oldest Humane Societies in the United States. Following their motto of "improving the lives of people and pets" Lucy Mac offers shelter, adoption, and training programs for pets and the people who love them. As a no-kill shelter, Lucy Mac often cares for animals for months before they are available to be adopted. More information is available at www.lucymac.org

SEP 11 **The Flood Fund of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Baton Rouge**

The recent historic flooding in Louisiana has brought destruction to many areas of the state, and the folks at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Baton Rouge have been particularly hard hit. And these events have occurred at a time when the resources of the community were already stretched thin by the tragic events earlier this summer, as Baton Rouge struggled to come to grips with the death of a young black man at the hands of police, and then the killing of several of those police officers. The flooding is continuing, as we write this newsletter, and the need for our support in a more broad fashion will continue, but for now, as we gather for our annual "Water Ingathering," we can support a fund, set up by the UU Church of Baton Rouge to assist local victims of the flood. Our support is desperately needed right now, and we know that our donations will be well-used by these fine siblings in faith, who are currently working very hard to keep people safe and connected and supplied with the most basic needs. You can read more about this congregation, and see a brief description of this fund, on their website: <http://www.peacestones.org>

SEP 18 **Upper Valley Silent Warriors**

Silent Warriors is a local organization working to offer practical assistance to those who are homeless in our region. They offer food support, warm clothing, sleeping bags, bicycles and other transportation support, personal hygiene items and any other needed supplies, and they also are working to build a network of support in our region for this very significant area of concern. Started just a few years ago by Enfield resident Bev McKinley, Silent Warriors has grown to be an important, growing, and needed resource for those struggling in our midst. You can learn more at www.silentwarriorsnhvt.org.

SEP 25 **Stay Tuned**

Information available soon from our worship team.

YOUTH GROUP NOTES

Our congregation offers activities for youth in grades 7-12 (or the homeschool 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 Rev. Lucia Jackson, The Rev. Paul Sawyer, and David Morin.

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 begin this month. Some of the times and places of upcoming events are listed below.

If you've been involved with our youth groups or if you've got someone just entering our youth group age, and you've been involved with our Religious Education Program for children, you should receive a full calendar and further information by US mail (old school!) soon. If you are a youth in our community, or if you know someone who you think would like to be involved, make sure we've got your information so we can keep you in the loop.

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.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 18

First Youth Group Meetings at our church (the UU Church in Hartland Four Corners).

5:00-6:15 pm—Junior Youth (Grades 7 & 8)

6:30-8:00 pm—Senior Youth (Grades 9-12)

Bring snacks or dessert to share if you like. (Senior Youth, please note—we're not offering pizza this year. Have supper before the meeting).

SUNDAY OCTOBER 2

After Church—All Youth Trip to Six Flags New England—\$35 and sign-ups due to Lucia by September 25.

This is our annual "ingathering" event, a casual afternoon/evening at Six Flags Amusement Park in Agawam, MA. We'll gather at the UCC Church in Hartland Village after church is over and car-pool to the park, where youth will be free to enjoy the park (sticking together in small groups). No big organized events, just plain fun! Adult chaperones and drivers are needed to help out. With all youth events requiring a fee, financial support is available if needed—just talk with Paul Sawyer well in advance.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 9

5:00-6:15 pm—Junior Youth at our (UU) Church

6:30-8:00 pm—Senior Youth at our (UU) Church

SUNDAY OCTOBER 23

5:00-6:00 pm—Junior Youth at our (UU) Church

6:00-6:30 pm—Mission Trip Introduction

Meeting for all grade 8-12 Youth and Parents!

6:30-8:00 pm—Senior Youth at our (UU) Church

SUNDAY OCTOBER 30

9:15 am-12:30ish pm—First Fundraiser Brunch for the Mission Trip—at the UCC Church in Hartland Village. All Mission Trip participants should plan to help out! (More information soon).

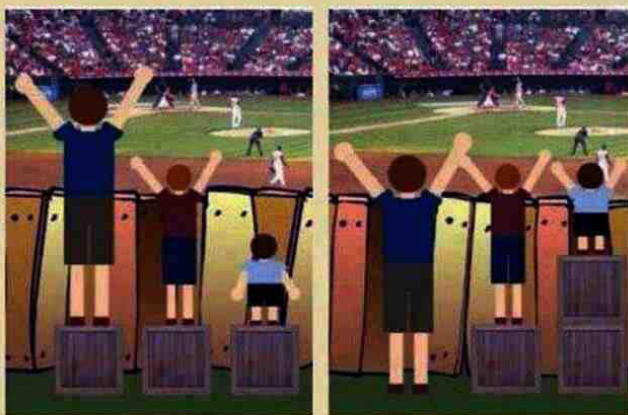
JANUARY-APRIL 2017

We'll be offering an Our Whole Lives (OWL) Comprehensive Sexuality Program for youth in grades 7-9 beginning right after the New Year. More information will be available soon.



SAVE THE DATES: THIS YEAR'S MISSION TRIP WILL TAKE PLACE JULY 23-30, 2017!

Equality doesn't mean Justice



This is Equality This is Justice

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NOTES

SAM CRONIN

SEPTEMBER 2016

The "Tale" End of Summer Wags in a New RE Year

In August, under the deepening blue evening sky, the full moon bright above us, we gathered to listen as Bineke Oort shared her passion for storytelling. After several legends communicated messages from the animals wise, we snuggled under blankets as the children cheered for "MORE!" In an act of improvisation, we collaboratively made up a very silly adventure story—what creativity these children (and their parents) have! Thank you to all who joined and are helping to keep this age-old tradition of community storytelling alive!

After the storytelling, we were due to camp-in, however, many of our beloved families were taking final summer vacations before school began, so we decided to postpone. Good news is that we have rescheduled for:

Friday Night Firelight: Storytelling and Camp-In September 16 at 7:15 pm

Friends and families of the RE program, join us in celebration of the new Religious Education year!

7:15 pm: Gather out on the lawn by the labyrinth for conversation and sharing snacks by the campfire. In good time, we will settle in and listen as ancient legends and tales of olde are told by our very own local storytellers, Bineke Oort and Michael Denmeade.

9:00 pm: We will move inside for the sleepover "camp-in." After we set up our sleeping spaces we will continue the fun with board games, UU trivia, and charades.

The sleepover is for UU children K-6, and nursery age is okay with an adult present.

Parents are welcome to stay part of the time, the whole time, or drop off. Pick up time is 9:00 am. Fruit salad and tea will be served in the morning. Depending on the number of children registered to camp-in, we may need a few volunteers to sleep over. Older youths are invited to sign up to volunteer.

No need to register for the firelight storytelling, but please do register for the camp-in by Wednesday the 14th of September by email or phone.

To register a child or to volunteer, contact Sam at dre.hartlanduu@gmail.com or 802-281-2512.

A gentle reminder that the new Religious Education year officially begins on Sunday, September 18. RE registration forms are available in the nursery room or the yurt for new families to complete, and returning families can update information as well. The Fall RE program schedule will be posted during coffee hour for all to view on Sunday, September 11, and our congregation is invited to sign up to volunteer in activities through December. Thank you to all who help make our RE program an enriched experience!



At our Gathering of Unitarian Universalists of the Upper Valley the children enjoyed a celebration of Hawaiian culture on the lawn outside of the First Universalist Church and Society of Barnard, VT.

FUND RAISING NEWS & EVENTS



Be a guest at your own party

THE RED APRONS

Red Aprons provides support for all kinds of gatherings. Our services include:

Event Planning | Kitchen and food management | Buffet and serving | Clean up

The program is not only a fund raiser for the Church but also a great way to promote it to the wider Upper Valley community. **If you are planning an event, please see our web page at www.hartlanduu.com/redaprons or call us at (802) 738-0255.**

If you would like to participate in this work, please contact Joan Fariel or Chuck Fenton at (802) 738-0255. **We always need more volunteers. And for those who have volunteered, a BIG THANK YOU!**

WHOOPIE PIES

We will again have a booth at the Windsor Autumn Moon Festival on Saturday, September 24, selling custom-made whoopie pies, root beer floats, coffee and hot cocoa. We'll be looking for people to help make whoopie pie cakes, and a few people to help at the booth. If you're able and interested, please be in touch with Sara Morin or Katy Sawyer.



PRINTS

We have available for sale a beautiful print of a painting by artist Bertil (Rick) Whyman of Hartland Four Corners,



which includes our picturesque church. Prints are frame-ready and make good gifts. A print cost \$20 and can be purchased after any church service. See Sara Morin for more information.

SILENT AUCTION & TURKEY SUPPERS

It's that time of year again. As we head into fall, please remember to set aside gently loved items, heirlooms, treasures and fun items for our annual silent auction. This is a great fund raiser and people look forward to it each year. Look for info in the next newsletter about where and when to bring in your items. **Thank you to Nada for again championing this terrific event! Nada has let us know that this is the last year she will be organizing the silent auction, and is looking for a co-champion to lead the event this year and hand it off to for future years. Please let Nada know if you are interested.**

Thinking ahead to October, please keep in mind the dates of October 15, 22 & 29. These are the dates we'll hold our Turkey Suppers and Silent Auction this year and we'll be looking for people to help work and people to help eat and bid. Please keep an eye out for the sign up sheet online and at church events.

RUMMAGE SALE

The Rummage Sale at the Ladies Aid Hall will continue every Friday from 8 am - 11 am until Sept. 9th. The next week Fri. Sept. 16th we will have the sale from 2 pm - 7 pm and Sat. Sept. 17th from 8 am - 2 pm. We will then pack it up and take it away. No more items will be accepted after Aug 26th. I will need help on the 16th and 17th. Also after that to pack it up and take it away. Please call Nada at 436-2336 if you would like to help.

4TH PRINCIPLE: A FREE AND RESPONSIBLE SEARCH FOR TRUTH AND MEANING

The Principles are not dogma or doctrine, but rather a guide for those of us who choose to join and participate in Unitarian Universalist religious communities.

PHOTOS FROM THE GATHERING OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF THE UPPER VALLEY



The beautiful First Universalist Church and Society of Barnard, VT



Reverend Paul Sawyer welcomes the members and friends of the sister congregations



Reverend Paul Sawyer and Reverend Telos Whitfield oversee members from each of the gathering congregations lighting the chalice.



Soloist Luetta Saul and pianist Sarah Saul, music director of the First Universalist Church and Society of Barnard, perform "O Sleep, Why Dost thou Leave Me?" By G.F. Handel, a preview of the oratorio "Biblerap: The First Seven Days" which they will be performing in Barnard on September 17, and in Woodstock on September 18.

After the service, many members and friends of the "sister societies" enjoyed a great afternoon at Silver Lake State Park.



FROM THE TREASURER

DAN POOR

SEPTEMBER 2016

In mid to late August we mailed a pledge update letter to all folks who made a pledge this year; we told you what we think you pledged and what we have recorded as received so far this year. We have a new database to maintain our membership and pledging lists and status and we think it is working well. **But if you pledged and did not get a letter, let Dianne Rochford (kilrush@myfairpoint.net) and Nancy Walker (hartlanduu@vermontel.net) know.** Also let them know if your records about payments and our records of receipts do not match. It's new software for us and it has taken some time to work out the systems needed to transfer information from our old database and record keeping. It is always possible for mistakes to happen, but it is more likely at times like this when whole systems are in transition. We appreciate your understanding.

At our last annual meeting there was considerable anxiety about the status of our endowment and how much we had withdrawn over the course of last year. I will make a more detailed report at the interim annual meeting on September 18, but for now you should know that **we have not taken anything from our endowment yet this year.** Thanks to the insurance company payment, to the many pledge payments made in full early in the calendar year, to the household that subsidised much of our church electric bill this year because of the excess solar power generated at their house, and to some healthy fund raising so far this year, **I don't anticipate needing to request a withdrawal from the endowment until October – if at all.**

We also received a donation representing 5% of the estate of Hedwig Winans, a long time resident of Hartland who spent the final years of her life in Florida. We had no idea this was coming until we received a registered letter from the attorney representing the estate's personal representative. These funds were deposited in our endowment recently. I would hope that this might inspire others to **consider adding FUSH to the list of beneficiaries in your will.** If you do, the trustees would be happy to work with you on the details, but you can keep it a surprise if you wish.

As you know, we liquidated the Ladies Aid endowment when we purchased the building. As you may also recall, Jack Casey donated a number of paintings by Haitian artists with the understanding that the proceeds of any sale would be designated for repair and maintenance of the Ladies Aid building. **The first painting has been sold.** The trustees will keep the proceeds in a separate account until such time as we have accumulated enough to open a new endowment fund with the UUA. **If you have been waiting to make a donation to the support of the Ladies Aid building, feel free to so indicate on your check and/or cover letter, and we will add it to the proceeds from any future picture sales or other targeted fund raising for this purpose.**

OFFICIAL WARNING FOR INTERIM ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2016

This is a warning of the annual meeting of the First Universalist Society of Hartland to be held after the 10:00 am church service and brief coffee hour, September 18, 2016. Our next annual meeting will take place in January, 2017. As an incorporated not-for-profit organization, this interim meeting will fulfill our annual meeting requirement.

Agenda as follows:

1. Elect Meeting Moderator
2. Update from the Treasurer

**MEMBERS, YOUR ATTENDANCE IS IMPORTANT TO THE SUCCESS
OF THE MEETING. PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND.**

SEPT 2016 CALENDAR

**DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER
NEWSLETTER CONTENT:
SEPTEMBER 18**



LGBTQ

Welcoming Congregation

This Unitarian Universalist community
welcomes and celebrates the
presence and participation of people
who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual,
transgender, and queer.



SEPTEMBER

02	FRI	8-10 am	Food Shelf
04	SUN	10 am	Worship Service & RE
09	FRI	8-10 am	Food Shelf
11	SUN	10 am	Worship Service & RE SoUUPER 2nd Sunday Sale
12	MON	7 pm	Governing Board Meeting
16	FRI	8-10 am 7:15	Food Shelf Storytelling Camp-In
18	SUN	ALL DAY 10 am 11:15 am 5-6:15 pm 6:30-8 pm	Newsletter Content Deadline Worship Service & RE Annual Meeting Junior Youth Group (UU Church) Senior Youth Group (UU Church)
23	FRI	8-10 am	Food Shelf
24	SAT	4-9 pm	Autumn Moon Festival
25	SUN	10 am	Worship Service & RE
30	FRI	8-10 am	Food Shelf