



OCTOBER 2016

The First Universalist Society of Hartland

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

OCT 02 **Generosity—Spend It all, Abundance & Increase**

Introducing our October worship theme of Generosity—A reflection on spiritual generosity, the power of abundance, and burning the flame of spirit bright and true. *The collection will benefit the Connecticut River Watershed Council.*

OCT 09 **Generosity—To Begin Again in Love**

Honoring the New Year season of reflection and reconciliation of the Jewish Days of Awe and reflecting on how these ancient traditions might speak to us in the context of our own faith. *The collection will benefit Kids4Peace VT.*

OCT 16 **Generosity—Stewardship and Our Church Community**

As the old curse suggests, we seem to live in interesting times—whether you are talking about the economy, the environment, our political situation, or any of a number of other situations. A Faith worthy of the name offers us tools for living, even, or perhaps especially, when the living is difficult. Stewardship, Adaptability, Connection, Generosity, Community—these are the essential qualities of who we seek to be at our best, and they are the essential qualities we need to hold in order to face the challenges of our days. As our volunteer stewardship team prepares to kick off our annual canvass fundraising drive, a reflection on our community and our needed work in the world. *The collection will benefit the Reading-West Windsor Food Shelf.*

OCT 23 **Guest Speaker, Bob Williamson of Gun Sense Vermont**

Members and friends of our congregation have many different positions concerning firearms, the second amendment, and gun legislation. Whatever our individual positions, our faith tradition calls us always to be willing to discuss issues candidly, to explore and to test the grounding of our positions, and to realize with humility that we may be wrong. The gun lobby in our nation currently seems to prefer, however, that gun legislation and concerns about firearms not be discussed at all, and often dismisses challenges to their particular interpretation of the second amendment to the US Constitution. This service will be an opportunity to reflect on the spiritual grounding of this issue, and to hear from a leader who has thought deeply about the topic for a long time. *The collection will benefit an organization chosen by our worship team.*

OCT 30 **All Souls, Samhain and Remembrance of Those Who Have Gone**

On Samhain, the ancients say, the veil between the worlds is at its thinnest, and spirits can pass from one to the next. Join us for an Earth-Centered celebration of remembrance, as we note the passing of the world toward winter, and honor those who have died but who still guide and hold us in our lives. You're invited to bring a photo or a small object as a memento of a loved one who has died. *The collection will benefit the Hartland Community Nurse Program.*

LOVE IS THE DOCTRINE OF THIS CHURCH

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FROM YOUR MINISTER

PAUL S. SAWYER

OCTOBER 2016

As I write these words, I find myself deeply aware of the fact that this is the first newsletter column of mine that Connie Tessier will not read. I suppose it's possible that she missed some earlier ones for one reason or another, but in this, as in all aspects of her life, Connie was generally pretty faithful. Several previous editions came back to me after Connie died a few weeks ago, in a box handed to me by her son Mark. She didn't keep them all, but she kept a lot of them—church newsletter columns, mine and my predecessors from all over the years.

By a conservative estimate, Connie saw 21 ministers serve our congregation during her years as a child, youth, member, and leader of our Society. She was not always direct in her assessment of our various abilities, but if you talked to her long enough you could read between the lines to know that she liked most of us, loved a few, tolerated a few others, and maybe disliked one or two. Whatever her opinion of our skills or character or faith, however, one thing was always true—she always offered her support, and she always dedicated the work of her hands, mind, heart, and soul in service to our congregation and our mission of faith in the world.



In preparing for Connie's memorial, I reached out to some of my predecessors, and a consistent theme shone through in our experience. In the words of several of us, Connie was, in the best sense of the word, "our rock."

You could count on Connie, firm and true, no matter what challenges and joys and sorrows we were facing as ministers or as a whole congregation. She was always there. She Showed Up, whether she loved what we were doing or not. This was her church, and she was committed to offering it the best of her efforts, in all forms, as long as she could. For my part, I knew that I could ask her anything, and she would respond with truth and with the highest hopes and dreams of our faith and our church community in mind. Our sanctuary felt right when she was in her seat—her grandmother's seat, she'd tell you—toward the back on the piano-organ-side of the church. Our Fellowship Hall felt right when she was at the table holding court at the food shelf, or peeling potatoes, or in the corner, serving pie at Turkey Suppers.

Those places still feel "right," of course, even now that she's gone—she left us enough love and care and energy to last us at least a few generations more. But I do feel her loss—in our church building, in our community, and in my heart—and I

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FROM YOUR MINISTER

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know that I always will. But I also know that I will always feel her inspiration in my spirit, calling me to live up to the sense of faith and generosity and service that she embodied every day of her life.

Right after the memorial service, our church member Jo Knowles wrote a Facebook post about remembering Connie. Her words express beautifully the thoughts floating around in my mind as we prepare for October, for our worship theme this month of "generosity," and for our annual autumn season of the finest church Turkey Suppers in the world.



Jo was speaking specifically of all of us gathered in the packed-tight church that morning for the service, but even if you weren't able to be there that day, if you knew Connie even a bit, I suspect you'll feel in your heart the faithful charge Jo shared for us all:

"Connie brought love and compassion to our town, and spread it around for decades. The torch has been passed to everyone in that room. Let's make Connie proud."

Yes, dear Connie, we'll work to make you proud. We love you, and we always will.

The Heart of Community

The Rev. Jeffrey Symnykiewicz

This is the heart of all true community:
hand reaching out to hand, to touch
and help another. All the rest—
pretenses of power and prejudice,
getting and hoarding, acting and achieving—
are incidental, mere posturing,
diversions that can discredit and move us away
from our true calling to serve.

Find me a man who knows his heart,
and there I will build my church.
Find me a strong woman who is
at peace with her soul, and the future
of the world will rest secure.
The simplest touch is the strongest;
the most gentle movement
is the most powerful; we grow
not by adding to all our accounts,
but by reaching out to give it all away
(even our lives if need be) in service to humanity.

Then it is, we will find ourselves so blest.
Then it is, we will be free at last:
free of the need to control the tide,
to command the waves to stop, the current
to reverse itself and flow according
to our own puny plans (as if it would).
Then we will sleep deep, in peace, in love
with life; and life sweeps forward, and we
along with it, flowing toward our destiny.
With few gold coins to show for it, perhaps;
but with a deep knowing, a true sense
that we have been here, that we have lived,
that we have been kind and gentle to one another.

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.

OCTOBER OFFERING RECIPIENTS:

OCT 02 **The Connecticut River Watershed Council**

It's hard to imagine a more important resource and landmark in our communities than the great Connecticut River. Founded in 1952, the CRWC works to protect the river watershed "from source to sea". From their headquarters in Greenfield, MA, and through field offices in various regions of the river, including the Upper Valley, the CRWC both advocates for the protection of the river and its surrounding watershed and works directly to keep the river clean, safe, and available as a resource to all. More information is available at www.ctriver.org

OCT 09 **Kids4Peace VT**

Founded in Jerusalem in 2002, Kids4Peace is a global movement of youth and families, dedicated to ending conflict and inspiring hope in divided societies around the world. Kids4Peace operates international summer camps, leadership programs and a six-year, year-round program for more than 500 Palestinian, Israeli and North American youth. The Vermont chapter of Kids4Peace is very active in the ongoing work of Kids4Peace, and serves as the host for the North American site of the National Camp program, bringing children from different cultures together to build real relationships in the setting a traditional New England summer camp program. You can learn more about Kids4Peace in general at <http://www.k4p.org>, and you can read news about the Vermont chapter (and make a donation) at <http://www.k4p.org/chapters/vermont/>

OCT 16 **Reading-West Windsor Food Shelf**

Situated in the old stone school in South Reading, the Reading-West Windsor Food shelf is a non-profit, all-volunteer organization whose primary mission is to provide nutritious, high-quality food to anyone who needs food assistance in Reading, West Windsor and adjacent communities. RWWFS has served more than 80 families in the past year. With several of our members living in the area served by RWWFS, we're honored to be able to support their work in our region. More information is available at <http://rwwfoodshelf.org>

OCT 23 **Recipient to be announced**

Information available soon from our worship team.

OCT 30 **The Hartland Community Nurse Program**

Community nursing is an effort to foster community-based connections and support in the midst of the disconnection of the modern health care system. community nurse doesn't provide direct medical treatment, but rather works with local hospitals and other agencies, and makes direct face-to-face connections with people in the community, particularly those "aging in place", to support their health care needs. The Hartland Community Nurse Program has been underway for two years now, and has been a very successful endeavor. You can speak with Paul Sawyer for more information.

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 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!

Contact Information regarding our September 25 guest speaker Brooke Ciardelli and recipient organization Circus Zambia:

Brooke Ciardelli
Circus Zambia - USA Producer
brooke@brookeciardelli.com
917-370-6823

Donations can be made online at www.gofundme.com/circuszambia or by sending a check made out to

CIRCUS ZAMBIA
3 Loveland Road
Norwich, VT 05055

Individual or foundation gifts over \$1,000 can be made through our Fiscal Sponsor - Fractured Atlas - and will be fully tax-deductable. Please contact Brooke Ciardelli for how to make a gift through our 501(c)3 Fiscal Sponsor.

Follow us on Facebook and join our mailing list!
www.facebook.com/circuszambia

February 2017 Youth Circus Exchange in Zambia is now on sale! Email Brooke for details and to sign-up!

Mark your calendar for Christmas With a Difference - Nov 3-6 in Hanover - come buy traditional Zambian jewelry and textiles to support Circus Zambia - great Christmas gifts for all!

Thank you to everyone who attended our annual meeting on September 18. Our next meeting will take place in January, 2017.



Photos from the Friday Night Firelight: Storytelling and Camp-In on September 16, where great stories were told, a fort was made for sleeping in, and the kids enjoyed a delicious fruit salad for breakfast the following morning (above).

ADULT CHOIR

The Adult Choir will rehearse 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 9 and Sunday, October 16, to sing in the service on the 16th.

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!**



SILENT AUCTION & TURKEY SUPPERS OCTOBER 15, 22 & 29

There are three ways to help with this annual fundraiser for our church that helps our bottom line

HELP WORK AT THE SUPPERS:

Please sign up to help during at least one supper. We have jobs for adults, jobs for kids, jobs you can do sitting down, jobs you chat with other people while you do them, and many more. Need community service hours? This is a great place to get them. Going to be out of town on the day of the event? On Fridays we bake rolls and peel and chop vegetables. Bake a pie and leave it in our fridge. There are many jobs and much help needed.

Sign up using this link: <http://bit.ly/2ddBpUo>

BRING IN YOUR GREAT ITEMS FOR THE AUCTION:

Beginning October 9, please bring your gently loved items, heirlooms, treasures and fun items to the church for our annual silent auction. This is a great fund raiser and people look forward to it each year. Call Nada to set up an alternate time to bring donations if needed (802) 436-2336. We need at least 150 items to make the silent auction a success.

COME EAT AT THE SUPPER, AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY!:

We are so lucky to have many talented chefs that contribute to these dinners each week. Enjoy roast turkey, made-from-scratch stuffing, gravy, squash, mashed potatoes, rolls, pickles, cranberry sauce and coleslaw, and homemade pies.

\$12 Adults • \$6 Kids under 12



PHOTOS FROM THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



Blessings for animals large and small, digital, stuffed, fluffy, and four-legged. Barks and licks were enjoyed, and there were even special treats for the pups at coffee hour that day.



FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Pledging season has come again, and FUSH is counting on your support.

As you know, throughout the year we give our weekly offering to organizations doing good in our region and the wider world, fulfilling an important part of our mission as a community.

Once a year, we ask you to commit to supporting and sustaining our beloved church. In addition to the gifts of your presence and spirit in our community, your pledge is another way to express how valuable FUSH is to you. A pledge is your commitment to making our congregation strong, healthy, and able to minister effectively in the world. With your financial gift, you support the inspiring work of our minister, the rest of the FUSH staff, and our legions of volunteers.

Last year our pledge drive was one of the most successful in years, raising over \$92,000 from 74 committed pledges. Remarkably, over the past decade, the number of pledges has doubled and the total amount has tripled, which is a true testament to our growing dedication to this church.

We can do even better. Last year's pledge drive still covered only 75% of our annual budget, while other fundraising events worked to make up the rest. Please consider giving again or for the first time, as generously as you are able. Every amount counts, no matter how large or small! Together let's keep growing our community for generations to come.

More details to come during our Stewardship Sunday, and our official kick-off to the 2017 Pledge Campaign, on Sunday, October 16!

Sincerely,
Dianne Rochford, Patricia Whitney and Mindi Laine



Thanks to Elaine, Nancy and Jill for heading up the Quilts for Pulse project. Under their guidance, our church community members stitched quilt squares with a heart pattern. The squares were stitched together and quilted to make this wonderful quilt which was sent to Orlando to be given to a survivor, a family member of a victim, or a first-responder.

OCT 2016 CALENDAR

DEADLINE FOR
NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER
CONTENT: OCTOBER 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.



02	SUN	10 am After church	Worship Service & RE All Youth Group Trip to Six Flags
07	FRI	8-10 am	Food Shelf
09	SUN	10 am 5-6:15 pm 6:30-8 pm	Worship Service & RE SoUpper 2nd Sunday Sale Junior Youth Group (UU Church) Senior Youth Group (UU Church)
10	MON	7 pm	Governing Board Meeting
14	FRI	8-10 am	Food Shelf
15	SAT	4:30-6:30	Turkey Supper & Silent Auction
16	SUN	10 am	Worship Service & RE
18	TUE	ALL DAY	Newsletter Content Deadline
21	FRI	8-10 am	Food Shelf
22	SAT	4:30-6:30	Turkey Supper & Silent Auction
23	SUN	10 am 5-6:00 pm 6-6:30 pm 6:30-8 pm	Worship Service & RE Junior Youth Group (UU Church) Mission Trip Introduction Mtng Senior Youth Group (UU Church)
28	FRI	8-10 am	Food Shelf
29	SAT	4:30-6:30	Turkey Supper & Silent Auction
30	SUN	10 am 9:15-12:30 am	Worship Service & RE Mission Trip Fundraiser Brunch (UCC)



(Left) "Is it my turn yet?" One of our furry friends awaits a turn at the Blessing of the Animals in September.

(Right) Sometimes when you go to church together you start to dress alike! Dave and Ryder pose in their matching outfits.

