



FEBRUARY 2017

The First Universalist Society of Hartland

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

FEB 5

The Courage of Faith

An introduction to February's worship theme, "Courage," with reflections on some historic examples of courage from our faith tradition, and some thoughts for strengthening our own courage in these troubling times in our society. *The collection will benefit the Cornish Rescue Squad.*

FEB 12

The Courage of Love

For Valentine's Day, some reflections on the courage that rises up when we ground our work for justice in sacred Love. The collection will benefit Planned Parenthood of Northern New England. Our annual Chocolate Auction will take place following the service.

FEB 19

Reflections on the Women's March

Reflections from the women and girls of our congregation on their experience participating along with millions of others around the world in last month's Women's Marches. *The collection will benefit WISE of the Upper Valley.*

FEB 26

What I Love About Islam

The Rev. Dr. M'ellen Kennedy, and Mohsen Mehdawi

The Rev. Dr. M'ellen Kennedy is the minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregations in Springfield, VT and Washington, VT, an experienced pastoral psychologist serving in community ministry, and also an ordained leader in the Sufi tradition. She has led workshops and worship services on countering Islamophobia at UU congregations and in other organizations all over the country. Mohsen Mehdawi is a dear friend and regular attendee of our congregation, a student, and a Muslim who grew up in refugee camps in his native Palestine.

Together, Rev. M'ellen and Mohsen will share reflections on their love and practice of the Islamic faith, and on working to end Islamophobia in our community, and in our own lives. They will also offer some extended time for conversation and learning following the service. *The collection will benefit an organization nominated by the worship leaders.*

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



Items for bid at the 2016
Chocolate Auction

FROM YOUR MINISTER

PAUL S. SAWYER

FEB 2017

It has been, to say the least, a disturbing start to 2017 in our society as a whole, and a busy time in our congregation. I have tried to share my thoughts, words, hope, and faith with you all in many ways, and I will continue to do so. Rather than try to find yet more words to share with you in this newsletter, I'm offering you a slightly edited version of the notice I sent to our congregational e-mail list following the election in November.

And please know that in this troubling time, your presence, and your energy, and your faith, and your love have been a steadily rising and brightly shining light of hope for me and for many others—and I give deep, deep thanks, for you and for our shared community of possibility and faith.

From November 11, 2016:

I have heard from many of you this week, and I know that many of you—many of us—are feeling pain, fear, sorrow, and more, in the wake of the election.

I have been hesitant to write to you before now, in part because I've been struggling, myself, to process the many meanings and needs and potential effects of the situation, and partially because so many of the responses that come to mind immediately feel so hollow and unhelpful and ineffective.

As a church, by law and by our own values, we are not a partisan political organization, though it is a massive mistake to say that what we believe and practice has no political meaning, or carries no political responsibility. The part we play in society should be more rightly thought of, however, as a moral role, than as a political one.

So, for my part, I will probably not engage with you much around purely political conversations. I have thoughts about political strategies and candidates and processes, of course. But what concerns me more are the very real and important moral challenges we're facing right now and in the days to come.

And in that light, it is clear to me that our nation has elected a man who has demonstrated very little support for the values Unitarian Universalists hold most dear, and particularly for our commitment to honoring the inherent worth and dignity of all people.

It is true that from the perspective of our faith, the other candidates were not without their problems, either. There was no candidate who exactly represented all the values of our tradition of faith, and rarely, if ever, has there been a candidate for whom we could say that was true.

In this case, however, we have elected someone whose stated values and behavior are drastically different from the faith we try to live—someone who ran on a campaign specifically appealing to the most painful aspects of human division. Donald Trump regularly engaged racial prejudice as a strategy to gain votes. He said directly that he wanted to set aside our foundational American principle of religious freedom, by using religion as a test for entrance into our country, and by suggesting a registry for Muslim Americans.

He has clearly and repeatedly treated women as objects, and for years he has dismissed the concerns of those who have been sexually assaulted as a joke. He has openly and cruelly mocked people with disabilities, and veterans, and anyone who refuses to support him in any way. We work hard in our religious education programs, our OWL classes, and in our basic expectations of our relationships to ensure that even our youngest children do not act out these kinds of behaviors.

Continued on next page

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
talbotsfarm@gmail.com

Office Administrator
NANCY WALKER
In the office on Fridays

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

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 previous page

In his words and in his business dealings it is clear, as well, that he prizes wealth over human relationships, and over the health of our planet. And he has declared it as a virtue, the fact that he values his picture of a “good deal” above all else—over, even, his own promises, and basic principles of fairness and what is right.

There’s more, of course. And I suspect, by now, you don’t need me to spell it all out.

And I will say here, too, that if you disagree, and if you feel that my assessment of the moral realities of this election are not in line with our shared Unitarian Universalist values, well—I will look forward to engaging that conversation with you.

For now, I will say, if you are celebrating in the wake of the election, I hope that you will, at the very least, make space in your heart to hear that many in our world, many of your neighbors, are living with fear and pain right now, and that you will find a way to listen to their concerns, and to respect their experience—and never to take it as your place to tell them that they do not feel what they say they feel.

For the rest of us—for you if you are hurting, and fearful, and angry, and more—I cannot promise to know exactly the right words or exactly the right actions to take, to build some perfect hopeful response and to sooth your weary spirit and your troubled soul.

But I will promise you that you are not alone, and that we will find ways, together, grounded in our faith, to work to heal our society and our world in the days to come.

I am very aware right now, in my own heart, of the inadequacy of simple reassurances that “everything will be ok,” and of calls for patience and unity and a willingness to let the process work. Sentiments like that carry some measure of truth, I’m sure—and there may come a time when that’s a helpful way to feel. But for now, it is a more compelling truth for many people in our society, for many of us, and for many people that I love—that “all” may very realistically not be “well” in a time frame that is useful, or sustaining of justice and of life.

I do, however, find that I have a deep sense of hope in my heart, born of a lifetime of faith, and full of my belief in the inherent goodness and possibility I see, every day, alive in all of you.

My faith is strong, and with gratitude to my roots as an old New England farm kid, it’s also wicked stubborn.

And I’m relying on that faithful stubbornness, in my heart and in yours, to make a crucial difference in the time to come. And I’m relying on all of us working to build our courage and faith even stronger, and more stubborn in response to the great needs of our world in this place and time.

We’ve known for our whole lives that we have a lot of work to do to build a world full of justice, equality, and compassion.

We’ve known for a long time that no one political campaign and no one personal action will never be enough to bring the healing and growth we need.

We’ve known for generations that the work of connection and community, of healing and of love, is work we’re called to as a whole community, and work that will take far more than the span of any of our own individual lives.

It is an honor to join with you, and to continue our lifelong work. I look forward as we continue, in the tradition of our faith to come together to build connection and community, and to join our hearts and hands and minds and souls together to bring a measure of hope and healing to each other, and to our wider world.

And please remember that in these troubling times, as people reach out for the kind of connection and hope that is the heart of our faith, we will likely continue to have a lot of new visitors and re-connecting former members and friends joining us for our worship and other activities. Please join me in welcoming these beloved souls to our community, and in helping their spirits feel like they’re coming home.

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.

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.

FEBRUARY OFFERING RECIPIENTS:

FEB 7

The Cornish Rescue Squad

Providing primary emergency medical support for both Cornish and Plainfield, NH, the volunteers of the Cornish Rescue Squad serve many members and friends of our congregation, as well as thousands of others in these neighbor communities. This is one of a series of offerings to our local rescue squads, in an effort to connect with and support those doing effective and important work in our member communities. This idea was suggested by our own governing board member, Dan Poor, who served for several years on the Cornish Rescue Squad. You can speak with Dan or with Paul (who is also a former volunteer rescue squad member) for more information.

FEB 12

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England offers reproductive and general healthcare services across our region, including clinics located in West Lebanon and Claremont. Planned Parenthood's work in advocacy, education, and direct services is a vital force in promoting sexual health in our wider society. Planned Parenthood is also a strong supporter of our Our Whole Lives comprehensive sexuality education programs. More information is available at www.plannedparenthood.org/ppnne

FEB 19

WISE of the Upper Valley

WISE is a non-profit organization which has been serving the needs of the Upper Valley for over forty years. WISE provides advocacy, crisis services, and community education to those affected by domestic and sexual violence and stalking throughout the Upper Valley region of New Hampshire and Vermont. All WISE services are free and confidential. The mission of WISE is to empower victims of domestic and sexual violence and stalking to become safe and self-reliant through crisis intervention and support services. More information is available at www.wiseoftheuppervalley.org

FEB 26

TBA

The Offering on February 26 will support an organization nominated by our worship leaders for this service.

ADULT CHOIR

The Adult Choir will rehearse at 9 a.m. on Sunday, February 12th, and February 19th, to sing in the service on the 19th.

We thank you, our church family, for your generous promise of support for the year ahead. To date, our congregation together has pledged over \$106,000 toward our church budget and we invite anyone who hasn't yet, to join us – no gift is too large or too small. We are collaborating with the children to create a very special thank you card that you will be receiving soon.

--Dianne, Mindi, Pat

The UUA has many pieces of art available for your use on social media, on signs, or just to hang in your home.
See these and others at uua.org/images

IN THIS CONGREGATION, WE BELIEVE:

LOVE IS LOVE

BLACK LIVES MATTER

CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL

NO HUMAN BEING IS ILLEGAL

ALL GENDERS ARE WHOLE, HOLY, & GOOD

WOMEN HAVE AGENCY OVER THEIR BODIES



UUA.ORG/IMAGES

أهلاً وسهلاً،

يا حبايبي!

Be welcome and at ease, beloved friends!

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.

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.

FEBRUARY–MAY 2017

FEBRUARY 5, 4:00-6:15 PM, 7-9 OWL AT THE UCC CHURCH

FEBRUARY 12, 4:00-6:15 PM,
7-9 OWL AT THE UCC CHURCH

FEBRUARY 19, NO OWL CLASS
(FEBRUARY VACATION)

FEBRUARY 26, 4:00-6:15 PM,
7-9 OWL AT THE UCC CHURCH

FEBRUARY 26, 6:30-8 PM,
SENIOR YOUTH AT THE UCC CHURCH

MARCH 5, 9:00 AM–1:00 PM, MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER
BRUNCH AT THE UU CHURCH



MARCH 5, 4:00-6:15 PM, 7-9 OWL AT THE
UCC CHURCH

MARCH 12, 4:00-6:15 PM, 7-9 OWL AT THE
UCC CHURCH

MARCH 12, 6:30-8 PM, SENIOR YOUTH AT THE
UCC CHURCH

MARCH 19, 1:00-6:15 PM, 7-9 OWL AT THE UCC
CHURCH, ***SPECIAL MARATHON SUPER-COOL
SESSION***

MARCH 26, 4:00-6:15 PM, 7-9 OWL AT THE
UCC CHURCH

MARCH 26, 6:30-8 PM, SENIOR YOUTH AT THE
UCC CHURCH

APRIL 2, 9:00 AM–1:00 PM, MISSION TRIP
FUNDRAISER BRUNCH AT THE UU CHURCH

APRIL 2, 4:00-6:15 PM, 7-9 OWL AT THE
UCC CHURCH

APRIL 9, 4:00-6:15 PM, 7-9 OWL AT THE UCC
CHURCH SNOW MAKE-UP DAY (OR REGULAR
JUNIOR YOUTH MEETING 5-6:15 PM)

APRIL 9, 6:30-8 PM, SENIOR YOUTH AT THE UCC
CHURCH MISSION TRIP COMMITMENT AND \$100
DUE TO LUCIA! MISSION TRIP PAPERWORK WILL
BE AVAILABLE.

APRIL 30, YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS AT THE UU
CHURCH, JR. 5-6:15 PM, SR. 6:30-8 PM

MAY 7, YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS AT THE UU
CHURCH, JR. 5-6:15 PM, SR. 6:30-8 PM

MAY 21, 5-6:00 PM, LAST JUNIOR YOUTH AT
THE UU CHURCH

MAY 21, 6:00 PM, AT THE UU CHURCH, MISSION
TRIP LOGISTICS MEETING, ALL PAPERWORK DUE!

MAY 21, 6:30–8:00 PM, LAST SENIOR YOUTH AT
THE UU CHURCH

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NOTES

SAM CRONIN

FEB 2017

Quiet Contemplations and Whimsical Winterim Wonder

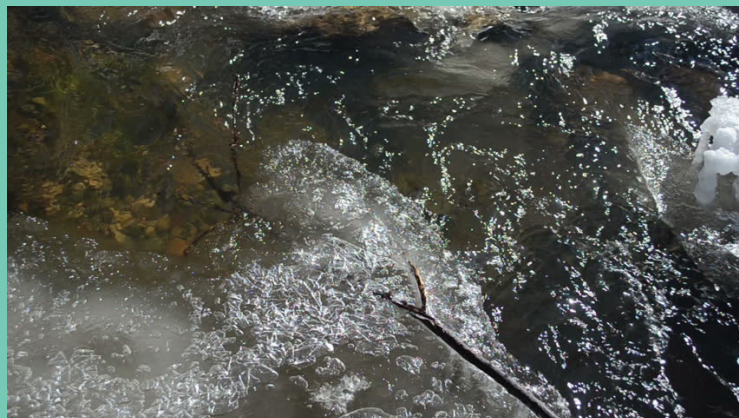
In the warm heart of a Vermont winter, I find myself reflecting and writing in a comforting setting. Inhale, exhale. I feel grateful and I know this moment of comfort I am experiencing is not so for all beings. Thoughts flow like water under a sheet of brook ice outside my window. A crystal barrier clouds a bit of the vision, but the stream of consciousness runs steady and strong as ever. Let us not freeze in fear! Breathing deeply and focusing during both times of ease and times of intensity brings me the calm clarity I need to keep movin' and groovin'.

So I inhale life-giving air and allow my whole self to feel, to acknowledge, and to honor this reality. As I exhale, my mind's eye widens as beacons of hope shine forth. With the light of our community, I continue to deepen my understanding of what it means to grow in challenging situations and remain unified. Each individual holds personal as well as universal struggles, yet here we are agreeing in love and in doing so we create a sacred space- our beloved First Universalist Society of Hartland. A home away from home, and maybe for some- the only true home in which the beat of our hearts finds a true rhythm as one.

Letting transient meditations breeze along with the current and on with more practical thinking...life goes on, water under the bridge, and oh, it is true that time does fly when there is fun to be had! It has been five months (wow, already?!) since the beginning of our 2016-2017 religious education year; the half-way point between the Water Ingathering in September and the Children's Flower Communion in June. I feel blessed to serve such an alive and active community. Each week the children share their brilliance and the program is a success due to an abundance of fascinating beings willing to share their ideas, their gifts, and their love. Together we explore the simple themes gifted to us so graciously each month by our Reverend Paul.

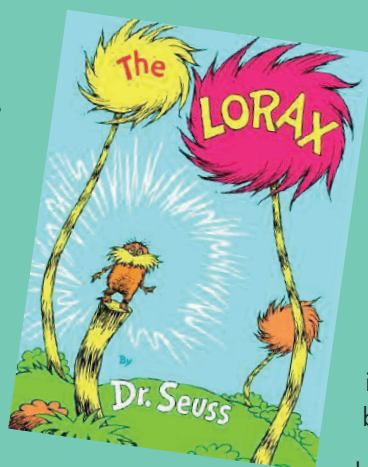
This month may we connect with Courage. May we have the courage to create- to work hard and play hard. And speaking of play...February is the month in which we prepare for our annual Children's Winterim Worship Service!

This year we will be presenting our own nature inspired,



out-of-this-world, musical spin on the classic Dr. Seuss story of *The Lorax*. *The Lorax* is a children's book written by Dr. Seuss and was first published in 1971. The book is commonly recognized as a fable concerning the danger in which corporate greed poses to the natural world. The story uses the literary element of personification to give life to industry (the Once-ler) and to the environment (the Lorax.) *The Lorax* was Dr. Seuss' personal favorite of his books. I enCOURAGE all to read it (we have a copy that will be available during Coffee Hour.) It is a silly yet meaningful read for all ages!

Each Sunday leading up to the day of presentation, the children and volunteers will be in the yurt acting out the story, crafting the set and props, singing, dancing, making music, snacking, and practicing together to convey themes of sustainability, unity, following dreams...and yes, love.



The date of the Winterim presentation is Sunday, March 12th. Please plan to attend and enjoy! We will hold a potluck dinner and rehearsal the night before on Saturday, March 11th. We have a few folks signed up to help with this lively creation but as always, the more the merrier! Keep an eye out- we will be posting a list with a few playful tasks that need some attention. As Dr. Seuss says in *The Lorax*: "I know it may seem small and insignificant, but it's not about what it is, it's about what it can become."

Let the creativity flow!

Please contact Samantha by phone (802-281-2512) or email (dre.hartlanduu@gmail.com) for more information.

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!**



9TH ANNUAL LIVE CHOCOLATE AUCTION

Sunday, February 12 • 11:15 a.m. • Fellowship Hall



This is our 9th Annual Live Chocolate Auction. Don't go to the store to purchase your sweetheart chocolate for Valentine's Day - Come to the auction and bid on a homemade delectable dessert. The auction follows the worship service so you will want to stay to view the items, to taste the chocolate fondue and to bid on the delicious chocolate desserts, and there will be items set aside for only children to bid on.

In the spirit of Valentine's Day, donations of chocolate desserts are needed. If you are willing and able to make an item please drop it off before the church service on Feb. 12 and please include a card with the name of the item and the ingredients.

We again will have a raffle of a \$50 gift certificate. This year it is to the Common Man Restaurant where the winner can celebrate Valentine's Day

with his/her loved one. Tickets are on sale up until the Chocolate Auction when the winner will be picked and you don't have to be present to win. Tickets are: \$3 for one or \$15 for 6.

We are trying something new this year. We would like to obtain chocolate desserts from restaurants within the local area to add to the items being bid upon. If you know of a restaurant that may be willing to donation one of their desserts, please contact Nancy Walker.

For questions or if you are able to help before and/or during the auction contact Nancy Walker, 603-863-0066 or nancy.mr.walker@gmail.com. Volunteers needed: to ask for donations from local restaurants, to pick them up, to accept desserts before church service, to record bidders before and during the auction, and to collect money.





HARTLAND COMMUNITY PROM

Saturday, March 18 • 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. • Damon Hall

A prom! Yes, for everyone! Come alone, come with a date, come with your family. Wear what you wore to your original prom, what you wish you had worn, or anything that makes you happy.

This year we will be celebrating Hollywood Glam...whatever that means to you. We'll be asking for donations of black and white snacks: finger-foods, desserts, anything easy-to-eat and not too messy. Some ideas might include: chocolate cookies dipped in white chocolate; cupcakes with fancy black and white frosting, meringues with mini chocolate chips, etc. See Katy Sawyer or Sara Morin for questions.

DJ Jaxon will be spinning all the tunes, new and old.

The Red Aprons will again be helping to host this event.

This event is a FUNdraiser for our church. Please encourage your friends to join us in a night to celebrate our wider community.

\$10 per person • Maximum of \$25 per family

Parents are strongly encouraged to attend with their kids - it's fun for parents too!



SOCIAL ACTION CIRCLE

Announcing the formation of the FUSH Social Action circle. The objectives of this program are:

- Provide a safe, caring, and welcoming communal space in order to share thoughts, feelings, and concerns about our common needs.
- Deepen sense of hope and connection among people regardless of differences.
- Explore questions, learn skills and develop activities to build greater understanding, trust and empathy and more effective communication between people and find ways to work together on progressive and humanitarian goals.
- Support, celebrate and remember our members/participants in their individual social action activities

At the January 15th meeting, 25 people shared their hopes and concerns and a delicious pot luck lunch. Break out discussions led by Don Foster, Becca White, Gary Shapiro and Alison Clarkson explored local, statewide and legislative actions. A dedicated web site provides a way to keep in touch and share resources. The shortened web address is bit.ly/fushaction. For our Vermont residents, we will soon have a bill tracker on the site to keep tabs on important legislation.

There is also a dedicated phone number 802 738-0102. The next circle meeting will be on February 26.

The circle is open to all who seek to find pathways to greater understanding and a more humanitarian future.

DEADLINE FOR MARCH NEWSLETTER CONTENT: FEBRUARY 18



Welcoming Congregation

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



If you have photos of people or places
in our church community, please send
them to saradmorin@gmail.com for
possible inclusion in the newsletter.

FEBRUARY 2017 CALENDAR

03	FRI	8-10 am	Food Shelf
05	SUN	10 am After Church 4-6:15 pm	Worship Service & RE SoUUpper 1st Sunday Sale 7-9 OWL (UCC Church)
10	FRI	8-10 am	Food Shelf
12	SUN	10 am After Church 4-6:15 pm	Worship Service & RE Chocolate Auction 7-9 OWL (UCC Church)
13	MON	7 pm	Governing Board Meeting
17	FRI	8-10 am	Food Shelf
18	SAT	ALL DAY	Newsletter Content Deadline
19	SUN	10 am	Worship Service & RE
24	FRI	8-10 am	Food Shelf
26	SUN	10 am 4-6:15 pm 6:30-8 pm	Worship Service & RE 7-9 OWL (UCC Church) Senior Youth Group (UCC Church)

