

JUNE 2017

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The First Universalist Society of Hartland

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

JUNE 4 "LOVE SAVES"

Join us for this annual outdoor service filled with songs, stories, and a celebration of free faith, all focused on the saving power of love—all kinds of saving, all kinds of love. We'll also welcome new members to our society during this service. Bring a picnic to enjoy after the service! We'll hold this service on our own church grounds this year, or in the sanctuary if the weather makes that the better choice. There's no collection at this service.

JUNE 11 CHILDREN'S PROGRAM CELEBRATION SUNDAY AND FLOWER COMMUNION

Bring a flower to share! In this special service, we will honor our children and their teachers in this fun annual intergenerational service of recognition and celebration, and we'll also mark the traditional Unitarian celebration of the season, the Flower Communion. The Flower Communion was created by Rev. Norbert Capek, the founder of the Unitarian Church of Czechoslovakia, and it was first practiced in that church in 1923 (you can read more about the history and tradition of the Flower Communion on-line—just search for "Flower Communion UUA" and the story on the UUA website should be among the top results). We'll all bring cut flowers to share—from our gardens, from a store, from anywhere—and we'll gather our flowers together, and then distribute them so everyone can go home with some beauty shared by someone else. The collection will benefit an organization selected by our children and RE leaders.

JUNE 18 WORSHIP TEAM

The collection will benefit an organization nominated by the worship leaders.

JUNE 25 WORSHIP TEAM

The collection will benefit an organization nominated by the worship leaders.

LOVE IS THE DOCTRINE OF THIS CHURCH

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FROM YOUR MINISTER

Earth does Not Tolerate Dominance

Paul S. Sawyer

Here is a spiritual truth I hope you can find meaningful, whatever your specific theological perspective:

A healthy and broad diversity is the intended and highest state of life on earth.

If you are a theist, you can find this truth in the creation of earth by God as a rich and diverse garden, filled with countless different and interdependent forms of life.

If you are a humanist, you can find this truth present in the science of diversity, and the empirical observation that, given enough time, and left to develop in their natural state, ecosystems evolve not to support just one or two dominant species, but remarkable and complex diversity at all levels of life.

If you hold an earth-centered perspective, you can find this truth in the simple yet deeply felt richness of the earth, the living energy of the universe, meant to burn alive with the fire of life in so many diverse forms.

And for all of us—I hope that we are spiritually mature enough to realize that for all those theological understandings, and any others we could imagine, they are not mutually exclusive. Theists and earth-centered people do not have to ignore science in their quest for truth—and humanists can feel the energy of life in the depths of their hearts and in the intricate workings of their minds.

Whatever your path of faith, notice the deep truth that dominance of one form of life over others does not exist perpetually anywhere in the natural world. When shifting conditions do lead to some kind of dominance—it's always temporary. As soon as it occurs, the very earth begins to fight against that dominance, until diversity is restored.

Now, of course, for all manner of reasons the natural state of diversity can be disrupted from time to time, and when that happens, sometimes it can take a very long time for diversity to return. In some cases it may even take longer than we can understand in our human-focused minds. But inevitably diversity does return—earth heals, balance is restored, and dominance is pushed aside.

Dominance simply cannot last in the natural world.

Now, on occasion I have heard some pundits and others in the public sphere using a related ecological concept to fight *against* the idea of diversity, in the form of building a diverse, multi-cultural human community in our nation. Such people suggest that the natural cultural ecosystem of the United States is the white, European-descended culture that dominated during the founding of our country.

(Continued on next page)



(From Your Minister, Continued)

And so, they suggest, all those “other” cultures—all the non-white diversity of human culture from all over the world—are invasive species; that they are cultural invaders that threaten to overtake and choke out the American culture some of our ancestors worked hard to build.

Such an idea implies that the real natural diversity of our society exists solely within the white European-descended culture—though the folks who say such things may not fully understand that what they’re saying carries that implication.

What I know for sure is that I grew up hearing just that kind of sentiment in the way some Northern New Englanders, including many of my family members, always talked about people as being “from away” and “from here.” In most cases, when they said that people were “from away” it wasn’t meant as a compliment. The assertion was that they didn’t belong. Their voices didn’t matter. They didn’t understand. They’re not “from here.”

Whether they were people of color, people from other countries, or just from one of those more populated states to the immediate south, the implication was clear—we belong here, *they* do not. They are invaders, and should be kept away, or at least kept in their place so that their ideas and understandings do not infect our own.

While I remember that sentiment existing more strongly in the days of my childhood, I’m sad to say it’s hardly uncommon to experience similar ideas being lifted up in my beloved home region of Northern New England still today.

Well here’s the thing—that image of a cultural invasive species is a useful one—just not in quite the way that “my people” have used it over the years.

Because it’s exactly “my people”—my ancestors, who came here in the early 1600s from England, and others like them, including many of your ancestors—who were the real invasive species on this continent.

We came and multiplied and expanded out of control.

We killed off indigenous cultures to make room for our own.

And we’ve choked off diversity, like knotweed choking a stream,

And pulled down possibility like kudzu pulling down a tree.

For “my people,” the natural work of restoring balance and diversity is not always comfortable work.

You can’t free the stream without ripping up some knotweed by its roots, and we’ve let our roots sink in pretty deeply.

Diversity isn’t simply a choice we decide to make, or a goal that we set. It’s the natural path of life.

And a rich diversity in all its forms is the inevitable truth of life on earth.

Dominance cannot survive—and that is a truth we would do well to understand.



UPCOMING

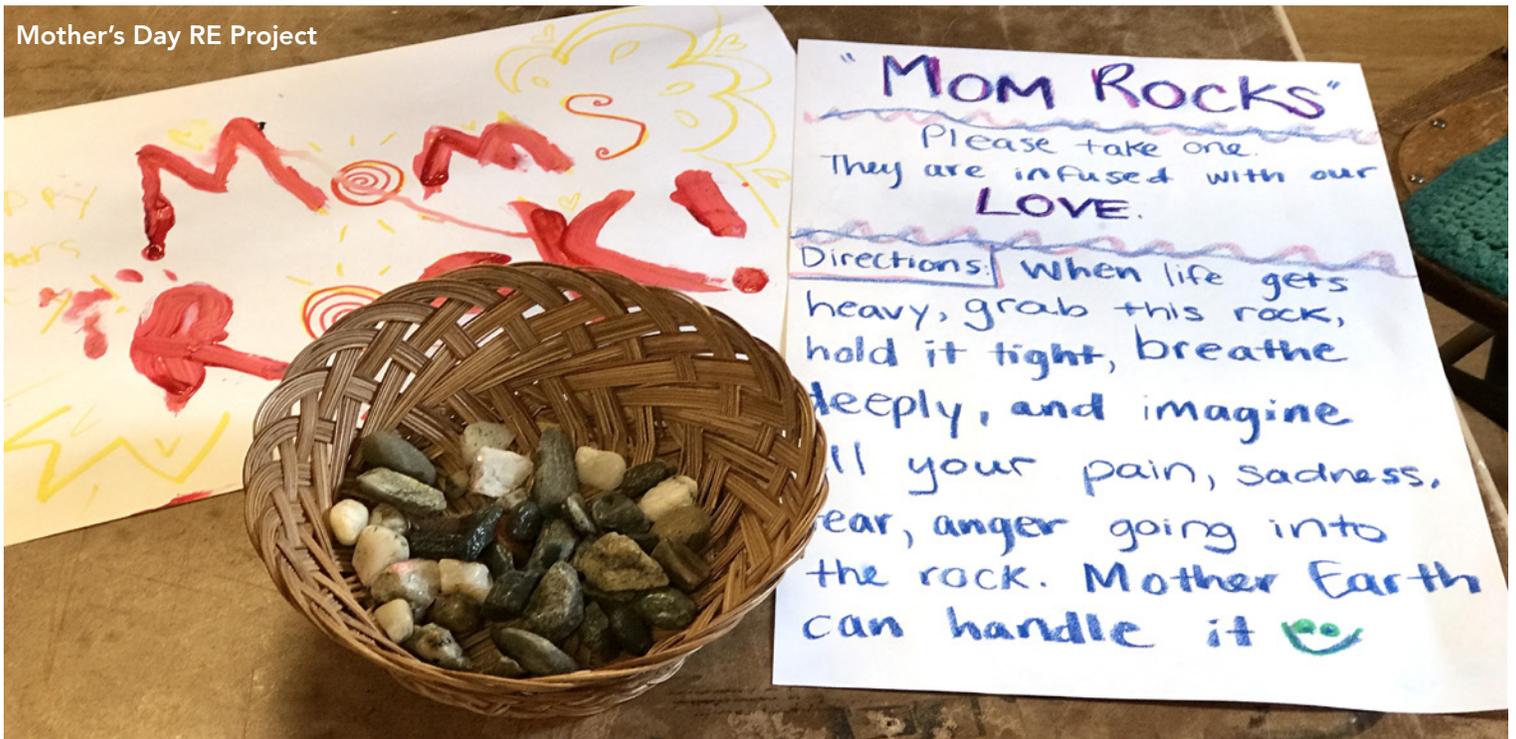
The **General Assembly** of the Unitarian Universalist Association will be held in New Orleans, LA, June 21–25. Even if you can’t make it to GA, you can follow the action and watch many of the major events on-line at www.uua.org, beginning with the Opening Ceremony and Banner Parade on Wednesday, June 21. This year, Paul Sawyer, Sue Buckholz, and Jim Dow will be attending GA representing our congregation.

Sunday July 23 will be our annual “Sermon from the Question Box”—During this service, Paul will respond to questions you send him in the coming month. The questions can be theological or spiritual, or personal, or informational, or random. Look for an official question box to appear soon on the information table in the sanctuary, or simply send or give your questions to Paul by hand or electronically.

April Fools Day Service



Mother's Day RE Project



Celebrating the sUuper trUupers



ABOUT MEMBERSHIP

About Membership in the First Universalist Society of Hartland Four Corners

Our congregation is made up of both “members” and “friends,” with varying degrees of commitment to our work. Whether you formally join our congregation as a member, or whether you prefer to consider yourself a non-member “friend,” you are welcome and encouraged to participate actively in the life of our church community.

What it Means to Be a Member of Our Congregation

Members of our congregation are those who have made a formal commitment to our community by “signing the book”—declaring their commitment publicly by setting their signature to our book of membership, in consultation with our minister.

According to our by-laws, membership is available to all those over 18 years of age who:

- “State that they are in agreement with the purposes of our Society and of the Unitarian Universalist Association”
- Are willing to participate in the work and activity of our community
- Are willing to support our work with their time, energy, and resources

There is no set time frame or specific guideline about when you might choose to become a member, but we do ask you to spend some significant time learning about the mission, history, theology, practices, and culture of our congregation through regular attendance, through our “Introduction to Unitarian Universalism” sessions, and/or through conversations with our minister and other leaders of our community.

Members of our congregation can serve in volunteer leadership positions on our governing board, board of trustees, and our committee on ministry, and can vote in congregational meetings (please note that our by-laws require that to vote to amend our by-laws, or to call or dismiss a minister, an individual must have been an active member of the congregation for at least a full year).

Members are entitled to the services of the minister and the use of the church building for rites of passage (weddings, memorial services, child dedications, etc.) at no cost.

Members are formally considered “Unitarian Universalists” by the Unitarian Universalist Association, and receive *Unitarian Universalist World* magazine at no additional cost.

What it Means to Be a “Friend” of Our Congregation

Friends of our congregation are welcome to participate in nearly all aspects of the life of our church, including attending programs and services, serving on committees, leading lay-led worship, and, of course pledging to support our work financially.

They are not eligible to vote in congregational meetings, or to serve on our governing board, committee on ministry, or as a trustee. They can, however, serve in other leadership roles in church life, including serving as a champion of an activity.

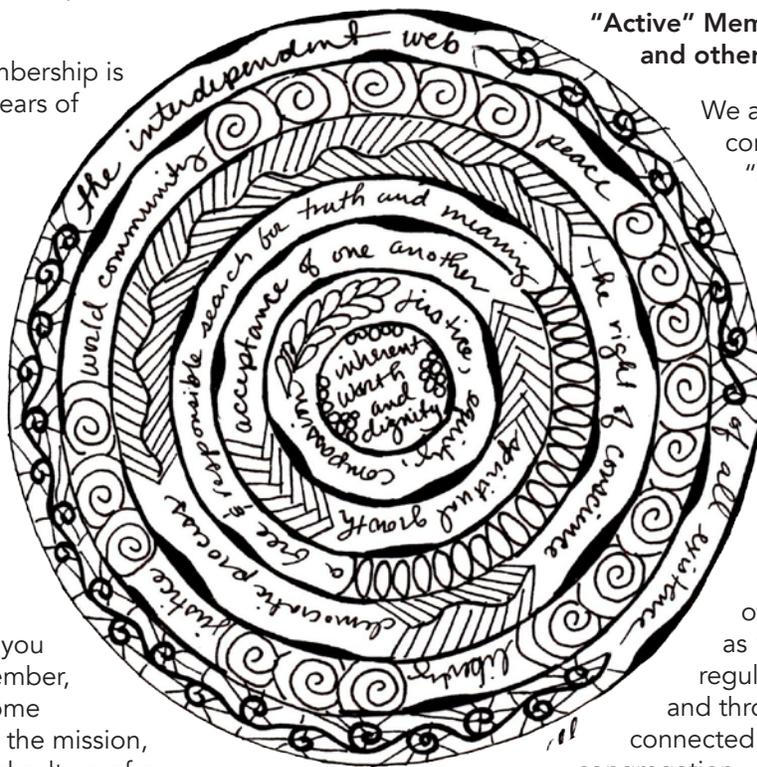
“Active” Membership Status, Moving Away, and other Concerns

We ask members of our congregation to maintain their “active” status through ongoing participation and/or support of our congregation. Members who discontinue participation or support of our congregation, for whatever reason, may be listed in our records as “Inactive” and may need to reactivate their membership in order to vote or to hold a leadership position.

Even members that move out of town are welcome to remain as “active” members, through regular financial or other support and through making an effort to stay connected in some fashion with our congregation.

For those who move either to or from our region, it’s good to know that Unitarian Universalist tradition allows individuals to be members of more than one congregation, provided the member meets the requirements set forth by each congregation. Under the same stipulation, we are also open to members who continue to hold ongoing membership in communities identified with other faith traditions.

Youth who are active participants in our congregation are welcome to become members after their 18th birthday, and can be considered active members during their young adult years, even if their work or school commitments leave them unable to participate regularly in the life of our congregation. We do not have a formal “confirmation” program for our youth. Youth considering membership should speak with the minister.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NOTES

May was a month of down-to-earth learning! As the days grow warmer in June, we spend our Sunday mornings and Thursday afternoons preparing for Religious Ed (RE) end-of-the-year festivities and getting enthused about our Summer RE "Roots & Shoots" project.



A bright and beautiful highlight from last month was hearing from a local permaculture gardening specialist, Autum Siegler. Autum, of Nature Allies, helped us kick-off our "Roots and Shoots" project funded by the Jane Goodall Foundation. During Autum's presentation with the children, she spoke of the ethics of permaculture: Earth Care, People Care, and Fair Share. We discovered these ethics pair nicely with our seven UU principles! With these values in mind and in heart, we mapped out a garden plan and have planted a substantial amount of vegetables, edible flowers, and herbs. The children are happy to grow a bounty of vegetation for our community suppers and food shelf, and will also be hosting informational workshops to share their service learning project with the community. While our "Roots & Shoots" project is mostly child-led, we encourage and welcome any and all congregation members to join in and "get their hands dirty!"

Coming right up on June 4th, our children look forward to getting theatrical with a short skit based on *The Juicebox Bully*. The story was chosen by our children to present during our "Love Saves" service. Here is a link to the book being read aloud: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7qWxJgbvog>

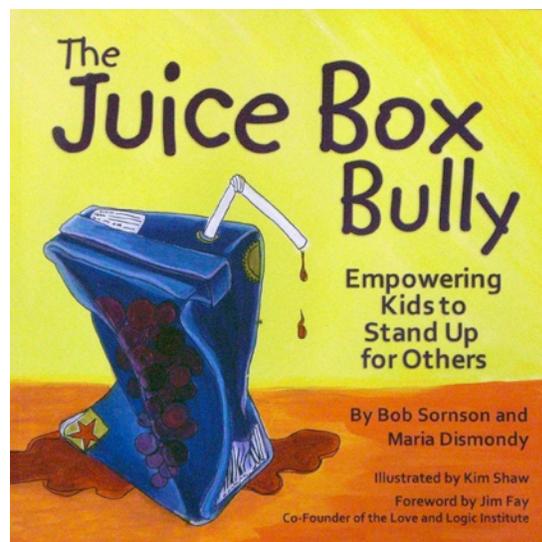
On June 11th, the annual Children's Sunday & Flower Communion, we will honor our children for their wisdom, beauty, and hard work. We have a secret surprise performance for everyone- so make sure you don't miss this one! Here is a hint...

*"We are flowers of one garden,
We are flowers of one world!"*

—Hudson & Wilkens & Hawaiian Children's Choir

Beginning on June 18th, we will be combining our RE Nursery and Yurt activities with the aid of our new Nursery Assistant, Jess Rud. Jess is bringing some lively energy to our program and we thank her for contributions already! Jess also works at Valley Flower Company and has an artistic eye for seeing the flower within everyone.

Continuing to grow and blossom is our Hero's Journey Club that meets on Thursday afternoons from 3-5 pm. The Hero's Journey Club is a wonderful extra meeting time for our children in addition to Sunday service. We have designed a relaxed setting to grow and learn together, and through creative thinking, artistic expression, and community projects, our young UU's are making the world a better place one day at a time. A special thank you to Helen Miller for her contributions to this venture! She has been an amazing guide and we look forward to continuing our journey this Summer. Additional adult adventurers are welcome!



Our Religious Education program in June:

Sunday, June 4th- Tent Service (Love is...Theatrical)

Thursday, June 8th- Hero's Journey Club (Children's Sunday Prep)

Sunday, June 11th- Children's Sunday & Flower Communion (Acceptance)

Thursday, June 15th- Hero's Journey Club (Father Sun Art)

Sunday, June 18th- Faith in Action (Father's Day)

Thursday, June 22nd- Hero's Journey Club (Gardening Fun)

Sunday, June 25th- Roots & Shoots (Gardening Fun)

CONNECTION CIRCLE

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL WORK PARTY

A big thank you to everyone who helped out at our spring work party. An extra thank you to Gordon Richardson for bringing his truck and for taking over direction of the outdoor activities when Sue and I had to leave to attend to a family emergency. Much was accomplished both inside the church and outside. We all feel good to see a neat and tidy yard around our church and to enjoy a clean interior as well. We appreciate also all the help getting the lunch on and the clean up after. Again, a big thank you to all of you who pitched in when Sue and I had to be with a family member at the hospital. This is also a good time to say thank you to David Day for his efforts keeping the lawn mowed and taking care of the inside of the church.

CIRCLE DINNERS

Thank you to all those people who generously hosted the Circle Dinners this year. Sarah Bruce; Marit and Rob Jaarsma; Helen Miller and Gary Shapiro; Laurence Matson; Ricky and Dan Poor; Dianne Rockford and Pat Whitney; and Gretel Schuck offered their hospitality so that a good time was had by all. We appreciate all of you who participated!

COFFEE HOUR

Just like last year we will not have a formal Coffee Hour for the summer months (June, July, and August) except for a few special occasions such as the joint service with the Brick Church and the service built around the visiting African students. If you want to make coffee you are welcome to do so but just be sure there's a clean up crew.

We really appreciate Sarah Bruce and Becca White who did a great job of organizing Coffee Hour this past year. We also appreciate all of you who volunteered to provide delicious snacks, make coffee, and clean up after Coffee Hour. Your hospitality made it possible for all of us to enjoy each other's company after services.

NEW MEMBERS

We want to thank Joan Fariel and Bineke Oort who ushered and welcomed newcomers and friends and members every Sunday. They have worked hard to make everyone feel at home and to plan the Newcomer Workshops. They are now in the process of planning Sunday June 4 which will be a celebration of our new members. If you would like to join the Church you should contact Paul so that we can make you a part of our celebration. We appreciate everyone who makes this a welcoming place!

ADULT CHOIR

The Adult Choir will NOT rehearse on the usual Sunday mornings in June. Rather, we will have a rehearsal THURSDAY EVENING, June 29th, at 7 p.m. in our sanctuary, for the ecumenical choir which will sing during the July 2nd service, which we are hosting this year. We will also rehearse at 9 a.m. on Sunday, July 2nd before the service.

SAVE THE DATES

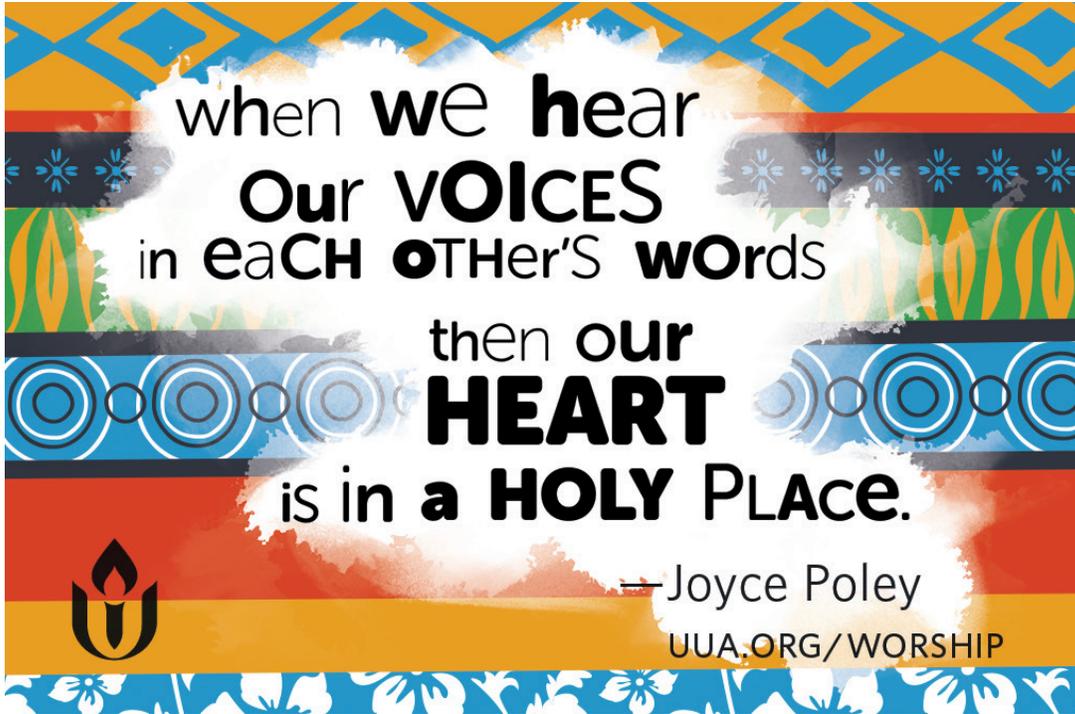
We have two joint worship services with the First Congregational Church of Hartland (The Brick Church) this summer:

Sunday July 2 at our church—Joint Independence Day worship service with both ministers leading worship.

Sunday July 30 at the First Congregational Church of Hartland—our annual Mission Trip celebration service led by the youth with Paul and Lucia.

Sunday August 20 at the Universalist Church of Barnard—Annual Combined Upper Valley UU Service at the Barnard Church, followed by time for conversation and recreation at Silver Lake State Park.

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



جيرانتنا



المسلمين

We ♥ our Muslim neighbors

PLEDGING INVITATION

To all who have pledged for 2017, we are grateful!

To all who have not, we invite you to join us in support of our beloved First Universalist Society of Hartland. To any who may wish to augment your pledge, your support is most welcome. No amount is too large or too small to contribute to the commonwealth of joy, love, friendship and community we are so fortunate to share.

Thank you,

Dianne Rochford
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kilrush@myfairpoint.net

Mindi Laine
603.729.6252
mindilaine@gmail.com

Pat Whitney
603.763.5054
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THE SUUPER TRUUPERS

Thank you to all who participated, sponsored, and supported our team, it was a huge success for a great cause!

- ★ over 600 participants
- ★ 86 amazing teams!
- ★ out of 86 teams, sUuper trUupers were in 5th place for money raised. ST total to date: \$3,644.50...
WOW, this is incredible!!
- ★ total raised by teams, donors and sponsors : just over \$91,000 for TPN with more coming in!



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!**





Welcoming Congregation

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



DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE NEWSLETTER CONTENT: JUNE 23

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.

JUNE 2017 CALENDAR

02	FRI	8-10 am	Food Shelf
04	SUN	10am	Worship Service, Outside at our Church! Love Saves & Welcoming New Members
08	THU	3-5 pm	Hero's Journey Club (Children's Sunday Prep)
09	FRI	8-10 am	Food Shelf
11	SUN	10am	Worship Service, Children's Program Celebration Sunday and Flower Communion
15	THU	3-5 pm	Hero's Journey Club (Father Sun Art)
16	FRI	8-10 am	Food Shelf
18	SUN	10am	Worship Service
21-25			UUA General Assembly, New Orleans, LA
22	THU	3-5 pm	Hero's Journey Club (Gardening Fun)
23	FRI	8-10 am	Food Shelf July Newsletter Submission Deadline
25	SUN	10am	Worship Service
29	THU	7pm	Adult Choir practice in the sanctuary
30	FRI	8-10 am	Food Shelf

When greeting others, be mindful of language.

Consider

"Thanks, **friends**.
Have a great night."

"Good morning, **folks!**"

"Hi, **everyone!**"

"And for **you?**"

"Can I get you **all** something?"

Why?

Shifting to gender-inclusive language respects and acknowledges the gender identities of all people and removes assumption.

Based on Toni Latour's "Hello there" cards.

Learn more at qmunity.ca