



SEPTEMBER 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

SEPTEMBER 3 BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS!

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 of a beloved animal, or a stuffed animal to be blessed. The collection will benefit the Lucy MacKenzie Humane Society.

SEPTEMBER 10 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 Chalice Lighter Program of the Northern New England district of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

SEPTEMBER 17 GARY SHAPIRO

The Collection will benefit an organization chosen by our worship leaders.

SEPTEMBER 24 REIMAGINING THE COMMON GOOD

For the last several years, our congregation benefited from the worship materials and themes offered by the UU Touchstones program. This year, Touchstones has invited us to consider "Reimagining the Common Good" as a general theme for the year, tying together our separate monthly themes. In a society where polarization seems to be ever increasing, and in a faith tradition where we actively welcome and celebrate diversity, we're challenged to find new ways to understand our shared commitments and expectations in a way that, in the words of Bill Moyers, "evokes the common bonds of a diverse people." The collection will benefit COVER Home Repair.

LOVE IS THE DOCTRINE OF THIS CHURCH

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GOVERNING BOARD

Summer is over. The kids are back in school. I always look forward to this time of year. Start over. Do better. Learn more. I make more resolutions in fall than I do at the New Year. That includes Church. Volunteer more time, get to more circle dinners, learn more about our traditions. Last school year we finally made it to Gary's Seder, which was fabulous and something I hope to do again. Maybe this year I will make it to a UU conference of some sort.

It's been a quiet couple of months for the Governing Board. Chuck Fenton and his crew have been working hard on the Fellowship Hall and we have fielded a number of requests that have come up as a part of the process. I'd like to take the time to just say that it cannot be overstated the gratitude we have for the work Chuck and his team have taken on. There are an unlimited number of improvements to be potentially made to our church and yurt and parsonage and newly acquired Ladies Aid Hall, something we will, no doubt, be discussing a lot in the coming year. But the work that Chuck and many church members have begun as a part of the Long Term Planning Committee has had an amazing start. I look forward to the continued conversations and know that we will come to the best decisions as a community and that agreeing in love will be a big part of that.



RECENT DECISIONS

July's Meeting

As many of you may remember, funding for re-flooring the fellowship hall was approved as a part of the Steeple Repair campaign and fundraising. This work, having been previously approved, was given the immediate go ahead when Chuck approached us with a plan in late spring. As the work began, new issues arose. No surprise for any of us.

Mold was found beneath the base boards in the nursery. Mitigation for mold – remove and replace impacted sheetrock and baseboards. Treat with Kilz or some other mold resistant product. Approved.

Lead paint discovered on the columns in the Fellowship Hall. Mitigation for the support columns. Options: Scrape and paint would have to be done by certified lead abatement specialists – cost prohibitive. Encapsulate columns – would make the columns too large. We bump into them as it is during Turkey Supper. Remove and replace with lally columns, save wood columns in case we are able to salvage them at a later date, store in Ladies Aid Hall. Approved. Least of three tough options. The columns may or may not have been brought over from the original church. We hate to see them go but can't let them stay as is in the Fellowship Hall and can't take on the abatement expense now.

Further improvement considerations also discussed

Fundraising for new banquet hall tables: Chuck presented request for new table purchases. Would like to raise money directly by asking congregants if they would like to contribute to the effort. Approved.

Chuck raised concerns regarding wood skirting of yurt that has considerable dry rot and needs repair. This is a repair item to be added to list of things to potentially fix as a part of a larger Capital Fund Campaign.

Budget Report notes: UUA dues paid in full.

August's Meeting

No quorum; many Board members out of town.

Update from Chuck reveals flooring project under budget by 1500.00. Great news.

Has three new proposals.

Apply wainscoting over concrete walls in fellowship hall. No approval needed. Board agrees this is a great idea.

Three Pot Sink Installation. Can be done with volunteer work from congregation for a cost of approximately \$1000.00. Approved via email. Special vote.

Interest in trying to get solar panels installation approved and completed before end of year to take advantage of tax incentive that goes away at end of year. Will be hard to make it work in time. Board elects to bring to congregational vote. Unsure at this time if time will allow for vote and work to be completed. As it stands today, an informational meeting would held 9/24 and special vote 10/10. Unclear if work could be completed in the time left.

A grant application has been submitted on our behalf to fund the purchase of some musical instruments and lessons for the folk choir. Thank you, Sara Morin.

Cell Radio Installation: Agreement to install cell coverage radio on roof of parsonage signed and submitted. Parsonage location selected by installers for ease of access purposes. This radio will improve cell coverage for the Four Corners area and is a project brought to us by Matt Dunne. We are pleased to participate in such an effort.

The next Governing Board meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2017 at 7:00 PM at the Parsonage House. Our meetings are open for all to attend. You are always welcome.

Thank you to all,
Colleen Spence
FUSH Governing Board President

YOUTH 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.

Our Youth 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, and game nights. For 8th grade graduates and older youth, we also offer our amazing annual week-long mission trip to New Haven, CT in July.



Events for our Youth Groups begin this month! The times and places of upcoming events are listed in the sidebar.

If you've been involved with our youth groups or if you've got someone in your family 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 wider community who hasn't been a part of our congregation's programs before, or if you know someone who you think would like to be involved, let us know so we can keep you in the loop!

For further information about our youth groups and youth events, please contact Paul (uupaul@gmail.com) or Lucia (revlucia13@gmail.com). 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!

You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.

- Jane Goodall -

Sunday September 24

First Youth Group Meetings at the UCC church (on Station Road in Hartland Village)!

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!

Sunday October 1

After Church—*All Youth Trip to Six Flags New England*—\$40 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 15

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

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

Sunday October 22

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!*

Sunday October 29

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

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

Bring some goodies to help make care packages for our recent graduates!

Sunday November 12

5:00-6:00 pm—Junior Youth at the UCC Church

6:00-6:30 pm—*Mission Trip Introduction at the UCC Church—for all grade 8-12 Youth & Parents!*

6:30-8:00 pm—Senior Youth at the UCC Church

Sunday December 3

5:00-6:15 pm—Junior Youth at the UCC Church

6:30-8:00 pm—Senior Youth at the UCC Church

Sunday December 10

4:00-5:30 pm—UCC Carol Sing, Cocoa and Cookies—Open to all, not a Youth-specific event!

5:30 pm—Volunteer time with the Hartland Christmas Project—pizza and games to follow!

Sunday December 17

5:00-6:15 pm—Junior Youth at the UCC Church

6:30-8:00 pm—Senior Youth at the UCC Church

Holiday Parties with Yankee Swap!

And Save the Dates: This year's mission trip will take place July 22-29, 2018!

COFFEE HOURS HOSTS NEEDED

Regular Fall Coffee Hour will begin on Sunday, September 10th. Therefore, we are looking for volunteers to host each Coffee Hour between September and January. One person is sufficient, but you can always get a friend or partner to help you.

This job is not very complicated and involves the following.

- Bring snacks (something sweet and something not sweet) along with half and half for the coffee. Coffee and sugar are provided.
- Set-up the machines for regular coffee, decaf coffee, and hot water. Set out cups & mugs, teaspoons, sugar jars, and creamer pitchers.
- Clean-up. Generally you can depend on several people to help to do this.



Full instructions will be sent to you the week before your date and the coffee making instructions will also be posted in the Fellowship Hall on end of wall cabinet to the left of the Bunn coffee maker.

Taking a lead from our tech-guru, Sara Morin, I have set-up a Sign-up Genius form.

To sign up go to www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090C4AABAE2AA2F85-coffee.

This system allows you sign up right now as you read this request rather than remembering to do so the next time you are at the Church. It also allows you to change your date if needed and it will send you a reminder e-mail 3 days before your Sunday.

If you are not online or just prefer to sign-up in person, I will post an up-to-date print-out of the online form each week in the Fellowship Hall beginning September 10th. This form will be on the bulletin board near the exit door during the week and on the front table during Coffee Hour.

Coffee Hour is a relaxing hour following the weekly service for FUSH members, friends and guests to meet, greet, and communicate. Please help us make this special time live up to its potential.

Thanks, Sarah

NEW TABLES FOR OUR NEW FELLOWSHIP HALL

With new sheetrock, paint and a brand new floor, why bring back the old, heavy, ugly dining tables? Let's go for new, lighter, easier to clean banquet tables. We must order them in early Sept. to have them installed by Turkey Dinners. Please consider sponsoring a new table. Contact Joan Fariel (436-1770) or Dave Taylor 603 675-6566) to become a Table Patron. Thanks.



FELLOWSHIP HALL UPDATE

Remodeling of the Fellowship Hall is heading into the home stretch, with completion scheduled for the first week of September. Many hands have lightened the work with industrious volunteers donating many hours of their labor.

The Fellowship Hall has been showing its age for some time. The paint surfaces were dull and dusty. The old flooring was cracking and coming up in many places. Since it was originally comprised of a mixture of vinyl and asbestos fibers, it also represented a potential health danger. After consulting with the Vermont Health Dept, it was determined that we, as the owners of the building, could remove the tiles following recommended procedures, thus avoiding a very costly professional process. So on a Sunday after church in July, our team was able to remove all the old tiles and bag them up in special, heavy duty bags. They will eventually be taken to a toxic waste facility for disposal.

However, removal of the tiles was only the beginning of our odyssey, And just like Odysseus we were in for a long trip with many obstacles. We shortly discovered black mold on wall board in several areas. John Hickory undertook to remove all the damaged materials and replace with new, fire and mold resistant material. In the main hall we also discovered lead paint and residue in the wooden columns holding up the floor. The paint was chipping off, leading to a dangerous situation especially for children. The decision was made to remove the columns and replace them with new, modern much thinner ones. Jim Dow and I jacked up the upper floor just enough to remove the old columns and slip in the new ones. For those who miss the old ones they can be visited in the Ladies Aid Hall.

Under the old flooring was a sticky mess of adhesive made out of the same asphalt from which roads are paved. Ever tried to remove a paved road? We were not able to heat it to remove it as this would also have removed the entire building, so various solvents were deployed. This process took the better part of the month of July and was successfully completed in August. Along the way we discovered that the old concrete floor was not as flat and level as the new flooring demanded so some jack hammering and chiseling was required to flatten it out, followed by laying of floor leveling concrete.

While all this was going on, many volunteers washed and repainted the ceiling (Wow was it dirty!) and all the walls. Light fixtures were cleaned. All the many pin holes and punctures in the walls were repaired. Anyone caught putting pins, nails or scotch tape on the new walls will risk excommunication!

Work still underway at this writing include installation of wainscoting to cover the old concrete sections, replacement of the cabinets and laying of the new floor surface.

Many thanks to all volunteers including John Hickory, Dave Taylor, Joan Fariel, Jim Dow, Mark Koch, Jill Crowley, Nancy Walker, Rhoda Moore, Todd Lloyd, Doug Hart, Don Munro, Jaxon Morgan, Dan Poor and Michael Theroux.

—Chuck Fenton



OFFERING RECIPIENTS

September 2017

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

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

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

SEPTEMBER 3—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



SEPTEMBER 10—THE NNED CHALICE LIGHTER PROGRAM

The Chalice Lighter Program of the Northern New England District of the Unitarian Universalist Association is an opportunity for Unitarian Universalist congregations and individuals to support important projects in neighbor congregations located in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Using the funds raised, the district makes modest grants in response to applications from congregations, with priority given to projects that expand ministries or that focus on critical facility renovations needed to increase accessibility and sustainability. In addition to this collection, information will also be available to help you become a Chalice Lighter as an individual or family. You can speak with Paul for more information.

SEPTEMBER 17—TBA

The collection this week will support an organization nominated by our lay service leaders.

SEPTEMBER 24—COVER HOME REPAIR

COVER Home Repair, located in White River Junction, Vermont, works to ensure warm, safe, dry housing for people in need in the Upper Valley. COVER works together with homeowners, and volunteers to provide urgently needed home repairs, and they also offer a weatherization program empowering homeowners and volunteers with knowledge and supplies to button up homes and reduce fuel/energy usage. They also operate the ReCOVER store, which resells used but useful building products at low rates. More than simply providing services, the mission of COVER is to build community and foster hope through cooperation and fellowship among all home repair and reuse participants. More information is available at: www.coverhomerepair.org



The attentive among you will remember that we supported COVER with a collection this summer as well. We are adding this additional opportunity in gratitude for a special project COVER is carrying out in Hartland September 19-23.

FOLK CHOIR

We will rehearse in the Yurt at 9 a.m. on Sunday, September 10th and sing that day in church. The song will be *We Are Gonna Be Friends* by The White Stripes and famously covered by Jack Johnson for the *Curious George* movie.

Please contact Dave Morin (sporin@gmail.com) or Heather Findlay (hfindlay@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN AND PERFORM REGARDLESS OF EXPERIENCE LEVEL!

YOUTH MISSION TRIP

We had an **AMAZING** Mission Trip this year! We enjoyed a full week of hard work, comradery, shared meals, reflections, and games in New Haven, CT. Once again, we were so proud to do good work for Habitat for Humanity, New Reach, and Christian Community Action. Thank you to our wonderful sponsors and families for making this trip possible.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The crisp Autumn air is setting in already and the cycle of the seasons continues here in our cozy Four Corners of Hartland, VT. Our Religious Education (RE) year officially starts on Sunday, September 17th. Our RE program is comprised of two parts: Nursery (toddler through pre-K) and Yurt (K-5.) If your child is currently enrolled or would like to be enrolled in our program, we ask that you please fill out a new registration form. Forms are available in the Nursery or Yurt.

To celebrate the beginning of our RE year, we have started a tradition of gathering together for a Firelight Storytelling and Camp-In for our K-5 children. This year we have scheduled for Saturday, September 23rd at 7:15 PM. Join us in celebration of the new Religious Education year!

Here are details about the event:

At 7:15 PM, we will 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.

At 9 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. Service begins at 10 AM the next morning. 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 children for the camp-in by Wednesday the 20th of September by email or phone.

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

OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM IN SEPTEMBER:

- Sunday, September 3rd** Blessing of the Animals (In Service)
- Sunday, September 10th** Water Ingathering (In Service)
- Sunday, September 17th** RE New Year (& Rosh Hashanah)
- Saturday, September 23rd** Firelight Storytelling and Camp-In (7:15 PM)
- Sunday, September 24th** Be Peace (Johnny Appleseed Harvest Meditation)

The Autumn RE program schedule will be posted during coffee hour on Sunday, September 10th for all to view. Members of our congregation are invited and encouraged to sign up to volunteer in activities through December. Thank you to all who help make our RE program an enriched experience!





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!**



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

when **we** hear
Our VOICES
in **eaCH** **oTher'S** **wORds**

then **our**
HEART
is in a **HOLY PLACE.**



—Joyce Poley

UUA.ORG/WORSHIP



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 OCTOBER NEWSLETTER CONTENT: OCT. 18

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

JULY-AUGUST 2017 CALENDAR

| | | |
|-----|----------|---|
| FRI | Sept. 1 | Food Shelf |
| SUN | Sept. 3 | 10am—Worship & Children’s RE—Paul Sawyer, Blessing of the Animals After Service—Fellowship Hall and Kitchen Clean-up and Re-stocking! |
| FRI | Sept. 8 | Food Shelf |
| SUN | Sept. 10 | 9am—Folk Choir Practice in the Yurt, performance in service 10am—Annual All-Church Water Ingathering Service After Service—Second Sunday SoUUp Sale |
| MON | Sept. 11 | 7pm—Governing Board Meeting in the Parsonage |
| FRI | Sept. 15 | Food Shelf |
| SUN | Sept. 17 | 10am—Worship & Children’s RE—Gary Shapiro |
| FRI | Sept. 22 | Food Shelf |
| SAT | Sept. 23 | Firelight Storytelling and Camp-In 7:15pm |
| SUN | Sept. 24 | 10am—Worship Service, <i>Reimagining the Common Good</i> RE Be Peace, Johnny Appleseed Harvest Meditation After Service—Information Session—Possible Solar Energy Project 5:00-6:15 pm—Junior Youth Group at The UCC Church 6:30-8:00 pm—Senior Youth Group at The UCC Church |
| FRI | Sept. 29 | Food Shelf |
| SAT | Sept. 30 | Evening—WhUUpie Pie Booth at the Windsor Autumn Moon Festival! |
| SUN | Oct. 1 | 10am—Worship & Children’s RE—Paul Sawyer After Service—Youth Trip to Six Flags New England |

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.