

DECEMBER 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

DEC 3—"HOPE BEGINS IN THE DARK"

This quote from Anne Lamotte seems a fitting message for the first Sunday in Advent, when our worship service will offer some simple reflections on this dark season of the year, and an introduction to our December worship theme, Hope. The collection will benefit Windsor County Partners

DEC 10—LIVING HOPE WHEN HOPE IS HARD TO FIND

We are living in an age where those among us who are working for liberation, acceptance, equality, and justice can feel like it's hard to find many signs of progress or hope. For some, the joyful spirit of the holiday season is a welcome boost, for others, well, "joyful" may be far from what you're experiencing right now. For these times, and this season, some reflections on what it means to hope right now, no matter what, and a chance to build our hope together. Gifts for the Hartland Christmas Project will be collected in this service. The collection will benefit The Junction Teen Skills Center.

DEC 17—ANNUAL MULTIGENERATIONAL IMPROMPTU HOLIDAY PAGEANT!

In the spirit of the season, we'll warm our hearts by singing and sharing in acting out a lovely holiday story for all ages. The collection will benefit the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

THURS, DEC 21 7:00 PM—WELCOME YULE! CELEBRATION OF THE SOLSTICE

Our annual celebration of Yule and the Earth-Centered New Year! A brief service followed by a bonfire and fellowship. Come help us welcome back the sun! You're invited to bring a dozen holiday cookies to share!

DEC 24—THE HOPES AND FEARS OF ALL THE YEARS

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, a service for the Christmas Spirit, whatever your faith, and reflections inspired by the old carol, "O Little Town of Bethlehem." The collection will benefit the Minister's Discretionary Fund, used to support people in need.

DEC 24 7:00 PM & 9:00 PM—CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

Join us for our annual spirited celebrations of Christmas Eve! We hold two traditional evening services of Lessons, Carols, Candles, and Joy—one at 7:00 and another at 9:00.

DEC 31—6:45 AM—INTERNATIONAL HOUR FOR PEACE

Join in this special gathering, celebrating a world-wide time for meditation, prayer, poetry, and music, all in the cause of working to build a lasting and real spirit of peace in the world. This event takes place annually, all over the globe on New Year's Eve Day at noon-time Greenwich Mean Time (thus the very early hour here). Our gathering begins with a time of meditation in the sanctuary, followed by a sharing of poetry, music, and inspiration, with an excellent pot-luck breakfast in the Fellowship Hall at the end. Michael Denmeade is organizing and leading this event.

DEC 31—NO REGULAR WORSHIP OR RE!

We take one Sunday off from worship each year, the Sunday after Christmas. Come along early for the International Hour of Peace, then take this opportunity to worship and celebrate the season in your own way at home!

JANUARY 7—JUST MERCY—SUE BUCKHOLZ

Our long-time church member, Sue Buckholz will offer some reflections on justice in our time, with inspiration from Bryan Stephenson's book, Just Mercy and from her work in the legal system and Vermont Legislature. The collection will benefit The Equal Justice Initiative.

LOVE IS THE DOCTRINE OF THIS CHURCH

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

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As we get ready for the usual "interesting" weather of winter in our region, here's a reminder that, in general, we do not cancel services because of storms.

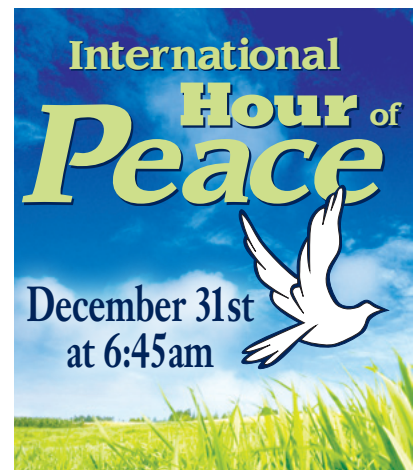
It's not that we never would, if significantly extenuating circumstances made that the best choice. But since several of our members, including our minister, live very close by the church, unless something is wrong with our church building or grounds, we will likely hold services whenever they are planned.

Also, in the case of weather that keeps guest speakers, or Patty and other musicians away, we may alter the program as needed.

However, if you have any concern about the weather and your travel, **PLEASE STAY HOME!** *We don't believe in salvation by attendance,* and in the good free church tradition of Unitarian Universalism, we leave the decision of whether you should come in the snow up to you. We love to see you in church, but not at the expense of safety.

INTERNATIONAL HOUR OF PEACE

Please join us for the International Hour of Peace on Sunday, December 31st at 6:45 a.m. Bring a song, a poem or some inspirational words from your heart that supports Peace. Following will be a potluck breakfast downstairs. If you have questions or would like to let us know more formally that you would like to share something as stated above, contact Michael Denmeade at truewarrior63@gmail.com or Bineke Oort at binekeoort@gmail.com.



ADULT CHOIR

The Adult Choir will rehearse at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 17th and Sunday, Dec. 24th, to sing in the (morning) service on the 24th. Please note that this is a week later than our usual schedule.

OFFERING RECIPIENTS

December 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.

DECEMBER 3—WINDSOR COUNTY PARTNERS

Since 1974, Windsor County Partners has been connecting young people in need of support with one-on-one mentors and programs that help them embrace positive life choices, and build healthy, trusting relationships. In addition to financial contributions, WCP is always in need of adults willing to volunteer as mentors in our region. For more information, contact Bineke Oort, who has served as a mentor for WCP, or check them out at www.windsorcountypartners.org.



DECEMBER 10—THE JUNCTION TEEN LIFE SKILLS CENTER.

In operation since 2006, The Junction is a program of LISTEN Community Services that offers a safe and substance-free space for Upper Valley youth ages 15-20. More than 50 youth currently participate in programs at The Junction, where thoughtful professional staff offer learning experiences, quality role-modeling, and support in a fun and encouraging environment. You can learn more through their tumblr page: <http://junctionteencenter.tumblr.com/about> or their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/thejunctionyouthcenter



DECEMBER 17—THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SERVICE COMMITTEE

Growing out of the merger of the Unitarian Service Committee and the Universalist Service Committee, the UUSC is an independent organization (not a branch of the Unitarian Universalist Association) that works to advance human rights and justice around the world by partnering strategically with local groups working to do justice work in areas of need. Both original Service Committees were formed in the 1930s and 40s in response to the growth of Fascism in Europe in the wake of World War I, and in those years members of both groups worked bravely to bring people to safety in the face of Nazi oppression. In more recent years, the UUSC has worked hard to identify and support organizations based in troubled areas that are effective at making a change in those areas. For more information you can speak with Paul Sawyer, or check out their very good website at uusc.org.

DECEMBER 24—THE MINISTER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

The Minister's Discretionary Fund is used by our minister to support those in need in our congregation and wider community. It is funded entirely by donations from members and friends of our congregation and allows Paul to offer small, targeted, meaningful help in times of need. For more information, please speak with Paul Sawyer.

DECEMBER 31—NO REGULAR SERVICE

JANUARY 7—THE EQUAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE

Founded by noted human rights lawyer Bryan Stephenson, The Equal Justice Initiative works to end mass incarceration and excessive punishment in the United States, to challenge racial and economic injustice, and to protect basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society. Bryan Stephenson was the Ware Lecturer at the 2017 UUA General Assembly, a position offered to an inspirational and important voice from outside our faith movement. This organization was nominated for our support by our worship leader for this Sunday, Sue Buckholz. You can learn more at <https://eji.org>



FALL CLEANUP



HARTLAND CHURCHES YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE 2017-2018

All events are on Sundays unless otherwise noted

- DEC 3:** Youth Group Meetings at the UCC Church– Jr. 5-6:15 pm, Sr. 6:30-8 pm
- DEC 10:** 4:00 pm–Carol Sing and Cookies at the UCC Church–*Not just a youth event– open to all!*
- DEC 10:** 5:30 pm–Youth Group Hartland Christmas Project Volunteer work, at the UCC Church, pizza & games to follow!
- DEC 17:** Youth Group Meetings at the UCC Church– Jr. 5-6:15 pm, Sr. 6:30-8 pm.
Holiday parties with Yankee Swap!
- JAN 7:** Youth Group Meetings at the UU Church– Jr. 5-6:15 pm, Sr. 6:30-8 pm
- JAN 21:** Youth Group Meetings at the UU Church– Jr. 5-6:15 pm, Sr. 6:30-8 pm
- JAN 28:** 9:00 am–1:00 pm–Mission Trip Fundraiser Brunch at the UCC Church.
- FEB 4:** Youth Group Meetings at the UU Church– Jr. 5-6:15 pm, Sr. 6:30-8 pm
- FEB 16:** *Friday–7-9 pm–Junior High Game Night at the UCC Church!*
- FEB 25:** Youth Group Meetings at the UU Church– Jr. 5-6:15 pm, Sr. 6:30-8 pm
- MAR 4:** 9:00 am–1:00 pm–Mission Trip Fundraiser Brunch at the UU Church.
- MAR 11:** Youth Group Meetings at the UCC Church– Jr. 5-6:15 pm, Sr. 6:30-8 pm
- MAR 25:** Youth Group Meetings at the UCC Church– Jr. 5-6:15 pm, Sr. 6:30-8 pm
- APR 8:** Youth Group Meetings at the UCC Church– Jr. 5-6:15 pm, Sr. 6:30-8 pm
Mission Trip commitment and \$100 due to Lucia! Mission Trip paperwork will be available.
- APR 29:** Youth Group Meetings at the UCC Church– Jr. 5-6:15 pm, Sr. 6:30-8 pm
- MAY 6:** Youth Group Meetings at the UU Church– Jr. 5-6:15 pm, Sr. 6:30-8 pm
- MAY 20:** 5-6:00 pm–Last Junior Youth at the UU Church
- MAY 20:** 6:00 pm–at the UU Church–Mission Trip Logistics Meeting–***All Paperwork Due!***
- MAY 20:** 6:30–8:00 pm–Last Senior Youth at the UU Church

MISSION TRIP 2018 JULY 22-29!



SOUUPER SUNDAY

The second Sunday of each month, the menu is SOUUP! The varieties are endless -- hearty, international, vegetarian, gluten-free, meat-based, some you've never tried and all DELICIOUS! They are inspired and home-made by our church family. Bring some! Buy some! Last month, Souper Sunday raised \$165 in support of our church!



IT'S NEVER TOO LATE NEVER TOO LITTLE NEVER TOO MUCH!

It takes all of us together to support our beloved First Universalist Society of Hartland each year. Our pledges and fundraising are the only source of funding that pays for the salaries of our minister, church administrator, music director, religious education director and sexton, as well as utilities, insurance, maintenance and repair, supplies, accounting and professional expenses. No pledge is too large or too small!

Please join us in making your 2018 pledge this month so that we can vote on an accurate budget in January.

If you have not received your 2018 Invitation to Pledge, please contact one of us. Thank you from the 2018 Pledge Committee,

Dianne Rochford
603.863.1173
kilrush@myfairpoint.net

Mindi Laine
603.729.6252
mindilaine@gmail.com

Pat Whitney
603.763.5054
patwhitney00@gmail.com



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.



FOLK CHOIR

We will rehearse in the Yurt at 9:15am on Sunday, December 3rd and December 10th. We will sing in Church on the 10th. The song we will be performing is Bing Crosby's "Mele Kalikimaka" a Hawaiian Ukulele Christmas song. Please contact Dave Morin (sporin@gmail.com) or Heather Findlay (hfindlay@ymail.com) if you have any questions.

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



PLANNING FOR OUR DECEMBER HOLIDAY SERVICES 2017

There are many opportunities to take part in our December worship services—during both our regular and special services. In addition to our regular Sundays, we'll also have a special Earth-centered Winter Solstice celebration the evening of December 21, and two candlelight services of Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve, one at 7:00 and one at 9:00 pm.

So please contact Paul *now* if you would like to:

- serve as a scripture reader on Christmas Eve
- join with your family to light the Advent wreath or the Hanukkah menorah on a Sunday morning
- help with ushering on Christmas Eve
- offer special music or artwork for any of our services
- or to help out in some other way!

THE RED APRONS

Red Aprons is the hospitality service of our Church. It provides support service for all kinds of gatherings. Our services include:

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

Now in its fourth year, Red Aprons is a big fund raiser for the Church and a fun way to be together while promoting FUSH to the wider Upper Valley community.

If you know of someone planning a dinner party, reception or birthday please visit the web page at www.hartlanduu.com/redaprons or call (802) 738-0255.

This is a great way to meet new people and serve our congregation. Please consider participating in this work. For info 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!



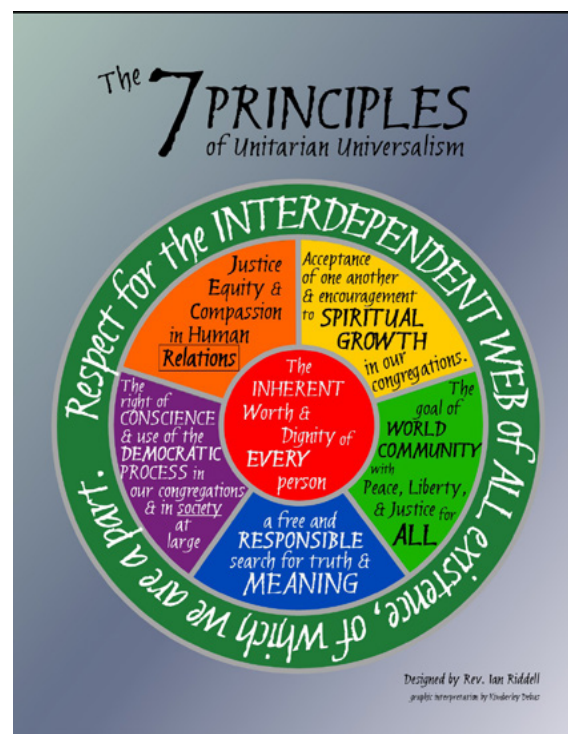
Be a guest at your own party





by, Rev. R. Y. Roberts

Images from UUA.org



WE ARE:

ALL CONNECTED

STRONGER TOGETHER

LOVE'S HANDS IN THE WORLD

CALLED TO CREATE JUSTICE

RESPONSIBLE FOR ONE
ANOTHER AND THE EARTH

NOVEMBER GOVERNING BOARD NOTES

I really want to thank everyone for joining us for a special meeting held at the end of September. We voted to approve the installation of solar cells funded by an investment group made up of members and friends of the church with the stipulation that the group and Governing Board negotiate and agree upon terms decided between the two. We entered into the negotiation of terms almost immediately following the vote. As a part of this process, the investment group realized there was more they needed to discuss and accomplish than they had initially realized and that time to install by end of year would not be possible. The project has been put on hold. My hope is that the conversation will resume after the New Year and that we may be able to complete the installation in conjunction with additional projects as a part of a capital campaign. This was not a wasted effort. The approval stands and can be taken up at any time the investment group is ready to renew negotiations.

Our November Governing Board meeting focused primarily on two topics. First, our coming Annual Meeting, to be held January 8, 2018. We reviewed a draft budget put together by Dan Poor and are continuing to discuss the budget through email communications. The budget proposal and agenda will be approved at our next meeting and the warning will be posted no later than Dec 18. January 8 comes as early in the year as a second Sunday can. We plan to propose a change to the bi-laws that will allow the Governing Board more schedule flexibility in the future. January 8 rushes the budget-making process. We want time to get as many pledges in as possible so that we are presenting a budget proposal based more on pledges than assumptions.

As much a surprise to me as anyone, my board term is coming to an end. We will be nominating someone to fill my position as well as Leah Gartner's. Nominees will be included in the up-coming warning. The Board of Trustees is also replacing two members. These nominees will be included as well.

Second, we talked a great deal about building maintenance. This is a subject that has been a constant for the Board for as long as I have been a member. Emergency work and basic maintenance are critical to the health of the building but getting a group of volunteers to take on the responsibilities of making plans for and assuring the work happens has not come easy. The board will likely discuss and consider adding a cleaning service line to the budget for this coming year. Figuring out how to fill the maintenance gap is something we will continue to discuss. Our Sexton position covers some of the basics but we need a team that can review, recommend and secure a contractor for building upkeep like elevator repairs or boiler inspections or fire extinguisher checks, etc. If you have ideas or would like to join our building maintenance committee, please speak up. We are grateful for any input.

The only votes of the night were to approve last month's meeting notes and to grant permission to Dan Poor to obtain a bank card for the treasurer. The card will allow the treasurer to cover costs as needed without requiring them to front the money and repay themselves. This is prudent and more secure for the church and the treasurer.

The meeting ended late and for the first time I can remember we left items on the agenda to be carried over to the next month.

I hope this holiday season finds you all embraced in love and light.

Blessed be.

Colleen Spence
Governing Board President



A NEW FUSH WALL CALENDAR IS HERE!



This fundraising effort will help you remember important 2018 church dates with room for your own information. Filled with photos of our community, this calendar is a great, useful tool for your home or office, and makes a great gift. Calendars are \$15 each. See Sara Morin to purchase or see a sample.



SAMHAIN AND ALL SOULS





DEADLINE FOR JANUARY NEWSLETTER CONTENT: DEC. 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.

DECEMBER 2017 CALENDAR

FRI	DEC 1	Food Shelf
	DEC 1-10	Christmas Project Rummage Donations Accepted at the UCC Church
SUN	DEC 3	9:15 am—Folk Choir Rehearsal in the Yurt 10:00 am—Worship & Children's RE—Paul Sawyer 5:00-6:30 pm—Junior Youth Group at The UCC Church 6:30-8:00 pm—Senior Youth Group at The UCC Church
FRI	DEC 8	Food Shelf
SUN	DEC 10	Before Service—Christmas Project Gifts Due 9:15 am—Folk Choir Rehearsal in the Yurt, performing in the Service 10:00 am—Worship & Children's RE—Paul Sawyer After Service—Second Sunday SoUUp Sale! 4:00 pm—Carol Sing and Cookies at the UCC Church 5:30ish pm—Youth Christmas Project Work, food & games at the UCC Church
MON	DEC 11	8:00 am—Christmas Project Rummage Sorting at the UCC Church 7:00 pm—Governing Board Meeting in the Parsonage
FRI	DEC 15	Food Shelf 8:00 am—Christmas Project Free Rummage "Sale" at the UCC Church
SUN	DEC 17	9:00 am—Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am—Worship & Children's RE—Inclusive Impromptu Holiday Pageant! 5:00-6:30 pm—Junior Youth at The UCC Church 6:30-8:00 pm—Senior Youth at The UCC Church <i>Holiday Celebration and Yankee Swap!</i>
FRI	DEC 21	Food Shelf 7:00 pm—Winter Solstice Celebration and Bonfire
SUN	DEC 24	9:00 am—Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am—Worship & Children's RE—Paul Sawyer 4:30 pm—Paul leading the Christmas Eve Service in Barnard 7:00 pm—Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 9:00 pm—Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
FRI	DEC 29	Food Shelf
SUN	DEC 31	6:45 am—International Hour of Peace 10:00 am—No Regular Worship Service—Happy New Year!

