

# The Communicator

the monthly newsletter of the

UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HAVERHILL

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**UUCH: a faith community transforming lives and the world**

## What's Happening This Summer, July + August, 2015

**The next *Communicator* Deadline is August 15 by 9 am.** Submissions from committees, groups or individuals are welcome (350 word limit—less if you include a graphic). Articles should be of some spiritual or intellectual depth, and should be sent as Word attachments, with no formatting of any kind, please.

**Permanent Funds Committee** will meet Tuesday, July 21 at 7 pm. All are welcome to attend.

**Caring Ministries** will meet fourth Wednesdays (July 22 and August 26 at 7 pm. All are welcome.

**The August Board of Trustees meeting** will be on Wednesday, August 26 at 7 pm. There is no meeting in July. Board meetings are always open, but if there is an item for discussion, it must be submitted to Board Chair Maggie Reeve a week in advance so it can be placed on the agenda.

**Meditation continues through the summer** on Monday evenings at 7 pm, except on three-day weekends. All are welcome.

**Community Garden help** is always welcome; we grow vegetables to supply the local food pantries. Weeding and watering help is always needed. Contact the Green Sanctuary Committee for more information (Tad Hitchcock and Valerie Walton).

**Summer office hours:** During July and August, usually Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 am to 1 pm, and other times by appointment. It is always best to call first if you need access to the building. The office will be closed July 31 – August 10 for vacation.



## **This Summer's Worship Schedule - Sundays at 10:30 AM**

Our worship continues at the regular time (10:30 am) all summer. We hope you'll want to be here as you're able. Happy summer!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Leader</u>
June 28	Rev. Frank Clarkson
July 5	Bill Taylor
July 12	Nan Rusk
July 19	Rev. Frank Clarkson
July 26	Josh Goulet
August 2	Zan Spaihts-Mohns
August 9	Rev. Frank Clarkson
August 16	Jessica Woodard
August 23	TBA
August 30	Rev. Frank Clarkson
September 6	TBA

# Things Seen and Unseen

by Rev. Frank Clarkson

We just said farewell to Julie Lombard, who served as our intern for the last two years. I'm so grateful to Julie for all the hard work and care she brought to her work here. We will certainly miss Julie, and she will miss us. At the same time, we need to let her go so she can focus on what comes next. When I left the North Andover church to come here, the senior minister there told the congregation, "We need to let Frank go, because the people in Haverhill will need to know that he is their minister now."

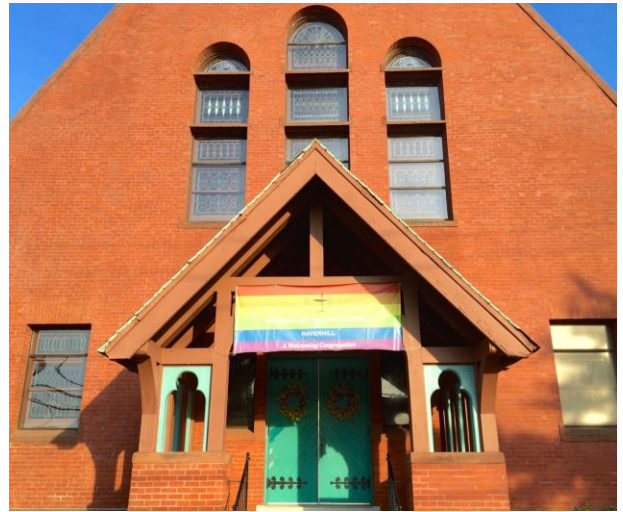
I've heard it said that two of the most important things children need to learn are how to say hello and how to say goodbye. Many of us struggle with endings, because they are hard. We would rather say, "See you later," than "Goodbye." But telling the truth that something has ended can offer a profound opportunity to appreciate it. One writer and fisherman, thinking about these things, put it this way: "In the end it's all catch and release." The invitation is to hold on while we can, and let go when we have to.

Wendell Berry wrote a lovely poem about this, called "The Wider Circle":

We clasp the hands of those that go before us,  
And the hands of those who come after us.  
We enter the little circle of each other's arms  
And the larger circle of lovers,  
Whose hands are joined in a dance  
And the larger circle of all creatures  
Passing in and out of life  
Who move also in a dance  
To a music so subtle and vast that no ear hears it  
Except in fragments.



In a dance, people are moving in and out, holding on, then letting go. As in life. I'm grateful for the many connections we share here. And I hope to see you around church this summer. Blessings and thanks for being part of this community, and for what you bring to the dance!



## Let There Be Light!

By Rev. Frank Clarkson

Have you seen the transformation that's happened to the face of our church building? Thanks to everyone who contributed to our Christmas offering, and to several generous donors, and to the Ladies Circle, we raised over \$5000 to replace the badly weathered coverings on our stained glass windows. Thanks to Roy Wright, who shepherded this project, we found a contractor who was able to do the work for a very fair price. And thanks to the Building and Grounds Committee, chaired by Doug Rosene, which is doing a great job of taking care of our beautiful old building.

As you can see in the photo, the difference between the old coverings (in the picture above, the one on the right) and the new ones is striking. You can see the details in our beautiful windows again, and our church doesn't look like it's closed up or poorly cared for any longer. We plan to illuminate the windows from the inside, so that people can enjoy them at night. For now, let's celebrate how beautiful the front of our building looks!





## From Caring Ministries

by Stacey Sherman

"Loving, Caring, Sharing.....this is family."

Caring ministries has continued to reach out to our members in need. In addition to hospital and house visits, the committee members, and the members of the wider community, have provided rides to medical appointments, personal interest events, shopping and errands for those in need. Many birthday, graduation, get well and thinking of you cards have been sent, as well.

With the summer heat fast approaching, members may need help with installing air conditioners. If you need help please drop a note in the Caring Ministries mailbox or speak with a committee member. If you are able to help with this project please let a committee member know.

You may have noticed the Emergency Contact Form at the church recently. Please take time to fill out this important information. The form will be used to contact the emergency contact person(s) you've listed in the event there is a need. Please return the form to the Caring Ministries mailbox. There are additional forms located in the Murray Room.

New Meeting time: for June, July and August: Caring Ministries will meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM. All are welcome!

## Community Meals

by Abbe Wertz and Kristie Colton

We need a little bit of your time this summer to help Community Meals keep going! Please sign up for a Saturday with family or friends and help us with this valuable community service. We've been serving about 50 people lately, so the need is real. Summer dates are 7/4, 7/18, 8/1, 8/15, and 9/5. Sign up in the Murray Room or contact Abbe ([abbewertz@yahoo.com](mailto:abbewertz@yahoo.com)) or Kristie ([kenezagals@mac.com](mailto:kenezagals@mac.com)) to see how you can help.



Religious Education Sunday 2015



Coming of Age 2015



Our "Butlers" at the Rose Tea 2015



Fred MacArthur at the Organ 2015



# The Church in Summer

by Rev. Frank Clarkson

Ralph Waldo Emerson began his “Divinity School Address” with these words: “In this refulgent summer, it has been a luxury to draw the breath of life. The grass grows, the buds burst, the meadow is spotted with fire and gold in the tint of flowers. The air is full of birds, and sweet with the breath of the pine, the balm-of-Gilead, and the new hay. Night brings no gloom to the heart with its welcome shade. Through the transparent darkness the stars pour their almost spiritual rays. Man under them seems a young child, and his huge globe a toy. The cool night bathes the world as with a river, and prepares his eyes again for the crimson dawn. The mystery of nature was never displayed more happily.”

I had to look up the word “refulgent,” which means “radiant” or “shining brightly.” For many of us, summer brings a much-needed time to slow down and breathe in the fullness of life that Emerson so beautifully describes. And don’t we need it? After such a cold and snowy winter, I know it will do my soul good to breathe in the warm air and listen to the birds sing, to watch the grass grow and tend our small garden. Will you take the time this summer to do what feeds your soul? I hope so. These warmer months are fleeting in New England, so I hope you will be able to enjoy them while they’re here.

In July and August, our church life slows down a bit. Some committees take a break, as does our Religious Education program, which gives hardworking volunteers a well-deserved rest. Our staff work reduced hours, and I take some vacation time. But the church doesn’t close. We have worship every Sunday at the regular time, 10:30 am, and I hope you’ll come when you’re able. An hour for reflection and connection on Sunday morning can be a wonderful way to slow down and cherish these summer days.

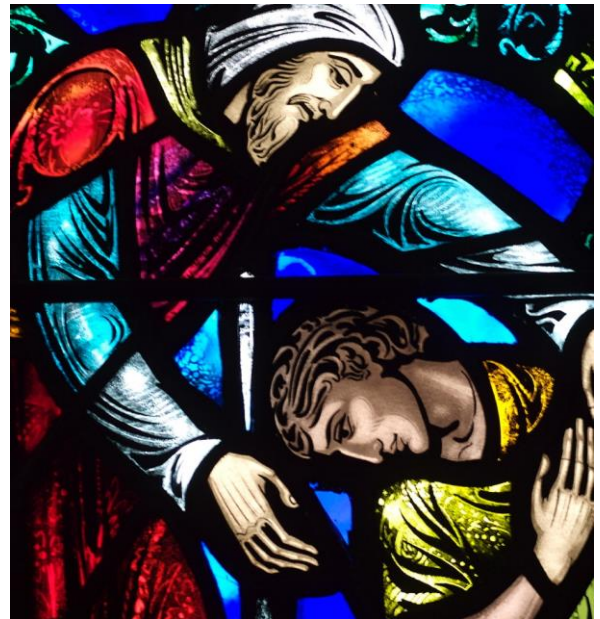
I’ll be preaching every third Sunday this summer, and will likely be here some other Sundays too. When I’m away on vacation, one of my UU colleagues in the Merrimack Valley will be covering for me in the event of an emergency. You’ll be able to find that information on my church voicemail: 978-372-5173 x2. Here’s my summer vacation schedule:

July 5-12, at the Rosene’s cottage on Vinalhaven, Maine (church auction item!)

July 26-August 6, solo fishing trip to Montana and Wyoming

August 10-14, camping trip with Tracey to Umbagog Lake, NH

Otherwise I will be in the vicinity, sometimes around church and sometimes working from home, including some reading and planning for the coming church year. I hope that this will be a wonderful summer for you, offering many radiant and shining moments. I hope it will be a time of connection with those you love, and with this good earth, and with, in Whittier’s words, “the Spirit overseeing all.” Blessings, friends, in this refulgent summer.



Prodigal Son Window by Charles Connick, 1947

## Charles J. Connick

by Lisa Compton

In addition to our beautiful Tiffany tryptic Jesus window, we are fortunate to have six windows designed by Charles Connick (1875-1945). Connick was a formidable painter, muralist and designer, best known for his work in stained glass in the Gothic Revival style (the same style as our building). Connick studied the great Gothic cathedrals in Europe, and designed his windows with the same ancient technique of using clear glass. Connick did not care for the opalescent glass favored by Tiffany!

## What Happens Every Month

(There are some changes in July and August; for the most recent information, check the church calendar at [uuhaverhill.org/events/calendar](http://uuhaverhill.org/events/calendar).)

This is a list of recurring gatherings in our community. To make changes or add an event, or if you have a question, contact Lisa Compton at [office@uuhaverhill.org](mailto:office@uuhaverhill.org).

**Brown Bag Lunch every Thursday at Noon.**  
Come join us in the Ladies Parlor for an hour of conversation and fellowship. No reservations needed!

**Ladies Circle** meets second Saturdays at 1 pm (except in May). All women of the church are invited to join this group that serves the church and knows how to have fun!

**MoonPool Coven** gathers on first and third Sundays at 6 pm. Led by Rick Baillargeon and Marylou Johnson, teaching about and experience of pagan spirituality is offered.

**Social Justice Committee** meets third Sundays following coffee hour.

**Finance Committee** meets first Wednesdays at 7 pm.

**INC (Interfaith Network of Compassion)** meets at UUCH on third Thursdays at 12 pm to network about issues surrounding hunger ministries in Haverhill. Representatives from many area food pantries and other agencies attend.

**Hunger Roundtable** meets second Tuesdays at 10 am.

**Mindful Meditation Practice** is Mondays (except Monday holidays) at 7 pm, led by Betsy Robertson.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** meets in our downstairs hall at 7 pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.

**Communicator (monthly newsletter) deadline** is always the 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month. There is no issue in August.

**Board of Trustees** meets second Wednesdays at 7 pm. Meetings are always open to visitors; if there is an item that needs discussion, it must be placed on the agenda in advance.

**Merrimack Valley String Orchestra** meets every Thursday at 5:45 pm while school is in session for rehearsal in the Murray Room. Two public concerts take place here every year. The orchestra is open to all string players. Contact Joy Schuetze at [Joy.Strings@verizon.net](mailto:Joy.Strings@verizon.net)

### **Community Meals**

First and third Saturdays, volunteers shop for, cook, serve and clean up after this free meal for the entire community. This rewarding outreach program serves 50-75 folks each week. We encourage family groups or other committees to work together to produce a meal! Contact: Kristie Colton ([kenozagals@mac.com](mailto:kenozagals@mac.com)) or Abbe Wertz ([abbewertz@yahoo.com](mailto:abbewertz@yahoo.com))

**Green Sanctuary Committee** meets second Sundays at Noon.

**New Moon Coffeehouse** is on third Saturdays at 8 pm (except December).

**Caring Ministry** meets fourth Sundays at 11:30 am.

**Buildings & Grounds** meets fourth Wednesdays at 7 pm.

**Various other committees meet** periodically throughout the year. Watch e-News, Sunday announcements and the website calendar for meeting times for: Ministry, Music, Parish Council, Parish Nurses, Permanent Funds, Religious Education, Stewardship, Welcoming Congregation and Worship Committees.

## Church Leaders and Staff Contact Information

Board of Trustees Chair: Maggie Reeve: [maggie.reeve@hotmail.com](mailto:maggie.reeve@hotmail.com)  
Board of Trustees Vice Chair: Cori Thurlow: [cori.thurlow@gmail.com](mailto:cori.thurlow@gmail.com)  
Rev. Frank Clarkson: [frank@uuhaverhill.org](mailto:frank@uuhaverhill.org)  
Director of Religious Education: Sally Liebermann: [dre@uuhaverhill.org](mailto:dre@uuhaverhill.org)  
Office Administrator: Lisa Compton: [office@uuhaverhill.org](mailto:office@uuhaverhill.org)

Or call us on the telephone: 978-372-5173

Website: [www.uuhaverhill.org](http://www.uuhaverhill.org)

**To view the church calendar, please visit**

**[www.uuhaverhill.org/events/calendar](http://www.uuhaverhill.org/events/calendar)**

Facebook folks: please visit our new church Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/uuhaverhill](http://www.facebook.com/uuhaverhill), and “like” us so church news and pictures show up in your news feed!

And if you’re on Instagram, follow us there so you see photos of our congregational life:

<http://instagram.com/uuhaverhill>

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