



# UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HAVERHILL

Volume 9, Issue 3

October 1, 2012

## THE COMMUNICATOR

### **From the Minister**

*Rev. Frank Clarkson is generally in the church office on Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays. Friday is his sermon writing day and Monday is his day off. You can reach him by phone at 978-372-5173 or by e-mail at [frank@uuhaverhill.org](mailto:frank@uuhaverhill.org).*

From my perspective, it was a great September. The cooler, drier air just makes me feel glad to be alive. The spirit that I sense in our building, on Sunday morning and during the week, makes me so glad that I was called to serve in this place. My friend Kimberly was struck by the warm and deep welcome she received from you when she preached with me on September 23. I hope you see this about yourself--that you are a very special community, with so much to offer.

What you might not have seen are the retreat days I attended in September--one with our church staff, the other with our Board of Trustees--both led by our District staff. In both instances, it was great to go to another place for a day and reflect on our work, on how we might serve this congregation and our mission better. Our staff retreat helped me to see how well-aligned our staff is. We are working well together and enjoying our work, and I hope it shows! Our board retreat made me happy too, and hopeful for this year ahead. The board intends to focus its efforts on getting clear about our church structures and mission, so that the ways we organize things around here helps, rather than hinders, your participation in our shared ministry. To this end, the board will be seeking your thoughts about how you want to move forward. We plan to have several conversations this year in a "town meeting" style format. You are always welcome to attend board meetings (2nd Wednesday of the month at 7 pm), and board members (they have name tags that identify them as on the BOT) would love to hear what's on your mind. So seek them out at coffee hour!

If there is something at UUCH that could be done better, please step up and offer to help. If you have an idea, or a desire to get more involved, please don't hold back--we need you! Let us know how you want to help and what skills and passions you have to share. One of my goals for this fall is to identify a few outgoing and enthusiastic people who will lead our greeting and ushering team. It is so important that we do a good job of welcoming people to church every Sunday. If this is something you'd enjoy, then I'd love to talk to you about being part of this team--please let me know as soon as possible!

Finally, there are some spots still available for each of the five-session spiritual direction groups Kimberly and I are leading, called "Tending the Sacred: Holy Listening, Holy Longing." You'll find the dates inside this newsletter. They begin early this month, so if you want to be part of one, let me know.

See you in church!  
Frank

## Greetings from Religious Education

Our classes officially began on Sunday 9/16 and we are off to a great start! Each year brings new opportunities and we are delighted to note that we have eight! children registered in our Nursery group. This is exciting news! It is fun to look ahead a few years and to imagine these children and their preschool friends as a vibrant & connected U.U. youth group! We have full classes in our elementary grades in both our Junior and Senior Youth groups. Thank you to all who have submitted your volunteer commitments. Please watch for teaching/volunteer schedules published later this week.

Churches of this new millennium face significant challenges in engaging people of all ages. Never before, has the human species had so many choices for entertainment and education. Our daily lives include technology that our parents (just one generation ago) could not have imagined. It is likely that the world that our children grow into, will at times, and in places, be unrecognizable to those parenting and grand-parenting now. Often people say such things with a tone of regret and a longing for a past that was seemingly quite different (and implied to be better). I have done that myself and feel myself aging. I remember that my own parents spoke like that, with particular regard to rock music of the '70's. I remember my frustration at their inability to hear and experience music that literally rocked my world. I remember that my own parents were ardent vocal activists for nuclear regulation. I remember losing a core belief in my physical safety at age eleven. These are not developmental experiences unique to me. I share them with an acknowledgement that guiding children in this age challenges us more than ever to keep a baseline of optimism and enthusiasm. Our children are told repeatedly that they have been born into a world of unprecedented, dangerous challenges and our daily news feeds can remind us that our collective situation is dire (depending on what we read). I believe that our greatest challenge as adults is to remember to seek the adventure inherent in living alongside our young people. I also believe that this is no small task. I hope that your collective experience at UUCH is one that restores and re-energizes you. One of the most common reasons that people attend church is to find comfort and quiet. I hope that you find those here when you most need them.

Reverend Frank and I are engaged in an ongoing conversation about what church, and specifically Religious Education, looks like in the year 2012 and in the years to come. We are reading, researching and reflecting on ways to meet our families where they are, acknowledging that families who have chosen church as a priority need our support more than ever. We offer curriculum programming for children and youth on Sunday mornings and several supplemental programs for youth at other times. However, we continue to wonder where and when there might be other opportunities for spiritual growth and nourishment. And we acknowledge that the church of the future (and all of its offerings and opportunities) may look quite different than the church of today. We hope that you will join us in reflecting on how your church best serves your family and how we may change and adapt as we all grow together. Please be in touch at any time with your thoughts.

As always, thank you for the many ways that you support our programming.

Sally Liebermann

Director of Religious Education

### **Office Outreach ([office@uuhaverhill.org](mailto:office@uuhaverhill.org))**

I am grateful to so many of you for assisting me in a myriad of ways— from gently pointing out typos and other mistakes so I can correct them, to folding the order of service, cleaning the kitchen, checking the emergency light bulbs, hanging signs, mailing the Communicator, cleaning graffiti, climbing ladders, preparing the sanctuary for Sunday each week, delivering food, and so much more. There is a lot to running this beautiful old building, especially given that we share it with somewhat unique tenants. Profound thanks— you know who you are!

The wish list this month includes ice cube trays. We have none in our freezer, and we do occasionally need ice. Also, there are still orphaned platters and plates in the kitchen, which will be disposed of if they are not retrieved soon. A variety of items— eyeglass cases, jewelry, umbrellas, and reading glasses in the Lost and Found box in the office.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Compton  
Office Administrator

### **Tending the Sacred: *Holy Longing, Holy Listening***

Led by Kimberly Cloutier Green with Rev. Frank Clarkson

This five-session group invites participants into the practices of contemplative prayer and spiritual direction. We will gather to rest and reflect on the mysterious life of the Spirit within our everyday experiences of living, and discern the wisdom of our hearts by turning our attention to what helps us notice, name, and nurture the holy in our lives. Group limited to seven participants. Attendance at all sessions respectfully requested.

Morning Group: 9:30 to 11:30am – Oct. 3, 24; Nov. 7, 28; Dec. 5  
Evening Group: 7:00 to 9:00pm – Oct. 16, 30; Nov. 13, 27; Dec. 11

Please sign up by contacting Frank, 978-372-5173 or [frank@uuhaverhill.org](mailto:frank@uuhaverhill.org)

### **A New Session of Artist's Way Begins October 15**

Let's take a walk together! *Walking in This World* by Julia Cameron offers a "next step" in helping individuals unlock their creativity and their potential. The exercises in *Walking in This World* help readers inhabit the world with a sense of wonder. The twelve step journey helps us discover forgotten sources of inspiration. There are morning pages (journaling), artist's dates (self-directed activities that "fill the well") and walking (taking a familiar route by foot rather than wheels to see what you have been missing).

Monday, October 15 we will begin the journey. We will meet at 7:00 pm to discuss each week's discoveries. All are welcome to join. Contact Megan Shea at [msheama@verizon.net](mailto:msheama@verizon.net) for more information.



## **Spiritual Exploration Offering: Film Night** **"Love Free or Die"**

As part of Spiritual Exploration, sponsored by the Social Justice Committee, with support from the Welcoming Congregation Committee, we will present the Sundance award-winning film "Love Free or Die" on Friday, October 12 at 7 pm. All are welcome. This film is about a man whose two defining passions are in direct conflict: his love for God and for his partner Mark. Gene Robinson is the first openly gay person to become a bishop in the historic traditions of Christendom. His consecration in 2003, to which he wore a bullet-proof vest, caused an international stir, and he has lived with death threats every day since. The film follows Robinson from small-town churches in the New Hampshire North Country to Washington's Lincoln Memorial to London's Lambeth Palace, as he calls for all to stand for equality – inspiring bishops, priests and ordinary folk to come out from the shadows and change history. For more information about the film, visit <http://www.lovefreeordiemovie.com/>



## **National Coming Out Day is October 11**

October 11, 2012 is National Coming Out Day, an internationally-observed civil rights awareness day, celebrating individuals who publicly identify themselves as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ). National Coming Out Day was founded on October 11, 1988 by Robert Eichsberg and Jean O'Leary, marking the anniversary of the 1987 march on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. Since then, on or near every October 11, thousands of LGBTQ people and allies celebrate the day with workshops, speak-outs, rallies, parades, and other kinds of events aimed at showing the public that LGBTQ people are everywhere. Participants often wear pride symbols such as pink triangles and rainbow flags.

National Coming out Day is observed in many countries throughout Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada. In the United States, the Human Rights Campaign sponsors National Coming Out Day events under the support of their National Coming Out Project offering resources to LGBT individuals, couples, parents and children, as well as straight friends and relatives, to promote awareness of LGBT families living honest and open lives.

In honor of National Coming Out Day, the Welcoming Congregation Committee will be hosting coffee hour on Sunday, October 7. All LGBTQ members and friends are invited to bring a small nut-free snack to share.

## **New Moon Coffee House: Jez Lowe Concert October 20th**

Jez Lowe performs at the New Moon Coffeehouse on Saturday October 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 pm. Local duo Bennett and Perkins open the show. The coffeehouse is located in the Universalist Unitarian Church, 16 Ashland St, Haverhill MA. Admission to the show is \$20; \$10 for those ages 18 and under.

Social activist and member of the English band, The Bad Pennies, Jez Lowe sings both traditional working class songs and originals. He pens pointed, poignant, and powerful songs about life in his native North East England. He masterfully delivers his music with guitar, cittern, mandolin and harmonica. Press on both sides of the ocean agree, he's a wonderful songwriter. "Some of the greatest contemporary English folk songs since early Richard Thompson are coming from the pen of Jez Lowe," says the Boston Globe. BBC Radio agrees, "Jez Lowe is one of our finest songwriters."

From the White Mountains of New Hampshire comes a unique blend of harmonies and guitars from the duo of Kathy Bennett and Thom Perkins. The pair performs a startling array of original songs with powerful lyrics and melodies, coupled with exceptionally strong vocals and guitar playing.

Tickets for this show are available at the door starting around 6:30; doors open at 7:30. Tickets may be reserved prior to the show by visiting [www.newmooncoffeehouse.org](http://www.newmooncoffeehouse.org), or by calling 978-459-5134. For more information about Lowe, go to his website at [www.jezlowe.com](http://www.jezlowe.com)

The New Moon Coffeehouse is a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization dedicated to supporting and enjoying the creative talents of acoustic performers. We strive to bring you the best performers in a relaxing, friendly, smoke and alcohol free environment, where you can enjoy a great show, good coffee, and awesome desserts.

## **Our Giving Chalice**

Our custom at UUCH is, on the first Sunday of the month, to bring non-perishable food, and place it in the giving chalice in the sanctuary near the Murray Room sliding door. It is then delivered to the Catholic Charities' Open Hands Food Pantry downstairs. They are in need of food, as often they run out before their open hours are over. Items that are frequently asked for are diapers, pet food, personal care items, and food appropriate for children's school snacks (juice boxes, crackers, etc.).

Please note that food is welcome in the giving chalice at any time— we will deliver it! And you may have noticed it being used for our new "Remember the Hungry" coffee hour program, which will take place several times this year.

Thank you for your care, concern and generosity.



## **Thank You from Diane Itasaka**

Many thanks to Valerie Osborne, Doris Myers, Megan Shea, Sandra DeVellis, Cil Dullea and Jan Bowering for stepping forward on short notice to host the Community Meal at the Community Center and provide baked goodies. UUCH normally hosts this later in the church year, but we were asked to fill in for another organization with just one week's notice, so thank you for your flexibility and willingness to help!

## **UUCH Book Group**

The first meeting of the UUCH Book Group this year will be held at 9 am on Sunday, October 14 in the Ladies Parlor. The book to be discussed is *Wench*, with discussion led by Stacey Sherman. All are welcome. The book chosen for the November 11 meeting is *A Walk Across the Sun*, with discussion facilitated by Sarina Ryan. Anyone who would like to read the selection is welcome, and attendance on a month-by-month basis is also welcome.

## **Ladies Circle Meeting**

The October meeting of the Ladies Circle will be held on Saturday, October 13 at 1 pm. Barbara Gove and Cindy Ryan are hosting. The presentation by Matthew Lemieux will address financial and retirement planning and advice. All women of the church are welcome to attend.

## **Democracy Amendment Forum**

Wednesday, October 17 at 7:00 pm in the Murray Room

Speakers: John Hill and Tyler Creighton

Sponsored by the Social Justice Committee of UU Church of Haverhill

Please join the Social Justice Committee for a presentation on the local ballot question which addresses the problems of big money in elections and court decisions that have given constitutional rights to corporations. John Hill of Move to Amend and Tyler Creighton from Common Cause Massachusetts will talk about these decisions and how they affect our democracy. They will also discuss the burgeoning democracy movement in the United States and the Democracy Amendment Question, which will appear on the November 6 ballot in numerous state legislative districts, including Methuen and Haverhill as Question #4. There will be a question/answer period and discussion following their presentation.



# October 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> Small Grp Ministry 10 am Mindful Meditation 7 pm Artists Way 7 pm	<b>2</b> Bag Lunch & Discussion 12 pm AA 7 pm	<b>3</b> Tending the Sacred 9:30 am Men's Spirituality Grp 6:30 pm	<b>4</b> MVS0 5:45 AA 7 pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Worship 10:30 am Meditation Grp 5 pm MoonPool Coven 6 pm AA 7 pm	<b>8</b> Mindful Meditation 7 pm Artists Way 7 pm	<b>9</b> Bag Lunch & Discussion 12 pm AA 7 pm	<b>10</b> Staff Mtg 10:30 am Board of Trustees Mtg 7 pm	<b>11</b> MVS0 5:45 PFC Mtg 7:00 pm AA 7 pm	<b>12</b> Movie Night: Love Free or Die 7 pm	<b>13</b> Ladies Circle Mtg 1 pm
<b>14</b> Book Grp 9 am Choir 9 am Worship 10:30 am Choir 12:30 pm Sr Youth 4:30 pm Meditation Grp 5 pm AA 7 pm	<b>1</b> Small Grp Ministry 10 am Mindful Meditation 7 pm Artists Way 7 pm	<b>16</b> Bag Lunch & Discussion 12 pm Girl Scouts 5:30 pm Tending the Sacred 7 pm AA 7 pm	<b>17</b> SJC Event: Democracy Amendment Forum 6:30 pm	<b>18</b> MVS0 5:45 AA 7 pm	<b>19</b> Ferry Beach 5 pm	<b>20</b> Ferry Beach all day New Moon Coffeehouse 8 pm
<b>21</b> Choir 9 am Worship 10:30 am SJC Mtg 12 pm Meditation Grp 5 pm MoonPool Coven 6 pm AA 7 pm	<b>22</b> Mindful Meditation 7 pm Artists Way 7 pm	<b>23</b> Bag Lunch & Discussion 12 pm AA 7 pm	<b>24</b> Tending the Sacred 9:30 am Staff Mtg 10:30 am B & G Mtg 7 pm	<b>25</b> <b>Communicator deadline 9 am</b> MVS0 5:45 AA 7 pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Choir 9 am Lectio Divina 9 am Worship 10:30 am Pumpkin Potluck 11:30 am Sr Youth 4:30 pm Meditation Grp 5 pm AA 7 pm	<b>29</b> Mindful Meditation 7 pm Artists Way 7 pm	<b>30</b> Bag Lunch & Discussion 12 pm Girl Scouts 5:30 pm Tending the Sacred 7 pm AA 7 pm	<b>31</b>			



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## **New Moon Coffeehouse Presents**

### **Jez Lowe**

**Saturday, October 20th at 8 PM**



Award-winning songwriter (and Englishman!) **Jez Lowe** is one of the most in-demand performers in the global acoustic scene today. Songwriters **Bennet & Perkins** open the evening.

\$20 admission at the door, 18 and under half price.

UUCH members receive a \$2 discount. More info: [newmooncoffeehouse.org](http://newmooncoffeehouse.org)