



The Communicator

the monthly newsletter of the

UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HAVERHILL

UUCH: a faith community transforming lives and the world

What's Happening This Month, May, 2015

Mind*Body*Spiritual Wellness Support Group meets Fridays, May 1 and 15 at 7 pm.

The Rose Tea, hosted by the Ladies Circle, is Saturday, May 2 from 1 – 3 pm. Come support the Ladies Circle's only fundraiser of the year; all proceeds go towards maintenance and beautification projects at UUCH. There will be entertainment, raffles and door prizes. Tickets: See Pat Feller or any member of Ladies Circle.

Choir Schedule: All who like to sing are welcome! Rehearsals this month are on Sundays, May 3, 10 and 31 at 9:15 am at the piano. Lisa Zaleski will be directing.

Green Sanctuary Committee Seed Sale continues throughout May. Get your spring seeds! Flower, herb and vegetable seeds are available. Our young people have lovingly decorated the packets.

"M3" Movies, Myths and Minestrone Episode Five, "Love and the Goddess," will be shown on Sunday, May 17 at 12:15 pm. A light lunch will be served. See p. 4.

ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE MAY 15.

Chairs of all committees and task forces need to have their reports electronically to the office. Please no formatting!

The June Communicator Deadline is May 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, please.

Bridges Out of Poverty Forum on Saturday, May 16 at 1 pm. The Social Justice Committee will host this forum, and is inviting representatives from all organizations fighting poverty and homelessness in our area as well as to everyone who are interested to learn more about community programs and advocacy actions. See p. 4

New Moon Coffeehouse, May 16 at 8 pm will feature singer/songwriter/comedienne Cheryl Wheeler.

Merrimack Valley String Orchestra Spring Recital Sunday, May 17 at 1 pm. in the Sanctuary.

Parish Council Quarterly Meeting Tuesday, May 19 at 7 pm. Committee Chairs or their representatives should attend this important meeting, which sets the calendar of events for the next church year.

Please note that the Mother's Day plant sale has been rescheduled to Saturday May 23. As our gardens slowly melt out of their long winter's nap we realized that it would be better for the plants and for the gardeners to have the sale later in the Spring. Please take note of any plants you can divide and donate to the sale- plants potted a few weeks earlier than May 23 will look their best on the day of the sale. Do you need pots, or potting assistance? Are you available to help in the days surrounding the sale? Contact: Abbe at abbewertz@yahoo.com. And don't forget to come supplement your gardens on May 23, 8-12 with our lovely perennials, herbs and shrubs!



Things Seen and Unseen

by Rev. Frank Clarkson

One of the things I love about fly fishing is that it leads to lovely places and invites one to stand in moving water. A stream or river is beautiful in its own right, and it's also mysterious too. Water reflects its surroundings, and the sky and clouds above. What is unseen, beneath the surface? One of my friends reminds me, "A fisherman has to have faith in fish."

There are lines from Norman Maclean's *A River Runs Through It* that describe the beauty and mystery fishing can hold: "I often do not start fishing until the cool of the evening. Then in the Arctic half-light of the canyon, all existence fades to a being with my soul and memories and the sounds of the Big Blackfoot River and a four-count rhythm and the hope that a fish will rise. Eventually, all things merge into one, and a river runs through it."

There are moments in life when all things merge into one and we are transported to a different plane, to a new understanding. We see something familiar in a new light. These moments of transcendence are fleeting, but can feed us for a lifetime. What are the transcendent moments you remember? And what do they tell you about your soul—about what moves you, what you value, what you love?

Joseph Campbell said, "People say that what we're all seeking is a meaning for life. I don't think that's what we're really seeking. I think that what we're seeking is an experience of being alive." These moments are ones that remind us we are alive.

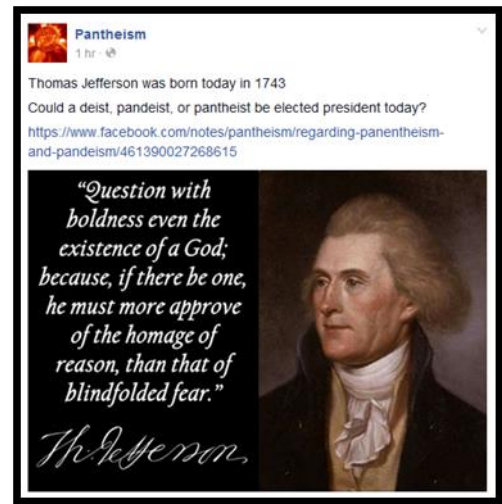
Our worship theme for May is "transcendence." I'm looking forward to exploring these experiences of life's richness and wonder. Is transcendence a gift, or is it something one can cultivate? Is it a virtue, or is it an escape from the world that needs all our attention? Does attentiveness lead to transcendence?

I'd love to hear about your experiences of transcendence, if you're willing to share them.



Intern Insights

by Julie Lombard



This picture asks if a deist, pandeist, or pantheist could be elected president today. I'd like to think the answer is, "YES!" We ought to question with boldness things as important as God's existence, our leaders, and our own realities. This sort of curiosity is healthy. Growth comes from an openness to learn.

My time learning from you is coming to an end. My last day as your Intern is June 21—also the first day of summer, the Flower Communion and Father's Day. You have been amazing teachers. Saying good bye is not easy-- I prefer to remain open and say, "See you later." Perhaps that is why I believe that it's healthy to question the existence of God. It's a way to leave the door open for the possibility of what is. I am both a theist and a humanist since I believe in God and in humankind. God is a mystery that I believe exists in many forms including that of a loving community like you.

In September, I meet with the Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC). They are a body designed to determine the readiness of a candidate for ministry. If they think I am ready, then they will grant me fellowship. If not, then they will make suggestions of things they believe I need to do to become fully ready. After that, I will search for a church to serve. The MFC cannot ordain me, only a congregation can ordain a UU minister. The process is long and complicated, yet it offers a readiness that is necessary for the work of ministry. It gives me great pride to have grown in the light of this community. I pray for all to continue to question with boldness and to take off the blindfolds of fear we might still wear.

Welcome New Members!

On Sunday, April 12, we welcomed five new members to the church. Please take the time to get to know these great folks, if you don't already. **Randy Allen** was born in Larchmont, NY, and has lived in Maine, Florida and NH until his recent marriage to Judy Hastings; they now live in Bradford. Randy is retired from the Coast Guard, where he performed search & rescue work. He was also in the recreational boat industry, specializing in cruising sailboats. Randy enjoys photography, art, gardening, and maintaining home and cars. **Barbara Cleary** was born in Haverhill, and christened and active at UUCH until she moved to NY city for an airline job. She came back to MA with her first husband and children, and worked in sales and real estate. After an amicable divorce, Barbara married the love of her life, Francis Cleary, and had 26 years with him. When Fran was dying of lung cancer, he suggested his memorial service be at UUCH. Barbara met with Rev. Frank and the rest is history! She is blessed with four children and eleven grand and great grandchildren. Joining today feels perfect to Barbara: "I'm back home!" **Bo and Dawn Crowell** are originally from New England but lived many years in Los Angeles, where they worked in the entertainment industry. While searching for a spiritual community they discovered the UU church in Studio City. After finding out they were expecting twins they decided to move back to MA, so their boys could grow up knowing their grandparents. They began attending UUCH and quickly felt at home here. They hope they have found a place for them and the boys to grow spiritually in. **Jane Hucks** retired as a teacher in September of 2014. Jane taught in Lawrence, MA, in Kansas and in Colorado, working with high school and elementary special needs students and English language learners. She speaks Spanish, practices yoga and meditation, and likes to go birding and hiking in the woods. Jane enjoys visiting Rowe Camp and Ferry Beach. Now, she's happy to see what happens next on her life journey.



Caring Ministries Update

We are constantly being reminded of all the ways YOU in this congregation demonstrate our doctrine of love by your caring. This month, we want to highlight just a few: Pitching in for UU Class Conversations serving at the check in desk, providing breakfast, lunch soups and dessert; sharing your Easter plants to decorate our sanctuary; donating yarn for the Women In Transition Program of the Essex County Sheriff's Department; filling the RE pet food baskets for our youth's donations to the food pantry; helping out with 'Movies, Myths and Minestrone', 'Healthy Lives' and 'Soup on Sunday' program; spring cleaning of our outdoor flower bed; monthly food donations and coffee servers at our pot luck coffee hours; Vespers readers and soup providers; being greeters and worship assistants on Sundays; supporting the Green Sanctuary seed sale; providing goodies for and attending the Rose Tea; singing in our choir; serving on a church committee; volunteering in the community; supporting our Nicaraguan delegation through fundraising and supportive messages; putting time and effort into social justice causes. There is no order or ranking to these activities and we know that you are involved in many more. Thank you for all you do!

Second Sunday Collection

In honor of Mother's Day, May's Second Sunday collection will go to the Massachusetts Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program which provides free nutrition and health education and other services to Massachusetts families who qualify. Participants receive financial assistance for healthy foods such as whole grains and vegetables and coupons for Farmer's Market use in the summer. Extra money from donations such as this help the WIC office in Haverhill to reach out in special ways to local families- supporting Mother's Day events, breast feeding awareness events, and supplemental funds for use at the Farmer's Market.

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**Save the Date: Annual Meeting
Sunday, June 7 at 12:00 pm!!**

Myths, Movies and Minestrone: “Love and the Goddess” (Episode 5) Sunday, May 17 at 12:15 pm



“Myths of the Great Goddess teach compassion for all living beings. There you come to appreciate the real sanctity of the earth itself, because it is the body of the Goddess.” Joseph Campbell frequently thought that mythology is a sublimation of the mother image. We talk of Mother Earth, and in Egypt you have the Mother Heavens, the Goddess Nut, who represented as the whole heavenly sphere.

Bill Moyers asked “What happened along the way to this reverence, that in primitive societies was directed toward the Goddess figure, the Great Goddess, the Mother earth – what happened to that? Campbell teaches us how the Goddess was “Dethroned” and the sword and death became the symbol of the Gods (Zeus or Yahweh).

We’ll hear about Nut, Isis, Sophia, Ganges, for whom the sacred river in India is named. Listen to how the Goddess came back as the Virgin Mary in the Roman Catholic Tradition. You don’t have a Goddess tradition celebrated any more beautifully and marvelously than in the twelfth and thirteenth century French cathedrals, every one of which is called “Notre Dame.” Campbell tells us so much more; come join us for this film and discussion on Sunday May 17 at 12: 15. We will have lunch awaiting.

Annual Report Deadline: May 15

In order for the 2014-2015 Annual Report to be ready for the Annual Meeting on June 7, the deadline for submission of reports by committees and task forces is May 15. Please email reports (with NO formatting) to the office. Thank you!

The Rose Tea is May 2nd!



Support the Rose Tea and support our church. All proceeds go towards the maintenance of and improvements to our beautiful church. There will be cakes, cookies, brownies, scones and wonderful tea sandwiches, as well as entertainment and loads of beautiful raffle prizes and door prizes. Need we say more? See Pat Feller (978-372-3622) for tickets.

Retirement Gift for Charlie

Our weekday Sexton, Charlie Jardine, is retiring (at age 89!) on May 30 after 28 years of faithful service to UUCH. Although you may not see him- his hours are very early every morning- you certainly see the results of his work. From clean bathrooms to trash management to working lightbulbs and vacuumed carpets, Charlie has given yeoman service. The Board of Trustees invites anyone who wishes to contribute toward a cash gift for Charlie. Checks or cash will be gratefully received in the office (collection plate if marked accordingly) until Sunday, May 24. This gift will be a surprise for Charlie, so mum’s the word!



Charlie Jardine, Sexton

Bridges Out of Poverty Forum

The Social Justice Committee of the UU Church of Haverhill will host this forum on Saturday, May 16 from 1 to 4 p.m. It will cover anti-poverty programs and community uplift in the Greater Haverhill area. The goals of the forum are to increase awareness and educate ourselves and the public about the various local organizations and programs fighting poverty and homelessness, as well as to learn about how we can help support these programs through joint action and become better advocates in order to reduce poverty.

What Happens Every Month

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.

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

Choir Rehearsal (note schedule on p. 1) some Sundays at 9:15 am. All are welcome!

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!

Lectio Divina meets fourth Sundays at 9:30 am in the Meditation Chapel. This ancient spiritual practice offers a contemplative way to engage with scripture.

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.

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

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

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. Contact: Board Chair Abbe Wertz.

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

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) or Abbe Wertz (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: Abbe Wertz: abbewertz@yahoo.com
Board of Trustees Vice Chair: Cori Thurlow: cori.thurlow@gmail.com
Rev. Frank Clarkson: frank@uuhaverhill.org
Ministerial Intern: Julie Lombard: lombardpottery@comcast.net
Director of Religious Education: Sally Liebermann: dre@uuhaverhill.org
Office Administrator: Lisa Compton: office@uuhaverhill.org

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

Website: www.uuhaverhill.org

To view the church calendar, please visit

www.uuhaverhill.org/events/calendar

Facebook folks: please visit our new church Facebook page at 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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