



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, November, 2014

Our Delegation to Nicaragua will hold a Coffeehouse on Saturday, November 1 at 7 pm. They will be raising funds for their 2015 service trip to Nicaragua. Tickets are \$10 at the door. Come enjoy an entertaining evening of Folk, Indie, Broadway and Celtic music. Local performers of all ages will be playing. Refreshments will be available.

Don't forget to turn your clocks back before bedtime on November 1. You don't want to arrive an hour early, do you?

Intergenerational Chalice Lighters Workshop November 2 at 11:45 am with ministerial intern Julie Lombard. Come learn the history and symbolism of the UU chalice!



UUCH will again be a Polling Place for the elections on Tuesday, November 4 all day.

Mind*Body*Spiritual Wellness Support Group meets Fridays, November 7 and 21 at 7 pm.

Ladies Circle Meets on November 8 at 1 pm. The guest speaker is our own Rev. Frank Clarkson, with stories and photographs from his sabbatical trip to Argentina and Chile. Hosts are Judy Allen, Trudy Blyth, Pat Feller and Terry Koukias. All are welcome!

Choir Rehearsal will be held at 9:15 am on Sundays, November 9 and 16. Come sing with us!

Wednesday, November 12 is UUCH Habitat for Humanity Build Day! There are still slots available for anyone who would like to help build, and also anyone interested in making and serving lunch for the group that day.

December Communicator Deadline is November 15 by 9 am. Articles (limit 350 words, less if you include graphics or photos) are welcome from groups, committees, task forces, and individuals. Articles should be of some spiritual or intellectual depth. Reports on group activities are also welcome.

New Moon Coffeehouse, Saturday November 15, 8 pm. The Kennedys will perform, and Kangaralian opens. Admission to the show is \$20; \$10 for those age 18 and under. Church members receive a \$2.00 discount, in the form of a free dessert. Tickets for this show are available at the door starting around 6:30; concert doors open at 7:30. Tickets may be reserved prior to the show by calling 978-459-5134, or www.newmooncoffeehouse.org

Santa Parade Sunday November 23: Enjoy hot drinks and snacks at our Youth Concession Stand on the front steps while viewing the parade. Join us later in the afternoon in the Murray Room as we unload the Betsy Conte Food Drive. We unload, sort and distribute these donations to nine area food pantries.

Things Seen and Unseen

by Rev. Frank Clarkson

I used to be a commercial photographer, specializing in pictures of people, mostly for magazines and corporate brochures. Over time, I realized my interest was more in the connections I was making with those people, than in the process of photographing them. This desire for more direct connections led me to the ministry. I still enjoy taking pictures; looking at things and people. Photography can be a kind of spiritual practice, that involves noticing, seeing, framing, capturing, sharing.

When I was on sabbatical last winter, I played around with photography a bit. I wondered about ways to use photography in the service of spirituality. I have this idea of creating a book of words and pictures, and worked on it a little, but that project is still mostly an idea.

Recently Nancy Rusk challenged me to share some photos from my sabbatical trip to Patagonia in our church gallery, where some of our artists, including Barbara Gove, Lynn LaFerla, Kelly Brooks and Pam Katz, have shown their work. This month you'll see some pictures in that space from my trip to Argentina and Chile. It was fun to look back at those photos and pick some to share with you. I hope you'll enjoy seeing them. If you are interested in talking about the trip, or my sabbatical, I'd love to have that conversation.

I wonder, what might you share in that gallery space of ours? Is there some kind of work you create that our community ought to see? Many of us were delighted to see Elaine Asplind Russell's impressive show in Newburyport recently. But even if you don't consider yourself an artist, you might have something to share with our community. I imagine a collection of knitted sweaters, or handmade birdhouses, or travel posters that you have collected. What would you put up to illustrate your interest or passion? Are there parts of your life that are largely unseen, that it's time to bring into the light? Might our little gallery be a place to share our beautiful and diverse spiritualities?

[Editor's note: Please see photograph on page 4]

Intern Insights

by Julie Lombard

In November, our worship theme is forgiveness. This can be a tricky topic to navigate. It all depends on how you perceive it. Which part do you play? Are you the forgiver, the one being forgiven, or neither? Are you a third party witness? One thing is for sure, forgiveness has a place in our lives.

The holidays will soon be upon us. This is a good time to take inventory of what's in our hearts. We can reflect on what's being said or done to one another. It's time to remember how we choose to continue to be in community. Here, we honor our covenant. It helps us to be in right relation because we feel it is better to walk together than to think alike. Forgiveness is part of this community and it ripples out into the wider world. Our reference to right relations is the gift we share with Haverhill.

I know of another church that adopted a community process to deal with conflict. There, they believe that it is important to embrace conflict in order to gain mutual comprehension and respect, rather than hide from trouble and allow it to cause further division. It's a slow process that takes knowing your feelings and needs, listening, honesty, compassion, and a desire and dedication to work things out. The end product is empathy. A community process that deals with conflict will not remove conflict nor the need for forgiveness; it merely gives conflict a public forum.

Not all forgiveness needs a public forum. Some forgiveness is private and only needs to be honored in the privacy of our hearts. Have you ever met someone who needed to forgive another person who is no longer living? The forgiveness required only serves the living. At the core of forgiveness is our feelings and needs. Do you know what your feelings and needs are regarding forgiveness? Take time to contemplate this. You are not alone, I welcome you to talk to me about the role forgiveness plays in your life.



Join Our Choir!

All are welcome! We rehearse two Sundays each month at 9:45 am and sing at least one Sunday per month. The fall rehearsal schedule is as follows:

November 9
November 16
December 7
December 14

Any extra holiday rehearsals will be announced—so please watch the e-News for further information.

The “Power of Myth” Series Begins November 16

by Diane Brokvist

Adult Spiritual Exploration is sponsoring the series, “The Power of Myth,” a PBS television documentary, first aired in 1988, featuring scholar Joseph Campbell and journalist Bill Moyers. The first episode of six is called “The Hero’s Adventure.” In lively and expansive dialogues, the two narrators discuss how myths hold the key to understanding human experience. Myths vary superficially from culture to culture, but at their deepest level they all reveal the path to self-fulfillment, social integration and ultimately, transcendence. Come and join them as they touch on topics as diverse as world religions, marriage, the virgin birth and pop culture.



The first episode explores heroes and heroic deeds, including the Buddha, Moses, Jesus Christ, the Knights of the Round Table, movie heroes, an Iroquois story, dragons, dreams, Jungian psychology, consciousness in plants, Gaia, Chartres cathedral, emerging myths, and “Earthrise” as a symbol.

We hope you will join us on November 16 at 12:30 pm for Myths, Movies, and Minestrone! (called “M3” on the calendar). A light lunch of soup, bread and dessert will be provided. Please sign up at the R.E. table in the Murray Room.

November’s Second Sunday Donation

by Abbe Wertz

November's Second Sunday Collection will go to the MSPCA at Nevins Farm. With difficult financial times the need for animal assistance increases greatly; many animals, large and small, are surrendered to Nevins. A gift of \$250 will sponsor an animal for a year. Our monetary assistance can also be specifically applied to medical care or to buying hay. Thank you for your commitment to our UU 7th Principle, "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part," and for your donation to MSPCA at Nevin's Farm!

This will be the last Second Sunday Collection of the 2014 year, during which we supported many valuable Haverhill and Merrimack Valley assistance programs including: Low Income Heat Assistance, Anchor Diaper bank, CSA farm shares for needy families, prom gown assistance, and Ruth's House among others. Thank you for your continued support of this church and of our wider community.

New Fundraising Policy

Our Board of Trustees has adopted a new Fundraising Policy, effective as of November 1. Any committee or group, inside or from outside the church, must fill out a form, which is available in the mailbox outside the office. Current, ongoing fundraisers (such as the Plant Sale, Service Auction, Seed Sale, Soup on Sundays, etc. are grandfathered in, but still need to read the policy and file the form. Proposals for new fundraisers must be submitted to the Finance Committee for approval. The Finance Committee meets the first Wednesday of every month, so submissions are due at that time.

Reminder About Office Hours

Normal office hours are Tuesday through Thursday from 9-3, and other times by appointment, dependent upon specific needs of the church. Email and phone messages will be returned during office hours, and at other times when possible.

Caring Ministries Update

by Sandra DeVellis

Guest at Your Table: Last Easter we piloted a program which paired those who had space at their holiday tables with those in our church family who would be alone. Please let us know if you have one or two spaces at your Thanksgiving table to share, or if you would like to join others at their home.

Emergency Contact Information: We are compiling a list of emergency contacts for our church community. This idea was widely supported by the Parish Council. The information will be accessed only by church staff or the Caring Ministries Committee, and only in the event of an emergency. Our recent survey has space to include this information. Copies are available in the Murray Room.

Can You Help? Do You Need Help?

Let us know if you are available to drive someone to medical/dental appointments. We may need drivers to Anna Jacques in Newburyport soon. Please keep in mind our request for gift cards for local stores. At times there are needs in our church family, and having gift cards available is a big help. They may be left in the Caring Ministries mail box outside the Church office. Please place the gift card in an envelope and indicate if you would like us to know who donated the card. If you wish income tax credit for your donation, please submit a receipt to the office. Do you need help removing window air conditioners now that the summer is over? Please let the Committee know if you need assistance. A friendly reminder to all: check your smoke alarms/detectors to ensure your batteries are working and the units are functioning properly.

Contacting Caring Ministries: Our mailbox is outside the church office; we also have a box in the Murray Room, both of which we check regularly. Members of the staff will also get information to us. There are pink cards in the pew racks which will get to us as well. You may reach us by email or by calling any member of our committee: Stacey Sherman, Trudy Blyth, Barbara Cleary, Sandra DeVellis, Anne Doughty, Terry Koukias, Lynn Laferla, Colleen McKenna, Doris Myers, Maggie Reeve, Barbara Robbins and Bill Taylor.

Fair Trade Holiday Gift Bags

Give the gift of Fair Trade this holiday season: help raise awareness, contribute to the church Fair Trade coffee program AND buy a Christmas present all at the same time! Each gift bag will include a 12 oz. bag of ground coffee (Organic Mind, Body & Soul or Organic Decaf), a package of Organic Irish Breakfast tea (25 bags), a 12 oz. can of organic hot cocoa mix, and a 3.5 oz. organic chocolate bar (dark or milk chocolate). To pre-order, send a check made out to the church for \$30, indicating what kind of coffee and chocolate bar you want, or plan to order your gift bag after church on November 9th, 16th, and 23rd. Contact Richard Smyth for more information at rsmyth64@yahoo.com.

Soup on Sundays

by Stacey Sherman

Do you like making soup? If so, please consider signing up to make soup to be sold at our Sunday Coffee Hours during January and February. All proceeds will benefit the operation funds of the church. What you need to do: make 6 quart of your favorite soup (containers will be supplied), supply the ingredients and bring the soup to church on the day you are assigned. Soup can be frozen or arrangements may be made to drop off earlier. We would like to offer vegetarian and/or gluten free options, too. Then, sit at the table during Coffee Hour with another soup maker on your assigned day. Contact Stacey Sherman, thesherm@comcast.net or 978-373-1227.



Frank Clarkson, photographer

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. 3) some Sundays at 9:15 am. All are welcome!

Ladies Circle meets second Saturdays at 1 pm. 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 9:15 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, 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.

Interfaith Special Needs Worship, led by Rev. Wendy Von Zirpolo, is held in the Murray Room on second Mondays at 6 pm.

Hunger Roundtable meets second Tuesdays, 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 Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

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 on second Sundays at Noon.

New Moon Coffeehouse is on third Saturdays at 8 pm.

Membership Committee meets third Mondays at 6 pm.

Caring Ministry meets fourth Sundays at 11:30 am.

Various other committees meet periodically throughout the year. Watch e-News, Sunday announcements and the website calendar for meeting times for: Building & Grounds/Gardens, Leap of Faith, 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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