



# The Communicator

the monthly newsletter of the

UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HAVERHILL

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## What's Happening This Month, April, 2014

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

### **New Moon Coffeehouse April 19 at 8 pm**

Acoustic folk musicians Buskin & Batteau are featured, with Linda Sharar opening. Tickets available at the door.

### **Lenten Vespers Continues Wednesdays at 6 pm**

Every Wednesday evening until Easter, please join us for this quiet, candlelit service, which includes music, readings and mediation. A simple supper follows.

### **Brown Bag Lunch with the Ministerial Intern every Thursday at Noon.**

Come join Julie in the Minister's Study for an hour of conversation and fellowship. No reservations needed!

### **Second Sunday Donation on April 13**

April's Second Sunday donation will go to Haverhill High School's "Cinderella's Closet" which helps students with prom attire, tickets, alterations and other associated costs which can make attending this milestone event prohibitive. We hope to ensure that deserving youth are able to attend. So far, our Second Sunday collections have helped with heat assistance, playground repair, a diaper bank and now this opportunity to help some Haverhill youth.

### **May Communicator deadline April 23 by 9 am**

Articles (limit 350 words) 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.

### **"30Hour Famine" All Church Blackout April 11, 3 pm through April 12 6 pm.**

This overnight R.E. activity will have a new "look" this year, but will continue to enhance our young peoples' study and awareness of hunger issues in the community and world. See article below. As a safety reminder, during the blackout period the church building is closed to all other activity.

### **R.E. Worship in the Park Sunday, April 13**

This annual activity supports our month-long study of the 7<sup>th</sup> Principle. R.E. students and their adult volunteers will worship at 10:30 am in a park, and hopefully leave the place cleaner than they found it! Rainy day activities downstairs at UUCH.

### **"Spring Rising" Workshop Wednesday, April 16 at 7 pm**

Please join Sally Liebermann in this fourth and final workshop in our seasonal series. After Vespers, we'll continue our reflection by the light of an early spring evening in the sanctuary. Bring your thoughts about what stirs in you this springtime; about what may burst forward in the next warm months.

### **Easter Pet Food Hunt Sunday, April 20 at 11:30 am**

Donations are welcome for our traditional alternative to a candy egg hunt. Remember our furry, feathered and finned friends! Youth will assist in hiding the goodies for younger folks to find.

### **Parish Council Meeting Wednesday April 30 at 6:30 pm**

This important quarterly meeting of heads (or their designees) of committees will meet to review committee charters (all charters must be in before this meeting) and plan for future events. All will be donated to MSPCA Nevins Farm in Methuen.

**Welcome Back, Rev. Frank!!!! May 1, 2014.**





## Intern Insights

by Julie Lombard

If you haven't heard or couldn't tell, Spring has arrived! Where I live there's still a plethora of snow and not a hint of green to be seen. That makes it all the better that I spend so much of my time in Haverhill where the snow has been melting faster than in my neighborhood. The two cities are not that far apart, but what a change. Sometimes I don't need much change to give me the desired effect I need.

We've set our clocks to our summertime regime, yet the longer days have not impacted the snow fields in my life. I do like driving in the evening before the sunset; I also like the effect on my husband. Not long ago he was entering work just after the sun reached the sky and leaving work after it set. Thankfully those days are behind us now. He walks into the house with a bit more bounce in his step. Have you noticed any additional bounce in your step?

Many things are about ready to bloom. I'm not only talking about flowers. Sure, they'll be blooming soon, but I'm talking about the growth of this congregation. You are an active bunch! While your minister has been away, you've kept up the important work that this church does. I hope you can see how successful you've been during this sabbatical. You're amazing; this time has offered UUCH a real renaissance. A healthy level of confidence is found everywhere. This church can do anything it sets its aim on.

I can hardly wait for our minister to return to see the growth of this community. Yes, I want to hear of the adventures he's been on and the spiritual journeys he's taken. Start preparing your stories for him, too. Make sure you leave plenty of room in your story for this final month together. It will be a grand finale, just like at the fireworks show on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. This show will be so good; it might even leave us a little speechless. I hope you enjoy the show! I know I will.

## From Caring Ministries

Someone to Your Table: Easter and Passover are often celebrated with family and friends. Some members of our community are unable to join family and friends and so Caring Ministries asks you to consider inviting Someone to Your Table for these approaching holidays. If you can offer a seat at your table please contact Stacey Sherman at 978-373-1227.

It has come to our attention that from time to time, members of our church community have need for personal care items or clothing. If you are in Target or Kohl's or other local stores and are able and so inclined to pick up a gift card, the Caring Ministries will see that they are put to good use. You may leave the cards in the office with Lisa or give to any member of our committee. We appreciate all you already do...rides, cards, food and many other acts of kindnesses to each other. Thank you in advance!

## Roomate Wanted

Church member Libby Jensen is looking for a new roommate and could use your help. Libby lives a quiet, stable lifestyle in a nice house in the Riverside section of Haverhill. This person would have their own bedroom, an almost private bathroom, and use of the house/yard. The room could be either furnished or unfurnished. No pets (but must like dogs) or children. If you know of someone, or of a creative way for Libby to promote her search, contact her at 978-478-8591 or [libbyjensen11@gmail.com](mailto:libbyjensen11@gmail.com).

## Jan Bowering's New Address

Our Minister Emerita is now living at:

The Rev. Janet Bowering  
Greystone Farm Room 225  
242 Main Street  
Salem, NH 03079  
603-458-6331



# The New Famine—But It's Still 30 Hours!

By Sally Liebermann

In the spring of 2011, our UUCH youth group hosted their first 30Hour Famine fundraising event to raise money for, and awareness of, world hunger for the Christian relief agency WorldVision. Part of the event coordination included evaluating the financial statements of the agency and reviewing their delivery of relief to people regardless of religious creed. Our first Famine event was, by all accounts, a rich and transformative experience. We gratefully accepted the curriculum for the event provided by WorldVision and adjusted our reflections, conversations and worship to focus on our Unitarian Universalist principles and inspiration.

Our youth learned to plan midnight and morning worship, lead reflections and games, counsel and comfort their peers during difficult moments, work, learn and play together in a setting unlike Sunday morning or youth conferences or church sleepovers. They were invited into this event that asks one to stretch the mind with difficult information and the heart with difficult truths that conflict with our sense and understanding of how the world could and should be. After attending the opening circle of a Famine event, Rev. Frank commented that this was truly a transformative event and represented the kind of church that we want to offer to our friends of all ages.

Five Famine years (and nearly \$10,000 in funds raised) later we have decided to end our relationship with WorldVision (WV). Our youth have gracefully acknowledged that WV has developed an amazing and admirable delivery system of far reaching relief efforts, one of the most successful relief agencies in the world. Our youth have acknowledged that the 30Hour Famine experience is in fact transformative, and one that we wish to continue offering to the youth who will follow here at UUCH. After careful and compassionate reflection, our youth have also decided that there are other agencies that we may support that very clearly advocate for the equality (universal acceptance) of our GBLTQ selves, siblings, friends and loved ones. We end our relationship with WV grateful for all that they do to make the world a

better place and with great gratitude for all that we have learned from them.

This spring, our youth will hold their first homegrown fasting event. We will take forward the components of 30Hour Famine that were most meaningful: fasting, learning opportunities (study issue/s), community service, worship, group reflection and games. In this first year of re-creation, we will not fundraise for any particular cause but will focus our efforts on designing an event that moves forward here as our own U.U. yearly ritual. This year we will study hunger here at home and learn about relief programs within our own building and in our neighborhood, while fasting together for 30 hours.



2013 30Hour Famine

Back row (L to R): Sally Liebermann, Betsy Robertson, Diane Brokvist, Jaden Scott-Ryan, Phoebe Johnson, Chris Shramko, Carolyn Hart, Jack Lowrey, Erika Lowrey  
Front row (L to R): Jason Katz, Noah Zaleski, Connor Wertz, Aidan Wertz, Jess Liebermann, Keshani Hughes, Abby Wasserman

We are excited by this wonderful opportunity to create a “rite of passage” ritual for our friends of the present and for those who will pass this way in the future. This 30Hour Famine experience has been, and continues to be transformative for all who participate. I hope you join me with enthusiasm to see what will come next!



## Stewardship Gatherings

Everyone will have a chance to hear and share stewardship stories and plans, whether through testimonials given during Sunday Worship, or through presentations at committee meetings, or through House Gatherings. House Gatherings begin April 4 and 5; hosts will be calling you to invite you to their event. There are two other “house” gatherings to note which are geared to specific audiences:

1. The Welcoming Congregation Committee will meet at Taffy Jervey and Joan Shaw’s home On Saturday, April 5 at 5:30 pm for refreshments, followed by a showing of the film “Through Gay Eyes.” This will be followed by a brief update about the work of the Welcoming Congregation Committee, and then a stewardship presentation. All are welcome; please sign up with Diane Brokvist (978-374-5373), for food planning.
2. Also on Saturday, April 5 at 4 pm., families with children are invited to come to UUCH and share stories about what this church means to them. Babysitting will be provided, along with pizza and a great door prize! All are welcome; please RSVP to Merry Newhall ([mjnewhall@yahoo.com](mailto:mjnewhall@yahoo.com)) or Sarina Ryan ([smrtilton@yahoo.com](mailto:smrtilton@yahoo.com)) so they can plan.



## Rose Tea May 3, 1-3 pm

The ladies Circle will host the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Rose Tea. This is the Circle’s only fundraiser of the year; proceeds go toward church beautification and improvement projects. All are welcome to attend and bring friends and family. Help is also needed to bake, set up and clean up. This is a fun and tasty afternoon! Tickets are \$15 and must be purchased in advance. Contact: pat Feller 978-372-3622 or [berry39@verizon.net](mailto:berry39@verizon.net).



## New Choir Schedule Begins in April

In order to allow for time to learn new music, the Music Committee is offering a new choir rehearsal schedule beginning in April. Rehearsals will be every Wednesday 6-7 pm and every Thursday 9:30-10:30 am, with warm up as usual on Sundays at 9 am. Approximately the same material will be covered each Wednesday and Thursday; thus minimum expected attendance for each choir member is either Wednesday OR Thursday, AND Sunday. We hope that by offering both evening and daytime rehearsals, we may better accommodate people’s schedules.

Anyone with an interest in singing is welcome to join the choir. Ability to read music is a plus, but not required. Contact: Claudia Keyian at 978-462-3405 or [claudia@claudiamusic.com](mailto:claudia@claudiamusic.com)

## Never a Borrower Nor a Lender Be... A Plea from the Office

If items belonging to the church (chairs, tables, projector, etc) are to be borrowed by church members, please sign them out in writing with Lisa in the office. Leaving a note on her desk, or in her mailbox (just outside the office door) is an acceptable alternative. Please note the date of borrow and expected date of return. There is so much activity now that we want items to be available for those who need them, while also upholding the needs of our various church programs. Please note that this communication needs to go through Lisa and not other staff members, so there can be a “central clearinghouse.” Thank you!

## 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](mailto:office@uuhaverhill.org).

**Drumming Circle** gathers first Sundays at 12:15 pm in the Meditation Chapel.

**Choir Rehearsals (note new schedule)** are Wednesdays 6-7 pm and Thursdays 9:30-10:30 am, with Sunday warm up at 9 am. Expected attendance is one of the weekday/night rehearsal AND Sunday. All are welcome; ability to read music is a plus, but not required.

**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! This month, the program is a trip to the Addison Gallery at Phillips Andover Academy.

**UUCH Book Group** meets second Sundays at 9 am. This year's book series continues with the next section of A House for Hope: The Promise of Progressive Religion for the Twenty-first Century, by UU's John A. Buehrens and Rebecca Ann Parker.

**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.

**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.

**Mindful Meditation Practice** is Mondays at 7 pm, led by Betsy Robertson

**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 Sarina Ryan.

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

**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.

### 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))

**Various other committees meet** periodically throughout the year. Watch e-News, Sunday announcements and the website calendar for meeting times for: Building & Grounds/Gardens, Caring Ministries, Ministry, Finance, Green Sanctuary, Leap of Faith, Membership, Music, Parish Nurses, Permanent Funds, Religious Education, Sabbatical, Stewardship, Welcoming Congregation and Worship committees.



## Church Leaders and Staff Contact Information

Board of Trustees Chair: Sarina Ryan [smrtilton@yahoo.com](mailto:smrtilton@yahoo.com)

Board of Trustees Vice Chair: Nancy Rusk [namaste\\_1953@yahoo.com](mailto:namaste_1953@yahoo.com)

Rev. Frank Clarkson: [frank@uuhaverhill.org](mailto:frank@uuhaverhill.org)

Ministerial Intern: Julie Lombard: [lombardpottery@comcast.net](mailto:lombardpottery@comcast.net)

Director of Religious Education: Sally Liebermann: [dre@uuhaverhill.org](mailto:dre@uuhaverhill.org)

Music Director: Claudia Keyian: [claudia@claudiamusic.com](mailto:claudia@claudiamusic.com)

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>

Universalist Unitarian Church of Haverhill  
16 Ashland St.  
Haverhill, MA 01830