

# The Communicator

the monthly newsletter of the

UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HAVERHILL

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## What's Happening in July and August, 2014

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

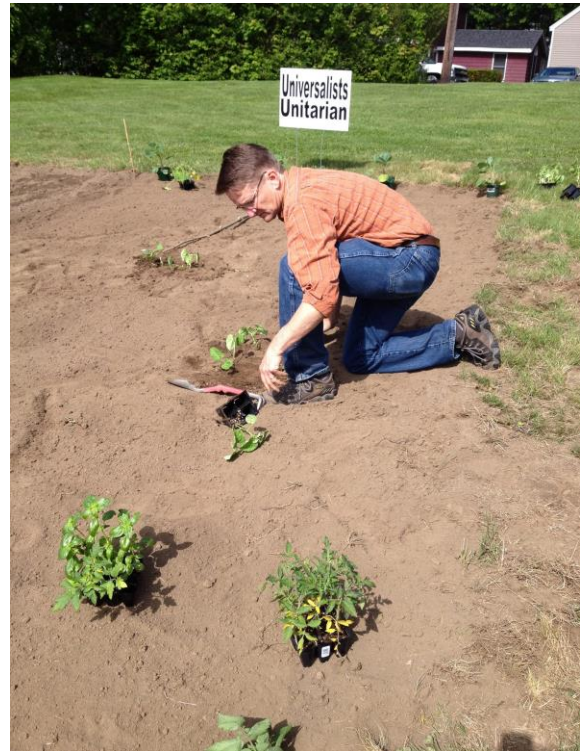
**Worship this summer begins at 9:30 am. We hope to see you here! The Summer Worship Schedule:**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Led by:</b>
June 29	Frank Clarkson
July 6	Bill Taylor
July 13	Zan Spaihts-Mohns
July 20	Tom Ellis
July 27	Nancy Rusk and Sarina Ryan
August 3	Joanna Fortna
August 10	Frank Clarkson
August 17	Julie Lombard
August 24	Frank Clarkson
August 31	No Service-Labor Day Weekend

**Summer Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10-2, and other times by appointment, from July 1 through August 25.** Call before you come! The office will be closed from July 21-29 for vacation, and will reopen July 30.

### **A Community Garden to Feed the Hungry.**

There's a new community garden in town, on the grounds of St. John the Baptist parish, across from Haverhill stadium. A number of groups and individuals are taking plots in the garden, and raising vegetables to supply local food pantries with fresh food. The produce we grow in our plot will go to our own Open Hand Pantry. Father Bob Murray, pastor of St. James and St. John, has been a leader in this effort, and we are glad to be joining with him and the people of these churches. Anyone who helps out is welcome to take some vegetables home to enjoy, too. We are excited about this--gardening with other folks and getting our hands dirty for a good cause. If you'd like to be involved, contact Abbe Wertz or Valerie Walton.



**The Permanent Funds Committee will meet on July 10 at 7 pm.** All are welcome to attend.

**From now on, the Communicator (monthly newsletter) deadline will always be the 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.** There will be no August issue, so the next deadline will be August 15. 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. **The weekly e-News will continue throughout the summer; the deadline for submissions remains Wednesdays.**

## Things Seen and Unseen

by Rev. Frank Clarkson

I love the long days at this time of year. With the sun setting further to the north, the afternoon light shines into our sanctuary through the windows on Kenoza Avenue. Have you seen it? It's just lovely how the light illuminates that space. The other day I took this photo with my phone. Maybe next year we ought to have a vespers service in June, so we can gather in our sanctuary when it's so beautiful!



We gather for worship this summer at 9:30 am, every Sunday except for Labor Day weekend. I hope you'll come when you're able. There are such good things happening in this community. I love and am grateful for the spirit that is alive in our midst!

I'll be away on vacation for about three weeks in July. Starting on the 4th, I'm meeting my sister and brother in North Carolina to celebrate our mom's 85th birthday with her. Then Tracey and I are driving out to Wyoming to see our daughter, then on to Seattle, where our son is working this summer. We're looking forward to this time in the car together, and I'm hoping to squeeze in a day of fishing here and there!

When I'm away, one of my colleagues in the Merrimack Valley will be providing emergency pastoral coverage. If needed, you'll find information about the minister on call on my church voicemail: 978-372-5173 x2.

I'll look forward to seeing you in church on some of these summer Sundays. And I hope you'll have time to enjoy the blessings of these warmer, longer days. Be safe and be well, dear ones!

## Intern Insights

by Julie Lombard



This summer I will spend a fair amount of time away, as my family is going west to visit National Parks for a month. I have never had much more than a week's vacation. It's been a long time since my family has had such an immersion of time together. We plan to drive and camp, visiting with family and friends along the route. I have no idea what to expect since I have never done anything like this before. Sure, I know we will get on each other's nerves in the car, especially after my ten year old son, Jack, has repeated something for the one hundredth time.

The dictionary tells me that the word "anticipation" is a noun meaning "a feeling of excitement about something that is going to happen: the act of preparing for something." I have done little to prepare for this trip. I have put in my two cents about places or people to visit on the way--Yosemite, Glacier, my brother in CA, my childhood best friend in WA, and my spiritual sister in CO. I am looking forward to seeing many things for the first time and reconnecting with people who knew me long before I began my journey to becoming a minister.

I suspect my back will ache from sleeping on the ground and sitting in the car, that my friend's home will be an oasis from our camping, and that I will not get as much of the reading done that I hope to. I gather John Denver will play on our car radio one too many times. I hope to connect with nature and reconnect with my family after seminary kept me away from them for so long. I hope we will return with fabulous stories that we will tell for a life time. I look forward to returning to you with these tales.

Happy trails to you all this summer!



## Office Outreach

by Lisa Compton



Deep in the Michigan woods there is a small, brown cabin. It was built in 1896 by my great grandfather, Elias Compton, as a summer camp to which he and his family retreated from the rigors of academic life. Just as we do at UUCH in our new community garden, they raised vegetables to provide fresh food for the lumbermen working in the nearby forests, perhaps not homeless, but often far from home.

Eventually, Elias' three sons also built cabins along the lakeshore. Ours is the most rustic one; we still have to prime the pump! Good practice for some of the challenges presented by our beautiful church building, built within a year or two of the cabin!

My 87-year old father—the only Compton left in his generation— still journeys there every summer from his home in Florida. He puts in the dock, mends Elias' old canvas baggage canoe, chases critters away that wintered under the house, and works tirelessly to get one radio channel. Town is 10 miles away. Life is simple and peaceful there, by the lake. Our neighbors are the ducks and chipmunks that eat out of our hands. Hummingbirds squabble at the nectar feeders. Raccoons inspect our trash, and rabbits mow our grass. Bald eagles soar along the shore. It all reminds me again of the beauty of the cycles of nature. And I look forward to my one week visit in July. My summer journey will be both nostalgic and bittersweet—for I know that quite possibly, I may not pass that way again and find my father there. He has given my siblings and me keys to the little brown cabin in the woods. Our journey will continue.

I wish you all a peaceful, restful summer, whether you travel on a physical journey, or continue on your spiritual one (or both). Take time to enjoy the wonders of nature, of friends, of family. It will be very quiet at the little brown cabin, but I know it will also be pretty quiet at UUCH. Feel free to stop by.

## Ferry Beach News

by Stacey Sherman

Please save the date for this annual retreat we share with the Marblehead, Northboro and Sudbury UU Churches. October 17-19. Application, deposit and general information will be announced at a later date, however, we hope to have the registration, including deposits, completed by July 1st. Stacey Sherman will be coordinating our efforts here in Haverhill.

## Green Sanctuary Committee

by Valerie Walton

The Green Sanctuary Committee is seeking new members. We are a group of people who are passionate about working to educate the community about the environmental threats to our planet and neighborhoods. We believe that working toward environmental justice presents a lot of work to be done—please join us! Meetings will be held July 18 and August 15. Contact Valerie to learn meeting locations at [allspice@aol.com](mailto:allspice@aol.com).



Our All-Church Picnic



# What Happens Every Month, September through June

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 Led by Richard Smyth and Andrea Sweeney.

**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! President: Trudy Blyth

**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.

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

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

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

**Mindful Meditation Practice** is Mondays (except Monday holidays) 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. Chair: Abbe Wertz.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** meets in the 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. Directed by Joy Scheutze.

## Community Meals

First and third Saturdays, volunteers shop, cook, serve and clean up for 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. Led by Abbe Wertz and Kristie Colton.

**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, Finance, Green Sanctuary, Leap of Faith, Membership, Ministry, Music, Parish Nurses, Permanent Funds, Religious Education, Stewardship, Welcoming Congregation and Worship Committees. All are welcome to attend these meetings.



Our All-Church Picnic



## Church Leaders and Staff Contact Information

Board of Trustees Chair: Abbe Wertz: [abbewertz@yahoo.com](mailto:abbewertz@yahoo.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)

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

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](https://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