



# The Communicator

the monthly newsletter of the

UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HAVERHILL

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

## What's Happening This Month, September, 2015

**The Finance Committee will meet on Wednesday, September 2 at 7 pm.** All are welcome to attend.

**Caring Ministries will meet twice in September,** on Wednesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday the 30<sup>th</sup>, at 7 pm. All are welcome to join this special ministry.

**Brown Bag Lunch with the Minister will resume** on Thursday, September 17 at Noon. Come eat and chat!

**The Annual Board Dinner and Retreat** will take place on Friday, September 11 at 6 pm (pot luck) and Saturday, September 12 from 9-Noon.

**The Choir will rehearse on Sunday, September 13** at 9 am with our new Music Director, Nate De Young. Come sing with us—all are welcome!

**October Communicator Deadline is September 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, September 19, 8 pm will be a fundraiser** to benefit UUCH. Aidan and Conner Wertz and several other notable acts will be presented. 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 visiting [www.newmooncoffeehouse.org](http://www.newmooncoffeehouse.org), or by calling 978-459-5134. See article on p. 4.

**Our Parish Fair will be held on Sunday, September 27 at coffee hour.** There are several committees and teams that are looking for new members, so join us after worship and explore the wonderful work these groups are doing to make UUCH the vibrant place that it is!



**Introducing Nate De Young  
Our New Music Director**

[See article on p. 3]

## Things Seen and Unseen

by Rev. Frank Clarkson

I hope you've had a good summer—that you have found ways to enjoy the warmer, longer days and the joys this season brings. If you've come to church this summer, you know we've had wonderful worship all summer long. Thanks to our worship leaders, worship associates, musicians, ushers—everyone who has made this possible.

If you've been away from the church, I hope it's been a great break and that you're excited to dive back in! I hope you'll make plans to be here on Sunday, September 13, when our new church year begins. It will be the first Sunday with Nate De Young, our new Music Director, and our annual Water Communion (please bring a bit of water from a place you find sacred to share), so you won't want to miss it!

One of the blessings of a community like ours is that it provides a place to behold and connect with others, and a place where you can be seen and known for who you are. A place where people not only know your name, but some of your story too. We aim to be a community that, in the words of Theodore Roszak, “invites you to become yourself, without shame or fear.” Who among us doesn't need that encouragement?

To that end, I ask you to think about what you're seeking in church this fall. Do you want to be part of a small group here? Are you interested in taking up a meditation practice, or learning more about prayer? Do you want to engage in antiracism and justice work?

This year I plan to focus on offering more ways to help you connect deeply with one another, with the Spirit, and with our world. One way I'll do this is by offering and encouraging more classes and small group gatherings—opportunities to make connections, to learn and grow, to do good things together. I'm excited about the possibilities and would love to hear what you're interested in, and passionate about—so let me know!

## A Pajama Drive For Ruth's House (September 13-27)

by Bill Taylor

A few months ago, the Social Justice Committee hosted a "Bridges Out Of Poverty" forum. The featured panelists were advocates and professionals from local organizations that promote social uplift. They spoke passionately about the barriers that poor people face and what we can do to help.



“Bridges out of Poverty” Forum

All of the panelists (and several audience members) stressed how they rely on the public's financial support and how focused charitable efforts can have huge impacts in people's lives. One of the panelists, Jessica Bolduc, was from Ruth's House, a non-profit thrift shop in Haverhill that uses its proceeds to clothe thousands of folks each year. She spoke about the need for charitable support in especially sobering terms. As they rely entirely on the public's good will, they can use all the help they can get.

Jessica has since informed me that Ruth's House is especially in need of, among other things, children's pajamas. And so, this month, from the 13<sup>th</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>, the church will host a pajama drive for their benefit. I hope you'll consider bringing new or lightly used clothing items with you to church on these three Sundays, as you are able. (Again, they are especially in need of children's pajamas, but all donations are welcome.)

In the meantime, you can check out [ruthshouse.org](http://ruthshouse.org) to learn more about their good work. Let's do what we can to help them—and help our neighbors and their children, as well. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



# Welcome Nate De Young, Our New Music Director!

by Rev. Frank Clarkson

Last spring, our music director search committee (Cori Thurlow, Bets Robertson, Abbe Wertz and Rev. Frank) began seeking a new Music Director for our church. We were gratified that a number of talented and capable musicians expressed interest in the position. There were nine serious inquiries and we interviewed four candidates. We're thrilled to announce that we found, and have hired, someone we believe will be a great match for our church!

His name is Nate De Young, and we hope you'll be here to meet Nate when he begins as our Music Director on September 13. When Nate came for a trial rehearsal with our choir, there was wide enthusiasm for his talent on the piano and organ, and for his way of working with the choir. We are super excited to be working with Nate, and believe that he will be a wonderful addition to our church.

Nate received his BA in music from Castleton State College in Vermont, studying oboe, English horn and organ. He's worked at churches in Vermont and, most recently, in Lynn, MA. He lives in Salem, MA, where his day job is working as the lead baker in a test kitchen.

Our search committee was impressed by Nate's love and passion for music, by his easy demeanor, and by the spiritual depth in his approach to music. His infectious enthusiasm for a diversity of music will be a great blessing to our worship. Nate sought out a UU congregation because he wanted to work in a church that shares his values and commitments, and we are so glad that we've found one another! Nate will generally be playing three times a month, and Fred MacArthur will continue to play organ here about once a month. We're grateful to be working with such fine musicians!

If you've been thinking about singing in the choir, now is a great time to jump in! The first rehearsal with Nate will be on Sunday, September 13 at 9:15 am. We extend a warm welcome to Nate and are so glad he's part of our church staff!

# The Role of Prayer in Bahaism

by Josh Goulet

In Bahaism, believers perform obligatory prayers during the day. These prayers serve not only specific theological ends within Bahaism but also overarching ideals which can add to and enhance our own UU spiritual lives.

There are three different obligatory prayers a follower can choose from: a short one between noon and evening, a medium one three times a day, and one long one any time in the day. These prayers use both ablutions (ritual washing) as well as prostrations in the medium and long prayers. In addition, followers are told to read from the holy books two times daily and repeat God's greatest name 95 times daily.

While the theology in the prayers may be tradition specific, the ideas called for can apply to UU life. All of the obligatory prayers ask for a reassertion of good values and reassessment of what is of importance in our lives. We can do this with moments of reflection when we stop and think: is this problem really as significant as it appears right now? Is my world truly ending? Reflecting like this can calm our minds.

The scripture readings accomplish some of the same goals as the obligatory prayers, refocusing attitude daily through study. The scripture readings act as the readings do during a worship service: to let us hear wise words from others. During these twice daily readings, we could explore the last five of the six sources of our UU faith in more detail in small amounts so as to sharpen our focus for the day.

The call to repeat God's name 95 times is very different in terms of what it is asking. Baha'u'llah, the founder of Bahaism, asked that the name be said in Arabic: Allah'u'abha. This essentially turns into a form of mantric meditation, clearing the mind. We do not necessarily have to use the words Allah-u-Abha; it is the repetition of the words which is important.

Our third UU source of inspiration is the "wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life." These Baha'i practices can definitely do just that if we apply them.

## UUCH Benefit Concert Sponsored by New Moon Coffeehouse, September 19, 8pm

On Saturday, September 19 the first New Moon concert of the year will be a benefit concert for UUCH. Mark your calendars now for a night full of wonderful entertainment and support of the church. Billed by New Moon as a “Musical Potpourri: Selected Showcase of Local Talents,” there will be acts familiar to New Moon such as Meg Rayne, Dean Stevens, and Quentin Callewaert and also acts familiar to UUCH including Paul Prue, Kangaralian and Connor and Aidan Wertz. If you would like to volunteer to help make this event a success, contact [abbewertz@yahoo.com](mailto:abbewertz@yahoo.com) or [cori.thurlow@gmail.com](mailto:cori.thurlow@gmail.com). We will need help with set up, concession sales, ticket sales and publicity; we will also need bakers to provide goodies.

Tickets are \$20 (under 18 are \$10) and 100% of the proceeds will go to the church. Tickets will be on sale on Sundays before September 19, available for reservation, or available at the door. For more information about the concert or tickets contact [dee58@verizon.net](mailto:dee58@verizon.net) or [msheama@verizon.net](mailto:msheama@verizon.net)

New Moon and UUCH have been working together for 28 years and we are excited to continue our collaboration in this way. Come support the church and enjoy some truly fabulous talent right here in our building!

## Ladies Circle Meeting

by Trudy Blyth

The September meeting of the Ladies Circle will take place in the Ladies Parlor at 12:00 noon on Saturday, September 12. This will be a pot luck lunch. The hosts are Trudy Blyth and Pat Spencer. We will be discussing upcoming programs for the church year. Some of the programs are in place and we are looking forward to a fun and informative year. All of the women of the church are welcome to attend.

## Caring Ministries Update

by Sandra DeVellis

The mobilization of so many in our community to tend to the illnesses of our own has been overwhelming. Folks responded to the need for dog walking, providing rides, visiting the ill, sending cards, doing errands and checking in to support others. We can't thank you all sufficiently. Many folks told us they were so glad to be able to help and were glad to have been contacted. We know many more of you feel that way but haven't gotten on our Wider Circle of Care listing. Please check in at the Caring Ministries table at our Parish Fair on September 27 if you would like to be included.

Our “tissues in the pew” initiative appears to have been successful. We will need to keep replenishing our supplies during the church year. Small boxes of tissues are always welcome. Thank you in advance.

## September Second Sunday Collection

This month's Second Sunday collection will go to Ruth's House in Haverhill (see p. 2). Their mission is to recycle, reuse and renew for charity and their goal is to help clothe low income people. Proceeds from store operations are used to purchase new underwear and socks for their *Hands Across the Valley* referral program. UUCH is also running a pajama drive in support of Ruth's House this month and we are hopeful that these joint efforts will make an even greater positive impact in our community as the winter approaches. As always, your generosity is greatly appreciated. We are so pleased to have an ongoing relationship with organizations that directly support those in need and Ruth's House is a wonderful example of dedication to the Haverhill community. Thank you!





## From Your Office Administrator

by Lisa Compton

The Board of Trustees has asked me to offer an overview of our three church publications. We continually try to simplify, to make it easier for all to both submit materials and read them.

- **The Weekly e-News** is an email that focuses on what's happening in the coming week. It goes out every Thursday, and includes information about the coming Sunday. Deadline is Wednesday by 9 am. This publication is meant for very short (no more than four lines) announcements of coming events, or other information of interest to the entire congregation. We do not run an item longer than two weeks, or more than two weeks ahead of an event.
- **The Weekly Bulletin Insert** is included with the Sunday morning Order of Service, and takes the place of spoken announcements during worship. Deadline is the same as e-News—Wednesday by 9 am.
- **The Communicator** is our monthly newsletter. It is sent by the first of each month (except August) to everyone who has submitted an email address. This is the place for longer articles of spiritual depth, reports about committee activities, and major coming events. We do not list recurring committee meetings, as they are on our website calendar. All are welcome to submit articles (350 word maximum), but they may be edited for space/layout reasons. Deadline is always the 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month by 9 am.

## New Coffee Hour Chair

Maureen Schofield has taken over responsibility for coordinating Sunday morning coffee hour. We thank Libby Jensen for her faithful service—it was during her tenure that coffee hour “went green!” Because Libby has become a “snowbird,” Maureen has graciously agreed to take over. She will need lots of help, so please see her and sign up in the Murray Room. For now, we plan to continue our usual plan of first Sundays being pot luck, and quarterly “Remember the Hungry” collections. There may be some new plans in the works, so stay tuned!

## From the Worship Committee

Zan Spaihts-Mohns, chair, Bonnie Floyd, Josh Goulet, Bill Taylor, Rev. Frank Clarkson

The worship committee is responsible for supporting and encouraging good worship at UUCH. In addition to our monthly meetings, this summer we held a half day retreat, which provided time to reflect on what's working and what we might do to enrich and deepen the worship experience. We talked about experiences we'd found moving and meaningful in worship, here and elsewhere. A common theme was spiritual depth: we cherished the times when worship provided an intentional opportunity to go deeper; to be moved outside of and beyond our individual selves. We talked about when that happens in our worship, and what keeps it from happening.

The result of our conversation is a decision to expand the time in our service for meditation and prayer. We already begin this time with music, and we want this music to be more of a sung meditation, like a chant that is easily learned by heart, which we'll sing for longer than we have in the past. This practice should help us drop down into a deeper place from the start.

We talked about our tradition of spoken candles to share joys, concern and sorrows, and how this works best when people share briefly. We want to remind you this is not the place for telling a longer story; and if you have a story you feel the congregation would appreciate, we encourage you to speak with Rev. Frank about the possibility of including it in a Sunday service. Some people participate in spoken candles, and others rarely do, so we are going to try balancing two different ways of inviting your participation: every other week we'll have spoken candles, the other weeks we'll invite you to name those you want to include in our prayer from your seat. We see both as valuable ways of extending the pastoral ministry of our church, and we appreciate your help in making this a vital and deep part of our worship.

We welcome your thoughts about our worship. Please speak with any of us and we'll see you in church!



## **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).

**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** most 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!

**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.

**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 Maggie Reeve.

**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. Contact Joy Schuetze at [Joy.Strings@verizon.net](mailto: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](mailto:kenozagals@mac.com)) or Abbe Wertz ([abbewertz@yahoo.com](mailto:abbewertz@yahoo.com))

**Green Sanctuary Committee** meets on second Sundays at Noon.

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

**New Moon Coffeehouse** is on third Saturdays at 8 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, Membership, Ministry, Music, Parish Council, Parish Nurses, Permanent Funds, Religious Education, Stewardship, Welcoming Congregation and Worship Committees.



**Great Music! Great Desserts!**

**Sat. Sept 19**

**8:00 pm**

**\$20**

**½ price kids  
18 and under**

**A Benefit Concert for the  
UU Church of Haverhill  
16 Ashland St  
Haverhill MA 01830**



## **Special Benefit Show**

### ***Musical Potpourri: Selected Showcase of Local Talents***

***Aidan and Connor Wertz***

*String fiddle duo*

***Dean Stevens***

*Central American activist songwriter*

***Paul Prue***

*Haverhill's own: blues guitar*

***Meg Rayne***

*Social justice singer/songwriter*

***Quentin Callewaert***

*Classical and steel guitar prodigy*

***Kangaralien***

*Energetic, powerful acoustic guitar*

For tickets and more information visit FB, our website, or call (978) 459-5134

**[www.newmooncoffeehouse.org](http://www.newmooncoffeehouse.org)**

## Church Leaders and Staff Contact Information

Board of Trustees Chair: Maggie Reeve: [maggie.reeve@hotmail.com](mailto:maggie.reeve@hotmail.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)  
Director of Religious Education: Sally Liebermann: [dre@uuhaverhill.org](mailto:dre@uuhaverhill.org)  
Music Director: Nate De Young: [nathaniel.deyoung@yahoo.com](mailto:nathaniel.deyoung@yahoo.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