



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, October, 2015



Brown Bag Lunch with the Minister every Thursday at Noon. Come eat and chat!

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

The Ladies Circle's October 10 meeting will feature Giovanni of Reach Fashions (Haverhill). He will speak about foundations and undergarments. All ladies of the church are welcome to attend what promises to be a fascinating program. Refreshments will be served. Hostesses: Valerie Osborne and Doris Myers.

The Choir will rehearse on Sundays, October 11, 18, and 25 at 9:15 am, and then sing at the 10:30 Worship Service. There is no rehearsal on October 4, when Nate De Young will be away (Fred MacArthur will play that day). Come sing with us—all are welcome!

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

New Moon Coffeehouse, Saturday, October 17, 8 pm. Featured artist is Jez Lowe, with Monica Rizzio opening. 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, or by calling 978-459-5134.

Congratulations and best wishes to our own Josh Goulet and Debbie Pleau on their wedding day here on Sunday, October 18.

Ferry Beach Weekend October 23-25. We join with friends from other UU churches for our annual weekend retreat at Ferry Beach in Saco, ME. See p. 3



Our Ferry Beach RE Week Participants
Summer 2015

Things Seen and Unseen

by Rev. Frank Clarkson

As we begin a new church year, I'm thinking about why we're here, and what church is really for. You could rightly answer this question in a number of ways. I'd say we are primarily a place of meeting. We are in the business of making connections. Early churches in New England were often called meeting houses; they were places not only for worship, but also for hosting the town meeting. There's separation of church and state now (there wasn't back then), but we still serve as a polling place on Election day!

Our building is a place of meeting not just on Sunday, but almost every day. Our partners at the food pantry and the drop-in center welcome and help folks in need, and we host twelve step programs and community meals, and gatherings of church committees and teams, plus community meetings, a youth orchestra, vespers and our weekly mindful meditation practice.

We are here to make connections that will nourish and sustain us. We come to church to behold one another: to be seen for who we are, to share our joys and sorrows, and to see others in their fullness too. We come to get glimpses of the Holy; to touch what is deep and lasting. This meeting and connecting takes time and attention. These gatherings provide the opportunity for genuine and deep encounters. But for that to happen, we have to pay attention and be present, not just in body, but in heart and mind.

Sometimes I worry about our society. We can be so busy and so easily distracted that we miss these opportunities to connect, which we need and crave. That's why I'm glad for this community, and its invitation to make deep and powerful connections. I am ever grateful that ours is such an active house of meeting. Thank you for being part of it!

Mysticism: East Meets West

by Josh Goulet

With everything going on in current affairs, I seem to have struck one word as a mantra for myself: love. Love is found throughout the scriptures of the world's great religions, which point to the same goal of loving, being loved, and acting on that love.

Krishna, in the *Bhagavad Gita*, talks about the importance of love in terms of worship. "It is true that one is where one's mind is. So fix your mind on Me. Be absorbed in Me alone. Still yourself in Me. Without a doubt you will then come and live within Me (12:8)." Krishna is asking people not to just love Him, but to love Him to the point where people want what He wants, act as He would act, think as He would think. This calls for action.

Jalaluddin Rumi writes the following poem called *Secret Ways*:

King, saint, thief, madman-
Love has grabbed everyone by the neck
And drags us to God in secret ways...
How could I ever have guessed
That God, too, desired us?

Here, Rumi talks about how everyone has worth and dignity: God desires us as we desire God. Our definition or understanding of God does not matter so much as the realization that each one of us, king and saint, thief and madman, are all worth being loved and desired. We are all cared for and should care for each other.

This message of love can also be found in 1 Corinthians 13:1-7, the teachings of Baha'u'llah, Buddha and those of humanist philosophers and teachers to name but a few. Regardless of the stories' specific theology, the message is clear: Put life into focus. Set priorities in the correct order. Value each person. Love everyone, including yourself, to the point where your actions speak no longer for yourself but for your love.

UU 101 Class, October 4, 11 & 18 at 9 am

UU 101 is a three-session introduction to this church and our UU tradition. Led by Rev. Frank, it's a great way to connect with others, learn more about the church and our UU tradition, and make deeper connections here. If you're new here, please consider joining us on these Sunday mornings at 9 am. Contact Frank, frank@uuhaverhill.org.

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. Contact: Sandra DeVellis sfdv@msn.com.

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.



Want to Sing in the Choir?

We're excited to have Nate De Young as our new music director! If you're interested in joining the choir, being on the choir email list, or have questions for Nate, email him: nathaniel.deyoung@yahoo.com. The choir will rehearse and sing about three times a month. You can find rehearsal times on the church calendar, www.uuhaverhill.org/events/calendar.

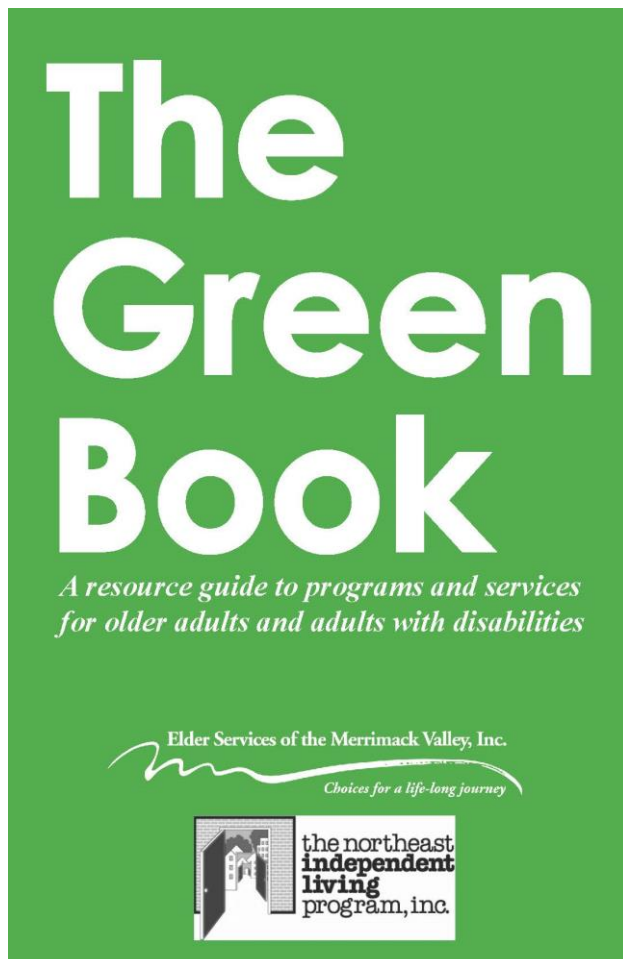


The Giving Chalice

For those who may be unaware, the Giving Chalice stands in the Sanctuary near the Murray Room door. It was decorated by our religious education children as part of their "helping hands" studies. The chalice stands ready to receive donations of non-perishable food. When it is full, we deliver the food to the Open Hand Food Pantry. Please feel free to place items in the chalice at any time.

October Second Sunday Collection

This month's Second Sunday donation will go to the Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley, Inc. ESMV is a non-profit agency serving elders and disabled adults who reside in Northeastern Massachusetts. Established in 1974, their mission is to support an individual's desire to make their own decisions, secure their independence, and remain living in the community safely. Elder Services Care Managers and Nurses work with thousands of elders and family members each day to make sure they have the right services, living arrangements, and access to good health care and benefits. You can find out more about Elder Services at www.esmv.org. Thank you for helping UUCH contribute to the wider community through your donation on October 11



September Coffeehouse a Big Success!

We want to thank everyone who came to the New Moon Coffeehouse in September, which raised over \$1660 for the church, and offered a night of wonderful music in our sanctuary. We're grateful to Carol Allen and the coffeehouse team, and to the musicians who shared their talent with us: Quentin Callewaert, Dean Stevens, Paul Prue, Kangaralien (Eric Clemenzi and Steve Belleville), Meg Rayne, and Aidan & Connor Wertz. Thanks also to organizers Abbe Wertz, Cori Thurlow and DeAnna Tashjian, and everyone who brought baked goods and volunteered here—it was a great night!



Ferry Beach Weekend is October 23-25

We hope you'll join Rev. Frank and other church folks at our annual fall retreat at Ferry Beach, on October 23, 24 & 25. Just over an hour north of Haverhill in Saco, Maine, Ferry Beach is a lovely Universalist retreat center with accommodations for campers and in the lodge buildings. Our hope is to have a large group of UUCH folks attend this year. Registration forms are available in the Murray Room, or contact Yolanda Negron, yolanda_ortl@yahoo.com. The cost is moderate and it will be a great time together. Please register soon--the deadline for sign-up is October 4!

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 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/Elder Services Roundtable meets second Tuesdays at 10 am.

The 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.

Mindful Meditation Practice is Mondays (except Monday holidays) at 7 pm, led by Betsy Robertson.

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

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.

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

New Moon Coffeehouse is on third Saturdays at 8 pm, September through May.

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, Permanent Funds, Religious Education, Stewardship, Welcoming Congregation and Worship Committees.

Church Leaders and Staff Contact Information

Board of Trustees Chair: Maggie Reeve: maggie.reeve@hotmail.com

Board of Trustees Vice Chair: Cori Thurlow: cori.thurlow@gmail.com

Rev. Frank Clarkson: frank@uuhaverhill.org

Director of Religious Education: Sally Liebermann: dre@uuhaverhill.org

Music Director: Nate De Young: nathaniel.deyoung@yahoo.com

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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