



UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HAVERHILL

THE COMMUNICATOR

From the Minister

Rev. Frank Clarkson is generally in the church office on Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays. Friday is his sermon writing day and Monday is his day off. You can reach him by phone at 978-372-5173 or by e-mail at frank@uuhaverhill.org.

About a month ago I heard an interview on the radio with Nicholas Christakis and James Fowler, authors of a new book, *Connected: The Surprising Power of Our Social Networks and How They Shape Our Lives*. They studied the ways people are connected to one another and found that we have more influence on one another than has been previously thought. What struck me was this assertion that we have more of an impact on others than we think we do.

For example, they found that happiness spreads to three degrees of separation. This means that if you are happy, not only is it more likely that those around you will be happy, but your joy might even spread to your friends' friends. The point is, we are connected to one another. Our thoughts and actions, our hopes and fears, radiate out from us like ripples across water.

I'm aware that in our growing church, it's not always easy to connect with others or find the information you need. You may have questions about how to get a nametag (there's a signup sheet on the table in the Murray Room) or a copy of a recent sermon (they are available on the website: www.uuhaverhill.org/worship/sermons). You may want to reserve a room for a meeting (contact Office Administrator Lisa Compton) or have an idea for a church fundraiser (speak to a member of our Board of Trustees).

There are all kinds of questions you may have, and I want to encourage you to ask them. Call the church office, send me an e-mail, ask someone at coffee hour. We'll do our best to respond in a way that is helpful. If you have thoughts about a particular aspect of church life, please speak directly to those involved in that area. If you see ways that we can improve our communications, please speak to me, or any member of the church staff or the Board of Trustees. My hope is that we are building a more connected, more empowering, more liberating community, in which our processes are clear and easily understood. We're not there yet, but that's the goal. And I believe we're moving in that direction. If you see ways we can improve, please let me know. If you are willing to help with these changes, that's even better!

We are making this community day by day, by how we act with one another, by the intention and the effort we bring to our common life, by how often we show up and the attitude we bring in with us. Here at UUCH and in your life, you have more power and influence than you may think you do. May we each use our power, in the words of the Passover Haggadah, "to help and not to hinder, to love and not to hate, to bless and not to curse, to serve you, Spirit of freedom."

Thank you for all you bring to this community, and for the ways you are helping to build the beloved community here in our midst.

Yours in faith,
Frank

Greetings from Religious Education

At this writing, skies are grey and the forecast calls for possible snow flurries at week's end... and we find ourselves in November 2011! The Autumn and Winter holidays promise time for remembrance and reflection and bring many opportunities for fun, service and spiritual exploration to our children and youth.

The following is our schedule of classes and events for the next several weeks differentiated by age group. Although we continue to send electronic weekly updates, we will also publish our schedule periodically here in the Communicator.

Sunday Morning Schedule:

Nursery Care and Preschool classes will be offered on Sundays 11/6, 11/13, 11/20, 12/4 and 12/11.

Children in Grades K-5 will meet for class on Sundays 11/6, 11/13, 11/20 and 12/4.

Junior Youth will meet for class on Sundays 11/6, 11/13, 12/4 and 12/11.

Senior Youth will meet for class on Sunday 11/13, 12/4 and 12/11.

Sunday Morning Events:

Junior and Senior Youth set up for Santa Parade concession Sunday 11/20.

Children in Grades P/S –Grade 5 participate in Fleece Hats Project Sunday 12/11 during class time.

Junior and Senior Youth invited to Fleece Hats 11:30-12:30pm (after class).

Other events:

Senior Youth Coming of Age Retreat, Saturday 11/5 1:30-8PM. Retreat at North Parish until 5:30pm, family dinner at UUCH @ 6:00pm.

Senior Youth host Community Meal Saturday 11/19 with leaders from 2-6PM.

Senior Youth (with Con Advisory Team) host Youth Conference at UUCH Saturday 11/26-11/27 (overnight 12:00pm Sat-9:00am Sun).

As is our tradition, we will celebrate Christmas with our annual Multigenerational Worship Service on Sunday December 18th. We hope you will invite your family and friends to join us as we re-enact the Nativity Story with our ever growing cast of angels, stars and gentle beasts. We ask that families watch for updated information regarding our holiday celebrations and events and consider the many ways that your family may enjoy participating.

As always, thank you for supporting our children and youth at UUCH.

In peace and friendship,

Sally Liebermann

Director of Religious Education

Office Outreach

One of my favorite hymns, both musically and historically, is *'Tis a Gift to Be Simple*. Part of the text says *'till turning, turning, we come 'round right*. In that context, I was moved to note that my new office door, on the outside, says "Church Office." On the inside, if you *turn 'round*, it says in ancient golden letters, "Pastor's Study." I am hardly the Pastor's Study, but I am certainly Grand Central Station!

I have been warmly welcomed by all of you whom I have already met, and by the congregation on Sunday, October 23rd. I am so pleased to be here, and I must tell you that Frank, Sally, Claudia and Dawn have been a most welcoming and patient presence. I look forward to meeting more of you soon, and all of you eventually. Please feel free to stop by, and as I said in church on Sunday, there is only one of me, but over 100 of you, so please do help me with your names, repeatedly if necessary!

To introduce myself briefly:

I was born in Greenfield MA, brought up in Exeter NH, and went to high school in Concord MA and college in Northampton MA (Smith, BA in music and minor in art history). So, I consider myself to be from Massachusetts, despite the fact that I have lived in England, Jaffrey NH, New York City, Taunton MA, Portland OR, and Seneca Falls NY (home of Women's Rights). My husband Matthew and I have called Haverhill "home" now for nearly six years, and intend on staying here, having bought a condo on the banks of the beautiful Merrimack River. Our daughter Holly and new son-in-law Erik Durso also live in Haverhill. Holly received her BS and MA from MIT this past June in City Planning with a subspecialty in transportation, and works for the MBTA. Erik, after two tours of duty in the Army including deployment to Iraq, is on the GI Bill at Bunker Hill Community College in Charlestown. My husband Matthew works for the Andover Organ Company, which installed our organ and currently maintains it.

My professional background includes being director, curator and museum educator at museums/historical societies/National Historic Landmarks in Massachusetts, Oregon and New York State. I spent seven years as an organbuilder (which is how I eventually met Matthew!). I was also Parish Administrator for Trinity Episcopal Church in Seneca Falls, and have been Choir Director/Organist for over 35 years in Unitarian, American Baptist, Episcopal, UCC Congregational, non-UCC Congregational, Lutheran and Presbyterian churches. I am familiar with church!

I know our church is seriously Green oriented, and some of you may be interested that my most recent position was as an educator with the Trustees of Reservations, the oldest land conservancy organization in the country. Sustainability is so important!

Please let me know how I may help you as this congregation moves forward in its faith journey. For I do know, that by *turning, turning, we come 'round right*.

Best wishes,
Lisa Compton
Office Administrator

Continuing Conversations: Meditation – Chapel

On Sunday, October 23rd, a group gathered in the newly renovated room at the top of the stairs to determine plans for its use. We want to thank all those involved for their efforts in refurbishing this part of our building. It opens many possibilities. Our hopes are for a quiet space that will provide opportunities for centering, use by RE for children's worship, meditation/prayer space for individuals and small groups which might benefit from a small worshipful surrounding. We spoke of using symbols from our many faith traditions with a focal piece adaptable for the varying uses of the room. Perhaps there could be a place in the room where we place intentions or names of people to keep in our hearts. We spoke of naming the space to reflect our intentions to honor its uses as sacred.

Our questions included whether it should be named after a person and/or the function of the room? Some suggestions were: Meditation Chapel, Room at the Top of the Stairs, or naming it for a noteworthy Unitarian Universalist person of faith. Please feel free to help us with these questions. What do you see happening in this contemplative space? What would you like it named? What symbols do you see being placed in this room? This is a room for OUR community. We would love your ideas. Please discuss any ideas or questions with Betsy Robertson (kenozagals@mac.com) or Rev Frank (frank@uuhaverhill.org) by November 13th. Thank you for being part of the process. We look forward to sharing the official room dedication with YOU.

Caring Ministries: Our Parish Care Program

As members of our UUCH community we reach out to each other in time of need. The Caring Ministries Team formed last year to enrich and extend our ministry of pastoral care to the congregation. We support the good work already being done by the Ladies Circle, Parish Nurses and other church volunteers, and seek new ways to serve those who could use our help.

Carolyn Hart and Delight Reese have completed a special training program and will provide the core leadership of this group. Rev. Frank, as our minister, will oversee the program in consultation with the Committee on Ministry and the Board of Trustees. Terry Koukias, Cil Dullea and Sandra DeVellis are new to the team and providing valuable support.

The purpose of the Caring Ministries is to provide the care of the church to those in need. Needs may be temporary, such as providing a meal during an illness or more sustained such as regular transportation to church. This ministry will include visiting the sick, providing emergency childcare, help with household tasks or companioning the grieving.

The Caring Ministries Team needs YOU... to locate those in need and to develop a wider network of folks who are willing to pitch in when called upon. As our community grows, it is especially important to be able to maintain the 'helping hands' that exist informally in small loving groups. You will be hearing more about our plans in our weekly UU e-mail updates and in future Communicators. Please let Carolyn, Delight or Frank know of your willingness to help. Thank you in advance.

UUCH Happenings

UUCH Book Group Meets November 20th

The Book Group is reading *Red Azalea* by Anchee Min. Min was born in Shanghai in 1957. She was part of the Red Guard, the Cultural Revolution, a soldier at the Red Fire farm, and a member of the Communist Youth League. In her book, she tells of Chinese Society in the late Mao era (1964-1976). We tend to see Mao as hero instead of the person responsible for the Cultural Revolution which brought destruction to every family in China and took many lives. The meeting will be at 9:00 AM on Sunday, November 20th in the Ladies Parlor.

Fair Trade Coffee News

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 6th, 13th, or 20th. Contact Richard Smyth for more information at 978-469-7085 or rsmyth64@yahoo.com.

Winter Farmer's Market to Open at UUCH

Please join members of the Green Sanctuary Committee as we birth a Winter Farmer's Market in the Murray Room this winter! For eight dates, we will open our doors to the community for access to purchasing fresh and local foods including: meat, root vegetables, winter greens, jams, jellies, honey, baked goods, and more. There will also be a small section of crafters, so you may buy handmade gifts for the holidays. So come on down and help the farmers make a year-round living, while you enjoy a hot cup of coffee, and listen to some live music. Saturdays 9 to noon on Nov. 12 & 19, Dec. 3, 10, & 17, Jan 3. Feb. 7, and March 3. Questions? Renay at info@nhgoddess.com

Occupy! Boston Needs Our Help

If you are interested in supporting the Occupy! Boston movement, the occupiers themselves, as witnessed by Rev. Frank, Renay Allen and Richard Smyth, have requested the following items: in bright colors, cardboard for making signs, Magnum Markers SC-6600 (black, red, blue, green), old white sheets for banners, weather/camping gear (blankets, tarps, socks, sleeping bags, string, rope, rain gear), milk crates, food, clothing and cash. Cash is pooled and distributed for camp functions as determined by the occupiers. Items may be brought to church, or contact Richard Smyth at rsmyth64@yahoo.com. Another form of help is our presence in Boston as witnesses to the cause. Sign up for carpooling in the Murray Room.

Green Sanctuary Committee Movie Event on November 5th

The Green Sanctuary Committee, in association with Conscious Eating Events and Whole Foods Market in Andover, presents a video screening of PLANEAT in an effort to encourage a meat-free meal a week. A food tasting and nutritional information will be offered, and a nutrition kit will be raffled off, all courtesy of Whole Foods Market. Please join us on Saturday, November 5 from 3 to 6 pm in the Murray Room. There's a \$5 suggested donation. Please RSVP to consciouseatingevent@gmail.com. For more information, contact Richard Smyth at rsmyth64@yahoo.com.

Paper Maché for Grownups!

November 12th and 19th at the UU Church of Haverhill: Come to this workshop and create a beautiful vase, bowl, fat cat or holiday ornament. Bring scissors and work clothes or an apron. No experience necessary, and come ready to play! \$75 includes materials and both Saturday workshops. For more information or to sign up, call Pam Katz at 603-436-0720.

Storytelling Program at Ladies Circle November 12th

The Ladies' Circle invites the congregation to an afternoon of storytelling with Merrill Kohlhofer on Saturday, November 12th at 1:00 PM in the Murray Room. Mr. Kohlhofer is a teacher/historian/storyteller from Salem, MA. His performances are moving, amusing and entertaining, and are appropriate for all school-age children (and adults!). There is no fee for this program, but please sign up in the Murray Room so we can plan for seating and refreshments.

Festival of Light: New Moon Coffeehouse Holiday Program December 4th

New Moon Coffeehouse is presenting this holiday concert as a benefit for the church. Come celebrate the winter holidays with songs from Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa and the Winter Solstice! Performers include Kim & Reggie Harris, and Magpie. Consummate musicians and storytellers, Kim and Reggie Harris combine a strong folk and gospel legacy with a solid background in classical, rock, jazz and pop music. Creative curiosity, years of road experience and interactions with performers such as Pete Seeger, Jay Leno, Tom Paxton and Harry Belafonte, have led them to produce music that entertains and inspires. Terry Leonino and Greg Artzner-- Magpie-- have been performing together for over 35 years, raising their voices in support of the ongoing struggles for civil rights, freedom, justice and peace. Bring your family and friends, as this will be an afternoon to remember!



Kim & Reggie Harris

November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 12–Lunch w/ the Minister 7-AA 7-Understanding the Bible	2	3 7-AA 7-Green Sanctuary Committee 7-Goddess 101/ Cakes for the Queen of Heaven	4	5 11-Blind Guild Luncheon 2-Green Sanctuary Movie PlanEAT 2:30 Community Meals
6 9-Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Sunday Worship 2:00 Keyian Recital 5-Meditation Group 7-AA	7	8 Election Day 12–Lunch w/ the Minister 7-AA 7-Understanding the Bible	9 7-Board of Trustees	10 7-AA	11	12 9– Farmers' Market 11-Ladies Circle 1-Ladies Circle Program
13 9-Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Sunday Worship 12-Choir Rehearsal 5-Meditation Group 7-AA	14	15 12–Lunch w/ the Minister 7-AA 7-Understanding the Bible	16	17 7-AA 7-Worship Committee	18	19 9– Farmers' Market 2:30 Community Meals 8-New Moon Coffeehouse
20 9-Choir Rehearsal 9-Book Group 10:30 Sunday Worship 5-Meditation Group 7-AA	21	22 12–Lunch w/ the Minister 7-AA	23	24 Thanksgiving 7-AA	25	26
27 10:30 Sunday Worship 5-Meditation Group 7-AA	28	29 7-AA	30 7-Choir Rehearsal			

**Universalist Unitarian
Church**

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If you no longer wish to receive the Communicator please check this box and return to 16 Ashland Street, Haverhill, MA 01830. Or email us at office@uuhaverhill.org. Thank you!

New Moon Coffeehouse Presents

Buskin and Batteau

Saturday, November 19th at 8 PM



Buskin and Batteau known nationally for their soulful acoustic balladry, fun-filled performances and their instrumental virtuosity (piano/violin).

\$20 admission at the door, 18 and under half price.

UUCH members receive a \$2 discount. More info: newmooncoffeehouse.org