

UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HAVERHILL

Volume 8, Issue 8

April 1, 2012

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.

This year April begins with the Christian holy days of Palm Sunday and, a week later, Easter. In the Jewish tradition Passover begins on the evening of April 6. These rites of spring do not promise all sweetness and light. Their stories include plenty of disappointment and betrayal, suffering and death. But they remind us that death does not have the last word, and that oppression and tyranny will be overthrown. As our Unitarian forebear Theodore Parker said, "The arc of the moral universes is long... and from what I can see I am sure it bends toward justice."

They invite us to tell the story, and inhabit it, and to make meaning from it within the context of our own lives. Where are you in the story of the people of Israel? Are you enslaved in Egypt, are you in the process of breaking those bonds, are you traveling through the wilderness, or have you reached the promised land? Where is our community in this story?

Where are you in the story of Jesus' last days? Do you identify with those disciples, falling asleep in the garden because they can't bear the pain of what is coming? Or Peter, who denied his friend and teacher when the going got tough? Or with the faithful women who remain at his side until the end?

These days are a good time to meditate on the passages that tell these stories, and ponder how they intersect with your own life. Our last Vespers service of this season will be on April 4, in the middle of this holy week. Please join us if you'd like a contemplative time in the middle of the week. After Vespers and our meal, I'll offer a time for discussion for anyone who would like to reflect on the Easter or Passover scripture passages. I expect this will be a rich and deep conversation.

In addition to these holy days, April also brings our annual stewardship campaign. By now I hope you have attended a house party and shared in some conversations about how our church community is making a difference in your life and in our community. I hope by now that you've made your pledge of financial support for the coming year. If you haven't, don't despair--there's still time. But the time is now! And we need your help.

We are at a pivotal moment in the life our congregation. We have the potential to be the church we dream of, and it's within our reach. I'm convinced that if everyone who belongs to this church (and by that I mean everyone who worships here, whose children are in church school here, who calls UUCH home) makes a commitment to giving a percentage of their income to the church, then we will have enough to do what we want and need to do. What percent, you may ask? I suggest 2 to 3 percent.

We need you. Please do your part. Thank you for all the ways you make this such a great church community!

Yours in faith,
Frank

Greetings from Religious Education

April brings flowers and rains and great activities to Religious Education!

Children and Jr. Youth will meet for class once this month and enjoy a variety of activities and worship styles on the other Sundays. The focus of our programming will shift to environmental awareness and reflection on our 7th Principle: "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." Please make notes of these classes and events:

- Sunday 4/1: **Sunday RE Classes**—Children and Jr. Youth 10:30am
30Hour Famine Informational Meeting—Families/participants 12noon
Sr. Youth 30Hour Planning Meeting (time TBD)
- Friday 4/6: **Movie Presentation:** *Jesus Christ Superstar* Jr./Sr. Youth 6-8pm
- Sunday 4/8: **Easter Sunday**—Children's Holiday Worship & Alternative Treasure Hunt
- Sunday 4/15: **Annual Outdoor Worship in the Park**—All RE families invited to local greenspace for Opening Circle followed by area clean up 10:30am
Senior Youth Group 5:30-7:30pm
- Sunday 4/22: **Multigenerational Earth Service** followed by Earth Fair and RE Veggie Café 10:30am
- Fri/Sat 4/27-4/28 **30Hour Famine Event**—for youth ages 12+ (Fri 6pm-Sat 6:30pm)
- Sunday 4/29: **Multigenerational Worship Service** (Family-oriented guest preacher)

As is our tradition, our Jr. Youth are collecting donations of pet food and supplies for our annual Alternative Easter Treasure Hunt. Donations may be delivered to the Murray Room at any time before worship on Easter Sunday morning. You will find the collection station just inside the door.

RE will sponsor our annual Veggie Café and will ask for donations of vegetarian soups, salads, entrees and desserts. This is a fun fundraiser for RE and we hope you will join us for lunch after worship on April 22.

Please watch your weekly e-mail updates for further details regarding each weekend's events. Thank you for your support of our children and youth!

In peace and friendship,
 Sally Liebermann
 Director of Religious Education

Notes from the Music Director

"Sing like you like to sing, God loves all simple things
 For God is the simplest of all, For God is the simplest of all."

These words, from Leonard Bernstein's *Simple Song*, are among my favorites. Singing is something we can all do, and God is the simplest of all. And, somewhere along the way, some of us decided that we can't sing--maybe because a music teacher or choral director told us so, (I cringe at the thought) or because we were often told as children to be quiet. And, God is the simplest of all. God is. That is my theology. I said those words to a Congregational minister once and he responded, "You're right. God is in all things." And I felt completely deflated. He hadn't understood me at all.

Frank and I often speak about the importance of congregational singing, and are both very happy that the congregation is sounding better and better, and more importantly, is enjoying singing more and more. Hymn singing, to me, is one of the best ways that members of a congregation can join in worship. And, recently, in our choir, three people who had never done so before, sang solos. Several members of the congregation told me how very moved they were by the beauty of their singing.

So, sing like you like to sing. And remember that God is.
 And, keep singing your heart out. See you in church!

Claudia Keyian
 Music Director

Office Outreach

During my time at UUCH, I have observed the ebb and flow of our communications and publications. Currently, we have three publications which are produced regularly. I am frequently asked about deadlines, and which publication is appropriate for a given submission. I offer here a synopsis of the three:

1. **Order of Service** (weekly). This pamphlet welcomes newcomers and guides participants through the worship experience. A calendar of the upcoming week's events is included. Due to extremely limited space, announcements are short, and, with the exception of "save the date" announcements, pertain only to the upcoming week. Only if there is room can longer-term entries be included. **Deadline is Wednesday by 9 am.**

2. **E-news** (weekly). This electronic e-mail blast is sent out every Thursday, and reaches all members and friends who have e-mail. It lists the upcoming sermon topic, "save the date" announcements and occasional notices of community events pertaining to UUCH. This is the appropriate vehicle in which to offer brief descriptions of upcoming event content, which for space reasons cannot fit in the Order of Service. With the exception of "save the date" entries, announcements will run for two weeks preceding an event. Exceptions to this may be made if warranted by the nature of the event. **Deadline is Thursday by 9 am.**

3. **The Communicator** (monthly). This is UUCH's main newsletter. It is posted to our website by the first of each month. Notification when it is available for viewing will be sent via e-mail. For those wishing to receive the Communicator via regular mail, please know that it will arrive as soon as possible after the first of the month. It contains columns from the Minister and staff, and articles from committee heads and event chairs. Longer explanations about issues/events than can be accommodated in the E-news belong here. Due to space restrictions, we are unable to include press releases from other organizations. Those belong on the bulletin board. **Deadline is always the 25th of the month, except for December.**

I hope this helps! For I know that good communication is at the heart of any organization...

Please note that a member has donated a very nice rolling walker with seat, brakes and basket. It is available to lend to anyone who needs it, either on site or at home.

Finally, this month's Wish List includes a stainless steel tea kettle, either electric or stovetop. Staff and small groups are currently heating water for tea in either plastic kettles or aluminum, neither of which is healthy!

Lisa Compton
Parish Administrator

Thank You!!!

Two of our devoted volunteers have recently "retired" from their work organizing important efforts in our community. Trudy Blyth has stepped down from co-leading (with Janet Wilson) coffee hour sign-ups. Judy Hastings has been organizing our greeters and ushers for the past two years, and has decided it's time to hand over the reins. Greeting/ushering and coffee hour are two very important aspects of Sunday morning, that directly impact how welcoming we are to newcomers. We owe big thanks to Trudy and Judy for their great work over the past few years! Thanks also to Janet for continuing to organize coffee hour. Both of these efforts need our help--please sign up and be part of these ministries of welcome!

Thank you to Nancy Rusk and Deanna Tashjian for donating arts & crafts supplies to Religious Education~we appreciate your generosity!

Service Auction

Good News! The Service Auction netted us \$5,690! We had a great time! Thanks to all who worked so hard to make this event such a success, especially Maureen Schofield, Lynn LaFerla and Erika Lowrey. Good job!

THE LADIES CIRCLE

What is the Ladies Circle?

The Ladies Circle is an organization, over 100 years old, which serves a supporting role in the maintenance of the church building and the church community. In part, the ladies in the Circle provide outreach to members of the congregation who are ill, homebound or grieving, provide flowers on Sunday and for special events, and fully coordinate many of these events. It is open to all female members and friends of UUCH. Meetings are held from September to June on the second Saturday of the month and usually take place in the Ladies Parlor. A description of each month's program is published in the Communicator.

How does the Circle support its projects on behalf of the church?

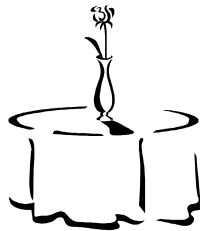
The Ladies Circle 5th annual Rose Tea is scheduled for April 14, from 1-3 pm in the Murray Room. This is the Circle's ONLY fund-raiser of the church year and the proceeds from the Tea must support all of the Circle's annual projects.

What has the Ladies Circle done lately?

1. Paid for the renovation of the kitchen, including the new floor and the refurbishing of the cabinets.
2. Purchased all the bridge tables and folding six-foot tables currently in use in the Murray Room.
3. Paid, in large part, for the new sound system.
4. Contributed funds for the purchase of furniture for the new meditation room.
5. Purchased all the soup bowls used at the annual carol sing in December.

For more information on the Ladies Circle, please contact Trudy Blyth at 978-374-6660 or trudy-bill@comcast.net.

~THE ROSE TEA~
APRIL 14, 2012 1:00pm to 3:00pm



Please Come!
For Yummy Sandwiches, Cakes, Pies, Scones, Cookies & more!
Music, Raffles and Fun
Donation \$15

Wait Service by the Gentlemen of the Congregation

HATS AND GLOVES OPTIONAL BUT WELCOME!

For tickets & information
Contact: Pat Feller 978-372-3622 or berry39@verizon.net

News from Our Coffee Hour Coordinator

Coffee Hour Hosting is a long tradition of our community. Great thanks to those members and families who have signed up to host during April and early May. We are exploring more efficient ways to organize this process, and get more members involved. Changes will be coming, but perhaps not before the summer. Currently, there is a sign-up book in the Murray Room. We have dates open through May and June, and encourage you to find a date, a co-host, and sign up this week! There is an information page to answer your questions if you are a new to Hosting. For more information, contact Janet Wilson at jw0900@comcast.net.

Community Meals Seeks Helpers

We are experiencing an early drought! Community Meals is in need of cooks, assistant cooks and helpers for the Spring and Summer. If you are a returning community meal supporter, someone who would like to try it for the first time, or a church committee who would like to serve a meal, please contact Kristie Colton or Abbe Wertz. Most immediately, May 5 & 19 and June 2 & 16 are in need of helpers. The sign-up book, with instructions available, is in the Murray Room.

Earth Day Veggie Café

The Religious Education Committee will be hosting our annual Earth Day Veggie Café following worship on Sunday, April 22 in the Ladies Parlor. We seek vegetarian dishes—salads, entrees, snacks, desserts—and all are welcome to contribute. If you plan to make a dish, please contact Kristie Colton at kenozagals@mac.com and let her know the name of the dish, a list of its ingredients, and the recipe. The RE Committee hopes to print the recipes to go with the dishes. Please remember that we ask that NO NUTS be included in these recipes. An abbreviated coffee hour will take place that Sunday; the Veggie Café is a fundraiser for the RE Committee. Please bring a few dollars to buy a plate or bowl of vegetarian food as we welcome the spirit of Earth Day and enjoy the Earth Fair.

Important Message from the Green Sanctuary Committee

The Green Sanctuary Committee has drafted an environmental stewardship policy that it would like the Board and congregation to consider at our upcoming Annual Meeting. It is available on the website as a link at http://www.uuhaverhill.org/social_justice/green or in print in the Murray Room on the information table. Please take some time to look it over before coming to the meeting and forward any questions, comments, or concerns to Richard Smyth at rsmyth64@yahoo.com and/or Renay Allen at renaynh@comcast.net.

Freely Gathered: Districts Assembly

April 28, 2012 1:00-5:00 PM

First Unitarian Church, 90 Main St., Worcester, MA

You are invited to attend the first ever joint assembly of the Clara Barton and Mass Bay Districts! Join UUs from 118 congregations and beyond for an afternoon of celebrative worship, music and fellowship that asks you to consider these questions: "What does it feel like to be free?" "What is my call?" "Am I prepared to answer that call?" This event is free of charge. For more details and to register, go to www.cbd-mbd-uua.org.

Message from the Worship Committee

If you wish to contact the Worship Committee, you can now use its new e-mail address, worship@uuhaverhill.org. Messages sent to this address will be redirected to members of the committee.

Report from the New Moon Coffeehouse

By Carol Allen

DECEMBER BENEFIT SHOW A SUCCESS

Our December show, which was a benefit for the Haverhill Universalist Unitarian Church, was musically successful, featuring glorious sounds and opportunities for vocal participation. The performers, Kim and Reggie Harris and Magpie (who are the husband and wife duo of Terry Leonini and Greg Artzner), played rousing and soulful music that we might be able to bring to a Sunday service sometime in the future. The financial results were a bit less impressive. We needed 40 attendees to be able to pay the artists, and we had 41 adult audience members and some students who paid half price. On December 4, the coffeehouse manager, with great pleasure, turned over the profits from the gate and the concession table to Rev. Frank, who was present that afternoon, along with a check for \$500 as a donation to the church.

HISTORY OF THE COFFEEHOUSE-CHURCH CONNECTION

In the past, the coffeehouse has collaborated successfully with church members on various fundraisers and social outreach. For example, for several years, we held a very popular Cajun Fest, with music booked and paid for by the coffeehouse and food prepared by UU cooks. We also had benefits for local programs, such as the one for the women's shelter, which coincided with the presentation of the Clothesline Project, organized by church members. It is to be noted that for many years, all or most of the coffeehouse volunteers were also part of the church family, until several moved away and joined other congregations. For example, Mary Gaynor and John Schneider now attend the Chelmsford Church, Tom and Nancy Jarrell moved to Colorado; Carol Allen is now attending the Theodore Parker Church in West Roxbury, and Mary Ann Johnson is very active in the UU Fellowship in Bowling Green, KY. The coffeehouse is still, therefore, very much a UU activity.

Speaking of collaboration, we of the coffeehouse would like to thank Sally Lieberman and all the children and staff of the Religious Education classes for the hats, scarves and sweaters that we added to the collections we took at our winter shows. We donated all of this winter wear to the Share the Warmth clothing drive organized by the radio station WUMB and the Golden Key Society of the University of Massachusetts, Boston. Thank you all!

A SPECIAL REQUEST

We welcome members of the Haverhill church community to attend concerts, help us promote the shows, and/or to become volunteers. Actually, we have one very specific request. Recently, we bought a banner to hang in front of the church to promote the next concert. As you may know, all of the New Moon concerts take place on the third Saturday of the month, unless it is a special production, such as the December benefit concert for the church. Therefore, we are looking for someone who attends the services the week BEFORE the concert, that is, the Sunday before the third Saturday of the month, to hang the banner for us so that people who drive by will be informed of the upcoming show. If anyone is willing and able to provide this service, please see DeAnna Tashjian or Danielle Tashjian Fisher, both of whom can show you where the banner is stored. We can repay you with free admission to the show you help promote.

The New Moon Coffeehouse continues to shine brightly! We are having a good season, replete with the exquisite talent it is known for all over the Greater Boston and southern New Hampshire regions. Now in our 24th season, we continue to be a beacon for exceptional music and as a destination for progressive thinkers who support justice and equality. Come share the music and the love.

April 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:30-RE Program Cmte Mtg. 9-Choir Rehearsal 10:30-Worship 5-Meditation Grp. 5:30-Sr. Youth Mtg 6-MoonPool Cov.	2 6:30-RE Sub-cmte	3 12-Lunch w/ the Minister 7-Mindful Meditation	4 11-Mindful Meditation 12:30-Staff Mtg. 6-Vespers 6:30-Men's Spirituality Grp.	5 5:45-MV String Orchestra Rehearsal 7-Membership Cmte Mtg.	6 5-UUCH Youth Movie: Jesus Christ Superstar	7 2:30-Community Meals
8 9-Book Group 9-Choir Rehearsal 10:30-Worship 11:45-Sun. Reflection Grp. 5-Meditation Grp.	9	10 12-Lunch w/ the Minister 7-Mindful Meditation 7-Cmte on Ministry Mtg.	11 11-Mindful Meditation 7-Board of Trustees Mtg.	12 5:45-MV String Orchestra Rehearsal	13 6-Ladies Circle Set Up	14 9:30-Spirit Band Rehearsal 1-Rose Tea
15 9-Choir Rehearsal 10:30-Worship 12-Choir Rehearsal 12:30-Conflict Res. Workshop 5-Meditation Grp. 6-MoonPool Cov.	16	17 12-Lunch w/ the Minister 7-Mindful Meditation	18 11-Mindful Meditation 12:30-Staff Mtg.	19 12-INC 7-Worship Cmte Mtg.	20	21 2:30-Community Meals 8-New Moon Coffeehouse: David Wilcox
22 10:30-Worship 11:30-Earth Day Fair/Veggie Café 11:45-Sun. Reflection Grp. 5-Meditation Grp.	23	24 12-Lunch w/ the Minister 7-Mindful Meditation	25 <u>Communicator Deadline</u> 11-Mindful Meditation 7-B & G Cmte Mtg.	26 5:45-MV String Orchestra Rehearsal	27	28 9:30-Spirit Band Rehearsal
29 8:30-RE Cmte 9-Choir Rehearsal 10:30-Worship 5-Meditation Grp. 6-MoonPool Cov.	30					

**Universalist Unitarian
Church of Haverhill**

16 Ashland Street
Haverhill, MA 01830
Phone: 978/372-5173
Fax: 978-372-3445

Minister: Rev. Frank Clarkson
frank@uuhaverhill.org

Minister Emerita Rev. Janet Bowering

Director of Religious Education:

Sally Liebermann
dre@uuhaverhill.org

Music Director Claudia Keyian
Claudia@ClaudiaMusic.com

Student Minister Dawn Fortune

Office Administrator Lisa Compton
office@uuhaverhill.org

Office Hours: Tue, Wed, Thurs 9:00-2:00

Web Site: www.uuhaverhill.org



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 David Wilcox

Saturday, April 21st at 8 PM

Solo-acoustic performer David Wilcox performs songs with beautiful, passionate lyrics, sung in a rich, soulful voice and accompanied by brilliant guitar playing. His love of travel, both physical and metaphorical, comes alive in his music.

Lori Diamond and Fred Abatelli open.

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

UUCH members receive a \$2 discount.

More info: newmooncoffeehouse.org