

# The Call



*The mission of The Call is to inform, inspire, and build community.*

*Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Upper Valley -Different People, Different Beliefs, One Faith / March 2013*

## President's Message

Thank you to all who have pitched in with vim, vigor and good cheer to set up for services, provide rides for people who need them, clean up after potlucks, and help in myriad ways to create our community. You have made my job as president of the congregation so much easier and so much more rewarding. It is a joy to feel the positive vibes in spite of (or maybe because of?) our recent trials and tribulations.

Change is difficult. (How many times have we both said and been told that?!) It is natural to feel trepidation about our future. Are we going to be OK? Will we land on our feet? Will we find solid ground beneath those feet in the not-too-distant future? Increasingly I believe the answer is a resounding Yes! And as spring approaches, even more change is on the way – but this time it is cause for celebration. I am delighted to report that Rev. Lee is nearing the end of her medical treatment and feeling the return of her health. (She has one last chemo treatment.) Lee is looking forward to her return to the congregation the week of April 15th. This will be a bitter-sweet time as we will both be welcoming Lee back and preparing to say good-bye to her at the end of her contract in July. It will also be an important time of self-reflection for our congregation, as we ask the questions and hear the perspectives that will bring closure to this interim ministry. I hope we'll use this poignant moment to gain greater clarity on who we are as a congregation and what we'd like to do.

Many of you have met Patience Stoddard and enjoyed her sermons. You will be happy to know that she and the Board have been in conversation about the possibility that she could continue her good work with us next year. We would like you to be a part of this conversation. Beginning at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 10th, Patience will be available at the Lebanon United Methodist Church to answer your questions and talk about some of her ideas. We will not have a potluck after the service; however, finger food will be served at the meeting so you will not be too hungry to enjoy the service following.

Lee and Patience together have the best interests of our congregation at heart. They are committed to supporting us as we continue this exciting journey.

With gratitude to all and faith in our future,

*Cappy Nunlist, President*

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## Sunday Morning Reflections

Please join Rev. Patience Stoddard and Sparrow on the 2nd and 4th Sunday mornings, 10 AM at the Meeting House. We'll share some worshipful time and reflections on the theme of the week. Activities for all ages will engage our hands, hearts, and minds. All are welcome; this special time will enhance but not recapitulate the evening's Sunday service.

## Sunday Services

Services are held at 5 PM at the Lebanon United Methodist Church, with potluck following unless otherwise notified.

### **March 3.....Midwinter Wood**

*Rev. Nancy Crumbine*

### **March 10.....Opening to Grace**

*Rev. Patience Stoddard*

Scott Peck speaks of grace as "a powerful force originating outside human consciousness which nurtures the spiritual growth of human beings." This sermon will focus on those moments of insight and transformation which can re-shape our lives. **Congregational meeting 3:30pm; no potluck following service.**

### **March 17.....Vernal Equinox**

*Sparrow F. Alden*

Celebrate the sacred circle of life with Worship for All Ages. We'll explore balance, movement, stillness, the Celtic spirit, and mud season.

### **March 24.....To What End?**

*Rev. Patience Stoddard*

On this stewardship Sunday, the service will explore the role of this congregation in our individual lives and in the wider community and what our changing society and world community may need from Unitarian Universalism to better meet the challenges of the 21st century.

### **March 31.....Easter Sunday**

*Rev. Patience Stoddard, with Sparrow and choir*

Song, poetry and sermon will celebrate the many resurrections which grace our lives.



## Random Acts of Stewardship

*One of the ways in which we can nurture one another is with appreciation and gratitude. Here is a place to say thank you for the large or small acts that sometimes go unsung. Good stewardship cultivates gratitude!*

Gratitude to Babette Hansen for taking over stewardship of the Elder Journey luncheons, and to Mugs Johnston for assuming leadership of Cares & Concerns.

Huge thanks to Cappy Nunlist, Joani and David Nierenberg, and Grace Alden who stepped up to lead Youth Group sessions when the Youth voted to double the number of their meetings!

Gratitude for an unsung family that has been faithful stewards of a critical function in our Sunday services: Paul and Bess Schmidt and their son Peter. They arrive early to set it all up and make sure it is working (that in itself is a miracle to the rest of us as we wouldn't have the first idea how to do it). They make sure the service is recorded for those who aren't able to attend. Great kudos and thanks for the Schmidts' stewardship.

Gratitude for Rachel Clark who ever so patiently contends with the many cooks stirring the broth and giving her orders - and still manages to get everything done with good humor, grace and competence.

*Have you spotted a random act of Stewardship? Send your entries for "random acts" to office@uucuv.org, and it will appear in next month's CALL.*

## Rev. Patience Stoddard (consulting minister)

patiencestoddard@gmail.com

(603) 756-9260 (home)

(603) 313-1169 (cell)

## Office Schedule at Meeting House:

March 5: 9:30 AM-6:30 PM

March 19: 10 AM-4 PM

Also available 12-3 at the Meeting House on the Sundays she is preaching.

## Sunday Services Committee

So many folks have contributed to making our Sunday Services successful. A pat on the back to those of us who struggle with change but left their comfort zone and worked to help keep our congregation healthy. Thank goodness for those who make music, set up, put away, clean up, and make food. Of course, we are grateful for all the inspiring speakers who have shared their wisdom and journeys with us. We are so very happy to have the Rev. Patience Stoddard come on board and offer us continuity at two services a month (three in March!) and to be a resource for committees and the congregation in general. Also on the Sundays that Patience is in the pulpit at 5pm, she and Sparrow are offering a Reflection Circle at 10am at the Meeting House.

We are a community blessed with an impressive depth of resilience and flexibility.

Marty Shaw  
Sunday Services Committee

## Stewardship Events

### *Promise, Inspiration, Enthusiasm: A Blue Ribbon UUCUV PIE*



Is there anything as delicious as biting through a flaky, buttery crust to savor the sweet, bright filling of a piece of fruit pie – some might call it a “religious” experience!! This month and next, the Stewardship Team and the UUCUV Board invite you to join them in assembling the ingredients for our very own Promising, Inspiring, and Enthusiasm-filled Congregational PIE for the coming year.

No matter how you slice it, YOU are the special ingredient in our congregational pie; so please watch for your Stewardship packet in the mail early this month and then RSVP to attend one of our Pie & Coffee cottage gatherings this month or next. Members of the Board will be at each event to answer your questions, and assistance will be available to help you do the calculations to see if the Fair Share Giving Plan might be right for you. Come and chat with us, enjoy a piece of pie, and speak one-on-one with us about your pledge for the coming year.

Also, mark your calendars now for the second annual, not-to-be-missed Congregational Dinner, April 27. This dinner celebrates the completion of our Stewardship Campaign. Fantastic UUCUV cooks prepare a delectable menu of their own choosing for a table of eight, and, of course, there will be pie for dessert! Following the dinner we will gather in a short candlelight Vespers service of music and symbolic recommitment to our community.

More than ever, your financial generosity this year will shape the future of our congregation. Thank you in advance for your generous participation,

Suzanne Simon and Claudia Kern, the Stewardship Team

*Let's Meet Up for a Slice of Pie!*

*Please RSVP* [office@uucuv.org](mailto:office@uucuv.org)

March 24, Sunday, 11:30 AM, following Sunday Morning reflection at the UUCUV Meeting House.  
Childcare provided.

March 25, Monday, 7:30 PM, UUCUV Meeting House

March 28, Thursday, 1:00 PM, UUCUV Meeting House

April 13, Saturday, 11:00 AM, UUCUV Meeting House

April 14, Sunday, 3:30 PM, before service, Lebanon Methodist Church. Childcare provided.

*If you are unable to attend one of these events, we will be happy to visit you in your home  
or speak with you by phone.*

# Sunday School News



*Dear Friends,*

In Spring a UU's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of BOOKS! How do we know what books Sparrow would like donated to the UUCUV library for the children's section? Glad you asked! We actually have a book wish list on Amazon.com: (<http://amazon.com/w/1Q4SIY4HKO6CB>). Of course, used books from local booksellers are always preferred, and here is the list of what's really desired. There is some absolute drek out there as far as "books which teach lessons to kids." Really, really awful drek. Preachy drek. I've done the leg work for you. These are high quality books I really want, particularly the ones marked "highest priority."

So, Sparrow, why would you want books about divorce, death, incarceration, poverty...? I prefer these books on the shelves before the topics are requested. I want these ideas and words already in families' vocabularies before some sad thing happens for which we need those words. I hope that these books, for families to check out together, will stimulate conversation.

How are your own reading and writing coming? I'd love to hear what's on your personal bookshelf and making you tickle the keyboard. Let's talk books at the next potluck! Why, yes, I *am* reading *The Hobbit* again this weekend for a class and knitting *Fellowship of the Ring* socks! I promise to share what I learn.



*Peace,  
Sparrow*

## UUCUV COOKBOOK!

Our great Youth have stepped up! On our web site, click Get Involved: Religious Education and you'll see the link right near the top of the page to submit your favorite recipes. Or hand your paper copies to any high-school-aged person in our congregation.

## YOUTH!

Big plans for the next several weeks! Per your request, you'll gather twice a month now during the regular worship services, and we have a Service Project for mid-March.

Sunday, March 10th, 5PM - Writers' Workshop with Katharine Britton. Bring your works-in-progress, your constructive, cooperative attitude, and a pen, pencil, or keyboard! Fear not, there will be a pot-luck dinner at 6, and you guys are free to keep working during it.

Friday, March 22nd 5PM to 10ish - Books and Music Cafe Set Up. We're helping Rich Greenlee get set for the sale on Saturday - lifting, sorting, plenty of opportunity for comic relief. At 8 pm there will be pizza and soda and probably other forms of silliness. Bring your cash! Rich says that set-up helpers may do early book buying!

Sunday, March 24th, 5PM - Cappy Nunlist leading! From serious biking, hiking, justice, The Constitution, Socrates, parenting, cooking, polity, and the history of UUism, Cappy has lots to share with youth - and it's Dealer's Choice for a topic. Come prepared for *anything*!

Sunday, April 14, 5 PM - Sacred Stories! It's time for your report on your Hebrew Scriptures story. We're going to make a time-and-genealogy graph of the tales - if you've forgotten which one is yours, just email Sparrow.

The schedule continues for the second and fourth Sundays through May!

## Membership Committee Update: Hear, Hear!

Did you know that the UUCUV has not folded, nor has it slipped away in the night? We are still going strong, and we would love to hear from our members and friends who haven't yet let us know their thoughts on our recent change of Sunday service place and time.

Many of us are truly enjoying our new space as guests of the generous Lebanon United Methodist Church. The beautiful, warm sanctuary is becoming more and more familiar to those who attend. The RE rooms are bright and inviting. We now have coffee time after services for those who have to get home, and yummy pot lucks every week for those who can stay. The delicious aromas and buzz of conversation are wonderful. Spending this new kind of time together lets us share our stories and really get to know one another.

Those for whom 5pm in Lebanon simply does not work (and we know this is true) may be glad to know that our consulting minister Rev. Patience Stoddard and our CRE Sparrow Alden are holding "Sunday Morning Reflections" on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 10 AM at the UUCUV Meeting House in Norwich. They are offering good conversation on the theme of the week, as well as activities for children.

In order to be present for as many as possible, we are trying on these new service modes through June, until we return to our Meeting House for the summer months. The Board has worked hard to hear from us all, holding discussions and in other ways gathering opinions about the numerous changes from about 45 UUCUV members and friends.

If you have not had a chance to weigh in, the Membership Committee sincerely wants to HEAR from you!! In the next few weeks, those we have not heard from or seen in awhile will receive a friendly phone call from our committee, because we have missed you and we just don't want anyone to feel left out!

From the Membership Committee,

Kathy Christie

Babette Hansen

Patti Eckels

Anne Alford



### Book & Music Sale! March 23

The UUCUV Book & Music Sale Happens Saturday March 23rd! Your donations of clean books, records, and DVDs are needed! Please, no encyclopedias, cassette tapes, or magazines. Please begin to set aside your donations and drop them off at the Meeting House the week of the sale. For info contact Rich Greenlee at 802-436-1150 or via e-mail: [Hartlandvt@aol.com](mailto:Hartlandvt@aol.com). Thanks!

## New Chair for Cares & Concerns

By Mugs Johnsnton, chair

After discussions with Patience Stoddard and Elaine Backus, I have decided to step up and take on the responsibility of Chair of Cares & Concerns. Per a scenario presented to me by Patience, I would like to ask for the following help.

1) I would like two people to join me on the **committee**. We would meet monthly, or every other month, and correspond by email in between times. I would like at least one person who has been in the congregation longer than I (more than 5 years), and if I can get one of the longer term members, that would be great. It would also help if the individuals complemented my connection with the congregation so that they would have knowledge of individuals with whom I do not have regular contact.

2) I would like anyone who is willing to do any of the following to send me an email so that I can develop a list of

these individuals that Cares & Concerns can call on when there is a need. In your email please let me know ALL the functions that you would be willing to give. C&C would work to not knock on the same doors too often, especially if we can get a good sized list!

- **Drivers** (to appointments, grocery shopping, etc)
- **Cooks** (provide food/meals to people in need)
- Occasional and/or 'crisis' **visitors** (to homes, nursing homes)
- Regular **visitors** (monthly basis)

Elaine Backus has handled Cares & Concerns very well for the last few years, so she will be a tough act to follow.

Thank you for your time and consideration for Cares & Concerns,

Mugs

## UUCUV Library News

By Olive MacGregor, Library Committee Chair

My thanks to Polly for getting cataloging information and Margo for writing book reviews. On February 14, Olive went to the Meeting House and catalogued five books. Three were donated by Dot Smith, stories created for children coping with the failing health and death of a loved one, written by Annie MacDonald in 2009 and 2010. They were *What's Up with Poppo?*, *Poppo's Half-Birthday Wish*, and *Poppo's Very Best Trick*. The other two were a replacement for Tracy Kidder's *Strength in What Remains* and *Meditation: a Simple Eight-Point Program for Translating Spiritual Ideals into Daily Life*, by Eknath Easwaran.

When I checked for overdue items, I was sorry to see that some things had been checked out by people without registration cards. Anyone is welcome to check out library materials, but please first register first.

When we met in January, we pulled some books from the Sustainability Collection for possible withdrawal. We are asking the Kerns and Highs for their input.

We look forward to the Book and Media Sale on March 23.

### Book Review



By Margo Nutt

***Out of the Flames***

**By Lawrence and Nancy Goldstone**

Michael Servetus was both a scientist and a free-thinking lay theologian in the sixteenth century, who was burned at the stake in 1553. The book that doomed him was the *Christianismi Restitutio* (Christianity Restored) in which he laid out arguments against original sin, predestination and the Trinity, among other beliefs. He argued that God exists in all people and all things. The early roots of the Unitarian Church can be seen in Servetus' ideas. A knowledgeable biblical scholar, Servetus was also a medical doctor, and put forth theories about the pulmonary circulation of blood that predated William Harvey's discovery by seventy-five years. In addition to telling Servetus' story, the Goldstones, who are book collectors, also describe the long and tangled provenance of the three copies of *Christianismi Restitutio* which still exist.

# Regular Events

## Elder Luncheon

***Life is a Journey--Beginning to End***

**March 19, 12:30pm  
at the Meeting House**

This is a regular luncheon on **third Tuesdays** to talk about what needs exist for those of us who spend our later years living in the Upper Valley. Let us come together to share lunch and discuss what brings us and others joy as well as concerns. The fun is in the interesting conversation and fellowship. We never know where the talk will take us!

Bring your own brown bag lunch unless otherwise notified. Beverage and dessert will be provided. Please let Babette Hansen know if you are planning to attend. (603) 727-9663 or schussbh@gmail.com

## Women's Group

Women's Group has met since 2005 and our goal has remained the same – to relax, get to know each other better, and to keep it simple!

We gather at Sally Page's (visit the church website or contact the office for directions) on the **third Thursday** of each month. For those who want to sup together we meet by 5:30 (eat at 6) for a simple pot luck salad meal. Just bring some ingredient(s) to add to a pot luck salad. Peppers? Sunflower seeds? Lettuce? Cukes? Tomatoes? Bread? Salad dressing? Not a lot. Just enough.

Those not choosing to eat will come at 6:30.

Once we are fed, and others have arrived, we move to the living room and take time for brief check ins to share how our lives are going. Here, and throughout the evening, the right to reticence will be honored and confidentiality respected. We then have a discussion generated from suggestions from the group. The evening generally includes a good belly laugh, and though we don't try to resolve each other's problems they seem lightened by sharing.

We will be mindful of those coming from a distance and break up by 8:30.

## Knitting Night

Do you like to knit? Crochet? Bead? Work with Sculpey? Bring your hand crafts and your neighbor and enjoy some tea, gabbing, and great company. Please check the calendar for the date; this usually happens **once a month**.

### Church Events Calendar

Our up-to-date online calendar can be found by clicking on "Calendar of Events" on our home page at

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



**The next Call newsletter deadline will be  
March 15, for the April issue.  
Please send your submissions to  
Rachel at [office@uucuv.org](mailto:office@uucuv.org)**

# About the UUCUV

## Board of Directors

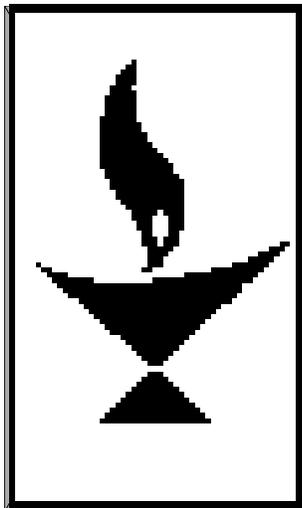
*Cappy Nunlist, President*  
*Bill Brawley, Vice President*  
*Christine McDonough, Secretary*  
*Lucy Taylor, Treasurer*  
*Karen Kluge, Member-at-Large*  
*Dan Mendelsohn, Member-at-Large*  
*Jamie Gibson, Member-at-Large*

## Staff

*The Rev. Lee Devoe, Interim Minister*  
*Sparrow F. Alden,*  
*Credentialed Religious Educator*  
*Linda Hoover, Choir Director*  
*Rachel Clark, Office Admin.*

## UUCUV Committee Chairs

*Cares & Concerns: open*  
*Communications: Bill Brawley*  
*Finance: Mark Laser*  
*Hospitality: Babette Hansen*  
*Investment: Peter Christie*  
*Leadership Development:*  
*Lori Fortini*  
*Librarian: Olive MacGregor*  
*Meeting House: Colin High*  
*Membership: Kathy Christie*  
*Partner Church: Polly Gould*  
*Stewardship Canvass: Claudia Kern*  
*and Suzanne Simon*  
*Sunday Services: Marty Shaw*  
*Ways and Means: Lori Fortini*



**OUR MISSION:** The UUCUV is a liberal religious community that:

- Welcomes and supports all who search for meaning and truth.
- Celebrates and respects life in all its diversity.
- Nurtures honesty, love, and freedom in people of all ages.
- Fosters spiritual growth and promotes compassionate social action; and
- Expresses Unitarian Universalist ideals, views and heritage to the community at large.

The UUCUV is a part of the Unitarian Universalist Association. The UUA is a religious organization that combines two traditions: the Universalists, organized in 1793, and the Unitarians, organized in 1825. The two denominations merged in 1961, but both trace their roots back hundreds of years, to the Unitarian view of the unity (as opposed to trinity) of God, and the Universalist belief that everyone is eligible for heaven and salvation.

**SUNDAY SERVICES:** Services will continue to be held at the Lebanon United Methodist Church in Lebanon, NH at 5 p.m. every Sunday until June, when services move to the Meeting House.

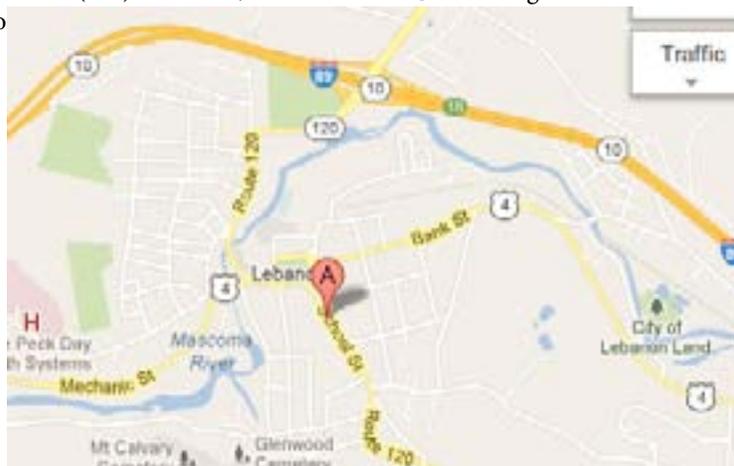
**MINISTER:** Rev. Lee Devoe is on an extended sick leave. We look forward to welcoming her back in April 2013. Rev. Patience Stoddard is currently providing pastoral services for our congregation. You may contact her at (603) 313-1169 (cell), (603) 756-9260 (home), or [patiencestoddard@gmail.com](mailto:patiencestoddard@gmail.com).

**TO CONTACT THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:** Call Sparrow F. S. Alden at (603) 359-8426, or e-mail her at [education@uucuv.org](mailto:education@uucuv.org)

**MEETING HOUSE:** Located on Route 5 South in Norwich opposite The Family Place, the Greek Revival farmhouse contains our offices and meeting spaces. Office hours at the Meeting House are Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9-12, unless otherwise posted.

**CARES AND CONCERNS:** With cares and concerns, please contact the office and Rachel will find the appropriate contact.

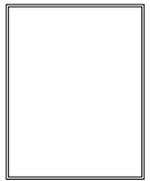
**NEWSLETTER:** The Call, our monthly e-newsletter, is available upon request. Contact the office at (802) 649-8828, or e-mail [office@uucuv.org](mailto:office@uucuv.org) with the usual details, including a photo



Unitarian-Universalist Congregation  
of the Upper Valley

PO Box 1110

Norwich, VT 05055



**We are**

**A Green Sanctuary,  
A Welcoming Congregation,  
and A Partner Church**



**Book & Music Sale March 23**

***UUCUV Phone: (802) 649-8828***

***Web: <http://www.uucuv.org>***

***E-mail: [office@uucuv.org](mailto:office@uucuv.org)***

**Stewardship Events**

