

# The Call

Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
of the Upper Valley

Summer 2017  
June - August

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## Sunday Services 10 AM

*Sermon topics may be found on our website, [www.uucuv.org](http://www.uucuv.org), as well as in the Sunday Order of Service.*

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

## Reaching Out, Reaching In

*Rev. Patience Stoddard*

I am writing this just a couple of days after UUCUV's Annual Meeting. Once again the budget and slates were passed unanimously expressing the confidence in leadership and trust in each other that have become hallmarks of this congregation in the past few years.

Unanimity can be a good thing especially when it is the result of individuals truly listening to each other and being willing to give up a desired personal outcome on behalf of a recognition as to what the community needs in order to move forward together. However, as Scott Peck the author of *A Different Drum: Community Making and Peace* notes, while compromise can be a sign of health, fear and avoidance of conflict can lead to "the danger of pseudo-community." Pseudo-community, where individual differences are minimized, unacknowledged, or ignored, tends to stultify growth and ultimately undermines its mission to be an agent of spiritual and societal transformation.

For that and other reasons, I was encouraged that, while broad agreement on budget and lay leadership was reached quickly, there was also time for discussions on other items that allowed for open discussion and the airing of diverse opinions. One such discussion was about what signs (if any) to put out in front of the church as a public expression of some of our core values and stance on certain social issues.

Much of the time was spent discussing whether or not/where to put up a Black Lives Matter sign and what consequences might ensue from that decision. Expressed thoughts ranged from seeing this as a necessary early step in our journey to find ways to work against racism (both within and without), to a hesitation to do something that might antagonize some others and not actually promote dialogue which might lead to deeper understanding about the reality of racism and ways to overcome it. Eventually the person who suggested a motion to put out the signs decided to withdraw the motion in order to create more time and space to understand the issues (and feelings) involved and the organizations we would

*(Continued p. 2)*

## **Reaching Out, Reaching In (cont'd)**

be supporting.

I was somewhat surprisingly heartened by this decision. In my experience reaching out effectively requires also a willingness to reach in. Certainly realities such as racism tend to stir up feelings --some of which may be painful to acknowledge and to share. However I believe that the more honest we can be with ourselves, the more effectively we can welcome and advocate for others.

I agree with Peck that the path to true community and spiritual growth entails not the silencing of the

individual's voice, but the willingness to listen to all voices; not the false hope of continuing unanimity but a willingness to stay open and present in conflict "committed to struggle together rather than against each other."

A bit ironically, as I mentioned before about unanimity, productive disagreement is due in part to confidence in leaders and trust in each other. Through this lens the Annual Meeting was a tribute to how much this community is expanding its potential to effect positive growth both within and without.

*Patience*

## **Report from the Board**

*Maureen McNulty, Board Secretary*

This spring, the Board agenda has largely been consumed with preparation for the annual meeting. Everything from budgets to bylaws had to be in place prior to the meeting. Along the way, we debated such esoteric topics as the value of flowers adorning the pulpit as well as practical matters like starting a repair fund and raising salaries. Hundreds of decisions were made, but we also concluded that some decisions were too important to be made by the board exclusively, and needed to include the input of the entire congregation. These items were deferred to the annual meeting, making for a very lively gathering!

Our primary objective, taking even higher priority than budget talks, was collaborating with the Committee on Ministry to form a slate of candidates for the Ministerial Search committee. The name of literally every member of the congregation was reviewed, to form a committee that was truly representative of the congregation. We were looking for a breadth of spiritual beliefs, representatives of every demographic group, people known and respected by others in the congregation, and strongly committed to the congregation as a whole rather than to any subgroup. Each

individual had to be willing to undertake the demands and time requirements of search committee membership, over 200 hours in the coming year, and together have the skills necessary to conduct a comprehensive and organized search. We are so pleased to present our nominees: Kathy Christie, Joani Nierenberg, Bob Riccio, Grace Alden, and Maureen McNulty, who join the Congregation's nominees Mandy Ruest and Leah Goat, to form the Search Committee for a called minister. All 7 were approved unanimously at the annual meeting. Thanks Suzanne Simon, Babette Hansen, and Phil Kern, our Committee on Ministry, for all your help in forming our search team!

Of course, the budget could not be ignored. We considered pest control, alarm systems, tablecloths and glasses; figured out how to finance new shades while still granting salary increases to our staff; and initiated a major repair fund so that future budgets are not put into disarray by unscheduled but expected incidents, such as replacing worn fixtures or furnaces. Please see the article written by the treasurer for all the details.

Restorative Circle Training was planned and imple-

## **Report from the Board (cont'd)**

mented. Eight members plus Sparrow are now trained to use this nonconfrontational method to address conflict. They will be continuing to practice and enhance their skills in the future, ready to be called upon in the event of internal conflict.

We approved a plan to deepen the Religious Education experience for our children, while providing parents a respite during coffee hour and giving all the adults a quieter fellowship time (not to mention first dibs on the snack table) by extending the children's RE until 11:30 on Sundays. We have also approved a monthly RE planning/ Parent's Support meeting to take place after the service on the second Sunday of each month. Childcare will be provided. And not to forget our newly graduated youth, we approved sending out invitations to our college youth, asking if they would like a platform to share their voices during the summer lay services. On June 25, we will hear the first young adult speaker in a service led by Laurel Mendelsohn.

There were several topics discussed, but deemed too important to be decided by the board. These topics were brought to the annual meeting for a discussion involving the entire congregation. As a congregation, we voted to amend our bylaws to strengthen our antidiscrimination language. We decided to form a

Social Justice and Civic Engagement group. We voted to split half our annual Pods for the Pulpit proceeds in 2017 between two local charities: SPARK! and Good Neighbor Health Clinic. To continue the spirit of giving, we voted to extend our experiment with Sharing the Plate. Once monthly, we will split the proceeds of the Sunday Service offering with an organization associated with the topic of the service that morning. And the congregation had a long and passionate debate on whether we should very publicly declare our values by displaying signs on the front lawn. This last discussion proved too complex for the congregation to come to a unified position in the confines of one meeting. It will be further explored in future meetings of our new Social Justice and Civic Engagement group before once again being brought before the congregation.

The annual meeting was the last official meeting of this board. In July, we will transition to our new board, led by President Lori Fortini, vice president Mary Schneider, secretary Barbara Clapp, treasurer Mugs Johnston, member at large Nick Warren (one year term), member at large Laura Mitchell (2-year term), and member at large Karen Watson (3-year term). It has truly been a pleasure serving as secretary to the board!

Yours respectfully,

*If we were to act from a place of Awe, of wonder, of unconditioned relationship to other beings, of reverence for all places and then bring that into our personal, professional and political lives, would it make a difference in the world?*

~Rev. Michael Hall

### **New Board of Directors as of July 1, 2017**

*Lori Fortini, President  
Mary Schneider, Vice President  
Mugs Johnston, Treasurer  
Barbara Clapp, Secretary  
Nick Warren, Member-at-Large  
Laura Mitchell, Member-at-Large  
Karen Watson, Member-at-Large*

## Presidents' Message

*Bill Brawley and Joani Nierenberg, Co-Presidents*

A little over a year has passed since the dedication service for our beautiful new building. Since that time, we have filled our building with worship, fundraisers, concerts, discussion groups, youth overnights – the calendar is bursting with activities! Almost every Sunday we see new faces come through our doors, and many are returning again and again – we currently have 97 members. This year we had the most successful Annual Drive ever, with over \$162,000 in pledges. This summer our newly elected Search Committee begins the important work of helping the congregation select a new Settled Minister. So many signs of a healthy, vigorous congregation!

Yet perhaps the most significant indication of our health and vitality was a discussion that took place at our Annual Meeting. Patience had bought a “Black Lives Matter” sign, and agreed with the Board that placing that sign on our property warranted a conversation beyond the Board table, but should include as much of the congregation as possible, and thus we brought the issue to the Annual Meeting. It was clear the “issue” is greater than words on a sign: What do those words say about us? How do we identify ourselves, and then how do we best communicate that?

How do we identify, and then live our values?

We know many were disappointed that no ultimate decisions were made at the meeting. Decisions will come. We have no doubt. But the fact that such crucial issues could be, and were, so openly and honestly discussed indicates a maturity and well-being of our beloved UUCUV much more than balanced budgets or a beautiful building.

Your Co-Presidents have considered it an honor to serve this congregation during such a pivotal year. Our job was made so much easier because of our fabulous staff – Patience Stoddard, Sparrow Alden, Rachel Clark, and Linda Hoover. And what a terrific Board to work with!-Lori Fortini, Mugs Johnston, Maureen McNulty, Bob Riccio, and Mary Sayward. This is the first time in our memory that 100% of the Board turned over from the previous year, yet everybody jumped right in from day one without a hitch. Thank you for all the support from these wonderful people, and from all of you.

Respectfully,

Bill Brawley and Joani Nierenberg



## **Summer Sundays**

*During the summer months, our Sunday services are varied in nature and open a space for lay voices within our congregation and wider community. We will hear from UUCUV young adults returning from their first year of college. Members and friends of UUCUV will share personal reflections, and we will host a guest interning minister, a returned Peace Corps volunteer, and a speaker trained in Joanna Macy's "The Work that Reconnects." Reverend Patience will return to be in the pulpit a time or two during the summer, and there will be two opportunities to gather together for picnics and summer fun. Our summer Sundays promise to be rich and inspiring.*



### **June 25 ~ It Matters Only That You Love** ~*Laurel Mendelsohn, UUCUV Young Adult*

When you hear the word love, what do you think of? What about the word hate? What about hate and love in the same context? What do you think about then? Laurel will explore these questions as they pertain to the ever-changing world around us, and particularly to recent events relating to the LGBTQ+ community. Laurel just completed her first year at Keene State College where she is studying Music Performance for Voice and Women and Gender Studies.

### **July 2 ~ Why I March** ~ *Maureen & Liz McNulty, Cassidy Murphy, Libby Vesilind, & Phil Kinsler.*

Two of our most cherished freedoms are the right to assemble and freedom of speech. On this July 4th weekend, members and friends of our congregation will share and reflect upon their personal experiences of participating in the Women's March, Science March and People's Climate March, and other acts of witness, protest & advocacy.

### **July 9 ~ What If There Were No "Them"?** ~ *Daroc Alden, UUCUV Young Adult*

A reflection about why inclusion creates exclusion and how to move past an us-versus-them mindset, with insights gleaned from mathematics, philosophy, neuroscience, and especially history. Daroc has been a part of our UUCUV since childhood and has just completed his first year at the University of New Hampshire.

### **July 16 ~ Shared Space** ~ *Andre Mol, Intern Minister, First UU Society of Burlington, VT*

The world around us is swirling with opinions and judgments. Especially in today's political climate, we are often compelled to choose a side and defend it. But what would our world be like if we set aside our judgments, our ideas of right and wrong, and we spoke from a shared space of emotions and needs? This is not our typical way of speaking with each other. If we are bold enough to venture into this space, we might find that it commits us to a deeper level of connection, helping us to find sacred ground from which we can move forward.

### **July 23 ~ Living in a Muslim World as a Peace Corps Volunteer** ~ *Claire Cravero*

Claire was raised in Hanover NH. She graduated from Hanover High in 2007. In 2014, she traveled to Senegal as a U.S. Peace Corps Health Extension Volunteer and served for over two years in a rural conservative region

*(Continued p. 6)*



## Summer Sundays (cont'd)

where most families are devoutly Muslim and much of life revolves around calls to prayer from the village mosque. Claire will share the beauty, graciousness, understanding, and fellowship she found in living there with her conservative Muslim host family.

**July 30 ~ Rev. Patience Stoddard preaching, topic TBA**

**August 6 ~ How Religious Beliefs are Compatible with Scientific Thought ~Nick Warren, UUCUV Member**

Nick will reflect on how religious beliefs and scientific thought can coexist in society and on a personal level. The history of science and religion hasn't always been peaceful, but not because they are incompatible. Both science and religion are methods to search for truth, but each method addresses different questions. Nick will share his own story of how logical thought has been a valuable tool in his spiritual journey.

**August 13 ~ Active Hope in a World Turned Upside Down ~ Coleen O'Connell**

**August 20 ~ All-UU Gathering in Barnard, VT, 10:30 AM Service**

The First Universalist Church and Society of Barnard, 6211 Route 12, Barnard, VT  
with picnic at Silver Lake State Park to follow.

**August 27 ~ Rev. Patience preaching, topic TBA**

**September 3 Annual UUCUV Picnic**



## 5 Church Rummage Sale

July 7-8-9

Tracy Hall in Norwich

Donations being accepted at Tracy Hall

July 3-4-5 from 9 AM-7 PM

and July 6 from 9 AM -5 PM



Items in good working condition. Not accepting mattresses, large appliances, tires, organs, pianos, skis, computer monitors, printers, TVs, paint, or furniture made of particle board.



# More Kids' Religious Ed Time!

*Sparrow F. Alden, CRE*

Two simple experiments are afoot to help kids have a deeper experience in Sunday morning religious ed:

From May 14th to Flower Communion, the business announcements were held until the end of the Sunday morning service. Holding off on the announcements gives visitors time to decide how comfortable they feel before asking them to introduce themselves; reminders to sign up or check in with a friend are given right before the coffee hour opportunity to do so; and most important for RE, kids are released to their lessons five to ten minutes earlier than usual!

From May 21 through the end of June, the children remain in RE until 11:30, with parents joining the closing circles at 11:25. Later dismissal means that parents get a little more time with their coffee and friends; parents still get to join in the closing rituals of the classes; and children get about twenty minutes more

of RE on the back end. In the Elementary classroom, Miss Sheena has been able to roll out more of the Spirit Play curriculum (the original model calls for 3-hour classes!) and in Preschool, Jen supplements stories and activities with cooperative play.

In the end, it's more RE for kids, and that's a great thing! Our thanks to the Board for providing teacher pay for this extra time - and the experiment will continue in the next fiscal year (it was included in the budget approved at Annual Meeting).

And for parents? Not only a little more conversation time on Sunday mornings, but also look forward to RE Roundtable once a month for one hour on second Sundays! It's an opportunity for parents to share their stories, hear thoughts from Patience on UU parenting, and express their thoughts on the Sunday morning curriculum.



*Peace,  
Sparrow*

## Spirit Play

For the 2017 summer, Miss Sheena will be incorporating the Spirit Play Model using several works from children's literature with a mix of mindfulness lessons, and kinesthetic exploration. We will explore the works of Dr. Seuss, Kobi Yamada, Maurice Sendak, Mo Willems, and several others to explore the world around us. We will venture outside as the weather and allergens allow. We will also explore different methods of Mindfulness and mediation such as Zentangles, mediation beads, and yoga.

Kids should always arrive with their own bug and sun stuff and with tick-baffling clothing.

## Children's Religious Education this Summer!

ALL KIDS arrive ready to go outside:

- insect repellent
- sunscreen
- long PANTS that have been tucked INTO SOCKS
- hats
- water bottles

All these things are the parents' option, but the group will not be kept indoors by someone unprepared. (Miss Sheena will have one set of extras for a first-time visitor.)

**RE Field Trip to the Cemetery on Memorial Day Sunday, May 28**



**Movie Lovers Group**

*Lou Maresca*

Do you love going to the movies?

If you love the cinema, you will be happy to hear that our group, the “Movie Lovers Group” (MLG) is opening its membership as we approach our 2nd anniversary. A number of UUCUV members are involved with the group, and here is your opportunity to attend a wide variety of movies with old and new friends!

Our group, which was co-founded by Kathy McKee-Stern, Lou Maresca and another friend in July of 2015, meets regularly on the second Thursday of each month. We go out to a local movie, then “break bread” together afterward. The discussion at a restaurant is about the movie, and then about our lives, and this is the part that makes friendships grow.

In addition, on the “Fourth Friday,” many of us gather at a member’s home for a movie on DVD. The advantage here is that we get to stop for conversation, snacks, wine and tea, and that they are free! Most

of these are at Lou’s home, but locations can vary by month.

The majority, more than 90%, of our movies out are at the Hopkins Center (Spaulding), or at the Loew Theater, or at the Nugget in Hanover. Some are at the “Miracle Mile” theater in Lebanon, and occasionally we travel to Montpelier or Concord for a special movie.

Each month an email is sent out to all members, and it details two (or occasionally three) possible movies for that second Thursday outing. Members then “vote” with response emails, and we all go to the movie which won the vote. Another cool aspect of the MLG is that any member can list any movie (in addition to the regular ones) at any time!

If you are interested, please call Lou at (603) 643-3609, or email him at [stattip@aol.com](mailto:stattip@aol.com).

See you at the movies!



## Spotlight on Membership!

Thanks to some good conversations, the Membership Committee has deepened the experience of joining the congregation.

Visitors usually enter our doors to attend a Sunday service. Events such as Soupathons and rental groups have generated interest as well, just through the inclusive posters and beautiful space to be found here. If folks want to keep abreast of what's happening, they give the office their contact information through the ubiquitous Blue Sheets. Rachel, our dauntless Office Administrator, enters the info so that she can add these folks to our weekly "What's happening?" blast and Sparrow, the membership Staff Liaison, writes a personal letter to the visitor.

For several years now, Patience has offered monthly lunchtime discussions about Unitarian Universalism and our congregation. When a Visitor begins attending these discussions, it's a great way to discern whether they feel ready for membership.

Some of these new folks might love to help out now and then, join a Hospitality team, get a nametag, and be in the Directory without being ready for membership. Being in the Directory is definitely a mark of

comfort and belonging - being available to be called to join an event or to arrange a kid's play date! We call these folks *Friends* of the congregation and treasure their perspective, their good energy, and the gifts they bring to UUCUV for as long as they would like to be part of this community.

When a *Friend* says "Yes!" there is process for helping them choose how they will contribute to the congregation - i.e. committees, activities, and stewardship. The process includes a meeting with the Membership Committee, Minister and Director of Religious Education. This meeting happens about a week before the ritual of signing the book. Membership includes the formal commitment to our covenant, to working for the good of the congregation, and the rights and responsibilities of voting in UUCUV affairs.

The newly formed Membership Committee is experimenting with how to do their job well. If you have ideas or wish to join the committee, please contact Mugs at [mugs514@earthlink.net](mailto:mugs514@earthlink.net).

*Sparrow Alden, Staff Liaison*

*Mugs Johnston, Membership Committee Chair*

### Exploring Your Spiritual Journey A Day-long Retreat

**Offered in late August by Patience (and possibly Claudia)**

This retreat will begin at 10:00 AM and end around 7:30 PM with dinner. In the morning we will create a "map" of our own personal journeys. In the afternoon we will work with guided meditation, art supplies and the Spirit in Nature path to embody and re-imagine our images of the Sacred and close with a co-created worship service. In the evening you will be treated to a celebrative dinner hosted by the facilitators. Members and friends will be welcome.

## Meet Our New Members



by Margo Nutt

On April 23, we received nine new members into the congregation. Here is some biographical information they have written about themselves:

### Mary Schneider

Mary was born in St. Louis, MO, in 1954. Her dad was a minister who joined the Air Force when she was five, so she moved to IL, then to Guam, TX, AK, and AL before coming to Dartmouth in 1972 for her undergraduate studies. Coming here felt like coming “home,” so she determined to stay in the area. She worked at the VA Hospital in WRJ, VT, from 1976 to 1978, in order to decide whether to become a clinical psychologist. She loved the work, so she went to UVM to get her doctorate. She moved to Randolph Center, VT, to work at Orange County Mental Health. She stayed there until she married John Corson in 1992 and returned to live in his house on the Connecticut river in Hanover. She and John cross-country, telemark, or downhill skied every day through the winters until John could no longer do this. Mary continued to cross country ski in their field, so John could watch from the house. They also biked, kayaked, sail boarded, and sailed in the other seasons. They went out on their pontoon boat when John could no longer do these sports. Mary gardened for many years, but recently gave this up. For the last six years, John and Mary enjoyed their toy poodle, Johnny. They were also very happy to have found this congregation.

### Kate Frederick

Kate grew up in downstate New York, and has lived in New Hampshire for 15 years on and off, while also having lived in Oregon, Colorado, Vermont and Maine. She and her husband Brad and son Devon now live in Lebanon. Her parents and sister also live in the Upper Valley. Kate is a public health advocate focusing on pregnancy and breastfeeding rights, which has tak-

en her all the way to SCOTUS on behalf of the UUA. Lastly, she is interested in part time homeschooling in the fall and is looking for some of you to share your life’s lessons!

### Susan Gillotti

Susan is returning to Unitarian Universalism after many years as a member of the Unitarian Church of Martha’s Vineyard. She is a retired Jungian psychotherapist. She grew up in Washington, D.C. and lived in London for many years. Susan holds degrees from Vassar College and Lesley University, and has published articles in the *Journal of Sandplay Therapy*. In 2013 she published *Women of Privilege*, a social history of three generations of her maternal forebears, all of whom craved personal independence. She is working on a sequel. She lives in Hemlock Ridge with her husband, Al, a retired international banker and also a writer. His most recent novel, *George Evans*, was published in 2013, and in 2015 his earlier novel, *Death of a Shipowner*, was reissued. Both are inside looks at international banking and skullduggery.

### Jane Sachs

After living in Massachusetts for 30 years, working in the medical profession and raising 2 children, Jane and her husband Richard retired in 2007 to the Upper Valley, a place they often visited and grew to love. For Jane, retirement has been what she hoped for-- that is a time to do the things she loves and to do them at a leisurely pace. A big part of Jane’s life is now centered around playing the flute and playing English handbells. Both are great fun and a wonderful way to meet new people. Other things she enjoys doing are pickleball, gardening, hiking and just recently she has started deep water volleyball and find she loves it. Jane considers herself very fortunate to be able to enjoy this special time in her life.

## New Members (cont'd)

### Jo Shute

Jo and her husband, Allan Wieman, moved to Hanover in 2015 to enjoy the many attractions of retirement in the Upper Valley. Her interests include singing (Handel Society), ringing (handbells), hiking, gardening, travelling, and producing maple syrup and honey. She has been a UU for about 35 years and was a long-time member of The Unitarian Church in Westport, CT, where she and Allan met in the church choir. They have 3 adult children and enjoy family gatherings.

### Allan Wieman

Allan and his wife, Jo Shute, chose the Upper Valley in part for the presence of this UU community. Allan enjoys music, reading, sharing time with friends and family, learning, politics/policy, travelling, hiking, and maple season. He enjoys a good hike, a good book, a good meal, and a lively discussion. Allan recently led the UUCUV book discussion group on Ta-Nahisi Coates' recent bestseller, *Between the World and Me*.

### Jennifer Ditano

Jennifer grew up in Knox, Maine, and moved to New Hampshire for graduate school at Dartmouth in 2015, where she studies cancer biology and is pursuing a PhD in this field. This is her first experience with a UU church. She joined the UUCUV community last fall as the preschool Sunday School teacher and has loved working with the wonderful kids and parents of the UUCUV.

### John Hinds

John grew up in Walpole, Massachusetts, and also moved to NH for graduate school in the same program as Jen – he's also pursuing a PhD in the field of cancer biology at Dartmouth. John was a member of the UCC in Walpole as a child and teen.

### Cassidy (aka Cassie) Murphy

Cassidy Frances Murphy was born in 1960 in New Rochelle, New York, and grew up in Connecticut, the second child of six, two sisters and three brothers. She is the blessed parent of three children, now grown: Elizabeth, Patrick and Kelly, and the busy grandmother of six (with another on the way). Cassidy moved to Vermont 22 years ago. She enjoys hiking, biking, an afternoon in the kayak, taking photos and spending time in her garden. She is a huge New England Patriots fan, and loves the arts, especially dance.

She counts herself an activist for what seems right, and a proud member of the LGBT community. She built her home in South Royalton, Vermont, on the White River in 2007, and shares it with her best friend Mike.



## In Memoriam

*Now the dead move through all of us still glowing,  
Mother and child, lover and lover mated,  
Are wound and bound together and enflowing.  
Only the strands grow richer with each loss...  
As the lost human voices speak through us and blend  
Our complex love, our mourning without end.*

~May Sarton

Over the past few months we have had to say goodbye to several cherished members: Marjorie Hybels, Doug MacGregor, Ed Shulkin, and Normajane Wittner, Peg Piper, and Ray Buskey. They leave us with a treasure trove of memories and an ache in the heart. We are grateful for all they have given to us and so many others and we carry their light with us as we journey on our way.

*Rev. Patience Stoddard*

# Restorative Circles for Healing of Conflict

*Sparrow F. Alden, CRE*

What would you like to have known?

Seven folks from UUCUV and twenty more from the Society of Friends, the UU congregations in Saint Johnsbury and Burlington and Concord, and other communities in NH, VT, and MA asked that question many times on the weekend of May 5th. We were attending a training in Restorative Circles, a method of conflict resolution that relies on listening and cooperation with a goal of returning relationships to wholeness, rather than an adversarial model focused on one side 'winning' at another's expense.

Here's the hard part of the work we learned in 48 hours of workshops: once the question is asked... hush. Listen. Listen as though you are about to be quizzed (you are). Listen as though listening deeply to the words and whatever lies behind the words could heal a dear friend's broken heart (it could). Listen without answering, without suggesting, without fixing. Listen as though listening is the purest way you have to show your care and love for your friend - it just might be.

When they have spoken, all the way until the words stop spilling out, don't answer. Simply acknowledge that you are human and have a full life of experience and bias and expectations by reflecting back what you think you heard them say - just checking that you got it right.

Often, Grace asks something like, "Is there a plan for dinner?" What I hear is, "I expect you to make dinner tonight." That's my filters working overtime, learned through culture and family, about my own shortcomings and societal expectations. If I say, "I heard you say you want me to make dinner, is that right?" I immediately get her open, mildly startled look and a clarification. "I was considering eating that leftover stir fry, but I don't want to mess up any plans of yours by using it up or eating before you were going to serve something else."

She communicated, I double-checked, she communicated from a different angle, I understood. That's the

Restorative Circle process.

There are many nuances - for example, each of these listening conversations happens in a circle of witnesses, not behind closed doors. Rather than keeping things secret and controlled, those who attend the circle can witness the release of tension when real understanding is reached and then they can pass the word - "Hey, the stir-fry thing is a non-issue, I heard them figure it out myself."

Those of us who participated in the weekend see the amazing potential for community healing and wholeness in this very structured, simple, painstaking process. We have a lot of practicing to do and a lot of honest assessment about how much we can put into it and when, which will determine the rate at which these circles can come into use. But we agree that it's a beautiful, caring, and effective next step in our congregation's deepening of our covenantal relationship.

As the staff member in the Restorative Circle effort, I am honored to serve the group with logistical support and to be part of the group in building our skills and carrying the word to the congregation as a whole. I'll keep you all updated through this newsletter as the circle grows.

Peace,

Sparrow

*It is here, where we stand, that we should try to make shine the light of the hidden divine life. ~Martin Buber*

*To be blind is bad, but worse is to have eyes and not to see. ~Helen Keller*

# New Books in the Library

Olive MacGregor, Library Committee Chair



The Library Committee met several times this spring and added the following books:

## Adult Books

*All Are Chosen: Stories of Lay Ministry and Leadership.* 253.2 All

Armstrong Karen. *Through the Narrow Gate: A Memoir of Spiritual Discovery.* 271.9 Arm

Fitzpatrick, Jean G. *Something More: Nurturing Your Child's Spiritual Growth.* 248.8 Fit

Frankl, Viktor E. *Man's Search for Meaning.* 150.19 Fra

Louv, Richard. *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder.* 353.5 Lou

## Children's Books - Donated to the UUCUV Library by Suzanne Simon and Bill Brawley

Boritzer, Etan. *What is God?* J 291.2 Bor

Brett, Jan. *On Noah's Ark.* J223 Bre

Brunelli, Robert. *A Family Treasury of Bible Stories: One for Each Day of the Week.* J 220.9 Bru

Caduto, Michael. *Earth Tales from Around the World.* J398.2 Cad

De Paola, Tomie. *The Miracles of Jesus.* J 232.9 DeP

De Paola, Tomie. *The Parables of Jesus.* J232.9 DeP

De Paola, Tomie. *Tomie De Paola's Book of Bible Stories.* J220.9 DeP

Drucker, Malka. *A Family Treasury of Jewish Holidays.* J296.4 Dru

Hopman, Ellen Evert. *Walking the World in Wonder: A Children's Herbal.* J615.3 Hop

Martin, Bill. *Knots On a Counting Rope.* J Fic Mar

Sasso, Sandy Eisenberg. *In God's Name.* J 291.2 Sas

**Missing book:** Louv, Richard, *The Nature Principle: Human Restoration and the End of Nature-Deficit Disorder.* If anyone finds it out of place on the library shelves or at home, please let Olive know 603-448-2289.

Feel free to check out items from the library after you register. The children's books are on the right side of the room as you enter the library, and the adult books are on the left. Books with green dots are sustainability books, and books with blue dots are books dealing with UU specific subjects. Returned books go in the basket on the bottom of the children's collection.



**From the UUCUV Library**

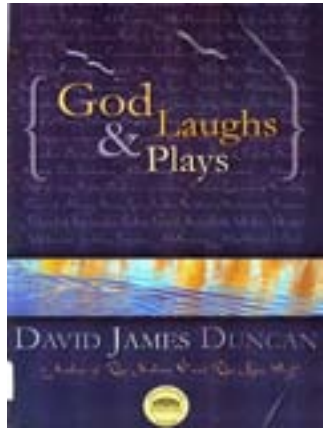
**God Laughs & Plays  
by David James Duncan**

*Review by Margo Nutt*

Although published in 2007, this book is particularly pertinent in today’s political climate. In this essay collection on the wonder and universality of human spirituality, Duncan directs his most withering fire against the biblical literalists and their neoconservative allies who currently dominate American politics.

*God Laughs & Plays* offers “churchless sermons,” stories, memoir, conversations, and cosmological reflections that scorn riches and embrace the poor; bless peacemakers; celebrate creation, diversity, empathy, playfulness and beauty; and insist that Divine Mystery is indeed mysterious and compassion is literally compassionate.

Although Jesus is fundamental to Duncan’s cosmology, his spiritual and philosophical views are accessible to those of diverse faiths. Duncan speaks honestly and passionately about his personal faith life - about his doubts, about eschewing the religious tradition he was raised in, and about creating a meaningful relationship between his God and the world around him. And he does it with a great sense of humor.



**Watermelon**

*Lynn Unger*

*You know  
what summer tastes like – the pink flesh  
of a generous earth,  
This rounded life  
fully ripe, fully flavored.  
How could you be ashamed  
at the tug of desire?  
The world has opened itself to you,  
season after season.  
What is summer’s sweetness  
but an invitation to respond?  
There is only one way  
to eat a watermelon.  
Bury your face  
in the wetness  
of that rosy slab  
and bite.*



**Sparrow’s Summer Reading  
Recommendations**

For parents, *Last Child in the Woods* by Richard Louv.

For families to read together, *The Trumpeter of Krakow* by Eric P. Kelley. It’s the 1928 Newbery Medalist, so slower-paced than many kids are used to - but what a wonderful story! I recommend for ages 10 and up.

For 9+ year old readers, *The Chronicles of Prydain* by Lloyd Alexander. It’s what I’m reading myself this summer, so I want folks to talk with about the books!



## Summer Lunch Program for Children

*Lori Fortini*

Having enough food to eat is not guaranteed to all. Many families in the United States live every day with food insecurity – the state of being without reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food - and are at risk for going hungry. At the UUCUV, we help families in the Upper Valley every Sunday by giving food and donations to the Haven Food Pantry.

Another direct way we help is by participating in the Northwood/Hollow Drive Summer Lunch Program organized by Theresa Carpenter of the St. Thomas Church in Hanover. Northwood/Hollow Drive has a housing development with many families with children with food insecurity. Through the school year, there are breakfast and lunch programs available which help families stretch their budget to pay for food. However, those programs do not run through the summer.

To fill this void, local churches step up. Several Upper Valley churches each take a week through the summer and make lunches for up to 50 children. With each church taking a week, we share the love and care throughout the Valley and wrap it around these families to show we value them and that we care for their wellbeing.

I am proud to say that the UUCUV has been involved with this effort for many years – probably from its beginnings when a former member, Carmen Sanderson would mobilize our UUCUV families and friends to make lunches for a day during our week.

Early on, the program realized that dropping off meals one day at a time was difficult and risky if the meals couldn't be delivered on time or at all for a day. So, the system was put in place to have enough refrigeration at the community center on site to hold all the week's lunches at one time. This also helped us to create a community-building-lunch-prep-extravaganza.

We have missed participating in program for a couple of years. First, because two years ago we didn't have a building, and last year, because the summer

weeks were all filled up by other churches before we could respond. I am happy to say we are back on the list for this summer.

Here is how it works: All the food is donated or purchased from cash donations given by people in our congregation. We have had generous champions of this program over the years who were willing to cover all expenses not covered by donations. This is a gift from our hearts that is outside of the UUCUV operating budget or funds.

Then, on the Sunday before our assigned week, families and friends gather together to make sandwiches and pack up snacks and fruit. It is quite a show. We have people working three sandwich assembly lines with others packing the boxes. It goes quickly – just a couple of hours after church - with humor and good fellowship. We arrange to bring the food to the community center at Northwood Drive that day so that the food is ready for the families during the week.

Our week this year is July 3 through 7 so we would hold our lunch making day on July 2nd. We realize that the Fourth of July is in our week but we hope that because it is on a Tuesday, we will have helpers available to give a couple hours that Sunday. As we get closer to that date I will be asking for donations and helpers. If we could do it in our old Meeting House, I am really looking forward to how we can make it even better in our beautiful building.

Please look for the call to help and consider sharing our bounty and plenty with our friends and neighbors this summer.



## Partner Church News

Claudia Kern



On May 19, thirty-five UUCUV members and friends gathered to enjoy a delicious Indian Dinner amidst tables decorated with lanterns and Indian textiles in our sanctuary filled with twinkling lights and traditional Indian music. Many thanks to Jean Howe, Melissa Danen, Sally Page, and Jim and Mary Shain for their help with preparation and to all who attended for their generous donations of \$588 to cover expenses and support our Partner Church efforts.

Polly Gould gave an update on our seven student sponsorships, and Claudia Kern read out some of the conversation of her recent Facebook chat with Rangdajied Lapasam, the contact with our Partner Church in Mukhap India. Rangdajied reports: *“People in Mukhap now are very busy because almost all of the people are going to the paddy fields. And on this coming 23th May the Meghalaya Board of school Education Headquarters Tura are going to release the Matriculation (SSLC) and Higher secondary school leaving certificate (HSSLC) results. Some of our Unitarian student are waiting for [these] results.”*

Rangdajied also had some disappointing news. He has had to drop out of school in order to help support his extended family. He writes, *“Everyday and night I cry in my soul about my education and job but I never [give up the hope that ] one day I will be the Minister of the Unitarians here. That is my aim.”* Polly and Claudia are exploring how we might help Rangdajied return to school and are in contact with the Unitarian Union of Northeast India about this. It is unfortunate that most Unitarian ministers in Meghalaya are not paid for their ministry, but must rely on other jobs for their income; so it seems important for Rangdajied to complete his education if he wishes to become a minister. Right now he is driving a taxi and earning the equivalent of \$46 per month to support his two sisters and their children.

If you would like to become more involved with our Partnership in Mukhap, we would welcome your participation. Please contact Polly or Claudia for more information. [claudia.anne.kern@gmail.com](mailto:claudia.anne.kern@gmail.com)

[polly1gould@yahoo.com](mailto:polly1gould@yahoo.com)

### A Taste of India

This was the most popular dish at the recent Indian Dinner. Enjoy!

#### Cashew Cheese with Red Pepper Sauce

- ½ cup raw cashew nuts
- 2 large red bell peppers cut in 1” pieces
- 6 green cardamom pods
- 2-4 fresh green chilis (to taste)
- 1 ½ teaspoons kosher or sea salt
- ¼ teaspoon cayenne
- 8 oz paneer (Indian cheese available frozen at Asian Superstore on mall in Lebanon)
- 2 tablespoons minced cilantro for garnish

1. Thaw paneer, cut in 1” cubes, and fry in vegetable oil until golden on all sides.

2. Pour 2 cups water into medium saucepan, add cashews, peppers, cardamom pods and chilis. Bring to boil over med-high heat, then reduce to med-low, cover pan and cook until peppers are tender – about 20 minutes.

3. Puree mixture, one-half at a time, until smooth and return to saucepan.

4. Stir in salt, cayenne and paneer. Cover and simmer over medium low heat until paneer is warmed through.

# Spiritual Readings and Practice

*Shared by Rev. Patience Stoddard*

## **A Little Summer Poem Touching on the Subject of Faith**

*Mary Oliver*

Every summer  
I listen and look  
under the sun's brass and even  
into the moonlight, but I can't hear

anything, I can't see anything --  
not the pale roots digging down, nor the green  
stalks muscling up,  
nor the leaves  
deepening their damp pleats,

nor the tassels making,  
nor the shucks, nor the cobs.  
And still,  
every day,

the leafy fields  
grow taller and thicker --  
green gowns lofting up in the night,  
showered with silk.

And so, every summer,  
I fail as a witness, seeing nothing --  
I am deaf too  
to the tick of the leaves,

the tapping of downwardness from the banyan feet --  
all of it  
happening  
beyond any seeable proof, or hearable hum.

And, therefore, let the immeasurable come.  
Let the unknowable touch the buckle of my spine.  
Let the wind turn in the trees,  
and the mystery hidden in the dirt

swing through the air.  
How could I look at anything in this world  
and tremble, and grip my hands over my heart?  
What should I fear?

One morning  
in the leafy green ocean  
the honeycomb of the corn's beautiful body  
is sure to be there.

## **Summer Meditation**

*Robert T. Weston*

Now blows the wind with soft, relaxing warmth.  
The sun beats down. The schools are out.  
Children swarm in the playgrounds and the streets,  
And eager city folk, vacations abound,  
Crowd the broad highways.  
The lakes and seashores lose their solitude  
And all the world seems turned to carnival.

What of ourselves?  
There could be, now, deep peace,  
a time of soul searching.  
We might turn to examine our own lives,  
To sort and probe our tendencies of thought.  
To sift the true from false in the things of doubt,  
The beautiful from ugliness unmarked.

The sun beats down, its time for a pause.  
Even the trees seem resting for a time  
As if to gather strength for the more strenuous times  
that lie ahead.  
And shall not we?  
Here's the unfinished clay, half-molded,  
That still waits on us.  
To think that we have been, as we are,  
And still yet to have become.

**Spiritual Readings and Practice (cont'd)**

**Spoken Meditation: A New Beginning**

*adapted from Ted Loder*

God of my broken heart,  
So much has happened these past few months, to me,  
to my community, to our country, to our world.

You know my frail heart and our country's frayed history;  
You know of the pain of the widow and the orphan,  
of the hungry children and the bereft refugees.

Source of the sacred,  
Help me to believe in beginnings,  
And in my beginning again,  
no matter how many cracks there may be in my heart.

Help me to make beginnings  
To begin going out of my weary mind into fresh dreams  
Daring to make bold tracks in the land of Here and Now.

God of History, Liberator, Justice maker,  
Help me to become a beginning for others,  
To be a singer for the songless, a befriender of the friendless,  
To become a beginning of hope for the despairing,  
of reconciliation for the divided;  
to become a beginning of freedom for the oppressed,  
of gentleness for the angry,  
of peace for the frightened and violent of the earth..

Help me to believe in beginnings,  
to make a beginning, to be a beginning;  
So that I may not just grow old, but grow new  
Each day of this wild amazing life I am called to live. Amen.





### Spiritual Readings and Practice (cont'd)

#### Excerpt from Easter Sermon April 2017

*There's a crack in everything; that's how the light gets in.* ~Leonard Cohen

Life is difficult. These are the first words of Scott Peck's book *The Road Less Travelled*. He goes on to say that the inability to accept this truth, along with our many efforts to avoid experiencing our own pain, is a major source of our unhappiness and suffering.

Many of us find ourselves living in a country that no longer feels safe nor reflects our most cherished values. Every night we hear on the news more stories of senseless attacks on innocent people just out for a good time, the plight of tens of thousands of refugees seeking asylum, of addiction in our schools, and the continuing effects of racism built into our systems and institutions. We fear for the future and wonder where to put our efforts to bring about a change of direction; how to begin.

On a more personal level, this year has been a difficult one for many of us. Some have lost loved ones, some are struggling with family relationships, some are dealing with severe depression and anxiety, some with increasing symptoms of illness or aging that make it harder (or impossible) to do those things we used enjoy doing and did so well.

Christopher Germer, the author of *The Mindful Path to Self-Compassion*, also begins by recognizing that life can be difficult, and like Peck he encourages us to begin by acknowledging this and by turning toward the pain not away from it.

“Learning how to spend some time with pain is essential to achieving personal happiness.”

This to me is why the stories of great spiritual leaders so often include dramatic images of suffering.

Life is difficult – not always – but often, and only when we truly accept this reality can we begin to grow and perhaps even transcend it.

The spiritual path is also hard. In Max Coot's words, “We need the sense of diety to crack our own hard, brown, December husks and push life out of inner tombs and outer pain.” We need a sense of something

bigger than ourselves, something, someone, we can trust, a benevolent force or person that can hold the many pieces of ourselves when the glue lets go and the vessel of our ego, our sense of self, seems but shards on the workroom floor.

For me the image of Jesus on the cross can hold those shards until Easter morning. It can remind me that we are not alone. It reminds me that this is not the end of the story. It can hold all the broken bits until the stone is rolled away. Then we can find a bigger and more flexible container for our sense of self; one that has room for growing and changing; and one that lets more light shine in.

#### More Quotes

Those who have ceased to love  
Have not ceased to need;  
Those who have ceased to care  
Have not ceased to bleed;  
Do not weigh the words that  
Never ask, the minds that never  
Seek, nor mark the averted faces,  
But see the heart.

~Jean Toomer

*I don't see racism as one problem, economic justice as another, environmental degradation, sexism, and homophobia as other problems. I see them as one big problem: the very few people across races, classes and national boundaries wanting to have power over the many. If you go deep enough in exploring any form of oppression or suppression, you will find that it is all about one small group taking access to power away from the whole society.... It is a manipulation of the human spirit, and for those who happily perpetuate it with full knowledge, a psychosis of the human soul.*

~Rev. John Gilmore

# Ongoing Opportunities for Involvement!

## Sunday Teams

Anyone who would like to participate in hosting Sunday Services as part of a team, who has not already been assigned to one, please email Claudia Kern [claudia.anne.kern@gmail.com](mailto:claudia.anne.kern@gmail.com) or Suzanne Simon [knitrmom@gmail.com](mailto:knitrmom@gmail.com). This is a good way to meet people and have a lot of fun--and help the congregation as well. The teams take responsibility for one month of services. They set up for the service, provide refreshments, welcome people as they arrive, and put things back in order afterwards.

## Caring Circle

The Caring Circle is our way of matching up people who need a hand in some way (rides, cards, visits, meals, etc.) with people in the congregation willing to help when able. Each month a different Monthly Coordinator is informed of needs and calls Circle members to see if they can help out. If you would like to be part of the Caring Circle in some way *or have needs that could be met through the Circle*, please email or talk to Patience or Sparrow or email Lori Fortini at [LA14E@outlook.com](mailto:LA14E@outlook.com). (Lori organizes the monthly coordinators). The more willing hands we have listed for various needs, the better we can take care of each other when those needs arise.

If you'd like to step up to drive someone to an appointment or make a meal or show your caring in similar ways, please fill in the quick questionnaire:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdUPXHZ1EYvWrgv4h0exU145fgD\\_1YThhrc5Q3wcaENTxP8nA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdUPXHZ1EYvWrgv4h0exU145fgD_1YThhrc5Q3wcaENTxP8nA/viewform)

## Sing in the Choir

The UUCUV choir sings September through June. We rehearse at a once-a-month potluck and on Sunday morning when we sing (twice a month). Whenever possible, music and listening links are made available

in advance. The choir is open to all who wish to sing regardless of experience or ability. Contact our Music Director, Linda Hoover if you would like to sing with the choir. [music@uucuv.org](mailto:music@uucuv.org)

**Open Choir Sundays.** Starting at 9:00 am on certain Sundays, with whomever shows up, Linda will warm up the group, and we will learn and prepare a piece to be sung in the service. If you love to sing but can't do choir regularly, give this a try. There are also opportunities to provide special music throughout the year.



## Chalice Circles

Chalice Circles are intentional lay-led small groups that deepen and expand the ministry of a congregation. They help build community and provide opportunities for deeper relationships – intimacy — and opportunity for deeper spiritual exploration and search for meaning—ultimacy.

Chalice Circles are both structured and open. The sessions are always confidential. Sharing of the space, attention, and time are respected. Although we all will speak to our own experiences of the topics, we will not try to advise or fix one another. A format guides the process for entering community, introducing and addressing a topic deeply. The topics vary widely, depending on the will of the group, as do the groups' behavioral covenants.

These circles of trust are facilitated by UUCUVers who have gone through a training session and who are in covenant as a group to support and assist one another as appropriate. If you have questions about joining a chalice circle, please contact Sparrow:

[education@uucuv.org](mailto:education@uucuv.org)

## “Living Fully with Limits”

How does one live fully and happily despite having to adjust to limits on our activities and abilities? Patience is facilitating an open and on-going bi-weekly group for those for whom aging or illness have changed the patterns and choices of daily life. We share readings, personal frustrations, lessons learned, and spiritual practices in our continuing search for personal growth. Announcements of time and place will be found in the Weekly Blast. If you are interested, but haven't yet contacted our minister, Patience, please email her at [minister@uucuv.org](mailto:minister@uucuv.org).

## Women's Group

The Women's Group gathers at Sally Page's (visit the church website or contact Sally 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. Those choosing not 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 break up by 8:30.

Sally Page [baciquail@comcast.net](mailto:baciquail@comcast.net)



## Sunday Music & Readings

The Sunday Services committee is always looking for people to share special music, provide accompaniment on Linda's off weeks, suggest readings or themes to Rev. Patience Stoddard, or offer to lead or take part in a service. They are very interested in adding other voices, speakers and musical diversity to our services.

## Volunteer at a Special Event

The church has numerous events throughout the year, and volunteers are hugely appreciated for set up, cooking and baking, planning, serving tables, sorting donated items, cleaning up, crafting, helping with children's activities, carpentry, taking pictures, gardening...you never know what might be needed! Watch for opportunities in the Weekly Blasts. New members and friends are encouraged to fill out our Activity Survey by getting in touch with Sparrow, who will email you a copy.



## How to Stay Informed!

Please read your weekly email blasts for important up-to-date news!

If you do not already receive these and wish to be added to the list, email Rachel at [office@uucuv.org](mailto:office@uucuv.org) and let her know.

## Church 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)

# Our Social Action In the Wider Community

## LISTEN Community Dinners

It is easy to overlook the hidden poverty of our scenic and affluent region. Our UUCUV cook team is one of more than 40 teams who prepare and serve hot, nutritious meals for the LISTEN Program. Upwards of 20,000 meals are served annually, at no cost, and as you might imagine, the need increases each year. We currently cook for up to 100 guests at each dinner. Seniors and families with children make up the majority of our guests.

Participating in the LISTEN Dinner Program is just one of the ways our congregation gives back to the Upper Valley community. All are welcome to join our team - no experience is necessary, and you are not required to work at every dinner; only sign up for the ones that fit your schedule. We offer 2 shifts: prep & cook from 3:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. and serve & cleanup from 4:45 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. and you may choose to work one or both shifts. Please call me at 603-643-7494 or send an email to [knitrmom@gmail.com](mailto:knitrmom@gmail.com) if you would like to sign up or have questions.

Stay tuned to the Weekly Blasts for our schedule. I hope you will consider joining us: work at a dinner, donate fresh produce or a homemade dessert, or offer funds to purchase such items to supplement the meal. We have a good time together doing meaningful work for our Upper Valley neighbors. I find this work deeply gratifying, and I hope you will, too.

*Suzanne Simon*

## Supporting the Work of The Haven

We collect food and personal care items at Sunday services to be delivered to The Upper Valley Haven. We also support them financially through a portion of the minister's discretionary fund to help families in need of emergency housing or support.

## Partner Church

Our congregation has a partnership with the Mukhap Unitarian Church in the Khasi Hills of Northeast India. Our two churches communicate regularly and find ways to enrich each other's lives through our common spiritual aims and different heritages. This year members of our congregation are sponsoring seven students in high school (including one supported by our Youth Group) and two in college. Please talk to Claudia Kern or Polly Gould if you are interested in being part of this important on-going endeavor.

[claudia.anne.kern@gmail.com](mailto:claudia.anne.kern@gmail.com)

[polly1gould@yahoo.com](mailto:polly1gould@yahoo.com)

## In the Works--a Social Justice Tab on UUCUV Website

Mugs Johnston has volunteered to be a conduit for populating a 'Social Justice' tab on the UUCUV website. She will check the links before posting, and it would be helpful to have a brief description of the link when submitting a request to Mugs. Warning: since Mugs will be traveling a couple of times over the next four months, it may take time before the link is posted on the website.

The first link that Mugs would like to post is for [govtrack.us](http://govtrack.us). This is a website that is non-partisan and below is the description on the website.

"GovTrack is here to help you track legislation being debated in the United States Congress."

We hope you will find this new feature on the UUCUV website useful.

**Board of Directors  
as of July 1, 2017**

Lori Fortini, President  
Mary Schneider, Vice President  
Mugs Johnston, Treasurer  
Barbara Clapp, Secretary  
Nick Warren, Member-at-Large  
Laura Mitchell, Member-at-Large  
Karen Watson, Member-at-Large

**Staff**

The Rev. Patience Stoddard, Minister  
Sparrow F. Alden, CRE--  
Credentialed Religious Educator  
Linda Hoover, Music Director  
Rachel Clark, Office Administrator

**Committee/ Task Force Chairs**

Caring Circle Coordinator (Overall):  
Lori Fortini

Committee on Ministry: Babette  
Hansen, Phil Kern, Suzanne Simon  
Hospitality Teams: Suzanne Simon,  
Claudia Kern

Library: Olive MacGregor  
Meetinghouse Team: Carl Tracy, Bill  
Brawley

Newsletter Help Team: Margo Nutt,  
Mardy High, Claudia Kern

Nominating Committee: Cappy  
Nunlist, Paul Schmidt, Margaret  
Robinson

Partner Church: Polly Gould,  
Claudia Kern

Sunday Services: Claudia Kern

Ways and Means: Lori Fortini

Search Committee: Grace Alden,  
Kathy Christie, Leah Goat, Maureen  
McNulty, Joani Nierenberg, Bob  
Ricci, Mandy Ruest

# About the UUCUV



**OUR MISSION:** We strive to be a joyful, inclusive congregation that nurtures spiritual and intellectual growth for everyone while encouraging lives of service and integrity.

**OUR VISION:** We, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Upper Valley, unite: to provide diverse gatherings with music, ceremony, dialogue, and joy in support of each other's spiritual well-being;

to maintain an active program of religious education for adults and children;  
to find ways for each of us to participate in activities that will provide fellowship, be intergenerational, and serve the wider community;  
to sustain our vitality toward building a sanctuary and increasing our membership;  
to fulfill our commitment to be environmentally responsible;  
to fulfill our commitment to be a Welcoming Congregation;  
to be a positive influence in the world;  
to welcome all who share our mission and covenant.

**OUR COVENANT:** We covenant with each other to speak and act with thoughtful intentions, compassionate truthfulness, and constructive encouragement, in order to build and nurture a loving and supportive environment where all will feel safe to explore our spiritual truths.

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**SUNDAY SERVICES:** Services are held at 10 AM at the Meetinghouse at 320 Route 5 South, in Norwich, VT. Child care is available. Religious education classes are provided during the service.

**MEETINGHOUSE:** Our newly-built sanctuary adjoins our original Greek Revival farmhouse that continues to serve as meeting and office space.

**MINISTER:** You may contact Rev. Patience Stoddard at minister@uucuv.org, at her home phone (603) 756-9260, or if urgent, (603) 313-1169 (cell).

**CREDENTIALLED RELIGIOUS EDUCATOR:** Email Sparrow F. Alden at education@uucuv.org.

**MUSIC DIRECTOR:** Email Linda Hoover at music@uucuv.org.

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE:** Rachel's regular hours are Tuesday through Friday 10-1, unless otherwise posted. Contact her at (802) 649-8828, or email office@uucuv.org. In summer she may normally not work Thursdays.

**CARES AND CONCERNS:** With cares and concerns, please contact the Caring Circle Coordinator of the month (listed in our weekly email news) and/or the Rev. Patience Stoddard or Sparrow Alden (contact information above).

**NEWS:** To receive our weekly email news "blasts" and/or The Call, our quarterly e-newsletter, email Rachel at the office (above) and ask to be added to our list. Hard copies of The Call are available on Sundays for those who need them.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:**

The submissions deadline for the Autumn issue is August 15.  
Please send your submissions to Rachel: [office@uucuv.org](mailto:office@uucuv.org)

**"WEEKLY BLAST" DEADLINE:**

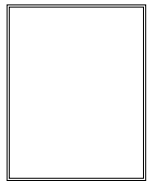
Send news items to Rachel by 9 AM Wednesdays.



Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
of the Upper Valley

PO Box 1110

Norwich, VT 05055



**Some Dates to Remember:**

**Northwoods Lunchmaking July 2**

**5 Church Rummage Sale July 7-9**

**Barnard Service Aug. 20**

**Annual Picnic Sept. 3**

**UUCUV June - August**

*UUCUV Phone: (802) 649-8828*

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

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

**Summer Issue 2017**

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