

The Call

Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of the Upper Valley

Autumn 2017
September - November

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Sunday Services

10 AM

Sermon topics may be found on our website, www.uucuv.org, as well as in the Sunday Order of Service.

We are

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

Outside In, Inside Out

Rev. Patience Stoddard

...what makes a person religious is not a declaration of belief in the one true god, or participation in religious ceremonies. What makes a person religious is rather the breadth of their sympathies and understandings, an appreciation of the great world to which we belong and an honest acceptance of oneself...

~Sophia Lyon Fahs, Pioneer 20th Century Religious Educator

We participate in this community for many reasons and to meet many needs. Some wish to focus on the inside. In our current society which prizes action, innovation and consumption, we may need a time and place to look inward, to embrace meaningful traditions, to focus on giving rather than getting. Others wish to act on the outside. In a nation where hurricanes, racial prejudice and economic inequality are on the rise, we need a community of shared values and concerns to help us find ways to understand and respond effectively.

Many UU congregations live in the midst of this (often unspoken) tug of war. Do the minister, lay leaders, and services focus primarily on deepening spirituality, personal growth, and strengthening the interpersonal relationship within the congregation? Or should our primary focus be on deepening our understanding of problems and challenges in the greater society and in finding effective ways to be agents of change in the wider world?

For the first three years as your minister, my primary focus was on helping strengthen the roots of trust, confidence and vitality in this congregation. This past year with the growing energy of the congregation, the national election, and the sharpening recognition of divisions in our nation, my focus has turned more outward. The decision to "Share the Plate" (highlight an organization doing justice work and giving to them directly), the topics of sermons, and the Diversity Book Groups are all signs of this shift in focus and energy.

Nevertheless, in order to be most effective as change agents we

(continued p. 2)

Report from the Board

Barbara Clapp, Board Secretary

Our year started with a joint meeting with the out-going and in-coming Boards. Some of the suggestions expressed by the out-going members were their desire for the new Board to keep the momentum going from last fall for our programs in religious education, social justice and spiritual growth. It was also mentioned that our task force based structures may be somewhat out-of-date for our growing membership and that we should revisit our governance structure to see what would be better suited for our needs. The out-going Board wished us well and expressed their hope that we would be able to afford to hire a full-time minister.

In July the Board and 3 members of the Search Committee met with Nancy Chaddock, a financial advisor from the UUA's Northern New England District, to provide guidance and information needed to help us make a decision on whether or not the congregation could afford a full time settled minister. This Thursday (Sept. 14) the Board discussed our financial picture and unanimously endorsed the goal of looking for a full-time minister. Sparrow's hours will return to 1/2 time.

Our Restorative Circles are on-going and have been well-attended. We are exploring ways to put social justice into practice and are grateful to Bill Brawley who volunteered to help lead a social justice program. He welcomes your suggestions.

We are currently in the process of setting our priorities for this year. We need to review our leadership structure and see how we can encourage younger members to step forward to participate. We need to review our vision. Where do we want to be in five years? This work will be begun this year with work of the Search Committee, and then it will continue with our new minister to redefine our vision together.

Lori reported at the August Board meeting that the church is receiving a stock gift from an anonymous donor to pay off our mortgage. A portion will be received now and the sale of the stock will pay down the mortgage. We will continue to pay our regular pay-

ment to the mortgage balance from now until January. Then we will receive a second donation to cover the remainder of the mortgage. The plan is that our mortgage will be fully paid off in January! The intent is that this will provide our congregation with more money to put toward the total cost of ministry. This is cause for celebration and we are extremely grateful for the donation.

Our Board has a new Vice President, Allan Wieman has accepted our invitation to fill the vacuum when Mary Schneider resigned. Allan is a long-time UU and led several book discussions for us last fall. We appreciate Mary's willingness to serve and wish her all the best.

I would like to remind readers that the Board welcomes your presence at the monthly board meetings to learn of your concerns.

"A Covenant for Liberals" by Walter Royal Jones, Jr.
Mindful of truth ever exceeding our knowledge
And kinship ever exceeding our practice,
Reverently we covenant together,
Beginning with ourselves as we are
To share the strength of integrity and the heritage of spirit
In our unending quest for reality and love.

(adapted from Blue hymnal)

must also take a deeper look into our own prejudices, fears, and privilege. We must shine the light inside in order to be able to help our society and government make the necessary changes outside. And I believe we need to re-commit ourselves to living out more fully our core principles and values in our communities and in our nation.

You are ready. Let us put our faith into action together.

President's Message

Lori Fortini

Like all of you, I have so many feelings since the events in Charlottesville VA – outrage and deep sadness at the senseless murder of Heather Heyer, disgust at the lack of leadership in denouncing the white supremacist Neo-Nazi groups, and a restlessness calling me to action, but a sense of helplessness as to what to do.

I tell myself that the church needs to respond. We need to just put up the “Black Lives Matter” sign right now and stand up. But I know this is not a unanimous decision by the congregation and I cannot move forward unilaterally.

I want to assure you that we did not drop the ball on this issue after the Annual Meeting. On Sunday August 27th, Patience addressed the issue of race and action and I shared my experiences from the UUA General Assembly in New Orleans from June regarding the racial healing work being done at the UUA. (See story in this issue of the Call, page 12). But as ready as some of us are to move, there are some in the congregation that voiced discomfort and disagreement with the movement.

And so, we have to once again take a deep breath and step back. We need to find other ways to talk together and become more educated in the issues surrounding the Black Lives UU. It is slow going. Process can be tedious.

But, being in right relations and in community with each other is hard work. We need to learn to talk together and deeply listen to each other to be sure that all voices are heard. We need to move forward with intention. The Board needs to grapple with how decisions are made on what goes up in front of our building.

But doing nothing also sends a message. Being silent is being complicit.

Bill Brawley is starting to mobilize people interested in social justice work. Please let us know if you are interested in this effort. (Bill can be reached at BBrawley@mac.com.) I believe there are ways to become a

voice for social action while still listening to each other and trying to find common ground. Many of us do our social action work outside of the church with other groups.

Although that is satisfying, I still believe that the UUCUV needs to be a united voice in the Upper Valley. A place where we live our values and where people who are struggling with injustice can find allies.

May we work together to find a way to respond to the hate and terrible injustice in our country.

And may you all hold our congregational leadership accountable if we don't work fast enough.

November 20th: Tears and Reflection on Trans Day of Remembrance

Please join together on Monday, November 20th for a quiet observance of the Trans Day of Remembrance. We will read the list of names of those people who were killed in the previous year for gender non-conformity and respond with open hearts and mutual care and support. The service will begin at 6PM.

“When you do nothing, you feel overwhelmed and powerless. But when you get involved, you feel the sense of hope and accomplishment that comes from knowing you are working to make things better.” ~Maya Angelou

Search Committee Update

Joani Nierenberg

What an exciting time in the life of this congregation! For only the second time in our history, we are looking forward to choosing a full time, Settled Minister. Thanks to many factors, we are so ready for this next step. Looking through the results of the last congregation-wide survey done at the UUCUV over 10 years ago, it is so evident how far we have come! The level of positive energy and involvement has grown exponentially since then, leading to the fruition of our dream of building a beautiful new home, and the increase in the numbers coming through our doors – and staying. A huge thank you to Patience Stoddard, whose love, warmth, and vitality have guided us through this amazing transitional period!

At the time of writing this article, the Search Committee will have hosted 50 people from our congregation at various Cottage Meetings, and we are scheduling several more meetings for the month of September in hopes of having face-to-face conversations with as many in the congregation as possible. The original purpose of these meetings was for the Search Committee to gather information and insights in order to complete what's called the Congregational Record, which will go online in November to educate prospective candidates about who we are and what (whom) we are looking for in a minister. What has turned out to be a wonderful side benefit of these gatherings is the opportunity for small groups to have meaningful conversations, to get to know each more deeply, and to have fun together!

In order to gain more explicit insights from the congregation, the Search Committee will be asking you to complete an online survey that will be ready shortly after we complete the Cottage Meetings. (Written copies will also be available for those who prefer.)

Next steps for the Search Committee include planning for the Beyond Categorical Thinking Service and workshop on Sunday, September 24, which is a program designed to promote inclusive thinking and prevent unfair discrimination during a congregation's search for a settled minister. We are hoping for broad participation, which will include your Board members, Search Committee, and as many from the congrega-

tion as possible. This workshop will also serve as an important continuation of the conversation started at the Annual Meeting around the issue of Black Lives Matter.

Much of our time over the next 2 months will be spent gathering and collating data for the Congregational Record – congregational history (including financial, membership, attendance data), current congregational life, lay leadership, ministry. Our UUA coach, Debby Bergh, will review our Record before it goes online in November. At that same time, all the Ministerial Records will go online for our review. After doing background checks, references, and interviews, the Search Committee will choose probably up to 4 potential candidates whom we will schedule for “pre-candidating” weekends when candidates are invited to spend time with the Search Committee, and to preach at a “neutral pulpit,” at a church where neither the minister nor members of the Search Committee are known (this in order to protect the confidentiality of the candidate).

The Committee will then select one candidate to present to the Congregation for its approval sometime late April or early May. The candidate will be invited to spend a week meeting as many in the congregation as possible, and will give the sermon on two Sundays. Following the second sermon, the candidate will be asked to leave while the congregation takes a vote whether or not to call that Minister. The expectation of the candidate would be that 95% of the congregation votes in favor, showing a strong level of support. If for some reason either the Search Committee does not bring any candidate forward, or if the congregation votes down the chosen candidate, we would have the option of entering what's called the second round. We are not anticipating that will happen, but know that several congregations have gone through that process and have ended up with ministers who are a wonderful fit.

We are totally optimistic that we, too, will find a Minister who is a wonderful match for our congregation. Whoever that person may be, he/she will be incredibly lucky!!

Restorative Circles: Affirming the Humanity of All

Sparrow F. Alden, CRE

“Outrageously biased on the side of every person on the planet.” - Dominic Barter

Our Restorative Circle group has been meeting once or twice a month since training in early May to build up our skills as facilitators of restorative circles. The first skill is reflective listening, without answering, without judging, a skill that all of us can cultivate. On some of the Sunday mornings this autumn, folks from the group will model reflective listening during the worship service. You will see a pair of people go up to place a stone; one person will speak their joy or concern, and the other will reflect back what they heard and then check that they got it right.

What a gift. We're going to check if we understood our friend. When my brother was struggling with ALS, his speech became severely impaired. He who had made his personal and professional life through lectures and charm could not be understood by most of the folks around him in his last year of life. If only I had been in covenant with him - if only I had promised him that I would keep trying to understand him until he nodded, yes, that was what he meant - could I have made a difference in the pain or loneliness that he suffered at the end? I am ready to be in that covenant with you.

The second skill we have been practicing is multiparitality. Facilitators, we would all agree, cannot be very effective if they are partial. The Restorative process asks, however, that we not be impartial. We are to be multiparital and to be on the side of every person in the room.

That takes setting aside our own biases; setting aside any labels we may have put on a person in order to listen and look at their real selves. Everyone who acts is trying to meet a need: the need to protect children; the need to grow professionally; the need to save face - the list is a myriad. The Restorative Circle process asks everyone what they were looking for in the moment of conflict.

In asking what they were looking for, listening deeply to the answer, and checking our understanding until

they nod yes, we affirm the humanity and complexity of everyone in the circle. We put ourselves on their side, too.

We hope very much that you will consider the impact this can have on our families, congregation, community, nation. We'll bring this process and these ideas to the worship service on Sunday, October 22 - please make a special effort to attend.

Another training in the Restorative Circle method of conflict resolution will be held on October 27-29 in Concord, NH, and we encourage all who are interested to contact Sparrow (education@uucuv.org) about attending.



First Friday Game Night!

Want to play Scrabble with Eva? Froggie Farkle with the Kindergarten set? Settlers of Catan with Anne? Risk with the Youth? First Fridays at 6PM. If you can pick up a dinner-like thing to share, great. We have plenty of games, some folks like to bring their own. It's a fabulous, fun, no-agenda night of games. See you there!



Hello, Parents & Grandparents!

Being your child's primary religious educator is a wonderful, exciting job! There's a huge body of resources to support you, including your Unitarian Universalist community and Director of Religious Education. Here are a few resources to help you promote your children's spiritual journey and UU identity.

Sparrow's First Hints for UU Parents

1. Have a chalice in your home which you light at special times. Light it in silence, or with simple words like, "May our flaming chalice inspire us to see clearly."

It's easy to make a chalice from found materials (like an overturned flower pot), or to find beautiful ones for sale.

2. Post the Seven Principles <http://uucuv.org/visitors/what-we-believe/> in your home. Choose your family's favorite. Make an effort to articulate when you do or see something which reinforces that principle. For example, "Well, we can't fit a crowd of friends into our new hybrid vehicle and take them to the movies with us - and I'm feeling proud that we're doing something difficult out of respect for the interconnected web."

3. Attend church or at-home worship every week. Doing it at home can be very simple -

- light the chalice
- check in with how everyone is feeling
- read a story book that touches the heart
- discuss the feelings and values of the story, listening respectfully to everyone
- sing your family's favorite uplifting song
- extinguish your chalice and thank everyone for being present

4. Use religious words.

5. Respond to Big Questions in a way that promotes discussion and wondering instead of giving a definitive answer.

6. Familiarize yourself with the stages of Spiritual Development < <http://uucuv.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/2016.04.17-for-web-site.pdf> >, and age-appropriate expectations for your kids.

7. Use worship and reverent behavior any time during the week - there's a wonderful, marvelous world of which to be reverent! Reverent behavior varies with age and temperament, of course - you might choose to blow kisses to the full moon!

8. Engage in your own Daily Spiritual Practice, modeling for your children that the spiritual journey is a lifelong joy.

9. Encourage your children to choose a tune from the children's hymn book, Come Sing a Song With Me < <http://www.uuabookstore.org/Come-Sing-a-Song-with-Me-P17015.aspx> >, for their next instrumental piece. Sing your family's favorite hymns in the car.

10. Sit down for meals together as often as you can and say Thanks for the meal. You can hold hands and observe silence, or say "Thanks," or find or create the right words for your family - even rotating being the one to speak the blessing.

Announcing the RE curriculum for this year!

September - October = UU Identity

November - December = World Religion

January - March = Peacemaking & Diversity

April - early June = Earth Spirit & Science

Summer curricula will change with the strengths of the summer staff person.

Our Whole Lives

UUs and our neighbors in Woodstock and at the Norwich Congregational church value health, inclusivity, self worth, joy, responsibility, and justice and that's why we sponsor and lead Our Whole Lives, the UUA/UCC sexuality education program. These religious opinions don't really make headlines, so we've chosen to be deliberate about delivering the message! OWL is one way for whole congregations to make sure kids know what our faith traditions believe: sexuality is about relationships, respect, and responsibility.

The OWL approach to sexuality includes modules from cradle to grave - and our OWL leaders and I will present the Older Elementary module of OWL this fall. We will discuss health, communication, bullying, shame. Ask me (Sparrow) anything about the OWL program! I want every congregant to know why we are

passionate about this program. Our OWL students are going to know that they are accepted, protected, and respected as who they are. Due to the weird constraints of coordinating the schedules of three congregations, Parent Orientation for Older Elementary OWL will be held at 4PM on Sunday September 24th - and if you're already an OWL parent, Sparrow will make sure it's as efficient as possible!

Both Sam and Neeta completed OWL courses. As a parent and community member, I am grateful for the knowledge they gained and the trusted adults outside their immediate family they added to their lives. OWL is a must!

~Mary Shain

Your Child's First Sunday

On your children's first Sunday with us, they might be excited, curious, reluctant, or blasé. Knowing what to expect can help your children feel confident and positive. Here are our guiding principles for getting settled into Religious Education: the parents know best; parents may always stay with their own children.

When you arrive you'll see friendly greeters who will help you get a name badge. If your child struggles through transitions, get the friendly greeters to introduce you immediately to Sparrow or Miss Sheena. They will give your child a tour of the religious education spaces, introduce the caregivers or relevant religious ed teacher, and let your child get to know the space quietly before the rest of the kids arrive.

At 10:00 AM: Families begin worship together in the Sanctuary. We'll share a hymn and kids collect food for our good neighbors at The Haven, after which kids leave for child care (babies & toddlers) or religious education. Parents and guardians may let their children leave for RE, may accompany them to the classroom and drop off there, or may stay with them for as long as the child needs. Other visitors may not

observe the RE classes; our RE leaders and assistants have undergone background checks.

Religious Education for children is comprised of stories, songs, and activities which support learning how to make ethical decisions, identifying with UU values, and becoming a member of our congregational community. Parents please join the class and pick up your children by 11:30. Come sit in our goodbye circle!

If the children are age 6 weeks to 3 years, they will get special care! The UUCUV Baby Snugglers are on the job! We ask parents to drop off little ones in person so you can sign your children in, give any instructions, indicate where you will be during the service, and make sure your children's diapers are clean to begin with. Baby Snugglers do not change diapers.

Please feel reassured: Clean and modest play clothes are appropriate for Religious Education; we often go outdoors, so long pants and high socks are encouraged. We occasionally serve vegan snacks. Our program is free for the joining - see Sparrow or the RE page on the web site to register.

Pods for the Pulpit Craft Fair

Margo Nutt

November 24 and 25 will mark the 23rd Annual Pods for the Pulpit Crafts Fair, a fundraising event put on by members and friends of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Upper Valley. This year funds raised will be shared between the UUCUV and two local charities: Spark!, a community support center located in Lebanon, whose mission is to “provide a welcoming place where the lives of all people of differing abilities are enriched through a sense of community”; and Good Neighbor Health Clinics whose mission is to “promote health and provide free primary medical and dental care to those in the greater Upper Valley who are in need, but without the means to pay.”

We also provide for charitable work at the fair. Northern Lights Quilting Guild will be featured on the stage with hand-quilted items, including Christmas stockings, wall hangings, placemats and quilts with their main focus to raise funds for the guild. Also on stage will be a quilt raffle to benefit Spark!

Fifty quality artisans, many juried by the League of NH Craftsmen, will show a wide variety of work including: jewelry in many forms—silver, gold, brass, copper, pebbles and pearls, beading, enamel, Irish symbols; pottery, quilting, wool mittens, woodblock prints, herbals, glass, basketry, floor cloths, etchings, felted and ceramic sculptures, woven goods, fiber art, wood, wreaths, pickles, quiche, jams, honey, hand-spun yarn, rag rugs, wool rugs, braided rugs, men’s and women’s vests and jackets, photographs, painted gourds, elf slippers, stained and blown glass, porcelain ornaments, wooden lamps, felt tapestries, accessories, note cards, books, and more!

The crafts fair is held at Tracy Hall on Main Street in Norwich, Vermont from 10-4 on November 24 and 25. There is no admission fee, but purchase of raffle tickets for a colored woodblock print by Matt Brown is encouraged.

We will be soliciting volunteers from amongst UUCUV members and friends: to make soup to serve the crafters, to welcome fair goers and sell raffle tickets at the door, to help set up and clean up. Sign up sheets

will be in the foyer at church through October and November. We will also ask you to help with publicity by posting posters in your neighborhood, and sending out announcements to your non-UU friends.

Your generosity with your time is invaluable!

Beat Black Friday — shop local!

Let’s make this the best Fair EVER!

A Little History About Pods for the Pulpit

Sally Page

Twenty-three years ago, in 1994, UUCUV’s Social Responsibility Committee wanted to raise funds for charitable giving. We came up with the idea of making star shaped ornaments formed from milkweed



Pods to sell at a fair we thought was being held at Tracy Hall. We organized “Podding Bees” and made dozens of ornaments only to find that the fair where we were planning to

sell them had been canceled!

Dozens of Star Pods and nowhere to sell them! Hummmmmmm. What to do? We couldn’t let those ornaments go to waste, so we rented Tracy Hall, found local artisans to join us, and VOILA! Pods for the Pulpit Crafts Fair was born!

I don’t recall how many years we made and sold Star Pod ornaments, probably ten, but eventually we ran out of steam. It was a lot of work, and many of us were getting too old, too tired and too busy to be tromping through fields to gather milkweed! Besides, the Fair had grown from 25 to 50 artisans and we had a lot

History of Pods for the Pulpit (cont'd)

more work to do in organizing and running the event. It takes many volunteers to create a successful fair! Of course we have kept the name, Pods for the Pulpit, because it had become a well-known entity. Over time we went from raising \$3,000 a year to going over \$10,000 for the last three years.

The Fair funds go to Ways and Means with half dedicated to charitable giving and half benefiting the UUCUV. At our Annual Meeting the board offers ideas of non-profit agencies and the Congregation

votes to decide which will benefit. Spark! and the Good Neighbor Clinic were chosen for this year's fair. Others who have benefited in the past are: Habitat for Humanity, Red Logan Dental Clinic, Water for Humanity, Ten Bricks, Doctors Without Borders, ACORN, WISE, Willow Grove, Cover, LISTEN, The Haven, UV Substance Abuse Foundation, Good Neighbor Clinic, Headrest, and Hospice. Any member or friend can make suggestions to the board.

Speaking and Listening

Sparrow F. Alden, CRE

Something important is happening, friends. I notice a confluence.

Chalice Circles - sometimes called Small Group Ministry - are sacred times devoted to a closed group of people who practice holding one another so safely that speaking can become deeper, more intimate... and that listening with total calm and acceptance comes more and more naturally within these circles. The level of trust created therein is a profoundly moving experience.

Restorative Circles - a conflict acknowledgement paradigm - are sacred times devoted to a wide group of people called together temporarily to hold their fellow community members in safety and trust. Listening without reaction, without judgment but with reflection, which forces the listener to work until understanding is reached creates the place where a speaker can experience relief of pain simply by speaking.

Chalice Circles are in a flux of leadership, since last year's leaders are devoting themselves to the intense work of the Search Committee. Restorative Circles are in a flow of participation, since two of their leaders are likewise involved in the Search.

I don't know what this means.

I am absolutely certain that these two processes are good, and are good things for the congregation. I am absolutely certain that they can grow together like the white rose and the red. There is something important to be gained by harnessing these two caring, loving ways of communicating, and I want that Something Important for the UUCUV.

Chalice Circle Facilitator training Saturday September 30 in Montpelier - Laura Moberg is going and would cheerfully carpool.

Restorative Circle Facilitator Training Friday, October 27 through Sunday, October 29 in Concord and everyone who is currently in the Circle strongly recommends it to anyone interested.

To be a part of this in any way, please contact me - education@uucuv.org - and we'll plan an in-person chat. It is as if Leonard Bernstein's "Something's Coming" is playing on a back-shelf track in my mind:

Could be! Who knows?

There's something due any day;

I will know right away,

Soon as it shows...

Membership at UUCUV



Are you a member of UUCUV?

Not yet – tell me more!

- On the first Sunday of each month (except September), Patience and/or Sparrow have a gathering after church to have a conversation about Unitarian Universalism and UUCUV. This is a time to talk with other people who have started to attend services at UUCUV, and to get answers to questions that you have about the congregation. The first such meeting will be Sunday, October 1. Look for an announcement of the time in the weekly email or in the Order of Service for that Sunday.
- Did you know that UUCUV will be searching for a new minister during the 2017-18 year? Patience Stoddard has been our Consulting Minister for four years, and this is her last year before she retires. If you have been attending church you have probably heard announcements or seen emails regarding this process.
- Did you know that you need to be a member in order to have a vote on the decision to call a specific person to be the next minister at UUCUV? Well you do, and over the course of the year we will be having two New Member Sundays. The Membership Committee and Sparrow, our staff liaison, will be contacting potential new members to let them know more about the process and obligations of being a member of the UUCUV. We will welcome those who wish to commit to the congregation on the New Member Sundays, which will happen in October/November 2017 and February 2018.

Yes?

Did you know that we have a Membership Committee at UUCUV? This is a new committee that was started in January 2017 in order to help Sparrow, our staff liaison, identify and welcome visitors and friends of UUCUV.

We are seeking new members for the committee and this is what we do:

- Take turns sitting at the Welcome table on Sunday morning in order to meet and greet people who need name tags. This helps us identify the new people and encourage them to fill out a blue form. The blue form gives the person the choice to share their email and be sent the weekly email about UUCUV happenings.
- Reach out to visitors and friends when we see them at church events.
- Meet once a month to share information about the visitors and folks who might want to know about membership.
- Take turns attending the monthly meeting with Patience and/or Sparrow. These take place on the first Sunday of the month, starting October 1st, after the service.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Membership Committee, please email me, Mugs Johnston, at mugs514@earthlink.net

Mugs Johnston, chair

Sparrow Alden, staff liaison

Mini-Glossary

Sparrow F. Alden, CRE

Sometimes folks use abbreviations or familiar terms around here. That's part of our Reduce-Reuse-Recycle program, reducing the number of syllables used per person per day. Cal Coolidge is proud.

Yet, a robustly obfuscating cryptogram impedes inclusion! Therefore, your humble editors offer these glosses:

"Ah-ree": "R.E." is short for "religious education," a lifelong pursuit, also theoretically called "faith formation," which does not begin with the right letters, so no one actually says it.

"Bored": in reality, these folks are very Interested indeed in the policy and budget big-picture side of running the church. They are so Interested that there are lots of laptops and pieces of paper when they meet, so they meet around a large table. The Gaelic word for table is "bord," the source of the English phrase "room and board," and the group calls themselves after this venerable piece of furniture. In Gaelic.

"Cottage Meeting": no, the small houses are not gathered together for sentient conversation (as far as we know). A "cottage meeting" is for a small group of folks from a congregation to get together in a private home to chat. It's not structured and sacred time like small group ministry, yet it has a deliciously rebellious sense in that this is how those troublesome Puritan women got together to talk about theology without the menfolk objecting to them thinking. In the case at UUCUV right now, the Cottage Meetings are planned for discussion with our Ministerial Search Committee. The MSC is meeting folks 8-at-a-time (members, friends, visitors, neighbors, kids, youth, *every* stakeholder) with two committee members to talk about hopes for a new minister, concerns about a new minister, future path of the congregation - and these chats are the Cottage Meetings.



Soupathon! **Friday, October 27** **5-7:30 PM**

UUCUV Fundraiser

More than a dozen delectable, hot, home-made soups, the perfect supper for families and friends on a wintry evening. Accompanied by crusty, zesty breads and delicious homemade desserts, cider and coffee. \$8 for adults, \$4 for children under 12 years old.

Reflections on GA

Lori Fortini

I was happy to be asked by Patience to reflect on my experience of UU General Assembly in June because since I have come home, I have been struggling with how to put together what happened in New Orleans.

For those of you who are new to our denomination or who are not aware, here is a very brief summary of what General Assembly is like:

4000+ UUs together for 5 days to celebrate our faith, go to programs and hear incredible speakers, and do the business of the denomination. It is empowering to worship and sing together (we all know the same hymns!), to learn about all aspects of our faith, to struggle with the difficult realities of our history, and to be a part of the governance of our denomination as we plan for the future.

The theme was for this year was: Resist and Rejoice and focused on healing the brokenness of our world and on healing our relationship with people of color and other marginalized groups in our faith community.

A main focus of the program was: anti-racism, anti-oppression – with tracks on De-centering whiteness and DRUUMM (Diverse Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries): a track exclusively for people of color.

We had the honor of listening to great speakers from the Civil rights movement like - Dr. Mtangulizi Sanyika, who came back to our faith after leaving during the division in 1969 when promises were broken to people of color. He said that people of color didn't leave the UU community, it was an Exodus because the UU Community had let them down. Dr. Sanyika came back to be a member of Black Lives of UU's new 360 Council of elders because he believed that the church will finally face our history of white supremacy. But this is really our last chance to get it right. If they feel they have to leave again, it will be for good.

We did a lot of work this GA.

We voted our current study action item and approved a Statement of Conscience of Economic Injustice, we voted to have our next study action to revisit

the Article IV in our by-laws which outline our seven principles with the intention to add an eighth principal on the white supremacist history of the UU and the racial injustice in our faith, we celebrated Black Lives of UU and recommitted ourselves to supporting this movement. We elected a new UUA President – Susan Frederick-Gray who will have the important and difficult job to continue the promise to people of color and to heal the deep wounds inflicted by our hiring practices at the national level of the UUA.

The Ware Lecture was of course inspirational:

Bryan Stevenson, founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) in Montgomery, Alabama: Stevenson told us through amazingly wonderful and terrifyingly terrible stories that there are four essential things that we must do to create a more just and equal world, 1. Get proximate to the poor, the excluded, neglected, and abused; 2. change the narratives that underlie racism and other inequalities; 3. stay hopeful about creating justice; and 4. be willing to do uncomfortable things.

I could go on and on... But I have to confess that the event is overwhelming and there is so much happening at one time. There is as much of a feeling of regret for things that you miss, as there is a feeling that you have seen all that you need to see. And this year it was that "in spades" for me. My biggest regret is that I did not attend enough of the de-centering whiteness track.

But what I came away with was a full heart and a heartbreaking awareness of just how unjust our systems are – in our local communities, in our faith communities, in our country. Heartbreaking stories of everyday slams and hits to the most egregious illegal, immoral acts committed by one group of people (Whites) to people of color everywhere, every day. Every. Dang. Day.

It made me rethink my life in terms of race in ways I was not prepared for. And to check my "hurt" feelings at the door, because if I drop out because it is hard when people hold a mirror up to my unconscious deep

(continued page 13)

Reflections on GA (cont'd)

seated and ingrained behaviors, I am part of the problem. When I am silent in the face of blatant injustice in our criminal justice system but also in our housing, and employment systems, in our perceptions of people's worth and dignity - of people's basic humanity--I am part of the problem.

I was reminded that the oppressor does not see the oppression. That race is not something people of color can ever put down because they are tired of talking about it. And that letting your guard down even for a second is not an option if you want to survive.

I have never had to face worrying that my child would be shot by the very people paid to protect him/

her. I never had to feel the shame of being watched everywhere I go with outright hate in people's faces for me or my family. I never had to explain to a person in power that I am an educated person and this IS my car or my house and I am not a "thug" or a nuisance or a danger.

I challenge us to be uncomfortable and do uncomfortable things as Bryan Stephenson asks. To get closer to marginalized people, to change the narrative, and to continue to hope for a better more just future for ALL of us.

Thank you.

From the UUCUV Library

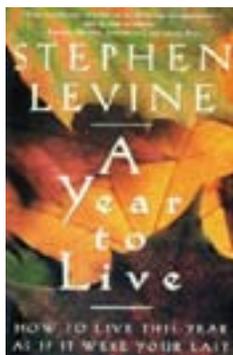
A Year to Live **by Stephen Levine**

Review by Margo Nutt

Stephen Levine, author of the perennial best-seller *Who Dies?*, teaches us how to live each moment, each hour, each day mindfully --as if it were all that was left.

This is not a new book (1997), but it is new to the UUCUV library. It is not so much a book about dying as it is about living mindfully, about consciously choosing activities, relationships, and spiritual practices that reflected life's urgency rather than life's complacency. From Levine's experience comes a year-long program of strategies and guided meditations to help us with this work.

The book helps us find joy, gratitude, peace, and forgiveness while we still have plenty of time to enjoy them. The best exercise for accomplishing these states is to imagine what you would do with your life if told you have a year to live.



On the Meetinghouse, we display a bright "Standing on the Side of Love" banner. Rachel was working quietly in her office one morning this summer when a woman unknown to her - a commuter on Route 5 who was feeling overwhelmed with the day's news reports - took the time to stop, come in, and thank her that we display our kindness so clearly to the world.

The Birds of Tarnów

Philip J. Kinsler

You do not expect it
It is huge
Very old
Rises several stories
Ancient bricks no longer straight
No longer square
Some blackened
Some scarred
Some eroded
Was that age?
Or centuries of holding up the sky,
Or the dynamite?



Now there's a roof over it
Who put that there?
When?
How?
Mugs is off leaning on a fencepost, crying

I take pictures
Many pictures
After I say Kaddish
I am getting good at Kaddish now
There are plaques
On a wall opposite the Bema
My God!
They name names!
Who led this extermination action?
Who was particularly brutal?
Three months it took
Only three months
Starvation
Shooting
And yes, smashing the heads of children against the
stones
This is a picture I, we, will never get out of our minds.
I picture Connor
I picture Ryan
And shudder and try to wipe that picture from my
soul with every fiber I have
But here, here at least, they named names
Obergruppenführer F.W. Kruger directed the first
moves...
SS-Hauptsturmführer Kleinow helped gather the Jews
for "resettlement."
The Polish police helped
So did the Polish Pioneers
Their boy-scout type organization
It is unfathomable to think of 15 year olds participat-
ing in extermination
Incomprehensible
But they were there

(continued next page)

(Cont'd from p.)

But turn around
Turn around Phil
Look through the Bema
What is that?
What are those?
Who put them on that wall?
How did they get there?
Birds
Birds of all kinds
All over a long stucco wall
Flying everywhere

This way and that
Tumbling, screeching, fleeing,
Are these the souls?
Do these represent the dead?
There are so many birds
Someone painted these
Someone insisted this story be told
Someone named names
Said who had been prosecuted after the war
And filled the side of a building with souls flying away.
The birds of Tarnów.



Partner Church News

Claudia Kern



NEWS FROM MUKHAP

We have had lots of news from Mukhap this past month. In August Polly Gould sent off a package of small items (rulers, cards, stickers, etc) to all of the students we are sponsoring. Good news! They arrived safely and the student who the UUCUV Youth are sponsoring wrote this reply:

Dear Polly Gould and to all the youth of the Unitarian universalist congregation of the upper Valley.

I'm glad to tell you that all my family and I are having in a good condition of health and I hope to you all also the Same by the same grace of our Heavenly Father. I am very happy that you and all the youth member of the congregation for helping me to continue my study. I thank you all for giving me this thing inside the pocket especially the dictionary it's very helpful for me as I never use to have it's before and I hope from this I will learn to improve my English day on. I would like to tell you that am very low in English and this also I wrote by helping of Rangdajied Lapasam, so I don't have much to write since it was my first time to write a letter to you all.

KhuBlei

Your loving Dapnaki Lamare

Unitarian Church Mukhap

In addition, Rangdajied Lapasom, our liason in Mukhap sent us a photo of the General Meeting held for Youth Services this past month. He also sent along this message regarding a special Women's Service to begin the celebrations leading up to the anniversary of Unitarianism on September 18:

Today the women service of our church celebrate the advance Anniversary of the Unitarian Union NorthEast India. Theme: "Ia jingshai Iasam Lem" (spread the light of the candle) On the service of 10:30Am we have a speech by Smt Tista Shadap, she said that if we want to spread the light first we need to be Honest, Respect everyone and Help others. And in the service of 1.30pm we got a speech by Our Assistant Minister Leiki Suchiang. She said that first we need to purify ourself so that we can spread our light to others, and she said also we should not fear to answer the question if people ask our religion. For this service also we have special Song by our Women group and after the service we have a tea break together in our church compound.

At our church picnic on September 3 a group photo and a short video were made to send our anniversary wishes to the people of Mukhap.

If you would like to learn more about UUCUV's Partnership with the Unitarian Church in Mukhap, India, please contact Claudia Kern or Polly Gould.

claudia.anne.kern@gmail.com

polly1gould@yahoo.com

Spiritual Readings and Practice

Shared by Rev. Patience Stoddard

“Nurturing spiritual growth, encouraging lives of service” is the on the masthead for our newsletter The Call published each quarter. How might we best honor these commitments? How do we grow in spirit? What is it that we seek to deepen, to develop, to enliven? Like many aspects of the religious life there is no distinct answer to that question. However in my own perspective what we seek to deepen can be called our “soul.” Here is one description from the NH writer Thomas More:

“Soul is not a thing, but a quality or dimension of experiencing life and ourselves. It has to do with depth, value, relatedness, heart, and personal substance.”

To me it is some deeper dimension of self; Jung called it Self with a capital S. It is some kind of essence of a person, both unique and universal, which when welcomed and embodied allows us to step outside the barriers of the mind – the fears and desires that objectify the world and other people.

How do we nurture this part of ourselves and be fully present to the mystery, the beauty, the ineffable power of life and of love? Frederick Beuchner recommends:

“Listen to your life. See it for the fathomless mystery it is. In the boredom and pain of it, no less than in the excitement and gladness: touch, taste, smell your way to the holy and hidden heart of it, because in the last analysis all moments are key moments, and life itself is grace.”

The Buddha would describe it as “being awake.”

At its best I think our life in this community - whether singing a hymn on Sunday morning or attending a mid-week meeting, listening to someone share a loss or pausing for a silent moment on the Spirit Path, bringing food for the Haven or pledging money to keep this congregation vital - our life in this community is intended to be a path to opening our hearts, to practice being as present as possible, without blame of judgment, to ourselves, to each other, and to the world.

As we learn how to nurture our spiritual growth, how might we also encourage lives of service. We do so in part by collecting food for the Haven each Sunday, by sharing the monthly collection with service dedicated organizations, and by reflecting on the roots of effective responses to some of the challenges of our day such as climate change, racial injustice, oppressive immigration policies, and income inequality. But we are called not to just expand our awareness and understanding, we are called to act.

Individually members of this UU faith community have always been involved in applying our core values to some of the many problems that confront us in the 21st century – from global warming to poverty to violence at home and abroad. You have done this by, by serving on Boards of local agencies, by becoming more politically active, and by standing in solidarity with those who are being oppressed. How might we act in concert with one another; how might we strengthen the influence of this congregation on affecting needed change in our nation and in our world?

In Mark Morrison-Reed’s words this is one of the essential tasks of religious communities.

“The central task of the religious community is to unveil the bonds that bind each to all. There is a connectedness, a relationship discovered amid the particulars of our own lives and the lives of others. Once felt, it inspires us to act for justice. It is the church that assures us that we are not struggling for justice on our own, but as members of a larger community. The religious community is essential, for alone our vision is too narrow to see all that must be seen, and our strength too limited to do all that must be done. Together, our vision widens and our strength is renewed.”

As we grow in spirit, may we also grow in our willingness and skill at taking collective action and living lives of service.

Adapted from the sermon “Mission and Ministry”

Spiritual Readings (cont'd)

Reading from preface of *To Wake To Rise: Meditations on Justice and Resilience* by Bill Sinkford (former Pres. of UUA from 2001-2009)

19th century Unitarian minister Theodore Parker proclaimed that ministers should preach with one hand holding the Bible and one hand holding the day's newspaper. The newspaper might be replaced today by a smartphone, receiving a 140 character tweet, but the point remains. We have always been a faith community with a spiritual center and a civic circumference.

We love to look back to our leadership in the great moral victories that have shaped our world: abolition, women's suffrage, and progress dismantling one legal oppression after another in more recent years. It was easy for us to believe that we were on a roll and that the arc of the universe would inevitably bend more and more toward justice. The Beloved Community was just around the corner.

The divisiveness of our times has proved that optimistic forecast very wrong. Just as followers of our faith and progressives in general were trying to take the next steps on race, climate change, income inequality and gender identity, progress that we thought was secure has been called into question.

Our shock may be understandable. How could we be so wrong? We find ourselves living in a world in which our assumptions about progress and truth and justice are not shared by so many of our neighbors. We thought the Kingdom was coming, but we've discovered that not everyone's heart is open to embrace it.

It is easy for us to forget that Theodore Parker preached in an era (*before the Civil War*) that was even more divided and divisive than our own... But the dangers of divisiveness are very real, and the divisiveness seems to be deepening. We have a long pull ahead of us as our faith calls us to resistance. Will we have the stamina to stay the course? Will we also be called to depth? Will we be able to put aside whatever innocence we might have claimed and engage with the real world that some of us are seeing now with fresh eyes?

It is so easy to dismiss those with whom we disagree as misguided, self-serving, or simply absurd. I find myself tempted to do that almost everyday.

Our Universalist heritage will not let me go. I still believe as deeply as I believe anything, that each and every one of us is a child of God, that the Spirit of Life moves even in those who would send us backward toward a lost Eden of prejudice and rigid notions of what is acceptable that crippled so many and took advantage of most... These times require clear eyes to see the brokenness around us.

There is a belief in the African-American tradition, a statement of faith that says we can find "A way out of no way." I hope you find... inspiration to wake and to rise, so that we can support one another in living as if love were real even in these divided days, and by our living, make it so.

Poem by the Rev. Nurya Love Parish

(adapted)

It is a holy time, this turning of the year.

A faint chill starts to hover in the air.

You think about unpacking your wool sweaters, then do it. A few leaves change from green to yellow, and drop gently to the earth.

We are in the midst of the Days of Awe.

Between Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, and Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.

A holy presence hovers in the air,

And you are asked

to unpack your very heart,

to turn with the turning of the year.

To drop humbly and gently to the earth

and praise the Source of Life,

the earth that gives you breath.

Spiritual Readings (cont'd)

Reflection

Looking back over the last church year, I realize how many dear people we have lost from the UUCUV community. Many of us as individuals have had painful losses as well.

Autumn is a time that mirrors loss as the leaves fall and the days grow shorter. It is a time for preparation, of waiting, for winter when the seeds of new beginnings lie sleeping under the cloak of snow.

Here are a couple of poems to accompany you as you wend your way down the winding path of grief.

Autumn Sonnet 2 by May Sarton

If I can let you go as trees let go
Their leaves, so casually, one by one;
If I can come to know what they do know,
That fall is the release, the consummation,
Then fear of time and the uncertain fruit
Would not distemper the great lucid skies
This strangest autumn, mellow and acute.
If I can take the dark with open eyes
And call it seasonal, not harsh or strange
(For love itself may need a time of sleep),
And, treelike, stand unmoved before the change,
Lose what I lose to keep what I can keep,
The strong root still alive under the snow,
Love will endure – if I can let you go.



“Redemption Song” by Kevin Young

Finally fall.
At last the mist,
heat’s haze, we woke
these past weeks with
has lifted. We find
ourselves chill, a briskness
we hug ourselves in.
Frost greying the ground.
Grief might be easy
if there wasn’t still
such beauty — would be far
simpler if the silver
maple didn’t thrust
it’s leaves into flame,
trusting that spring
will find it again.
All this might be easier if
there wasn’t a song
still lifting us above it,
if wind didn’t trouble
my mind like water.
I half expect to see you
fill the autumn air
like breath —
At night I sleep
on clenched fists.
Days I’m like the child
who on the playground
falls, crying
not so much from pain
as surprise.
I’m tired of tide
taking you away,
then back again —
what’s worse, the forgetting
or the thing
you can’t forget.
Neither yet —
last summer’s
choir of crickets
grown quiet

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 or Suzanne Simon 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. (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

Sing in the Choir

The UUCUV choir sings September through June. We rehearse at a once-a-month potluck and on Sunday mornings 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

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

“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.

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



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 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

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 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

polly1gould@yahoo.com



In our garden...

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

Lori Fortini, President
Allan Wieman, 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: *Carl Tracy*

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 Riccio, 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.

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). You may also leave a message at the church office phone (802) 649-8828.

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 Winter issue is Nov 15.

Please send your submissions to Rachel: office@uucuv.org

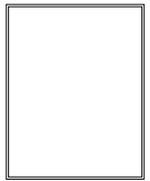
"WEEKLY BLAST" DEADLINE:

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:

**Sept 24-- "Beyond Categorical
Thinking" Workshop
and OWL Parent Orientation**

Oct 27--Soupathon

Nov 20 Trans Day of Remembrance

Nov 24-25-- Pods Craft Fair

UUCUV September- November

UUCUV Phone: (802) 649-8828

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

E-mail: office@uucuv.org

Autumn Issue 2017