



The

Belfry

June 17th 2015

Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church

Love is the spirit of our church, where ...

...we gather to worship...

...we create a welcoming, nurturing religious community for all...

12th Annual Joint Summer Service – August 2

Mark your calendars! On Sunday morning August 2 at 10:00AM, the 12th annual Joint summer service will be hosted by First Parish Church of Stow and Acton. This year we are expanding the circle and the Stow-Acton, Harvard and Littleton UU churches will also be joined by the Groton, Lancaster, and Hudson UU churches.

Rev. Susie Phoenix will lead the worship, and Mike Pfitzer will direct the choir. The service is a traditional Sunday service and incorporates worship traditions from the several churches.

There will be a “pick-up” choir. All singers are welcome. Rehearsal begins at 8:30AM. The choir will sing an introit and an anthem.

Please join us in celebrating our UU heritage and renewing friendships with our UU neighbors. For more information, contact Rick at rgentilman1@aol.com

Rick Gentilman,
Dorothy and Otto Solbrig
Joint Summer Service Committee.

Malcolm Sutherland, a long-time (1975-1994) minister of our church, left behind several large boxes of his sermons and notes when he retired. If anyone would like to peruse them, they are now with the other archived files, in the Frederick Room, upstairs above the admin office.

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From Rev. Wendy

Summer is nearly upon us. Each year at this time I am reminded of Mary Oliver's poem, "The Summer Day," in which she asks, "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?"

In her poetry – this poem and nearly every other one – Oliver affirms for us that the world around us is amazing – miraculous, really – and filled with wonderful and complicated things. The best way to approach each day is with attention, curiosity, and awe. We may not know what "prayer" is, but if, like her, we can learn to slow down and pay attention, if we can learn to be idle and to know ourselves blessed, then we will be better off for it.

This is, it seems to me, the best way to approach a summer day and also the best way to approach, well, any day. And it is a fine way to approach the period of interim ministry that lies ahead: with attention, curiosity, and wonder. So I encourage you to spend your next two years together taking the time to slow down, to appreciate one another, to ask questions, be willing to discover something new about yourselves and the world around you.

I have learned so much during my 14 years with you about ministry and about myself. I have been blessed to have had this time to journey with you and I will be eternally grateful for all that you have given me, all that you have shared with me, and all that we have done together. Thank you!

I will continue to be your minister through July 31st. I will be away at General Assembly from June 22-28. During that time, the Rev. Marjorie Matty will be providing coverage in case of a pastoral emergency. (revmjmatty@gmail.com; 617-838-2202)

I will be around, in and out, cleaning up my office, attending to other end-of-ministry details, etc., from June 29 – July 2. If you need to reach me during that time, feel free to email (minister@uuharvard.org) or call (978-621-6530).

I will be out of town on vacation from July 3 through July 19, first in Maryland visiting my family, and then in Vermont, visiting with Cathy's family. During that time, The Rev. Lilia Cuervo (7/3 – 7/11) (781-771-0730) and the Rev. Ellen Spero (7/12-7/19) (978-500-2531) will be providing coverage. I will include this information on my voicemail greeting, as well, during the time that I am away.

I will be around again, in and out, packing and moving from July 20-31.

After July 31 I will no longer be your minister. I will no longer be the one to whom you should turn for pastoral care or counseling, advice or conversation about church, worship leadership, memorials or weddings. The Rev. Mark Worth will be your minister for the next two years and with him you will be in very capable hands. I will be stepping back in order that he – and your next called minister – have a chance to step in and establish their own ministerial presence with you.

I very much look forward to seeing from a distance where your journey leads you and will keep you posted, as is appropriate, on where mine leads me!

With much love, affection, and appreciation,
-Rev. Wendy

Board Report – June 2015

The Board met on June 11th to wrap up the year and to plan for our new church year. Here are the highlights of the meeting.

Faith Formation – Kate will be leading a meeting this month to provide the initial goals and objectives of the Faith Formation program for the new church year. The Board will make long term decisions about overall leadership after the start of the new church year. For now, the priority is to get the church year structure in place and to get off to a great start for the kids.

Building Use – Deb and Jeff Levering gave a report on the past year with respect to building use. We have very desirable properties for rental and it has been a good year. We try to strike a solid balance between providing revenue but not over using our assets to cause repair requirements and damage. Deb and Jeff are stepping down from their positions and we thank them for their efforts and changes that they implemented. Our rental program is in a good position with solid policies in place due to their leadership. William Kellogg and Tom Daniells will be interim Building Use Managers until a replacement can be found. If you have interest please contact us.

Interim Minister Transition Team – Our bylaws require us to assemble a team of 4-5 church members to meet with the interim minister on a regular basis to help them with their transition. The Board will be working to create this team and we hope that you will accept if asked.

Interim Minister – Reverend Mark Worth was at our Board Meeting and it was great to finally meet him in person! He is just what we thought he would be, a very experienced, friendly and thoughtful person. Already he is offering important ideas on how to approach our unique challenges in the New Year. Welcome Mark! He has the Pig Roast on his calendar and he and his wife Mickey plan to be there.

Final Service and celebration for Wendy Bell – On June 14th we had a beautiful and heartfelt final service with Wendy Bell. We opened the service by thanking Weezie Potter for her 14+ years of hard work as our bookkeeper. Her hard work and dedication to the position has been truly outstanding and we wish her well in her retirement! The service provided ceremony, song, and metaphor about our collective and individual journeys. We then marched to our guest bag piper who played the classic “Scotland the Brave” as we journeyed to the barbeque luncheon and celebration with Wendy. Thanks to all for their hard work, donations and kind words that were shared. And Wendy, thank you. You will always be with us.

New Church Year – The new church year planning is well under way. The Worship Committee is planning services with Mark, the Faith Formation team is working on its programs and the Board is setting our goals and priorities. While we are going through some change this year, we are very fortunate to have a very strong church community.

On behalf of the Board, we wish you a great summer and we look forward to seeing you next year!

Kind Regards,
Tom Daniells

Here we are safe to share our deeply held thoughts and values...

Dear Friends,

We may not be meeting together on Sundays over the summer, but much brainstorming and planning will be happening. Our children have had a wonderful year: learning, questioning, thinking and doing. As a parent, I have loved the experiences my children have gotten from this loving, supportive community. As the Board Liaison, for our children and youth programming, I have been inspired by our many members who share their time and a part of themselves, to give our children an experience they do not get anywhere else. Those involved with planning are always pushing the program to do more and include as much as possible. We are constantly debating what topics we need to cover, what experiences each age group should have and how best we can include everyone's talents. There is always more that can be done and ways we can improve the experience for all.

With Pam, our Director of Faith Formation, leaving we find ourselves with one less person to debate with, learn from and be supported by. The DFF does an incredible amount of behind the scenes work (more that I think any one of us realizes), that helps to hold together the program. The DFF does more than just make sure we have what is needed each Sunday, she also helps us to connect our individual activities with the bigger picture and with the congregation. At a bare minimum the DFF has been there to make sure that all the dots are connected so we can put OUR vision into action. And there is the key word: OUR. It is OUR program, OUR vision, and OUR responsibility.

So now what is going to happen without a DFF? Since Pam gave her resignation, we have been exploring our options. From what we understand, 1/3 of the churches in the Clara Barton district, are looking for a DFF and have had very few applicants. At this juncture, we realize that we are still questioning the responsibilities we want to give our DFF. Along with that, we continue to work to gain consensus on our goals for children's programming. With Rev. Wendy leaving, we all have much to do to define who we are and where we are going. Luckily, we can take our time and explore together, with the help of our experienced interim minister, who will likely inject some new energy and perspective to our discussions. Therefore, instead of rushing in and asking another Director of Faith Formation to explore options with us, we will, for now, take this opportunity to bond together and make it happen by ourselves. We are a group of talented and dedicated individuals who, with each of us doing our fair share, can offer our children a fulfilling, enriching, and explorative program.

Work is underway to restructure ourselves so we can do our best to positively work together, support each other and provide children's programming for the Fall. Over the years that I have been involved with HUUC, I have been amazed at what we can do as a congregation when we put our efforts together. Now is the time for ALL of us to come together, carry out our mission, take responsibility and nurture our youth. This is an opportunity. Please step up and share your gifts (there are many ways to help other than being directly with the children). It is a chance for us all to stop thinking "THEY should....", and start saying "WE can...". Collectively we can provide a program that, as Reverend Wendy wrote about religious education back in 2010, "leads us along a path toward greater and more profound love, that Love which is the spirit of our church."

*Please don't hesitate to call or email me with your thoughts, concerns, questions, and ideas.
[Kstamm6@gmail.com/978-456-3431](mailto:Kstamm6@gmail.com).*

Have a good summer everyone,

Kate Stamm

Here we are safe to share our deeply held thoughts and values...

JOY

Joy came on a Wednesday afternoon, not exactly the day I had expected her. She was dressed for play with rugged shoes, comfortable clothes and a rainbow ribbon in her hair. She brought the sunshine with her. I don't know why she picked such an ordinary day, but I was glad to see her.

Always ready to give a spirited speech, Joy makes everything seem better. Some people don't appreciate her penchant for excitement, preferring a quieter kind of happiness, but everyone readily recognizes her. Either way, it's hard to ignore her. When Joy is around, you know it and it's hard to wish her away.

Joy tries to attend every party, especially the big ones. She loves a good wedding or a new birth or a special occasion. She loves to have her picture taken so people will remember her long after the party. When she isn't at the party, everyone misses her. But then there are days like ordinary Wednesdays when she shows up without a planned party, or a speech to give, or an occasion to celebrate. These are the times I love her best. She comes and sits quietly by my side in her play clothes, reminding me of the spirited side of life.

She is rumored to be one of God's closest friends.

Dear Friends,

As my days at HUUC come to end, I wish you joy, in the ordinary and the extra-ordinary moments of life. I am deeply grateful to those who have made it their goal to support, help, love and guide me. You will forever be in my heart. May joy show up in your life each and every day.

Pam Reidy



June-December 2015 weekly
building use calendar attached as
a separate pdf. Thanks.

Paper version has July calendar
here.

And the winner is...

About a month ago, we set out on a quest to capture the “distilled essence” of our church in a tagline. We were looking for a few words—something concise enough to fit on a coffee mug or a t-shirt—that expressed our identity as a congregation.

We began with 90 ideas. After two rounds of voting, eight candidates rose to the top. Last week, those eight were tested against one another head-to-head, and the results are in.

In 8th place: Love is the spirit, service the prayer.

In 7th place: Questioning dogma since 1732.

In 6th place: Building lives of meaning and purpose.

In 5th place: Peace, Love and Community.

In 4th place: Peace [peace symbol]. Love [heart]. HUUCs [church logo].

In 3rd place: Seek truth in freedom; speak truth in love.

In 2nd place: Open Hearts. Open Minds. Creating a Better World.

**And in 1st place:
Open minds. Loving hearts. Helping hands.**

While this tagline might not have been your first choice, I hope you agree it does a pretty good job of capturing who we are. Watch for it soon on a coffee mug near you.

Rick High, for the Coffee Mug Tagline Challenge Committee
(Wendy, Ginger, and Rick)

**There is something for everyone in the UUA’s
Monthly Congregational Bulletin.**

Go to

<http://www.uua.org/communications/bulletin>

Loaves and Fishes Backpack Drive

Loaves and Fishes (L & F) annual Backpack Drive is kicking off and they hope that we will choose to be a part of this important effort.



As you know, L & F tries their best to make life feel as normal as possible for the children who are served there, and the Backpack Program is one way that they can do that. Every year, because of generous donations of school supplies and cash donations, L & F is able to allow each of about 400 children to select his or her own backpack and grade-level appropriate school supplies.

A 2015 general supply list for each grade level can be found at loavesfishespantry.org/event/annual-backpack-distribution-event. A variety of different, empty backpacks are always needed and appreciated, especially for the middle and high school students. Or you can make a monetary gift so that the L & F Backpack Drive team can use that money to balance out their supplies.

Donations can be dropped off at Loaves & Fishes during open pantry sessions and Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7-8 pm. They hope to collect all donations no later than August 3rd so that they can distribute them on August 24th.

Thank you for any donations you are able to make. The children are truly grateful to be able to head back to school with brand new supplies. Questions? Contact Risa Goldman at risajan@aol.com.





Here we support and care for one another ...

**Help Loaves and Fishes Clients
This Summer**

Summer is often a time when food inventory is low on pantry shelves. Please keep Loaves and Fishes in your hearts this summer by:

1. Continuing to purchase food and other necessities for Loaves and Fishes, just as you always do on the first Sunday of each month. You may leave your donation in the collections box at the Harvard post office or deliver to Loaves and Fishes directly.
2. Signing up for shifts to help the HUUC's Glean Team rescue food from farms, orchards, and grocery stores.
3. Volunteering at Loaves and Fishes by stocking shelves, sorting clothing donations, escorting clients through the pantry to choose their groceries or helping out in the office.
4. Participating in the Loaves and Fishes annual backpack drive by filling a new backpack full of school supplies for a child returning to school in the fall.
5. Planting an extra row of food in your vegetable garden and donating the results during any open pantry session.

For more information about volunteering with Loaves and Fishes, contact them directly at tohelp@loavesfishespantry.org. For more information about the HUUC's Glean Team, contact Risa Goldman at risajan@aol.com. Thank

Bargains Spring Sales

The spring season at Bargains is coming to a close, with some special sales. All items will be 50% off, starting Tuesday, June 23rd. The sale continues on June 30th, which is the final day of the season. There are lots of attractive items at the shop, as well as books, toys, videos, and household items, and the prices are really good. The shop is open on Tuesdays from 10 am - 4 pm.

-Audrey Ball

Mindfulness Meditation

Sundays, 9:00 -10:00 AM
July 12, 19, 26, August 2, 9, 16
Fellowship Building Sutherland Hall

Please join us for summer meditation in July and August. Mindfulness meditation is the practice of relaxing and stilling the mind, being present to what is, and returning to the present moment, breath by breath.

The sittings start with a reading and then a 15-20 minute sitting or guided meditation, followed by a 10 minute walking meditation (or you can choose to stay seated). Then there will be a short reading relevant to mindfulness and meditation. That is followed by another 10-15 minute meditation.

Newcomers to meditation will be introduced to mindfulness meditation techniques. You can sit on a floor cushion or chair.

All are welcome.

Fellowship Building Piano Fundraiser

This is a reminder that the Music Committee welcomes your contribution to the piano fund for major repair needed. A number of you offered to donate in lieu of attending the hilarious Jimmy Tingle event. If you haven't done it yet, make your check out to HUUC with "piano fund" on the memo line. And thanks!

-Eleanor Toth

Upcoming Church Events

- Admin Office Hours in Summer
Tue & Thu. 9-11:30am
- Tue. June 23
10-4 Bargains open
- Tue. June 30
10-4 Bargains open
- Sun. Aug. 2 Joint Worship Service at Stow-Acton
- Tue. Aug. 25 Belfry Deadline
- Sat. Aug. 29
9-1 Board Retreat

**July-August
Birthday
Wishes Go To ...**



Lisa Aciukewicz
Nellie Agosta
Olivia Alfano
Beth BluttAnders
Jane Andrew
George Babich
Ross Brown-Cullinane
Daniel Colony
Jim Colony
Cheryl Coonahan
William Cordner
Colby Day-Newsham
Mary Donald
Eric Dyer
Thea Eiland
Janice Goodell
Claudia Jarratt
Erik Johnson
Helena Justicz
Geoff Koetsch
Nikko Koetsch
George C. Krusen
Sawyer Madison
Tucker Madison
Chris Payne
Ethan Payne
Hannah Payne
Kate Sobalvarro
Brenton Stoddart
Alec Vilain
Becca Weast

If you missed the opportunity to give us your birthday month please contact the church office: 978-456-8752, admin@uuharvard.org

From the Treasurer: Please pay your pledges!

Your payments are vital all the time - they keep us running - but they are especially important over the summer months when church is not in session. Many of our expenses continue through the summer and we need the cash. Please send in those payments.

Sunday Morning Volunteer

The schedule of Sunday morning tasks is now available on SignUp Genius (minus the Board Welcome). You can easily access this from the home page of the church website: uuharvard.org . If the dates assigned to you are inconvenient, please arrange to swap with someone else for a Sunday that fits your schedule. You can make the swap yourselves on the SignUp Genius list, or you can let me know what the changes are and I will update the system. Thanks to all for your help.



Thank you, -Leslie Neville

ldneville4@gmail.com

Our Thanks Go to ...

Donnalisa Johnson! for her all her skill, time and energy painting and doing carpentry in the sanctuary, and everything else she does!

Dear Congregation,

I was deeply honored by the presentation at church on June 14 thanking me for my service to the church. The church is filled with volunteers – you all support the church every day. So thank you for this special recognition.

Lori Daniells will be taking my place as bookkeeper. I know you will work to help her succeed and ‘keep filling out those yellow forms’.

-Weezie Potter

If you want an updated Church Directory, ask Elinor Stapleton. I can share the pdf with you on Google Drive, or send the pdf as an attachment to an email, or if needed I can print and mail you a paper copy.

And if you need to update your address, email, phone, or methods of communication, please let me know. I hope over the summer to update our lists.

-Elinor Stapleton 978-456-8752

Lay Leadership Contacts for the Summer

President	Tom Daniells (2014 - 2016)	978-456-7361
Vice President	Ginger Kendall (2014-2017)	978-456-3747
Board Member	William Kellogg (2014-2017)	978-456-9673
Board Member	Kate Stamm (2013 - 2016)	978-456-3431
Board Member	Steve Farough	978-456-0111
Board Member	Paige O'Brien	978-456-7980
Buildings & Grounds	Glen Frederick, Chair	978-456-3312
Caring Network	Sharon Briggs	978-772-1860

Admin Office Hours in the Summer

Tuesday and Thursday 9:00—11:30 a.m.

It's best to call first: 978-456-8752.

Email: admin@uuharvard.org

-Elinor Stapleton

Rev. Wendy L. Bell
Pam Reidy
Elinor Stapleton
Ted Johnson
Louise Potter

Minister
Director of Faith Formation
Parish Administrator
Organist and Choir Director
Bookkeeper

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