



The

Belfry

February 17th, 2016

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...

Sunday, Feb. 21, 10:00 a.m.

"Marching in the Arc of Justice"

Greg Greenway

Greg Greenway is a talented guitarist, a soulful singer, a powerful poet and a sparkling entertainer. His songs and their topics range widely although many of his songs include race and love as common themes. Greg's service will be musical but he will also preach about his experience at the Marching in the Arc of Justice Conference in Birmingham Alabama that took place March 2015. 500 UU's attended the event as part of the 50th anniversary commemoration of the Selma Voting Rights action - the crossing of the Edmund Pettus Bridge and subsequent march to Montgomery. Two UU's, James Reeb and Viola Liuzzo, lost their lives there in 1965, defining our commitment to social justice then and challenging UU's today to carry our principles beyond the walls of our churches.

Sunday, Feb. 28, 10:00 a.m.

"Spiritual, But Not Religious"

Rev. J. Mark Worth

What does it mean to be "spiritual" but "not religious"? Don't "spiritual" and "religious" mean pretty much the same thing? Don't both say something about a connection to a Higher Power of some kind, and have to do with rituals, practices, beliefs, and moral behaviors? Mark will give his view on whether we are one, the other, or perhaps both.

Sunday, March 6, 10:00 a.m.

"Going In Circles"

Rev. J. Mark Worth

Black Elk said, "Everything an Indian does is in a circle, and that is because the Power of the World always works in circles..." Sometimes circles are good; sometimes our circles spin us into a rut. Maybe it's unrealistic to expect our lives to go relentlessly forward. Perhaps the journey is all we have, and the journey is a circle.

Sunday Mar. 13, 10:00 a.m.

"Part of the Sacred Chain"

The Reverend Anne Mason

Our lives are connected to those who came before us. And we connect to those who come after us. In our present, we can choose how to view our past, how to shape the story of our lives, and what we will pass along to our children. Sometimes we can celebrate our past, and sometimes we might need to 're-author' our own stories, but we are always part of the sacred story of life. Preaching today is Rev. Anne Mason, minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Lancaster, PA.

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Mark, My Word

We are now in the season of Lent. In Christian churches, Lent is the 40 days (plus Sundays) that begin on Ash Wednesday and culminate on Easter Sunday.

You won't find the word "Lent" anywhere in the Bible. It comes from an Anglo-Saxon root and refers to the lengthening of daylight hours. In other words, Lent heralds the coming of Springtime.

Easter isn't in the Bible, either. The word "Easter" comes from the name of a Germanic goddess, Eostre. We also get the word "estrogen" from her name. Eostre was the goddess of the east and the dawn; also the goddess of Springtime and fertility. Because of her connection to fertility, she is associated with rabbits – they are very fertile. And eggs, new life. That's how, even though rabbits don't lay eggs, at Easter we have a bunny carrying baskets of eggs.

As we look forward to the coming of Spring, we also know that Lent is the season when Christians prepare for Holy Week, a time for observing the death and resurrection of Jesus. Easter is a strange time to be a Unitarian Universalist. We understand Christmas: Jesus was born. Likewise, we understand Good Friday: He died. But Easter can be perplexing.

Both the Unitarian and the Universalist denominations started out in the Protestant Christian tradition. Yet long ago we decided that Jesus was human in every way. And since we know that the laws of nature are constant, always the same, everywhere in the universe, that means that no one who is truly dead comes back to life, not in a literal way at least.

If Jesus did not literally rise from the dead, what do we celebrate on Easter morning? For many UUs, Easter has become a time for celebrating the return of Spring. It is Eostre's holy day, a day for bunnies and Easter Eggs.

And yet Easter is the highest holy day on the Christian calendar. We haven't completely abandoned our Christian roots. And so, at least for many UUs, the season of Lent, Palm Sunday, and Easter is a time for remembering the life and teachings of Jesus. When I am asked (on rare occasions) whether I believe in Jesus, I reply that our church is not about beliefs as much as it is about how we live. And while, yes, I believe that Jesus *existed*, that he was a real historical person, it is far better to *follow* Jesus – to live as he taught us to live – than it is to believe in theological doctrines about him.

Who was Jesus? What can we confidently say about him? On two Sundays after church, Feb. 28 and March 6, I'll be offering an adult education class, "Jesus and the Gospels (As They Never Taught Them in Sunday School)." We will meet in the Fellowship Building, explore the authorship of the Four Gospels (the ones that made it into the biblical canon), and discuss what they can and can't tell us about Jesus, what he taught, what he did, and what that might mean for us today.

– Mark



Board Report February 2016

Ministerial Search Committee

The Board would like to thank everyone who has nominated church members to be on the Ministerial Search Committee (SC). Additionally, we have nearly 25 people who have said that if they were asked, they would serve on the SC! This is truly reflective of the spirit and passion that we have in our Church. In this Board Report, we would like to lay out the process to select the SC from here.

- ♦ The Board has begun assembling the list of church members who would be interested to serve on the SC.
- ♦ We will be meeting over the coming week to finalize this list that will become our slate.
- ♦ As part of this process, in the next week, we would invite anyone who would like to volunteer to be on the slate to contact anyone on the Board and let them know of your interest. If you have already stated that you would serve if asked, there is no need for you to contact a Board member as you are already on the slate.
- ♦ In about a week, we plan to send a letter with the list of members who are interested to be on the SC.
- ♦ In this letter, we will also be officially announcing when the special church meeting will be. Right now we are targeting March 20th, Palm Sunday.
- ♦ At our special church meeting, according to our Church Bylaws, we will ask you to vote for the 7 people from this list that would be your choice for the SC.
- ♦ When you are voting, we ask that you think about who would represent our church and its various interests well.
- ♦ At this point, the top vote getters will be our Search Committee!

We are in great shape with many people interested to serve the church in this important way. We thank you for your willingness to do so. Please let us know if you have any questions at this point about the coming 4-5 weeks of this selection process.

New www.uuharvard.org Website

Another very important task ahead for our search, will be creating our new website. Paige reported that a core group is forming that will serve as key members of the team - Lori Daniells and Pat Riemitis. To create an effective new site, we will need content. So you will likely see us taking images and videos for possible placement on the site. We will get clearance as appropriate. We are working towards having the new site operational in late summer. If you would like to participate on the team, please contact Paige.

Faith Formation

Kate presented to the Board a position description for the Director of Faith Formation. Our goal is to open a search for this position this spring in order to ideally have the new professional in place before the end of the church year. The Board is very interested to make sure that the role and responsibilities are very clear, especially with respect to the position's interaction with the volunteers and committees of the Faith Formation program and the larger church community.

Social Justice Ministries

Steve reported that the first Social Justice Ministries meeting will be after church February 21st. Steve has arranged for Meck Groot who is Operations Director and Justice Ministries Lead from the UUA to be there. She will be helping us organize our efforts to make Social Justice a part of the Harvard UU culture. Please plan to attend if you are interest and can make it. Please be looking for other announcements about this meeting.

For the Board, Tom Daniells

Ginger Kendall, William Kellogg, Kate Stamm, Paige O'Brien, Steve Farough

A Message from the FF Program

Dear Friends,

The Faith Formation Team has been working hard to provide quality programming for the children and youth of HUUC. Each of the age groups are asking questions, exploring possible answers, and using their skills to help others.

We are thankful for the teachers who have been part of this last block. Leslie Neville and Heidi Bachmann worked with the **Butterfly Garden** (preK-1st grade), and Lori and Tom Daniells taught the **Rock Garden** children (2nd-4th grade). We also had Britt Argow come in to sing with the kids, and can't wait to hear the song they created about recycling. During the next block, the children in these groups will be working on their auction items, doing spiritual drumming with Donnalisa, and learning about and visiting the Heifer Project, all while continuing to learn about our principles and specific heroes.

The Cosmics (5th-6th grade) will also be working on an Auction project. They are starting a new StoryCorps project where the youth will collect oral histories from our congregational members. In addition, the group is planning on offering another Heifer Project fundraiser, in order to reach the goal of buying a cow for a family in need.

Six youth from **SHYG** and **Building Bridges** (MSYG) attended YouthCon, an overnight gathering of UU youth from surrounding churches hosted by First Parish Church of Stow & Acton. The youth enjoyed workshops, worship, and socializing - seeing familiar faces and meeting new friends - and hope to have opportunities to get together again soon. Some future possibilities might be pizza gatherings hosted on a rotating basis by area congregations, joint City Reach field trips, participation in Boston Pride Day, and joining the Marlborough/Hudson youth in their spring Social Justice trip to New York.

Our Administrator, Lorrie Clark, has started working with our fellow UU churches (Stow/Acton, Littleton, Groton, and Hudson/Marlborough) to plan the 2017 OWL program. Thank you to Kate Jones and Patty Ruze for completing the teacher training. Registration will begin this spring, with a required parent information session offered in May or June.

Our group for our college age members, On the Wings, has sent out another care package. It contained our church mug, filled with chocolates; a card signed by many people of our congregation; plus an order of service and a police log to keep all in tune with the happenings of HUUC and Harvard.

The FF Team has also been hard at work putting together a job description for our Director of Faith Formation (DFF). We are in the process of forming a search committee and are hoping to post the job in the next coming weeks. If interested in learning more, check out the posting on our HUUC website and talk with one of the FF Team. If all goes well, we hope to hire someone by May, so that they can have a month with us, before the summer break. Please spread the word and keep your fingers crossed.

Come join us. We would love to have you be a part of the program. No experience or special talents necessary.

Peace and joy to all,
Kate Stamm



First meeting of the Social Justice Ministries Council:

Date: Sunday, February 21st from 11:45am-1pm

Location: Community Room, Fellowship Building

Special Guest: Meck Groot, UUA Operations Director of Justice Ministries

Do you feel passionate about social justice issues? Want to help our church address the major social injustices of our time? Come to the first meeting of the Social Justice Ministries Council (SJMC)! This is an open invitation to *all* committee members currently doing social justice work as well as those who want to become more involved in social activism. All are welcome! Let's take social justice to the next level.

The Social Justice Ministries Council was developed by HUUC congregants who want to better support the important justice work our church does and to make it more central to our mission. Additional goals of the council are to:

- ◆ Be a clearinghouse for church activists to share their work and struggles.
- ◆ Nurture the important work of the many social justice ministries in our congregation.
- ◆ Help connect the projects to the mission and spiritual practices of the UU faith.
- ◆ Unite social justice ministries with other activist organizations (whether they be in the UUA or outside the church).
- ◆ Help inform the broader congregation of the justice ministries work.
- ◆ Be a liaison to the surrounding community.

Interested parties please contact Steve Farough or just show up to the first meeting (farough.steve@gmail.com or 978-456-0111).

Need a Name Button?



Whether you are new to the church or just ready for an upgrade, requesting a name button is quick and easy. Send an email message to buttons@uuharvard.org indicating your style preference: HUUC photo or sketch; green sanctuary, rainbow or standard chalice (samples on display in the Sanctuary Foyer) or attach an image to really customize! Next time you're in church look for it on the button screen in the Foyer. Compliments of the Welcome Team.

~ Cary Browse, Holly Grant, Stacie Green, Pamela Fredrick, Paige O'Brien

March Birthday Wishes Go To ...

| | |
|----------|-----------|
| Nico | Agosta |
| Logan | Anderson |
| Cathy | Ball |
| Nicholas | Cleary |
| Pam | Frederick |
| Benjamin | Graffam |
| Kit | Jorrens |
| Teddy | Justicz |
| Deborah | Levering |
| Charles | McCormack |
| Michaele | McGinnis |
| Michaela | Nickerson |
| Lisa | Oldham |
| Colleen | Pearce |
| Mary Lou | Rawlings |
| Dorothy | Solbrig |
| Gordon | Weast |
| Darrell | Wickman |

If you missed the opportunity to give us your birthday month please contact the church office: 456-8752



Building Use calendar
For March here in paper version.

Electronic version: see attached
weekly calendar as pdf.

Sharing Our Plate: March Building Resilience in Kids

In March, 50% of Sharing Our Plate donations will go to Building Resilience in Kids (BRİK). This year BRİK is offering a program at Martin Luther King School in Cambridge. In our Drums and Poems Program children "feel part of something," and find their voices so they can speak up when they encounter bullying or racism. Most of our participants are children of color. Working together in groups, they learn to **help one another** as we say in our doxology.

-The Social Action Committee

Georgia Sassen, Chair
Pat Westwater-Jong, Chris Ready, Iby Chiquoine, Nancy Reifenstein

Adult Education: "Jesus and the Gospels (As They Never Taught Them in Sunday School)"

In two sessions, Sundays Feb. 28 and March 6, after church (about 11:30 to 1:00) somewhere in the Fellowship Building.

Who wrote the Four Gospels? Are they eyewitness accounts? Did Jesus actually exist? What can we confidently say about him? Mark will try to answer these questions and others in this two-session follow-up to last Fall's popular class, "The Bible (As They Never Taught It in Sunday School.)"

-Mark Worth

Celebration Concert!

Mark your calendars and plan to join in the celebration of our refurbished Steinway Grand on **Sunday, March 20 at 4 p.m.** The Music Committee is thrilled that Rita Lancaster's memorial gift enabled us to do a major overhaul of our wonderful piano, restoring it to tip top shape. **Sonya Ovrutsky Fensome**, a fantastic classical pianist has agreed to perform so that we can truly appreciate our treasure.

There will be a \$25.00 ticket fee. More info coming.

-Eleanor Toth



Yo! UU's

We need **YoU** to join **Us** in our year's *most important HUUC \$ fundraiser!*

Ready for an Auction ROLL CALL?
(Just checking✓)

Have you:

- Marked 3/5 on the calendar? _____ ✈
- Signed up to volunteer? _____ 🗳
- Made reservations for dinner? _____ 🍴
- Agreed to contribute food? _____ 😊
- Submitted your donation? * _____ 📦
- Prepped a basket to raffle? ** _____ 🛒
- Invited friends to join you? _____ 👥
- Found your checkbook? _____ 💰

* Oh no!
Missed the **Feb 7** donation deadline?
Send it in! ("Bidder" late than never!)

** Whew!
Deadline for Raffle Baskets: **Feb 21**

Complete info and sign-ups available online at the church website: <http://uuharvard.org>
JOIN IN BUILDING FELLOWSHIP!!

Feminine Hygiene Products and Diapers Needed for Loaves and Fishes

Many Loaves and Fishes are embarrassed to ask for feminine hygiene products and adult diapers but nevertheless are in need of them. They are also in need of larger sized diapers and pull-ups for children. All of these items can be expensive so anything you can donate is very much appreciated. For **Sunday, March 6th**, please bring in tampons, pads, panty shields, and/or adult and children's diapers and leave them in the Loaves and Fishes donation area in the foyer of the sanctuary. Questions? Contact Risa Goldman at risajan@aol.com Thank you.

Our Thanks Go To ...

Michaele McGinnis, Risa Goldman, Ginger & David Kendall, Pam & Glen Frederick, Kate Stamm, Imre Toth, Kate Deyst, Lisa Oldham, Patty Ruze, Michelle & Fernando Catalina, Marcia Croyle, Pat Westwater-Jong for helping Sunday mornings.

Ibby Chiquioine for help with the OOS and Belfry.

Donnalisa Johnson, Jane Thomsen, Ginger and David Kendall, Glen Frederick, Darrell Wickman for all the ways you go above and beyond when you help.

(If we forgot to thank someone, please let me know and I'll add them next month, 978-456-8752, admin@uuharvard.org -Elinor Stapleton.)

Two More Pot Lucks Planned for 2015-2016

- April 10 (Walk For Hunger)
- June 12 (The Board)

Bargains in the Belfry

It looks like six more weeks of winter for us, and thankfully, Bargains has plenty of warm and attractive clothing to see us through. We are no longer accepting consignments, but for shoppers, there is lots to choose from. Bargains will be open this Sunday, February 21, after church, with many things marked down 10% or 20%. (Spoiler alert: Starting Tuesday, February 23rd, all items will be 30% off, but the choice items will sell this Sunday, so don't wait.)

Classical Guitar Concert Sunday, February 28 at 3 p.m. Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church Top of the Common, 9 Ayer Road, Harvard, MA



The Music Committee of the Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church is pleased to present **Berit Strong**, internationally acclaimed classical guitarist, performing a Spanish Segovia Tribute concert. She will be joined by her advanced adult and prize winning teenage students. Berit's solos by Villa-Lobos, Castelnuova-Tedesco, Sanz and Sor will pay homage to the great late Maestro **Andres Segovia**.

Alexander Kucich, a prize winning teenager from Maynard will perform solos by Brouwer and Zenamon, and Harvard's **Andrew Hill** will perform duets with Berit and solos by Giuliani and Morel. The **Metrowest Guitar Ensemble**, a guitar quartet coached by Berit, adds music by Telemann and "Farewell to Stromness" by Davies.

Acton resident Berit Strong launched her international career by winning a top prize in the 1988 Guitar Foundation of America Competition. She toured Europe three times, appearing in solo, duo, and chamber music organizations such as Rome Festival Orchestra, Estergom Guitar Festival (Hungary) and the Belgrade Cultural center. She taught at the Boston Conservatory and Bridgewater State College as well as at Indian Hill Music Center. She has performed on NPR.

**Admission-\$15 at the door
The church is wheelchair accessible. More info-
978-779-2876**

Other Regular Events/Classes in our Buildings

Fellowship Building

Yoga in Sutherland Hall with **Joyce Vassallo**: Tue. 7-8:30pm and Sat. 9-10:45am, 617-201-3532.

Council on Aging: Tai Chi Tue. & Thur. 9-10am & *Zumba* Fri. 9-9:45am, 978-456-4120

Fitness class, during the cold months, **Theresa Hoberman**, Mon. & Wed. 8:30-9:30am, 978-875-0829.

Pastel Drawing Lessons, Mon & Thu. pm, **Joële Feldman Fine Art** 978-456-8191 joelle.feldman@gmail.com

Sanctuary

Harvard Pro Musica, community chorus rehearsals Tuesday evenings, contact **Kathy Hewett** 456-8692 or **Eleanor Toth** 779-2876.

Concerts: Classical Guitar Feb. 28th 3pm. *Celebration* Sonya Ovrutsky Fensome, piano Sun. Mar. 20 at 4pm. *Worcester Chamber Music*, April 15. *Harvard Pro Musica*, April 30.

Recitals: Bolton Community Music School, Dec. & June, Valerie Ritter 978-779-2896. Nikolaus Hunt's piano students, Mar. & June, 978-368-7759. Eleanor Toth's piano students, June, 978-779-2876

What's Coming Up, Church Events

- Sun. Feb. 21
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
"Marching in the Arc of Justice"
Greg Greenway
11:30-12:30 Bargains open
11:45-1:00 Social Justice Ministries meeting
- Tue. Feb. 22
10-4 Bargains in the Belfry open
- Wed. Feb. 23
7-9pm Caring Network meeting
- Sun. Feb. 28
9:00 a.m. Chimers rehearse
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
"Spiritual, But Not Religious"
Rev. J. Mark Worth
11:30-1:30 Mark Worth's Class
3:00 p.m. Classical Guitar Concert
- Tue. Mar 1
10-4 Bargains in the Belfry open
6:30 p.m. **Potluck & Program, Alliance**
Fighting the Ebola Epidemic, Patty Ruze
- Sat. Mar. 5
HUUC Auction!
- Sun. Mar. 6
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
"Going In Circles"
Rev. J. Mark Worth
11:20-11:50 Jr. Choir
11:30-12:30 Bargains open
11:30-1:30 Mark Worth's Class
- Tue. Mar. 8
10-4 Bargains open
- Thu. Mar. 10
7:00 p.m. Board mtg.
- Sun. Mar. 13
Day Light Savings begins
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
"Part of the Sacred Chain"
The Reverend Anne Mason
- Tue. Mar. 17 Belfry Deadline**

MUSIC NOTES



Musicians:

February 21- Greg Greenway, folksinger
February 28- Chimers
March 6- Choir
March 13- Claire Rindenello on flute, Maria Rindenello Parker on harp

Jr. Choir:

Thank you all for singing so well at the Hungarian lunch! I missed some of you when I distributed diplomas from Mary Donald. I'll give them to you when I see you next.

No rehearsal for us on Feb. 21, but we do meet at the regular time on February 28, March 6, 13 and 20 for some fun singing and to prepare for the Easter service on March 27. Enjoy your vacation!

Chimers:

Our next rehearsal is this Sunday, Feb. 21 at the usual time. Margery Goldstein and Imre Toth will join us on flute and wind chimes. On Feb. 28 please be in place at 9 a.m. to warm up for the service. March 6 and 13 rehearsals resume at noon.

Sr. Choir:

Our next rehearsal is Thursday, Feb. 25 to prepare for singing in the service on Feb. 28. We also rehearse on Thursday, March 3 and sing in the service on March 6. Thursdays, March 17 and 24th are also on our calendar, and of course singing in the Easter service on March 27. The date of our Music Sunday hasn't been firmed up yet. Stay tuned!

-Eleanor Toth

Greg will be performing a concert on Saturday, February 20th at the Harvard Public Library. Doors open at 7:00, entry is free although reservations are strongly suggested and donations are appreciated.

Greg Greenway is a talented guitarist, a soulful singer, a powerful poet and a sparkling entertainer. His songs and their topics range widely although many of his songs include race and love as common themes. Greg's service will be musical but he will also preach about his experience at the Marching in the Arc of Justice Conference in Birmingham Alabama that took place March 2015. 500 UU's attended the event as part of the 50th anniversary commemoration of the Selma Voting Rights action - the crossing of the Edmund Pettus Bridge and subsequent march to Montgomery. Two UU's, James Reeb and Viola Liuzzo, lost their lives there in 1965, defining our commitment to social justice then and challenging UU's today to carry our principles beyond the walls of our churches.

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On the Harvard Common
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If you no longer wish to receive this mailing, please return it and we will
take you off our mailing list.

Rev. Mark Worth
Ted Johnson
Elinor Stapleton
Lorrie Clark
Lori Daniels

Interim Minister
Organist and Choir Director
Parish Administrator
Faith Formation Admin Assistant
Bookkeeper

Admin Office Hours
Mon. 9:00 a.m.-Noon
Tue. 10:00-3:00
Wed. Noon-3:00
Thu. 10:00-3:00
Fri. 9:00 a.m.-Noon
Please call first: 978-456-8752.
-Elinor Stapleton
admin@uuharvard.org

Minister's Office Hours
I expect to be in the office most Tuesday, Wednesday, and
Thursday afternoons, sometimes into the early evening hours.
You may call (office: 978-456-9021) or e-mail
minister@uuharvard.org to schedule an appointment during
those times or to find another time that might work.
-Mark Worth