

The

Belfry

August 24th, 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...*

A Month of Sundays, Worship Services at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, Sept. 11

Rev. J. Mark Worth, “Words, Words, Words.”

We will be unpacking some of the traditional words, such as God, Goddess, faith, heresy, worship, minister, etc. that sometimes give us difficulty. What do the words of Western Religion mean to us today, if anything? Also: Meet Daniel Payne, our new Director of Faith Formation.

Sunday, Sept. 18

“Beyond Categorical Thinking.”

Diversity and the search process; speaker from the UUA. See page six this Belfry for 10/1 workshop.

Sunday, Sept. 25

Rev. J. Mark Worth, “Salvation by Astronomy.”

The old story of Salvation no longer makes sense to most of us. Yet our world is wounded. There is too much suffering. How do we find reconciliation and deliverance from conflict? If the dogma of the cross doesn’t save us, what will?

Sunday, Oct. 2

Rev. J. Mark Worth, “What Makes Us Happy?”

Many people live their lives backwards: they seek more money and more things, thinking that will make them happy. But it's really the reverse: we must find happiness first. The Dali Lama says, “If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want yourself to be happy, practice compassion.”

Sunday, Oct. 9

Amanda Grant Rose and Rev. J. Mark Worth, “City Reach.”

CityReach is an overnight urban outreach program for youth (with accompanying adults), young adults, and college students from churches of any denomination. The program gives these young people the opportunity to learn first-hand about homelessness from people who have experienced it. Some of our teens have participated in CityReach.

Sunday, Oct. 16

Rev. J. Mark Worth, “The No Hell Church.”

At a family gathering Mark’s nephew, an Assemblies of God pastor, asked, “Is it true your church teaches that there's no hell?” Mark’s answer reminds us of the Universalist side of our UU heritage. While we may be skeptical of any life beyond this one, Mark calls Universalism his fall back position.

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Mark, My Word

Summer is almost over. Yes, it's still officially Summer until Sept. 22, but school is beginning, people lucky enough to have vacations are returning from them, and yes, church is starting up again. We look forward to seeing everyone again! It has been a hot summer in New England, and many of us welcome the return of some cooler weather.

Some of us had summer reading lists, and mine included an unexpected gift from an old friend. The book, *Another Sunday in Horton Bay*, is a series of short essays that purport to be weekly conversations with Jesus. The author, G.T. Long, of the village of Horton Bay, Michigan, writes with humor and insight.

Long's book started as a weekly Facebook posting. Long said Jesus simply showed up at his front door one Sunday. "I thought at first he was a Jehovah's Witness, but he didn't carry a Bible." That simple beginning touched off a series of conversations.

Some people have told Long that it is sacrilegious to claim to be talking with Jesus. But I don't worry about taking Long literally. A too literal interpretation of the Bible misses the original intent of the Biblical authors, and does a great disservice to Christianity, in my opinion.

Others have questioned why Long, who is Wiccan, would write a book about Jesus. Of course, Christian authors write about other religions, so why shouldn't a non-Christian write about Jesus?

Long has given me permission to post this conversation, which gives the flavor of his book:

I walked to the Horton Bay General Store this morning and saw Jesus holding a copy of my book and talking to a woman. The woman kept nodding her head no, and gesturing wildly with her arms and walked away. Jesus saw me and came over. "Good morning GT". "Morning Jesus, that looked like a interesting conversation, what were you two talking about"? Jesus smiled and said, "I bought a copy of your book and out of the blue this woman made a comment about how I should not read the book because it was not Christian. I think I made things worse by saying neither was Jesus. She started quoting me passages of the Bible, and telling me I was going to hell. I didn't want to ruin my day or hers, so I disengaged".

I starred at Jesus in semi-shock. "She told you that you were going to hell? By reading a book"?

Jesus nodded yes, "I think it was me saying that I was not Christian that caused that remark. Of course she didn't know who she was talking to, but this happens a lot. People talk to me all the time in their prayers, but when I show up someplace they have no idea it is me. Take away my old robes and long hair and I am invisible to them. That lady is a true believer in the Jesus of the Bible, and I love her for it. But this world needs less true believers of anything. True believers have no room for doubt, they are certain, and that kind of certainty is dangerous. That is the root of the cause of religious wars going back centuries, and still a major problem today. I wish people would be a little less certain about things, a bit more open, not every poem needs to rhyme, yet it seems people want every thing gift wrapped with a pretty ribbon. I understand why GT, it brings them some control in a world of chaos, but they don't seem to understand that they are adding to the upheaval.

"Now don't get me wrong, there is nothing wrong with people believing in whatever they want to believe in, but what I am saying is they don't need to take every word as gospel... Truth is much more complicated..."

This is G.T.'s first book, and I hope he keeps writing.

We look forward to seeing you all in church on Sunday, September 11, when we will welcome our new Director of Faith Formation, Daniel Payne.

Mark

Board Report August 2016

First of all - On behalf of the Board and our congregation, welcome Daniel! We are so excited to have you with us!! We wish you all the best in your new position as Director of Faith Formation at HUUC.

As you can sense, our church is coming back to life in preparation for the coming church year. The committees are meeting, plans are being made and we are all excited for a great year ahead. The year promises to hold opportunities for spiritual growth with Daniel Payne our new DFF, our guest lecturers, our lay led services and Rev. Mark Worth now in his second year. It promises to bring us all together in the spirit of love and community. We look forward to these knowns and also the unknowns ahead!

Your Board is here for you. We are responsible to set the goals and objectives for the church year and to carry them out on your behalf. So we need your input and involvement. Please approach any of us at church, by email or phone call to let us know what is on your mind. Also, as a reminder, all are welcome at our Board meetings. Also, if you are on a committee and would like to make a presentation to the Board about a particular topic, please contact me or any Board Member and generally speaking we can work the topic in to one of our next meetings. We meet on the second Thursday of each month and our meeting schedule is as follows.

September 6th, First Tuesday
October 13th, Second Thursday
November 10th, Second Thursday
December 8th, Second Thursday
January 12th, Second Thursday
February 9th, Second Thursday
March 9th, Second Thursday
April 13th, Second Thursday
May 11th, Second Thursday
June 8th, Second Thursday

The first Board meeting will be a retreat in which we will be establishing our goals and objectives for the year. Our major goal this year will be to work together through our MSC to find a called minister by the end of this church year. Additionally, we will be establishing goals and objectives for our Faith Formation program, Social Justice Ministries and with the financial and work processes of our church. In next months Board Report, we will publish these goals and objectives and ask for your feedback.

Also, your Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) has been meeting all summer and are moving in to a very important part of the search – getting your input. We have a great MSC that you elected last year – CoChairs - Fernando Catalina and John Chapman, and members Cary Browse, Rebecca Wright, Stacie Cassatt Green, Britt Argow and Darrell Wickman. Your input will come from a survey that they will send to you early in the church year and also with several cottage meetings that are being planned for September and October. What a great way to start the New Year with the opportunity to discuss our future together in these forums.

We would also like to welcome Kirsti Gamage to our Board! She is replacing Kate Stamm who we thank for her many valuable contributions.

On behalf of the Board, enjoy the rest of the summer and we will see you in September!

For the Board, Tom Daniells
Ginger Kendall, William Kellogg, Kirsti Gamage, Paige O'Brien, Steve Farough

Here we hold ourselves responsible for the religious education of our children and ourselves, to carry out our mission, and to support our church. ...

A Living, Loving, Local Faith

Over the next few weeks, we'll be getting to know each other better, and I thought a good first column for the *Belfry* might be to introduce you to my own personal "mission statement." It's always good to know what makes people tick, what drives them, on what basis they strive to live out their lives. And, as the incoming Director of Faith Formation, I am sure you are wondering that about me.

We all have backgrounds and experiences that inform us and influence the kind of person we are at any given moment in time. Some of us grew up in secular households, and others of us grew up in deeply religious households. As a congregation, we all come together from those different paths. My upbringing and education through college was very conservatively Christian and deeply rooted in the Judeo-Christian scriptures. I was taught to believe in the literal truth of the Bible, a book I was told had been written by God Himself through the human hands of His servants. As a child, we were not even allowed to place things (other books, cups, etc) on top of the Bible, it being so sacred a revelation.

As I grew older and educated myself on the true nature of the Bible, beautiful in all its errors and flaws and human activity, I slowly parted from the faith of my childhood and my early view of the Bible. Rather than an immovable, static text of divine revelation, I began to see it for what it truly is: the story of imperfect, ancient people seeking for the divine, and sometimes missing the mark by a very large margin. In its pages, there are beautiful heights and despairing lows, merciful acts and horrendous violence. It is, no doubt, a mixed bag.

Over the years, I've become a huge fan of "picking and choosing" the parts of Judeo-Christian scriptures that seem to me to be inspiring and useful, and one of my favorite passages happens to be the central gospel theme of "loving one's neighbor as oneself." This also happens to be a theme that connects directly to Faith Formation as I see it.

To love completely and indiscriminately is our common human calling. Amidst differences of opinion, of upbringing, of economic and social class, of racial background, of gender identity, of sexual orientation, we are called as UUs and as members of the human family to simply love, to hold each other in our differences, and to overcome hatred and oppression. This much is agreed on by most folk of all religions and none.

But to love one's **neighbor**....

It becomes **specific**. It becomes **local**. It morphs from abstract to concrete with the word "neighbor."

In the Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke chapter 10, an expert of the law asked Jesus the pointed question: "Who is my neighbor?" Religious folk often like to ask questions designed to release them from the concrete applications of abstract "love," but Jesus was no armchair theologian. He went on to tell a story of a wounded man who was bypassed by a priest and a Levite (good religious folk), but was helped by a Samaritan (a person of questionable religious practice and a racial outsider).

Growing up in the Deep South with its fundamentalist religious rules and racial segregation, this story always moved me, and though it is central to the gospel theme, I cannot remember once hearing it preached on in any depth, other than to blithely reinforce some abstract concept of love. I was unsatisfied, and decided that my life and any ministry I was to be a part of in the future would not settle for the abstract. I decided that a focus on "love" without a focus on "neighbor" was dead and empty, a faith without works.

In my ministry as the founding pastor of Open Doors Metropolitan Community Church in Seoul, South Korea, I strove to enflame "love of neighbor" and to encourage my congregation to do the same. For us, neighbor was anyone in need, anyone hurting, anyone within our daily experience who was "bruised and bleeding on the

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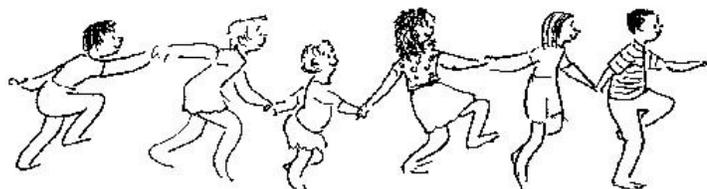
roadside." Yes, our neighbor is also the far-off person in a far-off land, but I always felt that local ministry which constantly focused on "foreign mission work" was, in effect, forsaking its duty to love the neighbor in their midst.

As I join with you in ministry at Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church as your Director of Faith Formation, I bring this local focus to my calling. I consider myself extremely lucky to come into a congregation with such dedicated, wonderful volunteers and teachers - past and present - on the Faith Formation team. As we continue to work together as a congregation, and as I facilitate Faith Formation, I hope to see us directing all we do in the direction of loving our neighbor. I hope to engender within the Harvard UU children and youth a passion for local social justice work, giving them an opportunity to live out their UU faith in concrete ways in the local community. This is at the heart of who we are as justice-bringers and peacemakers. A faith kept within the church walls is a dead faith, but we are a living community practicing a living faith.

I eagerly look forward to being a part of this community, to working alongside you in deepening and strengthening our liberal faith, and to offering our local community the opportunity to join with us in our living tradition. Never hesitate to call me, to email me, to visit me (or ask me to visit you) if you need me, or if you have any ideas or suggestion about how to make our Faith Formation program a better service to the congregation and to the community. The road may be bumpy at times, but the best is yet ahead, and I'm excited to be part of it!

Blessings & Peace,
Daniel

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Class Offering for September

As one of the newest members of HUUC (as of June 12), I'd like to offer a class that I have facilitated several times at my former UU church. By sharing our life stories, we can get to know one another better and deepen our connections. These stories also serve as gifts which our children and other family members will treasure. The group will meet for six weeks (and may choose to continue once a month). Class registration will begin in the late August. I will find a time, day or evening, that works for the majority of those who are interested and register.

Weaving the Stories of our Life's Journey

Given a different topic each week (our childhood years, life work, spiritual path, to name a few), we will write about two pages during the week, weaving the memories from our past as they relate to each topic. Sharing our stories with the group will enrich all of us, as we take note of differences and similarities with our own life's journey. A minimum of six participants is needed, though a group of eight is even better.

-Facilitated by new member Carol MacFarlane.



Welcoming Change

This year you will notice something new in the Sanctuary during Coffee Hour: a “Connections Table.” The name is ‘borrowed’ from a UU church where Carol MacFarlane - a new member at HUUC; former long-time area DRE; and Welcome Team co-chair – was involved. We are very excited to take on this model as our own. It is here that you will find out about upcoming programs and events (and how to get involved!); get updates on the Ministerial Search; learn about HUUC membership and UU in general. The limits of this table’s use and purpose are boundless! We hope you will stop by to get informed, connect, and share.

Potlucks

For the past several years, the Welcome Team has coordinated a near-monthly potluck gathering after Sunday service. This year, with our time and energy dedicated to hosting the Connections Table, we will be stepping away from potlucks. BUT, if a group or committee would like to host one, we would be more than happy to help. (Pssst...first step is to contact [Elinor](#) and check the church calendar.)

Sunday Service Volunteers

Ever wonder how you can be one of those rock star Greeters? Wish you could belong to the cool tribe of Ushers? Are you disappointed that you haven’t been asked to pour coffee after Sunday service? Love to bake but there’s no more room in your freezer? Well, long no more. This is your year. To sign-up, stop by the Connections Table after service on Sundays or contact [Paige O’Brien](#), (617) 515-9637.

New UU Classes

We have THE best interim minister! Rev. Mark is awesome and he’s agreed to share his UU wisdom (and other life stories) during a two-part class for folks who would like to learn more about our religion and our congregation. Sign up for one or both! The classes will take place after service on October 16 and October 23. Child-care will be provided. Contact [Paige O’Brien](#), (617) 515-9637, to enroll or for more information.

Name Buttons

The world is your oyster [if it’s a Google image] when it comes to customizing your name button. Send your JPG to buttons@uuharvard.org . Or stop by the Connections Table and select from a sample of standards.

Join Us

We are always looking for new friends to help bring forward our mission of supporting church-wide and community connections. Contact one of us for more information.

HUUC Welcome Team

Carol MacFarlane, Co-Chair, Paige O’Brien, Co-Chair, Cary Browse, Pam Frederick, Holly Grant

BEYOND CATEGORICAL THINKING

On Sunday, October 1st the Harvard UU Church will participate in the Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop led by Jory Agate. The BCT workshop is offered by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) for congregations involved in the search for a new minister. **The Ministerial Search Committee invites all congregational leaders, members, and friends to participate in this workshop.**

Beyond Categorical Thinking is a program designed to promote inclusive thinking and help prevent unfair discrimination in the search process for a new minister. This program includes a Sunday morning service with BCT workshop facilitators followed by a three hour workshop. In the workshop, HUUC members will:

- Consider the hopes, expectations, and concerns they have for a new minister
- Learn more about the ministerial search process, and
- Explore how thinking categorically about peoples sometimes interferes with choosing the best candidate.

The Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop is another opportunity for everyone in our congregation to be a part of the selection of a new minister. This experience will provide guidance for the search committee in our work. Come on October 1st at 10am to the church to participate in this important workshop!

Paper version: Pig Roast flyer here.

Electronic version: please see attached pdf

Paper Version: Sept. building use calendar here

Electronic version: See pdf for calendar

Paper Version: Oct. building use calendar here

Electronic version: See pdf for calendar



Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry

The clients at Loaves and Fishes love receiving fresh produce whenever possible. With the bountiful produce our gardens are producing this time of year (can anyone say “zucchini?”), please feel to donate some of your extras directly to Loaves and Fishes.

They will happily receive your donations during their regular pantry and donation hours which are: Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00am to 12:00pm, the first and third Saturdays of the month from 8:00am to 11:00am and the second Tuesday of the month from 5:15pm-8:00pm.

The Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church (HUUC) will resume collecting and donating non-perishable food and toiletry items for Loaves and Fishes on the first Sunday in October.

If you have questions, please contact Risa Goldman at risajan@aol.com.

You are invited to join family and friends of long-time HUUC member **Joanne Edwards Kronauer** for her interment at Bellevue Cemetery on Sept. 5th at 1:00 p.m. The officiant will be her nephew Rev. Marston Price, Rector of The Church of the Epiphany, Southbury CT.

Please RSVP to karenekronauer@gmail.com if you plan to attend the gathering afterwards at the home of Charles and Eileen Kronauer, #295 Old Littleton Rd., Harvard.

-Thank you.
Karen Kronauer

September Birthday Wishes Go To ...

Jamie	Aciukewicz
Dave	Andrew
Heidi	Bachmann
Susan	Brooks
Shane	Browse
Matt	Colony
Anthony	Culmone
Glen	Frederick
Harrison	Graffam
Sarah	Graffam
April	Lambert
Gary	Madison
Arthur	Niell
Kai	Oldham
Mac	Perkins-High
Ann	Whitney
Willie	Wickman



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

From the Admin Office

If you have **updates** to your address, phone, email or the way you want to receive church communication, please let me know.

Belfry deadlines, Tuesdays: 9/20, 10/18, 11/15, 12/18, 1/17, 2/21, 3/21, 4/18, 5/16, 6/20.

If you want an **updated Church Directory**, please send me an email and I will send you the pdf file, or I can print a paper copy for you. And if you want to be listed in the Directory, please let me know.

If you want a **printed copy of a sermon**, call me, or try the church website for audio files as well. Or **if you want the list of committee chairs and members**, let me know and I will send that to you.

Thanks. -Elinor Stapleton admin@uuharvard.org 456-8752

What's Coming Up, Church Events

- Wed. Aug. 24
7-9pm Meditation
- Wed. Aug. 31
7-9pm Meditation
- Tue. Sept. 6
6-9:30pm Board
7:30-9:00 Welcome Team retreat
- Wed. Sept. 7
6:30-8:30pm Caring Network mtg
7-9pm Worship Team mtg
7-9pm Meditation
- Thu. Sept. 8
7-9pm Glean Team mtg
- Sat. Sept. 10
4-8pm Pig Roast
- Sun. Sept. 11
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
"Words, Words, Words"
Rev. J. Mark Worth
- Tue. Sept. 13
7-9pm Coming Of Age Orientation mtg.
- Wed. Sept. 14
7-9pm Meditation
- Sun. Sept. 18
10:00 am Worship Service
"Beyond Categorical Thinking"
7pm Coming of Age mtg.
- Tue. Sept. 20 Belfry Deadline
- Sun. Sept. 25
10:00 am Worship Service
"Salvation by Astronomy"
Rev. J. Mark Worth
7pm Coming of Age mtg.
- Sat. Oct. 1
10:00am Workshop
5:00pm Family Game Night

MUSIC NOTES



Musicians:

- Sept. 11- Choir
Sept. 18- Eleanor Toth, piano
Sept. 25- Choir
Oct. 2- TBD
Oct. 9- Choir

Jr. Choir:

Rehearsals for grades 1 through 6 begin at 11:20 – 11:50 in the ee cummings room on Sept. 25th. Start warming up those voices! Rehearsals continue through Oct. except Oct. 9th.

Chimers:

Oct. 2 Mark will speak of "What makes us happy", and we will demonstrate our happiness to ourselves with our first rehearsal of the season, starting at 12 noon in the Belfry. No rehearsal Oct. 9, but then weekly sessions.

Sr. Choir:

Time to get back in action! Hopefully summer has been good and everyone is eager to sing. We meet at the church on Thursday, Sept. 8, 7:30 p.m. to prepare for the first day of church on Sunday, Sept. 11. After that we rehearse bi-weekly. New and former singers all welcome!!!!

-Eleanor Toth

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

Music Lessons, contact michaelgeezil@gmail.com.

Sanctuary

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

Student 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

Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church
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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.

Interim Minister
Organist and Choir Director
Office Administrator
Director of Faith Formation
Bookkeeper

Rev. Mark Worth
Ted Johnson
Elinor Stapleton
Daniel Payne
Lori Daniels

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

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
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