



The

Belfry

May 21st, 2013

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...

May 26th 2013

10:00 a.m.

“Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me”

Kate Stamm, Ibbly Chiquoine and Cary Browse

In honor of Memorial Day our service will focus on Peace. The choir will sing and we will sing a couple of songs together, but most of our time together will be spent in silent worship. You are welcome to bring short poems or readings about peace to offer into the silence.

June 2nd 2013

10:00 a.m.

“Pipelines and Prophecies”

This morning we consider the current debate over the Keystone XL Pipeline. We look at the involvement of indigenous peoples in the fight against climate change. And we consider the power of dreams, visions and prophecies in guiding our future course.

June 9th 2013

10:00 a.m.

“Sewership Sunday” and Community Connection Celebration! – All Ages!

Come celebrate our connections to one another and to the larger community! Be part of the miracle of *Sewership Sunday!* This will be our final Sunday together for worship before the start of summer.



10th Annual Joint Summer Service –

Sunday, August 4 @ 10:00AM

This year’s joint summer service of the Harvard, Littleton, and Stow/Acton UU churches will be in Stow. The service is at 10:00AM on Sunday morning, August 4. Choir rehearsal begins at 8:30AM. We are excited to be celebrating our 10th year. There will be cake! The service is modeled after a Sunday morning, minister-led service and incorporates worship traditions from the three churches. Rev. Thomas Rosiello of the Stow UU church will lead the worship service. **There will be a “pick-up” choir. Mike Pfitzer, Music Director of Stow, will direct the choir. Rehearsal begins at 8:30AM and all singers are welcome. The choir will sing a choral introit and anthem.**

Children are welcome. However, baby-sitting is not offered, and there are no Religious Education programs during the summer. Refreshments will be served after the service. Looking forward to seeing you in August. Contact Cary Browse cbrowse@earthlink.net. -Cary Browse & Dorothy Solbrig, Joint Summer Service Team

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“From the Hearth”

Memorial Day originated after the Civil War to commemorate the Union and Confederate soldiers who had died in battle. The most recent estimates suggest that up to 750,000 people died in that terrible conflict to prevent the splitting of the Union into two Americas.

Over the years, Memorial Day has evolved from a holiday to commemorate the war dead into a day for remembering deceased loved ones more generally and a day for family gatherings, backyard barbecues, and shopping. Memorial Day is now one of the busiest shopping days of the year.

And yet there is a sense that, nearly 150 years after the Civil War, there are still two Americas today.

During a speech at Stanford University in 1967, one year before he was assassinated, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “there are literally two Americas. One America is beautiful... overflowing with the milk of prosperity and the honey of opportunity.

“But tragically and unfortunately, there is another America. This other America has a daily ugliness about it that constantly transforms the ebullience of hope into the fatigue of despair. In this America millions of work-starved men walk the streets daily in search for jobs that do not exist. In this America millions of people find themselves living in rat-infested, vermin-filled slums. In this America people are poor by the millions. They find themselves perishing on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity.”

We still live in two Americas. Today America is the world’s wealthiest nation. Stock markets are up, corporate profits are up, and we are told the economy is improving. Many of us are doing well. And yet more than 146 million Americans are considered either poor or low income. That includes 57% of our children. There are currently 2.8 million kids in our country living on the equivalent of \$2.00 or less per day. We have not seen this level of poverty in this country since the 1960’s.

I heard recently that half of all Americans will living in poverty some time before age 65. Nearly 47.79 million Americans are on food stamps today compared to 32 million in 2008. That number exceeds the entire population of Spain, which we have heard is going through its own economic crisis along with much of the rest of Europe.

The Bible, one of the sources of our living Unitarian Universalist tradition, includes hundreds of references to poverty and the poor. In Psalm 82, for instance, we are called upon to “defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”

We don’t hear much in the news about poverty these days, even as the number of poor and nearly poor increase. I pray that as a nation we not allow ourselves to get distracted by partisan politics and scandals so that we might stay focused on the real scandal -- that so many people in our most wealthy nation - and around the world – are living in poverty and going without food despite an abundance of food and wealth.

This Memorial Day, may we remember our sisters and brothers, may we grow in compassion and action. May our lives shine, bringing light and hope to a broken world.

In faith, hope, and love,
Rev. Wendy

From the Board

June 9 is Sewership Sunday!

The Town Center Septic System is finally up and running and we need to tie our buildings into the system this summer. The work for the Fellowship Building is fully funded, but the cost of abandoning our archaic cesspool and connecting the Sanctuary building is not. We need \$17,000 to purchase the equipment and pay the contractor.

The church could go into debt to finance the project, but we have a better idea—Sewership Sunday. Here’s how it works. During church on June 9 the ushers will pass the plate twice. Once will be our usual offering “to further the work of the church and the work of the church in the larger community” and, like most Sundays, the collection will total \$150 dollars or so. But this Sunday—our Sewership Sunday--we will pass the plate a second time and this special collection will total \$17,000, and perhaps even more.

How can this happen?

First, everyone must be certain that we will succeed. As Wendy preached last week, the power of magic, of imagination, of visualization, is transformative. Together, as a community, we will make magic happen. We will demonstrate the transformative power of collective imagination.

Second, everyone must do their part. There are many ways for a collection to total \$17,000. Here’s one:

# of donors	amount
1	\$ 5,000
4	\$ 1,000
9	\$ 500
10	\$ 250
10	\$ 100
total	\$ 17,000

This is only an example. Obviously, the more donors we have and the higher the donations, the more we will collect. We hope everyone will participate, to the full extent they are able and moved to do so.

How can you help? What can you do to cause the special Sewership Sunday collection to equal or exceed \$17,000?

Over the next several weeks, you will be hearing more about this project and this special way of raising the funds to accomplish it. So start your imagination running. Don’t just envision our successful outcome, but feel it and live it. And begin to give some serious thought to your personal role in this demonstration of our congregation’s transformative power.

-Rick High, President, Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church

Healing Hearts: Magic, Minecraft, and What The Children Know

A few Sundays ago, while Wendy was preaching “Unleashing Your Inner Wizard,” the RE kids were unleashing their inner wizards in the Fellowship Building, practicing making the world a better place using their intentions. Using ingredients from our own kitchens and gardens, jars from reuse/recycle stashes, mostly-empty tubes of glitter glue from the RE closet, left over sand from the Zen garden station, and seltzer water, individually and in pairs, the kids invented potions for happiness, health, peace, wisdom, kindness, and love. Out of a bag of white beans, scraps of cloth and ribbon from the supply closet, and fine markers, they made pouches of Magic Beans – beans to plant love, peace, kindness, smiles, and hugs. Gluing lentils, rice, popcorn kernels, and other seeds to the last paper plates in the closet, they created landscapes of a healthy world. Oh yes, they made a mess, and they also had fun.

And the adults had fun, too! It was great fun for us to pull together a church school morning Iron-Chef style, using only what we already had on hand, buying nothing. It felt rather miraculous watching them making their potions, fully engrossed in open-ended, creative play, making messes, losing track of time. After all, we weren’t trying to recreate Hogwarts School of Wizards with its difficult and stress-inducing O.W.L. and N.E.W.T. exams. This year we have been playing with ways to make Sunday feel like a day set apart from the rest of the busy week, apart from school, sports, and lessons, in the same way many adults find Sunday worship to be a time set apart from work, commuting, maintaining a home. So many of our spirits yearn for a kind of magical, paradoxical space where we both lose and find ourselves at the same time.

If you have or know any children at this particular point in history, you may have heard of Minecraft, the computer game that many kids are playing. Minecraft is a kind of “other” space as well, where kids are spending a lot of time. It is a virtual world made of Lego-like blocks, where players can build, create, and adventure. Not knowing much about it, but seeing how much interest there is among the kids, I set out to see what Minecraft is all about. I knew nothing about how to play, what to do, and on my first go-round, pretty much instantly fell into the ocean and couldn’t figure out how to get out. I did, however, figure out how to quit and launch new game. My main question remained: WHY is Minecraft fun? WHY is it compelling? WHY would anyone want to play it for hours on end, talk about it ceaselessly with friends? I just couldn’t get it. So I asked some kids, and I asked them in the context of something I am already passionate about: Unitarian Universalism.

“So, remember the story about using stones to vote on where to build the Harvard church?” I asked.

“Yes! We could vote with cobblestones or slabs!” they suggested.

“And could we build a church there?” I asked.

“Oh, yes!” answered my nephews.

One said, “You could build it out of quartz or wool!”

“Because they are both white?” I asked.

“Yes,” he answered.

“Or you could dye the wool and make it many colors!” said the younger nephew.

“I could make a soft rainbow church?” I asked? Now he had my attention. “With big soft cushions for seats?”

“Instead of pews!” they shouted.

Healing Hearts: Magic, Minecraft, and What The Children Know (continued)

“I want it to be all doors so people can be going in and out all the time. And wool for the roof because it is waterproof, fireproof, and soft.”

“You can do that!” they affirmed.

Now we were getting somewhere.

The next morning (Sunday), I asked a few of our Middle School Youth about it.

“Hey,” I said, “I’m trying to figure out how to build a UU Church in Minecraft – not just one, but many.”

I described what I wanted to do.

“Oh! I get it! You want to build a UU church mod and spawn UU churches!” he exclaimed! “Where’s a piece of paper and a pencil?”

I’ll save you the Minecraft lingo, but by the end of the morning, several boys had come up with some great ideas for the UU church mod: chalices that spread a feeling of well-being when lit, name pins as armor, banners for the chancel. But this is the conversation I overheard that made me the most excited, and gave me a sign that the kids absolutely know what we are trying to do here (translated from Minecraft-speak):

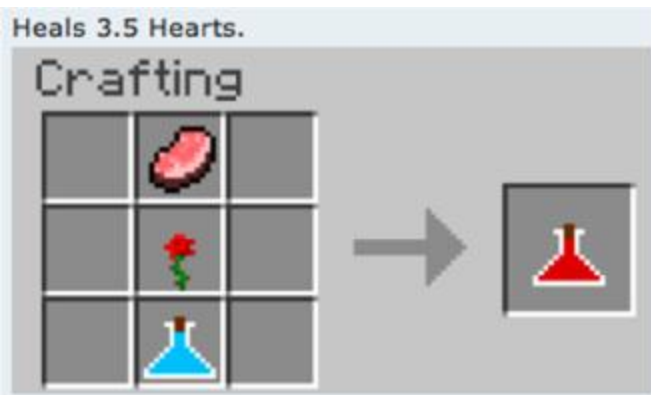
C: Here’s the formula for feeding someone hungry or poor.

N: Wow, it uses a lot of resources!

C: Yeah, but it heals 8 hearts.

N: Oh, that’s awesome!

Then a 9-year old added his idea, writing: “If you have food for the poor, right-click on him and he will be happy and turn into a villager... A button should pop up that says, ‘Summon very nice villager’ (the person you fed) and he will help you until you or he dies.”



Now I wonder if gardens can be modified to allow glean- ing to feed others. Could villagers band together to build a school or a hospital or a teen center? Or build windmills and solar panels and reduce carbon emissions? Could a UU Mob player turn a Creeper into a villager by giving it a compassion potion? What would go into a justice po- tion? And even more, I can’t wait to hear the ways the kids come up with to heal more hearts!

Peace,
Melinda

SHARING OUR PLATE

Each month 50% of the cash contributions in the collection plate, plus checks made out to them, go to a designated charity. (The balance of the cash and checks made out to the church go to the church.)

May 26 (one week only) is for UU Mass Action

UU Mass Action has had a history of mobilizing the 140 Unitarian Universalist congregations around social justice issues in Massachusetts. We focus our energy annually around two or three main campaigns, which we pick through polling congregations, consulting with activists, both Unitarian Universalist and non-Unitarian Universalist, as well as consulting with communities that are largely marginalized by the wider society.

June 2 & 9 is for NEADS an organization that Leslie Neville is involved with. On Sunday, April 22, a representative from NEADS will be at coffee hour so the congregation can learn more about their program and meet one of the service dogs. NEADS, based in Princeton, MA, provides assistance dogs to people who are deaf or hearing impaired; people with balance and stability issues; people with a variety of physical disabilities; wounded combat veterans; teachers, ministers and therapists; children on the autism spectrum; and children with physical disabilities. Almost 100% of the Hearing Dogs are rescued from animal shelters and 95% of the dogs are trained by inmates through a prison program partnership with approximately 11 New England Prisons. The typical cost to train a dog for an individual is \$25,000 or more. The clients (non Veterans) are asked to fundraise or contribute \$9,500 of this amount. In 2011, NEADS locally raised and trained 33 dogs for needy individuals and they would like to continue to increase that number in the years to come.

The members of the Social Action Committee are Georgia Sassen, Dave Andrew, Janice Goodell, Caroline Ready, Pat Westwater-Jong. We meet monthly and are actively seeking new members. Please contact any one of us for more information.

Rev. Wendy's Upcoming Sabbatical

Later this year, Rev. Wendy will start a six-month sabbatical. As many of you know we honor the recommended practice of offering our minister a chance to take a break every seven years and recharge away from all congregational responsibilities. All the regular church activities continue, but are organized a bit differently.

In January the Board appointed a Sabbatical Planning Committee to work with Wendy in planning for her absence, as well as to oversee the sabbatical in process. We will provide you with complete information in September, but here are some basics:

The sabbatical is from December 1, 2013 – May 1, 2014;

The pulpit will be filled on the twenty-three Sundays, sometimes by ministers and other times by lay leaders;

A part-time "sabbatical minister" will be hired who will have regular weekly office hours, provide pastoral care, and preach several times; and

When you return from the summer break we will have all the details set.

Questions? Contact a member of the Sabbatical Planning Committee (Mary Ellen Miller, Steve Miller, Charles Redinger, and Betsy Williams, Chair)

Update from the Worship Team -

This year the Worship Team is experimenting with a new model for worship which involves a designated "worship associate" each Sunday. The worship associate partners with Rev. Wendy to define the theme for a Sunday service then explores the topic through readings, reflections and music. Participation in the actual service may be a reading or two, a reflection, or even the sermon. Each member of the Worship Team will have the opportunity to work collaboratively with Rev. Wendy on a couple of Sunday services this spring. There have been three such services to date.

We want to create a list of people interested in occasionally being a reader for worship services. If this is something you would like to explore further, please be in touch with one of us!

-The Worship Team (Rev. Wendy Bell, Charles Redinger, Deb Levering, Cary Browse)

June Birthday Wishes Go To:

Eliza Agosta
Kevin Bartlett
Bailey Bourgeois
Max Chadran
Cate Corbett
Piali De
Thomas Hill
Barbara Kemp
Julie Anne Medjanis
Andy Perkins
Nancy Reifenstein
Lois Suarez
Sue Tokay
Imre Toth
Marc Vilain



If you missed the opportunity to give us your birthday month and would like to have it posted in our Belfry publications, please contact the church office: 978-456-8752, admin@uuharvard.org

Our Thoughts are With ...

Deb Levering and Jeff Levering as Jeff's father is ill and in the hospital...

Steve Farough & Heidi Bachman and their daughter Ruby in celebration of the birth of baby brother Henry 4/15...

Naomi Newell, in celebration of spring...

Pat White, and the whippoorwills she helped count...

Dave Andrew, in honor of his grandson, graduating from high school...

Helen Hill, in gratitude that her son survived a car accident

John Chapman and Patty Ruze, in gratitude that their daughter, survived a car accident, and in sorrow for a friend with cancer...

Georgia Sassen, in sorrow for her father-in-law who is ill

Carl and Carolyn Howe -- celebrating 25th wedding anniversary



Sunday Help

You can swap dates and sign up from <http://uuharvard.org> (Sunday Morning Volunteers).

5/26

Welc & Ann:

Greeters: Sherri & Jim DiReda

Ushers: John Chapman & Patty Ruze

Chancel:

Hospitality: Barbara & Warren Henderson, Cary Browse

6/2

Welc & Ann:

Greeters: Kirsti & Chuck Gamage

Ushers: Julie Anne & Gus Medjanis

Chancel:

Hospitality: Alicia McHugh, Sarah Graffam

6/9 Last regular worship service until Sept. 8

Welc & Ann:

Greeters: SusanMary & Charles Redinger

Ushers: Naomi Newell

Chancel:

Potluck Setup:

Potluck Warming/early kitchen help:

Potluck Cleanup Hall:

Potluck Cleanup Kitchen:

Potluck Signups - online!

There is one more Sunday Potluck scheduled for this year. If you would like to be a Potluck Angel (helper) please check out the opportunities listed on Signup Genius. On the front page of uuharvard.org you'll find a link called "Click here to volunteer for Sunday morning activities". Once in the signup section, find June 9--and reserve a spot. Potlucks are great and a bundle of simple work. Helping hands are always welcome! Thank you.

Deborah Levering for the Welcome Team
978-456-1299

Anything you want to put in the Chalice Chat for Sunday May 26th needs to be received by 9:30 a.m. Thursday May 23rd.
The admin office will be closed Friday May 24th. Thanks.

-Elinor Stapleton

The Glean Team

There is no long-term commitment to be involved and it is easy to sign up for a shift. Simply go to the church's website at www.uuharvard.org and click on **Glean Team Volunteer Opportunities:**



Roche Bros. Pickup, February-May.

We will also have other gleaning opportunities at farmer's markets, orchards, and fields once the harvesting season begins.

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

We hope the spring brings joy and prosperity to all. Thank you again.

A Note from the Social Action Committee

If you would like to request funding for a nonprofit cause in which you are personally active or which is in our local area, from the Sharing Our Plate funds, please come to a Social Action Committee Meeting to discuss it. Before you come, please notify us at: gsassen77@gmail.com and daveandrew@charter.net so we can put you on the agenda and give you the meeting time and date.

IF you want to know where the funds have gone during this church year, the exact amounts and recipients are in this year's Harvard UU Church Annual Report.

All church members are welcome to attend any of our meetings.

-Georgia Sassen, Social Action Committee Chair

WHEAT -- Community Café in Clinton MA

There will be opportunities to help this summer -- stay tuned, or contact Susie Macrae at susiemac@charter.net.

17th Annual Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast - Monday, May 27, 2013

The annual Memorial Day pancake breakfast is fast approaching - just a few days to go. Please set aside the morning to attend with your families or to help serve the estimated 120 people who will attend that morning, and then to attend the brief Memorial Day parade on the common. Breakfast is served from 8 to 9:30 AM in our Fellowship Building; the parade starts at 10.

We'll need plenty of help from the men and women of the church to help with the setup and clean-up, and especially to work in the kitchen that morning. From its first event, suggested and organized by Ed Pieters on behalf of the Men's Forum, the pancake breakfast was a great place for the men of the church to reconnect and have a great time doing so. In the last few years, many women have enjoyed helping to make this a fun culinary experience, a welcome addition to the event.

Please mark your calendars to attend, tell your friends and neighbors about it, and sign up to help with Dave Andrew (daveandrew@charter.net or call 978-456-3858 or see Dave after Sunday service) if you can help with this event sponsored by our church. We'll need some help for the setup and decorating activities today from 2 to 4 PM. We'll also need lots of help for the event itself on Monday morning. We have again asked the Middle School RE youth to help. Their assistance as hosts and servers has been greatly enjoyed and appreciated over the last few years.

All proceeds will be donated to the Loaves and Fishes food pantry at Devens. The church will again match our net proceeds from our Social Action Endowment, as they have for several years. Last year we were pleased to send more than \$1,200 to Loaves and Fishes. We hope to do at least the same again this year.

From our Partner Church on April 16th:

Dear friends,

We are watching the news, and we know what it is happening in Boston.

Terrible. In soul we are with you, and we pray for you.

The members of your partner churches, your friends. The Andrasfalva Church

What's Coming Up, Church Events

Wed. May 22

7:30 p.m. Caring Network mtg.

Thu. May 23

7:30 p.m. Sr. Choir

Sun. May 26

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

"Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me"

Kate Stamm, Iby Chiquoine,

Cary Browse

Cary Browse & Kate Stamm

Mon. May 27

Memorial Day, Office Closed

8:00-9:45 a.m. Breakfast in FB

Tue. May 28

10-4 Bargains in the Belfry open

Wed. May 29

7:30 p.m. extra Board mtg.

Fri. May 31-June 2

Youth Retreat, from FB as home base

Sun. June 2

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

"Pipelines and Prophecies"

Bargains Open

Sun. June 9

10:00 a.m. Last Regular Worship Service

"Sewership Sunday" and Community Connection Celebration! - All Ages!

All Church Potluck

Wed. June 12

7:30 p. m. Board mtg.

Mon. June 17

Belfry Deadline

Elinor starts summer hours Thu. June 20:

Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:00-11:30 a.m.

Sun. Aug. 4

8:30 a.m. 'pick up' choir rehearsal Stow/Acton

10:00 a.m. Annual Joint Summer Service
(Harvard, Littleton, Stow/Acton UU's)
in Stow this year.

Mon. Aug. 26

Regular Office Hours resume

Belfry Deadline

Wed. Aug. 28

7:30 p.m. Caring Network mtg.

Mon. Sept. 2

Labor Day/Office Closed

Sun. Sept. 8

10:00 a.m. Ingathering Worship Service
Rev. Wendy L. Bell

MUSIC NOTES



Musicians:

May 26- Choir

June 2-John Chapman, jazz pianist
and friend

June 9- Choir

Jr. Choir:

Thank you for singing so joyously this past year! Now we need to plan a final party! Ice cream? Miniature golf? I'll be in touch.

Chimers:

Thank you all for your beautiful ringing on May 5th and the rest of the church year. It is a great pleasure to hear you bring music to life! Enjoy the summer break! We resume in September.

Sr. Choir:

Rehearsals this Thursday, May 23, possibly May 30, and June 6. We sing in church on May 26, and June 9, the final service of this year. In addition, we are preparing for the choir festival in Hartford, Connecticut on Saturday, June 1st. We should discuss car pooling to arrive there around 1, for the event at 3:30. It should be a fun day, singing with, and listening to other UU choirs. No doubt we will spend part of our June 6 rehearsal partying!!!!

Eleanor Toth

Social Action Committee Suggests

June 2, 2013

Loaves and Fishes Needs Low Sugar Cereal

Loaves and Fishes is very low on cereal right now. Please consider looking through your cabinets or going out to purchase an extra box or two of low sugar cereal for Loaves and Fishes. Once you have gathered your donation, please leave it in the Loaves and Fishes labeled box in the church foyer for **Sunday, June 2nd**. If you have questions, please contact Risa Goldman at risajan@aol.com.



Minister's Office Hours

I am 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 (RevWLBell@aol.com) to schedule an appointment during those times or to find another time that might work.

Admin Office Hours

Monday 9:00 a.m. – Noon
Tuesday 10:00 – 3:00
Wednesday Noon – 3:00
Thursday 10:00 – 3:00
Friday 9:00 a.m. - Noon
Please call first: 978-456-8752.

-Elinor Stapleton admin@uuharvard.org

Reverend Wendy L. Bell
Melinda Green
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Louise Potter

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