



The Belfry

September 16th, 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...

September 20, 2015

10:00 a.m.

Are You a Saint?

Rev. Nannene Gowdy, guest preacher

No? Are you sure? Philosopher William James might beg to differ.

September 27, 2015

10:00 a.m.

“Why I’m a Unitarian”

Rev. J. Mark Worth

When he was an eighth-grader and in Methodist Sunday school, a question about the biblical strong-man Samson converted Mark to Unitarianism -- although he didn't know that word yet. Come hear how Mark became a Unitarian, and why it stuck. This is the first in a two-part sermon: the follow-up, “Why I’m a Universalist” will be in October.

October 4, 2015

10:00 a.m.

“Blessing the Animals”

Rev. J. Mark Worth

We will meet in Sutherland Hall for a special inter-generational service as we bless the animals, which is traditionally done on Oct. 4th or the nearest Sunday, as it is the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. Pope Francis chose his name for this Roman Catholic Saint. Many Unitarian Universalists have picked up on the Catholic tradition of blessing animals, especially pets, on this day.

October 11, 2015

10:00 a.m.

“Why I’m a Universalist”

Rev. J. Mark Worth

The second U in UU is Universalist. Our church in Harvard was a Unitarian church in the congregational tradition. Who are the Universalists? Mark tells how a Methodist Youth Fellowship field trip converted him to Universalism.

October 18, 2015

10:00 a.m.

“The Beauty of Imperfection”

Rev. J. Mark Worth

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, “There is a crack in everything God has made.” In Western religious traditions it's understood that we're all imperfect, and that while we can improve, human perfection just isn't possible. Mark's sermon will draw on the wisdom of Taoism, Buddhism, Christian theologian Reinhold Niebuhr, Marilyn Monroe, and the close of the baseball season to find the beauty of imperfection.

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*Here we are inspired to explore, reflect and grow spiritually ...
Here we are safe to share our deeply held thoughts and values ...*

Mark, My Word

It's almost October! It's hard to believe that summer has disappeared. Evenings are cool now, even chilly. It's noticeable that the daylight hours are a little shorter. All over New England the leaves are beginning to change color.

I'm very grateful for the warm welcome that Mickey (Michelle) and I have received at Harvard UU Church. As many of you already know, she lives and works in Maine as a social worker, working with people with mental health problems, and she will be with me about one weekend a month. I also visit her one weekend a month in Maine, and we talk on the phone every evening. So after 36 years of marriage we're "dating" for a while. We may be able to see more of one another after she retires at the end of June.

I've been asked to lead a "Blessing of the Animals" on Sunday, Oct. 4th, which is the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi in the Roman Catholic tradition. Francis was known for his love of nature and the environment, especially animals. He was also known as a supporter of greater social justice for poor people. I was heartened when the new Pope named himself for Francis of Assisi.

As animals in the sanctuary probably aren't a good idea, we're going to have our Oct. 4 inter-generational church service in Sutherland Hall.

I confess that this will be a new experience for me. I've never led a blessing of the animals, but I'm willing to try new experiences. And a farmer did bring a piglet to church one Sunday several years ago when I was serving in Castine, Maine. The piglet had been born prematurely, and he had it in a blanket and was nursing it with a bottle in the pew, while his wife was nursing their baby girl, Jane. I heard some squealing from that pew and I just thought Jane was simply being a bit noisier than usual. After church I learned that the squeals had come from a pig in a blanket. So I'm not entirely unfamiliar with animals in church.

I'll be talking about Unitarianism on Sunday, Sept. 27, and Universalism on Sunday, Oct. 11. I'll recount a bit of how Unitarians and Universalists came to be, and how the Methodist church helped convert me to Unitarianism and Universalism. This may be a good primer for newcomers, and a refresher for long-time members.

The summer baseball season is heading toward its culmination in the World Series (oddly named, since only U.S. teams, and one Canadian team, are eligible). As I write in September, I can confidently say that the Red Sox will not be in this year's World Series. Although that is a disappointment, it leads me to think about imperfection. In three of the past four seasons the Red Sox have been in last place, but in that other year they won the World Series. Yet to Boston area fans, the Red Sox are heroes. And if a batter hits on base one time out of three, he's a superstar. All people are imperfect, but baseball teaches us that we can strike out two times out of three, and still be pretty darn good. That leads me to my sermon of Oct. 18, which will be on the topic, "The Beauty of Imperfection."

One of my favorite things so far about HUUC is the wonderful music program. Ted Johnson and his music are an inspiration! And we have other fine musicians, including John Chapman and Eleanor Toth, and a wonderful choir. I'm enjoying singing in the choir, and am looking forward to seeing you in church.

~ *Mark*

*Here we are inspired to explore, reflect and grow spiritually ...
Here we are safe to share our deeply held thoughts and values ...*

From the Board

September 2015

The Board has met several times this year and we have been busy developing our team and establishing our 2015-2016 objectives. We welcome our new members to the Board – Paige O’Brien and Steve Farough joining myself, William Kellogg, Kate Stamm and Ginger Kendall. We have a great team and we are looking forward to working together.

This year will be a year of transition. We as a Board are embracing this change and hope that you do as well. As Mark told us this past Sunday, we will Fear Not as we move ahead to determine who we are, how we want to worship together and what is important to us. In this spirit, we have developed the objectives below that will serve as our key areas of focus.

- 1) Embrace our transition year through the support of our Interim Minister Rev. Mark Worth and the ministerial search process. Examine the previous strategic Visioning work as a basis for our discussions.
- 2) Develop and deliver an energizing and enriching UU based Faith Formation program.
- 3) Reorganize and look to simplify the work requirements of the church.
- 4) Help to create a new social justice initiative that can help to foster an important element of our church culture.
- 5) Determine new ways to engage with our community for stewardship and look for financial process improvements

Additionally, an important role the board plays is to serve as liaisons for each of our committees. Please reach out to your liaison to keep them posted on your committees work and when you need Board support.

This year the assignments are:

Paige O’Brien	Buildings and Grounds, Caring, Membership / Welcoming
Steve Farough	Social Action, Green Sanctuary
William Kellogg	Facility Rentals, Financial Planning
Ginger Kendall	Nominating, Stewardship
Kate Stamm	Faith Formation
Tom Daniells	Financial Planning, Music, Faith Formation

In closing for now, we invite you to contact any of us with your ideas, questions or concerns. We are here to serve you and we are looking forward to a very exciting transformative year!

With the Board: Ginger Kendall - Vice President, William Kellogg, Paige O’Brien, Steve Farough and Kate Stamm

Tom Daniells (2014-2016)	978-456-7361	tdaniells@aol.com
Ginger Kendall (2014-2017)	978-456-3747	4kendalls@charter.net
William Kellogg (2014-2017)	978-456-9673	wlkellogg@charter.net
Kate Stamm (2013-2016)	978-456-3431	kstamm@gmail.com
Steve Farough (2015-2018)	978-456-0111	Farough.steve@gmail.com
Paige O’Brien (2015-2018)	978-456-7980	paigeob21@gmail.com

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

The 2015-2016 church school year: a letter to all parishioners

The new church year brings many changes to how our church will be running its programs for youth and children. There are new approaches to organization and leadership, new curricula for the children, and much more.

But let's begin with the foundation of it all: our covenant as a religious community. We hold ourselves, as a community, responsible for the religious education of our children. If ever there was a year for it, in this year of many changes, we fling open the doors of the Fellowship Building, and welcome all parishioners to find that piece of spiritual growth that comes from teaching our children. We welcome parents of school-age children and non-parents alike. Our co-operative program has a role for all of you, be it classroom guest, lesson leader, or volunteer.

So, what's different this year? First, we are operating without a formal Director of Faith Formation (DFF/DRE). This decision was arrived at by leadership of the church, along with veterans of the church school program. While this is partly a result of the unexpected departure of our former DFF, it is also – in fact principally – a deliberate choice that has allowed us to rethink how we run our programs for children and youth.

Organizationally, we have done away with a plethora of prior committees, and replaced them with a single Faith Formation team. The team is charged with implementing the church vision of a continuum of religious education spanning nursery through high school. The team has been meeting all summer to design a fabulous religious education program for our children, and to lay out the specifics of how it will be delivered.

While the team has stepped up to address the educational facets of a DFF/DRE's responsibilities, we have also hired parishioner Lorrie Clark as a Faith Formation administrator to support the team with the nuts and bolts of running the program.

Turning to our educational programs, another change this year is a new breakdown of age groups. To do justice to the actual age distribution of our youth and children, we have added a class for grades 5 and 6 (the Cosmics), and have adjusted the age groupings for the middle- and high-school youth groups.

Butterfly Garden: pre-school through grade 1 (*contact: butterflies@uuharvard.org*)

Rock Garden: grades 2 through 4 (*contact: rocks@uuharvard.org*)

The Cosmics: grades 5 and 6 (*contact: cosmics@uuharvard.org*)

Building Bridges: grades 7 through 9 (*contact: buildingbridges@uuharvard.org*)

SHYG: grades 10 through 12 (*contact: shyg@uuharvard.org*)

So welcome to the new church year. We have wonderful programs for the children, and equally wonderful opportunities for parents and other parishioners who wish to participate in our childrens' spiritual growth. See you in the Fellowship Building!

Adult Faith Formation: “The Bible As They Never Taught It In Sunday School”

Who wrote the Bible? Is Eve the founder of human civilization? Did Moses write about his own death and burial? Was King David gay? Did Solomon really have 700 wives and 300 concubines? In that patriarchal era, did a woman command generals and armies?

Rev. Mark Worth will discuss such questions as he continues to lead an adult class on the Hebrew Bible (or Old Testament) after church on four more Sundays Oct. 4, Oct. 11, Oct. 18, and Nov. 1 (skipping Oct. 25). We'll meet in the Fellowship Building beginning at 11:45 a.m. and end each session at 1:00 p.m. Did you miss the first class? That's okay. Come to the sessions you can attend, and bring a Bible if you wish.

“Sunday Service Squad”

That’s what we’re calling it until *you* come up with a better name to describe the indispensable tasks of Greeter, Usher and Hospitality! We are looking for people to sign-up for these Sunday morning roles. Visit the church website (uuharvard.org) and click the SignUp Genius link. It’s easy! We are also looking for 3 individuals who would enjoy organizing “The Squad”. This rewarding opportunity will have the congregation thanking you over and over again! Call, text or email Paige, (617) 515-9637; paigeob21@gmail.com.

~ The Board

October Birthday Wishes Go To ...

Bodhi	Chadran
John	Chapman
Mitchell	Coonahan
Noah	Dyer
Charles	Gamage
Barbara	Henderson
Warren	Henderson
Rick	Johnson
Caroline	Justicz
Hannah	Keaney
Warren	Laroche
Mary	Niell
David	Oldham
Sally	Steele
Hugh	Stoddart
Eleanor	Toth
Ken	Van Wormer
Camilla	Vilain



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

Our Thanks Go To ...

David Kendall, Bill Cordner, Glen & Pam Frederick, for ongoing B&G help.

From the
Welcome Team



Church Name
Buttons

We thank the members of HUUC for voting to allow the purchase of a new button maker. We are looking forward to putting it to use, so if you have lost yours, have never gotten one or just feel like your current one doesn’t suit you anymore, request a new button! There is a sign-up sheet in the Sanctuary foyer or email your name and preferred theme (or jpg image) to mybutton@uuharvard.org.

Upcoming Potluck, November 8

The next Sunday Potluck will be after the service on November 8. The Building Bridges Youth Group will be coordinating a “Hunger Banquet-style” event in which a few fortunate individuals will enjoy a gourmet feast and everyone else will partake of a meal consisting of the simple offerings of potluck contributions. Stay tuned for more details. If you’d like to be involved in the gourmet meal preparations, please send a message to buildingbridges@uuharvard.org.

~ Cary Browse, Holly Grant, Stacie Green, Pamela Fredrick, Paige O’Brien; members of the Welcome Team

Home Concert

John Chapman and Patty Ruze are presenting another home concert on Friday, September 27 at 4 pm, featuring the Miro Sprague Trio. Miro is recognized as one of the finest jazz pianists and composers of his generation. Tickets are \$25, the event is potluck (drinks provided), and all proceeds support the schools' music programs.



Social Action Committee Suggests October 4th is Loaves and Fishes Sunday

The first Sunday of every month, our church donates food and other necessities to Loaves and Fishes food pantry in Devens. In recent years, we have focused our donations on one type of most needed item per month. For **Sunday, October 4th**, please bring in condiments such as **ketchup, mayonnaise and mustard**. If you have other items you would like to donate, Loaves and Fishes will gratefully accept those as well. Every donation finds a home and your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated.

Please place your donations in the designated baskets in the church's foyer and we will be sure to get your donations to Loaves and Fishes in a timely manner. Questions? Contact Risa Goldman at risajan@aol.com.



Fair Trade Faire

The Women's Alliance and the Social Action Committee will be hosting the 6th annual Fair Trade Faire on Sunday, November 22. It is a festive event celebrating the work of women artisans cooperatives from all over the world and a perfect opportunity for some ethical holiday shopping. Please spread the word! We are seeking help with set-up, break-down and greeting. If you would like to volunteer please contact Paige O'Brien, (617) 515-9637; paigeob21@gmail.com.

Something for everyone in the UUA's monthly congregational bulletin.

Go to this link
<http://www.uua.org/communications/bulletin>
and then click on "Check out the latest edition."

Thanks.

Join the Glean Team!

The Glean Team is a group of more than 60 volunteers whose mission it is to reduce food waste, combat local hunger, raise community awareness and increase the availability of local produce at food pantries. Five days each week we pick up food from Roche Brother's in Acton that would otherwise be thrown away and donate it to Loaves and Fishes food pantry, WHEAT's food pantry in Clinton and Transitions at Devens (a temporary shelter for women and their children). In addition, during the harvest season, we pick up food weekly from Applefield Farm in Stow. We also glean food from fields and orchards whenever we are invited by the local farmers to do so. Gleaning is fun and gives folks a tremendous sense of satisfaction from making a simple yet concrete difference in people's lives. If you would like to join us, go to the church's website (uuharvard.org) and click on Roche Bros. Pick-up to sign up for a shift. If you'd like to get on the Glean Team's email list, contact Risa Goldman at risajan@aol.com and she will make sure you receive notices of all Glean Team activities, including last-minute field gleaning opportunities. Thanks so much!



Recycle Your Reusables Oct. 17th 9:00-2:00
At the Ayer Shirley Middle School
<https://recycleyourreusables.wordpress.com/>



Mark your calendar for October 6

Join us for an informal conversation with Rev. J. Mark Worth -- "Mark" -- , who will be our interim minister for the next two years. He is the son of a Methodist minister, and became a Unitarian Universalist in 1970 when the UU Church in Pittsfield, MA, was running a draft counseling center. Mark wanted to know more about a church that cared about peace, so he started attending and felt at home right away. He owned a natural food store in the '70s and was a high school history teacher in the '80s. He has been a UU minister since 1991, and recently completed a 2-year interim ministry in Westborough. Mark has an apartment in Shrewsbury where he spends the church year. But because his wife lives and works in Maine, he makes sure that he gets home to Maine a few days every month. His wife, "Mickey" (Michelle), is a social worker. They've been married since 1979.

All are welcome to attend the potluck at 6:30 and/or the program at 7:00
Janice Goodell



SHARING OUR PLATE: October

Checks made out to *UU Urban Ministries* and 50% of the cash from the collection plate go to the UUUM.

Since 1834, the UUUM has been providing ministry-at-large to the disadvantaged of Boston, working side-by-side with Boston's urban communities to create opportunities and instill hope for a brighter future. The ministry concentrates primarily in out-of-school-time programming for at-risk youth and shelter for those fleeing domestic violence. They seek to build bridges of understanding and mutuality to foster a human community that is peaceful and just. For more information, go to <http://www.uuum.org/>, or call 617-318-6010, or email rcrocker@uum.org.

-The Social Action Committee
Georgia Sassen, Chair
Pat Westwater-Jong, Chris Ready, Iby Chiquoine,
Nancy Reifenstein

Pot Lucks Planned for 2015-2016

- November 8 (Glean Team)
 - February 14 (Hungarian Brunch)
 - April 10 (Walk For Hunger)
-

Bargains in the Belfry

It's time to clean out closets and think Bargains. Bargains in the Belfry is accepting men's and women's lightly used clothing starting now. Items for consignment or donation may be left, with a note giving your name and phone number, in the church office or outside the Bargains door. The shop will be open each Tuesday 10-4 and the first and third Sundays 11:30-12:30, starting in October. Proceeds from the Shop benefit the church and the community.

In order to keep Bargains open on a regular basis, volunteers are needed for three-hour shifts (10-1 or 1-4) on Tuesdays or two hours (10-12) on Sunday. A commitment for one shift each month or every other month or just now and then would be an enormous help. It is easy work, and offers a wonderful way to meet people and socialize with other volunteers.

Contact Dorothy Solbrig, 978-772-9245, for more information about Bargains in the Belfry.



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: 10/20, 11/17, 12/15, 1/19, 2/16, 3/15, 4/19, 5/17, 6/14

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. Or if you want the list of committee chairs and membership, let me know.

Elinor Stapleton admin@uuharvard.org
978-456-8752

What's Coming Up, Church Events

- Sun. Sept. 20
10:00am Worship Service
Are You a Saint?
Rev. Nannene Gowdy, guest preacher
- Wed. Sept. 23
7:00pm Caring Network meeting
- Sun. Sept. 27
10:00am Worship Service
"Why I'm a Unitarian"
Rev. J. Mark Worth
11:20-11:50 Jr. Choir
11:45-1:00 Adult Faith Formation
- Sun. Oct. 4
10:00am Worship Service
"Blessing the Animals"
Rev. J. Mark Worth
11:30-12:30 Bargains in the Belfry
11:30-1:00 SHYG
11:45-1:00 Adult Faith Formation
- Tue. Oct. 6
10-4 Bargains open
6:30 & 7:30 Potluck & Program
Alliance: Mark Worth
- Thu. Oct. 8
7:30pm Board meeting
- Sun. Oct. 11
10:00am Worship Service
"Why I'm a Universalist"
Rev. J. Mark Worth
11:45-1:00 Adult Faith Formation
- Sun. Oct. 18
10:00am Worship Service
"The Beauty of Imperfection"
Rev. J. Mark Worth
11:30-12:30 BiB
11:30-1:00 SHYG
11:45-1:00 Adult Faith Formation

MUSIC NOTES



Musicians:

Sept. 20- Eleanor Toth, piano
Sept. 27- Choir
Oct. 4- John Chapman, jazz piano
Oct. 11- Choir

Jr. Choir:

A huge welcome to all interested singers from Grades 1-6 to our first Jr. Choir rehearsal on Sunday, Sept. 27 from 11:20- 11:50 in the ee Cummings room of the Fellowship Building. I'd like to hear about your summer. I've noticed how much you all grew in the last few months! Rehearsals will continue through October, except for Oct. 11 (Columbus Day weekend).

Chimers:

We have the luxury of easing back into regular rehearsals. Our first will be Oct. 4, 12 noon in the belfry. We will continue in October with the exception of October 11, Columbus Day. I'll be reaching out to you shortly for confirmation of your participation.

Senior Choir:

What a bonus it is to have our minister, Mark Worth singing with us! We got off to a rousing start last Sunday. Let's keep up the momentum! **We do not rehearse this Thursday, Sept. 17, so we will be able to attend the fabulous Worcester Chamber Music concert in our sanctuary, with special guest Sonya Ovrutsky Fensome (a Harvard resident and internationally acclaimed pianist).** We do rehearse on Sept. 24th, in preparation for singing in the Sept. 27 service. Rehearsals continue biweekly, at 7:30 Thursdays in the sanctuary.

-Eleanor Toth

Other Regular Events 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

Women's Wellness, Sat. once a month, Penny Rosenzweig 508-667-8800

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

Music Lessons, weekday afternoons, Mike Geezil, 978-314-0669

Sanctuary

Harvard Pro Musica community chorus, Tue. evenings Sept.-May, contact Kathy Hewett 978-456-8692 or Eleanor Toth 978-779-2876.

Concerts: *Worcester Chamber Music*, Sept. 17, 2015 and April 15, 2016; *Harvard Pro Musica*, Dec. 5, 2015

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
On the Harvard Common
P.O. Box 217
Harvard, MA 01451
978-456-8752

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