



The

Belfry

January 19th, 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, Jan. 24, 10:00 a.m.

"What's Right With Islam"

Rev. J. Mark Worth

A majority of Americans tell pollsters that they admit to being prejudiced against Islam. At the same time they admit that they know almost nothing about the beliefs of Muslims. Not all Muslims think alike; Islam is as diverse, just as Christianity is diverse. However, Muslims and conservative Christians generally agree on such topics as modesty, alcohol, and family values. This is the first of two sermons on Islam.

Sunday, Jan. 31, 10:00 a.m.

"Islam: Jihad or Reformation?"

Rev. J. Mark Worth

Recent attacks in Paris, and in San Bernardino, CA, have left many people jittery. However, more Americans drown in the bathtub, or are killed by falling furniture, than die in terrorist attacks. In this, the second of two sermons on Islam, Mark will discuss why Islam has such high regard for Jesus, and whether or not a Muslim Reformation is possible.

Sunday, Feb. 7, 10:00

"Season of Hope"

Rev. J. Mark Worth

In the midst of winter snow and darkness, we have entered into a presidential election year. Our endless election campaigns and partisan rancor can cause us to lose hope. It's easy to lose hope, or swing between euphoria and despair. How do we find balance and perspective?

Sunday, Feb. 14, 10:00 a.m.

"Love Your Enemies"

Rev. J. Mark Worth

On Valentine's Day we will be talking about love, but not romantic love. Buddhist authors Sharon Salzberg and Robert Thurman have written from a Buddhist point-of-view about Jesus' command that we love our enemies. We really have two kinds of enemies, they say: our outer enemies, those other people who would harm us – and an inner enemy, our own anger, hatred, fears, and other destructive impulses.

Sunday, Feb. 21, 10:00

Greg Greenway
(Worship Team)

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Mark, My Word

Most Unitarian Universalists today did not grow up as UUs. Most of us were raised in another faith tradition, or no faith tradition. And many of us come into a Unitarian Universalist church a bit uneasy, at least at first.

I was raised Methodist. In terms of alcohol and card-playing, my father, a Methodist minister, was conservative. But in other ways he was progressive: he accepted the science of evolution, admired Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, and once voted for the Socialist candidate for president.

As an adult, I followed my father's progressive politics, but was no longer interested in Methodism. And when I found a Unitarian Universalist church in my early twenties I felt right at home immediately. But I struggled with religious terms, words like God, faith, religion. And I discovered that many of my fellow UUs were also often struggling with such words.

Both the Unitarian and the Universalist churches started out in the Protestant Christian tradition. In the 1800s if you asked a Unitarian, "Are you a Christian?" the answer was, "Of course I'm a Christian! I'm a Unitarian." But today many would say, "Of course not! I'm a UU."

Today, while some UUs consider themselves to be Christian, the majority of UUs do not. So what do we do about words like God, faith, religion, grace, church, ministry, etc? We have been known to discuss, for instance, whether we want to have a Religious Education program, or a Faith Formation program. What do those words mean to us?

One of the most helpful books I was assigned in seminary was Metaphorical Theology by Sallie McFague. An understanding of the shifting nature of language underlies McFague's theology. She says that all of the most effective and useful religious terms are metaphors. All good metaphors have the qualities of "is" and "is not" at the same time: the arm of a chair both is an arm, and is not an arm. Likewise, McFague says, "God the Father" is a perfectly good metaphor, as long as we remember it is a metaphor, not a literal statement. God "is" and "is not" a father at the same time. And if we can say "God the Father," we should also be able to say, "God the Mother." And we should also remember that the word "God" is also a metaphor for an idea, a creative process, or a "ground of reality," that we have no truly adequate words for.

Joseph Campbell's "Power of Myth" series on PBS was also helpful. The story of Adam and Eve is a myth, Campbell said. But, he added, "A myth is not a lie. It is a classic story that tells us a truth about the human situation."

Over the years, as I have understood religious terms as a combination of myth and metaphor, I've become able to use terms like God, ministry, grace, etc., with growing comfort. When I say "God," I'm not talking about an old bearded man in the sky. And when I say that the job of the church is "ministry," I am talking about service, how we all minister to one another and the community, and not just what the "minister" gets paid to do.

-- *Mark*

Board Report January 2016

The Board wishes you a very happy new year! Embracing our transition year

- ♦ As promised, we are beginning our calls to all of you to get your nominations for the Search Committee (SC). We are also going to ask you if you would serve if asked. It is a very rewarding and important position for the future of our Church. Also, keep in mind that this position has a finite commitment of about 15 months. Here are a few FAQ's to help you better understand what the responsibilities are for those on the Search Committee.
 - * *How many people will be on the SC?* We are looking to have a total of five - six members of our church on our SC.
 - * *How will the SC be formed?* These individuals will be nominated by you and as per our bylaws, they will be elected from the top nominees by secret ballot at a special general meeting.
 - * *What is the process that the SC will be following to find the next minister?* The process is very well developed and will last about fifteen months. The rest of this church year the SC will be working to gather feedback from the congregation with surveys and small group meetings to determine what qualities we are looking for in a called minister. They will also be working with the website committee to get our new website in tip top shape to help us attract the candidates through this important communication tool. Next year, they will begin to sift through interested ministers to determine who they would like to put in to the interview process. From there, there will be meetings and visits to listen to them preach at neutral pulpits and the selection process itself. Finally the SC makes a recommendation to the congregation and a final vote is conducted. If the candidate receives the required number of votes, the congregation has called our next minister!
 - * *Will there be anyone there to help us?* We have a Ministerial Settlement Representative (MSR) assigned to us, her name is Toby Smith. She is here to help us through the process.
 - * *How much time commitment will be required?* It is expected that four - six hours per week will be required.
- ♦ Paige O'Brien will be the Board's representative to help form a team to develop our new website. This process will be made much simpler as we will be using a WordPress UUA template. If you would like to be a part of this team, please contact Paige.

Faith Formation

- ♦ The FF team will be discussing the possibility of a Director of Faith Formation to start before the end of the church year. The key to this position will be a clearly defined role and responsibilities and how this position will interact with our FF committees.

Financial Health

- ♦ Our Stewardship campaign has achieved about \$175,000 in pledges and gifts. This is \$15,000 short of our goal of \$190,000. There are two ways you can help us close this gap.
 - * If you have not pledged or can pledge a bit more your consideration is greatly appreciated.
 - * If you did not include your contribution to the national and regional UUA as part of your pledge, please consider doing this. About 40% of our members included a pledge of \$82 per person in addition to their annual pledge. This contribution goes to the UUA to support the great work that our movement conducts at the national and regional levels. While this is optional, if we can get most of our members to pledge this UUA contribution will mean an additional \$8000 for our church. If you would like to do this, please send your check to our church office to Elinor Stapleton's attention or simply drop it in to the plate on Sunday. Thanks for your consideration!

The month ahead will be very exciting as our Search Committee will begin to take shape. We look forward to next steps as part of this process.

For the Board, Tom Daniells

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

Building Use calendar
for February here in paper version.

Electronic version: see attached
weekly calendar as pdf.

Sunday Morning Volunteers

In the past we have randomly assigned Sunday morning volunteer duties to parishioners on the active Church membership list. There are many people who want to stay on this list but don't attend Sunday morning services or are unable to participate. Several people didn't receive emails from Sign Up Genius, which lead to unfilled positions on some Sunday mornings. In an effort to improve the process, we are asking all parishioners who are able to volunteer to sign themselves up for the dates and positions they are able to do. Thank you to everyone who has signed up to help on Sunday mornings to Greet, Usher and provide Hospitality. We still have *many* slots to fill, including a greeter for this Sunday and help with hospitality for the next two Sundays. Signing-up is easy! Simply go to our church website (<http://uuharvard.org/>) and click on "Volunteer for Sunday morning activities". Please contact Leslie Neville with any questions. ldneville4@gmail.com.

We are still in need of at least two people to be part of the Sunday Morning Organizing Group. Please contact Paige O'Brien, paigeob21@gmail.com, if you are interested, or have any questions/suggestions.

Loaves and Fishes Thanks You!

Thank you so much for donating to the Loaves and Fishes "*Shop for Your Kids Day*" event, the "*Shop for Your Parents*" event and for donating food for the Christmas holiday. All in all, Loaves and Fishes was able to give 258 families full Christmas dinners, 504 children received gifts and 250 children shopped for their parents. That is a lot of people who had happier holidays because we helped out. Patty Stern, the director of Loaves and Fishes asked that her personal thanks be passed along to the HUUC congregation. Together, with many other churches, organizations and individuals, we were able to provide hope to people who sometimes have very little. Thank you again.

An Exploration of 400 Years of Opera

What is it—music, poetry, theater? Principal opera themes from Orfeo (Monteverdi) to La Boheme (Puccini). Some great composers: Gluck, Mozart, Verdi, Puccini. Presented by Otto Solbrig. Hosted by Dorothy Solbrig. Alliance Tue. Feb. 2nd 6:30 & 7:30 p.m. Potluck & Program.

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

Grateful for Your Fair Trade Faire Help

On behalf of the Women's Alliance and Social Action Committee, thank YOU for your outpouring of support for our 6th annual Fair Trade Faire on November 22. It was a very successful event as we were sold out for vendor spaces and had a constant flow of shoppers from start to finish! Vendor fees and raffled ticket sales raised over \$500 to go towards the HUUC operating budget. We'd like to give special gratitude to the following folks who helped us out immensely: Set Up - Eric Broadbent, Glen & Pam Frederick. Raffle Sales - Tara Schuren, Leslie Neville. Break Down - Kate Stamm, Holly Grant, Tim Clark, Didi Chadran. (And thanks, Didi, for your in-the-moment social media prowess!) Well done, everyone and thanks!
-Paige O'Brien, Coordinator

February Birthday Wishes Go To ...

Aidan	Aciukewicz
Wendy	Bell
Jim	Clark
Teddy	Coffin
Ella	Corbett
Sam	Dyer
Erika	Krause
Ann	Mallinson
Gunars	Medjanis
Chris	Ready
Hannah	Stamm



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

Coming Soon:

The Auction!

Our theme this year is

Building Fellowship

And the date is

March 5, 2016

***Be creative, involve your kids,
join with others in the fun of
creating an event, or a party,
or something new and different!***

***And look for a new way to have
some fun – coming next week!!***

Donation and reservation forms
are now in the foyer and on line.

Donation forms are due February 7
So get those creative juices flowing.

Helping People Care for Themselves on Valentine's Day



As has become an annual tradition, the children in Faith Formation would like to provide everyone who visits Loaves and Fishes during the week of Valentine's Day with a complete set of personal hygiene products. The children will decorate and pack these Valentine's Day bags on **February 7th** so please bring in your donation on or before that date. A list of suggested items to give to men, women and children is below. Please leave your donation in the marked box in the church's foyer and thank you in advance for your participation...

Body wash
Soap
Shampoo
Conditioner
Deodorant
Emery boards
Chap stick
Disposable razors
Shaving cream
Hand lotion
Body lotion
Comb
Cough drops
Toothbrush
Toothpaste
Pocket size tissues

Congratulations to Meghan Neville!

Sixth grader Meghan Neville auditioned and has been accepted into the Unitarian Universalist Children's Choir for the choir camp this July in Madison, Wisconsin. She joins 30 other young singers from all over the United States who will have this marvelous musical experience. The choir will be under the direction of Emily Ellsworth, nationally recognized as a leader in the choral field. Emily has served as Artistic Director of ANIMA – Young Singers of Greater Chicago since 1996.

The UU Children's Choir is an event that happens every three years, in conjunction with General Assembly, or as in the last camp and this one, joined with the UU Musician's Network Conference. In addition to spending their five days singing and presenting concerts, the youth enjoy a field trip and some joint activities with the attendees of the Musicians Network conference. Meghan will soon receive the music that she will learn before July. Hopefully we can get together with another singer in the Boston area before July. In addition to making wonderful music, the big bonus from this event will be living with other UU youth for five days, and strengthening that UU identity. I look forward to sharing some mutually exciting workshops with Meghan in Madison, as well as hearing her choir's music.

You may see notices of fund raising activities in the next few months to help Meghan pay her way to Madison!

-Eleanor Toth

February Sharing Our Plate goes to Partner Church Council, please make your checks out to "HUUC" with "Partner Church Council" on the memo line. Thanks.

Mary Donald for the Partner Church:

In the 15 hundreds Francis David was involved in a debate with the other three "received" religions Catholic, Lutheran and Calvinist. After the debate king Sigismund declared himself to be Unitarian and that "Faith is the gift of God" and there should be no further persecution based on religion.

Unfortunately shortly afterword king Sigismund died. He was followed by Stephen Bathore, a Catholic who proscribed further innovation but David continued to preach that Jesus was not a God but a prophet. He was imprisoned in Deva where he died later that year. Afterwards followed 300 years of reprisals and persecution.

Following World War I the Hungarian plateau was ceded to Romania and so the Transylvanian churches are ethnically Hungarian.

The "sister church " Association first began in the 1920s but it fell to disarray when the depression, followed by World War II, followed by Ceaucescu's oppression held sway. Since the assassination of Ceaucescu on Christmas Day in 1989 the "sister", now partner, church organization has recovered.

We have been partnered with a church in Andrasfalva, Romania since 1993. We have seen the building of that church which is shared jointly with the reformed church since 1995. It is a small church only four square walls and pews. No bell or running water and the minister, Istvan Berei, lives in the next village. (*See his letter in the next column.*)

It is a two-way street we are fortunate that we can give money to them at this time, but they have a resiliency and energy that we cannot but admire. (The jackets on our hymn books are from the Andrasfalva church.)

They open their hearts and welcome us to their community. Go to Unitarian Universalist partner church council pilgrimage opportunities. (There is a mouthwatering walking trip through Unitarian heartland August 6-20. Registration deadline is May) but first there is the Hungarian brunch on February fourteenth 2016!

Communication from our Partner Church

Hello

We are fine and dont worry, here we dont have problems with the migrants.

We are happy because the things are get normally in your congregation, and we would like to thanks all you are doing for us.

The economy here it is down, and in the congregation we have financial problems, the people, can not effort all there needs, and the church is the last, where they are paying the annual tax.

We have the hope, and this is the most important, that the thinks will change in a good way.

I am not getting mounthly the salary, what is 400\$, with taxes and medical care health tax, but I hope that to the end of the year something will change. We hope that you all are well, and also we hope that you will visit us.

Good luck in the elections with votes, and to be how you want to be.

Istvan

Save the Date! Partner Church Potluck Brunch, Sunday, February 14, 11:15 a.m.



What better way to show Valentine's love and support for our Transylvanian sister church than with our annual Hungarian brunch! Buy your paprika and start thinking about recipes. Mark your calendars and plan to gather after the service in honor of our friends in Andreeni, Romania. If you would like to help with set-up or clean-up, please contact Paige O'Brien, paigeob21@gmail.com.



Save the Date! Church Auction: March 5, 2016

**Blood Drive in the Fellowship Building
Sat. Jan. 30th 9:00-2:00**
Organized by Bromfield Seniors

Our Thanks Go To ...

Leslie Neville, Chuck McCormack & Alice Rennie, Ruth Silman & Tim Clark, O'Chadran Family, Charles & SusanMary Redinger, Nancy Meyer & Dick Case, Risa Goldman, Georgia Sassen & Li Liang, Kate Deyst, Brint Ferguson, Willie Wickman, Teddy Coffin, Heidi Bachmann, Darrell Wickman and Imre Toth for signing up to help on various Sunday mornings.

Ibby Chiquioine for help with the OOS and Belfry.

(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.)

Transitions at Devens Thanks You!

A great big thank you goes out to everyone who donated Shaws Supermarket stamps to the Glean Team so we could exchange them for Cuisinart utensils and cutlery for the families at Transitions at Devens. We were able to collect a total of 350 stickers and exchange those for two full sets of cutlery (20 pieces each) and one paring knife. The director was thrilled with our donation and so very much appreciated it. Thank you again!

– Risa, Cary, Ellen and Lisa, Glean Team Co-chairs

Pot Lucks Planned for 2015-2016

- February 14 (Hungarian Brunch)
 - April 10 (Walk For Hunger)
 - June 12 (The Board)
-

Classical Guitar Concert

**February 28, 3 p.m.
In our sanctuary**

The Music Committee is pleased to sponsor a fabulous classical guitar concert by Berit Strong and friends. Joining Berit are 15 year old Andrew Hill, a Harvard resident and grandson of Nancy Peters, who is a professional harpist and pianist known to many of us, as well as the Metrowest Guitar Ensemble. Music by Bach, Telemann, Sanz, Mertz, Tarrega, Davies, Villa-Lobos and Tedesco will be featured. Berit has performed on NPR, in Europe and eastern U.S professionally for 30 years, taught at Boston Conservatory, Bridgewater State University, and Indian Hill.



Admission fee will be \$15.00 at the door.
-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

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

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: *Worcester Chamber Music*, April 15; 2016. *Harvard Pro Musica*, April 30, 2016

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. Jan. 24
10:00am Worship Service
"What's Right With Islam"
Rev. J. Mark Worth
- Tue. Jan. 26
10-4 Bargains in the Belfry open
- Wed. Jan. 27
7:00pm Caring Network mtg.
- Thu. Jan. 28
7:15pm Welcome Team mtg.
- Sat. Jan. 30
9:00-2:00 Blood Drive sponsored by
Red Cross, organized by Bromfield
seniors, in our Fellowship Building
- Sun. Jan. 31
10:00am Worship Service
"Islam: Jihad or Reformation?"
Rev. J. Mark Worth
- Tue. Feb. 2
10-4 Bargains open
6:30 & 7:30 Potluck & Program, Alliance
An exploration of 400 years of opera
- Sun. Feb. 7
10:00am Worship Service
"Season of Hope"
Rev. J. Mark Worth
- Thu. Feb. 11
7:15-9:15pm Board mtg.
- Sun. Feb. 14
10:00am Worship Service
"Love Your Enemies"
Rev. J. Mark Worth
All Church Pot Luck Hungarian Brunch
- Mon. Feb. 15
Office Closed
- Tue. Feb. 16
Belfry deadline
10-4 Bargains open

MUSIC NOTES



Musicians:

January 24- Choir
January 31- John Chapman, jazz piano; Helen
Batchelder, vocals
February 7- Choir
February 14- John Chapman, jazz piano
February 21- Greg Greenway, folksinger

Jr. Choir:

Thank you for the wonderful singing for the Martin
Luther King service!

We will be rehearsing at 11:20 in the ee cummings
room on January 24, 31 and February 7, preparing to
sing at the Hungarian luncheon on February 14. On
Feb 14 we will meet briefly at 11:20 in the
ee cummings room to review our songs before
presenting them in Sutherland Hall. We will not meet
on Feb. 21, the end of vacation week. Happy vacation!

Chimers:

We continue to meet at noon for rehearsals on Jan. 24,
31 and February 7. We'll take Feb. 14th off for the
Hungarian lunch, but resume on Feb. 21. Plan to be
ready to chime in the service on February 28. Your
team work is appreciated!

Sr. Choir:

Ted will alert you to a few changes to the choir
schedule. We are singing in the service on Jan. 24th
and February 7, so there will be Thursday rehearsals
on Jan. 21 and Feb. 4. Stay tuned for our altered plans
for Music Sunday on April 17- performing *Missa
Gaia!*

-Eleanor Toth

Bargains in the Belfry

The sales continue at Bargains. Everything marked with a green dot is 20% off, while everything with a red dot is 10% off. In keeping with our winter weather, there are plentiful warm sweaters and jackets, plus a special item, a woman's floor length woolen cape. There are lots of slacks, both for business wear and for more casual events, plus lots of dungarees, just right for when you are shoveling snow. There is also some sparkling, sequined evening wear. Bargains is open Tuesday's from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm, and also Sunday February 7 and 21. Items are still being accepted for consignment and can be taken to Bargains during the hours open.

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