



The

Belfry

March 20th, 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...

March 24th 2013

10:00 a.m.

"Spring Cleaning"

On this first Sunday of Spring, we reflect on the process of simplifying our lives in order to rediscover our sense of purpose.

March 31st, 2013 Easter Sunday

Two Services



9:30 a.m. Family Service

11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

Choir singing

April 7th 2013

10:00 a.m.

Our Annual Senior High Youth Service!

We will explore comfort and safety.

April 14th, 2013

10:00 a.m.

"Help, Thanks, Wow!"

This morning we reflect on what author Anne Lamott considers to be "three essential prayers."

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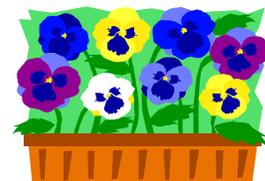
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Alliance Program

April 2nd 6:30 p.m.

The Healing Gardens

The Healing Garden is dedicated to providing therapeutic services, educational programs, and a community of support to facilitate the healing process for people affected by cancer. Come and hear what's happening.



The Belfry is published once a month: the third Tuesday. Deadline for copy is 9:00 a.m. the day before.

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“From the Hearth”

As many of you know by now, much beloved Harvard Elementary School teacher BarbaraAnn Gould died unexpectedly this past weekend. A memorial service to honor her life will be held in our sanctuary this coming Saturday, March 23, at 10:30 a.m.

Many of you are no doubt struggling with the news of this tragic loss. Perhaps your children were among those many hundreds of students who had Ms. Gould as a teacher over the last 20 years. Perhaps you were a friend or co-worker. In the words of Howard Thurman...

*I share with you the agony of your grief,
The anguish of your heart finds echo in my own.
I know I cannot enter all you feel
Nor bear with you the burden of your pain;
I can but offer what my love does give:
The strength of caring,
The warmth of one who seeks to understand
The silent storm-swept barrenness of so great a loss.
This I do in quiet ways,
That on your lonely path
You may not walk alone.*

The death of a beloved person in our lives is seldom easy to accept, but when it comes suddenly its impact can feel devastating. There is no warning, no chance to say good-bye or make amends or ask or offer forgiveness. There is no time to express our appreciation or gratitude. We can feel shock and disbelief, numbness and denial.

For young children, a sudden death sometimes provides a first uncomfortable lesson that bad things can happen without warning. Part of their grief, in addition to sadness, is often expressed as fear or anxiety that something similarly alarming and unpredictable could happen to other people that they love, too.

As you cope with this loss and as you help your children cope with it as well, remember that everyone grieves differently. For example, some of us need to talk, others to write our feelings down in a journal, others do best spending time alone outdoors. The same is true for our children. There is no one right way to grieve. Whatever your preferred style of grieving, please don't hesitate to reach out to a friend, a counselor, or, of course, to me.

I leave you with this touchstone – part of a beautiful poem by John O'Donohue called “On the Death of the Beloved:”

*Let us not look for you only in memory,
Where we would grow lonely without you.
You would want us to find you in presence,
Beside us when beauty brightens,
When kindness glows
And music echoes eternal tones.*

*When orchids brighten the earth,
Darkest winter has turned to spring;
May this dark grief flower with hope
In every heart that loves you.*

(Continued from previous page)

*May you continue to inspire us:
To enter each day with a generous heart.
To serve the call of courage and love...*

Wishing you peace, with love, and in faith,
Rev. Wendy

SHARING OUR PLATE April

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.)

March 31 and April 7 WHEAT

The money from Sharing our Plate will be used to help support our church's commitment to cooking and serving food once a month at the Community Cafe in Clinton. **Please make checks out to HUUC with WHEAT written in the memo line.**

The Community Cafe is a project of WHEAT Community Services which opened its doors in 1982 to families and individuals who face homelessness, food insecurity, and other economical and personal challenges. In 2012, WHEAT merged with the United Way of Tri-County.

If anyone is interested in cooking or serving at the Community Cafe on April 7, please contact Susie Macrae at susiemac@charter.net.

April 14, 21, 28 Growing Places Garden Project

In April that charity will be the Growing Places Garden Project **Please make checks payable to "GPGP"**.

Growing Places Garden Project. This non-profit founded in Harvard fights food insecurity in low-income households. GPGP donates gardens and provides support services to enable people to grow fresh vegetables, herbs and edible flowers for themselves and their loved ones. For more information regarding GPGP, please call 978-598-3723 or visit <http://www.growingplaces.org/>

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.

UU 101: April 7th

UU 100 is a great way to learn more about this church, its rich history, and how it "works"; there will be a brief introduction to Unitarian Universalism; and we will spend some time sharing the stories of our spiritual journeys.

We'll meet on Sunday, April 7th in Rev. Wendy's office from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.. A light lunch will be served and childcare is available with prior notice.



If you have not done so already, please let us know if you plan to attend. Please response by the end of March so that we can arrange for food and child care. Do you have any questions? Please call Cary Browse, 978-456-8160.

Potluck Signups - online!

There are three more 2nd Sunday Potlucks 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 the date you want--April 14; May 12; 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

Children and Youth Programming News

On March 10, 2013, volunteers in the children's and youth programs gathered for Volunteer Enrichment, and I wanted to share my reflection, "Mud-luscious and Puddle-wonderful," on teaching as a spiritual practice with the larger congregation.

Mud-luscious and Puddle-wonderful: Teaching as a Spiritual Practice

One Sunday, leading a group of kindergarten and first graders, word came that the church service was "running long" and we should expect to keep the kids for another 15-20 minutes. Well, we had exhausted all the activities we had planned for that day, and you can probably imagine us facing a tiny room crammed with squirmy 5-and-6 year olds who were, how shall we say it, DONE. In what was either a flash of teaching inspiration, divine intervention, or sheer addle-brained desperation, I asked the kids: "Where's your favorite place at church?"

The kids plunked down on the floor like teens at a slumber party. Some on their backs, some on their stomachs, chins resting on hands, they started talking. Not answering in a tell-the-grownup-what-she-wants-to-hear way, but actually talking. "Oh, the Parish House porch is the best for spying," answered one. "I love playing Pokemon with the older kids in the parlor," said another. "Laying in the pew and looking out the big windows," said a third. They sounded like a bunch of 6 year-olds shooting the breeze. They talked and laughed, asked each other questions, joked around.

It was one of the most spiritual experiences of disappearing I have ever had. I was in a classroom of kids who felt truly, deeply safe. I was seeing authentic selves interacting with each other. It was a teacher's holy grail: The Teachable Moment, only the kids were teaching me, leading me into the presence of the holy.

I believe that teaching is, at its core, a spiritual activity. Parker Palmer said: "As I teach, I project the condition of my soul onto my students, my subject, and our way of being together." In the language of education, the goal of spiritual teaching could be said to be to help students live lives of meaning and purpose. Some of the instructional objectives could be the acquisition of certain values and ethics, or understanding and applying the 7 UU Principles. We are trying help people lead the best lives they can. This is what Wendy does from the pulpit, and what we are asking you to do in the classrooms (although unlike Wendy's flock, yours doesn't pretend to be interested when they are not).

In big church, the readings, hymns and Wendy's sermon comprise the lesson. In the classroom, we have the lesson plan, the storybook, the skit, the craft, the song, etc. But these are neither the only – nor even primary – ways we transmit the values, ethics, and knowledge of what it means to live as a UU, to embody Unitarian Universalism. The authors of the book "Engaging Transcendence" write:

Often we want to "give the ocean" to [the] children, when splashing in the puddle is enough. ... In our hurry to communicate our faith [using] words, ... we may fail to engage children in those common mud-puddle experiences where God is most visible: hearing a story, baking bread, sharing a donut, going for a walk. These are the simple ways by which adults nurture and tend to the religious experiences of children.

(Continued on next page)

Children and Youth Programming News

Isn't it possible that things that look like puddles to us, may actually be the ocean for our kids? Creating a place for a child who doesn't fit in at his or her school, neighborhood or household transforms both that child and the entire religious community. Acceptance, affirmation, connectedness and belonging can be oases to people of all ages. Modeling healthy relationships – those that are both bonded and differentiated – is a spiritual gift that will serve children throughout their lifetimes. Freedom from judgment, assessment, and perfectionism is a puddle that beckons respite from school. Nurturing creativity and flexibility may help our children navigate conflict with grace and humility.

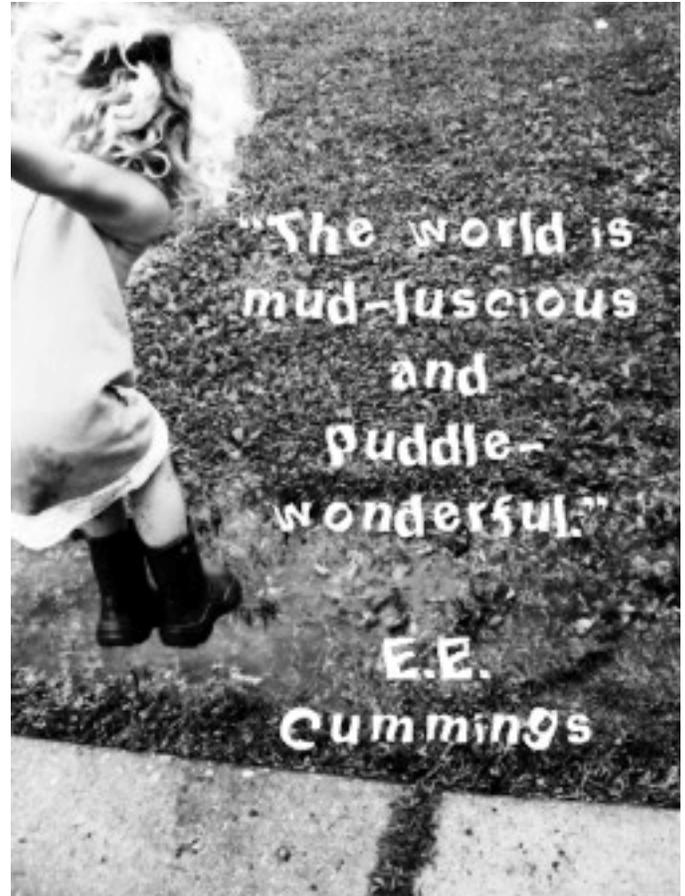
And our children offer us puddles that can nurture our spiritual lives as well. Some of our children shared their images God with Betsy Williams. "What's God's real name?" asked one, and "God is like the 500th dimension," said another. Milo told me that a costume of God would be "A giant tree on my head, and all dressed in green," as if this was the most obvious answer. Their responses point us toward deep springs of curiosity, creativity, and innovation. Author Sally Pratt believes that many children act out to protect their own dignity, which invites us into some pretty exciting dialogue with our first principle. After hearing my sermon on prison ministry, Bodhi kept a small pebble in his shoe for a week: a puddle of risk-taking and trust. From our pre-K children to our high school seniors, our kids serve others with enthusiasm and delight. They inhabit a world where playfulness and heart-break, generosity and longing, impulse and grit ripple across the same puddle, sometimes in quick succession. It's been my experience that watching, listening, and feeling for these moments has become a sustaining spiritual practice.

The children in my former K-1 class are now middle schoolers. When they were 7 and 8, some of those girls started a Children's Church Club, completely on their own. The current Church Club kids now meet in the old Women's Alliance Room every Sunday during coffee hour, and will not be budged from the spot. What do you dream the children and youth of this congregation are telling and will tell about this place and their time here? And what stories do you yearn to tell of your time as a volunteer with children and youth?

In the early 19th century, Unitarian theologian and preacher William Ellery Channing said: "The great end in religious instruction is to awaken the soul, to excite and cherish spiritual life ... not to stamp our minds on the young, but to stir up their own; not to give them a definite amount of knowledge, but to inspire a fervent love of truth; . . . not to form an outward regularity, but to touch inward springs."

May these dreams sprout roots to hold us close, and wings to set us free. Go forth and splash in the puddles. Amen and blessed be.

Melinda W. Green
March 10, 2013,
Volunteer Enrichment Gathering



The Glean Team and Transitions at Devens Thanks You!

For several months, the members of our church and members of the Glean Team have been collecting Donelan's stickers for the purpose of exchanging them for Cuisinart appliances. Well, we have done it. We collected over 1,300 stickers and exchanged them for 13 4-cup coffee-makers which will go to women who are leaving Transitions at Devens and moving into their own homes. This was \$455 worth of coffee-makers that we were able to donate – a true community effort! Thank you all for coming together as a group and making this happen.



If you would like to participate more in the Glean Team's efforts, we are currently looking for members to pick up food at Roche Bros. in Acton that would otherwise go to waste, including produce, prepared foods and milk. Pick-ups are at 9:00 am, M-F and the food is delivered to Loaves and Fishes, Transitions at Devens or WHEAT in Clinton, depending upon the day.

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. – Risa, Cary, Ellen & Lisa, Glean Team Co-chairs

From the Partner Church, Istvan writes:

"Dear Mary
We would like to thank you all, your financial support, we will fix this year the gate of Magyarandrásfalva church. We wish that God bless you all, for your goodness.

István"

-Mary Donald

Social Action Committee Suggests, April 7, 2013 The Numbers Tell Loaves and Fishes Story...

- ♦ There has been a 42% increase in families since 2007
- ♦ 897 families visited the food pantry in 2012
- ♦ 274 of these families were new

If you are able, please bring in **canned fruits** such as pineapples and pears (without heavy syrup) for **Sunday, April 7th**. You may leave your donation in one of the Loaves and Fishes baskets in the foyer of the sanctuary. Questions? Contact Risa Goldman at risajan@aol.com

Concerts at the Common Sunday, April 21, 4 p.m. Pre-concert talk at 3:30 In our sanctuary

Presents Worcester Chamber Music Society, With Breath and Bow. Eight fabulous musicians will present Two Songs by Brahms; Quintet for Flute and String Quartet by Piston; String Quintet in C by Mozart. Check out the web site <http://www.worcesterchambermusic.org>

Tickets- \$25, Seniors (65 and older) -\$20, Students (18 and younger)-\$15

Tickets available at the door and at <http://concerts-at-the-common-eorg.eventbrite.com/>.

Or Eleanor Toth eltoth@verizon.net or 978-779-2876.

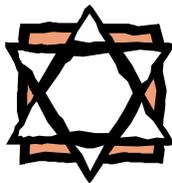
Eleanor Toth, and the C@C Committee

This concert is supported in part by a grant from the Harvard Cultural council, a local agency that is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural council, a state agency

*Here we respect our diversity and seek to understand our differences ...
And here we respect the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.*

**SAVE THE DATE – ANNUAL
FAMILY
PASSOVER SEDER**

Our annual **Family Passover Seder** will be held on **Friday, March 29 from 6:30-9:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Building, and is open to all members of our community, young and old alike. You may be an experienced Seder-goer or first timer – all are encouraged to attend!



The Passover Seder remembers the story of liberation of the ancient Hebrews from slavery in Egypt – a great struggle for freedom and dignity. We come together at the Seder to remember all people who have struggled, and continue to struggle, for human freedom.

We hope you will join us this year! The Seder includes stories, music and a potluck dinner. Please bring a main dish, side dish or dessert – plan to bring enough to serve 8-10 persons. Come enjoy delicious matzoh ball soup (chicken and vegetarian) prepared by our Middle School Youth Group! You can register on line at <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/5891412373> or sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary.

If you would like recipes or potluck suggestions and/or are willing to lend us a helping hand, please contact Ruth Silman – 978-456-9115 or rsilman@nixonpeabody.com.

Facilities Rental Guide

A new section has been recently added to the church website-Facilities Rentals <http://uuharvard.org> This section includes information for those considering use of our buildings for their event, class, function, or gathering. It includes details about the actual spaces, the guidelines for use, renter's responsibilities, as well as the process for renting. Our beautiful sanctuary and Fellowship Building are delightful spaces for rites of passage, family gatherings, and larger community events. Please consider suggesting our facilities to friends and colleagues looking for a special venue.

*-Jeff & Deborah Levering,
Building Use Managers 978-456-1299*

Walk for Hunger -- May 5, 2013

There are three ways to be part of the Harvard Hunger Resistance Movement this year -- choose one or all three!



1. Join our team and walk with us. You don't have to do all 20 miles. Go to www.projectbread.com, and follow instructions for joining a team. Look for us the Harvard Hunger Resistance Movement.
2. Sponsor our team. Go to www.projectbread.com, on the left hand side click on Walk for Hunger, and then donate to a team and find the Harvard Hunger Resistance Movement. Thanks!
3. Welcome the walkers with a celebratory potluck at the Fellowship Building. Contact Kate Stamm if you would like to help kstamm6@gmail.com.

Thanks,
Susie Macrae

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)

April Birthday Wishes Go To:

Paul Quinlan Bartlett
Scot Broadbent
Cary Browse
Didi Chadran
Nicky Chapman
Bob Cleary
Colin Cleary
Lynn Crowley
Becca Day-Newsham
Steve Farough
Kirsti Gamage
Peter Jorrens
Jeff Levering
Naomi Newell
Pat Riemitis
Connie Schwarzkopf
Keiron Stoddart
Rebecca Wright



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

Photo Directories are in!

Copies of the new church photo directories are available for all members and active friends; one copy per family. Please pick up your copy at church on Sunday, or during Elinor's office hours.

If you will not be able to come for your copy, or if you don't see an envelope with your name, please contact Cary Browse to make other arrangements. [cbrowse@earthlink.net]

Sunday Help

You can swap dates and sign up from our church website <http://uuharvard.org> (click on the link for Sunday Morning Volunteers).

3/24/2013

Welc & Ann: Rebecca Wright
Greeters: Imre & Eleanor Toth
Ushers: Chuck Agosta & Lucy McQuilken
Chancel:
Hospitality: Rebecca Wright & Kate Jones

3/31/2013 Easter Sunday (two services)

9:30 a.m.

Ushers: Kate Deyst, Nancy Meyer
Greeters: Sarah Graffam, Dick Case
Hospitality: Nancy Reifenstein, Cary Browse
11:00 a.m.

Ushers: Michael McGinnis
Greeters: Betsy Williams

4/7/2013

Welc & Ann:
Greeters: Marie Sobalvarro
Ushers: Chris Ready
Chancel:
Hospitality: Fifi & Audrey Ball, Edie Joyce & William Kellog

4/14/2013

Welc & Ann:
Greeters: Cary Browse
Ushers: Rebecca Wright
Chancel:
POTLUCK: Set up: Charles Redinger; Clean up: Charles & SusanMary Redinger

Annual Reports are Due Monday May 6th

Please send completed reports to admin@uuharvard.org. An attached Word file works best. Any committee chairs who want a file of their committee's report from last year, please ask Elinor: admin@uuharvard.org. Thanks.

The Annual Meeting is Sunday May 19th after the Worship Service.

What's Coming Up, Church Events

Sat. March 23
5:00 p.m. HUUC Dinner & Auction

Sun. March 24
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
"Spring Cleaning"

Tue. March 26
10-4 Bargains in the Belfry open

Fri. March 29
6:00 p.m. Seder, in Fellowship Building

Sun. March 31
Easter
9:30 a.m. Family Service, followed by Egg Hunt
on the Common
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
Choir singing

Tue. Apr. 2
10-4 Bargains in the Belfry open
6:30 p.m. Alliance Potluck & Program
The Healing Gardens

Sun. Apr. 7
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
Our Annual Senior High Youth Service!
Bargains in the Belfry open

Tue. Apr. 9
10-4 Bargains in the Belfry open

Wed. Apr. 10
7:30 p.m. Board Mtg.

Sun. Apr. 14
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
"Help, Thanks, Wow!"
Potluck

Regular Church Meetings Sept. - June

Sunday 11:20-11:50 Jr. Choir rehearsal
12:00-1:00 Chimers rehearsal, choir loft

Tuesday 10:00-4:00 Bargains in the Belfry open

First Tue. 6:30 Alliance supper & 7:30 Program

Every other first Wed. Welcome Team, 7:00 p.m.

Second Wed. 7:30-9:30 Board

Fourth Wed. 7:30 p.m. Caring Network

Every other Thu: 7:30-9:30 p.m. Sr. Choir

Second Sundays after worship: All Church Potluck

First Sundays: afternoon prepare meal for WHEAT

First & Third Sundays 11:30-1:00: SHYG

First & Third Sundays 11:00-Noon Bargains open

MUSIC NOTES

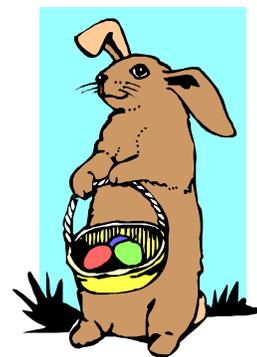


Musicians:

March 24- John Chapman, jazz pianist
March 31- Easter- Jr. and Sr. Choir
April 7- Youth
April 14- Choir
April 21- Choir and chamber orchestra- Five Mystical Songs

Jr. Choir:

We have one more Sunday to rehearse our Easter song before the service on March 31. Please do come to rehearsal at 11:20 next week. On Easter Sunday we will meet at 9:00 a.m. to warm up our voices and practice with Ted before the early service. After our service is the egg hunt on the common!



Regular rehearsals continue on April 7 and 14 to prepare for Religious Education Sunday on April 28.

Chimers: What pros you proved yourselves to be at our recent rehearsal! Thus we will have fewer rehearsals before our upcoming service on May 5. We will meet March 24, April 14, April 28? and of course at 9 a.m. on May 5.

Sr. Choir: I'm sure you all enjoyed singing the uplifting music of nature and Irish origin this past Sunday. Gearing up for Easter on March 31 and the Five Mystical songs on April 21, we'll rehearse on Thursdays March 21, 28, April 11. There will be a special extra rehearsal on Saturday morning, April 20 at 10 a.m. with the chamber orchestra.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, June 2 afternoon when we have the privilege of joining other UU choirs in the Clara Barton district at the Choir Festival in Hartford, Connecticut.

Eleanor Toth

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
Elinor Stapleton
Ted Johnson
Louise Potter

Minister
Interim Religious Education Director
Parish Administrator
Organist and Choir Director
Bookkeeper

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