

UU-FIRST

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Gardner

66 Elm St. — P.O. Box 637, Gardner, Massachusetts 01440
(978) 632-0222 — www.uusg.net

December 2012 -
January 2013

Upcoming Worship Services

Sunday Services at 10:00 a.m.

December 2—You Are Beloved—Rev. John. Pastor

How do we deal with rejection and low self esteem. Worship in Fellowship Hall followed by a Congregational Forum

December 9—My Divine Mother—Rodney Fagan.

From Isis and her child Horus to the Virgin Mary and Jesus, from Jewish teachings and the earth born religions to Hinduism, the Divine Mother has made her presence known.

Can there be a father without a mother? Divine Mother God is literally our co-creator. Immediately following this service we will be "Greening" our sanctuary for the Christmas Season. All are invited to help decorate.



December 16—Celebrating Chanukah: Many Candles, One Light —Rev. John Pastor

December 23—The Gifts of Christmas—Rev. John Pastor

Jesus, Santa Claus, Frosty the Snowman, Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer, and more. Carols and batteries included.

December 30—A Christmas Carol Sing— Bob Hall

Some members of the Music and Worship Committee, Rev. John, and the gathered congregation will follow Bob's lead to sing some old and new, traditional and non-traditional, Christmas music. Potluck following the service.



January 6—Executive Committee

January 13—What would Martin Say? —Sue Blain

Martin Luther King Jr. spoke eloquently about many important issues of his day, including war, poverty, and voting rights. What would he have to say about the concerns which still trouble us nearly 45 years after his death?

January 20—Traveling Through Time —Rev. John Pastor

Step into the UUSG Time Machine!

January 27—What's Up Doc?—Rev. John Pastor

There is an emergence of non-traditional medicine in this country. This kind of healing is a spiritual practice.

February 3—Sharing With Friends—Bill Ruggiero & Rev. John Pastor

Invite a friend to our church for this service!

Everyone is invited to join us for coffee and conversation in the fellowship hall downstairs following worship.

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UUSG will NOT be holding a worship service on Christmas Eve. Please see page 3 for information about regional churches who do plan to have a Christmas Eve service.



Minister: Rev. John Pastor — Office Hours: Thurs. 1-6pm,
Call for an appointment or to arrange another day or time.
For pastoral emergencies — 508-277-6113

Emeritus Minister: Rev. Neil Bakker

U-First Editor: Julie Pera — uusg.newsletter@gmail.com

Church Office: Catherine Azora-Minda, Secretary — 978-632-0222



At this time of the year, in its waning, I find myself looking back and asking, "Where did the time go?" It's true. We are told that the older one gets the faster time seems to fly; something to look forward to experiencing? Looking back, in memories of reverse time travel, I recall all the great moments in my church life with you. As I

bring to mind these moments, I see you clearly in them, there you are: laughing, crying, singing, dancing, and praying. You bring such balance to my spiritual being. I am so grateful for all the ways that you are genuinely you.

With the New Year on the horizon, I also experience an excitement about the possibilities for our church. "Oh we ain't got a barrel of

money," but you are resourceful, competent, hardworking, and you enjoy walking side by side; I believe it's what you do best. I'm so honored to be walking with you in this, a centering spiritual practice.

My looking backward and forward is well-reflected in this Christmas Prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson:

*We thank you for this place in which we dwell,
for the love that unites us,
for the peace accorded us this day,
for the hope with which we expect the morrow,
for the work, the health, the food
and bright skies which make our lives
delightful for our friends in all parts of the earth.*

Bob and I wish you peace and joy in your celebrations of all the holidays or holy days of this season.

With love,

Chalice Lighters Needed For the Fall Call

The Chalice Lighters Program is the Clara Barton District's competitive grant program. The more people who become Chalice Lighters and donate the more grants will be available to support growth across the district! For more information go to www.cbd-mbd-uua.org/drupal/content/chalice-lighters-clara-barton-district



Thank UU

To everyone who was present for the Installation Service for Rev. John G. Pastor on Sunday, October 22. Ministers, members and friends from Ashby, Athol, Gardner, Leominster, Petersham and other towns, both those in the pews and those who came to bear witness and remind us of how important this commitment is to our congregation and to John. Musicians, from our visiting organist, Bob Popple, our pianist, Jay Rainey, our violinist, Caleb Pera and the members of our regional choir. Decorators and floral arrangers who made the fellowship hall into something so beautiful, and chefs who created a very wide range of gourmet macaroni and cheese dishes and delectable desserts.

To Laura Reichsman and Leslie Fabian for co-chairing our Fall Fair, and to everyone who helped make it a success.

To Dorcas Hurd and her son Adam for replacing the wayside pulpit banner after the fair.

To Tom Brady for his vigilance of our church building during Hurricane Sandy.

To those who donated toward the five cases of peanut butter that Rev. John delivered to the CAC.

In Our Thoughts

Jane Coleman, as she continues to recover. We have been so glad to see Jane & Bud the recent times they have been able to come in to church.

Neil Bakker who is on hospice at his home.

Thank UU, CongratUUlations, In Our Thoughts & Welcome
If you know of a contribution, concern, or accomplishment that deserves mention in this column, please be sure to send a note to the newsletter editor.



Regional Holiday Needs, Events & Services

December 9, 1pm

Messiah Sing at United Church of Bellows Falls,
8 School Street, Bellows Falls, Vermont.

December 9, 4:30pm

Christmas Concert at the First Parish Church
Unitarian Universalist of Fitchburg. Susie Burke &
David Surette with Kent Allyn, three of New
England's finest musicians join together to
present an evening holiday music and folk
favorites. Tickets are \$15 per person.

December 14 & 15, 7:30pm

Holiday Concert: The Most Peaceful Night of the
Year at First Parish Church Unitarian
Universalist, Leominster. Enjoy the music of Mark
Marquis and friends. Tickets are \$10 per person
and can be purchase at the door or by calling the
church, 978-537-0310.



Christmas Eve Worship Services

4:00pm

First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Ashby,
On The Common, Ashby MA

First Parish Church Unitarian Universalist,
15 West Street, Leominster MA

5:00pm

First Parish Church Unitarian Universalist,
923 Main Street, Fitchburg MA

First Parish Unitarian of Hubbardston,
2 Main Street, On The Common, Hubbardston MA

7:00pm

First Congregational Parish Unitarian,
The Common, Petersham MA

Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon,
26 Central Street, Winchendon MA

Evening

First Church Unitarian, 478 Main Street, Athol MA

Mitten Tree

UUSG will be donating gifts to the CAC children with
our Mitten Tree. The tree will be decorated with
mittens each indicating a child to be a girl or a boy
and their age on December 2. If you would like to
donate a gift, take one of the mittens and purchase a
gift for that child. Please return the unwrapped gift
to the church no later than December 16. For more
information contact Rev. John.

Gifts for Teens



UUSG will be sponsoring the giving of
gifts to CAC teens ages 13-18. Rev.
John will be contacted by mothers or fathers of
teens with requests for gifts. (The past two years
many of the requests were for gift cards.) Deadline
for donations is December 20th. If you would like to
participate, please contact Rev. John.



GOD IN THE BOX Documentary Film
Saturday, December 8 at UUSG.

5:30 pot-luck dinner; 6:30 movie followed by
sharing, simultaneous children's activity.

RSVP helpful to plan for food and children,
to Vicki at surroundingsgallery@gmail.com or
call 978-632-7623

*What does God mean to you? What does God
look like to you? These are questions explored
in the documentary, "God in the Box," by
Nathan Lang. Exploring his own feelings about
God, Nathan Lang made this professionally
produced film with some friends, and in the
process, discovered this is an opportunity to
share and appreciate the differences and
similarities in people.*

Unitarian Universalist Society of Gardner

P.O. Box 637
Gardner, MA 01440

TO:

Your Executive Committee

The Executive Committee usually meets on the third Monday of the month. If you have any questions or suggestions regarding church policies or programs, please feel free to speak with any of the church trustees.

Trustees for Church Year 2012-13

(year in parentheses indicates term ending)

Bo Azora-Minda (Chair, '15)
Barbara Bartl ('15)
Tom Brady ('14)
Melody Fortier ('13)
Bob Gifford ('13)
Chris Pera (Clerk/Treasurer, '15)
Laura Reichsman ('14)



NCMUUC Event: Lay Led Worship Sharing

On January 6th at noon First Parish Unitarian of Hubbardston will be hosting a gathering of lay worship leader idea sharing. Worship Committees, lay worship leaders, and those interested in learning to lead worship are encouraged to attend. More information about this event will be sent to the congregations in the coming weeks.

Save the Date!

December 8—God in the Box Documentary, 5:30pm, potluck movie & children's activity (see page 3)

December 22—Contradance, 7:15pm

January 6—Congregational Forum, after worship

Newsletter Contributions

UU-First is published nine times per year:

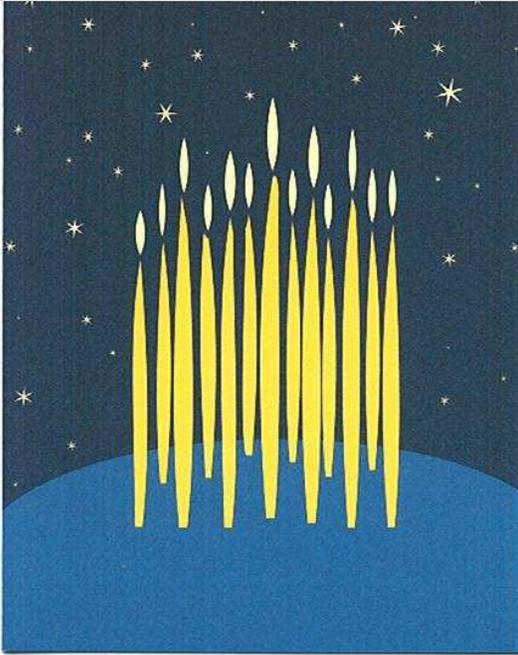
September, October, November, December-January, February, March, April, May-June, and July-August.

The deadline for the newsletter is the 15th of the month.

For Church Administrators,
Ministers & Letter Writers

Celebrate the Holidays with the Church of the Larger Fellowship

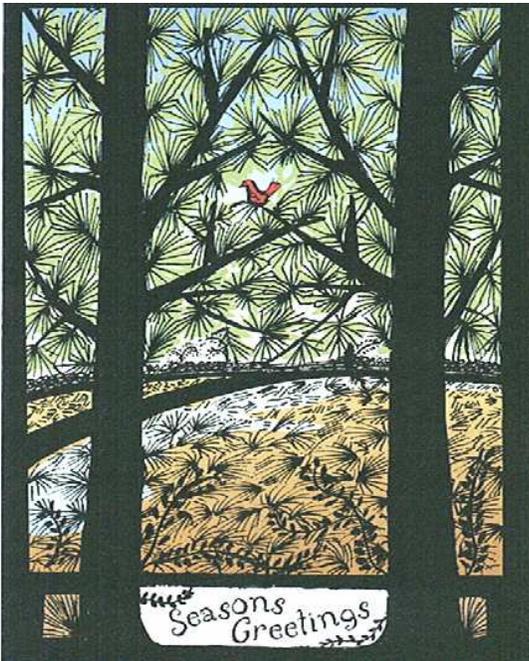
www.QuestForMeaning.org



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Notecards and Order of Service Covers



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All proceeds from sales support the many ministries of the Church of the Larger Fellowship,
serving UU individuals and small groups all over the world.

The Church of the Larger Fellowship is supported by its membership.