

UU-FIRST

March 2013

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Gardner

66 Elm St. — P.O. Box 637, Gardner, Massachusetts 01440
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Upcoming Worship Services

Sunday Services at 10:00 a.m.

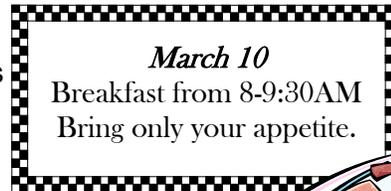
March 3—International Woman's Day—Catherine AzoraMinda

This celebratory service features the words, music and lives of UU women.

March 10—Let Us Pray—Rev. John Pastor

According to Anne Lamott the three greatest prayers are "Help, Thanks and Wow."

Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00 AM on Sunday, March 10th. Don't forget to move clocks ahead one hour.



March 17—How Saint Patrick Saved Civilization—Rodney Fagan

After the fall of the Roman Empire, the western world went from Pax Romana to chaos; but the isolated land of Patrick was rushing much more rapidly from chaos to peace.

March 24—Passover Seder—Rev. John Pastor

This Sunday we gather in fellowship to read from the Haggadah, the order of service for the Passover Seder. This Passover service celebrates the Jew's liberation from slavery in Egypt. Rev. John and Bob Hall will cook a Passover Seder meal that will be served after the service.

March 31—Easter Sunday; Jesus Went to Hell?— Rev. John Pastor

The Apostles' Creed and ancient scripture proclaim that Jesus descended into hell on the day of Resurrection. Why was Jesus in Hell?

April 7—Catch the Higher Vision

Where do we find the inspiration to keep us moving in a forward moving direction?

April 14—Regional Association Sunday 10 AM

First Church Unitarian Universalist of Leominster. The Rev. Don Southworth, Executive Director of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association, will be offering the sermon message, "Excellence in Ministry." Carpooling is encouraged.

Thursday, March 28—Do This in Memory of Me—Rev. John Pastor

On Thursday, March 28th at 7 pm, you are invited to a Last Supper Communion Service in our sanctuary.

Friday, March 29—Interfaith Good Friday Worship Service

There will be an Interfaith Good Friday Worship Service at the First Congregational Church of Gardner, 28 Green Street at noon on Friday March 29. The service will use a liturgy of scripture, sacred silence and music to recall Jesus' crucifixion. For more information contact Rev. John.

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



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



There are three celebrations that carry this theme: the first day of spring, Passover, and, of course, Easter Sunday.

I recall, with a bittersweet fondness, that my mother would often wake us up in the morning with a melodious, "Rise and shine!" On school mornings, I'd pull the covers back over my head and pretend that I was still asleep. On Saturdays, I would already be wide awake by the time that she offered her morning revelry call. Except for a few chores, it was a full day of playtime. Sundays, I would also be wide awake, though my "awakeness" had an added element of reverence, after all it was Sunday. I could not wait to go to church services and Sunday school. Perhaps this was a preview of things to come?

How do you wake up? Do you rise and shine depending on the day of the week? When you work hard, time resting and not rising is well deserved. Are you refreshed and renewed when you do rise or do you wake still tired because your

sleep was interrupted or restless? How do you awake on Sunday mornings? Perhaps you sleep in. Though there is understanding for when you do so, we still miss you during our gathering at worship and for coffee afterward.

"Rise and shine" isn't just a morning thing. It can be a call to get up and be inspired any time of any day. As a spiritual community, there are many ways that we can rise up from an apparent slumber: when we talk about being an official Welcoming Congregation, when we give generously to the food pantry, when we begin to plan ways to serve community meals, and when we take time to proclaim the eternal "yes" to all the possibilities that are waiting for us.

May we all "rise and shine", well rested and eager to greet each new day with gratitude, enthusiasm, and a renewed willingness to take up the tasks that create the beloved community.

With love,

UU-Youth!

Unitarian Universalist Principles (Modified for Children)

There are many misconceptions about Unitarian Universalists. One is that we embrace all beliefs; another is that we embrace no beliefs. The truth lies somewhere in between. The fact is that, as Unitarian Universalists, we are united in our commitment to conduct a responsible search for meaning, to respect the interdependent web of existence that we are part of, to be advocates and workers for social justice, and to honor the inherent worth of all beings. As Unitarian Universalists, we affirm and promote seven principles.



These 7 UU principles have been modified for children

- Each person is important.
- Be kind in all you do.
- We're free to learn together.
- We search for what is true.
- All people need a voice.
- Build a fair and peaceful world.
- We care for Earth's lifeboat.

Spirit Play has added color codes to them

- Respect All People (Red Promise)
- Offer kind and fair treatment to all (Orange Promise)
- Yearn to Accept and Learn About Ourselves and Others (Yellow Promise)
- Grow by Exploring What is True and Right (Green Promise)
- Believe in our Ideas and Act on Them (Blue Promise)
- Insist on Freedom, Justice, and Peace for all People (Indigo Promise)
- Value our home, Earth, that we share with all living beings (Violet Promise)

A Meditation on the Unitarian Universalist Principles

By Rev. Beverley Boke

I affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

Is there any person whom I have disrespected? Am I in right relation to all people? Does someone need to hear from me today?

I affirm and promote justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.

Is there any person whom I have treated unfairly? Have I taken the time to be compassionate with every person I have encountered? Have I made an effort to loosen the bonds of oppression created by my own living? (If white, temporarily able-bodied, or exclusively heterosexual, have I made an effort to loosen the bonds of oppression created by my own living as a member of the dominant culture?)

I affirm and promote acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.

Have I compassionately offered others the opportunity for growth, and have I truly accepted people, even those who are not like me and those who do not fit my idea of "okay"?

I affirm and promote a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

Is my life a reflection of a search for truth and meaning, or am I stuck in the "getting and having" place which deadens people? Can I move a little further from "getting and having" and a little closer to truth and meaning today? How will I do that today?

I affirm and promote the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

Have I listened to others, and tried to think the way they think, see their point of view? Have I encouraged consensus and connections so that democracy is an everyday fact of life, or have I tried to stack the deck in my own favor? Have I allowed the "tyranny of the majority" to silence anyone?

I affirm and promote the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.

What have I done today to promote peace, understanding, and freedom throughout the world, and in my own corner of the world?

I affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part.

How have I reduced the negative impact of my living on this planet? What could be done more healthfully?

**The Rev. Beverley Boke is pastor
of the First Universalist Society,
in Hartland 4 Corners, Vermont.**

Source: http://archive.uua.org/re/reach/fall00/curriculum/meditation_on_the_uu_principles.html

Found on www.beliefnet.com

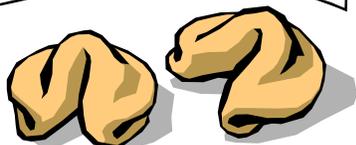


Saturday Night Social

**Potluck and Movie Night
March 16 - 6:00 p.m.**

Please watch for additional information in the weekly announcements!

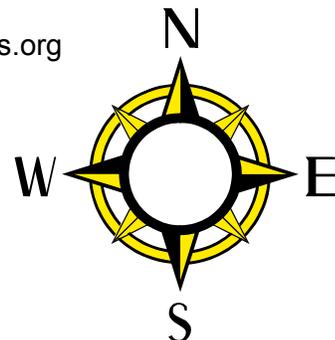
The pleasure of what we enjoy
is lost by wanting more.



Daily Compass

The Daily Compass, a daily UU meditation and spiritual inspiration email from the Church of the Larger Fellowship, now offers an audio version with an audio response. In addition to reading and listening, you are now invited to comment on the podcasts and respond to others' comments. Inspiration for your spiritual expedition!

Visit www.dailycompass.org
or "like" on facebook!



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)

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.

Save the Date!

March 3—Congregational Forum, after worship



March 10—Spring Ahead! Don't forget to reset your clocks, and don't worry about making breakfast—church breakfast 8-9:30am.

March 16—Saturday Night Social: Potluck & Movie, 6pm

March 23—Contradance, 7:15pm



March 6-May 31—Religion in Gardner display at the Gardner Museum