

# UU-First

May/June 2013

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](http://www.uusg.net)

## Upcoming Worship Services Sunday Services at 10:00 a.m.

### May 5—Many Paths, One Truth—Rev. John Pastor

Who can say where a path toward truth might appear? We UUs follow some traditional and not traditional paths. Each of us walks our own path, but we all appear to be headed in the same direction.

### May 12—Revelation Revealed—Rev. John Pastor

You may have heard of the Apocalypse, the end of the world and Armageddon, the last battle between good and evil. These ideas are from the Book of Revelation, the last book of the Bible. This is all pretty scary stuff about the end of the world.

### May 19—What if Nobody Forgave?—Children's Sunday

Children of our RE program, supported by Vicki Heidorn and Becca, will lead our service, reminding us that it is our responsibility to work for a peaceful, fair and free world.

### May 26—Memorial Day Service—Rev. John Pastor

We gather this day to remember all those who have died.

### June 2—Annual Meeting—Rev. John Pastor

A brief service followed by our Annual Meeting.

### June 9—Pride Day—Rev. John Pastor

The Welcoming Committee invites everyone to celebrate inclusivity on this special Sunday.

### June 16—Flower Communion—Rev. John Pastor

Please bring a flower to exchange in our traditional Flower Communion. The Hurd-Charney Scholarship will also be presented during this service.



### June 2 - Pancake Breakfast

8 - 9:30am

#### ON THE MENU:

whole-wheat pancakes, sausage,  
fresh fruit, juice, coffee.

Vegan options available!

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



**Editor's note:** I hope you enjoy our first-ever UU-First Computer Issue!  
(Translation: Please forgive the appearance of this newsletter, my primary computer is having issues, therefore I cannot access my usual software or template.)

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](mailto:uusg.newsletter@gmail.com)

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

# Pastoring.....

## *My Beloved, Peace Be with You*

As the newsletter deadline approached, I found it a challenge to complete my message for May; it was already April 14<sup>th</sup> and the due date was the next day. The next day, April 15<sup>th</sup>, a horrific event took place, the Boston Marathon Bombings. I put aside my written and imagined words and offer you this instead.

Like many of you I was updated about the bombing via the internet, television, and radio reports. Unbelieving at first, I took it all in hoping against hope that it just was not true. When it was fully accepted as a dreadful reality, I found myself asking, "Why?" I began praying to God for some understanding and for needed comfort to share with our spiritual community. I also found myself feeling a strong anger, nearing the rage of helplessness.

During the past weeks I have been in continued shock about a tragedy that happened on a bright sunny afternoon while happy, smiling, cheering, people watched a race. Memories of this tragedy still ripple with emotions and there are no words to describe these emotions. I know that you are experiencing some of these emotions as well.

God, the Eternal Spirit of the Universe, has given us free will to choose good or evil. For whatever reason, some choose evil; we live in the shadow of their deeds. This shadow can cast long especially when it turns to fear.

And so, we must pray without ceasing. In the midst of this tragedy prayer is naming our disbelief and anger, healing our hurts, confiding our fears. Prayer is asking for assistance when things look hopeless. These grave days, prayer is an ancient lamentation about the flaws in the human condition. Prayer is a plea that we are not consumed by the darkest deepness that now inhabits our wounded world. Prayer is a comforting, hope-filled, reminder of what is most important.

In our prayers let us always remember the peace which surpasses all understanding comes from our God of Love, which the world can neither give nor take away. May this peace be with you these days and always.

With love,



## Saturday Night Social

Potluck and Movie Night

May 18 — 5:30pm

We will share a meal in community followed by a film starting at about 6:30. The big screen at the church will be filled with beautiful scenery, singing nuns and charming children. Coming in costume and singing along are optional, though encouraged.



## Thank UU!

To Roy Gilbert for repairing the organ music stand.

To Tom Brady for all the work he does to make the floors in Fellowship Hall shine.

To everyone who participated in our Spring Cleaning on Sunday, April 28.

**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 via e-mail or "in-box"

# From The Executive Committee Chair

Dear Friends,

It has been a long cold winter and I am glad to be feeling the warmth of spring again. We have had many happenings since I last wrote in the newsletter. As many of you know I have had a very hectic winter of coursework at Fitchburg State and I am glad to say that the end is near. I still have one more year of school with an internship in the fall but my coursework will be done this summer. I want to thank all of you for the encouragement.

Now, on to Executive Committee news. As you may know the Executive Committee has been discussing renovation of the kitchen. It is badly needed as at least part of the floor appears to be rotting. Tom Brady designed a plan for the renovation and came up with a budget and then Rev. John wrote a proposal for the Chalice Lighters Fund. The exciting news is that we were awarded one of the grants in the amount of \$1,300 to renovate our kitchen. This is a great start. The renovation is slated to start this summer after the last service of this church year. In addition, the Executive Committee has been discussing making one of the bathrooms accessible so that it could accommodate a wheelchair. This may be done at the same time as the kitchen work this summer. I know that the building committee is looking forward to this project and will be looking for additional hands to help with the work.



Other exciting news is that the Welcoming Congregation Committee held its first event. The kickoff was a documentary film called "Switch: A Community in Transition." The filmmaker describes this film as "a documentary about a progressive, multicultural community and the response of the community to a member's changing gender expression. The basic premise of this film is that it is not the individual that transitions but their surrounding community." There was a thoughtful and thought provoking discussion after the film. I would highly recommend this documentary. It is well worth watching. If you would like to watch it yourself I found it by googling the above title. Unfortunately, I was unable to include the link here. Please stay tuned for upcoming events sponsored by this committee.

If you would like to share anything with the congregation please feel free to do so on Sunday, May 4, at the next Congregational Forum or at the next Executive Committee meeting on Monday, May 20th, at 6:30 PM. Hope to see you there.

With Metta (lovingkindness), *Bo Azora-Minda*

## **Ministerial Relations Committee**

The members of the Ministerial Relations Committee wish to remind everyone that they are available for you. The purpose of the committee is to provide a connection between the congregation and the minister. If you have any praises or concerns you would like them to share anonymously with Rev. John, please speak with Jane Coleman, Dorcas Hurd, or Chris Pera.

## **Nominating Committee**

The nominating committee will be meeting shortly to discuss possible candidates to fill anticipated vacancies on the Executive Committee for the 2013-14 Church Year. If you are interested in serving the church as a trustee, please contact Jean Brady, Melody Fortier or Julie Pera.

From the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF)  
**Enamel Pendants & Lapel Pins!**  
[www.QuestForMeaning.org](http://www.QuestForMeaning.org)  
Click on **Shop**

**Only \$7**

Celebrate your Green Sanctuary or Earth Day with a green pendant.

Celebrate your Welcoming Congregation with a rainbow pendant or

**NEW!**

**Rainbow LAPEL PINS**

To reach a real person, contact  
The Church of the Larger Fellowship  
e-mail: [clshop@clfu.org](mailto:clshop@clfu.org)  
617-948-6150

Purchasing your UU gifts from the CLF is another way to support Unitarian Universalism throughout the world. All proceeds from CLF Shop sales sustain the many ministries of the Church of the Larger Fellowship.

# 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 the 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)

## Save the Date

May 4—Spring Fair, 9am-2pm  
May 5—Congregational Forum, after worship  
May 18—Potluck & Movie, 5:30pm  
May 25—Contradance, 7:15  
June 2—Pancake Breakfast, 8-9:30am  
& Annual Meeting (during Worship)



**Worship  
Services  
July 14 &  
August 11**

## ***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.**