



UU-First

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Gardner

66 Elm Street – P.O. Box 637, Gardner, Massachusetts

(978) 632-0222

www.uusg.net

November 2013

Minister:

Rev. John Pastor

Office Hours
Thursday 1-6pm.
Call church phone for
an appointment or to
arrange another
day or time.

For pastoral
emergencies call
508-277-6113.

Emeritus Minister:

Rev. Neil Bakker

Newsletter Editor:

Julie Pera

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Church Office:

Catherine Azora-Minda

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Sunday Services

10:00 am

**Children's
Religious Education
& Nursery Care**
during worship service

Upcoming Worship Services

November 3 — Community Servings — Rev. John Pastor

Small churches, like us, are known for the ways that they reach out to the larger community. In addition to Guest at Your Table, a UU Service Committee project, there are also ways that we can serve the needs of the Greater Gardner Community. (Congregational Forum following the service.)

November 10 — Resilience of Spirit: Getting the Bounce Back — Rev. Eliza Blanchard

Feeling like you've lost your ability to cope, your delight in the world, or your interest in it? Wisdom traditions and, more recently, scientific findings show us how important it is for well-being to nurture our resilience. This is especially true for us all as we grow older. Becoming a resilient spirit is key to keeping our dignity, love of life and grace when facing losses of all kinds. Join this exploration with Rev. Eliza Blanchard, who leads this worship service and who has a published book titled *The Seasoned Soul*.

November 17 — Transgender Day of Remembrance — The Welcoming Congregation Committee

Join in a special service of remembrance and reflection presented by members of the Welcoming Congregation Committee. Bo Azora-Minda and Deborah Fabian will present the message.

November 24 — Thanksgiving Bread Communion

You are invited to bake bread or bring bread to share in a "bread communion." The bread may be significant from your family history or culture.

December 1 — Protecting Sacred Places — Rev. John Pastor

Hanukkah is best known for the miracle of the oil, but it is also a lesson on protecting places that are sacred.

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

Regional Worship Service November 3 5:00pm

NCMUUC Worship
in Winchendon.
There will be a
potluck and
discussion following
the service.

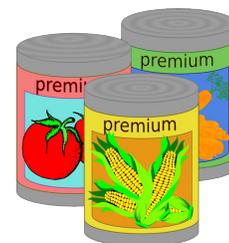
Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service

November 26, 7:00pm

Hosted by St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

During the service there will be an offering of non-perishables or money to be donated to the Gardner Food Pantry. Members of our choir are invited to participate.

Congregations attending are asked to bring some refreshments for our time fellowship after the service.



Pastoring...

How are we called to serve?

"Our deepest calling is to grow into our own authentic self-hood, whether or not it conforms to some image of who we ought to be. As we do so, we will not only find the joy that every human being seeks--we will also find our path of authentic service in the world." This quote by Parker J. Palmer reminds us that life is a journey of growth toward our true selves and how finding joy in this journey can bring us to a place of sharing and caring.

We are just coming into the established season of sharing and caring; the season of giving to others who are in need. Small churches, like ours, are best known for the ways that we reach out to the larger community. I know that I've stated this before. And, we have, time and again demonstrated our generosity to the community through our donations. The CAC Food Pantry had benefited greatly from our contributions. Every time I am in their office staff members always extend warm gratitude for our gifts. Thank you to all who have helped out with food, or money, or time.

In this season I also find myself looking forward to how we may further reach out to the community by preparing meals in our new kitchen. When this project is complete we will need to plan how this can be done by our small church group. I have confidence that we can do it.

Palmer's quote also reminds us that we need not conform to "some image of who we ought to be." As Unitarian Universalists, we profoundly know what this means. We are different, to be sure. But in our difference we have shown our true authentic selves and our commitment to serve our community and the world. This is how we find our joy.

Blessings in this season of giving.

With love,



Food Pantry Request

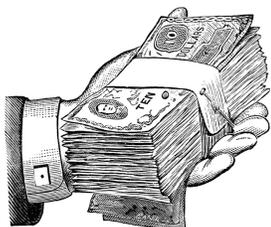
At this time, the CAC is asking for donations of potatoes, squash, apples and jams and jellies. As always, donations of non-perishable food items are also welcome. If you prefer to make a monetary contribution, make a check payable to the Gardner CAC and place it in the offering plate.

Cash donations can be put in a pew envelope marked "Gardner CAC" and placed in the offering plate.



Minister's Discretionary Fund

Rev. John has recently depleted this fund with the purchase of 14 cases of peanut butter for the CAC Food Pantry. The purchase was a very good deal.



Checks should be made payable to UUSG with "Minister's Discretionary Fund" in the memo line. Your generosity is appreciated.




Artists Market

Saturday, November 9, 2013
10am to 4pm
Gardner Senior Center
294 Pleasant Street, Gardner

Get a jump start on your holiday shopping while also supporting the local economy and community artists.

Find truly unique, thoughtful, and creative gifts.

Purchase items directly from the artists.

Observe artists demonstrating their skills.

Listen to the sounds of local musicians while you shop. Music CDs will be available for purchase as well.

Try your luck at our popular Raffle Table!

For more information: info@galagardner.org
www.galagardner.org



UUSG Holiday Marketplace & Festival

Saturday, December 14, 9am-3pm

The perfect opportunity for all your last-minute holiday shopping needs!

We are seeking YOUR help:

- Please encourage **Vendors & Crafters** who you know to sign up for tables. Forms are available in the fellowship hall and online—contact Catherine.
- We need someone to organize and run the **Teacup Auction**—contact Laura.
- We need items for the **Silent Auction**. If you have a gift that was given to you and is very nice but you'll never use, this is the perfect way to re-gift it!
- The **Bake Sale** will be holiday related with fudge, holiday cookies and mini pies. Please sign up on the sheet downstairs.

We would also like to sell some jars of **"make your own cookies"** with all the dry ingredients layered in a jar—if you are interested in making some, please speak with Laura.
- The **Café** will have a menu of hearty comfort food, including breakfast casseroles, hot dogs, mac and cheese (one option will be vegan) baked beans and brown bread, and apple crisp. Please sign up to cook on the sheet downstairs.
- **ADVERTISEMENT!** We need help to get the word out!!! Chuck & Vicki are working on posters and signs, but we need more help to get the word out. If someone is willing to chair a Fair Outreach committee, that would be ideal.

PLEASE, let's all pitch in to put up posters, send email notices to friends, and announce it to groups when we have a chance.
- We will have **Entertainment** on the stage throughout the day. Please contact Leslie if you have a contact for a dance school, chorale group, acoustic musicians, etc. who might be interested in performing.

Great food AND entertainment!

Faith Out Loud: Talking About What You Believe

A Learning Congregation Workshop for Everyone
with Rev. Galen Guengerich,
Senior Minister, All Souls Unitarian Church, New York

Saturday, November 9, 2013
8:30 AM to 12:30 PM

First Church in Weston, Weston, MA

At a time when people in our culture increasingly describe themselves as spiritual but not religious, how can we talk about our Unitarian Universalist faith in ways that make sense to those who look to science rather than scripture for guidance about what to believe?

In an engaging style that mixes science and pop culture, popular General Assembly speaker Galen Guengerich will lead this workshop on the art of using theology as a tool for making our lives more meaningful and our faith more relevant.

Rev. Galen Guengerich is Senior Minister of All Souls Unitarian Church, an historic congregation located on the Upper East Side of Manhattan in New York City. He is author of *God Revised: How Religion Must Evolve in a Scientific Age* (Palgrave Macmillan) and writes a regular column on "The Search for Meaning" for psychologytoday.com.

Contradances!

New location:
Eagles Club
71 City Hall Avenue, Gardner

November 23, 7:15pm
Randy Miller, fiddle;
Roger Kahle, guitar;
Ross Kahle, bodhran;
caller - Jim Fownes

December 28, 7:15pm
No Name Fiddle Band;
caller - TBA



Unitarian Universalist Society of Gardner

P.O. Box 637

Gardner, MA 01440

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 2013-14

(year in parentheses indicates term ending)

Bo Azora-Minda (Chair, '15)

Barbara Bartl ('15)

Roy Gilbert ('16)

Brien Hawkesworth ('14)

Chris Pera (Clerk/Treasurer, '15)

Frieda Reichsman ('16)

Laura Reichsman ('14)

Save the date!

November 3—Regional NCMUUC Worship Service, Winchendon, 5:00pm

November 26—Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 7:00pm

December 14—UUSG Holiday Marketplace & Festival, 9am-3pm



Please remember the next edition will be for both December & January. The deadline for this edition will be extended by one week to November 22.

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.