



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

April 2014

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

April 6 — Keeping the Faith — Executive Committee

Members of the Executive Committee present this worship service. Reflective words will be presented by Chris Pera. Worship will be followed by the dedication of the kitchen. Please bring your favorite potluck dish. The Executive Committee is providing the cake and ice cream.

April 13 — Love is the Spirit of This Church — Tom Brady

Come, let's explore this familiar line. Let's have a conversation about the true meaning and power of love.

SUNDAY, April 13, 4:00pm – Regional Association Potluck First Church Unitarian Universalist of Leominster

Come gather with your fellow North Central Mass. UU Congregations to share your spiritual journeys. You are each asked to bring a pasta dish of your choice to share. Salad, desert, and beverages provided. Child care available. Carpooling is encouraged.

THURSDAY, April 17, 7:00pm

Taken, Blessed, Broken and Given – Rev. John Pastor

This service commemorates the Last Passover Supper of Jesus with chants, readings, and communion.

FRIDAY, April 18, 12:00pm – Interfaith Good Friday Pilgrimage

There will be an Interfaith Good Friday Pilgrimage Service beginning at noon on Friday April 18th. The Gardner churches will be visiting four churches. Just as Jesus traveled through part of Jerusalem, on the way to the cross, we will travel between churches, experiencing some of what Jesus encountered that day. Join us at 12:00pm at Sacred Heart Church. The pilgrimage will then proceed to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, UU Society of Gardner, and then to the First Congregational Church. For more information contact Rev. John.

April 20 — Easter Stories — Rev. John Pastor

There are many different stories about Easter. Some may be challenging to our beliefs. May we bring ourselves and our stories to church this morning and consider the blend a blessing.



(Upcoming Worship Services, continued on p. 2)

Colleague Rev. Barbara Wells writes,

"Throughout our history, Unitarians and Universalists have prided themselves on being a free faith. No creed or dogma will exclude members of the human family from our midst. But at times we have taken freedom to mean lack of commitment, and people who wished to join our congregations merely 'signed the book' without understanding what membership is all about. Too often our churches have been unclear what commitment to membership means, and have been unable to give fellow journeyers a map to lead them into a deeper relationship with the church."

On April 6th we'll celebrate Commitment Sunday. It has become our tradition to begin our Pledge Drive on this Sunday in order to prepare a budget for our Annual Meeting in June. In other words, we ask for money. It is not easy to ask for money. It is especially difficult when there are so many financial challenges in our lives these days. So making a commitment to pledge becomes a matter of choice, of choosing to sustain something of value. It is making the choice about the importance of this church. It also requires reflection about what brings us together.

Every year a financial commitment, a pledge, is asked of all members. There is no maximum or minimum amount that is required, but you are asked to pledge an amount that reflects your support of this church.

Besides pledging, there are other things that I believe represent true commitment: regular Sunday attendance, service on a committee or on a task (like the Church Fair), involvement in community service, and working on your own spirituality.

True commitment brings us into a deeper relationship with our church community. It brings wholehearted feelings of belonging. May a deepened relationship and feelings of belonging support our dreams for a lasting future.

With love,



Upcoming Worship Services (continued)

April 27 — Sacred Sounds: A Jewish Perspective — Shira Gaudet

Come explore a blend of UU and Jewish styles of worship and learn something of Shira's own journey with Judaism.

May 4 — CHILDREN'S SUNDAY: The Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism

Our worship service starts upstairs with our traditional touchstones of worship and ends downstairs with a production we're calling "Snow White and the Seven Principles" a dramatic effort created and produced by our children.



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

Clara Barton District & Mass Bay District 2014 Annual Meetings

First Parish Framingham, UU

Saturday, April 26, 2014

1:00pm - 4:30pm

This year, we welcome Jim Key, our new UUA Moderator!

Join us in celebration of the Great Awakening we are part of that is already underway. And help us consider the governance choices that support our associational covenant for this time.

We look forward to a powerful experience of being together beyond our own congregations.

Visit the website for a link to register:

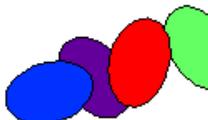
www.cbd-mbd-uua.org

Squigly's Easter Logic Puzzle

Mrs. Brown helped her four children to colour eggs for Easter. The two boys and two girls are 2, 4, 7 and 9 years old. Their names are Sarah, Amanda, Joey and Tommy. They coloured two eggs each, one a solid colour and one was the same colour with a white stripe.

Clues:

- Mrs Brown had to help the youngest boy and girl. The oldest child liked a colour that starts with the letter B.
- Tommy is 7 years old and his brother's favourite colour is red.
- Amanda and Sarah are very happy to be sisters and they both liked the same colour. When they finished they are going to switch their striped eggs, then they will each have a blue and a purple egg.
- Joey is not the youngest child.
- The child with the blue striped egg helped the child with the purple striped egg when Mrs. Brown was helping Joey.
- Sarah kind of likes purple too.



	Egg Colours				Ages			
	Red	Blue	Green	Purple	2	4	7	9
Sarah								
Amanda								
Joey								
Tommy								
2								
4								
7								
9								



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www.SquiglysPlayhouse.com



Updates on Faithify Crowdfunding Site

Faithify, a crowdfunding site where passionate people follow, share, and fund Unitarian Universalist ministries, is set to launch in the summer of 2014 at General Assembly.

MBD has partnered with strong developers who have created a custom Wordpress site. Also, we have chosen a name that is more reflective of the purpose of the site - where users can 'faithify' projects they believe in and renew their faith.

Soon we will be working with focus groups to test the site and then recruiting applicants to propose projects pre-launch.



To stay updated on our progress, "Like" Faithify on Facebook!

Sermon Writing for Lay Preachers

with Rev. Sue Phillips, District Executive

May 17, 2014, 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM

First Parish Church in Weston

Lay leaders and religious educators frequently find ourselves in the pulpit, and while many have become experienced preachers few of us have had the benefit of focused training in sermon-writing and preaching. Here's your chance

Participants will have the opportunity to:

Our liberal tradition honors the "prophethood of all believers." Sermons have been used for centuries to teach, implore, convince, praise and prophesy. Preaching is one of the only oral traditions that remain in our culture; it is a gift and a responsibility.

- reflect on the structure and content of meaningful, memorable sermons
- learn how to translate an idea into a powerful sermon
- consider presentation and speaking tips that add vitality to any sermon

If you suspect there might be a sermon inside you, and if you would like a chance to nurture and focus that voice within, join us for this hands-on sermon-writing workshop. We will reflect on what makes good sermons good, and talk about how to transform kernels of spiritual wisdom into a worshipful sermon.

REGISTER NOW! - Deadline 5/10/14

\$50 / \$35 for seminarians
(includes handouts and refreshments)

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!

April 6—Potluck & Dedication of the Kitchen

April 13—Regional Association Potluck, Leominster, 4pm

April 26—Clara Barton & Mass Bay Districts Annual Meeting, 1-4:30pm

May 4—Children's Sunday, special worship service and performance

June 1—UUSG Annual Meeting

June 29—Join in Sunday morning worship at General Assembly in Providence, RI. There is a possibility of traveling with other local congregations in a tour bus.



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.