



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

May-June 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

uusg.newsletter@gmail.com

Church Office:

Catherine Azora-Minda

978-632-0222

info@uusg.net

Sunday Services

10:00 am

Children's

Religious Education & Nursery Care during worship service

Upcoming Worship Services

May 4 — The 7 Principles of Unitarian Universalism — Children's Sunday

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.

May 11 — What Does Your Mother Mean to You?

— Bill Ruggiero & Rev. John Pastor

Bill shares his memories of his mother and asks us to remember how our mothers shaped our lives.

May 18 — Checking the Box: Deeply Religious — Laura Reichsman

Most of us wouldn't dream of checking that box, yet if we examine the UU principles, many of us would agree that we strongly believe in them. Is that religious? Who gets to define that term? People often say "I'm spiritual, not religious" is that a fundamental difference in theology? Or just a term that is more palatable than the term religious? As UU's, what does religious mean to us?

May 25 — Memorial Day Service — Rev. John Pastor

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

June 1 — Annual Meeting

Rev. John will present a brief service followed by our Annual Meeting.

June 8 — Pride Sunday — Rev. John Pastor

The Welcoming Congregation Committee will present a worship service that honors and celebrates the LGBTQ community.

June 15 — Flower Communion — Rev. John Pastor

We celebrate our tradition of Flower Communion and recognize all those that have contributed to our church community. This will be our final time together before our the summer schedule. Following the service there will be a "Sunday Sundae" with special summertime refreshments.

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

June 22 — NO WORSHIP, SUMMER SCHEDULE BEGINS

June 29, General Assembly Worship Service, 11:00am

(Providence, RI) Stay tuned for more details about traveling down together.

Where does the time go? Time sure does fly. It seems like just yesterday we were starting our new church year together. What a wonderful year it has been. Now we are coming to the end. We are planning summer events like the Church Fair and Gardner Days.

Those of you who have been willing and able to listen to me have heard that I've been crabby lately. This year I reach retirement age. Talk about time flying! For the past few months I've been receiving reminders from Medicare, Social Security, and those brochures advertising retirement communities in warmer climates. These reminders have been making me crabby. This is unusual for me, but I believe it is normal. I love what I do and I'm not ready for retirement. This awareness of aging has prompted me to a life review; to reflecting on past accomplishments, regrets, and milestones.

In the more than 125 years that our church has existed, much has been accomplished. In my time with you we have celebrated 125 years (plus), had a Service of Installation, welcomed people of other faith communities, formed a Welcoming Committee, and have renovated our kitchen. Most especially, we have maintained a vibrant church family that gathers for spiritual growth and fellowship. We still have more great things to do together and we love what we do.

May we hold the vision of our continuing together to grow ever stronger in faith, hope, and love.

With love,



Save the date!

The Spring Fair has become a Summer Fair this year and will be on June 21st. This gives us the opportunity to have some of the activities outside and hopefully draw more people in! More details will follow soon, watch for info in the weekly announcements. Please consider volunteering to set up, help out the day of the Fair, and of course clean out your cellar and attic for the tag sale!

MEMORIAL EASTER FLOWERS GIVEN IN MEMORY OF:

Laurie J. Blacquiere

Sheila S. Bottone

lbrey and Olive Gilbert

William Gaydos

Robert C. Hall, Sr.

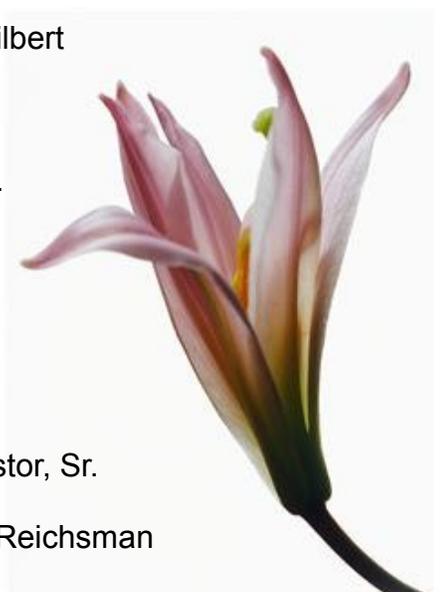
Steven Helie

Florence Johnson

"Toottie" Nadeau

John and Ann Pastor, Sr.

Dane and Frieda Reichsman



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!

June 1—UUSG Annual Meeting

June 21—Spring Fair

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.

July 20—Summer Worship Service

August 17—Summer Worship Service



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.