



UUFB Notes

A monthly newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bennington, VT

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Montovan.*

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President's Letter

As I think on the last month, the first thing that comes to mind is change. The seasons are changing, and school is starting for some. At UUFB, we've started a new curriculum called a Spirit Play and the response to and support for that and our kids has been amazing. We have had an energetic month, with the 100K Poets event being a huge success! We have enjoyed thought provoking services from Kathy, and some wonderful reflections from some of our members.

In my opinion, a huge part of what makes UUFB special is the many ways we care for each other. If someone is hurt or sick, or needs a ride, we are ready to help, and those are just a few examples. We value each other and notice when someone has been absent. To this end, we are hoping to revitalize the Remembrance Committee, and we are looking for people to take this on. Caring for each other requires organization and communication. There are many other opportunities to share the gift of your time and skills with the fellowship. Please note that

Community Notes

Lost and Found: Last year the Committee on Ministry compiled a notebook listing descriptions of all the various jobs that are done to keep the fellowship running, from responsibilities of board members through the various committees. This notebook has sprouted legs, walked off, and cannot be found. If it walked into your house, please bring it in and put it on the table near the doors. No questions will be asked but many thanks will be due the anonymous person who returns the notebook.

The Committee on Ministry: Is something on your mind, but you don't know who to talk to? The Committee on Ministry can help. The committee welcomes comments—both positive and negative—about the fellowship in general or about something in particular. Speak to either Ed Dauenheimer or Fronia Simpson and let your voice be heard.

there is a list on the Welcome Table. Thank you all for all you do.

The next monthly board meeting is this coming Wednesday, October 11 at 7pm. We warmly welcome visitors. Additionally, Board chats will be held the Sunday immediately after the board meetings, unless otherwise noted. They're a great time to learn what the board has been up to.

Maggie Montovan
Board President

Kathy's Corner

"Look Up, Look Down"

Rev. Jennifer Brownell wrote of the psalmist who gave us, "I lift up my eyes..." that "we both know the temptation of a lowered head. Afraid and overwhelmed, we look down - at the ground, at a screen.... Look up ... and you will stay up. And once you are up, you can finally move forward...." My son did an amazing sky program in first grade - even then, in the early 90s, there was concern that we don't look at the sky enough, not like our ancestors, who knew both awe and the weather, when they looked up. Looking up changes one's perspective. As Madeleine L'Engle said of the stars, "I'll almost always get back a sense of proportion. It's not that they make me feel insignificant; ... they make me feel that everything matters"

When I lived in Virginia, I was engaged in the opposite every day - looking down. I decided to pick up cigarette butts, and other trash and treasure. I'd read that a single butt has enough toxins to contaminate 2 gallons of water, and where we lived near the Chesapeake Bay, everyone had well water and all water flowed to the Bay. I wrote articles about it, hoping to inspire folks not to toss

their butts on the ground. In two years I picked up over 30,000 butts and about \$60 - it turns out when you look, seek, you see more than you were first seeking. And, like L'Engle, it gave me a sense of proportion. It is possible to be more attentive, to expand one's vision, to take in more of the world around you and make a difference. Ah, but once, while walking along, mulling over the horrible news of yet another baby forgotten and dead in a hot car, and righteously feeling I would never do that, I looked down and saw a rusted wrench, on a path I'd taken many times, and I was humbled that I had neglected to see it before. Our vision, even extended, is so limited in so many ways. We are all capable of not seeing, of looking away, of being blinded, ...and... we are all able to look up and out and down in a greater way of seeing the world as it is and ourselves as part of it all, making life meaningful in our connectedness.

October 8th: "A Ramble with Henry David Thoreau"

After all this time, it's surprising that Thoreau is so beloved. He knew the woods, simplicity, and joy. We will saunter with this Transcendentalist Unitarian luminary.

October 22nd: "An Invitation to Fail Fabulously"

We may hate it, but failure is good for us, surprisingly. And success is different than we think. You are invited to ponder these paradoxes.

Understanding the Hebrew Bible

*October 8th and 22nd, 12:00 - 1:30 at UUFB
Potluck finger food lunch at 11:30, optional
We will continue our gallop through the Hebrew Scriptures, trying to understand them better.*

For Oct. 8th, please read the psalms, especially 22, 23, 42, 51, 90, 131, 137, and 139. For Oct.

22nd, please read Job, especially from chapter 38 to the end, and the short book of Ruth.

Chalice Lighters

For the past two decades, at least, UU members and congregations from Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine have contributed to the Northern New England District Chalice Lighter Program. Individuals commit to sending \$25 twice a year in response to projects proposed by congregations. UU societies are increasingly taking collections to help.

UUFB has benefitted from these funds. Five years ago we received a grant to help with ministerial salary. Two years ago we received a grant to help with our new RE room.

Most projects are about congregational growth, although some are about making buildings accessible.

Our congregation will have a chance to help. On Oct. 8 a special collection will be taken for the Chalice Lighter program. All undersigned gifts that morning will go to the Chalice Lighter program to be used this year to help other congregations with important projects.

Vermont Interfaith Power & Light Fall Conference

Saturday, October 21, 10 AM to 4 PM
First Congregational Church, Manchester, VT

Keynote Speaker: Deb Markowitz, Former Secretary of Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

Workshop topics: Building resilient communities, Climate legislation advocacy, Climate science update, Help with building energy efficiency, Effective community organizing, Watershed stewardship
Also: roundtable on divestment; delicious catered lunch; sponsors' exhibits; book table; music and spiritual sharing
Tickets at vtipl.givezooks.com/

If you'd like to write a check, it may be made out to NNED Chalice Lighters. Undesignated cash will also go to Chalice Lighters. If you have questions or would like to contribute but won't be at the service that day, contact Chuck Putney, 442-8829.

There are also Chalice Lighter brochures in the rack.

R.E. Updates

September was a big month in RE. We have officially started the Spirit Play program, three teachers attended a day-long training on the method, and a huge group gathered to help create the physical elements of the stories. Thank you to everyone who has supported us as we get this program up and going!

The Spirit Play approach is designed to help our younger members engage with spirituality and develop ways to talk about faith and what it means to be UU. We have started our year with several stories related to the seven principles and the six sources. Our first story introduced the idea of a spirit of love and mystery that some people call god and the seven principles as promises that we make to each other to help us be in community together. The second story was about how stories arise from wondering about life's big questions and that these stories are gifts to our Spirit Play circles that we can wonder about together. The third story will be about our seven promises in more detail, and the fourth story will introduce the six sources that we draw upon as UUs. We will then be telling stories related to the seven promises and wisdom tales from world religions.

Each story has a basket of physical pieces that are used to tell the story. These are then available for the kids to work with and retell the story for

themselves during the work time. We have had several generous members donate their time and artistic skills finding pieces for stories, making clay objects, creating wooden pieces, painting pieces, and sewing. If you would like to get involved with story-making, please talk to Katie!

We hope to offer an adult spirit play session in December or January so that our not-as-young members can experience this approach. In the meantime, if you would like to be part of this new program and see how it works for yourself, we are looking for people to serve as assistants in the classroom. This does involve some training and will require that you provide a calming presence and support for the lead teacher in the classroom. The training can be completed in 15 minutes before the service. Email Katie (kmontovan@bennington.edu) to sign up!

Treasurer's Notes

October 2017 - from Ed Connelly

As of August 31st, at 16.7% of the year, we have received 22.4% of our budgeted revenue and have spent 10.5% of our budgeted expenses.

Thank you to those who have made pledge payments over the summer. The pledge total stands at \$53,438. Our budget is \$54,500. If you have not yet submitted a pledge form, please do so soon.

Last year's financial results have been finalized. We ended the year with a surplus of \$2,538. This surplus is primarily due to savings in fuel oil, electricity, some committee and general expenses and a fund raising effort that far exceeded expectations. Unfortunately, neither the Meetinghouse Café nor the Equal Exchange sales were well supported last year; Chuck Putney has decided

to make significant changes to Meetinghouse Café operations.

The coffee/tea/chocolate sales were especially disappointing. We all seem to like the products since the Sunday morning coffee budget of \$600 was exceeded by \$99. Please consider buying from Equal Exchange. Also, if your committee or activity uses the Fellowship's coffee please put some money in the Equal Exchange crock.

Regarding coffee money: This year's budget calls for collecting \$200 from Sunday coffee. So did last year's budget but the collection was \$0. We use over \$60 of coffee and tea per month, over \$600 during the year. Please drop some money in the can, even if you don't have change, you can pay ahead (or behind) by putting in a dollar or two.

As always, financial reports are available upon request. The current monthly reports are sent on the same day they are sent to the board members, at least two days before the meeting. Please do not hesitate to ask me any question about the Fellowship finances, the only confidential information, per our by-laws, involves pledge data at the individual/family level.



07/02	Habitat for Humanity	\$18.26
07/09	Thatcher House	\$21.63
07/16	Schoerke Foundation/Ghana	\$26.93
07/23	Sunrise Family Resource	\$13.50
07/30	GBICS Kitchen Cupboard	\$21.00
08/06	Planned Parenthood	\$34.62
08/13	GBICS Food & Fuel Fund	\$27.50
08/20	P.A.V.E.	\$25.50
08/27	B-R.O.C.	\$31.50
09/03	VT Center for Independent Living	\$14.50
09/10	Membership Emergency Fund	\$42.10
09/17	Habitat for Humanity	\$32.66
09/24	Thatcher House	\$63.00

October 2017

September 2017

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 8 9 10 11 12 13 14
 15 16 17 18 19 20 21
 22 23 24 25 26 27 28
 29 30 31

October 2017

S M T W T F S
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 15 16 17 18 19 20 21
 22 23 24 25 26 27 28
 29 30 31

November 2017

S M T W T F S
 1 2 3 4
 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
 12 13 14 15 16 17 18
 19 20 21 22 23 24 25
 26 27 28 29 30

US Holidays

Non-fellowship events

Fellowship events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>10:00 AM Sunday Morning Services & Coffee 3:00 PM Meetinghouse Cafe</p>	<p>2</p> <p>3:00 PM Bennington Children's Chorus rehearsal</p>	<p>3</p> <p>3:30 PM Mighty Food Farm CSA Pick up</p>	<p>4</p> <p>3:00 PM Rev. Kathy Duhon Office hours</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:00 PM Greater Bennington Peace and Justice Committee Meeting 7:00 PM WHIPS Board Meeting</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:30 PM Facing Death with Dignity</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>10:00 AM Sunday Morning Services & Coffee 1:00 PM Understanding the Hebrew Bible</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Columbus Day (regional holiday) 1:00 PM Soul Space Meeting 3:00 PM Bennington Children's Chorus rehearsal</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:30 AM Oldcastle meeting 3:30 PM Mighty Food Farm CSA Pick up 6:00 PM Returned Peace Corps Re-Union</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Advance Directives...e (VCIL workshop) 3:00 PM Rev. Kathy Duhon Office hours 7:00 PM UUFEB Board Meeting</p>	<p>12</p> <p>3:30 PM Spirit of Bennington</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:30 PM Facing Death with Dignity</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>10:00 AM Sunday Morning Services & Coffee 11:30 AM Board Chat</p>	<p>16</p> <p>3:00 PM Bennington Children's Chorus rehearsal</p>	<p>17</p> <p>3:30 PM Mighty Food Farm CSA Pick up</p>	<p>18</p> <p>3:00 PM Rev. Kathy Duhon Office hours</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:30 PM Facing Death with Dignity</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>10:00 AM Sunday Morning Services & Coffee 1:00 PM Understanding the Hebrew Bible</p>	<p>23</p> <p>1:00 PM Soul Space Meeting 3:00 PM Bennington Children's Chorus rehearsal</p>	<p>24</p> <p>3:30 PM Mighty Food Farm CSA Pick up</p>	<p>25</p> <p>3:00 PM Rev. Kathy Duhon Office hours</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:30 PM Facing Death with Dignity</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>10:00 AM Sunday Morning Services & Coffee 1:30 PM 'The Detectives', Testimony: Guest speaker: Brian D. Baker</p>	<p>30</p> <p>3:00 PM Bennington Children's Chorus rehearsal</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Halloween 3:30 PM Mighty Food Farm CSA Pick up</p>	<p>1</p> <p>3:00 PM Rev. Kathy Duhon Office hours</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:00 PM Greater Bennington Peace and Justice Committee Meeting</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:30 AM GBPPC mailing work session</p>