



THE PIONEER

Vol. 43, No. 10

UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF NORTHAMPTON AND FLORENCE

June 2013

June Sunday Services and Religious Education



June 2

Services at 9:15 and 11 AM

Credo Service

The Coming of Age Class

Our eighth-graders lead us in worship and share their credo statements as the culmination of their year together.

June 9

Service for All Ages at 10 AM

Flower Sunday

The Reverend Janet C. Bush

Bring a flower to share, take a flower home with you. We will celebrate the end of the regular season with a flower ceremony, stories, and music from the choir. Join us following the service for a picnic in Look Park. All are welcome.

June 16

Service at 10 AM

Twisted Paths and Summer Lanes

The Reverend Janet C. Bush

A meditation on times and places for wandering and for going deeper.

June 23 and June 30

Services at 10 AM

The Summer Services Committee

Our wonderful series of lay-led worship begins June 23. Please check the website for up-to-date listings of service leaders and subjects.



NOTES FROM THE MINISTER

THEY WERE COMING HERE, AFTER A LONG WAIT — my son's wife and her two daughters, who are eight and four. They were coming from the Philippines, staying with us to begin the process of immigrating to the United States, to get the papers they need to be able to stay for good, once he returns from his tour of duty in the Army.

It was early April when they arrived. Spring came late this year. The landscape was barren, mostly grays and browns. I was away on the night they landed. I left a note for Kassandra, my older granddaughter. "I am so glad you are here. I am sorry it's so cold. Tell your sister that everything is brown now but it will turn green and beautiful soon. I will see you tomorrow. Love, Grandma."

Slowly, what I promised came true. For Kassandra, for her sister Kylie, and even for their mom, every change that has come with the season's unfolding has been exciting and new. And I have been given the chance to see anew as well, through their eyes.

Our first exciting discovery had nothing to do with spring, but was an unexpected blessing of the prolonged cold weather. In one corner of a parking lot in Look Park we found a snow pile! Never mind that it was dirty. We kicked the snow loose, scooped it up, packed it with our hands to make snowballs and tossed — across the pavement and at each other.

That snow pile finally melted. We learned about buds on the branches of trees. We planted some pansies, and they helped Grandpa plant lettuce, and peas. I warned the girls not to step in the perennial garden. "Why?" they wondered. "It is just dirt."

"Something might be coming up." And something did. And another something, and another. Crocus, daffodils, tulips. Dandelions — and carte blanche to pick them! Something called bleeding heart with heart-shaped pink flowers. The neon yellow euphorbia. A Jacob's ladder, with small blue florets. The cherry trees blossomed — amazing beauty — and then the blossoms faded. "It doesn't stay?" they asked.

"No," Grandma explained. "Everything is just for a little while."

Everything is just for a little while — the pile of snow that finally melts away, the spring blossoms, the colors of the landscape in every passing season, each moment of our lives. Everything is just for a little while.

This summer, too, will be just for a little while. I wish you its blessings. May there be moments when you see those blessings with fresh eyes, and may those moments bring you the renewal you need. I am grateful to be here as your minister.



HOW TO CONTACT THE MINISTER

Email: revjanetbush@gmail.com or minister@uunorthampton.org

Phone: 584-1390 x202 (office); 727-8497 (home — before 9 pm for non-emergencies)

Office hours: Please email or call for an appointment: Mondays, Tuesdays, or Thursdays.

Pioneer To Go Primarily On-Line in Fall

from Patricia Wright

RESPONDING TO THE RISING COSTS of mailing the paper newsletter, and looking to the visual advantages of on-line publication, the Coordinating Council voted this spring to move toward distributing *The Pioneer* electronically this fall. "We would still mail copies to members who do not have email and would make some print copies available here in the building," said **Lisa Britland**, Congregational Administrator and Coordinator of the newsletter. Importantly, on-line formats have the potential be more colorful and lively, especially by using photographs. Questions? Comments? Interested in being a Photo Editor? Contact me at pawright1@verizon.net or 586-7790.

Calling All Pioneer Folders

ON JUNE 27 WE WILL BE SENDING out the last mass mailing of the Pioneer. Whether you currently volunteer, or have ever volunteered to help with the preparation of the Pioneer mailing, please join us this one last time. Refreshments will be served. — *Lisa Britland*

Please Update Your Info

HAVE YOU RECENTLY moved, or changed your phone number or email address? We're updating our database and want to make sure we have your correct information. Please send it to office@uunorthampton.org — *Lisa Britland*

PLEASE NOTE VARYING JUNE SERVICE TIMES

ON JUNE 2, WE'LL HOLD our Coming of Age Credo Services at 9:15 and 11:00 AM. On June 9 at 10 AM we will have our final service for all ages for this school year, followed by our annual picnic in Look Park. **Bring a flower to share if you can.** Janet will be preaching at **10 AM on June 16**, and lay-led summer services at 10 AM will begin on June 23.

The Pioneer is a periodical publication of the Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence, 220 Main Street, Northampton, MA 01060. It is issued monthly, except for a combined July/August issue. This is volume 43, number 10.

REPORTS AND ARTICLES

Partner Church Committee Plans for Possible Youth Pilgrimage in 2014

from Cathie Brown

OUR SOCIETY HAS HAD a partner church in Homorodkarácsonyfalva, Transylvania, for over 20 years. This wonderful partnership is mutually beneficial to both our society and their church. In it our entire congregation partners with our Transylvanian sister church. The Partner Church committee fosters communication and education and holds several yearly fundraising events to help fund travel opportunities and items that may be needed by our partner church.

In 2012 we began to have Skype calls with our partners and we are planning more regular communication every couple of months with the Benedeks — Mihaly, the minister, and Enikő, his wife, who runs the RE program. Their daughter Agnes helps translate during our calls. The committee hopes to broaden this electronic communication and in the coming year will explore the possibility of using our new projector and a laptop to virtually attend a service at our partner church.

Throughout the 20 years of our partnership, we have had several groups — including a group of five youth — and individuals from the congregation travel to visit Transylvania. Janet and her husband, Booker, made a visit two years ago. Several years ago the Benedeks were able to come to Northampton to visit and the Society hosted many activities to celebrate their visit.

This year we have also begun to plan for a possible pilgrimage to Karácsonyfalva for some of our youth in the summer of 2014. We look forward to broadening this process and involving the congregation in the coming year. It will take



*Unitarian Church of Homorodkarácsonyfalva,
Transylvania*

a coordinated, whole-Society effort to make this happen.

You can support our youth pilgrimage efforts by attending or helping with our two major fundraisers: a tag sale planned for the fall, and our Transylvanian dinner planned for the winter of 2014. We will host a first Friday dinner and share some pictures and information about the trip. There will be many activities to participate in as we work together to make this happen.

The Partner Church committee welcomes new members. We meet the second Sunday of every other month in the Parlor at 7 PM. For more information contact **Joan O'Brien** or **Cathie Brown**, Co-chairs.

June Featured Climate Actions

from Molly Hale

THIS IS THE THIRD OF A CONTINUING SERIES of monthly “Climate Actions of the Month,” brought to you by the USNF Climate Action Group (CAG). It is a way to provide encouragement and build a spirit of collective effectiveness as we each do what we can to tackle climate change. Each monthly bundle of actions touches on four levels: personal, community, state/national/global, and educational. Our website will be coming soon and will offer resources to support the monthly actions. To learn more about the CAG contact Molly Hale at hellomolly@comcast.net or 585-0791.

1. Personal: If you have a vegetable garden, focus on keeping it mulched, watered, and tended consistently this season. **If you don't, try growing vegetables in containers** such as five-gallon buckets. Here's one website with details on how to get started with containers: <http://containergardening.about.com/od/vegetablesandherbs/tp/5-Tips-For-Growing-Tomatoes-In-Containers.htm>

2. Community: Plant fruit trees with other neighbors. Many fruit trees require more than one plant in order to pollinate. Why not plan with your neighbors to coordinate planting trees that will pollinate with each other? Local garden centers can advise on the best varieties for our region and how to get started.

3. State/National/Global: Support Edward Markey for U.S. senator. Mark your calendar to vote in the Special Election on June 25. CAG members believe that Markey is a far better candidate in terms of climate change: supporting the Kyoto protocol, voting against the Keystone Pipeline, and leading the congressional investigation into the BP oil spill. To volunteer or contribute to his campaign, visit <http://www.edmarkey.com/>. His opponent, Gabriel Gomez, supports the Keystone pipeline and on his official website seems to favor business over meaningful climate actions.

4. Inform yourself: Plan a movie night with friends or neighbors to watch a documentary about climate change. It's important to keep reminding ourselves of why dealing with climate change is so urgent. Some possibilities are *Six Degrees Could Change the World* by National Geographic and available from our local library system, *Do the Math* by 350.org, available on YouTube, and *Chasing Ice*, available from Netflix.

HUNGER DOESN'T TAKE A HOLIDAY

Many of us take a "summer holiday" — that one or two weeks away from work — off to visit relatives, to the campground, the lakes or the mountains. Unfortunately, for the many who go from unemployment check to unemployment check, or workers' compensation check to worker's compensation check, or from nothing to nothing, there is no holiday from hunger. People in those categories go to the Survival Center for food because they don't have enough money to purchase food to feed themselves and/or their children. When you attend a service **this summer, please bring a non-perishable food item** and put it in that "Generosity Box" in the foyer. We give; others live.

— Alice Zuvers

Climate Action Group Goes Solar

from Molly Hale

THE USNF CLIMATE ACTION GROUP has added the promotion and endorsement of Solarize Northampton to its growing list of projects. Northampton was selected by the state as one of ten communities to participate in Solarize Mass 2013, a partnership between the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, the Department of Energy Resources Green Communities Division, local officials and community volunteers. The program provides a group purchasing model for small-scale solar electric projects for residences and businesses. USNF member **Susan Lantz** is the head contact for the community part of the project.

Although Solarize Northampton is open only to Northampton residents and businesses, the benefits of educating people about solar photovoltaics and creating more solar-renewable energy are a plus for everyone. Participants must sign up by September 30 of this year. Real Goods Solar has been selected as the installer for Solarize Northampton. This company has received high marks for their installations and for guiding potential customers to the best option for each individual situation. It is providing Solarize Northampton extremely competitive prices and many options from buying outright to leasing systems with no initial payment.

On Thursday, June 13th, at 7 PM we will host "Meet our Installer" night at the Senior Center in Northampton, where Jim Oliva and Eric Wilson of Real Goods will outline the next steps for solar. In the meantime, sign up for your free Mass Save energy audit by calling 1-866-527-7283 or emailing **Laura Biddulph** at laura.biddulph@cetonline.org. It is necessary to have had this free audit within the last five years to be eligible for the Massachusetts solar incentives.

The Solarize Northampton team can be reached at solarizenorthampton@gmail.com.

Small Group Ministries Winding Down Vigorously

from Katie Olmstead

SMALL GROUPS FOLLOWS the USNF calendar, taking summers off, so that June is our last session for this year. Our May topic was "Love Letters to Life." Coincidentally, I received this in an email from a person in my group. With her permission, I am sharing it, as it fits perfectly with the topics at hand:

"I am really relieved and happy that I signed up for this, and am in your group. It is a leap to step into this and basically be 'intimate' and sharing with people I don't know! I find myself thinking of everyone often, it has been an amazing and treasured experience."

Which leads us perfectly into our last month's topic: Leap! "I want to know if you can be with joy, mine or your own, if you can dance with wildness and let the ecstasy fill you to the tips of your fingers and toes...I want to know if you can live with failure, yours and mine, and still stand on the edge of the lake and shout to the silver of the full moon, 'Yes!'" — Oriah

Signups will start in September. Watch for our new brochure. Maybe this will be your first year to take this leap into Small Groups, or your tenth. All are welcome.

I WAS A SAVER

PERHAPS IT WAS BECAUSE my parents were "children of the depression." or maybe it's just in my DNA, but I saved and collected "stuff" for 45-plus years. Last fall I moved from a house with 1,500 square feet (with a full basement — which was full!) to an apartment. Yes, I got rid of lots of "stuff" but I still have lots of "stuff." I am on a mission to divest myself of anything doesn't fit into my current life/apartment. Rather than donate to "Savers" or "Goodwill," I'd like it to go to the Unitarian Society's Partner Church tag sale this fall. But, I need a basement, a barn or a garage to store that "stuff" until the tag sale. If you have space, please contact me azuvers@aol.com.

—Alice Zuvers



Pastoral Friends Are Here to Serve You

If you have (or someone you know has) experienced a setback that has left you hospitalized, ill, or in need of rides, meals, visits, or other services, please call or email **Anne Lombard**, 586-7509, aslombard@comcast.net or **Lee Hawkins**, 584-6678, rehawk@crocker.com. Also, contact one of us if you would like to be on our Pastoral Friends list to help.



USNF Mission Statement

“The Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence is an inclusive and welcoming intergenerational congregation of diverse spiritual beliefs and practices. Our mission is to build a caring community where children and adults can safely learn and grow — where we are supported and challenged on life’s journeys, called to service and to our higher selves, and inspired to better our world.”

Next Pioneer Deadline: Thursday, June 20

The Pioneer
Unitarian Society of
Northampton and Florence
220 Main Street
Northampton, MA 01060
Phone: 413/584-1390

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 322
NORTHAMPTON, MA

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

THE PIONEER
THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
THE UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF NORTHAMPTON AND FLORENCE

MINISTER

The Rev. Janet Bush

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Cindy Beal

CONGREGATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Lisa Britland

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Gregory Hayes

OFFICE AND RE ADMINISTRATOR

Betzji Sylvan

YOUTH DIRECTOR

Yana Tallon-Hicks

CUSTODIAN

Jeff Johnson

THE PIONEER STAFF

MANAGING EDITOR

Patricia Wright

WEB MANAGER

Julie Kurose

COORDINATOR

Lisa Britland

PIONEER DATES

DEADLINE

Thursday, June 20

PUBLICATION

June 27

Articles should be 350 words or less. Submit to Patricia Wright at pawright1@verizon.net. Please include the word "PIONEER" in the subject line.

Office hours: Tuesday through Thursday 9:30-3:30
Contact the Society at 584-1390. Visit us online at www.uunorthampton.org.

Go Green – Send an email to office@uunorthampton.org to receive your *Pioneer* online only