

THE PIONEER

Unitarian Society of Northampton & Florence October 2013 Volume 44 No. 2



OCTOBER SUNDAY SERVICES

October 6

Services at 9:15 and 11 AM

Pioneers in Petticoats

The Reverend Janet C. Bush

19th century Unitarian women were courageous leaders in education, mental health, abolitionism, women's rights, and suffrage for women and for blacks. Other women made a difference through bringing Unitarianism to the west, where male preachers were unwilling to go. We'll hear some of their stories and consider their legacy.

October 13

Service for All Ages at 10 AM

Answer in Your Hands

The Reverend Janet C. Bush and Cindy Beal, DRE

Can anyone be all knowing? Join us for a story featuring members of our 2nd/3rd grade class and others, a brief reflection, and singing by the adult and children's choirs.

October 20

Services at 9:15 and 11 AM

Leaving a Mark

Lawson Wulsin

Worship committee member and youth advisor Lawson Wulsin shares his latest musings.

October 27

Services at 9:15 and 11 AM

Even Nightmares Can Heal

The Reverend Cynthia Cain

A journey into Jungian Dream Work, its value for the spiritual journey, and some dream play with feminine and masculine archetypes for the Halloween season.

[See Reverend Cain's bio here.](#)

In this issue:

[Notes from the Minister](#) Pg 2

[Religious Education](#) Pg 3

[Welcome](#) Pg 4

[Reports & Articles](#) Pg 5

[Events & Workshops](#) Pg 6

[Climate Actions of the Month](#) Pg 10

[Bulletin Board](#) Pg 11

Upcoming Events

- [Trans Pride, Oct. 5](#)
- [Shelter Sunday, Oct. 6](#)
- [Partner Church Apple Fest & Tag Sale, Oct. 19](#)
- [Safe Relations Workshop, Oct. 28](#)
- [Adult Ed: Book Discussion, Nov. 3](#)

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NOTES FROM THE MINISTER

Over the summer I expanded my appreciation of the advantages and disadvantages of audio books. Audio books are an invitation to multi-tasking. The chief advantage of listening, rather than reading, is also the chief disadvantage: you can do something else at the same time. Drive the car, for example, or take a walk. Or knit, or watch a baseball game with the sound turned off.



The downside is one pays less attention than one otherwise might to both activities. This matters very little with baseball. You could listen to the works of Plato and miss almost nothing. But as one of you with whom I spoke about this recently pointed out, if you're driving and get too wrapped up in a book, you can easily miss an exit. Mistake-free knitting, I repeatedly fail to remember, only happens if the pattern is simple.

Recently I was corresponding via instant messaging with my son who is still in Afghanistan. IM is not very different from speaking with him live. I have concluded he is related to my Yankee father. He gives short answers, and there are long pauses between each bit of dialogue. I was emptying the dishwasher, reading the paper, making my lunch, and then changing my clothes as we texted back and forth.

I left the phone alone, driving to the gym, and then signed off in the parking lot. "Love u." "I love you too Mom." And then I caught a glimpse of myself, reflected in the glass entryway – with a strange square of white at my throat. I had put my t-shirt on inside out, and backwards.

Experts disagree about whether multi-tasking actually makes us more productive. They do agree that the older we get, the less able we are to do it. Like many of us, I face a busy fall. Maybe the impish gremlin playing games in my closet was trying to get me to slow down. Reminding me once again to appreciate, and focus on, what matters. If he happens to visit you, you may want to pay attention to his antics and his message.

I am grateful and happy to be starting my fifth year of ministry with you.

P.S. I will be in North Carolina for several days at the end of October – actual dates still to be determined. My son Dan will be returning from his deployment in Afghanistan, and I will be there to embrace him and help his family get settled in a new home. Many thanks to Lawson Wulsin for taking October 20 on short notice and to my colleague the Reverend Cynthia Cain for joining us October 27th.

HOW TO CONTACT THE MINISTER

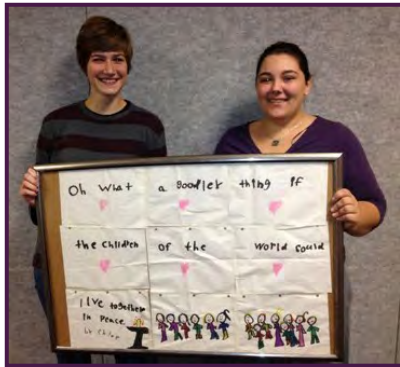
Email: revjanetbush@gmail.com

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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: CREATING HOME

There are many ways that we could exemplify how a religious community can be considered Home. One is through what we teach, and how. This year our kindergarten/1st grade curriculum is *Creating Home*. It looks at home as a place of belonging. We can describe the idea of home by talking about how children explore the deep sense of sacredness, the beauty of hospitality, and the gift of loving relationships that a home can represent through the experiences we give them. We engage in community, practice covenant, and learn a curriculum that mirrors our active lives together. We “Create Home” even as we talk about it.



We can also “Create Home” by telling a story. Eleven years ago, Chloe (left) was a student in a USNF pre-school class. Anja (right) was in high school and was a pre-school teacher and Children’s Choir Director. Chloe made this poster of a song they sang. Anja kept it all these years. Today, Chloe is a one of our pre-school teachers. Anja is the Child Care Coordinator and (once again) the Children’s Choir Director. You will hear this very song at an upcoming service.

Below are pictures from last years’ Pumpkin Fest, at which many of our youth – some brand new to UU, some who have found a home here their whole lives – took leadership through both play and service. This year, youth are also working directly with the Coming of Age Class: developing social justice projects, working on credos and more. We create our home together. We provide young people with roots and wings, and as they grow they deepen rhizomes and connect, not only to one another, but to the larger congregation and world, creating new things.

NEXT ALL AGES ACTIVITY - FAMILY BREAKFAST: Sunday, October 13, 8:30-9:45. Afterward, stay for the 10 am multigenerational service. Enjoy a casual breakfast and meet other families in the Religious Education program. No RSVP required!



PUMPKIN FEST!

Saturday, October 26, 3-5 pm

Last year youth and young people cooked bread for Manna, roasted pumpkin seeds, carved pumpkins, grabbed donuts off of strings and MORE! Join us this year for even more fun! All are welcome!

HOW TO CONTACT CINDY BEAL, DRE

Email: cbeal@uunorthampton.org

Phone: 584-1390 x203

www.Facebook.com/USNF_dre

WELCOME

The Reverend Cynthia Cain



We look forward to welcoming the Reverend Cynthia Cain to our pulpit on October 27. Cynthia is a Unitarian Universalist minister who has just completed 14 years' service in Lexington, KY. Prior to that, she served congregations in Riverside, CA as well as in Virginia and Maryland. She and her husband Eric have a 25 acre farm, *Innisfree*, in central Kentucky, and a Bed & Breakfast in nearby Springfield. She is currently studying Spiritual Direction at the Haden Institute in North Carolina and is interested in Thomas Merton, sustainability and locavore issues, and Buddhist practice. Her daughter Marjorie is a junior at Smith College.

New Member Profile

Nan Wieggersma has been a Unitarian Universalist for some time. Now living in the condominium community Hatfield Village, she attended services at UU churches in Littleton and Amherst before moving to the Northampton area, and she signed the membership book at the USNF last spring. She says she is enthusiastic about the social justice work being done in this congregation (especially the climate change work).



Nan has been a widow for 8 years. After taking early retirement from the state, she spent a wonderful eight months traveling with her husband, John. When he became ill with what turned out to be pancreatic cancer, they continued to travel between chemotherapy treatments. She wrote a memoir about the last year with her husband, called *Precious Time*. Nan has a daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren who live in Montague, and a sister and brother who also live in New England.

She is an Emeritus Professor from Fitchburg State University where she taught economics, specializing in economic development in poor countries. She has written about Vietnamese land reform, development aid to the Pacific Rim, and women's roles in economic development. She takes classes through Learning in Retirement and at the Springfield Art Museum, keeps active with Jazzercise and walking, and enjoys movies and concerts.

REPORTS & ARTICLES

Your Opportunity for Small Group Ministry?

from Katie Olmstead

Consider yourself invited to join our Small Group Ministry program for this coming year. Would you like to spend two hours, once a month, engaged in a facilitated conversation about things that really matter? Take a step out of every-day communication and dive more deeply, safely, genuinely, with an open heart. Each month offers quotations and questions around a given topic. This year all our topics revolve around compassion, connection and courage. Specific topics include “Honoring Friendship,” “The Power of Kindness,” and “Embracing Imperfection.”

All groups start in October and require a commitment to attend monthly through June. We are setting up the groups on September 30, so please return your forms before then to be assured a space in this year’s groups. We will add in as space permits for a few weeks, but it is best if members all start together. Our brochure is on the [web](#) and in the pews. Feel free to just email me directly with your information at KDOLmstead@aol.com or call me at 413 585-0564.

“When we tell and listen to stories, we can almost feel our souls breathing fully and deeply. Our capacity to see options, to visualize possibilities, to imagine expands and we are somehow more alive.”
--*Michael Parent Roberts*

We look forward to welcoming you.

USNF Youth Group

We’d like to remind everyone that Youth Group is OPEN to all local high-school aged youth until November 1st! We meet every Sunday from 4-6 PM in the USNF Social Room (with some special-event exceptions) for community bonding, games, worship, meaningful sharing, leadership development, field trips and service projects. Come stop by and see what we’re all about, read more at uunorthampton.org or email Yana Tallon-Hicks, Youth Director at youth@uunorthampton.org.

EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

Northampton Trans Pride

Saturday, October 5th, 11am - 1pm

USNF is pleased to host Northampton's annual Trans Pride gathering. All are welcome at this community event. Mayor Narkewicz will open the event with his declaration of Trans Pride Weekend in Northampton. Trans Pride will feature a keynote address by Jay (a 9 year old transgender boy), Michael and Garrett LaBranche speaking on being raised by a trans parent, USNF member Tynan Power on the role of faith in the trans rights movement and trans people's lives, music by USNF member Arjuna Greist, and an art exhibit featuring the work of Anthony Bingham-Redgrave. The gathering will take place on the lawn or social room, depending on weather. More information about the event can be found online at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/286466328157420/>

Shelter Sunday, October 6, 2013

Every year on **Shelter Sunday** volunteer canvassers go door to door throughout greater Northampton, Florence and Leeds collecting donations to support local homeless shelters, emergency housing, soup kitchens and other survival services. Last year people generously opened their doors and raised over \$50,000 for the campaign. **Volunteers are the heart of this effort.** It requires a large number of generous people to reach every home with a direct personal appeal.

On October 6, 2013 please consider taking a neighborhood walk with your family or friends and bring much needed sustenance to those in our community who are in need. **It takes just 2 hours of your time.** To volunteer or for more information, please call Wendy at 413-582-9508 or email volunteer@northamptonsheltersunday.org.

You can also help by mailing in your donation or by responding generously when a **Shelter Sunday** volunteer comes to your door. All of the money raised goes directly to service programs of six local organizations. (MANNA Soup Kitchen, Safe Passage, Single Room Occupancy Project, Interfaith Emergency Shelter, Grace House, Grove Street Inn). Please make checks payable to:

Shelter Sunday
c/o ServiceNet, Inc.
129 King Street, Northampton, MA 01060

EVENTS & WORKSHOPS



Partner Church Tag Sale and Apple Fest:
Supporting the USNF Youth Trip to Transylvania
Saturday, October 19, 9 AM – 1 PM

The Partner Church Committee and Youth Group are planning a youth trip to Homoródkarácsonyfalva in the summer of 2014. Youth will visit our partner church, engage in social action activities, visit famous Unitarian historical spots and do some sightseeing. The entire congregation will be involved in helping us fund and send off the youth who are chosen to travel next summer. There will be many opportunities for members and friends to participate in education and events that will prepare the youth for their visits.

The first of our fundraisers is our annual **Tag Sale and Apple Fest**. Please save your tag sale items for this event. We will be able to accept donations on Friday afternoon or early Saturday morning. There is no storage at the Society for your donations. We welcome small lamps or furniture, household items, toys, books, jewelry and games. All donations must be in good condition. Please, no broken or unsellable items. It costs us money and time to dispose of these items. Please let us know if you need help transporting items to USNF ahead of time so we can arrange transportation closer to the event.

If you can bake or work a shift at this event please contact Cathie Brown at 584-5521 or Joan O'Brien 584-7577. Your help is greatly appreciated.

This is an exciting project for our youth and congregation. We need and appreciate your help, energy and financial support make it a reality.

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 contact **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.

EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

Safe Relations Workshop

Monday, October 28

6:45—8:30 PM, Parlor

Submitted by Corky Klimczak on behalf of the Safe Relations Committee

Please mark your calendar and plan to join members of the Safe Relations Committee for an interactive workshop designed to help USNF members and friends learn some key skills that can help us have difficult conversations that are safe, respectful, non-judgmental and useful in moving past our differences with others including friends, family members, fellow congregants and colleagues. Sweet and savory refreshments will be served.

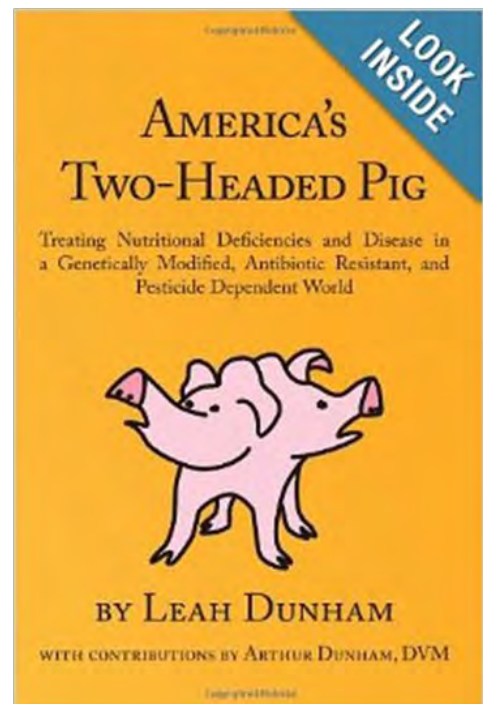
The Difficult Conversations Workshop will be held on Monday, October 28th from 6:45-8:30PM. We scheduled the workshop on a fifth Monday to minimize conflicts with monthly Monday meetings, so we're hoping for a good turnout. It's an opportunity to get to know others at USNF a little better while learning some new skills. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

America's Two-Headed Pig

Saturday, November 3

12:15 PM, Parlor

Are you interested in food, agriculture, and animal health? Join USNF member Leah Dunham to discuss her new book, *America's Two-Headed Pig*. Leah will help you connect the dots between changing farm practices and unusual animal ailments as witnessed by her father over his 39-year career as a farm veterinarian. For more information, contact Adult Ed coordinator Rich West at rwest@periodyssey.com.



EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

USNF Multigenerational Auction November 9

SAVE SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9 on your calendar for this year's USNF multigenerational auction. Admission is free. The fun starts at 5:00 PM and will include silent and live auctions as well as raffle items for adults, children and youth. Food and drinks will be available downstairs and entertainment, provided once again by the **USNF Jazz Jam**, will be upstairs in the Great Hall.

Donations of services and/or items are needed to make the night a success. Most of the ever popular Auction Dinners will be available for bidding on again this year. Don't have a service or item to donate? How about a gift certificate to your favorite restaurant, spa, or store? Purchase a grocery store gift card here at USNF and then donate it to the auction. Gift cards for iTunes, bookstores, A to Z, and Faces were popular raffle items for children and youth last year. We ask that you please let us know by October 27 what you will be donating and that you wait until the week before the auction to drop off your item. **All donors** to the auction will be entered in a drawing for a **special raffle prize**.

How else can you help make the auction a success? Donations of baked goods/desserts are needed so let us know if you are willing to bring something with you to the auction. Volunteers will also be needed throughout the night. We will need help at the registration table signing people in, handing out programs and selling tickets. We will also need monitors for the silent auction and raffle rooms, assistance in the kitchen, and assistance during the live auction.

For donation and volunteer information
please contact:

Kate Collins (katecollins88@gmail.com)

Lisa Britland (office@uunorthampton.org)

Gail Gaustad (gailgaustad@comcast.net)

For anything food related please contact:

Jane Deihl (janendeihl@verizon.net)

Claire Bailey (clariedbailey@aol.com)

OCTOBER FEATURED CLIMATE ACTIONS

This is the sixth our series of “Climate Actions of the Month”, brought to you by the USNF Climate Action Group (CAG). It is a way to provide focus and build a spirit of collective action 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, coming soon, will offer resources to support these actions. To learn more contact Molly Hale at hellomolly@comcast.net or 585-0791.

1. Personal: Drive slower on the highway to dramatically improve gas mileage. In general, the performance of cars driving above 55 mph drops off rapidly because wind resistance increases at the increase in speed squared. Save money and CO₂ by slowing down! For more information see www.drive55.org and the [Consumer Reports website](#).

2. Community: Attend one of the TD Bank Protests on October 5 in Amherst, Northampton, Springfield, Holyoke and Greenfield. Civil disobedience as well as legal participation will protest TD Bank’s financing of Tar Sands oil mining and the pipelines (such as the Keystone XL) to transport the oil to the coasts for export and sale. Such civil disobedience would be part of the “Pledge of Resistance” organized by the progressive phone company Credo Mobile. Over 70,000 people all over the country have signed on so far, agreeing to take non-violent direct action to stop Tar Sands oil pipelines and shut down the Tar Sands mining in Canada itself. Contact johnperk@gmail.com for more information.

3. State/National/Global: Attend the Keystone XL Pipeline sit-in in Boston on Monday, October 7. To build pressure on the Obama administration as it nears a decision on the Keystone pipeline, there will be a sit-in in Secretary of State John Kerry’s home town of Boston. This will be a peaceful and dignified action organized by Credo, where participants can choose to risk arrest or participate legally. All those risking arrest must be firmly committed to principles of non-violence and attend action training on Sunday afternoon before the action. To sign up [click here](#).

4. Inform yourself: Watch the Bill Moyers interview on Making People Care about Climate Change. Moyers interviews Anthony Leiserowitz, who specializes in the psychology of risk perception. Go to [Bill Moyers’ website here](#) to watch the interview.



BULLETIN BOARD

ADULT CHOIR

The adult choir rehearses every Thursday at 6:15 PM. For more information, contact our music directory, Gregory Hayes at ghayes@uunorthampton.org.

NEW FISCAL YEAR

September was the start of our new fiscal year. If you haven't had time, please make sure to pay the remainder of your 2012-2013 pledge asap and as always, please note in the memo line to which year we should apply your payment. Thank you!

LIKE THOSE NEW NAME TAGS?

You may be seeing some people wearing a new style of name tag. We are calling them the bolo tags. They go around the neck, rather than making you clip them onto your nice Sunday clothing. Want one? Just put your name in the booklet for new name tags that is located in the alcove by the front door. We will be using these until we run out. Then we'll try to figure out what kind of tag people prefer before ordering more.

A NOTE ABOUT OUR SOUND SYSTEM

Our House and Property team does their best to make sure our sound system is as close to state of the art as we can afford. Unfortunately, personal hearing aids can interfere with it, causing a ringing noise. If you wear a personal hearing aid, we ask that you try turning it down during the service and use one of the portable devices that connects directly to our system. These are available in the back of the Great Hall. Thanks!

YOUR PHOTOS WANTED FOR THE PIONEER

Do you have photos of USNF events? We'd love to include them here in the Pioneer. Please send moderately sized jpegs to office@uunorthampton.org. Images of children will not be used without parental / guardian permission.

WEB WEAVER INFORMATION

Learn more about the Web Weavers and how they help fulfill our mission to create community at the USNF. Details on the next page!

WEB WEAVER INFORMATION

Don't Miss Out! Become a Web Weaver and get on the Web Wheel

What is a Web Weaver? Anyone who would like to help fulfill our mission to create a supportive and caring community by pledging their participation to help facilitate social events by being part of a web of volunteers. Social events involving food is an age old communal interaction that brings people together, young and old, for a variety of reasons. Through the offering of food, we extend our hand and hearts, weaving our community together.

What is a Web Wheel? A way to organize our "weavers" or "websters" into categories of tasks of their choosing: bakers, salad, soup or casserole makers, helpers to set or clean up, dishwashers, beverage, bread or appetizers providers, etc ----- whatever is required for a particular social event **What Then?** Once you pick an area you feel comfortable doing, your name is placed on the wheel and you will be placed in a sequential ordered system. When your name comes up you will be called upon. If you cannot do it at the time called, you go back on the list to be called for the next event.

Will it Work? It's only by many people doing a little can we collectively achieve a lot without overburdening anyone person or group. It is only by working together can we keep the Web Wheel and USNF moving smoothly along.

Want to know more? Sign up? Contact Co-chairs:

Kate Collins katecollins88@gmail.com

Jane Deihl janendeihl@verizon.net

Gail Gaustad gailgaustad@comcast.net

Claire Bailey clairedbailey@aol.com

OR, sign up below and drop off in the office, or leave on the table behind the last pew on your way out and someone will contact you.

NAME

Contact Information

Task of interest (circle)

baker soups/ chili casseroles/main dishes appetizers/ salads dishwasher/
setting up cleaning up serving beverages/ bread Sunday Social Hour

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Northampton & Florence

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

MINISTER

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Cindy Beal

CONGREGATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Lisa Britland

MUSIC DIRECTOR

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PIONEER DATES

DEADLINE

October 24

PUBLICATION

October 31

Articles should be 350 words or less. Send submissions to
Office@uunorthampton.org. 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.