

Church Events for September & October 2014

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
at 10 Station Rd in Hartland, Vermont 05048

Rev. Lucia Anne Jackson, Pastor

Facebook: HartlandCongregationalChurch

Church Telephone: (802)436-2224 or via email at RevLucia13@gmail.com

Dear Members and Friends,

We are embarking on a new adventure this fall – being a Field Education Site for an Andover Newton Theological School student: Amanda Swoyer! Amanda will be with us 10 hours a week as a student minister. I wrote a “site description” and a “position” description when we applied to be a Field Ed site. The deacons suggested that those write ups be shared with you –

Site Description:

“Surely the Lord is in this place . . . How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God . . .” Gen 28:16-17

The First Congregational Church of Hartland, United Church of Christ (FCCH) is a vibrant Open & Affirming congregation serving the town of Hartland and surrounding communities. With one full time pastor, a part time organist and choir directors, the church’s success is due to dedicated lay involvement, able volunteers, lay leadership and willingness to make changes as needed.

Worship is vital. Though we have a “regular” order of worship, the congregation welcomes creative ways to worship including drama, story telling and poetry, a variety of music and guest musicians. We have an average Sunday attendance of 65. Our Church School has 18 students registered, but planning is challenging as attendance varies from 2 to 15. For adults there are two weekly bibles studies -

both are thoughtful groups asking questions, sharing doubts and faith journeys. Our church is proud of its outreach and mission through regular giving to OCWM and several local groups and “hands on” serving meals at a transitional housing facility, working with Habitat for Humanity and supporting foster parents. In partnership with the First Universalist Society of Hartland, UUA, we support a generous food shelf and a substantial effort known as the “Hartland Christmas Project”. Additionally with the UUs, we have thriving junior and senior high youth groups. For a small, semi rural church, FCCH supports a wide range of programs, but more importantly, our community is Spirit filled and dedicated with a theological range and diversity that welcomes newcomers while standing proudly in historical tradition. We share our joys and laughter, our struggles and our tears. The church family is open to exploration, willing to grow and ready to share God’s love to a world in need.

Description of Student Involvement: *“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” – Jeremiah 29:11 NIV*

FCCH can offer a student a wide range of pastoral experience in the solo pastorate, small town setting. The church is healthy and thriving and anticipating the opportunity to nurture future church leaders. A student here has the opportunity to participate in worship leadership, preach, pastoral visitation, church school organization and curriculum, youth group programming, bible study, mission projects, church meetings and community events. We are open to developing a “job description” based on the student’s areas of need – for growth, experience and strengths.

Description of commitment to the mission of educating ministers.

"From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required. . ." Luke 12:48 NRSV Being a teaching church will be a new experience for the First Congregational Church of Hartland, UCC. The Board of Deacons has engaged in numerous conversations about what our church has to offer a student – diverse theology, multiple programs, members of all ages, open to new worship experiences, and a willingness to have frank, honest debate as needed. The current pastor has 24 years of pastoral ministry experience in 4 different church settings and is interested in mentoring future ministers. During the pastor's 8-week sabbatical last year, we had an ANTS student who was well received. That experience with nurturing a seminary student, growing together with her energy and enthusiasm, leadership and creativity inspired the Deacons to make becoming a teaching church one of the church goals for 2014.

And now we have a field education student for 2014-2015! Amanda Swoyer starts with us on September 28th and finishes on April 26th. Brian Porto, Linda Johnston, Jeannie Frazer, Peter Courtemanche, Michael Heaney & Cordie Merritt have agreed to be on the Teaching Parish Committee (TPC) to meet monthly with Amanda to give her feedback, support, and guidance. Our role is to help nurture a new minister and we have many resources to do that.

You are indeed a wonderful church family – a blessing to all! Looking forward to an exciting fall. See you in Church – Lucia

Worship Schedule ****WORSHIP at 10:00am starting Sept 7th****

This fall, we will be studying David from 1 & 2 Samuel. Why David? "The story of David is probably the greatest single narrative representation in antiquity of a human life evolving by slow stages through time, shaped and altered by the pressures of political life, public institutions, family, the impulses of body and spirit, the eventual sad decay of the flesh. It also provides the most unflinching insight into the cruel processes of history and into human behavior warped by the pursuit of power. And nowhere is the Bibles' astringent narrative economy, its ability to define characters and etch revelatory dialogue in a few telling strokes more brilliantly deployed."
--The David Story: A translation with Commentary of 1 and 2 Samuel by Robert Alter, W.W. Norton & Company, New York, London.

*Sunday, Sept 7th 10:00– Intergenerational Worship Service
with Communion 11:00 Ice Cream Social! 11:45 Teacher Training

*Sun, Sep 14th 10:00–WELCOME BACK SUNDAY w/ Choir Anthem
*Our Rotation Church School begins! 8:45 Choir Rehearsal
Youth Group to 6 Flags*

*Sunday, September 21st 10:00 – Worship, Regular Church School

*Sunday, September 28th 10:00 – Worship, Regular Church School
Amanda Swoyer's first Sunday as Field Ed student!
11:15 Bible Study – the Book of Acts

*Sunday, Oct 5th – Worship, World Communion, Reg Church School
11:15 Bible Study – the Book of Acts

*Sunday, Oct 12th – Worship, Regular Church School
11:15 Allegretti presentation on service trip to Nepal

*Sunday, October 19th - Worship, Regular Church School
11:15 Bible Study – the Book of Acts
Youth Mission Trip Brunch to benefit Mission Trip 2015.

*Sun, Oct 26th – Reformation & Bible Sunday, Reg Church School
11:15 Bible Study – the Book of Acts

Board of Christian Education News and Notes:

In our Fifth Year of Rotation Church School the themes are: David, Psalm 23, Isaiah, the Beatitudes, Heifer Project, Holy Week, Stories from the Book of Acts.

The students will spend an entire unit on the theme, studying and learning in a variety of ways - drama, art, science, games and cooking to name a few. Each age group will have a "shepherd" teacher for the 3-6 week unit and the class will rotate to the workshop teachers. Each workshop teacher is preparing the same lesson for 2 weeks, but adjusting the workshop for different ages. The Shepherd teachers know the students, provide continuity between lessons and lead the opening and closing time.

We are a community blessed with many talents, individual interests, a variety of experiences and creativity. Rotation Church School highlights those diverse abilities and nurtures faith through depth of learning. We can all participate in the growth and nurture of our church school children and youth - and have a responsibility to do so.

How can YOU PARTICIPATE? See a CE Board member **and volunteer**. AND Please hold the teachers and students in your prayers. Do you like to cook? Then lead the cooking workshop! How about theater? Then lead the drama workshop! Like science experiments? Then teach the science workshop! These activities are supported in the curriculum with suggestions for projects and detailed instructions. We are open to your ideas also!

Please contact a Christian Education Board member today: Susan Reilly, Jill Allegretti, Donna Lemieux, Daun Smith, Michelle Dunne, Kimberly Hartell-Britt or Lucia.

**Please note that the pre-school and K class will be a self contained classroom

Church School Schedule

Sunday, September 7th – 11:00 Ice Cream Social! Bring a topping to share.
Intergenerational Worship Service, Nursery room staffed
11:15 Teacher Training for Session 1 & 2 & 3

FIRST SESSION SUNDAY SCHOOL: Anointing of David - 1 Sam 16:1-13

"For the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." - 1 Sam 16:7b

Sunday, September 14th –Welcome Sunday Church School begins!

Youth Group to 6 Flags.

Sunday, September 21st - Regular Church School

Wednesday, September 24th – CE BOARD MEETING 7:00

Sunday, September 28th – Regular Church School

Sunday, October 5th - World Communion Sunday, Regular Church School

Sunday, October 12th – Regular Church School,

11:00 Jill & Emma Allegretti presentation about Nepal

Sunday, Oct 19th – Regular Church School

11:00 Youth Mission Trip Brunch

Wednesday, October 22nd - CE BOARD MEETING 7:00

Session 2 - The 23rd Psalm

"The Lord is My Shepherd, I Shall Not Want."- Psalm 23: 1

Sunday, October 26th - Reformation & Bible Sunday!

Regular Church School

Sunday, November 2nd – Worship with Communion, Reg Church School

Sunday, November 9th – Regular Church School

Sunday, November 16th - Regular Church School

Wed, Nov 19th – 7:00 Teacher Training 8:00 CE BOARD MEETING

Sunday, Nov 23rd - Combined Worship Service with the UUs (here)

Youth Mission Trip Brunch

***SAVE THE DATE: Adult Retreat November 7th - 8th
At Church of Our Savior, Mission Farm in Killington, VT***

5:00pm on Friday - 8:00pm on Saturday

***Give yourself a gift - Set aside a weekend for
reflection, laughter, meditation, study, fellowship -
before the holiday busyness.***

Hope that you will give join us this year!

Cost: tba

After worship on OCTOBER 12th our own Jill and Emma Allegretti will speak about their service trip to an orphanage in Nepal!

Jill & Emma went to Pokhara, Nepal in June to volunteer at The Love Company Orphanage. The orphanage is the home of 14 children, ages 4-14. These children came to the orphanage from a wide range of backgrounds. Some of the children were previously street children and some were removed from homes as a result of extreme poverty, abuse or the abandonment or death of their parents. Emma would love to share with everyone her experiences playing with and helping these sweet and happy children as well as her vision of starting a street animal rescue center in Pokhara with the founder of the orphanage. Jill would like to share with everyone the challenges faced in sustaining this orphanage as well as her desire to help expand the orphanage so that more troubled Nepali children can have a safe and happy home filled with love. Jill and Emma will be sharing stories and photographs highlighting the beauty of Nepal and its people, the orphanage children as well as "Emma's Sweethearts" (the street animals!).

We hope you can join us. In the meantime, if you are interested in learning more about The Love Company Orphanage, you can visit their website at: [The Love Nepal, The Love Company.](#)

Namaste, Jill & Emma

TWO Ongoing Bible Studies – you are invited to drop in any time!
Bible Study Starts on Monday, Sept 15th at 5:00! The Monday Bible Study Group focuses on the worship scripture for the following Sunday. We study the text to see how God might be speaking to us today, and to recognize how our own stories and the bible stories speak to one another. Everyone welcome.

Adult Church School Sundays 11:15-12:15 beginning on September 28th – *Join us for our Adult Class based on thoughtful discussion and careful questions. We will spend the fall focusing on the Book of Acts – stories of the early church and the Apostle Paul – and how the Book of Acts speaks to us today. You are welcome to come any Sunday – no experience necessary!*

Choir Begins on Welcome Sunday, Sept 14th
Rehearsals at 8:30 on Sunday Mornings –
YOUR VOICE WELCOME & NEEDED!

Clydene Trachier & Becky Wood are
directing anthems & leading rehearsals:

Choir Rehearsal Schedule:

Friday, Sept 12th at 5:30, Friday, Sept 19th at 5:30,
Thursday, Sept 25th at 7:00, Friday, October 3rd at 5:30,
Thursday, Oct 9th at 7:00, Thursday, Oct 23rd at 7:00.

UNDER THE TREE RACE REPORT Under the Tree 5k/10k Road Race had another great race. The 2014 race was dedicated to Linda Moyer. Linda touched so many lives in the school, churches and the community, many of these benefited from the HCP. The weather was perfect for 82 runners with many young runners running their first race. Great raffles prizes, the big one being a kayak!! *With donations included, raised around \$5,000 for the Hartland Christmas Project!!!* Put your date in for next year; Saturday, August 15th. *A huge thank you to all.*

A THANK YOU

Many church members volunteer their time and talent to keep our church doors open, our building systems operating and the church grounds attractive as well as running the suppers, singing in the choir, teaching Church School and providing altar flowers (to name a few!)

Many folks make efforts to volunteer – just doing what needs to be done. So, here are just a few of the people to thank for efforts in the last few months

Thank you to:

Roger Trachier for working on the fans in the sanctuary, the wiring outside and the lawns!

Roger & Clydene Trachier for hosting the church picnic in July and to Jeannie & Larry Frazer for hosting the picnic in June!

Thank you to the Board of Deacons for leading worship in June and again in August.

Thank you to Vicki Lawrence for organizing the local mission trip with Habitat for Humanity.

Thank you to our flower committee – Emily Silver, Martha McGlinn and Linda Genovese for providing beautiful floral arrangements week after week!

Thank you to Elaine Brousseau who continues to work on the church grounds and gardens making our church yard beautiful.

And to Carmen Summarsell and Dick Brousseau who volunteer weekly at the Hartland Food Shelf.

Church Council Meeting on Tuesday, October 21st at 7:00 for all Boards and Committee Chairs. Please contact Moderator David Hale with any agenda items and make sure that your Board or Committee member is represented at the meeting.

Ladies Benevolent Society

Thursday, Sept 4th at 1:30 – planning meeting for fall

Saturday, October 11th – **The Famous Roast Beef Supper** will be served 5:00 – 7:00

We have a Prayer Shawl Ministry!! We have blessed and delivered several shawls in the past few months – what a gift for someone living with illness, or grieving a loss, or homebound, or new grandparents or for a wedding. All levels of knitters & crocheters welcome! We have two totes of yarn at the church to share if you need supplies. We will gather on Wednesdays 5:00 – 6:00, Sept 24th, Oct 29th & Nov 19th.

Remembrance Sunday is scheduled for November 2nd –A time for Remembrance will be held during worship on Sunday, November 2nd for members, loved ones and friends who died during the past year. Please give the names of persons you wish to have included in the Litany of Remembrance to Lucia or any deacon **before Tuesday, October 28th**.

From the Altar Committee: If you would like to provide flowers for worship, please call Martha McGlinn 436 - 2159 or Emily Silver or Linda Genovese for scheduling. If you have garden flowers, or wild flowers, or have a big blooming houseplant to share, call Martha, Emily or Linda. Thanks, fellow gardeners!!

Once again, the Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society in concert with the Brownsville Community Church has set aside **Saturday, October 4 at 1:00** for the annual **Blessing of the Animals** in our communities to be held at the shelter. Each year, leaders and clergy from congregations in our area take part in the **Blessing of the Animals** and each year more and more individuals and families attend this special multi-denominational event ... many accompanied by their beloved pet companions. You are invited!

CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY:

The Deacons are organizing a new photo directory for the church – which means that YOU NEED TO HAVE your photo taken!!

Laura Swoyer (Amanda Swoyer's daughter) will be taking the photos. She will set up a 30 min session with each family and is hoping to take as many outside photos as possible.

Is there a cost? There is no cost to have your photo taken, you can however, decide to order pictures from Laura! There may be a cost to purchase the directory – we are still determining printing costs.

When? The FINAL session is October 3rd, 4th, & 5th.

How do I sign up? Please see Linda Johnston after worship or email Linda at lindabjohnston@gmail.com or email Cindy Hale at cindy.j.h.hale@gmail.com or Laura laura@lauraswoyer.com to schedule an appointment!

Your participation matters – the more photos we have of church folks, the more useful the directory!

Board of Missions & Outreach

Neighbors in Need Offering will be received throughout the month of Oct. Neighbors in Need is an offering of the UCC and is used locally for non profit organizations and for peace and justice issues.

Serving the evening meal at the Hixon House: we are scheduled for Tuesday, September 30th & Tuesday, December 30th. *Volunteers are needed for both nights. Please contact Jim & Vicki Lawrence for more information or to donate food/help serve.*

Always: Hartland Local Food Shelf – non perishables can be dropped off here anytime. Garden produce may be donated to the food shelf at the UU in 4 Corners on Fridays 8:00-10:00.

Making Mission a Habit, working with God's people in need.
In July, our church had a tremendous week volunteering with Upper Valley Habitat for Humanity. We worked the entire week at a Hurricane Irene recovery project in West Hartford. Lots of good work was done by many volunteers. And we had delicious lunches provided by our Lunch Volunteers. THANK YOU!

Habitat work week Volunteers 2014

Lucia Jackson	Charlie Coon	Belle Leister
Sherry Greeley	Jo Knowles	Aurora Coon
Peter Carini	Jim Lawrence	Eli Knowles
Todd Lloyd	Molly Delaney	Vicki Lawrence
Harriet Dumas	Emma Delaney	Callie Cooper
Carol Withington	Mitchell Simmons	Parker Strawbridge
		Hannah Harkins

Lunch Volunteers

Sherry Greeley	Molly Delaney
Martha McGlenn	Mill Moore
Judy Howland	Edith White
Carmen Summarsell	
Nancy Cone & Family	

Reflecting God's love through your generosity!! We donated 16 backpacks and tons of supplies to our PINS partner for children in need in our region AND 24 Church World Service kits for children in need internationally!! (we surpassed our goal of 20 kits!) The CSW bags were made by a variety of people in beautiful colors. JOY

YOUTH HAPPENINGS!

JUNIOR HIGH School Youth Group (7th & 8th grade)

Junior High youth group generally meet the 2nd & 4th Sundays at 5:00 – 6:15, however we will sometimes meet at FCCH (UCC in 3 Corners) and sometimes at FUSH (UU in 4 Corners). So you will have to note where the meeting is!

SENIOR HIGHS (9TH - 12TH grade)

High School youth group generally meet the 2nd & 4th Sundays at 6:30 – 8:00, however we will sometimes meet at FCCH (UCC in 3 Corners) and sometimes at FUSH (UU in 4 Corners). *So you will have to note where the meeting is!*

We will have pizza, and *dessert donations welcome!*

(please tell Lucia if you can provide dessert one evening and please donate \$20 in the fall and again in the winter/spring to cover the cost of pizza for our meetings)

If you did NOT go on Mission Trip 2014, you must do a new medical/contact information form which is available from Lucia or Paul!

*Sun, Sept 14th 11:00 – 8:00pm **ALL YOUTH trip: 6 FLAGS New England!!** We leave immediately following worship and will return at 8:00pm. Medicals & Money are due by Sun, Sept 7th. If you sign up **AFTER THE 7th**, you are NOT guaranteed a group rate ticket. Medicals available from Lucia or Paul. Cost:\$41.00 **Parent Drivers/Chaperones are NEEDED!**

* Sunday, Sept 28th **Youth Group Meetings at FCCH (UCC)**
Jr Highs 5:00 – 6:15, Sr Highs 6:30 – 8:00 (\$20 pizza donation)

*Sun, Oct 12th **Youth Group Meetings at FCCH (UCC)**
5:00 – 6:15 Jr Highs 6:30 – 8:00 Sr Highs

*Sunday, October 19th 9:00 – 1:00 – **Mission Trip Fundraiser Brunch** at the FCCH (UCC) Church – all Mission Trip 2015 participants expected to help! Parental support needed!

*Sun, Oct 26th **Youth Group Meetings at FCCH (UCC)**
5:00 – 6:15 Jr Highs 6:30 – 8:00 Sr Highs

*Sun, Nov 9th 5:00-6:00 **Junior Youth** at FUSH (UU)
6:00 – at the FUSH (UU)- **Mission Trip Slideshow and Information session** for all 8th graders, sr youth and anyone else interested (parents, potential adult leaders . . .)
7:00 – 8:00 **Senior Youth** at the FUSH (UU)

*Friday, November 14th 6:30 – 9:00 **Junior High Game nite at FCCH (UCC)** Plan on some fun games – friends welcome! Also make your own sundaes and sardines though not necessarily in the same bowl.

*Friday, November 21st – **All YOUTH: Theater Nite** – You are invited to enjoy The Sharon Academy play at Chandler in Randolph. **"Disco Inferno"** Come watch your TSA friends perform! Please pre purchase your tickets with Lucia and we'll drive up together. Cost: \$7 student, \$12 Adult. Ticket money due Nov 16th. Depart FCCH at 6:00 return at 10:30.

*Sunday, November 23rd 9:00 – 1:00 – **Mission Trip Fundraiser Brunch** at the FCCH (UCC) – all Mission Trip 2015 participants expected to help! Parental support needed! (combined Thanksgiving Worship Service 10:00 – 11:15)

*Sunday, November 30th – **Dartmouth Hockey** (vs. Boston University) – meet at the church parking lot at 3:00. Adult drivers welcome! (and needed) Email Lucia to sign up. Youth: \$6 Adults: \$10.00 (ticket money due on the 23rd)

VT Conference October concert

Bluegrass Gospel Project! At Chandler Music hall in Randolph on **Friday, October 10th at 7:30pm** sponsored by the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ.

What better way to gather friends and enjoy fellowship than around gospel music!

The Bluegrass Gospel Project described in the Burlington Free Press: "They infuse their sound with one part melancholy, two parts celebration, giving their music depth that's never heavy."

Ticket cost \$25. Please speak with Lucia if you are interested in a wonderful evening of fellowship and music!

Peoples Climate March, September 21, New York City. GO to for more information about the rally: <http://peoplesclimate.org/march>.

Buses are being organized to leave from all around Vermont including the Hartland Park n Ride. For more information about buses go to 350vt.org.

And from the VT Conference:
For more information about how you and your church can get involved in the People's Climate March, or to coordinate plans with others interested from your area through the Dept. of Mission Environmental Committee, please contact: Fred Taylor at rtaylor@antioch.edu

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PO Box 454 Hartland, VT 05048