

# **“The Good News” Church Events**

**Spring Summer 2014**

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

**website: [hartlandbrickchurch.org](http://hartlandbrickchurch.org)**

Church Telephone: (802)436-2224

Amanda Swoyer, Interim Pastor for Sabbatical, [a\\_swoyer@yahoo.com](mailto:a_swoyer@yahoo.com)

## What is a Sabbatical and How Long will Lucia be gone?

A Sabbatical is part of the covenant between the church and its pastor. Lucia's covenant provides for 12 weeks of sabbatical after 6 years of service. Lucia took 6 weeks spring 2013 and will take 6 weeks this spring. In addition, Lucia will add two weeks of unpaid leave to make a total of 8 weeks. Thus the sabbatical starts May 12<sup>th</sup> and Lucia will return for the Combined Old Home Service with the FUSH (UU) on July 6<sup>th</sup>.

From the United Church of Christ material on sabbatical: “Sabbatical leave is a carefully planned period of time in which a pastor is granted leave away from his or her normal ministerial responsibilities in order to spend an extended period of time in study and reflection, most often in a setting away from the primary location for ministry. Sabbatical leave is not a vacation, nor is it only continuing education.”

## Message from Lucia . . . Dear Members and Friends,

*For ministers, a sabbatical is a period of time that is intentionally taken away from pastoral and church duties so that the minister may engage in a period of renewal and reflection. It is customary for ministers not to be in touch with their churches during times of sabbatical. I will be in Hartland for a portion of sabbatical, and yes, I will say hello if I see you. Please understand that I will not be available to chat, to visit or to provide pastoral care. For me to be alone, not interacting with others – socially or professionally – is a challenge. As a spiritual discipline, I have already said “no” to several commitments and invitations. Now, it is no surprise that I am someone who lives very much in the present and who thrives on conversation, shared laughter and activity. However, I need some unscheduled solitude to be able to reflect on the delightful whirlwind of the last 7 years, to be able to listen for God and to discern and dream*

*about the next several years. I will be able to enjoy uninterrupted time with my family to rejuvenate, renew and recharge!*

*I thank you for this precious time. Sabbatical is a very important time in the life of the church and of the pastor. It is a time for the church to evaluate where we are now, where we were and where we are headed together for the next few years and for me to evaluate the same as your pastor. And hopefully, out of the sabbatical time together comes discernment of our direction and vision for the next 7 years.*

*In 2006, you wrote your church profile which is the document that a church writes when it is looking for a new pastor. That Profile included your hopes and dreams for the church, areas for growth, a description of the church and of the community. I, too, wrote a profile in 2006 describing my vision for ministry and for the church. You called me to be your pastor in Feb 2007 and I started that July. By the time I start sabbatical, it will have been nearly 7 years together – which amazes me! In that time together, we have grown and changed while many things have blessedly stayed the same, we've said good bye to some cherished members and welcomed many new friends to our pews. We have fulfilled many of the hopes written in the profiles 8 years ago.*

*Now, as I prepare for sabbatical and you for my sabbatical, it is a time to re-examine those hopes and dreams, visions and areas of growth, as we seek to be God's place of light and extravagant welcome, to live Christ's compassion and mercy and to witness to the Spirit's vitality and inspiration here in the Hartland community and beyond.*

*What is our Mission Statement? How are we to plan our worship, our programs, our mission, our ministry without a clear vision? Who do we want to be? How do we reflect God's love and light? Sabbatical is a time of rest and rejuvenation for the pastor and for the church and in that rest is time to reflect, to focus, to dream, to vision. My challenge to you is to spend time reflecting together, discerning together, studying, visioning and praying together. You will have the opportunity to hear some different while familiar voices in the pulpit – Connie Moser, Amanda Swoyer and Brian Porto.*

*I encourage you to come to worship on Sunday mornings, and to be a part of this time of exploration and renewal.*

*Worship is a community experience and it is so much better when the community is present! Part of spiritual growth is opening oneself up to new experiences and new insights, and the sabbatical time is for you to have that opportunity. Please join the journey at church!*

*Thank you for this upcoming gift of time and may we come back together with a renewed sense of purpose, a clear vision for our life and ministry together and a readiness to be the Body of Christ in the world.*

*See you in Church in July – Joy! – Lucia*

Who is watching over the FCCH during the Sabbatical?

*Of course, the short answer, as always, is GOD!*

Pastoral Coverage, Emergencies & Visitation

The Board of Deacons is pleased to announce once again that **Amanda Swoyer** has been called as our “Interim Pastor for Sabbatical”. Amanda is a student at Andover Newton Theological School Incare with the Windsor Orange Association. Amanda is a project assistant in cancer research at Geisel School of Medicine.

Amanda will be available up to 10 hours a week to provide pastoral care, bible study leadership, and other pastoral duties. She will also preach twice. We are delighted that Amanda will be sharing her gifts and her faith with us. She will check messages on the church answering machine, but please note, there may be a delay in response as she is not here every day. The Board of Deacons will also be providing support during sabbatical.

How can the church use the Sabbatical time for its benefit?

Now is the time to vision how we will be God’s place of light and extravagant welcome, how we will live Christ’s compassion and mercy and how we will witness to the Spirit’s vitality and inspiration here in the Hartland community and in the Upper Valley and beyond.

Boards and Committees The various boards and committees will continue with their ministries during sabbatical.

Will the church just be in a “holding pattern” while Lucia is away?

All of our ministries will continue to flourish while Lucia is away. It is important to remember that the sabbatical is a two-way process; while Lucia is away for renewal, refreshment and reflection, we will be on the same journey – to continue to discern God’s will for us.

**Worship Schedule – Lucia on Sabbatical May 12<sup>th</sup> – July 5<sup>th</sup>**

\*Sun, May 4<sup>th</sup> – Worship with Communion, Regular Church School

\*Sun, May 11<sup>th</sup> Worship – *Confirmation Celebration*  
Regular Church School

\*Sun, May 18<sup>th</sup> Worship, Amanda Swoyer preaching,  
*Last Regular Church School*

\*Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup> Worship, Rev. Constance Moser preaching

\*Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup> Worship, Brian Porto preaching

\*Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup> Worship, *Pentecost Sunday – wear red!*  
Amanda Swoyer preaching, Last Choir Sunday

\*Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup> Worship, Brian Porto Preaching

\*Sun, June 22<sup>nd</sup> **10:00 Worship & Church Picnic at Frazer’s Home** please bring chairs, eating utensils, potluck picnic food & swim suits! Worship will be led by the Board of Deacons.  
Directions: on Route 12, 5<sup>th</sup> house on right after Damon Hall.

\*Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup> Worship, Amanda Swoyer preaching

\*Sunday, July 6<sup>th</sup> 10:00 OLD HOME DAY COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE with the First Universalist Society of Hartland 4 Corners. (Service will be here). *Lucia returns!* Special Music: Combined Choir

***Summer Worship Time: 9:30 beginning July 13<sup>th</sup>***

\*Sun, July 13<sup>th</sup> 9:30 Worship with Communion Special music: tba  
Picnic at Roger & Clydene Trachier’s camp – we will gather after worship to car pool to Trachiers. See details elsewhere in newsletter.

\*Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup> 9:30 Worship, special music: tba

\*Sun, July 27<sup>th</sup> 9:30 Worship, Special music: Bruce & Caleb Freeberg

\*Sun, Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9:30 Combined Worship Service to Celebrate Youth Mission Trip AT the First Universalist Society of Hartland 4 Corners.

\*Sun, Aug 10<sup>th</sup> 9:30 Worship & Communion. *Welcome Back Ginny!*

## **Board of Christian Education News & Notes**

### **Session 9 – Miracles**

Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> – Communion, Regular Church School

Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup> – Regular Church School

Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> – Last Regular Church School

We look forward to a full calendar in September!

The Christian Education Board would like to thank the many volunteers who taught and did workshops in Sunday school this year! They are:

*Mary Jo Ramsey, Sue Reilly, Daun Smith, Carol Mowry, Sherry Calkins, Carmen Summarsell, Vicki Lawrence, Donna Lemieux, Michelle Dunne, Kim Hartell, Cindy Hale, Bill Drumm, Janie White, Jean Strawbridge, Mark Allegretti, Jill Allegretti, Jenny Peeler*  
(If I forgot someone, please let me know!)

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**From the Altar Committee** Anyone with flowers to share on Sunday Morning, please let us know. It's fun to have a variety of gardens represented throughout the summer. We would even pick up and deliver! Martha McGlinn, Emily Silver, Linda Genovese

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*Save the date. . . .*

**YOU ARE INVITED TO A PICNIC  
at Roger & Clydene Trachier's camp  
on Halls Lake in West Newbury, VT!**

On July 13<sup>th</sup> (after worship service)

We will caravan/carpool from the church after worship.

*From Clydene:*

*“Canoes, kayaks and bathing suits welcome!  
We have volleyball, horse shoe pits, lots of parking,  
undercover space for rain or shine. When we have large  
group picnics we usually furnish condiments, drinks, dessert,  
hotdogs (and grill space to grill your own favorite meat), and  
ask each family to bring a potluck dish to share.”*

## **Board of Missions & Outreach**

*Board of Mission & Outreach has a full summer of volunteer opportunities! Please support our church's outreach to the community and beyond.*

Non-perishable food donations are always welcome for the Hartland Food Shelf and 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 – 10:00am.

**June & July** - Mission Trip food donations

- Back to School Backpacks for PINS & HES -  
school supplies & backpacks (due by Aug 10<sup>th</sup> for blessing in worship)

- Church World Service School Kits (our goal is 20 kits)  
(You are invited to donate any portion of the School kit)

To assemble a School Kit you will need:

One pair of blunt metal scissors (rounded tip)

Three 70-count spiral notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages  
(no loose-leaf or filler paper)

One 30-centimeter ruler (12")

One hand-held pencil sharpener

One large eraser

Six new pencils with erasers

One box of 24 crayons (only 24)

One 12" x 14" to 14" x 17" finished size cotton or lightweight canvas bag with cloth handles. (Please, no reusable shopping bags – there is a pattern for these bags on the CWS website

<http://www.cwsglobal.org/resources/pdfs/school-bag-pattern.pdf>)

**July 12<sup>th</sup>** - THE PROUTY! (individuals encouraged to participate)

**July 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>** **Local Adult Mission Trip with Habitat for Humanity.** You can work one day or all week or offer to serve lunch! Please sign up on the poster in the narthex or with Vicki Lawrence ([jvrj@vermontel.net](mailto:jvrj@vermontel.net)). We had a fantastic experience last year, I encourage you to participate – no specific skills are needed.

**July 27<sup>th</sup> – Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>** Youth Mission Trip to New Haven, CT.

**July 29<sup>th</sup>** - Hixon House Dinner (team leader needed)

## **Youth Mission Trip Update: July 27<sup>th</sup> – Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> 2014**

We have 20 youth & 7 adults participating in Mission Trip 2014 to New Haven, CT where we will spend 6 days working with various service organizations in New Haven: Christian Community Action, New Haven Home Recovery, Habitat for Humanity & Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen.

*Thank you to the many generous individuals  
who supported our fundraising brunches!*

*Your financial support and generosity are greatly appreciated.*

*Please keep us in your prayers for a safe and productive trip.*

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PO Box 454  
Hartland, Vermont 05048

## **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 first session is May 29<sup>th</sup> – June 1<sup>st</sup>.

*How do I sign up?* Please see Linda Johnston after worship or email Linda at [lindabjohnston@gmail.com](mailto:lindabjohnston@gmail.com) or email Laura [laura@lauraswoyer.com](mailto:laura@lauraswoyer.com) to schedule an appointment!

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