

## Church Events for Advent & Christmas 2015 and Epiphany 2016

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

Rev. Lucia Anne Jackson, Pastor

Facebook: [HartlandCongregationalChurch](https://www.facebook.com/HartlandCongregationalChurch)

Website: [hartlandcongregationalchurch.org](http://hartlandcongregationalchurch.org)

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

Dear Members & Friends –

*I love this time of year. The days are shorter, the nights are longer. The air is crisp and cold. The stars sparkle in the night sky. I like walking home in the cold and the dark. I like the warmth of the house and a hot cup of tea. AND I love the season of Advent - a season full of anticipation and preparation. I like the gathering of greens and bringing the fresh branches into the house. I like the soft glow of the Advent candles and the ritual lighting. I love the music of the season – first the Advent hymns “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” and “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus” - followed by the familiar Christmas Carols. And yes, I play Christmas music – in the office, in the car at home – as much as I can from Mid December to New Years. I like that Advent is keeping faith, hope and love alive in the darkest time of year because that is where we often are in life. Yet, Advent also calls us to “Wake up” to the world. When anxiety and fear seem to be so all-over-the-place, Advent’s call to be alert isn’t about fear but hope.*

*I love this time of year in all of it’s mystery.*

*Hope to see YOU in church this Advent – JOY - Lucia*

## *Worship and Church School:*

*Looking for the sacred amidst all the holiday busyness?  
Join us (& invite a friend too) for Worship and Church School!*

Sunday, Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> 10:00 *Combined Thanksgiving Worship Service at the First Universalist Society of Hartland on the Brownsville Rd.*

Sunday, Nov 29<sup>th</sup> *1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent*

Worship with Rev Connie Moser preaching  
Regular Church School

Sunday, Dec 6<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> *Sunday in Advent: “Prepare the Way of the Lord”*

Worship with Communion & Regular Church School  
4:00 Advent Workshop – fun for everyone!

Sunday, Dec 13<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> *Sunday in Advent: “The Symbols of Christmas”*

Worship & Regular Church School  
4:00 Christmas Carol Sing along & storytelling

Sunday Dec 20<sup>th</sup> *Fourth Sunday in Advent: “A Christmas Pageant”*

Worship -- All Children in Worship for the Pageant

**Thursday, Dec 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm**

***Candlelight Christmas Eve Service  
of Lessons & Carols***

Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup> Worship – a Family Sunday

Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> Worship – a Family Sunday

Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> Worship with Communion, Church School  
11:30 Adult Bible Study

Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup> Worship – Martin Luther King, Jr Sunday  
11:30 Adult Bible Study & Youth Mission Trip Brunch (UU)

Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup> *Worship*, Regular Church School  
11:00 Annual Congregational Meeting

## **Board of Christian Education News and Notes:**

*Advent is a busy and joyful time for Church School! Join us for the Church School rotation on Joseph's story, the Christmas Pageant and THE ADVENT WORKSHOP! The Advent Workshop is an event for all ages – for the crafty and the craftily challenged. Everyone is invited! Bring a dessert to share on Sunday, Dec 6<sup>th</sup> 4:00 – 6:00 (note the new time)! We will start with making swags, candy, ornaments and more and finish with a short worship service in the sanctuary.*

### **Advent Session 3 – Joseph's Story: Matthew 1:1-24; 2:13-15, 19-23; Luke**

**2:1-7** *"She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus,*

*for he will save his people from their sins."* - Matthew 1:21

Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup> – First Sunday in Advent, Regular Church School,

Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> – CE BOARD MEETING 7:30

Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun in Advent, Communion

*4:00 ADVENT Workshop for all ages!*

Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun in Advent, Regular Church School

Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> – Pageant Rehearsal 9:00 – 11:00

Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Sun in Advent – **PAGEANT!**

Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – **Christmas Eve Worship Service**

*Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup> – MERRY CHRISTMAS!!*

Sunday December 27<sup>th</sup> – Family Sunday – Christmas Stories

Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> – Family Sunday

**Session 4 – Jesus was a child Luke 2:21 – 52 "And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man" Luke 2:52**

Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> – Regular Church School

Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup> – Church School for younger children, older children in worship for MLK, Jr celebration

Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup> – Regular Church School

Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 CE BOARD MEETING

Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup> – Regular Church School

### **Confirmation Class**

Classes on Tuesdays Dec 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> 6:00 – 7:15.

\* January & February – **Visiting other places of Worship** (will include Sundays & Tuesdays) (parents welcome & needed to drive!)

Schedule to be determined.

## **Ladies Benevolent Society News:**

Thursday, Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12:30 -

**Christmas POTLUCK luncheon and Yankee Swap.** Bring a casserole, salad or dessert for the luncheon and a wrapped gift for the Yankee swap! Wrap your gift beautifully for the best wrapped gift prize! Gifts may be new, used, regifts, silly or something really nice. Everyone invited to the Christmas luncheon and Yankee swap!

Saturday, Dec 12<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 – 12:00

### **Christmas Cookie Walk and Silent Auction.**

Donated Cookies needed – please deliver to the church on Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 – 11:00 or Saturday morning by 9:30.

And **PLAN ON ATTENDING** the Cookie Walk! You can fill a box with a variety of yummy Christmas cookies. Silent Auction will run on Saturday 10:00 - 12:00 and again on Sunday morning 11:00 - 11:45. ALL BIDS FINAL at 11:45.

Tell your friends! Better yet, bring your friends!

\*\*\*

## **MUSIC NEWS!**

***Music celebrates all the gifts of the Christmas season – please join the choir this Advent and share your voice!***

*Choir Rehearsal schedule for Advent and Christmastime:*

**\*\*\*Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00**

**and Sunday mornings at 8:30 to sing in Worship each Sunday.**

**\*\*Rehearsal Sunday, Dec 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 &**

**Thur, Dec 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:45 for**

**Christmas Eve worship at 7:00.**

**A quick THANK YOU from the Stewardship Committee**

This is an exciting time for us – and for our church. When our Stewardship Committee first started talking about stewardship for this year, our gardens were just starting to come in.

Windows were open, flowers were fresh – and we were excited then – about what we could accomplish in 2016 - if our combined efforts were successful.

And now - today – we are very encouraged by the results. **Thanks to YOU !**

As of November 19<sup>th</sup> we have received 75% of the pledges back, with an average increase of 10% for next year!! Wonderful! We are still about \$16,000 short of our pledge goal of \$78,000. Hopefully that's where you come in, if we haven't heard from you yet.

Thank you for your thoughtful and prayerful pledge consideration this year. We hope that you are as excited about next year as we are – and we also hope that together, we will have the resources to accomplish all that we did this past year – *and more !*

With deepest gratitude,

The Stewardship Committee, First Congregational Church of Hartland

*Pat Richardson and Tom Ramsey,*

*Linda Genovese and Rev. Lucia Jackson*

PS: If you need a pledge slip, phone the church at 436-2224, or just download one from our website <http://www.hartlandcongregationalchurch.org/>

**Call to Annual Meeting – Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup> immediately following worship.** All Boards, Committees and organizational components (such as LBS, Music etc.) should submit their reports by January 10<sup>th</sup> so we can post them for people to read prior to the meeting. This will save much time at the meeting as we would not need to read each report at the meeting, just discuss and vote on them. – Dave Hale, Moderator

\* \* \*

**Men's fellowship news:** Suppers start January 16<sup>th</sup> and this year run for SIX Saturdays. Larry & Jeannie Frazer are the first set while Darryl and Sherry Calkins are the second set. Speak with the Calkins or the Frazer to join a Roast Beef Supper team or to volunteer for an evening!

\*\*\*

**Our church has an “online” presence** where you can see photos, read sermons, , announcements, updates, special events, church calendar and links to interesting articles.

Even if you are not on Facebook, you can see the church page!!! The **Church Facebook** page is:

**<http://www.facebook.com/HartlandCongregationalChurch>**

YOU can take this LINK and click it or paste it into your browser to be taken there directly.

AND we have an up-to-date **Website!!** This is a terrific tool for the **CHURCH CALENDAR**. Because do you ever wonder what is happening at church? When the meeting starts? Is there Youth Group this week?

Simple go to the Church Website at:

**[Hartlandcongregationalchurch.org](http://Hartlandcongregationalchurch.org)**

Click on “CALENDAR” and there it is – the church calendar of events!

## **Board of Missions & Outreach**

always: **Hartland Local Food Shelf** – non perishables can be dropped off here or at Damon Hall anytime or at the UU on Friday mornings 8:00 – 10:00.

**Hixon House** Dinner: team leaders for December 29th are Vicki & Jim Lawrence and Larry & Jeannie Frazer.

**Hartland Christmas Project** - There are many ways that you can support the Hartland Christmas Project:

\* You can choose an ornament to **shop** for a Hartland Christmas Project Family. *Return by Dec 14<sup>th</sup>*.

\* **Donate Food:** Foods with meat are great. Spaghetti sauce with meat, beef stews, hearty soups etc. Instant and brewing coffee. Everyone loves coffee and this is an item that isn't often donated. Powdered milk, hot cereals, hot chocolate. Canned veggies, fruits, toilet paper, paper towels, laundry soap, and dish soap.

\* And You can bring in warm mittens, gloves, hats, scarves & socks to hang on the **Mitten Tree** in the sanctuary.

\* And the Christmas Project is **collecting donations** of: usable household items, good winter clothing, nice gently used games and toys and books, warm blankets. You may drop off donations starting Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, but please no used car seats!

*All gifts and donations must be turned in by Dec 14<sup>th</sup>*

\* And Please help **sort** donations on Dec 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00

\* Free Rummage on Friday morning 9:00 – 11:00 and help needed for **clean up!**

*Remember your neighbors in this season of generosity and abundance!*

## **JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH:** (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade )

\* Sunday, Dec 6<sup>th</sup> 4:00 - 6:00 you and your family are invited to the **Advent Workshop** - a hands on event for all ages!

\* Sunday, Dec 13<sup>th</sup> 5:00 - 6:15 at the FCCH ([here](#)) for our Youth Group **Christmas Party!** Bring a silly wrapped gift (regifting welcome).

\* Sunday, Jan 10<sup>th</sup> 5:00 - 6:15 **Youth Group at the FCCH ([here](#))**

\* Sunday, Jan 31<sup>st</sup> 5:00 - 6:15 **Youth Group at FCCH ([here](#))**

## **SENIOR HIGH YOUTH** (9<sup>TH</sup> - 12<sup>TH</sup> grade)

\* Sunday, Dec 6<sup>th</sup> 4:00 - 6:00 you and your family are invited to the **Advent Workshop** - a hands on event for all ages!

\* Sunday, Dec 13<sup>th</sup> 6:30 - 8:00 at the FCCH ([here](#)) for our Youth Group **Christmas Party!** Bring a silly wrapped gift (regifting welcome).

\* Sunday, Jan 10<sup>th</sup> 6:30 - 8:00 **Youth Group at the FCCH ([here](#))**

\* Wed, Jan 13<sup>th</sup> 6:30 - 8:00 - OWL Opening Session

\* Sunday, Jan 17<sup>th</sup> 6:30 -8:30 pm—OWL Session 1

\* Sunday, Jan 24<sup>th</sup> 3-8:30 pm—OWL Session 2 & 3

\* Sunday, Jan 31<sup>st</sup> 6:30 - 8:30 pm - OWL session 4/5

\* Sunday, Jan 17<sup>th</sup> -9:00 -1:00 Youth **Mission Trip Fundraiser Brunch** at the FUSH (UU) - all Mission Trip 2016 participants expected to help! Parental support needed!

**SAVE THE DATES**

*Mission Trip 2015 July 24<sup>th</sup> - July 31<sup>st</sup> 2016*

## **Introducing Our Whole Lives - Sexuality and our Faith.**

Our Whole Lives (OWL) is a human sexuality curriculum developed jointly by the UUA and the UCC. OWL is a progressive approach to sexuality education that addresses the totality of human sexuality in an age appropriate manner. It is based firmly on the values of self worth, sexual health, responsibility, justice and inclusivity.

"As Christians, we profess that we are created in the image of God. In this image, we have a lifelong journey toward deeper faith, faithfulness, and wholeness. As a church, we seek continually to integrate God's ongoing revelation with new knowledge and understanding of our lives and times. In our religious education, we are about the tasks of equipping the faithful for this journey in all its possibilities. As people in the United Church of Christ, we affirm that sexuality and spirituality are intricately connected and that both are gifts from God. We do not believe in the expression "Sexuality is a gift of God, just don't talk about it in church!"

Our youth are talking about sexuality. They are immersed in a culture that talks about sexuality. Where better to have a thoughtful, faithful, respectful discussion of sexuality than within our faith community?

One goal of OWL is to nurture communication between parent and child and to support parents in their role as the primary sexuality educators of their children. For simplicity, this program refers to all loving adult caregivers such as grandparents, aunts, and foster parents as parents.

Paul Sawyer and Lucia Jackson and Dave Morin are offering an OWL Course for the 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders. Youth are

expected to commit to every session. Parents/guardians must attend both orientation sessions and provide written consent.

**Parents of all youth grades 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> are invited to attend both of the parent orientation Sessions on:**

Wed, Jan 6<sup>th</sup> 7:00 - 9:00 OWL Parent orientation  
Session A

Sun, Jan 10<sup>th</sup> 12:00 - 2:00 OWL Parent Orientation  
Session B

*Please contact Lucia with any questions or concerns. I am very excited about the OWL curriculum, and about providing our youth with healthy, respectful, and faithful knowledge about sexuality. Parents are welcome to preview the curriculum.*

*OWL Parent Orientation Sessions:*

Wed, Jan 6<sup>th</sup> 7-9 pm (at the UCC)

Sunday, Jan 10<sup>th</sup> 12:00 - 2:00 (UCC)

*Youth Sessions*

Wed, Jan 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 - 8:00 - Opening Session

Sunday, Jan 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 - 8:30 pm - Session 1

Sunday, Jan 24<sup>th</sup>, 3-8:30 pm - Session 2 & 3

Sunday, Jan 31<sup>st</sup>, 6:30 - 8:30 pm - session 4/5

Sunday, Feb 7<sup>th</sup> 6:30 - 8 pm Session 5/6

Sunday February 14<sup>th</sup> 6:30 - 8:00 - Session 7

Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:30-8:30 pm - Session 8/9

Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:30 pm - Session 9/10

March 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 - 8 pm - Session 11 & Closing

March 13<sup>th</sup> 6:30 - 8:30 - snow Day make up

**ADVENT GIFT for the Community**

Are you between the ages of 1 and 100?

Are you interested in celebrating the  
*Reason for the Season?*

YOU ARE INVITED to  
Advent celebrations for everyone:

**The Advent Workshop & Vespers**  
**Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> 4:00 - 6:00**  
*Bring a dessert to share*

**The Carol Sing along & storytelling**  
**Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> 4:00 - 6:00**

**The Annual Christmas Pageant**  
**Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> 10:00 worship**  
*(Rehearsal Saturday, Dec 19<sup>th</sup> 9:00 - 11:00 for  
any interested participants - young and old!)*

**The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of  
Lessons and Carols**  
**Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> 7:00**  
*Tradition & community  
- celebrations for everyone.*