

Church Events for SUMMER 2018

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

Rev. Lucia Anne Jackson, Pastor

website: www.hartlandcongregationalchurch.org

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Dear Members and Friends --

The Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ Annual Meeting theme this year was **storytelling!** Susanne Schmidt, a storyteller and mental health counselor as well as the regional producer for *The Moth* of NPR fame was the guest speaker. We learned about the power of storytelling in building community and creating connections. Now, I am inspired for us to learn how to tell our own stories. And I am inspired to create more opportunities both to tell our stories and to listen to each other's stories.

One potential starting point is your **Starword** – if you were here on Epiphany and chose a star word (or a Starword chose you as the case may be) – how has that Starword been lived in your life these past few months?

Is it sitting in a drawer somewhere, lost in the clutter of your desk, forgotten or is your Starword part of your prayers and your thoughts?

Has your Starword framed any of your experiences?

How are you living and understanding your Starword on your faith journey, your life journey this year?

If you have a story to tell, about your Starword, or something else, please let me know! I'd like to hear your story. Let's go for a walk, or have a glass of iced tea together. Think about telling your story in worship. There is great power in telling our stories and in hearing each other's stories. Stories create connection and build community.

Stories help us to recognize the Holy at work in our lives and in our world. Stories teach us about who we are and whose we are. Lets learn to tell and hear the stories of our lives!

See this newsletter for details about the Church picnic on Sunday (June 10th) and many special summer Sundays: the return of Bruce & Caleb Freeberg to lead a Bluegrass Gospel Music Service, guest musician Janet Hewes, two Combined services with our dear neighbors in ministry – the First Universalist Society of Hartland - and we have some guest preachers as well!

Great News: We have enough children to offer SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL (yahoo!) (not every Sunday, but several Sundays!)

Please see this newsletter for details about volunteering for the LOCAL MISSION TRIP with Habitat for Humanity and our Back to School Back Pack collection.

Hope to see YOU in Church this summer. – Lucia

Suggested websites for Caring for God's Creation by using less plastic & combatting climate change:

<https://myplasticfreelife.com/plasticfreeguide/>

<https://www.earthday.org>

<https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/10-best-ways-to-combat-climate-change/>

<https://www.nrdc.org/stories/how-you-can-help-fight-climate-change>

<https://davidsuzuki.org/what-you-can-do/top-10-ways-can-stop-climate-change/>

Commit to making one change a month!
BEGIN ANYWHERE.

Worship Schedule

*Sun, June 10th **11:00 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.
NOTE TIME: 11:00 on Rte 12, 5th house on right after Damon Hall.

*Sun, June 17th *Worship with the Rev. Constance Moser Preaching*

*Sun, June 24th *Worship*

Summer Worship Time: 9:30 beginning July 1st

*Sun, July 1st **9:30 Old Home Day Combined Service with the First Universalist Society of Four Corners** (here)
Special Music: Combined Choir.

*Sun, July 8th 9:30 Worship with Communion, Special Music: Janet Hewes

*Sun, July 15th 9:30 Worship, **Special Music Service with Bruce & Caleb Freeberg** – Come sing and listen to spirituals and gospel music from the Celtic, Appalachian, Country and Bluegrass traditions!!

*Sun, July 22nd 9:30 Worship

*Sun, July 29th – **10:00 Combined Worship Service** to Celebrate Youth Mission Trip at the First Universalist Society of Hartland Four Corners. *NOTE the Time and Place!*

*Sun, Aug 5th 9:30 Worship with Communion, *Ginny returns!*

*Sun, Aug 12th 9:30 Worship

*Sun, Aug 19th 9:30 Worship with Brian Porto preaching

*Sun, Aug 26th 9:30 Worship

*Sun, Sept 2nd 9:30 Worship with Daun Smith preaching

Worship Time returns to 10:00 after Labor Day Weekend.

Christian Education News and Notes:

From the Director of Christian Education:

On May 20 we had a children's service and recognition of volunteers. Our final day of regular church school was on Sunday, June 3. The children and I assembled the Church World Service Hygiene Kits. (22 kits! Thank you!) I am grateful for another successful year, and also for all of you who have volunteered to help. A special Thank you to Sharon Offensend, who has stepped up to help as well!

Sincerely, Mary Jo

Summer Sunday School – yes! We have enough children to offer Summer Sunday school most of the Sundays this summer! YAHOOOO!!! (details to follow)

****Please Note ***** After a discussion about helping the homeless, the Sunday School children have decided that they would like to run a food drive at church for the summer months. Beginning Sunday, June 17th, please consider bringing a non-perishable food item to church each Sunday until Labor Day. We will put a collection box in the Narthex.*

Church Book Club!

Hope that you will join the conversation!

Friday, June 8th at 7:00 - The Book Of Joy

Next meeting to be scheduled in July – watch the weekly announcements for an update!

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

MUSIC NEWS

Thank you to the Choir for your hours and hours of volunteer time!

Your music sings the praises of our hearts, lifts our souls and speaks to us and for us in ways that words cannot. Our worship service is so much richer for your sharing of your time and talent.

Thank you to Becky for your leadership and enthusiasm for our church music program. And thank you to the Awesome Ginny - Every week you play beautiful preludes and postludes and introit and anthems and offertories and hymns and service music. You are a wonder!

CHOIR SCHEDULE

Sunday, July 1st - 8:15 Choir Rehearsal for the Old Home Day Combined Service (here) directed by Patty Talbot.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The **Queen sized quilt** with matching pillowcases is beautiful! See the Church website or Facebook page for photos. Raffle tickets (\$5.00 for one, or 5 for \$20.00) available at the church picnic or from one of the women. Thank you to everyone who helped with this project. Especially thank you to Carol Williams for her enthusiasm and organization, to Janie White for the finishing touches and to Susanne Ingliss for making pillowcases! *Winning ticket to be drawn at Old Home Day at 1:00!*

The **Ladies Tea** was a grand success – and hopefully a new tradition. Wonderful hats, delightful conversation, delicious food, great company. JOY!

Next meeting: **Thursday, June 21st at 1:00** All women of the church invited!

SAVE THE DATE: **Thursday, July 12th** Trip to Saint Gaudens Park & Museum (details to follow).

Board of Missions & Outreach

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 27th – 30th Local Adult Mission Trip with Habitat for Humanity working in Claremont

You can work one day, two days or all week or offer to serve lunch!

We need 4 – 6 volunteers each day for a roofing project.

Please email Lucia ASAP if interested!

July 22d – 29th Youth Mission Trip to New Haven, CT.

June & July - Mission Trip food donations

- **Back to School Backpacks for PINS & HES** - school supplies & backpacks (due by Aug 5th for blessing at worship)

- **Church World Service School Kits** (our goal is 50 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>)

HIXON HOUSE DATES for 2018: Aug 29th & Oct 31st *To participate in this wonderful outreach ministry please sign up or speak with Carol Withington (295-9561) to volunteer as a team leader or to cook or to serve or to donate food!*

GOOD NEWS from the Treasurer & Stewardship Committee

ORGAN UPDATE: We have received two generous donations for the new organ! Wow. Thank you to our donors for your generosity of spirit for the life of this church.

There will be an Organ Dedication and Music Ministry celebration service in September featuring the new organ (of course). PLUS Travis Ramsey is composing a piece of music for our Organ Dedication Sunday! Amazing – what talent.

We are so Blessed.

Youth Mission Trip Update: July 22nd - July 29th 2018

We have 10 youth, 1 young adult & 5 adults participating in Mission Trip 2018 to New Haven, CT where we will spend 5 days working with service organizations in New Haven:
CCA, New Reach & Habitat for Humanity

[This year we have room for a few more church youth, church young adults or adults - please contact Lucia or Paul if interested!
The youth mission trip is a wonderful week of sweat, hard work, service, fellowship, faith and fun. The HIGHLIGHT of the youth group year.]

***Worship Service on July 29th at 10:00 -
a Combined Worship Service Celebration of the Youth
Mission Trip at the First Universalist Society of Hartland.***

As in previous years, we are asking for food donations. You can find a food list at either this church or the UU church.

*Thank you to the many generous individuals
who supported our fundraising brunches!
Your financial support, food support and generosity are
greatly appreciated. Please keep us in your prayers for a
safe and productive trip.*

First Congregational Church of Hartland, UCC
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