



Announcing the 2009 Summer Services

Join us this summer for worship and fellowship at the Universalist Memorial Church and Heritage Center in Winchester, New Hampshire.

All services will be held at 10:30 am, and each service will affirm Universalism as a vital and vibrant theological voice for modern Unitarian Universalism.

July 12

The Rev. Paul S. Sawyer, Minister, The First Universalist Society of Hartland Four Corners, Vermont

This service will include a special ceremony for the dedication of our beautiful organ. *(See story on page 6)*

July 26

The Rev. Dr. M'ellen Kennedy, Minister, The Universalist Society of Strafford, Vermont - and Winner of the 2009 Heritage Foundation Sermon Award

August 9

The Rev. Dr. Tracy Robinson-Harris, Director of Congregational Services, Unitarian Universalist Association, Boston, Massachusetts

August 23

The Rev. Jane Thickstun, Minister, Keene (New Hampshire) Unitarian Universalist Church

August 30

Rev. Dr. Gene Navias, retired Unitarian Universalist minister, former head of the Department of RE at the UUA, and **Dr. James Buckley**, retired professor and author of historical articles and stories

The church is located 15 minutes south of Keene, on Route 12, convenient to much of central New England, and a beautiful day trip from further afield as well! *For more complete directions to the church, please visit our website: www.universalistheritage.org*

Why I am a Universalist

by Paul S. Sawyer

Minister, Universalist Church, Hartland Four Corners, Vermont

The compelling message of Universalism resonates strongly for me, in my heart, in my faith, and in what I have come to believe the world needs.

As a Universalist, I believe that the most powerful transforming force in human lives is Love. That transforming power is there in our own Love for one another, divine in its simplicity and divine in its source deep in our souls. That transforming power is divinity itself in the form of the Spirit of Life that fills the universe with its creative, pervading, tenacious strength.

In our age of instantaneous world-wide communication, we are learning that people share common needs and hopes and dreams. But we are also learning that all too often we humans express our universal needs and hopes and dreams in faith traditions that try to offer protection and assurance in the form of triumphalist and exceptionalist structures and beliefs. The world is so large and so complex that we seem driven to seek out or to create religious rules that assure us that we alone are the faithful, that we alone have the right answer, that our beliefs alone bring salvation, and that others



Rev. Paul Sawyer

must conform to our own narrow beliefs, or be condemned. In the face of such too-human expressions of faith, Universalism's message shines forth for me as saving, transformative Good News for our time.

We are here to live among each other and to hold ourselves accountable to Love. We are here to work to build the beloved community in our time—starting with our own hearts, expanding into our families and into our local and faith communities, and reaching out, preaching, living, holding out hope to the rest of our needing world.

We know—in contrast to much of the religious discourse of our times—it is not exacting and exclusionary belief, but powerful, pervasive Love that saves.

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Give Voice to Your Faith—Become a Member of the Universalist Heritage Foundation!

Individuals, Congregations, Universalist Conventions and other institutions—we invite you to help strengthen and share the voice of Universalism by becoming a member of the Universalist Heritage Foundation.

Join with other Unitarian Universalists in helping to promote our mission:

- ◇ *To educate future generations in the Universalist Tradition*
- ◇ *To continue to put forth the Universalist message as an agent of hope for a fractured world*
- ◇ *To celebrate and preserve the rich legacy of the Universalist faith.*

Your membership supports our mission financially, but also lets us begin to join together as individuals and institutions in our faith community who believe that the Universalist voice of faith, hope, and love helps to deepen our beloved Unitarian Universalist tradition, and helps us share a needed, prophetic, healing message with the wider world.

We invite you to join us at whatever level of membership support is appropriate for you:

| 5.7 | Regular | Sustaining |
|-------------------------------------|----------|------------|
| § Individuals (annual) | \$25.00 | \$50.00 |
| § Institutions (annual) | \$50.00 | \$100.00 |
| § Students (annual) | \$15.00 | |
| § Individual Life Member (One-time) | \$500.00 | |

With your membership, you will receive our quarterly newsletter, and copies of DVDs and other materials created by the Universalist Heritage Foundation as they become available. And most importantly, as a member, you will help support the ongoing work of our Foundation in strengthening, preserving, and proclaiming the Universalist message.

Annual Memberships are renewable each year on July 1 (so you can renew at GA!). Life membership offers you all the benefits of membership without the need to renew, for your whole life.

Help us build this important and organized voice of Universalist faith in our wider Unitarian Universalist community. Help keep the faith of Universal love alive and growing and inspiring Unitarian Universalism and our world. Become a member of the Universalist Heritage Foundation today!

A Membership Form for your convenience is located on the reverse.

*Enjoy New England in October 2010
and Trace Our Universalist Heritage There*

*The Universalist Heritage Foundation Invites You
to visit*

Clara Barton Homestead and Camp
Tufts University
Mount Auburn Cemetery
Beacon Hill

The first Universalist church in America (Gloucester)
Judith Sargent Murray Society

Ferry Beach Park and Conference Center
Winchester, NH Memorial Church
(Winchester Profession of Faith)

*Details available November
2009. Registration begins
January 18, 2010.*

Guided tours, the Boston arts scene, lobster for lunch, dunes restoration at Ferry Beach, the White Mountains in autumn, private bus transportation, varied accommodations, many meals, local events, and good company!

October 11-17, 2010

Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

| | Regular | Sustaining |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Individual (Annual) | \$25 _____ | \$50 _____ |
| Student (Annual): | \$25 _____ | |
| Institutional (Annual): | \$50 _____ | \$100 _____ |
| Life Membership (One Time): | \$500 _____ | |

Mail to:

**Universalist Heritage Foundation
P.O. Box 1641
Nashua, NH 03061-1641**

Seeking Stories of How “Love Saves”

To fulfill our mission, which calls us “to educate future generations in the Universalist tradition, and continue to put forth the Universalist message as an agent of hope for a fractured world,” we have begun to collect stories that present the deep saving message of the Universalist faith.

The goal of this new initiative is the publication (both electronically and in hard copy) of a series of anthologies, making available stories appropriate as sermon illustrations, for stories of all ages, in children’s worship or curricula, in covenant groups and other adult education settings, possibly even in pastoral counseling.

Our heritage is rich with such stories, stories that can serve to illuminate and deepen our faith journeys. It will give us great pleasure to gather these and make them easily available to religious leaders. We envision a series of thematic volumes, beginning with the theme “Love Saves.” Subsequent volumes will be centered on other great Universalist messages such as Hope and Forgiveness. But for now we need your help in gathering the stories of how “Love Saves.”

- ◇ stories from our heritage
- ◇ stories from your own personal experience
- ◇ stories you have written
- ◇ stories from ministry and church life
- ◇ stories from public events

Please send stories to us at PO Box 1641, Nashua, NH 03061-1641, or email to: UniversalistHeritageFoundation@gmail.com.

Our faith will be deepened and the world made safer as such stories are more widely shared.

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We are a diverse species, living in a diverse world. Diversity, not conformity is the natural expression of the Spirit of Life. In a universe where diversity is our natural form, Love is what will save us, what will work to bind us together and to keep us whole.

As Hosea Ballou, put it way back in 1802, “if we agree in love, no other disagreement can do us any injury, but if we do not, no other agreement can do us any good. Let us endeavor, therefore, to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace.”

Dear friends, I am a Universalist. And that faith inspires me every day. That’s Good News I can’t help but share.

Announcing the Winner of the Universalist Heritage Sermon Contest – 2009

“The Triumph of Love: The Gospel of Universalism” is the title of the award winning sermon by Rev. M’ellen Kennedy of Bristol, Vermont. She says “This sermon was preached in the Universalist style – that is extemporaneously. I used an outline and preached from my heart. In my mind, reviving the Universalist style of preaching from the heart is a crucial part of reviving our Universalist heritage in Unitarian Universalism today.”



Rev. M’ellen Kennedy

M’ellen Kennedy is part-time minister at the Universalist Society of Strafford, Vermont as well as summer minister at the Washington, Vermont Unitarian Universalist Church. She is also well known throughout the denomination for her extensive work in small group ministry, developing materials and providing training and support for these programs in local congregations.

The sermon will be delivered at the Universalist Memorial Church in Winchester on Sunday, July 26, and will be posted on our website shortly thereafter.

Members of the Universalist Heritage Foundation Advisory Board served as readers in determining this award.

Organ to be Rededicated July 12th

The Universalist Heritage Foundation will rededicate the church organ during its first summer service on July 12, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. The organ was purchased with a generous donation from Edward and Harriet Armbruster of Tavernier, Florida, and it will be dedicated in memory of Harriet’s father, Rev. William J. Metz, and two relatives, Rev. Clinton A. Moulton and Rev. DeWitt Lamphear. All three were Universalist ministers.

Music for this service will be provided by Vladimir Odinokikh, the extraordinary organist at the Keene Unitarian Universalist Church. Following the service, the congregation will be treated to a delicious picnic lunch.