

Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

PO Box 1578

New London, NH 03257

603 526-8213

www.kuufnh.org

September 2014

Minister: Rev. William E. Nelson

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dick Dutton

Presidents: Amy Dressler & Henry Howell

Director of Religious Education: Donna Peirce

RE Teacher: Erin Peirce

Music Director: Martha Woodward

Unitarian Universalists affirm the worth and dignity of all human beings and advocate freedom of belief and an open search for truth.

The Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist Fellowship meets weekly on Sundays at 11:00 AM in the Stone Chapel of Proctor Academy in Andover

KUUF Calendar

Sunday, September 7	Speaker: Rev. Bill Nelson – “What Draws Humans to Religion: Nature or Nurture?”
Thursday, September 11	Board Meeting – 7:00 PM at the Maloof’s
Sunday, September 14	Adult Education Class - 9:30 AM
Sunday, September 14	Speaker: Art Rosen
Sunday, September 21	Talk-Back Session – 9:30 AM Chapel Basement classroom
Sunday, September 21	Speaker: Rev. Bill Nelson – “How Do Religion and Reason Get Along?”
Sunday, September 28	Book Group Discussion – 9:30 AM – “The Righteous Mind: Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion”
Sunday, September 28	Speaker: Rev. Bill Nelson – “What Is ‘Scripture’, and Why Is it Honored?”



Minister's Missive – September 2014

Only through the revival of ethical and religious thinking can the spirit arise which will give to human-kind the knowledge and the strength to lead it out of darkness and conflict to light and peace. Liberal religion has the great responsibility of bringing to men and women and maintaining in them the conviction that thought and religion are not incompatible, but belong together. All deep religious thinking becomes thoughtful; all truly profound thinking becomes religious.

– Albert Schweitzer

Dear friends,

Here we are on the cusp of a new program year. I'm hopeful that the summer break has accomplished its purpose, and that we're ready to plunge into the early autumn with renewed energy. For me, the resuming of church services evokes memories of the beginning of the school year: seeing friends we've missed for the past couple of months, wondering what's in store for us, getting set for the challenges and joys that the new season will bring.

Any of us who pays any attention to the daily news knows that the global issues that plague the world didn't take a summer break; that sickness and hatred and war continue to dominate the headlines, and that peace and reason have yet to show signs that they'll prevail anytime soon. But that's a component of why we gather, isn't it? Yes, we come together for friendship and fellowship, for spiritual uplifting, for illumination and consolation, and, I hope, for inspiration. Let's not forget, though, that we come to witness, to be a voice in the wilderness of chaos.

With this in mind, I've been working this summer on a series of sermons that are linked to one another in such a way as to provide a kind of groundwork that I'm hopeful will facilitate thought and conversation on who we are as a congregation and how we might be such a witness. Here the general themes of the first three of these sermons:

September 7: What draws humans to religion: Nature or Nurture?

September 21: How do religion and reason get along?

September 28: What is "scripture," and why is it honored?

Once again, I look forward to seeing all of you who can come to our opening Sunday, September 7. And remember, a sermon is not a lecture, it's a conversation.

Best wishes,

Bill



Book Discussions

September 28, 2014 - 9:30 AM

The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion By Jonathan Haidt, 2012.

“Can we all get along?” That appeal was made famous on May 1, 1992, by Rodney King, a black man who had been beaten nearly to death by four Los Angeles police officers a year earlier. “I mean, we’re all stuck here for a while. Let’s try to work it out.”

Why can’t our political leaders work together as threats and problems mount? Why do people so readily assume the worst about the motives of their fellow citizens?

Jonathan Haidt, a social psychologist, explores the origins of our divisions and attempts to point the way forward to mutual understanding.

“I have striven not to laugh at human actions, not to weep at them, not to hate them, but to understand them.” Baruch Spinoza, *Tractatus Politicus*, 1676 -

October 19, 2014 - 9:30 AM

The Language of Life: DNA and the Revolution in Personalized Medicine By Francis S. Collins, 2010.

A scientific and medical revolution has crept up on us , based on study after study, from hundreds of laboratories around the world. Every one of us will be touched by it and many of us already have been. Crucial decisions about what we all need to know and what choices we make about our health are at stake.

Francis Collins was the head of the international Human Genome Project for fifteen years and now serves as the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Just in the past decade, most of what you think you know about DNA has been overturned. Much of the advice given by health care providers is ill informed, so you need to educate yourself about this rapidly changing area of medicine.

Questions: Marion Allen, 526-6776 or mlallen@tds.net

Host/Hostess “Duty” Assignments

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Host/Hostess</u>	<u>Host/Hostess</u>
September 7	Liz Maloof	Tom Maloof
September 14	Kerry Laufer	David Landers
September 21	Sally Bergquist	Bob Bergquist
September 28		

If you can take a Sunday morning as host/hostess, please contact Kerry Laufer at 763-3140 or kllauf@hotmail.com. Thanks!



Backpack Success

The Social Concerns Committee has once again completed its project to provide children in need with backpack book bags loaded with much needed school supplies. Thanks to the generosity of our KUUF membership, we collected enough money to meet our gift-goal! We provided 15 complete packs to the Andover Middle School for the start of school and \$320 worth of healthy snacks for the students who are on the free and reduced lunch program.

Thank you all for your generosity. Your donations have made it possible for KUUF to help children in need, right here in Andover.



Restock the Food Pantry

Please remember to bring items to church on Sunday mornings to help restock the New London and Andover Food Pantries. Thank you for your generosity.

CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



Food security occurs when people have consistent access to sufficient safe and nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life. For too many people, food security is a dream and food insecurity is their reality. On Sunday, **October 5**, KUUF will be participating in Church World Service Organization's annual Crop Walk to End Hunger. This event offers our team a unique opportunity to help raise funds to end hunger here in our own community and around the world. Church World Service is a cooperative ministry of different denominations working together to eradicate hunger and poverty, and promote peace and justice among the world's most vulnerable people. Church World Service accepts no administrative fee from our Crop Walk donations, which means that 100% of the money raised goes directly toward the cause. In addition, 25% of the money our KUUF team raises will stay right here in our local food banks and the remainder will be used to help feed hungry people around the world. Some of the international programs that will benefit from your donation include:

- supporting farming cooperatives in Haiti that help 4,500 families grow their own food
- providing dependable supplies of safe water to villages in Burma
- feeding children in sub-Saharan Africa, who are displaced & orphaned by HIV & AIDS

Our KUUF team needs walkers & donations. Please join us in "Ending Hunger One Step at a Time." Information will be available at church throughout the month of September, or you may contact Amy Dressler at (603)727-4143 or amyredhead@hotmail.com with any questions. Thank you!

ADULT LECTURE SERIES BEGINS SEPTEMBER 14

Another year of great learning experiences kicks off on September 14.

This year's topic, "Big History," marks a radical shift from the religious and philosophical subject matter of past years. It is the story of the history of the universe, all 13.7 billion years, reminiscent of Carl Sagan's "COSMOS" television series of 25 years ago and the update shown on TV last winter. It's mind blowing stuff, of religious significance, which should work well with us curious UU's!

Our sessions will begin earlier this year than in the past – 9:30AM instead of 9:45. This will allow more time for discussion, which has often been a problem in the past.

Each lecture is largely free standing, and as always everyone is welcome on any given Sunday.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, Sept 14, at 9:30! Tom Maloof



After Church Pottery Sale

A few months ago five bins of new hand crafted pottery were donated to KUUF. Included are cups, bud vases, planters, bowls and trays.

Weather permitting there will be two tables set up after church on the lawn, on Sunday September 14, and again on September 28. Pottery will be priced to sell, well below market prices.

This is KUUF's first fund raiser of the church year. Think Christmas gifts, and support KUUF at the same time!

Memorial Gift Received

Naia Conrad, one of the earliest members of KUUF, passed a few months ago.

Naia left a generous gift of \$3,000 to KUUF. This gift is an important boost to our finances. It will be a cornerstone in building KUUF's long term financial stability. This may also be a step in creating an endowment vehicle for future donations of this type. Thank you Naia, for remembering KUUF!



Social Activities

Our summer picnic on August 24 may be over by the time you read this so I can only say that I am sure we all behaved ourselves and had a good time too, Many thanks to Meredith & Doug Smith.

Requests for Circle Dinners are coming in. On September 7 there will be a sign-up sheet available at church for those who would like to attend a dinner. If you would like to host one, you can make a note of that on the signup. Don't feel that you have to host! Not everyone is able or wants to do it but don't let that stop you from coming to a dinner. All members and friends are welcome. We usually keep the number of guests to 6 or 8 per host, making no more than 8 or 10 at the table. However, it's the hosts' choice of fewer or more. Just let us know.

So sign up or call

Fran Preston 526-9623 or franpreston@comcast.net

Liz Meller 526-4155 or lizmeller1@gmail.com

Lois Magenau 735-5637, or 387-0350 or rmagenau@aol.com

Announcing the end of InterConnections

Greetings!

Welcome to the August 2014 issue of *InterConnections*, the UUA's monthly newsletter for congregational leaders.

This is the final issue of *InterConnections*. The newsletter that began in 1998 as an effort by the Unitarian Universalist Association to present practical information to congregational leaders is coming to an end as a result of the UUA's current [financial shortfall](#). Donald Skinner, the editor of *InterConnections* from its first issue 17 years ago, is retiring at the end of August.

Please know that *InterConnections* is not going away completely. *InterConnections* will live on as a [rich archive](#) that you can access any time you wish. If you come home from a board meeting frustrated about an issue, or if one wakes you up in the middle of the night, you can search *InterConnections* to see how other congregations may have solved similar problems.

The *InterConnections* archive includes hundreds of articles about all aspects of congregational life, from full-on profiles of exemplary congregations, to articles on how to do Joys and Sorrows better, or how to be more welcoming on Sunday morning.

The UUA has more ways now for leaders to learn from each other than it did in 1998. Now there are [email lists](#), [Facebook laboratories](#), and [webinars](#). And, of course, contact your [district and regional UUA staff](#) when questions arise.

You can access “Interconnections” at uua.org/interconnections. The last issue has articles about “How to Respond to Intruders in Worship” and “How to Create Vital Young Adult Ministries”.