

THE TIMES

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
OF GREATER LYNN



September 2017

Volume 87 #2

Is Unitarian Universalism Relevant? Hell/No Hell, Yeah!

What to do, what to do? I sit in my comfortable house watching the news of the day. You do, too. I wonder what is happening to decency and the whole concept of civil rights for all. You do, too. I worry about the future; for me, for my family, for my community, for my country, for the world. You do, too. I want to be part of making a difference, and I am, in many small ways, but it just doesn't feel like enough. I need two things – at least – and you do, too.

I need to be fed spiritually, to re-learn my core values and feel the presence of other souls with the same desire to put things right. I need to find the calm space of clarity within so that I can be undaunted in my search for meaningful responses to our political situation. I need to light a candle or drop a pebble so as not to forget what is precious, and I need to do it among other soul-seekers. I need to go to church.

The other thing I need is to team up; find others ready and willing to commit to being movers and changers in this new and threatening landscape. Team up to support a culture of love, not hate – movement, not stagnation – positivity, not cynicism. Team up because I know that there is power in numbers. One person trying to right a wrong can be easily dismissed. Several people from a community committed to the inherent dignity of all human beings cannot be so easily dismissed or worn down. I need to go to church.

Come to church with me. Feed your spirit. Team up for action. Live in beloved community. I need to do that. You do, too.

Lyssa Andersson
UUCGL President
Board of Trustees



Ingathering Service Water Communion

**Rev. Dr. Victoria Weinstein
September 10, 2017**

We will gather on September 10th for our Ingathering Service and Water Communion, a meaningful ritual for Unitarian Universalists who observe it all over North America around this time of year. Please bring a small vial or container of water from a meaningful place for the Water Communion.

Ingathering Fellowship



Join us for food, fun and fellowship after the service on Sunday, September 10th. Let's get reacquainted or newly acquainted with good food and conversation.

We are excited to welcome our two new staff members Julian Baptista, Director of Community Life and Learning and Kenneth Griffith II, Director of Music. We're looking forward to getting to know them!

Please bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share!

Sunday Worship Services 10:00 A.M.

Rev. Dr. Victoria Weinstein, Parish Minister
Julian Baptista, Director of Community Life and Learning
Kenneth Griffith II, Director of Music
David Collins and Nami Hamada, Keyboard

Meet our New Director of Music



Kenneth E. Griffith II, Ohio native and life-long musician, is a formidable conductor, vocalist, music director, and collaborative pianist with an established reputation for creative vision and highly energetic performance. He holds a Bachelor's Degree from the Capital University Conservatory of Music (OH) in *Vocal Performance* and a Master's Degree in *Conducting* from the Bard College Conservatory of Music (NY).

Kenneth has worked with a wide range of ensembles covering many genres of music and, having had such a breadth of experience, brings an eclectic sensibility to his programming and interpretation of music.

Kenneth enjoys wearing multiple musical hats from singer, conductor and pianist, to composer, arranger, and educator. He also enjoys painting, hiking, and meditation. Kenneth is very active in the local music community. He is the Director of Choral and Chamber Music at Brooks School and regularly music directs theatrical shows in the greater Boston area.

He currently resides in North Andover, MA along the beautiful Lake Cochichewick with his three year old Goldendoodle, Teddy.

We look forward to working with Kenneth and experiencing his musical talents here at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn.

Welcome Kenneth!

Sharing Our Sunday Offerings September-June

One charitable organization or cause will be chosen each month; all collections will benefit both the church and charity.

1. All loose cash in the collection plates will be split on a 50/50 basis between the church and the charity.
2. Checks payable to the church will go only to the church unless otherwise designated (50/50 noted on the memo line). If your intention is to fulfill your pledge, your check, without a memo line notation, will go towards your pledge.
3. All checks payable to the charity will go directly to the charity.

Envelopes are available on the ushers table to designate your cash contributions. An envelope is not necessary for donations made by check.

September 50/50 Sunday Offertory to Benefit Kids In Community

The Social Justice Ministry Team (SJMT) has designated the Kids In Community (KIC) After School Program as the recipient of the September 50/50 Sunday collection. The Ministry Team will match up to \$1,000 of funds raised through the collections.

KIC is an after-school music program at St. Stephen's Church in Lynn (evolved from a free summer camp program the church has run for neighborhood children for nearly a decade). For many of these children, KIC summer camp is the only alternative to being home (often alone while parents work) watching tv for the summer. The 35 children in the free program, grades 1-5, receive music instruction in piano and drums, homework assistance, snacks, and games. Staffing is provided by young adult Mentors who are supplemented with volunteers who help with homework and reading. KIC provides more than a safe place for these children, it offers exposure to places and skills that can be life changing. After the school year learning to read music and play (electric) pianos and drums, all children participate in a recital. Field trips include the Museum of Fine Arts and the Boston Symphony. The children are amazing and are testaments to resilience. They come from many corners of the world, often from those areas that are violent and dangerous. Please help create a hopeful future by giving generously on Sundays. **Loose cash is always accepted and checks should be made payable to St. Stephen's with KIC on the memo line.**

~ Suzanne Forgione for SJMT

Hospitality/Membership News

Church without Fellowship Hour would not be the same experience.

Think of it: no opportunity to catch up with an old friend or meet someone new, no easy way to get signatures on a petition, no place to sell candy or soup for fundraising, no post sermon discussion and NO COFFEE AND FOOD!

Unthinkable. We cannot and will not allow this to happen!

But we, the hospitality team, cannot do it alone. We will need everyone within the church community to step up and provide food and hospitality on an assigned Sunday. In addition to insuring that the coffee always flows, members providing Fellowship Hour become the face of the church to anyone new and offer warm greetings to all.

So, the hospitality team will again be assigning weeks for teams of people to provide Fellowship Hour: the food and hospitality to the church community.

This system has worked for several years and we want it to work even better this year. The schedule and instructions will be mailed to everyone within the next month. There is a new (and much easier to clean) coffee system so instructions will be revised to include this.

If you know that you will be unavailable for certain Sundays, please let us know ASAP. We will accommodate these requests in assigning weeks.

Again, assigned people will be responsible to find replacements for their Sunday.

Also, please mark your calendar with your Fellowship Hour! You will receive an email 1-2 weeks ahead of time but we have found everyone does not check their emails frequently. Please respond so we know that everything is ok!

You can contact us by email, phone or tap us on the shoulder at church.

And, thank you in advance for what will be a year of great Fellowship Hours!



Suzanne Forgione 978-594-5301
sforgione13@yahoo.com

Gloria Kozlosky 781-584-4311
willglokoz6301@gmail.com

~ Hospitality Team

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn Vision of Ministry

Draw a Wider Circle

Our vision for our church and our faith is deep and ambitious. We envision a spiritual community committed to cherishing each other and to sharing our gifts with the world by,

Committing Ourselves to Strengthening Our Church's Sense of Unity and Community

- Providing hospitality to visitors and one another
- Welcoming visitors warmly
- Articulating a path to membership
- Matching members with new or existing small and large group activities
- Gathering for worship together
- Offering opportunities for fellowship and fun

Reimagining the Use of Our Buildings and Grounds in Response to Changes in Church and Community Needs

- Increasing our ability to respond to community needs
- Providing appropriate facilities and grounds for worship, fellowship, education, programs, events and staff
- Communicating our identity as a religious community
- Hosting events that promote Unitarian Universalist values, designed to attract people to our community
- Following and promoting responsible environmental principles

Deciding (Together) On How to Best Utilize our Endowed Funds to Champion Our Unitarian Universalist Values through an Alliance with a Community Partner(s) in Lynn

- Harnessing our endowment to do more good in the world
- Engaging in conversation about our endowment
- Engaging in conversation about pledging
- Organizing our alliance under a representative council
- Drawing a wider circle through partnering and presence in Lynn

Unanimously approved by Board of Trustees
May 22, 2017.



Our Church Family



We sadly announce the passing of long-time church member **John Murray**. John, age 98, died Thursday, July 27, at the Chelsea Soldier's Home. He served in the US Army from 1940-1941, and in the US Navy from 1942-1944 during WW II. He worked in the turbine division of General Electric for over twenty years, retiring in 1981. John was an active member of our church and the AMVETS Post #161. He volunteered at My Brothers Table and the Greater Lynn Mental Health and Retardation Association. John was involved in progressive politics, and participated in many walks for Cancer, and HAWC.

John is survived by three sons: David R. Murray of Lewiston, ME; Jon J. Murray of Roxbury, CT; Donald W. Murray of Groveland; two daughters, Susan R. Murray of Salem and Merrilee A. Murray-Haggerty of Lynn; one sister, Ruth E. Johnson of Yarmouthport, MA; five grandchildren; four great grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. He was also close friend of the late Evelyn Dresser who participated in our church life with John. Rev. Vicki presided at the funeral on August 1, at the Parker Funeral Home. Memorial donations may be made to My Brother's Table, 98 Willow St., Lynn, MA 01901 - or at www.mybrotherstable.org. John will be missed by many.

To read more about his life, please go to: <http://www.parkermemorialfuneralhome.com/notices/John-Murray>.

Rev. Slater Family Thank You



Rev. Robert Slater
Minister Emeritus

The Slater family wishes to express their deep gratitude to all those members of our church family who have sent messages of condolence, given memorial contributions toward the church courtyard improvements, shared their memories of our beloved father Bob with us, and who have extended their friendship toward us in so many, many ways. We are extremely thankful.

What Is That?

Some of you may have noticed that there's something new by the entrance to the church ... it's a Little Free Library! What's that? It's a neighborhood book exchange where anyone passing by can take a book to read or leave a book for someone else to find.



Our Little Free Library is one of more than 50,000 registered Little Free Libraries worldwide! Started by the nonprofit organization littlefreelibrary.org, it's designed to inspire a love of reading, building community, and sparking creativity by fostering neighborhood book exchanges. See: <https://littlefreelibrary.org/>

How Does This Library Work?

This Little Free Library offers a way to share good things to read – favorite books from your childhood or books you would recommend to friends; books that teach, intrigue and engage you. All of us can help by keeping this collection stocked with good reading material.

Take a book. If you see something you would like to read, take it. Look inside and see who gave it; who else has read it.

Share it. Return it to any Little Library or pass it on to a friend.

Give books. Leave notes in them. Be a friend of all libraries by helping any way you can. Pay it Forward!

Sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Ministry Team of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn

*"Not one of us can rest,
be happy, be at home,
be at peace with ourselves,
until we end hatred and division."*

~ JOHN LEWIS, CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER

Unitarian Universalist Women of Greater Lynn News

First Meeting of the Year Scheduled

The first UUWGL meeting of the 2017-2018 year will be held Monday, September 11 at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Room. Members and friends - come join us!

Food Pantry Bags to be Distributed



Feeding the Community

It's our church's turn to collect groceries for the Swampscott Interfaith Food Pantry. There are currently 34 elderly and/or disabled individuals from Swampscott requesting this assistance. You can help by picking up a shopping bag and grocery list in the Parish Hall on

Sunday, October 1st. Just purchase everything on the list, write your name on the bag and return the bag on **Sunday, October 8th** or **Sunday, October 15th** and the UUWGL will do the rest.

Social Justice Ministry Team (SJMT)

News and School Supply Drive

Are you ready to roll up your sleeves, stand on the side of love, and work on social justice with fellow UUCGL members? Or should I say continue working to acknowledge all we do, as individuals throughout the year. SJMT will be meeting on Monday, September 11, 6:30 p.m. potluck, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. meeting. Join us! Look to our bulletin board for current info. There's a lot of work to be done.

SJMT is sponsoring a **collection of school supplies** for Kids in Community (see 50/50 article for more details regarding the KIC program). A collection box will be in the hall to collect items such as pencils, crayons, markers, games such as Scrabble and paper.

Contact me or my co-chair, Jeff Gunther, with questions or ideas.

~ Martha Curry for SJMT

Ongoing Groups . . .

Covenant Group

The group is open to anyone from the church interested in learning about and experiencing small group ministry. Gatherings are the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at 11:45 a.m. in the "Faces" classroom. If you are interested in joining this group, or even just sitting in to see if you like it, please speak to Lyssa Andersson, or Suzanne Forgione. We encourage visitors to try it out for at least three consecutive sessions to get a real feeling for the group. One need not be a UUCGL member, or even a Unitarian Universalist to join a covenant group here.

Dialogue Group

The Dialogue Group meets the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at 11:45 a.m. There is no obligation to commit to attendance, all are welcome when able to attend. Contact Ron Fishman if you have an interest in joining this group. For more information: http://seedsofunfolding.org/issues/04_06/features_1.htm and http://seedsofunfolding.org/issues/05_06/features_1.htm.

Explore Your Dreams: A Great Adventure

A group will be meeting the third Sunday of every month from 3:30 – 5:30 pm. Dreams come to us in the forms of symbols and metaphors with important messages for our lives. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Pearl Brown epbrown23@verizon.net or 781-631-4905.

AA Meets on Saturdays

An Alcoholics Anonymous group meets every Saturday at 5:00 p.m. in our beautiful Fellowship Room. The group is open to alcoholics and those who believe they may have a problem with alcohol. We look forward to welcoming all interested.



Jackets

Are you missing a jacket? If so, please take a look in the coat closet next to the office. Some have been here for awhile, if unclaimed, they will be given to a local shelter at the end of this month. (Final Notice.)
Thank you.



Green Corner Into the Woods

This year, the Green Sanctuary Ministry Team will begin focusing on its new theme “Into the Woods,” a celebration both on a global as well as a local level of the Earth’s woodlands and forests.

***Nature is the greatest place to heal and recharge.
Take a walk in the forest and smell the wild air.***

Lions! and Tigers! and Bears! Oh my!

Forests have often gotten a bad rap in literature – think of Hansel and Gretel wandering through the woods or Little Red Riding Hood on the way to Grandma’s. They haven’t fared too well in the movies



either – who could forget Dorothy and friends creeping through the haunted forest in the “Wizard of Oz.” Oh my! Not to mention the just recently released Disney film “Into the Woods” inspired by the tales of the appropriately named Grimm Brothers.

No doubt, forests can be scary. They’re often dark and mysterious. Full of mischief. Ferocious animals may be lurking behind every tree! And unless there’s a yellow brick road running through the trees, you could easily get lost!

But there’s another side to forests, one that’s less frightening and more appealing. That’s because when we go into the woods, we can get away from the hustle and bustle of civilization and enjoy the tranquility and beauty of nature. It’s a place where we can follow a well-worn path by a meandering stream and discover woodland violets, marsh marigolds, and Jack-in-the-Pulpits, along with Lady and Cinnamon ferns. It’s a place where we can observe hawks, cardinals, owls and woodpeckers up in treetops and where we can startle the deer, raccoons, and foxes that may be lurking behind the trees.

The forest is often a quiet place – a place for contemplation and introspection, a place where you can get lost in yourself. Henry David Thoreau, as you may recall, “went to the woods because [he] wished to live deliberately, to confront only the essential facts of life, and see if [he] could learn what it had to teach, and not, when [he] came to die, discover that [he] had not lived.”

And now studies show that taking a walk in the woods reduces stress and depression, lowers blood pressure, boosts immunity and improving overall mental and physical health. Rather than being a dangerous place, it’s a healthful place!

This church year, the Green Sanctuary Ministry Team will be going “Into the Woods,” for a celebration of the Earth’s forests. We’ll also be looking at the threats to these special places – such as deforestation and global warming. We’ll be planning a number of activities around this theme so stayed tuned for more information and check THE TIMES, the Weekly Updates, and the GSMT Bulletin Board for upcoming events!

Beware!

Although there may not be lions, and tigers and bears in the woods, there are other things to beware of, such as ticks and poison ivy.

There are steps you can take to protect yourself against ticks including:

- Avoid brushy areas and dense leafy areas.
- Wear a hat, long sleeves and pants, and tucking pants into socks in areas where ticks are a big problem.
- Check your skin and clothes frequently for ticks.
- Use an appropriate insect repellent.
- Shower soon after being outdoors.

Also become familiar with what poison ivy looks like and then avoid any contact with it:



*“The clearest way into the Universe
is through a forest wilderness.”*

~ JOHN MUIR

Something for everyone!
Join us at UUCGL !



September 2017

Sunday Worship Services - 10:00 A.M.

*No strangers enter here —
only friends who haven't met.*

-ANONYMOUS

WEEKLY:

Mondays

-Chamber Music, 7:30 p.m., Parish Hall

Tuesdays

-Moran Group, 6:15 p.m., lower level
-Concert Singers, 7:30 p.m., Parish Hall

Wednesdays

-OA, 7:00 p.m., lower level Room 9

Thursdays

-Choir, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Saturdays

-OA, 8:30 a.m., lower level Room 9
-AA, 5:00 p.m., Fellowship Room

Sunday, 3

-Covenant Group, 11:45 a.m., Faces classroom
-Worship Meeting, 11:45 a.m., Fellowship Room

Monday, 4

-**Office Closed - Labor Day**
-Threshold Choir, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Tuesday, 5

-Ocean Breeze School Fist Day
-Meeting, 11:30 a.m., Fellowship Room
-Meeting, 2:00 p.m., Fellowship Room

Thursday, 7

-Ocean Breeze Parents Night, 7:00 p.m., P.H./Clssrms

Friday, 8

-Green Sanctuary, 6:30 p.m., off site

Sunday, 10

-Dialogue Group, 11:45 a.m., Faces classroom
-Drum Circle, 1:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Monday, 11

-UUWGL, 10:00 a.m., Fellowship Room
-Social Justice, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Room

Sunday, 17

-Covenant Group, 11:45 a.m., Faces classroom

Monday, 18

-**TIMES Deadline**
-Threshold Choir, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary
-Investments, 7:30 p.m., Fellowship Room

Thursday/Friday, 21-22

-Ocean Breeze Closed—Rosh Hashanah

Saturday 23

-Sangha - all day, all church building

Sunday, 24

-Dialogue Group, 11:45 a.m., Faces classroom
-Drum Circle, 1:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Monday, 25

-Board of Trustees, 7:30 p.m., Fellowship Room

Saturday, 30

-Sangha - all day, all church building

*More progress is made by attacking problems
than by attacking people.*

~ HARRY SCHOLEFIELD

THE TIMES
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
OF GREATER LYNN

Postmaster: Send address changes to THE TIMES
Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn
101 Forest Avenue Swampscott, MA 01907

Published monthly
SEPTEMBER 2017 — Volume 87 #2

Church Office – 781-595-8836

FAX – 781-595-2009

E-MAIL – office@uucgl.org

WEBSITE – WWW.UUCGL.ORG

Rev. Dr. Victoria Weinstein, Parish Minister
Church – 781-595-8836 Ext. 11
Home – 781-599-6364
victoria.weinstein@gmail.com

Julian Baptista, Dir. Community Life and Learning
781-595-8836 Ext. 12
julianbaptistadre@gmail.com

Kenneth Griffith II, Director of Music
781-595-8836 Ext. 21
kengriffithii@gmail.com

Elizabeth Muller, Business Administrator
781-595-8836 Ext. 10
emuller@uucgl.org

Angie Kern, Administrative Assistant
781-595-8836 Ext. 14
akern@uucgl.org

Chris Hansen, Interim Grants Coordinator
781-595-8836 Ext. 23
chansen@uucgl.org

Ocean Breeze School
obns@uucgl.org

Lyssa Andersson, President
president@uucgl.org

Rev. Vann Knight, Minister Emeritus
Rev. Robert Slater, Minister Emeritus
Ann E. Boynton, DRE Emerita

Directions to the Church - 781-595-8836 Ext. 15

Office Hours
Monday – Friday
8:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Reminder: THE TIMES
Monthly Schedule
(EMAILS should be sent to akern@uucgl.org)

The standing deadline for submissions for the monthly publication of THE TIMES is 9:00 a.m. the 18th of each month. This will allow time for the newsletter to be compiled, printed, mailed and delivered, as well as posted on our website, by the first of each month. All teams and individuals responsible for newsletter submissions should think ahead each month and plan accordingly.

Next TIMES Deadlines
(EMAILS should be sent to akern@uucgl.org)

9:00 A.M.

| Deadline Date | Issue Date |
|---------------|------------|
| September 18 | October |
| October 18 | November |

“Like” us on Facebook
at Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn

Website – www.uucgl.org

IMPORTANT NOTICE: This newsletter will be published monthly on our UUCGL [website](http://www.uucgl.org). As a reminder, please do not put any personal identifying information in your article that you would not want someone looking at the website to access. Personal contact info is deleted before posting THE TIMES to the website. (If you would like your personal contact information left in your article, please include a note of permission when submitting to THE TIMES.)