



Spectacles

June 2015

June is busting out all over!

If you are familiar with the 1945 Broadway musical *Carousel* this is the title of one of the many love songs.

And after our long and cold winter it is a sheer delight to awaken each morning to see some new leaf, new shoot, new flower, blossoming all around.

Over the last month I've been watching a large ball of frog's eggs hatch into their tiny tadpole selves.



Everyday I walked down to the vernal pool with the dogs. I would look to see if they had hatched yet. This curiosity contained a fair amount of anxiety rather than patience on my part. I would get worried that they would never hatch or that I had mistaken some weed as frog's eggs. I noticed my sense of entitlement about these being "my" eggs giving me some right to watch them hatch and their subsequent growth into bull frogs whose songs I would enjoy through the summer. And I recognized how my impatience only remembered the mature bull frogs of last summer - not the long weeks between egg, tadpole, and frog.

In our modern, 'go grab what you want today', culture we often forget that we - as individuals and as congregations - need this time of silent, unobservable growth, this time of seeming non-activity in certain stages of development before we can "bust out all over".

And when our day to leave the egg arrives we do not leap into being the fully developed frog (pun entirely intended). It is a process. For frog's eggs, tadpoles, and mature bullfrogs this process occurs without any need for self-reflection by them.

Human process, if we are seeking to create something more enduring than our basest qualities, needs attention, thoughtfulness, vision, and growing patience combined with reflection upon how it is working. This is the idea behind developmental ministry.

Our ministry together has been titled a "consulting ministry" and our vision was "revitalization". This was what our Association is coming to name as developmental ministry.

Even as I leave I want to say what wonderful work your leaders have done on your behalf. My hope and blessing for you is that you will continue this work, find professional leaders who support you in this, and deepen your own spiritual life journeys through your lay leadership work here in Franklin.

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My observation is that you have moved from being the unfertilized egg into a stage of vital life arising. Mistakes will be made, don't let them stop you, use them to learn something different, something intentionally grounded in your vision of "Love is the Spirit of this Faith". Patience and experimentation will probably be useful too.

I thank you for the many gifts of working with you.

I ask your forgiveness for the times when I have not served you as well as I might have.

May blessings of that Love maturing, of busting out all over, be with each of you and all of you together,

Abigail

Rev. Abigail will be available during the summer for emergency pastoral care until her contract ends on August 31, 2015. She can be reached at [802-754-9963](tel:802-754-9963) or at astockman@uuma.org

Abigail will be beginning a full-time Developmental Ministry with the First Church Unitarian Universalist in Barre, VT after she leaves us

Warrant for the 2015 Annual Meeting

To the members of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Franklin:

You are hereby notified and called to meet in the sanctuary of the Meetinghouse at 11:30 AM on Sunday June 14th to act upon the following subjects:

Article 1: To accept the minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting, staff reports, and committee reports.

Article 2: To choose necessary officers for the coming year for the term of office.

Article 3: To authorize the Parish Committee to establish a working group to develop a plan to repair, upgrade and otherwise enhance the appearance and functionality of the Meetinghouse and its grounds. The plan shall include a prioritized list of needed and desired projects and a cost estimate for each. The plan may include an assumption that the Congregation may later, perhaps in the fall, approve a significant allotment from the Trust Funds to speed the rate at which projects can be completed. This is with the understanding that the Congregation has moved in the direction of dedicating the Trust Funds to costs associated with the Meetinghouse.

Article 4: To adopt the proposed 2015 – 2016 budget.

Article 5: To transact any other business that may properly come before this meeting.

Parish Committee

CAN I BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU?

Many of you have asked about being in touch after I leave. Letting go may be hard for many of us, and yet that is what are asked to do on this occasion.

Here is my position. You have my email and my address. It is heartwarming to hear how you are doing from time to time.

Cards at the holiday are lovely.

I am however no longer your minister after August 31, 2015.

I hope you will have another minister.

Therefore, I will not provide pastoral care nor engage with you about any congregational issues.

I have told my colleagues that you been a wonderful congregation to work with and I am sure you will live into that with your next minister, as you did with me.

Warmly, Abigail

Poetic Offering:

*The mystery of life
is not a problem to
be solved,
but a reality
to be experienced.*

~ Aart Van Der Leeuw ~

(quoted in The Soul Unearthed)



A Month of Sundays

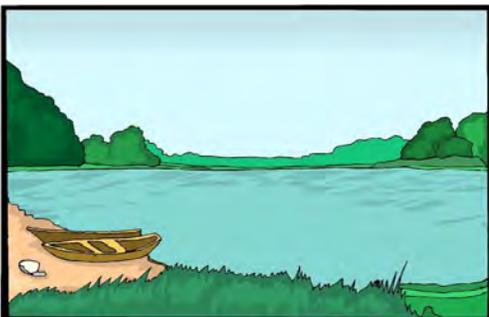
June 7th at 10 am - Flower Communion: "Flowering Hands" - Rev. Abigail Stockman's last Sunday in the pulpit. Join us as we share this meaningful Unitarian communion of flowers and honor all the hands that helped the congregation to flower during this worship year - whether you just came to attend worship or served on the Parish Committee. Come let us celebrate all the good life that is arising within, among, between, and beyond us.

June 14th at 10 am - RE Sunday, followed by the Annual Meeting 11:30 am

June 28th - ANNUAL PICNIC

Time: 11:00 am

Place: Duncanson/Steadman's Home on Webster Lake, 171 Webster Ave.
Franklin, NH.



What to bring:

- a dish to share and the beverage of your choice
- a folding chair
- Hopefully the water will be warm enough to do a little swimming, too! So don't forget your swimsuit & towel.

JUST SO YOU KNOW

As this year closes it is important to celebrate all the important work that has been done in this congregation. There should be great pride in what has been accomplished in the past 12 months. Time and effort has often overcome a shortage of funds. But, talents get stretched thin and people get tired. As we look forward, it's important to find additional resources to support the efforts of this congregation.

During the past year we have applied for the following grants:

- ❖ a grant from **Franklin Savings Bank**, which we did not receive.
 - The FSB Fund for Community Advancement was formed in 1997 to provide support for projects that will enhance the lives of people in the communities Franklin Savings Bank serves.
 - We will re-apply at the next opportunity.
- ❖ a grant from **LCHIP** (Land and Community Heritage Program) which we did not receive
 - **The New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program** (LCHIP) is an independent state authority that makes matching grants to NH communities and non-profits to conserve and preserve New Hampshire's most important natural, cultural and historic resources.
- ❖ a grant from the **Chalice Lighters** (a UUA program)
 - Congregations apply for a Major Chalice Lighter Grant for building projects including energy efficiency and accessibility, and adding professional staff, or Small Growth Grants for growth initiatives.
 - In our case, we emphasized the need to repair our handicap accessible ramp. This would also serve to eliminate one of the water runoff problems contributing to basement dampness.
 - we were one of 2 congregations in the Northern NE District to be awarded a grant. The amount has not yet been determined.
- ❖ a grant from the **Lewis Downing Trust** (a program supported by the Concord Unitarian Universalist Congregation)
 - The Second Congregations Society Unitarian Universalist of Concord administers an annual distribution from the Lewis Downing Trust. It is an example of a legacy gift by a congregation member that lives far beyond his time.
 - While we did not receive this grant this year, the folks administering the grant have encouraged us to apply next year. They'll keep our application and give us the opportunity to submit more current information in the future.
- ❖ A grant from **The NH Preservation Alliance**
 - The NH Preservation Alliance's goal for this program is to assist local non-profit organizations and municipalities in saving and revitalizing community landmarks by helping them obtain building assessments and preservation plans that will provide a strong foundation for subsequent preservation work.
 - We are in the process of applying for an assessment grant now.

We have developed contacts within the "grant" community all of whom are anxious to be a resource to help us achieve our goals. While we did not receive a LCHIP grant, we made some wonderful connections. I was able to join Louise Proctor when she had a follow-up meeting with the LCHIP advisors. They offered valuable advice that will help us in the future, not only with future LCHIP grant applications but with other grant applications in general. Most importantly, they now know our Meetinghouse and recognize both its historic value and its value to the greater Franklin community.

Without exception, the people that we have spoken to say that we have much to be proud of. They are amazed at the amount of work that this congregation has accomplished in this past year and are more than willing to help us find ways to support our efforts to not only maintain this congregation but to revitalize our contribution to our greater community. Great times are ahead.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 10am - Worship	1 4pm - Bread&Roses	2 6:30pm - basement	3	4 4pm - Bread&Roses	5	6
7 10am - Worship	8 4pm - Bread&Roses	9 6:30pm - basement	10 6pm - Music&Worship	11 4pm - Bread&Roses	12	13
14 10am - Worship	15 4pm - Bread&Roses	16 6:30pm - basement	17 7pm - Parish	18 4pm - Bread&Roses	19	20
21 Fathers' Day	22 4pm - Bread&Roses	23 6:30pm - basement	24	25 4pm - Bread&Roses	26 Uno's Dough Raiser	27
28 11am - Picnic	29 4pm - Bread&Roses	30 6:30pm - basement	1	2 4pm - Bread&Roses	3 Independence Day	4 Independence Day

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Franklin
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Franklin, NH 03235



www.uucfranklin.org

Summer Birthdays in our Congregation

When is your birthday? To add a birthday to our list please contact Beth Robinson.

June

Moira B.
Susan Harris
Kira R.
Michael O.
Clinton Cox.
Steve T.
Louise P.
Max D.
Emelia W.
Johanna W.
Brooke W.
Elena M.
Rev. Abigail

July

Adrienne T.
Hannah M.
Maggie P.
Anders G.
Denise S.

August

Vince P.
Pauline C.
Norah H.
Jeremiah
Lance D.
Adison L.



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Unitarian Universalist Church of Franklin

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