



# LAMP-POST

"guiding and lighting your way to us"

# Unitarian Universalist Parish Monson Newsletter

## DECEMBER 2015

December 6<sup>th</sup>

### "The Bestseller We Keep Rewriting"

Rev. Rebecca and Geoff Post will lead the service based off of one of Chet Raymo's columns from the Boston Globe. Geoff will share what his parents told him was the most important story any of us need to know. Religious Education is available. Children start in the worship service.

"First Sundays" Join Rev. Rebecca and Geoff in the RE room at 11:30am to share in conversation about the sermon.

**Preacher:** Rev. Rebecca Bryan  
**Worship Associates:** Geoff Post  
**Chalice Lighter:** Judy Van DeGeer  
**Organist:** Malita Brown

December 13<sup>th</sup>

### "The Many Voices of the Divine"

In the winter issue of our "UU World" UUA President, Rev. Peter Morales, asks us to question ourselves thus, "What does my spirit need right now?" As a ministerial candidate I contend we need to listen deeply to the voice of the Divine

in our day-to-day lives and in the lives of those surrounding us. This service hopes to enhance that divine voice within.

**Preacher:** Rev. Joy Christi Przeworski  
*Rev. Przeworski was ordained a liberal priest in July of 2012. She has retained her active membership with the UU congregation of Asheville, NC since moving to West Hartford, CT in the fall of 2014. She is presently seeking dual affiliation with the UUA Association, hopefully between 2017 and 2018.*

**Chalice Lighter:** Ed Harrison  
**Organist:** Malita Brown

December 20<sup>th</sup>  
**Holiday Service**

Join in our annual holiday service including special musical presentations by the UUPM choir and flutist Aaron Pilarcik. This will also be Rev. Rebecca's last service where she is preaching. Religious Education is available. Children start in the worship service.

**Preacher:** Rev. Rebecca Bryan  
**Chalice Lighter:** Jeanne Coughlin  
**Organist:** Malita Brown

## December Ministry Theme World Religions

December 24<sup>th</sup>

### Christmas Eve Service

6:30 pm

#### "Candlelight Service for all Ages"

Feed your soul by taking time out for a traditional candlelight Christmas Eve service. Honor the ancient story and its meaning in all of our lives today. As an intentionally interfaith community, we welcome all believers, seekers and those who just want time to pause in the midst of the hustle and bustle. This is a multigenerational service open to all ages.

**Service Leader:** Rev. Rebecca Bryan  
**Chalice Lighter:** Shirley Battige  
**Organist:** Malita Brown

December 27<sup>th</sup>

### Annual Poetry Service

This annual service is a beloved tradition. All are invited to come and share their favorite poetry. Those who just wish to listen are equally welcomed!

**Service Leader:** Mary G.  
**Chalice Lighter:** Jeanne Coughlin  
**Organist:** Malita Brown



## Minister's Message "An early goodbye"

Dear Friends,

There is a memory that is engrained in my mind. It always makes me smile. I had planned to "preach on it" someday...When the time was right. As life has it, my preaching will happen a little differently than I had planned. Rather than sharing this memory from the pulpit, I will do so in this column.

*Memory: Wednesday, May 13, 2015  
It was a warm early-summer evening, I entered the church building and was immediately taken by its beauty. There was also an indisputable sense of welcome in the air. It was as though the ancient walls in their grandeur reverberated memories- generations - of love and community. I was happy to be there and excited to meet with the members of the Parish Committee.*

*Sitting at the tables in Fellowship Hall, the people around the table reinforced the positive feeling of the building. Each face was smiling, warm and open. To a person, the people around the table were down to earth and honest...*

*Their questions were as I expected. "Tell us about yourself. Etc...." Within a few minutes of starting the conversation, a person at the table suddenly realized that*

### December ministry theme: **World Religions**

**"I belong to no religion.  
My religion is love.  
Every heart is my temple."  
Rumi**

*something was amiss. "Where is Shirley??" They asked one another.*

*Heads turned to look around the room. All eyes met back at the center of the table. It was agreed...Shirley was not to be found.*

*Mary G promptly went to the phone and called Shirley. "She lives right up the hill" Mary told me. "She'll be right here." Within five minutes, Shirley walked into Fellowship Hall. Her distinguished style of strength, wisdom, and kindness mixed with a "You can't pull anything over me" attitude. I was hooked.*

This is a congregation of committed, loyal, honest, Unitarian Universalists. This is not a congregation that needs to be encouraged to care for each other, or to count your blessings. You are open minded, willing to try things, dependable and genuine. Rather than comparing among yourselves, you come together. Your individuality shines in the warmth and strength of this beloved community.

Perhaps most of all, you are risk takers. You took a risk to invest your money in restoring your beautiful building. You took a risk to continue to say "Yes!" to our liberal religious faith and to each other. You took a risk asking this first time minister to step into your pulpit.

"We are a good place for ministers to start." You told me. We have helped many a new minister get their feet on the ground. We are sad to see each of them go, and we are proud of what they are doing in the world."

Such it is that I share my good byes with you this month. Though we knew from the start that my stay with you was short. It is happening a little faster than we planned. True to your nature however, you are encouraging, gracious and kind with these changes.

As I make my way to First Parish in Brookline as their Interim Senior Minister, and then on to wherever our faith leads, know that UUPM will always be my "first church". I was grateful that May night when you invited me to stay, and I am even more grateful for the ministry that we have shared.

I look forward to watching the bright future of this congregation called UUPM unfold!

Love and Blessings,

Reverend Rebecca M. Bryan



Minister's office hours: Please note change in December hours. Rev. Rebecca will be at a minister's meeting and not in the office on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> Contact Reverend Rebecca to schedule an appointment by emailing or calling. [minister@uupm.org](mailto:minister@uupm.org) or 860-882-9410

## Religious Education

Religious education and childcare is available every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. Infants through high school. All are welcome!

Crafts and nursery care provided on Sundays when RE classes do not meet.



## Building News

### UUPM receives town grant to upgrade the exterior paint and stained glass window protectants.

Work began in November on this important restoration project. We received the lowest bid from Gentlemen Painting. Gentleman Painting has done historic building painting the Longmeadow Community House, Richard Salter Storrs Library in Longmeadow and other historic buildings in Amherst, Egremont, Whately, Leverett, Chesterfield, Mt Greylock, Great Barrington and Lenox, MA.

We expect with these grant funds to also be able to afford replacement of some of the older lexan panels as part of the project.

The project is will be completed this season or in the spring depending on the weather.

Many thanks to Roy Smith for coordination of this work to beautify our building!

## Stove Removal and Upgrade

Though no one knows for sure its exact date, the cast iron pipe stove in our kitchen serviced our congregation for generations. Last winter with the changeover to natural gas the stove saw its final working days.

It was a sad day when we were unable to offer the traditional soup lunch during the Thanksgiving Crafts fair.

This year, thanks to the volunteer work of many of our dedicated members, the old stove was retired. A brand new gas stove and oven took its place thanks to the generosity of Ed Harrison.

This year, soup was on for the craft fair, and lunch was served to many a guest!

Many thanks to all of our helpers; Tonia, Doug, Dave and Ed for removing the old stove and disposing of it in the proper way. To Doug and Ed for the new kitchen lights. And to Roy for always being there to guide and help!



*Main frame to the stripped down stove from Church- over 500 lbs. total.*

*Photo from Tonia Palfrey*

## Unitarian Universalist Parish Monson's Values.

**"We the members of UUPM commit ourselves to:"**

**Community ~ Social Justice ~ Spirituality ~ Equality ~ Web of Life ~ Congregational and Personal Growth ~ Welcoming"**

MEMBER CONGRERATION OF THE  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
ASSOCIATION



### MONTHLY POTLUCKS

JOIN US AFTER WORSHIP  
SERVICE ON THE THIRD SUNDAY  
OF EACH MONTH FOR OUR  
POTLUCK.

December's Potluck will be held on  
Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup>. Feel free to bring a  
snack to share, or just join as our  
guest!

## UUPM Usher and Coffee Hour Schedule

**December 6<sup>th</sup>**  
Usher: Antonia Palfrey  
Coffee Hour Host: Mary G.

**December 13<sup>th</sup>**  
Usher: Roy Brown  
Coffee Hour Host: Malita Brown

**December 20<sup>th</sup>**  
Usher: Doug Young  
Coffee Hour Host: Shirley Battige  
Pot luck after service.

**December 24<sup>th</sup>\***  
**Christmas Eve 6:30pm**  
Usher: Holly Battige and Mary G.  
Coffee Hour Host: Hospitality

**December 27<sup>th</sup>**  
Usher: Tonia Palfrey  
Coffee Hour Host: Jeanne Coughlin

If you are unable to serve, please call  
Shirley at 413-267-9471 or exchange  
with someone.

**Mark Your Calendars! Christmas  
Eve Candle Light Service  
December 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**

### Stay in Touch with UUPM

Want to join our  
mailing list? Send  
your contact  
information to  
[lamppost@uupm.org](mailto:lamppost@uupm.org)

## Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism

1st Principle: The inherent worth  
and dignity of every person;

2nd Principle: Justice, equity and  
compassion in human relations;

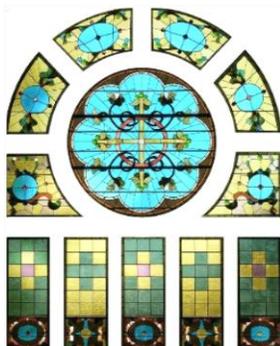
3rd Principle: Acceptance of one  
another and encouragement to  
spiritual growth in our  
congregations;

4th Principle: A free and  
responsible search for truth and  
meaning;

5th Principle: The right of  
conscience and the use of the  
democratic process within our  
congregations and in society at  
large;

6th Principle: The goal of world  
community with peace, liberty,  
and justice for all;

7th Principle: Respect for the  
interdependent web of all  
existence of which we are a part.



## Member Spotlight

### Commitment Sunday

Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup> we welcomed two members into our congregation!

**Grady Sharpe and Geoff Post.**

Grady began attending UUPM this fall after getting introduced to us through our wonderful community bookstore. From the start, Grady was a natural part of our community. His kind and caring spirit warms up every conversation.

His faithful attendance and participation demonstrates his dedication to our congregation. Welcome, Grady!

Geoff is a life-long Unitarian Universalist, and Connecticut resident from Stafford Springs, our neighboring town. Geoff has a long history with our congregation as well. His long time dedication to our building and members is inspirational. Welcome back, Geoff!!



#### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Each month a member or friend of UUPM share's their reflections on why being a part of our community matters to them.

SEND YOUR REFLECTION TO

[lamppost@uupm.org](mailto:lamppost@uupm.org)

## Volunteer Corner

Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who helps make our community so special. Thanks especially this month to the following people for their gifts of time, talent and treasure. All of our crafters and volunteers at the Monson Annual Craft Fair. One of our largest fundraisers of the year!

**We are always looking for volunteers!**

Contact [uupm@uupm.org](mailto:uupm@uupm.org) with questions or for more information.

## What's Happening: UUPM Community News

### Monson Rotary Club Annual Memory Tree Lighting Christmas Concert by Brimfield Area Master Singers (BAMS) December 9<sup>th</sup>

Lighting of the tree will take place at 6pm in the center of town. Tree lighting will include singing of carols. The concert will be held at St. Patrick's at 7pm. Refreshments will be served following the concert. All are welcome.

### Special Holiday Music at UUPM



Sunday  
December 20<sup>th</sup>  
10am and  
Thursday

### December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Service 6:30pm

December brings special music to services at UUPM. Flutist Aaron Pilarcik will be playing along with the UUPM choir. Both services will include congregational singing of carols.

### Nature Meditation Group at the Brookfield UU Church Saturday December 5<sup>th</sup>, 3pm

You do not need to have attended previous sessions to come. These are quiet, intimate gatherings in which participants have a chance to feel a connection with the seasons, the cycles of nature and each other. All participants will be free to share personally meaningful

images, songs, or passages. Simple rituals will be used and time will be set aside for informal sharing and light refreshments.

### Store Gift Cards: An Easy Way to Help UUPM

Malita Brown has gift cards to Adams (\$25, \$50, \$100) for which the church benefits 5% and for Big Y (\$25, \$50, \$100) for which the church benefits 6%. See Malita after a service to purchase or email [malitaroy@juno.com](mailto:malitaroy@juno.com)

### Rev. Rebecca's early departure. Next steps for UUPM

Sunday December 20<sup>th</sup> will be Rev. Rebecca's last Sunday service. We are sad to see her go, but wish her well in at our UU congregation in Brookline, MA. Rev. Rebecca will be serving First Parish in Brookline as their Interim Senior Minister.

Members of the Parish Committee are speaking with several ministers who are interested in joining us from Jan. – June, 2016. Stay tune for updates.

### UUPM Bookstore

Our community bookstore contains an abundance of used books for sale at the best rates in town! You will find all subjects from children's literature to the latest in nonfiction. Come to browse, buy or donate!

### Bookstore Hours

First Fridays: 5:30-7:30  
Second Thursdays: 4:00 – 6:00  
Third Saturdays: 10:00-1:00

### Guest at Your Table

#### Bring in Your Boxes!



Be sure and bring in your Guest at Your Table boxes as soon as possible. We will be collecting the pennies and wishes that we have saved for the good work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. We will be turning our written hopes into a beautiful poster!

## Community Book Discussion Group

5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

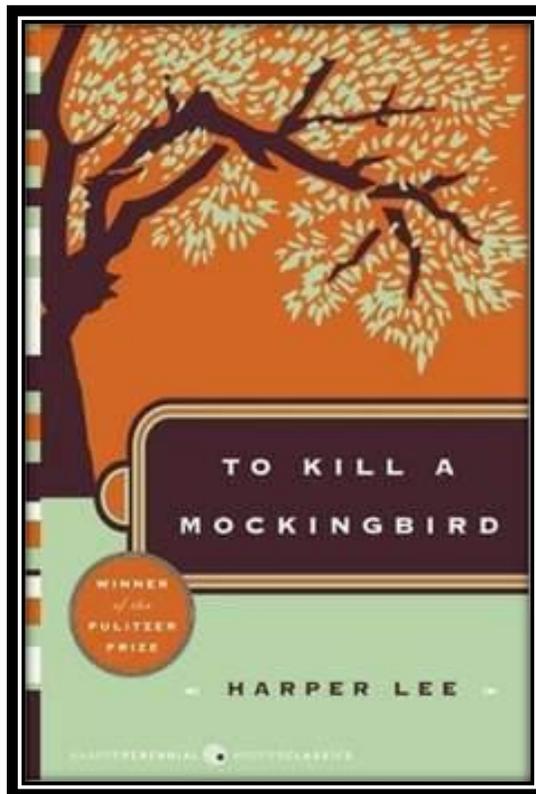
Facilitated by Rev. Rebecca.

December's book is the classic,  
"To Kill A Mockingbird" by  
Harper Lee

Everyone is welcome!

Free ~ No registration required.

Copies of the book are on hold  
and available for loan at Monson  
Free Library. See the front desk  
at the Library. Large Print and  
Audio format available.



# Unitarian Universalist Parish Monson Newsletter

## Parish Board

Mary G., President  
Ed Harrison, Treasurer  
Roy Brown, Assistant Treasurer  
Antonia Palfrey, Clerk  
Doug Young, Property Commissioner  
Shirley Battige, Hospitality Commissioner

## Staff

Rev. Rebecca Bryan, Minister [minster@uupm.org](mailto:minster@uupm.org) or (860) 882-9410  
Rev. Marianne Power, Minister Emerita  
Malita Brown, Organist [uupm@uupm.org](mailto:uupm@uupm.org)  
Ginger Furey, Religious Education [re@uupm.org](mailto:re@uupm.org)



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