



LAMP-POST
"guiding and lighting your way to us"

Unitarian Universalist Parish Monson Newsletter September 2015

SEPTEMBER 2015

September Ministry Theme ... *Covenant*

September 13th Opening Service and Water Communion Sunday

Join us for our first service to welcome our new minister, Rev. Rebecca Bryan. This is an intergenerational service. Children and families welcome!

Preacher: Rev. Rebecca Bryan
Chalice Lighter: David Uguccione
Organist: Malita Brown

Water Communion is a Unitarian Universalist tradition where each person pours water into a common bowl. This simple yet powerful ritual reminds us of why we gather and what community can offer us all. A great way to start of the fall! Bring water to share from your summer travels if you would like. Water containers will also be available for everyone that morning.

September 20th

"Who Did U Say U are?"

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

Come learn more about Unitarian Universalism...what do we believe... how do you know if this might be the place for you? Rev. Rebecca will be sharing more about our UU faith, her journey to ministry and to our parish.

Religious Education and childcare available for all ages. Children start in the service and move to their classroom together.

September 27th

"Covenant and a Humble Dance Among Giants"

Guest Preacher: Laura Geoghegan
Chalice Lighter: Tonia Palfrey
Piano Soloist : Christina Richard
Organist: Malita Brown

Laura is a student at Andover Newton Theological School and in care for Unitarian Universalist ministry.



Minister's Message

Dear Friends,

It is with great joy that I write this, my first newsletter column as the minister at UUPM. I am delighted to call the Unitarian Universalist Parish of Monson my first congregation. Called to ministry twenty odd years ago, I was ordained into the Unitarian Universalist ministry this June by the All Souls congregation in New London, CT where I served as two years as their ministerial intern.

"Church is where you get to practice being human."

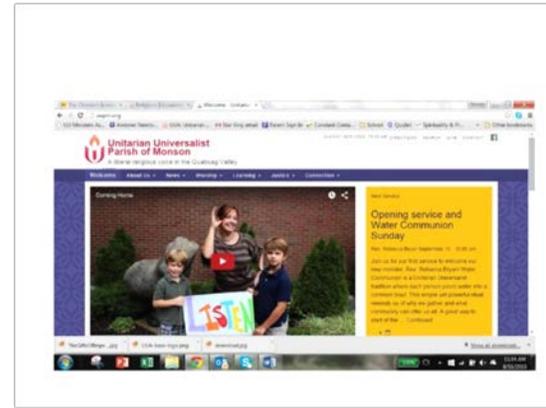
James Luther Adam, Unitarian theologian and ethicist

What you might ask was I doing for the last twenty years!? Being a mom, working in the nonprofit sector, volunteering in my local UU congregation. Juggling my family needs with my desires. Making tough decisions between what I wanted to do and what I could realistically do. In essence – being human.

My faith as a Unitarian Universalist, commitment to living by our seven principles to the best of my ability and involvement in a congregation, gave me what I needed to forge those years. Friends, for me and my family. Religious education that I could believe in for my children. Volunteer opportunities that taught me valuable skills. A place to come each week to pause, reflect on what is important, and to rejuvenate. Most of all, a community that embodied my theological and ethical values, and cared for me and all of my humanness.

Today as I pick up the privilege and responsibility of professional ministry, I do so knowing that there is nothing more important than the care and love found within community. I look forward to a wonderful year of shared ministry!

Reverend Rebecca M. Bryan



UUPM's New Website

Check it out! www.uupm.org



Minister's office hours
Thursday noon – 6:00 P.M.
and by appointment
minister@uupm.org
860-882-9410

Religious Education

by Ginger Furey

My goal for RE is to offer youth the tools and guidance they need to navigate whatever point they are at in their life, through the eyes of Unitarian Universalist Principles. My vision is for our youth to have a deeper understanding of our faith and how to apply it in their everyday life. Through hands-on games, arts and crafts, music, conversations, and readings, we will together explore what it means to be a UU. While our time together may have some theme or structure, I encourage youth to bring in any ideas, topics, concerns, questions they may have. This time is for them, so they play a large part in guiding the process as well (when age appropriate). I promise our time spent together will be fun, engaging and relaxed! As I'm sure you will hear Rev. Rebecca say in our services, ALL are welcomed. RE is open to anyone,



Ginger Furey, Religious Education UUPM

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/SUNDAY SCHOOL IS BACK!

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT GINGER FUREY
re@uupm.org



Social Justice and Building News

by [Article Author]

UUPM is deeply committed to issues of social justice. We host movies and panel discussions throughout the year. These are free and open to the public.

As well we participate in town wide activities and love to partner with community organizations.

The building is available for rent at reasonable rates. The sanctuary makes for beautiful weddings and lovely concerts. The upstairs

community room is an ideal meeting place for activities such as yoga and tai chi. Our fellowship hall located on the lower level includes room and seating for dozens. Come and visit to check out the space.

For more information or to discuss rental opportunities contact uupm@uupm.org

A MEMBER CONGRERATION OF THE
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION



www.uua.org

Stay in Touch with UUPM

Not on our mailing
list?

Send your contact
information to
uupm@uupm.org



UUPM Usher and Coffee Hour Schedule

September 13th

Usher: Peg Harrison
Coffee Hour Host: Shirley Battige

September 20th

Usher: Shirley Battige
Coffee Hour Host: Mary G.

September 27th

Usher: Doug Young
Coffee Hour Host: Roy Brown

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

MONTHLY POTLUCKS

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

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

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.



What our community means to me

by Tonia Palfrey

I discovered this church because of the bookstore. I had never heard of UU. I am glad for this community, I feel as if I have things to contribute! I have begun to sing again and can even do a few lay services on topics we all enjoy.

I am a fortunate UUPM member, I came aboard with a good sense of faith! And it grows even better! There is no overhead doctrine to say "you must believe—you must walk this direction." I can take deep breaths and share with others what applies, if and when it is appropriate.

If you want a place that challenges and celebrates, come join us. I am very grateful for its existence.



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
uupm@uupm.org

Volunteer Corner

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard this summer preparing for our exciting fall.

Special thanks to Kai Price for creating our new and fantastic website!

Service Opportunities

A great way to help out and get to know others!

We welcome your help in any way and in particular if you are interested in the following roles.

- Newsletter editor
- Coffee hour hosts

Contact uupm@uupm.org with questions or for more information.

"The Bookstore"

As shared by Gordon Douty and interpreted by Rev. Rebecca Bryan

We made the bookshelves,
we did.

All we had was each other.
We quarreled sometimes,
you do, you know.
But we had each other.
We were what we had to
work with.

The church was his castle.
He slept there on cold winter
nights.
In case the furnace should
cease working.

We made more money than
The *Mouse*.

What's that? The *Mouse*?
Upstairs.
Where the ladies sold
clothes laid out on tables
through the hall.

When a home burnt down,
they would put together
boxes of clothes, kitchen
goods and the like.
Send them across town.
That's how it was.

We made more money than
the *Mouse*.

He built the shelves, Carl did.
I sorted the books, different
than libraries you know.
By topic.
Travel and history, science.
Languages.

We had languages.

I once had a woman looking
for a – what's that called – a
Qur'an.
Then there was the woman
looking for books written in
Lithuanian.

Yes, we had languages all
right.

We took books.
Anyone's books.

We did all right.
Carl built the shelves.
We made just about as much
money as the *Mouse*.

**this poem was written after
a conversation with Gordon
Douty. It is meant to honor
his story about building the
bookstore at the Unitarian
Universalist Parish Monson,
and his good friend Carl
Battige. It does not
necessarily contain exact
quotations.*



Gordon Douty

Gordon has been a long time member of UUPM. Now living at the Soldier's Home in Holyoke, MA, Gordon is a beloved member of our church family.



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! We believe

Bookstore Hours

First Fridays: 5:30-7:30 P.M.

Second Thursdays: 3:00 – 5:00 P.M.

Third Saturdays: 10:00-1:00

New! Community Book Discussion Group

4th Thursday of each month.

5:00 – 6:30 pm

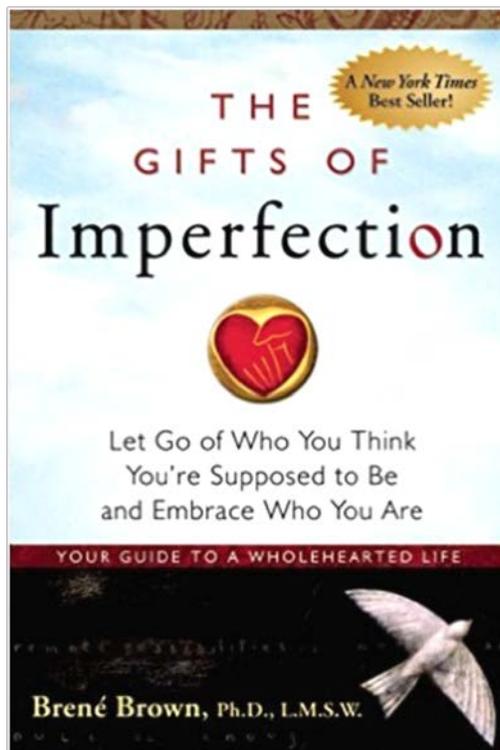
Facilitated by Rev. Rebecca.

September's book is "The Gifts of Imperfection: Let go of who you think you are supposed to be and embrace who you are." Brené Brown

Everyone is welcome!

Free ~ No registration required.

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



**Unitarian Universalist
Parish Monson
Newsletter**

September 2015

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 or (860) 882-9410
Malita Brown, Organist uupm@uupm.org
Ginger Furey, Religious Education re@uupm.org



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