

# Unitarian Universalist Parish Monson Newsletter

**OCTOBER 2015**

## October 4<sup>th</sup> "Life as A Journey"

Rev. Rebecca will share about one of the most important events in her life. What she thought was a curse. How it turned out to be a huge blessing and gave her new ground to create the life she wanted.

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

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

**Preacher: Rev. Rebecca Bryan**  
**Chalice Lighter: Tonia Palfrey**  
**Organist: Malita Brown**  
**Guest Pianist, Christina Richard**  
**October 11<sup>th</sup>**

## "How We Came to be UU"

All of us have our own journey to Unitarian Universalism. Mary and Tonia share their stories. How they came to be UU and what it means in their lives.

**Service Leaders: Mary G and Tonia Palfrey**  
**Chalice Lighter: Mary G.**  
**Organist: Malita Brown**

**October 18<sup>th</sup>**

## "Service and Play: Life's Necessities"

Come for a morning of fun and service. Rev. Rebecca discusses the legacy of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee while exploring the role that service and play have in all of our lives.

## October Ministry Theme Finding Ground

October 18<sup>th</sup> is also "Guest at Your Table" Sunday and Halloween costume parade and party for kids!

Religious Education and childcare available for all ages. Children (of all ages) are encouraged to come in Halloween costume. Children will start in the service and move to their classroom together.

**Preacher: Rev. Rebecca Bryan**  
**Chalice Lighter: Doug Young**  
**Organist: Malita Brown**

**October 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Rev. David Moquin, Spiritualist**

Enjoy one of our favorite speakers! David returns to UUPM.

**Guest Preacher: Rev. David Moquin**  
**Chalice Lighter: Ed Harrison**  
**Organist: Malita Brown**



## Minister's Message

Dear Friends,

What an exciting September we had! I am in awe of all that we accomplished together! A beautified room for Religious Education, fixed lights in the front of the sanctuary, a new sound system complete with the ability to post our services online and a new website, are among the month's highlights.

I would be remiss if I didn't share the biggest joy ~ seeing all of the smiling faces in our church building throughout the week!

Sunday services are filled with familiar, returning and new faces of friends of all ages. Our front doors are open again! It is a joy to meet children who are considering joining our Religious Education. What fun to meet the many folks who came for the tag sale and who frequent the book store.

Fellowship Hall is full of excitement and our doors are open. The buzz continues beyond our walls as our social media and website activity grow.

### October ministry theme: Finding Ground

*"Keep your eyes on the stars,  
and your feet on the ground."*

--- Theodore Roosevelt, 26th President  
of the United States and a leading  
force of the Progressive Era

This month we will be exploring what it means to "find ground". Poet and philosopher, Mark Nepo writes in *The Book of Awakening*, "Originally, the word *power* meant "able to be". In time, it was contracted to mean "to be able". We suffer the difference."

We all need to know how to be grounded in our world of mass consumerism and spiritual impermanence. It is not a skill that we are born with. It is something that we can learn to do. It is from this rooted place that we can go confidently, and to this place that we return frequently.

With it we are strong and adaptable. Without it we can feel lost and thrown about by life. Let UUPM be a place of grounding for all who seek it. Let it be a place of love and sanctuary for all.

Love and Blessings,

Reverend Rebecca M. Bryan



Minister's office  
hours:

Thursdays  
12 – 6:00 p.m.  
and by  
appointment.  
Rev. Rebecca  
can be reached  
at

minister@uupm.org or 860-882-9410



### UUPM Has a New Sound System!

Thanks to an anonymous donor and many volunteer hours, we have a new sound system.

The many benefits include:

- ✓ Improved sound for worship services.
- ✓ Ability to post tapes of our services on our website.
- ✓ Microphone for Time for All Ages and Joys and Concerns.
- ✓ Expanded system for rentals and guest musicians.
- ✓ Better quality for showing movies at Social Justice and community events.

To learn more visit

<http://uupm.org/index.php/2015/09/25/we-have-a-new-sound-system/>

## Religious Education

by Ginger Furey

October is one of my favorite times of the year. There is nothing better than decorating pumpkins and dressing in costume. As Unitarian Universalists, we not only enjoy the secular traditions associated with Halloween. We also consider its history as a Celtic festival known as Samhain.

Children are encouraged to come to church on October 18<sup>th</sup> in Halloween costume. We will be painting pumpkins in class and learning about how Halloween came into being.

This month children will also be making their own personal chalices to take home or use in the UUPM RE room.



*Ginger Furey, Religious Educator UUPM*

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!

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CONTACT GINGER FUREY  
[re@uupm.org](mailto:re@uupm.org)



**UUPM RE ROOM with our beautiful new rug!**



**On Friday, October 23, at 7 PM the Social Justice Committee will screen *God Loves Uganda*. The film will be immediately followed by a discussion. The suggested donation is \$5.00.**

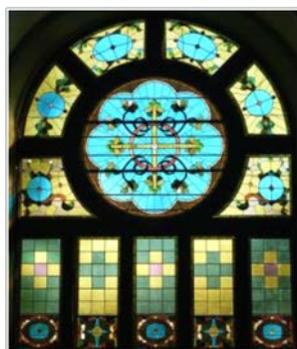
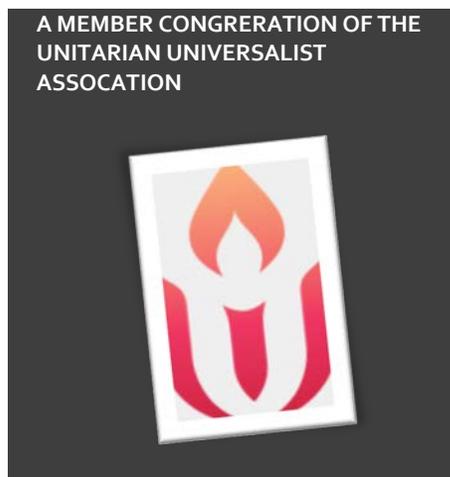
## Social Justice

### Movie Screening: *God Loves Uganda*

This explosive documentary explores the draconian new laws that are winning over the Ugandan public and the politicians that peddle them, thanks to charismatic religious leaders and a well-financed campaign. But these dangerous policies and the money that fuels them aren't coming from Africa, they're being imported from some of America's largest megachurches.

Using *vérité*, interviews, and hidden camera footage, the film allows American religious leaders and their young missionaries that make up the "front lines in a battle for billions of souls" to explain their positions in their own words.

Scott Lively, former independent candidate for Governor of Massachusetts in the 2014 election, is one evangelical featured in the film. Having called for the criminalization of "the public advocacy of homosexuality" for nearly a decade, Lively is now being sued in federal court for allegedly depriving LGBT Ugandans of their fundamental human rights based solely on their identity, which it is alleged falls under the definition of persecution under international law and is a crime against humanity.



## UUPM Usher and Coffee Hour Schedule

### October 4<sup>th</sup>

Usher: David Uguccioni  
Coffee Hour Host: Judy Van de Geer

### October 11<sup>th</sup>

Usher: Roy Brown  
Coffee Hour Host: Malita Brown

### October 18<sup>th</sup>

Usher: Judy Van de Geer  
Coffee Hour Host: Shirley Battige

### October 25<sup>th</sup>

Usher: Roy Brown  
Coffee Hour Host: Peg Harrison

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

## Stay in Touch with UUPM

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

### Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

#### "Guest At Your Table" Kicks Off October 18<sup>th</sup>

Over the past 40 years, UUSC's Guest at Your Table program has become a cherished tradition that celebrates how we can be partners in advancing human rights. Through this annual multigenerational program, we learn about inspiring global examples of local people making a big difference in their communities. We join together in solidarity, offer our support, and take action.

Visit [uusc.org/guest](http://uusc.org/guest) to learn more.

## 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.

### MONTHLY POTLUCKS

JOIN US AFTER WORSHIP SERVICE ON THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH FOR OUR POTLUCK. **October's Potluck will be held on Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup>. Feel free to bring a snack to share, or just join as our guest!**



## Member Spotlight

### Jake Carman

In terms of religious educations, you will be hard pressed to find anything like Unitarian Universalism. Since around the age of 4, my parents took me once a week to our UU church in downtown Monson.

No form of education has been more accepting and open minded than what I received there. Often times we'd discuss issues and topics that were happening in the world, what they meant and how they pertained to us. One such instance was right around the time when same sex marriage was legalized in MA. Being pretty young at the time, I did really understand what same sex marriage was, and I remember my Sunday school teacher walking us through what that was, why it was a completely okay thing. The schooling I got really hammered home the importance of acceptance, and how all people deserve love.



#### 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.

Judy Van de Geer who donated our gorgeous new rug in the RE room!

Roy Brown who fixed the lights in the front of our Sanctuary.

Shirley Battige for organizing hospitality, coffee hours and monthly pot lucks.

Peg Harrison for revitalizing our monthly food collections for Open Pantry of Monson.

Kai Price who installed and an anonymous donor who purchased our new sound system.

**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

### "First Sundays"

Join Reverend Rebecca after the service on the first Sunday of each month for a discussion about the sermon. A great way to go deeper into the topic and to share with others who are interested in exploring more.

First Sundays will kick off on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. Gather in the RE room behind Fellowship Hall.

### Are You Interested in Participating in Worship at UUPM?

We are looking for people who are interested in being part of our worship services either as readers with Rev. Rebecca or worship leaders with guest preachers. Want to learn more? Come join us Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> after the potluck. We will meet at noon in the Minister's Study.

### Musical Concert

Michael Thomas Gilman will be giving us a concert of piano music on November 8th, Sunday at 3 pm. The concert is free with a suggested donation of \$10. Please bring goodies for a reception afterwards.

### Invitation to Round Table Discussion at Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church:

#### *JOBS NOT JAIL:*

Are you interested in good lively discussions? We will be discussing the current state of the Massachusetts Criminal Justice System and how to get those incarcerated out and into productive lives. With guest speaker, Susan Tordella, Legislative Director of EMIT (End Mass Incarceration Together) October 21, 2015, 7:00pm. Email [uupm@uupm.org](mailto:uupm@uupm.org) if you are interested in carpooling.

### 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 one or email [malitaroy@juno.com](mailto:malitaroy@juno.com)

### 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: 3:00 – 5:00

Third Saturdays: 10:00-1:00

# Community Book Discussion Group

4th Thursday of each month.

5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Facilitated by Rev. Rebecca.

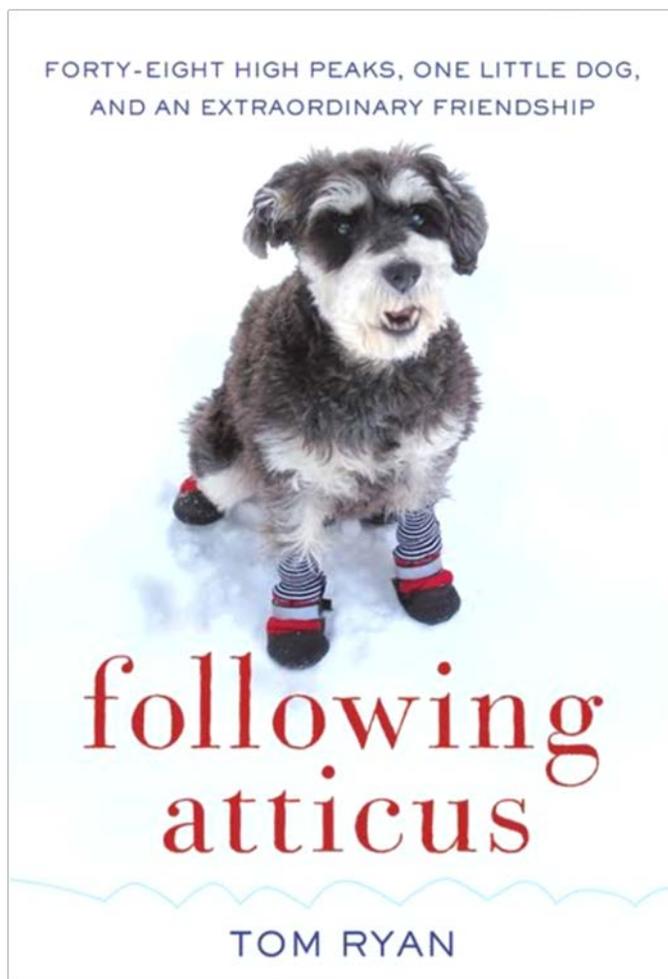
October's book is New York Times Bestseller, "Following Atticus" by Tom Ryan.

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. Print and Audio format.

*This is author Tom Ryan's inspiring tale of how he and his miniature schnauzer companion, the "Little Buddha" Atticus M. Finch, attempted to scale all forty-eight of New Hampshire's four thousand foot White Mountains twice in the dead of winter.*



"Exceptionally evocative writing, and (an) engaging story...this is a book that can be read more than once. Inspirational and heart warming." (Library Journal)

"Heartwarming, suprisingly suspenseful...Part adventure story, part memoir, but most important a love story...entertaining and joyous book." (Publisher's Weekly)

# 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  
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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