

UU Medford Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford
 Highlights

www.uumedford.org

(781) 396-4549

Sept 2009



147 High Street

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Moxie *The ability to face difficulty with spirit and courage.*

I recently read that one of a study that showed that if young people are not constantly engaged over the summer they will forget a huge amount of information over summer vacation. Friends, I know that this is true for adults as well, not that I'm saying that any of us are becoming less intelligent about church, but I want to offer this old chestnut just in case.

When to Call Your Minister was originally written by Rev. Peter Lee Scott but it has been edited by each minister who passes it along.

I want to be helpful when you face a spiritual crisis or think you might benefit from a chat or advice. And I believe that as your minister I can perhaps help you navigate the challenges of life transitions, difficult choices, and grieving a loss. I may not have answers to all of life's persistent questions, and I'm not a therapist, but I am a pretty good listener and sometimes I find the right questions to ask or a good resource to point you toward.

So don't hesitate to be in touch with me. And don't assume that I'm clairvoyant enough to know what's going on with you unless you tell me. Given the relatively new federal rules designed to protect your privacy, hospitals won't necessarily call us and if they do, they probably won't tell us anything about your admission. Most of the time they won't even verify that you're there. So you need to be proactive.

You are not bothering the minister with your problems; you are not taking time away from more important things. You are important; one main reason you have a minister is to be of help to you; that is what my time is for. A minister cannot know when he is needed; you need to tell him.

- When someone is in the hospital or is going to be;
- When someone is confined and would like to be visited;
- When there is a death in the family (the minister should be called before the mortician);
- When you wish to discuss funeral arrangements ahead of time;
- When you have children to be named or dedicated;
- When you have personal problems or family difficulties (many ministers do short term counseling and are often good at referrals);
- When you want to get married;
- When you have marriage problems;

- When you are arrested or in jail;
- When you have an important choice to make - educational, job, etc.;
- When you are angry with the minister or upset with something in the church;
- When you have prospective members for the church in mind;
- When you want to talk about religion;
- When you do not yet know the minister and would like to get acquainted;
- When you simply want someone to talk with.

Peace, Hank

Worship Services for September

September 6th: Labor Day Hymn Sing

10:00 - Rev. Hank Peirce

Is there a hymn that you miss singing? Or one that you have seen but don't know how it goes? This is your chance to sing, so come with a full voice as we sing from our living tradition.

September 13th: Homecoming Sunday & Water Communion

11:00 - Rev. Hank Peirce

Join us at 11 today as we celebrate our first Sunday of the church year, welcoming old friends and greeting new ones. Don't forget to bring the water you collected over the summer for the communion. Following the service we will holding a church pot-luck, so bring food or drink to share!.

September 20th: The Divinity of Forgiveness

11:00 - Rev. Hank Peirce

A major element of the Jewish High Holy Days is asking for forgiveness and forgiving others. How important is forgiveness in our world and how important is it for you in your life?

September 27th: Nothing Succeeds like...

Rev. Hank Peirce

In Malcolm Gladwell's new book *Outliers*, he challenges the concept of what we assume allows someone to succeed. At the start of the church year let us think about those things where we as a community succeed and where we can improve.

EVENTS



Tuesday Programs Committee

The Tuesday Programs will begin its second year on Tuesday October 6th. Every Tuesday for 8 months, October through May, there will be a UUCM program starting at 7pm (meditation, singing pop songs, literature studies, popcorn theology, divinity and social justice talks, etc.). And as we did last year, every program ends with a cookies and tea party. We aim for fun, relaxed Tuesday evenings where we can get to know each other and talk about our lives and our UUCM community. If you would like to help plan and run these programs join the Tuesday Programs Committee. Call or see Hank Driscoll, 781-393-1852.

Potluck September 13

There will be a potluck following the service on Sunday September 13. We hope you will all come. We are asking that people with last names starting with the letter A – M bring breads or an entrée, and people with last names starting with N – Z, bring salad or dessert. Beverages will be provided.

Eco-Social Justice Coffee Hour after September 20th Service

The Eco- Social Justice Committee will host an informational get-together in the Moore Room during coffee hour 12:00 – 1:00, right after the September 20th service. Come and hear about the committee's on-going work on the environment and immigration. Equally important, share your own ideas about other worthwhile projects around ecology and social justice—peace, women's issues, homelessness, and so on. People interested in similar issues will also be encouraged to chat with one another.

**Buildings & Grounds
Committee Summer Report**

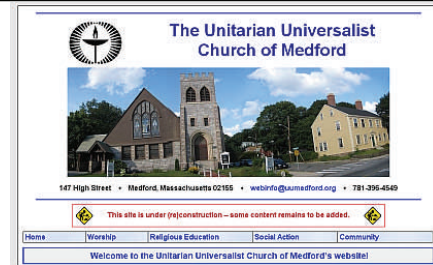
Between the rain and hot weather it has been a quiet summer for Buildings & Grounds. However, some time was spent on weeding, and Joan Parker continued her work on the church side garden.

Also, a major effort was conducted to rid the church and Osgood House of the very invasive and persistent Black Swallow Wort Vine. Definite progress has been made, the full extent of which will be clearer next spring.

We will be looking for help this fall season for weeding, planting, patching the driveway, etc so stay tuned!

Thank you to committee members Mary Stevenson, Rita Bamford, and Geoff Ward, for their help.

—Maria Muller, Building & Grounds
Committee Chairperson



Website Update

We are delighted to announce the launch of our new web site. We designed it with the congregation in mind. We hope you find it user-friendly and a site to behold.

We have also created a new site specific email address to handle all web inquiries.

Web site: www.uumedford.org
Email: webinfo@uumedford.org

Happy Surfing,
The Web Site Committee

Announcement:

This is the last paper version of the newsletter for some time. We will print out some copies of future newsletters to pick up at the church for visitors and those members who do not have email.

Note from Hank:

Friends, I just received a note from Kelly Asprooth-Jackson that he has just signed a contract to become the consulting minister for Pullman Memorial Universalist Church in Albion, NY.

COMMUNITY CUPBOARD FOOD PANTRY

--Liz Ammons, Co-Coordinator

The Food Pantry has been very busy this year. Because of the terrible economy, the number of people coming to get food has been unusually high, particularly during the late winter and all spring. But the hard work of the many volunteers at the Pantry has allowed us to function well and provide food every Thursday.

So in this last newsletter of the church year, a BIG thank you to all these volunteers who give so generously of their time and labor: Geoff Ward who buys and delivers dried beans each week, Hank Driscoll who picks up donated bread from Whole Foods each week, Clare Gallup and Michael Glenn (with Helen Silver as back-up) who share the job of buying and delivering outlet bread each week, Chris Fiorello who sorts produce and stocks shelves weekly, Marilyn McGrath who transports donated produce regularly, Mary Werowinski and Susan Gerould who buy and deliver more than a ton of food each month from the Greater Boston Food Bank, and then these people who share the work of staffing the Pantry every Thursday evening: Steve Schmidt, David Grayson, Karen Johnston, Julia Alvarez, Liz Ammons, Dave Pickney, Jim Calorio, Joan Parker, Naomi Wilson, Byron Alvarez, Moriah Tumbleson-Shaw, Jennifer Vento, Anna Seleny.

UU Medford

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Church Office Hours

Tues-Wed-Friday: 9 am–2 pm
Thurs: 9 am–12 noon

Rev. Hank Peirce, Minister

revhank@uumedford.org
(781) 643-2523
Office: (781) 396-7309

Esther Rosado

Director of Religious Education
dre@uumedford.org
(781)396-4549

Lynn Battinelli

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(781) 396-4549
info@uumedford.org

Thom Lissey

Music Director
(617) 966-1526
music@uumedford.org



Ongoing Events

Please check calendar section on web-site for an updated listing.

Thursdays Community Cupboard Food Pantry

6:00 –7:30 pm, Sanctuary

Saturday Buddhist Meditation

8:30-11:30 am, Moore Room

Keep in Touch — Announcements E-mail List

To join the announcements e-mail list, contact Miles Fidelman at mfidelman@fidelman.net. You will receive an e-mail confirming that you have been added to the list.

Newsletter Submissions

All articles for the newsletter are due the 15th of each month, for the following month's issue. Please send submissions to Meghan O'Sullivan at: newsletter@uumedford.org

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford is a diverse, welcoming community striving to provide a nurturing environment for the spiritual journeys of people at all stages of life. We foster social engagement among ourselves and seek to make a difference in our community and in the world at large.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford

147 High Street Medford, MA 02155

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Update from the Task Force on Immigration

The Task Force on Immigration operates under the guidance of the Eco – Social Action Committee. We've decided to continue our work for another year. Our next meeting will be Monday, September 14th, at 7pm at 26 Farragut Avenue, Medford, and you are invited to join us. This year's plans include:

(1) Concrete hands on work:

- (a) Working with the local interfaith Metro North "cluster" of the Refugee Immigration Ministry, aiding refugees and asylum-seekers,
- (b) Teaching immigrants English with the English-at-Large program here in Medford,
- (c) Some of us work with the food pantry which services many immigrants;

(2) Educational work:

- (a) We are trying to start a local interfaith study group on the history of immigration and immigrant rights,
- (b) We have developed a ready-for-export service that focuses on immigration. (The Malden First Parish Church will host us in February.)
- (c) We're currently planning some Tuesday evening programs for UUCM,.
- (d) We maintain a bulletin board with info on immigration in Benker Hall,
- (e) At times we will ask the congregation to sign letters or petitions around urgent immigration issues;

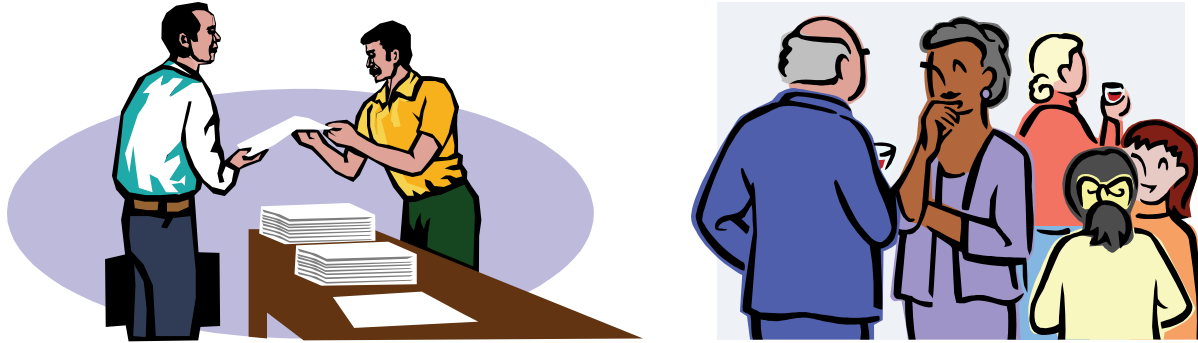
(3) Liaison and support work:

- (a) We're hoping to partner with the immigrant rights group at Tufts (STAIR),
- (b) We keep in touch with Centro Presente around up-coming issues,

We are in contact with Anthony Zuba's Interfaith Workers Justice group (now merged with Jobs for Justice,),

We remain in contact with the UUA and UU Mass Action around this issue.

For more information, contact Michael Glenn at michaelglenn01@comcast.net or Daniel Velasquez at dan.velasquez@gmail.com.



Getting Involved! UUCM Volunteer Opportunities

Our church runs substantially on the efforts of our volunteers.

Who are they? You!

The Board has been made aware that even longstanding members of our community are challenged regarding where to go for information regarding where they can best channel their volunteer time. In order to remedy that we are creating a task force to implement the following:

Sunday social hour membership table — A group of volunteers will take turns being stationed at a table during social hour to:

- (a) answer general questions from visitors and others new to our community
- (b) provide information to community members looking for volunteer opportunities both long- or short-term.

Ideally we would have a large enough group so that each member only needs to serve one week a month at the table. If you are interested, please contact Colleen Squires at webinfo@uumedford.org.

We are also seeking members for a space use task force: The Board has a substantial list of suggestions in-hand from a professional event planner on what could be done to promote our properties and make them more attractive to those looking for an event space. The potential is there to add enough to our revenues to make a difference financially. The task force will decide which suggestions to implement in what order and then oversee them.