

UU Church of Nashua

The Everything Book

“Your Questions Answered, Your
Interest Solicited”

2010-2011 Church Year

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We do try to fit “Everything” into this book---all the things we do, in worship, in our greater community, in all seriousness and at play, on Sundays and every other conceivable day.

Read through to find out what’s happening, what will happen, whom to contact about what, where to get involved.

And—this is really far from all of it! New things are coming up all the time, so keep your eyes open and check the website and newsletter for late-breaking information.

If you have an idea or activity you’d like to see happen, we encourage you to contact us here in the church office and we’ll get you started. The shop is always open!

--Your Executive Team

Steve Edington, Minister

Chris Parker, Director of Religious Education

Sherri Woolsey, Membership Coordinator/Office Administrator/Volunteer Coordinator

Jed Holland, Music Director

Sandy Martinage, Sexton

Mike Wilt, Treasurer

Phil Brown, Assistant Treasurer

Who's In Charge?

Our church is governed by a Board of Trustees, nominated from our membership and elected by voting members at our Annual Meeting in June. The Board in turn selects an Executive Team, at this point consisting of the Minister, Treasurer, Office Administrator, Director of Religious Education, and Membership/Volunteer Coordinator.

The Board sets policy based on our vision and mission.

The Team deals with church operations and carries out policy.

The following committees report directly to the Board: Investment, Nominating, Personnel, Ministry, Teaching Parish, White Wing School Board.

These committees work with the Executive Team: Denominational Connections, Membership, Property, Public Relations, Religious Education, Social Justice, Social Activities, Fundraising, Worship, Sabbatical.

A complete listing and contact information for the Board of Trustees is located in the back.

Resources

Our Information Table and bulletin boards in coffee hour keep us up-to-date, as well as our wonderful website and newsletter. The Church Office has publications relating to many topics: designing worship services, running committees, fundraising, life ceremonies, funerals and memorial services. The Social Justice committee has a corner in the Dining Room where you can find information on issues. The Information Table has denominational information, sign up sheets, phone directories and extra newsletters.

If you would like to sign up for our newsletter, please go to the church website, www.uunashua.org On the left hand side you need to click on email lists. On that page you have several options you can subscribe to. For the newsletter click on "Newsletter list information" and put in your e-mail address and name. You will automatically be subscribed to our monthly newsletter. This is delivered to your e-mail on the first day of every month.

The Worship Connection

Summer Services

Held in our small chapel, and led by anyone who has an interest! Take this opportunity to tell your particular story, hold a discussion, share music, poetry, drama, film, politics, history, you name it, we can have a service about it. Watch for updates in late spring.

Chalice Lighting

It's free and open to everyone: lighting the chalice to open our worship service on Sunday mornings. Commemorate a loved one or an important event, read prose or poetry (your own or others'), yourself or your whole family. If you can't walk to reach the chalice we will bring it to you. Speak with Rev. Steve Edington.

Greeters

Every Sunday you are greeted by smiling people standing at the rear of the church, who hand you an order of service, direct you to church school classrooms, who can provide you with large-print materials or a hearing device. Please call the church office, 882-1091.

Flower Donations

You may donate flowers to the Sunday service in three ways. Always call the church office before Thursday NOON if you wish to donate flowers that week.

- 1) bring your own arrangement
- 2) Call our florist with your special request, and reimburse the church when we receive the invoice,

Send a donation to cover the costs of the flowers already provided.

Contact the church office at 882-1091 to arrange any of the above options, and to have memorial remembrances or celebrations noted in the order of service.

Passover Seder

Members of our church family join in our dining room for a traditional Seder meal, potluck style, and celebrate this ancient ritual with a contemporary haggadah.

The Music Program

Youth Choir

The Youth Choir is open to youths of all ages. Consistent attendance and love of singing are the only requirements to join. Newcomers are always welcome. The Youth Choir rehearses in the Chapel on Sunday mornings from 11:30 to 12:15. (A Youth Choir rehearsal is not held on a Sunday that is a "Teachers' Day Off" on the RE calendar.) The Youth Choir sings during the regular church service about once a month throughout the church year. For more information see the Youth Choir schedule posted outside the Music Office, and speak with our music director, Jed Holland.

Adult Choir

The Adult Choir is for adults and high school students. The music spans many styles from Renaissance to contemporary, sacred to secular, serious to light-hearted. There are no auditions, but participation does require the commitment of time. The Adult Choir rehearses from 7:30 to 9:00pm in the Chapel on Wednesday evenings during the church year. A rehearsal is also held on Sunday mornings at 9:00am in the Sanctuary, on the Sundays that the choir is scheduled to sing during the service. Newcomers are always welcome! For more information speak with our music director, Jed Holland.

Greater Choir

The Greater Choir is for members of the congregation who would like, on occasion, to sing with the Adult Choir during a Sunday morning service. Greater Choir singing opportunities are scheduled about every other month. To participate in the Greater Choir, one need only come to the Sanctuary at approximately 9:15am on the Sunday morning that the Greater Choir is scheduled to sing. The anthems selected for the Greater Choir are appropriate to this limited rehearsal time. Announcements of Greater Choir singing opportunities are sent out to the uu@uunashua.org e-mail list and also may appear in the monthly church newsletter and the weekly Order of Service bulletin. For more information speak with our music director, Jed Holland.

Other Musical Opportunities

Soloists - If you're a vocal or instrumental soloist that would like to offer a gift of music to the congregation on a Sunday morning, please let Jed know, so that he can hear you and get you into the schedule. Thank you!

Ensembles - If you're part of an existing group that would be interested in playing for us, please let us know. On the other hand, if you are an instrumentalist interested in participating in an ensemble that does not yet exist, let us know about that too - if we can find a likely fit, we will play "musical matchmaker" for you.

Music Selection - "Any requests?" Jed and the Music Committee are working to continue to offer a great variety in musical programming in the church, including works from various musical styles. Please feel free to request your favorite musical styles, moods, subjects, themes, or specific pieces at any time. This goes for congregational hymns, choir anthems, or organ/piano preludes and postludes. We cannot promise to act immediately on your every suggestion, but assure you that your thoughts are important and that we will try to respond, in some way and at some point, to your thoughtful suggestions. Thank you!

New Works - If you are a composer and interested in having your music performed here, please let Jed know. Alternatively, if you are a poet or writer and have some words in search of music, he would be interested in seeing what he can do with them (or, finding someone else who might do that job). Even a short, simple statement might find its way into our repertoire someday... look at what came out of just 15 easy words in "Go now in peace. May the spirit of love surround you everywhere you may go".

Activities

Food For Thought Thursdays Ongoing

4-6 weeks of programming for adults designed to explore spiritual, ethical, and faith development, and UU identity. The classes begin at 7 pm.

Registration forms available in coffee hour.

New series begin in the fall, winter and spring quarters.

UU 101 (Unitarian Universalism)

An introductory “class” in 3 parts which is open to anyone wishing to know about our religion’s history, theology, and this church in particular. Excellent for new visitors and those considering membership. Offered twice during the year, in the fall and spring.

Covenant Groups

A covenant is essentially an agreement or a promise that a group of people makes with one another. A Covenant Group is a gathering of 8-10 people who agree to meet monthly, rotating their meeting among members’ homes. (If you cannot offer your home for a meeting, you can still belong to a group). This is an opportunity to connect on a more personal level than is available during coffee hour.

Fundraising

Concerned with all fundraising activities for the church. Plans the Annual Goods and Services Auction, other fundraisers, and the Pledge Drive. We have a strong belief that raising funds is about raising community friendship and fun.

This is one of the most creative ways you can volunteer to help your congregation.

Social Activities

Throughout the year this small group of people put together ways for us to connect with one another outside of Sunday services. This year some of the events they are planning include: an apple picking afternoon in the fall, trivia nights, game nights, Thanksgiving Dinner and a New Year’s Eve party. There is typically one event planned for every month.

Activities (continued)

Meditation

This group practices sitting silent meditation in the Buddhist tradition. Always open to newcomers, novices, and the community. This group meets every Wednesday from 7:00-9:00pm in the Auditorium.

UU Hikers

This is open to anyone who would like to do a monthly hike. Skills range from beginning to advanced hikers. They do hikes throughout the year in all weather conditions. All participants are notified in advance what skill level the hike will be. Visit us on Facebook at: Hiking with Kids NH

Book Clubs

We have several different book clubs in our church. Each meets monthly to discuss chosen books.

Fellowship Gallery Monthly Showings

Members and friends loan their creations to our hallway gallery for a month's showing. If your work can be wall-hung or displayed on a pedestal we would love to have it showcased. Children's art work also welcome.

Simple Gifts Coffee House

Hosts international talent as well as local musicians. There are usually 4-6 performances during the church year on Saturday evenings. Tickets can be purchased online through the church website: www.uunashua.org and click on "Simple Gifts" or during coffee hour on Sundays before each performance. Coffee and goodies add to the enjoyment and bakers are always needed.

Cardigan Winter Weekend (usually the beginning of March)

If you are a snow bunny or love to huddle round the fire and sip cocoa, this annual event is for you! Church members and friends gather at an AMC lodge and share food, sports, games, chores, and much good conversation. Also a great opportunity for photo buffs!

Ferry Beach Summer Weekend (second weekend in June)

A great way to kick start your summer. Families, couples, friends and singles all gather with kindred spirits at Ferry Beach, on the Maine coast in Saco, for a refreshing weekend of sun, sand, games, conversation, music, food, and a campfire! This event is open to all.

Committees

The following Committees welcome new volunteers at any time.

Denominational Connections

Our church belongs to the Unitarian Universalist Association, a national organization of UU congregations with international connections. The UUA holds a General Assembly yearly somewhere in the United States. Delegates from member congregations vote to set policy for the entire denomination! Our DC committee sponsors delegates to these exciting events, and also keeps us in touch with District (regional) events and meetings.

Lifespan Religious Education

Adults & Children

Church School and Adult RE fall under this committee's rubric—it is a 2-part committee with one group concentrating on the Church School and the other on adult programming. If you would like to teach, this is a great way to support our program.

Membership

Responsible for attracting and integrating new members into our congregation. They staff the info table in coffee hour, orientations for visitors and assist new members. They work with our Membership / Volunteer Coordinator to welcome all who come through our doors.

Property

1826 was a very good year—that's when our sanctuary was built! The Parish House and the White Wing buildings followed in due course, and naturally, they do not maintain themselves. Property vigilantly keeps track of major maintenance and all the details of keeping our grounds and buildings in beautiful order.

Public Relations

This group reaches out to the community via newspaper articles, our website, and our in-house newsletter. If you have a flair for description, or like making connections, this one's for you!

Social Justice

Works with local and regional organizations to make improvements in housing, health care, the environment and responsible government. They sponsor many exciting and informative workshops and lectures during the year.

White Wing School Board

Our church sponsors a non-sectarian, developmental preschool and kindergarten, founded in 1959. The Board is open to church members, friends and parents of White Wing students. The White Wing Board works with the White Wing Director to set policy and operate the school.

Worship

Meets monthly with the Minister to review and reflect on the nature and scope of our Sunday Services and the nature of “worship” in a UU setting. It’s a sounding board for those looking at new directions our services might take. They also sponsor the lay-led summer services and anything else they can think up!

Local & Global Volunteer Opportunities

Note: our Covenant Groups, Church School classes, and Social Justice Committee also work on church or community service projects during the church year. We also help fundraise for the wider community through our Sunday Outreach collections. These are given monthly to various agencies or organizations whose work affirms our UU principles. If you would like to have the Sunday collection go to some specific cause you support, please go to our website, www.uunashua.org, on the right hand side click on Outreach Collections and then fill out the application that comes up.

Crop Walk (held in October)

Provides relief and development assistance in over 80 countries including more than 3,200 food pantries and meal sites in the U.S. Sign up as a walker, sponsor or volunteer through sign-ups in coffee hour or at www.cropwalk.org.

Annual Rake and Broom Events

Every fall the Property Committee hosts a family-friendly morning to take care of the seasonal yard work around our beautiful property. Snacks and beverages are provided; bring gloves, rakes, pruners, tarps and/or shovels. Look for details in late October, early November.

Pastoral Care Team

Could you use someone to talk to? Do you know of someone who would like a visit from a church member? Would you like to be available to visit a church member/friend who is sick or lonely? The Pastoral Care Team does this.

Soup Kitchen

Prepare and deliver casseroles once monthly to the Nashua Soup Kitchen. Cook at the church or in your home. Great project to introduce kids to volunteer work. Expenses reimbursed if you wish, or donate the food (tax receipts provided).

If you would like to help serve a meal once a month on the third Tuesday at the Soup Kitchen contact the church office at 882-1091.

Church School

It's not really teaching the kids, it's being their partner as they explore their potentials. Team teaching, prepared curricula, training sessions and support from the RE Committee make it easy to participate. Work with any age group from toddlers through Senior High.

Unitarian-Universalist Church of Nashua
58 Lowell Street, Nashua, New Hampshire
603-882-1091 <http://www.uunashua.org>

Rev. Stephen D. Edington, Minister
Tues.-Thurs., 9 am-noon, & by appointment
Home before 9:30 pm,
Emergencies anytime

Sherri Woolsey, Office Administrator/Membership & Volunteer
Coordinator
Mon.- Thurs. 9 am – 2pm

Membership@uunashua.org
Chris Parker, Director of Religious Education
Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri., 10 am-3 pm, Sunday am

You may contact the Music Director and the Sexton through the
church office, 882-1091