
Community Service: Barnard UU on Sunday August 20th

Our service this Sunday is a very special one—an all-Upper-Valley gathering of Unitarian Universalists from the many congregations in our neighborhood!

Please remember that this service will take place at a different place and time: at the First Universalist Church of Barnard, and at their usual starting time of 10:30 am.

The good news about the 10:30 start is that the Barnard church is just about 20-30 minutes from ours, so if you get to our church at the usual time, and see the signs on the doors, you've still got time to get to Barnard!

And here are a few things you need to know about the service:

*****The church is located on Route 12, right in the middle of the village of Barnard.** If you come from Route 12 out of Woodstock, just past the Barnard General Store the road takes a sharp turn to the left, and the church is just after the turn, on the left side of the street, just across Route 12 from the Fire Station.

*****The Barnard church is older was built in the 1930's, and it's a beautiful example of a 19th century New England Church architecture. It also remains authentic to that period in many details, including the fact that IT DOESN'T HAVE ANY PLUMBING**—so please note that there are bathrooms and a port-a-potty at the General Store. Please also know that, though the church has wide steps with very strong railings, and the ground rises gradually to one side of their entryway, unfortunately they do not yet have an official ramp to get into the building.

*****Parking can be a bit challenging near the church. Please reserve spaces near the driveway and building for people with limited mobility, and please be aware that there is no parking allowed on the lawns of the church's neighbors** (I'll try to have some signs up to indicate that fact). If you don't mind a very short walk, **ample parking is available at the Barnard Town Hall**—just go straight through the intersection at the General Store, and the Town Hall is on the left. **It's also possible to park at the Barnard Academy**, on the left just before coming into the village, and to walk to the church via a short-cut using Lili Lane.

*****We'll be joined by members of several area UU congregations, including The Universalist Society of Barnard, Hartland UU Church, The UU Congregation of the Upper Valley in Norwich, and the Universalist Society of South Strafford. Rev. Paul Sawyer** from Hartland UU and **Rev. Telos Whitfield** of the South Strafford congregation will be leading the service, with support from folks from the other congregations.

*****You're invited to come to Silver Lake State Park after the service, just a short distance from the church.** The cost of a group entrance fee will be covered, so just tell the ranger at the gate that you're with the "Universalist Group" and they'll let you in. If you happen to have a Vermont State Parks pass, you could certainly use that and save on the couple of dollars for your entrance, but otherwise, we want to make sure that everyone feels welcome to join us at the park with no concern about the fee. Bring a picnic, or stop at the General Store for a sandwich, and feel free to bring games, balls, frisbees, etc. and items for swimming, if you're so inclined.

*****There will be a children's message during the service, and some organized activities for children available, coordinated by Hartland UU's DRE Sam Cronin**—though children are always welcome to remain in the service if they and you prefer!