

**The Gloucester Universalist**  
 The First Universalist Church in America: Organized 1779  
 THE REVEREND WENDY FITTING, MINISTER      Worship Service: 10:00 am



**Words from Wendy**

**“Chalice Circles”**

In his book, "Three Cups of Tea," Greg Mortenson says that the most valuable lesson he ever learned was from a village elder in the tribal area of Gilgit-Baltistan: The goodness, productivity, and the joy in our lives are all founded on relationships.

For relationships to be established, broadened and deepened, they must be nurtured in sacred time. Perhaps this is one of the images that comes to your mind simply from the title of Mortenson's book.

In many ways, our church is here to provide sacred space for sacred time. What you have heard me call, "church time."

With many thanks to Genevieve Dionne, we will be developing Chalice Circles, small group ministries here in the church. Genevieve brought her Chalice Circles experience to us

from the UU church in Sudbury where she was for many years a member.

I found these inspiring words from Unitarian Universalist theologian Thandeka on the UUA website "Recall a time when you were filled with joy. Where were you? At home? At a concert? A party? Maybe you were in a religious service or on vacation. Perhaps you were on a hike or seated on the sand at a beach, watching the tide roll in. Were you alone or was someone with you? Maybe you were making love, gardening, telling a joke, or jogging.

Now pay attention to how you recalled this time. You found things: memories, sensations, experiences. You gathered them together and by so doing filled a moment of time. You packed it full of thoughts and feelings, places and things, and bound

them together as yours. This recollecting and binding process is a spiritual act. It is opening up time and giving it the texture, content, feelings, and ideas actually present in your experience. This way of packing time with detail and dimension, slowing it down by filling it up

with the full presence of life, is the essence of every spiritual practice.

Small group ministries are about this spiritual practice.

This is why they are sweeping into so many Unitarian Universalist congregations. They aim to make moments matter again. In these gatherings of six to ten persons, usually meeting twice a month to build spiritual lives, each member holds on to the same moment through personal sharing and by asking for or by listening to the details, texture, content, feelings, and ideas packed into someone's experiences.

**“FOR RELATIONSHIPS TO BE ESTABLISHED, BROADENED AND DEEPEDED, THEY MUST BE NURTURED IN SACRED TIME.”**

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**We’re Making the Church Sparkle!**

There’s still time to join the renewed church spring cleaning day. We have a list of things that need attention but YOU get to choose which one (or more) you want to do. *Light refreshments will be available: call the office to say you’re coming, so that we have enough food.* Bring your own cleaning supplies, a canister vacuum if you have one, and dark dust cloths, so that any left-over lint doesn’t show. The cleaning starts at 8:30 am and will last until noon: come when you can - stay as long as you are able.

**What’s Inside?**

- MEMBER NOTES
- UPCOMING EVENTS
- LIFESPAN LEARNING
- TOUR(IST)S COMING

## Lifespan Learning Religious Education

### Coming of Age Service of Recognition

In a season of transition, we are granted a wonderful opportunity to recognize and affirm those youth who have completed the Coming of Age program in conjunction with our friends at the First Universalist Church of Essex, not once, but twice. On May 2nd in Essex and on May 16th here in Gloucester,

the Coming of Age youth will lead worship service and will remind us all of the importance of seeking our own answers to life's big questions.

Perhaps the most important aspect of the Coming of age program, each youth will share her or his own personal credo with the congregations. This is a brave and notable accomplishment as few of us, even as adults, are willing (or

able) to describe to others, with confidence, just what it is we believe.

Join the coming of age Service of Recognition and help celebrate these young seekers. Both services are at 10:00 am and all are welcome to attend.

Mark LaPointe, DRE

## Words from Wendy (continued)

As people pay active attention to the details of each other's lives, this gathered community can extend a moment of time until it is filled to overflowing with the

thoughts and feelings that turn time into an experience that is not fleeting, but abiding, because we are now fully present. Sacred time begins here."

I invite you to join me to explore the delicious possibilities of Chalice Circles here in Gloucester. Stay tuned!

### May Birthdays

1 - Brittany Soper  
2 - Isabelle Sloane  
11 - Nicole Schoel

11 - Donna Williams  
24 - Marie Blanding  
29 - Loretta Peres

## All About Us

Wendy Fitting



**"Bix Fitting"** supervises the Maundy Thursday bread making.

Healing prayers and thoughts go out to **George Smith** who recently had surgery for a broken ankle. He would appreciate cards, which can be sent to his home.

We received this note recently: "Dear Church Family, Thank you

for your thoughts and prayers. I love the handmade cards! I feel supported. God Bless, Love, **Deb Hardy.**"

Our hearts and prayers continue to go out to our friend, **Grace Moceri**, in her on-going treatments for cancer.

**Dick Melanson** and **Roy Warrington** will likely be home (at the time of this writing) from Seacoast, but **Barbara Friberg** is still a patient there. All would appreciate receiving our good

thoughts and words of encouragement.

**Janet Young's** mother is in Beverly and near the end of her life. Janet, you and your family are in our thoughts.

**Robyn Miller** must find a new place to live, and could use help with moving heavy items into a dumpster.

**Ann Straccia** is looking for an inexpensive apartment — or a roommate situation. Please tell her of any you are aware of.

## What's on the Horizon?

On Monday, October 11 we will have the good fortune to host a group of UUs from around the country who will be visiting Universalist Heritage Sites – starting in Boston, proceeding to Gloucester then heading north to Maine.

Their itinerary in Gloucester is a pot-luck dinner at the church the evening of the 11<sup>th</sup>, followed by a lecture by Wendy. They will stay overnight (one night only) at local homes and visit the Judith Sargent Murray House on the morning of October 12.

We are currently in need of overnight accommodations for single people and couples and for help with the pot-luck dinner; the group pays fairly for their evening meals and accommodation so the event can be a substantial fund raiser for the church.

Please consider helping with this worthwhile event that will be an enjoyable experience and give us an opportunity to promote our unique Universalist heritage.

## Why will they visit?

This year we have an article which focuses on our history in the 2010-1011 visitor guide, "Discover Gloucester." The booklet is being distributed to tour guides, convention & visitors bureaus, and is available for downloading on their website.

## Recent Visitors

I looked out of my office window on Sunday morning, March 21st and saw a group of about two dozen young people and a few adults walking down Proctor Street toward our building. I thought to myself this group doesn't look "local." A while later I heard excited voices in our sanctuary. I went to see who they belonged to ... and discovered it was the group I had seen earlier.

Come to find out, they were among the 1,000 students representing 30 high schools from all over the East who were in Gloucester for an ROTC competition. This particular group was from Union City, New Jersey.

They told me they walked up after having breakfast at The Gloucester House, where Mr. Linquata told them about our building. They wanted to

know more about us: they asked questions, took pictures, and explored the artifacts in our History Room. Their leaders told me this visit was a wonderful opportunity for them to see other places.

*Karen Rembert*



## Other Visitors

- "Chandelier" People
- Family Tree Researchers
- Visitors from other UU Churches

Many times people just stop by the church, hoping to find someone here so they can look inside, and hear about the history. Here's a recent example.

Wendy recently hosted a tour of Universalists from Knoxville TN that was led by Gordon Gibson. They came to learn more about Judith Murray. They walked over after their tour of the Sargent House. Although it was one of those heavy rain days that we had at the end of March, it didn't dampen their spirits and they visited with us for over an hour.



## Spotlight on Margaret Fuller

May 23, 2010 marks the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of notable Unitarian, feminist, transcendentalist author and activist

Margaret Fuller. Born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Fuller would spend her lifetime fighting to abolish slavery, reform American prisons, and grant equal rights to women. She is known, in part, for her many firsts. Fuller was the first American to write about gender equality. She was America's first war correspondent, first woman foreign correspondent, first woman to publish a book for the *New York Daily Tribune*, and the first editor of the Ralph Waldo Emerson's Transcendentalist publication *The Dial*. In 1881, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony wrote that Fuller, "possessed more influence on the

thought of American women than any woman previous to her time." Indeed, many in her day regarded her as the best read person in all of New England and she was the first woman allowed to conduct research in the then-segregated library at Harvard University.

We join with Unitarian Universalists and others celebrating Margaret Fuller as an important and valuable foremother to our faith and our intellect. We will note Fuller's birthday in church on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May and will celebrate her life and legacy further with a special performance on Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup> (from 4:00 - 5:30 pm) entitled "Men, Women and Margaret Fuller" by renowned Fuller expert, author and performer Laurie James.

***Easter flowers were given to honor the following people.***



The Baumer Family in *honor of their parents and grandparents*  
In loving *memory of her mother, Laverne*, by Barbara Baumer  
In *memory of their parents, Harvey and Ruth Benoit and Gertrude and Daniel Renehan* by their daughters,  
Nanette Benoit and Virginia Renehan  
In loving *memory of her mother, Mary A. David*, by Sherry Borge  
*Mr. and Mrs. Harold E. Bradley, their son, Harold J. Bradley*, by Mrs. Roger C. Edwards  
*Mr. and Mrs. Carlton E. Brown and Mrs. Thelma Williams*, by Mrs. Robert M. Williams  
*Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Churchill, their son, Herbert T. Churchill*, by Carol Ann Maciel and Caroline Connolly  
*Mrs. Mildred Clark and Miss Adelaide Coas*, by their families  
*Ken Clifford*, by Charles Nazarian  
*Virginia Costigan*, by Grace Kearsey and Sharon Hilaire  
*Roger C. Edwards*, by his wife, Carolyn B. Edwards  
*Ken Gray*, by Charles Nazarian  
*Thomas Milham*, by Charles Nazarian  
*Miss Doris E. McPhee*, by John and Gail Mulcahey  
*Mr. Frank MacLaughlin*, by his granddaughter, Joan Stanne  
*Mrs. Lou MacLaughlin*, by her great-granddaughter, Joan Stanne  
In loving *memory of Steven Myers*, by Alison Rowell  
*John Moore*, by Charles Nazarian  
*Charles K. and Hripsime Nazarian*, by their son, Charles Nazarian  
*Dewey Poole*, by his wife Kathleen Poole  
*Mrs. Eva M. Souza*, by her daughter Kathleen Poole  
*Mrs. Janet MacLaughlin Stanne*, by her daughter Joan Stanne  
In *memory of Ida and Harold Tanguay and Andy Carroll*, by Holly Tanguay  
*Virginia W. Twomey*, by Carolyn Edwards  
*Robert M. Williams, husband and Bruce R. Williams, son*, by Mrs. Robert M. Williams  
*Captain Murray L. and Miriam Williams*, by Sharon, Christine, Scott, Brian and David Williams and their families  
*John C. White*, by Charles Nazarian  
*John G. White*, by Charles Nazarian  
*William G. Wood and Margaret B. Stoddard*, by their granddaughter Tracy Wood

If you would like to give flowers on a Sunday in memory of someone or to mark an occasion,  
please call the church office at 978/283-3410.

## Easter Sunday



## *Independent Christian Church Calendar (May)*

Sunday	7:00 pm	Narcotics Anonymous Meeting
Wednesday	7:30 pm	Narcotics Anonymous Meeting
Friday	7:00 pm	Narcotics Anonymous Meeting

<i>Church Staff Meetings</i>	10:00 am	Every Monday (Library)
<i>Choir Rehearsal</i>	7:00 pm	Every Wednesday (Choir Room)

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Saturday, May 1	8:30 am	Inside-the-church-cleaning-day
Sunday, May 2	10:00 am	Worship Service (Rev. Jeremy Melvin)
	10:00 am	Coming of Age Recognition (Essex UU Church)
	11:15 am	Care Committee (Vestry)
	5:00 pm	Youth Group (Vestry)
Monday, May 3	5:00 pm	seARTS Monthly Board Meeting (Sanctuary)
Tuesday, May 4	7:00 pm	Our Whole Lives (OWL) Class (Vestry)
Wednesday, May 5	10:00 am	Staff Relations (58 Middle Street)
Thursday, May 6	6:00 pm	Guild Potluck Dinner & Program (Vestry)
Friday, May 7	6:30 pm	Wedding Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Saturday, May 8	4:00 pm	Petros-Bresnahan Wedding (Sanctuary)
Sunday, May 9	10:00 am	Worship Service <i>Mothers Day</i> (Rev. Wendy Fitting)
	11:30 pm	Religious Education Committee (Darlington Room)
Tuesday, May 11	7:00 pm	Our Whole Lives (OWL) Class (Vestry)
Wednesday, May 12	6:00 pm	Music & Liturgy Committee (History Room)
Sunday, May 16	10:00 am	Coming of Age Recognition Service
	11:30 am	Finance Committee (Library)
	2:00 pm	Baby Shower (Vestry)
	5:00 pm	Youth Group (Vestry)
Tuesday, May 18	7:00 pm	Our Whole Lives (OWL) Class (Vestry)
Sunday, May 23	10:00 am	Worship Service (Rev. Fitting)
Tuesday, May 25	7:00 pm	Our Whole Lives (OWL) Class (Vestry)
Wednesday, May 27	7:00 pm	SPLIT Board Meeting (Vestry & History Room)
Sunday, May 30	10:00 am	Worship Service (Rev. Wendy Fitting)
	10:20 am	RE Class - card making project (Vestry)
	2:00 pm	Care Shawl Knitting (Ackerman's home)
	4:00 pm	"Men, Women, and Margaret Fuller" (Sanctuary)

*This is your church newsletter. We welcome your observations, news items, photos (jpg please), constructive criticism, praise, and general comments for the good of the church community. We are glad to publish thoughtful submissions on a space-available basis.*

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Office Hours: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-noon