

# *Explore Emily Dickinson's Passions as Writer, Gardener and Cook*

July 17-19, 2015

Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst  
121 North Pleasant St.  
Amherst, MA 01002

**Friday, July 17**

**7:30 p.m. "Would You Like Summer?" Farm-to-Table with the Dickinsons.** Enjoy dessert and a presentation by **Marta McDowell**, author of *Emily Dickinson's Gardens*, on the fruits and vegetables the Dickinsons grew, and the heirloom produce you can grow in your own kitchen garden.

\$20 general; \$15 seniors, \$10 students Preregistration required. 413-259-1584 or jsgray @ crocker.com

**Saturday, July 18**

**10:45 a.m. "Taste of Ours!"** Bake Dickinson family recipes with **Aífe Murray**, author of *Maid as Muse: how servants changed Emily Dickinson's life and language*. As you work, you will learn about some of the challenges of the poet's 19<sup>th</sup> century kitchen, the role played by household chores in Dickinson's literary process, and how baking served as one of her literary inspirations.

\$25 Preregistration required. 413-259-1584 or jsgray @ crocker.com

**3:30 p.m. "Have you made an herbarium yet?"** **Marta McDowell** will lead you in a "make-and-take" activity inspired by the poet's herbarium, an extensive album of pressed flowers. Learn the basic techniques for mounting herbarium specimens and create a decorative sheet of pressed flowers. There will also be materials for creating a set of three flower-decorated cards for special correspondence. Bring your favorite flower-related Dickinson poems to include, if you like. Supplies will be provided, but if you have a special pen or other writing implement, please bring it as well.

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**4:45 p.m. Poetry Discussion.** Bring your favorite poems by Emily Dickinson to share and discuss during a Victorian tea. Facilitator: **Aífe Murray**

\$15 Pre-registration required. 413-259-1584 or jsgray @ crocker.com

**7:30 p.m. Concert: "Emily's Visitors"** Dickinson poems set to music and performed by **James Mead, Peter Shea, Anita Cooper, Grant Moss and Kaila Graef**. Refreshments.

Tickets at the door: \$20 general; \$15 seniors, \$10 students

**Sunday, July 19**

**10:30 a.m. "I am glad there are Books. They are better than Heaven": What did the Dickinsons Really Read?** A talk by **Jane Wald**, Executive Director of the Emily Dickinson Museum. Dickinson refused to become a full member of her family's church and called herself a "pagan," but she knew the Bible backwards and forwards and often spoke of faith and its attributes in poetry. Her poems and letters chronicle a lifelong struggle with issues of faith and doubt, suffering and salvation, nature and deity, mortality and the eternal. An examination of her family's libraries casts light on her theological explorations in the context of 19<sup>th</sup> century religious movements.

Free.