



January 2010

# The Messenger

Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco & Biddeford 60 School Street Saco, Maine 04072, uuchurch@gwi.net (207)282-0062  
www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com

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## Services

### Janus Service

**Sunday, Jan. 10 at 10 AM**

The end of the holidays, the beginning of the New Year, and heading into the depth of winter – this is a time of ambivalent feelings for many. We will join together in celebrating a ritual of renewal, of letting go what is past and embracing opportunities for change in 2010. Rev. Chandler will lead the service.

**No Church School.**

### Jan. 17 Black Like Us

**Rev. David W. Chandler**

A year after the inauguration of a “black” President, the UUA’s advocacy for racial preference is becoming as unsettling as in the years immediately after the death of Dr. King. Is this really the right way to support an integrated nation?

**Church School.**

### Jan. 24 The Buddha and the Sky Above

**Rev. David W. Chandler**

Emerson recognized the appeal of Buddhist spirituality for Westerners, but there are many forms of Buddhist practice. How might we discern their shared elements of cosmic perspective – of understanding what reality really is?

**Church School.**

### Jan. 31 “Why Is There Worship?”

**Rev. David W. Chandler**

This Ask the Minister service has a theme. We will focus on questions about worship – what is it, why is it important, why do we do it the way we do it? What are some other choices we have, as UUs and here in our own church? Ask away!

**No Church School.**

### Weather Emergencies

Sunday services will normally be held regardless of the weather, but please use good judgment when it may not be safe for you to travel to church. If a Sunday service will NOT be held, the decision will be made by 8 AM. We will e-mail members and friends and phone those who do not have e-mail. We will notify TV and MaineToday.com. Please check e-mail or call the office before coming to any church event in severe weather. Programs and meetings are much more likely than services to be cancelled.

## Sunday Happenings

**8:30 am:** Choir rehearsal

**10:00 am:** Worship

**10:00 am:** RE

Our community worship – especially on Sunday mornings – is the most important of all church activities. It empowers our own spiritual journeys. It is the hub connecting all the various things the congregation does. It is the obvious portal for newcomers and the vital connection for members and friends. It follows a regular pattern but also varies. It includes ritual, prayer, silence and speaking, music and movement, a message from the pulpit and sharing among the people.

None of these statements are necessarily factual. None of them have to be true. They reflect preferences leading to choices. They are true as much as we make them so.

“Why Is There Worship?” is the title of our Sunday service on Jan. 31. I will lead the Ask the Minister format in which you are given 3 x 5 cards to write your questions. The ushers will collect these and I will answer as many as I can in the 15 – 20 minutes normally occupied by the sermon.

This time around, you are invited to focus on questions about worship. The choice of this theme is deliberate. It is designed to complement the congregational discussion the Committee on Ministry is sponsoring after the service, which is called, “Living Spirit.”

The purpose of the discussion is straightforward. How is worship in our church working for you? What moves your heart? What challenges your conscience? What encourages your spirit? What, when it comes down to it, are your preferences about why and how we worship?

All members and friends are invited to participate. Between the Q & A during the service, and a chance to share your personal perspective in the discussion time, we hope to learn more about ourselves in worship – as individuals and a community. Sometimes UUs (and others) think about this kind of discussion as a “talk-back.” I strongly prefer the term, “talk-about,” because the most important thing you do is speak what feels right – and listen to others do the same. We talk with each other, not back and forth.

We will again have a facilitator to help us stay in that mode, as we did in June 2008, when this discussion was called “Spirit of Life.” We will again have a note-taker and a summary of comments to be distributed afterwards. I expect to listen carefully to fine-tune both the vision and the practices I undertake on your behalf. The Committee on Ministry and the Worship Committee will also listen carefully as well.

I’m looking forward to answering questions and explaining my own worship values, and even more to hearing yours. Worship is endlessly fascinating – it is both an art and a science. It must fulfill tradition and expectation – and also challenge them. A worship leader must lead to be effective – but following is just as important.

Worship is both planned and spontaneous – both a creation and a ritual. It is best when it is just right, too much or not enough – occasionally all at the same time. It is both work and play – and one of the most engaging and expressive of all human activities.

– Best wishes, David

## UUA Social Witness – Where Do We Stand?

Our denomination has long taken positions on Social Justice issues, by vote of the delegates at the annual General Assembly. The preliminary steps include getting on the ballot at GA, and then a selection process overseen by the Commission on Social Witness.

Before Feb. 1, we are invited to take a position as a congregation on current proposals, and our Board of Trustees is seeking your input. After our Church Potluck Supper on Jan. 22, trustees will facilitate a discussion of the pending proposals.

The first is whether the Congregational Study/Action issue on Peacemaking should be put before the delegates this June. The proposal was referred last year for some additional work on the specific language. If placed on the ballot and approved, this proposal is for a wide range of actions of witness and advocacy for peace, including activities at the congregational, District and national levels.

The Commission on Social Witness also asks our advice on possible new Study Action/Issues. Congregations have proposed six, and Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Bylaws require no more than five be placed on the Final Agenda of General Assembly 2010. GA delegates will then rank these five.

The issues under consideration include:

- ◆ Ending Slavery
- ◆ Immigration as a Moral Issue
- ◆ Energy, Peace, and Justice
- ◆ National Economic Reform – A Moral Imperative
- ◆ Nuclear Disarmament
- ◆ Revitalizing American Democracy

Each proposal and supporting information is available at the UUA website, [uaa.org/socialjustice/issuesprocess/](http://uaa.org/socialjustice/issuesprocess/). Join us at 6:30 (after the Potluck) on Jan. 22 to discuss any or all of these. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall.

– Board of Trustees

## News and Events

### Help Fill Our Auction Baskets!

The Auction Team will create baskets of new items collected from church members and friends for silent bid at the Feb. 26 Auction. Last year, the 15 baskets that were made raised a lot of money for our church. When you come to church on the following Sundays, please bring a donation for these themed baskets with you.

- ◇ **SUNDAY, JAN. 10: Ethnic Food & Kitchen Baskets:** Please bring an item that could go into an Italian-themed basket (olive oil, balsamic vinegar, croutons, pasta, colander, cheese grater, salad tongs, pepper grinder, DVD *Under the Tuscan Sun*) or a Mexican-themed basket (salsa, tortilla chips, jalapeno peppers, salsa music CD, cutting board, cookbook, DVD *When Fools Rush In*) or Chinese-themed basket (cookbook, dumpling strainer, steamer, wok, fortune cookies, sauces, rice noodles, music CD, DVD *Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon*).
- ◇ **SUNDAY, JAN. 24: Children's Baskets:** Please bring an item suitable for a child ranging in age from baby to teenager. Some ideas: DVD movies, toys, gift certificate to the cinema or video store, microwave popcorn, special cups, small games (travel size is good), pens & pencils, pads of colored paper, books, bibs, baby wipes, lotion, powder, rattle, etc. (We are hoping to do a new baby girl and new baby boy basket). Last year's Children's Baskets raised a lot of money!
- ◇ **SUNDAY, FEB. 7: Millionaire's Basket:** Please bring a lottery ticket (unscratched!) or **Maine Basket:** Please bring in a Maine-themed item for this basket (a Made in Maine item, a book by a Maine author, music by a Maine musician, lobster or blueberry themed items, etc.)

If you have large baskets and/or ribbon you would like to donate for this effort, or you would like to help put together the baskets from the items collected, please contact Cathy McG. Don't forget to check the bulletin board to sign up to donate an Auction item for the Live Auction or an item or service uniquely from you.

– Auction Team

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### Saco Coffeehouse Jan. 16 – Heather Maloney

Folk guitarist and singer/songwriter Heather Maloney will perform live at the Saco Coffeehouse on Saturday, Jan. 16, at 7 p.m. Maloney began her musical career performing as a jazz singer alongside Grammy nominee Hui Cox in clubs in Manhattan. Her varied musical interests – Joni Mitchell, Bobby McFerrin, Billie Holiday, Phillip Glass, Ravi Shankar – shaped a sound that has become distinctly her own. Just 23 years old, Maloney released her debut album *Cozy Razor's Edge* this past fall. A compilation of folk/indie/pop-rock, her music is influenced by her meditation practice. With a full-range voice, her thoughtful lyrics relate the universal lessons of the human experience.

The Coffeehouse is located in the Parish Hall, at the UU Church, 60 School St. in Saco. The suggested donation is \$10. After “splitting the door” with performing artists and providing support to the Church, Coffeehouse proceeds from the 2009-2010 performance season will be used to purchase a sound system that can be used more widely by the Church community.

Known for quality performances, a welcoming atmosphere and home-made desserts, the Saco Coffeehouse has hosted artists from around the world in an intimate, alcohol and smoke-free environment for more than 14 years.

For additional information about the 2010 Saco Coffeehouse performance schedule, visit [www.sacocoffeehouse.com](http://www.sacocoffeehouse.com). To learn more about “open mic” and volunteer opportunities, contact Donna B.

– Coffeehouse Committee

News and Events continued . . .

**Next Bottle Drive is Jan. 31**

Gather up your rinsed, redeemable bottles & cans and bring them with you to church on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month. Whether you have just a few bottles or bags full of them we will gladly turn them into cash for the general church fund. We are averaging about \$40 a month!

The Membership Committee redeems the bottles through "CLYNK" at all the local Hannaford grocery stores. See Sonja G. to get required CLYNK bags. You are welcome to drop off your own bottles *provided* you use their specially marked (with our bar code) green bags.

Thanks for your help!

- Membership/Welcoming Committee

**POTLUCK SUPPER**

**Jan. 22 @ 5:30**

Followed by:

Family Games , Discussions

Sign-up on the Membership bulletin board.

Bring card, board and active games to play after eating.

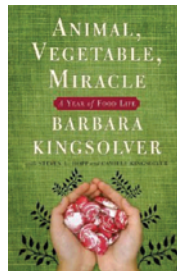
All ages welcome.

Beverages will be provided.

**We are what we eat.**

Come talk about the economic, health, ethical and spiritual elements of this simple truth.

Join the Green Committee for a congregational book discussion of the following titles (read one or both):



Save the date: Thursday, January 28, 2010 (Snow date February 1, 2010) Location to be announced.

Contact Donna R. to sign up or borrow a copy of one of the books.

All are welcome to what promises to be a lively and informal discussion!

**Clothing Swap – Jan. 30**

Our annual Clothing Swap will be held on Saturday, Jan. 30, from 9 to Noon. Bring your gently used clothing to the Parish Hall Friday, Jan. 29, from 3 to 5 PM, or on Saturday morning early. We'll swap clothing and catch up with each other's activities as well as have coffee and light refreshments. The donation is \$5 for any/all the clothing you take home.

As is our custom, we will donate the \$\$ to the Minister's Discretionary Fund to meet pastoral needs. Leftover clothing will go to Goodwill, and local shelters and clothing pantries.

- Clothing Swap Team

**Classifieds**

**Looking for Bag End**

I have several canvas and cotton bags that I have collected over the years from going to seminars. They are not good grocery bags (as a matter of fact I swear the baggers at Shaw's and Hannaford used to run away when they'd see me come to the line with my LL Bean bag filled with these awful things). I have invested a few dollars in the reusable grocery bags but I have all these other bags hanging around with no place to go. Does anyone know of a way to recycle these? Any crafty people out there using bags like these as stuffing or in any other crafty way?

- Ellie R.

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**Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco & Biddeford**  
**FY09-10: Budget vs. Actual**  
 July through November 2009

	Jul - Nov 09	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
001 CONTRIBUTION INCOME	25,501	31,010	(5,509)	82%
002 RENTAL INCOME	5,418	4,700	718	115%
003 FUND RAISING INCOME	3,972	5,275	(1,303)	75%
004 OTHER INCOME	7,053	7,000	53	101%
<b>Total Income</b>	41,944	47,985	(6,041)	87%
<b>Expense</b>				
101 STAFFING	30,658	33,749	(3,091)	91%
102 MISSION	392	2,111	(1,719)	19%
103 OPERATIONS	4,503	5,411	(908)	83%
104 ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	1,272	1,313	(41)	97%
105 OTHER EXPENSES	1,540	1,826	(286)	84%
<b>Total Expense</b>	38,364	44,409	(6,046)	86%
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	3,581	3,576	5	100%
<b>Net Income</b>	3,581	3,576	5	100%

SUNDAY WORSHIP SUPPORT JANUARY 2010

<b>DATE</b>	<b>Coffee Hour Set Up</b>	<b>Coffee Hour Food</b>	<b>Flowers</b>	<b>Ushers</b>
<b>Jan. 10</b>	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
<b>Jan. 17</b>	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
<b>Jan. 24</b>	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
<b>Jan. 31</b>	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA

## Church Info

### Contacting Our Minister

I am in the office on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons from Noon to 3 PM . Call to make an appointment or just stop by. Call if you have a pastoral emergency. My home phone is 602-4094. My cell phone is 484-252-1044. Both numbers will take a message, and the cell phone is confidential. My "mailbox" on the church phone (282-0062) is protected by a password so any message is kept confidential. You are welcome to contact me by e-mail at the church, [uuchurch@gwi.net](mailto:uuchurch@gwi.net). If you wish to communicate in confidence, please use my personal e-mail, [dchandler@uuma.org](mailto:dchandler@uuma.org).

I am of course delighted to speak to you any Sunday at church!

– David

### Electronic Giving Now Available!

Would you find it helpful to have your pledge automatically transferred from your bank account? Maybe a credit/debit card is a better option for you. UUCSB now offers Electronic Giving options for those who wish to have contributions transferred electronically to the church's account. If you travel, this is particularly helpful in keeping your pledges up to date. Contact Brian in the church office for more details.

– Finance Committee

### For Your Security

Because *The Messenger* circulates by e-mail to our members and friends, and is available on-line through our website, the Board of Trustees has approved security policies. Last names do not appear, only the first initial of the last name. We do not publish individual e-mail addresses or telephone numbers.

We welcome the participation of members and friends in all church activities and programs, except those specifically indicated as "closed."

Please contact the church office at 282-0062 or [uuchurch@gwi.net](mailto:uuchurch@gwi.net) if you would like to get in touch with anyone named in *The Messenger*. We will be pleased to assist.

Please feel free to call or e-mail our minister, Rev. David W. Chandler, at the office or his home.

– Board of Trustees

## More Info

Want to find out more about our church? Thinking about becoming a member?

**To learn more about our congregation:**

Please speak to Rev. David W. Chandler after Sunday services. He is also available at church from Noon to 3:00 PM, Monday – Wednesday.

Please call ahead. Other times can be arranged. David's email is [dchandler@uuma.org](mailto:dchandler@uuma.org).

**To learn more about our faith and practice:**

Various aspects of Unitarian Universalism are explained in brochures kept in a rack in the front hall. You are welcome to take these home. You are also welcome to talk with our minister and with any member of our congregation.

**Our Church:**

We are a voluntary association of those committed to this special religious community. We share common values, but we do not require or expect conformity to any specific religious beliefs. We welcome each person's spiritual exploration and expression. Our web site, [www.uuchurchsacobiundeford.com](http://www.uuchurchsacobiundeford.com), contains more information on the traditions, activities and people of our church. Our Membership Committee is identified before every Sunday service and will be pleased to assist you.

**Our Membership:**

Those who sign the Membership Book agree to sustain our church through continuing contributions of time, effort and financial support. All members are part of the non-profit corporation that owns the church, and they govern it through democratic process in which each one is entitled to be heard. Members elect a Board of Trustees and must also approve the "call" of a minister to our pulpit.

By participating in our worship, events and activities, you'll get a sense of how this congregation might work in your life, and you in the life of the congregation. As you discover the privileges and responsibilities of membership, we recommend that you take the time to,

- Talk with our minister about your spiritual growth.
- Attend a Welcoming Sunday to find out more about Unitarian Universalism and our church's history and traditions.
- Decide your financial commitment to this church community.

**When you're ready, sign the Membership Book!**

# January 2010

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>11:30 am: Green</b>	<b>4:30 pm: Bon Appetit</b>	<b>6:30 pm: I Group</b>	<b>7:00 pm: Harbour Singers</b>	<b>6:30 pm: SGM</b>			
<b>11:30 am: Coffee-house</b>				<b>7:00 pm: GO Saco</b>			
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>11:15: Auction Team</b>	<b>6:00 pm: SGM</b>	<b>6:30 pm: I Group</b>	<b>7:00 pm: Harbour Singers</b>	<b>7:00 pm: GO Saco</b>			<b>9:00 am: Green</b>
		<b>6:30 pm: Corn. Council</b>	<b>7:00 pm: S. B. Trails Board</b>	<b>7:00 pm: Finance</b>			<b>5:00 pm: CH Set-up</b>
							<b>7:00 pm: Coffeehouse</b>
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<b>11:30 am: Caring</b>	<b>Office Closed</b>	<b>6:30 pm: I Group</b>	<b>6:30 pm: Trustees</b>	<b>6:30 pm: SGM</b>	<b>5:30 pm: Game Night</b>		
		<b>6:00 pm: Membership</b>	<b>6:30 pm: Prayer Shawl</b>	<b>7:00 pm: Harbour Singers</b>	<b>7:00 pm: GO Saco</b>	<b>6:30 pm: UUA Social</b>	
						<b>Witness</b>	
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<b>Pantry Sunday</b>	<b>6:00 pm: SGM</b>	<b>6:30 pm: I Group</b>	<b>7:00 pm: Harbour Singers</b>	<b>7:00 pm: GO Saco</b>			<b>8:00 am: Clothing Swap</b>
<b>11:30 am: RE Team</b>	<b>7:00 pm: Corn on Min.</b>	<b>6:30 pm: SGM Facilitators</b>		<b>7:00 pm: Green Book</b>			
	31						
<b>11:30 am: Living Spirit</b>							