

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

Feb. 7 Scapegoat Time

Rev. David W. Chandler

Turbo testiness seems to be the order of the day as many Americans unite in blaming somebody else for our problems. Democrats, Republicans, Obama, "birthers," bankers – they got us into this mess! Only we have a chance of getting us out.

Church School.

Feb. 14 Small Group Ministry

Ron Fluet, Worship Leader

SGM participants invite you to sample the experience and the spiritual insight available through these church groups. The ministry of a few is a wonderful ally for spiritual growth, for connection and sharing. Come find out why and how!

Church School.

Feb. 21 Lessons of Lent

Rev. David W. Chandler

The weeks before Easter remind the traditionally religious of fallen humanity and existential despair. UUs don't go there, but we too might benefit from small practices of sacrifice and humility that prepare our spirits for the gift of gratitude.

Church School.

Feb. 28 God Grows Up

Rev. David W. Chandler

Fervent believers and determined unbelievers may both be certain God is immutable. In the Abrahamic traditions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, the truth is quite different. There are new – and old – arguments for moral progress.

Church School.

Sunday Happenings

8:30 am: Choir rehearsal

10:00 am: Worship

10:00 am: RE

The Parson's Packet

I just came inside after wandering around the front and back of the church in my shirtsleeves. Yes, it is possible to get at least a touch of spring fever, even in the last week of January.

By the time you read this, we will be back in the icebox for at another six weeks or so. Sally and I plan to shorten our count by heading to Florida for the first week of March. We will celebrate my mother's 90th birthday with her on March 4. We will wear sun block.

In the meantime, the best defense is a good offense. For some of us, that means actually welcoming and enjoying winter. Planning activities that can only be done with ice and snow included is a great way to get ahead of the game. Let's face it – there are a lot fewer bugs and campsites are less crowded. Your fingers won't freeze if you buy a decent pair of gloves.

I'm not that cold-hardy myself, so I focus on indoor activities. For a couple of weeks I have been working on my flower gardens, scanning catalogues, eye-balling the ground, and sketching lists and plans on the backs of used envelopes (junk mail is useful that way). Even on the coldest day, I can have some luck being in my garden as it will be – or at least as I hope it will be.

There is a modest lesson here about life itself. Even in the midst of adversity, we almost always maintain some ability to be located at least partially in life as we hope it will be. We have to deal with what is most of the time, and we do. But if there is any attitude that nourishes the quality of resilience, it is the step or two we can put between ourselves and living in a merely functional way. Life is not made for lists of stuff to get done. It is not merely “transactional” – not a day-to-day trudging through tasks.

The space you open up between tasks and transcendence is the room you are making for happiness in your life.

One time-tested way to open that space is to encourage your spiritual self. Whatever moves you, whatever connects you, whatever challenges your self-centeredness, whatever gives to others, is a spiritual opportunity. Acting on these initiatives is a spiritual practice, and human culture is filled with tens of thousands of concrete responses.

Don't let anybody tell you otherwise – we live in the most richly spiritual age in human history. Ordinary people in our society have more possibilities, and fewer obstacles to spiritual nourishment than ever before, anywhere in the world. For all its faults, we live in the cornucopia of the Age of Agency. We have unprecedented powers to act, to shape our lives, our community, our future. Even in diminished circumstances, we still have unprecedented resources to bring to bear on what we decide to be the central purpose of our lives, or even just a good hour or two this afternoon.

The middle of winter is a perfect time to live with hope.

– Best wishes, David

Hello, everybody, my name is Sarah Reidy and I was just hired as the Director of Religious Education for the church. I am very excited to meet you all, especially the kids who attend Church School whom I keep hearing about. I can't wait to get started! Now, let me tell you a little bit about myself...

I graduated from the University of Vermont with a B.A. in Psychology and from Boston University with a Master's in Social Work. Before I had my two children, who are now 5 and 8, I worked for several non-profit organizations and as a Social Worker in a public elementary school. I also enjoy free-lance writing in my spare time, mostly about ways that we can be kinder to the environment in our daily lives.

I welcome any suggestions you might have (from adults and children alike!) about what kind of programs, fun events and other ideas you might like to see happen this year. You are welcome to send me an email anytime with your questions, concerns and suggestions to: jsw@maine.rr.com
I look forward to hearing from you!

Green Tip of the Month: Use Less Water!

The whole family can get on board by turning off the water when brushing teeth and washing hands. Run the dishwasher only when full, and wash pots and pans by hand. My kids love washing pots and pans with a scrubbing brush full of soap bubbles. Run the water only when rinsing. You can also explain that shorter showers mean that your family is saving water and electricity. At bath time, fill up the tub halfway to save gallons of water every time.

- Sarah

Classifieds

C.J.'s Home Aid

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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.

If you know someone who has difficulty with ... independent living

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Music Notes

From Ellie R., Choir Director:

Choir: Calling all Singers (high school age and above). All are welcome who love to sing! Please contact me if you'd like to join us for winter/spring singing.

Rehearsals begin at 8:30 (set-up and chit-chat) with warm-ups starting promptly at 8:45. We rehearse until 9:45. Our upcoming rehearsal schedule includes: Jan. 31, Feb. 7, 21, and 28. NO rehearsal on the 14th. We are singing in church on Jan. 31, Feb. 7 and Feb. 28.

Music Ministry: Check out the Music Ministry bulletin board in the Parish Hall for the latest on how we weave music into our congregational life.

Special Music: If you play an instrument or would like to sing a solo or sing in a small group on a Sunday that the choir is not singing, please sign up on the sheet on the Music Ministry bulletin board. Looking for a small group to sing with, notify Jeannine W or Ellie R. They may be able to hook you up with other singers for a small group.

Harbour Singers: The Harbour Singers, hospice choir of Southern Maine (and a Social Action project of our church) has been in full swing for over a year. We rehearse every Wednesday from 7-9 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Our repertoire continues to grow and we are now doing regular bedside sings at the Gosnell House in Scarborough and other venues thanks to recommendations from local hospice organizations.

We are still accepting new members. If you are interested in joining us or know of someone else who is, please contact me or Peggy B. for more details and to register. If you know of someone who needs our services, please call 286-7678. Check out our website at www.harboursingers.org for more information.

Music Ministry Committee: We are currently seeking additional members to help with our music ministry. No musical talent necessary – just a desire to help our programs flourish. Interested? Please contact Jeannine W. or Ellie R.

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@awi.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

News and Events

JOIN THE FUN AT THE AUCTION!

Delicious food! Exciting items up for bid! Great time for getting together a group of friends - church members and other friends – and having a delightful evening together!

All this, plus we're raising money for the good works that are done by the members of this historic church – works like serving meals at Bon Appetit in Biddeford, donating to the Saco Food Pantry and the York County Homeless Shelter, hosting the Harbour Singers, spreading the word about going "green" – and the many special activities that we participate in, such as Small Group Ministry, Men's Group, Choir, our expanding RE program, Youth Group and Family activities, as well as our weekly worship services.

All of these are valuable, and we wouldn't want to lose any of them for lack of financial support. If all of us join in, this can be a successful event supporting what we believe is important!

SPRING FOR COMMUNITY Dinner Auction

Friday, February 26, 6:00 to 10:00 pm

Biddeford –Saco Country Club, 101 Old Orchard Road, Saco

Tickets are \$25.00 per person, or \$225.00 for a reserved table of ten persons. We are selling tickets each Sunday. There is also a form available on the Auction bulletin board in the Parish Hall. Checks should be made out to "UUCSB" with "Auction" on the memo line. Mastercard / Visa / Discover are accepted as well. You can call Brian in the office (282-0062) to order tickets.

DEADLINE for ticket purchase is Sunday, February 14.

Financial assistance is available if you need it to attend our Auction. Please contact Rev. Chandler at 602-4094.

THANK YOU for your support!

SEE THE UUCSB WEBSITE for the dinner menu, and a list of items and sponsors.

– Fund Raising Committee/Auction Team

New England Fiddler Plays Saco Coffeehouse

The traditional music of New England can be as comforting as a winter fire or as exhilarating as a summer thunderstorm. Fiddler and folk singer Lissa Schneckenburger is a master of both moods. A sweet-voiced singer who brings new life to old ballads and a skillful, dynamic fiddler who captures the driving rhythm and carefree joy of dance tunes old and new, Lissa will perform live at the Saco Coffeehouse on Saturday, February 20, 2010. The evening begins with "open mic" at 7 p.m. and Lissa goes on at 8 p.m.

Raised in a small town in Maine, Lissa began fiddling at the age of six, inspired by her mother's interest in folk music and a family friend who was a professional violinist. She studied with influential Maine fiddler Greg Boardman and sat in with the Maine Country Dance Orchestra. In high school she was played concerts on her own, specializing in the New England dance tunes that combine influences from the British Isles and Quebec with homegrown twists that have been evolving since Colonial days. At fiddle "camp" she had a chance to play with and learn from noted Scottish fiddler Alasdair Fraser. In 2001 she graduated from the New England Conservatory of Music with a degree in contemporary improvisation. Performing across the U.S. and around the world, Lissa has recorded seven CDs—four solo including *Song* released in 2008.

The Coffeehouse is located Parish Hall, UU Church. 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. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, contact Donna B.

News and Events continued . . .

Small Group Ministry – Sign up for new sessions starting in March

Who We Are:

Small Group Ministry is a network of small groups that strengthen the congregation by drawing us into mutual ministry

What We Offer:

In small groups of people we are supported to:

Develop deeper connections and a caring community within the church.

Explore and be encouraged on our spiritual paths.

Serve our greater community.

If a committed small group that meets regularly to explore the meaning and practice of spiritual connection is what you seek, it's time to sign up for this session!

Sessions:

Meetings: twice monthly, 1-2 hours, at church or participants' homes. Groups are currently meeting on Monday evening at 6:00 pm and Thursday evening at 6:30 pm. These groups will be open at the beginning of March for the next series of sessions, through mid-June.

To join one of these or another group, fill out a registration form (download from the church web site or pick one up from the church office) or contact:

Ron F., Donna R., Randa T.

Church Office: 207-282-0062

Group assignments:

Rev. Chandler will make group assignments with consideration to your preferences for days/times. If you are new to the church or have no prior SGM experience he may meet with you to find the best match.

Facilitators:

Training and support will be ongoing for all participating facilitators on a monthly basis. If you have past Small Group Ministry experience and/or want to ensure the viability of this powerful and important experience by learning to be a facilitator or co-facilitator, please let Donna R. or Rev. Chandler know.

Want to know more?

Talk to one of us: Wendy C., Ron F., Elizabeth F., Donna R., or Randa T.,

Check out the Small Group Ministry section of our church web page <http://www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com/smallgroup.html>

Look for the yellow ***Small Group Ministry*** brochure for more details.

– SGM Facilitators

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@zwi.net. If you wish to communicate in confidence, please use my personal e-mail, dchandler@uuma.org.

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

News and Events continued . . .

Green Is a Winner

As many of you know, our church earned official Green Sanctuary designation in 2005. Congregations that earned initial Green Sanctuary accreditation four or more years ago can now begin the re-accreditation process. This process involves an assessment of our current Green Sanctuary program and development of a re-accreditation action plan. Requirements for the action plan include:

- One green worship project;
- One green RE project;
- One environmental justice project; and
- Two sustainable living projects.

To gauge the congregation's awareness of our church's green status as well as assessing the importance of being a Green Sanctuary, the Green Committee conducted a survey of the congregation. This report presents the results of that survey and concludes with our decision as to whether or not we should move forward with the re-accreditation process.

First, the Green Committee extends their appreciation to everyone who took time to complete the "Green Survey". Fifty-six (56) people responded to the survey, which represents a 43% response rate. Question 1 asked, "Are you aware that the church is certified as a green sanctuary?" Of the 56 that responded, 100% answered yes to this question. Question 2 asked, "How important do you feel it is for our church to be certified as "green"? Answer choices ranged from "not important at all" to "very important". Approximately 70% responded that being certified as green is "very important". The remaining respondents thought that being certified as green is "somewhat important".

The third question asked, "Have the "green" certification and "green" practices of the church influenced your "green" behavior outside the church? Sixty-four percent said "some impact", while 23% said "significant impact" and 13% said "no impact". Question 4 asked, "Of all the various issues and activities that our congregation deals with, where would you prioritize "being a green congregation"? The majority (68%) placed being a green congregation "high on the list"; 21% indicated "around the middle", 5.5% thought it should be "low on the list", and the remaining 5.5% thought it should be "at the top of the list".

The final question, Question 5 asked, "Would you be willing to participate in any of the following "green" activities? The results are as follows:

- Community outreach green program – 39%
- Green project for the RE program – 48%
- Participation in the re-accreditation of the green sanctuary – 36%
- Sustainable living projects – 70.5%.

Overall, the results of this survey suggest that being a Green Sanctuary is important to the congregation and many respondents expressed support to help with the re-accreditation process. In consideration of the survey results and the overall process involved to become re-certified as a "green" sanctuary, the Green Committee has recommended to the Board of Trustees we move forward with the re-accreditation process. The Board has agreed.

We already have started on our assessment of our current Green Sanctuary program. The next step is to create the re-accreditation action plan. We will be seeking ideas and input from the congregation when developing the action plan. More importantly, we will need assistance from the congregation to fulfill the requirements that are laid out in the action plan. While the Green Committee is willing to lead the re-accreditation process, it will require the support and assistance from the congregation to successfully achieve re-accreditation.

Thank you in advance for your help and support.

– Green Committee

News and Events continued . . .

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, please bring a donation for the themed basket with you.

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

Next Bottle Drive is Feb 7!

Gather up your rinsed, redeemable bottles & cans and bring them with you to church on the 1st 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

SUNDAY WORSHIP SUPPORT FEBRUARY 2010

DATE	Coffee Hour Set Up	Coffee Hour Food	Flowers	Ushers
Feb. 7	Anne D. Veronica H.	Jean & Don H. Marilyn & Al S.-C.	Sue N.	Tobin C. & Darrell D.
Feb. 14	Marilyn & Lew G.	Marilyn & Lew G. Mike B. & Jamie C.	Marilyn & Lew G.	Tom M. & Brian D.
Feb. 21	Caryl E. Jill A.	Dick S. Thayer M. Jeannine W.	Laura S.	Joyce T. & Ron H.
Feb. 28	Jane H. Ellie L.	Jane H. Alisha & Carl F. Joan G.	Jane H.	Joyce R. & Richard B.

11:24 AM
01/06/10
Accrual Basis

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

	<u>Jul - Dec 09</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
001 CONTRIBUTION INCOME	30,202	37,280	(7,078)	81%
002 RENTAL INCOME	5,953	5,460	493	109%
003 FUND RAISING INCOME	4,310	5,510	(1,200)	78%
004 OTHER INCOME	8,053	9,100	(1,047)	88%
Total Income	<u>48,518</u>	<u>57,350</u>	<u>(8,832)</u>	<u>85%</u>
Expense				
101 STAFFING	38,892	41,136	(2,244)	95%
102 MISSION	891	2,251	(1,360)	40%
103 OPERATIONS	6,212	6,995	(783)	89%
104 ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	1,538	1,575	(37)	98%
105 OTHER EXPENSES	1,639	1,930	(291)	85%
Total Expense	<u>49,173</u>	<u>53,887</u>	<u>(4,714)</u>	<u>91%</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>(655)</u>	<u>3,463</u>	<u>(4,118)</u>	<u>(19)%</u>
Net Income	<u>(655)</u>	<u>3,463</u>	<u>(4,118)</u>	<u>(19)%</u>

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

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.

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.uuchurchsacobiddeford.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!

February 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	4:30 pm: Bon Appetit	6:30 pm: I Group	7:00 pm: Harbour Singers	6:30 pm: SGM 7:00 pm: GO Saco		5:30 pm: Circle Supper
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
11:30 am: Green	6:00 pm: SGM	6:30 pm: I Group	7:00 pm: Harbour Singers 7:00 pm: Finance	7:00 pm: GO Saco		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
11:30 am: Caring	6:00 pm: Membership	6:30 pm: I Group 6:30 pm: Prayer Shawl	6:30 pm: Trustees 7:00 pm: Harbour Singers	6:30 pm: SGM 7:00 pm: GO Saco		5:00 pm: CH Set-up 7:00 pm: Coffeehouse
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
11:30 am: Caring	6:00 pm: SGM 7:00 pm: Com on Min.	6:30 pm: I Group 6:30 pm: SGM Facilitators	7:00 pm: Harbour Singers	7:00 pm: GO Saco	6:00 pm: Auction	6:00 pm: Auction Snow Date
28						
Pantry Sunday						