



January 2017

# 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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### January 1

#### Don't Look Back

Rev. Charlie Grindle

This annual Janus service will be at 7:00 PM. A look at the good and bad sides of spending time in the past.

### January 8

#### The Voice of the Heart

Rev. Steve Cook

Every Sunday, I invite you into a time of prayer and meditation. How can we diverse Unitarian Universalists understand that practice? **Church School.**

### January 15

#### Confessions of a Liberal Racist

Keith Walker

Reflections on growing up in a racially divided society and the ongoing process of recognizing and healing the racist tendencies exist in all of us. **Church School.**

### January 22

#### Five Pillars of Islam

Rev. Steve Cook

Islam is one of the world's great religions, yet dramatically misunderstood in the West, especially in Donald Trump's version of America. We will briefly touch upon its fundamental values. **Church School.**

### January 29

#### Practice Makes Pretty Good

Rev. Myra Robinson

What is your Spiritual Practice? Art, music, meditation, etc.? Does it bring you peace? Come explore the different ways to weave "connectedness" into your life, no matter what your beliefs or outlook. **Church School.**

## Sunday Happenings

8:45 am: Choir Rehearsal

10:00 am: Worship



## Along the Way

Dear Friends,

Here is a poem about winter:

### SNOW

Snow can make strangers of us  
or saints, the ones pushing out cars  
of people they don't even know as if  
the wheels--whistling, spinning, spitting  
were some call of God. Hands thumping  
against the trunk and pushing, feet slipping  
dangerously, yet calling out like a psalm  
"Cut her left, let her roll, now easy"  
while you, shift lever and pedal working  
as if you could row it out, are leaning  
your head out the steaming  
window trying to hear.

You feel it when  
they give the last, lunging,  
near fall and you begin to roll knowing  
you have to keep her moving  
so can do no more than shout thanks waving,  
feeling somehow you are all friends  
now and would like to have them over

for coffee but keep driving  
and they walk away, their rosy faces glowing  
with anonymous holiness.

Beneath its quiet, chilly layers, winter can be a season of much change and challenge. This it will certainly be for the churches of Sanford and Saco/Biddeford. We have before us a time of discernment that will help shape the future of both congregations. Four cottage meetings have been held in Saco/Biddeford, soliciting the various commitments, hopes and dreams of those attending. Four more are scheduled in Sanford for the month of January. The information arising from these meetings will be shared within and between each church and will determine the shape of your ministerial search process. I earnestly solicit your participation in these upcoming meetings in Sanford and, (if you've already attended those in Saco/Biddeford,) please let all of these meetings be, not the end, but the beginning of your involvement with the evolving search process. I hope you will stay in communication with me and each of the Transition Teams going forward. The decisions before you are some of the most crucial that churches in our form of governance can make and your participation will be important.

See you in church,

Rev. Steve

### CLYNK

Please remember to help UUCSB by returning your bottles and cans through the CLYNK service at Hannaford. Green bags may be picked up at the welcome table when you come to church on Sundays. Please remember that Market Basket labeled bottles and cans are not accepted by CLYNK.

### BOT Notice

Board of Trustees agendas are posted one week prior to the meetings. Approved Board minutes are also posted. You can find these items on the bulletin board nearest the Sanctuary.

### Hannaford Gift Cards

Do you shop at Hannaford? Please consider participating in our fundraising project. When you buy your groceries with a Hannaford Gift Card purchased at church, Hannaford donates 5% towards our operating budget. You can support the church at no additional cost to yourself. Hannaford cards make good gifts, too. Look for the table during coffee hour for more information.

### Office Hours

Brian will have regular office hours on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:00AM to 12:00 PM.

**Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco & Biddeford  
FY 16-17 Operating Budget vs. Actual YTD  
July through November 2016**

	<u>Jul - Nov 16</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>001 CONTRIBUTION INCOME</b>	32,667	27,314	5,353	120%
<b>002 RENTAL INCOME</b>	2,400	3,185	(785)	75%
<b>003 FUND RAISING INCOME</b>	11	115	(104)	10%
<b>004 OTHER INCOME</b>	1,200	3,490	(2,290)	34%
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>36,278</u>	<u>34,104</u>	<u>2,174</u>	<u>106%</u>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	36,278	34,104	2,174	106%
<b>Expense</b>				
<b>101 STAFFING</b>	19,951	19,829	122	101%
<b>102 MISSION</b>	1,068	2,840	(1,772)	38%
<b>103 OPERATIONS</b>	5,284	10,463	(5,179)	51%
<b>104 ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS</b>	1,054	1,375	(321)	77%
<b>105 OTHER EXPENSES</b>	3,277	3,184	93	103%
<b>200 Capital Improvements</b>	0	0	0	0%
<b>Hannaford Card Purchases</b>	0	0	0	0%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>30,634</u>	<u>37,691</u>	<u>(7,056)</u>	<u>81%</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<u>5,644</u>	<u>(3,587)</u>	<u>9,230</u>	

**Website Update**

Thank you to everyone who has visited the website at [www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com](http://www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com). Since the March 2016 launch, there have been over 9,736 page visits with an overall average of 35 hits per day. If you have something that you want to add, or if you see something that should be corrected, please let me know. **Please be specific with**

**corrections as we have over 75 pages on our site.** Also, we still have some pages that are blank except for the title. If you want to add content for those areas, it would be gratefully accepted. Thank you to those folks who have provided content and updates..

Brian D., Webmaster

**Pay Your Pledge Automatically!**

Annual pledges paid in regular installments help the Church's cash flow – and yours! You can set up an automatic debit from your bank directly to the Church account – no checks or mailing hassles.

You may also use a credit or debit card for pledge payments. These too can be set up ahead of time to transfer automatically an amount you choose on the date you select. These Electronic Giving options can help you manage monthly expenses and help the Church have funds available regularly to meet our payroll and other bills.

Contact Brian in the Church office to set up a payment plan. Automatic payment arrangements are kept confidential.

– Finance Committee

## Music Notes

**Music Notes** from Choir Director, Ellie R.

***A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart, and can sing it back to you when you have forgotten the words.***

***Donna Roberts, from 'A Network for Grateful Living' Word for the Day –***

**The History of UU Hymnody, continued:** The Beacon Press published “The Beacon Song and Service Book” in 1935. The Sunday school movement was continuing to grow and consequently there was a need for age appropriate content for the religious education classes of the time. The general introduction states the following “The Beacon Song and Service Book offers a varied and inclusive collection of materials for use in the religious services of children and young people Within its covers are both a service book and a hymn book. ...The compilers have ought to make adequate provision for the various aspects of the religious life, personal and social. They have endeavored to provide religious expression congenial to the different types of theological opinion which prevail among religious liberals. Above all, the aim has been to provide materials that will appeal to children and young people – to compile a book that will be cherished for its inspiring expression of religion in words and music.”

**Morning Song:** At 9:50 one Sunday each month I am in the sanctuary leading ‘gathering singing’. Please join us in singing! If you prefer not to sing, please sit quietly in the sanctuary and enjoy the music or gather with friends in the parish hall or hallway for conversation. The next ‘Morning Song’ is January 15, Martin Luther King Sunday . We will focus on songs from the African American tradition.

**Short Term Choir Commitment for TriQuire:** Are you interested in singing with the choir on a short-term basis? If yes, join us in January, February and March as we rehearse for and sing with the TriQuire – a collaborative choir including members from the UU Churches of Sanford and Kennebunk. We will be singing in Kennebunk on March 5, Saco March 12 and Sanford March 19. All voices are welcome! Please contact me directly if you are interested.

**Choir Rehearsals will be held Sunday Mornings from 8:45-9:45 on January 15, 22 and 29.**

### **Please Wear Your Nametag**

We're very fortunate to have many new people attending our church. This makes wearing our nametags all the more important. Please be sure to pick up your nametag and wear it to the service AND coffee hour.

The Membership/Welcoming Committee has designed a new nametag board to hold clip-on tags, so you do not have to pin tags through your clothing. There is a basket next to the door so it will be easier to drop your nametag before leaving. If you need a new nametag, please see the signup sheet on the nametag board.

## Information

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

**To learn more about our congregation:**

Please speak to any member or someone from the Membership- Welcoming Committee. Plan to attend a Sharing Your Spiritual Journey orientation.

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

Various aspects of Unitarian Universalism are explained in brochures kept in a rack as you enter the sanctuary. You are welcome to take these home. You can also talk with members 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. Web sites [www.uuchurchsacoiddeford.com](http://www.uuchurchsacoiddeford.com), or [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org), contain more information on the traditions, activities and people of our church and association. Our Membership-Welcoming Committee is also willing 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:

- Attend a Sharing Your Spiritual Journey orientation offered by the Membership Committee to find out more about Unitarian Universalism and our church's history and traditions.
- Attend church for a while to get to know the community and think about whether you share in our common values and feel ready to make a commitment to the shared spiritual journey.
- Decide your financial and time commitment to this church community.

**When you're ready, speak to the chair of Membership or president about signing the Membership Book!**

News

**Storm Closings**

It is getting to be that time of year, folks. In the event of bad weather, the board president and vice president will make the decision to cancel Sunday services by 7:30 a.m. The church administrator will post the cancellation on television (WCSH-6, WMTW-8 and WGME-13) as well as on the church voice mail message and website. An e-mail message will also be sent out from the church office if possible. As always, please use your own best judgement for safety.

**Greetings from the Treasurer**

Account balances as of 12/29/2016 are as follows:



Checking	\$718.73
Accounts payable	\$-0-
Moulton Trust	\$2,635.68
Restricted Savings	\$22,896.38
Saco/Bidd Investments	\$121,260.65

Any questions, just call.

Sincerely, Wendy

**Clothing Exchange**

Our annual clothing exchange will take place on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, from 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Please go through your closets and bring in all clean, gently worn clothing that you no longer have a need for. Then start shopping! For \$5 a bag, you can go home with a whole new wardrobe, which we take great delight in showing off in church the next day. All unsold clothing will be taken to Goodwill. Please contact Anne C. if you would be willing to help run this fun fundraiser for our beloved church.

**TD Bank Affinity Program**

UUCSB is in the TD Bank Affinity Program, which is only for nonprofit organizations. TD Bank will make a donation for each church member that has a TD Bank checking account. This is a way for the church to get donations without having to do anything. Church member personal accounts are associated with the church account and in doing so the church benefits. It in no way affects member's personal accounts

and no information is shared. Church members that have TD Bank checking accounts just need to call TD Bank or stop in at any location and tell them that you are a member of UUCSB and what your TD Bank account number is. If you have any questions about the Affinity Program, Tracey Bell, the TD Bank manager in Biddeford would be happy to answer your questions. Her phone # is 283-8590.

**From the President**

I'm writing this from my desk on the day after a really lovely Christmas. The sun is streaming in, and the knotty pine walls of my little house in the woods are glowing gold. The light also illuminates a few cobwebs that I didn't see earlier, but we can deal with that. I welcome the returning of the light! And as I said in my December notes, I hope this winter brings blessings of love and light for all.

Thank you to everyone who attended and shared thoughts and wishes for our future at the recent House Parties with Rev Steve. The transition team is compiling the notes from the four meetings, which will be shared with all of us shortly. Our friends in Sanford will hold their House Parties during the month of January, and once those meeting are complete, we'll compare notes and begin charting our path forward. Much more about this to come. Stay tuned!

Warm regards,  
Niki



**David L. Marshall**  
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## Faith in Action Team (FIAT)



Our Faith in Action Team (FIAT) provides an umbrella of support for social action information, education, and initiatives - whether local, within our tri-church network, or across the state and nation. There are many ways that each of us can contribute. Consider volunteering for Habitat for Humanity, Biddeford's Soup Kitchen, or Sanford's Corner Cupboard. Build storm windows. Join Harbour Singers for end-of-life bedside sings. Get involved in MUUSAN's Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network) initiatives - Democracy in Action, Health Care for All, and Climate Change.

## Jan.'s Reflection on Faith in Action

Post-election thoughts from Rev. Sue in Costa Rica: *What do we do now? The same thing we did yesterday: love fiercely, be our best selves, lift each other up, and do it together.*

*FIAT*  
*Join the Action!*

Sat. Jan. 14  
MUUSAN meeting  
Augusta  
Call Randa to carpool

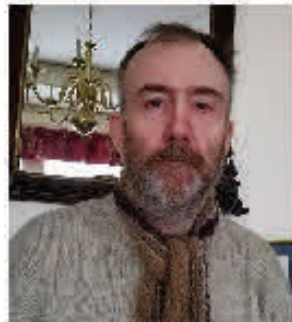
Sun., Jan. 28  
FIAT meeting  
11:30 in The Parlor

*UUCSB*  
*Share the Plate*

December  
Saco Food Pantry

January  
Maine's NAACP

### Standing Rock



Personal Reflection  
by **James Standerfer**  
member of UUCSB

So it seems that, at the time of this writing, the standoff at the Standing Rock, Sioux Reservation, North Dakota is in limbo. The Army Corps of Engineers have refused to grant an easement which would have allowed the construction of the pipeline to continue. The whole issue now resides with the Federal courts.

This is a victory for the Sioux Tribes, but not a complete victory. Sacred burial grounds have been destroyed. And it is always possible that the construction will eventually continue. Over three centuries of broken treaties and wars makes me cynical, especially considering the character of the new administration.

I am far away, and can only view events second hand through the media. But what impressed me was how peaceful the demonstrations were - despite the nature of the issue and the confrontations it provoked. The main reason is that, rather than turn to violence, the protestors turned to prayer.

Maybe this is a way that we too, so far away, can support the Native Americans. We, as the members of a church devoted to human rights, can pray for those defending their homes and waters. In that way we can symbolically "be there" and provide our support for what is a very human and just cause.

# January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>New Year's Day</b> 7:00 pm: Janus Service	<b>4:30 pm: Bon Appetit</b>	<b>7:00 pm: Earthen Spiral</b>	<b>6:30 pm: Committee on Ministries</b> <b>6:30 pm: Finance</b> <b>7:00 pm: Harbour Singers</b>	<b>7:00 pm: SMGM</b>		<b>9:00 am: Meditation</b>
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<b>Bread Sunday</b> 8:45 am: Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am: Worship	<b>5:30 pm: Membership</b>	<b>7:00 pm: Earthen Spiral</b>	<b>6:30 pm: Trustees</b> <b>7:00 pm: Harbour Singers</b>	<b>7:00 pm: SMGM</b>		<b>9:00 am: Meditation</b>
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<b>Food Pantry Sunday</b> 8:45 am: Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am: Worship 11:30 am: Congregational Q&A		<b>7:00 pm: Earthen Spiral</b>	<b>7:00 pm: Harbour Singers</b>	<b>7:00 pm: SMGM</b>	<b>4:00 pm: Clothing Swap Setuo</b>	<b>9:00 am: Meditation</b> <b>10:30 am: Clothing Swap</b>
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<b>Bread Sunday</b> 8:45 am: Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am: Worship 11:15 am: FIAT		<b>7:00 pm: Earthen Spiral</b>	<b>12:00 pm: Messenger Deadline</b>	<b>7:00 pm: SMGM</b>		<b>9:00 am: Meditation</b>
29	30	31				
<b>8:45 am: Choir Rehearsal</b> <b>10:00 am: Worship</b>		<b>7:00 pm: Earthen Spiral</b>				