



November 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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November 5

Rhythms & Routines
Paul Glynn

With readings, poetry, music and song we will be exploring the role rhythms and routines play for us in our daily lives. There are many ways we can connect with the rhythms around us, and particularly, how they help us deal with stress and anxiety. **Church School.**

November 12

The Imperfection of Freedom
Rev. Steve Cook

Among religious denominations, UUs have over the years been great champions of scientific thought, such as the theory of evolution. Evolution requires an amount of freedom and chance; that also means that sometimes, things can go wrong. **Church School.**

November 19

Hymn Sing
Ellie Rolnick

November 19th is our annual autumn Hymn Sing. Help choir director, Ellie Rolnick, lead the service with YOUR favorite hymns. Paper and pencils will be handed out for that purpose on October 29, November 5 and November 12. **ONE NUMBER ONLY** please! Remember to check out *Singing the Journey* as well as *Singing the Living Tradition*. **Church School.**

November 26

Letter to the Future
Rev. Steve Cook

Far in the future, a youth finds hidden in the church an old letter written by a past member to the members of the future. What could it say? **Church School.**

From the President

Vacations are important! That's my declarative statement for today. Important for renewal and rejuvenation, but also for sorting out priorities - sometimes difficult to do that in the midst of our busy lives. When we head back to work after some time off, we call it "returning to reality". I'm more inclined to think that our time away is closer to reality. What do you think?

Ministerial Search Committee update - Our congregational record has been submitted to our adviser Rev Margaret Beckman for approval, and Sanford has done the same with its record. Once approved, the records will "go live" November 1st, and will be available for the first time to prospective ministers.

A big thank-you to all who have been part of the search process by sharing your thoughts at a Cottage Meeting or completing the recent survey.

The November Q & A will be around the committees that keep our church up and running, and I hope you'll plan to attend. Learn more about how each committee contributes to the health and welfare of the church. Bring your thoughts and questions - we look forward to some lively discussion!

Now I'm off for a last bike ride before the first snow...

Kind regards,

Niki



Sunday Happenings

8:45 am: Choir Rehearsal

10:00 am: Worship

Along the Way

It has been said that a good poem should resist the intelligence almost successfully. I take that to mean that for a poem (or any work of art) to have depth, significance, and the capacity to transcend the moment, it should be challenging enough to evoke repeated reading, thought and contemplation. There could be more than one possible interpretation; different people responding differently, each finding a meaning that may be unique or may be shared with others. Such a response does justice to the writer and rewards the reader. This is what sets apart, "Mary Had A Little Lamb" from Eliot's, "The Wasteland," let's say.

This same quality characterizes the world's great religious scriptures. Readers in these great, time-tested vessels of humankind's religious strivings will discover passages, stories and sayings that resist the intelligence quite robustly. They require some contemplation and study. That this is so gives the lie to the claims of Christian fundamentalists, for example, that the Bible is very easy to understand and has a very clear message that is right there for anyone to see. Spend any time at all with this material and you quickly realize that any "message" is dependent upon subjective reading and interpretation. It is far easier to read meaning into religious scripture than it is to read meaning out of it.

Because of that, the experience of centuries shows it most fruitful to

approach scripture, not as a plain and simple textbook that has only to be read once to get the message, but as if it were a work of art. Think of scripture more like a poem, piece of music or painting that calls us back again and again for fresh insight and inspiration.

The current occupant of the White House and his Vice-President promote the opposite approach. Trump falsely but Pence perhaps quite sincerely would have us believe that the message of the Bible is quite plain and simple and—what do you know—supports the very political agenda that they are pushing upon the country: Greed, not generosity; hardness of heart, not compassion; hatred, not love; fear, not courage. That is their attempt to read into the Bible a mean and small-spirited "message." They are wrong, wrong, wrong! The Bible is greater and more powerful than that; study and contemplation of scripture, as when we engage the most transcendent music and art, will always call us into a larger and more generous spirit.

See you in church,

Rev. Steve

Capital Campaign News



So far we have donations and pledges totaling \$59,000. This is from 28 friends and members of the UUUCSB. Amounts range from gifts of \$25 to \$15,000. Donna B. keeps our donor board updated frequently. Check it out on your way into the Sanctuary.

In late August, we contacted all members and friends listed in the directory, the total above reflects our donations so far.

Our next step is to remind those we initially contacted of our original request and ask those who have not made a commitment to the Capital

Campaign to do so.

So if you are planning to make a contribution to our Capital Campaign, but have not yet done so; now's the time!

If you'd like to discuss your contribution or have questions, please contact Betsey P. or Anne D.

CLYNK

Please remember to help UUUCSB 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, Administrator: Mon-Wed-Thu 8 AM to 12 PM

Rev. Steve, Wed 12-5 PM

**Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco & Biddeford
FY 17-18 Operating Budget vs. Actual YTD
July through September 2017**

	Jul - Sep 17	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
001 CONTRIBUTION INCOME	22,599	14,530	8,069	156%
002 RENTAL INCOME	1,250	1,775	(525)	70%
003 FUND RAISING INCOME	342	185	157	185%
004 OTHER INCOME	2,200	200	2,000	1,100%
Total Income	26,391	16,690	9,701	158%
Gross Profit	26,391	16,690	9,701	158%
Expense				
101 STAFFING	12,904	12,449	456	104%
102 MISSION	1,170	1,443	(273)	81%
103 OPERATIONS	3,725	5,873	(2,148)	63%
104 ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	587	800	(213)	73%
105 OTHER EXPENSES	1,161	1,065	96	109%
Total Expense	19,546	21,629	(2,082)	90%
Net Ordinary Income	6,845	(4,939)	11,783	

Website Update—October 2017

Thank you to everyone who has visited the website at www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com. Since the March 2016 launch, there have been over 18,728 page visits with an overall average of 31 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

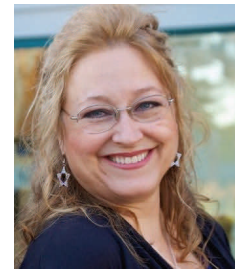
Music Notes from Choir Director, Ellie R.

Choir & Choir Rehearsals: New members are always welcome. We are rehearsing at 8:45 almost every Sunday until Christmas. We sing about twice a month during Sunday services and a couple of special services in the fall as well. Pick up choirs and short-term commitments also exist. Let me know in advance if you want to join us so we can have materials for you.

Special Music: Looking for singers and/or instrumentalists to offer their special gifts during services when the choir isn't singing.

Morning Song: At 9:45 on the 2nd Sunday of 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 on Sunday, November 12th.

Who's in the Choir Loft? This year's 'Music Notes' will focus on the folks who sing in the choir. I have asked everyone to fill out a short questionnaire and I'll highlight one choir member each month. This month is Myra Robinson



1) Reflect on your experience in the UUCSB Choir: I joined the church because of the choir! Our first apartment in Maine was on School Street & my neighbor, Rob Robbins, said they needed voices for the choir (he was the choir leader & pianist) & that I should check out his church down the street. We were only a few voices back then, and lay led after Rob moved away. I have stayed with the choir for decades through ups and downs; and now, in its present incarnation, it is thriving under the direction of the inestimable Ellie Rolnick!

2) How long have you been a UU? Since my daughter was born; 27 years!

3) How is singing part of your spiritual life? I treat it like a spiritual practice; it is comforting, soothing, helps me learn to listen more, trust my instincts, let go, overcome fears, relieve stress. It also improves immunity and longevity and quality of life. I love it so much I do workshops on "singing as a spiritual practice."

4) Other music experiences (e.g., play instruments)? I am a singer-songwriter, I play the djembe, and other percussion instruments, the Native American flute, and a little bit on the harmonica, keyboards, autoharp, guitar, ukulele.

5) Other interests, hobbies: Art (drawing, painting, crafts), writing fiction, poetry, anything creative! I also like learning new languages (I'm taking French and Memoir Writing classes at OLLI this Fall); have always been interested health & nutrition; ... and animals. Especially my two new baby kittens. I sing in Voices in Harmony and Saco Bay Jazz Ensemble, two local community choirs; I mentor a formerly incarcerated woman (through "My Sisters Keeper"); have a band called "Blueberry Jam," take part in a local Sage-ing Wisdom Circle. I am an annual member at Ferry Beach Conference Center, and IMNE (Interfaith Ministers of New England) member. And, I happen to have an exceptional grandson!

6) Occupation? Interfaith Chaplain, ordained through the Chaplaincy institute of Maine (ChIME) in 2016. Before that, I was a Medical Secretary for many years. I currently am a part-time respite caregiver/ companion to an 86 yr. old woman. I do "fill-the-pulpit" services, workshops, funerals/memorials, rituals, events, and weddings. I married my daughter at the end of September 2016.

7) Travels and favorite places? I was a Navy brat and moved all over, I live two years in England in my teens, I have been across the United States by car five times! Short visits to Mexico, Canada, Ghana West Africa, Italy, Ireland, Germany, Austria, and Hungary. Those last six were with Voices in Harmony, and we paired up with Music Contact International, who booked us in friendship concerts/Music events going on around the world. Next year: Spain!

8) Favorite kinds of music? Hmm, New Age Spiritual/ Gospel; although I listen to everything from pop, R&B, to jazz & classical.

9) Favorite book series and TV show? Outlander!

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, or 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

Greetings from the Treasurer

Account balances as of 10/31/2017 are as follows:

Checking	\$2,168.55
Accounts payable	\$-0-
Moulton Trust	\$2,660.30
Restricted Savings	\$18,121.17
Saco/Bidd Investments	\$134,064.83



Any questions, just call.
Sincerely, Dick

Search Committee Update

Hi all! It's that time again. You know, when the Search Committee takes a deep breath and drags ourselves from our project to look at where we are and where we are headed so we can keep you filled in. This is SO EXCITING don't you think? We have been very busy writing and revising the Church Record for both churches. Saco-Biddeford's Church Record is ready for a final reading by the joint committee and then it will be ready for uploading to the web site for prospective ministers.

Speaking of the web site, there are meetings planned to discuss how to go about putting together a solid and mature site with the web designer who helped several other UUs when they were in the search process. We are blessed to have such an experienced mentor!

There has also been a meeting of the Joint Negotiation Team members consisting of a member from each of the congregation's search team and BOT. They are working together to learn about being a UUA Fair Compensation Church and how to best put together a benefits package to meet the needs of both the minister and a congregation our size. We are super lucky to have the help of Nancy, a UUA representative who came from New Hampshire to share her knowledge and experience with us. She is great at answering all of those statistically based questions!

I know how hard it must be to feel like you are sitting by the wayside watching and waiting. It doesn't have to be that way. [We can use YOUR help!](#) If you could email me any pictures that you may have of special events, pretty sights around the building or grounds or even just people enjoying our church community it would be a HUGE help. As long as I receive a digital copy, it doesn't matter if they were originally taken 100 years ago or you snap them this Sunday on your phone. We would very much like to choose some to place on our website. I would like to have them by the 1st week of November if possible. Thank you in advance.

Last but not least, we want you to know what we are learning from this search process: the history of our congregation and building, the similarities and differences between our church and others, about the resources available to churches and members from the UUA and a better understanding of the ministerial search process itself. No matter how we look at it, this has been and will continue to be a time of personal and congregational growth for us all. We appreciate all of the support and trust that you have extended to us and look forward to seeing this through.

Until next time,

Vicki Boucher

Secretary, Ministerial Search Committee

Email: Earthen_spiral@yahoo.com

Share the Plate—November

November 19th- Puerto Rico The UUA recommends monetary funds be sent to the "Center for Popular Democracy" c/o Maria Fund in order to provide assistance to hurricane ravaged Puerto Rico. Checks may be made out to "Center for Popular Democracy". Thank you for your generosity.

Holiday Fair

Join us for our Holiday Fair this December 9th at the UU Church of Saco-Biddeford. Take care of your holiday shopping with handmade goods from our many vendors and craftspeople, or name your price on items in Granny's Attic! Stay for lunch, or bring home dinner from our selection of homemade soups and bread, steamed hot dogs, and a variety of soft drinks. Doors open from 8am to 2pm, at the UU Church on School St., Saco. Don't miss this fun filled chance to catch up on your holiday shopping!

We are looking for people to make soups, baked goods, craft items, food to go meals, jewelry, and items for granny's attic. We will be setting up on Friday, December 8th from 8:00 am to 7:00 pm. If you can help out, please show up. We will also need help cleaning up afterwards. Please contact Tom M. is you can help. The next meeting of the Holiday Fair Committee will be on Sunday, November 19th at 11:30 am in the Green Room.

Alphabet Soup

We have formally changed the name of Southern Maine Gay Men to Alphabet Soup. Also the group and is now opened to anyone who would like to our meetings. We meet every Thursday from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. See the Bulletin Board in the Parish Hall for upcoming events. On Thursday, November 2nd we will be hosting our monthly pot luck dinner, An entrée is generally provided so please bring a side dish. On November 9th, Board Game Night, bring a friend or two and join us for a fun packed evening playing a board or card game. November 16th will be a discussion talking about our upcoming World AIDS Day Service. November 23rd is Thanksgiving so there is no meeting. November 30th is movie night. Brian will select a movie for all to enjoy. Beverages will always be provided. Please bring snacks to share. Contact Tom M. for further information.

UU Book

Rev. Peter Richardson's book "Unitarian and Universalist Churches of Maine" has arrived at our church. Please feel free to look at it. The book is just at the top of the stairs next to a couple of easy chairs. We ask that you not remove this book from it's assigned place. Don't want to lose it! Thanks to the Board who approved the funds for this purchase.

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.

Thanksgiving Dinner

Thanksgiving is Nov. 23. We are planning our Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner at 1:00 pm at the UUCSB. Sign up by Nov. 20 to reserve a place at the table for you and yours. All are welcome. The sign up sheet is on the board opposite the restrooms. Let us know the names of those who are coming and what food or beverage they will be bringing. If you can't get to the sign up sheet; just call Anne at 282-6600 or e-mail her at asd@gwi.net. "

Land Acquisition Update

The wheels at the City Council seem to be turning slowly, but we are moving forward on our land acquisition request. The Council asked us what we wanted for a parking lot, so we submitted a plan & paving options. Since the land we are asking for is part of Pepperell Park, UUCSB needed the blessing of the Parks & Rec director. Anne D & Betsey P met with Joe Hirsch & did get his blessing. With a few tweaks to the plan & the understanding that UUCSB will pay for the parking lot, Mr. Hirsch recommended to the City Council a 99 year lease at \$1 a year. We hope for a (positive) resolution to our request by year end, maybe at the Nov Council meeting.

Faith in Action Team (FIAT)

Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can change the world.

Howard Zinn

New Meeting Date - our monthly meetings are now being held on the **2nd Sunday of every month @ 11:15** in the Parlor which is directly off the Parish Hall.

We welcome all members & friends to join us!

Little Free Pantry - The Board of Trustees recently approved our project of erecting a Little Free Pantry (LFP) outside of the Parish Hall facing School Street. This project is similar to the Little Free Libraries that you might be familiar with except that the contents of the LFP would help address local food insecurity. This a take what you need- give what you can opportunity to offer support to our neighbors in need. Items such as non-perishable food, toiletries, paper goods, etc would be placed in the LFP and offered free of charge to anyone who needed them. The LFP does not replace the Saco Food Pantry. It's an emergency neighborhood resource.

We applied for permits through the city's Historic Preservation Commission and the Code Enforcement Office and were approved last month. We hope to get the LFP up and running before the snow flies! Once it is in place you will be able to contribute items anytime you feel moved to do so. We also hope that you might act as stewards of the LFP by keeping an eye on it removing inappropriate items or litter and alerting the church office of any larger issues.

Animal Welfare Society - We are also pleased to be able to offer assistance to homeless pets here in Maine. We will welcome donations of pet foods, toys, blankets, towels, and paper towels in the hall next to the Food Pantry basket and deliver them to the AWS. See Sue H. for more info.

Share the Plate - November's Share the plate recipient is hurricane ravaged Puerto Rico. The UUA recommends sending monetary donations to **The Center for Democracy c/o Maria Fund**. On the 3rd Sunday of each month we share 50% of the offering with a nonprofit group. You may write a check directly to the charity or indicate "Share the Plate" on the memo line. Cash may be put into an envelope and labeled "Share the Plate".

Adopt A Park

Thanks to Park Friends (UU church members) we have spread loam donated by the city, created a grass wall and planted bulbs & ornamental grasses in the new garden across the street from church.

They need your help! There is no watering system and the Park Friends are looking for a rain barrel and extra gutter material. Small fencing is also on the wish list to help deter dogs and children from getting into the garden. The park worker bees will welcome any donations of used/new materials.

Worship Committee News

Greetings from the Worship Committee.

We have been busy filling the pulpit and presenting a variety of guest worship leaders and topics in addition to our own Rev. Steve. Having a part-time minister makes for a wonderful challenge - to provide our congregation with meaningful and high-quality worship that represent the diversity within our community.

We hope you have enjoyed old-time favorites like Rev. Laurence Miller and Rev. Myra Robinson, and continued traditions such as the annual Blessing of the Animals.

We will have some new guest ministers coming to our church this fall and next spring.

Since Earthen Spiral Community Coven was not available to lead our annual Samhain ritual, we hired Reverends Mark Gallup and Dr. Mary Gelfand to co-lead "A Ritual of Remembrance" on Oct. 29.

Both have strong pagan as well as UU roots and are ChiME graduates.

Since enrollment in RE dropped this year, the Holiday Pageant will be replaced by something new - with guest leader Rev. Amanda Nelson. Look in the December Messenger for more details on this surprise.

Both Sundays will be intergenerational services, and we hope for a strong showing of children and teens.

Earthen Spiral Community Coven will lead their traditional Solstice / Yule celebration, to which the entire congregation is invited, on December 21 - time and details TBA.

Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday - so instead of a 10 a.m. service Rev. Steve will lead us in a traditional Christmas Eve service at 5 p.m. that day. On the following Sunday, Rev. Charlie Grindle will return to lead our traditional Janus service at 10 a.m.

For 2018, we have several strong lay worship leaders lined up, both from our own congregation and from Sanford. We are increasing our pulpit exchange with Sanford and will be trying something new - a shared service co-led by members of both congregations and presented at both churches on different Sundays. Our worship committee met with Sanford's worship associates for a mini retreat in August, and we decided to work together more closely in anticipation of having a settled shared minister.

To that extend, we tweaked our Order of Service a bit, to bring it more into alignment with Sanford's:

You may have noticed that we have placed the Chalice Lighting earlier in the service, right after the Prelude. It made sense to us to light the chalice and create sacred space right at the beginning of the service.

We welcome your feedback and suggestions. Let us know which service topics and worship leaders you especially enjoyed and would like to invite back - and what maybe didn't work so well for you. And give us suggestions on sermon topics you would like to see covered - and we'll see what we can do. You can always talk to one of us or send an email.

November 2017

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3	4
			6:30 pm: Finance 6:30 pm: COM 7:00 pm: Harbour Singers	7:00 pm: Alphabet Soup	10:00 am: Coffee & Carbs	9:00 am: Meditation	
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Bread Sunday DST Ends	4:30 pm: Bon Appetit	7:00 pm: Earthen Spiral	6:30 pm: Trustees 7:00 pm: Harbour Singers	7:00 pm: Alphabet Soup	10:00 am: Coffee & Carbs	9:00 am: Meditation	
8:45 am: Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am: RE Committee							
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:45 am: Choir Rehearsal 9:45 am: Morning Song 11:15 am: FIAT	5:30 pm: Membership	7:00 pm: Earthen Spiral	7:00 pm: Harbour Singers	7:00 pm: Alphabet Soup	10:00 am: Coffee & Carbs	9:00 am: Meditation	
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Bread Sunday Food Pantry Sunday		7:00 pm: Earthen Spiral	Newsletter Deadline	1:00 pm: Thanksgiving Community Dinner	10:00 am: Coffee & Carbs	9:00 am: Meditation	
8:45 am: Choir Rehearsal							
	26	27	28	29	30		
8:45 am: Choir Rehearsal			7:00 p : Earthen Spiral		7:00 pm: Alphabet Soup		