



December 2017

The Messenger

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

www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com

Services

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December 1 World AIDS Day Service - 7 PM Alphabet Soup

This community service will be held at 7:00 PM in our sanctuary. We will host guests from the greater community. Three panels from the AIDS Quilt will be on display. Women In Harmony will be with us as well as Ryan Michael Fecteau who will be speaking. Refreshments will be served in the Parish Hall after the service. You will be able to speak with our guests during the reception. Please invite your friends and family to join you.

December 3

Membership: A Commitment to One Another Membership Committee

The Membership/Welcoming Service will formally introduce our newest member (Kathy S.) to our congregation and share our personal stories about membership during the service.

December 10 Beyond Categorical Thinking Ministerial Search Committee

On the weekend of December 10, 2017, Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco-Biddeford and Sanford Unitarian Universalist Church will participate in the Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop offered by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) for congregations involved in the search for a new minister. The Joint UUCSB-SUUC Search Committee invites all congregational leaders, members, and friends to participate in this workshop.

December 17

A Light in the Darkness – A Solstice Service Rev. Amanda Nelson

The hours of daylight are quickly being eclipsed by the hours of darkness as we approach the solstice on December 21st. For centuries, people have marked this time of year by lighting candles on wheels (Pagans), wreaths (Christians), and crowns (St. Lucia feasts in Scandinavia) to add more light to the darkness. As days get darker, people add more candles. What is the darkness we currently experience? What is the light we carry into that darkness?

December 21 Solstice Service - 7 PM Earthen Spiral Community Coven

The Wheel of the Year has turned once again and it is time we come together to ring in the rebirth of the Sun! You are each cordially invited to Winter Solstice 2017! Come hear stories of battling Kings, enjoy live music by a special guest, ritually cast out that which no longer serves you and gain inspiration and support for those new aspirations you have on your mind or in your heart! The winter is long but not so cold when families celebrate it together! Come warm up from the inside-out! Light refreshments to follow.

December 24 Christmas Eve – 5 PM Rev. Steve Cook

Rev. Steve will be leading our traditional Christmas Eve service at 5:00 PM. There will not be a morning service.

December 31 ... But Forward with Hope Rev. Charlie Grindle

When negativity is so prevalent, and blame for past mistakes slung about, how do we look forward with a positive sense of purpose?

Sunday Happenings

8:45 am: Choir Rehearsal

10:00 am: Worship

From the President

It's not quite December as I write this, but it will be by the end of the week. There's no denying it – the holidays are here, bringing winter with them. The trees are bare, New England's beautiful bone structure is on display, and I hope this winter and the holidays bring warm blessings for all of us.

Did you get to the November Q & A? This one was all about the committees that keep the UUCSB running smoothly. Not quite from "A to Z" more like "B to W" – from Building & Grounds to Worship, I send a big thank-you to everyone who chairs a committee or serves on a committee. And if you're not part of a committee, consider getting involved. It gives you a voice, and there is fun involved. A big thank-you to all who are about to join a committee!

Now, where did I put those holiday cards.....time to get to work...

Warm regards,
Niki



Capital Campaign News

About 102 folks made contributions to our Capital Campaign in order to attend Donna Beveridge's 75th Birthday Party. In her usual inventive and fun way, Donna invited us to share a birthday concert with her. Pretty Girls Sing Soprano delighted us for about 90 minutes. This concert was followed by a cake and ice cream reception. Many of us (of both genders) came in our "Pretty Girls" outfits! There was a lot of hot pint hair as well.

Thanks to all who participated, the Capital Campaign is over \$1600 richer!

Happy Birthday Donna! Can't wait for your encore!



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.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Eat some chocolate
Drink some wine
And the night is mighty fine

Grab some shortbread
And some cider
And a roasted turkey slider

Have some eggnog
And some cake
Disregard the stomach ache

Dip some fruit in crème anglaise
And enjoy the holidays!

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 October 2017

	Jul - Oct 17	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
001 CONTRIBUTION INCOME	28,045	20,860	7,185	134%
002 RENTAL INCOME	1,650	2,400	(750)	69%
003 FUND RAISING INCOME	516	248	268	208%
004 OTHER INCOME	3,000	1,800	1,200	167%
Total Income	<u>33,210</u>	<u>25,308</u>	<u>7,902</u>	<u>131%</u>
Gross Profit	33,210	25,308	7,902	131%
Expense				
101 STAFFING	17,873	17,591	282	102%
102 MISSION	1,958	2,223	(265)	88%
103 OPERATIONS	4,718	7,845	(3,127)	60%
104 ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	930	1,150	(220)	81%
105 OTHER EXPENSES	1,215	1,087	128	112%
Total Expense	<u>26,693</u>	<u>29,897</u>	<u>(3,203)</u>	<u>89%</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>6,517</u>	<u>(4,589)</u>	<u>11,105</u>	

Website Update—November 2017

Thank you to everyone who has visited the website at www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com. Since the March 2016 launch, there have been over 20,013 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. Holiday rehearsal schedule:
TBD – an extra rehearsal for Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 3 – Rehearsal for Christmas begins

Sunday, December 10 – Rehearsal and Singing in Church ('pick up choir' – come join us for a one-time only commitment to choir)

Sunday, December 17 – Rehearsal for Christmas

Sunday, December 24 – Late afternoon rehearsal for Christmas Eve service

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, December 10th.

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 Tom Muise

1) Reflect on your experience in the UUCSB Choir: I have sung with the choir several times for special services, and plan to re-join the choir this year.

2) How long have you been a UU? I have been a member of this UU since 2007, and as a UU I was one several years ago but left back in 1998 - 1999.

3) How is singing part of your spiritual life? I've always loved singing in church choirs since High School it's always been a part of my life in the church.

4) Other music experiences (e.g., play instruments)? I don't play any instruments.

5) Other interests, hobbies: Sewing, crafting, love decorating for the holidays.

6) Occupation? I'm Disabled. But am very busy doing volunteer work for church and in the community such as City Theater Box Office, am going to help with the Auction for Ferry Beach Association as well. Love keeping busy!!!

7) Travels and favorite places? Love to travel in the US my favorite places I'd love to go back to visit would be New York City, Washington DC, and San Francisco. Enjoy also going to P-Town as well.

8) Favorite kinds of music? I love all types of music but what I love is current music groups.

**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.

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

Thank UUs

Special thanks this month to Jane Perkins, Matt Gerken and Conrad Cyr for giving emergency “first aid” to our Bride’s Room window that was blown away by the recent storm. Your quick response saved us much expense and head aches!

Greetings from the Treasurer

Account balances as of 11/29/2017 are as follows:

Checking	\$2,062.05
Accounts payable	344.70
Moulton Trust	\$2,660.30
Restricted Savings	\$18,124.60
Saco/Bidd Investments	\$135,143.28



Any questions, just call.
Sincerely, Dick

Holiday Fair

December 9, 2017 - Annual Holiday Fair - Set up will be Friday, December 8th from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM. The Holiday Fair is from 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM. We are in need of items to sell, such as Deserts, Meals To Go, Soups for the Kitchen, Jewelry, Holiday Craft items, Books, and Grannie Attic items. We have a sign up list in the Parish Hall. Please sign up for where you can help. Or see Tom Muise. We will also need help with clean up so if your available please sign up. The success of the Holiday Fair takes lot's of people to help out. We need also people to work in the kitchen, please see Paula Howard for more details.

To AED or Not to AED?

A recent discussion by the NNED Administrators was about having portable emergency defibrillator on hand in our houses of worship. As you know many schools, athletic teams and community organizations have these at the ready.

We'd like your in-puut about building the purchase of this equipment in our 2018-2019 budget. These AEDs start at around \$1200 and include instructions for use.

Let Brian or Anne D. know your thoughts about having one of these at the ready.

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.

City Council Action on UUCSB Land Request

On Monday Nov. 20, 2017, the Saco City Council this motion “Be it ordered that the City Administrator negotiate and sign a lease or land use agreement with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco and Biddeford.” The vote was 3 to 4.

Thanks to the seventeen members who attended the meeting in support of our request and to the many who contacted city officials prior to the meeting.

We will be meeting with the City Administrator in the near future to finalize the agreement.

Our thanks to Councilor Cote who has been our sponsor and advocate in tis process.

This is a big step toward defining the parameters of our property.. Neither our founders nor the City of Saco thought to do that when they offered City land to the 2nd Parish Unitarians in 1825!

Share the Plate for December is for Caring Unlimited.

Their mission as described on their website is “to work with the community to end domestic violence in York County. This includes providing support and safe haven to women, their children and men whose lives are affected by domestic abuse in a manner that honors their essential worth, nurtures their inherent strengths and respects their right of self-determination.”

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.

Save the Date!
December 10 @ 10am
Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco-Biddeford

BEYOND CATEGORICAL THINKING

“Will the new minister hear me? Will my concerns and needs be met? Will the minister understand what I’m living with? How will the community respond to our minister?”

In answering these questions, a picture of the “ideal minister” (categorized by age, gender, gender identity, nationality, physical ability, race, and sexual orientation) comes to mind. With this picture in place, it can be easy to unintentionally exclude ministers who fall into certain categories. At times, as we get caught up in comparing candidates to our “picture,” we can even forget what it is we hoped for in a minister.

On the weekend of December 10, 2017, Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco-Biddeford and Sanford Unitarian Universalist Church will participate in the Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop offered by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) for congregations involved in the search for a new minister. The Joint UUCSB-SUUC Search Committee invites all congregational leaders, members, and friends to participate in this workshop.

The Beyond Categorical Thinking program is designed to promote inclusive thinking and help prevent unfair discrimination in the search process for a new minister. This program includes a three-hour BCT workshop and a Sunday morning service with facilitators trained by the UUA. Our guest facilitators are Jane Dwinell from Burlington, VT and Jacqui Williams from Albany, NY. In the workshop, congregation members will:

Consider the hopes, expectations, and concerns they have for a new minister

Learn more about the ministerial search process, and
 Explore how thinking categorically about people sometimes interferes with choosing the best candidate.

Service @ 10am, followed by a luncheon @11am(workshop participants only), workshop from 12-3pm

***If you plan to attend the workshop please add your name to our sign-up sheet located on the Bulletin board outside of the office, and please plan to bring a potluck item to share at the luncheon.**

Thank you,
 The Ministerial Search Committee

Alphabet Soup

Holiday Themed Pot Luck Dinner Night

Thursday, December 7, 2017 –

7:00 – 9:00 pm - Location: UUCSB

Join us for a relaxing evening of socializing and eating. Some type of Meat will be provided. Beverages will be provided, just please bring foods from the different holidays in which we will be celebrating this month, just please bring salads, side dishes and desserts to share.

Board Game Night

Thursday, December 14, 2017 –

7:00 – 9:00 pm - Location: UUCSB

Bring a friend or two and join us for a fun packed evening playing a board game and socializing. Beverages will be provided, just please bring snacks to share.

Annual Holiday Yankee Swap Party Night

Thursday, December 21, 2017 –

7:00 – 9:00 pm - Location: TBD

We have our annual event everyone is asked to bring a present to swap, valued no more than \$15.00. We have a Traditional Yankee Swap. Beverages will be provided, just please bring holiday type food to share.

Meeting place to be determined soon.

Annual New Year’s Eve Party Night

Thursday, December 28, 2017 –

7:00 – 9:00 pm - Location: UUCSB

We have a Mock New Year’s Eve Party. Complete with the traditional count down. So, come and help take out 2017 and bring in 2018. Beverages will be provided, just please bring holiday finger type food to share.

What should I do if I have a conflict with a church member or group?

Conflict Resolution Process

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco and Biddeford is committed to fostering right relations among its members, friends, and staff.

We understand that conflict can be an inevitable part of a healthy community and can serve as an opportunity for growth and development. As members of this congregation, it is incumbent on all of us to handle conflict in ways that are reflected in our covenant.

You are welcome to speak informally with any member of the Committee on Ministries, we are easily identified by our yellow nametags. When needed, the CoM will assist in developing a mediation plan with all involved parties.

Please read the Conflict Brochure developed by this committee and follow the Conflict Resolution Pathway that applies to your situation. When needed, the CoM will assist in developing a mediation plan for all involved parties.

Keep in mind that the CoM doesn't handle anonymous input.

Be assured that information communicated will be handled with appropriate confidentiality.

Faith in Action Team: UUCSB's Social Justice Arm

Share the Plate for December: *Caring Unlimited*

"It is the mission of Caring Unlimited to work with the community to end domestic violence in York County. This includes providing support and safe haven to [those] whose lives are affected by domestic abuse in a manner that honors their essential worth, nurtures their inherent strengths and respects their right of self-determination. *Please give generously!*"



Little Free Pantry, Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Our long-awaited Little Free Pantry (LFP) is here! It is a FIAT way to make small difference when problems seem so large. Through the LFP, neighbors who have a little extra can pop it in the pantry, and those who need a little extra can grab something. Temperature-resistant items you can drop off or pick up can be anything: non-perishable foods, non-food items such as diapers, tissues, chapstick or mittens.

In December we hope you will attend a ribbon-cutting ceremony with local press. This event will serve to introduce neighbors and the Biddeford-Saco community to the LFP; hopefully it will be the first of many in our area. Stay tuned for more details on this big event.

Thanks to Jim H. for materials and construction of the pantry, Sonja G. and Jane H. for getting permission from the City, and our congregation for generous contributions in May's Share the Plate to fund the start up. For more information about LFP's, speak with a member of FIAT or go to

<http://www.littlefreepantry.org/>

Pets from Puerto Rico

When Hurricane Maria flattened Puerto Rico in September, some furry refugees found shelter with the Animal Welfare Society of Kennebunk. To help supply their ongoing needs, please contribute as you can any of the following items:

light towels or thin blankets, durable dog toys and interactive cat toys, training treats, cat litter, paper towels. Find a complete list, including specific brands of pet foods, outside the Parish Hall. Drop any contributions in the food pantry basket there and we (well, Dorinne S.) will sort them out and get them to pets in need.



FIAT meetings:

Second Sunday of each month, 11:15 in the Parlor. All are welcome.

Next meeting:

December 10.

Look for action suggestions on the FIAT bulletin board any time!

Race: Continuing an uncomfortable but necessary conversation

Film and Discussion Series Planned for Jan/Feb

How does our local experience connect to national race issues? The fact that Maine is a pretty white state can insulate us from awareness of the daily realities of discrimination that our growing population of non-whites experience. In FIAT we believe that the time for this conversation is NOW. In January and February we will be hosting a film and discussion series on the issues of race and privilege in our lives. Stayed tuned for details about dates, times and titles.

December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Dec 31					1	2
8:45 am: Choir Rehearsal					10:00 am: Coffee & Carbs 7:00 pm: World AIDS Day Service	9:00 am: Meditation
Bread Sunday	4:30 pm: Bon Appetit	7:00 pm: Earthen Spiral	6:30 pm: CoM 7:00 pm: Harbour Singers	7:00 pm: Alphabet Soup	8:00 am-7:00 pm: Fair Setup 10:00 am: Coffee & Carbs	8:30 am-2:00 pm: Holiday Fair
8:45 am: Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am: Holiday Baskets 11:30 am: RE Committee						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:45 am: Choir Rehearsal 9:45 am: Morning Song 11:15 am: FIAT 11:30 am: BCT	5:30 pm: Membership	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
Bread Sunday Food Pantry Sunday 8:45 am: Choir Rehearsal		7:00 pm: Earthen Spiral		7:00 pm: Solstice Service	10:00 am: Coffee & Carbs	9:00 am: Meditation
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
5:00 pm: Christmas Eve Service Office Closed	CHRISTMAS DAY Office Closed	Newsletter Deadline 7:00 p : Earthen Spiral		7:00 pm: Alphabet Soup	10:00 am: Coffee & Carbs	9:00 am: Meditation