



# The Messenger

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## Services

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### January 7

#### Faith as Action Randa Thomas

Our church's Faith In Action Team continually explores the concepts of "faith" and "action" and how to put them together. Member Randa Thomas will share some personal reflections on choosing actions, recognizing limits, and naming and practicing key aspects of faith in the whole, confounding process.

### From the President

I'm sitting here in my little house in the woods, sipping tea and appreciating the beauty of the first snows and reflecting on our somewhat rare white Christmas. It feels like the perfect time to look back on 2017, and to appreciate how much our church community means to me. My heartfelt thanks go out to everyone who works to keep us running - in the pulpit, as a Worship Associate, with scheduling speakers, providing special music, acting as ad hoc sextons, making coffee on Sunday mornings, serving on committees - the list goes on and on. Challenges arise, but we face them together. I love that about us.

### January 14

#### Hewing Stones MLK Rev. Steve Cook

Despite progress, our country is still troubled with racial strife. How can Dr. King's legacy continue to inspire us?

### January 21

#### Create Your Best Life Rev. Myra Robinson

Using affirmations is powerful, but using sound (/singing those words) magnifies their effect on your subconscious. "AffirMantras" are the next wave in manifesting your dreams. Come listen and/or participate in a morning of music and song; and learn how to create your best life!

Special thanks are in order for the Ministerial Search Committee. This has been a labor-intensive project, and the committee of 8 is to be applauded for their perseverance, patience and good humor. A new combined website with the theme "Two Churches, One Vision" will be going live on January 1, available for prospective ministers. Stay tuned!

### January 28

#### Questions of the Spirit Rev. Steve Cook

Come prepared to jot down on a card questions or themes you would like me to deal with. I will respond to as many as I can within the service and keep them all for later sharing.

If the Farmer's Almanac is correct, there will be many opportunities to appreciate (and complain about) snow and cold in the upcoming weeks. But for now, as the light returns, I wish one and all a peaceful, prosperous and healthy New Year, full of blessings and fun.

Warm regards,  
Niki

### Sunday Happenings

- 8:45 am: Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 am: Worship

## Along the Way

Most ministers are indefatigable gleaners of wisdom in the form of quotes; we collect so many we may no longer know just exactly when and where we might have found one we like. Such is the case with this from Chet Raymo: “We live in a world that is deep beyond our knowing, and profoundly worthy of our reverence and awe.”

Chet Raymo is a well-published author, educator and naturalist who holds the title of Professor Emeritus of Physics at Stonehill College in Easton, MA. His weekly newspaper column, *Science Musings*, appeared in the *Boston Globe* for twenty years. (If you want to catch up on his current thinking, log on to [blog.sciencemusings.com](http://blog.sciencemusings.com).)

I don’t know from which one of his many columns or books that quote may have come, or when, yet it really doesn’t matter, as the wisdom he shares is timeless and cross-cultural. The ultimate unknowableness of the universe is an insight discovered time and again by mystics, thinkers and scientists throughout the history of human thought.

By this I believe he means not that we cannot know anything about the world, for clearly we do and in increasingly deep and sophisticated ways. Not only the theories of modern physics and cosmogony, for example,

but the facts themselves upon which the theories are based are far in advance of anything known by the ancients, and for that matter, greatly in advance of what was known even a century ago. One can assume that, a century hence, yet even more facts will be known and verified. Point to almost any field of human inquiry and you can probably say the same.

What I think Raymo means, and if so I agree with him, is that the universe seems to have at its core an irreducible quality of unpredictability, an open-endedness, a multi-valence, that resists successfully all of our efforts to define, quantify and “factify” the world to its final degree. (I just made that one up—I’ll define “factify” as the effort to reduce some aspect of the unknown to a scientifically verifiable fact.) Try as we might, with any googlebytes of computing power we might bring to it, the world at its core seems “unfactifiable” and unpredictable. I think this unpredictability is at the very heart of life and is, in fact, what allows for life itself to exist, change and evolve. Call it random chance, if you want, Grace, generosity of the Spirit of Life or whatever—poets, thinkers, mystics and scientists have variously labeled it over the centuries—it does render the world, I believe, deep beyond knowing. I would have to say that I, joining Chet Raymo, am profoundly thankful, reverent, and awestruck.

Reverend 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, 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 November 2017**

	<u>Jul - Nov 17</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>001 CONTRIBUTION INCOME</b>	32,919	27,190	5,729	121%
<b>002 RENTAL INCOME</b>	2,150	2,800	(650)	77%
<b>003 FUND RAISING INCOME</b>	664	311	353	213%
<b>004 OTHER INCOME</b>	3,000	1,800	1,200	167%
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>38,733</u>	<u>32,101</u>	<u>6,632</u>	<u>121%</u>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	38,733	32,101	6,632	121%
<b>Expense</b>				
<b>101 STAFFING</b>	22,658	22,849	(192)	99%
<b>102 MISSION</b>	2,208	2,704	(496)	82%
<b>103 OPERATIONS</b>	4,896	9,778	(4,882)	50%
<b>104 ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS</b>	1,131	1,375	(244)	82%
<b>105 OTHER EXPENSES</b>	1,246	1,108	138	112%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>32,139</u>	<u>37,814</u>	<u>(5,676)</u>	<u>85%</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<u>6,594</u>	<u>(5,713)</u>	<u>12,307</u>	

#### Website Update—January 2018

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 21,217 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

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

**Greetings from the Treasurer**

Account balances as of 12/29/2017 are as follows:

Checking	\$1,443.51
Accounts payable	\$-0-
Moulton Trust	\$2,660.30
Restricted Savings	\$20,127.27
Saco/Bidd Investments	\$135,808.28



Any questions, just call.  
Sincerely, Dick

**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.

**Share the Plate for January**

Our Share The Plate effort this month will be

ENGINE, Propelling the Creative Community, on Jan 14, 2018

ENGINE is an art museum on Main Street in Biddeford, established in 2010.

Not only does Engine maintain an art gallery highlighting many local artists, and do retail for them; it also is a space for community events, and they offer classes to the local community, especially youth.

They work with the Maine Humanities Council, and have someone on staff who works with "civil rights". Engine recently did a workshop, involving students of diverse race and diversity. They shared their personal experiences at Biddeford High School, and about being of other races and/or faiths. It was a wonderful event, supporting persons of a range of cultural beliefs and experiences.

**Out with the OLD; in with the NEW**

The Annual Clothing Swap is scheduled for Feb. 3 from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm. Clothing may be dropped off at the church any time before Fri. Feb. 2 at 6:00 pm. Set up will be on Feb. 2 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. A snow date is on the calendar for Feb. 10. So, purge those closets and draws of unused items. Join us for our annual try on and chat session. Clothing is \$5 per bag. Money from the sale will be donated to one of our current church projects.

**UUCSB - City of Saco Land Agreement**

Exactly 190 years to the day after the City of Saco agreed to let the Second Parish Unitarian Church have use of the land between Tucker's fence and Thornton Academy; City Manager, Kevin Sutherland and City Planner, Bob Hamblen met with Mark Young, Betsey Pace and Anne Dobson to sign the agreement passed at the City Council meeting on Nov. 20.

Of course, Tucker's fence and the Thornton Academy mentioned in the 1827 document are long gone. So this agreement uses the plot of land that the UUCSB members voted on in Sept. 2016 as the dimensions of the property. The agreement further states that the UUCSB has use of this property for as long as they wish. And as stated in the original agreement, should the UUCSB no longer use the property, it will revert to the City.

All improvements to the property would revert to the City should we vacate. Any work done on the property would have to be in keeping with City ordinances and would revert to the City should we vacate.

The UUCSB must maintain its current level of liability insurance. Should we build a parking area; we would agree to share it the Oasis Club across School Street.

Roderick Potter, Esq. helped us understand the legal terms and meanings of this agreement. He has offered to answer any questions we have on-going about this issue.

Without the efforts of Eric B. Cote, then Ward 6 City Councilor, this agreement would not have happened. This agreement passed at Mr. Cote's last council meeting. We thank him for his support, title search and guidance and perseverance. We wish him well in his retirement from City government.

Now we must start planning for the up keep and the improvements to our property.

Please direct any questions to Anne D. or Betsey P.

**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.

## Faith in Action Team

--- Presents ----

### FiAT February Film Series

Thursday evenings in February 2018

\*6:30 to 8 p.m.

\*except 2/22 -- 6:30 to 8:30 pm

**YOU**, your friends & the *public are welcome!*

**2/1: Race – the Power of an Illusion,**

Episode 1: The Difference Between Us

**2/8: Race – the Power of an Illusion,**

Episode 2: The Story We Tell

**2/15: Race – the Power of an Illusion,**

Episode 3: The House We Live In

**2/22: 13th** – documentary about the intersection of race, justice and mass incarceration in the U.S.A

The three-part series on **Race** will be a 1-hr. film showing followed by a 30-min. facilitated discussion.

The documentary **13th** has a 100-min. run-time, and will be followed by a 20-min. discussion.

#### Ministerial Search Committee

Happy New Year to all!

First, I'd like to thank everyone whom helped make Beyond Categorical Thinking a huge success! We learned so many interesting statistics in a humorous yet productive atmosphere. Jacqui and Rev. Jane also walked us through mediating some real life conflicts and concerns that had come up at other churches, going through the search process, to help us become more comfortable communicating and with decision making under various circumstances. It was an enjoyable and educational afternoon of fine food, and great fellowship between the two churches!

The ministerial search committee has also been hard at work putting together the awesome website that potential candidates will use to get to know our churches and our joint mission to find one minister. It has taken hundreds of work hours by many hands to prepare this website and make it into the most professional and honest representation of us possible! I am astounded by the talents showcased in the production of this site! By the time you read this, not only will it be live, we will also be able to look at the websites of perspective candidates we may be interested in pursuing.

This is such an exciting time for us! We wish you all the best the new year has to offer and look forward to continuing our service!

Vicki Boucher,

Ministerial Search Committee Secretary

#### Alphabet Soup

#### Pot Luck Dinner Night

Thursday, January 4, 2018

7:00 – 9:00 pm - Location: UUCSB

Let's make the first meeting of the year a great one. Please bring a friend and an entrée, salad, side dish or dessert to share. Meat will be provided.

#### Board Game Night

Thursday, January 11, 2018-

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.

#### Open Forum Night

Thursday, January 18, 2018

7:00 – 9:00 pm - Location: UUCSB

Please come and join in our Open Forum Night. We will have a night of sharing of whatever topics that are on your minds. Beverages will be provided, just please bring snacks to share .

#### Movie Night

Thursday, January 25, 2018

7:00 – 9:00 pm - Location: UUCSB

Bring a friend or two and join us for a relaxing evening watching a gay-themed movie and socializing. Brian usually finds a good movie for us to watch. Beverages will be provided, just please bring snacks 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 name-tags. 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.

# January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	<b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b> Office Closed	7:00 pm: Earthen Spiral	6:30 pm: Finance Comm 6:30 pm: CoM 7:00 pm: Harbour Singers	7:00 pm: Alphabet Soup	10:00 am: Coffee & Carbs	9:00 am: Meditation
<b>Bread Sunday</b> 8:45 am: Choir Rehearsal	8	9	10	11	12	13
	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
8:45 am: Choir Rehearsal 9:45 am: Morning Song 11:15 am: FIAT	14	15	16	17	18	19
		7:00 pm: Earthen Spiral	7:00 pm: Harbour Singers	7:00 pm: Alphabet Soup	10:00 am: Coffee & Carbs	9:00 am: Meditation
<b>Bread Sunday</b> <b>Food Pantry Sunday</b> 8:45 am: Choir Rehearsal	21	22	23	24	25	26
			7:00 pm: Earthen Spiral	Newsletter Deadline 7:00 pm: Solstice Service	10:00 am: Coffee & Carbs	9:00 am: Meditation
8:45 am: Choir Rehearsal	28	29	30	31		
		7:00 p : Earthen Spiral				