



The Messenger

Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco & Biddeford 60 School Street Saco, Maine 04072, uuchurch@gwi.net (207)282-0062
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February 4

Holy Queerness
Rev. Amanda Nelson

For many years, and in far too many circumstances, the word "queer" was used as a derogatory statement generally hurled at gender and sexual minorities. Yet, today, the word "queer" is used by many people in the LGBTQIA+ community as a word of identity, pride, and power. What's in a name? What's behind the label? Amanda will host a short presentation and hoping to engage people in a conversation around the gifts of LGBTQIA+ pastors. This will be during the coffee hour.

February 11

Singing the Living Tradition
Rev. Steve Cook

People often ask what holds our highly diverse, UU movement together? One important answer is our hymnal, Singing the Living Tradition, a repository not only of songs but also of our common hopes, yearnings and inspirations.

February 18

Luminescence
Elle Rolnick

In this holiday recognizing that which makes Unitarian Universalism distinctive, we celebrate the light that shines within each of us. We honor our Unitarian Universalist faith for allowing us to pursue spirit with reason. We express our commitment to the principles that guide us and to actions that transform the world. And we celebrate the freedom our faith provides toward seeking our own personal truths. This holiday, along with its words and music were created originally by members of the UU Church of Santa Clarita, CA. Ellie will lead with help from many friends.

February 25

What About Jesus?
Rev. Steve Cook

UUism is now highly diverse, yet we began as a liberal interpretation of the Bible, the Christian tradition and the place of Jesus in our theology. For many of us, he is still important, but in what ways?

From the President

I was amazed once again by the number of drivers who flew past me on the icy turnpike on my way to work last week. After witnessing a spectacular accident, I was reminded how important it is to just SLOW DOWN! Fortunately, no one was hurt. I know, I know - with our busy lives, slowing down doesn't feel like an option sometimes. I'm usually racing from one thing to the next, seldom taking the time to just stop and make a cup of tea and relax with my cats. I'll be making that more of a priority now.

Read about the progress of the Ministerial Search Committee later in this issue of The Messenger. I am deeply grateful to the members of this committee - I know that this has sometimes felt like a full-time job, and you are heroes in my book.

The board is in the process of reviewing the by-laws, and will have some recommendations that will be submitted for approval at the annual meeting.

Don't miss the fun events coming up! From the Clothing Swap to Souper Sunday, I'm looking forward to some fellowship time.

Have a safe and warm week.

Kind regards,
Niki

Sunday Happenings

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

Along the Way

Contemporary Unitarian Universalism is highly diverse. In the very front of our hymnbook, *Singing the Living Tradition*, we find a statement of that diversity that the UUA adopted as Bylaw in 1985. Following the more well-known statement of Principles, numbering seven, which we, the member congregations of the UUA “covenant to affirm and promote,” there is a further section: “*The living tradition we share draws from many sources.*” We go on to list five, which has since been expanded to six. (In a few weeks, I’m going to say more about our hymnal and the important, unifying role it plays for us; perhaps as “homework,” you might take a look at that page, which stands just before the very first hymn.)

Diverse as we now are, it is well to remember that both Unitarianism and Universalism were rooted originally in liberal interpretations of the Bible, Christian theology and the role of Jesus. While hardly central, as they once were, Unitarian Universalism still affords a place for those concepts, and this can bring us into dialogue with the broader Christian tradition in the world around us. So for Unitarian Universalists—what about Jesus?

I will be touching upon this, perforce briefly, in my sermons of February 18 & 25 in both Sanford and Saco. As background for this, and for further reading if any are interested, I can recommend the

following few books from the many hundreds on this theme.

“American Jesus: How the Son of God became a National Icon”

Stephen Prothero

“God is Not One: The Eight Rival Religions That Run the World and Why Their Differences Matter.”

Stephen Prothero

“The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus.”

Amy-Jill Levine

“Jesus Christ: The Message of the Gospels, the Hope of the Church.”

Burton H. Throckmorton, Jr.

In the space of a sermon, I will be able to touch only on one or two points that I hope may be useful to UUs who, for any reason, might be asking themselves, “What about Jesus?”

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, 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 December 2017**

	Jul - Dec 17	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
001 CONTRIBUTION INCOME	39,834	33,520	6,314	119%
002 RENTAL INCOME	2,550	3,200	(650)	80%
003 FUND RAISING INCOME	3,634	3,873	(239)	94%
004 OTHER INCOME	3,000	1,800	1,200	167%
Total Income	<u>49,018</u>	<u>42,393</u>	<u>6,625</u>	<u>116%</u>
Gross Profit	49,018	42,393	6,625	116%
Expense				
101 STAFFING	27,576	27,907	(331)	99%
102 MISSION	3,247	3,185	62	102%
103 OPERATIONS	7,606	12,035	(4,429)	63%
104 ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	1,333	1,600	(267)	83%
105 OTHER EXPENSES	1,277	1,130	147	113%
Total Expense	<u>41,040</u>	<u>45,857</u>	<u>(4,818)</u>	<u>89%</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>7,978</u>	<u>(3,464)</u>	<u>11,443</u>	

Website Update—February 2018

Thank you to everyone who has visited the website at www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com. Since the March 2016 launch, there have been over 22,460 page visits with an overall average of 33 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.

"Music is the language of the Spirit. It opens the secret of life bringing peace, abolishing strife."– Khalil Gibran

Choir & Choir Rehearsals: New members are always welcome.

February 4th – no rehearsal (snow date for 1/28)

February 11th – rehearsal for TriQuire & 2/25

February 18th – rehearsal for TriQuire & 2/25

February 25th – rehearsal for TriQuire & 2/25 – singing in church

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 February 11th. We will sing songs of Love.

TriQuire: Rehearsals for TriQuire are under way. The combined choirs from Saco, Sanford and Kennebunk will join voices and sing in Kennebunk on March 4, Saco March 11 and Sanford March 18. The general theme of the services will be 'The Oneness of Everything'. We hope you will attend the March 11th service to be joined as one in word and song!

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 Jeannine W.



1) Reflect on your experience in the UUCSB Choir: the choir at UUCSB is an important part of my spiritual life. The music we sing feeds my soul and I hope our presentation of the music feed the souls of all who hear it..

2) How long have you been a UU? Although I was raised Catholic... I think I have always been a UU... even as a child I did not accept as truth what I was been taught and recognized that questions were as important as the answers. I discovered UUCSB 35 years ago when The Rev Hopkins was our minister. During most of those years I sang in the Choir.

3) Other music experiences: I have been also blessed to belong to Voices in Harmony, I have been privileged to be able to travel with them to many different countries and spread the message of peace and kindness through our music wherever we go.

4) Other interests, hobbies: Since meeting my husband David, we enjoy traveling, camping and fishing. I enjoy arts and crafts, cooking, crocheting and spending time at the beach.

5) Favorite kinds of music? I like most music especially classical and live performances.

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 1/31/2018 are as follows:

Checking	\$155.85
Accounts payable	\$40.40
Moulton Trust	\$2,655.55
Restricted Savings	\$16,630.23
Saco/Bidd Investments	\$146,511.58



Any questions, just call.
Sincerely, Dick

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.

Worship Committee News

The worship committee has lined up a variety of interesting topics and guest worship leaders for February and March on Sundays alternating with Rev. Steve. Please plan to join us! February services are outlined on the front page.

For March, we have two services exploring Homelessness.

Rev. Jeffery Logan will lead service on March 4th, he will preach a sermon on homelessness "Invisible". Rev. Jeff is a CHIME graduate who works with Portland's Grace Street Ministry, ministering to the homeless.

On March 18th, we welcome Carol Larson, a former member of UUCSB and now member of Allen Avenue UU Church in Portland. She will speak about "**Family Promise**", an interfaith initiative hosting homeless families at different congregations in Greater Portland. Family Promise will also be the recipient of our **Share the Plate for March**.

Plan to stay for a discussion in the parlor following both services.

Worship Committee seeks new members!

Do you enjoy the variety of guest worship leaders that come to our church on Sundays? Do you enjoy meaningful worship services? Do you want to get involved in shaping worship at our congregation? The Worship Committee is seeking new members to serve for the 2018-19 church year, starting with summer worship services. We also seek a new chair, as Meret will be stepping down at the end of this church year (in order to attend to her family during her daughter's senior year).

Please contact Meret (meretbainbridge@gmail.com) with ques-

tions, or speak to one of the other WC members: Niki, Tom, Sonja and Jane P.

In service to our beloved community – Meret B., worship committee chair,
With worship committee members Niki N., Sonja G., Jane P., and Tom M.

SOUPer Sunday

Souper Sunday is a wonderful tradition of our church. People bring a pot of soup to church before the service and the Membership Committee coordinates making sure the soups are all warm, that bread and butter are available, tables are set and waiting for people after the service ends. Please plan on joining us on February 18 at 11:00 in the Parish Hall for soups to warm the soul. If you are able to bring soup, sign up on the sheet outside the church office to let us know what type soup you are planning.

Yard Sale

Our Yard Sale is May 12 from 8 to 12. Keep this in mind as you do your spring cleaning.

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.

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.

Save the Date

Spring Fling Auction

Saturday, April 28th—5:00 to 9:30PM

PeoplesChoice Credit Union

Industrial Park Road, Saco

Contact Tom M. if you can help out. Needed now: people to go out and try to get items from Retailers. If you could help do this please let Tom know. Letters will be going out in the next two weeks. Thanks so much, the more who can help with this the more items we will be able to obtain. We need to raise at least \$11,000 this year in order to meet our budget goals.

Regifting Fundraiser

This is a fun and easy Fundraising that is also cheap. What you are asked to do is bring in any gifts that you received this past year and donate the items so that we may raffle the items off. You will be asked to bring the items in on February 4 & 11. You may purchase raffle tickets on February 18, 25 and March 4 at \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. The more tickets you buy the greater chance you will have to win the gift. Sunday, March 4, 2018 we will pick a ticket out each bag and the winners will be announced. Then you take the item home with you.

Sunday, February 4 & 11 – Bring in Items you want to Re-Gift.

Sunday, February 18 & 25 – Purchase Raffle Tickets and put in the Bags Items you want with you name on the tickets.

Sunday, March 4, 2018 – Last Chance to Purchase Raffle Tickets and

put in the Bags Items you want with you name on the tickets.

Sunday, March 4, 2018 – Winners Announced of the Raffle Items.
Pick Up your winnings.

Thanks so much for your help in this event.

We didn't raise the budgeted amount of money from the Holiday Fair, so we are trying to come up with other ways of helping the budget. Your help in this would be greatly appreciated.

Alphabet Soup

Mulligan's Dine-Out

Thursday, February 1, 2018

7:00 – 9:00 pm - Location: UUCSB

We will be gathering at Mulligan's in Biddeford. Feel free to invite friends. Please RSVP to Tom so we can reserve enough space..

Board Game Night

Thursday, February 8, 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, February 15, 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, February 22, 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 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.



Notes from your Ministerial Search Committee

This is an exciting time in our search process. On Jan. 3rd we learned which ministers were interested in our Saco/Biddeford and Sanford congregations. **Sixteen ministers showed interest in us**, and there could be more. Sixteen!! We were ecstatic! Right away we began to study the Ministerial Records and Websites of these candidates to see who might be a fit for us. As you might expect, we found a few who didn't interest us; but we were excited enough about ten others to schedule informal Skype interviews with them - what you might call *Internet Meet and Greet*s. They are in process now.

The next step will be to **select pre-candidates for more intensive interactions**. As you know, we cannot discuss who the candidates are, where they come from, what their passions are, what their experiences are - as much as we would like to share with you. What we can say is that there are candidates worthy of consideration, and we are excited to be at this point in our process.

Candidates seem to be excited about us, too - despite or even because it's a two church ministry. (Our collective search is being viewed by some as the cutting edge of the UU Church's future.) As we expected, prospective candidates differ greatly in who they are, where they come from, their education, their passions and experiences, their religious identities, the size of congregations they've served. As diverse as they are, they are rich human beings with a desire to bring their ministerial gifts to loving congregations.

No congregation can be all that a minister dreams of. And no minister can excel in all that we want - whether it's spiritual presence, inspirational and creative worship, advocacy for social justice, skills and dedication to RE, collaborative administration, pastoral care giving. We value these qualities and others! How do we choose? How do we weigh one against another? What if one excellent candidate is particularly spiritual and creative and able to inspire and love us? What if another excellent candidate has a passion for social justice that can energize us and our community? Each one could grow the church.

This is all theoretical thinking, of course. We have yet to meet the candidates in person. We will be faced with comparing the gifts of each as we choose the right minister for us. **We are grateful for the enormous trust you have placed in our Search Committee to find that minister**. If you have significant thoughts, please share them with us. If you have a burning question for us to ask of the candidates, please send it to us.

Serving our Churches with love, commitment, time, and positive energy,
Donna Beveridge, Susan Young, Keith Walker
and the Ministerial Search Committee members from Sanford

February 2018

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2	3
					6:30 pm: FIAT Film Series 7:00 pm: Alphabet Soup	10:00 am: Coffee & Carbs 10:30 am—1:00 pm: Clothing Swap	9:00 am: Meditation 10:30 am—1:00 pm: Clothing Swap
Bread Sunday	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8:45 am: Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am: Auction Team	4:30 pm: Bon Appetit	5:30 pm: Membership 7:00 pm: Earthen Spiral	6:30 pm: Finance Comm 6:30 pm: CoM 7:00 pm: Harbour Singers	6:30 pm: FIAT Film Series 7:00 pm: Alphabet Soup	10:00 am: Coffee & Carbs	9:00 am: Meditation 10:30 am—1:00 pm: Clothing Swap Snow Date	
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8:45 am: Choir Rehearsal 9:45 am: Morning Song 11:15 am: FIAT	7:00 pm: Earthen Spiral	6:30 pm: Trustees 7:00 pm: Harbour Singers	6:30 pm: FIAT Film Series 7:00 pm: Alphabet Soup	10:00 am: Coffee & Carbs	9:00 am: Meditation		
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Bread Sunday Food Pantry Sunday 8:45 am: Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm: Earthen Spiral	Newsletter Deadline 7:00 pm: Harbour Singers	6:30 pm: FIAT Film Series 7:00 pm: Alphabet Soup	10:00 am: Coffee & Carbs	9:00 am: Meditation		
	25	26	27	28			
8:45 am: Choir Rehearsal	7:00 p : Earthen Spiral						