



he 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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February 5

In Praise of the Politically Correct Janis Sacco

During this especially turbulent election season, the airways were rife with words and body language that left many feeling uncomfortable, disgusted or despondent. Yet, many others have argued for dispensing with careful discourse that is "politically correct" and revel in exercising their freedom to "tell it like it is." Church School.

February 12

Love Rev. Steve Cook

The first of a three-sermon series on the so-called "theological virtues," Faith, Hope and Love. Church School.

February 19

Ellie Rolnick & Meret Bainbridge Luminescence

Luminescence has been created as a distinctly Unitarian Universalist holiday, to honor the many paths our faith offers for attaining spiritual fulfillment and to celebrate the freedom our faith provides each individual in seeking their own personal truth. Come and celebrate our own religion's wonderful, distinctive identity. Church School.

Sunday Happenings

8:45 am: Choir Rehearsal

10:00 am: Worship

February 26

Faith **Rev. Steve Cook**

The second in our three part sermon series on the theological virtues. Church School.

From the President amazed at the number of

Slow down! I was drivers who blew past me

on my way to work last Tuesday morning, in some pretty terrible driving conditions. With our busy lives, slowing down doesn't feel like an option. I'm usually racing from one event to the next - seldom taking the time to just stop and make a cup of tea and commune with my cats. With all that in mind, I plan to be with the Meditation Group this Saturday morning.

There's a lot going on these days! Some highlights -

Our friends in Sanford are in the middle of their house parties with Rev Steve. Once those meetings are completed, with Rev Steve's help, we'll compare Sanford's notes with the notes from our house parties, and move into the next step in the process of charting our path forward.

We have a new Social Action policy, approved by the board at the January meeting. A copy of the new policy is posted on the bulletin board outside of Brian's office.

Rev Steve has posted "drop-in" office hours. He'll be available most Wednesdays from noon to 5:00. although appointments are still encouraged, so that he doesn't miss anyone.

We've submitted an application to "Adopt a Park". We've asked for the grassy area across from the church, on the west side of the garage building. If this is approved, you're invited to get involved. Stay tuned.

Now I've got to race off to work. Oops, I mean drive mindfully, within the speed limit.

Warm regards,

Niki



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Along the Way

Dear Friends.

Let me begin by thanking again the hosts of the cottage meetings in Saco/Biddeford and Sanford, the Transition Teams in both churches who have done so much to arrange them and the members who have given part of their Sunday afternoons to attend. The decisions before you are among the most crucial for churches in our self-governing tradition: it's important to remember that the search and call process for a settled minister in Unitarian Universalism is entirely in the hands of the congregation. While guided by certain designated, UUA specialists and trained interim ministers such as me, in the end, most of the actual work and the final decisions will be yours. Therefore, in order to obtain the best possible match between minister and congregation in our diverse religious association, it is important to have as much participation as possible, especially now as each church seeks to discern both what it needs and what it can offer in ministry.

Themes emerging from the cottage meetings in Sanford, due to be completed February 5, will be considered in relation to those that came from the meetings in Saco/Biddeford and together, will form a picture of how each congregation sees itself at this time: what are the needs and desires, strengths and challenges of each in regard to the future and to the question of professional ministry.

The shared ministry of Rev. Sue to your churches was something of an evolution, as each church on its own made decisions in regard to finances and desire for professional ministry. Perforce, within each church, active lay leadership developed to provide for worship and pastoral care in what had become for each a half-time arrangement. This evolved system has worked for two years or so.

The question I am now going to ask each church to answer is this: Do you wish further to evolve what grew into a mutual, half-time arrangement into an intentional, shared ministry of the two churches in regard to a full-time equivalent, settled minister serving both congregations? Not all details of such a potential shared ministry are necessarily clear at this moment--much would undoubtedly remain un-

changed—but the answer to this question will be critical to the direction of a ministerial search. To search intentionally for a single, shared, full-time equivalent minister (a path many small churches have taken together) will leverage the finances and energies of both congregations, enlarge the pool of potential ministers, maximize your chances and engage the full resources of the UUA Transition Department. (It would also mean, for example, the selection and commissioning of a joint search committee.) To search for two, half-time ministers will send both churches in another direction entirely, requiring two separate searches in a smaller pool of ministers and working with the regional UUA staff who handle less than full time searches. Each church would then be on its own in regard to financing the search by itself and the compensation package it could offer to potential ministers.

The discernment themes gathered from the cottage meetings will soon be shared with both congregations. Please consider them fully as well as your own thoughts in this regard. I will ask each church to express its will on this question, probably in separate congregational meetings called for that purpose, so that we have a clear sense how to proceed. While we are not too late in the usual search timeline, we should move ahead on this within the month.

While it is possible that each church could continue to pursue its own destiny separately for some years to come, given the economic and demographic realities of the area, it is my considered professional opinion that an intentional, shared ministry will offer you the best path to a sustainable future as vital, thriving churches bringing to your towns the important, saving message of Unitarian Universalism.

There is still time for sharing and discussion about this important question. If you have not attended a Sanford cottage meeting, I hope you will. In any case, in each church, I encourage you to share thoughts on this with your Transition Team, your Board or with me.

See you in church, Rev. Steve

CLYNK

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

BOT Notice

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

Hannaford Gift Cards

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

Office Hours

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

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

	Jul - Dec 16	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
001 CONTRIBUTION INCOME	38,479	33,004	5,475	117%
002 RENTAL INCOME	2,900	3,755	(855)	77%
003 FUND RAISING INCOME	4,124	3,675	449	112%
004 OTHER INCOME	1,200	3,490	(2,290)	34%
Total Income	46,703	43,924	2,779	106%
Gross Profit	46,703	43,924	2,779	106%
Expense	OF 047	OF 44F	400	4000
101 STAFFING 102 MISSION	25,217 1,583	25,115 3,190	102 (1,607)	100% 50%
103 OPERATIONS	7,372	12,040	(4,668)	61%
104 ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	1,202	1,600	(398)	75%
105 OTHER EXPENSES	3,308	3,557	(249)	93%
Total Expense	38,682	45,502	(6,820)	85%
Net Ordinary Income	8,021	(1,578)	9,599	

Website Update

Thank you to everyone who has visited the website at www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com. Since the March 2016 launch, there have been over 10,688 page visits with an overall average of 35 hits per day. If you have something that you want to add, or if you see something that should be corrected, please let me know. Please be specific with

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

Brian D., Webmaster

Pay Your Pledge Automatically!

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

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

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

- Finance Committee

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Music Notes

Music Notes from Choir Director, Ellie R.

"Song is the wind chime of memory" unattributed author

The History of UU Hymnody, continued: The Beacon Press in Boston originally published "Hymns of the Spirit" back in 1937; the copies that we have are the 17th printing and were published in 1960. The first section is comprised of 16 "Services of Religion"; the second section, which makes up the bulk of the book, is a collection of over 500 hymns. The Unitarian and the Universalist Commissions on Hymns and Services compiled the contents of this book jointly for use in the "free churches of America".

The introduction to the order of service section states "these services are not offered as prescribed forms which require literal adherence...Where they do not fit the need of a given congregation or minister they can be altered..." However, it goes on to say that "the editors would only urge that such alterations... be not made hastily or carelessly, but with discrimination and sound judgment. Personal idiosyncrasies in the utterance of opinion or erratic modes of procedure on the part of the minister inevitably distract the attention of the worshipper and mar the effect the service is intended to have."

Morning Song: At 9:50 one Sunday each month I am in the sanctuary leading 'gathering singing'. Please join us in singing! If you prefer not to sing, please sit quietly in the sanctuary and enjoy the music or gather with friends in the parish hall or hallway for conversation. The next 'Morning Song' is February 19.

TriQuire: Rehearsals for TriQuire are under way. The combined choirs from Saco, Sanford and Kennebunk will join voices and sing in Kennebunk on March 5, Saco March 12 and Sanford March 19. The general theme of the services will be about the Sabbath – saving time to renew oneself. We hope you will attend the March 12 service to be renewed through word and song!

Choir Rehearsals will be held Sunday Mornings from 8:45-9:45 on February 19 and 26.

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.

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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. uuchurchsacobiddeford.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

Directory Update

The church directory is currently being updated. Please send updates for your entry including addition of new people to the church office no later than Wednesday, February 15th. Thank you.

Souper Sunday: February 26, 2017

Join us for soup, bread and fellowship immediately following the Sunday Service on February 26, 2017. The Membership Committee is the host but we need you to provide wonderful warm soups to go along with the bread and butter that will be available for you. There is a sign up sheet on the Bulletin Board outside the Church Administrative Office. Please let us know if you are bringing a soup and what type of soup it will be so we have a wonderful variety to taste. Any questions can be directed to jperkins17@maine.rr.com.

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

The recipient for February 2017 will be the Saco Food Pantry. This organization provides food for local Mainers in need through short-term and intermittent help, and long-term help for those experiencing continued difficulties. It currently provides food for over 8,000 people a year, more than 96,000 individual meals!

Greetings from the Treasurer

Account balances as of 1/30/2017 are as follows:

Checking \$1,352.83
Accounts payable \$-0Moulton Trust \$2,628.35
Restricted Savings \$21,899.91
Saco/Bidd Investments \$122,528.98



Any questions, just call. Sincerely, Wendy

Clothing Exchange

Our annual clothing exchange will take place on Saturday, February 4^{th} , from 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Please go through your closets and bring in all clean, gently worn clothing that you no longer have a need for. Then start shopping! For \$5 a bag, you can go home with a whole new wardrobe, which we take great delight in showing off in church the next day. All unsold clothing will be taken to Goodwill. Please contact Anne C. if you would be willing to help run this fun fundraiser for our beloved church.

Worship Assistants Wanted!

Gathering on Sunday, February 12 at 11:15am in the Parlor.

Please help ensure that the ministers and lay people who lead our Sunday Services are not left alone to provide all the components of the service. Here's a list of the "Who, What, Where, When and Why" of being a Worship Assistant. Our gathering on February 12 will provide you with all the information you need and a support network to help you. If you have questions please contact Jane P. (iperkins17@maine.rr.com)

. Who:

Worship Assistants are lay people who are familiar with our regular service and are willing to do the dreaded (most people fear it *more than death* itself!) deed of speaking a few, pre-written lines of the Service from the Savage Lectern in the Chancel.

What:

The Worship Assistant contacts the Service Leader a few days before Sunday to find out if there are particular needs he or she has for the Service. The Worship Assistant should then meet with the Service Leader, usually ½ hour before the service, to verify what, if any, parts of the service the Leader would like the Assistant to handle. These parts will usually be the Welcome and Announcements, and could also be the Unison Chalice Lighting (Our Covenant), the Peace Candle Affirmation, Sharing from the Heart (Joys and Concerns), the Offering and Singing Response, and/or Extinguishing the Chalice Flame.

Where:

All events happen at the church unless the Worship Assistant and the Service Leader meet elsewhere sometime before the Sunday Service. The Worship Assistant sits in the chair behind the Savage Lectern in the Chancel.

When:

The Worship Assistant should be at the church $\frac{1}{2}$ hour before the service to meet the Service Leader and confirm what he or she wants the Worship Assistant to do. The Worship Assistant should test his or her voice with the microphone on the lectern before people begin to fill the Sanctuary and should be seated in the Chancel about 5 minutes before the service begins.

Why:

There are a variety of "generic" parts to our Sunday Service – Welcome, Lighting the Chalice, Sharing from the Heart, Our Covenant, etc. The Service Leader often has many things on which to concentrate (the sermon or talk, prayers, moments of meditation) in addition to these "generic" parts. It is appropriate to have an Assistant available to handle those "generic" parts of the service if the Leader wants someone to do so.

207-649-7260 sdmarshall4@aol.com

David L. Marshall

Building Contractor Camp and Cottage Repair

118 Saco Avenue Old Orchard Beach, Maine 04064

More News

Capital Campaign Up-date

Here's a quarterly up- date on the Capital Campaign.
You'll recall that there were four major areas of research/
discernment that had to be done - Explore Our Heritage; Assess Our
Building; Determine Our Public Value and Identify Our Partners.
The Heritage bit has been completed, but we will be doing on going
presentations, events and such around that subject. Thanks to David Nadeau who helped with research for the 189th birthday observance and to Sophie, who helped with photography. And of
course to all of you who attended the discussion. As well as dick
Skillin who is doing some work on our time line.

Mogens did a great job of completing the Building Assessment which gives us a dandy baseline.

Niki and Anne C. have completed the Public Value work. This is a very interesting and eye opening exercise which I'm sure they will share with us soon.

Jean Horton has begun work on the last section: Identifying Our Partners.

The plan is to have all these basic steps completed by Jan. 31. We will then begin the next step in the process which entails more of the gearing up for action work.

Al Casad has done some basic investigation of the grants we might apply for when he gets back for his trip we will start work on this process.

We have invited several knowledgable folks to meet with us on Jan. 29 after church to talk about the work we want to do in terms of projected costs. (We have been able to get lower quotes locally.) We also want to discuss adding the up date of our current electrical system particularly in the Sanctary area to our list of projects. (We have been abl eto get a local electrician to review our system and give us a report about needs in this area.)

More next month.

Betsey and Anne D.

Land Acquisition Update

Betsey, Niki and I were able to be at the Worshop session onJan. 9. The Council recommended (on the advice of the City Attorney) that the UUCSB determne for sure who owns the land that we occupy. (We have already contacted Eric Cote to verify this recommendation and to ask guidance.)

Not one councilor indicated any resistance to our getting some sort of official document or agreement. There were many ideas expressed about how to proceed on this. Of course this was the Council's first brush with this issue. I expect that it will not be their last. Also, Mayor Michaud was very generous in his introduction and his suggestions about this.

The Journal Tribune ran a great article about this on Jan. 12. A copy of the article is posted on the bulletin board outside the office. Please, if you are a Saco resident, contact your Councilperson to ask his support fo rthis request. If you are not a Saco resident; contact Mayor Michaud about you interest and support of our request.

Be sure to thank whomever you contact for their time and attention.

Mayor Michaud - mayor@sacomaine.org

Ward 1 - David Prescott - 282-1135

Ward 2 - Roger Gay = 468-6578

Ward 3 - Wm. Doyle - 590-8931

Ward 4 - Kevin Roche - 282-6493

Ward 5 - Alan Minthorn - 590-6521

Ward 6 - Eric Cote - 282-9012

Ward 7 - Nathan Johnston - 423-1912

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.



Bob Magazu

Broker/Realtor ABR,SRES,RSPS bobsellsmaine@hotmail.com www.bobsellsmaine.com

207-317-0221

I can sell your home
323 North Street, Saco, ME 04072

Faith in Action Team (FiAT)



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

February's Faith in Action Reflection



After the Marches: UUs from Maine were out in force in Washington, Porland, Augusta, Brunswick, Kennebunk and Sauford on Jan 21

Keep our messages of faith, hope and action seen and heard. Join us!

FIAT: Upcoming Actions

Fri., Feb. 10 Poster Making/Postcard Writing 5:00 p.m. Parish Hall

> Sun., Feb. 19 FIAT meeting 11:15 in The Parlor

Fri., Feb. 247-9 p.m. film and discussion with Kitsy Winthrop Wisdom to Survive. Climate Change, Capitalism, and Community

Sat. March 11 MUUSAN meeting UU Community Church of Augusta

Share the Plate
January
Maine's NAACP
February
Saco Food Pantry

Twenty-two years ago my daughter met in graduate school a Muslim man from Turkey. They eventually became engaged and married. During the 1990's many of us Americans were Islamophobia Personal Reflection by Dorinne Spirito member of UUCSB

less educated about the Middle Eastern countries and Islamic cultures. When I shared with folks that my daughter was engaged to a man from Turkey, many would ask, "Do you know how Middle Eastern men treat women?" My response was to say, "My daughter's fiancé seems like a very kind, respectful person; and I trust that my daughter has good judgment and is aware of the cultural differences."

At that time there was a lot of negative press about oppression of women in the Middle East. Most people in the nineties were somewhat more sensitive to prejudice against African Americans, Hispanics, and other minorities in this country, but expressed no sensitivity to prejudice against the Muslim culture. I felt offended that people were so negative about Muslims, and my daughter's life choices.

My husband and I, and my daughter's family, had a most enjoyable visit to Turkey, where we were welcomed and treated most hospitably by my son-in-law's family and where we learned some of the traditions and ways of this different culture and religion. I have come to believe that people are people no matter where they come from, and whatever religion they practice. I believe Islam is a very non-violent, peaceful, prayerful way of life.

Today, with mass social media and global travel, we have to face our anti-Muslim prejudice - even in Maine, where we have had an influx of Muslim immigrants. I am sad to admit that I, at times, feel impatient and biased towards some of these folks. Islamophobia is present in this country. Due to the past year's political climate, fear and ignorance are rampant. In Westbrook and Lewiston there have been incidents of anti-Muslim hate speech and crimes. Today, I want to do whatever I can to help these people feel comfortable, respected, and thankful to be in our state.

Except for Native Americans, we are all immigrants in the US! Growing up in a French community, referred to as "Frog Hollow", in Hartford, CT, I learned firsthand about cultural prejudice. Marrying a first generation Italian-American, I am also sensitive to past anti-Italian prejudice. I can only imagine what prejudices challenge African Americans, Hispanics, Jews, and other minorities. Yet, most of us, if honest with ourselves, can admit to being prejudiced toward one or more groups of people.

Now, more than ever, we need to be vigilant about our speech and behaviors towards all of our neighbors! Immigrants, Republicans, Democrats, those who are educated and those who are not!.

February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fni	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			6:30 pm: Committee on Ministries 6:30 pm: Finance 7:00 pm: Harbour Singers	7:00 pm: SMGM	4:00-6:00 pm: Clothing Swap Setup	9:00 am: Meditation 10:30 am-1:00 pm: Clothing Swap
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Bread Sunday 10:00 am: Worship 11:15 am: FIAT 11:30 am: RE Committee	4:30 pm: Bon Appetit 5:00 pm: Membership	7:00 pm: Earthen Spiral	6:30 pm: Trustees 7:00 pm: Harbour Singers	7:00 pm: SMGM	5:00 pm: FIAT	9:00 am: Meditation 5:00 pm: RE Spaghetti Dinner
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Food Pantry Sunday 10:00 am: Worship 11:30 am: WA Gathering		7:00 pm: Earthen Spiral	7:00 pm: Harbour Singers	7:00 pm: SMGM		9:00 am: Meditation
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Bread & Food Pantry Sunday 8:45 am: Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am: Worship 11:15 am: FIAT		7:00 pm: Earthen Spiral	12:00 pm: Messenger Deadline	7:00 pm: SMGM		9:00 am: Meditation
26	27	28				
8:45 am: Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am: Worship 11:15 am: FIAT 11:15 am: Souer Sunday		7:00 pm: Earthen Spiral				