



The Wessenger

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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Sunday Happenings

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

March 4 Invisible Rev. Jeff Logan

Pastor Jeff Logan works as a homeless outreach minister with Grace-Street Ministry. He spends several hours a week in direct, face-to -face contact with the homeless population of Portland, both in the various day and overnight shelters, and also on the streets. This group of people is often painted with a broad brush that focuses on disruptive behavior, substance abuse and mental illness. The purpose of this sermon is to introduce you to some of the individuals in this community, and to show the triumphs and failures, joys and sorrows, regrets and resolve that are no different than those experienced by the people in any other community in Maine. A common question in the shelter is "where's your church?" And we just gesture around the shelter and say, "our church is here".

March 11 Some of the People Rev. Steve Cook

Lincoln famously said in part, "You can fool some of the people all the time." In view of the constant flood of misstatement, spin and outright lies that characterize the political party now in power, how can we cope? We will share the inspiring story of UU courage during the Pentagon Papers scandal.

Invisible March 18 Greater Portland Family Promise Carol Larson

Greater Portland Family Promise is an interfaith response to homelessness in Portland. Thirteen host faith communities and many support communities are providing temporary housing for up to four families with children while they work to obtain permanent housing. Since its inception in July of 2017, Family Promise has supported twelve families and found permanent homes for five. The program maintains a day center at the Portland YMCA where families go during the day for services. In the evening they are transported to the host community of the week for food, conversation, and overnight accommodation. Carol Larson and Carol Jenkins, host coordinators at Allen Avenue UU will speak about their experience hosting families and about opportunities for Saco/Biddeford to become involved.

March 25 The Swiss Army Knife Profession Rev. Steve Cook

The TV show MacGyver features a brave and resourceful character who defeats the bad guys using non-lethal methods and tools, especially his trusty Swiss army knife. We'll consider that in relation to church.

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Along the Way

On the Sundays of January 21 in Sanford and January 28 in Saco, I invited those in church that day to jot down questions for my consideration: "Questions of the Spirit" I called them. Two or three I addressed extempore that morning in place of the usual sermon. I promised that I would share with you all of the questions I received and so here they are.

This is an exercise many ministers like to do once a year or so, some by having a "Question Box" to which members can submit for a week or so in advance, while others, such as I, relish the opportunity to respond "on my feet" to some questions while saving others for later sermon or discussion topics.

I find this "respond in the moment" approach refreshing as a change of pace from the very prepared sermon, supported with readings and hymns, that is our usual practice. Moreover, as you will see, the questions I receive are always thoughtful, stimulating and show the range of thought typical of a UU church. Some will certainly find their way into future sermons and discussions.

I thank all who responded on those days, and I invite other such questions at any time (no need to wait for "Questions of the Spirit" Sunday.) However, rather than a quick conversation at coffee hour, which I might not retain in all of the busyness of the morning, the best way to do that is by e-mail. I look forward to it.

Rev. Steve

QUESTIONS OF THE SPIRIT SACO

Is there a Sunday service where we bring and celebrate our animal companions at church? Is there a Sunday we honor non-human beings?

How to find a spiritual path when you have been so adverse to the notion of a god/heaven or hell? What is the divine?

"Me Too" issues and the experiences of people in our congregation. Social justice issues that we had hoped were resolved in the 60s social justice experiences of people in our congregation—probably a sermon topic.

Few UUs believe in an interventionist God. Why, then, do we use the word "prayer" in our services?

How do we know that our prayers and meditation are heard and answered?

How so we ensure that we treat each other kindly when conflicts among us come up?

End of life issue—regrets for not finishing everything.

Continuing life/legacy after death.

Consciousness-Eckhardt Tolle.

What is the gift to a shared minister of serving two churches? What is hardest? (Maybe it's the same thing!)

Can just talking to God be as effective as praying?

What is Unitarian Universalist prayer and what can be its place in services and in our lives?

How do we build faith or find a creed as well as be open to other aspects of God, other aspects of our unconscious or subconscious we may have denied but need to be whole and to align ourselves as people and with God?

SANFORD on page 7

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

Business

Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco & Biddeford FY 17-18 Operating Budget vs. Actual YTD July through January 2018

	Jul '17 - Jan 18	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				_
001 CONTRIBUTION INCOME	44,486	39,850	4,636	112%
002 RENTAL INCOME	2,950	3,825	(875)	77%
003 FUND RAISING INCOME	3,716	4,036	(320)	92%
004 OTHER INCOME	3,000	1,800	1,200	167%
Total Income	54,152	49,511	4,641	109%
Gross Profit	54,152	49,511	4,641	109%
Expense				
101 STAFFING	32,361	32,965	(605)	98%
102 MISSION	3,727	4,066	(339)	92%
103 OPERATIONS	11,578	14,613	(3,034)	79%
104 ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	1,576	1,950	(374)	81%
105 OTHER EXPENSES	1,308	1,152	156	114%
Total Expense	50,549	54,745	(4,196)	92%
Net Ordinary Income	3,603	(5,234)	8,837	

Website Update—March 2018

Thank you to everyone who has visited the website at

www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com. Since the March 2016 launch, there have been over 23,483 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

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Music Notes

"To live is to be musical, starting with the blood dancing in your veins. Everything living has a rhythm." – *Michael Jackson*

Choir & Choir Rehearsals (Note: TriQuire is now closed to new members but all are welcome to join on March 25 to prepare and sing for Easter Sunday!).

March 4th – TriQuire in Kennebunk, Rehearsal @8:45, Service at 10:30

March 11th - TriQuire in Saco, Rehearsal @8:45, Service at 10:00

March 18th – TriQuire in Sanford, Rehearsal @9:00, Service at 10:30

March 25th – Rehearsal for Easter begins @8:30

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 March 11. We will sings songs of Spring.

TriQuire: 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 Rosemary S.

- 1) Reflect on your experience in the UUCSB Choir: Great harmony amongst the group. All very helpful and welcoming.
- 2) How long have you been a UU? Since 1985
- **3) How is singing part of your spiritual life?** Singing is very uplifting for me, especially if challenging, intricate ,parts. Had been involved with UU choir in my Fla. Church for 24yrs
- **4) Other music experiences:** I haven't played an instrument since I was 12-20 or so...piano
- 5) Other interests, hobbies: Quilting, reading, travel
- **6) Occupation:** Retired formally worked for YMCA, Boca Pops Orchestra (Acctg- sometimes a witch for Halloween shows), and Florida Atlantic University as Fiscal Coordinator for Computer Science & Engineering Dept.
- 7) Travels and favorite places: Over the past 34 years, have traveled throughout the USA and Europe(England, France, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal) Africa (Morocco) and Australia (Sydney, Cairns, Port Douglas, Port Arthur, Rockhampton, Brisbane, Melbourne and Tasmania), Canada (Quebec, Ontario, British Colombia)
- 8) Favorite kinds of music? Classical, Pops, Country, Rock 'n Roll



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

Greetings from the Treasurer

Account balances as of 1/31/2018 are as follows:

Checking \$480.04
Accounts payable \$-0Moulton Trust \$2,655.55
Restricted Savings \$16,633.13
Saco/Bidd Investments \$148,978.748



Any questions, just call. Sincerely, Dick

From the President

Every so often I get overwhelmed with the state of the world and I initiate a brief, self-imposed news blackout. Steve R agrees to let me know if anything really big happens, and he gets to decide what defines "big". Stepping back like this gives me a chance to get centered again, and remind myself that beauty, kindness and good still exist. So far, nothing has been important enough for Steve to interrupt my reverie.

The Annual Pledge Canvass is off and running – "Our Next Act". I thank you all as you consider your financial support for our church community. I am excited as we move into the next church year! I know that we all dig deep, and every pledge is deeply appreciated.

Read about the progress of the Ministerial Search Committee later in this issue of The Messenger. I am so grateful to the members of this committee – I can't say this enough!

The board has finished its bylaws review. Some changes are being recommended, and these changes will be presented for your review in advance of the annual meeting.

Did you make it to the Souper Sunday? What a wealth of fantastic cooks we have here at the UUCSB! Stay tuned for more opportunities for fun and fellowship, including the upcoming Circle Supper.

Let's not forget that we as individuals can spread kindness to this troubled word. Indeed, it starts with every one of us. As Rev Steve says, let's get our lights out from under a bushel. I think the term is debushelize.....

Kind regards,

Niki

Spring is coming!



Worship Committee News

The Worship Committee will have a MEETING on Saturday, April 14^{th} , at 10 a.m. at church.

We will finalize the worship calendar for the remaining church year, prepare for candidating week, and begin planning summer services.

We are looking for additional members, and a new chair or co-chairs.

If you love the variety of guest worship leaders at our church and would like to get involved in the selection, consider joining our committee. It's not a lot of work and a very meaningful service to our community.

FMI please contact Meret B at meretbainbridge@gmail.com, or one of the other WC members: Niki, Sonja, Tom M or Jane P.

Pat Palmiotto Memorial Service - March 4

As many of you know, Pat Palmiotto recently died at home. A service and burial were held in Norwich, Vermont, at the UU Church where she and Ron used to attend. We are also planning a memorial service at UUCSB for church members, neighbors, and Maine friends who missed the service in Vermont. It will be held on Sunday, March 4, at 2:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary, with a reception following in the Parish Hall. You are all welcome to attend.

Yard Sale

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

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.

Along the Way (continued from page 2) QUESTIONS OF THE SPIRIT SANFORD

UU intentional communities with ecological concerns?

How do you maintain a very close relationship with someone very important to you when you have very different views on spiritual/religious (and political) issues?

Climate change.

How can one best remain optimistic in the face of the desecration of our democracy?

How can UU better address class divisions here and elsewhere?

What will UUism be in twenty years?

Ego and pride seem to feed fear and keep humans from having epiphanies and thereby evolving. What is a spiritual response to overcome ego/pride and be compassionate to others who are greedy, selfish, close-minded?

What is your (Rev. Cook?) working definition of spirituality?

One of our principles is respect for the web of life. This is easy to understand in a physical and material sense, but what does it mean in a spiritual sense? How do we relate spiritually to nature?

Is there life after death? What is the UU take on an afterlife?

As UUs what are positive ways we can respond to the hate/racism/white supremacy we see in our world?

Alphabet Soup

Pot Luck Dinner

Thursday, March 1, 2018

7:00 - 9:00 pm - Location: UUCSB

Please bring a friend along with a salad, entrée, side dish or desert to share. A meat dish as well as beverages will be provided.

Board Game Night

Thursday, March 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, March 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.

Board Game Night

Thursday, March 22, 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.

Movie Night

Thursday, March 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.

Spring Auction - April 28

Ticket price is \$30.00 per person or buy a table for 8 at \$225.00 That's a \$15.00 savings. You will need to pay and pick up tickets before April 25. Please contact Tom M. for tickets. We will have a cash bar. Coffee and tea is included in your ticket price. We will be having a buffet dinner this year. Appetizers will be served during the silent auction. Please invite your friends and family to join you. The more the merrier.

We are looking for items to be donated for our baskets. If you have any ideas please drop them into the bins in the coat area by Sunday, April 9 along with price tags/values. Some items we are looking for are: kitchen gadgets, items to do up a few spa baskets, tea & coffee items, odds and ends, food items, personal grooming items foods from other countries, chocolate and other candy and scratch tickets as well. Please see the fundraising bulletin

board in the Parish Hall for more ideas.

We also need people to go out to businesses to ask for donations. Tom has more information on this.

On Friday, April 27 we need help transporting stuff to the Credit Union and back on Monday April29. This will include moving all the tables from the church to the Credit Union. We have a pickup truck to move them.

Sign up Now and Save a Life

Your response to our question about purchasing and AED for the UUCSB has been positive. With guidance from the Board and the Finance Committee, we are about to take our next step. The Finance Committee has recommended that purchase of our AED and training around that equipment be paid for by using this cause as our special collection at the Annual Auction in April. The cost of the device and CPR training including use of the AED will be around \$2000. We have some money in our AED fund from the Clothing Swap and special sales. It is important that we have several members who are certified in CPR and the use of the equipment. So please sign up for the training. A sheet is posted outside the restrooms. We expect the training to take place in May.

Thank you for your support of this project. Dig deep at Auction time!

Directory Update

We are in the process of updating the Church Directory. We need your help to insure everything is correct. Please send any changes or additions to Pat S. c/o the church office by March 9th. Thanks! Stay warm and dry!

Pledge Drive

This year's pledge drive is entitled *Our Next Act*. With the anticipation of getting a new minister we have much to look forward to as we move into the next phase of our church life. The cooperative spirit of the Sanford UU Church in the



search process is inspiring. Both churches will maintain separate programs and budgets while sharing a minister.

Our kickoff potluck dinner will be on Saturday, March 3, 2018 at 6:00 PM. This special event will be a time to recommit our gifts of money, time and talents to our spiritual community. Please be sure to bring your pledge cards. Please sign up ASAP by responding to Brian at <u>uu-church@gwi.net</u> or on the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall. I encourage all of you to come and celebrate "Our Next Act".

Thank you,

Jim B., Pledge Drive Chair

Easter Egg Hunt

RE will be having the traditional Easter Egg Hunt for the younger folks April 1. Please encourage grandchildren, nieces and nephews and all to come and celebrate with us this year. The children will be in the sanctuary for the first part of the service, then leave for the Egg Hunt. Baskets will be provided. Don't forget to wear an Easter bonnet/ hat/ bunny ears decorated in your special style. \Box

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.



FiAT - Faith in Action Team - will have its monthly meeting on Sunday, March 11th, at 11:15 in the parlor. All are welcome.

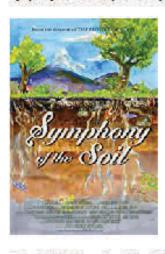
Share the Plate for March will be collected on March 18th.

The March Share the Plate Recipient will be Greater Portland Family Promise – which will also be the worship topic for that same date, presented by Carol Larson.

Greater Portland Family Promise, an affiliate of the national Family Promise program, is dedicated to addressing the needs of families facing homelessness in the Greater Portland, Maine area. Through an interfaith network and connections with existing community resources, Family Promise provides housing, meals, case management and community for children and their families experiencing homelessness. Greater Portland Family Promise has hosted homeless families since summer 2017.

Save the Date

Film night on Friday, May 11th 2018, 7 to 9 p.m. in the Parish Hall Symphony of the Soil . sponsored by FiAT, presented by Rev. Kitsy Winthrop.



Drawing from ancient knowledge and cutting-edge science, Symphony of the Soil is an artistic exploration of the miraculous substance soil. By understanding the elaborate relationships and mutuality between soil, water, the atmosphere, plants and animals, we come to appreciate the complex and dynamic nature of this precious resource. The film also examines our human relationship with soil, the use and misuse of soil in agriculture, deforestation and development, and the latest scientific research on soil's key role in ameliorating the most challenging environmental issues of our time. Filmed on four continents, featuring esteemed scientists and working farmers and ranchers, Symphony of the Soil is an intriguing presentation that highlights possibilities of healthy soil creating healthy plants creating healthy humans living on a healthy planet.

Potluck Circle Supper Sat., March 17th, 5 p.m.

The Potluck Circle Supper is back by popular demand!

This fun evening of fellowship will begin at 5:00pm. It is a great time to get to know one another and to connect more deeply while enjoying a delicious meal together.

Members & Friends are asked to sign-up by Sunday, March 10th

Look for the sign-up sheet on the FiAT board in the Parish Hall. Please <u>indicate</u> if you would <u>like to host</u> and/or if you have any <u>special</u> needs surrounding allergies, food or accessibility.

During the week prior to the Saturday, March 17th supper, hosts will be chosen and notified. The host will then contact you to ask what you would like to contribute to this communal supper. It's as simple as that!

Let the FUN begin!

Contact Randa T. or Sonja G. for questions or more information.



Notes from your Ministerial Search Committee

Your Search Committee is Energized!! All our work to bring us the very best ministerial candidate is paying off! Out of sixteen interested in us, we have selected four possible candidates for our next minister. All members of the committee are excited - really excited - about each one of them after reading their ministerial records, interviewing them, and talking with named references.

Now it's time to meet them. Between now and the end of March we will spend a weekend with each candidate, getting comfortable with one another, interviewing each other in depth, touring them in our churches and around our communities, and observing them as they lead services in neutral pulpits. So don't be surprised to find us absent on Sundays; and if you should happen to be in the church when we are touring or see us out together in the community, please don't ask us to introduce the candidate to you. All is confidential - for now.

We will finish our neutral pulpit weekends just in time to make a decision, and this may be a challenging one to make, given the quality of each candidate. Offers from all UUA congregations searching for ministers go out at the same time at the end of March - good news for candidates who may receive more than one offer, nail-biting time for us as we wait for a "Yes!"

At that point we will finalize plans to bring our candidate to UUCSB and SUUC for a full week, including two Sundays. You will have multiple opportunities to meet and talk with the candidate and to experience two Sunday services before a congregational vote to call our next minister.

We welcome any questions you have as we meet and interview our pre-candidates - what you think we should know about them and what hopes or concerns that you have.

Thank you for your continued interest as well as your patience in our process.

Ministerial Search Committee members:

Donna B., Keith W., Susan Y., from UUCSB and Lisa H., Evelyn L., Lee B., and Tom H. from SUUC

March 2018