

The Messenger

Unitarian Universalist Church
of Saco & Biddeford
www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com



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June Teasers

page 4 Jean H. shares her thoughts about why she comes to church - 2005 and now

page 6 Meet newcomer, Anne Wood, in Who's Who in the Pews

page 7 FiAT shares differences between charity and justice

page 8 See young Finn occupying himself during a service

page 10 Calling all musicians and writers

June Services, Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

June 2nd - Weaving and Interweaving - Rev. Shay will be in Sanford for their annual meeting and flower communion this morning. The Worship Associates will read to the congregation a sermon by Rev. Shay.

June 9th - Flower Communion and Annual Meeting - Please bring fresh flowers from your gardens, your homes, and anywhere else you can find them to share with our Beloved Community during this service.

June 16th - Creating New Possibilities - As we close our first year together, where do we imagine ourselves going from here?

June 23 and 30 - Summer services TBD

Summer Worship Leaders

Please sign up to lead a summer worship service. These will begin on June 23rd at 8:30 AM. The signup list is on the bulletin board near the office. These services are from 8:30 to 9:00am. Sign up early as dates do get taken. See Tom M for more information.

There is no Messenger for the month of July.

Do not be sad. It will return in August.



In the meantime, continue to send me information, articles, photos, ideas for the newsletter.

UU's are Creative; we see it all the time. Send us photos of your creative work - painting, baking, sculpting, song-writing, dancing, knitting, gardening - whatever you do - and we'll feature you on our UU's are Creative page in a future Messenger.

Whoever you are, wherever you come from, whomever you love, you are welcome here

Shay's Musings



The sun has come out, summer is here, and we are wrapping up our first year together! As we all prepare to go off and do our summer-y things, I want to let you know where I'll be and how you can reach me over the next three months.

First, let me explain the differences in how I spend my time away. As your minister, I am given both study leave and vacation each year.

Vacation is exactly what it sounds like. This is my time to do with as I will, and usually means that I will be away to somewhere fun with my family. Study leave is time devoted to my personal and professional growth, such as trainings and retreats, as well as reading and researching - it is time during which I am working to grow both myself and my resources in ways to serve you better.

During both of these times away, I will not be responding to emails or interacting with regular church business, ***however, I am always available for emergencies*** – both church related, like the building burns down (knock on wood), and personal emergencies.

Here is how you can contact me while I am away – I will respond as soon as I am able:

Call and leave a voicemail and/or Text Message me at (207) 518-8059

Here's my schedule for this summer.

June 1 st – 16 th	I am available full-time, as usual.
June 17 th – 24 th	I am away at the General Assembly of the UUA in Spokane, WA, but will be responding to emails and phone calls.
June 25 th – 30 th	On Vacation
July 1 st – 7 th	On Study Leave
July 8 th – 21 st	I am available full-time, as usual.
July 22 nd – 28 th	On Vacation
July 29 th – Aug 4 th	On Study Leave
August 5 th – 29 th	I am available full-time, as usual.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer, full of sunshine and spirit!

Tentative Schedule

Mondays:

Sanford office hours
11:00am-5:00pm

Tuesdays:

Saco/Biddeford office hours
11:00am-2:00pm

Sanford office hours
2:30pm-5:30pm

Wednesdays:

Saco/Biddeford office hours
11:00am-5:00pm

Thursdays:

Sermon Writing Day
(availability will be limited)



*I could not be a poet
without the natural
world.....For me the
door to the woods is
the door to the
temple.*

- Mary Oliver

*Thoughts
from our
Board
President,
Al Casad*



UUCSB

Board President:

Al Casad

Vice President:

Niki Norman

Secretary:

Ron Hiser

Treasurer:

Wendy Coleman

Collector:

Betsey Pace

At Large:

Mogens Ravn

Pat Snyder

Anne Dobson

Jane Perkins

The church year is rapidly drawing to a close and in reflecting on this past year, it all seems a blur of activity. One thing is clear and that is how, quietly, dutifully members of this church work hard to keep this wonderful community of kindred spirits humming along. For 35 years, I have watched people pour their talents, treasure and time into the perpetuation of this sacred place. Today for example, Mogens was in taking down storm windows and Jane was putting visitor information cards in the new card holders that Mogens recently installed in the pews. I came home to a meeting of the Caring Committee around our dining room table. Just a partial snapshot of one day. It is a stirring, loving, emotional enterprise.

There seem to always be bumps in the road but never anything insurmountable. So it is with this year. We are ending the year with a budget shortfall and people like Jean Horton and Wendy Coleman are responding with determination and skill to find funds, reduce costs and maintain important financial commitments to programming. It is never too late to change your pledge. If you find yourself wondering about stretching to a new level of support now is the time to act. Your generosity will make a difference so do what you can to help.

On June 9th we have our Annual Meeting after church. Please plan to attend. The agenda will be coming out soon. Over the Summer our new Board of Trustees will be meeting with our counterparts in Sanford in August. The BoT will also be thinking about our goals for the coming year and beginning to organize ourselves to address important areas such as Fundraising and Religious Education. Finally, on August 10 there will be a Summer Sanford and Saco/Bidd picnic at Ferry Beach. Mark your calendars.

best,
Al

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.



The BoT says goodbye to three of its members . Anne D., Niki N., and Jane P. - and thanks them for their time, energy, and dedication to our Church.

**Thank
You**

Dear Friends,

Last month I began to look through things in Don's large oak desk and came across this piece I had written many years ago. For some reason, Don saved it. I'm guessing it was written about 2005 since I had my car accident in 2003 and there is also a reference to a church member who had died suddenly shortly after that time. After reading it, I find that I feel the same way about our church today. In the past year I have benefitted so very much from your unlimited kindnesses to me. I thank you all for helping me get through that year. The first minister I referenced here was Rev. Ray Hopkins, who was a past minister. I'm sure many of you have similar thoughts about our wonderful congregation.

Cheers, Jean H.

Words from 2005

Many years ago I had a conversation with an ex-minister of this congregation. I asked him, "Why do people go to church?" His answer to me was, "because they have to." I asked him what he meant by that, and he explained, "Some people need to search out other people - they need to reach out and be close - they need to search as a group for a common faith. They have to feel the companionship of their fellow man in order to be whole."

I have thought of that many times in the years that followed, and I have to admit I am one of those people. I come to this church for very selfish reasons. I need the warmth of friendship. I bask in the feeling of family here. I know with a certain surety that we are a family in the true, pure sense of the word.

When we come here on Sundays and other days, I know people mean it when they ask how I am. I know that if I needed a kind word, it would be here for me. I know that if I needed help, it would be given without question. I know I am cared for and know how much I care for them.

I have had my own personal experience with that sudden need when I was struck by a car on the streets of Portland. As I recovered later and struggled with my pain, I had minions of people step forward to offer their help and support, to cook for us, to wash my floors, do my laundry, and sit with me so that Don could escape to mow the lawn and get away from things for a moment. All of this was given without question.

I have seen this church congregation come together time after time. To close ranks to aid our past minister when she had a diagnosis of cancer. To help in times of bereavement, trouble with the frailties of day to day living. All of this. We all could tell endless stories of what the people of this congregation mean to us all.

We all believe different things, search in our own separate ways, have our strong political and social views, but we care. We care about ourselves, we care about our families. We care about our community and our world. And we do something about it. We stand up. We speak out. And we all love one another. That is why I come to church.

Why do you come to church?

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						9:00 Meditation 7:00 Sea Change Chorale, Portland
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:00 Worship Rev Shay 10:15 Choir Panera Bread	4:30 Bon Appetit Offsite	11:00-2:00 Rev. Shay Office hours 5:00 Weight Watchers 5:30 Member/Welcom. 7:30 Coven Off Site	8:00 Weight Watchers 6:30 CoM 11:00-5:00 Rev. Shay Office Hours 6:30 Finance	7:00 Alphabet Soup	10:00 Coffee & Carbs Offsite	9:00 Meditation 1:00 Private Party 7:00 Tri City Community Choir, 1st Parish, Saco
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8:30 Choir 9:00 Worship Rev. Shay 10:15 Annual Meet. 11:00 private party		11:00-2:00 Rev. Shay Office Hours 5:00 Weight Watchers 7:30 Coven Off Site	8:00 Weight Watchers 11:00-5:00 Rev. Shay Office Hours 6:30 BoT 7:00 Harbour Singers	7:00 Alphabet Soup	10:00 Coffee & Carbs Offsite	9:00 Meditation 11:30-6 Pride Parade & Festival, Portland
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:00 Worship Rev. Shay Panera		5:00 Weight Watchers 7:30 Coven Off Site	8:00 Weight Watchers 11:00-5:00 Rev. Shay Office Hours 7:00 Harbour Singers	7:00 Alphabet Soup	10:00 Coffee & Carbs Offsite	9:00 Meditation Messenger deadline for submissions
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
8:30 Summer Service, Parish Hall		5:00 Weight Watchers 7:30 Coven Off Site	8:00 Weight Watchers 7:00 Harbour Singers	Alphabet Soup	10:00 Coffee & Carbs Offsite	9:00 Meditation 7:00 Sea Change Chorale, Portland
30						

8:30 Summer
Service, Parish
Hall

Note: Sun., July 14, Choral Fest at Ferry Beach
July 4, no Alphabet Soup
Aug. 10 UUCSB/SUUC picnic at Ferry Beach

Who's Who in the Pews?

Anne Lalumiere Robbins Wood grew up in Falmouth, Maine, and taught in several Maine towns, including Saco and Biddeford. She has four children and stepchildren and many grands and great grands. Two black cats keep her company. She reads extensively and enjoys senior exercise classes.

After moving to Gulf Breeze, Florida, in 1990, she and her second husband joined the UU Fellowship in Pensacola. It was small but very active. Over the years she headed many committees, served on the UU Board and Mid-South District Board, Coalition on the Homeless, Bridges to Circles (breaking generational poverty), tutored children at a domestic violence shelter, and headed a Weekend Meals Backpack program supplying meals for food insecure children in the local schools.

After her husband's death in 2015 and a direct hit by Hurricane Irma in 2017, she decided to move back home to Maine where her two sons and their families live. She looks forward to making new friends and finding meaningful ways to help both in the church and community.



Do you know who sits behind you at Sunday services? Or in front of you? Or across the aisle? Do you know the Sunday morning Worship Associate? The person who greets you? The newcomer who returns week after week?

Check out the notebook in the Parish Hall to learn about many of our members - put the name to a face.

If you are not yet in the notebook, don't wait to be asked. We invite you write a paragraph or two about yourself or fill out a questionnaire and send it to me or to the office. Who knows - perhaps you will be featured next.



Faith in Action Team: UUCSB's Social Justice Center

True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar; it comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring.

— Martin Luther King Jr.

Reflection: Charity vs Justice

This year FiAT and many members of our church have been working hard to meet needs of many people in need in our community. It feels good to help people. We know we're making an immediate difference in someone's life because we know the recipients of our charitable actions or at least we know someone who does.

Next year, we're hoping to move more in the direction of justice. We will ask: How can we improve the underlying structures of injustice? Our work may be in legislation, in education. We may be writing letters or joining a march. We will make ourselves visible to our larger community.

Please join us. Be thinking about the areas of justice that are the most important to you. Immigration? Poverty? Climate change? Health care?

Charity	Justice
Charity = social service. Charity provides direct services like food, clothing, shelter.	Justice = social change. Justice promotes social change in institutions or political structures.
Charity responds to immediate needs.	Justice responds to long-term needs.
Charity is directed at the <i>effects</i> of injustice, its symptoms. LOVE MOPS UP.	Justice is directed at the <i>root causes</i> of social problems. JUSTICE TRIES TO MAKE SURE THE MESS ISN'T MADE TO BEGIN WITH.
Charity is private, individual acts.	Justice is public, collective actions.
Examples of charity: homeless shelters, food shelves, clothing drives, emergency services.	Examples of justice: legislative advocacy, changing policies and practices, political action.

(Source: Office for Social Justice, Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis.)

FIAT meetings:
usually the 2nd Sunday
of the month
10:20 in the Parlor.
Please come!

*No meeting in June
because of annual meeting*

I challenge you to
pick up trash!!!

Trash Pick-up Challenge
continues to the end of the
Church year:

Be mindful of our faith while you are on the beach, streets and trails this spring. Pick up 3 pieces of trash on each outing. When you are in the parish hall, put a piece of 'trash' into the 'trash can' on our interactive bulletin board. Each piece of our bulletin board 'trash' represents a day that one of you met the challenge.

Share the Plate, June 2019

Each month our congregation shares a portion of the Sunday morning offering with organizations that reflect our 7 principles. It is a way we expand our practice beyond the walls of our building;

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer+ Collection.

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer+ Collection at the University of Southern Maine collects and preserves the history of Maine's LGBTQ+ communities. We collect the papers of individuals and the records of organizations active in these communities. The collection includes all forms of material culture from printed books, pamphlets, posters, to manuscripts, diaries, to objects, buttons, T-shirts, banners, games, a wide variety of ephemera, to photographs and audiovisual material. Following professional standards, we carefully guard the privacy of individuals involved in the collections.

The LGBTQ+ Collection is arguably the most significant and comprehensive collection of primary materials documenting the history and culture of Maine's 20-21st century lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer communities. Its Collection Advisory Committee actively seeks new collections and creates programming that educates and empowers Maine.

February	MUUSAN	\$283.00	March	Animal Welfare Society	\$404.75
April	Eastern Trail Alliance	\$417.50			

The UUCSB is getting ready for summer. We need to:

put in our air conditioners
put away our electric heaters
remove and store our window inserts
and bring our fans out of storage.

The Monday Morning Crew has an average of 72.6 years. **We need some muscle** to get these things done.

See Jane P. Betsey P. or Anne D. if you'd like to help with these jobs.



from Anne D.



B&G: Pat S., Jane P., Maestro, Anne D., Betsey P.

Yard Sale Bake Sale Report

The results are not all in because we are still selling stuff at the UUCSB and on line. At this time it looks like our Yard Sale Bake Sale will bring in between \$1700 and \$1800. This year we had wonderful goods donated, a fabulous hard working crew and generous buyers. We also had a great deal of fun putting this event together. A round of applause to everyone who made this sale a record breaking success! Take a bow!



Our Finn (well actually Kate's Finn) occupying himself during a Sunday service





I love to hear a choir. I love the humanity...to see the faces of real people devoting themselves to a piece of music. I like the teamwork. It makes me feel optimistic about the human race when I see them cooperating like that. - Paul McCartney

Music Notes

from Choir Director, Ellie R.

Our Music Ministry: Our music ministry begins with our Sunday services but extends in many directions. This year in my monthly 'Music Notes' I'll talk about the ways music is woven into our services and our lives. If you have questions about our Music Ministry that you'd like answered, please let me know!

Morning Song will resume in September



Choir Rehearsals:

6/2 10:15 for Flower Communion
6/9 8:30 Flower Communion

Calling all Singers and Musicians: Choir will begin gathering in August for a special get together and there will be a special rehearsal to prepare for ingathering in September. If you're interested in joining the choir, contact me for more information. If you play an instrument and are interested in offering 'special music' for a service or playing in a 'spirit band,' reach out to me as well.

Music in Our Community: Many members of our choir and our church family participate in community ensembles.

Upcoming Concerts: (Members or friends of our congregation are involved with the listed events - their names are in parentheses)

Sea Change Chorale: June 1, 2019, 7:00 PM; Williston-Immanuel United Church, 156 High Street, Portland, ME; All proceeds to benefit the Portland Recovery Community Center (Margaret M.)

Tri City Community Choir: June 8, 2019, 7:00 PM; First Parish Church, Saco (Matt G.)

An Afternoon at ChoralFest: For the past several years I've enjoyed attending ChoralFest at Ferry Beach. This year we're inviting people to join us for the day: Join us on Sunday, July 14, at 1:30 for a special afternoon for women singers to see what ChoralFest and Ferry Beach are all about.

Activities Include:

- Practice Workshop with ChoralFest Music Director, Jeff Lipton
- Learn about Ferry Beach and take a Campus Tour
- Social Hour followed By Dinner
- Informal Campus Wide Concert (With Songs from Afternoon Workshop)

For more information: <https://www.ferrybeach.org/jul-13-19-choral-fest.html>

Choir Director, Ellie R., and choir member, Myra R., at a music workshop in MA introducing a new volume of music by UU minister/songwriter, Jason Shelton





Myra R., and Mike D., among UUSB's many talented musicians



Keith W., one of UUCSB's talented poets and writers

Yes, we want to hear from you!
We are planning a Sanctuary Concert on Oct. 19. This fundraising concert will feature UUCSB's own talented musicians, poets, and authors - an evening we call, "UUnited by Words and Song." Please contact Ellie R. if you would like to solo or be in an ensemble or Donna B. if you have a poem or other brief writing to share out loud. And..... we're asking all of you to mark your calendars; let's fill the sanctuary pews - with you, your friends, your neighbors!



Caring Connection news:

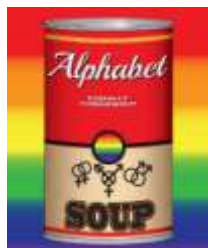
Our name, "Caring Connection," gives us food for thought regarding our role in the church. In addition to helping those in need, we want to reach out to everyone in our midst. We are always available to hear your ideas, needs or concerns about yourselves and others so that we might be able to assist in some way. Please call on us! We are all just a phone call away.

We want you to know about Age Friendly Saco. This is an organization that strives to bring free services to older folks with the ultimate goal of allowing them to remain their homes comfortably while they age.

Here are some of the services that Age Friendly Saco provides: Weatherization, Handy Neighbor program where knowledgeable folks will make minor repairs or install safety devices in your home, sand bucket delivery in the winter for walkways, monthly food box delivery, assistance with supplemental healthcare plans for drug or Medicare options, Handicap access to Bayview Beach and more. Please see Donna B, Pat S., Conrad, or Ron H. or call the office at 710-5029 if you have any questions.

Happy Spring Everyone!

Marilyn, Donna B., Anne C., Donna Ravn, Gloria S., Pat. S.



We meet at The Unitarian Universalist Church
of Saco & Biddeford, 60 School Street, Saco, ME

For more information contact Tom Muise at tmansmk49@gmail.com

Alphabet Soup - June, 2019 Calendar of Events

Please Note all meetings are open to anyone who would like to join.
See Tom, Brian or Mark for more information.

Pot Luck Dinner for Alphabet Soup

Theme: Dining Out

Thursday, June 6, 2019 – 7:00 – 9:00 PM – Location: UUUCSB

We will meet at the Church and car pool together and head off to Mulligan's. Please bring a friend, must RSVP by Tuesday, June 4th.
To Tom at tmansmk49@gmail.com.

Leader: Tom - Admission: Depends on what you order.

Board Game Night

Thursday, June 13, 2019 – 7:00 – 9:00 pm - Location: UUUCSB

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.

Leader: Brian/Mark - Admission: FREE

Portland Pride Parade & Festival

Saturday, June 15, 2019

Line-up starts at 11:30 a.m. at Monument Square. Parade begins at 1 p.m. Festival 2-6 p.m. at Deering Oaks Park. Bring a friend or two and join in the day-long festival. The parade starts at Monument Square and ends at Deering Oaks Park. At the Park there will be fun, food, information and entertainment.

Come and support the LGBTQS Community



SAGE Dinner

Thursday, June 20, 2019 – 7:00 – 9:00 pm - Location: UUUCSB

We will be joining SAGE in Portland, Maine for their Monthly Dinner. We will be meeting at the Church at 5:00 PM to car pool. Dinner at 6:00 PM. The cost is \$6.00 or \$8.00 each depending on your age. RSVP by Monday, so that we can get a head count to SAGE

Gay Themed Movie Night

Thursday, June 27, 2019 – 7:00 – 9:00 pm - Location: UUUCSB

Bring a friend 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.

Leader: Brian Admission: FREE

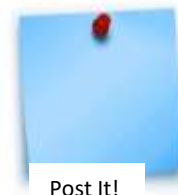
No meeting for Alphabet Soup this Week

Thursday, July 4, 2019

We will not meet because of the
4th of July holiday. See you next week.



Membership. Please wear your nametag! We're very fortunate to have 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. You may drop your nametag in the basket next to the door as you leave. If you need a new nametag, please see the signup sheet on the nametag board.



Post It!



UU Post It Notes

Committee on Ministries

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.

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.



Website

Visit our website at

www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com.

If you would like to add or correct something, please let me know. Please be specific with corrections as we have over 75 pages on our site. Added content for areas that have not yet been developed will be gratefully accepted. Thank you to those folks who have provided content and updates.

Brian D., Webmaster

UUCSB Recycling Tips

If you are a resident of Saco, you probably recently received a big post card from the City about transfer station usage and recycling tips. This is very useful information.

We at the UUCSB try to keep good recycling practices in mind and in use. In this effort, we have posted recycling guides by containers in the kitchen, green room and supply closet.

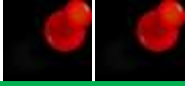
In spite of our good intentions, folks still put non recyclable stuff in the recycling bins - **used saran wrap, returnable bottles, Styrofoam containers and, my personal favorite - used facial tissue!**

Please consult the posted guides before you deposit items in our bins.

Thank you. Anne D.



Financial Information



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 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



CLYNK

Help UUCS 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.



Greetings from the Treasurer

Account balances as of 5/22/19 are as follows:

Checking	\$ 2,465.36
Accounts payable	\$ 14.19
Moulton Trust	\$ 1,695.81
Restricted Savings	\$ 5,760.89
Saco/Bidd Investments	\$137,887.25



Any questions, just call.
Sincerely, Wendy C.

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.



Get your cards from
Ellie L.



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 members' 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 talk with you. Her phone # is 283-8590.

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.

There are seven principles which Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote:

1	The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2	Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
3	Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
4	A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
5	The right of conscience & the use of the democratic process within our congregations & in society at large
6	The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
7	Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

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!