

# The Messenger

March  
2020

Unitarian Universalist Church  
of Saco & Biddeford

[www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com](http://www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com)

Reverend Shay MacKay



60 School St.  
Saco, Maine 04072  
207 282-0062  
[uuchurch@gwi.net](mailto:uuchurch@gwi.net)



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## February Worship Services — 9a.m.

- March 1 — Rev. Rebecca Gant
- March 8th — Rev. Shay — **"It Matters What We Believe"**
- March 15th — Rev. Shay — All Ages Service:  
**"Telling Our Stories"**
- March 16th — Rev. Shay — Vespers at 7:00 p.m.
- March 22nd — Rev. Shay — **"Five Smooth Stones"**
- March 29th — Rev. Shay — Faith in Action Service:  
**"Bending Toward Justice"**

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday Discussion Group

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month, anyone who is able can come join us in the Parish Hall for presentations, small group discussions, and lunch! Facilitated by Rev. Shay, these gatherings will focus on topics relevant to our lives today, ranging from exploring some deeper spiritual practices to dealing with mental health issues.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday Vespers 7:00 p.m.

A vespers service is an evening worship/prayer service, usually more contemplative than a Sunday morning service. Once a month, I will be leading a 45 minute vespers service in the Parish Hall – a time for music, poetry, and meditation. All are welcome.

## Brown Bag Suppers

You are invited to bring your own supper and join me at the church for casual conversation twice a month: on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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

## Shay's Musings



There has been some confusion about where, when, and how I spend my time with you, so I would like to lay it out day by day in the hopes that it may help alleviate any concerns and answer any questions.

A year and a half into this ministry with you, I have learned some things about how the congregations work and what your expectations are; I have learned some things about how this shared collaborative ministry of two churches makes unique demands on my presence and time; and there are still many things for me to figure out.

The two Boards, my Ministerial Relations Team, and I have been in conversation since last Fall about where my time and energy can best be used to serve each congregation, and the partnership between the two. On any given day, Sanford's needs can be very different from Saco's needs – and those needs change constantly. I depend on your elected leaders to help me keep my attention on where the priorities are. We don't always get it right, but that won't stop us from trying.

Because of the uniqueness of this ministry, it has become obvious that I need to be a little more flexible and adaptable with my schedule than usual. If I plan to be in Saco on a Monday, but something critical comes up in Sanford that day, I have to be able to adjust.

And I understand that there is also a need for me to be stationary, to be where you know you can find me if you need me. So we're going to continue trying to get this to work for everyone and here's the new plan:

Mondays: Saco Office Hours 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Wednesdays: Sanford Office Hours 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

At any other time on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, I am available to you by appointment, whether it be in Sanford, in Saco, at your home, at a coffee shop, at a hospital, etc. Just call, text, or email me, to set up a time to meet – even if it's only a half hour in advance. If I can answer immediately, I will. If not, I'll get back to you as soon as I can.

It is important to remember that even though I am "in the office" on Monday and Wednesday mornings, things come up or people stop in, so I strongly encourage you to call, text, or email before you stop by the church just to make sure I am available to be with you. However, if you are going to be around for other reasons, please stop in to say hello – you will always be welcome!

So now the question is: what do I do with the rest of my time?

On Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays when I am not in the office, I am visiting congregants, reaching out to the larger community in different ways, developing relationships with local interfaith colleagues, preparing and facilitating Adult RE programs, participating in tasks and events for the larger UU world, and lots and lots of meetings.

Sundays are focused on worship with the two congregations.

Thursdays are set aside as my worship preparation days, including research, reading, and writing my sermons, as well as planning other aspects of each service. On these days, my availability is limited – I will be answering emails and phone calls when I can, but I try not to schedule appointments or meetings.

On Fridays, my Sabbath, I am available for emergencies only by phone or text. I will not be reading or answering emails, or scheduling any church activities.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Shay's Musings (Continued from page 2)

On Saturdays, I'm available as needed for special congregational and community events, as well as weddings and memorials; I am also spending time finalizing things for worship the next morning.

And finally, where am I when I'm not with you?

My Letter of Agreement (the covenant which binds us and defines our relationship), which is a standard UUA document for ministers and churches, stipulates the conditions of my employment, including my time on the job and my time away. Here's how it works:

I am committed to working a "standard" work week. Generally, I try to keep that to around 45 hours a week. Sometimes it's way more than that, and so I balance those extra-long weeks with some shorter ones when I need to.

I am given the same holidays off as any other employee.

I am given 10 sick days a year.

All denominational activities are part of my job, so when I go to General Assembly or minister gatherings, I am working.

I am responsible for all worship services, including rites of passage and special holidays, except for one Sunday each month, as well as the Sundays during my vacation and study leave. Generally, ministers plan about 20 hours of work for each worship service. This means I am constantly thinking about, researching, planning, or writing for a service. 20 hours a week is a lot of time, especially to fit in with all the other things I am responsible for, so I get one Sunday off a month to allow me to focus more time on things other than worship. This allows me to spread the 60+ hours a month that I *am* doing worship planning out over four weeks instead of three.

I am given eight weeks of leave per year. Four of those weeks are vacation, and I am completely free of all church duties during that time. Four of those weeks are study leave, during which I am using my time in ways that increase my capacity as a minister and contribute to my ability to serve you, ie. retreats, conferences, classes, research/reading, etc. During study leave I am available to you on a limited basis, and will respond to communications when I am able.

It has become clear that I have been remiss in communicating with you about when I will be away, and I apologize for that. From this point forward, there will always be an announcement in the weekly email blast, the Sunday order of service, and the newsletters for when I know I will be gone.

I'm hoping this article has been helpful, and will clear up any lingering confusion about my time. If you still have any questions or would like to discuss any of this with me, please let me know. I'd be happy to talk with you.

It is an honor to be serving you and a blessing to have this opportunity to transform our lives together. And I have to believe in strong boundaries – moving back and forth between the two churches, moving back and forth between my home here and Diana's home in NH, aids in the possibility of fatigue. And what kind of a minister would I be if I preach about self-care and maintaining a balanced life from the pulpit while not following those suggestions myself? I want to be the best minister I can be for you, and that requires me to pay attention to my needs as well as yours, and I want to be here with you for a long time, so we'll just keep working on figuring out what works best for all of us.

### Our Sister Church

Visit our sister church's website at [www.sanforduuchurch.org](http://www.sanforduuchurch.org)

*Thoughts  
from our  
Board  
President,  
Al Casad*



**UUCSB**

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Al Casad

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Ron Hiser

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Pat Snyder

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Wendy Coleman

Collector:

Betsey Pace

At Large:

Isa Ahmed

Laurie Sivonen

Mogens Ravn

Susan Young

There is a lot to share this month. First of all a big congratulations is in order for all who worked hard to create a fabulously successful auction this year. A lovely event that earned a record amount of money. A thank you to all who participated in the auction as well, your generosity has moved the needle into new territory.

Last Sunday the Membership Committee hosted a brunch after church to dedicate the Family Space in the Sanctuary. Thank you for the lovely brunch. I also want to recognize the folks who worked together to create the Family Space. A big thanks to Matt Gerken, Mogens Ravn, Ben Caron, Alex Caron, Mark Young, Ron Hiser and Jeannine Wilson. They all gave their time and talents to create a lovely space for families in our church and it was a treat to work together with them on this project.

The Board of Trustees has been participating in a UUA sponsored program on Small Churches. Over 2/3 of UU Churches have memberships of less than 150 members, so small churches are what most of us UU's find when we go to church. The first installment shared how some small churches have invested in important community support efforts. Their efforts in reaching out into the community has united the church members in doing something that is important to them and enriched their connection with the broader community. The next topic was to explore the idea of right sizing your church to fit with its size and capacity. Churches with fewer than 120 members simply cannot sustain a "full service church model" so they must make choices as to what is important and pare down their church model to what they decide is a sustainable level. The most recent video talked about being a beloved community and the small steps we can take to deepen our connections with each other and open our hearts and arms to others. This is a good series of presentations, with ideas and perspectives that are thought provoking and important for the board to consider and ultimately bring to the congregation.

Finally, the annual Pledge Campaign will be starting in March. We will be asking folks to volunteer to host a pledge campaign gathering in their home. Small group gatherings to talk about the church, the budget and then to consider what your pledge will be for the year have been done before and proven to be popular with members. We will be kicking things off on March 8. Please consider hosting a campaign event in your home. The Pledge Campaign Committee this year is Pat Snyder, Anne Wood, Matt Gerken and myself.

*Al*

**A very special thank you to the members of the Auction Committee for making this year's auction such a success!**



**Susan Young**

**Tom Muise**

**Jean Horton**



**Marilyn Stoesser-Casad**

**Wendy Coleman**

**Rosemary Steward**



**Anne Dobson**

**Donna Ravn**

**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.



## Music Notes

from Choir  
Director, Ellie Rolnick



This year in my 'Music Notes' I am sharing with you some of the poetry of my songs and the story behind the words if there is one. My songs typically center on the interconnectedness of all beings and my hope for a peaceful coexistence with all.

This song has been a work in progress since I turned 60 (almost 4 years ago!). Sometimes songs brew for a while before they reach completion. It has a wonderful catchy melody. Most of you have heard me speak about my 100 year old Aunt Bella. She passed away in January of this year. She lived her life fully until just shy of the very end – that, of course, is my hope for myself. Over the years I've had an opportunity in my Chiropractic practice to care for many people in their 80's and 90's. One thing I witnessed is the fear surrounding the loss of their independence. If they had dementia it was more pronounced. I said to my sister-in-law – I hope when we get to be that age that we'll understand why our children ask us to give up our car keys or move in with them or to assisted living. It got me to thinking – what will I be like when I am 90? There's still much more to come in the song – maybe I'll have it written by the time I'm 90!

### *When I Am Ninety, by Ellie Rolnick copyright 2016-2020*

What will I be like when I am ninety?	What will we be like when we are ninety,
What will I be like when I am old?	Walking hand in hand along the shore?
Will I be a crotchety old grandma	Extra parts are placed upon the bedside
Or will I still be something to behold?	Glasses, teeth and hearing aids and more!
What will I be like when I am ninety?	What will we be like when we are ninety,
Thirty years from now I'd like to see.	Gazing at each other longing?
Or maybe I'll just stay here in the present,	Will one of us be kneeling by a gravestone
Enjoying special times, just you and me.	Dreaming of the eyes we long to see?
....more to come!	

### Morning Song

Before the service on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. This month it falls on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

### Choir Rehearsals

All who love to sing are welcome to be part of the choir. Contact me for further information about how to get started. [choir@uuchurchsacobiddeford.com](mailto:choir@uuchurchsacobiddeford.com)

Please note extra rehearsals because of TriQuire and Easter:

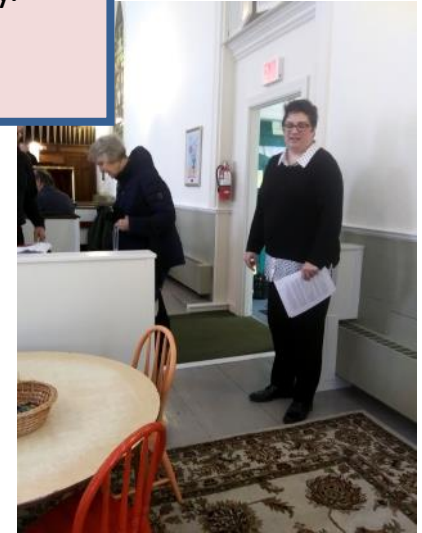
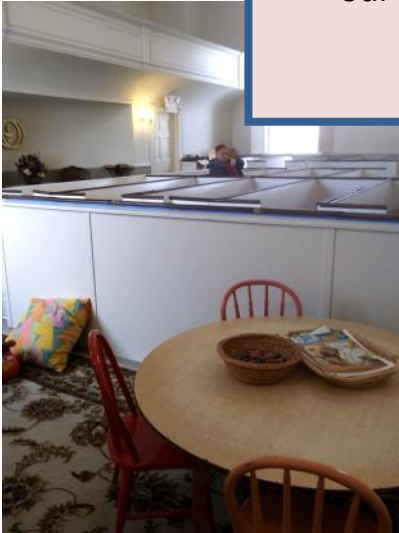
**March Rehearsals** for regular choir (for singing on 3/22 and 4/12 – Easter); March 8 and 15 at 10:15, March 22 at 8:30

**Tri-Quire rehearsals:** We will be looking at Tri-Quire music on those dates and a special TriQuire rehearsal will be held on March 29 at 10:15.

**April Rehearsal** for Easter Sunday: April 5 at 10:15 and April 12 at 8:30

A number of dedicated volunteers created  
our new family friendly space in the Sanctuary.

*Build it and they will come*  
Is what we hope and believe



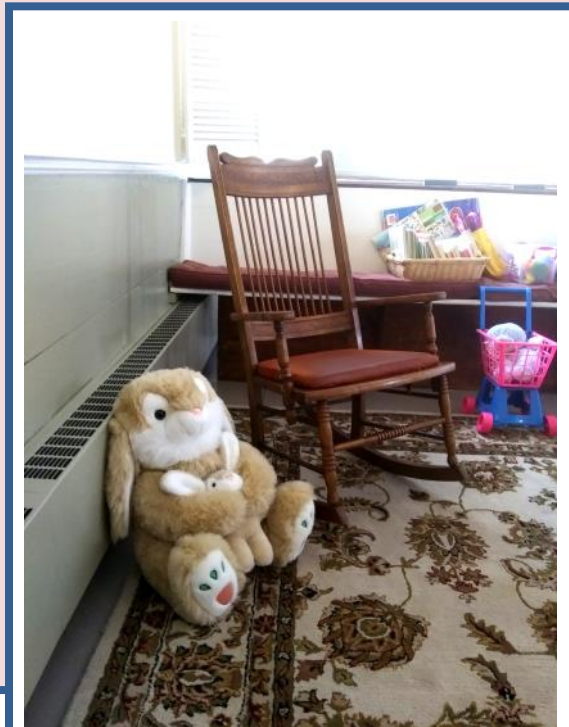
### To Those Who Bring Small Children to Church:

There you are at church. Your baby or toddler is restless. Perhaps even a little boisterous. You try to silence them, and nothing. You try to pacify them with food or toys, and nothing. Eventually, you resort to the last thing you wanted to do: you pick them up, and before a watching audience, you make the march out of the church. All the while you're a little embarrassed, maybe a little frustrated, too. You might even think to yourself, "There's no point in coming to church. I get nothing out of it because I have to constantly care for my kid."

I want you – mothers and/or fathers – to know just how encouraging you are to so many. The elderly woman who often feels alone beams with a smile at the sight of you wrestling with your little one. She's been there before. She knows how hard it can be, but she smiles because to hear that brings back precious memories. Seeing your parents and their small children brightens her day; she may have just received bad news about her health; but seeing the vitality of young ones removes – if but for a moment – her fears. The older man who always seems to be grouchy notices you, too. He's always talking about how children in this day have no respect or sense of goodness. But he sees you – a young family, in church every week. Like clockwork, he can depend on the sight of you and your young family. You give him hope that maybe the church isn't doomed after all, because there are still young parents who love God enough to bring their restless children to church.

Bring your children to church! If we don't hear crying, the church is dying. As hard as it might be for you as a parent who's half asleep, keep on doing what you're doing. You are an encouragement, and you're starting off your children's lives as you should.

Author unknown



## Annual Pledge Campaign

March will be Pledge Campaign month. We will kick-off the campaign on March 8 after church and will wrap it up on March 29 with a Souper Sunday Brunch. So plan to spend some extra time on each of those Sundays. All members will be invited to attend gatherings in host homes during the month. During these gatherings there will be an opportunity to talk about church, express any concerns and heap praise where appropriate. There will be pledge cards available to complete.

The Pledge Goal for this year is \$70,000. That is about a 3% increase over last year and will help us to maintain our operating expenses and consider cost of living increases for our employees. A budget for the coming year will be available for your review after the board meeting on March 11.

The theme for this year is United as One, Play your Part, Follow your Heart, Show your Care, Give your Share. The theme expresses just how important it is that everyone share in giving generously for the support of our beloved church community.

The Annual Pledge Campaign Committee:

*Anne Wood, Pat Snyder, Matt Gerken, Wendy Coleman, and Allen Casad*

## Introducing Your Covenant of Right Relations Team

The congregational covenant of this community is as beautiful as it is brief. Its words contain multitudes, and rightly so, for we are a diverse group. But it leaves questions – questions about how we hope to live the values in our congregational covenant. Developing a Covenant of Right Relations is a way to clarify expectations and create a safe environment for congregations by setting guidelines and building trust. Think of it as a fleshing out of our congregational covenant - taking a wider perspective by shifting our view and understanding of ourselves to be working together rather than as individuals. It gives us a foundation where we can hold ourselves accountable while on our journey, and it's a way to build grace into our lives together. Through a covenant of right relations, we can promise to assume the best, give the benefit of the doubt, and offer forgiveness rather than judgment. Donna Beveridge, Ron Hiser and Niki Norman will be hard at work over the next few months researching and creating a covenant of right relations for our community, and *your* input will be a vital part of the process. Stay tuned!

## Paying It Forward.....

Melanie Coombs wrote in the Jan 30, 2020 Courier Library column links about the legacy left to the City of Biddeford by Robert McArthur back in the late 1800s. Robert McArthur was a firm believer in life long learning. He came to the US in 1842. When his father died, he found work as a bobbin boy in a local mill. He was eight years old at the time. Robert rose to become the superintendent of the various mills in Massachusetts before coming to Biddeford as mill superintendent. Robert, a member of the First Universalist Church of Biddeford, was a generous supporter of learning and humane treatment of workers. His gifts and bequests live on today in Biddeford - the McArthur Apartments and the McArthur Library being constant reminders of this forward thinking man who made sure that reading was free and open to everyone in our community.

from the UUCSB Archives



# Snowflake Auction Feb. 1, 2020

Thanks to  
all, it was a  
success!!!



Auction workers  
Laurie Sivonen and  
Dorinne Spirito



"Vannah" Anne  
Dobson & MC Niki  
Norman



Registration:  
Paula Howard & Isa Ahmed



Music provided by  
  
Ron Houle and  
Fellow musicians,  
  
Rev. Shay,  
and  
Anne Wilkinson





## Auction Update

The UUCSB Snowflake Auction, held on Saturday, February 1, 2020, was a resounding success and a true community event!

68 people joined us. The Parish Hall had been transformed into a winter wonderland. The food and drink were delicious, the entertainment was wonderful, the auction items were in high demand, the Emcee was polished in his presentation, the Auctioneer and her charming assistant Vannah were entertaining, and the many people who worked behind the scenes to decorate, set out and clear food, register people and check them out, set up, and clean up were just terrific. The Auction Committee would like to thank everyone for their help.

Silent and Live auction items brought in \$8,723.00. Cash donations totaled \$1,610. Our 50/50 raffle winner returned the winnings to the church!

Some items are still available for purchase. Current total proceeds are \$10,333.

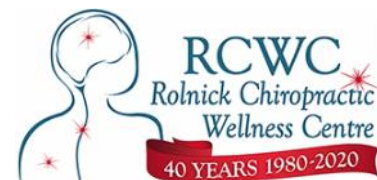
## Thank You to All of the Many Generous Donors to the Auction

7 Eleven  
Allagash Brewery  
Amato's  
Andy's Agway  
Paul Benya  
Donna Beveridge  
Biddeford Mills Museum  
James Bishop  
Boardwalk Grille  
Sonya Bobalek  
BOB'S Furniture  
Buxton Commons Restaurant  
Patricia Campbell  
Allen Casad  
Casco Bay Lines  
Chaba Thai Cuisine  
Paul Coleman  
Wendy Coleman  
Cottage Decor  
Anne Cyr  
Odette Dansereau  
Dizzy Birds Rotisserie  
Anne Dobson  
Mike Dolan  
Dupuis Hardware  
Brian Dustin  
Elegant Salon  
Estabrook's  
Nicole Garrity

Hand Strands Creative Sewing Studio  
Hannaford of Saco  
Ron Hiser  
Bill Hixon  
Jean Horton  
James Howard  
Paula Howard  
Anita Hull  
Jimmy The Greek's  
J Lachance  
LaundrYuP!  
Lighthouse Foot & Ankle Center  
Michele Kurlanski  
Log Cabin Perennials  
Long & Short of It Hair Salon  
Maine State Ballet  
Ruby McKay-Nadeau  
Thomas Muise  
Mulligan's Bar and Grill  
New Moon Restaurant  
New Morning Natural Foods  
North Country Rivers, Inc  
Nubble Books  
On The Go Hair Design  
People's Choice Credit Union  
Jane Perkins  
Portland Museum of Art  
Portland Stage

Quiero Cafe  
Donna Ravn  
Mogens Ravn  
Reny's  
Ricetta's  
Rolnick Chiropractic Wellness Center  
Ellie Rolnick  
Saco & Biddeford Savings Institution  
Saco Bay Varsity  
Saco Frame Center  
Saco House of Pizza  
Salmon Falls Country Club  
Sea Salt Lobster  
Seashore Trolley Museum  
Shaw's of Saco  
Laurie Sivonen  
Skillins Greewnhouses  
Skip's  
Pat Snyder  
Dorinne Spirito  
Strawberry Banke Museum  
The Run of the Mill  
Nancy Tobin  
Trader Joe's  
Trillium  
Up & Up  
Shay MacKay  
Cathy Vollkommer

Sarah Wells  
Jeannine Wilson  
Wooven Design Retail Shop  
York Wild Animal Kingdom  
Susan Young



## March's Share the Plate: Seeds of Hope

The Seeds of Hope Neighborhood Center offers hospitality and support to all who pass through their doors. The collection of their efforts strives to offer hope for those who are struggling, care for those in need, advocacy for those who have been silenced, companionship for those who are alone and compassionate love for all.

## Share the Plate Share the Leadership

Each month a designated charity receives 1/2 of the money collection in our Sunday services. If you have an organization or cause that is dear to you or that you believe would welcome a donation, put it forwards. Provide a blurb of explanation for the Friday Flier, the Messenger and the order of service. If you are able, you could write a sort of testimonial about the impact the organization has had on your life or about the value you personally recognize. If you would be able to make a 1-2 minute presentation during a service it could be even more impactful. This personal approach will help congregants connect with the cause to maximize their support.

Will you step into leadership by advocating for a worthy cause? Share the Plate brings our name and good intentions into the community and each month an important cause gets our attention, expanding our perspective on the world around us. Please consider the agencies and organizations you know and value.

Jeannine Wilson will work with Rev. Shay to determine the best month to feature each recipient. Please contact them with your "nominee".

## Special Thanks!

Each year, UUCSB selects a special project for donations at our Auction. This year 24 attendees generously donated a total of \$770.00 to "WIONN," Welcome Immigrants Our New Neighbors. The money will go toward needed items and gift certificates to help local Immigrant families as they attempt to make new lives for themselves in our community. Thank you all for giving so generously.

You have no idea  
how many people  
there are in the  
world whose day  
could be made and  
their life changed  
for the better  
if someone would  
just look them in  
the eye, smile,  
and say, "Hello."

STORMIE OMARTIAN

tinybuddha.com



The September 2019 *Share the Plate* collection raised \$226.00 for the UUCSB Minister's Discretionary Fund.

The October 2019 *Share the Plate* collection raised \$357.13 for the Maine Breast Cancer Coalition.

The November 2019 *Share the Plate* collection raised \$330.74 for the Maine TransNet.

The December 2019 *Share the Plate* collection raised \$423.89 for Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine.

The January 2020 *Share the Plate* collection raised \$269.50 for Preble Street.

## A Letter from the Capital Campaign Committee

Dear Church members & friends,

Are you tired of a capital campaign that seems to go on and on? We the members of the committee definitely are. Like you, we began 3+ years ago with great excitement & anticipation. Our church needs & wishes were extensive, so we aimed high, hoping to raise \$350,000. We knew that our congregation was not wealthy, but we hoped that members & friends would pledge enough to attract grants & community donations.

As you know, we did not come close to our goal, but we do have lots to celebrate. You pledged more than \$75,000, which has been used to support and partially skirt the Parish Hall and restore the front center Sanctuary Window. Next steps include completing the skirting, repairing the Parish Hall inside, and restoring the two windows on either side of the center front Sanctuary window. We continue to dream about replacing the cupola, repairing the commonly used entrance, and then replacing the blue carpet; and so much more...

We kept asking and hoping for pledge increases as well as participation from more members (to date 53% of members have pledged). To attract grants we need 90+ % of our members financially supporting the Capital Campaign. We understand that some donations won't or can't be large but any donation would show a congregational commitment.

We think it's time now to appreciate what we have accomplished, close this campaign, take a break, re-think what our priorities are, and decide how we might accomplish them. It is not up to us, the CC committee, to make that decision. You are the ones who authorized the pledge campaign. You are the ones to decide whether to end it or not.

There will likely be conversation at the Annual Meeting as well as a vote. In the meantime please share your thoughts, ideas, questions, dreams, talents and treasure. The CC committee thanks you for your thoughtful consideration in how you can help maintain and preserve our historic, beloved church.

*Anne Dobson, Mark Young, Betsey Pace*

## sUUmmer fUUn for Older Folks

Join us at sUUmmer fUUn day camp from June 22 to July 3 at the UUCSB.

We will be offering activities including sketch booking, ribbon weaving, braiding, story telling, play reading, laughing yoga, cooking, sing alongs, poetry writing, kite flying, museum visit, mah jong, movies, advanced directive workshop, games, puzzles and coloring.

Please join us at our planning sessions the first Monday of each month at 10 in the UUCSB Green Room. We'd love your in-put. We need your help!

FMI - Donna Beveridge, Betsey Pace,  
Jane Perkins, Anne Dobson



At the February 2 service Rev. Dr. Calen Rayne brought in many ancient artifacts from his collection, including a Buddha, a prayer wheel, and a Black Madonna.



## Caring Connection

Our Caring Connection group coordinates short-term support and assistance for members of the church during times of difficulty.

As part of our mission to help connect us in community, the Caring Connection recently organized two **Circle Suppers**. Circle Suppers bring friends, newcomers, and members of the congregation together to share food and get acquainted. Response has been very positive. Thirty people signed up to host or attend in February. By the time you read this, three members will have hosted dinners in their homes. We hope everyone had a great time, and that the 27 people who signed up for our planned April 25<sup>th</sup> dinners have a wonderful time as well!

Thanks to everyone for their generous support this winter with transportation to medical appointments, making meals, assistance with errands, visiting, sending cards and sharing. Please contact one of our members if you need assistance or if would like to be involved in the Caring Connection Team.

The Caring Connection: *Marilyn Stoesser-Casad, Anne Cyr, Donna Ravn, Gloria Sheehan, & Pat Snyder*



Circle Suppers on February 22 at Sonja and Matt Gerken's, at Ellie Rolnick and Ben Caron's, and at Marilyn Stoesser-Casad and Al Casad's.

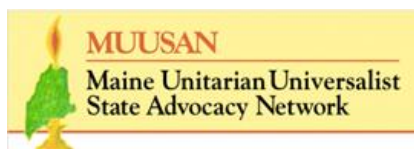


### FiAT meetings:

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month  
10:20 in the Parlor.  
Please come!

**Next meeting:**  
**March 1, 10:20**

FIAT supports and is supported by [MUUSAN](#).  
Next MUUSAN meeting:  
March 14, 10-12 pm at  
UU Church of Augusta.  
Contact Randa Thomas  
to carpool.



**Go Greener!**  
Remember to bring a  
*reusable container*  
for your bread on  
Panera Sundays

**SAVE DATE: JUNE 20, 2020**  
**Poor People's Campaign Mass Assembly in Washington**

**Learn about  
UU the Vote**  
<https://www.uua.org/justice/vote2020>

## Faith in Action Team

### UUCSB's Social Justice Center

*Acknowledging: We are living on Wabanaki land*

### Green Sanctuary

A team led by the Board of Trustees is reviewing the greenness of our Sanctuary: use of disposable materials, cleaning products, energy efficiency. As we review our church practices, please take some time to reflect on your personal practices. If you would like to participate in going greener, contact Laurie Sivonen.

### UUCSB Welcomes Immigrants

#### Legal Support for Two Local Families Seeking Asylum

Two local families, led by Gladdess and Claudine, have preliminary court appearances in Boston in May. They will have later court dates and will be represented by immigration attorneys. Pro bono attorneys are booked for the foreseeable future. Friends of these two families are setting up funds to help cover the legal costs for the long, adversarial asylum process. Please see Randa Thomas or Sonja Gerken if you can contribute.

### UUCSB Hosts WIONN Celebrations

November 24 WIONN (Welcome Immigrants, Our New Neighbors) held a friendship celebration in our parish hall. Over 60 immigrants and their WIONN care teams attended a potluck dinner with games, stories, and music. On March 28 we will host Spring Into Song, a multi-cultural, multi-lingual celebration. Members of our church will provide childcare and serve refreshments.

### Auction Love

At this year's auction, attendees spontaneously raised \$750 to support WIONN's work to help new Mainer's transition to independence in Biddeford-Saco. THANK YOU!

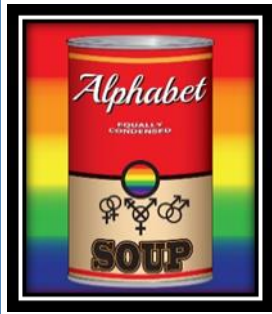
### Ongoing support:

- Sign up on the FiAT bulletin board to offer transportation, child care or English language chats.
- Form a new care team to befriend an immigrant family. Pick up a brochure from the bulletin board or see Randa Thomas, Matt Gerken, or Sonja Gerken FMI.
- Drop off diapers and personal care products in the church at any time.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
9am Worship 10:20 FIAT	9-12 Rev. Shay Office Hours 10am sUUmmer fUUn meeting 4pm Bon Appetite Offsite	5pm Weight Watchers 5:30pm Membership 7pm Earthen Spi- ral Community Coven (Off site)	8am Weight Watchers 6:30pm Commit- tee on Ministries 6:30pm Finance 7pm Harbor Singers	7-9pm Alphabet Soup	10am Coffee & Carbs Offsite	9am Meditation Group
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
9am Worship 10:15 Choir rehearsal Morning Song before service Panera bread <b>Pledge Drive Kick-Off Daylight Savings Time</b>	9-12 Rev. Shay Office Hours 11am-1pm Discussion group and lunch	5pm Weight Watchers 7pm Earthen Spi- ral Community Coven (Off site)	8am Weight Watchers 6:30pm Board of Trustees 7pm Harbor Singers	7-9pm Alphabet Soup	10am Coffee & Carbs Offsite	9am Meditation Group 10-12 MUUSAN meeting (Augusta)
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
9am Worship 10:15 Choir rehearsal Food Pantry Sunday	9-12 Rev. Shay Office Hours 7-8pm Vespers Parish Hall	5pm Weight Watchers 7pm Earthen Spi- ral Community Coven (Off site) <b>St. Patrick's Day</b>	8am Weight Watchers 5-6pm Brown Bag 7pm Harbor Singers	7-9pm Alphabet Soup	10am Coffee & Carbs Offsite	9am Meditation Group
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
8:30 Choir rehearsal 9am Worship Panera bread <b>Messenger Deadline</b>	9-12 Rev. Shay Office Hours	5pm Weight Watchers 7pm Earthen Spi- ral Community Coven (Off site)	8am Weight Watchers 7pm Harbor Singers	7-9pm Alphabet Soup	10am Coffee & Carbs Offsite	9am Meditation Group WIONN Spring Into Song cele- bration
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				
9am Worship 10:15 Tri-Quire rehearsal <b>Pledge Souper Sunday Brunch</b>	9-12 Rev. Shay Office Hours	5pm Weight Watchers 7pm Earthen Spi- ral Community Coven (Off site)				

Please send us dates of your committee meetings and/or other dates for the Messenger calendar.





## Alphabet Soup - March Calendar of Events

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](mailto:tmansmk49@gmail.com)

Please Note that some events may change.

### Theme: Saint Patrick's Dinner

**Thursday, March 5, 2020 – 7:00 – 9:00 PM** – Location: UUCSB

Let's make it a great big one. Please bring foods that you would find at a St. Patty's Dinner. The Meat will be provided. We'll make this a fun event.

**Leader:** Tom      **Admission:** FREE



### Board Game Night

**Thursday, March 12, 2020 – 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.

**Leader:** Mark      **Admission:** FREE

### SAGE Dinner

**Thursday, March 19, 2020 – 5:00 – 8:00 pm** - Location: UUCSB

We will be joining SAGE in Portland, Maine for their Monthly Dinner. We will be meeting at the Church at 5:00 PM and carpool. Dinner is at 6:00 PM. The cost is under \$7.00 or \$9.00 each depending on your age. RSVP by **Monday**, so that we can get a head count to SAGE

### Movie Night

**Thursday, March 26, 2020 – 7:00 – 9:00 pm** - Location: UUCSB

Bring a friend or two and join us for a fun evening at Brian's Movie Night. Beverages will be provided. Please bring snacks to share.

**Leader:** Brian      **Admission:** FREE

### Theme: Dining Out

**Thursday, April 2, 2020 – 7:00 – 9:00 PM** – Location: Mulligans

Let's make it a great big one,. We will meet at the Church and go together.

**Leader:** Tom      **Admission:** The cost of what you choose to order.



## 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

## Financial Information

### Greetings from the Treasurer

Account balances as of 2/21/2020 are as follows:

Checking	\$4,292.74
Accounts Payable	\$133.14
Moulton Trust	\$1,062.10
Restricted Savings	\$36,099.07
Saco/Bidd Investments	\$146,488.73



Any questions, just call.

Sincerely, *Wendy Coleman*

## Panera Bread

Isa Ahmed picks up bread and makes it available on the first and third Sunday each month. This has raised \$298 for the church so far this church year.

## 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.

\$105 have been raised so far this year.



## Hannaford Gift Cards

Do you shop at Hannaford? Please consider participating in our fund-raising 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.

The gift cards have raised \$750 for the church so far this year.



Get your cards from  
**Ellie Lockwood**

Our October **Candlelight Concert** raised \$498.61.

Last year's fundraiser, **Doings for Dollars**, brought in an additional \$473.00 this year from various events.

## 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.

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.



## UU Post It Notes



Post It!

### 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](http://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 Dustin, 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 Dobson

Don't forget to support our Little Free Pantry on our front lawn. Bring what you want; take what you need.



### Wanted

I am looking for a sewing machine to be able to mend clothes, as well as a Chinese Gong. Please contact me at 391-0215.

— Isa Ahmed



## 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](http://www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com) and [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org), contain more information on the traditions, activities and people of our church and association. Our Membership Welcoming Committee is also willing to assist you.

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!

**We are a Green Sanctuary and a Welcoming Community**