

The Messenger

Summer
2020

Unitarian Universalist Church
of Saco & Biddeford

www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com

Reverend Shay MacKay



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After careful consideration, your Board of Trustees have decided to keep the church officially closed for the remainder of the summer due to continued concerns around Covid-19 and the safety of our community. Rev. Shay, your Board, and your worship team, have also decided to cancel live Sunday services during the summer. In-person gatherings still feel unsafe and the technicalities of Zoom services are daunting for many lay leaders. However, Rev. Shay and other folks from both congregations will be writing and/or recording short reflections, meditations, presentations, etc. that will be made available to you throughout the summer. Stay tuned to email, the website, and Facebook for more info!

The Board will also be hosting a virtual Coffee Hour on Sundays from 10:00 -11:00 a.m. beginning July 5th. This will be an informal time of conversation and connection for folks from both congregations.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2399631729>

Meeting ID 239 963 1729 Call in: (646)876-9923

As of right now, no decisions have been made regarding services in the Fall. We will continue listening to recommendations from health professionals, our state government, and the UUA staff - and will re-evaluate as necessary as things move forward. Our first priority is keeping all of our members and friends as safe as possible, while also continuing to provide as much spiritual nourishment and community support as we can.

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

Shay's Musings



Ode to the Sun

Like daffodils
On a clear spring day
You are Golden to me.

I close my eyes, lift my face
To feel your glow upon my skin,
Basking in your warmth.

The heat of you penetrates me,
My entire being,
Igniting with desire.

Desire to touch
And be touched.

Desire to cherish
And be cherished.

Desire to love
And be loved.

You are light and life,
Encouraging me toward growth,
Urging me to stretch my soul
And reach for the sky,
To find you,
Hold you,
Cradle you in my hands
And keep you safe
As you share your light
With the world.

No matter what storm clouds may gather
Or what winds may blow,
I smile and know
That with you
Tomorrow will always shine.

A Message from the Board

The new UUUCSB Board met via Zoom for the first time on June 18 following the annual meeting and election of new members. We decided that much of our planning for next year will take place at the August "retreat" being planned by Rev Shay. We anticipate sharing some of the retreat time with the Sanford UU Board to explore ways in which we might expand on the fellowship and connection between our two churches. A portion of the time will also focus on the Board's governance and how we will fulfill our responsibilities in the absence of a President and Vice President. We agreed that this time of incredible change is also a good time to review our old model of leadership. The Board will also need to devote much energy to reviewing how church will continue in the fall.

The Board continues to address issues around our church budget needs for next year. As voted at the annual meeting, there will be a special budget meeting held at the end of July/early August, date to be determined. Our Treasurer is working to gather the financial information needed and potential extension of government funds made available during the pandemic crisis. We ask for your patience as we navigate through uncertain times. A warrant for this meeting will be distributed to members in accordance with the by-laws once a meeting date is determined.

There will be challenges ahead and much work to do. We are committed to continued communication with all members and friends of our beloved UUUCSB. We are excited and eager to begin our work.

UUUCSB Board

Secretary:

Pat Snyder

Treasurer:

Ron Hiser

Collector:

Betsey Pace

At Large:

Anne Cyr

Mike Dolan

Sonja Gerken

Laurie Sivonen

Anne Wilkinson

Susan Young

Introducing the 20-21 Members of UUCSB's Board of Trustees



Pat Snyder, Secretary

I've been a member of UUCSB for about five years. The people in this church are truly dedicated to doing the best they can to make the world a better place. They start right here, at home. I love how welcoming and helpful everyone is. We can be proud of the hard work that is done by virtually everyone in the congregation. We are self-supporting, and all pull together in times of trouble. It gives me a sense of worthiness and pride to belong to the UUCSB!



Mike Dolan, Newly Elected Member-at-Large

Music and art are my passion, and I've been happy to donate my skills in both of these areas to the church in the past few years. What you may not know about is my professional management experience in the hospitality, retail, and food service industries, or my years as an event organizer- where I spent nearly a decade helping organize fairs and festivals - both as a business and for A Sacred Place, a NH nonprofit which I helped found. In this capacity I've tried to build and foster teams and communities to become greater than the sum of their parts. I hope that I can help do that here, by growing our membership, holding space both sacred and social, and serving our greater community.

Anne Cyr, Newly Elected Member-at-Large

This year marks my 30th year at UUCSB, and my third stint on the Board of Trustees. I was willing to serve again because I care deeply about our church, and because we are in the midst of a most challenging time. I want to help ensure that we stay afloat financially and that we continue to feel connected as a church community. No one knows how long it will be before things return to "normal," but by and by we will be together again in the sanctuary, worshiping and singing with full voice!



Laurie Sivonen, Returning At-Large Member

Although I started attending the church well over a decade ago, this is my first time on the board. I would never have volunteered, as I always felt that the board members were much wiser and more experienced than I could ever be. Being asked to serve helped push me out of my comfort zone. Now I wish I had stepped up years ago. As I learn more about the workings of the church, I have become more aware and more appreciative of all the people, time and effort it takes to keep everything moving forward. This church family is home, comprised of an amazing group of people.



This coming year will be filled with new adventures, as well as challenges, as we navigate this new reality we are living in. I am excited about the possibilities and the connections which will unfold. Through this experience I am hopeful that we will improve overall communication, community outreach, as well as innovation.

Susan Young, Returning At-Large Member

Since becoming a member of UUCCSB in 2016, I have had the pleasure of serving on the Ministerial Search Committee that culminated in our calling Rev Shay Mackay, serving as Co-Chair for the 2019 Pledge Drive, being involved in fundraising as part of the fundraising umbrella group and auction committee, and now serving as an incumbent member of the BoT. As we traverse through uncertain times, I bring a willingness to do the work, an open mind, and a willingness to try new things as we strive to figure out who we are as a community, where we wish to go, and how we might get there. Outside of church, I enjoy spending time with my large extended family, (especially my eleven wonderful grandchildren) working in my garden, walking along the beach, and traveling.

**Sonja Gerken, Newly Elected Member-at-Large**

Why I choose to serve: I had been thinking about increasing my participation at church. My upcoming retirement, I thought, would allow me more time and energy for church matters. So when the Nominating Committee came up short on nominees, I took it as a sign that it was my time to serve on the BoT.

I am serving because UUCCSB supports me in living out my values and provides me with an extended family and a place to seek truth in love. So here I am, ready to help our beloved community find its way forward.

It will be a pleasure to serve!



Anne Wilkinson, Newly Elected Member-at-Large

I am a native of Michigan. My husband Charles and I moved to Maine in 1984 and began attending UUSCB in the late 1980's. We raised three children in the church. After moving to Maine, I developed a string program in the Saco and Dayton Schools, which now numbers over 240 students. Recently retired from my position as Orchestra Director for Saco Schools and Thornton Academy, I am a part-time faculty member at the University of Southern Maine and teach private cello lessons. I am a frequent guest conductor for regional music festivals, low string adjudicator for the All-State Music Festival, play in a string quartet, a flute trio, and am a member of the Deep Blue C Studio Orchestra. I have been on the faculty of the Southern Maine String Camp since 1993 and have served as the Director since 2000.



Upon my retirement, I received the Maine Music Educators Association Hall of Fame Award, recognition from the Maine American String Teachers Association for Service to String Education, and recognitions from the City of Saco and from the State of Maine for my work in music education. When not getting ready for string camp, you will find me chasing grandchildren, making a new felting creation, or fiercely pulling weeds in the garden.

**Ron Hiser, Treasurer**

I have been serving as an at-large board member since 2018 but have moved into the role of Treasurer for the coming year.

I spent most of my "working life" as a financial guy at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire. I am looking forward to working with the Board and Finance Committee as we face the continued impact of Covid-19.

Additional volunteering activities for me are with Age Friendly Saco, in Ms. Mackenzie's second grade classroom at Saco's Fairfield School, and tax preparation for folks through the AARP Tax-Aide program. I also love travel (hopefully again some day), golfing, kayaking, and hiking.

If any of you have questions about our finances or want to get involved in some way (say with the Finance Committee) please let me know.

Snippets from our Annual Meeting, 2020

Another church year has ended. So much has changed during this pandemic, including the ways we connect with our church friends and the ways we do business. Take the annual meeting, for instance. Our June 7th meeting was held on Zoom after our Zoom church service. It felt different from our Parish Hall meetings after coffee hour; but we showed up, and we conducted our business – muting and unmuting as needed, asking questions, having discussion, voting by raised hands on the screen. Significant items of business:

Financial: The supplemental forgivable loan program due to COVID 19 (PPP) is currently paying some salary expenses. The total of \$2500 may be renewed on July 14. We've lost income from Weight Watchers due to its own financial difficulties. We passed an interim budget until the end of July.

Capital Campaign: The remaining Capital Campaign monies will be used to repair two side windows, finish skirting and repair Parish Hall walls. Members voted to close the Capital Campaign, using all the remaining monies for the aforementioned tasks.

Elections: The following recommendations were voted on and approved – no President or Vice-President, Secretary – Pat Snyder, Treasurer – Ron Hiser, At-Large board members – Susan Young (continuing), Laurie Sivonen (continuing), and new members, Anne Wilkinson, Sonja Gerken, Mike Dolan, and Anne Cyr. The Collector, Betsey Pace, is Board appointed.

Governance: Over the past year, the BoT has discussed moving toward a shared power and responsibility model of governance, similar to that of our sister church in Sanford. Given that we currently have no president or vice-president, we may, by default, fall into a shared model of leadership.

Other: We voted to create a Black Lives Matter banner to be placed on the side of the Parish Hall. **Special Recognition:** Capital Campaign, Fundraising (umbrella) Committee, Ellie Lockwood (Hannaford card program), Monday morning ladies (Anne Dobson, Jane Perkins, and Betsey Pace, and outgoing leaders - Al Casad (BoT President), Board member Mogens Ravn, and treasurer, Wendy Coleman

BIDDEFORD-SACO-OOB COURIER

Black Lives Matter at Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco & Biddeford



The church has erected a banner of support on the exterior of its building.

BY **DINA MENDROS**, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

SACO — Since Friday, June 12, those driving along School Street in Saco may notice that a local church is showing its support of the national Black Lives Matter movement. On Sunday, June 7 the board of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco & Biddeford voted to hang a banner from the exterior of its building stating Black Lives Matter. The sign was ready by Wednesday, June 10 and on Friday, June 12 it was erected onto the building.

“About five years ago, some of us very strongly supported putting up a Black Lives Matter sign,” church member Sonja Gerken said in a recent telephone interview. At that time, “some were reluctant,” she said.

But times have changed. In recent weeks, there have been protests across the country in the aftermath of the May 25 death of George Floyd, a 46-year-old black man, after Minnesota police pinned him down, with one officer placing his knee on Floyd’s neck as Floyd complained he couldn’t breathe.

This time around, when the board met Sunday “it was overwhelmingly yes” in favor of the banner, Gerken said. Board members felt, she said, “we need to walk our talk. ... Everyone matters.” The hate in the country “is getting out of hand,” she said.

“The killing of George Floyd and the tremendous response by so many throughout the world seeking equality and justice, makes me believe the time is right for us to make this statement,” church member Mark Young said in an email. “It’s not anti-police; rather it’s anti-police brutality and reflects our belief in the inherent worth of all human beings. I would love to see our police post a Black Lives Matter sign!”

“This banner of support and solidarity in light of discrimination our black brothers and sisters continue to suffer is one way our voice can be added to the many others,” church member Randa Thomas said in an email. “It is one way our beliefs can be made visible. We regret that it has taken these latest deaths to call us to action as a congregation, but we are ready to let our actions show that we believe what that sign says!”

In addition to the banner, church members have begun peaceful protests at the Elm

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Black Lives Matter Courier Article

(Continued from page 7)

Street bridge at Water Street. The first took place 5 p.m. Wednesday, June 10.

“We had a great response from the community,” Gerken said. “Some saw us and came and joined us.”

“It was nice to see dark skinned people (driving by) so happy to see white people standing up for them,” she said.

Protesters were peaceful, wore masks and followed coronavirus social distancing restrictions, Gerken said.

Church members will continue to hold protests at 5 p.m. on Wednesdays at the Elm Street bridge for the foreseeable future, she said.

Church member Donna Beveridge said in an email she supported the church’s actions because, “I have a limited personal history of participating in vigils and protests, but I feel that at 77 years of age, it is time for me to take a stand. As is said, ‘If not now, then when?’ I hear white people in our community say, ‘All lives matter,’ and I believe they do. But in order for that to be true, we must make sure that ‘Black lives matter.’ Our Unitarian Universalist Church believes in the inherent dignity of all individuals. It is essential for our church to stand together now in support of our Black brothers and sisters. Our banner makes that stand visible to all who pass by.”

Church board President Allen Casad said the banner and the peaceful protests are very much in keeping with the Unitarian Universalist Church’s philosophy.

“The UU Church has a long history of supporting social justice issues in this country,” Casad said in an email. “I am very excited that the UUCSB has chosen to stand-up and speak out for Black lives at this important time. It is time for real and enduring change to occur. America must truly stand for meaningful equal justice for all.”



Stand in Solidarity

with **BLM & BIPOC**

(Black Lives Matter)

(Black, Indigenous & People of Color)

Wednesdays from 5pm-6pm

Rt1/Elm St. bridge

between Water St. in Saco & Deering Lumber in Biddeford.

Bring a sign or just yourself.

Feel the vibrant energy of change
and help move it forward!

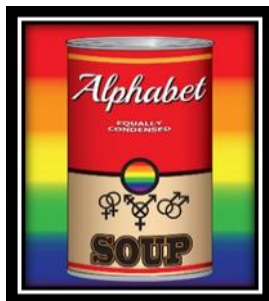
Alphabet Soup Summer Events

ZOOM TALK every Thursday
Evening from 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Please come out and socialize with us.
Our group is a group for all.
We sit and chat about anything that
comes up for discussion, or just talk.
No agenda.

Here is the link to join in:
Get into ZOOM and ask to join a meeting. Then use the
meeting ID #88918168615

Leader: Tom Muise — For information contact Tom at
tmansmk49@gmail.com

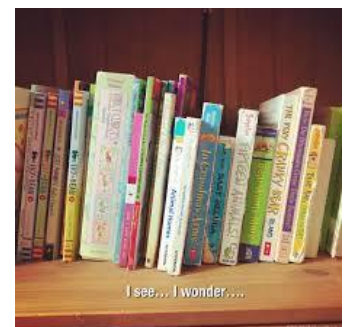


Puzzle/Book Share

A reminder for folks about the puzzle/
book share at the church.

Bored? Come to the church and borrow
a book or puzzle. We have some new
donations just in! Text or call Pat Snyder
(205-3667). She is available anytime if
you can't get
into the church.
Give her a shout
and she'll meet
you there!

Stay safe and
Hopeful!



Flower Communion Photos On Zoom Brought Us Together





Capital Campaign Conclusion

Since all were not present at the Annual Meeting, this is a note that the congregation voted unanimously to conclude the Capital Campaign.

A letter in the March, 2020, newsletter shared the thinking of the CC committee that the time has come to do the work we have monies for and to conclude the project.

We made progress supporting the Parish Hall and restored the large window to the Sanctuary. This summer we plan to restore the two smaller side windows to the Sanctuary, repair the PH walls that were damaged as a result of the PH support work, and as needed do a little more work on other supports, then finish the skirting.

We want to remind you that there remains much more work to be done. There are two big projects - the restoration of the Sanctuary windows and the main entrance underpinnings. We will also need to make window repairs when windows fall out (a Narthex window did that last Fall)

The CC committee thanks all who supported the Capital Campaign project over the last 4 years.

Sincerely, The Capital Campaign Committee — Anne Dobson, Mark Young, & Betsey Pace

Video Surveillance System Installed at UUCSB

On June 14, 2020 Mogens Ravn, Mark Young and Matt Gerken met at our beloved UUCSB to finally begin the installation of the new surveillance system that was purchased last winter. We started by determining the best locations to place our motion activated cameras on the exterior of the church building. It was determined that one above the back door of the parish hall aimed toward the front of the building was one good spot. We placed one under the eave on the west side of the parish hall, aimed at the front doors. The third camera was installed on the upper corner of the Sanctuary aimed at the Sanctuary front entry. The fourth camera is attached on the back side of the storage room (trash room) aimed at the exterior office door. We drilled holes to run power cables to each of the cameras. Mogens made a gallant effort to set up the base unit on the video cart, get it all hooked up to the flat screen television and attempted to program it. After a few hours of work we called it a day.

Mogens ordered the additional cables needed to wire up the remaining cameras. On Thursday, June 18, 2020 Mogens, Mark and Mike Dolan met to complete the installation. After a few hours of efficient work the system was ready to be tested. The cameras were temporarily powered up with extension cords for the testing process. Mike Dolan was very instrumental in programming each of the four cameras to operate. Mark made some adjustments to the cameras for best viewing.

The extra power cords had not been delivered for installation on June 18th so Mogens and Mark went back the following Thursday, June 25, 2020 to install them properly. Mark reported that all four cameras were up and running and the images were very clear. Mark also purchased a new spot light to replace the malfunctioning unit up above the storage room door on the outside of the parish hall. That too was operational and is motion activated.

— Matt Gerken



Side of Parish Hall



Front Entrance



Front of Church

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 6/30/2020 are as follows:

Checking	\$6,137.19
Accounts Payable	\$0.00
Moulton Trust	\$1,069.45
Restricted Savings	\$40,623.41
Saco/Bidd Investments	\$143,927.45



Any questions, just call.
Sincerely, *Ron Hiser*

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 in the church. Please remember that Market Basket labeled bottles and cans are not accepted by CLYNK.

\$186.95 was raised during the 2019-2020 church year.



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



Get your cards from
Ellie Lockwood

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.

The gift cards raised \$1500 for the church this church year.

Share the Plate Collections

Month	Recipient	Amount
September	UUCSB Minister's Discretionary Fund	\$226.00
October	Maine Breast Cancer Coalition	\$357.13
November	Maine TransNet	\$330.74
December	Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine	\$423.89
January	Preble Street	\$269.50
February	Saco Food Pantry	\$281.92
March	Seeds of Hope	\$234.50
April	MUSSAN	\$185.00
May	UUCSB Minister's Discretionary Fund	\$500.00
June	Mainers Together	\$400.00





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.

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 Dustin, Webmaster

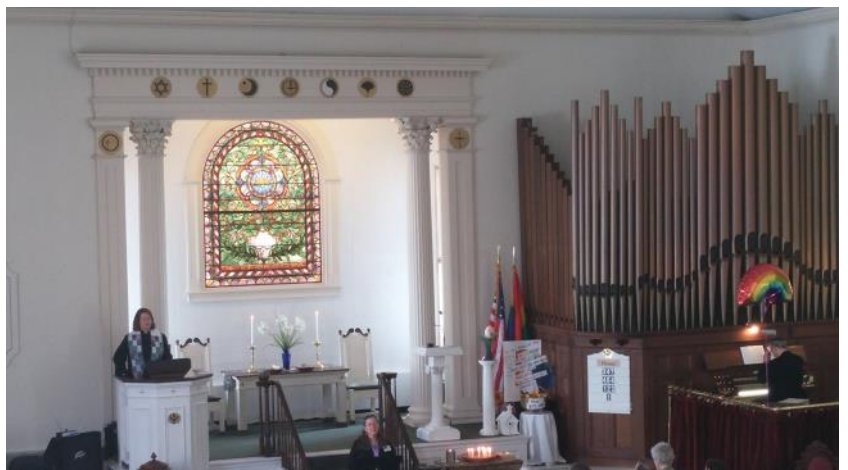
Don't forget to support our Little Free Pantry on our front lawn. Bring what you want; take what you need.



Video Surveillance System

A video surveillance system records activity around the exterior of the church. The system is strictly used to review activities in case of an incident such as a robbery or vandalism. There is no ongoing monitoring of activities. The recorded videos will only be reviewed after a problem has been detected.

The UUCSB policy statement is posted on the church bulletin board.



We miss our church during these times of social distancing.

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 and 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