

# The Messenger

November  
2020

Unitarian Universalist Church  
of Saco & Biddeford

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

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

## Worship for November

Sundays at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom

Don't forget to turn your clocks back on November 1<sup>st</sup>!

**November Theme: Good & Evil**

**November 1<sup>st</sup> – Us and Them** – Deconstructing the binaries  
that separate us.

**November 8<sup>th</sup> – In Response to Election Day**

**November 15<sup>th</sup> – The Golden Chain: An Ife Creation Story** –  
Ife was an ancient Yoruba city in the Osun state of Nigeria,  
which flourished between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. This is a  
retelling of a creation story from that tradition, mixed with  
African-American spirituals and neo-pagan imagery. It is  
written by a Unitarian Universalist educator POC.

**November 22<sup>nd</sup> – The Line that Cuts the Heart** - *"If only there  
were evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds,  
and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of  
us and destroy them. But the line dividing good and evil cuts  
through the heart of every human being. And who is willing to  
destroy a piece of his own heart?" — Aleksander Solzhenitsyn*

**November 29<sup>th</sup> – Guest preacher**, Reverend Molly Brewer  
from Portland, ME – more info to come!

Join Zoom Meetings at <https://zoom.us/j/2399631729>

Meeting ID: 239 963 1729 Phone: 646-876-9923

## Shay's Musings



### November Theme ~ Good & Evil

*"Being against evil doesn't make you good. Tonight I was against it and then I was evil myself. I could feel it coming just like a tide... I just want to destroy them. But when you start taking pleasure in it you are awfully close to the thing you're fighting." ~ Ernest Hemingway, Islands in the Stream*

We live in a culture that is defined by binaries and dichotomies, which survives by the lines drawn to separate things rather than those drawn to connect them. But as we all learn as we mature, very rarely are lines straight and clear, especially when drawn by a human hand.

Human nature is infinitely more complex than either/or, of course. As Walt Whitman said, we contain multitudes, and as we learn more and more about the human mind and spirit, we are coming to understand that so much of what we thought was defined by "this" or "that" is actually fluid and fluctuating.

So where *do* we draw lines of distinction? Is there any value in those lines or are they merely coping mechanisms, or worse, weapons of morality deployed in attempts to control what feels chaotic and unpredictable?

I like to think I recognize the moments within myself when I slide towards the anger and fear of "evil", that I can figure out what's hurting me and/or others in order to change direction and move toward love – as my Unitarian faith tells me is true. I'd like to think that everyone can find wholeness, empathy, and generosity within themselves and within the world – as my Universalist faith tells me is real.

But faith can only take us so far. William Blake once wrote, "active evil is better than passive good." Unpacking that quote would take several sermons, but it certainly presents an interesting idea – if we *are* able to recognize when we (or someone else) have moved away from love, and if we *do* believe it is possible to make a change, is it our moral obligation to take action in order to encourage that change to happen?

Oh, but then we fall down the philosophical rabbit-hole of "what is morality" and "who gets to decide what is moral". Another series of sermons!

For now, let's just think about the lines we draw, through word and action, that we use to create "us" and "them", and "good" vs "evil". Where are these lines in your life? Why have you drawn them and what does that say about *you*?

### Rev. Shay's Fall Schedule

- Mondays: Writing Day, limited availability
- Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays:  
Completely available to you. Please email, text, or call to set an appointment time!
- Fridays: Day Off. Emergency availability only.
- Saturdays: On Call for pre-scheduled meetings and events. Available for emergencies.
- Sundays: Worship and Coffee Hour.

Email: [revshaymackay@gmail.com](mailto:revshaymackay@gmail.com)

Phone and Text: (207) 518-8059

## Opportunities for Connection

**Weekly Vespers Services – Every Thursday from 7pm to 7:30pm on Zoom.** Join Rev. Shay for a time of reflection and stillness, music and poetry, meditation and connection.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83734173380>

Meeting ID: 837 3417 3380

Call In: (646) 876-9923

**Coffee Hour with your Board Members and Rev. Shay – Every Sunday after our worship service,** join Rev. Shay and members of your Board of Trustees on Zoom for small group discussions based around the monthly theme, that day's sermon, and other **relevant** topics from your lives. Here is the zoom link for our Sunday services and Coffee Hour:

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

Meeting ID: 239 963 1729

Call In: (646) 876-9923

**The Soul of Aging with Rev. Shay – Every Tuesday from 10am to 12pm on Zoom** - In this program, we will creatively approach “the art” of aging intentionally, and the many soulful invitations our maturing years offer us. In a time when so many of us are entering the last season of our lives, this is for those who yearn to understand, surrender to, and be transformed by the aging process. The themes address many of the spiritual aspect of this season of our lives and include: **our** visions of aging, living our unlived lives, completion & forgiveness, our relationship with time, how to nurture our mystical nature, and the notion of befriending our own deaths. We will use poetry, story, music and art to explore these topics, all within the fellowship of a trustworthy community.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84624720782>

Meeting ID: 846 2472 0782

Call In: (646) 876-9923

### UUCSB Board of Trustees

Pat Snyder, Secretary	Sonja Gerken
Ron Hiser, Treasurer	Laurie Sivonen
Anne Cyr	Anne Wilkinson
Mike Dolan	Susan Young

### BOT Notice

Board of Trustees agendas are posted one week prior to the meetings. Approved Board minutes are posted on the bulletin board nearest the Sanctuary and emailed to the congregation.

### Liaisons to Committees

Building & Grounds:	Mike Dolan
Caring Connection:	Anne Cyr
Committee on Ministries:	Laurie Sivonen
Faith in Action Team:	Sonja Gerken
Finance:	Ron Hiser
Fundraising:	Susan Young
Membership:	Mike Dolan
Ministerial Relations Team:	Pat Snyder
Nominating:	Anne Wilkinson
Worship:	Sonja Gerken

### Our Sister Church

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

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Last June the congregation elected four new members and four incumbent members to serve on your Board of Trustees. This year the Nominating Committee was unable to find volunteers to take on the roles of President and Vice President, and so the BoT is testing a collaborative model of governance where we are each sharing the duties of the Board in order to fulfill our duties.

I'd like to take this opportunity to update our members on what your Board of Trustees have been doing over these past several months.

Starting over the past summer, we requested and received feedback from our members as a way to "check-in", inquire how you are coping with our new reality of virtual connection vs. in person connection and how we might better serve the needs/concerns of our beloved members. We spent many hours in discussion, coming up with ways to address some concerns and planning changes to address areas that needed improvement. In August, Board members attended a 4 hour Zoom retreat with Rev Shay, an opportunity to further discuss planning for the coming fall and how we would delegate duties as a collaborative board. We recently completed an evaluation as part of Rev Shay's three year fellowship process.

Over these past several months Board members, in conjunction with Rev Shay, have initiated the following improvements for better connection and communication opportunities:

We have established liaisons to the standing committees and the fundraising umbrella group. Each board member has established a connection with their relative committee, to act as a "go to" contact to provide better communication channels between the Board and the committees. Liaisons names are published in the Messenger newsletter or available by contacting a board member or the office.

Board members have also committed to hosting coffee hours after the Sunday services along with Rev Shay. Based on feedback and varied requests, 3 out of 4 coffee hours will be an opportunity to gather our congregations in separate Zoom "break-out" rooms, giving our distinct congregations time to converse and check in with their members and friends. Plans also include one Sunday gathering with combined coffee hour between UUCSB and SUUC members in order that those who wish can get to better know and meet members from our associate church.

The Board continues to meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, via Zoom, to attend to business and for planning. Minutes from these meetings are published as soon as written, reviewed and approved. The minutes are available to members on our website or through the office. As part of our collaborative model, one board member has responsibility each month for facilitating the meeting, a chalice lighting, and a spiritual reading to start our meetings. Each liaison reports any committee requests/activity that they have participated in. Each board member has also signed on to contribute an article for the monthly newsletter. Issues that may arise outside of meetings are handled through emails and phone calls. Ron H. serves as Treasurer and Pat S. serves as Secretary.

Plans are in the works to organize a "Phone Tree" as a way to connect and check in with members to see how they are coping in these challenging times.

Also in the works are ways to enhance virtual services to provide a variety of experiences.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Reflections from the Board of Trustees

(Continued from page 4)

As I write this update, we are still facing challenges around the ever changing uncertainties with the pandemic, the appearance of rising numbers in infection rates in most states over the past weeks, in addition to the start of the annual influenza season coinciding with the holiday season. Predictions from health experts are that the next couple of months are going to be very difficult. The State of Maine recently announced reopening bars and increasing capacity allowances in indoor spaces. This action will be an experiment and the results won't be evident for weeks. With these factors in mind, and because we feel the health and safety of our beloved members is our biggest priority, the board and Rev Shay unanimously agreed that our church should remain closed through at least the end of this year. We all want to gather in person again and be together; "Covid fatigue" and "Covid anger" are being felt by all of us, but we will not make our valued friends a part of an experiment. We need to feel, without any reservation, that it is safe for all of our members to return to in-person gatherings.

In closing, we hope that this message finds you healthy and safe. We encourage you to connect with your church community and friends in a variety of ways that are being provided in a safe way; Sunday services, Tuesday morning "Soul of Aging", as well as the meditative Vespers services on Thursday evenings. We are here for you, our members, so please continue to give us your feedback, ask questions, or let us know if there is some way we can fill a need. We welcome ideas, but also participation to help make your ideas happen; it really does "take a village".

A big "Thank You" to all of you who continue to support our mission and our community during these difficult times. We wish you peace, good health, and safety.

*Susan Young,*  
Board of Trustees

## Music Notes from Choir Director, Ellie Rolnick



The 'Bi-Choir' is doing great! Member of the UUCSB and SUUC choirs have joined their voices together to sing in a virtual format this year. We have already produced a couple of audio recordings and currently working on our second video recording. Everyone agrees it's been a lot of fun so far!

The choir is meeting virtually after church via Zoom 3 Sundays every month. Our focus is::

- deepening our connection to one another
- rehearsing songs for audio or video recording (don't let this deter you – it's easier than you think!)
- learning music theory (like how to read music) for those who are interested

All are welcome who love to sing or who want to be involved with our Music Ministry.

Upcoming rehearsals – all rehearsals are at 11:30 a.m. Zoom links will be sent to all those on my choir list.

November 1, 8, 15 and December 6, 13

For more information, please contact me via my email in the church directory or send an email to the church and Brian will forward it to me.





## Candlelight Concert coming in January!

Imagine repeating last year's successful candlelight concert. Do you remember that special evening of vocal and instrumental music, interspersed with poetry and prose, all performed by creative members of our Saco/Biddeford congregation? That was then. This is now.

Imagine another candlelight concert – but with some changes:

- 1) The Sanford church joins us in planning, performing, and sharing the financial rewards of a special evening in January.
- 2) This virtual concert includes a live emcee in the Sanctuary and pre-recorded performances – a combination not unlike Shay's Sunday services, making the best use of technology in this time of closed church facilities.
- 3) The evening weaves the talent in and around a fairytale about life in this time of COVID and a clever Shay-min who does her best to support the residents of the Combined Church Kingdom.

We need the talented folks among you to share your talents. Let Ellie Rolnick and Donna Beveridge from UUCSB or Jan Sacco from SUUC know about your interest by the end of November. We also need the rest of you church folks as well as your neighbors, friends, and families to show up to this unique online concert and to donate as you can to support our churches.

More information to come soon about the date and time.

## The Caring Connection

The Caring Connection met the other day on Anne Cyr's sun porch. The sun remained elusive, however, as it was a chilly, drizzly day, and we reluctantly agreed it will be Zoom meetings from now on until it warms up again next spring.

How are you faring as the days grow shorter and cooler, and with the knowledge that the upcoming holidays will be muted? Please know that the Caring Connection is here for you and yours. Do not hesitate to reach out to Rev. Shay or any one of us to let us know of your need or of a concern you may have for someone else in our church family. Even in the course of this pandemic we can make phone calls, send cards, Zoom, visit outside at a distance, deliver treats and meals, etc.



For example, we recently put together a "fall leaf bouquet" to deliver to Fred Degiovanni at Biddeford Estates and were able to have a delightful half hour visit with him outside. He asked all about church and stated how much he misses our community. Before we left, we connected with the Wellness Assistant to provide a tablet and assist Fred so he can Zoom in on church services and meetings. It was a small thing that will hopefully make a big difference. And it sure felt good!

Your Caring Connection Team: *Anne Cyr, Margaret Merrill, Marilyn Stoesser-Casad, Pat Snyder*

## 193 Years and Counting

Several years ago we began to celebrate our congregational birthday on Nov. 27. By that measure we are set to mark our 193rd anniversary very soon.

In the early 1800s there were Unitarians and Universalists in this area. As these congregations grew, they rented local venues for meetings. In 1825, the Saco City Fathers offered land to any church or school that could erect a building within two years.

The Second Parish Unitarian Church was dedicated on Nov. 27, 1827. The fledgling group had met the City's deadline.

Meanwhile the Universalists built a church on Storer St. in Saco. They later sold this building to the Free Will Baptists. In 1862 they purchased land in City Square, Biddeford and began work on a church there.

Fast forward to the 1950's. A time of decline in attendance for many denominations. Enter Rev Edmund Beal who in 1958 was hired by both churches as a shared minister.

By 1964 the two churches finalized their consolidation agreement. Because of title concerns regarding the Second Parish Unitarian buildings, the Biddeford Universalist church was sold. Both groups moved to 60 School St., Saco and built the annex connecting the Parish Hall and the Sanctuary.

Both congregations have survived a great civil war, a depression, the 1918 pandemic, two world wars and several hurricanes. They have dealt with the green back controversy schism, fires, ministerial departures and replacements and many more tough times.

And in the surviving, our congregation has kept the faith, gloried in our fellowship, ministered to our community and held each individual in our hearts with love.



## “Who’s Who in the Pews” or rather “Who’s Who on Zoom”

### Meet our new member, Diane Eiker

I’m a transplant to Maine, having moved here thirty-some years ago from Minnesota. I’m currently living at The Pines in Ocean Park, enjoying being surrounded by the woods, just a stone’s throw from the ocean. I have two daughters, one in Washington state, the other in Massachusetts. Also in Massachusetts are my two grandsons, and my first great-granddaughter, about to have her first birthday.



My work has primarily been in the broad area of human services, mostly in the early childhood education field. I also taught a college level course in human relations, probably the most exciting thing I’ve done professionally.

Those who know me very well know that I always have “a project” going, more likely 6 or 8! I love to quilt and bake, explore my Norwegian heritage, and I’m ready to take on creating most anything, whether I know how to do it or not. I learn a lot in the process!

I grew up Lutheran, abandoned the church and it’s patriarchy years ago, and after moving to Maine found my spiritual home with the Feminist Spiritual Community. I also was a part of Astarte Shell Press, an off-shoot of FSC. For the past twenty years or so, when I was living in Portland, I was very happy to be a part of Allen Avenue UU Church, and now I am so very pleased to be joining this great community of UUCSB! Here I feel I can live my values, follow my life-long passion for social justice, and do it with the most wonderful group of people! Thank you for folding me in!

### Donate your “Good Stuff” to UUCSB

Everyone must have some good stuff around the house that they would be willing to donate to the church to be sold. Pat Snyder has been selling items for the church including a bike, a Fitbit, a soda maker, games, drapes, end tables, an easel, a Nativity set, rugs, and more. And she is happy to sell your items. This is a safe, contact free way to help raise money toward the fundraising needs of the church this year. Please contact Pat if you have anything to sell. It’s easy. Just give the items to Pat and she will do the rest.



### Vigil Time Change

Because it’s getting dark earlier, the Wednesday evening BLM Vigil at the bridge will be held from 4:00-5:00.

Come stand with us.



## *Winter Clothing Collection*

Faith in Action Team (FIAT) is collecting new and clean, gently worn winter clothing for our immigrant families!

With many of our local free clothing spots still closed due to Covid, we are scrambling to fill the needs asap.

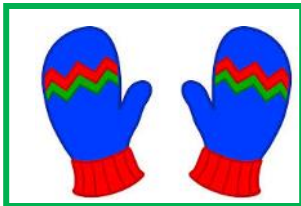
We are gathering new and/or gently used  
**Adult and Children winter clothing:**

Coats, snow pants, hats, glove/mittens,  
scarves, socks, and \*boots.

Gift Certificates or Cash donations welcomed!

\*Children's boots are especially needed.

You may drop off donations to  
Sonja Gerken @ 38 Weymouth St., Saco  
For pickup - email [s55gerken@gmail.com](mailto:s55gerken@gmail.com)  
or call/text 207-632-9138



## Share the Plate

At this time, with Zoom services, no plate is passed between the pews. In lieu of dropping money in a plate, please be generous and send a check to UUCSB each month with your contribution.

Each month a designated charity receives 1/2 of the money collected. 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. If you have an organization or cause that is dear to you or that you believe would welcome a donation, put it forwards.

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

## November's Share the Plate:

### League of Women Voters



The **League of Women Voters (LWV)** is a civic organization in the United States that was formed to help women take a larger role in public affairs after they won the right to vote. It was founded in 1920 to support the new women suffrage rights and was a merger of National Council of Women Voters, founded by Emma Smith DeVoe, and National American Woman Suffrage Association, led by Carrie Chapman Catt, approximately six months before the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution gave women the right to vote. The League of Women Voters began as a "mighty political experiment" aimed to help newly enfranchised women exercise their responsibilities as voters. Originally, only women could join the league; but in 1973 the charter was modified to include men. LWV operates at the local, state, and national level, with over 1,000 local and 50 state leagues, and one territory league in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

[From: *Carter, Gregg Lee (2002). Guns in American Society: A-L. ABC-CLIO. p. 352. ISBN 9781576072684.*]

## Alphabet Soup - November Calendar of Events

We meet via ZOOM.

For more information contact Tom Muese at [tmansmk49@gmail.com](mailto:tmansmk49@gmail.com).

### ZOOM Talk

We meet on ZOOM every Thursday Evenings from 7 to 9 PM. Please come out and socialize with us. Our group is all inclusive. We sit and chat about anything that comes up for discussion. No agenda. Tom will lead the meeting. To join in, open ZOOM and join using meeting ID #88918168615.

October Movie Discussion Night: Thursday, October 29th, 2020 – 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

We will be talking about the movie "Boys in The Band". Please take the time to watch the movie before the meeting.

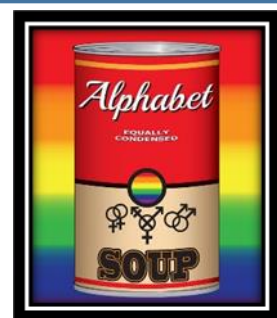
Board Game Night: Thursday, November 12th, 2020 – 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

Brian will be lead us in an evening of games. Log onto ZOOM and he'll let us know what we will be playing. Please invite your friends to join. It will be lots of fun.

November Movie Discussion Night: Thursday, November 29th, 2020 – 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

The movie has not been determined yet, but we will let you know. Watch the movie before the meeting and then join the discussion.

We will continue with our ZOOM meetings so invite folks to join us. Looking forward to seeing everyone....





## Building and Grounds at Work

During times of COVID, the Monday morning crew has been working to “refresh” our church. This includes de-junking, cleaning, reorganizing and a tad of painting. Pictured here are photos of our Nursery which has just been “refreshed”. Thanks to UUCSB artists Don Horton, Donna Ravn, Brian Dustin, Donna Beveridge and Anne Dobson, we have original watercolors and photos to give this space a warm and welcoming look. Fiber artist, Jane Perkins, has woven and sewn new curtains and donated a cross stitch creation. Many thanks to the crew and the artists and to our color consultant, Ellie Lockwood, for participating in this project.

Because of current fiscal conditions, we are careful to use what we have on hand for our projects as much as possible. The Nursery project cost us less than \$50. (We bought a gallon of paint and a couple of brushes.) All other items were donated, or we used supplies we had on hand.

B&G is also working on plans for winter heat settings and snow removal. We are adding building use or lack thereof to the equation.

Getting the sub panel in the Bride’s Room is still a priority. Available electricians are scarce these days, but we are relentlessly on the hunt for one! We’ll keep you posted.

Stay safe, B&G



## 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 10/22/2020 are as follows:

Checking	\$5,912.93
Accounts Payable	\$0.00
Moulton Trust	\$1,088.55
Restricted Savings	\$40,639.64
Saco/Bidd Investments	\$152,400.28



Any questions, just call.  
Sincerely, Ron Hiser

## Teeny Tiny Fundraiser

Purchase a vinyl sticker (3 1/2" x 5 1/2") to benefit the church. Sonja Gerken paid \$3 for each. Purchase for \$5 (or more if you're feeling extra generous). Make checks out to UUCSB.



## 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.

You may contact Ellie Lockwood at to arrange purchase of Hannaford card at:

[eleonor.lockwood@twc.com](mailto:eleonor.lockwood@twc.com)



Get your cards from  
Ellie Lockwood

## CLYNK

Help UUCS by returning your bottles and cans through the CLYNK service at Hannaford. Please remember that Market Basket labeled bottles and cans are not accepted by CLYNK.

During this time of physical distancing, Sonja Gerken is happy to deliver Clynk bottle bags (to support UUCSB) to your door. Just email her at [s55gerken@gmail.com](mailto:s55gerken@gmail.com).







## 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](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

Don't forget to support our Little Free Pantry on our front lawn.

Bring what you want; take what you need.



### Lost and Found

FOUND - navy, wool L.L. Bean coat women's size 14.

Pre-Covid visitor forgot their lovely warm coat on a visit to the Gerken's.

If you are missing it Please contact them at:  
[s55gerken@gmail.com](mailto:s55gerken@gmail.com) or call/text at 207-632-9138



## 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**