

The Messenger

February
2021

Unitarian Universalist Church
of Saco & Biddeford

www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com

Reverend Shay MacKay



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Saco, Maine 04072

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uuchurch@gwi.net



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Our Sister Church

Visit the website of our sister
church in Sanford at
www.sanforduuchurch.org

Worship for February

Sundays at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom

**February 7th – Why Do We Need a Covenant? With Rev.
Jessica Clay and the First Parish Brewster UU Church**

This is Rev. Shay's Sunday away, and you are warmly invited to attend FPBUU's service that day to hear her good friend and colleague, Rev. Jessica Clay preach on the importance of covenants within our churches. This is a great opportunity to see how other churches worship and hear what messages other UUs are sharing these days!

First Parish Brewster UU Church: <https://zoom.us/j/899300451>
or via phone (301) 715-8592 (Meeting ID: 899 300 451)

***After the worship service, you are invited to join in our own
coffee hour chat at our regular Zoom link (see below).

**February 14th – Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday: Lenten
Promises with Rev. Shay**

**February 21st – The Promise and the Practice: An All Ages
Service with Rev. Shay**

February 28th – Walking the Rainbow Path with Rev. Shay

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

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

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

Shay's Musings



February Theme ~ Promises

.Be Here Now by Shay MacKay

Be here now.

Here.

In this space;

This time and place.

Breathe in...

And let yourself relax into the arms of this circle.

Plant your feet in the solid strength of this holy ground,

Feel it hold you.

Feel it mold your body into something sacred.

Feel Energy, Spirit, Light moving through you, moving through all things,

Collecting and connecting moments in time -

Bringing us closer

To the earth that is holding us, To the air that is lifting us,

To the water that baptizes us in the name of Love,

And to the fire of our shared commitment to justice, compassion, trust, respect.

Beloveds, plant your feet, raise your eyes to the sky,

and know your body is sacred,

your heart is holy,

your soul is whole.

May the Spirit that moves through all things,

Move through us now;

May we flow into the love and abundance this creation offers us;

And may that which is holy and true flow out of us,

Into this beautiful, broken world.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION

Virtual Brown Bag Suppers with Rev. Shay – Every Wednesday from 5pm to 6pm on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81893512813>

Meeting ID: 818 9351 2813

Call In: (646) 876-9923

Weekly Vespers Services – Every Thursday from 7pm to 7:30pm on Zoom.

<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,

<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

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

Rev. Shay's 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

Phone and Text: (207) 518-8059

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.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Hello from a member of your Board of Trustees!

When your Board of Trustees met in January there was energy and gratitude for the success of the Faux Fair Fundraiser. There was also excited anticipation for the Virtual Candlelight Concert, as well as the upcoming pledge drive.

During the February meeting of The Board of Trustees we will begin work on the pledge drive. You are cordially invited to participate in any aspect of the process which calls to you. You can get your creative juices flowing! What about designing an appealing brochure? Or how about helping to create a fun video? Michael Dolan is highly proficient in technology and is chomping at the bit to help you out! Think of participating as an opportunity for fun, creative, collaborations in this time of isolation. Please contact any board member to share your enthusiasm and the areas in which you would love to help.

Due to the pandemic, the hard decision was made not to have a spring auction this year. The logistics of trying to have an auction while also keeping everyone safe proved to be insurmountable. Thus the support for the Faux Fair Fundraiser as well as the Virtual Candlelight Concert is deeply appreciated.

The board continues to focus on transparency as we learn how to work as a collaborative team, rather than in the previous, more hierarchical model, with a president. Each meeting there is a person designated to say the opening words, another keeps the flow of the meeting going and keeps us focused on the steps for topics, discussion, and voting on actions. Our faithful secretary, Pat Snyder, writes the notes and then sends them out for all The Board of Trustees members to review before they are posted.

We all work diligently; however, we are human and missteps can happen. As soon as we are aware of any mistakes we focus on correcting them as soon as possible. You can contact any one of The Board of Trustees if you have questions, concerns or ideas and suggestions.

Sincerely,

— Laurie Sivonen

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. Good things are happening with these Good Stuff sales! We are steadily bringing in money and selling some really cool things. Send me an email at: c.islandgal@yahoo.com if you have something to contribute.

— Pat Snyder



Music Notes
from Choir
Director, Ellie Rolnick



The 'Bi-Choir' has begun our 'winter season' with former choir members returning and new folks checking us out. We posted this screen shot last month and I decided to do it again so you could see the smiling faces of some of our choir members! Do you love to sing? Come join your voice with these happy folks!



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

We rehearse on Sunday mornings at 11:30. Upcoming rehearsals are February 14, 21 and 28 (the 14th is a maybe); March 7, 14 and 21.

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.



January's Virtual Candlelight Concert

This is not a fairytale. The reality is that our concert is over. Taking with them a message of hope, attendees signed off Zoom as the last poetic word was spoken, as the musical notes drifted away, as the candles flickered and faded. This was success - our first virtual concert and the first concert in which we collaborated with our Sister Church in Sanford.

Our live MC, Rev. Shay, shared a powerful message of hope before introducing our pre-recorded talented performers. And talented writers and musicians they were. They spoke poetry, read, sang, played the piano, harp, ukulele, cello, guitar, and more. They performed solos, duets, and small group offerings.

We missed having a live audience - seeing smiles and hearing applause. We did, however, receive positive emails and texts – not only from church members, but from invited folks as far away as Florida.

This concert created connections during a time of isolation. It offered hope during dark days. And it raised needed funds for our two churches. Thank you to those who organized and provided technical help. Thanks to our MC and all our performers. And thanks to those who attended and who made donations. This was a UUnited effort!

—Ellie Rolnick, Jan Sacco, and Donna Beveridge

Comments from Concert Attendees:

entertaining and much appreciated.
liked the theme of HOPE
did not realize there would be such a variety of music and poetry.
I would watch it again.
beautiful and calming.
So many very talented and spiritual individuals giving their time
Your minister is very charismatic.
AWESOME. INCREDIBLE. SO CREATIVE. SO MUCH FUN. SO THOUGHTFUL. THANK YOU A MILLION THANK YOUS.

The link to view the concert is below. If you wish to donate, we are gratefully continuing to receive donations by mail.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gln32PG8Auk&feature=youtu.be>



“Notes” on Recording Vivaldi

A number of people have asked me about the process of recording *the Vivaldi Concerto for Two Cellos in g minor* for the recent Candlelight Concert, and I thought I would detail the process.

Of course I practiced the music, but I also prepared the sheet music. When printed out it was six pages long, and the page turns were in different places for each part. Page turns can be challenging for instrumentalists and I actually practiced the page turns. I chose to wear a blue shirt and matching scarf, and met Mike Dolan at his home studio where we began the very technical process of making the recording. So our Mike has quite a recording studio, and he is creative and skilled and seemed to truly enjoy the whole process. (If he said “I love technology!” once, he said it ten times as we were working.)

Mike draped black fabric as a backdrop and set the lights and microphones. I set up my music stand and six pages of music. I recorded part A while listening to a “click track”, then part B while listening to Part A and the click track. This click track is just the steady beat of the metronome, and playing with it made it much easier to have the two parts align. Then he removed the mics and set up several cameras and we recorded the videos of me playing Part A and then Part B while listening to the recordings. Using special software designed for recording, Mike put all four pieces together and it was okay, but not good yet. Even with the click track and the other part playing in my ear there were a few places where it didn’t align, so (and this is the fun and amazing part!) Mike had me re-record over the mistake and then essentially cut out the mistake and pasted the new section into place.

End of day one. That was about 4 hours. There was this one little spot that was bothering me, but overall we were both happy with it.

A few days later Mike shared the final product and we noticed that the video was a little off, so we met again to record the video for Part B. This time I wore red with a matching scarf because I realized that it helped with the visual of understanding the duet part. (Did you notice my haircut and different glasses? That was not in the original plan!) One of my grandchildren said that I looked younger in the blue version.

Meeting again gave me the opportunity to fix that “little spot” and Mike graciously set up the mics to re-record and do that magical editing, and then we re-recorded the video for Part B. He also layered in some close-ups of my bow. This synced up nicely with the previous audio and video recordings and then Mike had some fun with mixing, balancing and adjusting the audio.

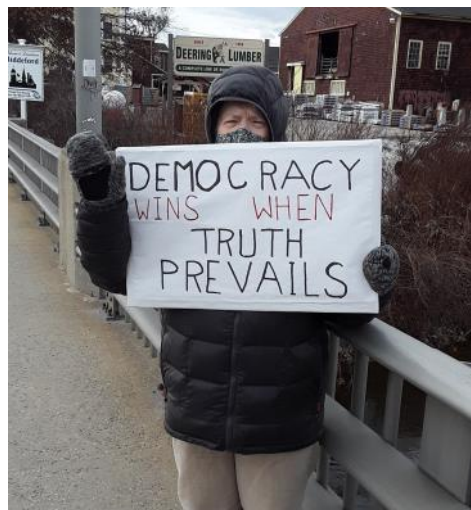
The whole experience was challenging, interesting and lots of fun. It would not have been possible without Mike, and he made me sound like a million bucks!

— Anne Wilkinson, Cello
Member of the Board of Trustees of the UUSCB





Vigil on the bridge
On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day



Caring Connection

The Caring Connection gathers monthly on Zoom to keep tabs on the cares and concerns in our community. We also hear of kindnesses bestowed by many of you to those in our church family whom we have not seen regularly at our Zoom gatherings and may be feeling especially anxious or cut off. Thank you for all that you do!

January gives us hope in many ways, from vaccines to lengthening days and stronger sun. However, it will still be several months before we will be able to get together in person. Frustration over lack of human contact and concern around vaccine delivery are real. Please 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, and deliver treats and meals in order to care for our church community.

The Caring Connection team: *Anne Cyr, Margaret Merrill, Marilyn Stoesser-Casad, and Pat Snyder.*



Capital Campaign Up Date

Work begins to replace our damaged Parish Hall walls on Jan. 25, 2021. The walls were damaged last year when we had to rebuild the supports under one side of our Parish Hall. The contractor will take down the damaged walls in the RE Room, Parish Hall, and Parlor. He will then put up new sheet rock, tape it, and mud the new walls. This should take about two weeks.

When the walls are all set; we will be looking to paint them.

Also, as you may recall, the remaining Capital Campaign Money will be used to complete the re-skirting of the Parish Hall and to restore the two windows at the front of the Sanctuary. Our window contractor is awaiting warmer weather so that he can use a fantastic contact paint remover that is perfect for getting rid of centuries old paint. We have yet to confirm a date with the other contractor for getting the re-skirting done.

We'll keep you posted. Betsey Pace, Mark Young, and Anne Dobson. can answer any questions you have about these projects.

Alphabet Soup - February Calendar of Events

We meet via ZOOM.

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

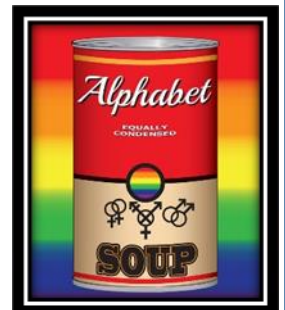
ZOOM Talk

We meet on ZOOM every Thursday Evening 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.

February Movie Discussion Night: Thursday, February 18th, 2021 – 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

We will be talking about the movie “Boys In The Band”. Please take time to sit and watch it before the meeting, so we can discuss it together.

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



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 UUCCSB 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.

February's Share the Plate: Saco Food pantry

The Saco Food Pantry provides food for local Mainers in need through short-term and intermittent help, and long-term help for those experiencing continued difficulties. It is run by a volunteer staff which includes a Board of Directors. It currently provides food for over 8,000 people a year, more than 96,000 individual meals!

Your Help Needed

Please help us to identify organizations that could benefit from our financial help through Share the Plate. While many organizations are in need of donations, giving to local places that support our community is probably the best use of our limited financial help.

If you wish to nominate a nonprofit organization please send your suggestion and a short paragraph explaining the Organization's goals to Jeannine at: jwilso118@gmail.com.

Side with Love for BLM

Saturdays noon-1pm

On the Rt 1 (Elm St) Bridge

Between Saco & Biddeford

Park on Lincoln St past Bob's Auto



FiAT invites you to join fellow congregants and friends in a social action every Saturday from Noon to 1pm to Side With Love for Black Lives Matters. Make your values visible and show BIPOC (black, indigenous and people of color) that we side with them in dismantling over 400 years of white supremacy.

Yes, you'll see the rude gestures, hear the words "All lives matter" but more importantly see the smiles and hear the honking horns of those who believe now is the time to change. Dress warmly, bring a sign, a friend or just yourself- you will not regret it!

Buildings and Grounds News

The church mice continue to scurry around the UUCSB on Monday mornings. Most recently they have been working on organizing our RE supplies, RE program materials and books as well as our supply of Holiday wreaths, and materials related to other Holidays.

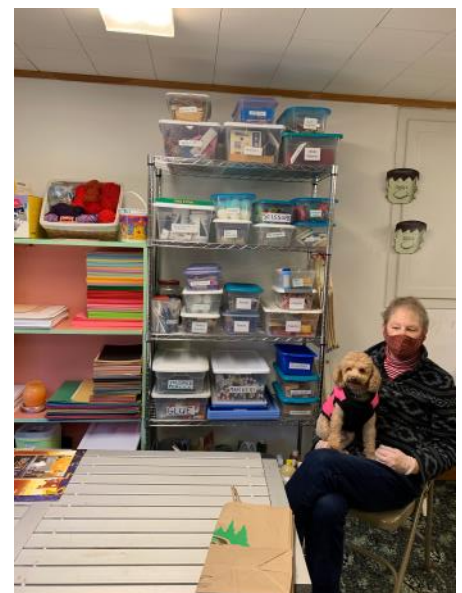
It took these wee mice quite a while to count 1,234,798 beads and to sort over 50 types of paper from copy paper to card stock to poster paper to several types of specialty papers. If you have a UUCSB related project, DO NOT rush out to buy materials for that project! Visit the nicely organized areas of the Youth Room first. It is rumored that we have more felt and stickers and markers than Michael's.

We also have new storage shelves for our wreaths and swags, floral arrangements and candle holders.

As you can see from these photos, the mice have been busy!!!

Check it out!

— Anne Dobson and Jane Perkins



Fund Raising

Hello everyone,

I'd like to update you on the monetary gifts we've collected through our various fund raising events since July, 2020.

Faux fair	\$1,400 (to date)
"Good Stuff"	\$1,400
Clynk bags	\$91
Hannaford cards	\$750
Candlelight concert	\$155 (more pending)
Total:	\$3,796
Fund raising goal	\$10,000
	\$6,203 still needed

To everyone who has given, thank you so much for thinking of our church. Despite the pandemic, we continue to need these funds to meet the financial obligations of the church. It is not always easy for me, and perhaps not for you as well, to remember that. So, if you are able, please send in any amount you can toward any of the above to help us meet our fund raising goal. As you can see above, we still have a ways to go. Please send your check to the church designating it to fund raising.

Thank you so much. Stay safe.

—Marilyn Stoesser-Casad

Greetings from the Treasurer

Account balances as of 1/21/2021 are as follows:

Checking	\$6,279.80
Accounts Payable	\$140.51
Moulton Trust	\$1,089.93
Restricted Savings	\$44,652.25
Saco/Bidd Investments	\$160,177.96

Any questions, just call.

Sincerely, Ron Hiser



Financial Information

Pay Your Pledge Automatically!

Annual pledges paid in regular installments help the Church's cash flow - and yours! You can set up an **automatic debit** from your bank directly to the church account - no checks or mailing hassles. You may also **use a credit or debit card for pledge payments**. These, too, can be set up ahead of time to transfer automatically an amount you choose on the date you select. These Electronic Giving options can help you manage monthly expenses and help the church funds available regularly to meet our payroll and other bills.

Contact Brian in the church office to set up a payment plan. Automatic payment arrangements are kept confidential.

- Finance Committee

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 cards at: elenor.lockwood@twc.com.



CLYNK

Help UUCSB 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.



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: Niki Norman, Pat Campbell, and Odette Dansereau.

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

Church Administrator

Brian Dustin is currently working from home. His hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday 8 to 11 am.

[207/282-0062](tel:2072820062) or [207/632-4512](tel:2076324512)

www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com

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

The pantry is very popular but we have discovered that canned and bottled foods will freeze and burst. So, we are asking that you do not put glass or canned goods in the Pantry until we are into Spring weather. If you see any cans or bottles in the Pantry, please help us out by removing them. We hope that you will continue to supply the Pantry with boxed and packaged goods as the food is definitely needed. Thanks!

— Pat Snyder



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