

# The Messenger

June 2021

Unitarian Universalist Church  
of Saco & Biddeford

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

Reverend Shay MacKay



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### Our Sister Church

Visit the website of our sister  
church in Sanford at  
[www.sanforduuchurch.org](http://www.sanforduuchurch.org)

## Flower Communion and Final Service with Rev. Shay

June 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

On the lawn behind the church (also on Zoom)

The service will last 45 minutes and will be followed  
by our Annual Meeting at 11:00 a.m.

We will be having a very special outdoor service to close out this church year together as a community, a time to look into each other's eyes and feel the energy of our bodies in one place together, something we have all been missing during this time of social distancing and isolation.

We will also be welcoming some new members into our community, as well as saying goodbye to Rev. Shay.

In order to make this as safe as possible for everyone, the following guidelines will be required:

- Bring your own chair
- Wear a mask at all times
- Try to maintain 6ft of social distancing at all times

**And don't forget to bring some flowers!**

To zoom, Join 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



As I said in my sermon on May 23<sup>rd</sup>:

The very first sermon I shared with you, in the Sanford sanctuary at the beginning of candidating week three years ago, I told you about my dream of the singing stones, in which we chose each other by listening for the songs that were only ours to sing.

Our dreaming of new ministry, of two unique and blessed communities joining the journey with a new minister, coming together to create a new, vibrant story, your dreaming of partnership and support and collaboration in the shared ministry of this community, was a beginning of a new story.

And our dreamings brought us here, to this place, with each other. Our dreamings held the first notes of a new song – a new vision – a *shared* creation, built on affection and respect, honoring all of our pasts while opening to the wonder of the new world we were going to create together. My dreamings, and yours, created songlines; songlines that guided us as we explored new terrain, that revealed to us what it means to be on this journey together. Through creativity and cooperation, courage and compassion, we shaped this story, this shared ministry, and were shaped by it.

These years were our dreaming time, in which we all, together, created the songlines that guided us as we moved forward toward a shared vision. You, as a community, are now preparing to enter another dreaming time – a time of unknowing and uncertainty in the newness of things, as am I. Be patient! Be kind! Be silent sometimes and learn to listen! Allow everyone's voices to speak, to be heard, to move you. Let others hear your songs, and the wonder and joy all of you are so very capable of expressing.

We each have something special to offer in the creation of this new world, you each have a particular part only you can sing – and...none of it works if what we put forth forgets that the larger vision is what we are all about here.

This is not about power or personal gain. There will be moments when one voice, or a few, sing high above the chorus, sharing wisdom, insight, perspective, and ingenuity. But, if ever any voice loses the melody of the shared song, we, as a community, will encourage a renewed effort at harmony. It will take all of us to sing the world we want into being.

I'd like to believe that Life is constantly offering us invitations to create great music with others. Sometimes this music is joyful and sometimes it's not. In our listening for the songs of others, we will sometimes be challenged or feel threatened. Listen more carefully, especially then! When we disagree, when we misunderstand each other, when we are dealing with prejudices or fears or deep wounds, it is more important than ever to listen deeply, quieting our own assumptions and judgments and agendas. By listening in this way, we facilitate communication, collaboration, and respect. By listening in this way, we facilitate harmony.

May we, whether we are here together or separated by many miles, move together, our voices blending, finding expression for all the music our hearts long to sing. Make room as new voices join and others fade away.

I am now saying goodbye to you, gradually withdrawing my voice from the choir of this community,

(Continued on page 3)

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

allowing us all to feel the sadness in that loss, and in that letting go enabling our hearts to begin listening for the notes of a different song, trusting that the breath of Spirit moves gently among us always, singing softly, an exhalation of Love.

With love, I thank you for letting me sing with you these past three years, and for the work you do to create Great Music that echoes throughout the world. I am deeply grateful for this time with you, and very much looking forward to listening from afar as your song continues with new voices, new harmonies, and new rhythms.

Don't ever stop doing the work you do to create beautiful, great music that echoes throughout the world.

### Music Notes

*from Choir  
Director, Ellie Rolnick*



BiChoir will be live on Sunday June 6th in Saco and Sunday June 13th in Sanford. It will be a pick-up choir and I hope that most of our regular singers will be at both services. However, anyone can sing with the choir those mornings – you just need to show up at 8:45 AND have a choir singing mask.

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.

### 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

## UUCSB Moving Forward Meeting

May 9, 2021

The Congregation met outside of the church on Saturday morning at 10. Approximately 30 people attended. Several topics were discussed.

### Gathering in the Fall:

Everyone agreed that we need to start services in the Fall.

### Online Services:

Comments were mixed regarding some sort of online services.

Some folks were adamantly against and some were agreeable.

Live streaming for folks far away or at home was welcomed by all.

### Partnering with Sanford:

Overall the group expressed the differences in each church's needs and decided sharing finances was no longer needed. Everyone agreed to working together regarding choirs, fundraisers and perhaps Ministers.

### Reverend Shay and Long Distance Online Services:

Most folks were leaning toward in person services. We established a Worship committee to research filling the pulpit and they will recommend a service type that fits with our church.

### Rotating Freelance Ministers or Lay Led:

The general sentiment was that people want consistency. A steady Minister who speaks 2-3 times a month or folks from our own congregation. Guest Speakers every week did not seem to fit the role we are seeking to fill. The Worship committee will continue to work on this.

### Fellowship Model:

This model seemed to be agreeable to most people. Church members would fill in for Pastoral Care, Worship, Technology, Post Covid planning. Bowie and Belfast both use this model.

### Hybrid Model:

Possibly two services would be virtual and two would be in person with lay led music, readings, chalice lighting etc.

### Local Minister:

Hire a local, part time Minister with or without Sanford.

### Committees:

Committee participation requests resulted in several folks volunteering.

Covid planning and Technology committees were formed on the spot.

### Conclusion:

"We need to get back to normal" as expressed by one of the participants.

"We have done this before and we can do it again!" spoken clearly.

Indeed, we can and we will, once again, begin with our beloved congregation, gathering in church in the Fall!

Respectfully Submitted,

— Pat Snyder, Church Secretary

## Caring Connection

The Caring Connection gathers monthly to keep tabs on the cares and concerns in our church community. We are very excited to be gathering in-person on Anne Cyr's deck in June!!

Rev. Shay is putting together an on-line Caring Connection Sign-Up that will be sent out shortly. We haven't revamped our volunteer list for a couple of years. This is your chance to indicate what you are able and willing to do to help maintain the Caring Connection in our community. Many thanks in advance!

Please do not hesitate to let any one of us know if you need some support or if you have concerns for someone else in our church family. We have a long list of volunteers ready to help make a connection.

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



Thank you to so many of you who have stayed in touch and supported me during these 3 months since Pat's death.

It continues to be such a challenge to move along without her but an email/ text or card shows up and bolsters my strength.

I also appreciate the offers to get together to visit. I feel the love you surround me with.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for Aug 28th for Pat's Celebration of Life. It will be held at church, 11-3:00. If you will attend, please let me know for purposes of ordering food.

Thank you again for all your love and support.

— *Cathy Vollkommer*



There will be a memorial for Joyce Thompson on July 10 at 4 PM in the Temple in Ocean Park. Everyone is welcome.





## Spring Blossoms

Because we are meeting virtually on Sundays, fewer people see our lovely spring blossoms. Here is Beth Gallagher's beautiful memorial tree and our bright pink azalea. Next, our rhododendrons are loaded with buds waiting to bloom. All are wonderful in the May sunshine.

— Jane Perkins



## Alphabet Soup - June Calendar of Events

We meet via ZOOM.

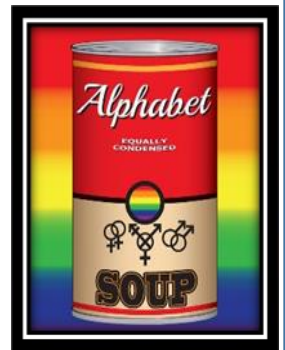
For more information contact Tom Muise at [tmansmk49@gmail.com](mailto:tmansmk49@gmail.com).

### 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.

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

**We will be planning a Alphabet Soup Potluck Cook Out soon.** Information to follow.



## Side with Love for BLM

Wednesdays from 5 to 6 p.m.

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 Wednesday from 5 to 6 p.m. 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. Wear your UUCSB t-shirt and bring a friend.



## 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 5/22/2021 are as follows:

Checking	\$5,722.81
Accounts Payable	\$83.60
Moulton Trust	\$1,092.43
Restricted Savings	\$41,499.67
Saco/Bidd Investments	\$165,212.23

Any questions, just call.

Sincerely, *Ron Hiser*



### 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](mailto:elenor.lockwood@twc.com).



### 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).



### Donate your "Good Stuff" to UUCSB

We are doing so well! Keep it coming! Email me with what you have with measurements and pictures if possible. By donating your unwanted goods, you are helping to sustain your church! Every penny goes directly to the bank. I am so grateful you have trusted me to sell your things at the best price I can get.

Let's keep it going! Email Pat Snyder at: [c.islandgal@yahoo.com](mailto:c.islandgal@yahoo.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](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

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

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

**Bring what you want; take what you need.**





## 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**