

The Messenger

March
2022

Unitarian Universalist Church
of Saco & Biddeford
www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com



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

Worship for March

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

March 6th – Rev. Lori Whittemore – “Get out of church”

March 13th – Rev. Lori Whittemore – “Get out of doors”

**March 20th – Rev. Niki Norman –
“Forgiveness - the challenges and rewards”**

March 27th – Rev. Lori Whittemore – “Get out of your mind”

March is a tough month for me. It is an in between month of mud and ice. Not quite spring yet but by now I am very ready for spring. It is the perfect month to begin the exploration part of our pilgrimage. This month is our epic journey month. Following the metaphor of the pilgrimage, this month is the out and about phase. We will explore the idea and possibility of getting out in the world and out of ourselves in different ways. Our ultimate goal is to stretch ourselves to make room for what the Spirit is doing in us. My plans for the services are, Get out of this Church, Get out into nature, and Get out of your mind. Niki is going to preach about forgiveness, which is a major journey as well! I look forward to our time together!

— Reverend Lori Whittemore

Biographies

Reverend Lori Whittemore (Rev. Lori) serves as a contract minister for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco and Biddeford. She holds a Master of Divinity from Bangor Theological Seminary and is ordained by the Chaplaincy Institute of Maine (Chime). She is a Board-Certified Clinical Chaplin and Diplomate Supervisor certified by the College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy. She is currently completing work for her doctorate in ministry from the George Fox University's Portland Seminary focusing on semiotics, church and culture. She is delighted to be with us.



Reverend Niki Norman is a graduate of ChIME - the Chaplaincy Institute of Maine, and was ordained by ChIME in 2020. Also a member of the UUCSB, Rev Niki is very grateful for the love and support from the the UUCSB congregation.



UUCSB Board of Trustees 2021-2022

Paul Coleman, Wendy Coleman, Mike Dolan, Sonja Gerken, Pat Snyder, Cathy Vollkommer, Anne Wilkinson

Board Structure and Responsibilities

Communications with Congregation Facilitator — Anne Wilkinson

Secretary — Pat Snyder [Takes notes for meetings and publishes warrants for annual meetings and for any congregational meetings.]

Treasurer — Wendy Coleman [Acts as the Liaison to the Finance Committee, communicates with Administrator (Brian Dustin) on daily finances, and works with Collector (Betsey Pace).]

Monthly meeting agenda, meeting facilitation, opening words, and chalice lighting — Rotates

Monthly Newsletter article — Pat Snyder

Communication with the UUA — TBD

Annual Pledge Drive — TBD

Facilitation of the Annual Meeting — TBD

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.

We are live streaming our services on Facebook every Sunday at 10:00am

Feeling under the weather? Can't get to church?
Want to join the service from the comfort of your own home?
Join us live at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday on our Facebook page.

Go to our website (www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com)
and click the Facebook link.



REFLECTIONS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Hello Everyone!

Our church has been busy on many fronts. We are fortunate to have so many hard working Committees and folks who just go go go!

Thanks to the Building & Grounds committee, the Sign out front should be completed in the very near future. And, also thank you for the upkeep and cleaning of our beloved church. We will soon have a revised Covenant of Right Relations. Thanks to the Committee on Ministries who worked tirelessly to make this happen!



The Membership Committee has refreshed the Church Brochure. You can see it Sunday! We are appreciative of the people who worked on this task. Brian Dustin finished up the task by printing up the new brochures.

A new poll is in the works by the Worship Committee to hear the Congregation's thoughts about the church's ministry for the upcoming year. This Committee has strived to make sure our church services happened every Sunday. It has been a tough year and they worked diligently to try and provide the Congregation with the best services possible. Now it is up to us to give this group the information they need to provide the desired ministry for the coming year.

Roof and Chimney repairs required a Congregational meeting. It was well presented by the Finance Committee and folks made sure their votes were registered.

The Finance Committee has been really working hard to come up with our annual budget. We've lost several forms of income and it will be tough to reconcile. We so appreciate their diligence.

FIAT did a nice job on the Tree of Hope and they will make it an annual event. Thanks!

The Caring Connection is always there when we need them. They continue to support our church members in any way they can.

Some other issues we are currently working on include:

Social Media Management. We are in the process of assessing and planning for Facebook, YouTube, Website, 2nd Facebook page and the Messenger Newsletter. We need folks to agree to manage some of these projects. Please let us know if you are interested in one of these areas.

Audio problems are being addressed as they arise in the Sunday services. It is a work in Progress.

The Nominating Committee will soon be busy searching for 3-4 Board members to Serve in the 2022-2023 year. One of these positions is for Secretary of the Board. Please be thinking about serving our church by joining the Board of Trustees.

The Pledge Committee consists of Cathy Vollkommer, Wendy Coleman and Pat Snyder. They will contact you soon to solicit your Pledge to help keep our church viable and strong.

We are so thankful for each and every member of this church. Your dedication keeps us going.

Your Board of Trustees: *Wendy Coleman, Pat Snyder, Mike Dolan, Anne Wilkinson, Sonja Gerken, Paul Coleman and Cathy Vollkommer*

Music Notes

from Choir
Director, Ellie Rolnick



March Choir Opportunities: The choir will be singing on the 2nd and 4th Sundays as usual (3/13 and 3/27) and an opportunity has arisen for us to be part of the 1st March service as well (3/6). We rehearse and sing on the same day with rehearsal usually from 8:45 – 9:45.

Participation: If you want to join the choir for March, please contact me by March 4th.

Masks: Each singer must have a singer's mask. If you do not have one, please let me know and we'll make arrangements to get one for you. Singers' masks are paid for through the music budget. The purpose of the singer's mask is not only to prevent the spread of germs but also is built in a way to allow more resonance and better sound that cannot be made with a traditional mask.

Special Music: Do you play an instrument or sing? If you would like to offer your music talents to sing or play a hymn or other music during a service, please let me know!

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

For more information, please contact me directly at choir@uuchurchsacobiddeford.com

Caring Connection

We on the Caring Connection hope all of you are staying safe and well this winter, whether you are in Maine or in warmer climates. It has seemed almost like Spring here this week, which has lifted my spirits.

Those of you who were in person in the Sanctuary on Sunday, February 13, may have participated in Lori's blessing of the lovely shawl Paula H. made for a member who recently had surgery. Several members of our community have been dealing with health issues, both immediate and chronic. Please hold them in your thoughts. If you do experience times of difficulty, just let us know how we can help. We depend on you to reach out to any one of us to let us know of your need or of a concern you may have for someone else.

Thanks to all of you for your help. If you need assistance or if you would like to be involved in the Caring Connection Team, just contact one of us.

The Caring Connection Team:

Paula Howard, Margaret Merrill, Donna Ravn, Pat Snyder, and Marilyn Stoesser-Casad



Share the Plate

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.

Jeannine Wilson is looking for local charities / non-profits with whom to share the plate. Please send your suggestions to Jeannine at:

jwilso118@gmail.com.



March Share the Plate: Seeds of Hope

Located in Biddeford, Seeds of Hope Neighborhood Center partners with our local communities and neighbors to find solutions to poverty and to promote personal growth.

Around the Building

On Feb. 20, 2022, at a Special Meeting of the Congregation, the members voted to authorize the church to borrow \$5000 to do needed work on the Parish Hall chimney, front of the Parish Hall, and trash room. We have let our contractor know, so that he can get this on his schedule as early in the Spring as possible.

This is very good news. We thank our contractor, Russ O'Berry, our consultants, Mark Gotjen and Ben Caron, and our partners on the Finance committee for making this money happen.

There remains a huge amount of work to do on our building. Exterior painting and various parts of the roof need attention. The structural support for the exterior wall behind the organ is in dire straits. I pray daily for our 50 year old furnace....

As with many of our homes, we have not been able to keep up with maintenance as it has been needed. Dorinne Spirito spoke at the meeting on Feb. 22 in favor of the congregation having a conversation about this issue. B&G has had many sessions devoted to prioritizing our needs and trying to do what we can about them in light of our budget constraints. The Finance Committee has been a loyal and helpful partner to B&G whenever an urgent need arises.

The annual canvass is upon us. Think, my dear friends, what you can do to financially support the work of this vibrant and vital congregation.

— Anne Dobson

Little Free Pantry

Bring what you want; take what you need.

During the frigid winter months please remember that the usual non-perishable items packed in cans and glass are not safe to donate. Safe items include peanut butter, pasta, baking products, protein bars, cereal, powder laundry detergent, feminine hygiene products, diapers, toothpaste, bar soap and paper products. We will continue to add our remaining Tree of Hope hats and mittens to the pantry.

Thank you for putting your Faith into Action.



Photo by Liz Gotthelf/Journal Tribune

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

Greetings from the Treasurer

Account balances as of 2/22/2022 are as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Checking | \$8,816.37 |
| Accounts Payable | \$0.00 |
| Moulton Trust | \$1,083.15 |
| Restricted Savings | \$45,541.56 |
| Saco/Bidd Investments | \$171,056.93 |

Any questions, just call.

Sincerely, *Wendy Coleman*



Hannaford Gift Cards

Would you like to donate to the church in a way that doesn't cost you anything? If you buy your weekly groceries with a Hannaford gift card purchased from UUCSB, the church gets 5%. Our church depends on this fundraiser to contribute to its operating budget. Cards are available in \$100 or \$50 denominations. Gift cards are for sale in the nursery every Sunday after the worship service, or if you are worshipping virtually, just call or email Ellie Lockwood (elenor.lockwood@twc.com) and make arrangements to pick them up at another time. Thank you for participating in this fundraiser in support of our church. .



Ellie Lockwood

CLYNK

Help UUCS by returning your bottles and cans through the CLYNK service at Hannaford. Green bags may be picked up at the welcome table when you come to church on Sundays. Please remember that Market Basket labeled bottles and cans are not accepted by CLYNK.



!!! PLEASE !!!

Check your pledge donations to be sure they are up to date.

Thank you so much!

— Jean Horton



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

Hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday 8 to 11 am.

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

www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com

Covid-19 Guidelines

- Masks must be worn inside
- Softly singing with masks on
- Masks off when speaking in pulpit area
- Sit in appropriately marked pews - social distance unless in same household
- Hand sanitizer stations
- No coffee hour - feel free to socialize outdoors

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