

The Messenger

April
2022

Unitarian Universalist Church
of Saco & Biddeford

www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com



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Worship for April

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

- April 3rd** – Rev. Lori Whittemore –
“The Gospel According to Pokemon”
- April 10th** – Rev. Lori Whittemore – (Palm Sunday)
“The Long and Winding Road”
- April 17th** – Rev. Niki Norman –
“Come Home for Easter “
- April 24th** – Rev. Lori Whittemore –
“For the Beauty of the Earth”



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

Musings from Reverend Lori

Happy April,

I am filled with joy as I can smell the earth again! The flowers are sprouting around the church and all seem to have a bit more pep in their steps. Spring has indeed sprung as the green is greening up all around us. Even the green room is getting re-greened. In keeping with the metaphor of the pilgrimage, this month is the contemplation phase of our journey together. Pilgrimages can go straight to the Holy place or can take a meandering path. I don't know your approach to meeting the Holy, but we are on this journey together. The synchronicity of this stage of our pilgrimage being in April is striking. Earth Day, Ramadan, Palm Sunday, Easter and Passover all happen in April. The full moon that happens on April 16th will be fuller for all the energy and Divine presence occurring in these moon cycles. I will be introducing the concept of a New Communion. I would like to invite all of you to think about what that phrase might mean for each of you personally as we take it on collectively as a church. I begin to plan my sermons a month ahead of time. If there is a topic or a cause you would like me to engage with in a sermon, please let me know and I will get it in the cue for May. The overall theme for this stage our epic journey will be the encounter. It is what we specifically find as a result of the stages that come before. It is where we arrive and what we discover. If that prompts an idea, feel free to reach out.

Peace and Many Blessings to You!



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 recently received 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.

**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

Happy Spring Everyone!

We are gratefully lifting the gloom and doom of the dreaded COVID. Masks are off, families and friends are gathering together once again, businesses are reopening and fear is fading away. People are rebuilding their lives in new ways.

Our church is no exception. Thanks to the Worship Committee, we have a new leader, Reverend Lori Whittemore. Masks are optional; we are streaming our Sunday services on Facebook; our church is squeaky clean (Thanks to B&G); and everyone seems happy to gather together in the church again.

Your Board of Trustees is currently working on collecting pledges to keep our church running smoothly. The Finance C. is figuring and refiguring to keep up with our needs. The pledge goal they arrived at is \$66,000. The health, stability and actual existence of our church depends on us. We are working together, with your generous donations, to make this happen.

The Board is also preparing for the Annual Meeting in June. New officers and Board members are needed. The Nominating Committee has begun their task of supplying the Board with folks to fill the vacancies. We are aware that last year's, mid COVID, Annual Meeting did not go as smoothly as we would have liked. Your Board is currently beginning work to improve on last year's meeting in every way that we can. Please feel free to contact any one of us with ideas you may have to assist us in this endeavor. Always know this: The Board of Trustees of UUCSB is here for you! Talk to us!

Have a wonderful April, full of love and laughter!

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



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 — Pat Snyder, Wendy Coleman and Cathy Vollkommer

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.

Music Notes

from Choir
Director, Ellie Rolnick



- **April Choir:** April 10, Rehearsal Only 8:45 a.m.; April 17 (Easter), April 24 – Rehearsal 8:45, singing in church.
- **Participation:** If you want to join the choir for April, please contact me by April 1st.
- **Masks:** Masks are no longer required for choir.
- **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

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.



April Share the Plate: MUUSAN

MUUSAN (Maine Unitarian Universalist State Adversary Network) is a statewide advocacy and public policy network anchored in our Unitarian Universalist faith and animated by its principles. MUUSAN welcomes as partners and collaborators all those who share our values. We link our 25 Maine congregations and many friends in an active legislative ministry.

Unitarian Universalism calls us to change oppressive policies and structures to those that promote human development, protect the environment, and support communities. Our mission is to educate and to organize for a more just society.

Pledge Update

Hi Folks!

Just a quick update to tell you where we are regarding our 2022-2023 Church budget. Gratefully, we have received \$25,285 towards our \$66,000 goal this year. Thank you!

As a gentle reminder, we hope to hear from those who have yet to send in their pledges. These are busy, busy times and it is easy for that pledge envelope to be forgotten for the moment. We hope to hear from you soon.

Extended pledge date is Monday, April 11th.

See you in church!

— Pat Snyder

Fundraising Committee Needed

Our church is in need of a Fundraising Committee. The Spring Yard Sale, Inhouse Clothing Sale, Auction, Thanksgiving Pie Sale, Christmas Fair, all need some direction. We've always had a Fundraising Committee; however, with all the COVID chaos, we lost it.

Please let Wendy Coleman know if you would be willing to serve on or coordinate the Fundraising Committee. We need you!

Around the Building

The average age of the Monday morning crew is 75. We do well for our ages, but are spending longer getting our chores done. B&G also has many not-on- Monday jobs. Last June we looked at 17 areas of concern around our building. We edited these to a doable list with point people for each area. Over the year we have finished some projects and added others. So if you like action, this is the place for **you**. If you like planning projects, this is the place for **you**. If you'd like to contribute to our community and to have fun, this is the place for **you**. If you want to be a part of our team speak with Anne Dobson, Betsey Pace or Jane Perkins, or just show up at 8:00 on Monday morning..

What's happening around our building? By the time you get this newsletter, the Green room will have been re-painted. Our contractor is set to begin work on the Parish Hall leaks in the next couple of weeks. After that work is done, we will be ready to get the Parlor ceiling re-surfaced and move back into that wonderful space. We are awaiting an estimate from our roofer regarding trouble spots in our annex roof. The Parish Hall is all set for you to use for conversation after our Sunday services. And of course we have been keeping the place clean and tidy. Hope you will join us in our B&G adventures!

— Anne Dobson

Good Stuff Sale!

LET'S GO AGAIN

We're sure everybody must have some good stuff around the house that they would be willing to donate to the church to be sold. While you're cleaning out that attic or basement, or just sprucing up, downsizing or moving, consider giving any larger items to the church. (Small Items of \$20 retail or less should be held for church yard sale). Pat Snyder will take care of the sale of these items with proceeds supporting our church. This is an easy, contact free way to help raise money toward the fundraising needs of the church this year. Please contact Pat Snyder if you have any items that you think might be appropriate.



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 3/28/2022 are as follows:

Checking	\$13,488.40
Accounts Payable	\$0.00
Moulton Trust	\$1,083.15
Restricted Savings	\$45,545.13
Saco/Bidd Investments	\$164,892.99

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

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.

Thank you for putting your Faith into Action.



Photo by Liz Gotthelf/Journal Tribune

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