

Friday Flyer – July 8, 2022

News You Can UUse

From the UU Church of Saco and Biddeford

- **Worship This Week** – *Roots of UU in America* by Rev. Ray Hopkins
- Anne Dobson
- **Worship at 8:30 AM – July 10th**

- **Church Activities This Week:**

- Sunday, July 10 @ 8:30 AM - Summer Worship
 - Wednesday, July 13 @ 6:30 PM - Trustees
 - Thursday, July 7 @ 6:30 PM - *Alphabet Soup* – Zoom
- Unless indicated otherwise, these activities welcome all members and friends.

Office Hours

Minister, Rev. Lori Whittemore
Administrator, Brian Dustin

By Appointment
Mon-Wed-Fri – 8-11 AM

Caring Needs – Please contact church office.

Upcoming Events and Activities

- **Summer Services**

Service Leaders are needed for Summer Services! Services (30 minutes) will be held Sunday mornings in the Parish Hall from July 10 to August 28. Available dates are: July 17, 31; August 7 and 28. For weeks when there is no leader a reading will be provided for contemplation and meditation. The Sign-Up sheet is on the bulletin board.

- **Thoughts from Rev. Lori**

It is once again Friday! I hope you are easing into a satisfying laziness of summer! I share with you today, a part of a poem by RUMI. Rumi was a 13th century Persian poet, Islamic Scholar and Muslim mystic. He experienced the Divine the arts of his writing as well as dance and art. I share with you a poem he wrote call the Tent

The Tent by Rumi

Outside, the freezing desert night.

This other night inside grows warm, killing.

Let the landscape be covered with thorny crust.

We have a soft garden in here.

The continents based,

caritas and little towns, everything become a scorched blackened ball.

The news we hear is full of grief for that future, but the real news is inside here is there is no news at all.

Friend, our closeness is this:

anywhere you put your foot, feel me
in the firmness under you.

How is it with this love,

I see your world and not you?

Listen to presences inside poems,

Let them take you where they will.

Follow those private hints,

and never leave the presence.

I chose this text for you today because of my recent engagement with the Biddeford homeless taskforce. The taskforce is working on finding housing for the growing homeless population in the Biddeford Saco area. They are hoping to find a 2-3 year interim alternative while a longer term salutation can be identified and pursued. However, before the interim alternative can be addressed, they, we, are trying to figure out how to resource the homeless encampments in Biddeford where more than 65 people are housing themselves and more join them daily. The immediate need is to help those folks in tents, hoping that an interim, indoor alterantive is identified by winter. The task force has encouraged Biddeford to seeki grant money to fund portable showers, portable potties and a case manager to work with folks in encampments and possibly to find a more hospitable place for an encampment. This issue feels overwhelming to me on many levels. But we are from Saco-Biddefor-OOB. These are our neighbors. As the say goes, we can't do everything, but we can do something.

In conversation with Rev Shirly Bowen, director of Seeds of Hope in Biddeford and someone leading the task force efforts, she told me that what is really needed in this very moment are tents and sleeping bags. If you have a tent or a sleeping bag that you no longer use, or can drop by Reny's and get an inexpensive one, I encourage you to do that "something". You may bring that to Seeds of Hope, 35 South Street in Biddeford. Open week days 9-1.

I invite you to read the poem again with new eyes Pay attention to a word or a phrase that resonates with you Pray and reflect on what that word of phrase means to you in this moment in your life Continue to pray and reflect on the poem and my words. Be curious about what is yours to do and what is yours to hold in the light. Open your hearts to love's possibilities in your life, in our lives right now!

With Peace and Many Blessings to you!

Rev. Lori
she/her

- **Live Stream on Facebook**

We are now 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 10:00am every Sunday on our Facebook page-

Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco and Biddeford.

(Facebook link on our web page)

- **Covid-19 Guidelines**

- Masks are OPTIONAL inside
- Masks off when speaking in pulpit area
- Sit in appropriately marked pews - social distance unless in same household
- Hand sanitizer stations
- Social hour in the parish hall

- **Hannaford Cards**

Ellie L. will be selling Hannaford Gift Cards in the Parish Hall on Sundays after church. If you buy your groceries with a Hannaford card, the church receives 5%. Please enter the Nursery one person at a time to purchase your cards.