

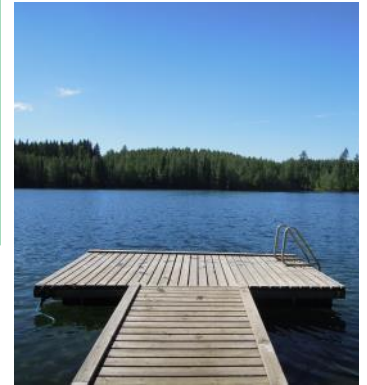
# The Messenger

Summer  
2022

Unitarian Universalist Church  
of Saco & Biddeford  
[www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com](http://www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com)



60 School St.  
Saco, Maine 04072  
207 282-0062  
[uuchurch@gwi.net](mailto:uuchurch@gwi.net)



## INSIDE

[You can click on a page number  
to go directly to that page.]

- [Page 2](#) Thanking our Ministers  
Caring Connection
- [Page 3](#) From our President  
Roadside Rescue
- [Page 4](#) Prayer Vigil  
Around the Building
- [Page 5](#) Our Principals—My View  
Wabanaki Tribes
- [Page 7](#) Financial Information
- [Page 8](#) UU Post It Notes  
Puzzles and Books  
Little Free Pantry
- [Page 9](#) Membership Information

## Summer Worship

Sundays at 8:30 a.m.

**August 7<sup>th</sup> — Summer Worship**

**August 14<sup>th</sup> — Trevor Neitz**

**August 21<sup>st</sup> — Justice Activism Summer Worship**  
**Faith in Action Team**

**August 28<sup>th</sup> — Ellie Rolnick**

**(No service on September 4<sup>th</sup>.)**

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

## Thanking our Ministers

The outgoing Board of Trustees presented this framed photo to Lori Whittemore and Nikki Norman. The photo was taken by Pat Snyder, and Anne Wilkinson presented it with these words:

To Nikki: "The Board of Trustees wanted to acknowledge your lovely sermons. Thank you for stepping in to offer us words of wisdom, thoughtfulness and laughter."

To Lori: "I don't think we realized how much we had been missing until you came to us. Like cold water on a hot day, you refreshed us with words of encouragement and kindness. You heard our cries and reached out, and lately have been nudging us to become more present in the world outside our building. You have been like a healing balm for us this year and we are so looking forward to continued new growth with you in the future."



## Caring Connection

We hope this summer has been a time of rest and renewal for all of you. As you know, the role of the Caring Connection is to care for our church family by coordinating short-term support and assistance for members of the church during times of difficulty. This summer, we have also reached out to help support the efforts of the Biddeford homeless taskforce. The taskforce is working on finding housing for the growing homeless population in the Biddeford/Saco area, and their most pressing current need has been for tents and sleeping bags. This week, the Caring Connection delivered 3 family sized tents and tarps to Seeds of Hope in Biddeford for distribution by the task force.

May you all stay safe and well. If you do experience times of difficulty, or if you have suggestions, please contact one of our members. If you would like the opportunity to be of service to our church community and, at the same time to be part of a fun group with few administrative requirements, please talk to one of us about joining the committee.



Marilyn with the tents and tarps

The Caring Connection Team: Paula Howard, Donna Ravn, Pat Snyder, and Marilyn Stoesser-Casad

## FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

The Annual Meeting was held in the church instead of the parish hall because the parish hall was still filled with treasures from the yard sale. The yard sale was a huge success.

At the annual meeting the congregation voted to return to the Board structure as defined in the By-Laws. So, I am writing to you as the newly elected President of the Board. We have a full complement of officers and two at-large members. Here is the list:

Paul Coleman, President  
Cathy Vollkommer, Vice President  
Wendy Coleman, Treasurer  
Donna Beveridge, Secretary  
Betsey Pace, Collector  
Anne Dobson, Board Member  
Jean Horton, Board Member

We are all looking forward to guiding the church through the next year. Our first meeting in July was a potluck on the deck of Paul and Wendy's house. It was the first potluck that most of us have participated in in a COVID while. We had delicious food and wonderful conversations. We discussed briefly assignments for committee liaisons and plans for future board meetings. We plan to have a regular meeting in August.

We also talked about the future frequency of the Messenger and decided to poll the congregation. The result will be published when the survey is completed.

I have been a member of this church for almost twelve years although that number is small compared to the longevity of some of the other board members. I am looking forward to continuing to serve the church in this new role as President.

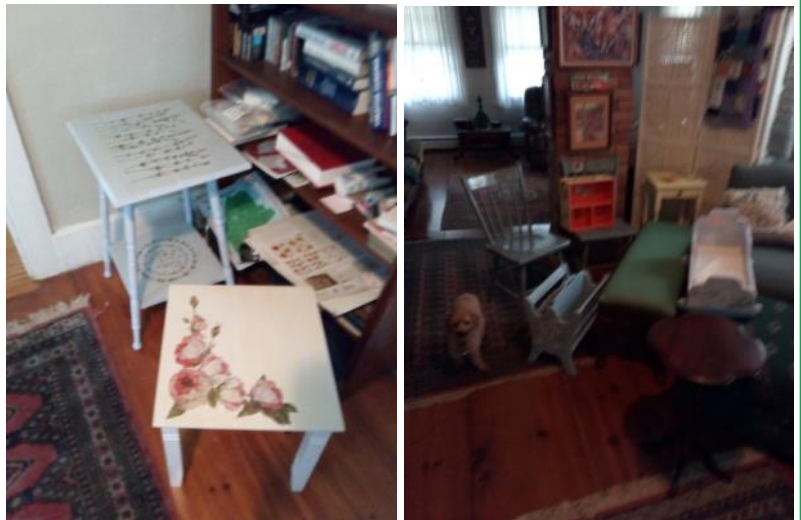
In peace,

*Paul*

## Roadside Rescue

After our Yard Sale we had several items that looked like they needed a bit of TLC rather than the trash heap. I brought them home and did minor repairs and applied some paint and voila!!! The accompanying photos will show you the result. Since the Yard Sale, some of our UUCSB family and a very special friend of the UUCSB have been on the look out for treasure that folks have left at the roadside free for the taking.

At this time these re-made items are being offered for sale. All money goes to the UUCSB. Prices start at \$10. Most prices are negotiable. Contact Anne D. at 282-6600 or [asd@zwi.net](mailto:asd@zwi.net) to review this collection of Roadside Rescues. Come visit us and enjoy a cold beverage as you shop!



## Prayer Vigil

Good morning lovely people,

Here are a couple of photos I took of the amazing prayer vigil. I'd had great plans of getting something in the Currier, or at least in the monthly newsletter. Unfortunately I don't have the bandwidth to do anything else with it, so I thought I'd share and see if anyone else has the energy and time to move it forward.

On June 2nd the UU Church of Saco/Biddeford hosted an interfaith prayer vigil in response to the most recent gun violence in Buffalo and Uvalde.

Rev. Lori Whittemore began the vigil with an opening and welcome, followed by music performed by Rev. Todd Glacy. After each of the names of those who died from gun violence in Buffalo and Uvalde was read, the singing bowl was rung. Music, prayers and readings were then shared.

Participants in the service included:

Rev. Lori Whittemore from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco Biddeford

Rev. Todd Glacy, Interfaith Minister, Portland

Cantor Beth Strassler from Etz Chaim, Biddeford

Rev. Scott Cousineau from First Parish United Church of Christ, Saco

Pastor Brenda Johnson and Pastor Phil Johnson from Faith Chapel Seventh-day Adventist Church of Saco

Rev. Ed Bove, from Goodwin Mills United Methodist Church, Christ Church, Federated, Kennebunk and West Kennebunk United Methodist Church

Anne Dobson and Jane Perkins, Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco Biddeford.

Sincerely,

*Laurie Sivonen*



## Around the Building

As you can see, we are rife with activity around the UUCSB. Projects in the works are the painting of our stairway and mezzanine, getting the Parlor resettled after the ceiling is finally fixed, painting the exterior of the Trash Room, painting the interior and exterior of the two recently restored side windows in the front of the Sanctuary and the stabilization of our Sanctuary's big windows and the Nichols window. In addition we have had a proposal from one of our contractors to make optimal use of our rented lift and do work around the Sanctuary window casements and to seal and paint the valley between the roof of the annex and the Sanctuary on the street side of the church. These last two items would cost us more than our budget allocation. We have referred this issue to the Finance Committee which has found resources to cover his work.

— Anne Dobson

[The June 2022 Messenger introduced **Our Principles - My View** articles. Please refer to that issue for a full description. Below is the second **My View** article. If you would like to contribute your view, please send it to Donna Beveridge ([dbeveridge18@gmail.com](mailto:dbeveridge18@gmail.com)).]

## I support Sovereignty for Maine's Wabanaki Tribes

*By Meret Bainbridge*

The land we live on and the land our church is built on is ancestral land of the Abenaki, one of the tribes that have lived in what is now Maine for tens of thousands of years, collectively called the Wabanaki or "People of the Dawnland". Many churches and institutions now acknowledge this fact by reading a "land acknowledgment" at services and events.

But I believe words need to be followed by actions and non-natives need to be active allies to the tribes, learn about the painful history of colonization, the impact it has on the tribes to this day, and work toward decolonizing our minds and our institutions. That's why I became involved with MUUSAN and made supporting the tribes my main social justice issue.

Until a couple of years ago, I was ignorant to the fact that the Wabanaki tribes (the Penobscot Nation, Passamaquoddy tribe, Houlton Band of Maliseet and Mi'kmaq Nation) don't have sovereignty on their own lands, are subject to Maine state laws and basically treated like a municipality rather than a sovereign nation. This is because of the 1980 "settlement acts", the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act and its state companion law, the Maine Implementing Act.

The federal government had sued the State of Maine in the 1970s on behalf of the Penobscot and Passamaquoddy tribes who held claims to about two-thirds of Maine's land. The claims were settled, and the federal government gave money to the tribes to buy back a small portion of the land that had been stolen from them (Maine did not contribute a penny to this fund). The settlement was rushed, because it was an election year and Ronald Regan was leading in the polls and had vowed to not sign any settlement with tribes. Jimmy Carter signed the bill in October, 1980, just before the presidential election. The tribes agreed reluctantly to salvage what they could with the understanding that the settlement acts were a living document that could get amended as needed. The state, in its Maine Implementing Act, snuck in a provision that explicitly excluded Maine's tribes from federal Indian laws past, present and future. Thus, Maine's tribes have been excluded from over 150 federal laws that have been passed since 1980 and benefit the other 570 federally recognized tribes. After 40 years of litigation between the tribes and the State of Maine, the Maine Legislature formed a Task Force in 2019 that studied the situation and made 22 recommendations to amend the Maine Implementing Act and bring Maine's tribes on par with other federally recognized tribes.

This resulted in a bill, LD 1626, that garnered broad support in the last Maine Legislature, only to fail due to the outspoken opposition of Governor Mills, who threatened to veto the bill unless the appropriations committee allowed the bill to "die on the table" to spare her a high-profile veto in a re-election year. But the tribal chiefs are determined to bring the fight for sovereignty back and introduce another identical or similar bill in the upcoming Maine 131<sup>st</sup> Legislature.

The tribes formed the Wabanaki Alliance in 2020, and from then on, over 120 ally groups signed on and became part of the Wabanaki Alliance Legislative Coalition. MUUSAN is one of these groups and I have the honor to be MUUSAN's liaison to the coalition, faithfully attending the weekly or bi-weekly meetings, listening to tribal representatives, tribal attorneys, and other allies, and communicating their guidelines for legislative action to UU congregations around the state. The "coalition" is one of the broadest, most diverse, most respectful and effective social justice groups I have ever been involved with. The most important aspect for me is that for once, white people are not taking the lead, but are respectfully listening and following the lead of native peoples.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Wabanaki Tribes

(Continued from page 5)

Why do I care about this so deeply? For me, this ties in with my UU values and ethics, especially the First Principle – the innate worth and dignity of every person – the Second Principle – justice, equity and compassion in human relations – and the new Eighth Principle that more and more congregations are now adopting – “to build diverse multicultural beloved community by our actions that actively dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions”. As a native German of the post-war generation, I grew up learning about the rise of fascism and racism in my country of origin and was sensitized to racism in any form. I realized that the rising antisemitism in Germany a hundred years ago is rooted in the same white supremacist world view as the colonial genocide and exploitation of tribes and enslaved people that led to the prosperity of the United States.

But this justice work is not about swiping in as the “white savior” to disenfranchised native, black or brown people. This is about taking a step back from my Northern European mindset, expanding my horizon and learning from native peoples. The biggest challenge of our times is global climate change, and the threat to our very survival as a human species. Native tribes have lived in harmony and sustainability with their natural surroundings for tens of thousands of years in a relationship of “kinship”. Our Seventh UU Principle speaks to this: “respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are part”. We need to learn and re-learn to live as part of the web of life, and native peoples can be our teachers. To restore sovereignty to the tribes over their own lands includes sovereignty over the rivers and natural resources. I wholeheartedly believe that if the tribes were in charge of natural resources, we would not be faced with the impending disaster of wiping out our own species by destroying our environment.

If you are inspired to do something, right now, you can TAKE ACTION by contacting Senator King and asking him to support Rep. Jared Golden’s bill, HR 6707, The Advancing Equality for Wabanaki Nations Act. This bill would amend the federal portion of the settlement acts to explicitly include Wabanaki tribes in any future federal Indian legislation. The bill was included in this year’s National Defense Authorization Act as amendment and passed the U.S. House with bipartisan support. The NDAA will be voted on by the U.S. Senate when it reconvenes after the August recess in September. The Wabanaki Alliance is asking allies to send a personal message (by letter or email) to Senator King and telling him why this is important to us. Send me an email and I will send you detailed instructions: [meretbainbridge@gmail.com](mailto:meretbainbridge@gmail.com). If you want to learn more about MUUSAN’s involvement with past legislation, go to this [link](#). And to learn more about the Wabanaki Alliance, go [HERE](#). MUUSAN will continue its support of tribal sovereignty for the Wabanaki. The MUUSAN Wabanaki legislative team has representatives from 18 UU churches in Maine, but not yet from UUCSB. If this calls you to step up, contact me!



MUUSAN at Rally for Clean Drinking Water at the State House



Meret Bainbridge at Wabanaki Support Rally

## 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 7/15/2022 are as follows:

Checking	\$14,909.83
Accounts Payable	\$1,249.59
Moulton Trust	\$1,055.97
Restricted Savings	\$45,564.51
Saco/Bidd Investments	\$151,085.59

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](mailto: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

### On-Line PayPal Payments

Donations and pledge payments can be made using PayPal. To do so, go to the church website at: [www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com](http://www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com) and at the very top of the page click "Give" and then click "Donate".

Donations and pledge payments may also be mailed to:

Unitarian Universalist Church of  
Saco & Biddeford  
60 School Street  
Saco, ME 04072

### 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.





## 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 a member of the Committee on Ministries (Niki Norman and Pat Campbell).

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**

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

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

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

### Puzzles and Books

New puzzles are in place on the shelf!

We need to refresh our books supply. If you would like to donate some books, please leave them at the church or get in touch with me.

Thanks!

Pat Snyder  
[c.islandgal@yahoo.com](mailto:c.islandgal@yahoo.com)

### Little Free Pantry

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

Some suggestions are peanut butter, pasta, rice, baking products, protein bars, cereal, canned soups, canned vegetables, 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](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 strive to be a Green Sanctuary and a Welcoming Congregation.**