

Friday Flyer – December 30, 2022

News You Can UUse

From the UU Church of Saco and Biddeford

- **Worship This Week** – *Crossing the Threshold*
- *Rev. Charlie Grindle*
- **Worship at 10:00 AM – January 1st**

- **Church Activities This Week:**

- Sunday, Jan. 1 @ 10:00 AM - Worship
 - Wednesday, Jan. 4 @ 5:00 PM - Finance Committee
 - Wednesday, Jan. 4 @ 6:00 PM - *Harbour Singers*
 - Thursday, Jan. 5 @ 6:30 PM - SBGM – Dine Out
- Unless indicated otherwise, these activities welcome all members and friends.

Office Hours

Minister, Rev. Lori Whittemore
Administrator, Brian Dustin

By Appointment (email: revlori.uucsb@gmail.com)
Mon-Wed-Fri – 8-11 AM

Caring Needs – Please contact church office.

Upcoming Events and Activities

- **Thoughts from Rev. Lori**

Happy Last Friday of 2022!

Last year we did a string cutting ritual to symbolize the cutting loose of those things that bound us in 2021. Those things that were holding us back. In creating ritual around this a year, there is also a custom to write letters or stories or events on paper and burning them to release the hold they have on us. This would be the time to begin writing those letters if you haven't yet been inclined. I share a poem by Naomi Nye called "Burning the Old Year."

Letters swallow themselves in seconds.
Notes friends tied to the doorknob,
transparent scarlet paper,
sizzle like moth wings,
marry the air.

So much of any year is flammable,
lists of vegetables, partial poems.
Orange swirling flame of days,
so little is a stone.

Where there was something and suddenly isn't,
an absence shouts, celebrates, leaves a space.
I begin again with the smallest numbers.

Quick dance, shuffle of losses and leaves,
only the things I didn't do
crackles after the blazing dies.

As usual, I invite you to read this out loud and in your head. Notice what words or phrases stand out to you. Read those words or phrases again asking what meaning they have for you in this moment. Take them with you into the new year. What stood out for me was the last line, "only the things I didn't do crackle after the fire dies." Such a powerful statement! Such an inspiring statement! I invite you to discuss the crackles with each other this weekend. What are the things that we haven't (yet) done that we want to

engage with right off the bat. Before we go there, I want to do a little reflecting.

It has been a great privilege to journey with you this past year! We spent the first half of last year on a spiritual pilgrimage as we dipped our toes back in to in person services. We enjoyed the 2nd half of the year living into a more robust community life. I might not have all the exact numbers or be able to capture all of the info. But numbers tell stories. And so, I wanted to share some numbers. The first half of the year we had an average of 30 people per service and the 2nd half we have had an average of 50 persons (in person). We had a large memorial service, hosted an interfaith vigil and hosted a first responder class. And those are the ones I know of. I also recognize that there are other community organizations that benefit from our space as well. We had an amazing Christmas Fair, provide a Tree Of Hope, stock a food box. Our committees are busy at work caring for our community and the community at large. Last spring 2 wonderful humans signed our membership book and there are 5-6 others considering signing as we move into the winter. That increases our active membership by more than 10%. UUCSB is growing! The readiness to engage in even more kinds of programming; book reads, gatherings to have soup and discuss a topic of a show, meditation groups are all whisperings I am beginning to hear. And so, I believe this new year will bring more people, more modes of communication and more connection.

What ways will we identify and chase down those crackles remains to be seen. January will be a month of centering ourselves so that we can listen for that still small voice that tells us the truth behind the truth. Think about what things you want to happen in church in 2023. Think about activities you would like to participate in. Think about people you would like to invite to church or to watch church online. Think about what local issues you want the church to engage with and topics you want to explore in sermons and in small groups.

Find Your Crackle!
Share Your Crackle!
A Happy, Healthy New Year to you!

Peace and Blessings
Rev Lori Whittemore, she/her
Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco Biddeford revlori.uucsb@gmail.com

- **Share the Plate – January – Seeds of Hope**

The Seeds of Hope Neighborhood Center in Biddeford partners with our local communities and neighbors to find solutions to poverty and to promote personal growth. Besides the drop-in center, they provide support for job searches, finding housing, and other needs, as well as health promotion and education.

Please Give Generously

- **Little Free Pantry**

During the cold weather and freezing temperatures please refrain from placing canned or glass items into the Little Free Pantry.

- **Coffee Hosts, Ushers & Flowers Needed**

We need Ushers and flower donations every Sunday. Coffee hosts are also needed to make coffee, bring snacks, and clean up. Please sign up on the schedule on the bulletin board by the restrooms. Thanks.

- **Live Stream on YouTube**

We are now live streaming our services on YouTube 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 YouTube channel

Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco-Biddeford.

(YouTube link on our web page)

- **Covid-19 Guidelines**

- Masks are OPTIONAL inside
- 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%.