

Friday Flyer – April 7, 2023

News You Can UUse

From the UU Church of Saco and Biddeford

- **Worship This Week** – *Embodied Disobedience (Easter)*
- *Rev. Dr. Lori Whittemore & Rev. Niki Norman*
- **Worship at 10:00 AM – April 9th – Wear your Easter Bonnet for the parade**

• **Church Activities This Week:**

- Sunday, April 9 @ 10:00 AM - Worship
- Monday, April 10 @ 5:30 PM - FiAT
- Tuesday, April 11 @ 4:30 PM - Membership Committee
- Wednesday, April 12 @ 5:30 PM - Trustees
- Thursday, April 13 @ 6:00 PM - SBGM – ZOOM (off site)
- Thursday, April 13 @ 7:00 PM - Lenten Vespers

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**

It is Good Friday. In the Christian tradition this is the sacred day that marks when Jesus was crucified. From this sacred marker, people recognize the absence of God in our midst. When my daughter was younger, I would take her to anime Boston which always corresponds with Easter weekend. An anime event is one where all the attendants dress up like their favorite characters, usually from cartoons or comic books. For me it was enjoyable to see so many humans coming together in a peaceful, joyful way. A little bit like a huge Halloween party. The event started Friday at 3:00 and went through Sunday at 12:00. We milled about this 3000+ person event in the Heinz Convention Center in Boston over the course of the weekend looking at booths, and listening to presenters and mostly ogling the attendees. On Saturday, we spotted someone dressed up as Jesus. My daughter said, “He’s not supposed to be here, he hasn’t been resurrected yet.” I was delighted to realize that she had been paying attention all those years of Sunday school.

These next 36 hours, between crucifixion and resurrection, are symbolic to Christians of the absence of the living God. His life was tangibly the embodiment of the Old Testament. Rather than a set of practices, traditions and commandments, Jesus came into the world to SHOW what that looked like by living them out, not just reading and interpreting words, but actually contextualizing them and being the Word, the exemplar. The greatest commandment as stated in Matthew 22 is to love God with your whole heart, mind and soul and love your neighbor as yourself. I guess that means that LOVE is what it all comes down to. Jesus lived a life of love, siding with those who probably needed a little extra as they had circumstances that kept them on the margins of society. He embodied that love, resisting authority that would exclude people that didn’t or couldn’t meet the letters of the law and rules of the religious institutions. He chose love over institution. Our streams of faith flow down from the Christian tradition. And like it or not, the framework of our particular society has been crafted from a Judeo-Christian structure. All of this to say that we are formed from this assumption.

Friday afternoon through Sunday morning marks a time of disembodied contemplation. I invite you to take a deep dive into your faith this weekend. Assess where you are at, and what informs you. What does the term God mean for you? What is your north star that you make meaning with? How do you relate to that north star? Through prayer, music, walking in nature? How do you relate to it through community? What and when do you feel disconnected to it? How do you restore that connection when you feel disconnected? What are the gifts and graces in this for you and what sense

of purpose does it give you? Write this out for yourself. This time is figuratively the dark night of the soul. I invite you to think about your faith on a contemplative level so that when we come together again on Sunday, we can celebrate your/our living into our faith on Sunday and for this next year. In costumes or hats or in any other way you wish!

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

- **Pledge Update**

We are halfway through our pledge drive with our goal of \$71,000.00. Our total to date is \$47,113. If you have not sent in or dropped off your pledge yet, please do so. Our deadline for closing the pledge drive is next Monday, April 10th. If we have not heard from you by then, we will give you a call. We cannot finalize our budget until we have all of our pledges in. Thank you very much for your generous pledges.

Wendy Coleman, Treasurer

- **Vespers – Our 7th Principle**

A small group of hearty souls has met the last five Thursdays for some really meaningful exploration of our first five principles. We're moving on to the seventh principle next Thursday. Please join us Thursday evening at 7:00 for an informal conversation around our seventh principle "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." The coffee pot will be on!

- **Welcome Back to Souper Sunday – April 23**

On April 23rd we welcome back another Souper Sunday. This is always a fun time to enjoy conversation & homemade soups, breads and desserts after a Sunday service. We hope to have information about Green Sanctuary 2030 to share with you as well. Mark your calendars now for Sunday, April 23rd, and bring your appetite and maybe something to share. As the date approaches, there will be sign-up sheets for set up, soups, bread, desserts, and clean up. It would be appreciated if everyone could contribute in some way or another. We thank you and look forward to seeing you at this event!

The Faith in Action Team (Donna B., Diane E., Sonja G., Laurie S., and Randa T.)

- **Share the Plate – April – York County Community Action Corp.**

YCCAC provides a range of resources and programs to support households and individuals throughout the county, providing a unique combination of health and social services. At YCCAC, we are driven by the belief that when our communities are strong, all of its members have opportunities to thrive— and, in turn, that when an individual achieves personal success and independence, our communities grow healthier, stronger and more vibrant.

- **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%.