



A Church is not a Business

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Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco & Biddeford

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youtube.com/@uucsb uuchurch@gwi.net

May Worship

May 7th — Reverend Lori Whittemore

“A New Approach”

May 14th — Reverend Lori Whittemore

“The Motherload”

May 21st — Reverend Niki Norman

“The right side of the soul”

May 28th — Reverend Lori Whittemore

“The winners and the narrative”

On May 7th, Rev. Lori will be joined by Cheryl Mills of
“Welcoming Immigrants, Our New Neighbors” (WIONN).

Live Stream of Services

Please join us for the live stream of services at
youtube.com/@uucsb.



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

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Words from Reverend Lori

Here we are at May's doorstep! The theme for the month of May is creativity which is perfect as we are swimming in signs of creation. Flowers and trees blooming, grass beginning to grow. Mother's Day is in May, the ultimate creative holiday. Wombs and blooms! I found a prayer written by the Singapore Church Missionary Society that spoke to me about the upcoming month of May:



God stir the soil,

run the ploughshare deep.

Cut the furrows round and round,

overturn the hard, dry ground

spare no strength nor toil.

Even though I work.

In the loose, fresh mangled earth,

sow new seed.

Free of withered vine and weed.

Bring fair flowers to the birth.

Certainly there have been buds and crocuses before May, but most every Mainer knows, you can't plant most things before Memorial Day. And so this month is the month of making the soil ready. Cutting through the dirt, mixing in compost, pulling all that has withered and cultivating the soil to bear new life. May is the month of creation and creativity. We will be sharing the plate with WIONN (welcoming immigrants our new neighbors). What an amazing form of creation to invite those from other countries and cultures to be a part of our families in one way or another. Stir the soil, break open the soil, lay us bare for the creation of new things!

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 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 community chaplain and interfaith minister in southern Maine. Rev Niki graduated from and was ordained by the Chaplaincy Institute of Maine in 2020, where she currently serves as a board member. Rev Niki provides weekly interfaith services for the residents of St Joseph's Rehab and Residence in Portland and was honored to be the Minister of the Week at Ferry Beach in the summer of 2021. Rev Niki is a member of the UUCSB and is deeply grateful for the support from the UUCSB community. She loves people, laughter, music, cats and poetry, in no particular order!

Cheryl Mills first learned about the refugee work that Judy and Dick Cadmus were doing (that would become Welcoming Immigrants Our New Neighbors) at an ecumenical Lenten service in the winter of 2017. Since then she has served WIONN in a variety of capacities including as a Care Team member, team mentor, family intake and mentor, enrollment grant manager, New Mainer organization liaison, special project coordinator and a member of the Leadership Team. Her favorite part of the work is developing relationships with New Mainers and helping them navigate the social service and legal systems.

Music Notes

from Choir
Director, Ellie Rolnick



Songs are funny things. They can slip across borders. Proliferate in prisons. Penetrate hard shells. I always believed that the right song at the right moment could change history.

Pete Seeger

- **Rehearsals:** Pick Up Choir typically rehearses on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month followed by singing in church on that day. Upcoming Dates: May 14th and May 28th. There will be an additional rehearsal for Mother's Day (May 14th) for those interested in doing a very special piece.
- **Time:** 8:45 – 9:45 We meet in the Parish Hall to start, and we begin on time. Helpers arriving at 8:30 are appreciated.
- **Participation:** 'Pick up Choir' means that you do not need to commit to every Sunday that we sing; but if I can know in advance that you'll be there, it helps me plan for appropriate music.
- **Special Music:** Do you like to sing solo or play an instrument? Special music is always a welcome addition to a service.

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 uucsbchoir@gmail.com.

Special Music for May – Look for more information this month in the Friday Flyer about who our special musicians will be for the month of May.

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. If you have a suggestion for a local charity or non-profit to receive the Share the Plate offering, please talk to Lori.



May Share the Plate: Welcome Immigrants Our New Neighbors (WIONN)

WIONN is a 15 year old nonprofit group of volunteers who work with refugee and asylum-seeking families primarily in the Biddeford and Saco area. Several of our UUCSB members have been involved in helping asylum-seeking families over the last 4 years. These families sometimes find themselves in difficult financial situations.

Our Principles - My View

In this time of unrest and uncertainty in our community, country, and the world, do you, as a UU, feel strongly about an issue? We invite you to share your view with our UU community. The Messenger accepts opinion pieces that are grounded in our Principles and the Sources from which they are drawn. My View articles represent the beliefs and opinions of the authors. We are a congregation that accepts one another as we search for truth and meaning in our lives and our community.

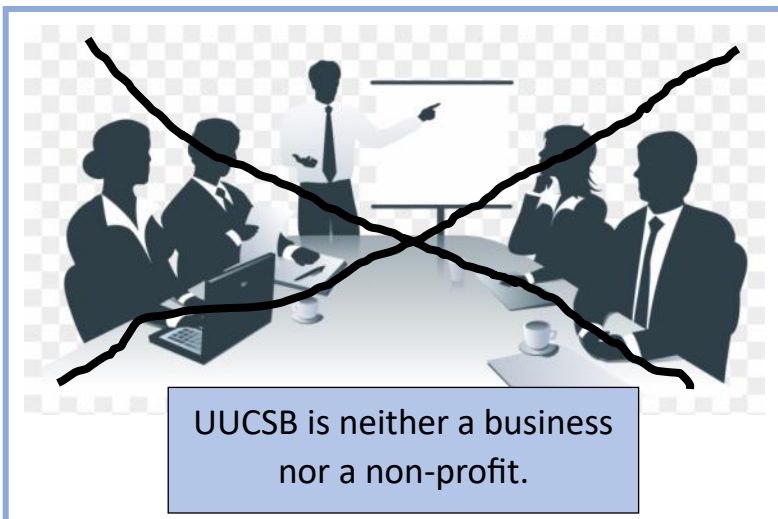
This month's *My View* article is offered by Anne Dobson - thoughts worth thinking about during this time of financial requests, pledges, and budget creation.

From **"Serving with Grace: Lay Leadership as a Spiritual Practice"**

by Erik Walker Wikstrom

.....For some, this is a new – and possibly heretical – way of looking at things. If the church were a business, of course, efficiency, productivity, and the bottom line really would matter. Perhaps the most important thing to a small business, even a non-profit, is to accomplish the goals of the organization as effectively and efficiently as possible. Completion of tasks matters. Balanced budgets matter. Success, however that's defined, most definitely matters.

*But **churches** are not small businesses, even though they often act that way. They are not even typical non-profits because **they are, first and foremost, communities.** They strive to embody the ideals represented by the familiar term, beloved community. **South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu once said that the church should be "an audiovisual aid for the sake of the world."** Showing **how the world should be.** And so here, despite the many similarities with traditional businesses, different rules apply. There is, so to speak, a new bottom line and the measure of success is entirely different.*



Invitation to “Who Knew....?”

We offer you an invitation to share yourself – your talents/and/or pastimes – with our congregation through a monthly Messenger article. Anne Dobson calls it a “Who Knew....?” piece – an exploration of things we don’t know about folks we do know. Send us a few paragraphs about yourself, along with a photo.

This month’s article is written by Wendy Coleman

I have been a Universalist all my life. I grew up in Medford, Massachusetts, which had 2 Universalist churches and 1 Unitarian church. I played the clarinet all through school and was in the Medford High School band.

I have always been an avid reader and love to read mysteries. I also love to bake, sew, garden and go camping. I spent many a weekend in the front seat of a Chevy El Camino going to Maine to visit relatives.

Both of my parents were born in Maine and lived there until after my 3 oldest sisters were born. All of my vacations were in Maine. I have gone to Ferry Beach most all of my life, either during family week with my sisters or to camp. All of my sisters and brother were on the crew at Ferry Beach. Ferry Beach is my happy place and the reason that we moved to Saco.

Paul and I moved to Maryland in 1981 because of Paul’s work and stayed there raising our 2 boys for 13 years. We then moved to Pennsylvania again for Paul’s work. When the boys went to school, I started working for a startup company to do all of the accounting, office management and insurance. A few years later Paul came to work for them, too. The company grew from 4 employees to 250. In 2009 the company got sold and we looked for a house in Maine. We bought it in April, but didn’t move up here until 2010.

Paul and I have 8 grandchildren and 1 great granddaughter who live in Okahoma and Seattle. We have 1 more on the way.

We have traveled to Scotland, Egypt, Venice, Greece and Croatia. Now we are here in Maine enjoying the ocean, being closer to family in MA and being a part of UUCSB.



Caring Connection

As always, this has been a busy month for the Caring Connection. It was made more challenging by some health issues encountered by members of the committee. We hope to recover soon. Thank you for your healing thoughts and prayers.

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 need. Please continue to call on us if you know of a caring need. We can only help if we know help is needed. Any communication will be kept confidential.



The Caring Connection:

Paula Howard, Donna Ravn, Pat Snyder, Rosemary Stewart, and Marilyn Stoesser-Casad

Around the Building

When last we spoke, we were facing two major issues. The first was a leak in the roof causing water to come in the Archives Room. This valley between the sanctuary and the annex has been a traditional trouble spot. Our roofer, J.P. and Family, came to look at the problem immediately. He walked the entire roof caulking and nailing down shingles that could cause us further problems. He also submitted an estimate for fixing the area where water was coming in. Thanks to our Finance Committee, we can sign a contract to have the roof fixed. Work should begin soon.

Our 50+ year old furnace is limping along. We have a break down showing costs of upkeep since 2004. Over the last four years, costs have soared, and parts are getting more difficult to come by. Knowing that our major heat source's days are numbered, we contacted three companies about the possibility of installing heat pumps, particularly the Sanctuary. All three urged us to look at heat pumps as a supplement rather than a primary heat source for our Sanctuary.

So, we thought about the most eco-friendly way to have a new primary source of heat in our buildings. All our heating pros felt that supplements such as heat pumps could be added. We have estimates from two companies. The third felt so strongly about the primary source needing replacement that he would not estimate heat pumps at this time. (If you want to see the other two estimates, contact Anne D.)

When we do install heat pumps, we would have to beef up our 100amp electrical service to 200amps. This would cost about \$5500.

We found out that Unitil natural gas lines stop at the corner of High and School Streets. Pipe extensions could be installed under the street from the corner to the UUCSB – for a cost!

We are thinking that replacing our current boiler may be the best immediate solution to our heat problems. New boilers would cut our fuel usage by about 30% and would burn the fuel much more efficiently. We are awaiting estimates from three providers. The Finance Committee and the Board are considering funding options and will present them at the Annual Meeting.

There are several rebates and special financial incentives related to some of the work we need done.

B&G folks have been very busy bees this month – the roof, the heat, the LED lights switchover, the new main door, railings on the steeple stairs, table cloths....

— Anne Dobson



Yard Sale/ Bake Sale/ Art Sale

June 24-June 25

8:00 - 1:00

Save the dates!!! We are planning a really, really big Yard Sale/ Bake Sale/ Art Sale this year. Jean Horton will be organizing our Bake Sale, and Anne Dobson will need lots of help with the Yard Sale and Art Sale. Sign up sheets are in the church. Avoid the rush and gather your goods and energy. More information to follow!!!

Welcome Immigrants Our New Neighbors (WIONN)

WIONN is a 15 year old nonprofit group of volunteers who work with refugee and asylum-seeking families primarily in the Biddeford and Saco area. Several of our UUCSB members have been involved in helping asylum-seeking families over the last 4 years. These families sometimes find themselves in difficult financial situations.

If you would like to donate to help families in need, you may write checks to: **Christ Federated Church** ("*Refugee Project*" on memo line please) or give cash to Randa Thomas, Sonja Gerken or Matt Gerken.

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.

Film Screening

Please join us for "Bounty " – A Film Screening and Conversation with Penobscot Ambassador Maulian Dana.

First Parish Unitarian Universalist Meeting House
425 Congress Street, Portland

Saturday, May 6, 2023 from 3 to 5 PM in the Parish Hall

This event is part of First Parish's ongoing truth telling and reconciliation process of telling the dark story of a bounty posse against the Penobscot in 1757 that members of our early church participated in. The short documentary "Bounty" tells the story of that scalp bounty proclamation – the Phips proclamation – of 1755.

This is an in-person only event which is FREE and registration is not required. Donations are accepted, and all donations will be split between First Parish and the Wabanaki Alliance. At the event, we'll accept donations by cash or check only. If you wish to reserve a spot and donate with a credit card online, you can go to the Eventbrite link below.

Register on Eventbrite and help spread the word: [Eventbrite film screening](#). While on the site, please follow First Parish as event organizer. You can also post the event on social media or invite others to it.

The Wabanaki Ally Team at First Parish UU hopes you can join us!

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

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 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

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

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. More information on membership can be found at: www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com/connection/become-a-member/

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

We strive to be a Green Sanctuary and a Welcoming Congregation.