

Friday Flyer – June 23, 2023

News You Can UUse

From the UU Church of Saco and Biddeford

- No Worship This Week

• Church Activities This Week:

- Friday, June 23 - Yard Sale Setup
- Friday, June 23 @ 3:00 PM - Preview Sale
- Saturday, June 24 @ 8:00 AM - Yard Sale
- Sunday, June 25 @ 8:00 AM - Yard Sale
- Thursday, June 29 @ 7:00 PM - SBGM – Movie Night *A Very Sordid Wedding*

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's officially SUMMER!

We are on our summer schedule, which means all are welcome to facilitate a Sunday. I invite you all to consider signing up for a week and share your unique gifts and graces with the community! I have heard from several people about their concerns about the heating system discussions. From my vantage point, the decision on **what** type of system to use is of equal, if not less important to **how** we approach the decision. It was a bit confusing to change speeds about the need for a decision. Now, gratefully, we have time to get on the same team, set up a process for gathering and reviewing data together. and for setting goals and weights for evaluating the data that comes in. All based on a shared goal of what it means to care for the earth and be the change we want to see. I took out my trusty book mark with the seven principles of Unitarian Universalism.

The heating system touches on all of our principles. Respecting the worth and dignity of each person, regardless of their position. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations. Again respecting all of the work that has gone into considering this enormously important decision and treating all that have worked on it with the respect and compassion. Accepting that we are humans being human and doing our best. I preached about this a couple of weeks ago. It is embedded in our 3rd principle that we recognize that some will annoy you and you will annoy some. It is our call to recognize and hold that gently.

We are seeking truth and making meaning in this important decision. It is a free decision. Let's make it a responsible decision as well. Responsible to each other keeping right relationship in mind and responsible to the world we live in. I am proud that our democratic process allowed us to pivot. That is an example of how democracy should move with issues at hand. We have also explored this year how climate change disproportionately affects people already in the margins. This is more than about emissions. How do we source the heating system and the fuel (s) that keep us warm considering who is making the systems and who is manufacturing and what chemicals are used to build these systems and where do those chemicals come from? That is a world community issue. And it goes without saying, we take seriously our part in the interdepend web of all existence.

This is not an easy decision. I will circle back to the idea that HOW we decide is as important as WHAT we decide. That is the sweet spot of our community. Let us hold that idea near and dear!!!

Let me share a poem that came to me this week.

Friends and Lovers who agree to disagree by David Smith

Any kind of love worth having,
Understands that disagreements happen,
And does not diminish when the first disagreement surfaces,
No, it will stay around and show its true value,
Not pack a sad and leave the field open to hate and prejudice,
This love that will stand the test of time,
Hold true even in the face of war, or famine,
And will retain its shape, no matter how hard the battering.
Be it for a friend a lover, or a family member, or even a stranger,
Who is in need of this love.

To agree to disagree,
To see both sides of the coin,
And give them equal value,
To recognise that opinions are not good or bad but different,
And not an indication of a wish to do harm,
To understand that thoughts and words and deeds,
All travel at different speeds.

Agreeing to disagree gives us an extra layer of comfort,
That a lesser kind of love will not,
As our thoughts and words can be a close match,
And only our deeds will need to be sometimes kept in check.

All too often do we fail to see,
That this kind of Love does not take kindly to us setting agendas,
Making unreasonable demands,
Or withholding favours,
To get agreements that will always be broken.

This kind of love,
Brings me so much hope,
I am glad I recognised it before it was too late,
So bitterness will not dog my twilight years
As I find plenty to talk about,
With those who have chosen to agree to disagree with me.

This is the love I feel in our community. I invite you to:

READ: this passage again out loud

MEDITATE on it and see what word or sentence stands out to you

PRAY: whatever that looks to you

CONTEMPLATE and INTEGRATE: what this means for you

Peace and Blessings

Rev Lori Whittemore, (she/her/hers)
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- **Yard Sale – June 24-25**

Thank you bakers, setter uppers, donors and sellers – oh, and BUYERS!! Whatever you signed up to help at the Yard sale, Jean and I will be in touch with you next week to confirm your assignment. We will be having a **PREVIEW SALE on Fri. June 23 from 3 to 5** for those who want to shop early. Please join us.

Please wrap and label all baked goods. Identify any unusual ingredients i.e., nuts or gluten free or anything you think they should know. You may suggest a price if you like, try to use whole dollar amounts. Please let Jean H. know if you are able to sit at the baked goods table for a few hours.

- **Share the Plate – June – Equality Community Center**

The ECC is a collaborative workplace for LGBTQ+ and allied social justice seeking non-profit organizations, including Equality Maine, MaineTransNet, Pride Portland, PFLAG, Khmer Maine, Cross Cultural Community Services, Democracy Maine, Sexual Assault Response Services, Through These Doors, Prevention Action Change and the Kindling Collective. Located at 15 Casco Street in downtown Portland, the Center provides a safer and more inclusive gathering space with social and educational programming for all, working to support the most marginalized in our communities.

- **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%.