

## UU Church of Saco and Biddeford

Saco, Maine

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September 10, 2023

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

#### **Worship Support Volunteers Needed**

Every member of our church family has a role to play. We need ushers, flowers, coffee hour hosts, audio/video support and worship assistants every Sunday. **Please sign up for at least two slots on the schedule on the bulletin board by the restrooms.** Thanks.

#### **Hannaford Gift 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%. Please enter the Nursery one person at a time to purchase your cards.

#### **Share the Plate – September – MDF**

In September, we will be sharing our plate collection with the MDF. Half of the plate offering for the month will be earmarked for this fund.

**Heating System Proposal Discussion  
September 17<sup>th</sup> following worship**

***Please e-mail announcements to Brian in the church office ([uuchurch@gwi.net](mailto:uuchurch@gwi.net)) by 8 AM the Wednesday prior to the Sunday they are to appear. Announcements will not be carried over to the next week unless you notify us no later than Wednesday. Thanks.***

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#### **TODAY IN OUR WORSHIP:**

#### **Ingathering: We Are Water Protectors**

#### **Rev. Dr. Lori Whittemore**

Rev. Dr. Lori Whittemore leads our service today in the traditional water communion, ingathering. Today's service is titled "We are Water Protectors" based on our reading of Carole Windstrom's children's book of the same title. We mix our water's together to symbolize our joining together inextricably as we move into our next worship year. We acknowledge also today that we participate in the larger interdependent web of existence and we have a part in tending the elements that create and sustain life. Just as we stand together in fellowship with each other, we stand together with those who do this work as sacred ecologists!

#### **NEXT SUNDAY – September 17**

#### **Giving and Getting**

#### **Rev. Niki Norman**

Rev. 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 each week 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!

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**Greetings & Announcements** – Jane Perkins

**Sounding the Singing Bowl**

**Prelude** – Paul Benya  
*You are invited to light a candle of remembrance.*

**Welcoming Words**

**Lighting of the Chalice**

We light this chalice today  
To invite the spirit  
To shine brightly on our commitment to love  
Our families, our friends, our community, and the world  
To remind us that our ideals mean something  
To inspire us to find new ways to live out our ideals  
To help us to find new ways to love.

**\*Hymn #360** *Here We Have Gathered*

**Reading of the Covenant**

This is our sacred promise:  
To gather together in peace  
To seek truth in love  
To serve human need  
So that all shall grow in harmony with the divine.

**Greeting Your Neighbor**

**Choir** *Bring Many Waters* – Bernadette R. Burns

**Sharing from the Heart** (*Joys and Concerns*)

**Prayer #123** *Spirit of Life*

Spirit of Life, come unto me;  
Sing in my heart, all the stirrings of compassion,  
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea,  
Move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.  
Roots hold me close, wings set me free.  
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

**Reading** *We Are Water Protectors* – Carole Lindstrom

**Message** *We Are Water Protectors* – Rev. Lori Whittemore

**Gathering of the Waters**

**\*Hymn #347** *Gather the Spirit*

**Blessing of the Waters**

**The Work of This Church – Offertory**

**Share the Plate** – Minister's Discretionary Fund

**\*Song of Gratitude and Celebration**

From all that dwell below the skies,  
Let faith and hope and love arise.  
Let beauty, truth and good be sung,  
Through ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue. Amen.

**\*Extinguish the Chalice**

As we release this flame  
From its faithful service today  
We allow the spark in each of us to burn on;  
To warm our compassion,  
To fire our delight  
To light our paths,  
Today, tomorrow and always.

**\*Hymn #100** *I've Got Peace Like a River*

**Closing Words**

**Choir** *Go Now in Peace* – Natalie Sleeth

**Postlude**

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**\*Please stand, as you are comfortable.**

**Thanks for making our worship possible:**

Ushers – Pieter Whittemore

Flowers – Jane Perkins

Coffee Hour – Edite Kroll & Keith Walker

***Hearing assistance devices and large-print hymnals are available. Please ask an usher.***