



Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco & Biddeford
60 School St., Saco, Maine 04072

www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com 207-282-0062

youtube.com/@uucsb uuchurch@gwi.net

December Worship

10:00 AM

December 3rd — Reverend Lori Whittemore
“Be The Change”

December 10th — Reverend Todd Glacy
“Healing Mystery”

December 17th — Reverend Lori Whittemore
“Mystery in our Midst”

December 24th — Reverend Lori Whittemore and
Reverend Niki Norman
Christmas Eve Service at 4PM
(No morning service)

December 31st — Reverend Charlie Grindle
Janus Service



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Live Stream of Services

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

*The Worship Committee wants to encourage contemplative
time at the beginning of our service. You are invited to sit
silently while gathering music is being played.*

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

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.



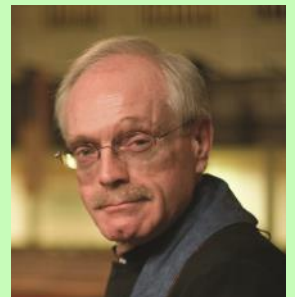
Reverend Todd Glacy is an enlightenment advocate, empowerment educator, and instigator of joy. He is an ordained interfaith minister, licensed counselor, certified life coach, yoga and meditation instructor and professional musician. He has traveled extensively as a guest speaker and workshop facilitator helping empower people to lead happy, healthy and fulfilling lives.



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 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!



Reverend Charlie Grindle considers himself a free-range minister. He has led services and performed marriages from Bar Harbor to York. Charlie is pleased to be offering the Janus Service to the congregation this year. Presently, he serves on the board of the Sanford UU Church, is the summer organist at St. James, Scarborough, and will be guest Music Director at First Parish in Portland.



Words from Reverend Lori

Hello Good People,

Here we are heading into the darkest time of the year. We are in the season of holidays and observances with all of their joys and challenges. It is a joy to walk into it together. Holding space for all of our fellowship and feelings. We will experience the Christmas Fair once again. People have already stopped me out front to ask when it will take place. I realize how important this kind of event is to our community and the community at large. Making our presence/presents felt in the many ways that we do. Our tree of Hope will be sprouting hats and mittens and scarves. Please feel free to add to it to warm our neighbors. The theme for the month is mystery and so appropriate for exploring the darkness of the nights, the candles of Hanukah and the advent of the birth of Jesus. Members of our community will share readings and light the advent candles ushering us into the rebirth of the son/sun. We will sing our favorite hymns and enjoy time together in the many ways we come together to be in community and enjoy community. Join us, bring a friend. Reach out if you need support. Find your inner light and share it with the community and the world.

Peace and Blessings.



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.



December Share the Plate: Hope Squad

Hope Squad's mission is to see those that are invisible; to hear those that have no voice, and to reinforce the infinite values and worth of each person we meet by providing a compassionate ministry of presence, needed resources and hope to those living on the streets of Maine through our mobile outreach.

Storm Closings

It is getting to be that time of year, folks. In the event of bad weather, the board president and vice president will make the decision to cancel Sunday services by 7:30 a.m. The church administrator will post the cancellation on television (WCSH-6, WMTW-8 and WGME-13) as well as on the church voice mail message and website. An e-mail message will also be sent out from the church office if possible. As always, please use your own best judgement for safety.



Music Notes

from Choir
Director, Ellie Rolnick



"Music is well said to be the speech of angels."

John Milton Cage

- **Rehearsals:** This month Pick Up Choir is rehearsing and singing on Sunday December 3rd and Sunday Evening December 24th. A special rehearsal will be scheduled for our Christmas Eve service. Keep your eyes on the Friday Flyer for updates if you are not on the choir email list.
- **Time:** 8:45 – 9:45 (December 3rd) We meet in the Parish Hall to start and we begin on time. Helpers arriving at 8:30 are appreciated. Time for December 24th TBD.
- **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 in December

- 12/3 The UUCSB Pick Up Choir — Our choir, directed by Ellie Rolnick, will offer special music and often supports the congregational singing. Make a joyful noise with us!
- 12/10 Todd Glacy (also leading the service that day)
- 12/17 Patrick Freeman: *Patrick was born in Fort Kent, Maine in 1948. He lived with foster care from the ages 3 to 18. He had some music lessons when he was young but at about the age of 9 he did not have a piano at the house so had to discontinue the lessons. Around age 20 he had private music lessons for about a year. In his late twenties he moved to Bangor and found employment selling organs, receiving free music lessons from the owner for a year. He continued to play organs and became self-taught. Patrick graduated from UMaine in 1976 with a teaching degree. After several teaching and other jobs he settled in Portland working at Maine Medical Center for 16 years. He continued playing the organ and keyboard during those times. He retired from MMC in 2013 and started playing music in Nursing Homes throughout Southern Maine. He usually plays music from way back in early 1900 to the present day. He has started a music recording studio in his apartment which continues to be a learning process. Patrick says "I enjoy playing music. I have been playing music by ear for many years. I guess that is a God gift."*
- 12/24 UUCSB Pick-up Choir and other Special Guest Musicians
- 12/31 Charlie Grindle (also leading the service that day)

Caring Connection

November has been a very busy month for all of us at church. The Caring Connection has been trying to assist whenever possible. Several of our devoted members have been suffering with physical difficulties, others with winter blues and unfortunate troubling or sad situations. We've worked to come up with several different and creative comfort plans.



One thing we've been trying to do for awhile is establish a way to identify and help with the unspoken troubles of our church folks. They might light a candle on Sunday and not speak the reason or they sit in their pew and deal with the situations alone. We are working on a way where a person could jot down their problem, fold the note and pass it on to Rev. Lori and/or the Caring Connection without worrying about public exposure. We expect to get this process up and running soon. Meanwhile, we hope that all of us continue to watch out for one another. Our church is a most caring and loving safe haven for all.

Along these lines is a way our church is helping folks keep warm this winter. On December 10, after the Sunday service, the Tree of Hope will be hung with gloves, mittens, hats, socks, muffs, scarves and other small items to ward off the bitterness of winter. The tree out front was planted 23 years ago in honor of Beth Gallagher who was a faithful, fun and dear church member who died too young. Three years ago, her tree became our "Tree of Hope". "Take what you need, Share what you can" is our church motto for the Tree and the Little Free Pantry, which is just steps away from the Tree and serves our community all year long.

A basket with items to share which have been donated will be by the entry door of the church. We hope you will help by taking some items, whenever you leave the church, and hang them on the Tree.

We also need your donations of items to help us complete our task of helping local folks keep warm. There will be a basket to hold your donations right outside of the Sanctuary so you can drop them off anytime. Thank you for your help with this most wonderful winter project.

We wish you all a happy, safe Holiday Season!

The Caring Connection:

Marilyn Stoesser-Casad, Rosemary Stewart, Paula Howard, Jean Horton, and Pat Snyder



Around the Building....

Last year the Board revised three of our policies. B&G was charged with revision of the Building Use Policy. This Policy is posted outside the church office, and it was given to all committee contacts and liaisons. One of the provisions in this policy was an annual review of all non UUCSB committee long term building users. Brian and I have just finished this review.

1. Saco Bay Gay Men – current contact is Brain Dustin. This group started in the Fall Of 2008 and soon became an official Social Action project of the UUCSB, The original group was much larger than the current group. They did outreach and programs involving folks in southern Maine and New Hampshire, including, at one point, Aids testing. At present there are far fewer members and the scope of activity has changed. The group now has a different activity each Thursday evening – Sage, dinner out, game night and films.
2. Women in Harmony's music library is in our Youth Room. You may have seen the rows of file cabinets. This archive is tended by Betsey Pace. Sometimes other Women in Harmony join Betsey in sorting and refiling the music. Women in Harmony joined us in May of 2014. They do two concerts a year.
3. Harbour Singers was the brain child of Thayer McCain and Ellie Rolnick. It became an official UUCSB Social Action project in 2009. This group meets two Wednesdays a month in our Parish Hall to rehearse for singing to folks in hospice throughout southern Maine. Last summer they did a lay led service related to their work. Carolyn Treat is their contact person. Her name and contact information is listed in our new Directory.

Just look at the number of years these folks have been with us and have served our greater community! Although all three occasionally make donations to the UUCSB, the Board over the years has provided space to them as our way of supporting the work they do. What a privilege.

— Anne Dobson

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.

New Messenger Editor

Beau Grothendick has generously volunteered to assume the role of editor for the Messenger. He will be putting together our monthly newsletter, starting with the January 2024 issue. If you see Beau, be sure to thank him for taking on this task.

— *Mogens Ravn*

Greetings from the Treasurer

Account balances as of 11/20/2023 are as follows:

Checking	\$7,943.56
Accounts Payable	\$0.00
Restricted Savings	\$51,627.97
Saco/Bidd Investments	\$156,142.35

Any questions, just call.
Sincerely, *Wendy Coleman*



Hannaford Gift Cards

Would you like to donate to the church in a way that doesn't cost you anything? If you buy your weekly groceries with a Hannaford gift card purchased from UUCSB, the church gets 5%. Our church depends on this fundraiser to contribute to its operating budget. Cards are available in \$100 or \$50 denominations. Gift cards are for sale in the Parish Hall every Sunday after the worship service, or if you are worshipping virtually, just call or email Ellie Lockwood (eleanor.lockwood@twc-com) and make arrangements to pick them up at another time. Thank you for participating in this fundraiser in support of our church.



Ellie Lockwood

Little Free Pantry

Bring what you want; take what you need.

Some suggestions are peanut butter, pasta, rice, baking products, protein bars, cereal, canned soups, canned vegetables, powder laundry detergent, feminine hygiene products, diapers, toothpaste, bar soap and paper products.

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

Thank you for putting your Faith into Action.



Photo by Liz Gotthelf/Journal Tribune

CLYNK

Help UUCSB by returning your bottles and cans through the CLYNK service at Hannaford. Green bags may be picked up at the welcome table when you come to church on Sundays. Please remember that Market Basket labeled bottles and cans are not accepted by CLYNK.



Church Administrator

Brian Dustin

Hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 8 to 11 am.

[207/282-0062](tel:2072820062) or [207/632-4512](tel:2076324512)

Visit our website at: www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com.

If you would like to add or correct something on the website, 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.

Donate On-Line: PayPal may be used for donations and pledge payments. Go to the church website and at the very top of the page click "Give" and then click "Donate".

By Mail: Send donations and pledge payments to: UU Church of Saco & Biddeford, 60 School Street, Saco, ME 04072

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.