

UU Church of Saco and Biddeford
Saco, Maine

January 21, 2024

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Little Tree That Could

Please help our *Tree of Hope*. Today, after church, please take a few items from the basket by the door and attach them to the clips you'll find hanging from the tree. You can replenish hanging items anytime you are at the church! Thank you!

Share the Plate – January – Seeds of Peace

Each summer, hundreds of young people engage with each other across lines of conflict and difference—sharing meals, living spaces, and learning experiences in a traditional summer camp program.

Annual Hymn Sing - January 28

Join Choir Director Ellie Rolnick and the UUCSB Pick Up Choir for a 'hasn't happened in a while but Annual Hymn Sing'. We'll weave YOUR favorite hymns throughout our typical church service. Look for the hymn survey slip in your Order of Service or send Ellie an email at uucsbchoir@gmail.com. We'll need the name or number or first line of the hymn (from the gray or teal hymnal). No sermon or big picture message but you'll learn a little about UU Hymnody and how some of those favorite hymns came to be as well as do a lot of singing or enjoying the music as the words and sounds wash over you.

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.

Please e-mail announcements to Brian in the church office (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.

Printed on 30% recycled paper

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TODAY IN OUR WORSHIP:

Liberating Love

Rev. Lori Whittemore

The theme for this month is liberating love and next week we will explore what liberating love means in the context of Unitarian Universalism. More specifically Universalism. Liberating love means not only freeing someone from a place of love but it also means bringing them into the fold of decision making. Changing the structures of power and decision making that have oppressed or excluded them so they can bring their perspectives and energy to the evolving whole. Love liberates when it welcomes people and their ways of being in the world. Universalism sets us up for that. The belief that no one goes to hell, that everyone is "saved" and worthy frees us from excluding others. What does that mean for us at UUCSB?

NEXT SUNDAY – January 28

Annual Hymn Sing

Ellie Rolnick

Choir Director Ellie Rolnick and the UUCSB Pick Up Choir lead today's 'Hasn't happened in a while but Annual Hymn Sing'. We're weaving YOUR favorite hymns throughout our typical church service. No sermon or big picture message but you'll learn a little about UU Hymnody and how some of those favorite hymns came to be as well as do a lot of singing or enjoying the music as the words and sounds wash over you.

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You are invited to please sit quietly during the gathering music

Greetings & Announcements – Brian Dustin

Sounding the Singing Bowl

Prelude – Paul Benya

You are invited to light a candle of remembrance.

Welcoming Words

Responsive Reading (insert)

Lighting of the Chalice

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.

Our Covenant

***Hymn #361** *Enter, Rejoice, and Come In*

Greeting Your Neighbor

Special Music – Myra Robinson

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.

Story for All Ages *A Little Spot of Love* – Diane Albert

Reading *An Invocation to Liberating Love*

– Dr. David Breeden

***Hymn #115** *God of Grace and God of Glory*

Message *Liberating Love* – Rev. Lori /Whittemore

The Work of This Church – Offertory

Share the Plate – Seeds of Peace

***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 #108** *My Life Flows On in Endless Song*

Closing Words

Special Music – Myra Robinson

Postlude

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

Thanks for making our worship possible:

Ushers – Donna Beveridge & Betsey Pace

Flowers – Laurie Sivonen

Coffee Hour – Dorinne Spirito & Melissa Warren

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