



Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco & Biddeford

60 School St., Saco, Maine 04072

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youtube.com/@uucsb uuchurch@gwi.net



January 2024 Worship

**January 7th - Reverend Lori Whittemore
It Starts With A Friend**

**January 14th - Reverend Lori Whittemore
"What Loves Calls Us To Do"**

**January 21st - Reverend Lori Whittemore
"Liberating Love"**

January 28th - Lay Led Service (TBA)

Live Stream of Services

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

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

Words from Reverend Lori



Happy New Year Good People,

I want to begin my words for you with some questions.

Hoping to inspire some self-reflection as we step in all the new possibilities that a new year brings.

1. What seeds are you planting for the new year?

2. How are you weaving your magic into your relationships with others?

3. How can you/we center beauty and goodness and love in all that lies before us?

We have much to do in January and indeed in all of our time moving forward. Under the umbrella of challenge, and considering the theme of liberating love for the month of January, we will take on some difficult issues. All the while reminding ourselves for the love and beauty and joy that is present in the world and available to us and all people in every day. What seeds will you plant that you will cultivate this year to nourish yourself and this community and encourage that we live into our principles. How will you bring your unique and wonderful self into our worship, exploration and fellowship together? How do we stay awake to all the fullness of all there is so that we don't shut down to considering our role in it? These are big questions. It is the time of year for big questions and big intentions.

On January 7 we will be joined by Tim Wilson of Seeds of Peace to learn more about how their organization plants and cultivates human seeds to develop and grow peace in the troubled places in the world. On the 14th, we will have a community wide conversation about activism and the ways in which we engage with issues. In this case specifically what is happening in the middle east. Let's plan on having some soup together as we open up that conversation. The 21st we will look at the reality of love as a catalyst for liberation and change and we close out January singing our way through.

It has been an honor and a privilege to work here! I am looking forward to our journey together in January and in 2024.

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. Use the hyperlink below to visit information about the current Share the Plate organization.

January Share the Plate: Seeds of Peace

Music Notes

from Choir
Director, Ellie Rolnick



Ah, music. A magic beyond all we do here!

~Albus Dumbledore, From Harry Potter by J.K. Rowling

Rehearsals: This month Pick Up Choir is rehearsing and singing on Sunday January 14th and 28th.

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 in January

1/7: TBA

1/14: 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!

1/21: TBA

1/28: The Congregation! Join us for a ‘Hymn Sing’. Earlier in the month we’ll take a poll of your favorite hymns and songs from our hymnals. Ellie and the Choir will put together a service filled with our favorite music for all to sing!

Notes from the Board of Trustees

The following committee liaisons have been established for this year. We encourage all members to consider joining our committees which are the lifeblood of our church. We need your talents!

- Committee on Ministries: Paul Coleman
- Social Media Committee: Trevor Neitz
- Finance Committee: Wendy Coleman
- Worship Committee: Betsey Pace
- Building and Grounds: Anne Dobson
- Faith in Action: Jane Perkins
- Membership Committee: Trevor Neitz
- Caring Committee: Jane Perkins
- Music Committee: Anne Dobson

Who is on the board?

- President: Paul Coleman
- Vice President: Anne Dobson
- Secretary: Jane Perkins
- Treasurer: Wendy Coleman
- At Large: Jean Horton, Trevor Neitz, and Betsey Pace

Approved minutes of the BOT are posted on the bulletin board by the office.

Greetings from the Treasurer

Account balances as of 12/20/2023 are as follows:

- Checking \$9,773.27
- Accounts Payable \$-0-
- Restricted Savings \$51,671.23
- Saco/Bidd Investments \$164,677.79

Any questions, just call.

Sincerely, *Wendy Coleman*



Faith In Action

Green Sanctuary 2030, Mobilizing for Climate Justice: Green and Just

UUCSB has started the Green Sanctuary 2030 process. This is a comprehensive initiative of the UUA that will help us to address 4 elements:



FAITH
IN ACTION

Next Meeting:
January 3, 11:15 in
the Parlor
Join the Action!

•Congregational Transformation:

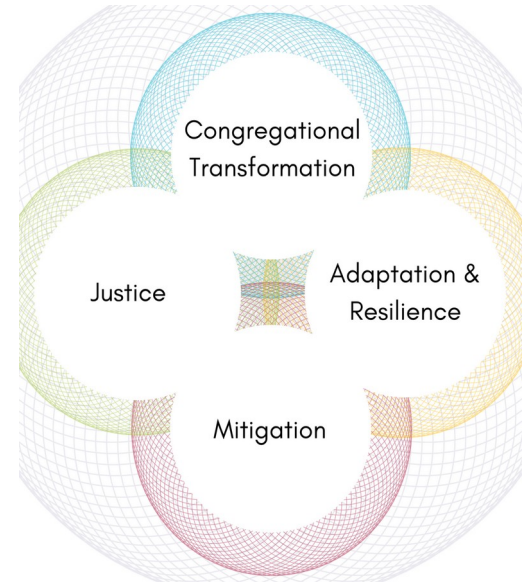
Deepening spiritual and emotional capacity necessary to strategize and act in complex situations with no guarantee of success

•Adaptation and Resilience

anticipate, prepare for, and respond to hazardous events, trends, or disturbances related to climate.

•Mitigation: limit climate change by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases or removing those gases

•Justice: supporting policies, laws and funding that will imbed protections for marginalized peoples.



Through innumerable resources such as community meetings with participants across the denomination, webinars, and one-on-one consultations with leaders, GS 2030 provides structure, leadership and support, in broad collaboration, for the UU faith community to engage in an ambitious environmental and climate justice movement that seeks to live fully our principles and achieve our vision of a sustainable and just world for all.



Learn more about GS2030 at:
<https://sidewithlove.org/climatejustice>



Each month, Faith in Action will “assign” 1 action that we think will be manageable for most and beneficial for all.

Trying to stay abreast of local actions?

[Sign up to get Action Alerts](#)

MUUSAN

Maine UU State
Advocacy Network

GET MUUSAN EMAILS →

This month we ask that you attend one (or more!) of 3 Zoom offerings by Side With Love’s Climate Justice Campaign.

- **Jan 3, 7-8pm:** [“Green Sanctuary 2030 Orientation”](#)
Attend a “watch party” and discussion at the church 6:45-8:30 (rsvp with [Randa T.](#)) or [register](#) to attend live from home or to get the recording of the session.
- **Jan 17, 7-8:30 pm** [“Green Sanctuary 2030 Celebration!”](#)
- **Jan 25, 7-8:30pm:** Webinar: [“Reimagining with Energy Democracy,”](#)

Around the Building

Someone tried to buy our Battery Daddy! Can you imagine? As I was checking folks out at our Grannie's Attic, a lady came up with a handful of items. She had a full of batteries Battery Daddy in her hands. "Where did you get this wee treasure?" I asked.

"Over there." She pointed to the Sanctuary sound board.

My heart froze! She had reached into our stack of tech stuff and grabbed our Battery Daddy. That was definitely NOT for sale! B&G was given this treasure last Christmas – as a joke. We thought of it as sort of like those faddish hinged omelet pans. However, as it turns out, this caddy for all shapes and sizes of batteries has become one of our favorite tools. As members of our B&G team heard about this, they were as amazed as I was. They were also so grateful it had been rescued. We are happy we still have our so useful treasure.

You may have noticed how dim it is in the Sanctuary. We have scheduled a time to replace our ceiling light in January. The lights were last replaced in 2016. We hire staging and replace them all at the same time. In addition this year we will also use the staging to apply reflective paint to the wall where we project hymns and other information. On Dec. 13th we had a Holiday coffee. We work so hard during our Monday session and other special project times, that we decided to take an hour to savor the Season.

Happy Holidays to All!

-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.

Coffee & Carbs

After taking time off for Covid, Coffee and Carbs has returned our UUCSB calendar.

Take a break from you week and join us at Saco Bay Variety, 216 Beach St., Saco on Friday mornings at 9:00 a.m. We gather to sip our favorite beverages and just enjoy each other for an hour or so. All are welcome.

FMI – Contact Pat Snyder

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.

Get It Write!

Feeling creative? Want to flex your writing skills? Practice your penmanship?

Join our writing club in the parlor
January 14th and 28th at 11:30 AM.

FMI – contact Trevor or Anne D.

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.

Thank you for putting your Faith into Action.



Photo by Liz Gotthelf/Journal Tribune

CLYNK

Help UUCS 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.