

Friday Flyer – January 19, 2024

News You Can UUse

From the UU Church of Saco and Biddeford

- **Worship This Week** – *What Love Calls Us To Do*
- *Rev. Lori Whittemore*
- **Worship at 10:00 AM – January 21st**

- **Church Activities This Week:**

- Sunday, Jan 24 @ 10:00 AM - Worship
- Sunday, Jan 21 @ 11:00 AM - Congregational Meeting
- Thursday, Jan 25 @ 7:00 PM - SBGM – Movie Night - *Akron*
- Friday, Jan 26 @ 9:00 AM - Coffee & Carbs (off site)

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

- **Congregational Meeting – January 21**

There will be a Congregational Meeting this Sunday, January 21 at 11:30am at 60 School Street. The purpose of the meeting is to #1. Discuss ordination and installation of Rev. Whittemore and #2. Obtain approval of members for the ordination and installation of Rev. Whittemore.

To facilitate our discussion, here are the definitions of “ordination” and “installation” from the Unitarian Universalist Handbook.

Ordination is the congregational act of bestowing formal recognition of a minister’s authority.

Installation is the congregational act of formally entering into shared ministry with their professional minister.

Our meeting this Sunday is asking for members to approve both ordaining and installing Rev. Whittemore.

- **Thoughts from Rev. Lori**

Hello Good People,

This week our service is created around the concept of liberating love, which is actually the theme for the entire month. I share with you some words by Rebecca Parker:

My beloved people,
I cannot pretend,
And so I will not tell you,
That everything is okay right now.
That there is no reason to be angry,
That you must be optimistic
Or at peace.

I cannot pretend these things,
And so I won't tell them to you.
And so all I ask in this moment is that we remember the words of Rebecca Parker:

There is a Love.

There is a Love holding us.

There is a Love holding all.

Love liberates us! It frees us. Because sometimes it is all we can do. It is a choice. When we stand in the face of beauty or ugliness, goodness or evil, delight or shame, we can always CHOOSE to love. We recognize that that choice means a letting go of control or outcome. We choose to love to send goodness into the universe hoping through faith that all things will be reconciled for goodness sake in the end. Our part is to love and to hold on loosely. To let others claim their own truth and support them or at least not hinder them in pursuing it. Love means we don't speak for others; we support them in finding their voice and we make space for that voice to be heard. Creating and nurturing liberating love means taking an honest inventory of how we show up in the world and orienting ourselves around making space. Are we out front leading all the time? Can we step back to make space for other's voices to rise to the surface? Do we hold back, not claiming our truths in service to a greater and more diverse whole? How do we participate in systems that are not inclusive of all voices, ideas, and ways of being in the world? Please consider these questions as we prepare ourselves to be together on Sunday!

Peace and Blessings
Rev Lori Whittemore, (she/her/hers)
Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco Biddeford
revlori.uucsb@gmail.com

- **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.

- **The Little Tree That Could**

Please help out *The 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. It is here that personal and interpersonal change begins, as perceptions and attitudes shift in the face of a new reality they create at Camp. As participants find their own voices, form relationships, and gain insights into the root issues that divide them, they build greater levels of confidence, trust, respect, and empathy, which inspire their commitment to work for change at home. We are sharing our plate for the month of December with the Hope Squad. The mission of the Hope Squad is to see those who are invisible; to hear those who have no voice, to reinforce the infinite value 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 mobile outreach."

- **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%.