

UU Church of Saco and Biddeford

Saco, Maine

March 17, 2024

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Tacos and “UU Tick-Talk” – March 23, 5-7 PM

Many of you have heard of the popular social media phenomenon Tik-Tok, a platform for a wide variety of creative expression captured on video. In this version, UU Tick Talk, we will be using creative outlets to explore the UU Principles. As this is an intergenerational event, we will use the Tapestry of Faith children’s version of the principles. This will be the first in a series where we will explore and “talk” about each Principle and “tick” them off as we go down the list! RSVP by March 21st to mcaminitio124@gmail.com so I will know how much food to prepare.

Ordination and Installation – April 7

Sign up sheet to assist with Rev. Whittemore’s Ordination and Installation on April 7 is on the bulletin board across from the kitchen door.

Share the Plate – March – Maine Reentry Network

The Maine Reentry Network exists to liaison between Maine’s communities and those who have been separated from them for any reason, most commonly incarceration or substance use disorder. We believe that reconciliation and reintegration of all living within Maine’s borders into full community membership inevitably leads to reduced relapse and recidivism, collective rededication to one another and our shared values, and ultimately a more vibrant and prosperous Maine.

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.

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TODAY IN OUR WORSHIP:

Transforming Despair: An Act of Hope and Defiance Laurie Sivonen & Diane Eiker

Laurie and Diane bring us the thoughts of Rev. Anna Madsen, OMG Center for Theological Conversation, who reflects on the question she’s asked repeatedly these days: “*How do we fight the despair that is everywhere and overtaking us all?*” Her answer: “*Saturate yourself in beauty, joy, self-care, and passion. . . each in their own ways defy death. And what are we as people of faith inherently about, more than defying death?*”

Laurie and Diane will help us to find ways to saturate ourselves in beauty, joy, self-care and passion.

NEXT SUNDAY – March 24

Transformed: The Power of Love Rev. Niki Norman

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 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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You are invited to please sit quietly during the gathering music

Greetings & Announcements – Diane Eiker

Ringing the Temple Bell

Prelude – Paul Benya

You are invited to light a candle of remembrance.

Words of Welcome – Diane Eiker

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

Reading – Laurie Sivonen

***Song** *Jane's A-Round* – Claudia Schmidt

Greeting Your Neighbor

JOY

Reading

Story for All Ages *Giraffes Can't Dance*

– Giles Andreae; Guy Parker-Rees, illus.

***Song** *I've Got the Joy* – George William Cooke

SELF CARE

Reading

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.

BEAUTY

Reading

Congregational Response

***Hymn #1064** *Blue Boat Home*

PASSION

Reading

The Work of This Church – Offertory

Share the Plate – Main Reentry Network

***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.

Responsive Reading

***Song** *Rainbow Friends* – Traditional

Closing Words

Postlude

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

Thanks for making our worship possible:

Ushers – John Baillargeon & Anne Dobson

Flowers – Laurie Sivonen

Coffee Hour – Pat Campbell

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