

Friday Flyer – July 26, 2024

News You Can UUse

From the UU Church of Saco and Biddeford

- **Worship This Week** – *What I Learned at Music Camp*
- *Ellie Rolnick*
- **Worship at 8:30 AM – July 28th**

- **Church Activities This Week:**

- Sunday, July 28 @ 8:30 AM - Summer Worship
- Thursday, July 20 @ 6:00 PM - SBGM – dine out *El Rodeo* (off site)
- Friday, August 2 @ 1:00 PM - Small Group Ministry (closed)

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

- **Thoughts from Rev. Lori**

Hello Good People,

We had a nice service last week spending some time exploring the land acknowledgement I share that an acknowledgement is not an end but a beginning. An acknowledgement should not be rote words that are empty recitations but entry words into conversations about the land we occupy and our relationship to it. That comes straight out of one of our booklets. And acknowledgement is a beginning, not an outcome. Which led to a deeper conversation about our identity and place in the world right now. We are headed into a very challenging fall. And what we have in our community is what the world needs. So, we must rise to the fullness of our potential and be the welcoming, loving, supportive community that people need. And ultimately what we want for ourselves anyway. The Climate Justice Revival that is coming up in September folds together with an idea about a futures committee. A group of people who see what is going on around us in our community and bridges the gap for our church to support what is going on. It invites us into a new relationship with our community. Climate doesn't just mean "green", it means the climate of our society. Who suffers, what can we do to stay present with it and not look away? I was less optimistic Sunday morning about the state of our politics and what that might mean for the need to ensure our building and community remains a sanctuary for those who are marginalized. I feel infinitely more hopeful as of late Sunday afternoon. Regardless, for us it seems that homelessness is a big concern. That may be the climate we seek justice in. The UUA has crafted a revival for us to begin to unpack this effort for all UUs nationwide. To call us to action to re-engage both our green sanctuary effort and re-commit to our communities outside the four walls. We have already started thinking about ways we could provide support for the homeless based on what a homeless person suggested was needed. More to come on that.

Back to land acknowledgment. Our opening statement at our Sunday morning service tells the world who we are. There has been discussion since last fall about paring down the opening Worship Assistant words. Conversation has highlighted the desire to retain our opening sentences about "whoever you are and whomever you love". The land acknowledgement that follows would/will need to change to be more accurate regarding who occupied and stewarded these lands. We don't want to misrepresent, and we don't want to say empty recitations about our relationship to this issue. The proposed opening line for the land acknowledgement is "We want to acknowledge that our building sits on the land and by the waters where the Abenaki banks of the Sokokis and Pequawket peoples once dwelled." That leaves an action sentence to follow. An interesting suggestion was that the second line be different each week so as to not be rote but be thought provoking. And also, that I say the statement as part of my opening words. Both suggestions feel right to me. But I don't want to use my freedom of pulpit to hammer, shame or lecture anyone I would appreciate more feedback on this before the church year starts.

However, that does not end the conversation. In our meeting last spring we also discussed crafting a longer statement. One to go on our website or on a plaque in the building. Perhaps something that would go on the back of the Order of Service. I think that could be part of the work of the Climate Justice Revival. Digging into our relationship as a church community and larger community to native displacement, commodification, and exploitation of the land. About the role of slaves, for instance, in building up this area and mill industry. That is major tasks. Working in our community to engage with a current issues. Learning about our history through a lens of liberation, and representing to and ensuring the world that we are a sanctuary. We are more than a social club. There is good work to be done and good trouble to be made. As you enjoy some slower time this summer, please consider these thoughts as we prepare to move into the fall!

Peace and Blessings
Rev Lori Whittemore, (she/her/hers)
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- **Share the Plate – June, July & August – Equality Community Center**

The ECC is a collaborative workplace for LGBTQ+ and allied social justice seeking non-profit organizations, including Equality Maine, MaineTransNet, Pride Portland, PFLAG, Khmer Maine, Cross Cultural Community Services, Democracy Maine, Sexual Assault Response Services, Through These Doors, Prevention Action Change, and the Kindling Collective. Located at 15 Casco Street in downtown Portland, the Center provides a safer and more inclusive gathering space with social and educational programming for all, working to support the most marginalized in our communities.

- **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%.