

UU Church of Saco and Biddeford

Saco, Maine

April 13, 2025

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Fellowship Luncheon – April 13

We are going to have our Fellowship Luncheon next Sunday right after church. A Fellowship Luncheon is a potluck luncheon where everyone brings a dish to share. It will be the start of our pledge drive. We will distribute pledge packets, which you can fill out and turn in then or drop them off at the office or give them to Wendy Coleman. It will also be a time of socialization and getting to know others at your table.

Feedback Forum and Potluck Coffee Hour – April 27

After the Service – Got questions, got answers, need information? Join the Board for this opportunity to hear about exciting ideas for future church programs and to ask the questions you have always wanted to ask about the UUCSB. Beverages will be available. Please bring a food item to share.

Share the Plate – April – Saco Food Pantry

The Saco Food Pantry opened its doors in 1982 as the Biddeford-Saco Council of Churches Food Pantry. It continued for many years as such, until the Council disbanded in 2002. At that time it incorporated and became the Saco Food Pantry, Inc. The Pantry provides food for local Mainers in need through short-term and intermittent help, and long-term help for those experiencing continued difficulties. It is run by a volunteer staff which includes a Board of Directors. It currently provides food for over 8,000 people a year, more than 96,000 individual meals!

Please e-mail announcements to Brian in the church office (uuchurch@zwi.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:

Passover and the Joy of Tradition

Rev. Dr. Lori Whittemore

This week we will celebrate the joy of tradition as we recognize the Pesach or Passover. We will explore the rich stories and traditions as the youth prepare the elements for a shared intergenerational seder planned for April 19. I share with you a blessing for Passover on April 12, *Blessed are You, Lord, who provides for all. God and God of our ancestors, may You remember us on this day of Passover to bless us with kindness and mercy for a life of peace and happiness. We pray that He who establishes peace in the heavens grant peace for us, for all Israel, and all of humankind, and let us say, Amen. Peace Be With You and see you next week!*

NEXT SUNDAY – April 20

Just Imagine

Rev. Niki Norman

Rev Niki is a community chaplain and interfaith minister in southern Maine. Educated in Oregon and NYC, she graduated from and was ordained by the Chaplaincy Institute of Maine in 2020, where she currently serves on the board of trustees. Rev Niki provides interfaith services each week for the residents of St Joseph's Rehab and Residence in Portland and is part of the clergy staff at the UUCSB in Saco, Maine. She loves people, cats, laughter, music and poetry.

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Greetings & Announcements

– Diane Eiker

Prelude

– Paul Benya

You are invited to light a candle of remembrance.

Sounding the Singing Bowl

Lighting of our 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

Welcoming Words

***Hymn #214** *Shabbat Shalom* – Traditional Hebrew
Shabbat means Sabbath. Shalom means peace, hello
or goodbye. In this context Shabbat Shalom is
wishing a 'Peaceful Sabbath'.

Greeting Your Neighbor

Choir *Oh Be Joyful*

Sharing from the Heart *(Joys and Concerns)*

Pastoral Prayer

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.

Reading *Maggid*

– Marge Piercy

***Hymn #220** *Bring Out the Festal Bread*

Message *Passover and the Joy of Tradition*

– Rev. Dr. Lori Whittemore

The Work of This Church – Offertory

Share the Plate – Saco Food Pantry

*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 #163** *For the Earth Forever Turning*

Closing Words

Choir *Joy*

– Helen Gierke

Conclusion

Postlude

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

Thanks for making our worship possible:

Ushers – Niki Norman & Pieter Whittemore

Flowers – Sandy Hendrickson

Coffee Hour – Fellowship Luncheon

Children – Melissa Caminiti

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