

Parish Messenger

Unitarian Universalist Church
of Brunswick



December, 2015

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*Our Mission is
To be a spiritual community
To welcome all
To nurture one another
To work for justice
And to care for the earth.*

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick

Rev. Sylvia Stocker, Minister

Rev. J. Bradbury Mitchell,
Minister Emeritus

Nicole Shanks,
Director of Religious Education

Stephanie Bernier, Music Coordinator

Heidi Neufeld, Choir Director

Derek Herzer, Choir Accompanist

Shirley Bernier, Office Administrator

Tony Sulkoski, Sexton

SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10 A.M.



Dec 6 **“Keepers of the Earth, Keepers of Each Other”** Dr. Tim Howe & Esther Mechler

Dr. Tim Howe has a lovely wife Lyn, three happily married sons and 2 grandchildren, all of whom strive to live gently on the earth. For nearly twenty years, Dr. Howe has taught a class on wellness called Lifestyle Choices. Nearly a thousand people have taken the class over the years, and experienced remarkable changes in their condition. Music by Derek Herzer.

Dec 13 **“Home for the Holidays”** Rev. Brad Mitchell

This is our annual **mitten tree service** where we give our gifts of cold weather items such as hats, mittens, gloves and scarves to those folks in our several communities who would be happy to receive them. Bring them to the service today to decorate the Mitten Tree. Special music will be provided by our choir and our pianist, Derek Herzer.

Dec 20 **Intergenerational Solstice Service** Nicole Shanks, Pat Harris

Performances by the UUCB Intergenerational Orchestra, directed by Ross Miller

Dec 24 **Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** at 7:00pm

Nicole Shanks & Sharon Brown assisted by members of the Worship Committee

Intergenerational service of Christmas stories, carols and recognition of children born in 2015. Service concludes with the lighting of candles. Special music will be provided by our choir and our pianist, Derek Herzer.

Dec 27 **“Turn, Turn, Turn”** Pat Harris

To everything there is a season the song goes, and Pat Harris will consider the legacy and the gifts of a lifetime of seasons in Unitarian Universalist Churches she has been fortunate enough to be part of. Do the messages from our two faith traditions affect those we come in contact with in our personal and our working lives, even if we aren't aware of it? Could it be that we are accidental missionaries whose deeds really can speak louder than creeds? Music by Ann Hartzler.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The RE program has just finished the first unit for this year- community. We explored why we come to church and what it means to be part of a community through activities such as books, stories, crafts, games, interviews with long-time members of our church, and the 4-6th class even did a survey of beliefs with the congregation which you may have participated in. One interesting aspect of our congregation, and UU congregations in general, is the diversity of beliefs within our community. I am intrigued by the interplay of unity and diversity in Unitarian Universalism. How is it that we can hold so many theological beliefs but still desire to come together as a community? I find that when I am speaking to people who are unfamiliar with Unitarian Universalism, this can be a cause of confusion. I am often asked why we bother to gather together or how we worship. At first, I was unsure

how to answer these questions but as I thought about it I began to see the beauty in the interplay of unity and diversity. We choose to unite in our diversity of beliefs because we have unity in believing that each person has a right to find his or her own spiritual path. When we are acting as our best selves, we are unified in working toward the greater ideals that we share in common- such as justice and growth and civil liberties- and those concepts transcend individual theological beliefs.

That said, I love finding out what people believe and to learn from their perspectives. The 4-6th graders had fun learning about the beliefs of our congregation through the survey they conducted. They were introduced to some theological terms such as pantheism, humanism, atheism, paganism, agnosticism, and theism. In the survey, people were asked to select the statements that best reflected their current personal beliefs about God. These statements were associated with the theological terms. Take a look at the graphic (created by the 4-6th grade RE class) accompanying this article to see the top beliefs held by our church community. Oh, and if those theological terms sound unfamiliar to you- broaden your theological knowledge and take a moment to look them up. Interesting stuff!

nicole

HOW TO REACH US

**The Unitarian Universalist Church
of Brunswick**
PO Box 129, Brunswick ME 04011

Office Hours at 1 Middle Street are
Tuesday through Friday from 10-4.

The office administrator is
Shirley Bernier.

The Minister, Rev. Sylvia Stocker is
on sabbatical and will resume office hours
in February.

For information on how to reach
a **Pastoral Care Associate**, call
207-729-8515

The Director of Religious Education,
Nicole Shanks, is available by
appointment. You can call her
at the church office or email her
at uubrunswickdre@gmail.com.

Monday is the Sabbath for church staff.

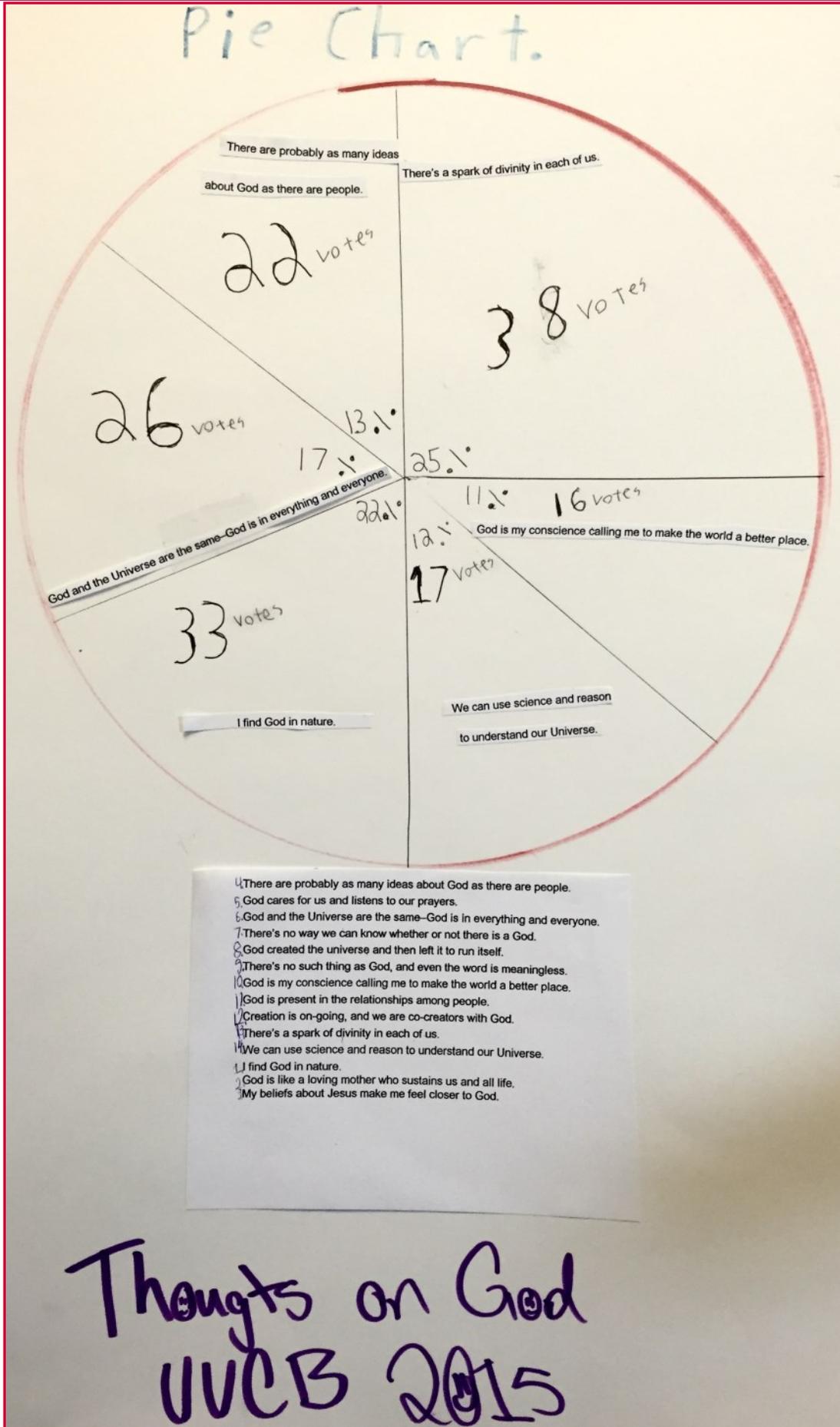
Telephone/Fax: 207 729-8515

IMPORTANT RE DATES

- Dec 06:** Multi-Age Activity– Holiday Crafts
- Dec 13:** RE Classes, Youth Group
- Dec 20:** Intergenerational Holiday Service
- Dec 24:** Christmas Eve Service
- Dec 27:** No RE Programs



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



WORKING FOR JUSTICE

DECEMBER CHARITY WITH SOUL: THE GATHERING PLACE

The Gathering Place is a drop-in day center in Brunswick open from 9 to 3 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday and is located at 84B Union Street at the Community Service Center, near the Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program.

If you need a place to drop in during the day that's warm and friendly it offers a place to spend time in relaxation or conversation in a stress-free environment. Come in for chat, games, and computers.

The Gathering Place came about when a number of individuals, organizations, and area faith communities identified a need to provide a safe and friendly space for people during the day.

They established its mission at the very beginning of 2011 offering hospitality, support, and respect to all who come through the doors. Everything we do and offer is intended to help us achieve that mission. We ask that all of our volunteers and our guests abide by it, as well.

We also provide snacks, games, computers, and enriching activities to our guests and volunteers. We value our volunteers as much as we do our guests, for all of us are deserving of respect and the satisfaction of being valued, and being present with our sisters and brothers.

Want to help? Come volunteer! Give us a call and find out more at 729-0288.

Want to contribute? They are a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

Light Into Darkness - Finding Hope

In Commemoration of the 3rd Anniversary of Sandy Hook

Join with vigils around the nation to End Gun Violence



Saturday, December 12, 2015
2:00-4:00 pm
Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick

Service of Reflection, Readings, Remembrance & Candlelight Vigil

Sponsored by: Working for Justice - UUCB

Endorsed by: Maine Moms Demand Action, Maine Council of Churches,
Womens International League for Peace & Freedom, Peaceworks

WORKING FOR JUSTICE

MUUSAN

The Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network met on November 14 for their bi-monthly meeting at the UU Community Church of Augusta. Lynn Ellis attended on behalf of UUCB.

ADMINISTRATOR HIRED:

Trudy announced that Betsy Parsons has been hired as our 12 hour/week administrator. Betsy is a member of the Allen Ave. congregation and is an experienced social justice activist in Maine. Five candidates were considered.

BECOMING A 501c3:

While the Augusta church has generously served as our fiduciary agent until now, David reported, as per a fundraising workshop he and Cush Anthony attended earlier this fall, that MUUSAN will need to begin the process for achieving 501c3 status in order to facilitate fundraising efforts and to ensure the long term viability of the organization.

LEGISLATIVE GRID:

Stephanie has created a legislative grid, patterned after one created by the Maine chapter of NASW – National Association of Social Workers, that will enable us to track bills that concern our issue groups as they move through the legislative process. This will include dates of hearings and work sessions, MUUSAN's position and final action.

ISSUE GROUP REPORTS:

Democracy: Clean Elections ballot measure passed!!! Many MUUSAN members participated in collecting signatures for this initiative. Signatures have been submitted to the Sec. of State for the Rank-Choice/Instant Run-off ballot initiative to be on the 2016 statewide ballot. MUUSAN members have been involved in this effort as well.

Healthcare: There's a petition effort underway in Colorado to create a single-payer system in that state. *Maine All Care* leaders state that a 4-year educating effort will be necessary to create the support for single-payer in Maine.

Climate Change: Melanie has been involved in the stakeholder meetings conducted by the PUC designed to develop a solar policy for Maine. She also attended a Natural Resources Council of Maine meeting and conference call to rally support for solar energy. Kitsy moderated an inter-faith discussion on the Papal encyclical on climate change at Bowdoin in October. She also facilitated a discussion of the DVD, *The Wisdom to Survive* at the Kennebunk UU, in conjunction with the Sierra Club chapter in that area. Jane, Isabel and Mary Ann attended a climate advocacy training presented by the Portland Fiends, the Friends Committee on National Legislation and the Citizen Climate Lobby. Mary Ann encouraged people to call and email Senator Collins as her support in the Senate is key and Maine has compelling reasons to be concerned about climate change.

EXPANDING OUR EMAIL LIST:

This has been an on-going discussion. How do we reach all those who might like to be involved in our advocacy work long-term and increase our number of members receiving the newsletter and 'like us' on facebook. The recommendation was made to send information to congregational administrators and let them filter the message through their system....place in the bulletin, forward to the social justice group etc.

Next meeting, January 9th, 2016, 10a.m.

THIRD SUNDAY FORUM NAME TO BECOME PUBLIC POLICY FORUM

With the overwhelming success of our first 3 offerings, the Third Sunday Forum will move to different dates to accommodate the other uses of the church space. What works, for the most part, is the 4th Sunday. However, please note there will be NO forum in December and in January it will be held on the 2nd Sunday to coincide with the service that Sunday about MUUSAN.

February to May Forums will take place on the 4th Sundays following service in the May Sarton Room 11:30-12. **February 28 will be Amy Halsted** to take on **Mainers for Fair Wages** and on **March 27** we will hear about **Bread for the World's** ongoing efforts and sign letters.

STEVE MUSICA ON TV

Greenlight Maine is a new half-hour TV competition show that airs Saturday nights on WCSH. It is a statewide collaboration of entrepreneurial catalysts and corporate leaders, designed to promote and mentor the development and growth of business in our great state.

From 86 online video submissions from entrepreneurs throughout the state, the Greenlight Maine team narrowed the field to 44 quarterfinalists, who were selected to pitch at a live event in Portland on June 27. Emerging from that event were 26 semifinalists (including UUCB's own Steve Musica) for the TV show which airs every Saturday night from Sept 12-Dec 26.

On the November 21st episode, Steve took his shot at pitching his business *Beltane* in the hopes of gaining exposure for his company and getting closer to winning the grand prize of \$100,000. He actually beat out his competition on that episode. Yay!

Greenlight Maine will culminate in June 2016, when the entrepreneurs left standing will compete in a live pitch event for the \$100,000 prize.

Help Steve win that \$100,000!

Viewers and friends and relatives can vote for their favorite business online at <http://greenlightmaine.com>. Your vote could help put one lucky entrepreneur into the finals and in the running for the \$100,000 prize!



JOYS AND SORROWS

CONDOLENCES

Loving thoughts go out to **Diane Kew** and family who have been through tough times recently. Their dog Chester, a beloved, fuzzy 10-year-old-who-thought-he-was-a-two-year-old member of their family died on Diane's birthday (Oct 17). One week later, Di's father died on Oct 25 (her son Andrew's birthday). Diane would like to thank all for the love and support given to her.



HEALING PRAYERS FOR OUR WORLD

It's very sad to me that someone would tarnish the playfulness and fun of Halloween by brutally and senselessly killing **3 innocent pedestrians** walking down the street.

We grieve for the victims of the horrific events in **Paris and Beirut** and for their families. Our hearts are with all the **innocents around the world** suffering from war and violence. We pray for peace.

Steve's Company

Beltane Solar's environmentally responsible products are the natural outgrowth of the passion of its founders. Environmental and generational stewardship are the hallmarks of the Company's corporate culture. Our desire to have an impact and help avert the impending environmental crisis is what drives us forward.

The Company's products concentrate the sun's energy to create electricity, thermal energy and desalinated freshwater at the lowest possible cost in their markets. As worldwide freshwater supplies becomes scarce and fossil fuel pollution poisons the air we breathe, Beltane Solar is positioned to use two abundant resources – salt water and sun power - to create electricity, thermal energy, and drinking, industrial and irrigation water.

CRISIS AT UNITARIAN CHURCH OF BURUNDI

The Unitarian Church of Burundi is in the midst of crisis, under attack from their government for reasons of religious identity. The church has been attacked, ransacked and robbed. Church members have been jailed, threatened, and forced to flee for safety.

The Rev. Fulgence Ndagijimana has been in police custody in the capital Bujumbura since at least Wednesday, November 18, and his supporters are concerned about his physical safety as the political and human rights situations in Burundi continue to deteriorate.



Rev. Fulgence Ndagijimana

Unitarians and Unitarian Universalist around the world are taking action. Embassies, United Nations officials, congressional and other governmental offices, and human rights organizations have been contacted and asked to join in our efforts to bring this persecution to an end. We are working together on many fronts.

The International Council of Unitarians and Universalists ask for your help. We are calling on all our member groups and contacts to help raise funds in support of Unitarians in Burundi.

Your donations will enable help for displaced persons, address legal fees and building repairs, and let our siblings in Burundi know with certainty that they are not alone—that they are indeed a part of a global Unitarian and Unitarian Universalist community. We welcome your participation.

How to Donate:

You can donate on the ICUU website via credit card or PayPal at: <http://www.icuu.net> (scroll down to the DONATE button).

OR

Checks can be sent to Burundi Appeal, ICUU, PO Box 2575, Corvallis, OR 97339.

Thank you for your support. It makes a difference.

Prayer by the Rev. Eric Cherry

*Holy One, our hearts are torn, broken, and battered.
Even across an ocean
from the City of Light;
Such pain, such violence, such suffering.*

*The trauma is immense, nearly unspeakable.
We know that we are called to feel the pain of humanity,
to hear the cry of the soul,
the innocent soul.
So we shall.*

*May it help us turn to love in spite of hate.
May it help us turn to trust in spite of fear.
May it help us turn to each other, people of all faiths and none, in spite of intolerance.
May it help us turn to our neighbors in need.
May it help us turn our care to the vulnerable near us.
May it help us turn our spirits to the grieving, the injured, and the traumatized.
May it help us turn to the recovery,
And to our work of becoming a world of justice and compassion.
Turn us. Guide our feet and hands. Bring us to peace.*

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Wreath or Bow Making. Sun, November 29 at 12 pm.

Holiday Fair. Saturday, December 5, 9 to 2. Our UUCB crafters and local craftspeople will be selling that perfect gift for Christmas. The Green Sanctuary committee will have lovely, slightly used items for you to buy and there will be wreaths and green centerpieces to purchase. Check out the Habitat for Humanity table for a nice, alternative gift-giving idea. Hungry? Stop by the kitchen for muffins, coffee and cider in the morning and soup, bread, and a slice of pie for lunch. Please tell your friends about our great Fair and we will see you there!

Women's Alliance Helping Hands Holiday Gathering. Tues, December 8, at 10:30 am at Penny Ellwell's house, *29 Hemlock Road, Brunswick.* We will be creating 200 tray favors for Meals on Wheels and a basket of children's activities for the Tedford Shelter- if you would like to bring a small new game, or puzzle or toy for this basket. Please bring your sandwich for lunch - drinks will be provided. If you want to bring a holiday goody to share...you are more than welcome!!

Poinsettias. To help decorate our sanctuary, donate a poinsettia in memory of loved ones, new births, or special events. Dedications will appear in the Christmas Eve order of worship. Plants are \$14.40 each. To order a plant, please call the church office at 729-8515 or send an email to uuburns@gwi.net. Please include the number of plants and dedication you want to appear in the order of service. **Orders and payments due by Friday, December 11.** Please make check payable to UUCB.

Ecumenical Festival of Lessons and Carols. Sunday, December 6, at 3:00 p.m. at St. John's Catholic Church in Brunswick. Enjoy our choir members singing with area church choirs, directed by Ray Cornils. Come at 2:45 to enjoy a prelude by the First Parish Ringers. Admission at the door, \$8 donation suggested. Doors open at 2:15.

Mitten Service. Sunday, December 13. During the service we will adorn our Christmas trees with mittens, hats, gloves, and scarves to distribute to needy families. Please remember to bring your contributions (NEW items, please, not used) to church that morning.

Religious Education Holiday Fundraiser Craft Sale. During Sunday school on November 29 and December 6, our UU kids will make crafts to sell to raise funds for Tedford Shelter and Coastal Humane Society. Sale will be held on December 13 after church.

Christmas Decorating Party. Sun, December 13. All are invited to linger after church to help decorate the trees

Castlebay "Ghost of Christmas Past" Annual Concert. On Friday, December 18 at 7:00, the Side Door Coffeehouse celebrates the Winter Solstice with perennial favorite Celtic duo Castlebay. \$10

Holiday Intergenerational Orchestra. On Sunday, Dec 20, musicians young and old are invited to participate in our popular annual Intergenerational Orchestra. Rehearsals on Sundays December 6 & 13 immediately after the service. We recommend, though do not require, that you attend at least one rehearsal. Musicians of all abilities welcomed, though you do need to be able to read music. Please bring a music stand. Contact Ross Miller remiller234@gmail.com to volunteer or ask questions.

Vox Nova Concert. Sunday, December 20 at 5 pm at UUCB. The Vox Nova Chamber Choir (including our own Stephanie Bernier) presents *This Shining Night, a Yuletide Concert.* An evening of holiday classics, festive favorites and a carol sing-a-long

Candles for Babies. On Christmas Eve, we light candles in honor of babies born or adopted into church families during the previous year. Following the Christmas Eve service, families may take their candle and votive holder home. The baby's name, date of birth and family connection will be listed in the Christmas Eve Order Of Worship. **Parents, grandparents, or great-grandparents,** please contact the church office at 729-8515 or via email at uuburns@gwi.net with the name of the child, dated of birth, name of parent, grandparent or great-grandparent. Deadline to submit a baby name is Wednesday, December 16, 2015.

Christmas Eve Service. December 24 at 7 p.m. We welcome all ages and feature carols, readings, beautiful music by our choir and others, and candle lighting.

Festive Food. Please bring a plate of your finest holiday confections (e.g. cookies, bars, candy) to share after the Christmas Eve service.

Dedocking party, Sunday, January 3 after church. Time to take the trees down and bring poinsettias home. Stay to help make the sanctuary ship shape.



FUNDRAISING EVENTS

HOLIDAY FAIR SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

Come one, come all to the Holiday Fair at the church on Saturday, December 5, from **9:00am to 2:00pm**. Our UUCB crafters and local craftspeople will be selling that perfect gift for Christmas. The Green Sanctuary committee will have lovely, slightly used items for you to buy and there will be wreaths and green centerpieces to purchase. Check out the Habitat for Humanity table for a nice, alternative gift-giving idea. Hungry? Stop by the kitchen for muffins, coffee and cider in the morning and soup, bread, and a slice of pie for lunch. Please tell your friends about our great Fair and we will see you there!

Gretchen



Photos by Carol Liskovitz



THIRD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH of BRUNSWICK
1 MIDDLE STREET
SUGGESTED DONATION: \$10

Castlebay

"Ghosts of Christmas Past" Concert

Friday Evening, December 18th

7:30 PM - Doors Open at 7:00 PM
Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick
One Middle Street, Brunswick
Tickets: \$10 at the door



Maine's premier Celtic duo, Castlebay, will "drive cold winter away" with joyous and mysterious seasonal songs and tunes from the Ireland, Scotland and the British Isles. The lilting sound of Irish flute, Celtic harp, fiddle and guitar will mingle with vibrant songs of revelry and wonder.

The celebration of the winter solstice was one of the most important in the calendar of the ancient people of the British Isles and Ireland. The word "yule" means "wheel" and symbolizes the turning of the sun-wheel. Many of the enigmatic circles of standing stones that rise from the wind-swept landscape are oriented to the solstice. Their music is filled with the symbolism of light conquering darkness, rebirth and the evergreen power of life.

Come celebrate, sing along and experience a little Celtic enchantment.

No Open Mike this month

The Side Door Coffeeshouse has been a fundraiser for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick since 1993.

It is entirely volunteer run.

END INEQUALITY LEADERSHIP TEAM

We have entered the next phase of our project to form groups focused on studying the aspects of inequality of most concern to the congregation. Group facilitator training was completed on December 7th. Led by Carol Evans, eleven members of the congregation who have made a commitment to co-facilitate study groups participated in the workshop. Each of the facilitators chose to be responsible for one of the following categories:

- 1) Income
- 2) Shelter/Food/Clothing
- 3) Education
- 4) Medical Care
- 5) Judicial



Signup sheets have been made available in church, and 23 people have signed up to participate thus far. It is expected that each group will meet at least once before Christmas. Groups will continue to be open for new members, but we encourage those interested to join at this time. Signup sheets will be available after church, and requests may be sent to end.inequality123@gmail.com.

Another of our goals is to develop and maintain connections with other efforts to end inequality in the church and in the community. On November 2nd, three

members of our Team attended a breakfast meeting hosted by Goodwill Northern New England. Goodwill is an international organization whose mission is to “enhance the dignity and quality of life of individuals and families by strengthening communities, eliminating barriers to opportunity, and helping people in need reach their full potential through learning and the power of work.” We learned that Goodwill provides an amazing variety of services in northern New England, and we will include information about them in the inventory of existing programs currently being developed by Heather Osterfield and Judy Chambers.

Other events focusing on ending inequality include:

- 1) a “community read” sponsored by our Adult Education group
- 2) a film presentation and discussion about the challenges faced by Wabanaki people, sponsored by the Working For Justice group
- 3) a film and discussion focused on addressing the problem of increasing costs of health care
- 4) a church-wide forum scheduled for Saturday, May 21st which will bring together the End Inequality study groups and people working on other related church initiatives to review progress and plan for the future.



MEN'S LUNCHEON

These monthly fellowship luncheons, which are held on the **last Wednesday of each month** with the exception of holidays. All men of the church are welcome. Contact Brad Mitchell, bmitch10@gmail.com, or Jim Michaud at michaudjim33@gmail.com, for details. The next men's luncheon is scheduled for

Wednesday, December 30th. (Time and place to be announced)

VEGAN SUNDAY-DECEMBER 20



All are welcome to join the Vegan Sunday group for a delicious plant-based holiday meal on Sunday, December 20, at noon in Fellowship Hall. We enjoy eating tasty, nutritious meals and the camaraderie of other vegans and those who want to explore a plant-based diet as a pathway to better health for our bodies and our planet.

Sorry, no drop-ins, but if you are planning to come, please RSVP to coordinator Jessica Tracy at jtracy21@myfairpoint.net or 729-7294, and let her know what vegan dish you wish to bring.

MEMBERSHIP

If you're the parent of a school-age child, you know that November is report card month. It always seems to creep up on me—doesn't it feel like September was just yesterday? But here we are at the end of November, and here's the Membership Committee report card.

FALL CIRCLE SUPPERS

Thanks to the hard work of Leigh Peranteau and Debbie Zorach the Fall circle suppers were a success. Sixteen people attended suppers at four different host houses. The response of those who attend these suppers is universally positive—it's such a great way to get acquainted better. Knowing this, the Membership Committee is planning another round of suppers in **March** and is considering offering more than one night as an option. In this way we hope to increase attendance at these well-loved events.



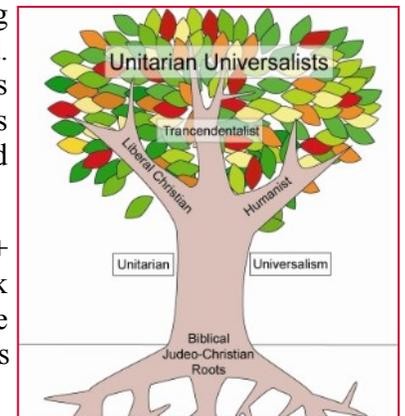
NEWCOMER'S CHAT



On Sunday, November 1 we held our first-of-the-year Newcomer's Chat after church. Six people stopped by to meet other "newcomers" and to learn more about UUCB from the two Membership Committee members present. Some people were very new, others had attended a number of services already. Discussion revolved around their past involvement in churches—UU and otherwise—and their experience at UUCB. We believe the monthly Newcomer's Chat (first Sunday of every month) will provide a nice opportunity for people who are not ready to attend the "You and UU" class to get to know us in a more informal way. A special thanks to board member Charlie Evans for attending this first chat. Next Newcomer's Chat will be after the service on Sunday, December 6, in the Wendall Berry Room.

YOU AND UU CLASS

On Saturday, November 7, five people attended our fall You and UU class. This 3-hour class is a combination of activities designed to introduce the history, theology, and organizational structure of Unitarian Universalism. Videos are shown, the minister describes the wide diversity of theological beliefs among UUs, and nitty-gritty topics such as church governance and finances are introduced. Participants are given lots of opportunity to ask questions and introduce themselves to the group as well. Many thanks to Brad Mitchell who filled in for Sylvia in this fall's class. The class is recommended, though not required, for people who would like to join the church. Another class will be held in the spring.



Of course I might be a bit biased, but I'd give the Membership Committee an A+ for the term. Of course the people whose "grade" really matters are those who walk through our doors every Sunday. And it's thanks to the warm welcome they receive from *all of you* that gives UUCB the "high marks" it gets regularly from visitors. So, thank you all for a great "first term!"

Betsy Williams for the Membership Committee



HAVE NO PLANS FOR CHRISTMAS?

There's room at a table for you. Cindy Parker and Steve Eagles invite 10 people to join them for dinner on Christmas Day at 3:00 in Dresden.

A sign-up sheet can be found in Fellowship Hall, or call the church office at 729-8515 or email at uubruns@gwi.net.

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

At the end of our second month of Sylvia's sabbatical, we seem to be doing very well due to her careful planning, and due to the hard work of the committees who are all doing a great job. Thank you!

The Working For Justice Committee brought to the Board's attention that we have been asked by MUUSAN to join with UU churches in NH and ME to ring our church bell on November 29 between 11 AM and noon as a "BELL OF HOPE ON CLIMATE ACTION." Rev. Cristina Scillari, minister at First Parish Church in Portland will be our guest minister that Sunday and would like us to be part of this. We are pleased to be able to do this.

In addition, the Working For Justice Committee is planning a vigil for the anniversary of the Newtown shootings from 2-4 PM on Saturday, December 12. We ask that you consider attending and showing support for those who will be sharing the impact of gun violence. As part of a family who was radically affected by shooting,

this is an issue very important to me, so I was proud that the Board added an amendment to our safety policy declaring our church property a WEAPON FREE ZONE. With gun laws changing, it is important to make a statement on this issue. A sign will be posted soon in our church.

In another item of business, the Board approved the creation of a Subcommittee of Building and Grounds which will deal with Facility Use and Rentals. They will be marketing our church as a venue, meeting with potential renters and handling many of the logistics. Thank you to Mike Heath for his plan for this subcommittee. It will hopefully build revenue for our church and increase use of our beautiful building.

Again, I encourage you to feel free to contact any board member with items of concern. We are all wearing name tags with a red ribbon on them, and welcome your input. We offer sincere wishes for peaceful and happy holidays for all of you.

Mary Larson, Chair

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

A helping hands holiday gathering

Tuesday, December 8th at 10:30 am

Penny Elwell's House

29 Hemlock Road, Brunswick



We will be creating 200 tray favors for Meals on Wheels- materials and design provided! We will also be creating a basket of children's activities for the Tedford Shelter- if you would like to bring a small new game, or puzzle or toy for this basket, know that it will be much appreciated! Please bring your sandwich for lunch - hot cider, coffee and tea will be provided. If you want to bring a holiday goody to share...you are more than welcome!!

All women of the church are considered members of the Women's Alliance- there is no official status or procedure. Please join us if you are able for a joyful time in the spirit of the holidays!

To get to Hemlock Road travel south on Maine Street leaving the College on your left. Stay left at the "V" where Maine Street turns into Merepoint Road. A bit further is a duck pond on the right, at the end of which you will see Hemlock Road on your left. Look for 29 on the mailbox; easy parking along the road.

"FIX IT," A FILM ABOUT SINGLE PAYER HEALTHCARE

Maine All Care and UUCB invites you to a film that shows why and how a single payer healthcare system could benefit all Americans on **Monday evening, November 30, at 7:00pm** at UUCB.

The film concerns a CEO who watched his successful business slide downhill because its health insurance costs continued to skyrocket. He investigated, and found that businesses in Canada and other single payer countries are free from the health insurance yoke. He then produced a fact-filled film called "**FIX IT.**" In this film former Director of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services, Don Berwick M.D. (2014 Massachusetts gubernatorial candidate), economists and others make the business case for FIXING the US healthcare system.

Maine AllCare wishes to reach out to local business-people. UUCB's Inequality Healthcare Focus Group is studying the issues. We value your reactions, and we'll brainstorm about responses to potential criticism from folks who are not ready to embrace ending this most egregious source of social inequality.

Please join us for the 38-minute film and share your comments. We anticipate an interesting session!

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE PREVIEW OF OUR OWN BILL KUNITZ'S FILM

I Dream the Colors

The Artists of Spindleworks

A new film by William Kunitz

The story of talented artists and the town that embraces them.



Preview open to the public

Tuesday, December 1 7:00pm
Kresge Auditorium
Visual Arts Center
Bowdoin College

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1

UUCB's own Bill Kunitz will be screening his documentary, "*I Dream the Colors: The Artists of Spindleworks*," on Dec. 1 at Bowdoin College's Kresge Auditorium at 7 p.m. following two years of filming at the Brunswick program for adults with disabilities.

"It's really focusing on the artists who work there. Basically the program is designed so that all of the people there are called artists, think of themselves as artists. They have business cards. They have resumes. They show in galleries, not only around Maine but some of the better ones show in the galleries down in New York and Boston," Kunitz said.

Bill's previous film "*Goranson Farm: An Uncertain Harvest*," was chosen for the Camden International Film Festival and was aired on MPBN.

For more information about the film and Spindleworks' artists go to <http://www.spindleworks.org/projects/>

CHURCH OFFICE PREPARING FOR ANNUAL WINTER BREAK

The holidays are right around the corner and the office is planning ahead so that we can prepare (in advance) several Order of Worship, Green Sheet announcements, PowerPoint presentations and All Church Emails; before we take our annual winter break (Wednesday, December 23, 2015 through January 4, 2016) .

Below is a schedule for submitting items for the following worship services and All Church Emails. Please email materials to uubruns@gwi.net.

CHURCH SERVICE	DEADLINE
Sunday, December 20, 2015 Intergenerational Service	Tuesday, December 15 by noon
Thursday, December 24, 2015 Christmas Eve Service	Wednesday, December 16 by noon
(No Announcement Sheet inserted)	
Sunday, December 27, 2015 Regular Service	Thursday, December 17 by noon
Sunday, January 3, 2016 Regular Service	Friday, December 18 by noon

ALL CHURCH EMAIL	DEADLINE
Friday, December 18, 2015	Thursday, December 17 by noon
Wednesday, December 23 (Last one for 2015).....	Tuesday, December 22 by noon
Friday, January 1, 2016	No email being sent
Friday, January 8, 2016	Wednesday, January 6 by 4pm

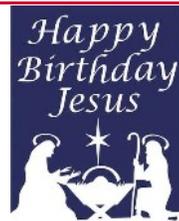
Thank you for your assistance. Happy Holidays!

UUCB OFFICE HOURS FOR CHRISTMAS WEEK	HOURS
Monday, December 21	Closed
Tuesday, December 22	10am-4pm
Wednesday, December 23 (Closing early for holiday)	10am-1pm
Thursday, December 24 to Monday, January 4, 2016.....	Closed
Tuesday, January 5, 2015	10am-4pm



Holiday Fair, 2014 Photo by Carol Liskovitz

DECEMBER 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Nov 29 10 Church Service RE: Holiday Crafts 12 Wreath & Bow Making	Nov 30 7 "FIX IT" Film: SAN (single payer healthcare)	4-6 Membership : MSR 5-6 Staff: WBR 6 RE Committee : MBR 6:30 Worship: MSR 7 Bill Kunitz film: Kresge Auditorium, Bowdoin	2 3-5 Writers Group: MSR 3-5 Adult Education Committee: WBR	3 12 Noon Deadline: "This Week" & OOW 12:30 Thursday Chalice Circle: WBR 4 Justice Inequality Task Force: WBR 7 Choir: SAN	4 10 Rental Comm: MSR 1 Education Inequality Task Force: MSR Tedford Shelter Meal	5 9-2 Holiday Fair Office Closed
 6 10 Church Service RE: Holiday Crafts 11 New Comers Chat: WBR 11:30 Orchestra Rehearsal: MBR 11:30 Income Inequality Task Force: MSR	7 4 Working for Justice: MSR Office Closed	8 10:30 Women's Alliance: Penny's House 5 Finance: MSR 6:30 Stories : WBR 7:30 Pastoral Care: MSR	9 12 Noon Deadline: "This Week" email & Order of Worship 7 Choir: SAN	10 12 Noon Deadline: "This Week" email & Order of Worship 7 Choir: SAN	11 10:30 Buildings & Grounds: MSR 10:30 Friday Chalice Circle: WBR 3:30 End Inequality Team: MSR	12 2-4 National Vigil 3rd Anniversary of Sandy Hook Office Closed
13 10 Mitten Service 10:15 RE Classes 11:30 Orchestra Rehearsal: MBR 12 Green Sanctuary: MSR	14 Office Closed	15 12 Noon Deadline: Order of Worship for 12/20 Service 3 Tuesday Chalice Circle: WBR 6:30 Board: MSR	16 12 Noon Deadline: Order of Worship for Christmas Eve 3 Writers Group: MSR	17 12 Noon Deadline: Order of Worship for 12/27 Service And "This Week" 7 Choir: SAN	18 12 Noon Deadline: Order of Worship for 1/3 Service 5 Parish Messenger Deadline 7 Side Door (Castlebay)	19 Office Closed
20 10 Intergenerational Service 12 Vegan Sunday Circle: FEL 5 Vox Nova Concert	21 Office Closed	22 12 Noon Deadline: "This Week" 6:30 Stories : WBR	23 1 pm Office Closing	24 7 Christmas Eve Service		26 
Office Closed—Holiday Break						
27 10 Church Service NO RE Classes 12 Sunday Chalice Circle: WBR	28 Office Closed	29 Office Closed	30 Men's Luncheon: Off Site 3 Writers Group: MSR	31 Office Closed	Jan 1 Office Closed	Jan 2 Office Closed
Office Closed—Holiday Break						

ANNOUNCEMENT SUBMISSIONS/DEADLINES

Please see the calendar above (or the article on page 15) for deadlines for the "This Week" email or Order of Worship submissions.

If you want an announcement or article to appear in the monthly Parish Messenger, send it to the newsletter editor, Sue Michaud, on or before **Friday, December 18th.** (michaud_susan@comcast.net)

Because of the holidays, **NO EXCEPTIONS.**