Parish Messenger

Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick

JUNE 2026

UUA Certified
Welcoming Congregation

OUR MISSION

To be a spiritual community,
To welcome all,
To nurture one another,
To work for justice,
And to care for the earth.

STAFF

Rev. Dr. Kharma Amos
Minister

Rev. Sylvia Stocker
Minister Emerita

Toben Cooney-Callnan
Lifelong Spiritual Formation Director

Will Bristol
Director of Music

Shirley Bernier
Office Administrator

Tony & Mary Sulkoski
Sextons

CONTACT US
www.uubrunswick.org

(mail) PO Box 129
Brunswick, ME 04011

1 Middle Street, Brunswick

(207) 729-8515

administrator@uubrunswick.org

Rev. Kharma Amos, Minister

Office Hours: Tues-Fri, 10-4

Services in June

JUNE THEME: FLOURISHING TOGETHER

June 7th - Herding Cats--and other lessons on Flourishing Together

Led by Rev. Dr. Kharma Amos; music by Will Bristol and the UUCB Choir

Our Soul Matters theme for the last month of this church year is Flourishing Together. This is also the date of our annual meeting, when we tend to the "business" of our congregation that empowers us to live out our mission. With so many different perspectives on just about everything, finding ways to work TOGETHER can feel like herding cats; and also, when it works, it demonstrates the potential of how much stronger, braver, smarter, and more creative we can be when we include everyone's gifts and combine our efforts. Join us for worship, stay for the meeting.

June 14th - Pride Helps Us Flourish Together

Led by Rev. Dr. Kharma Amos; music by Will Bristol and the Brunswick Community Pride Choir

It's Pride Weekend in Brunswick, and thus our annual Pride service. This year, in the midst of rising attacks on LGBTQIA+ people (especially our trans siblings), we'll reflect on the ways that Pride--its history, culture, and charge--can help all of us flourish together.

June 21st - "Transformation may be too strong a word for my experience, but it's certainly brought my awareness of privilege into sharp focus "

Led by Cindy Parker; music by Will Bristol

Please join us for the first of twelve summer services brought to you by the Worship Committee. Cindy Parker shares some stories and experiences from volunteering at The Gathering Place(TGP): "*What do you do when an unhoused woman (wearing my husband's old winter coat) demands that I find just the sandwich she wants from tomorrow's rations and a new pair of winter gloves even though I see she was given a pair just yesterday? How do I respond to a man who is losing his apartment because no one will hire someone with felony conviction? What to say to the young mother living in a shelter who comes in for coffee after dropping her toddler at Head Start or the elderly man faced with a night outside in the cold rain? How can I then go home and cook dinner in my warm house, buy theater tickets, plan my vacation?* *(Continued on Page 3.)*

June 28th - Human Flourishing and Spiritual Transformation: Inspiration from Islam's Five Pillars

Led by guest Celine Ibrahim, Ph.D.; music by Will Bristol

"There is nothing worthy of worship but the divine..." These are the words whispered into a Muslim newborn's ear before any others. At the heart of Islamic devotional practices lies this single, inexhaustible conviction in divine oneness and the ensuing radical unity of all reality. From that first utterance, the Five Pillars unfold as a lifelong curriculum for approaching, sensing, and experiencing this radical truth claim, each practice designed to purify the self and steadily redirect the mind, body, and spirit toward deeper awareness. The testimony of faith orients a life toward truth and goodness. Prayer cultivates mindfulness, discipline, and a sense of belonging to something larger than oneself. Fasting the month of Ramadan binds communities together in shared endurance and mutual empathy. The giving of charity loosens the grip of greed and enacts our duty to care for one another. And pilgrimage — the arduous, exhilarating journey toward the sacred — is a contemplation of mortality and the possibility of spiritual transformation. *(Continued on Page 3.)*

Minister's Message

Flourishing Together

You know the feeling. You arrive on a Sunday morning at the corner of Pleasant and Middle Streets and have difficulty parking. You enter and scan for a seat; someone scoots over to make room. The air is warm with people. The sound before the service begins is the sound of a congregation that is happy to have shown up together. It's my favorite kind of "sacred music"—that sound of people giving greetings, settling in for a seat, or engaging in conversations of substance and tenderness.

That is the scene in our physical sanctuary nearly every week. Combined with the synchronous groups gathering at the Eveningstar Cinema and the Highlands, that means that more than a third of the weeks in our program year, our total attendance has exceeded our building's capacity. (This doesn't even include the roughly 30-50 online viewers who join us "live" on Sunday mornings, or the many more who watch worship recordings at their own convenience.) I don't tell you this to boast. I tell you this because it means something. It means people are coming — and coming back. It means something is happening here worth showing up for, worth scooting over for.

That's even more impressive when viewed alongside the challenges the world has been dishing out. We've been asked to hold so much recently. The news has been relentless, the anxiety real, the losses — personal and collective — significant. A world gone mad has a way of making us want to contract, to protect what's ours, to narrow the circle. And yet here we are, week after week, making room for one another and for those who will join us. What does it mean to flourish together in conditions like these?

At the center of our newly articulated UU Values is Love — not sentiment, but the animating force from which Justice, Equity, Transformation, Pluralism, Interdependence, and Generosity all flow. These aren't a checklist. They are a portrait of what a community looks like when it is genuinely trying to flourish together. And flourishing, in this frame, is not private. It is not the sum of individuals doing well. It is something that happens between us — in the quality of our covenant, in how we receive one another across difference, in whether we are willing to be changed by what we share. Interdependence isn't a consolation for the fact that we need each other; it is the whole point. Generosity isn't an add-on virtue; it is what love looks like in practice. These values call us toward expansion, transformation, and the kind of pluralism that requires sustained effort and creativity.

We are still learning what flourishing together will look like for UUCB in the uncertain future. We don't have it all figured out. But I watch you scoot over to make room, week after week, and I think we may be closer than we know. I am grateful — genuinely, deeply grateful — to be learning how to flourish with you.

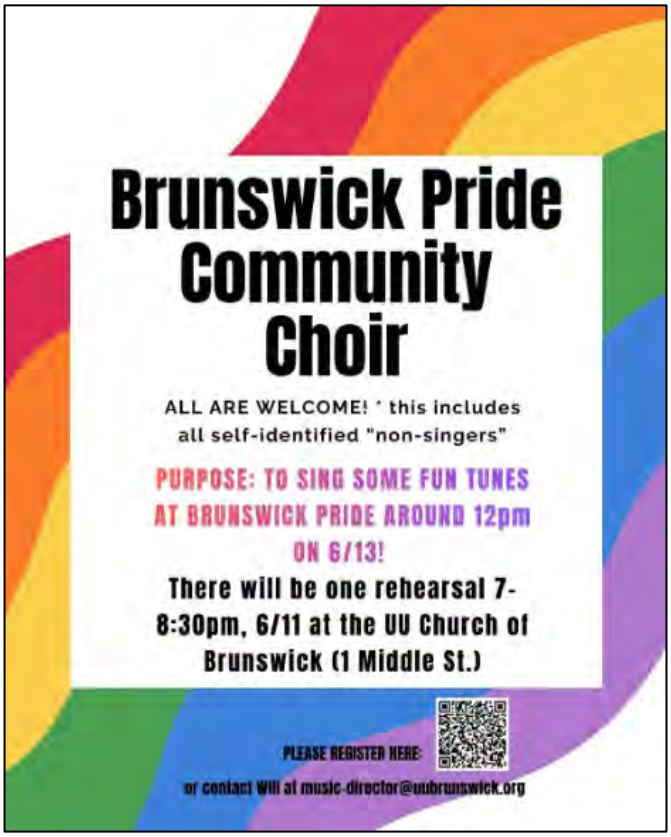
Thank you for a wonderful year.
Kharma

A Note from the Music Director

Hi all,

As this church year comes to a close I'd like to encourage those interested to join me in on our final choir installment that is open to all: The Brunswick Pride Community Choir will be presenting two easy-to-learn songs on the **Sunday 6/14** worship service as well as at Brunswick Pride on **Saturday 6/13 around noon.** There will be one rehearsal in order to learn these songs on **Thursday 6/11 at UUCB from 7-8:30pm** in the sanctuary. "Singers" and self-identified "non-singers" alike are encouraged to attend—let's *flourish together*! Please register here so I know how many people to expect or by emailing me at music-director@uubrunswick.org.

Will Bristol
Music
Director



UUCB Recorder Ensemble

The UUCB Recorder Ensemble is in its 2nd year and we now boast a membership of 10 plus recorder players! We play all styles of music, but mostly focus on Celtic folk songs and Renaissance/Medieval tunes as they lend themselves well to recorder playing. I do hope to do some Metallica soon though. It is a joy to get together on the first Sunday of every month to rehearse—when we definitely get more music playing done than chatting ;) But this group is very fun to be a part of—I'd like to think that we are as much a group of spiritual support as a musical group.

Services in June - Continued from Front Page

June 21, Cindy Parker

"…When I began volunteering at The Gathering Place two and a half years ago, I was responding to a request from one of the founders speaking at UUCB. I was ready to make coffee and let someone else make the decisions. And that's what has happened, but I didn't anticipate how hard that would be. What's my responsibility to my less fortunate neighbor? How can I work for justice? Where do I fit into this very stratified society?"

June 28, Celine Ibrahim, Ph.D.

Drawing on her scholarship in Islamic spirituality and her years of pastoral ministry, Celene Ibrahim invites us to ask what these ancient practices might teach us – about spiritual discipline, about generosity, and about what it means to flourish together. BIO – Celene Ibrahim, PhD, is a cultural historian and scholar of Islamic studies, a Harvard-trained chaplain, and an award-winning author whose work sits at the intersection of Muslim feminist theology, global religious thought, and spiritual formation.

From the Lifelong Spiritual Formation Director

One of the comments that I hear most on Sunday mornings is, "I love the story you read for Time for All Ages!" So, it has become my June tradition to share an up-to-date list of titles with you all. I broke them down by our monthly themes. Thank you for another great church year!

Toben Cooney-Callnan
Director of Lifelong Spiritual Formation

Building Belonging
Welcome by Barroux
The Grasshopper and the Ants by Jerry Pinkney
Just Help by Sonia Sotomayor

Cultivating Compassion
Adrian Simcox Does Not Have a Horse by Marcy Cambell
Thanks to the Animals by Allen Sockabasin
I Am Enough by Grace Byers

Nurturing Gratitude
The Remembering Day by Pat Mora

Choosing Hope
The Little Mole Finds Hope by Glenys Nellist
The Librarian's Stories by Lucy Falcone
A Woodland Winter Solstice by Abigail Gaines & Ellie Lewis
Goodbye, Friend! Hello, Friend! by Cori Doerrfeld

Practicing Resistance
The Artivist by Nikkolas Smith
Noni Speaks Up by Heather Hartt-Sussman
Let the Children March by Monica Clark-Robinson
The Smallest Girl in the Smallest Grade by Justin Roberts

Embodying Resilience
Small Shoes, Great Strides by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson
The Koala the Could by Rachel Bright
Dreamers by Yuyi Morales
Flooded by Mariajo Ilustrajo

Paying Attention
Come With Me by Holly M. McGhee
Silver Buttons by Bob Graham
Noticing by Kobi Yamada
Du Iz Tak? by Carson Ellis

Embracing Possibility
Saturday by Oge Mora
Luna & Me by Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw
The Creature of Habit by Jennifer E Smith

Awakening Curiosity
XO, Exoplanet by Deborah Underwood
On a Magical Do-Nothing Day by Beatrice Alemagna
The Curious Garden by Peter Brown
Symphony for a Broken Orchestra by Amy Ignatow

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SERVICE, MAY 17 – CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to all the wonderful Children's Spiritual Formation volunteers who share their time and energy all year!

From the Board of Trustees

Greetings from the Board of Trustees!

Time to plant. Finally. I haven't raked all of the leaves yet, and they are wet. Perhaps they are really mulch and I can ignore them a bit longer. The yellow of daffodils and forsythia are fading but the dandelions are holding on. They do that all summer. My azaleas are a beautiful hot pink. I check daily to see what is sprouting, so do the deer.

Soon school summer vacation will begin, camps will open and lawn chairs will appear. I'm ready. As a former teacher I still run on a school calendar. I can feel the end of the year energy when the school bus stops in front of my house. The kids are wearing shorts, I'm still in a fleece. (I'm writing this in mid-May.) Sunscreen and bug spray, you know it's nearly summer. Was that a black fly?

Our church year is winding down, too. Please come to our Annual Congregational Meeting after church on June 7th. We will vote on the new budget, welcome new board members and recognize members and friends for their amazing contributions. There will be time to discuss the budget and answer your questions.

You are invited to our annual church picnic on June 21st at Stephanie and Ren Bernier's home. Mem/Com is working to make this a special event. Hope for good weather.

The Building and Grounds Committee has spent hours creating and maintaining our beautiful garden and landscaping. Notice the changes and taming of our south lawn.

Thank you to our auction team. What a success! $10,000 and a magnificent celebration potluck.

And lastly, thank you Gretchen Kamilewicz for leading our team of Habitat walkers on another very successful fundraiser.

Joanne Allen

Church and Community Happenings

Brunswick Area Interfaith Council (BAIC)

On Resisting Antisemitism, Christian Nationalism and All Forms of Hatred

BAIC took a strong moral stand at its May 2026 membership meeting in advance of the "Turning Point USA Faith" event in Portland on May 15. Its membership voted on a bold statement from the board that condemns the rising fear, division and violence in our communities and our nation. This comes in the wake of the rise of White Supremacy and Christian Nationalism, plus the increasing threats of hate and bigotry against members of our own communities.

We are fortunate to live in the greater Brunswick area where our faith leaders are forcefully speaking out and standing up to these threats.

BAIC's membership includes 13 faith communities, 27 individuals as well as several service organizations. You are encouraged to join as an individual if you are interested. The annual membership drive begins soon.

Faith Woodman, UUCB representative, along with Rev. Kharma Amos (BAIC President) and Betty Robinson.

I strongly encourage you to read this important statement. It expresses values that we all need to uphold and support.

Brunswick Area Interfaith Council:
On Resisting Antisemitism, Christian Nationalism, and All Forms of Hatred

May 7th 2026

To our neighbors, congregations, communities, and beloved siblings across Maine,

Grace, peace, and courage to you.

In acknowledgement of rising fear, division, and violence in our communities and our nation, the Brunswick Area Interfaith Council feels compelled to speak clearly and faithfully.

We write today to condemn the growing realities of antisemitism, Islamophobia, Christian Nationalism, racism, xenophobia, anti-LGBTQIA+ hatred, and all forms of bigotry and dehumanization that threaten the dignity and safety of our communities.

We write especially in solidarity with our Jewish and Muslim siblings, who continue to experience threats, harassment, violence, desecration of sacred spaces, and the exhausting burden of living beneath suspicion and fear. We see you. We grieve with you. We stand beside you.

We also write to name plainly the particular danger of Christian Nationalism.

Christian Nationalism is not simply patriotism or personal religious devotion. It is a political and cultural ideology that seeks to merge religious identity, national identity, and systems of power in ways that exclude, dominate, and harm. It distorts Christianity into a weapon of control rather than a path of love, liberation, humility, and justice. It thrives on fear, scapegoating, historical erasure, authoritarianism, white supremacy, and the false belief that some people belong more fully than others.

As an ecumenical and interfaith coalition, we reject the misuse of religion to justify oppression.

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Church and Community Happenings

(Continued from Page 6)

As people of faith and conscience, we affirm that no nation, race, ethnicity, religion, gender identity, sexuality, or culture is more beloved by the Holy than another.

Our traditions may differ, but we share sacred values: the inherent worth of every human being, the call to care for the vulnerable, the pursuit of justice, the protection of human dignity, and the belief that love of neighbor is inseparable from love of God.

For our Christian siblings in particular, this moment requires more than private disagreement with extremism. Silence is not neutrality when communities are under attack. The call of discipleship is not passive. Churches and Christian leaders must actively reject and confront theologies rooted in domination, exclusion, supremacy, and fear.

To remain silent while antisemitism spreads, while Muslim neighbors are targeted, while immigrants are demonized, while queer and trans people are attacked, while racism and white supremacy are normalized, is to fail our sacred obligation to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Faith communities across Maine can and must be part of building another way forward.

We encourage all communities of faith, extending beyond our own BAIC membership, to:

- Preach and teach openly about the dangers of Christian Nationalism, antisemitism, Islamophobia, racism, and religious extremism.
- Build authentic relationships across faith traditions, not only during moments of crisis, but as an ongoing spiritual practice.
- Support and protect vulnerable communities when threats or acts of hate occur.
- Invite and center Jewish, Muslim, Black, Indigenous, immigrant, and LGBTQIA+ voices into community conversations and leadership spaces.
- Examine the ways our own traditions and institutions may have perpetuated harm, exclusion, colonization, or silence.
- Commit to trauma-informed spiritual care that recognizes the lived realities of fear, violence, discrimination, and generational trauma.
- Participate in public witness for justice through vigils, advocacy, education, and community organizing.
- Equip congregations to recognize misinformation, conspiracy theories, and extremist rhetoric before they take root.
- Teach histories that have too often been erased, including the histories of antisemitism, racism, ethnocentrism, xenophobia, genocide, and religious persecution.
- Practice courageous hospitality that moves beyond symbolism into real solidarity and shared action.

We believe another world is possible. We believe communities rooted in compassion, humility, accountability, and justice can resist the politics of fear and division. We believe love is not weakness. Solidarity is not naïveté. Diversity is not a threat. And faith must never be used as a weapon against the very people we are called to protect.

The work before us is spiritual work. It is communal work. It is urgent work.

May we have the courage to tell the truth.
May we have the wisdom to reject hatred in all its forms.
May we have the compassion to protect one another.
And may we have the faith to keep building communities where every person is treated with dignity, safety, and sacred worth.

In solidarity and hope,

The Brunswick Area Interfaith Council

Church and Community Happenings

Side Door Coffeehouse

The Side Door Coffeehouse is a venue for local musicians and others (professional and amateur) to share their talents, and for residents and visitors of the Midcoast community to enjoy great entertainment and conversation in a relaxed setting. Organized by a group of volunteers from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick, the Side Door Coffeehouse operates on the second Friday of every month except August.

Admission is $12 for adults and free for children 17 and under. Advanced tickets are available here.

The Friday, June 12th installment will feature:

- **Open Mic signup at 6:45 pm**
- **Open Mic at 7:00**
- **Castlebay—8:30-9:30 pm.**

Since 1986 Castlebay has been weaving together Maine's nautical and British Isles legacies transporting their audience through time and across the Atlantic. Julia Lane and Fred Gosbee have loved and researched traditional music for most of their lives and blend history, legend and experience into their personable performances. Finely crafted ballads with evocative imagery and beautiful melodies depict Maine characters, history, and life close to the elemental beauty of the sea and shore. Their renditions of traditional and original songs are supported with Celtic harp, 12-string guitar, fiddle & woodwinds.

Concerts for a Cause

The mission of Concerts for a Cause is to hold a series of concerts to raise money for the church and local charities while sharing a variety of quality music with the Brunswick area community. This season's charities are Oasis Free Clinics and Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project. For more information and future show schedule visit https://www.uubrunswick.org/upcoming-events/concerts-for-a-cause

Low Lily - May 16th

On May 16th the amazing string and vocal trio from Vermont, Low Lily performed a concert to a very enthusiastic and appreciative audience, bringing Maine's own Elsie Gawler along as a supporting act. Their violinist (Lily Sexton) was brand new, but she seemed like she had been playing and harmonizing with Low Lily for years. Elsie Gawler was great too receiving loud applause from her local fans. With 147 tickets sold, we raised another $968 for our charities and $142 for the church through refreshment donations.

Matt Nakoa - Last Concert of the Season - June 13th

UUCB Concerts for a Cause presents Matt Nakoa at UUCB on Saturday, June 13 at 7:30 p.m. This is the final concert of the season to raise money for Oasis Free Clinics and Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project.

Nakoa is a charismatic songwriter, singer, pianist, and guitarist who has garnered many songwriting awards, including Kerrville Folk Festival's prestigious New Folk Competition and "Most Requested" at The Falcon Ridge Folk Festival.

A modern troubadour, he makes his home on the highways and concert stages of America, touring regularly with folk music icon Tom Rush in addition to his many solo concerts.

Matt grew up on a goat farm in central New York State and trained to be a concert pianist before accepting a scholarship to Berklee College of Music as a vocalist. After college, Matt moved to New York City and further developed his guitar chops while playing with his alt-rock band at local bars, then became the star of Manhattan's famous Brandy's Piano, with fans lining up around the block every Saturday night.

His remarkable piano skills transition from Chopin to honkytonk to rock in one set. His heartfelt original compositions on the guitar are nothing short of awe-inspiring. He has developed an uncanny ability to command the attention of any audience.

Tickets are $20 in advance, $25 at the door, and $10 for students/children and will be available at the church office, Gulf of Maine Books, or online at ticketstripe.com/mattnakoa

Church and Community Happenings

Spring Auction Update

2026 Online Auction a Great Success!

The Spring Auction of Adventures, Events & Services drew to a lively close on Saturday, May 9 with a Celebration Potluck, a few live auction "items" and a 50/50 raffle. Penny Elwell and Maryli Tiemann pulled together the potluck with 20 volunteers and even more food contributions. We had to keep adding tables to accommodate the 80 diners. Following the meal, Steve Majercik and Irene Austin took the microphone as lively auctioneers egging on bidders to keep going higher. Musical accompaniment by Reg Elwell and Glenn Williams.

Backing up a bit to the earlier days of the Online Auction, over the two weeks of donations, 53 UUCBers contributed 70 "items" to the auction, and in the following two weeks 87 people: families, couples and individuals, made their bids. Some were disappointed to be outbid on their favorite selections. Unfortunately, that is a feature of auctions – and fundraising auctions at that. We thank all who contributed food and items and those who bid on them. So much generosity!

The bottom line was a significant contribution to the UUCB operating budget. The Online portion netted $7503, Live Auction $2255, 50/50 Raffle $186 for UUCB ($186 to Robin Hansen, the lucky duck!) and a thoughtful donation brought the auction proceeds to an even $10,000.

We couldn't have done so well, or had so much fun, without contributions from so many people including this year's Auction Team: Penny Elwell, Mike Heath, Sue Michaud, Maryli Tiemann, Rebecca Waddle and Betsy Williams, with technical help from John Robert O'Connor. Donors, bidders, cooks, cleanup crew, auctioneers and all support people really made the auction. Thank you to all.

Looking ahead to 2027, we need new people to join the team! It's a short term commitment for a lot of fun and profit for UUCB. Anyone interested can – contact Betsy Williams, Sue Michaud or Penny Elwell.

Michael Heath, for the Auction Team

Holiday Fair

Church and Community Happenings

Membership Committee

Sharing photos and bios of our new members to celebrate our growing community.

Régine Whittlesey

Born in Nantes, France, Régine arrived in Maine in 1974, as the first Amity Aide at Mt Ararat School in Topsham. There, she met her husband, David Whittlesey, an English teacher. They just celebrated their 50th anniversary with their four children and four grandchildren.

In 1980, they started their international life when David joined the Foreign Service. Throughout their diplomatic posts around the world (Iceland, Morocco, Washington DC, Bangladesh, Switzerland…), Régine has always been a teacher. While abroad, she also held volunteer responsibilities, working in the slums of Rabat, with the American Women Association, and the slums of Dhaka, with the United Nation Women Association, trying to alleviate the poverty of women and children.

Teaching has been her passion all along, even after her retirement in 2020 from Maine Coast Waldorf School, where, Will Bristol, our talented Music Director, was her French student! Régine helped found and chair Alliance Française du Maine where she is still active.

She recently discovered the UU Church community which matches so well their long-lived values. She is most happy to belong and help, in any capacity, to build a place for friendly human exchanges, based on fraternity and tolerance

From the Church Administrator

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE UUCB CONGREGATION – Sunday, June 7

Our Annual meeting will take place following the worship service (11:15) on Sunday, June 7, 2026.

The purpose of this meeting is to:

- Elect Church Officers, members of the Board of Trustees, and Moderator
- Adopt a Budget for the 2026-27 church year
- Celebrate accomplishments of our community
- Take up any other business before the congregation

Attendance may be in person or online. A zoom link will be provided.

Any interested person may attend and members of UUCB may vote.

Anyone curious to learn more about the budget is invited to our online Budget Forum on Wednesday, June 3 at 6:30.
Here is the zoom link for the budget forum:
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81151692256?pwd=Z5sUbDtMSw5HXvIVJJh3OECy3ARIPH.1

SCAM ALERT! SCAM ALERT!

Scam Emails pretending to be from UUCB staff, board members, etc. have recently been appearing in inboxes again.

This is an important reminder to be vigilant and skeptical of emails appearing to come from UUCB. If in doubt, delete it, or reach out to Shirley.

Church and Community Happenings

Celebrate Brunswick Pride with Queer Spirit

It's almost that time again, when the Brunswick Mall will welcome thousands of guests to celebrate Brunswick Pride. There will be entertainment on the gazebo stage from the Brunswick Pride Choir to drag performances and other performers. There will be booths with information from businesses, non-profits, and other groups (including Midcoast Humane Society who brings puppies to cuddle!).

This is an event for everyone – LGBTQIA+ people and our families and friends – and for all ages.

This is the fourth year for the **Queer Spirit** booth, which we participate in with several other communities of faith. In this booth, we hope to showcase the interfaith communities in our area who are intentional about welcoming, including, and fully engaging members of the LGBQTIA+ community. Our booth will include giveaways and information about various faith communities, Glitter Blessings, Button Making opportunities, Wand making, and photo opportunities with rainbow wings. And, of course, people from our various faith communities will be there to speak with and encourage all who come our way.

Here are some ways you can get involved:

1. **Volunteer to Staff our Queer Spirit Booth.** This year, in an effort to increase the relationship building opportunities between our various communities and to best represent all of the groups partnering on this, we are asking for ONE volunteer from each of the 7 faith communities for each hour of the festival. So, we need five UUCB representatives to staff the booth, as well as to assist with Set up (starting around 10 am) and Clean up (starting around 4:45). Sign up here!
2. **Donate ingredients for the "Candy Salad"** that will be a giveaway at our booth. You can drop off any of the following at the church office before June 11: *Sweethearts mini chewy candy, Airheads bites, Skittles.*
3. Join in with a group of volunteers from various faith communities as we work together to assemble "Candy Salad" and assorted other prep-tasks on **Thursday, June 11, from 5:30 - 7:00pm.**
4. **Sing with the Brunswick Pride Choir**, which will have one rehearsal, conveniently timed at 7:00 pm on Thursday, June 11th
5. ***Attend the festival on Saturday, June 13th between 12 - 5, and show your support!***
6. And if you haven't had enough, please come back to UUCB on Sunday morning for our Pride worship where the Pride Choir will share their music once again.

Take Note, UUCB Artists – June 15 Deadline for Summer Art Show

If you've been thinking of submitting one or two of your pieces for the Art Gallery's summer exhibit in July and August, now is the time to take action! The amazing talents of so many of you always makes this an exciting show.

Please email the following information by **June 15** to Anne Merrifield (amerri39@yahoo.com): **Title** (even if it is "Untitled"),**Medium** (oil, charcoal, fiber, etc.); **Size**, in inches; **Price**, if you want to sell. (If you have a photo to send, that would be helpful. The only requirement is that the piece be ready to hang, preferably with a wire on the back.)

UUCB Art Gallery

JUNE ART SHOW: FIRST LIGHT CAMERA CLUB (FLCC), BRUNSWICK

About the Artists

First Light Camera Club (FLCC), established in 1990, is based in Brunswick with membership open to individuals from any Maine community. The mission of FLCC is to promote interest in the photographic arts and provide educational opportunities for members, including presentations from the larger photography community and local and regional field trips. Members have a wide range of photographic experience, from beginners to professionals, and support sharing knowledge and learning within the field of photography.

FLCC offers numerous avenues for participation. Members have access to a private Facebook group where photographs may be shared for critique or simply to showcase new work. Additional opportunities include both formal and informal digital and print critiques, portfolio development projects, hands-on meetings, and one-on-one image consultations.
Website: www.firstlightcc.com Email: flcc.contact@gmail.com

Images: Artwork by FLCC members

Please take some time to enjoy the artwork in Fellowship Hall. Each month the Gallery Committee installs a new exhibit. FMI: contact Anne Merrifield (amerri39@yahoo.com).

Working for Justice

JUNE CHARITY WITH SOUL: TEDFORD HOUSING

Contact: Stephen Wood, swood88@outlook.com

From Danielle Triffitt, Director of Administration:

"Tedford Housing is best known in the community for its emergency shelter, but that is just one part of a broader continuum of care supporting individuals and families at every stage of a housing crisis. As the sole provider of homelessness services along Maine's coast between Portland and Rockland, Tedford serves more than 200,000 residents across 40 towns—working with those experiencing homelessness, those who have previously been unhoused, and those at imminent risk of losing their housing. In December 2025, Tedford opened a new emergency shelter facility in Cook's Corner, expanding capacity by 60% and now offering 24 adult beds and 10 family apartment units. Each guest partners with a case manager to create a personalized Housing Stability Plan.

Beyond shelter, Tedford's homelessness prevention and outreach services provide rental assistance, security deposits, and heating support to help households remain safely housed. Permanent supportive housing offers safe, affordable apartments with ongoing case management for individuals and families who have previously experienced homelessness and face ongoing disabilities. During the winter months, Tedford also operates a low-barrier warming center, ensuring no one is left outside in Maine's harsh conditions. Together, these programs reflect Tedford's mission of helping people move from homelessness to home."

Working for Justice

IMMIGRANT JUSTICE

Contact: Faith Barnes at faithb.56@gmail.com

ICE & Border Patrol

• ICE and Border Patrol continue to be a presence in Maine but sightings in the Brunswick area are down. ILAP reports that numbers in Brunswick and Bath are down but there is still ICE presence in Portland and Lewiston. According to MCHPP everything has returned to normal - immigrant families are returning to pick up food at the warehouse on Neptune Drive.

• Verifier and de-escalation trainings are offered once a month. If you are interested, please let me know. If you see anything unusual, please call the ICE Hotline 207-544-9989.

• Melt the Ice Red Hats - We continue to knit these iconic red hats! If you are interested in purchasing a hat for $20 or knitting a hat, please each out to Sue Mondabaugh at smondabaugh@gmail.com or Faith Barnes at faithb.56@gmail.com. All proceeds to date have been donated to Mid Coast New Mainers Group.

Midcoast Literacy

Read Together Tutor Training

For volunteers who want to help children, ages 7-14. We provide support for English language learners and fluent English speakers who are below grade level in reading. Tutors meet with students twice a week, year-round. A minimum 12-month commitment is asked of both students and tutors. (Yes, people do take short vacations, but our program is not a good fit for people who travel frequently or spend several months out of state.) It is a great fit for full-time residents who want to make a big difference in a young person's life. We have waiting students in Brunswick, Bath, and Topsham.

June Read Together Tutor Training
June 1, 3, and 5
9 Park Street, Bath

To sign up or receive more information, contact Katie Clark, k.clark@midcoastliteracy.org or at 207-443-6384.

Mid Coast New Mainers Group

MCNMG is looking for driving coaches for our immigrant neighbors who have completed Drivers Ed and the 10 hours of driving instruction. These immigrants need more driving practice before they take their driving test. If you are interested in becoming a driving coach, please reach out to Carol Kalajainen at chkalajainen@gmail.com.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Contact: Gretchen Kamilewicz, gkamilewicz@gmail.com

As a covenant church with Habitat for Humanity 7 Rivers Maine, UUCB continues to support Habitat both with financial aid and with volunteers. This year we had twenty church members participate in the annual Spring Fundraising Walk. We raised $12,831, again making UUCB the number one team. We also have four church members who work at the Restore, helping to pick up items, cleaning donated items, and manning the cash register. More volunteers are always welcome at the ReStore. Money raised there and at The Walk go into building new homes and repairing older homes for people in need. Thanks to all who support this important work.

Working for Justice

LGBTQIA+

Contact: Kathy Glennon, kglennon1@comcast.net

Members of the LGBTQIA+ focus group have continued to be actively involved in a number of activities both within UUCB as well as within the Brunswick Community at large. Plans are actively underway for active participation in Brunswick Pride this June.

In April, UUCB was a satellite location for the annual Building Beloved Community Beyond the Binary in Syracuse, NY. A small but curious group of church members participated to learn more about our trans and nonbinary family, friends and neighbors and how better to support them. The focus group is working to be on the front lines for supporting our trans and nonbinary families and friends who have been targets of vicious attacks from a number of sides.

MUUSAN

Contact: Betsy Williams, bwilliams120@gmail.com

The 132nd Legislature has ended. Many of you signed up, showed up, and spoke up. And you made a difference that was noticed! Read what one of our partner organizations said about us.

> *MUUSAN has been a trusted partner in advancing immigrant rights in Maine by mobilizing community members to engage in timely, values-driven advocacy [that reflects] the enduring truth that progress is driven by those willing to speak, to act, and to stand for others in pursuit of justice. Their membership reflects a shared commitment to ensuring that our policies live up to our shared ideals and morals.* Ruben Torres/Advocacy & Policy Manager/ Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition

For the record: 13 of our 27 priority bills became laws, 3 of the 6 bills we opposed were defeated and 4 bills were passed on to be studied further. Two were passed but vetoed by the Governor. Go to MUUSAN.org and click on the Bill Tracker to see all the details, and to become a MUUSAN member or give a donation to support our work.

Thank you to all who participated in the essential public policy justice work!

Gun Violence Education & Awareness Focus Group

Contact: Lynn Ellis, Lynnsellis62@gmail.com

EverOrange for Gun Violence Awareness
Saturday, June 6 | 10:30 AM
Brunswick, ME
Hosted by Maine Gun Safety Coalition

June is Gun Violence Awareness Month, and this event will honor those whose lives have been lost to gun violence as well as offer opportunities to learn what each of us can do to help prevent gun violence in our communities.

Event speakers will include Arthur Barnard, Shenna Bellows, and many more. Free handgun lock boxes will also be available for homes with children.

Join us for this important gathering of remembrance, action, and community.

Working for Justice

Working for Justice

Brunswick Area Teen Center

Contact: Cuffy Chase, cmc1322@gmail.com

Teens Count Down to Summer

Music in April and Scoop-a-Thon Highlights

We started our month rallying kids for Music in April and ended our month marching them all down for gelato at the Scoop-a-Thon. In between all that we still had our usual jampacked calendar of events with such classics as Dinosaur Day, Help a Horse Day, Cheese Fry Day, Bubble Tea Day and much more! When all the dust settles at the end of April, we always make sure to take a minute for a nice big sigh of relief.

Looking Ahead: Summer Planning and Excitement

Now that we've cleared April, the inevitable summer countdown begins with the kids. We're tempted to put something up to count the days for them, but we also enjoy listening to them re-do the math at the start of each week.

We've been fielding ideas for the summer, and we've got some pretty cool ones floating around already. A few of the kids are interested in starting a garage band and have gotten plenty of interest from other students. We're planning to set up a space for the kids to learn to play whatever they want.

In addition, we're excited that we'll be hosting another Bowdoin Fellow, named Hawon, this summer! One of our kids suggested making a Teen Center movie or TV show while Hawon is with us. She happily offered to help with the filming and she has ample video editing experience. We have plenty of willing actors, but no one has taken a crack at a script yet.

We're even crunching the numbers on a trip to Funtown this year since so many of them have been lobbying us to go! It's overwhelmingly the top destination for the kids this year and we're brainstorming a few ways to make it happen for them. All in all, we'll have plenty of new ideas to throw at the wall this summer and we'll just have to wait and see what sticks!

Summer Jobs and Staying Connected

We do have one slight impediment to our summer though. We've been hearing a lot about the summer jobs many of our regulars are trying to get and how they seemingly won't have any time to visit us.

As much as we hope they can all find some gainful employment, we're also hopeful they can manage to break free once in a while to join us. We'll just have to do our best to make sure we always have plenty to do in case they get some time off and decide to stop by.

Taylor Carter, Teen Center Director

Wabanaki Awareness

Contact: Catherine Cyrus, sweetfernwfield@gmail.com

Each month throughout the current church year the Wabanaki Awareness focus group has posted in the church foyer, one of the Pejepscot Portage Mapping Project (PPMP) information posters. We've accompanied each poster with a question to invite the congregation to study these posters and reflect on the untold stories of the Wabanaki in this place we now call Brunswick.

See the next page for the final poster/question of this initiative!

We are in conversation with the Wabanaki Alliance Speakers Bureau about hosting (or co-hosting with Curtis Memorial Library) a fall presentation and community conversation about Wabanaki Tribal Sovereignty in anticipation of the next legislative session. The Wabanaki Alliance is energized to push forward with its educational outreach in collaboration with work with faith-based groups and libraries as they take the sovereignty issue out into the wider community.

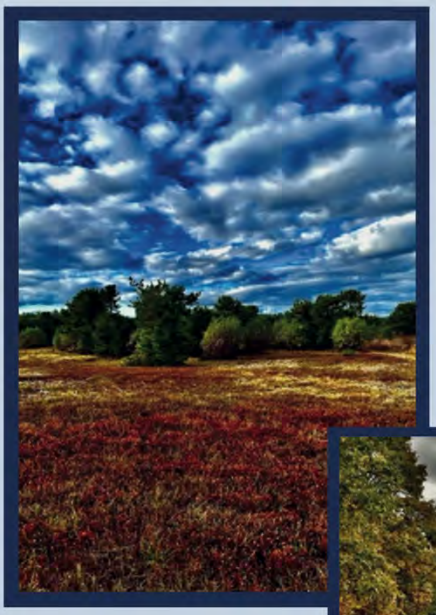
We encourage those interested in better understanding the issues of importance to our Wabanaki neighbors (and therefore to all of us) to explore the resources found on the Wabanaki Alliance https://wabanakialliance.com and Midcoast Indigenous Awareness Group (MIAG) https://www.miag-group.org websites.

Working for Justice

This month's question is:

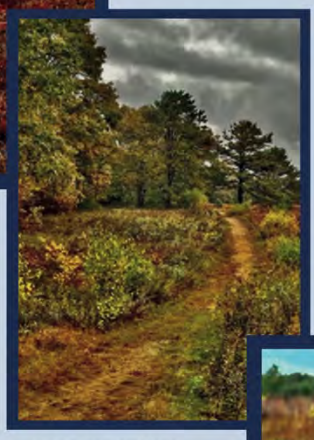
"Why did large numbers of Wabanaki migrate to Brunswick in the summer?"

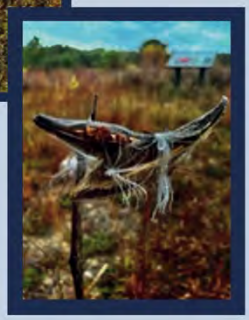
BLUEBERRY BARRENS



Extending from the area where Brunswick High School is today then east to Brunswick Landing (the former Brunswick Naval Air Station) were extensive low bush blueberry "barrens." Additional barrens stretched from the New Meadows River and along today's Old Bath Road, and others included the area known today as the Town Commons between Bowdoin College and the former Brunswick Naval Air Station.

These areas feature a wide expanse of sandy soils that were ideal for blueberries. Wabanaki cultivators regularly burned the barrens to reduce weeds and ensure healthy soil for growing. These barrens also provided habitat for a variety of birds, insects, and grasses that all depended on sunlight for survival. Today, the Maine Natural Areas Program considers barrens like this one to be "imperiled" in the state.





PHOTOS BY MIA BEALE

Just as Wabanaki have sustained blueberries for generations, so blueberries have sustained Wabanaki. The small berries can be eaten fresh or dried and mixed with pounded dry meat and fat to create a high energy travel food known as pemmican.

Traditionally, people would gather from many miles around during late July to harvest this important crop. White residents of Brunswick remarked on Wabanaki returning to the barrens well into the 1800s.

These connections continue. A portion of the nearby Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust is used for Wabanaki gardening, including blueberry harvesting in the summer. Wabanaki organizations like Niweskok and the Bomazeen Land Trust continue this work known as "rematriation," reviving Wabanaki relations with their homelands.

VISIT THE PEJEPSCOT PORTAGE COUNTERMAP ON GOOGLE EARTH

Pejepscot Portage
MAPPING PROJECT

Meetings and Activities Calendar

JUNE SCHEDULE

Events are held at UUCB, unless posted otherwise.

JUNE 2026						
Sunday	**Monday**	**Tuesday**	**Wednesday**	**Thursday**	**Friday**	**Saturday**
MAY 31 Worship 10am CSF 10:15am Coffee & Conversation – 11:15am Rental 12-5pm (in Sanctuary)	1 Church Closed	2 Church Closed 9am-2pm Worship 7pm	3 UUMA Cluster Meeting 10am UU Band 6pm Budget Forum 6:30pm via Zoom	4 Membership 12:30pm Communication 4pm Choir Year End Pot Luck Rental 6-8pm (In MBR)	5	6 Pride Swag 9am Last Hoorah & Ha Ha 6pm
7 Worship 10am CSF 10:15am New Comers Chat 11:15am Recorder Ensemble 11:15am Annual Congregation Meeting 11:30am Private Event 3pm (in Sanctuary)	8 Church Closed	9 Finance 4pm Pastoral Care 4:30pm Stories with Soul 6:30pm	10 UU Band 6pm	11 Art Committee 10am WFJ Take Action Tea 2pm Music Rehearsal 2pm CSF Committee 5:45pm Pride Choir 7pm	12 Side Door Coffeehouse 7pm	13 Dexter Kamilewicz Celebration Of Life 10am Concert for a Cause 7:30pm
14 Worship 10am MUSSAN Board Retreat 11am	15 Church Closed	16 Private Event 3pm (in Sanctuary) Restorative Justice Training 5pm	17 Committee on Ministry 4:30pm UU Band 6pm Board 6:30pm	18 Rental 6-8pm (In MBR)	19 5pm Drum Circle	20 July Parish Messenger Articles Due
21 **Father's Day** Worship 10am All Church Picnic 12pm	22 Church Closed	23 Stories with Soul 6:30pm	24	25 Building & Grounds 10:30am Women's Group 1pm WFJ Take Action Tea 2pm Rental 6-8pm (In MBR)	26 Brunswick-Topsham Singing Resistance Group 6pm	27 Rental—Memorial Service 9am (in Sanctuary)
28 Worship 10am	29 Church Closed	30	**JULY** 1	2 Rental 6-8pm (In MBR)	3 Church Office Closed	4 Independence Day

SUMMER CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Tuesday-Thursday 10am-4pm
Beginning Monday, June 29– through Monday, September 7

The Parish Messenger Deadline for the July issue is Saturday, June 20th.
Please send your content to: parish-messenger-editor@uubrunswick.org.