

# Parish Messenger

Unitarian Universalist Church  
of Brunswick



## April, 2016

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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.

#### April 3 "Pulling Notes Out of the Air"

Rev. Sylvia Stocker

Today's service will include special guest, Ysaye Barnwell, who will teach us some music from the African American tradition. In addition, a small group of UUCB musicians ( Rev. Sylvia, Carter Ruff, Jud Caswell, Louise Gephart, Jean Lay) will present "Charleston," a recently composed piece by Maine musician Anne Dodson.

#### April 10 "Steady Ahead"

Rev. Sylvia Stocker

Following the service we will be serving a cake to celebrate our second anniversary in our new building. Music by Derek Herzer and the choir (under the direction of Heidi Neufeld).

#### April 17 "The Day Has Come"

Pentheia Burns

The co-director of Maine Wabanaki REACH reflects on her belief that we could create justice and resist doing further harm through a loving commitment to truth, acknowledgment, and living in balance with all creation. (*See page 7 for more details on REACH.*) Music provided by Derek Herzer and recordings of Hawk Henries, musician and flute maker, member of the Chaubunagungamaug band of Nipmuck of southern New England. Music by Derek Herzer.

#### April 24 Earth Day

The Green Sanctuary Committee

Mother Earth: She is alive; she is beautiful. Robin Hansen and Chris Mitchell will deliver sermonettes and most of the Green Sanctuary Committee will present the rest of the service. Music by Derek Herzer.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



## 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.

As of April 15th, **the Minister**,  
Rev. Sylvia Stocker is on sabbatical and  
will resume office hours in mid August.

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](mailto:uubrunswickdre@gmail.com).

Monday is the Sabbath for church staff.

**Telephone/Fax: 207 729-8515**

**E-mail:** [uubruns@zwi.net](mailto:uubruns@zwi.net)

**Website:** <http://www.uubrunswick.org>

**F**ear. It's all around us and within us too. I struggle with fear and I'm guessing you do too. Last month I wrote about how I go through cycles of avoiding the news and that is one way that I avoid filling my head with fear. But, another type of fear that can be harder to escape- because it is a lot easier to turn off the radio than it is to silence the internal voice that we hear in our heads- is the fear we generate in our own minds about ourselves: fear to be vulnerable or take risks, the fear of not meeting cultural expectations of what a 'good' man or woman is supposed to be or do, and the fear of being criticized or having an idea we cherish shot down, just to name a few. I recently had the opportunity to read a book that was recommended to me in a professional development class this past summer called *Daring Greatly: How the Courage to Be Vulnerable Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent, and Lead* by Brene Brown.

Those internal fears I mentioned above boil down to vulnerability. When we engage in community and in relationships (spouse, friendships, parenting, etc.), share our ideas and beliefs, and admit our mistakes, we become vulnerable and put ourselves at risk to experience hurt, criticism, disappointment, rejection, and judgement. Many of us have developed an armor of sorts that we put on to protect us from such things. I know that when I experience rejection I tell myself that I will never, ever, do (fill in the blank) again. Well, that list of 'nevers' that I make to protect myself can become pretty darn long. So long in fact, that it diminishes my experience of life because, as Brown writes, "Numb the dark and you numb the light." If I am unwilling to be my authentic self, engage in relationships, and share my ideas because of the risks I just listed, then I also close myself off from experiencing joy, satisfaction, engagement, and connection. Practicing vulnerability at home, work, school, and in community leads to a richer life experience. I can't really do this book justice in a short newsletter article so if you would like to borrow it, let me know. It also might be a great choice for a book discussion group in the fall if anyone is interested...

*"Vulnerability is the birthplace of love, belonging, joy, courage, empathy, and creativity. It is the source of hope, empathy, accountability, and authenticity. If we want greater clarity in our purpose or deeper and more meaningful spiritual lives, vulnerability is the path."*

Brene Brown

Nicole

## IMPORTANT RE DATES

**Apr 03:** RE Classes, Youth Group

**Apr 10:** RE Classes, OWL,  
*The Available Parent* Book Group at 11:30

**Apr 17:** Multi-Age Activity (school vacation)

**Apr 24:** Multi-Age Activity (school vacation)

## MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Perhaps it is a bit unconventional to take one's sabbatical in two chunks, as I am doing this year. After being away last fall, I returned to work on February 1. Now I am preparing for the second sabbatical installment, which begins on April 15.

During the first sabbatical chunk, for many weeks I fell asleep every time I sat down to read. (And I read – or at least tried to – a lot!) Although that exhaustion eventually subsided, I recall being astonished at how tired I was initially and how long it took to feel rested again. My guess is I will begin this next sabbatical installment feeling less tired.

In addition, last fall it took me many weeks to adjust to the simple strangeness of not working. I suspect this time won't feel as strange, and I will hit my "sabbatical stride" more quickly.

So let me tell you a few of the things I will be doing. In April, I will visit Washington, DC, touring some of the sights that are new since my last trip there (a hundred years ago when I was in eighth grade). For years I have wanted to see the Vietnam Memorial. The newer MLK Jr. Memorial beckons as well. Add to those two things the usual standbys, like the White House and the Smithsonian, and I will have a full trip. The folks I am traveling with are interested in going to Harper's Ferry as well, which suits the history buff in me.

In May, I will be traveling to Atlanta to attend the Festival of Homiletics. The *what*, you ask? An annual gathering, the Festival of Homiletics gathers outstanding preachers and preaching teachers from around the country to inspire a discourse about preaching, worship, and culture. Created in 1992 by Presbyterian minister, the Rev. David Howell, the festival aims to understand and reshape the ancient art of preaching in a contemporary context. Organized and planned

by Luther Seminary in Minnesota, the festival focuses mostly on Christian and Bible-based preaching, but the wider applications are easy enough for any preacher to pick up. I am looking forward to seeing and hearing some of the country's finest preachers lead worship.

In August, Steve and I will be spending some time at a quiet, out-of-the way wilderness camp in Maine. That's the kind of vacation we took for years, until the camp we always visited changed hands and was altered significantly in both atmosphere and mode of operation. We're trying a new spot this year and have hopes it might become a new, special place to retreat for summer vacations. I am looking forward to canoeing, hiking the trails, and listening to the loons call out to each other in the gloaming.

Various other trips and ideas are still in the pipeline. In addition, I will continue my music studies. I have recently added banjo lessons to my ongoing dulcimer lessons. Normally I struggle to find the time to practice, and – as was the case last fall – I expect during my sabbatical I will be able to immerse myself in music more than normal.

Of course, I will keep walking, walking, walking. What would a day be without a good walk?

At UUCB, some things will be the same as the first round of my sabbatical. Our church will continue to hum along, just as it did before, under the able direction of many leaders and worker bees. Honestly, you are all amazing! Just as before, when you see someone who needs help, please pitch in to lighten the burden. Give church leaders lots of encouragement and recognition for the hard work they are doing. Love each other!

And, I will miss you, just as I did before. This is a great church – one that holds love at the center, one that is committed to its work and active in pursuing it, one that is warm, welcoming, and compassionate. August 15 is the final day of my sabbatical, and I imagine I will return restored, refreshed, and ready to jump into a new, exciting church year. In the meantime, I will hold all of you in my heart.

Love,  
Sylvia





## AFFIRMATION OF HOPE

By Loretta F. Williams

We, bearers of the dream, affirm that a new vision of hope is emerging.

We pledge to work for that community in which justice will be actively present.

We affirm that there is struggle yet ahead.

Yet we know that in the struggle is the hope for the future.

We affirm that we are co-creators of the future, not passive pawns.

And we stand united in affirmation of our hope and vision of a just and inclusive society.

We affirm the unity of all persons:

We affirm brotherhood and sisterhood that allows us to touch upon each other's humanity.

We affirm a unity that opens our eyes, ears, and hearts to see the different but common forms of oppression, suffering, and pain.

Yet we are one in the image of God, and we celebrate our hopes for human unity.

Within ourselves and within the gathered community, we will discover the strength not to hide in indifference.

Affirming that hope, publicly expressed, energizes and enables us to move forward. Together we pledge action to transcend barriers — be they racial, political, economic, social, or religious.

We pledge to make our tomorrows become our today's.

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEAD A SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICE?

During the summer, when Rev. Stocker takes a well-deserved break, the UUCB Worship Committee provides a series of meaningful lay led services to keep us connected, to inspire us, and to invite new and/or different voices into the pulpit to share their thoughts and ideas.

The Worship Committee is beginning the planning process and wants to know if you (members and friends) have the desire and willingness to lead a service this summer? Those of you who have done this before are, of course, invited to return. We also extend an invitation to first timers. If the thought is a scary one to you, please know that you will be mentored through the entire process by a Worship Associate who will help you with the planning and implementation of your service. Summer services this year officially begin on June 19th and run thru August 14th.

The dates lay leaders will be needed in the pulpit are: **June 19, June 26, July 3, July 10, July 17, July 24, July 31, August 7 and August 14.**

If you have an idea (or a question) for a service, please jot it down and send it along to:

Anne Merrifield: [two.gulls@rocketmail.com](mailto:two.gulls@rocketmail.com)  
or Wendy Roundy: [wendyroundy@gmail.com](mailto:wendyroundy@gmail.com).

Any member of the worship committee will be happy to talk with you before you make a decision. Please submit your ideas, questions, or requests by 5p.m., Tuesday, May 3rd, so that the committee can set the summer schedule during their monthly meeting. Stephanie Bernier, Carol Briggs, Sharon Brown, David Damour, Dan Ellis, Louise Gephart, Pat Harris, Anne Merrifield and Wendy Roundy – Your 2016 UUCB Worship Associates.

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SPRING WALK

**MAY 1, 2016**

The Habitat for Humanity Spring Walk will be held Sunday, May 1, with registration beginning at 1:00pm and the Walk starting at 2:00pm. The Walk will begin at St. Charles Church on McKean Street and go to the Hope Lane building site where there will be a groundbreaking ceremony for the third and fourth homes to be built there. You will also have the opportunity to see (and admire) the first two houses that have now been completed and share in some simple refreshments. The Walk will then retrace its steps back to St. Charles. The round-trip route will be four miles, but there will be shuttle transportation for those who only want to walk two miles.

Last year seven church members walked and raised \$3000 for Habitat. Our church goal this year is \$3300. Every penny raised goes toward building, repairing, weatherizing or rehabilitating homes.

Want to help!?! Registration packets will be available every Sunday in Fellowship Hall from April 3-24. Want to help, but you can't do the Walk? Then sponsor a walker from the church or offer to provide simple refreshments for the walkers.

More information about names of walkers, how to sponsor a walker (either by writing a check or donating online) will be provided to you as soon as that information is confirmed for us by the Habitat for Humanity office.

If you have questions, please contact Gretchen at 833-5125 or email [gkamilewicz@gmail.com](mailto:gkamilewicz@gmail.com) or Catharine at 721-0042 or email [cmc1322@gmail.com](mailto:cmc1322@gmail.com).

While the Walk is only a month away, there is no time like the present to join the team and line up sponsors from church, family, friends, and neighbors. More walkers and sponsors means we have a better chance of meeting the financial goal we have set for Team UUCB and thereby contributing to the overall goal of Habitat for Humanity that everyone should be able to have a decent home in which to live.

Thank you.

*Gretchen Kamilewicz and Catharine Chase.*



### PASSOVER SEDER

**APRIL 23 AT 5 PM.**



Our own unique Passover Seder is returning to UUCB on Saturday, April 23 at 5 PM.

We'll have a short participatory service using a Haggadah written by a UU minister followed by a potluck of traditional Passover dishes.

Come for great food, singing, and fun. All ages are welcome. Please contact Mike Rubin at [mdrubin@mac.com](mailto:mdrubin@mac.com) or 207 371-9087 to sign up for the potluck. Recipes are available.

### NEW WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR

A tremendous debt of gratitude is due **Jean Lay** for maintaining the UUCB website since August, 2014. Like many of us, she finds herself in a position of "overcommittedness" and feels she can no longer give the site the attention it deserves. In a moment of distraction and perhaps weakness, I have volunteered to take over from Jean as UUCB website administrator.

One of my first goals is to get the site up-to-date. One way to begin that is to get all committee's information current. I would also like to get one contact person listed for each committee. If the chair doesn't wish to be in that position, another member could volunteer. If you are a chairperson or member of a committee, please submit your roster – and any up-to-date photos – to [uucbweb@gmail.com](mailto:uucbweb@gmail.com)

Please direct all correspondence to [uucbweb@gmail.com](mailto:uucbweb@gmail.com)

**Thank You,  
Dan!**

*Dan Ellis*

## WORKING FOR JUSTICE

### APRIL CHARITY WITH SOUL TEDFORD HOUSING

Tedford Housing works together with people in their communities to find lasting solutions to the challenges of homelessness. We provide shelter, housing, and services that empower adults, children and families in need.

Tedford Housing believes that everyone deserves to have a safe and affordable home. Over the years, the organization has evolved from providing emergency shelter to adults to offering shelter, supported housing and homeless prevention services for adults, families and teens. On any given day, Tedford Housing is working with 120 people who do not have a permanent or stable home. With the help of our many supporters, we serve over 800 people each year.

For more information, please call 207-729-1161 or visit <http://www.tedfordhousing.org>. Dial #101 if you are interested in volunteering or donating to Tedford Housing.

THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!!



#### TEDFORD SHELTER NEEDS SUPPLIES

Detergent:	Dish, Dishwasher, and Liquid Laundry
Bathroom:	Ajax, Floor cleaner, Toilet cleaner, Toilet Brushes, Hand Soap
Kitchen:	Ajax, Dutch, Windex, Simple Green
Paper Goods:	Towels, Tissue boxes, Toilet paper.
General:	Rags, Scrubbers, Sponges, Trash bags (med & lg)

COLLECTING SUNDAYS IN APRIL AT UUCB

Sponsored by the Wednesday afternoon Chalice Circle

## MUUSAN

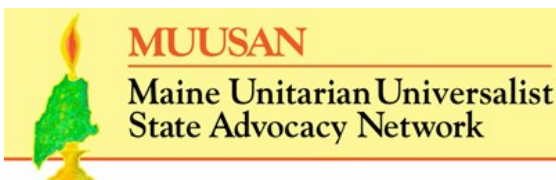
### MUUSAN Statement On Democracy and Civil Discourse in Presidential Campaigns 3.11.16

As Unitarian Universalists, we stand for our Fifth Principle, **the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process in our congregations and in society at large**. We work to promote a strong democracy and to ensure the active participation of citizens in the democratic process.

Therefore we decry the presence of hate speech, vulgarity, extreme incivility and other dangerous and unseemly words and behaviors in the current political campaigns of some candidates for President of the United States. We believe that such conduct weakens democracy, alienates voters, and disillusion young Americans who await entry into full participation as voters.

Such conduct demeans the office of President of the United States, undermines our democracy's standing in the world, and diminishes aspirations for democratic participation worldwide. We unequivocally condemn candidates' hate speech, comments which demean the humanity of our country's international neighbors and partners, and public conduct which flies in the face of decency.

We call on Unitarian Universalists and all Americans of conscience to speak out and stand up for a vision of democracy which unifies our country and strengthens the inclusion of all to witness and learn about the democratic process.



To this end, we affirm and promote the Maine Council of Churches' Civil Discourse Covenant for Candidates for Public Office: <http://mainecouncilofchurches.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/MCC-Civil-Discourse-Covenant.pdf>



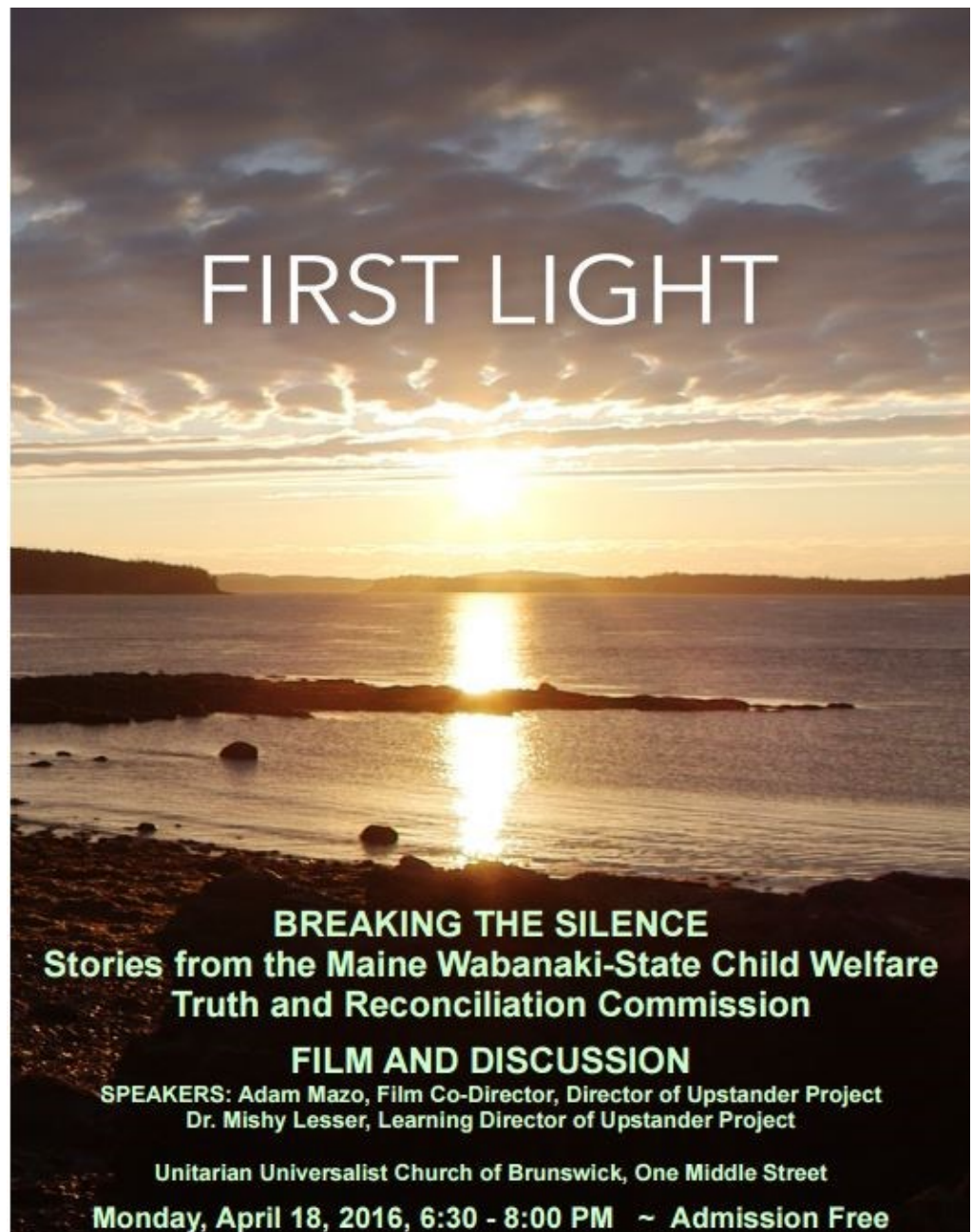
## WORKING FOR JUSTICE/ADULT EDUCATION

**FILM AND WORSHIP SERVICE  
TO EXPLORE ISSUES OF WABANAKI CHILD WELFARE**

On **Monday, April 18, 6:30-8pm**, the UUCB Working for Justice Steering Group and Adult Education Committee will co-host the showing of the 13 minute film "First Light" which documents the work of the Maine Wabanaki-State Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) - the first task force in US history to investigate issues important to Native Americans and one of the first in the world to examine issues of Native child welfare. The Commission was formed to reveal the truth about the State of Maine's Department of Human Services' disproportionate removal of Wabanaki children from their homes and placement in foster or adoptive care. Upstander Project director and film co-director, Adam Mazo along with Upstander learning director Dr. Mishy Lesser will facilitate questions and discussion about the filming process as well as the formation and findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. (See [www.upstanderproject.org](http://www.upstanderproject.org))

Monday's film and discussion will follow the Sunday, 4/17 worship service when Penthea Burns, co-director of Maine-Wabanaki REACH, is the guest speaker. REACH (Reconciliation, Engagement, Advocacy, Change, Healing) is charged with ensuring that the Maine Wabanaki - State Child Welfare Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations are considered and implemented. REACH trains and supports allies who work to realize REACH's goals of compassion, acceptance, truthfulness, equality and reciprocity with Maine Wabanaki people.

In her sermon, *The Day Has Come*, Penthea Burns reflects on her belief that we could create justice and resist doing further harm through a loving commitment to truth, acknowledgement, and living in balance with all creation. Besides being co-director of REACH and associated with the Muskie School of Public Service, Penthea is a poet and a mother and lives with Chinook dogs on a farm in Lewiston.



**FIRST LIGHT**

**BREAKING THE SILENCE**  
**Stories from the Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare**  
**Truth and Reconciliation Commission**

**FILM AND DISCUSSION**

**SPEAKERS:** Adam Mazo, Film Co-Director, Director of Upstander Project  
Dr. Mishy Lesser, Learning Director of Upstander Project

Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick, One Middle Street  
**Monday, April 18, 2016, 6:30 - 8:00 PM ~ Admission Free**

## WORKING FOR JUSTICE

### PUBLIC FORUM

SUNDAY, APRIL 24

11:30 PM

MAY SARTON ROOM

### Ranked Choice Voting



Join us after church services on Sunday, April 24th from 11:30-12pm for a presentation on the nonpartisan citizen initiative for Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) by Kyle Bailey, Campaign Manager for the Committee for Ranked Choice Voting.

In 9 of the last 11 races for Maine's governor, candidates were elected by less than half of voters. RCV is a simple, common sense improvement to the way we vote that restores majority rule and puts power back in the hands of voters, so politicians better represent, and are more accountable to Maine voters.

RCV empowers you to rank candidates in order of your individual preference: your first choice, second choice, and so on. If your favorite candidate can't win, your vote is instantly counted for the candidate you ranked second, so you never feel like your vote is "wasted." You are less likely to rank as your second choice a candidate who has issued personal attacks against your favorite candidate, so RCV has the added value of encouraging more positive, issue focused campaigns and reducing negative campaigning. Join us to learn more.

### IMPORTANT FILM AT UUCB

PeaceWorks and 350 Maine have joined forces with UUCB to present the film **THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING**. Filmed over 211 days in nine countries and five continents over four years, **THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING** is an epic attempt to re-imagine the vast challenge of climate change.

Directed by Avi Lewis, the film presents seven powerful portraits of communities on the front lines, from Montana's Powder River Basin to the Alberta Tar Sands, from the coast of South India to Beijing and beyond.

Interwoven with these stories of struggle is Klein's narration, connecting the carbon in the air with the economic system that put it there. Throughout the film, Klein builds to her most controversial and exciting idea: that we can seize the existential crisis of climate change to transform our failed economic system into something radically better.

What if confronting the climate crisis is the best chance we'll ever get to build a better world?

**THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING**

AN AVI LEWIS FILM  
NARRATED AND INSPIRED BY THE BOOK BY NAOMI KLEIN

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH  
OF BRUNSWICK, ME**

**APRIL 22, 2016 <> 7:00 PM**

ADMISSION: FREE - DONATIONS TO COVER COSTS ACCEPTED  
FOR MORE INFORMATION: 207-725-7686

SPONSORED BY

peaceworks  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH  
OF BRUNSWICK, ME

Unitarian Universalist Church  
of Brunswick, ME

350 MAINE



## WORKING FOR JUSTICE

### WELCOMING A LOCAL FAMILY OF IMMIGRANTS: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT!

The Working for Justice immigration task force has learned of a Congolese family of 13 living near Cook's Corner who would welcome the support and friendship of our UUCB community.



Andre Mukadi and his family are from the province of Mbuji-Mayi in Congo. Andre came to Portland 7 years ago to escape widespread violence there. By last year, he was finally able to arrange for most of his family to join him in Brunswick. The children range in age from 6 years old into their 30s.

Andre, his wife, Rachelle, and the older children have completed high school and speak four languages (French, Swahili and two other African languages). They are now studying English. Four daughters study in the English Language Learners program at Merry-Meeting Adult Education and work at Hannaford. A son attends Southern Maine Community College, and Rachelle studies with a Literacy Volunteer of America tutor. The three youngest children attend Harriet Beecher Stowe school and receive extra English language instruction at school early each morning. Andre and his 21 year old son both work and have driver's licenses. One daughter hopes to have her license soon. There are two cars in the family.

The family's most important immediate needs are food, transportation and jobs. Department of Human Services assistance does not begin to cover their needs or expenses. Andre and his son need the two cars to commute to work. Thus the family currently relies on taxis to accommodate most of the other activities in their busy schedules. The working daughters need transportation to Hannaford and to Topsham for their classes. They use the bus service when they can, but the needed taxi expense nearly cancels out their income. To attend English lessons, the three youngest children need to leave for school before the school bus is running. When they participate in after-school activities, they also miss the bus. The family uses taxis to be sure that the children can take advantage of what the school offers.

*We are exploring several ways for UUCB to provide some immediate assistance. We will learn more about other ways to offer support as we get to know each other better.*

1. Could one or two people regularly drive the three younger children to their English lessons at Harriet Beecher Stowe School Monday through Thursday? (Pick up at 7:30am.)
2. Could UUCB regularly provide Hannaford cards?
3. Do we know of Brunswick employers who might offer work to this family?
4. Do we know of any low priced, high quality cars available now or soon?

AND of great importance ....can we plan a pot luck soon to which we would all bring our favorite dishes and welcome the Mukadi family into our community?

We have the opportunity to develop a partnership with the Mukadis that will immensely enrich our congregation while offering the family resources, encouragement, and friendship. If you would like to help, please speak with Cathey Cyrus or Sylvia Stocker.

## GREEN SANCTUARY

### the Heart of the Matter

A conversation among three clergy sharing their personal perspectives about our care for the Earth



The Rev. Mary Baard  
First Parish Church



The Rev. Sylvia Stocker  
Unitarian Universalist Church



The Rev. Carolyn Eklund  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Wednesday, April 6, 2016, 7:00 to 8:30  
Unitarian Universalist Church  
One Middle Street, Brunswick  
Presented by Three Churches Earthcare

**The Heart of the Matter: a Forum on Climate Change** will bring together the ministers of three local churches — the Rev. Carol Eklund of St. Paul's Episcopal, the Rev. Mary Baard of First Parish Church, UCC, and our own minister, the Reverend Sylvia Stocker in a panel discussion reflecting their own and their churches' concerns about climate change, reasons for hope and means of action. An audience question and answer period will follow the discussion.

The event will be

**Wednesday, April 6 at 7 pm  
at the UU Church of Brunswick.**

The event is FREE and open to the public.

*The Heart of the Matter*

is the fourth annual

forum on environmental matters  
organized by 3-Churches Earth Care.

For more information, speak to Brad Mitchell or Robin Hansen of our Green Sanctuary Committee.

The Green Sanctuary Committee and The Adult Education Task Force Invite You to a

### COMMUNITY READ AND DISCUSSION

## Bringing It to the Table ON FARMING AND FOOD

by Wendell Berry

*Bringing it to the Table* offers respect and dignity to small farming and farmers, encourages sustainable use of the land, particularly land unsuitable for large monoculture farms, and to the plants and animals, including us, who live on it.

- READ -

Available at Gulf of Maine Books, local libraries and e-book editions.

- DISCUSS -

**Sunday, May 1, 11:30 am —12:30 pm, UUCB Sanctuary**

ADMISSION FREE — PLEASE INVITE FRIENDS.

## FUNDRAISING EVENTS

### UUCB CONCERTS FOR A CAUSE

#### MAINE GAY MEN'S CHORUS

**SUNDAY, MAY 15 AT 3 PM**

After a 3-year hiatus, the Portland Gay Men's Chorus has regrouped with a new name and is now performing again with powerful music to inspire all. The original Portland Gay Men's Chorus was established in 1992 and performed until 2012. The new Maine Gay Men's Chorus was relaunched in January 2015.

The Maine Gay Men's Chorus is an organization of gay men and their allies, dedicated to excellence in the choral arts. They aspire to expand, redefine, and perfect the choral art through eclectic performances that honor and uplift the gay community and affirm the worth of all people.

Artistic Director, Larry Jackson, holds a master's degree in music and has been teaching instrumental music in the public schools for 28 years. He also served many years as Choir director at Unity Church in Windham. Larry has also performed in many singing groups himself. He has sung with the Portland Choral Art Society, the Master works Chorus, the Choral Art Singers, the Camerata singers, Mary Schola, and Renaissance Voices.

#### Tickets:

**\$10 in advance,  
\$12 at the door**

Available at the church office,  
Gulf of Maine Books,  
or ONLINE at  
[brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com).



#### Save the Date

#### Hot Off the Press!

**Cul de Sax** has offered to do a FREE concert for us for the benefit of the church on **Saturday, May 21**.

The theme of the concert will be "Dancing." They will play dance music through the ages starting with the Renaissance and going up to present times.



#### ELLIS PAUL CONCERT: SUCCESS

**SATURDAY, 3/12/15**

Thanks to all those who helped make the Ellis Paul concert a great success: Dan Ellis (sound), Donna Susemihl and Carol Toroomian (ticket takers and money counters), Ann Spencer (CD sales table), Sylvia Stocker (emcee), Mike Michaud (setup/cleanup), Laura Whatley and family (coffee/refreshments) and all those who baked for the event, Sue Michaud, Dave Roundy, Shirley Bernier, Gulf of Maine Books (ticket sales), Sue Michaud (PR and hospitality), all those who helped put up flyers, and all the concert-goers who were treated to a night of music, laughs, and stories.

We sold 192 tickets and netted **\$1,612** on the concert.

Since the Fundraising committee has met its budgetary obligations for the year, all the money from this concert will be donated to one or more of our charities with soul at the end of the fiscal year.

Accompanist Sarah Phinney began playing the organ at church at the age of 12. She went on to Bowdoin College and earned a minor in music. In addition to the Maine Gay Men's Choir, Sarah has also accompanied numerous other musical groups and performances in the MidCoast and Southern Maine area.

**YSAYE BARNWELL'S  
APRIL 2  
WORKSHOP  
Sold Out**



## FUNDRAISING EVENTS

### "WHAT'S IT WORTH" APPRAISAL FAIR

**SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 1-4 PM**

**\$10 per item, 3 items for \$25**

Do you need to sell or bequeath or insure some of your valued treasures? Or are you just curious if something you own is worth millions? If so, start searching your house now and bring them to the Appraisal Fair!

On June 11 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm, an appraisal fair will be held in Topsham at Highland Green's Community Center, 7 Evergreen Circle. **Four** expert appraisers from Freeman's Auction House, based in Philadelphia, will be appraising your antiques, fine art, decorative arts, historical documents, or jewelry. Freeman's is one of the oldest and most respected auction houses in the country.

Appraisal fairs are fun and informative events that are always salted with unexpected surprises. If you have watched "Antiques Roadshow" on PBS, you know how fun the process can be. Two of the appraisers who will be providing verbal appraisers for the

**Freeman's Auction House**  
**Arts & Antiques**  
**Appraisal Fair**  
 A benefit for the UU Church of Brunswick  
**SATURDAY JUNE 11<sup>th</sup> 1-4 pm**  
**Highland Green Community Center**



THIRD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH  
 UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF BRUNSWICK  
 1 MIDDLE STREET  
 OPEN MIKE SIGNUP - 6:45 PM  
 OPEN MIKE START - 7:00 PM  
 FEATURED PERFORMER - 8:30 PM  
 SUGGESTED DONATION: \$8



### Giff Jamison

Originally from Minnesota and now a Maine-based songwriter and performer, Giff's playing draws from folk, jazz and rock influences but his roots are country blues and finger style guitar. Empty prairies, slow rolling rivers, and lost travelers all find a place somewhere in his music. He is a 4-time finalist at the New England Songwriters Contest, and in 2013 released Ramone, a CD of 11 self-penned songs recorded at Frog Hollow Studio in Brunswick. Giff performs throughout the Mid Coast and as a solo artist

and in the company of fellow songwriters and musicians.

### Nancy Sferra

Nancy Sferra is a multi-instrumentalist living in midcoast Maine. Nancy performs her folk-blues compositions on guitar, lap steel, banjo, ukulele, banjo-ukulele, and washboard. Her inspiration comes from found poems a variety of inspirations. Around these images and ideas, she builds stories into her lyrics. Her songs often focus on the working class, day to day struggles, and the simple life inspired by the rural Maine culture. While she deals with serious subject matter, many of her songs are whimsical or have a comedic element.



## Friday Evening, April 15

**Feature sets preceded by the Open Mike**

The Side Door Coffeehouse has been a fundraiser for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick since 1993. It is entirely volunteer run.

The use of the UU Church of Brunswick does not imply endorsement of the charter or opinions of contracted groups or individuals by the Church or its members.

event are "Antiques Roadshow" regulars: **Kelly Wright and Virginia Salem.** Wright serves as a Director of Freeman's Trusts & Estates department and is the New England Representative. Salem is an expert appraiser of **jewelry.** Matt Wilcox, a Bowdoin grad, serves as VP of Freeman's Trusts & Estates department and is the Mid-Atlantic Representative. Ben Truesdale will share his knowledge of **Rare Books, Maps & Ephemera.**

Individuals are encouraged to bring their treasured items for valuation and will be asked to offer a donation of \$10 for each item appraised or 3 items for \$25. All items are welcome with the exception of coins, stamps, guns, or carpets. Although it is easier to put a value on items that can be seen in person, the appraisers are willing to do the appraisal from photos if items are too bulky or fragile.

While you wait your turn, refreshments will be served and chairs will be available for you to watch the proceedings. If interesting items appear, the appraisers will make sure that you get to hear all the details about it.

FMI: Contact Sue Michaud or Caroline Evans.

## END INEQUALITY TEAM



### Save the Date!:

On Saturday morning, May 21, our church community (members and friends!) will gather to hear what our five study groups have learned and what they can tell us about what works and what we

might undertake as a church community. Please put that date on the calendar so that you can be present to help us move this church-wide initiative forward.

### Film available for sign-out:

Three copies of Robert Reich's video, "Inequality for All" have been added to our shelf in the UUCB library. If you have not already seen this important film, please consider signing it out. It is described this way: *"...a passionate argument on behalf of the middle class, INEQUALITY FOR ALL demonstrates how the widening income gap has a devastating impact on the American economy. Reich uses humor and a wide array of facts to explain how the issue of economic inequality affects each and every one of us."* This is a very watchable film and will enlarge your knowledge of what income inequality means.

### Good news for Maine's wage earners:

A number of UUCB members and friends have been active in the ballot initiative to raise the minimum wage in Maine. The following news from Maine People's Alliance on March 17 was greeted with elation: "In a 78-to-69 vote, the Maine House of Representatives today voted down an attempt by an alliance of corporate lobbyists to delay or derail a vote on a minimum wage increase this November. While there will still be more votes in the legislature, the strong showing in the House means the citizen initiative will likely not face a competing measure on the ballot." (Professor Michael Reich, the academic expert corporate lobbyists had cited to justify a competing measure to undermine the citizen initiative to increase Maine's minimum wage, revealed that the lobbyists had made a basic error in their arithmetic and that their economic claims in favor of a \$10 per hour minimum wage by 2020 actually supported the referendum's target of \$12 per hour.) This news bodes well for placing the issue on the ballot this November.

Carol Evans

## WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

Tuesday, April 12



The UUCB Woman's Alliance will meet April 12th at 12 noon, in the May Sarton Room. We will continue our discussion of the book, *Waking Up White*. If you wish, bring a bag lunch; desert and drinks will be provided.

All women of the congregation are welcome to join us, to examine how racism affects each of us, often in ways we are not aware of. We learn by sharing our experiences, good and painful. Self-awareness is the start of change, for ourselves and in our efforts to create a more just world.

If you have questions, please contact Adair DeLamater, 389-4488, [adairdelamater@gmail.com](mailto:adairdelamater@gmail.com), or Penny Elwell, 373-0730, [pennyelwell@yahoo.com](mailto:pennyelwell@yahoo.com)

## VEGAN SUNDAY-APRIL 17

All are welcome to join the Vegan Sunday potluck for a delicious plant-based meal on Sunday, April 17, 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 Larry Lemmel at [llemmel@myfairpoint.net](mailto:llemmel@myfairpoint.net) or 207-720-0387 and let him know by Thursday, April 14, what vegan dish you wish to bring.

## MEN'S LUNCHEON

Wed, April 27

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. For details, contact Brad Mitchell, [bmitch10@gmail.com](mailto:bmitch10@gmail.com), or Jim Michaud at [michaudjim33@gmail.com](mailto:michaudjim33@gmail.com).



## MEMBERSHIP

### WHO ARE THOSE PEOPLE BEHIND THE VISITOR'S TABLE?

Betsy Williams



My husband, Glenn, and I moved to Topsham in 2014 from Harvard, Massachusetts, and joined UUCB shortly thereafter. A lifelong Unitarian Universalist, I've been involved in church life most of my adult life, as a professional religious educator and as an active volunteer in my home church. This is my first time on a membership committee and I love the chance it has given me to get to know people at UUCB and to help newcomers, like myself, find their way in our congregational life.

When we moved I found I wasn't quite ready for retirement, so I returned to work this past year as a Title 1 Tutor (reading and math) at Bowdoin Central School. I also volunteer as an adult literacy tutor with Tri-county Literacy Volunteers.

From May to October Glenn and I live on Bailey Island where my family has summered for 5 generations. We love being on the water as often as possible, in our lobster style power boat or on my lovingly restored wooden Turnabout sailboat (#423!). Our two children were both married in 2015 and we are happily anticipating a growing family!

Debra VamVikites



I've been on the membership committee for almost 3 years, taking a one year break when I was in New Mexico. I enjoy serving on the membership committee because I like welcoming new people and providing them with information that helps them learn more about UUCB.

I was born in Ontario, Canada into a very close-knit Greek Orthodox family (if you've seen My Big Fat Greek Wedding, you get the picture). I live with my husband, Michael, and my college attending 19 year old daughter Hannah. I'm a former teacher of biology and literature. When Hannah was born, I took a leave of absence from my teaching job and ultimately resigned. Since that time I have worked a variety of jobs, mostly in editing and tutoring. I enjoy spending time with family, friends, and animals; and I love to garden, practice yoga, knit, crochet, and quilt. I am pleased to be part of such a warm church community.

### SAVE THE DATE

**YOU and UU:** The date for our spring You and UU class has been set for **Saturday, April 30 from 8:30 to 1:00**. If you are considering joining UUCB, please plan to attend this morning session in which you will learn about Unitarian Universalist history, theology, and governance, as well as hearing about the programs and opportunities at UUCB. Contact church administrator Shirley Bernier at 729-8515 or [uubruns@gwi.net](mailto:uubruns@gwi.net), or stop by the visitor's table on Sunday to sign up.



## MEMBERSHIP

### SPRING CIRCLE SUPPERS



Four host couples opened their homes in March to bring 28 people together for good food and conversation. We hope you will join the fun next time!

## FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Isn't it exciting to see all the wonderful signs of spring? As in keeping with the season, our church seems to be springing into action, as you can see from this newsletter. The list of things happening in April is astounding – from the Ysaye Barnwell workshop (2) to the Green Sanctuary panel (6) to Working For Justice films (18, 22) along with inspiring services planned and regular activities continuing. Please check for the details in the rest of this newsletter and in the announcements in our church bulletins.

Our Board has been busy too, creating two task forces in the March meeting. Mike Heath will be heading up a Securities Task Force to identify security issues facing UUCB, and investigate potential solutions while trying to maintain open access to the church for our members and the varied activities. Dave Damour will head up a task force to create a process for members of the congregation to voice their preference for how we will manage the proceeds from the sale of the Gurnet Road property. (All indications are that we are still on schedule for the sale to happen later this spring.) We will keep you aware of the progress of both of these activities.

In addition, at our March board meeting, Lynn Ellis and Pat McDaniel, representing Working For Justice, presented information to the board regarding the initiative to create a policy requiring everyone in Maine selling a gun

to get a background check on the purchaser. Currently only licensed gun dealers are required to complete that task. The WFJ committee would like to publish a letter to the editor in area newspapers in support of this act which has already been endorsed by the Maine Council of Churches and is in keeping with the UUA statement of Commitment to Gun Violence Prevention. The Board is in the process of reviewing our church's policy on external publications and will be updating you on that soon. A letter to the editor will not be published in the church's name without an opportunity for input from all.

The Board also wanted me to report to you that with your continuing support, we are right on budget for the year fiscally. Thank you for that, as well as for those of you who are continuing to complete your pledges to the Capital Campaign. It makes a huge difference to us to have the assurance of your financial gifts.

And finally, our wonderful minister, Sylvia, will be taking her very well deserved second half of her sabbatical. We did well in the first half with the help of many, many committees and individuals, particularly our active Worship Committee. We will gear up again, and keep our church just as vibrant these next four months! Thank you all.

*Mary Larson, Chair*

# APRIL 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
SAN = Sanctuary FEL = Fellowship Hall WBR = Wendall Berry Rm MSR = May Sarton Room MBR = Merrymeeting Bay Room RE = All RE Space HIL = Hildebrant Room CAR = Carson Room MAN = Mandela Room			<b>30</b> <b>12 Men's Luncheon:</b> Richard's Restaurant, Maine St, Brunswick	<b>31</b> <b>9:30 Three Church Earth Care:</b> MSR <b>12 Noon Deadline:</b> "This Week" email & Order of Worship <b>12:30 Chalice Circle</b> <b>facilitator:</b> WBR <b>7 Choir:</b> SAN	<b>1</b> <b>Tedford Shelter Meal</b> <b>Ysaye Barnwell Setup</b> 	<b>2</b> <b>Ysaye Barnwell Workshop 9-4</b>  <i>Office Closed</i>
<b>3</b> <b>10 Church Service</b> <b>10:15 RE Classes</b> <b>11 New Comers Chat:</b> WBR <b>11: Adult Education Presentation:</b> SAN	<b>4</b> <b>4 Working for Justice:</b> MSR <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>5</b> <b>4:30 Membership:</b> MSR <b>5 Staff Mtg:</b> WBR <b>6:30 Worship :</b> MSR	<b>6</b> <b>3 Writers Group:</b> MSR <b>7 RE:</b> MBR <b>7 Heart of the Matter Earthcare Forum:</b> SAN	<b>7</b> 10 Rental: MSR <b>12 Noon Deadline:</b> "This Week" email & Order of Worship <b>12:30 Chalice Circle :</b> WBR <b>7 Choir:</b> SAN	<b>8</b> <b>10 Friday Chalice Circle:</b> WBR <b>10:30 Buildings &amp; Grounds:</b> MSR <b>1:00 Health Care</b> <b>3:30 End Inequality :</b> MSR	<b>9</b> 10 AA Rental: MBR 1-10 RENTAL Vox Nova Concert (3 & 7:30) <i>Office Closed</i>
<b>10</b> <b>10 Church Service</b> <b>10:15 RE Classes</b> <b>11:30 RE Parent Book Group:</b> MBR <b>12 Green Sanctuary</b> <b>12 Chalice Circle</b> 3 Vox Nova Concert	<b>11</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>12</b> <b>12 Women's Alliance:</b> MSR <b>4:30 Finance:</b> MSR <b>6:30 Stories:</b> MSR <b>7:30 Pastoral Care:</b> MSR	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 11 Abnaki: MSR <b>12 Noon Deadline:</b> Order of Worship And "This Week" <b>1 End Inequality Study Grp:</b> MSR <b>7 Choir:</b> SAN	<b>15</b> <b>7 Side Door</b> 	<b>16</b> 10 AA Rental: MBR <b>6-9 Sienna Dode Birthday Sock Hop</b> <i>Office Closed</i>
<b>17</b> <b>10 Church Service</b> <b>10:15 RE Classes</b> <b>12 Vegan Sunday:</b> FEL <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>18</b>  <b>6:30 First Light Film &amp; Discussion :</b> SAN	<b>19</b> <b>6:30 Tuesday Chalice Circle :</b> WBR <b>6:30 Board :</b> MSR	<b>20</b> <b>3 Writers Group:</b> MSR	<b>21</b> <b>12 Noon Deadline:</b> "This Week" email & Order of Worship <b>7 Choir:</b> SAN	<b>22</b> <b>5 Parish Messenger Deadline</b> 	<b>23</b> 10 AA Rental: MBR <b>5 Passover Seder:</b> FEL & KIT <i>Office Closed</i>
<b>24</b> <b>10 Church Service</b> <b>10:15 RE Classes</b> <b>11:30 Public Forum</b> (Topic: Ranked Choice Voting) <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>25</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>26</b> <b>6:30 Stories:</b> MSR	<b>27</b> <b>12 Men's Luncheon</b>	<b>28</b> <b>12 Noon Deadline:</b> "This Week" email & Order of Worship <b>12:30 Chalice Circle Facilitators:</b> WBR <b>7 Choir:</b> SAN	<b>29</b> <b>9:30 Angel Cleaners</b>	<b>30</b> 10 AA Rental: MBR <b>8:30-1:00 You and UU Class:</b> SAN <i>Office Closed</i>

## ANNOUNCEMENT SUBMISSIONS/DEADLINES

If you have items to be placed in the "This Week" email, Announcement Insert (The green sheet) or the Order of Worship, please submit it to Shirley, the office administrator, by **Thursday at 12:00 pm**

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 the **3rd Friday of each month** (usually). The deadline for the May Parish Messenger is **Friday, April 22nd**. (michaud\_susan@comcast.net)