



Parish Messenger

Unitarian Universalist Church
of Brunswick



December, 2016

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The Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick

Rev. Sylvia Stocker, Minister
Rev. J. Bradbury Mitchell,
Minister Emeritus
Nicole Boutilier,
Director of Religious Education
Stephanie Bernier, Music Coordinator
Heidi Neufeld, Choir Director
Derek Herzer, Choir Accompanist
Shirley Bernier, Office Administrator
Tony Sulkoski, Sexton
Claire Curol, Ministerial Intern
Dan Ellis, Webmaster

UPCOMING SERVICES

December 4 "Waiting for the World to Change"

Claire Curolé

When the harvest is done and the cold, uncertain winter is on its way, humans tell stories to get ourselves through the dark. Join our student minister Claire in an exploration of the mysteries of the season.
Music by Derek Herzer.

December 7 Blue Christmas Vespers

7pm

Many people enter the holiday season with dread, especially if they are feeling bereaved, estranged from loved ones, or despairing about life circumstances. In addition, this year, the election has left many feeling shattered and afraid. Our Blue Christmas vespers will offer a time of readings, music, quiet, and sharing in a safe circle to offer solace to all.

December 11 "Seeds of Hope"-Annual Mitten Service Rev. Sylvia Stocker

This is also New Member Sunday, at which we celebrate the most recent people who have signed our membership book. To participate in the Mitten Service, please bring *new* (not used) mittens, hats, or scarves to church. During the service, we will decorate the trees with them. After the service, we will take them to local charities where they will be distributed to needy people. Music by Derek Herzer and the choir under the direction of Heidi Neufeld.

December 18 Intergenerational Christmas Service

Rev. Stocker, Nicole Shanks, and Claire Curolé collaborate with our fabulous Intergenerational Orchestra, conducted by Ross Miller, to produce a joyful service. Derek Herzer will accompany the hymns. (See *Intergenerational Orchestra* on page 5 if interested in playing in the orchestra.)

Sat, December 24 Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service

7pm

All ages welcome. Come for beautiful choir music, carols, reflections, and candle lighting. Our sanctuary is particularly beautiful when the only light is coming from our candles when we sing "Silent Night." And our hopes for the future are most evident when we light our baby candles. Music by Derek Herzer and the choir under the direction of Heidi Neufeld. (See *Christmas Hospitality* on page 4 for notes about special refreshments after the service.)

December 25 NO SERVICE

Time to have a cup of tea and curl up with the cats (as Sylvia will be doing) or to engage in festivities with family, friends, or neighbors.

January 1 "Keeping the Wind in Our Sails"

Dave Damour

As we celebrate the New Year, we look to the coming journey. In an informal service of readings and singing, let us be thankful for what we have and look forward to the challenges ahead. UUCB's mission "to be a spiritual community, to welcome all, to nurture one another, to work for justice, and to care for the earth" gives us focus. And we have a wonderful, spirited group of people who have much to offer. Let us determine to move forward in these challenging times.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



During the month of December we will be exploring the story of Jesus' birth and the topic of hope. At the end of December millions of people around the world celebrate what has come to be known as the day of the birth of Jesus. Christians celebrate Christmas as a story of hope because the birth of Jesus provided a way to salvation for anyone who would accept it.

Often times we in the UU faith have a difficult time figuring out how to celebrate this holiday. We want it to be more than a glorification of consumerism, yet many of us who do not identify as Christian may struggle to make meaning of this holiday.

In researching information for our theme this month I came upon a sermon online that I thought was interesting. If you'd like to check it out in full, you can find it at

<http://www.uua.org/worship/words/sermon/154770.shtml>.

The author of the sermon, David Miller, writes that the story of the birth of Jesus is a story that calls for a shift in consciousness. The birth of Jesus as seen in the historical context of the Roman Empire, was a call to act in contrast to the power and social norms of Rome; norms of subservience of the lower classes and taking power through violence and war. What if the meaning of the story, Miller writes, "was really that Jesus, an anti-establishment Jewish radical, was initiating his movement for progressive behavior by affirming that humans have the awesome capacity to emerge from the cocoon shaped by the paradigm of empire and its ways of thinking and being, into a world in which community, love, and hope prevail." The angels who announced the good news of Jesus birth to the shepherds spoke of bringing peace through goodwill toward others, not of taking power by force. From this perspective we can see the story of Jesus' birth as a message of hope in regards to our relationships with one another.

The social divides in this country- between rich and poor, liberal and conservative- seem to be ever widening. This most recent election season has provided stark evidence of that. Perhaps now more than ever the story of Jesus birth can be viewed as a call for a paradigm shift and celebrated as a reminder that we can go against the ways of the 'empire'. Miller writes, "We can come together around any pressing issue in society and create a new path and presence. And the result is not to defeat opposition, not to create a win/lose, not to react in anger to those you disagree with, and not to match the antagonism of political pundits and talk radio hate mongers, but to bring all of us involved to a new space of cooperation on the larger story, doing so out of different experiences, out of exposure to otherness that stretches our boundaries and our abilities and by living life with a new set of goals". It is my hope in this holiday season that we can transform our relationships with each other, act in goodwill toward our fellow humans, be conscious of our stereotypes, and have the strength to stand up for what we believe is right and just.

nicole

HOW TO REACH US

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

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

On Thanksgiving week, the office will only be open on Tuesday (all day) and Wednesday (10-2).

The office administrator is Shirley Bernier.

The Minister, Rev. Sylvia Stocker works from home and her church office. Her regular office hours are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-4 pm. She is also available by appointment. To guarantee an appointment, it's always best to call and schedule a meeting. In an emergency, do not hesitate to call her anywhere or any time. (Consult the church directory for her home number.) For routine church business, please call her at the church.

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

Monday is the Sabbath for church staff.

Telephone/Fax: 207 729-8515

E-mail: uubruns@gwi

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

Important RE Announcements and Dates

Dec 04: RE programs PreK-grade 6, youth group

Dec 11: RE programs PreK-grade6, youth group

Dec 18: Intergenerational Service, RE Holiday Craft Sale Fundraiser following the service

Dec 24: Christmas Eve Service, 7pm

Dec 25: No Church Service/RE

Jan 01: NO RE

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

I cannot begin to count the number of people who tell me they are entering the holiday season with knots in their stomachs. In the wake of the election, many are having trouble sleeping. Many are filled with dread.

Regardless of our choice of Presidential candidate, we can probably all agree on the worth and dignity of every person. (It is a basic Unitarian Universalist value, after all!) The erosion of civil discourse, coupled with blatant acts of hatred in many American communities, violates core UU values. Additional imminent threats to human rights in America is a matter of grave concern for Unitarian Universalists. No wonder people are having trouble sleeping.

A Biblical verse comes to my mind: "Comfort, comfort my people, says your God." (Isaiah 40:1)

The book of Isaiah is enormous. Although the book bears the name of only one prophet – Isaiah – most Biblical scholars think it was compiled from writings of at least two and maybe three prophets. The passage I quoted was written in 6th century BCE during the Babylonian Captivity (or Exile) when Jews were deported from Jerusalem following defeat by the Babylonians. (Remember the song, "By the rivers of Babylon" – also Biblical in its derivation? That song refers to the same historical period. The lyrics, "There we wept when we remembered Zion," evocatively express the exiled Jews' despair.)

These days, plenty of people living in America fear deportation or exile in a literal sense. They fear they will be rounded up and sent away, just as the 6th century BCE Jews

were. Metaphorically speaking, many who have no fears of deportation (because they have lived here "long enough," have the "right" skin color, are of the "right" class, have the "right" gender, have the "right" sexual orientation, and practice the "right" religion) feel as though they are living in a foreign nation, that America is no longer their country. They feel exiled, estranged.

I understand. Yet I repeat what I said in my sermon on November 13, when I addressed the election results. *We have voices, we have feet. We have minds and hearts. And our country needs us to serve now.*

After listening to that sermon, one person told me that, of all the things I said, what mattered most was that I reminded everyone we are not alone. Millions of people all over America – indeed, all over the world – share concerns for human rights and freedom.

In fact, in Brunswick, the Town Council convened a Human Rights Task Force last spring. I was on sabbatical at the time, so I missed the initial meetings. In the wake of the election, the Task Force quickly reconvened. I attended the meeting. Representatives from the Town Council, Library, Police Department, Bowdoin College, Sweetser, the Gathering Place, several religious institutions, and others expressed concerns about the uptick in hatred across our nation – and, to some degree, in Brunswick. Indeed, we are not alone.

When I suggested we consider making Brunswick a "No Place

for Hate" town (based on a model I experienced when I served the UU church in Bedford, MA), people expressed great enthusiasm. Whether that comes to pass or our region chooses a different way to respond to hatred, I believe many good people are poised to work together. At the local level – in Brunswick and surrounding towns, too – we can make a difference. Many little actions add up over time.

Too, we need to be vigilant, making sure the human rights of most vulnerable are protected. Time will tell what actions we need to take, as long as we continue to keep our eyes and ears open.

Meanwhile, if you have an immediate need for comfort, consider attending Blue Christmas vespers on December 7 at 7 p.m. The service will offer comfort for anyone facing the holiday season feeling sad, lonely, or scared, including (but not limited to) those feeling shattered by the election. And, of course, my door is always open. Just let me know if you'd like to set up a time to meet.

If UUCB is nothing else, may we always be a place of healing and refuge for those who feel afflicted. May we bring our broken hearts here and, together, grow each other whole again. And with that healing, comfort, care, and love, may we reach our arms out to our broken world.

Love, Sylvia



CHRISTMAS EVE HOSPITALITY

Normally we invite everyone to bring a plate of their favorite holiday confections to share, but for this tradition to continue ***we need someone to volunteer to set up the refreshments and clean up afterwards.*** If you are one of the throngs of people who enjoy this time of hospitality, please consider volunteering to make it happen.)



MINISTER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Normally at this time of year, I write a column seeking contributions to the Minister's Discretionary Fund. This year the need for contributions is at an all-time high. Our coffers are extremely low, as we have been helping people with rent, food, electric bills, and the like. (And the heating season hasn't even started yet!) Many in our region live just on the edge of calamity. Sometimes a little boost from the Minister's Discretionary Fund can keep the wolves from the door a little while longer. If you are able to contribute, please make a check out to UUCB, and put the words "Minister's Discretionary Fund" in the memo line. Thank you so much for your generosity.



Sylvia Stocker

HAVE NO PLANS FOR CHRISTMAS?

There's room at a table for you. Cindy Parker and Steve Eagles invite 10 people to join them for dinner on Christmas Day at 3:00 in Dresden. A sign-up sheet can be found in Fellowship Hall, or call the church office at 729-8515 or email Cindy at cindyparker48@gmail.com.



INTERGENERATIONAL ORCHESTRA

Musicians of all ages and abilities who can read music are invited to participate in the orchestra that will be performing at the Intergenerational Christmas Service on December 18.

Rehearsals will be December 4 and 11 after church. Please bring a music stand. Attendance at at least one rehearsal is recommended, though not required.

FMI or to volunteer: Ross Miller
remiller234@gmail.com



CHURCH OFFICE PREPARING FOR ANNUAL WINTER BREAK

The holidays are right around the corner and the UUCB Office is preparing for its Annual Winter Break and requesting your assistance. The office will need to prepare all the Orders of Worship, Green Sheet Announcements, PowerPoint presentations and one final All Church Email before the winter break begins (Friday, December 23, 2016, through January 3, 2017).

Below is a schedule for submitting items. Whenever possible, please submit materials via email at uubruns@gwi.net.

ORDER OF WORSHIP, POWERPOINT, & GREEN SHEET ANNOUNCEMENTS..... DUE BY NOON

Service.....Deadline

Sunday December 11	Thursday, December 8
Sunday, December 18.....	Thursday, December 15
Saturday, December 24 (Christmas Eve Service – No Green Sheet Announcements)	Tuesday, December 20
Sunday, December 25.....	No Service
Sunday, January 1, 2017.....	Tuesday, December 20
Sunday, January 8, 2017.....	Wednesday, January 4

THIS WEEK AT UUCB EMAIL DUE BY NOON

Email DateDeadline

Friday December 9	Thursday, December 8
Friday, December 16	Thursday, December 15
Thursday, December 22 (Last One for 2016).....	Wednesday, December 21
Friday, January 6.....	Thursday, January 5

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURSHOURS

Monday, December 19	Closed
Tuesday, December 20	10am to 4pm
Wednesday December 21	10am to 4pm
Thursday, December 22	10am to 4pm
Friday, December 23, 2016 to Tuesday, January 3, 2017	Closed
Wednesday, January 4, 2017	10am-4pm

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Last month on this page, we talked about "dipping your oar" into the busy life of this congregation, and activity on our new Help Wanted bulletin board (described again below) indicates some of you have done just that. We hope you found this engagement rewarding.

This month we invite you to reflect on your engagement with the congregation with these questions: Why do you come to church? What feeds your spirit--both in and out of church? If you serve on a committee, or a non-profit organization, how does that work feed your spirit? If you like to help with big events, how does that feed your spirit? In other words, can you draw a line between what feeds you and your involvement in the life of the congregation?

If you would like to get more involved in the life and work of the congregation, you can use these same questions to explore what areas of church life would be a good fit for you. And stop by the Visitor's Table any time to talk with us about the possibilities

NEW MEMBER RECOGNITION SUNDAY DECEMBER 11

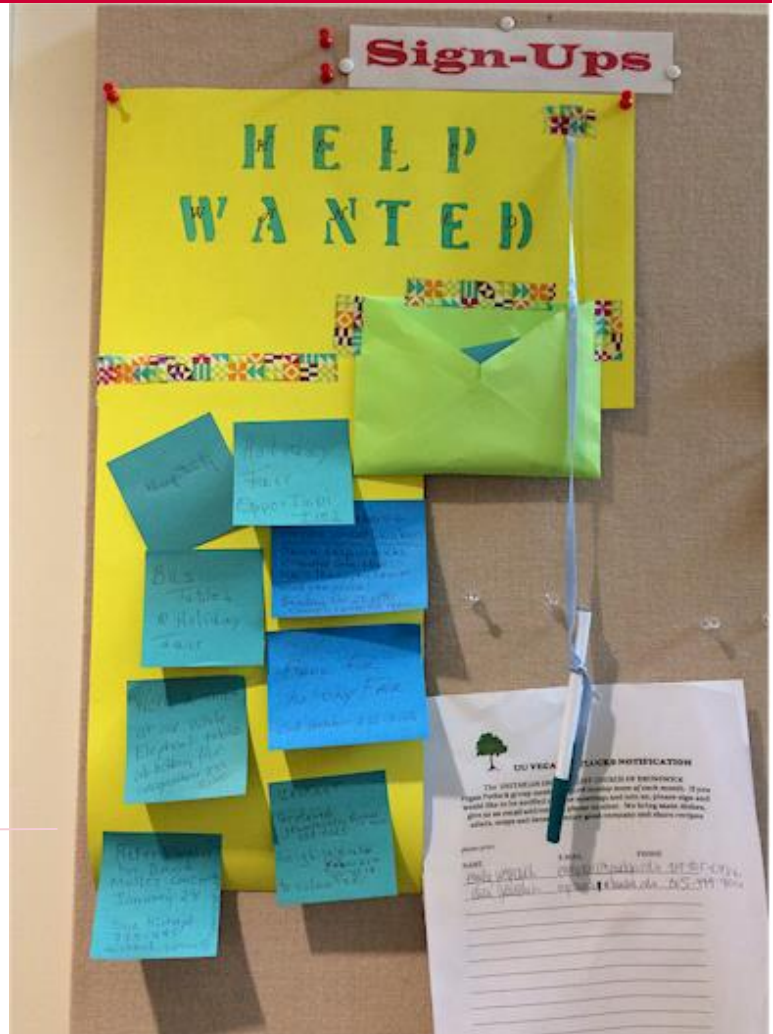
On Sunday, December 11, we will officially welcome individuals who have signed our membership book since June. This ceremony, led by Rev. Sylvia with the help of Membership Committee members, takes place twice each year and is a very special one in the life of our congregation. Please join us!

SUNDAY PEANUT BUTTER AND JAM

Our third-Sunday-after-church jam session is canceled for the month of December but will resume in January. In December, we invite our jamming musicians to join the Intergenerational Orchestra instead!



*Sylvia
Stocker*



HELP WANTED!

The Help Wanted bulletin board outside the kitchen is ready to serve both those who need help and those who want to help out in a limited way. If you are a committee person who needs help for a particular task, please use the pen and post-it notes on our bulletin board to post your need. For instance, the grounds committee needs help planting bulbs, or RE needs an adult or two for a particular Sunday activity. Larger events, like the holiday fair, will continue to recruit helpers at their table each Sunday, but they, too, can post specific needs on the bulletin board. So, use it to find help if you need it, and find a helpful job if you want one! The Membership Committee will monitor the board and keep it up to date.



WORKING FOR JUSTICE

DECEMBER CHARITY WITH SOUL FOUR DIRECTIONS

Woliwoni!

Thank you for selecting Four Directions as
December's Charity With Soul!

Many Native Americans in Maine face restricted access to affordable loans and capital. Banks generally cannot make secured loans on reservation due to collateral issues, and thus, tribal members on reservation are left with few options for owning homes, improving homes, or building assets through homeownership. Four Directions strives to change that reality. We are a Native nonprofit CDFI (Community Development Financial Institution) that has created a Native American loan pool to provide financing on and off reservation. We provide affordable loans and free financial education services to Micmac, Malisset, Passamaquoddy, and Penobscot tribal members across Maine.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

Four Directions Development Corporation

20 Godfrey Drive | Orono, ME | 04473

Www.fourdirectionsmaine.org

207.866.6545

WORKING FOR JUSTICE



MUUSAN UPDATES

*The next meeting of MUUSAN will take place Saturday, January 14th
10AM – 12PM at the Augusta UU church.*

Thirty-two Unitarian Universalists from 15 Maine congregations gathered at the UU Community Church of Augusta for the bi-annual monthly meeting. Sue Kennedy attended on behalf of UUCB.

The meeting began with a beautiful worship service led by Rev. Carie Johnsen. The UUCC orchestra played "*Spirit of Life*" as people entered the sanctuary in silence.

Rev. Carie Johnsen



Following the service participants moved to the Fellowship Hall for discussion and recognition of the passage of three of MUUSAN's four endorsed ballot questions (2 - Support for Public Schools, 4 - Raise the Minimum Wage, 5 - Ranked Choice Voting) and were sad about one loss (3 - Background Checks for Firearms) this time. We acknowledged and shared gratitude for the hard work of so many Unitarian Universalists across Maine for these measures.

The three Issue Groups (Democracy in Action, Health Care for All, Climate Change) met and reported out with updates on events of interest, activities with partner organizations, initial ideas for State House Lobby Days this legislative session, and more.

Sue Kennedy attended the Health Care issue group.



WORKING FOR JUSTICE

SANDY HOOK VIGIL

FOURTH ANNIVERSARY

Music in Memoriam

7-8:30 PM

Wednesday, December 14

Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick

1 Middle Street

We Remember Them

COLUMBUS DAY OR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY?

On **Tuesday, November 29 from 7-8:30 pm** Diane Oltarzewski, from Belfast, will be present to talk with interested community members about her experience organizing an Indigenous People's Day in the Belfast community. We have invited others active in similar organizing efforts in Maine. Please join Working for Justice and others in this conversation, and together let's create a vision and plan of action for holiday change in the Brunswick and Bath communities.

ADULT EDUCATION

THE ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TASK FORCE INVITES YOU TO MEET

Immigrant Students From Lewiston High School

WHAT: A rare opportunity to learn about their personal histories, struggles before and after coming to the US, positive and negative experiences in Lewiston, ways in which they have felt accepted or excluded from the larger community, and their personal goals for the future.

WHO: Somali students from the International Club at Lewiston High school and their teacher, Ms. Patricia McKinnon.

WHEN: Sunday, Dec 4, 11:30 am-12:30 pm

WHERE: UUCB Sanctuary



A special offering will be given to support the International Club's mission of promoting cross-cultural awareness.

SUPPORT THE ACLU

If you are feeling dismayed and distressed about the election results and the potential impacts on Supreme Court appointments, climate change, reproductive rights, immigrant rights, human rights, voting rights, civil discourse, race relations and a myriad of other aspects of a liberal democratic society, then you are not alone. One avenue we can all take is to support the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), a non-partisan organization. In a telephone presentation on November 14, ACLU Executive Director Anthony Romero spoke to major donors about the organization's intentions. In July, attorneys for the ACLU assessed Trump's policies and began doing a constitutional analysis. You can find their 27 page report, at <https://action.aclu.org/sites/default/files/pages/trumpmemos.pdf>

New U.S. Presidents pursue actions on the first day, over the first hundred days and over the longer term. The greatest thrust is in the early stages as mid-term elections can change the political landscape. Romero outlined the likely actions Trump will pursue quickly, including revocation of Obama's order allowing young immigrants called "Dreamers" to stay in the US, rescinding clemency on prisoners, rescinding the order to close Guantanamo, defunding of Planned Parenthood,

revocation of protection for trans-gender students and other actions.

The ACLU garnered 120,000 new members and \$7 million in the six days following the election. 150,000 joined the email action list. In an article in the NY Times November 17, Mr. Romero stated, "This is the greatest outpouring of support for the A.C.L.U. in our nearly 100-year history, greater than the days after 9/11. All of this support will be put to good use protecting the rights of all Americans."

If you can donate, give as much as you are able. If not, simply sign up at the website, www.aclu.org to receive email updates.

To volunteer at the Maine office, visit their website at <https://www.aclu.org/affiliate/maine> or call 774-5444.



Submitted by the *End Inequality Leadership Team*

ENDING INEQUALITY: CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Each month through January, the End Inequality Leadership Team is highlighting recommendations for action in one of the five focus areas studied: Income, Education, Food/Shelter/Clothing, Criminal Justice and Health Care (to read more about key findings read the Ending Inequality Action Guide by following the Ending Inequality links on the UUCB website <http://uubrunswick.org/>. For the month of December the focus area is Criminal Justice.

The criminal justice system in the United States and Maine is an archaic almost medieval system based on retribution and punishment. Modern prison facilities are more closely akin to dungeons than to humane housing for human beings. Incarceration rates have increased dramatically over the past forty years while there have been significant and unrelated declines in the violent crime rate. In addition, large numbers of impoverished individuals are kept in jails unable to meet bail conditions, despite not having been tried or convicted. Costs have continually been added, the poor are forced to pay jail fees, probation fees, and civil fines and penalties in disproportion to their financial capacity. The criminal justice system is a significant causative factor in creating the high US poverty rate and significant reform could reduce the poverty rate, possibly more effectively than raising the minimum wage. The vast sums spent on mass incarceration could be more effectively directed toward community based treatment, housing, and re-entry support.

While there are many incremental things which can be accomplished to help: less punitive sentences, lower fines, bail reform, decreased use of solitary confinement, decriminalization of drugs, use of restorative justice in juvenile and probation systems, more discretion for judges in sentencing, increased funding for treatment programs, etc., there is a need for

a transformational shift to create a criminal justice system based on rehabilitation and humane care with programs and policies based on empirical evidence and best practices. Money being spent per prisoner is vastly more than the cost of a college tuition. The over use of solitary confinement is a form of torture and creates more problems than it solves. Reform could actually reduce recidivism, save money, and reduce poverty. However there is no significant voting constituency lobbying on behalf of prisoners. In fact, many felons are disenfranchised and banned from voting.

Given these daunting obstacles, what can you do? Become better informed: read Brian Stevenson's *Just Mercy*, Matt Taibbi's *The Divide*, Ta-Nehisi Coates *A Matter of Black Lives*. Support policies makers who are committed to significant reform. Support non-profit advocacy organizations who are fighting for prisoner rights and helping individual prisoners: the Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition, the Civil Liberties Union, the College Guild (a volunteer organization providing education to prisoners). Engage in letter writing to state and federal legislators on issues such as ending use of solitary confinement, passing fair chance legislation (proposed federal legislation to restrict employers from inquiring about criminal histories on the application form), implementing of restorative justice programs, and the development of re-entry programs for newly released prisoners. In addition there are direct volunteer opportunities at the Long Creek Youth Development Center or as a reader with the College Guild.

Oddly enough now could be the time for some of these ideas to come to fruition. There has been more bipartisan interest recently in implementing some of these suggestions, and there is so much that could and should be accomplished.



FELLOWSHIP ART GALLERY



Please be sure to take note of the art on display in our Fellowship Gallery and in the May Sarton Room. Your comments and appreciations in the guest book are always welcome as well!

This month's exhibit includes some of the acrylic landscapes of Brunswick's Carol Verhey.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

HOLIDAY FAIR

We hope to see all of you at the Holiday Fair on Saturday, December 3, from 9:00 to 2:00. Bring the family and make a day of it. There will be plenty to eat at the café with muffins and coffee in the morning and then delicious soups, breads and pies for lunch. We also will have a vendor selling locally made ice cream.

Purchase a holiday gift from local craftspeople and our own UUCB people. Find an unusual trinket at the White Elephant table, and remember kids from K-5 grade can purchase gifts in the Sugar Plum room. Take home a wreath or a green centerpiece and check out the baked goods table for a treat to share. If you're tired of all the shopping, you can sit down and enjoy live music provided by our own UUCB members. See you Saturday and bring a friend! Gretchen Kamilewicz, co-chair, and Leigh Peranteau, co-chair.

Gretchen Kamilewicz and Leigh Peranteau, co-chairs.



HO HO HO!

AUCTION NEWS!



Ahhhhhhhhh, the Auction. **The \$5700 auction!**
THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!

To the pillars of this event we express our deep gratitude.....Rene Bernier and Dick Brown, our fabulous and funny auctioneers and David and Diane Kew, the brains behind what makes check out seem simple! It would never be as successful without you.

SO MANY THANKS:

- To all of you that donated services and items
- To all of you who bought the offerings
- To Betsy Williams for all the input of donation information for our program
- To Gretchen Kamilewicz and her great cooks and kitchen crew
- To Tony for clearing the sanctuary for our use
- To those who helped display our offerings
- To Stephanie Bernier who helped with the sound system for the night
- To the Kews, Susan Michaud, and Reg Elwell for their help in checking people out
- To all those who helped set up for our event and those who graciously stayed and helped us get the room ready for Sunday service....soooo many of you
- To those unknown to me that took care of all the tableclothes
- To Maryli Tiemann who helped from the beginning and did the follow-through of all the notifications to those that donated as to who made purchases

I enjoy fostering our connections with each other. I also get to know more of you a little better with each event. Thank you so much for your support.

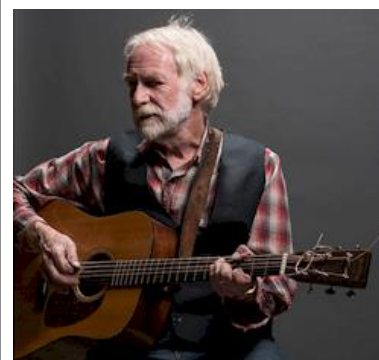
Sue Ellen Damour

DID YOU KNOW?

The Ecumenical Festival of Lessons and Carols raises money for UUCB?

SAVE THE DATE

DAVID MALLET
SAT, JANUARY 28



FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

As are all of you, the members of the Board of Trustees are reeling following the election. I have attended a number of meetings at the church since the election, and at the beginning of each one, people are expressing their dismay, fears, information and cautious hope for action to deal with the situation. Sylvia's service, the Sunday after the election, was so helpful to me, as I hope it was to you. At UUCB we have extremely active, effective committees and task forces addressing these concerns. Working For Justice, End Inequality, and the Adult Education Task Force, to name a few. By joining together with them, their projects, programs and activities, we can be a strong community force to work on a better world. Our vigilance as well as our action is sorely needed.

The Board business this month was routine. One of the major issues we discussed was that pledge payments are low. This sometimes happens in the fall, and pledge money is made up by the end of December. However, there is concern about our cash flow. Quarterly reports will be sent out soon to remind people of their commitment. We ask, if possible, that pledge payments come in a more timely manner.

I write behalf of the Board. We hope for a peaceful, happy holiday season for all of you.

Mary Larson,
Board Chair



WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

There will be no Women's Alliance meeting in December. Our 126 Meals-on-Wheels favors have been delivered, and the gifts of toys and diapers have made their way to the Tedford Shelter.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 10. Stay tuned in December for further details!

PLANT-POWERED POTLUCK

The UUCB Plant-Powered Potluck (formerly Vegan Sunday) will be held after church on **Sunday, December 18**, at 12 noon in Fellowship Hall.



Come share delicious plant-based food and camaraderie with us and 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 Faith Woodman at fewoodman@gmail.com or 891-0218 by **Thursday, December 15**.

If you are new to plant-based eating and would like to know more about its benefits and suggestions for recipes, a good site to check out is www.forksoverknives.com.

MEN'S LUNCHEON

Wed, December 28

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, or Jim Michaud at michaudjim33@gmail.com.



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

Castlebay

"Ghosts of Christmas Past" Concert

Friday Evening, December 16th

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



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

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

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

No Open Mike this month

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



HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS



Holiday Fair. Saturday, December 3, 9 to 2. UUCB and local craftspeople will be selling that perfect gift. Don't forget UUCB makes the best wreaths! Visit our white elephant table, Sugar Plum Fairy room (where children may purchase gifts for family, friends, and pets), and baked goods table. Purchase coffee, cider, and muffins in the morning, then soup, bread, and pie at lunchtime. Come and bring your friends!

Ecumenical Festival of Lessons and Carols. Sunday, December 4, at 3:00 p.m. at St. John's Catholic Church in Brunswick. Enjoy our choir singing with area church choirs, directed by Ray Cornils (his last Lessons and Carols service before he retires). Come at 2:45 for a prelude by the First Parish Ringers. Admission at the door, \$8 suggested. Doors open at 2:15.

Blue Christmas Vespers, Wednesday, December 7, at 7: a healing service for those who face the holiday season feeling sad, alone, anxious, or afraid. If you've suffered a personal loss, feel estranged from loved ones, or feel despairing after the election, this service of readings, music, and quiet will provide a place of solace.

Poinsettias. To help decorate our sanctuary, donate a poinsettia in memory of loved ones, new births, or special events. Dedications appear in the Christmas Eve order of worship. Plants are \$14.40 each. To order a plant, please call the church office at 729-8515 or send an email to uubruns@gwi.net, including the number of plants and dedication you want to appear in the order of worship. **Orders and payments due Friday, December 9.** Make checks payable to UUCB.

Mitten Service. Sunday, December 11. During the service we will adorn our Christmas trees with mittens, hats, gloves, and scarves to distribute to needy families. Please remember to bring your contributions (NEW items, please, not used) to church that morning.

Religious Education Holiday Fundraiser Craft Sale. During Sunday school on December 4 and 11, children will make crafts to sell to raise funds for Tedford Shelter and Coastal Humane Society. Sale will be held on December 18 after church.

Christmas Decorating Party. Sun, December 11. All are invited to linger after church to help decorate the trees.

Castlebay "Ghost of Christmas Past" Annual Concert. Friday, December 16, at 7:30, the Side Door Coffeehouse celebrates the Winter Solstice with perennial favorite Celtic duo Castlebay. \$10

Holiday Intergenerational Orchestra. On Sunday, Dec 18, musicians young and old are invited to participate in our popular annual Intergenerational Orchestra. Rehearsals on Sundays December 4 & 11 immediately after the service. We recommend, though do not require, that you attend at least one rehearsal. Musicians of all abilities welcomed, though you do need to be able to read music. Please bring a music stand. Contact Ross Miller remiller234@gmail.com to volunteer or ask questions.

Candles for Babies. On Christmas Eve, we light candles in honor of babies born or adopted into church families during the previous year. After the Christmas Eve service, families may take their candle and votive holder home. **Parents, grandparents, or great-grandparents,** please contact the church office (729-8515 or uubruns@gwi.net) with the child's name, date of birth, name of parent, grandparent or great-grandparent so that we can include that information in the Christmas Eve order of worship. Deadline to submit a baby name is Wednesday, December 14.

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

Christmas Eve Festive Food. We like to invite everyone to bring a plate of their finest holiday confections to share after the Christmas Eve service. *For this fun tradition to continue, we need a volunteer to coordinate hospitality after the service.*

Dedocking party, Sunday, January 8, after church. Time to take the trees down and bring poinsettias home. Stay to help make the sanctuary ship shape.



DECEMBER 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 = Hildebrandt Room CAR = Carson Room MAN = Mandela Room CL = Curtis Library Seminar Room		Nov 29	Nov 30	1 	2	3
		6 Indigenous Peoples Day Presentation: SAN	3 Writers Grp: MSR 12 Men's Luncheon 6 Assylum Seekers followup meeting: MSR 7 Concert Committee: WBR	10 Rental Committee: : MSR 12 Noon Deadline: "This Week" email & Order of Worship 2 Holiday Fair Music Rehearsal: SAN 6:45 Choir: SAN	Teford Shelter Meal Holiday Fair Setup	10 AA Rental: MSR 10 Chalice Circle Facilitators: Rev Stocker's Office 9-2 Holiday Fair Office Closed
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10 Church Service 10:15 RE Classes 11:30 Newcomers: WBR 11:30 Intergen Orchestra rehearsal: MBR 11:30 Adult RE: Immigrant Students: SAN 2:45 Ecumenical Festival: St John's	4 Working for Justice: MSR Office Closed	5 Staff: WBR 6:30 Worship: MSR 7 RE Comm: MBR	7 Vespers: SAN	12 Noon Deadline: "This Week" email & Order of Worship 6:45 Choir: SAN	Building & Grounds 10:30am MSR 3:30 End Inequality: MSR 6 Rental-Freeport Chorus: SAN	10 AA Rental: MSR 5:30 Rental-Freeport Chorus: SAN Office Closed
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10 Church Service 10:15 RE Classes 11:30 PB & Jam: MBR 11:30 Intergen Orchestra rehearsal: SAN	4 Membership: Debra VamVikites house 5:30 All Care: MSR Office Closed	10 Chalice Circle: WBR 4:30 Finance: MSR 6:30 Pastoral Care: MSR 6:30 Stories: WBR	10 Chalice Circle: WBR 3 Writers: MSR 3 Poetry with Barkley: WBR 7 Sandy Hook Vigil: SAN	11 Wabanaki REACH: MSR 12 Noon Deadline: "This Week" email & Order of Worship 6:45 Choir: SAN	7:00 Side Door Coffeehouse: Castlebay 5 Parish Messenger Deadline	10 AA Rental: MSR Office Closed
18	19	20	21 	22	23	24
10 Church Service 10:15 RE Classes 12 Plant-Powered Potluck: FEL 12 Chalice Circle: WBR Office Closed		12 Noon Deadline: "Order of Worship" & Powerpoint for 12/20 and 1/1 Service 2 Savvy Caretakers: WBR	4:30 Homeless Memorial Services: SAN 12 Noon Deadline: "This Week" email (last one for 2016) 6 Chalice Circle: MBR	9:30 Memoir Writing: WBR 6:45 Choir: SAN		10 AA Rental: MSR 7 Christmas Eve Service: SAN
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
NO Church Service NO RE Classes 		6:30 Stories: WBR 7 Concert Committee: MSR	12 Men's Luncheon 3 Writers: MSR	6:30 Veterans for Peace: MSR 7 Choir: SAN	9:30 Angel Cleaners	10 AA Rental: MSR
Office Closed—Winter Break						

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 see page 5 to see when the deadlines are during the Holiday season.

If you want an announcement or article to appear in the monthly Parish Messenger, send it to the newsletter editor, Sue Michaud (michaud_susan@comcast.net) on or before the **3rd Friday of each month (usually)**. The deadline for the January Parish Messenger is **Friday, December 16th**.