



# Parish Messenger

Unitarian Universalist Church  
of Brunswick



## December, 2017

Blue Christmas Vespers .....	2
Board Report .....	5
Calendar .....	20
Deadlines .....	17, 19
Food and Fellowship .....	16
Fundraising Events .....	6-7
Holiday Fair .....	6
Concerts for a Cause .....	7
<b>Holiday Happenings .....</b>	<b>18</b>
How to Reach Us .....	2
Membership .....	15
Minister's Musings .....	3
Office Winter Break .....	17
Religious Education .....	4
Side Door Coffeehouse .....	8
Student Intern Report .....	8
Working for Justice .....	9-14
Abyssinian Meeting House .....	13
Bells for Peace .....	14
Black Lives Matter .....	10-12
Charities with Soul .....	9
Midcoast New Mainers .....	14
MUUSAN .....	13
Sandy Hook Vigil .....	9
Worship Services .....	1

### 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 Curole, Ministerial Intern

Dan Ellis, Webmaster

## DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

### Dec 3 at 10am "Drop in the Bucket"

Rev. Sylvia Stocker

Music by the Carter Ruff, Jud Casell and the Drop in the Bucket Band .

### Dec 6 at 7pm "Blue Christmas Vespers"

The holidays are a difficult time for many. Perhaps you've suffered a loss, live alone, or simply find the world to be "too much with you." Our Blue Christmas Vespers is a place to come to lay your burdens down. Simple sung chants, personal sharing, and special music. Led by Rev. Stocker and Student Minister, Claire Curole. Music by Paul Schaffner and Larry Lemmel.

### Dec 10 at 10am "Cooking Lessons"

Rev. Sylvia Stocker

Music by the choir, directed by Heidi Neufeld and accompanied by Derek Herzer.

### Dec 17 at 10pm "Winter Welcome: Solstice Celebration"

A Service for all ages. Rev. Stocker leading worship. Music by the Inter-generational Orchestra. Hymns by Derek Herzer.

### Dec 24 at 10pm

We won't have a formal service, but the church will be open and Worship Committee members will greet you and invite you into a time of quiet and contemplation. A great way to claim some time away from holiday madness. Harp music by Louise Gephart.

### Dec 24 TWO Christmas Eve Services this year!

Both will feature carols, readings, stories, special music, and more. All ages welcome at each service. No formal hospitality after either service, but we encourage you to stay and greet your friends and make new ones.

#### Frist Service: Beginning at 4:45

We will offer 15 minutes of special holiday music; service formally begins at 5:00. Music featuring Derek Herzer and more... This service will be the shorter and more interactive of the two with well-known carol singing. If you are planning to bring very young children, this might be the better of the two services to attend.

#### Second Service: Beginning at 6:45

We will offer 15 minutes of special holiday music; service formally begins at 7:00. Music featuring the choir and more...

### Dec 31

#### Worship Committee

Louise Gephart, Cindy Parker will be leading the service. Topic TBD. Music by Ann Hartzler.

## BLUE CHRISTMAS VESPERS AND ONGOING TAIZÉ SERVICES



Winter holidays can be hard if you are facing difficulty for any reason. Holiday merriment can be unbearable in the face of grief. Expectations for gift giving and feasting can hurt in the face of poverty. High spirits can feel brutal in the face of loneliness. Holiday chaos and hecticness can feel disruptive and facturing juxtaposed with the need for quiet and peace.

This year we will again be offering a Blue Christmas Vespers service. Held on Wednesday, December 6, at 7 p.m., the service will feature special music, chanted

songs, silence, and opportunity to share what is on your heart. Simple, quiet, and gentle, this service will set time apart from the bustling world and allow people to come just as they are, without expectation of holiday “good cheer.” The service aims to nurture as well as address spiritual needs.

This Blue Christmas Service ushers in a new monthly service at our church, called Taizé. Our Taizé services come out of both my observation and that of our Pastoral Care Associates that many people seem to feel beaten down by world events, ongoing worries and fears, and increased isolation. People may need a place to bring their feelings and to experience connection. Of course, our regular Sunday services are one such place. But Taizé offers something different.

Originating in the Taizé monastic community in France, Taizé services consist of a mixture of chanting, silence, music, sometimes (but not always) readings, and, sometimes (but not always) personal sharing. Taizé services have been adapted to good effect in UU congregations. They are far more experiential and less intellectual in nature than typical Sunday services. They provide a way for all present to create sacred space with the chants and silence. Watch this space for times and dates of upcoming services.

If you would like to help launch these new Taizé services, here are some ways you can help. First and foremost, plan to attend. Without participants, this offering will fall flat. Second, our music budget does not include money for musicians for Taizé services. If the services are a success, we can perhaps budget for musicians next year. This year we have to rely on volunteers. If you have a musical skill, would you consider offering it for one of the services? Do you sing? Or play one of the quieter instruments? (Trombone might not fit as well as flute, for instance ... but, on the other hand, I like to try new things!) Third, you could volunteer to help set up the sanctuary and then set it to rights again after the service. Please let me know if you can help in any of these ways.

On December 6, Blue Christmas Vespers aims to fill a particular, seasonal need for quiet, connection, solace, and peace. Ongoing, our new Taizé services will seek to set time apart from a busy and often distressing and lonely world for people to come and have their hearts filled. I hope you will join us.

### 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  
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 Boutillier, is on sabbatical from September 1 to January 6. If you have RE concerns during her absence, contact Melissa Fochesato or Kate Phenix at [uubrunswickrec@gmail.com](mailto:uubrunswickrec@gmail.com).

Monday is the Sabbath for church staff.

**Telephone/Fax: 207 729-8515**  
**E-mail: [uubruns@zwi](mailto:uubruns@zwi)**

## MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Advent is typically viewed, in religious terms, as a season of waiting. The pregnant mother waits for the contractions that will usher in the birth of her baby. The world waits for the dawn of peace. The northern hemisphere waits until the sun sits at its lowest in the sky and then begins to return, once again, to its higher celestial perch. Waiting.

How ironic, then, that so many of us turn Advent into a season of hurrying. Hurrying to get the gifts purchased and the packages wrapped and mailed. Hurrying to get the house decorated. Hurrying to prepare for that holiday party. Hurrying to lay in all the groceries needed for a feast. People often arrive a little breathless to our Christmas Eve services. Too much hurrying.

Years ago, I was waiting this time of year for my child to be born. I remember feeling the increasing discomfort as space got tighter in his temporary first home. I remember my eagerness to behold the child I had been coming to know over the last eight-plus months. I also remember a certain placidness – almost as though I were living my life in slow motion. I was big and logy. My life felt almost suspended in time, as I waited on the threshold to motherhood.

In many religions, the threshold between the old world and the new, the old way of being and the new, the old way of living and new, is considered holy. Called *liminal space*, that threshold denotes a time set

apart, when both old and new seem present and real.

My father was in the advanced stages of Alzheimer's Disease when I was in seminary. One day I was expressing my sadness about his illness to one of my fellow seminarians, a Lakota woman. She said, "My people would consider your father to be holy because he has one foot in this world and one foot in the next." Liminal space.

We are in liminal space as birth nears, as death nears, as seasons turn. The gloaming just before nightfall is liminal space – not quite day; not quite night. Likewise the early dawn, just before the sun pokes above the horizon. Whenever the changes we contemplate are not here quite yet we are in liminal space, and the world is ripe with possibility. Mystery abounds. Wonder and awe are more accessible.

When I was little, I couldn't wait for Christmas to come. But over the years, I have come to cherish the Advent time of waiting more. I like observing the changes in light and temperature in the natural world – the gathering dark and the returning light. I like lighting a candle under my hopes for the world I dream we will someday create. I have found that too much holiday hurrying prevents me from enjoying the contemplative moments liminal spaces invite. And so I try to stop, often enough and long enough, simply to wait. Wait and wonder. Wait and dream. Wait and prepare myself for some great new good to be birthed.

Love, Sylvia





## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### FAMOUS UU: FANNIE FARMER



December's famous UU is Fannie Farmer (1857-1915), a Unitarian "Domestic Scientist." Fannie grew up in a Unitarian family that valued education highly. After suffering a paralytic stroke at the age of 16, she could no longer go to school, so took up cooking to pass the time. As an adult, Fannie enrolled in the Boston Cooking School to learn about cooking and nutrition, eventually becoming the school's principal. She wrote multiple cookbooks and taught cooking and nutrition, and was the first person to write recipes with exact measurements. Not only did she call for careful measuring (she was known as the mother of

level measurements), but she was well ahead of her time in imparting important nutritional information to her readers.

### UU PRINCIPLE 3: WE'RE FREE TO LEARN TOGETHER

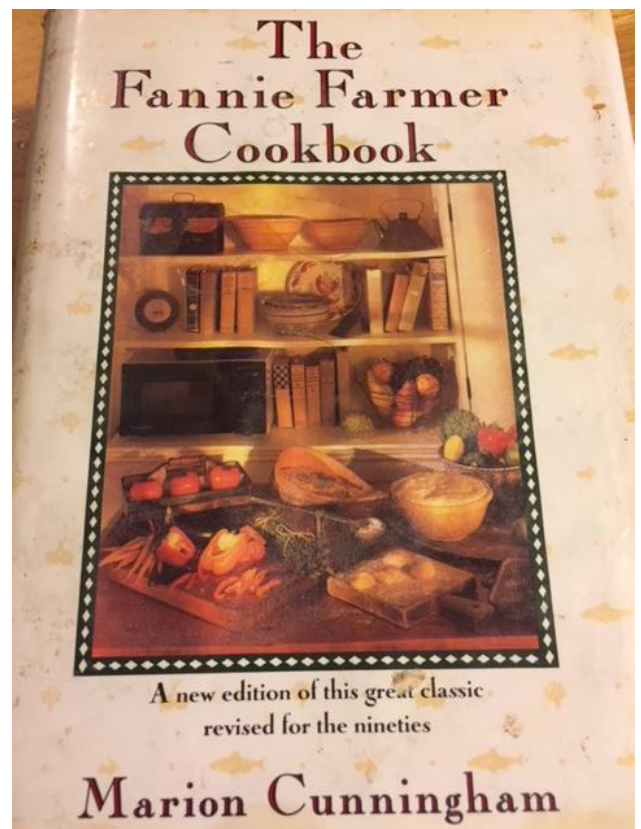
Children will also be learning about Principle 3, "We're free to learn together." Together, we will be creating holiday crafts, led by the youth group on December 3, and selling them on December 10 after service as a fundraiser for local charities. On December 10, they will be learning sign language with Deb Silverman, and will be with the entire congregation on December 17 for the intergenerational Winter Holiday Service.

There will be no RE services on December 24 or 31, we hope you all have a wonderful and peaceful holiday season!

*Melissa Fochessato*

### Important RE Announcements and Dates

- Dec 03:** RE for children and youth
- Dec 10:** RE for children and youth
- Dec 17:** Intergenerational Holiday Service
- Dec 24:** NO RE, Christmas Eve Service
- Dec 31:** NO RE programs



## BOARD REPORT

### **WE DID IT! MANY CHURCH IMPROVEMENTS ARE IN STORE FOR 2018!**

With over fifty members in attendance at the church-wide meeting on November 19, we passed by a wide margin each of the proposed improvements to be paid for from the proceeds of the Gurnet Road property sale. Informational meetings were held on October 8 and 15 as well as the option of written or phoned input by parishioners. At the meeting, members of designated task forces presented their rationale for the need and recommended steps for installation.

We all owe the members of the Gurnet Road Task Force, Mary Larson, Dave Damour, Meryli Tiemann and Cindy Parker a huge vote of thanks for bringing this process to fruition. It was also wonderful how the various committees worked together to make these improvements to our already beautiful church.

Listed here are the task groups and the new elements to be added to the church:

1. Concerts for a Cause with Building and Grounds: Additional lighting in the sanctuary for speakers and performers (\$10,000)
2. Commemorative Windows Task Force: Restore, backlight and hang stained glass windows from the old church in the Sanctuary (\$6,500)
3. Arts/Gallery Committee with Building and Grounds: Gallery lighting ((\$2,300)
4. RE committee: AV equipment for Religious Education area (\$1,200)
5. Worship Committee and individuals: Recertified AED defibrillator: (\$1,200)
6. Membership Committee: Fellowship Hall Electrical Upgrade (\$700)
7. Worship Committee: Means to hang banners in the Sanctuary (\$200)



*Our food offering for the Midcoast Hunger Prevention Program at our November 19th service*

## FUNDRAISING EVENTS



### HOLIDAY ARTS FAIR

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2**  
**9AM—2PM**

We are in the home stretch! Our December 2nd Holiday Arts Fair is coming up fast. The Fair is from 9:00 until 2:00

This is a great opportunity to invite a friend or family member to join you for breakfast with coffee, scones or muffins or for lunch with homemade soups, breads and pies. All are available from our cafe.

Treasures are to be found at the White Elephant table and the Children's table, which features gifts for children up to fifth grade.

Unique items will be available from local craftspeople and our own UUCB crafters. Take home a live wreath

or centerpiece. There will be baked goods and a selection of specialty food items. Relax and enjoy the live music provided by UUCB members.

Take advantage of Facebook and other Social Media to invite others.

We hope to see you and your friends and neighbors at the Fair!



*Leigh Peranteau and Maryli Tiemann, co-chairs*





**FUNDRAISING EVENTS****CONCERTS FOR A CAUSE****UNDER THE SONG TREE***Lynn Deeves, Anni Clark, and Dan Merrill*

The “under the song tree” reunion concert on October 28th was magical! Such great songwriters, musicians, and vocalists. Such stage presence... energy... JOY! And it was a financial success as well. We netted \$946.60! \$84 of that was from refreshments, so thank you so much from all our bakers.

**SAVE THE DATE****UUCB CONCERTS FOR A CAUSE**  
**Novel Jazz Septet**

★ Celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
with stories and the works of  
Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn ★

**SAT, JANUARY 13 - 7:30 PM**  
**UU CHURCH OF BRUNSWICK**

1 Middle Street, Brunswick (Corner of Pleasant & Middle)

**Tickets \$15 in advance, \$18 at Door**

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

**The UUCB Concert Series raises money for the UUCB Church and local charities.**

## AN UPDATE FROM CLAIRE CUROLE, STUDENT MINISTER

Several folks have asked lately about my plans and how long I will be at UUCB so I realized it was past time for an update from your student minister.

The road to Unitarian Universalist ministry is a long one, and I am closer to the end than to the beginning. This year is the second half of my two year internship; I have one more academic class to take and will be spending a week in Chicago this January for that. Barring unforeseen complications, I expect to complete my degree in May and will be with the congregation wrapping up loose ends through your June annual meeting.

Completion of the MDiv degree is one major milestone on the road to ordained ministry in our

tradition. Another is the interview with the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the UUA, which determines whether the candidate is adequately prepared to serve, or needs further preparation (and possibly a repeat interview.)

I am scheduled to interview with the MFC during their upcoming winter meeting, on Nov. 30th in Boston. I welcome your prayers and good intentions that the work we do there be for the greater good of our wider UU community and the world.

It is a privilege and joy to serve this congregation as your intern. Thanks!

-Claire



THIRD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH  
UU CHURCH of BRUNSWICK  
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, December 15



## WORKING FOR JUSTICE

### DECEMBER CHARITY WITH SOUL THE GATHERING PLACE



The Gathering Place is a nonprofit 501c3 charitable organization founded in Brunswick, Maine in 2010 to give daytime shelter, friendship and hope to the materially poor and homeless. On its first day, The Gathering Place received 7 guests. Now on a typical day, the volunteer driven organization welcomes between 50 and 70 guests. In five years, The Gathering Place has received approximately 60,000 visits.

The plight of the poor and the homeless in small communities is very serious. Unfortunately,

in many smaller towns and cities, especially the more prosperous ones, there can be the perception there are not many suffering from poverty and homelessness. In fact, that is usually not the case. Deep, almost unimaginable poverty, hunger, isolation, and homelessness are often invisible, below the surface of ordinary life. It is these needs of the soul and the spirit that The Gathering Place seeks to address. In the words of one of our guests, *"There's always a really fine line. You don't have to have an addiction to become homeless. It can just take an ordinary life problem, like an injury, an illness or problems with children to push you over the edge...to lose everything. People think it can't happen to them, but it can. We know from experience."*

This is an exciting time for The Gathering Place. We have just completed a very successful capital campaign and have built a beautiful new home for our guests. In its new home, The Gathering Place will be able to realize its vision of creating a caring community for greater Brunswick by collaborating with guests, volunteers, staff, and neighboring organizations to provide the most vulnerable among us with daytime shelter, access to resources, and opportunities to improve their lives. The Gathering Place has evolved into a real community -- a community where our guests and volunteers help each other and treat each other with respect. We are open Mon-Fri. 9:00am-3:00pm and located at 5 Tenney Way (off Union Street). Want to help? Come volunteer! Give us a call and find out more at 841-5905 or visit our website at [brunswickgatheringplace.org](http://brunswickgatheringplace.org).

### SANDY HOOK VIGIL

DECEMBER 14, 2017 - 5 PM.

Sandy Hook Vigil and Remembrance to mark the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the shooting, remember the many victims of gun violence, and seek action for future gun safety. Thursday December 14, 2017, at 5 PM.



## WORKING FOR JUSTICE

### BLACK LIVES MATTER TASK FORCE: CHALLENGING OUR WHITE SUPREMACY

The congregation voted at the Annual Meeting on June 11 of this year to approve the following motion:

*The congregation endorse and support the Black Lives Matter movement and honor UUA's request for UU churches to become visually and audibly involved in related issues. Our involvement will be studying the issues and displaying a "Black Lives Matter" banner on the church.*

The Board subsequently created a Black Lives Matter Task Force, and charged the group as follows:

*The Black Lives Matter Task Force will consist of representatives of the following committees – Working for Justice Steering Group, Membership, Adult Education, Worship, Building and Grounds, and Religious Education committees. In consultation with the minister the task force will be responsible for the following:*

- 1) Research and price a banner (and a back-up); plan for the placement, presentation and publicity.*
- 2) Organize ongoing study and education throughout the church year, drawing on help from standing committees as necessary.*

The Task Force has been meeting this fall, and has made considerable progress toward these goals. Early on, we decided that it would be helpful in clarifying our mission to add *Challenging Our White Supremacy* to the name of the group, since this is a central part of our educational effort. We then agreed on design and placement of the banner, which was installed on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. Big thanks to Mike Heath and Steve Eagles for their skilled labor!



## WORKING FOR JUSTICE

The church service on the following day, led by Claire Curole, was devoted to exploring these issues, and a related religious education workshop was presented for the children.

As a way to begin engaging the congregation in understanding and confronting racism, we developed and distributed at this service a “Pledge Card,” which lists examples of actions individuals might take, along with check boxes to indicate one’s commitment to do so.

### My Action Steps — Church Copy

- ☐ Read *Waking Up White*
- ☐ Read *White Rage*
- ☐ Watch the documentary, *13<sup>th</sup>*
- ☐ Read *Tears We Cannot Stop*
- ☐ Watch the documentary, *I Am Not Your Negro*
- ☐ Take the *21-Day Racial Equity Challenge*
- ☐ At UUCB, watch a talk on *UU's Black History*
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### My Action Steps — Personal Copy

- ☐ Read *Waking Up White*
- ☐ Read *White Rage*
- ☐ Watch the documentary, *13<sup>th</sup>*
- ☐ Read *Tears We Cannot Stop*
- ☐ Watch the documentary, *I Am Not Your Negro*
- ☐ Take the *21-Day Racial Equity Challenge*
- ☐ At UUCB, watch a talk on *UU's Black History*
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### UNDERSTANDING AND CONFRONTING RACISM

Each of us is at a different place in our understanding of white supremacy, and each is motivated to different degrees in what we are willing to do to deepen our understanding.

Please make a personal pledge to learn more about the culture of white supremacy and ways to fight racism.

On the reverse side are some suggested action steps. Please fill out and sign this form, keeping the signed copy for yourself and leaving the unsigned copy in the “Action Box” located on the harvest table in Fellowship Hall.

### PERSONAL PLEDGE

I have reviewed UUCB’s list of resources on White Supremacy. To increase my understanding and to help combat racism, I pledge to take each of the action steps that I have checked on the reverse side, by June 2018.

I have saved a copy of this pledge for my records.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

We will continue to make these pledge cards available in church, and encourage you to complete them if you have not already done so. Comments are welcome. From the responses received thus far, we see that there is great interest in the film options, particularly watching at UUCB a talk on Unitarian Universalism’s Black History.

### THE BLACK HOLE IN THE WHITE UU PSYCHE Wednesday, December 13—7pm

We have scheduled the first film for Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Entitled *The Black Hole in the White UU Psyche*, this is a fascinating look at the consequence of not knowing Unitarian Universalism’s black history, presented by the Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed.





## WORKING FOR JUSTICE

Recognizing that a Black Lives Matter banner will generate a wide range of emotions and questions, we thought it important to provide a brief explanation of our motives for installing it on our church building. The following statement will appear on our “Wayside Pulpit” below the banner:

### Why A Black Lives Matter Banner?

Black Lives Matter is the latest chapter in our nation’s long struggle for racial justice. The movement began in response to the 2012 killing of Florida teenager Trayvon Martin, and it continues to protest how black people and other people of color are deprived of basic rights and dignity. The Black Lives Matter movement advocates for *all* marginalized voices – women, people with disabilities, LGBTQ people, the undocumented.

Our Black Lives Matter banner expresses our support for this movement, as we understand it. Our banner also reflects the work our congregation is doing within our hearts and souls. We live in a society where white people are afforded privileges. Those privileges are often denied to people of color, who instead face obstacles and biases. As a congregation, we are trying to identify and understand those privileges and biases so that we can work more effectively to help create a just and inclusive society.

Our banner represents the world we dream of: A world where people of color are treated fairly by the justice system and have the same educational, housing, and job opportunities as white people, a world where skin color does not signify inherent worth or lack of worth. We seek to raise our awareness and to help build communities where people who seem different are no longer seen as “other,” but who instead can be understood and accepted for who they are. Join us!

Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick



We will also publish this statement on our Facebook page and in local newspapers. In the coming months, we will be scheduling a variety of events to be held throughout the year including book discussions, lectures and presentations by leaders in the field of racial justice, and additional film screenings. As we said above, Join us!

### The Black Lives Matter Task Force: Challenging Our White Supremacy

Glenn Williams—Convener  
Sylvia Stocker—Minister  
Michael Cain  
Cathey Cyrus  
Claire Curole  
Larry Lemmel  
Jean Lay  
Betsy Williams

## WORKING FOR JUSTICE

### MUUSAN

(Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network)

#### QUICK CALL TO ACTION OPPORTUNITY



Our last MUUSAN meeting on November 13<sup>th</sup> was a celebration, with inspiration to continue working as valiantly on restoring Rank Choice Voting as so many did to achieve the success of Medicaid Expansion on November 7<sup>th</sup>.

As you may know, a special session of the state Legislature met in October, at which time members reversed an earlier vote of support for Rank Choice Voting. They voted instead to delay implementation of RCV until 2021 and to repeal the law entirely if the Maine Constitution isn't amended to deal with legal concerns raised by the state Supreme Court. At the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, before the election on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, the committee for Rank Choice Voting was cleared to begin a People's Rank Choice Voting Veto Referendum petition drive to get restoration of RCV on the June, 2018 ballot. Support for Rank Choice Voting in the last election received the second largest number of votes in support of a referendum item ever.

A search at, [www.rcvmaine.com](http://www.rcvmaine.com) will give you a more complete understanding of this initiative.

After a review, we were impressively lead by Finn Melanson, RCV Field director, to come up with the most effective strategy for collecting the 61,123 signatures required to secure a place for the referendum on the June, 2018 ballot. A collection deadline date of De-

cember 15<sup>th</sup> has been set, a *very* short period of time. The Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> date is short of the 90 days permitted from Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> but is believed to be realistic to allow enough time to complete the process by February 6<sup>th</sup>. Many MUUSAN representatives pledged to circulate petitions, collect a signature a day and recruit others to circulate petitions to reach the Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> goal.

As you read this, we are already almost in December. Will you be one of the people willing to circulate or sign the People's Rank Choice Voting Veto Referendum petition? I hope so, if only for the chance to share my enthusiasm about this very democratic process opportunity!

If you would like to sign a petition or have petitions to get signatures from your friends, neighbors, relatives, book group members, etc., please contact me via phone or email and I will bring the petitions to you! Every signature counts to make the Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> goal. Approximately 32000 signatures of the 61,123 required were collected at the polls on November 7<sup>th</sup>! So if everyone continues to make this happen, it will.

With sincere "Thanks!"

*Sue Kennedy* (UUCB MUUSAN representative)  
[skennedy.me@hgfx.com](mailto:skennedy.me@hgfx.com) 373-0578

### WE SHALL OVERCOME: LESSONS IN NONVIOLENCE

The Working for Justice Steering Group was pleased to collaborate with The Abyssinian Meeting House on this October 21 event at UUCB. The evening was organized to raise awareness of Portland's Abyssinian Meeting House restoration effort and wove together a presentation on Kingian Nonviolence, threads from Black history, spirituals and a preview of scenes from the Theater Project production of *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy*. WFJ looks forward to future collaborations in support of the Abyssinian Meeting House restoration.

## WORKING FOR JUSTICE

### BELLS FOR PEACE



On November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. the sounds of our historic UUCB bell joined with other church bells in town to “Ring for Peace.” On November 11<sup>th</sup>, 1918, the end of World War I was marked throughout England by the ringing of church bells, and organizers of this year’s event asked that “all churches take part in this movement to breathe new life into this once great tradition” as a way to honor those who have served their country. Steve Welcome and Sylvia joined Working for Justice members Glenn Williams, Pat Moore, and Cathey Cyrus, with help from Wendy Roundy in pulling the beautiful rope to ring the bell.

### MIDCOAST NEW MAINERS SUPPORT GROUP (MNMSG)

As anticipated last month, Midcoast New Mainers Support Group (MNMSG), a community “partner” of UUCB’s WFJ Steering Group has secured an apartment in Bath and will be helping a new Mainer woman and her 2 children move there in the beginning of December. Although this family arrived in the United States from Burkina-Faso almost 2 years ago and are no longer struggling with English, we anticipate that they will still need other kinds of support (transportation, child care, companionship and general partnering) as they find their way and begin to settle into their new community. The woman (an environmental engineer in Burkina-Faso) is completing her CNA in Portland and is eager to find work in the Bath area. We at UUCB have the opportunity and privilege to welcome her and her family to the Midcoast.

There will be many ways to provide support. Most immediately the family will need help during the actual

move (date anticipated but not finalized on Saturday, 12/2). The woman will need daytime transportation from Bath to Portland as she completes her CNA training (to be completed in mid December) and she would welcome leads to steady employment as close to Bath as possible. Given the limited funds available through General Assistance, we know that contributions of food cards; laundry change (quarters) and bus fare are welcomed. And most important is the warmth of friendship.

Please see Cathey Cyrus if you are interested to reach out to this family. As MNMSG gets to know this family better, we will have more specific information about what particular kinds of support would be the most helpful.

Many thanks! Working for Justice Steering Group



## MEMBERSHIP

### YOU AND UU CLASS

On November 4<sup>th</sup> ten people attended our fall You and UU Class. As always, it was a wonderful opportunity to get to know some of our newest friends, and to share our ever-evolving connections to this unique faith. The thoughtful questions and careful consideration folks bring to learning more about Unitarian Universalism is impressive.

### NEW MEMBERS CEREMONY

We hope you were able to join us in church on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> when we hold our semi-annual new member ceremony. This fall we welcomed the following people as new members:

Jack Kennedy	Harley Liang	Mark Smith (renewing membership)
Sue Kennedy	Lily Liang	Judy Smith (renewing membership)
Diana Embler	Shannon Gilmore	Steve Black

Please make a special effort to introduce yourselves and welcome them to UUCB!



From left to right, new members: Harley Liang, Lily Liang, Diana Embler, Steve Black, Jack Kennedy, Sue Kennedy

### NEWCOMER'S POTLUCK



On **Sunday, December 10** we will host a potluck luncheon for this fall's newcomers. If you completed an information form at the Visitor's Table, you will receive a personal invitation to this luncheon. All newcomers are welcome! If you know someone who has been visiting us this fall but has not yet signed up for our newsletter, please tell them about this luncheon.

### BUDDY UP!

There has been some interest expressed for this new program, with those interested in being a buddy outnumbering those looking for a buddy. One person expressed how overwhelming coffee hour can be if you aren't an extrovert willing to start a conversation with strangers, or if you feel uncomfortable standing alone waiting for someone to approach you. We couldn't agree more! Having a friendly face to look for during coffee hour can make all the difference—and there are already buddies waiting to be those friendly faces! So please stop by the visitor's table if you'd like to sign up for this program. And thank you to those who have stepped forward already.



## FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

### LUNCHEON FOR THE WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

DECEMBER 7—11:30AM



**new beet  
market**

When the Women's Alliance disbanded last year we made a promise to get together once in a while and catch up with each other. We plan to do that December 7<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, at 11:30 at the New Beet Market, 25 Burbank Avenue, at the old naval base. Please join us whether or not you were part of the Women's Alliance. This is a great opportunity to meet and greet and get to know each other better. FMI: Gretchen Kamilewicz at [gkamilewicz@gmail.com](mailto:gkamilewicz@gmail.com). Please let Gretchen know by December 6<sup>th</sup> if you plan to attend. Hope to see you then.

### MEN'S LUNCHEON

Wed, December 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).

### RESERVATIONS FOR EIGHT

Wednesday, December 13 at 11:30am

#### FAIRGROUND CAFE—TOPSHAM



#### NEW BEET MARKET—BRUNSWICK



*Sign ups will be available Sundays after church. Sue Ellen Damour will make the reservations..  
All you need to do is show up at the scheduled time.*

#### PLANT-POWERED POTLUCK GROUP

The Plant-Powered Potluck will not be held in December due to the busy holiday season.  
See you in January.

#### NEWCOMERS POTLUCK

December 10

See Membership Article on page 15

## 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 22, 2017, through Tuesday, January 2, 2018).

Below is a schedule for submitting items. Whenever possible, please submit materials via email at [uubruns@gwi.net](mailto:uubruns@gwi.net).

### ORDER OF WORSHIP, POWERPOINT, & GREEN SHEET ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DUE BY NOON

#### **Service**

Sunday December 17 .....	Tuesday, December 12
Sunday, December 24 (Regular Church Service) .....	Thursday, December 14
Sunday, December 24 (Christmas Eve Service 5pm – No Green Sheet Announcements) .....	Thursday, December 14
Sunday, December 24 (Christmas Eve Service 7pm – No Green Sheet Announcements) .....	Thursday, December 14
Sunday, December 31 .....	Friday December 15
Sunday, January 7, 2017 .....	Wednesday, January 3, 2018

### THIS WEEK AT UUCB EMAIL

### DUE BY NOON

#### **Email Date**

#### **Deadline**

Friday December 8 .....	Thursday, December 7
Friday, December 15 .....	Thursday, December 14
Wednesday, December 21 (Last One for 2017). .....	Tuesday, December 19
Friday, January 5, 2018 .....	Thursday, January 4, 2018

### HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

### HOURS

Monday, December 18 .....	Closed
Tuesday, December 19 .....	to 4pm
Wednesday December 20 .....	10am to 4pm
Thursday, December 21 .....	10am to 2pm
Friday, December 22 .....	Closed

### WINTER BREAK

### HOURS

Tuesday, December 2, 2017 through Tuesday, January 2, 2018. -----	Closed
Wednesday, January 3, 2018 -----	10am-4pm

## DEADLINE FOR PARISH MESSNGER

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 **Friday, December 15th.**



## HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

### Holiday Fair

Saturday, December 2, 9am to 2pm

UUCB and local craftspeople selling that perfect gift. Live music, wreaths, white elephants, signed books by local authors, holiday centerpieces, gifts for kids, hand-knit mittens and hats, and more. Coffee, cider, and muffins in the morning. Soup, bread, and pie at lunchtime. Bring your friends!

### Blue Christmas Vespers

Wednesday, December 6, at 7pm

A service for those who either seek a refuge during the holidays or face the season feeling sad, alone, anxious, or afraid. This service of music, sharing, and quiet will provide a place of solace.

### Poinsettias

Friday, December 8—Orders and payments due. Checks payable to UUCB.

Help us decorate with poinsettias in memory of loved ones, new births, or special events. Dedications will appear in the Christmas Eve order of worship.



Prices: \$14.40 for a 7" plant  
\$39.99 for a 10" plant.

To order, either visit our sales table during hospitality after church, call the church office at 729-8515, or send an email to [uubruns@gwi.net](mailto:uubruns@gwi.net). Tell us the number of plants and wording for the dedication. Please let us know if you will take your plant home after the Christmas Eve service or if you would like us to donate it to a local healthcare facility.

### Mitten Service

Sunday, December 10

During the service we will adorn our Christmas tree with mittens, hats, gloves, and scarves to distribute to needy families. Please bring contributions (NEW items, please, not used) to church that morning.



### RE Holiday Fundraiser Craft Sale

Sunday, December 10

During Sunday school on November 26 and December 3, children will make crafts to sell to raise funds for Tedford Shelter and Coastal Humane Society. Sale will be held on December 10 after church.

### Christmas Decorating Party

Sun, December 10

Linger after church to help decorate the tree.

### Candles for Babies

Wednesday, December 14—Deadline to submit a baby name



On Christmas Eve, we will light candles to honor babies born or adopted into church families during 2017. After the second 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](mailto: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.

### Holiday Intergenerational Orchestra

Sunday, Dec 17



Musicians young and old are invited to play in our annual Intergenerational Orchestra. **Rehearsals on Sundays December 3 and 10** immediately after the service. We recommend, though do not require, that you attend at least one rehearsal. Musicians of all abilities welcomed; you *do* need to be able to read music. Please bring a music stand. FMI or to join, contact Ross Miller [remiller234@gmail.com](mailto:remiller234@gmail.com).

### TWO Christmas Eve Services

Both services will feature carols, readings, special music, and candle lighting. All ages welcome at either service. (Note: The earlier service will be the shorter and more interactive of the two: That service might be the better one for very young children to attend.)

- \* **First Service 5 p.m. Come at 4:45** to enjoy 15 minutes of holiday music before the service formally begins.
- \* **Second Service 7 p.m. Come at 6:45** to enjoy 15 minutes of holiday music before the service formally begins.

*No formal hospitality after either service, but please stay to greet old friends and make new ones.*

# DECEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
SAN = Sanctuary FEL = Fellowship Hall WBR = Wendall Berry Room MSR = May Sarton Room MBR = Merrymeeting Bay Room			<b>29</b> <b>10-4 White Elephant Drop-off</b> <b>12 Men's Luncheon:</b> Great Impasta <b>3 Writers Group:</b> MSR 5:30 Maine All-Care	<b>30</b> <b>8-2:45 Fair Setup</b> <b>10-4 White Elephant Drop-off</b> <b>3-5 Fair Planning</b> <b>12 Noon Deadline:</b> "This Week" & OOW 5:15 Main eAll-Care <b>7 Choir:</b> SAN	<b>1</b> <b>Teford Shelter Meal</b> <b>8-10 Fair Setup</b> <b>10-4 White Elephant Drop-off</b>	<b>2</b> <b>9-2 UUCB Annual Holiday Fair</b>
Office Closed						Office Closed
<b>3</b> <b>10 Church Service</b> <b>10:15 RE Classes</b> <b>11:30 New Comer's Corner</b> WBR <b>Build Your Own Theology</b> MSR <b>Intergen Orchestra Rehearsal</b> SAN	<b>4</b> <b>1 Chalice Circle:</b> WBR	<b>5</b> <b>10:30 Green Sanctuary:</b> WBR 2 New Mainer's Steering Group: MSR <b>4 Membership:</b> MSR <b>5 Staff Mtg:</b> WBR 6:30 All-Care Film <b>7 Worship:</b> WBR	<b>6</b> 10:30 Meditation: WBR <b>7 Blue Christmas Vespers:</b> SAN	<b>7</b> <b>10 Rental Comm:</b> MSR <b>11:30 Women's Lunch:</b> New Beet Market <b>12 Noon Deadline:</b> "This Week" & OOW <b>5 Holiday Fair Mtg:</b> MSR <b>5 Social Justice:</b> MBR 6:45 RE: MBR <b>7 Choir:</b> SAN	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 10 AA Rental: MBR 10-2 Rental: Brunswick Area Indivisible: MBR 5-9:30 Rental: Viola and Violin Concert
Office Closed						Office Closed
<b>10</b> <b>10 Mitten Tree Service</b> <b>10:15 RE Classes</b> <b>11:15 Decorating Party</b> <b>11:30 Interm Com:</b> WBR <b>Intergen Orchestra Rehearsal</b> SAN <b>Green Sanctuary:</b> MSR <b>12 Newcomers Potluck</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <b>12 Noon Deadline:</b> for 12/17 worship service <b>2 Chalice Circle:</b> WBR <b>4:30 Finance:</b> MSR <b>6:30 Stories with Soul:</b> WBR <b>7:30 Pastoral Care:</b>	<b>13</b> <b>11:30 Dinner for 8</b> <b>3 Writers Group:</b> MSR <b>6 Black Lives Matter Film:</b> SAN (The Black Soul in the White UU Psyche)	<b>14</b> <b>12 Noon Deadline:</b> This Week Email and OOW for 1/24 services <b>5 Sandy Hook Vigil:</b> SAN <b>7 Choir:</b> SAN	<b>15</b> <b>12 Noon Deadline:</b> and OOW for 1/31 service <b>5 Parish Messenger Deadline</b> <b>6:30 Side Door Coffeehouse:</b> SAN (Giff Jamison & Nancy Sferra)	<b>16</b> 10 AA Rental: MBR 3 Vox Nova Concert Rental
Office Closed						Office Closed
<b>17</b> <b>10 Winter Holiday Intergen Service</b> <b>11:15 RE Holiday Craft Sale:</b> PEN	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>12 Noon Deadline:</b> This Week Email 2 Savvy Caretakers: WBR <b>6:30 Board:</b> MSR	<b>20</b> 10:30 Meditation: WBR <b>2 Chalice Circle:</b> WBR <b>3 Poetry with Barklely &amp; Maryli:</b> MSR	<b>21</b> 2 Wabanaki Reach: WBR 6:30 Midcoast New Mainers: MSR <b>7 Choir:</b> SAN	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 10 AA Rental: MBR
Office Closed						Office Closed
<b>24</b> <b>10 No Formal Church Service-just quiet contemplation</b> <b>4:45 and 6:45 Christmas Eve Services</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>6:30 Stories with Soul:</b> WBR	<b>27</b> <b>12 Men's Luncheon:</b> TBA <b>3 Writers Group:</b> MSR	<b>28</b> <b>Gallery Comm:</b> MSR 9:30 Memoir Writing: WBR <b>7 Choir:</b> SAN	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 10 AA Rental: MBR
Office Closed - Winter Break						
<b>31</b> <b>10 Church Service NO RE</b>	<b>ANNOUNCEMENT SUBMISSIONS/DEADLINES</b> 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 Bernier by the dates shown on the calendar or on <b>page 18</b> . 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 <b>Friday, December 15th</b> .					
Office Closed						