



Parish Messenger

Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick

January, 2019

Board Report.....	4
Calendar.....	12
Congregational Heart Beat.....	5
Concerts for a Cause.....	10
How to Reach Us.....	2
Membership.....	5
Minister’s Musings.....	3
Religious Education.....	2
Side Door Coffeehouse.....	11
Working for Justice.....	
Black Lives Matter.....	3
Charities with Soul.....	6
Gun Violence Vigil & Forum...7	
WFJ Events.....	8



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*

Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick

STAFF

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 Sukoski, Sexton

January Worship Services

Sunday Services at 10:00

December 30 “Feelin’ Groovy.”

Worship Committee

The madness of holidays is nearly behind us and the new year is about to begin. Come listen to musician Lynne Deeves and the Worship Committee reflect on slowing down (because chances are “you’re movin’ too fast”).

January 6 Beginning Again in Love

Rev. Sylvia Stocker

What does it take to pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and begin again, especially if we are to begin again in love? Music by Derek Herzer (hymns) and Paul Schaffner on the vibraphone.

January 13 Once Upon a Time the World Was Round Rev. Sylvia Stocker

Gertrude Stein wrote, “Once upon a time the world was round and you could go on it around and around.” What’s the shape of the world now? And what does that mean for us?. Music by Derek Herzer (hymns) and DaPonte String Quartet.

January 20 Possibility

Rev. Stocker & Nicole Boutilier

Rev. Stocker and DRE Nicole Boutilier team up one last time for a multigenerational service. Today we remember Martin Luther King, Jr. and we also say goodbye to Nicole. Music by the choir, conducted by Heidi Neufeld and accompanied by Derek Herzer.

January 27 TBA

Worship Committee

Service arrangements are being completed at press time. Stay tuned!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

From Our DRE

This month in Religious Education programming we are exploring what it means to be a people of possibility. We will examine this theme from three different perspectives: possibilities within each of us as individuals, impossible possibilities, and the possibilities that arise with change.



As I write about possibility, I can't help but think of the changes that will be taking place at the UUCB as a result of my resignation. The RE Committee has delved right into figuring out the details of running RE programming. Rest assured that Sunday RE programs for children and youth will continue through the year using our current structure. But, I imagine the committee will need to ask for a little extra help to make things run smoothly - many hands make light work. If you'd like to find out more about how you can lend a hand, please speak to an RE Committee member: Diana Embler, Cathey Cyrus, Jean Lay, Sienna Dode, or Nathan Haynes.

I have been touched by all of the lovely things that so many people have said to me about my time here as DRE.

Change is not usually easy- it can take a lot of energy and it can be stressful - but change opens the door to new possibilities that could not otherwise be realized by carrying along with the status quo. My resignation is providing an opportunity for the church to create a new vision for religious education ministry to this congregation. In fact, the Religious Education Committee will be seeking out input from members and friends of the congregation as the church figures out how to move forward in a way that best meets the needs of the church after the new year (stay tuned for more information on when, where and how!)

It's an exciting time and I would encourage folks to start thinking on this now and to make it a priority to participate in the visioning session that the RE Committee will be offering. Consider seemingly impossible possibilities!

Parents of children in the program in particular, consider these questions... What draws you to attend this church and what would help you to form a stronger connection with this church community? How can this church better support your family? What would you like to see in a staff member who works with your children and teens, and also with you?

Begin to imagine the possibilities...

nicole

HOW TO REACH US

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick

PO Box 129, Brunswick ME 04011

(207) 729-8515

UUBruns@gwi.net

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

Shirley Bernier, Office Administrator

Rev. Sylvia Stocker, Minister — 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. Please call ahead to schedule a meeting. In an emergency, call her anywhere or any time. (Consult the church directory for her home number.) For routine church business, please call Rev. Stocker at the church.

Important RE Dates in January

Dec. 30	No RE programs or childcare
January 6	RE programs for PreK-Grade 6
January 13	RE programs for PreK-Grade 6
January 20	Multigenerational Worship Service & Celebration for Nicole
January 27	RE programs for PreK- Grade 6

Nicole Boutilier, Dir of Religious Education is available by appointment: Call her at the church office or email her at uubrunswickdre@gmail.com.

Monday is the Sabbath for church staff.

MINISTER'S MUSINGS



After Thanksgiving, I facilitated two discussions about our Black Lives Matter banner. Both discussions were interesting and encouraging. Generally people felt good about our banner and appreciative of various opportunities we've created to address

racism and white supremacy.

Some people expressed the evolution in their thinking: As they listened, read, and conversed throughout the year, they began to understand why it was important to lift up black lives specifically as opposed to all lives generally.

Some people desired more avenues for engaging with the wider community about scourges of racism and white supremacy. In addition, people wanted the congregation to continue to self-reflect. It's all too easy, they felt, for white people to wipe their hands saying, "Okay, I did that. Let's move on."

Some folks wondered how long we will leave the Black Lives Matter banner up? Until racism dies? Until white supremacy disappears altogether? Are there other mes-

sages we might display sometimes, too?

People also felt it important that all parishioners be able to articulate why we display the Black Lives Matter banner. If someone asked you why your church has a Black Lives Matter banner on its building, what would you say?

Here's what I would say: From its earliest beginnings, our nation has had a tangled history of oppressive race relations, with white supremacy underpinning our cultural mores and our institutional realities. Regardless of progress we have made, black people are still harmed by racism. Our banner reminds both us and the outside world that black lives matter, too. We are committed to studying racism so that we can change both to our own lives and also the wider world.

Some white people say, "But I have a hard life, too!" True as that may be, white people cannot claim that the color of their skin is one of the factors making their lives hard. When the day comes when skin color is no longer a contributing factor to one's ease or difficulty, then our work will be accomplished. But not until then.

Love, Sylvia

Black Lives Matter Letter to the Editor

As part of UUCB's observance of the year anniversary of installing our banner, Michael Cain and Rev. Stocker submitted a letter to the editor of the Times Record. Here is the text of that letter:

In November 2017, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick installed a Black Lives Matter banner on our building to express our support for Black Lives Matter, the latest chapter in our nation's long struggle for racial justice. We also committed to seek a deeper awareness and understanding of racial bias and injustice within our culture — a culture in which every white person has the privilege of not facing obstacles and discrimination based on their skin color. Now, we want to celebrate and commemorate those decisions.

We have received many more positive than negative responses to the banner. We've

also heard from community members that our educational programs associated with the banner were helpful to their own learning.

There also have been concerns. Some hold that "Black Lives Matter" implies that only black lives matter, contradicting the belief that all lives matter. But to say "Black Lives Matter" is not to say that other lives do not. As UU Reverend Nathan Ryan describes: Suppose there was an epidemic of elderly people being mistreated. If we put a sign on our church that said "Senior Citizens Matter," that would not imply that children and other non-seniors do not matter. In our society, black lives have not mattered and still do not matter as much as white lives. So we say: "Black Lives Matter" too.

Some assert the Black Lives Matter movement promotes violence and is anti-police.

That claim is not accurate. Movement leaders call for nonviolent protests to raise awareness and foster change when the rights of black people have been denied. Based on its words and actions, Black Lives Matter is a nonviolent, social justice movement.

The Black Lives Matter movement received the 2017 Sydney Peace Prize, a global prize awarded by the Sydney Peace Foundation, which "promotes peace, justice, and nonviolence by recognizing the world's most important leaders for peace." That foundation, like our church, supports Black Lives Matter for what it is: A movement dedicated to principles of nonviolence and advocating justice and equality for all.

*Michael Cain, for the Working for Justice Steering Group
Sylvia Stocker, Minister*

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Looking Back, Looking Forward

It's Janus time! As we begin the new year, I'm looking back at Board activities since I became Chairperson and looking ahead to what surely will be another busy time. The Board kicked off the 2018-2019 church year with a retreat in Oakland, Maine in August. We set two goals: 1) Increasing Our Capacity to Serve; and 2) Clarify the Mission of the Church Council. We also began what has been a complex process of deciding how best to respond to the fact that our neighboring property at 9 Middle Street was on the market. In October we learned that Nicole Boutilier, Director of Religious Education, will be leaving us at the end of January.

As of this writing (December 14th, 2018) we have nearly completed the process of resolving questions about the boundary between the church and 9 Middle St. New pins have been put in the ground marking a compromise approved by the Congregation at a special meeting in November. Some details remain to be ironed out.

The Board has not yet had our December meeting, but the Increasing Our Capacity task force had its second meeting this week, very much focused on the future. Readers of the current issue of UU World will have seen this interesting headline: UUA membership rises for the first time since 2008. The authors of the report also noted another trend—religious education enrollment continues to fall.

Saying Goodbye to Nicole

Did you know that most Directors of Religious Education stay in their positions for a couple of years max before moving on? We have been so fortunate to have the talented, creative, engaging, and committed Nicole Boutilier with us for over ten years!

January 20 will be her final day with us. Please come to church that morning and then join us for gala hospitality in Nicole's honor.



These trends are apparent here at UUCB, and it is the clear feeling of the Board that our planning should address both at the same time. We are exploring options for different models of leadership.

As I said in last month's Parish Messenger, in some ways the fact that change has been thrust upon us is helpful, and we have an added impetus to be creative in developing plans for the future. At our December Board meeting we will be deciding on next steps to manage religious education needs for the remainder of the 2018-2019 church year and to create a new model for the long term.

Although increasing our capacity brings many challenges, it's great that we're growing! Happy New Year.

Glenn Williams, Board Chair

Rev. Stocker's Upcoming Vacation

I will be away from January 21 through February 11. The Board of Trustees and the Church Office Administrator Shirley Bernier will know how to reach me in the event of an emergency. Please contact them if you need to get a hold of me.

—Sylvia Stocker

CONGREGATIONAL HEART BEAT

The following joys, sorrows, and concerns were recorded in our Joys and Sorrows book during the last few Sundays.

Joys, Sorrows and Concerns

Thank you, thank you to all organizers of the Holiday Fair for their hard work and extraordinary success! What a lovely fair it was. People worked hard, and it paid off. Special thanks to Joanne Allen and Cuffy Chase who captained the ship!

Kit M. writes that she is grateful for her eyesight. (Her mother is losing hers.)

Organizers of the Holiday Fair's jewelry table thank everyone who donated jewelry. The Fair elves had time to clean, repair (if needed), and present jewelry in a pleasing manner. As a result, jewelry did well this year.

Sylvia writes that our former student intern, Claire Curole, recently had her interview with the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the UUA and she passed with flying colors. She's been cleared for take-off. Huzzah!

Martha Lentz thanks the congregation for care and support we have given her during the past year. It has made a big difference.



The congregation welcomed six new members during the worship service on December 2 (though only two could attend the service). Don't miss an opportunity to introduce yourself and get to know them better!

MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBERS



Peg Duston and Stan Eller are both retired and living in Brunswick. Peg was a Rheumatologist for 30 years, one of the few in the Waterville/Augusta area. Stan was an Environmental Attorney. He also worked in Public Health.



Joel Austin lives in Bath with his wife, Irene, who is also a member of UUCB. He is also known as "Mister Irene." Joel is a retired Bath public school administrator. He was the Director of the Vocational School. He now drives a school bus in Bath.



Janice Thompson and Jeremy Jones live in Harpswell with their daughter, Bee. Jeremy works in software. Janice is a writer and musician. You will sometimes see her at UUCB as the substitute pianist, and she is UUCB's new communications coordinator.



Sue Leonard lives in Bath and recently moved from Portsmouth, NH where she was a social worker. She moved into a "new" house and is fixing it up. She has family living nearby in Phippsburg and in Portsmouth.

WORKING FOR JUSTICE STEERING GROUP

January WFJ Events

Sunday, January 6: after-service talk in May Sarton Room Jennifer Iacovelli, Development Director of Tedford Housing, will be available immediately after the church service to provide information about the work of Tedford Housing, to answer questions, and to provide information about volunteering.

Saturday, January 19: Justice Films, 2:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Save the date for this first in a series of feature length films (with popcorn!) addressing topics relevant to our social justice work. We are pursuing a church video license that will enable us to show popular films like "Selma" and "Hidden Figures." Watch for more details.

JANUARY CHARITY WITH SOUL



Mission: Creating pathways from homelessness to home by partnering with people and their communities in Midcoast Maine.

We provide emergency shelter, supportive housing and homeless prevention services that empower adults, children and families in need. Through all its services, Tedford Housing provides pathways from homelessness to home in Midcoast Maine.

Emergency Shelter for Individuals and Families

Tedford Housing's emergency shelters provide a safe place for people to rebuild their hope. Shelter guests facing the crisis of homelessness work one-on-one with case managers to find and secure housing. Case managers follow shelter guests long after they move into housing to ensure that they are able to maintain their housing and avoid a return to homelessness.

Homeless Prevention

An essential strategy for reducing homelessness is preventing it from occurring. A costly car repair, divorce or medical bill can push a relatively stable household to the brink of homelessness. Tedford Housing's homeless prevention case manager works to provide case management to families experiencing a housing crisis. We partner with community agencies to provide security deposits and rental assistance to prevent evictions and/or secure alternative housing.

Merrymeeting Project for Homeless Youth

Homeless teens often face unsafe living situations just to survive and keep a roof over their heads. The Merrymeeting Project for homeless youth moves students from the chaos of homelessness to a calmer, more secure environment in which they can learn and build a brighter future. Tedford Housing's school liaison for the Merrymeeting Project works with homeless teens in the school districts of Brunswick, RSU 1 and SAD 75 to help them find a safe place to live, reunify with family, access resources and complete schooling.

Warm Thy Neighbor

Our cold winters present another risk factor for homelessness, as fuel costs can break a family's budget. An emergency fuel payment can help relieve financial pressure so a family can make critical payments, like rent, while their home stays warm. Through our Warm Thy Neighbor program, Tedford Housing raises funds each winter to provide one-time, emergency heating assistance to extremely low-income families and individuals in the community.

**For more information, please call 207-729-1161
or visit www.tedfordhousing.org.**

WORKING FOR JUSTICE STEERING GROUP

UUs Making a Difference

Thank you!

For the past few years, UUCB has participated in Bread for the World advocacy by writing postcards and contacting representatives. Last year the focus was on the Farm Bill, with many of us signing postcards and writing notes to our representatives after church one Sunday.

This week Sue Kennedy received a message from Reverend David Beckman, President of Bread for the World, announcing that Congress passed a bipartisan farm bill that protects and strengthens the food stamp program, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and makes key improvements to international food aid programs.

Rev. Beckman writes:

This success would not have been possible without Bread members' faithful advocacy — your letters, phone calls, emails, and persistent encouragement for a farm bill that helps end hunger made a difference.... This farm bill will put the United States on track to end food insecurity and hunger in our country and save millions of lives overseas. Thank you to all who participated in this effort.



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is Monday, January 21. The Brunswick Democrats usually hold a public supper at UUCB on that day. At press time those arrangements were still being firmed up, so keep an eye out for announcements.

“There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe nor politic nor popular, but he must take it because his conscience tells him it is right.”

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

Candle Light Vigil to Remember the Victims of Gun Violence at UUCB on December 14



THANK YOU HOLIDAY FAIR THANK YOU

The Holiday Fair was a real success! We offer a huge thank you to all who volunteered. You helped us raise over \$6500. It was a wonderful community effort and a lot of fun, too. The weather cooperated, people showed up to work and shop and eat. The food was delicious. The music really added to the atmosphere and we got several compliments on it. We offer a special thank you to the table and area coordinators.

As first-year coordinators, there was a bit of a learning curve for us but thanks to great notes from the past fairs (thank you Leigh Peranteau, Maryli Tieman and Gretchen Kamilewicz) and good moral support from all of you it worked! You all took charge and the day of the fair just flowed.

Thank you to Robin and Erik Hansen for opening your home to us for the tipping party and for teaching us to make wreaths. Monica Hamkins deserves a shiny medal for the most preparation and attention to detail with the jewelry. Thank you to Barbara Jabaut for organizing the efficient and welcoming café and to Maryli Tieman for corralling the Green Elephant. Thank you Paul Peranteau for taking charge of the finances.

To all members and friends of the church, please think about what you'd like to do differently next year and how things might run more smoothly. Some of you have already shared ideas with us. We'll have a meeting in January, after the busy holidays, and evaluate the fair.

We are so happy to be part of this community,

Joanne Allen and Cuffy Chase



THANK YOU HOLIDAY FAIR THANK YOU



NEWCOMERS POTLUCK SUNDAY, JANUARY 20

On Sunday, January 20 the Membership Committee will host a potluck lunch in the sanctuary after church for everyone who asked to be put on our mailing list since our last potluck in June. This is a nice opportunity for new people to get to know each other and learn a bit more about UUCB and all it has to offer. Details will follow.

(Note that there is lots of space in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall for Newcomers and PPP events. No conflict!)

PLANT POWERED POTLUCK SUNDAY, JANUARY 20

For the past five years UUCB has hosted a monthly potluck lunch for anyone who follows a plant-based diet and for everyone who is exploring plant-based healthy eating. Though the term “vegan” is often used to describe plant-based eating, we don’t consider ourselves hard-nosed vegans, but rather on our own journeys to explore avenues to good health and community.

The Plant Powered Potluck group gathers on the third Sunday of the month in the Fellowship Hall to share an amazing variety of healthy foods — we focus on non-animal, whole grain, and when possible, organic and local ingredients.

Everyone is welcome—and encouraged—to join us for a wonderful meal. In the interests of planning and a balanced menu, we ask that you contact the coordinator for the month to indicate your interest and what dish you’d like to bring.

Join us also for discussion about healthy eating and lifestyle issues

Our next monthly plant-based (vegan) meal will be held on Sunday, January 20 at noon in the Fellowship Hall.

Contact the January PPP coordinator, Jessica Tracy 207-729-7294 or jtracy21@myfairpoint.net.

CONCERTS FOR A CAUSE

Saturday January 12th

Inanna, Sisters in Rhythm, blend western vocal harmonies with the polyrhythms of West Africa, the Middle East, and Brazil, creating a multicultural fusion.

Together for 28 years, the band has recorded six full-length albums, traveled throughout the world to study with master drummers, and performed extensively at numerous percussion festivals and community events.



Tickets and sign-up sheets for refreshments are available after church for both concerts. They are also available in church office, Gulf of Maine Books or online at Brownpapertickets.com.

Don't Miss It:

Saturday, February 2nd





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

Pejepscot Station



Pejepscot Station is a high-energy Bluegrass/ Americana band comprised of veteran musicians hailing from the mid-coast Maine area. It features Jim McLaughlin on mandolin, guitar and fiddle, Stephen "Satch" Hatch on guitar, Cherie "Peachblossom" Howard on bass, and Ren Bernier on banjo. Based in the village of Pejepscot (in Topsham, ME), the band has been performing throughout southern Maine since forming in 2011. They have appeared on WCSH-TV's "207" as well as at Festivals, Fairs, Brewpubs, Park Concerts, on the streets and at private parties. Their repertoire is a mix of traditional and contemporary Bluegrass, Americana, and some "bluegrassified" favorites thrown in. Broad vocal harmonies and an informal and relaxed stage presence make for an enjoyable and fun show appropriate for all.

Friday Evening, January 18

Feature set 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.

UUCB—JANUARY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Dec. 30 10 Church Service No RE program	Dec. 31 Office Closed	1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 9 Gallery Com 10 Chalice Circle Facilitators 5 Maine ALLCare 6:30 New Mainers Support Group	3 9 Rental Com 1 Chalice Circle 5 Working for Justice 6:30 RE Com 7 Choir	4 Tedford Shelter Meal	5 9:30 AA
6 10 Church Service 10 RE Youth 10:15 RE PreK-6 11:30 Charity with Soul Presentation: Tedford Housing	7 Office Closed	8 4 Membership 4 Finance Com 6:30 Stories with Soul 7 Worship Com 7 Pastoral Care Com	9 4 UU Christians 7 Growing Needs Taskforce	10 4 Holiday Fair Com 7 Choir	11	12 9:30 AA 1 Brunswick Indivisible 7:30 Inanna: Concert for a Causes
13 10 Church Service 10 RE Youth 10:15 RE PreK-6	14 Office Closed	15 2 Chalice Circle 6:30 Board	16 9 Financial Sustainability Com 1 Chalice Circle 5 Concert Committee	17 10 Chalice Circle Facilitators 1 Wabanaki REACH 6:30 New Mainers Com 7 Choir	18 Side Door Coffeehouse 7 Open Mike 8:30 Featured Performer: Pejepscot Station	19 9:30 AA 2 Working for Justice Film: title TBA, see page 6
20 10 Multi-Generational Church Service 12 Plant Powered Potluck 12 Newcomers Potluck	21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Office Closed	22 6:30 Stories with Soul	23	24 10:30 Building & Grounds 7 Choir	25 5 Parish Messenger content deadline	26 9:30 AA
27 10 Church Service 10 RE Youth 10:15 RE PreK-6	28 Office Closed	29	30 12 Men's Luncheon	31 Office Closed 7 Choir	Feb. 1 Tedford Shelter Meal	Feb. 2 9:30 AA 7:30 Pat Colwell and the Soul Sensations: Concert for a Causes

DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY PARISH MESSENGER - January 25

Notice that this Jan. issue is shorter than usual? Please keep an eye on the deadline!

If you want an announcement or article to appear in the monthly Parish Messenger, send it to , mheath@gwi.net on or before Friday, January 25th. The February Issue will be distributed on Jan. 29.