



Parish Messenger

Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick

May, 2019

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Duncan Wood in his shop, and the Stetson Window on display April 21. See the article on p. 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
 Taryn Walker,
 Consulting Sunday School Coord.
 Stephanie Bernier,
 Music Coordinator
 Heidi Neufeld, Choir Director
 Derek Herzer, Choir Accompanist
 Shirley Bernier, Office Administrator
 Tony Sulkoski, Sexton

Sunday Worship Services at 10:00

May 5 What Brings Joy?

Rev. Sylvia Stocker

In keeping with the Sunday School's theme of the month, Rev. Stocker provides an interesting twist to the topic of joy. Music by Derek Herzer.

May 12 Getting Out from Under All Sweetness and Light Rev. Stocker

Mothers are important, and Hallmark holidays are annoying. What to do? Music by the choir, conducted by Heidi Neufeld and accompanied by Derek Herzer.

May 19 Religious Education Recognition Sunday

Rev. Sylvia Stocker & Taryn Walker

We've had a great and eventful year in Sunday school. Come celebrate our kids and their teachers and guides!. Music by Derek Herzer.

May 26 Memorial Day – Moral Ambiguity

Gar Roper

On Memorial Day we honor the fallen who fought in defense of our nation and the principles for which it stands. But though we withhold no honor from the fallen, the everyday men and women who served, we nevertheless must ask, in the face of the killing and devastation, can war be considered just and moral? Gar addresses this and many other questions in today's service. Music by Derek Herzer.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The RE Program in May

During the month of May our RE children will be actively exploring the idea of JOY! Taryn Walker, our RE consultant, has planned fun activities for the Sundays of May 5th and May 12th, and some of what the children will be doing on those Sunday mornings will be displayed in the Fellowship Hall from the 15th to the 26th as part of an RE Art exhibit. Photographs of UUCB families taken by our Youth Group will also be part of the display. The RE Committee encourages families to attend all three May Sundays so that children will get to experience the result of their efforts and fun when their projects are integrated into the May 19th RE worship service – a celebration of our young people.

Transitions

We learned in mid-April that Cathy McDaniel, our faithful provider of child care in the Nursery (7½ years!) would be resigning from her position for health reasons as of Sunday, April 14. We are sad to have Cathy go but celebrate her time with us and wish her well as she moves on to other commitments. If you would like to send Cathy a card



On Sunday, March 31st, immediately preceding the morning worship service, RE families gathered for a pancake breakfast. Primed for heaps of delicious pancakes were kids and adults surrounded by wonderful sounds of community and connection.

with your appreciation, you can do so via the church office. We will miss her!

In Cathy's absence we will be staffing the nursery with paid substitutes until the Annual Meeting in mid June. If you are interested in subbing in the nursery, please speak with Jean Lay who is overseeing the nursery for the rest of the church year. The Board has established a search committee to find a permanent Nursery worker. Anyone interested in the permanent position should talk with Betsy Williams, Charlie Evans or Sylvia Stocker.

Youth Group

Youth Group meets on

- April 28
- May 5
- May 12

May 19 RE photos by the Youth Group will be on display

RE Celebration Worship Service

Please join in celebrating our RE children on Sunday, May 19, when the RE Celebration worship service marks the end of this church year's organized RE programming. RE workshops and Youth Group will begin again in September.

Happy Spring!

Cathey Cyrus for the RE Committee

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.

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

When the congregation voted over a year ago to install in the sanctuary two of the stained glass windows rescued from our old church, I had a hard time visualizing how they would look there. Would they look strange – 19th century church art in a 21st century building? Would they overpower the space? Or would they make the room feel more special, more sacred? Would they augment the look and feel of a space that, in my mind, has already become imbued with the vitality and warmth of this congregation?

When the windows were installed on April 16, I finally got my answer. In my opinion, the windows look just right. And, gosh, so many memories came rushing back when I saw them again!

My learning style is more kinesthetic and auditory than it is visual. If I need to learn how something works, for example, I am most likely to master it if I listen to someone's instruction while I operate the thing myself. I need to hear and to touch. Reading an instruction manual or even watching a YouTube video simply isn't as effective for me. Similarly, I have a lot of difficulty imagining how things will look. Thus my challenge in imagining how the stained glass windows would look when installed.

We call dreamers “visionaries,” assuming they “see” what will be, even though it hasn't materialized yet. Sometimes I hear people say, “I can see it right in front of my eyes,” even when the thing they are seeing is still a pipe dream. In that way, our world is tipped toward “seeing” as opposed to “hearing” or “sensing.” Regardless of how we dream or imagine the future, however, my guess is that the end result of our dreaming is often a little different from what we might have first imagined. Nonetheless, it's important to dream, to bring our imaginings forward, to conceive of a better world.

We may be surprised by the results of our dreaming. (We often are surprised – or, at least, speaking personally, I am often surprised.) So, it seems to me that dreaming works best with a dose of “letting go of the outcome” added to the final results. That helps to allow room for surprise and wonder to enter into the equation. Like everyone else, I have had my share of disappointments in life, but often the results of dreaming turn out better than what I had imagined.

So it is with the windows. Not only do they look beautiful in our space, but they bring an important part of our history and congregational story back to us. Our church would not be here without the hard work of the Stetsons and Dennisons, whom the windows commemorate. They never could have conceived of our congregation or the building we built five years ago, but they wanted to make a way and a place for us nonetheless. And here we are. We reap the harvest of their planting.



As to the window project itself, we owe an enormous thank you to Duncan Wood, son of Jean and Ken Wood, who engineered and built the boxes that now display and light up the windows. We also thank Laura Jackson, who stored the windows until we were able to tackle the project. And, of course, the many volunteers, too numerous to name, who shepherded the project – especially Wendy Roundy and Mary Larson who organized and led many volunteer parties to paint, clean, and more. A million, million thanks!

*Love,
Sylvia*

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Church Council Summit Makes Progress

One of the Board's goals for this year has been to clarify the mission of the Church Council. As part of the process, a "Church Council Summit" was held on April 7th after the worship service. While eating a delicious lunch, eight members of the Board and thirteen representatives of various committees discussed where we have been and where we'd like to go with regard to the Church Council. UUCB bylaws clearly state the purpose of the Council:

The purpose of the Church Council is to oversee and guide planning and execution of the church Program to assure that the annual complement of activities and events help the congregation fulfill the Mission of the Church. The Church Council shall also work to enhance collaboration, coordination, and communication among the committees of the church. The Council shall meet at a regular time and place to create and monitor the all-church calendar, help clarify shared or overlapping responsibilities among committees, and provide a forum for committee chairs to discuss Church operations and committee activities, and to seek advice or support for their work....The Church Council shall include the chairs of the Standing Committees as specified by the Board of Trustees. The Minister and a designated Trustee shall be ex officio, non-voting members of the Council.

The bylaws also include a description of the Council Facilitator role, which is to "provide stability and continuity to the Church Council," and to "organize and oversee Council meetings and to monitor the overall effectiveness and coordination of the Church Council's activities..." The Board needed to address the issue of the Council's mission because none of these things have been happening during the current church year.

There was a clear consensus among those present at the "summit" that the way the Church Council has operated in the past has been far from satisfactory, but that a need for such a group continues to exist. Six people in attendance at the summit volunteered to form a task force charged with making recommendations for a reactivated Church Council, and their first meeting was on April 15th. The group reviewed the roles played by Council members and the Council Facilitator as a first step. Another meeting is planned prior to the May meeting of the Board, and their report will be another item on the agenda for the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Glenn Williams



ANNUAL MEETING

Save the Date! Sunday June 9

The end of the church year is almost here, and that means it's time to get ready for our Annual Congregational Meeting. This is a very important event in the life of the church, and we need to have as many members as possible in attendance. Among the agenda items will be reports on our current financial status and discussion of the Board's proposed budget for the coming year. We will also hear a report from the Nominating Committee and vote on the candidates they present to fill open positions.

This year's meeting will be Sunday, June 9th at 11:30. Please plan to attend.

Have You Turned In Your Pledge?

The Pledge Drive Team and the Treasurer are tabulating pledges and making recommendations to the Board for the 2019-20 budget which will be presented at the Annual Meeting in June.

Though the Drive was slated to be concluded in April, many pledges have yet to come in and be counted. The pledge goal to meet the proposed budget for next year is set at \$250,000. To date we are about \$40,000 short.

Please check your records and be sure your pledge is in and can be counted. Thanks!



Pledge online:

<http://www.uubrunswick.org/online-pledging/>

CONGREGATIONAL HEART BEAT

Joys, Sorrows and Concerns

The following joys, sorrows, and concerns were recorded in our congregational notebook, which is available to write in every Sunday before the church service.

Joys:

Connie Wurtz celebrated his 93rd birthday on March 26!

Mary Ann Gesner celebrates the birth of her great-granddaughter Mila in Tampa, Florida.

Minister Emeritus Brad Mitchell is finally home after a long stay in hospital and rehab. He is doing so much better. He writes: "Many thanks for all those who sent well-wishes both in writing and in person. I can't tell you properly how your care and concern buoyed me in this recent illness. Now I am working on getting my speaking voice stronger. Just know that your visits have kept me connected to this wonderful congregation which I have missed greatly."

Sue Leonard joyfully announced the arrival of her first grandchild, Ada Brown, born March 27. Happily, Ada will be living with her parents just down the road from Sue. Sue writes, "My cup runneth over!"

Cindy Parker and Steve Eagles are happy to welcome their sixth grandchild, Eve Audrey Garner, born March 4 to Cindy's daughter Carly and husband John in Atlanta.

Janice Thompson celebrated having her dad, Allen Thompson, here visiting from upstate New York and joining in the morning music on April 14, along with Chris Hall from the Harpswell Concert Band.

ED. NOTE: Rev. Sylvia Stocker compiles this list of joys, sorrows, and concerns monthly for the Parish Messenger. If you would like your news reported (and you haven't left a message in the book on Sunday), please contact Sylvia.

Sorrows and Concerns:

Please note that personal and sensitive information in this section is removed for publishing on the Internet. The full text of the Congregational Heartbeat is available in the church office.

— Sylvia Stocker

Notes from Members

Susan Paluska is offering an effective air purifier for sale. The Lux Guardian Air by Aerus features HEPA silent technology. It is FDA approved as a Medical Device for Air Purification and can be used in the home or business.

Call or email Susan for more details 207-443-1200; spaluska@gmail.com



ANNUAL REPORTS R US

2018-19 Annual Reports Due

It's that time of year - Annual Report Time. If you are the Chairperson(s) or the person(s) in charge of a committee, group, task force or the like, it's time to think about your UUCB Annual Report for FY 2018-19. If you need a copy of last year's report, please contact the Church Office.

Please consider these details in your Annual Report:

- List committee members with year each person joined the committee/task force/group etc.
- Identify committee chair and indicate the year that person assumed leadership
- State the charge to (purpose of) the committee
- Describe the committee goals set for the past year
- Summarize those goals accomplished and those still needing attention
- Anticipate issues/changes that impact ongoing functioning of committee
- Express appreciation when/where appropriate

Once your report is completed you can.....

- E-mail your report to the church office (uubruns@gwi.net)
- Mail it to UUCB, PO Box 129, Brunswick ME 04011
- Hand Deliver it to the Church Office Tue – Fri 10am -4pm
- Leave it in the mail box outside the church office.

All reports are due by Tuesday, May 21 to give the office staff time to prepare the Annual Report for the Annual Congregational Meeting on June 9.

Congregational Milestones

As I turn my attention to my annual report, I would love to hear about educational milestones among our congregants. If you know of anyone from our congregation (including young people who grew up in our Sunday School) who has graduated from high school or beyond, would you please let me know the school, degree, and future plans? Thank you.

— Sylvia

UUCB Library - Improved!

Jim Michaud & I are nearing completion of re-organizing the UUCB Library. A full list of the collection will be available soon and will be posted on our website as well as a hard copy on the bookshelf. There is a simple sign out process to borrow books.

This is a great resource of books covering multiple topics including: *The Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide* which is a wonderful reference to all things UU. Look up important dates in a timeline on pages 73-88 such as: in 1967 - Black UU Caucus organized; or on page 43 read about our history of racial justice. "Unitarian Universalists have called for racial justice ever since the first UUA General Assembly in 1961." We continue to address this issue currently in our White Privilege Reflections work.



A new section of children's books will be added soon. It will begin with a recent donation of Charlotte Agell's book *Maybe Tomorrow?* This tender story of loss and friendship is told with kindness and caring. The colorful illustrations by Ana Ramirez Gonzalez are simply stunning.

Check out the library, on the shelves around the corner in the main hallway.

— Lynn Ellis

FUNDRAISING AUCTION & EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The Spring Celebration 2019 Auction is fast approaching: May 18.

We want your donation(s) description(s) for the Silent Auction and Live Auction by May 14 so we can print the catalogue, and welcome actual donations the week before the auction (beginning Tuesday, May 14).

Fill out donation forms for each item (find forms at the church in the red box with yellow type. Leave them in the same red box. Or, call Sally Steele, Auction Chair, to describe your donations and she will take handle it over the phone. Someone on the Auction Team can also offer ideas of possible services, dinners, etc.

Sally: 978-870-8002



PLANT-POWERED POTLUCK May 19

You are invited to the UUCB Plant-Powered Potluck after church on Sunday, May 19, at 12 noon in Fellowship Hall. Yes, it is Easter Sunday, but do 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 plan to come, please RSVP to Jessica Tracy at jtracy21@myfairpoint.net by Thursday, May 16.

If you are new to plant-based eating and would like to know more about its benefits and suggestions for recipes, go to www.forksoverknives.com.

PUBLICITY FOR YOUR EVENT

HI!

I'M JANICE THOMPSON,
UUCB'S NEW VOLUNTEER
PR COORDINATOR

WOULD YOU LIKE HELP PROMOTING YOUR
COMMITTEE'S PROGRAMMING, EVENT OR
OTHER MESSAGE TO THE GREATER
BRUNSWICK COMMUNITY?

I'D BE HAPPY TO BE OF ASSISTANCE – LET'S
MEET OR TALK WHEN YOU ARE PLANNING A
PUBLIC EVENT. IDEALLY WE START THE
COMMUNICATIONS PROCESS A FEW MONTHS
BEFORE THE DATE.



Give me a shout:
jt@janicethompson.net,
or (207) 504-4428

Men's Luncheon May 29

Last Wednesdays at noon: April 24 (Fairground Cafe) & May 29 (location TBA)

These monthly fellowship luncheons, are held on the last Wednesday of each month with the exception of holidays. All men of the church are welcome. For details, look in the "green sheet" in the Order of Service on Sunday or contact Jim Michaud at michaudjim33@gmail.com.



A STAINED GLASS WINDOW JOURNEY

It is with great excitement that I can now say that the stained glass windows commemorating Andrew Dennison and Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Stetson have been restored, cleaned, trim painted and back boxes built and painted. They were installed in the church on April 16.

This project started 6 years ago when a committee headed by Wendy Roundy was charged with selling, giving or disposing of items from our burned-out church that weren't to be used in the new construction. Debbie Zorach, Brad and Chris Mitchell and I were members. We did our job and found new places for everything but the windows. After Brad told us the history of the historical figures responsible for preserving our church, we couldn't dispose of these two beautiful windows given in their memory by their families.

Laura Jackson graciously stored the windows for us while we determined how to preserve them. With the sale of the Gurnet Road property providing project funds, the congregation voted to pay for restoration and installation of these windows in the new building, using a system to backlight them. We contracted with Jim Nutting of Maine Art Glass to restore the stained glass. Jim did a beautiful job replacing broken pieces and reinforcing the windows. Duncan Wood, son of church members Jean and Ken Wood, volunteered to plan and construct the mechanism to mount and backlight the windows, all in honor of his parents, Jean and Ken Wood.

Duncan has invested hours and hours of brain power, carpentry skills, weeks of space in his workshop, along with good humor and patience as this project seemed to take on a life of its own. After Wendy, the Chair of the Commemorative



Duncan Wood with his parents Jean & Ken and Duncan's wife Josie Quintrell by the Stetson window.

Windows Committee, broke her knee this winter, I offered to take on the task of finishing up the project. A work crew of so many of you spent countless hours in Duncan's shop helping paint trim and backing boxes, cleaning the windows on both sides thoroughly, and consulting on lighting. A strong crew helped install the windows and finish the project.

There are far too many people to list, and I know I'd forget a name, but you know who you are and I hope you know how very grateful we all are for your help. I'm not

sure how we can thank Duncan enough, but hope we all try to express it to him. It is a huge project, which took a lot of time away from his day job.

For those of you who are new to UUCB, I hope you enjoy the beauty of these windows, and appreciate the fact that UUCB would not exist if it wasn't for Andrew Dennison and Harvey Stetson. For those of you who knew the old church, I hope you will welcome these windows to their new home.

These church artifacts remind us of some of the people who have kept the light of Unitarian Universalism shining in the Brunswick area.

— Mary Larson

The Stetson Window

A native of Brunswick, Harvey Stetson was a life-long Universalist, worshipping in the three former Universalist buildings in town. He sang in the choir of the early Universalist congregation where Henry W. Longfellow played his flute in Sunday services. After the Mason Street Church burned in 1884, Stetson served on the building committee which erected the former church building on this present site.

Stetson served these small congregations in almost every office possible. His passion for liberal religion kept the church alive through times when the congregation nearly voted to disband. At the 1912 centennial of the founding of the Universalist Church of Brunswick, he was cited as the lone layman to whose "consecration we are largely indebted" for the continued existence of the congregation.

Charity with Soul

Selecting 2019-20 Charities

Voting to select five additional Charities with Soul for the 2019-2020 fiscal year (to be added to the seven legacy charities automatically selected) will take place on Sundays May 5th and 12th. Ballots will be provided as an insert to the Order of Service on these two Sundays. *The deadline for ballots to be submitted to the church office will be Wednesday May 15th.*

The Charity with Soul for May is MFP

Founded in 1971, Maine Family Planning (MFP) offers comprehensive reproductive and sexual health care to Mainers at 18 clinics. Our mission is to ensure that all Maine people have access to these services and the ability to control their reproductive lives.

Our clinics offer a full range of reproductive health services. Maine Family Planning's network treated 23,811 patients in 2018 and is funded by federal and state sources, as well as private foundations and donors. Maine Family Planning, is the state's sole Title X recipient to provide services to predominantly low-income patients from Maine's most rural communities.

Trump-Pence Gag Rule

On May 3, parts of the Trump-Pence Title X Gag Rule are

The Andrew Dennison Window

Andrew Dennison was an incorporator of the Universalist Church of Brunswick and devoted to liberal religion. When the Mason Street Church was built in the mid-nineteenth century, he purchased a bell and town clock for the church steeple which, located in the Maine Street business district, was an asset to the whole town. While the clock was destroyed in the church fire of 1884, the bell was re-cast and is heard chiming from our bell tower today.

Andrew and Lydia Dennison had a large family, all of whom were devoted Universalists. The memorial window was given by them when the former Universalist church was built on this site in 1885.



scheduled to take effect. With this new rule, Maine Family Planning would no longer be able to use our 18 existing, secure, and well-equipped facilities to provide abortion care for Mainers—even though Title X money has never funded this service.

To qualify for Title X funding, we would no longer be able to refer patients for an abortion. Our staff would be gagged. The high-quality standards of care under which we have operated for decades would be undermined. If legitimate providers of reproductive health care reject Title X funds, the money would likely be diverted to biased, non-medical organizations and so-called “crisis pregnancy” centers, including those that promote abstinence as a sole method of contraception.

Our Plan

On March 6, Maine Family Planning, with legal counsel, filed a complaint in United States District Court. The preliminary injunction will seek to enjoin all aspects of the Gag Rule.

In addition to the stress of diverting personnel away from their regular duties, Maine Family Planning must now find private funding for the Title X defense. While the legal expense is largely pro bono (\$1.4 million this year, to date), we will rely on private donations to support the increased cost of staff working on this lawsuit.

Gratitude

Maine Family Planning remains committed to our mission and the patients we serve, and we are especially grateful to The Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick for being a generous supporter of our work for the past three years.

WORKING FOR JUSTICE STEERING GROUP

Save the Date –June 8

Wear Orange for Gun Violence Awareness

On Saturday June 8, for the third year in a row, Maine Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America will join with partners for a gun violence awareness day on the Brunswick Mall from 10am to 2pm. Live music, refreshments, and children's activities will create an atmosphere that will attract families, educate adults about Maine's gun violence reality and what we can do to make our communities safer, as well as remember the lives lost to gun violence. Look for more details in the June Parish Messenger.



2019 Habitat for Humanity Walk to Build

Sponsor the UUCB mascot Clarissa and TEAM UUCB or another of the Walkers. You can donate by cash, check or online. Checks should be made out to HFH/7RM and have Team UUCB in the memo field.



Alternately, you may make an online donation at the website

indicated here following the links to *Team: Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick* and *Team Members* or you may cut and paste the link into a new browser webpage.

You may also donate by sending your check directly to **HFH/7RM at 126 Main Street, Topsham, ME 04086.** or

[crowdwise link to donate](#) or

<http://habitat7rivers.org> and choose *Spring Walk to Build* on their home page.



Bread for the World Offering of Letters to Congress—May 12

Bread for the World is a collective, faith-based voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. Advocacy and action priorities shift each year between domestic and international programs. This year's priority is progress toward reducing hunger by promoting global nutrition programs.

Each year now since 2015 UUCB has participated in the annual Bread for the World Offering of Letters to our congressional representatives regarding the moral imperative to protect, create and adequately fund key programs that will help reduce hunger and poverty.

Once again, we hope you will stay after the worship service on May 12th for the small amount of time it will take for you to write a short note at the bottom of a letter pro-

vided for you to request those in Washington that represent us to do whatever possible to improve global nutrition, especially for women and children.



WORKING FOR JUSTICE STEERING GROUP

UUA Commission on Institutional Change

In March, 2019, the Commission on Institutional Change published a statement summarizing their conversations with Unitarian Universalists over the past 18 months about the nature of racism and the need to address it in our institutions. In short, they found a vast spectrum of beliefs and a tendency to disengage in the face of these differences. This failure to engage has, in turn, brought suffering and injustice to both congregants and religious professionals of color within our denomination. Below is an excerpt.

Too many of us still view the problem as personal and focus on individual attitudes or engagements. A matter of how we treat each other in interpersonal relations with little or no bearing to the ways in which we do congregational governance, how we worship, or who we support in leadership roles. Others of us understand it to be systemic, that whole institutional cultures can consciously or unconsciously bias us against certain kinds of groups.

Not surprisingly, with such different worldviews, we often choose to disengage rather than discuss, to move out of community and conversation. And yet that is just what we must not do. Most people do not like conflict in their conversations in general, and conversations about race have started and stopped for just this reason—often ending just when the real engagement was happening. We are seeing signs that this could happen again—and yet it will be at our peril. When congregations ask our ministers to stop speaking on issues of race, racism, White Supremacy Culture or dismiss them for exercising their freedom of the pulpit, it is as dangerous to us as any threats from our national leadership to the U.S. political system. The biggest danger is not that we will air the differences we already know exist among us—the biggest danger is that we will shut our difficult and dangerous conversation down. We will be privileging comfort over growth and



choosing the status quo rather than the transformation we so need.

If we shut it down, we will cease to be relevant to those who come into our doors emboldened by our embracing theology and believing for the first time they have found a place where they name their pain. And if we shut it down, we do not hear the pain of our elders who are looking at the national elections and other practices and wondering what has happened to the world for which they worked so hard for all their lives.

Faith is that act of moving even though you do not know the outcome. We do not know the path that will bring us where we need to be, but we know that continuing the conversation is essential to moving beyond this point. As we hear report after report of religious professionals of color and also those who would offer allyship who identify as white being told that they must stop talking about “political” issues, we wish to call attention to the fact that to stop this conversation here will result in permanent damage to our communities.

What would it mean to go deeper into the conversation? What would it mean to understand the individual work against oppression that is a deep spiritual practice? What would it mean to address the ways it is embedded in our very institutions and their culture?

We ask you to stay present in this conversation among us.

The full statement is available on the Working for Justice Steering Group table or online at www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/commission-institutional-change.

UUCBers can be proud that we are heeding the call of this commission by continuing to provide opportunities for our members and our community at large to engage in these difficult conversations.



CONVERSATIONS ON OUR WHITE PRIVILEGE

Conversations with Cookies

The Reflections on White Privilege task force wishes to thank the congregants who joined the “conversation with cookies” after the Sunday service on April 14th. The conversation culminated the 5-week series of scenarios in which we imagined ourselves in situations as people of color.

It can be uncomfortable to acknowledge our ingrained impulses, acquired in a culture that privileges us as white people. Yet 25 of you joined the conversation because, as several of you acknowledged aloud, discussions like these are important to have. You joined the conversation because you chose growth over comfort.

“ *The biggest danger is not that we will air the differences we already know exist among us—the biggest danger is that we will shut down our difficult and dangerous conversation. We will be privileging comfort over growth and choosing the status quo rather than the transformation we so need.* ”

— UUA statement from the
Commission on Institutional Change

Another Opportunity!

On Wednesday, May 22nd at 6:00pm the Working for Justice Steering Group is collaborating with the Curtis Memorial Library to offer a community discussion of the book, *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism* by Robin DiAngelo. The conversation will be facilitated by our own Sylvia Stocker and Sarah Brown, Manager of Adult Services at Curtis Library.

While everyone is invited to attend and to listen, a prerequisite to participation in the conversation is that you must have read the book! There are 2 copies for borrowing in the Black Lives Matter “library” located on the table across from the UUCB kitchen; Curtis Library has ordered extra copies for loan and Gulf of Maine Books has multiple paperback copies for sale.

We hope to see you there!

“Robin DiAngelo’s *White Fragility* brings language to the emotional structures that make true discussion about racial attitudes difficult. With clarity and compassion, DiAngelo allows us to understand racism as a practice not restricted to ‘bad people.’ In doing so, she moves our national discussions forward with new ‘rules of engagement.’ This is a necessary book for all people invested in societal change through productive social and intimate relationships.”

— Claudia Rankine

COMMUNITY BOOK DISCUSSION

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2019, 6:00 PM

**WHITE FRAGILITY BY
ROBIN DIANGELO**

Date: Wednesday, May 22
Time: 6:00 pm
@ Unitarian Universalist
Church of Brunswick
1 Middle Street

Join us for a community
discussion co-sponsored by
the Unitarian Universalist
Church of Brunswick and
Curtis Memorial Library.
Discussion facilitated by
Librarian Sarah Brown and
Reverend Sylvia Stocker.





WWW.CURTISLIBRARY.COM

WORKING FOR JUSTICE STEERING GROUP

BLACK LIVES MATTER

Black Lives UU Final Appeal

In October of 2016, the UUA Board of Trustees charged all Unitarian Universalists to invest collectively and significantly in the leadership and organizing of Black Unitarian Universalists. A year later, UUA President Susan Frederik-Gray wrote a letter to all of us. She asked all Unitarian Universalists to be part of “an extraordinary opportunity to live the most deeply universalist aspect of our theology and to begin to overcome the limitations of our history.”

Our commitment to raise and invest \$5.3 million for Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU) recognizes that centering black leadership is crucial to building multiracial, multicultural communities and to supporting justice work that is free from white supremacy and paternalism.

The UUCB Board of Trustees made a commitment to join this effort at the November 2017 meeting. We were asked to collect, on average, \$10 per member, which would be combined with matching funds from two different sources, effectively tripling our contributions. *The June 2019 deadline for meeting our commitment is fast approaching.* We are nearly there. We have just \$304 left to go.

You may not have had the opportunity to contribute to this fund last year, or you may be able to make a second contribution. Whatever your situation, please help us close the gap by contributing as much as you can. You may use one of the specially printed envelopes available at the church (see below) or send a check to the church office. Checks should be made out to UUCB with BLUU in the memo line.

Thank you.



Enclosed is my contribution in support of “THE PROMISE AND THE PRACTICE OF OUR FAITH,” a Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA) campaign to fund the Board of Trustees’ October 2016 financial commitment to Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU).

Name (optional): _____ Amount: _____

Cash
Check payable to UUCB, with BLUU in the memo line.

CONCERTS FOR A CAUSE

Denny Breau Trio

Saturday, May 11, 2019 @ 7:30

Maine Country Music Hall of Famer, Denny Breau and his trio offer a wide variety of music styles, mixing genres with ease - folk, country, Delta blues, & jazz – in a way that captivates and entertains the audience. Denny is a triple threat: a consummate picker, evocative songwriter, and a singer with “a voice that is warm and inviting but completely unpretentious.” Breau’s rhythmically flawless and dazzlingly clear style allows him to do amazing and stunning things with a six-string guitar. The lightning fast guitar lines that seem almost impossible to accomplish are balanced with those that have a quiet intimacy and wrap tenderly around his carefully crafted songs.



Tickets: \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door, Students/Children: \$5. Available in fellowship hall after Sunday services, in the church office, at Gulf of Maine Books and online at breau.brownpapertickets.com



Cindy Kallett & Grey Larsen

Saturday, June 15, 2019 @ 7:30

Individually well-known and loved for their decades of music making, Cindy and Grey have been performing together since 2004. Cindy is a superb singer, guitarist, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist. Grey is one of America’s finest players of the Irish flute and tin whistle, as well as an accomplished singer and concertina, fiddle, piano and harmonium player. As composers each has contributed to the tapestry of contemporary folk and world music as it flourishes in America today. Their songs and tunes are woven with vibrant color and rich texture.

Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door, Students/Children: \$5. Available at the church office, Gulf of Maine Books, or online at kallet.brownpapertickets.com

The Causes

Two-thirds of the net proceeds of the 2018-2019 Concerts for a Cause series will be donated to two local charities: **The Gathering Place** and **The Brunswick Area Teen Center**.

- ♥ Buy a Ticket
- ♥ Let your friends know about the concerts
- ♥ Sign up to bring refreshments



SIDE DOOR COFFEEHOUSE



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

Dave Bullard & Kate Miller



Dave Bullard – “America’s Troubadour” aka “The Dirt Road Scholar” is a national touring musician. He has teamed up with lyrically poetic goddess Kate Miller who captures the hearts of listeners along the New England coast. Together, they create emotionally potent images and deliver music with a beautifully resonate and powerful voice. These two outstanding performers will play solo and as a duet at the Side Door Coffee House.

Friday Evening, May 17

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—MAY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 9 Rental Com 1 Chalice Circle 4 Working for Justice 6:30 RE Com 7 Choir	3 Tedford Shelter Meal	4 9:30 AA
5 10 Church Service 10 RE Youth Gp 10:15 RE PreK-6 11:15 Newcomers 11:15 Charity with Soul Presentation	6 Office Closed	7 9 New Mainer Steering Group 4 Membership 7 Worship Com	8 4 UU Christian Group 7 Growing Needs Task Force	9 7 Choir	10 7 What Can We Do About Climate Change? - panel discussion	11 9:30 AA 7:30 Concert for a Cause: Denny Breau Trio
12 MOTHERS' DAY 10 Church Service 10 RE Youth Gp 10:15 RE PreK-6 11:30 Green Sanctuary Com	13 Office Closed	14 10:30 Church Angels 12:30 Com on Ministry 3 Finance Com 6:30 Stories with Soul 7 Pastoral Care	15 9 New Mainers 2 Chalice Circle	16 1 Wabanaki REACH 7 Choir	17 Side Door Coffeehouse 7 Open Mike 8:30 Featured Performer: David Bullard	18 9:30 AA 5 Fundraising Auction & Con- tradance
19 10 Multi-Generational Church Service 12 Plant Powered Potluck	20 Office Closed	21 2 Chalice Circle 6:30 Board of Trustees	22 6 Community Book Discussion: "White Fragility"	23 10 Chalice Circle Facilitators 10:30 Building & Grounds 6:30 New Mainers 7 Choir	24 4 Legacy Giving Task Force 5 Parish Messenger Deadline	25 9:30 AA
26 10 Church Service No RE program	27 MEMORIAL DAY Office Closed	28 6:30 Stories with Soul	29 12 Men's Luncheon, location TBA	30 9 Gallery Com 2-9 Lifetouch Photos 5:15 Maine AllCare 6:45 Veterans for Peace 7 Choir	31 2-9 Lifetouch Photos	June 1 10-2 Lifetouch Photos

DEADLINE FOR THE MAY PARISH MESSENGER - May 24

If you want an announcement or article to appear in the monthly Parish Messenger send it to mheath@gwi.net on or before Friday, May 24. The June Issue will be distributed on May 29.