



Parish Messenger

Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick

May, 2020

A message from the Board

Communications: As you can see, the *Parish Messenger* is back! After the initial decision on March 12th to close the church, we felt a need for more frequent communication than our typical monthly newsletter would provide.

On April 1st a much shorter document, a *UUCB Pastoral Newsletter in Response to Covid-19* was published. A second edition was published on April 5th. As we were gathering information for a 3rd edition, many people expressed a desire to reestablish publication of the *Parish Messenger*, albeit on a reduced scale.

Our current plan is to continue providing shorter, more frequent updates during the weeks in between *Parish Messenger* issues.

Virtual Worship Services are Online

Services premier each Sunday at 10:00

Visit YouTube or link to the service from the very top of our web page:

www.uubrunswick.org

You can view past services at any time on [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com), just search "UUCB Service".

Join the **Zoom Coffee Hours** every Sunday at 11:00, see page 5 for details.



Remembering Brad Mitchell

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Charity With Soul 2020-21 Ballot

mail-in/email deadline May 14

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And much more inside this issue!

Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick

STAFF

Rev. Sylvia Stocker,
Minister

Rev. J. Bradbury Mitchell,
Minister Emeritus

Toben Cooney-Callnan,
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Stephanie Bernier,
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Derek Herzer,
Choir Accompanist

Shirley Bernier,
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Sextons



*The Board Votes (Sienna by phone) April 21,
2020. More news from the Board on p. 7-8*

MINISTER EMERITUS, BRAD MITCHELL

Dear Ones,

I write with the sad news that Rev. James Bradbury Mitchell, our beloved “Brad,” our Minister Emeritus, died on Saturday morning, April 25 around 5 AM. His death brings a release from suffering, and for that we can be grateful, but, oh my, the loss of his beautiful soul is deep and hard for our congregation to bear right now.



Brad was minister here for 19 years, the longest tenure of any minister in our congregation's history. When he arrived on site, he found an exhausted church that had decided not to have an interim minister so that they could save money. Thus they had done all the preaching, all the leading, all the pastoral care, all the everything, all by themselves. Brad stepped in, bringing great relief to a very tired congregation. He served and served well, guiding the congregation through growth and through challenges, too. He was gentle but affirming in his leadership, wise in his counsel, and compassionate with all people.

In addition to his many gifts of ministry, Brad was a musician – his first career was as music teacher – and he brought us his beautiful voice and sometimes even his piano playing through the years. When I accepted the call to this congregation, one of my colleagues from the district said to me, “When you go to district meetings and minister meetings, Brad Mitchell is the one to be beside when it comes time to sing.” My colleague was absolutely right. Once, Heidi Neufeld, our choir director, assigned a duet to Brad and me that we were to sing as a recessional during a church service. I vividly remember that trip down the aisle as we sang our hearts out. It was pure joy to sing with him.

Brad was one of the kindest human beings I have ever met. He possessed the ability to get along with just about any-

one. He was encouraging and supportive, trustworthy and loving.

In seminary, I heard countless stories about ministers emeritus who interfered with the work of the new minister. I am happy to say my experience was the exact opposite of what I had been trained to expect. I never felt anything but unwavering support, encouragement, and love from Brad. I felt lucky to have him active in the church and at my side as a colleague. I will miss him terribly.

Brad's death, coming as it has in a time of pandemic, represents a challenge for memorializing him fittingly. I am in conversation with the family about what might feel helpful and healing to them. For now, I know they would dearly love to have cards and letters with remembrances, both large and small, to help them through these difficult times. As you know, Brad's daughter and his brother were unable to be here as he was dying because of Maine's very necessary quarantine requirements. And Brad's son has faced the challenge of saying goodbye in person largely on his own. So please do be in touch with all of them to send your love, support, and memories.

I love all of you. And to Brad himself I say, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant.”

*Love,
Sylvia*

Here is how you can reach Brad's family

Ian Mitchell (son) 56
Hillside Rd. Brunswick,
ME 04011

Rebecca Mitchell
(daughter) 527 W.
Richmond Ave. Rich-
mond, CA 94801

Douglas Mitchell
(brother) 138 Long-
wood Ave. Brookline,
MA 02446

CONGREGATIONAL HEART BEAT

Condolences

We hold Glenn and Betsy Williams and their family in our hearts. Betsy's sister's husband of 44 years died unexpectedly of a heart attack on March 23rd. He was 69 years old and a much beloved member of their small family.

Sorrows & Concerns

Barclay Palmer, who is isolated from family and friends at Avita (because no visitors are allowed there for the time being), would love to get some cards. Send him a note at AVITA, 89 Admiral Fitch Avenue, Brunswick ME 04011.

Shirley Bernier asks us to hold several of her family members in our thoughts: Her daughter Jillian, a traveling nurse, has been assigned to a VA home in Chelsea MA for the next six weeks to cover for the medical staff (and patients) who have become sick with the Coronavirus.

Shirley's daughter Natasha is due to have a baby in mid-June. She must be hospitalized to deliver the baby via c-section. Shirley and her husband Ray cannot visit because neither family wants to potentially infect the other.

Shirley's son Alexander arrived in Maine, escaping the madness of New York City where his landlord was trying to evict him;

she was scared he would infect her and her husband. Alexander is now living with Shirley and working from home for the foreseeable future.

Shirley's husband Ray must travel three days a week for dialysis treatment. The dialysis center is taking all necessary precautions to keep all healthy, but it is still of concern with all of Ray's health issues.

On the up side, Shirley reports that she herself is doing OK. There are just more people to feed and care for on a daily basis. The dog and cats are loving the extra attention, she says! We send our best to Shirley and her family.

Joys

Sally and Richard Steele report that their younger son Sawyer, two kids, wife, and hefty dog have left California for good and have made the long car trip across the country to South Portland, where they are renting for the next year. Sawyer's older brother and children already live in Freeport, so now the whole family is finally living in the same state.

Brian Phipps was recently released from Riverview Hospital, where he had a 2-1/2-month treatment. He would love to hear from people. His phone number is 509-5167.



Easter Flowers

Many people had signed up to provide flowers for our Easter service. Of course, we ended up returning their money, once it became clear we couldn't hold the Easter service in our sanctuary. Still, it's important to honor the dedications everyone wanted for their flowers;

- Joanne & Jon Allen: In memory of Michael & Barbara Luntton
- Irene Austin: In memory of Ann Veiga, her mother
- Louise Gephart: In memory of Louise's Grandma, Louise Schneider, gardener extraordinaire
- Laurel Sisson: In memory of Marilyn Sue Klein
- Judy Smith: In memory of Mark Smith

In addition, Sylvia always gives Easter flowers to our hard-working staff. She is sad she wasn't able to do so this year.

How to Reach Us with Your Joys, Sorrows and Concerns

Please remember that during our time away from our church sanctuary, you can still reach the Pastoral Care Associates: Send your joys, sorrows, and concerns to uucbjoysandsorrows@gmail.com and a Pastoral Care Associate will get in touch with you. All messages you leave at that email address will be posted in the newsletter, unless you request otherwise. Please note that we will not share joys and sorrows during our virtual worship services because of privacy concerns.

GREETINGS FROM SYLVIA

Get in the Picture!

We can't get together in person right now, but we'd love to see each other anyway. We are planning to create a photo montage of your photos for an upcoming, prerecorded Sunday service. If you feel comfortable adding your picture to the montage, please send me a photo of whatever you are doing during this time of physical distancing. Are you homeschooling? Engaging in Zoom chats? Raking the yard? Working in the ER? Napping? Reading a book? Working on a long-delayed project? Take a picture and email it to me at revstocker@gwi.net.

Thanks! – Sylvia

Sylvia's Sabbatical Weeks

Sylvia is away from April 20 through May 4. She will return to work (at her dining room table, which is now her office!) on Tuesday, May 5. If you need a minister in the meantime, Board Chair Glenn Williams and Board Vice Chair David Kew will know how to reach a minister on call.

Last night I had one of those classic dreams – the one realizing I didn't study for the final exam. Everyone was gathering outside the classroom, ready to go in. A list of things we were to have studied was posted on the door. My eyes caught on the third item on the list – we were going to have to write an essay on Weber, and, oh no!, I hadn't read a single stitch of the Weber book. I stood there wracking my brains, trying to draw on class lectures. What did Weber say? What could I conjure up to produce an essay out of thin air? Nothing! I didn't have a clue of how to proceed! I fretted. And fretted. And then I woke up.

But wait! I said to myself. That is my life! I am about to retire. We are all in isolation. I can't meet with my people. They didn't teach us about pandemics in seminary! What do I do now?

Dawn was just beginning to light the sky, but, as I lay there, I realized the dawn was not bringing any particular enlightenment to me. I had to chuckle: How perfect a dream that one was! Here I am at the final test, retirement during a pandemic, and I don't have a clue. I suspect Weber wouldn't have had a clue either.

Like you, I wonder when the church can gather again. I suspect it won't happen until after I am gone, but, of course, I don't know. I can hope for better news than that, but I feel it best to be prepared for the worst. Certainly a leave-taking without having a chance to say goodbye face-to-face will be hard for everyone, Steve and me included. At the same time, even though we cannot be together right now, we still can communicate with each other. On my end of things, this newsletter is one vehicle I have for communication. I encourage you to call or write to me. I would love to hear from you.

Who could have predicted that being called to the ministry would have led me here, to Brunswick, a congregation that



has been so well matched to my ministry and temperament? Sure, there have been challenges – is there any part of life that is challenge-free? And sure, I have made mistakes – what human being doesn't? But together we have done some amazing things.

Of course, people will point to the new building as our biggest accomplishment together. And certainly building a building together was a huge accomplishment. But, I think our biggest accomplishment has been to grow together, in heart and soul, as a community. In my view, we couldn't have weathered the church fire if we hadn't taken care to remain a community during a highly stressful time. The UU Trauma Ministry helped us to get started on a good footing, and we took great care with our process all along the way. The Recovery Team and the Building Team both worked hard to be transparent about progress, decisions, and issues. By giving solid attention to our process and to our con-

Continued on next page

UUCB AT ITS BEST

gregational covenant during those years, we came through the crisis strong and vibrant.

That strength and vibrancy has only grown and deepened in our years together in the new building. Leadership is excellent. UUCB knows how to land on its feet when unforeseen trauma knocks us off balance. I feel good interim ministers will be interested in serving this church, because there is so much that is positive and hopeful here. Once an interim minister is in place, part of that minister's job will be to help the congregation to address any unresolved feelings about the unprecedented strangeness of my physically-distanced departure. I know you will be okay, I really do.

No matter what the future brings (and, if there's one thing we've learned, it's that we can't ever know the future!), please hold these two things close to your heart: (1) You have every reason to believe in yourselves and your ability to move forward, remaining a strong, creative, compelling, spirited, and compassionate congregation and (2) I will always love you, even after I go.

*Love,
Sylvia*

P.S. I never did read anything by Weber, and that's a fact.

New Members!

One of the in-person rituals we haven't been able to hold this spring is our celebration of new members. This year, we have welcomed the following wonderful people to membership in our church:

- Cheryl and Stephen Martin
- Brian Phipps
- Carolyn and Tom Wood
- Julia Brown
- Jeanette Durst
- Paulette Garrison
- David Juhlin

We look forward to the day when we can welcome them in person at a New Member Sunday. For now, we assure them they haven't been forgotten. May we all remember the words of the covenant we say together on New Member Sundays:

"We accept membership in this congregation as both a gift and a responsibility. May our strand of connection be strengthened day by day, and may this community be enhanced as we nurture and challenge one another."

"The presence of new members among us brings us joy and renews our spirits. In the light of truth and the warmth of love, we gather to seek, to sustain, and to share. Let us worship together in such affection that our differences strengthen one another. Let us all be a blessing to one another."



Zoom Coffee Hour

Come visit us "after church," when we host Zoom coffee hour on Sundays at 11. Each week we will email the details for the Zoom meeting to the all-church email list. Follow the directions to get on line. We'll split people into small groups so that we can really spend some time talking. Come see old friends and meet new ones! (And remember, even if you cannot "Zoom" on your computer, you can join the chat on your cell phone. The Zoom invitation will include phone numbers for you to use.)



RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Signs of Spring by Finley Alsobrook

Muddy ground and chickadees
Blossoms blooming on the trees
Red breasted robins perch
On the branches (making my
kitten want some chances
to go out and catch one
and do victory dances!)

Yes, it's Spring alright,
Be prepared for the light
of Sun and long days
in which to laze.

Spring Finally by Charlotte Alsobrook

Spring, Spring, it's a wonderful
thing
Stopped snowin' babies born
Plants growin' (some have
thorns)
Joggers joggin', some with dogs
Creepers creepin' on a log
Squirrels on trees and birds up
high
Clouds are drifting 'cross the sky

Sun is shining really bright
Cats are basking in the light
Spring is here and here to stay
So get out there and play all day

What I Can See by Annelise Alsobrook

Bushes on the ground
Leaves on the trees.
Here are more things I can see:
Birds flying
And I'm also relying
On days that will be longer.

The Poetry of Children

Over the past several weeks, the teachers and I have been meeting with the children through Zoom calls. I am NOT a technology person. I find it far more awkward to talk to a screen than an actual person sitting across from me. So, when we switched from in person meetings to Zoom meetings, not only was I uncomfortable, I was afraid. I was scared that it wouldn't work.

I love my job but, specifically, I love getting to work with children in a way that creates connection and meaning. I love having all the kids come up and surround me as I tell a story from the rocking chair. I love sitting down and creating art and stories together.

These things are not as easy to do from behind a screen, and without those things I wasn't sure that I knew how to do my job. I knew that, if I was going to create a new way for us to be together in this uncertain and unusual time, it couldn't be a space where I was trying to drive home any one particular lesson. It had to be a space where we could share our new experiences together.

I talked to the teachers about my intentions and Katie, our 3-6 Grade teacher offered a brilliant plan, "What if we do a series on hope?" I had many elaborate ideas of how to make that happen but after two meetings, I realized that it wasn't us bringing the children hope, it was all of us creating hope together just by sharing what is on our minds and hearts.

As difficult as times may be right now, it's impossible not to draw hope from the brilliance of these amazing children, these funny, profound, poetic, silly, and beautifully irreverent children...even from behind a screen. So, I find myself even more grateful for the work UUCB lets me do, and even more honored to be a part of the holy work of connecting that this community does so well together.

— Toben Cooney-Callnan, DRE
He, Him, His



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

General Assembly

LaTonya Richardson, General Assembly and Conference Services Director, recently provided an update on plans for this year's GA. Excerpts from her report follow.

In February, GA 2020 planning was off to a remarkable start. Almost 2,000 people registered early and the number of program proposals and guest speakers broke recent records. Then COVID-19 became a national pandemic and a state of emergency was declared. [We] had to quickly assess how to stay socially and spiritually connected despite being physically distant.

The UUA Board passed a resolution authorizing a 100% virtual GA for 2020...With so many UUs already online, this year's GA could well be our highest-attended Unitarian Universalist gathering in history! It will be accessible to a more diverse and global audience. It will also help reduce our carbon footprint, which aligns with our commitment to care for the earth and environment.

Join us as we experiment in previously unimaginable ways!

You can register for GA at

<https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/registrants>

The cost for virtual registration is \$150. The process is the same for delegates and non-delegates. Perhaps some members of UUCB would like to attend, now that it's possible to do so from home! We still have funds available to cover the cost. Let me know if you are interested.

You can register for GA at

<https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/registrants>

More information from the Board is on Page 8. Thanks for keeping UUCB going strong!

— Glenn Williams, Board Chair

"A generous heart, kind speech, and a life of service and compassion are the things which renew humanity." Buddha

Annual Meeting

Since we are unlikely to be cleared for regular in-person gathering of the congregation on June 7, we are also planning for a Virtual Annual Meeting. Recent legislation in Maine makes clear that this is permissible. In our case where our bylaws put restrictions on voting by anyone not present at a meeting of the congregation, the legislature's directive allows the Board to establish procedures for "voting by electronic transmission."

We will be providing more specific information about the issues requiring a vote, how to attend the virtual meeting, how to vote by proxy, and how to vote electronically as we get closer to June 7. We will also be scheduling an in-person meeting of the congregation as soon as possible to provide the opportunity for discussion of other issues.

Supporting our Staff

At a special meeting of the Board on April 7th we decided to support our staff by continuing to pay them through the end of the current church year. I sent the following message to inform them of the decision.

Ed. Note: With his submission to the Parish Messenger, Glenn included his April 7 letter to the staff expressing the appreciation and support of the Board and congregation. Because of limited space, that letter can not be included on these pages.

Donations

As I've said before, it is important to keep our promises to ourselves and to our Charities with Soul. Since we have no actual collection of cash during Sunday services, we need to contribute in other ways to continue supporting UUCB operating expenses and our chosen charities.

Those who prefer writing checks to donating online can send checks to UUCB with Plate in the memo line. Contributions made in this way will be shared as usual. I'm hoping many people will take advantage of our new online capability. Go to <https://www.uubrunswick.org/> and look at the top of the homepage where it says "Donate Online". Click on the link. If this is your first time, you will need to create an Online Profile. Once that's done you can easily come back every week and choose Plate to make your donation.

You can also make a pledge payment using your Online Profile. If you have not yet made a pledge for next year, you can also do that online from the Pledge Online link at the top of the homepage.

UUCB "BUSINESS" NEWS

Interim Minister

Our Interim Minister application was filed ahead of schedule, and I got this response from Christine Purcell, our Transition Program Manager: "You're good to go! Your opportunity is generating interest already. You'll have applicants on the 4th, I'm sure."

May 4th is the date when the names of interim ministers are released to congregations. We then have until May 18 to generate a list of "yeses/nos/maybes" to be sent to the transition office. Interviews will be conducted in time to make an offer at on May 18th at Noon EDT. Sounds exciting!

— Glenn Williams

"Generosity is the flower of justice."

Nathaniel Hawthorne

Treasurer's Notes and News

The Covid-19 shuttering of the Church building has had many effects not the least of which are financial. I can bring you up to date on the following:

Our **Expenditures** for non-salary items are quite down as you might imagine. A closed Church door means we are not paying a lot for gas or electric, telephone or stationery or various committee expenses. But an expense that is not down is staff salaries. With the Board making the commitment to pay everyone through at least the end of the Church year on June 30, we are still paying out on what is about 82% of our normal budget.

We have applied for the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) of the CARES act like many of our fellow UU churches. As I write this, the initial allocation was snapped up with nothing left for our small request. A new allocation has been passed by Congress and I am waiting to hear from our bank which has indicated that we were near the front of the waiting line.

Meanwhile our **Revenues** are down. Pledge payments are down about 33% for the month and, of course, we have no revenue coming in from the cancelled Spring Dance/Auction, Concerts for a Cause, Hanaford cards, the Side Door Coffeehouse and others.

Online donations may help with our Charity with Soul effort and the Pledge Drive (see "Donations" page 7). Early response is small but encouraging though it falls quite short of the normal. Watching a service on YouTube and associating that with going to a computer to make an offering with a credit card will take some re-training of the synapses. But we all are challenged to adjust, as it profoundly affects our Church

mission and our staff.

The **Pledge Campaign** itself is coming to an official end with our goal not quite met. Will we meet the goal? I don't know, and that too has repercussions for our next year budget.

With so many uncertainties, it is challenging for the Finance Committee to develop a **budget** for the new church year. We are trying to formulate a plan to carry us through. The Annual Meeting will indeed be a different experience.

We've had to postpone our planned audit of the Church finances and record-keeping, but we will re-schedule.

Finally, as to the big picture: historically UUCB's finances have been mostly thin, like the ice of March. But in these enviable days we have a mortgage-free building, an Operating Reserve and we have Investments. Our footing is sound. With prudence and care we will certainly survive and we will thrive.

— Paul Peranteau, Treasurer
April 24, 2020

UUCB Receives New Grant

The Maine Community Foundation has awarded \$2300 for two new programs next year in our UUCB series Many Voices, Widening the Listening Circle. Focusing on the immigrant experience in our area, one program will offer an appreciation of what immigrants bring to us with music, dance, and food. The other program will be an informational Q & A panel with a lawyer, a cultural broker, and immigrants living in our community. Congratulations to the grant writers Donna Chale, Cathey Cyrus, and Betsy Williams!

PITCH IN AT A DISTANCE

The May Charity with Soul



Catholic Charities of Maine Refugee and Immigration Services has assisted refugees to settle in Maine since 1975. They help with

- Assurance of basic needs: housing, food, clothing
- Referrals for English tutoring
- Community, cultural, and employment orientation
- Family reunification
- Medical and mental health referrals
- Education and vocational training
- Low cost legal services
- Applications for citizenship

More information is available on the website: <https://www.ccmaine.org/refugee-immigration-services>

While we can not have a physical plate collection to share with our Charity with Soul each week, you can make a donation online or with a check mailed to the church office with the notation "plate". Details on page 7, "Donations."

Care for our Walls & Windows

PLEASE

[Whenever we get back into the building...]

Use only Blue Painter's Tape for anything you put up on our church walls or windows. Anything else will permanently harm our walls and windows when it's removed.

Remember that the glass on church doors is protected with a shatter-proof film which you can't see, but it would be harmed by adhesives. Paint on the walls peels off when tape is removed. So please take care.

Thanks,

UUCB BUILDING AND GROUNDS TEAM

A New UUCB Cookbook is on the Horizon

Although Membership Committee activities have been cancelled due to Covid-19, some of our members are busy working on the first (as far as we know) UUCB Cookbook.

Sue Michaud, while not an official member of the committee, is coordinating with Donna Tompkins and Debbie Zorach on this project.

We need additional recipes in the following categories:

- Soups, Chowders & Chilis
- Sweet Breads, bars & squares (a good brownie or chocolate chip cookie is always appreciated)
- Hors d'oeuvres, Canapés and Tea Sandwiches

We know there is a treasure trove of delicious soup recipes out there as evidenced by the contributions to SoUUPS On. Please do share them so we can enjoy them all year long.

So far we have about half the number of recipes we need. Recipes in any of the categories are welcome.

Thank you to all who have contributed recipes for the cookbook. We expect this will become a cherished part of UUCB culture.

Send your recipes to Sue Michaud at michaud_susan@comcast.net or mail your recipes to Sue Michaud 14 Merymeeting Road, Brunswick, ME 04011.



WORKING FOR JUSTICE

What we all can do:

- Many thanks to those at UUCB and elsewhere who have made face masks for the approximately 22 Brunswick and Bath new Mainer families followed by BASC and MCNMG. Those who wish to continue mask making can join a statewide effort (there are many!) to provide masks for Maine health care providers. Information online at [Masks for Maine](#) or [Maine Public Radio](#) (article).
- Or...join a pool of on call drivers (under 60 years old recommended) for very limited and carefully cautioned trips to prenatal and well child medical appointments at Mid Coast Hospital. Riders will be one adult only or one adult with one child under 2 years old. The children will have their own car seats.
- Or...contribute to Brunswick and Bath food pantries who are working hard to support local asylum seekers and a new surge of community families seeking support for hunger insecurity. Information online at [Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program](#) and [Bath Food Pantry](#)

Asylum Seeker Update

UUCB Asylum Seeker Group (ASG), Mid Coast New Mainers Group (MCNMG) and Brunswick Asylum Seeker Coalition (BASC) continue to be involved in the support of asylum seeker families in Brunswick and Bath.

As is true in the larger community, social distancing restrictions are in place and all non-essential errands, trips and in person contacts are restricted. This added level of isolation is particularly difficult and unsettling for the new Mainer families. Nsiona Nguizani, Brunswick's cultural broker, responds to urgent calls for assistance from the Brunswick families, and the family support teams in both Brunswick and Bath offer support and connection through email, Zoom, What's App, phone and 6 feet distance visits.

Efforts are ongoing through Merrymeeting Adult Education and Midcoast Literacy tutors to provide English language learning for adults via Zoom and What's App; families are encouraged to help their children connect with the public schools' home study programs and electronic meetings. With help from the local school districts, all families are provided with computers as needed for these school programs but not every family is able to focus on home study as a priority.

General Assistance continues to provide food and rent vouchers, and asylum seeker families can supplement those supports through the local food pantries and the public school nutrition grab and go breakfast and lunch program for children up to 18 years of age. Families are encouraged to exercise and be active out of doors when possible. Outdoor equipment (bikes, balls, frisbees, sidewalk chalk, etc.) has been contributed for many of the children. Work on applications for asylum seeker status has intensified as the one year deadline for filing approaches. It is a difficult time for everyone!

For more detailed information or questions, contact Cathey Cyrus, wdclark@gwi.net, or 207-607-9112

UU the Vote: The Stakes Couldn't be Higher

UU the Vote is a nationwide campaign by the UUA to engage congregations in efforts to influence the electoral process of the upcoming election. Each congregation is urged to do its part:

As progressive people of faith we can seize the opportunity that the current electoral cycle offers us to fight for our values, counter voter suppression, expand democracy, and engage in spiritually grounded, values-based issue conversations with other voters in our own communities. (from <https://www.uua.org/justice/vote2020>)

A Call for UUCB leadership

Would you like to see our congregation engage in a UU

the Vote campaign for the upcoming elections in Maine? Would you like to lead such a campaign? Or be part of a team?

You won't need to invent the playbook if you are part of the campaign leadership. You will have the support and resources of the UUA and of MUUSAN (Maine UU Social Advocacy Network). Indeed, you will find a wealth of suggestions in this [UU campaign guide from the UUA](#).



Continued on next page

CONCERTS FOR A CAUSE

Canceled Concerts 2020

Due to the Corona Virus, Concerts for a Cause has had to cancel four concerts this season. However, we DID have 4 successful concerts and have raised around \$4,000 for the church and charities to share.

Moreover, we will be receiving a check from Brownpapertickets.com for all those ticket holders who decided to donate the money from their tickets rather than get a refund. This may come out to be over \$500.

Next Season

Many of our performers expressed an interest in playing for us next year. Since we have already planned most of our season next year, we may have to wait another year to book these great artists. Here's a list of our next season performers so far. I hope we won't have to cancel any of them, but September MAY be too soon.

Heather Masse and Jed Wilson 	Dirty Cello 
Don Campbell Band 	David Wilcox 

2020-2021 Scheduled Concerts:

Susan Werner (Sept), Chris Smithers (Oct), Novel Jazz Band (Nov), our own Derek Herzer (Jan), our own Jud Caswell (Feb), James Keelaghan (Apr), and Renaissance Voices (May)

UU The Vote, continued

MUUSAN's Role

Whether as individuals or as campaign leaders, MUUSAN is our "go to" UU organization for the 2020 elections in Maine.

MUUSAN is ready to identify and leverage the resources, opportunities, and needs that the current electoral cycle offers us to fight for our values, counter voter suppression, expand democracy, and engage in spiritually grounded, values-based issue conversations with other voters in our own communities. (from <https://www.muusan.org/>).

MUUSAN's Zoom meeting on May 9th will be about the UU the Vote Campaign.

If you would like to become a UUCB campaign leader, contact Cuffy Chase (cmc1322@gmail.com) or Jane Danielson (janedanielson90@gmail.com) of the Working for Justice Steering Group. Contact Lynn Ellis (lynnsellis62@gmail.com) about MUUSAN.

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

Charity with Soul Ballot for 2020-2021

Please check off/vote for five (5)* organizations to become UUCB Charities with Soul for 2020-2021. The new year of charities begins July 1, 2020. Please return your ballot to the church office by Thursday, May 14 by mail (PO Box 129, Brunswick, ME 04011) or send your vote to Lynn (Scan in your ballot if you can) at lynnsellis62@gmail.com.

- Brunswick/Topsham Land Trust – To conserve, protect, and steward the cherished landscapes and rich natural resources of our communities, to connect people to nature by providing recreational opportunities and other engaging community activities, and to support local agriculture and fisheries, now and for generations to come.
- Brunswick Area Teen Center – Provides activities, snacks and support in a safe place for kids in grades 6 to 12 where they can meet friends for fun doing after school and summer activities.
- College Guild - The Brunswick volunteer organization provides free correspondence courses to prisoners throughout the country – a population that is often overlooked.
- Friends of Merrymeeting Bay – Works to preserve, protect, and improve the unique ecosystem of Merrymeeting Bay.
- ILAP (Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project) – Volunteer lawyers and others help low income immigrants improve their legal status and works for more just and humane laws and policies affecting immigrants throughout Maine.
- Maine All Care – MAC promotes and actively advocates establishment of publicly funded healthcare coverage for all Maine residents. Our **goal is to increase the public's understanding of all the benefits, including real cost savings and effective constraints on** future increases in health care costs.
- Maine Audubon Society – **Maine Audubon works to conserve Maine's wildlife and wildlife habitat by engaging people of all ages in education, conservation and action.**
- Maine Family Planning – Since the founding in 1971, Maine Family Planning has worked to ensure all Maine people have access to high-quality, affordable reproductive health care, comprehensive sexual health education and the right to control their reproductive lives.
- Maine – Wabanaki REACH (Restoration, Engagement, Advocacy, Change Healing) – Maine- Wabanaki Reach advances Wabanaki self-determination by strengthening the cultural, spiritual and physical well-being of Native people in Maine.
- Midcoast Humane - Midcoast Humane is one of the biggest shelters in the state of Maine, operating animal sheltering facilities in Brunswick and Edgecomb. We provide care and second chances to almost 4,000 animals every year, and assist thousands more through our programming.
- Natural Resources Council of Maine - **Works to protect, restore, and conserve Maine's environment, now and for future generations.**
- The Nature Conservancy in Maine - We envision a world where the diversity of life thrives, and people act to conserve nature for its own sake and its ability to fulfill our needs and enrich our lives. As we work to make this vision a reality, in Maine and across the globe, our approach is guided by principles that connect the multiple threads of our work.

** Note: The following seven organizations are legacy charities and are always in the annual roster of Charity with Soul organizations:*

- Four Directions Development Corporation • The Gathering Place • Habitat for Humanity • Midcoast Hunger Prevention,
- Oasis Free Clinic • The Tedford Shelter • Unitarian Universalist Service Committee



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick

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Office Hours at 1 Middle Street are suspended because of Covid-19; until further notice.

DEADLINE FOR THE June PARISH MESSENGER - Fri. May 23