



Parish Messenger

Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick

June, 2020

On-Line Tribute to Brad Mitchell June 6

The Mitchell family and UUCB are planning an on-line tribute to Brad Mitchell, our beloved minister emeritus. It will feature poetry, reflections, and music by the Choir and Ambrosia.

The service will go live on our YouTube channel at 11 AM on Saturday, June 6.



Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Sunday, June 7 — on Zoom

Detailed information about the plan for our Annual Congregational Meeting was sent via all-church email (and by USPS mail if requested) on May 20th.

Briefly, the meeting will take place on June 7 as a Zoom conference, with voting to be conducted after the meeting is concluded. In order to guarantee that all members have access to

Continued on page 8

A Farewell Message

by Rev. Sylvia Stocker (of course) and Steve Wellcome

So now it comes down to this, my final Minister's Musing column for the Parish Messenger. With the wonderful news about your new Interim Minister, Rev. Justine Sullivan, (see Glenn Williams' article on page 8) I breathe a sigh of relief that you will be in fine hands indeed. Justine and I have already made connections by phone and email. I

look forward to her help in navigating my new world as retired minister. And, of course, I offer her any help she may need from me.

But, how do I say goodbye to a congregation I love so very much? It's hard not to be able to meet in person to do that, but safety requires we part from a distance. I want to assure you I am at peace with that, even though I am sad about it, too. My larger concern is for you, that you find your way to achieve closure in these strange, unprecedented times. Justine can and will work with you on that.

My final service for UUCB will be broadcast on June 14. For the rest of the month of June, I will be on sabbatical. On July 1, my calling as your minister ends. As of August 1, Justine will be your minister. And, even though you and I might meet around town, I cannot offer you pastoral care, discuss how things at the church are going, or be your minister in any way once my UUCB calling has ended. The best way I can support UUCB is to step out of the way so that Justine's ministry can take shape and, a couple of years behind her, your new settled minister's ministry can take shape as well. I want nothing more for you than success, and that means giving you the space you absolutely need to bond with Justine and future ministers.

The best way you can support me is to allow me space to explore what my new world looks like as I find my way into new activities and interests. Will I someday return to UUCB as parishioner? Certainly it is possible, but I have no way of knowing now what will feel right in the future. I need to "play it by ear," as the musicians say. My involvement with the congregation will always need to be in

Continued on next page



Online Worship Services Every Sunday (details on page 3)
go to www.uubrunswick.org and select "Online Worship" at the very top

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Continued from page 1

solid covenant with whoever your minister is at any given time. Justine and I will make a covenant with each other when she gets here. I expect the same thing will happen when you have a settled minister.

I was the first woman minister at UUCB, the second minister to experience a church fire with this congregation, the first minister (as far as I know) you ever asked to bless a new compost bucket, the first minister to wear a pussy hat in the UUCB pulpit, and the first UUCB minister to prerecord worship services, preaching to a camera with a cat in my arms. But I am not the first minister to have loved you, and I won't be the last. As I leave, I ask you to look at yourselves and consider the things that make you such a fine congregation. From my perspective, I see a congregation filled with compassion, creativity, commitment, thoughtfulness, playfulness, and vibrancy. Cultivate and nurture those things and you will be fine.

In the fall of 2013, just after our new building had been framed up, the Langford and Lowe Construction Company invited us onto the building site one afternoon to inspect the progress. We brought permanent markers with us to sign the girders that hold the place together. I headed straight to the girder that would be in the wall directly behind the pulpit, and I wrote, "For all the colleagues who came before me; for all the colleagues who will come after me." I drew a picture of a heart and signed my name. So know, as you go forward, that any minister you call to the UUCB pulpit is held in my love, just as you also are. (See photo on page 1.)



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*

Which leads me to you, my beloveds. Such a journey we have been on together! You welcomed me into your pulpit and into your lives, You thrived even in the toughest of times. You helped me to blossom as a minister. I cannot ever adequately express my gratitude for this congregation – for who you are and for your presence in the world in general and in my life in particular. I am the luckiest minister I know. Thank you for the privilege and honor of serving UUCB. I will always love you.

*With a deep and abiding
love, always,
Sylvia*

A Note from Sylvia's beloved spouse, Steve Wellcome:

By default, being married to the minister, I have been "the minister's spouse" for the 13 years Sylvia has served UUCB. When she was first called, I felt a certain amount of trepidation. What would be expected of me?

I need not have worried. You have supported me wonderfully. You have demanded little of me and given much. You have been kind, considerate, and generous. You have had few expectations and much understanding.

So thank you, all. I appreciate all you have done over the years to support me, and Sylvia, more than I can possibly express. "Thank you" seems so inadequate, but it comes from my heart.

*Fondly,
Steve*

CONGREGATIONAL HEART BEAT

We received the following joys, sorrows, and concerns at the Pastoral Care Associates new email address: uucbjoysandsorrows@gmail.com. As you know, we do not include joys and sorrows in our on-line services, as we do not want to share people's personal information in such a public place. However, we will continue to share news here, in the Parish Messenger.

Joys

David Juhlin reports his daughter Molly and her husband Bob are expecting their first child, and David's first grandchild, in October. David notes that he is excited to announce the cost of his Christmas has suddenly gone up, and he can't wait to spoil a grand baby.

To celebrate her 40th birthday, Bree Candland created a "cupcake caravan," visiting with various beloved friends and delivering cupcakes to celebrate. AND, Bree has been chosen as the 2020 Sagadahoc County Teacher of the Year. One of her students nominated her, and another wrote a letter of recommendation. Bree says it is a true honor to represent Maine teachers and her school community in the year ahead.

Dena Verrill has finished her treatments for cancer. Followup tests show no more cancer! Hurrah!

Sorrows and Concerns

We were saddened to learn that Jim Burbank, who was active in our church many years ago, died on April 2.

After a two-year battle with pancreatic cancer, Martha Lentz died on May 2 with her daughter Sara at her side. A former special needs teacher, a grandmother extraordinaire, an amazing and creative artistic photographer, and a friend with a positive out-

look, wonderful sense of humor and caring heart, Martha will be sorely missed. Here at the church, she was active in numerous ways, including teaching Sunday School, serving as a Board trustee, and serving as a member on the Arts Committee and the Adult Education Committee. Martha faced her illness with courage and determination and her death with equanimity. Her family will plan a service once we can all gather again.

We send our heartfelt condolences to Ren and Stephanie Bernier and their family, following the death of Stephanie's mother, Lillian (Lita) Siagel, on May 13 (five days before her 90th birthday) of Covid19 complications.

Ken Drake is back home in Harpswell, following a third abdominal surgery. We send him hearty wishes for a full recovery, with the hope that "three times is the charm"!

Albert Moore is home again and enjoys getting cards from people.

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.

Virtual Worship Services 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, check you're all-church email for a link and details.



URGENT COMMUNITY NEED

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Asylum Seeking Family Looking for Housing

Dear Ones,

I received this email request last week, and I pass it along to you. If you are interested in following up, I can give you Tim's contact information. – Sylvia

Hello Reverend Sylvia,

I'm writing with what is probably an unusual request...

When a large group of asylum seekers arrived in Maine last summer, the call went out for host families who could provide temporary housing. [My wife] and I have a small business and workshop in a house on Bath Road, near the hospital. We were happy to make it available to a family of five from the DRC and we have grown attached to them. The two older children (10 and 7) attended Brunswick schools and the youngest (3) participated in Head Start.

The house is adequate but removed from school, churches, the library, parks and playmates. They would thrive in a residential neighborhood, particularly now that the weather is fair and the school year is ending. As I'm sure you know, housing is tight in Brunswick. Despite the efforts of many people on their support team, we have not been able to find a better living situation for them. And then I got this idea...

I imagine that somewhere in Brunswick there is an elderly person living alone in a large house. A person who would love company and would welcome someone to help with housekeeping and yard work. Someone who would benefit from the \$1000 a month rent available from the state. Such a person would not be listing their home as a rental, which is why I'm writing to you. Perhaps you or someone else in the religious community can identify such a person.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Regards,
Tim McCreight

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 suspended because of Covid-19; until further notice.

DEADLINE for the JULY PARISH MESSENGER - Fri. June 19

Children's Recognition

The children, teachers, and I have been working hard at putting together a "virtual Children's Recognition service". We've spent the past several weeks talking about what hope means to us, what brings us hope, and how to bring hope into the world. It seems only fitting that we share the results of those talks with the larger congregation.

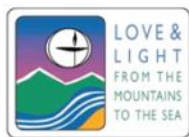


I know that some folks miss the faces of these amazing children and I have been trying to include families in the Time for All Ages part of the services as often as possible. That being said, I'm hesitant to share video or images of children outside of their family in online platforms such as Facebook. It was a tough call because, as a Unitarian Universalist, I try not to let fear dictate my actions and I try to carry hope that the world and the people in it are good. Still, I take the safety of our children very seriously. It's possible that I am being overly protective but I, with the support of the RE Committee decided that it's better to err on the side of being too prudent than not prudent enough in this case.

This means that the video that I will be using for our Children's Recognition Service will feature the voices and artwork of the children but not their images. It certainly won't be the same as getting to see the children live and in person leading the service but I think the sweet and tangible message that the children have to share will be felt by all who witness it... even online.

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Northern New England District of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Northern New England District Dissolution

As previously reported, the Board of Directors of the UUA Northern New England District has recommended that members vote to dissolve the district at the meeting scheduled for September, 2020. A May 7th letter from the Unitarian Universalist Society of Laconia, NH to the NNED Board expresses concerns about the process, particularly the matter of transferring funds held by the NNED. This is a substantial sum of money. As of November 2019, the District Fund was worth \$3.9 million and annually generated about \$175,000 in income directed exclusively at the Northern New England UU Congregations. The Laconia Parish Committee has made the following request.

We respectfully request the NNED board to include language in the dissolution proposal to be voted on in September that conforms to the dissolution clause in the existing NNED by-laws regarding the funds and requiring the UUA to:

1. Hold, invest, and use the transferred District assets exclusively for the congregations within the area of the former NNED District.
2. Report annually on the investment of the transferred assets to the congregations of the former NNED;
3. Report annually to those congregations on the income generated from the investments during the prior year and how that money was held and used exclusively for those same congregations; and,
4. Annually solicit ideas from the same congregations on how future investment income should be held and used, and in good faith, consider those ideas in planning for the use of future investment income.

The fund was created by contributions from members and congregations in the NNED, and it does seem reasonable to take steps to ensure that the funds are managed accordingly. The meeting will be on September 25th and 26th in Nashua, NH. To participate, this is a link to register: <http://nned2020.eventbrite.com/>.

General Assembly 2020

Registration is still open for this year's virtual General Assembly. GA will be held June 24-28 in the comfort of your own (shelter in place).

At this point we do not have anyone

registered to represent UUCB as a delegate. Please let Glenn Williams know if you would like to do so.

Check out the hype for this year's GA: <https://www.uua.org/ga>

Charities with Soul for 2020-2021

Five charities are selected by the congregation of UUCB each year to join our seven legacy charities (identified by * in the list below) to receive donations from our weekly collection basket offerings.

The nomination and voting process has been completed, with these five charities receiving the most votes: Brunswick Area Teen Center, Immigrant Legal Advocacy Program, Maine All Care, Maine Family Planning, and Midcoast Humane Society.

Since contribution amounts follow a seasonal pattern, each charity is assigned a different beneficiary month each year for more equitable distribution of donations.

Charities with Soul 2020-2021

July 2020	*Four Directions Development Corp
Aug. 2020	Brunswick Area Teen Center
Sept. 2020	*Oasis Free Clinic
Oct. 2020	Immigration Legal Advocacy Program
Nov. 2020	*Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
Dec. 2020	*Midcoast Hunger Prevention
Jan. 2021	*The Gathering Place
Feb. 2021	Midcoast Humane Society
March 2021	*Tedford Housing
April 2021	Maine Family Planning
May 2021	*Habitat for Humanity
June 2021	Maine All Care

WORKING FOR JUSTICE

Indigenous Awareness

Midcoast Indigenous Awareness Group (MIAG) calls our attention to LD 2094 – An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementation Act. Action on this bill awaits the return of the legislature to “normal” functioning.

LD 2094 essentially would give to Maine tribes the sovereignty accorded to all other federally recognized tribes across the country and allow them equal treatment under federal law.

Legislators need to hear from Maine people that passing this bill is critical for Maine’s tribes and for repair of tribe-state relationships.

Immigrant Justice

Warm thanks to all UUCB’ers whose sewing efforts have provided protective cloth face masks to all Brunswick and Bath asylum seeker family members. UUCB members and friends continue to provide needed support by serving on family support teams, providing transportation to essential health care appointments and offering English language tutoring via What’s App and Zoom. Other community volunteers are helping to finalize and submit asylum seeker applications to the Immigration Office to meet the June application deadline.

UUCB’s Asylum Seeker Group(ASG) steering group continues to meet via Zoom as does the Mid Coast New Mainers Group (MCNMG) steering group. Most recently ASG members worked with Sylvia to write a letter of support which contributed to the release from detention of the adult daughter of a Brunswick family. The young woman was safely reunited with her family in April!

MCNMG continues oversight of the family support teams working with the Bath new Mainer families. As in Brunswick, Bath families struggle with social distancing and the confusion associated with home schooling. MCNMG is exploring summer activity possibilities for Bath asylum seeker children and waiting to learn more about the ability of local day camps to keep campers and staff safe.

With the completion of filing of asylum seeker applications in June, MCNMG anticipates the need to focus efforts on longer term needs to include long term medical care, permanent housing, job training, employment and fundraising for legal fees.

How Will UUCB Step Up?

UU the Vote is an opportunity to integrate electoral engagement into strategies for change so that we are advancing our vision of a just world and beloved community in every arena available to us.

If you would like to see UUCB engage in an active role with this campaign *we need someone to step into a leadership role.*

Join with other Maine UU congregations. Maine UU State Advocacy Network - <https://www.muusan.org/>

Questions: contact Lynn Ellis at lynnellis62@gmail.com

Bicycles for Asylum Seekers

Bath resident and retired physician, Mark Wheeler, has been collecting unwanted bicycles and repairing them for asylum seekers.

In the past three years, he has delivered about 25 bikes to these appreciative people.

If you have a bike you do not want and would like to donate it to this project, call him at 443-5712.



**MOBILIZING TOWARDS
ELECTORAL JUSTICE**

WORKING FOR JUSTICE

June Charity with Soul: Mid Cost Hunger Prevention Program

Mid Coast Hunger's Prevention Program's mission is to

provide hungry people with access to healthy food, work to improve the quality of their lives by partnering with others, and serve them in a manner that recognizes their dignity.

We serve residents of Brunswick, Topsham, Harpswell, Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Lisbon, Lisbon Falls and Durham. Currently seven programs are managed by Staff at MCHPP; the soup kitchen, food pantry, food bank, pantry to pantry, summer food service, backpack program and mobile food pantries. Maine ranks 9th in the country for food insecurity. Our staff and volunteers provided over 350,000 free meals to hungry people in our community.

UUCB members volunteer regularly at MCHPP and have for many years. Together we all make a difference. To learn more go to www.mchpp.org/

and please donate generously through the month of June in the weekly virtual offering. Go to <https://www.UUBrunswick.org> and select the "Donate Online" link at the very top of the page.

wear orange

June 5-7, 2020

Due to the pandemic Working for Justice has no action planned for this weekend. However, there are many ways to bring awareness to gun violence every day.

WEAR ORANGE IN HOPE FOR A FUTURE FREE OF GUN VIOLENCE

FACT: 100+: Every day, more than 100 Americans are killed with guns.
FACT: 2nd Firearms are the second leading cause of death for American children and teens.
FACT: 3x Access to a gun increases the risk of death by suicide by 3x.

Our faith tradition teaches us the importance of honoring life and acting decisively against violence. **WEAR ORANGE** is a Gun Violence prevention movement of Everytown for Gun Safety <https://everytown.org/> and Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America <https://momsdemandaction.org/> that honors the victims and survivors of gun violence in America. **WEAR ORANGE** encourages everyone to wear orange in recognition of the value of human life and to honor Hadiya Pendleton, who was 15 years old when she was gunned down two weeks after her appearance at Obama's inauguration. Her favorite color was orange. www.wearorange.org



BE SMART
<https://besmarforkids.org/>

For more information contact
Lynn Ellis or Pat Moore at UUCB



end gun violence

2020 Virtual Spring Walk to Build

Habitat for Humanity: 7 Rivers Maine:

Walking for Affordable Housing...WHERE will you walk for Habitat for Humanity?

Our 2020 Virtual Spring Walk to Build is launching and we need your help to make it a success. For the past 26 years we have "walked together." This year brings challenges for us all, but Habitat remains hopeful that those who can will lend their support. Please join us and support this critical annual event!

Plan to get out and take a walk!

You can walk anytime between May 15th and June 30th. Walk anywhere you choose, on your treadmill, around the house, your yard, the neighborhood, or on a trail, as long as you are safely distanced from others.

Register online to walk by joining the UUCB team using the following link:

<https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/habitat->

[spring-walk-to-build-2020](#). OR Ask Cuffy Chase (cmc1322@gmail.com) or Gretchen Kamilewicz (gkamilewicz@gmail.com) to send you a registration form.

Reach Out to Invite Donors and Walkers to Support You or Your Team!

Donations can be made at the same website or checks can be given to registered walkers and turned in to the Habitat office.

Please send in your donations by June 30th.

Reach Out to Invite Donors and Walkers to Support You or Your Team!

Donations can be made at the same website or checks can be given to registered walkers and turned in to the Habitat office at the end of June.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Interim Minister Search Concluded

In the Spring of 2019 Sylvia announced her intention to retire. I consulted with the UUA about the Interim Minister search process, and we purchased copies of *In the Interim: Strategies for Interim Ministers and Congregations* for Board members to read. A common reaction to the book from the Board was that we learned about a lot of problems we don't have! We were happy to have a whole year for planning, but the official timeline established by the UUA specified that



February was the time to begin the process in earnest. That's when we asked the Transitions Office to initiate an interim search, appointed our search committee, and began work on our Search Documents Packet. Preparing the packet was a big job, with a lot of people contributing. In particular, Sylvia wrote a wonderful essay about the history of UUCB. We submitted the packet in early April, then had to wait until May 4 to learn which ministers were interested in serving our congregation.

Interest in coming to UUCB was high, and we got the maximum number of applicants allowed by the UUA (eight). The search committee narrowed that down to a list of five candidates to interview (of course via Zoom), and we scheduled interviews for May 13th and 14th. The search committee was unanimous in our ranking of the candidates, and we submitted our list to the UUA on May 15th. The suspense was intense as we waited to hear whether we had a match. On May 19th we got the news. We had a "mutual match"! Reverend Justine Sullivan will be joining us August 1st. We're very excited.

Our last bit of work on this will be completing the Congregational Transitions Interview with the full Board of Trustees. This interview is described as "a tool for reflection and increasing self-awareness of the congregation at the end of this ministry." Normally, the interview would be conducted in person by Joe Sullivan, Congregational Consultant from the UUA. Things are not normal, and we will record a Zoom discussion in which we respond to the questions. We will then send a written transcription to him. The minister also needs to complete a Ministerial Exit Interview. Sylvia has sent hers off already.

Once he has final clarified transcripts of the interviews, Joe Sullivan will send them to us and share them with the Transitions Office. The transcripts will also be shared with the interim minister and a few years from now, with our newly settled minister. Finally, it is recommended that the Board and Sylvia have a conversation to reflect together on our varying impressions of our shared ministry. This seems like a good way to summarize our years together as we prepare for a new beginning.

Glenn Williams, Board Chair

Annual Meeting

Continued from page 1.

vote, three options will be available: 1) USPS mail; 2) email; and 3) electronic survey. Recent legislation in Maine makes clear that voting by electronic transmission is permissible:

Sec. 2. 13-B MRSA §604, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

5. Voting by electronic transmission. The bylaws may provide, or the board of directors or members may determine, that some or all votes by members, as well as actions taken in accordance with section 606, may be conducted by electronic transmission under procedures established by the corporation. A vote conducted by electronic transmission must be filed with the minutes of members' meetings and has the same effect as an in-person vote or a vote by proxy.

The Finance Committee has worked hard to create a budget in this time of uncertainty, and it is understood that we may need to make adjustments as we go through the coming year. The meeting format for June 7 is very limiting in terms of the ability to engage in discussion of issues, but it is the best we can do at this time. We will be considering options for in-person gathering and discussion as soon as possible.