



# Parish Messenger

Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick

July, 2020



*For several years, the Working for Justice Steering Group has launched initiatives to engage UUCB and the wider community in acknowledging the scourge of racism as expressed in the Black Lives Matter movement. Today, we are challenged once again to examine how our privilege as white people contributes to this brutal, inhumane legacy.*

*This statement by MUUSAN's leaders and our UUA President speaks to the urgency of our work as a congregation and as a denomination in the months ahead.*

— Jane Danielson

**"We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor, it must be demanded by the oppressed."**

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

## Where Do We Go from Here?

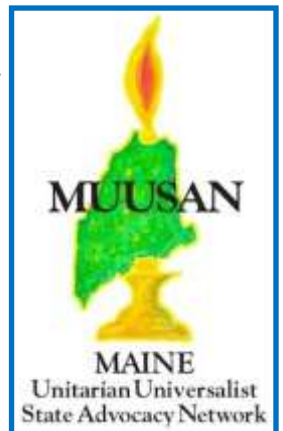
Dear Friends,

MUUSAN joins UUA President Reverend Dr. Susan Gray who tells us "People of faith, particularly those of us who are white progressives, need to combat the systems of criminalization in our country. Systems of policing and criminalization in this country are inherently violent, steeped in and created to reinforce white supremacy, anti-blackness, and racialized control."

As the pain and grief of centuries of violence without justice find their expression, let us remember the Rev. Dr. King's words: "America must see that riots do not develop out of thin air. Certain conditions continue to exist in our society which must be condemned as vigorously as we condemn riots. But in the final analysis, a riot is the language of the unheard. And what is it that America has failed to hear?"

Time for action is now. People are taking to the streets, flooding social media, calling officials and demanding justice for those who have been killed by the police all over the country and now is the time to join them.

With all actions, there are a variety of risks and roles. All roles are important, and



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**Online Worship Services Every Sunday** (See the list of July services on page 2) go to [www.uubrunswick.org](http://www.uubrunswick.org) and select "Online Worship"

## JULY WORSHIP SERVICES

All services are posted on YouTube online. Connect through [www.ubrunswick.org](http://www.ubrunswick.org) or go directly to [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search "UUCB Brunswick Service"

### July 5:

#### "The Peace of Wild Things," Chuck Verrill

Chuck's reflection is entitled "Caring for the Earth." Chuck is a relatively new member of the UUCB Congregation, and is currently the president of Maine Rivers.

### July 12:

#### Sacred Spaces, Paul Schaffner

We explore what makes a church sanctuary a sacred space; engagements with local area churches and a synagogue; reveal that common spiritual practices underlie our diverse faith traditions.

### July 19:

#### "Black and Blue Are Beautiful," Diane Kew

African Americans are hurting. Police officers are hurting. Both are an essential part of the American fabric. Let us celebrate them together, with love.

### July 26

#### "Cats," Debbie Zorach

Debbie explores the history, symbolism and spirituality of cats.

## WORKING FOR JUSTICE

*Continued from page 1*

this moment is no different. In the last three months, 100,000 people in the United States have died of COVID-19, and Black people are dying disproportionately. As we move into collective and community action, we have to learn the risks involved, and how to keep ourselves and our communities safe. There is no one right way to take action. Do what you can from where you can. Power building takes many shapes.

Please consider joining [The Movement For Black Lives](#) and organizers mobilizing across the country, and take part in actions in defense of Black lives. This is an opportunity to uplift and fight alongside those turning up in the streets and online.

We know there are many of you who are participating in actions this week. The Movement For Black Lives asks us to please tag them on social media: @Mvmnt4BlkLives on Twitter, @mvmnt4blkives on Instagram, and @mvmt4bl on Facebook, so they can share and amplify what we're doing. MUUSAN always welcome your photos, too.

And we must continue our work for electoral justice. President Obama advises: "If we want to bring about real change, the choice isn't between protest and politics—we have to do both. We have to mobilize to raise awareness, and we have to organize and cast our ballots to make sure that we elect candidates who will act on reform." MUUSAN's singular focus for the coming months is to encourage people to vote. We hope you'll join us in [UUtheVote Action 2020](#).

*Yours in Faith and Action,*

*Trudy Ferland and Julia Fitz-Randolph, MUUSAN co-chairs*



## HOW TO REACH US

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick

(mail) PO Box 129, Brunswick ME 04011

1 Middle Street, Brunswick

(207) 729-8515      [UUBruns@gwi.net](mailto:UUBruns@gwi.net)

Shirley Bernier, Office Administrator

The Church Office remains closed until further notice.

Shirley will be on vacation June 29-July 3.

When back at work, she is reachable via email and will respond Tues.-Friday July 14– Sept. 7

If the church reopens, office hours will be Tues. through Thurs. from 10-4

Pastoral Issues will be covered by Pastoral Care Associates until the Interim Minister, Justine Sullivan, begins work on August 1. Please contact the office by email or phone.

## FAREWELL FOR SYLVIA

### Thank You All

*A letter by Rev. Sylvia Stocker following the parade in her honor on June 13*

All week long, I have been trying to think of the right words to express my gratitude for all of you ... but, as is typical in such situations, words are not adequate.

The worship services, with special tributes from the kids (June 7) and from all of you (June 14) made the tears run down my cheeks. And then! What an extraordinary blessing it was to witness the colorful, ebullient parade going by my house on June 13. I was completely surprised – stunned, really. (My family had to do some fancy – but nonchalant – peddling in the background to make sure I was present for the big event. The lengths they went to were pretty hilarious.) I don't know what I enjoyed more: seeing all of your beautiful faces in person, or witnessing your joy in seeing each other's beautiful faces in person. How healing and heartwarming that was for everyone.

And the flowers! The plants! The signs! The gifts! The live music! The cards! The brightly decorated cars! The costumes! The floats! (Who gets their own parade with floats? Honestly, I felt like the Queen of England, sans pearls and handbag.) Not only that, but you thrilled the whole neighborhood, who turned out for the entertainment.

And, if that weren't enough, Sunday morning's announcement of the congregational gift to me stunned me beyond words. And if that weren't enough, you also voted to name me Minister Emerita – an honor beyond measure. Oh, my. What words are adequate to thank you for all of that? I am so touched right down to the bottom of my heart.

Thank you all so very much for everything, including the past thirteen years. I hope you can see, as I can see so very clearly, what an extraordinary congregation you are. No matter what life throws at you, you figure out a way to come back strong, with creativity and pizzazz. Church burns? You make a “church without walls” for three years and construct a building that becomes a Brunswick community center. Pandemic shuts down in-person church gatherings? You come up with creative virtual worship services, virtual choirs, virtual meetings – and PARADES, of all things! How I will miss you! Even though I will be cheering from the sidelines now, I will continue to celebrate your ongoing verve, your heart and soul, and your great strides into the future. I will hold you close in my heart, always.

*A deep bow of gratitude and love,  
Sylvia*



If anyone has some good video from Saturday's event, please send them to Bill Kunitz at [wkunitz@gmail.com](mailto:wkunitz@gmail.com). Bill will put together a little video for her (and everyone who wants to see it).

## CONGREGATIONAL HEART BEAT

### Please Share Your Joys, Sorrows and Concerns

Because the virtual worship services are on line for anyone to watch, UUCB will not post Joys and Sorrows with the YouTube service.

We will continue to share news here, in the Parish Messenger.

We received the following joys, sorrows, and concerns at the Pastoral Care Associates' new email address: [uucbjaysandsorrows@gmail.com](mailto:uucbjaysandsorrows@gmail.com). If you send an email, a Pastoral Care Associate will get back to you and we will publicize your joy or sorrow in an upcoming Newsletter (unless you tell us otherwise). We will continue to share news here, in the Parish Messenger.

### Joys

Julie Dahmer writes, What a joy to join with so many members of our UUCB congregation, parading in fabulous fashion by Sylvia's house on Saturday afternoon, June 13th. We celebrated Sylvia's 13 years with us while also saying a sad goodbye for now. Thank you to all you who decorated your cars, marched with posters, serenaded, and planted "flowers" on her lawn. What a beautiful way to say, We will miss

you, Sylvia!

Gretchen and Dexter Kamilewicz are happy to announce the birth of a granddaughter, Zineia Maria, on May 25, to their daughter Joselice and husband Luc.

### Sorrows and Concerns

We did not receive any sorrows or concerns this past month, although we know you may be holding them in your hearts.

**DEADLINE for the  
August PARISH  
MESSENGER -  
Fri. June 21**

### 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.)

### *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. Justine Sullivan,  
Interim Minister (Aug. 1,  
2020)

Rev. Sylvia Stocker,  
Minister Emerita

Toben Cooney-Callnan,  
Acting Dir. of  
Religious Exploration

Stephanie Bernier,  
Music Coordinator

Heidi Neufeld,  
Choir Director

Shirley Bernier,  
Office Administrator

Tony & Mary Sulkoski,  
Sextons



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## COMMUNITY NEED

### What a month! What a year!!!

June of 2020 capped off what certainly qualifies as one of the most memorable years in the history of UUCB. We knew at the start a year ago that it would be the last year for Sylvia, and some of us began thinking early on about how we might celebrate with her at the end. Things changed—to say the least.



The Board had to learn about the process of searching for an Interim Minister and then to take all the required steps. We were all very pleased with the eventual outcome, as Reverend Justine Sullivan and UUCB were a “mutual match.” That means that she was our first choice and we were her first choice. Yaay!

The Covid-19 pandemic and the closing of our church happened well before our interviews in May, but they would have been conducted remotely anyway, since some candidates were in far-away places like Virginia and Alaska. We were already sufficiently skilled at Zooming, and the process went smoothly.

A bigger challenge presented itself when we had to figure out how to do our Annual Congregational Meeting without getting together physically in the church. A lot of planning went into it, and once again, we were pleased with the outcome. Many thanks to Carol Evans for her skilled moderating in a totally new situation. In order to be sure that everyone would be able to vote, we arranged for three different ways to cast ballots: 1) USPS mail; 2) email; and 3) online survey. The online survey was by far the most popular choice. In total, 145 members voted, with all but two people voting yes on all 7 motions.

The 7th motion was to confer the title of Minister Emerita to Sylvia. Along with that honor, the congregation contributed over \$9,000 as a parting gift (final tally not yet available.) And, for a really big send-off, we had a fabulous parade with lots and lots of UUCB people assembling (carefully) in person and walking or driving by Sylvia’s house—much to her surprise.

### The New Board of Trustees

At our Board meeting on June 17 we welcomed new Trustees, Shannon Gilmore and Cindy Parker, who will begin their official duties in July. We also expressed our appreciation to departing members Charlie Evans and Mary Larson, and to Paul Peranteau, who will be continuing on the Board, but no longer as Treasurer. It has been a pleasure serving as Chairperson for the past two years. I look forward to my third and final year and I’m sure the 2020-2021 Board will again be a great group to work with.

— Glenn Williams

*This request came to the church recently from Lynn Ellis.*

Our son Dave, who lives in Glendale, CA is looking to relocate to Maine at least for the summer. You may remember he had some heart issues and those are all resolved and he is physically very healthy. However, it’s not a good time to seek employment, especially in California. We are encouraging him to drive to Maine and stay for at least 3 months. It is healthier here by far. That being said, we need to find him a place to live safely. Neither Dan nor I have room in our apartments for him, and he is allergic to cats. So... putting out to all of you an ask for suggestions or resources. Obviously he has no income at the moment. I keep thinking there are summer cottages or second homes that are not being used this summer due to the pandemic. Maybe you know of a place for him? We can certainly pay utilities and he can do basic caretaking if needed. Any ideas you might have would be most appreciated.

—Lynn & Dan Ellis

E.B. White said:

*I arise in the morning  
torn between a desire to  
improve the world and a  
desire to enjoy it. This  
makes it hard to plan the  
day.*

Here’s hoping that at  
UUCB, we can do both.

— G.W.

## MEMBERSHIP

### How to Join UUCB During a Pandemic

Typically when an individual makes a decision to formally join the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick (UUCB), they meet with the minister. The act of joining is a simple one. The new member signs the Membership Book with the minister or a member of the Board of Trustees witnessing the signature. We feel joining UUCB is momentous, for it is a formal way of recognizing both the journey we share and our mutual support.

During this time of pandemic, when people are minimizing social contacts, UUCB is accepting a letter stating a desire to formalize membership. Alternatively, Shirley Bernier, the office administrator will upon request email a form to be signed and returned to UUCB. When the church reopens there will be an opportunity for new members to “sign the book,” creating a permanent record of their membership. Our hope is that, by joining our congregation, they will find a home for their heart and spirit. Our aim, always, is to create a safe and sacred space for all who journey with us.

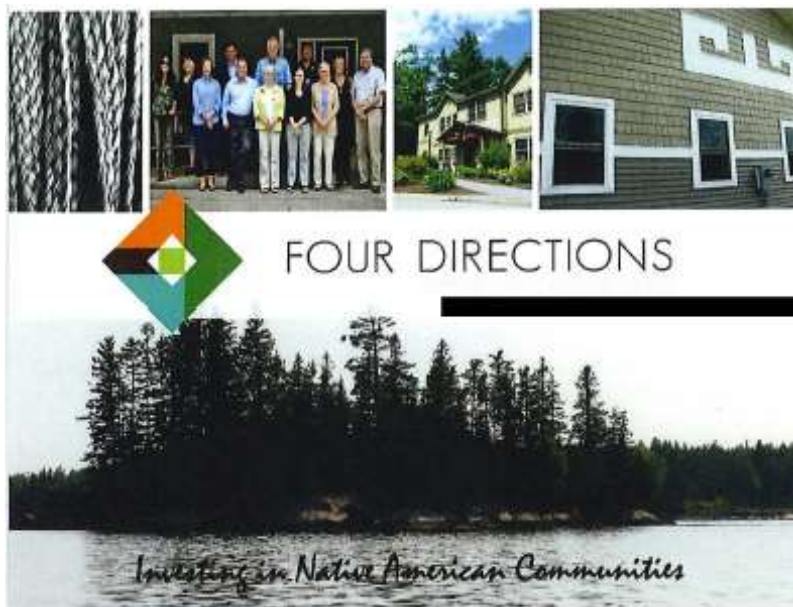
We are happy to welcome Carol McCoy, Rebecca Waddle and Rob Stuart who have become members since we discontinued in-person contact in March.

When our most recent members come to the Zoom coffee hour on Sundays following the service, please welcome them.

*Leigh Peranteau  
for the Membership Committee*

## CHARITY WITH SOUL FOR JULY

### Four Directions Development Corporation



Four Directions is a Native American nonprofit Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) based in Orono, ME. We provide the following loan products and services for Native Americans and direct descendants living in Maine:

- Home mortgage and improvement loans for on & off reservation properties
- Free tax preparation services for low-income, elderly, and disabled taxpayers
- Free financial counseling
- Artisan/small business support
- Tribal working capital loans for predevelopment work and operational funding gaps
- Construction Financing & participation lending for affordable housing development projects and community facilities.



CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

[www.fourdirectionsmaine.org](http://www.fourdirectionsmaine.org) — 207-866-6545 — 20 Godfrey Drive Orono ME 04473