



# Parish Messenger

## Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick

August, 2020

### Welcoming Reverend Justine Sullivan

Although Justine is on vacation and not yet employed by UUCB as of this writing, we have begun making some plans for when she joins us.

If it were not for the pandemic... How often have we used that phrase? If it were not for the pandemic, we would again be holding our annual Board Retreat at David Kew's lakeside cottage. Instead, we are working on the challenge of scheduling a virtual Board Retreat. The

*Continued on page 2  
Board News*



*Here are some of the participants in a recent Coffee Hour get-together on Zoom.  
See page 3 for more information on our virtual Coffee Hours.*

### Worship Services in August

*Sundays at 10:00 online on YouTube*

**August 2** Practicing Patience: Learning to "Stay" during Challenging Times with Lynn Deeves. Lynn is a singer/songwriter and will lead the service as well as provide the music.

**August 9** Continuous Gratitude with Tony Sulkoski. In this service Tony considers Continuous Gratitude for all our aspects of our lives. Life is so precious, let's not waste the time we have.

**August 16** Our new Interim Minister, Rev. Justine Sullivan, will be in our pulpit for the first time, details to follow.

**August 23** The service will be organized by Rev. Sullivan and the Worship Committee.

**August 30** Again the service will be organized by Rev. Sullivan and the Worship Committee.

#### 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

**Online Worship Services Every Sunday followed by the virtual Coffee Hour**  
go to [www.uubrunswick.org](http://www.uubrunswick.org) and select "Online Worship" or go directly to  
[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search "UUCB Brunswick Service"

## BOARD NEWS

*Continued from page 1*

Executive Committee will be meeting with Justine at the church on August 9. Several other committees have scheduled meetings as well.

We are all looking forward to Justine's first service on August 16th!

### The New Board of Trustees

Jonathan Allen stepped down from the Board at the end of June. We will miss his thoughtful contributions, and we are grateful for his two years of work with us. Fortunately, we have successfully recruited a very well-qualified person to complete the third year of Jon's term. I'm pleased to announce that Michael Cain will be joining us. Michael and I worked closely together on the Black Lives Matter initiative, and I know he will be a real asset to the 2020-2021 Board.

### Use of the Church Building

Based on a report we received from our security company, the Board is pleased with the way people have been cooperating with our request to avoid using the church building except for special circumstances. This is a great example of working together for the benefit of all. Thank you.



### Support for Employees

The Board has voted to continue compensating all employees as usual during the Covid-19 pandemic. Individual circumstances vary in terms of the amount of work that can be done under these conditions, but we believe that everyone needs support. We will revisit this arrangement from time to time, and of course we hope for a gradual return to "normal." Churches all around the world are in the same position we are, and various organizations have been providing specific guidance on the best ways to proceed safely. The following link will take you to a helpful document prepared by Vanco, the company that processes our online donations:

[Returning to Church Guide](#)

— Glenn Williams

### *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*

**"The last of the human freedoms: to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way."**

—Victor Frankl, Austrian neurologist and Holocaust survivor, author of *Man's Search for Meaning*

**"What lies behind us and what lies ahead of us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."**

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

## 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

Rev. Justine Sullivan, Interim Minister

Shirley Bernier, Office Administrator

The Church Office remains closed until further notice.

Shirley is reachable via email and will respond .

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

## CONGREGATIONAL HEART BEAT

We received the following joys, sorrows, and concerns at the Pastoral Care Associates' new email address: [uucbjaysandsorrows@gmail.com](mailto:uucbjaysandsorrows@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

No specific joys were sent for this month, but I am happy to see the many photos on Facebook of church friends out and about, hiking, camping, and swimming, making the most of our glorious Maine summer. (Julie Dahmer)

### Sorrows and Concerns

Barclay Palmer's son, Barclay II, says that, while his father's memory is failing and he cannot have visitors at Avita where he is living due to Covid-19, he welcomes letters and cards.

Paul and Leigh Peranteau's son-in-law, Jeffrey (Jeff) Meserve, died on July 8 from complications following by-pass surgery. He was married to Leigh's daughter, Julie.

Sandy Sondheim celebrated the 4th of July by climbing Streaked Mountain and then breaking his ankle on the way down. He is in a cast and welcomes phone calls to help him keep from going stir crazy until he can put weight on it in mid-August.

John Trumper's wife Nina passed away on July 9 of long term complications of Alzheimer's Dementia. A lovely obituary can be found on Brackett Funeral Home's web site. She will be missed.

### 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.)



### 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.

### Temporary Shousing Needed

My daughter, Julie, is in need of temporary housing. She accepted a teaching position in Harpswell expecting to sell their home in western Maine and move to the Mid-coast.

Unfortunately, my son-in-law's hospitalization and subsequent death halted Julie's housing search.

She is open to almost anything, apartment, small house or mobile home.

If you know of anything please contact me at 725-4874

or [leigh763@yahoo.com](mailto:leigh763@yahoo.com).

Thank you,  
Leigh Peranteau

**DEADLINE for the September PARISH MESSENGER -  
Saturday, August 22**

## WORKING FOR JUSTICE

### MUUSAN News

UUCB's Lynn Ellis has taken a volunteer leadership role with MUUSAN as the Health Care Issue Group Co-chair, joining long time chair Deborah Crump of the Norway UU Church.

Maine UU State Advocacy Network focuses legislative ministry on four primary issues:

- 1) Democracy in Action
- 2) Health Care for All
- 3) Climate Change
- 4) Racial, Native, and Immigrant Justice

Each of these target areas has an Issue Group of volunteers. Co-chairs lead each Issue Group to gather and mobilize Maine UUs who are especially interested in helping to create progress on the target issue. Areas of focus for Health Care include:

- Health care for all
- A Single-payer healthcare system
- Reproductive Choice
- Responsible Gun Safety Laws
- LGBTQ: Protecting healthcare access and preventing discrimination

### Immigrant Justice

The current turmoil that demands our attention to this country's long and violent legacy of racism impacts the asylum seeker community at every level. Families are frightened and confused as well as somewhat insulated in their COVID-19 isolation. Volunteers helping to support local families offer conversation about racism on a person to person level; there is a weekly discussion group (via Zoom) that discusses this and other issues of concern.

Families are being supported to transition their wardrobes to warm weather clothing; two children in Bath will attend 2 weekly sessions of Maine Maritime Museum day camp while most other anticipated group activities for children are cancelled. As is true for everyone, families wonder (and worry) about what form public school will take in the fall.

Bath asylum seeker families have been invited by a Bath resident to share his gardening space in a local private garden shared by several neighboring residents. Whatley Farm in Topsham has generously donated some vigorous vegetable seedlings, and the gardening has begun!

All families' I-589 forms have been filed with the immigration office with the help of volunteer lawyers. There is a call now for people with fundraising experience to join a newly forming fundraising committee to raise funds to pay for the upcoming legal fees as the legal effort shifts to a paid process. **If you or someone you know might be able to bring some experience and expertise to this fundraising effort, please let Cathey Cyrus know.**



Please stay alert to aggressive attempts to change immigration policies that would further limit asylum seekers' (and other refugees') chances to live in this country safely and build their lives in our communities. For ongoing updates go to the Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project (ILAP) website at [www.ilapmaine.org](http://www.ilapmaine.org).

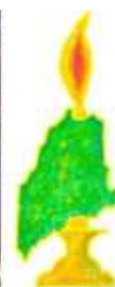


### Indigenous Awareness

As is true for all people of color, the protest and determination for an end to racism impacts indigenous communities all across Maine, the country and the world.

Locally the need for education about and support of LD 2094 (*An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementation Act*) continues. The bill addresses the lack of sovereignty for Maine's tribes and asks that they be given the rights allotted to all other tribes in the country. It is unknown when Maine's legislature will be able to give LD 2094 their full attention, but letters and calls to your legislators asking them to support the bill are needed in an ongoing way.

Midcoast Indigenous Awareness Group (MIAG) maintains a calendar of local and state-wide indigenous related events on their website at [miag-group.org](http://miag-group.org). As is true for all events at this time, these happenings are being offered via Zoom and other electronic means.





## CHARITY WITH SOUL

### Teen Center is Charity in August



Program Goal: "To provide a safe environment for young people to socialize, explore creative outlets, share their talents and gain exposure to diverse people and ideas, thus creating a well-rounded generation of youth in grades 6-12, regardless of race, religion, gender identification, social/income status or mental health diagnosis."

Last year we saw 3,257 youth visits to the Brunswick Area Teen Center and continued to have new members joining regularly. Our numbers stopped in March 2020, as did most everything, due to COVID-19, when we had to stop our inside program, keeping in touch with members on-line only.

Over 3,500 meals, 7,000 snacks and 10,000 drinks were served last year. The program and food are free of charge to area youth who need it most. The majority of our members are from low income households and have a "difference" (race, gender identification, learning disability, mental health diagnosis) or have less than ideal family/ living circumstances and very much appreciate (and need) having a safe place to be when they are not at school.

In June of this year, after (on-line) school ended and school meals were no longer being distributed to students, the Teen Center program began assembling bags of the kids favorite "after school" snacks, along with an evening meal option when possible. We masked up and distributed food bags outside to local youth to help keep them fed over the summer months. We've missed them! Like many, we are looking forward to being back together again this Fall as a group — safe, healthy and happy!

Grants, along with the support of the Town of Brunswick, United Way of Mid Coast Maine, other foundations as well as that of area churches and dedicated volunteers, continue to help us serve and feed a growing number of our area's youth. Thank you!



### Update from Maine AllCare

one of UUCB's Charities with Soul



With your support, despite Covid-19, Maine All-Care is active!

First, we anticipate a hearing at the August Brunswick Council meeting regarding a Resolution to put Brunswick on record as asking the State of Maine to provide Healthcare for every Maine resident. Second, we will announce (when i's dotted, and t's crossed) that all Mainers will be able to vote on whether the state should assure that all Maine residents have healthcare- free of deductibles and copay.

UUCB support through Charities with Soul helps make this possible.

*Thank you. Bill Clark (Greater Brunswick Area Chapter, Maine AllCare)*

### Teen Center Reaches Double Its Challenge Goal!

Several months ago, the Teen Center launched a goal of \$15,000 to mark its 15th anniversary. To date, it has raised \$30,600, doubling that goal!

Thank you to everyone who helped exceed that original challenge!

## UUCB COOKBOOK COMING SOON

### Get Ready for Some Great Recipes!

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all the people who contributed recipes for the SoUUps On Cookbook. 250 recipes have all been typed by Sue Michaud and Donna Tompkins and proofread several times by Donna, her neighbor, Debbie Zorach, and Sally Steel. Photos and illustrations were chosen to make the book truly our own. The book was ordered from Morris Press Cookbooks on July 11th and should be delivered in September.

Stay tuned to how YOU can get your copy. We will most likely be setting up drive-by pickup times so that you don't need to go into the church or even get out of your car!

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



*Here is a photo with Leigh Peranteau and Karen Reinhart preparing for last year's SoUUps On Luncheon. The Cookbook Committee looks forward to church members and friends using some of these recipes for church events.*

*Sue Michaud*

## CONCERTS FOR A CAUSE

### 2019-20 Concert Series Success

The concert committee is pleased to announce that their Concerts for a Cause series has raised \$1,457.21 for each of its 2019-2020 charities, Tedford Housing and the Oasis Free Clinics.

During the 2019-20 fiscal year, UUCB Concerts for a Cause had scheduled 8 concerts ranging from well-known singer-songwriters to jazz singers, to a bluegrass band, a country/pop band, and a blues/rock-playing cello player. Happily, the first four concerts were a great success and loved by all who attended. However, the last 4 concerts had to be canceled due to Covid-19. The Concerts for a Cause committee is disappointed that they were unable to raise more for their selected charities but know that every contribution given to these charities is needed and gratefully appreciated

*Receiving their monetary gifts from Concerts for a Cause Chair Susan Michaud (center) are the executive directors of Oasis Free Clinics and Tedford Housing, Anita Ruff (left), and Rota Knott (right).*



## 2020-21 CONCERT SERIES

The 2020-21 concert series has begun with two more cancellations due to the Corona Virus. Most likely we will need to cancel many more, maybe even all of them. But the Concert Committee has chosen the charities we will be supporting if we DO have any concerts.

**The Immigration Legal Advocacy Project (ILAP) and Midcoast Hunger Prevention Program (MCHPP)** will receive 2/3 of any monies raised.

These are the concerts that have been scheduled for the 2020-21 season.

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