



# Parish Messenger

## Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick

September  
2020

### A Message from Our Interim Minister

Dear Ones of UUCB,

*... I looked around that gate of late and weary ones and thought,  
This is the world I want to live in. The shared world.... Not everything is lost.*

*Naomi Shahib Nye*



*Rev. Justine Sullivan*

That quotation from Naomi Shahib Nye is from a poem of hers, “Wandering around an Albuquerque Airport Terminal,” a poem I love, as it reminds us that even in the midst of this fractured world, there is kindness. We are called, each of us, to notice and tell the story of those moments of kindness and beauty. In fact, if I were to try to name the most central task of my work as an interim minister it would be helping congregations find and tell their story in an authentic and compelling way.

I would be fibbing if I said that I am completely confident about how exactly we are going to do what we need to do this year, in this time of COVID. And yet I am confident that we will find a way to connect, to gather, to share, to continue the work that each of us is called to do. For me, as a process person, not knowing exactly how this is all going to work is part of the joy, the way working on a jigsaw puzzle or crossword or sudoku might bring some others joy. I like the figuring-stuff-out part of things, and it is in doing that together that we build and sustain community and commitment.

So I invite you in this time of liminal space in the life of this community of faith and in this time of great uncertainty in our country and in the larger world to join me in figuring this out together. You have already done so much – creating meaningful worship, finding ways to gather virtually and in some small instances (with masks and physical distance) to gather in person. We must continue to put safety first, and we will, but we also need to make sure that we leave no one behind. You all have a beautiful story to share and it is my job to help you offer it. How has the story changed? What elements have been forgotten that need to be brought forward? What new chapters are you writing, and how will those be curated and added to the existing volumes? This is an exciting time in the life of this congregation, and you have the advantage of having moved through change and uncertainty before; that experience will help you.

*Continued on page 2*

**UUCB**  
*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*

**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”

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

### Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick STAFF

Rev. Justine Sullivan,  
Interim Minister

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

*Continued from page 1*

I am grateful for the warm welcome you have extended to my spouse Dale, our dog Callie, and me. I am saying yes to some small, in-person gatherings, but much of my work with you will be online or on the phone. One of our first tasks will be to create some kind of timeline of the history of the church, but rather than using flipchart paper taped to the walls, I'm hoping we can record stories and create an audio-visual history. This will be something the search committee (once they are in place) can use in their work, but as with so many things, the process of creating this history will be as valuable as the end result. So please say yes when I or other church leaders invite you into one of these sessions. We need every voice in the chorus, every beautiful thread to create this tapestry of life at UUCB.

**A reminder that Sunday, September 13th is our ingathering service**, and we will create and experience a virtual water ceremony. The choir will sing, and we will cele-

brate the gifts of community, even in this hunkered-down time. Please take pictures or short videos of you near, on, or in water, and/or send a picture that captures what sustains you. If you could, please include a few words about what the image means to you. The words will be used in our presentation, as well. If you have any questions, please let me know. **Please get your photos and words to me by Sunday, Sept 6th** (sooner is even better!). If the kids would like to draw, color or paint their image, perhaps their parents could take a picture of their artwork and send that to me.

I hope to see many of you at one of my "Coffee with the Rev" sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 on Zoom. I am available by email or phone to schedule one-on-one time, which I treasure. I look forward to getting to know all of you.

*In faith and service,  
Justine*

Rev. Justine Sullivan  
Interim Minister, UUCB  
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### Religious Exploration Update

Hello Religious Exploration Program Friends and Families!

It's been a while since we've gotten to see each other. I hope you all had the best possible summers!

I'm happy to report that both Tammis and Carol will be resuming their roles as regular RE teachers. Katie is not able to come back to her full teaching role but does plan on being a part of RE as often as she can.

The RE Committee had our annual retreat and came up with some shared goals for

the RE Year. In addition to continuing we our Zoom RE Meetings, we are also planning to host connection opportunities for families to come together and connect out in Nature. Please check your email over the upcoming weeks for those details. If you are not yet receiving RE emails, please let me know by emailing [uubrunswick-dre@gmail.com](mailto:uubrunswick-dre@gmail.com) so I can add you to the list.

*In Faith,  
Toben*



## CONGREGATIONAL HEART BEAT

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

Adair Delamater is grateful for the calls and visit from UUCB members since her June 2 ankle fusion surgery. While the healing will be a slow process, she says it will be worth it if her ankle is eventually less painful than it was after her fracture in February 2019. Adair hopes to be driving by mid-October and looks forward to outdoor activities.

Gretchen and Dexter Kamilewicz have a new grandchild, number six. Noah Thomas Bunnell was born on Sunday, August 9th, to daughter Maria and husband Jesse. Big sister Ava is very happy to have a little brother.

Steve Wellcome, husband of our minister emerita, Sylvia Stocker, completed the first of three Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) surgeries for his Parkinson's Disease on August 21. Steve is happy to report that the

surgery went well and he does not expect any difficulties with the remaining two, which are scheduled for September 1 and 8.

At the end of August Val and Mike Heath accompanied their son, Ben, to Landmark College in Putney Vermont where Ben will pursue a Bachelor's degree. Landmark is a specialized school for students with learning differences; it's exciting to have finally found a promising option for academic success.

### Sorrows and Concerns

Please keep Kathy Jacques, Linda Mallard, and their families in your thoughts and prayers as they mourn the loss of Kathy's mother, Jessie Jacques, who passed away at age 91 on August 19. There will be an obituary on the website of the Staples Funeral Home of Gardiner, Maine.

deavor, please drop me an email: [hvneufeld@gmail.com](mailto:hvneufeld@gmail.com) and I'll add you to our communications.

The minimum tech requirements to participate: Two electronic devices (A smart phone and a laptop or PC is best. A tablet or another smart phone will do) and a pair of earbuds.

If you've been thinking of joining the choir, but didn't want to commit Thursday nights to the cause, this might be your chance!

*Heidi Neufeld*

### 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.

### Hello UU singers!

This pandemic has provided us all with the opportunity to be flexible and to adapt. Singing in person will probably be the last thing reinstated after COVID subsides. I can't wait that long to make music with my friends, so I learned the art of making virtual choirs. (Not a simple thing for a computer novice like me, so I'm very proud that I was able to cracked the code!)

Here is a link to one of our creations: [UUCB Choir Dropbox link](#).

If you think you'd like to join us in this en-



## BOARD UPDATE



### Our “Regular” Board Meeting

It is often difficult to get people together during the summer, and the only time the entire Board could meet for our annual August retreat was on the 28th and 29th. We decided that it was necessary to get going sooner than that, so we also met at our regularly scheduled time on the 19th. We devoted some time to introductions—ourselves to Justine and Justine to us—with the understanding that we would do more getting-to-know-you activities at the retreat. We spent most of the time working on two mysteries that required attention:

### Transitions Team

The Transitions Team is similar to a Committee on Ministry, but with a focus on the interim time. Justine needs a group that can help her think creatively about how to meet with people and how to make sure that all the voices that want to be heard are heard. Part of Justine’s work will include identifying sources of conflict or disagreement. She needs people who know the church well and who can help her learn the systems quickly, especially in this COVID world where she does not have the easy access to people she would normally have. By design, the Transitions Team does not include members of the Board of Trustees. Justine will begin forming the group shortly.

### Missing Hannaford Cards

Treasurer Cindy Parker reported to the Executive Committee on August 3rd that a substantial number of Hannaford cards were missing. Careful scrutiny of the records by Cindy, Paul Peranteau, and Shirley Bernier confirmed that the cards went missing sometime between March 15th and July 14th, and that the total loss was about \$1,600. The remaining cards are now secured in the office safe.

The individuals most closely associated with the Hannaford program were not able to provide information as to how this might have happened. The full Board had an extensive discussion of the problem and considered several options for moving forward. In the end we determined that conducting a thorough investigation would likely be more harmful to the congregation than letting it pass would be. We also considered whether or not we want to resume the program when the church reopens. Our cost/benefit analysis led us to decide that the program will be discontinued. While the cards have been a source of some income, we concluded that the volunteer and paid staff hours required to maintain the effort are not justified by the results. It’s most unfortunate that this breach of trust occurred. We deeply appreciate the work of all who have made

the program possible over the past several years, including those who have given their time and those who have bought the cards.

### Moved Boundary Marker

Most of you will recall the complicated process we went through when we learned that our neighbors to the South on Middle Street were selling their property. To make a very long story short, we learned that we owned the grassy area between the two buildings. A Boundary Agreement was signed by the two parties in February of 2019, and boundary markers were placed following a survey performed as part of the process.

In the spring of this year it was brought to our attention by the new neighbor that one of the markers had been moved several feet closer to their driveway. Neither the neighbor nor anyone from UUCB had any evidence suggesting who might have made the move. Although there have been many conversations on the subject, that remains the case. There is new information, however. In my recent discussion with the neighbors (Tom and Pat Heiss) I learned that they paid for a new survey on their own, partly to establish their southern boundary. The marker was thus moved back to where it should be. Problem solved—mystery not.

## BOARD UPDATE

### August Board Retreat

Since we could not gather together in person for an extended period of time, we decided to split the retreat into two separate sessions—first for a social gathering on Friday night, and then for three hours of work on Saturday morning. It turned out remarkably well. We had fun getting to know each other better and we accomplished a great deal.

Saturday morning began with a “temperature check,” where we each shared our current thoughts and feelings about our individual relationships to UUCB and to the Board. With this rich contextual background, we moved on to review our Board Covenant and then to goals for the future.

### Our Goal: To Bring People Together, One Way or Another

After discussing many specific ideas, we concluded that they all had to do with this one thing. We all feel a great longing to get together, and we all feel a need to do it safely. To that end, we are creating a Reopening Task Force whose charge is as follows: To recommend a strategy for determining when to reopen for services and other uses of the building, and to develop a plan for making reopening safe. Bill Clark will head up the task force, which will consist of representatives from several committees: Building and Grounds, Worship, Safety, Membership, Religious Exploration. Justine will be involved as well.

— Glenn Williams



#### OUR BOARD 2020-2021

*Michael Cain, Glenn Williams, Bill Clark, Penny Elwell,  
Justine Sullivan, Paul Peranteau, Cindy Parker, Shannon Gilmore  
Sienna Dode, David Kew*

**DEADLINE for the September PARISH MESSENGER -  
Wednesday, September 23  
NOTE THE ADJUSTED TIMING!**

# UUCB ART GALLERY

## Art Gallery Committee News

Our Art Gallery Committee had two Zoom meetings this summer but didn't have much work to do as the church is closed. We decided to highlight some artwork in the Parish Messenger. We'll be showing a few examples of our artists' work each month with a little statement by the artist. To start, we will showcase a few works by our members and friends. This month we have a few paintings by Ed McCartan. As with so many things these days, it is a work in progress!

"I try to explore natural forms and their place in the mystery of creation."  
*Ed McCartan*

*Joanne Allen*



*A Thin Place, acrylic, 36"x36" A Celtic notion of a locale that unites the sacred and the earthly.*



*Irises, acrylic, 34"x34", I love the grace of Irises.*



*Clown Alley, acrylic, 28"x42" A celebration of zany color.*



*In Just Spring, acrylic, 36"x36" Another expression of nature.*

# WORKING FOR JUSTICE

## Black Lives Matter

“Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man; 9 episodes (so far), hosted by Emmanuel Acho. The series introduction states:

This is a conversation that needs to happen. Racism is not a virus of the body; it is a virus of the mind, and unfortunately, it can be lethal.

But you cannot fix a problem that you do not know you have. And if “ignorance is bliss”, in this case, bliss has caused bondage and pain for others. But there is a fix. We can all access the life-saving medicine that will cure the world’s most ailing, long-lasting pandemic. But in order to access it, we’re going to have to have some uncomfortable conversations.

[uncomfortableconvos.com/](https://uncomfortableconvos.com/)

[uncomfortableconvos.com/episode/episode-1](https://uncomfortableconvos.com/episode/episode-1)



## Indigenous Awareness

Maine Wabanaki REACH continues to explore ways to offer education and presentations to Maine people who are interested to learn and deepen their understanding of indigenous issues – history, current and going forward. Stay informed by going to the Maine Wabanaki- REACH website.

[www.mainewabanakireach.org](http://www.mainewabanakireach.org)



Similarly, the Maine Indigenous Awareness Group (MIAG) has necessarily turned to computer technology to gather the MIAG steering group in Zoom meetings and to continue the ongoing book discussion group that met pre-Covid at Curtis Library. The MIAG website is regularly updated to keep a calendar of current events, regional and statewide – including webinars, meetings, retreats and legislative issues that invite community participation, input and support. The MIAG steering group is exploring how best to offer early October events to acknowledge and celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day.

## Teen Center Update

In March the Teen Center closed its doors because of the COVID19 virus but the staff wasn’t idle. After much brainstorming, the team reopened the Center in June for outdoor visits, or when weather made it necessary.

In June, the Teen Center celebrated its 15th birthday and with a matching donation challenge of \$15,000 presented by Jim Howard, a total of \$30,600 was raised.

In July, we launched a “lunch out Thursday” where restaurant owners provided free meals.

The inside opening of the Teen Center Room depends on

the schools’ plans. In preparation, the Center has covered the chairs and sofas in vinyl so they can be wiped down daily, bought food service gloves, sanitizer, masks, and forehead thermometers. All temperatures -- teens and staff alike -- will be taken; everyone will use hand sanitizer and of course masks -- which are provided if the teen doesn’t have one; and social distancing will be required.

Because things change daily, the team is constantly searching/brainstorming to keep the Center a place where the teens can meet safely. Stay tuned.



## WORKING FOR JUSTICE

### Immigrant Justice



**“What makes someone American isn’t just blood or birth, but allegiance to our founding principles and faith in the idea that anyone—from anywhere—can write the next chapter of our story.”**

***Barack Obama***

UUCB’s Asylum Seeker Group (ASG) has evolved into an interest group of the UUCB Working for Justice Steering Group (WFJSG) and is not currently having separate ASG meetings. Many of the people who initially expressed interest in reaching out to local asylum seeker families have found ways to engage with individual families as members of family support teams, as literacy tutors and/or on the general volunteer “call list” for transportation and other needed support tasks. Others of us have responded to calls for needed items of furniture, clothing, car seats, etc.

Mid Coast New Mainers Group (MCNMG) is in the process of becoming its own 501(c)3 nonprofit and with that process expanding and formalizing its organizational structure. With this more formalized structure, the group hopes to assure its long-term effectiveness and vitality. **If anyone in the congregation is interested in becoming more directly involved with the asylum seeker support efforts, please let Cathey Cyrus know.**

The Bath community garden project is now producing more produce than the two actively participating asylum seeker family “gardeners” can consume. The New Mainer gardeners, together with the garden host

are offering a weekly garden “open house” for all of the Bath asylum seeker families to come and pick their own produce. They have also gathered and are making available recipes that feature the produce of the week.

The asylum seeker families in Bath and Brunswick are understandably anxious about the opening of public school and the needs and safety of their families. In addition they wait anxiously for news of the status of their asylum seeker applications, knowing how many obstacles have been put in the way of their getting work permits and ultimately achieving asylum seeker status. A very few asylum seekers have successfully gotten work permits and found employment – moving gradually towards financial independence and the choices that independence will offer: re housing, car ownership/transportation, etc. The Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project (ILAP) website provides information about ongoing immigrant justice issues.

[www.ilapmaine.org](http://www.ilapmaine.org).

### Now or Never: UUtheVote Maine

Join zoom MUUSAN Meeting  
Saturday, September 12th  
10:00 - 11:30 am  
Click [here](#) to register

For more information from Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy network read the [MUUSAN Newsletter](#)



## WORKING FOR JUSTICE

### Oasis is the UUCB September Charity with Soul



Oasis Free Clinics provide free medical and dental care, as well as administers the region's Community Prescription Assistance Program (CPAP). We serve low income, uninsured residents of Freeport, Durham, Brunswick, Harpswell and the Islands, and Sagadahoc County. Located at 66 Baribeau Drive in Brunswick, our medical clinic provides comprehensive primary care five days a week by our small clinical team and volunteer medical providers who treat a wide range of acute and chronic issues.

Oasis is the only free dental clinic in southern Midcoast Maine. Currently, our dental clinic is open to Oasis medical patients, but we hope to open up to others in the future. Services include x-rays, fillings, extractions, oral cancer screenings, and cleanings.

The COVID-19 crisis has made delivery of these services challenging. We suspended in-person medical and dental visits on March 18th; however, our staff came to the clinic daily to answer calls, triage patient questions, and schedule telehealth appointments for medical volunteers. We had a limited number of volunteers com-

ing to the clinic to dispense medications, review lab results, and talk with patients. Also, a few providers had telephone visits from home, including our social worker who offered counseling over FaceTime.

On June 1st we welcomed patients back to the medical clinic for in-person visits. While our dental clinic temporarily remains closed, we plan to re-open on September 8th. We have procured a robust filtration system and have re-designed our dental suites to minimize aerosolized particles. We continue to connect patients to pharmaceutical free care programs through CPAP and help eligible patients apply for MaineCare.

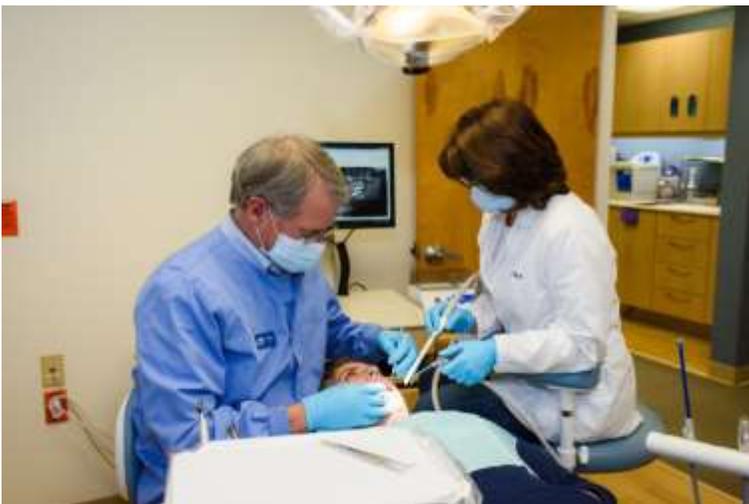
Oasis does not receive any federal or state funding. We rely on individuals, businesses, religious organizations, foundations and the United Way to support our work. In 2020, we are celebrating 25 years of providing thousands of people with free medical and dental care. For more information, visit [www.OasisFreeClinics.org](http://www.OasisFreeClinics.org) or call 721-9277.

### You Can Help

Our Charities with Soul are supported exclusively with contributions to the "plate" which is being passed (virtually) every Sunday. You can help support Oasis and each month's CWS by making an online donation at

[www.uubrunswick.org](http://www.uubrunswick.org) and click on "Donate Online". Enter your donation in the "Plate" option.

Half of the plate collection is given to the Charity with Soul and half supports other vital work of UUCB. Thank you for your generosity, regularly!



## UUCB COOKBOOK

### The UUCB Cookbook Has Arrived!

After months of collecting recipes from many parishioners, typing and proofreading them, and getting them printed at Morris Cookbooks Press, they are now ready for your cooking pleasure!

### How to Pick Up YOUR Copy

Our original plan was to sell these cookbooks after church services and at the Holiday Fair. Since the Coronavirus has prevented us from doing that, we have devised a plan for you to get your book with minimal hardship and contact.

#### Curbside Pickup - \$10

Starting September 2nd, Membership Committee members will have tables set up outside the church every Wednesday in September from 11am to 1pm. No need to even get out of your car. (Rain day: Thursdays)

#### Appointment - \$10

Cookbooks can be bought from Susan Michaud at her house at 14 Merrymeeting Rd, Brunswick. Just call ahead at 207-729-4857 to make sure she's home OR email her at [michaud\\_susan@comcast.net](mailto:michaud_susan@comcast.net) to make an appointment.

#### USPS Mail - \$13.50

Send a check to Donna Tompkins at 8 Hovey Lane, Brunswick, ME 04011, and she will mail a cookbook to you or to the person of your choice. You can contact her at 207-798-4638 or [donnatompkins@comcast.net](mailto:donnatompkins@comcast.net).

We take only cash or checks (made out to UUCB). During these COVID times, please come with exact change so that there will be less handling of money. Thanks!

**A keepsake you will enjoy for years to come!**

#### 250 Delicious Recipes!

- 29 Soups/chilis
- 13 Salads
- 33 Breads (including rolls, Biscuits, muffins, and scones)
- 11 Breakfast/Brunch recipes
- 55 Entrees (including meat, seafood, vegetarian, and pasta dishes)
- 15 Side dishes (including sauces)
- 24 Appetizers (beverages, hors d'oeuvres, dips and spreads)
- 34 Cookies or bars
- 14 Pies
- 22 Cakes and other desserts



## HOW TO REACH US

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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