



Parish Messenger

Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick

November, 2020

Interim Minister' Message



At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.

~Albert Schweitzer

Dear Ones of UUCB,

How wonderful to be back in New England for fall: the colorful leaves, the crisp fall mornings, the smell of wood smoke in the air – all the senses engaged. The other day a few UU colleagues and I gathered around a backyard firepit and shared stories and even though we had to repeat ourselves occasionally because of the way our masks garbled our speech a bit, it felt so good to be together in person. We have been finding ways to gather, you and I – mostly online and sometimes in person, and I am finding, as I hope you are finding that we are getting to know each other. I know that watching worship on our computer screens is not something we could have imagined doing one year ago, and yet we are making the best of it, which I so appreciate. I am especially grateful to Jud Caswell (and all the Caswells) and our choir director Heidi Neufeld and accompanist Derek Herzer for the wonderful choir pieces we have been able to enjoy. A big shout out to all the choir members who record themselves singing

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*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*

Sunday Services in October at 10:00 on YouTube.com search "UUCB-av"

Nov. 1 — All Souls' Day Rev. Justine Sullivan

Nov. 8 – Veterans Day Rev. Justine Sullivan

Nov. 15 — "Acknowledge fear, follow love" Rev. Gail Stratton

Nov. 22 — Thanksgiving Rev. Justine Sullivan

Nov. 29 — Shared Service with Chelmsford MA Rev. Justine is leading a Zoom service for a church in Chelmsford, Mass, and we will be sharing the link with them .

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Rev. Justine Sullivan,
Interim Minister

Online Worship Services Every Sunday followed by the virtual Coffee Hour
go to www.uubrunswick.org and select "Online Worship", go directly to
[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search "UUCB-av",
or follow the link in your "This Week" email

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

**Copy deadline for the
December PARISH
MESSENGER -
Saturday, Nov.21**



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solo and then send their tender tracks off to Heidi to be combined to make the choir come alive – such commitment and perseverance as we all learn to do this a bit better each week. There are many people behind the scenes, as well – our board of trustees, all our committee members, our amazing staff – it takes many hands, hearts, and minds working together to keep UUCB open, even though our building is currently closed.

I'm pleased to announce that I have assembled a "Transition Team." These are the folks who serve as advisors to the interim minister, helping me to understand the systems of UUCB. The team will also help me bring folks together to have the important conversations we need to have to help UUCB move forward toward calling your next settled minister. A big thank you to Mary Larson, Tom Rumpf, Mike Heath, Jud Caswell, and Carol Evans for saying yes to this important work.

In the coming weeks and months, we will continue to find ways to stay connected

Religious Exploration — Taking it Outside!

While the RE Program remains primarily remote, we have used the mild weather of September and October to get outside and explore together. In the beginning of October, we meditated and did leaf rubbings at the Brunswick Mall downtown and later in the month we had the opportunity to meet outside Krueger Park on the Bernier Family's property in Topsham for a social distancing pumpkin painting event. The kids all did a great job creating fun and colorful pumpkins! Many thanks to the Berniers for being so warm and welcoming (literally- they built us a fire!)

even though most of our interactions will be online. Jim Spicer and I would very much like to restart the chalice circle program. Chalice circles are small groups that commit to meet together regularly to engage in deep listening and sharing around spiritual topics. The topics are intended to help people know and understand one another and to encourage spiritual deepening by grappling together with life's mysteries and difficult questions. The board is in the process of developing a policy around building use during this Covid time, and more information about that will be forthcoming. In the meantime, it is my expectation that the chalice circles will gather online for the time being. If you are interested in learning more about chalice circles, please contact Jim Spicer spicej@yahoo.com or me. Something happens when we gather.

*In faith and service,
Justine*

Reverend Justine Sullivan
Interim Minister, UUCB

*In Faith,
Toben*



CONGREGATIONAL HEART BEAT

Pastoral Care

Even when we can't be together physically, we still care for one another. If you have a joy or a sorrow to share with the congregation, you can reach out directly to me RevJustineSullivan@Gmail.com or to the pastoral care team at uucbjoyandsorrows@gmail.com, or you can reach out directly to any member of the pastoral care team:

Pastoral Care Associates

Irene Austin	751-7091	ireneannaustin@gmail.com
Julie Dahmer	865-9688	jcдахmer@gmail.com
Jane Danielson	865-7094	Janedanielson90@gmail
Mary Larson	406-4266	marniel@windstream.net
Gus Manomaitis	389-204-6284	agmanomaitis@hotmail.com
Susan Snow	406-2196	mollysue719@gmail.com
Susan Thorner	373-1766	susancthorner@gmail.com
Betty Wurtz	406-4960	bettywurtz@gmail.com

Joys, Sorrows and Concerns

Recently, we received the following joys, sorrows, and concerns at the Pastoral Care Associates' email address: uucbjoyandsorrows@gmail.com.

Steve Wellcome has had some disappointing developments in his treatment and is having surgery to remove the device that was providing some small improvements for him but which was also a source of infection. This is discouraging, but Steve is resilient and is well supported by Sylvia and their son and of course, by all of you. Please keep Steve in your thoughts, and I will continue to keep you posted on his progress post surgery. — *Jusine*

Leigh Peranteau writes:

I am so grateful for the many caring messages I received for my daughter, Julie, as she faced life following the

death of her husband and her urgent need to find temporary housing.

There were so many suggestions and leads to possible short term housing options. What a generous and understanding bunch you are. One of our members provided a spare room in her home. That is love in action. Thank you very much.

It is a joy for me to announce that Julie has purchased a home in Brunswick and expects to move in a few weeks. She is confidently moving into a new chapter in her life.

Sharing Joys and Sorrows

Join us online! Worship at 10 on YouTube and Coffee Hour, immediately following on Zoom.

At Coffee Hour there is an opportunity for us to share briefly in word our joys and sorrows.

This is the one time in the week when we are all together in real time, so join us on Zoom. Each week there is a brief general discussion time, followed by smaller groups where a topic, related to the morning's worship service is discussed.



Did you know that UUCB Working for Justice Steering Group has an issue group that looks at Gun Violence Awareness and Prevention? Members of that issue group are also members of Moms Demand Action – Maine. Join a local chapter of Moms Demand Action by texting JOIN to 644-33 or visiting www.everytown.org or contact Lynn Ellis at lynnellis62@gmail.com for more information. Our next statewide chapter meeting is Sunday, November 15 at 6pm. We are also planning our annual Sandy Hook Vigil that will take place on Monday, December 15 at 5pm. (an outside, socially distanced event this year.)



Steve & Sue Loeb at the all-church picnic, see p. 5

BOARD UPDATE



Board Chair, Glenn Williams

Internet Upgrade

Although we have been very successful in producing recorded virtual services (big thanks to Jud), our long-term plan includes establishing the ability to stream services and events live from the church. We had preliminary discussions about this prior to the pandemic, and since it will be a long time before we can all gather in church, we hope to add streaming as an option while we continue to stay safely distanced. Eventually, we expect to have live streaming available as part of our normal Sunday routine—even when the pandemic is history. In order to make that possible we have upgraded our internet



The new fiber line has dramatically improved upload and download speeds, averaging around 50 MB/s.

service to replace the current digital subscriber line (DSL) with fiber optic. Mike Heath and I had the pleasure of watching the GWI technician installing the tiny fiber that will do a big job.

Reopening Task Force/ COVID Response Team

As I write this, reports from around the world and even in Maine are indicating that Covid-19 is again surging. This is making planning for reopening more difficult. Many of us are extremely nervous about any in-person gatherings being offered at UUCB. At our October Board meeting we agreed that approval of the full Board of Trustees will be required for implementation of strategies recommended by the task force. At their most recent meeting,

the task force determined that they would like to be renamed. They plan to suggest small steps well short of reopening, and see COVID Response Team as a more appropriate description of their work. The proposal for an official name change will be taken up at the next Board meeting.

Transitions Team

The Transitions Team has been formed and will begin meeting soon. The team will work with Justine to explore UUCB culture and circumstances, and develop strategies for engaging church leadership and the congregation in transition tasks. It is both a planning group and progress monitor. The members are Mary Larson, Tom Rumph, Mike Heath, Jud Caswell, and Carol Evans.

Northern New England District

After a process of planning over a period of several years and then delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Northern New England District of the UUA was officially dissolved at a lengthy Zoom meeting on September 26. Although there were a few vocal opponents of the plan to dissolve, a large majority were in favor. Our Maine Unitarian Universalist Social Action Network (MUUSAN) will receive a hefty financial boost as a result of the dissolution.

— *Glenn Williams*
Board Chair



Poppy, the Berniers' puppy, takes a break at the picnic



Cindy Parker, our Treasurer

Treasurer's Notes

As we complete the first quarter of a most unusual church year, I want to send out a heartfelt thanks to this very generous congregation. Despite our inability to meet in person, the church is in strong financial

condition. Payments on pledges are ahead of this time last year, and expenditures are down, resulting in a reassuring balance of revenues over expenses. Yes, we are spending more than expected in some

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UUCB NEWS AND NOTES

UUCB In-Person Picnic

On a beautiful fall day recently, thirty-six people donned masks and came to the church picnic at Stephanie and Ren's field (Krueger Park) in Topsham. The Membership Committee organized the event.

We were socially distanced and brought our own food. We all wore name tags and Steve Loeb's made sure that everything at the check-in table was properly sanitized.

We even had two new visitors join us, Lisa Constantino and Elaine Weaver who live in Richmond. The Berniers' new puppy was the star guest.

It was wonderful to see each other and we hope that we can get together again sometime. Thank you to the Berniers for providing the perfect setting!

— Betsy Roper



The Berniers' Krueger Park

Krueger Park is a private picnic/gathering area established in 1955 by Roland J. Bernier. It originally served as a weekend gathering venue for patrons of Roland & Andy's restaurant with picnic tables, a brick barbecue, and playing fields. In 1960 the restaurant closed and the park was made available to the local Pejepscot, Maine, Boy Scout troop (Troop 40).

It served as a Boy Scout camp and hosted the Abnaki District annual Round Table meeting each summer with the local troop organizing and making bean-hole beans for the event until the early 1970's. From about 1983 to 1990 the Bernier family hosted annual gatherings for family and friends at the park featuring bean-hole beans. In the mid 1990s the park was used as a venue for summer nature camps run by Pejepscot Day School. With the arrival of the new century, the park lay quiet for some years and fell into disrepair until fall of 2019. After clean-up and renovations Krueger Park is again open and hosting private events.

Treasurer's Notes: continued from page 4

areas to allow us to have excellent virtual services, but we are also spending less in other program areas that have to wait until the other side of the pandemic. And while our lack of rental income and fund-raising events will certainly be felt as the year goes on, we have an operating reserve we can fall back on if needed.

One revenue area that deserves your notice is the "plate," split 50-50 between the monthly Charity with Soul and UUCB. These donations are running about 50% behind totals at this time last year—very understandable when no physical offering basket is handed out each Sunday. Our Charities with Soul span a broad range of organizations, all of which depend in part on our help and many of which are struggling

more than ever to help the most vulnerable in our community. There are several easy ways to help: you can donate online at the UUCB website (go to uubrunswick.org), either one time or as a repeating gift that keeps giving even if you forget. Or, you can mail a check marked "plate" to the church office. Either way, the community will be grateful.

If you made a pledge or plate donation via check or online, you should have received a First Quarter confirmation of amounts paid from July 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020. Please let the church office know if there are errors or you haven't received it.

*With gratitude,
Cindy Parker, UUCB Treasurer*

NOVEMBER CHARITY WITH SOUL

Giving to the Charity with Soul

Our Charities with Soul are supported exclusively with contributions to the “plate” which is being passed (virtually) every Sunday. You can make an online donation at www.uubrunswick.org and click on “Donate Online”. Enter your donation in the “Plate” option. Cindy Parker describes this more fully in her article on page 4-5.

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

“Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared.”

— *Buddha*

Supporting the UUSC

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is a nonprofit, nonsectarian organization advancing human rights together with an international community of grassroots partners and advocates.

They focus work on intersecting roots of injustice to defend rights at risk due to criminalization and systemic oppression of people based on their identity. UUSC supports self-determination and defends the rights of people displaced due to climate, conflict or economic hardships; they respond to humanitarian crises as partners with people whose access to aid is most limited.

Striving to center the voices of people most affected by injustice, UUSC creates eye-to-eye relationships with frontline grassroots movements across the world that support marginalized communities in determining their steps for the future.

Mission Statement: UUSC advances human rights and social justice around the world, partnering with those who confront unjust power structures and mobilizing to challenge oppressive policies. Our work is grounded in the belief that all people have inherent power and dignity.



Teen Center Update

The Teen Center opened on September 28, and the first two weeks at the Center went very well. The teens have become used to wearing masks and distancing from their days in school and are very cooperative doing the same at the Center. As of this report the number of teens inside the Center at one time is limited to 10, and so far this hasn't been an issue.

Fewer teens have attended because there are no buses from the Jr. High so walking, riding their bikes and getting a ride from someone are their only options. The Center hasn't provided meals yet, which the teens definitely miss, but the staff are looking into how they can safely do so. In the meantime snacks and drinks are provided and are always needed.

Donations help fund snacks, meals etc. but



also support the teens mentally and emotionally in these unsettling times. So far the Back to School letter has brought in \$11,465 for which Center Director Jordan and the teens are grateful. Eight months remain in the Center's fiscal year, which leaves plenty of time to reach the ideal amount of \$50,000 -- wouldn't that be something!

What to do for the holidays is still being explored but theater tickets as gifts are not an option this year. Stay tuned for further updates.

WORKING FOR JUSTICE

Immigrant Justice

Would you like to tutor an asylum seeker adult or child? Contact Midcoast Literacy at admin@midcoastlit.org



Understanding and speaking English is a crucial goal of asylum seekers on their paths towards living independent lives in Maine and beyond. For children, understanding English is critical to their school experience. Urgency to speak and understand is heightened with the COVID challenge that further distances families from opportunities to experience English conversation. Midcoast Literacy, located in Bath, has assumed a major role in training and assigning tutors to the new Mainers now living in Brunswick and Bath. Tutors and students are successfully adapting their lessons to use the necessary technology and social distancing that will keep everyone safe and healthy. Meaningful student/tutor relationships are developing and students are learning! Technology and carefully organized use of space and masks are making these lessons workable and safe.

If you are interested to learn more about how you could help the asylum seeker families find their way in Brunswick and Bath, please contact Cathey Cyrus at wdclark@gwi.net. For information about tutoring, email admin@midcoastlit.org.

Habitat for Humanity ReStore Needs Volunteers

The Good News! Despite the pandemic, the UUCB was able to raise just over \$8,000 for the Habitat for Humanity "Virtual" *Walk to Build* this past spring! This grand total was the result of generous, dedicated "walkers" and their generous sponsors! Than you to all who participated!

The Less Than Good News! The Habitat for Humanity ReStore needs volunteers. As a result of the ongoing pandemic, the number of volunteers has declined and the store is only able to stay open from 9 to 3 Tuesday thru Saturday instead of the hours of 9 to 5 that were maintained earlier. Before the pandemic, this late afternoon time slot tended to be very busy. As a result, Habitat is losing out on a number of sales which would greatly benefit their programs.

Especially needed are front-of-the-house cashiers and people to circulate in the store to help customers. Also needed are volunteers to work the receiving and repairing area in back of the house. These volunteers can choose from a variety of tasks including, but not limited to: taking in donations, cleaning furniture and appliances, testing appliances, moving material to the showroom, and organizing.

All Maine CDC guidelines are followed at the Restore and volunteers, staff and customers are all required to wear face coverings.

If you have even a few hours a week available and would like to represent the UUCB at the Restore, please call Katie Luce, volunteer coordinator, at 207-504-9335 or email her at Katie@habitat7rivers.org.

The Restore needs YOU!!!!
Many thanks.

— Gretchen Kamilewicz and
Cuffy Chase



Indigenous Awareness

Midcoast Indigenous Awareness Group (MIAG) presented the October 11 UUCB worship service in recognition of Indigenous Peoples Day. The service brought Native readings, music, stories and prayers of gratitude to those attending. The December Parish Messenger will have information about a developing project to assure needed weekly food deliveries to local Wabanaki families. For information about local and wider community Indigenous events and issues, go to the MIAG website www.miag-group.org

The ReStore Needs You!



THE UUCB ART GALLERY

November's Featured Artist: Carol Evans

Carol Evans is an active church member as well as a talented and prolific painter. She says:

"My interest is primarily in using light, color and contrast to capture the natural beauty of something which appeals to me. My subjects vary widely, and include farm scenes, animals, landscapes, florals, boats, people and still life arrangements. During periods of painting, I perceive things much more keenly: shapes and silhouettes, light and shadows are heightened. This is the best reason to draw and paint, so that we might truly see. While painting, I am often completely absorbed, humming, and unaware of everything -- in the "zone" so to speak.

You can reach Carol at : carolevans26@comcast.net

The UUCB Cookbook Update

So far, we have sold 120 cookbooks, covered the costs of printing, and have raised a net \$300. We still have 105 books left to sell. If we sell all the books, we will raise \$1,300 to support the church. If you have not bought your copy yet, or if you would like to purchase some as Christmas presents, now's the time!

Curbside Pickup - \$10 Saturdays, Nov. 7, Nov. 14, Nov. 21 11:00 am to 1:00pm at the church.

By Appointment - \$10 at Sue's house 14 Merrymeeting Rd, Brunswick — Call Susan Michaud at 207-729-4857 or email her 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 (s) of your choice. You can contact her at 207-798-4638 or donnatompkins@comcast.net.

Cash or Check Only — 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!

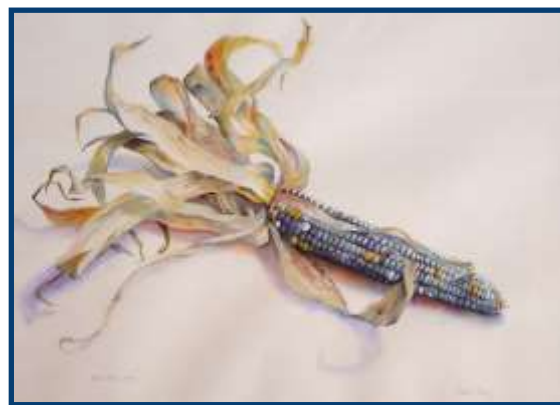
Cookbooks as Christmas Gifts

If you would like to give a thoughtful gift to someone for the Holidays, we are offering free gift wrapping. Books wrapped in seasonal wrapping paper will be available upon request.

FREE Wrapping!



The Red Sunglasses



Bad Hair Day



Bayside Dinghies

ATTENTION:

We need to alert you to an error on page 70. In the **Winter Pesto recipe**, we mistakenly omitted 2 important ingredients:

1/3 cup basil
2 garlic cloves.

Make sure you add these into the recipe. Thanks