



Parish Messenger

Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick

January, 2021

Our Minister's Message



*I will sing a new song.
I must learn the new song for the new needs.
I must fashion new words born of all the new growth
of my life-- of my mind-- of my spirit.
I must prepare for new melodies that have
never been mine before[.]*

~ Howard Thurman

Dear Ones of UUCB,

There really is no way to sum up the year that has just passed, 2020. In early January I imagine that many of us thought that the impeachment of the President would be the story of the year, and yet that is only a faint glimmer now as we turn our gaze forward. Forward to a new administration with greater racial and ethnic diversity than has ever been seen before, forward to the delivery of Covid vaccines for everyone, forward to a time when we can be together in body as well as in mind and spirit. Oh what rejoicing there will be! Until then, hang on. Keep wearing your masks and keeping your distance. It won't be much longer now.

There are things for us to look forward to in our corner of the world, as well.

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*

The Unitarian Universalist
Church of Brunswick
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(207) 729-8515

UUBruns@gwi.net

Rev. Justine Sullivan,
Interim Minister

Services in January

Sundays at 10:00 on YouTube.com

Jan. 3 — Setting our Intentions for the New Year Rev. Justine Sullivan

Jan. 10 — Coming of Age Service led jointly with First Parish, Portland

Jan. 17 — Martin Luther King Day Service led by Marta Pearson

Jan. 24 — Where the Light Enters You Rev. Justine Sullivan

Jan. 31 — Checking in: How is it going? Rev. Justine Sullivan

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

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 1

Here at UUCB, we will meet for a congregational meeting after worship on Sunday, January 31st. This will be a chance for a general check-in and to hear from your leaders about the state of things financially and to learn about the next steps in moving forward in your search for your next settled minister. It will be good to be together.

Early in this new year, the Transition Team (Mary Larson, Tom Rumpf, Jud Caswell, Carol Evans, and Mike Heath) and I will lead us all in conversations about UUCB's past and future - who you have been and who you intend to be. Early in the spring you will work with the board to select and install your ministerial search committee. The search committee will be the ones to seek out the best ministerial candidates and to select one final candidate for you to consider, but the work of "search" is an opportunity to connect and encourage and engage the entire congregation.

As I write this, I am still basking in the glow of our two wonderful Christmas Eve services. I am so grateful to all who contributed to the simple (but not easy!) beauty of both services – your singing and playing, your selfies by candle-light, the babies, the Youth Group's telling of the Grinch with illustrations by our many talented young

artists, the UUCB choir and the intergenerational orchestra, all lovingly stitched together by Jud's capable hands (and ears). So many blessings. It was a delight for me to share this holiday with all of you. I will be working from my home in Massachusetts for the next few weeks. Dale and I are hunkering down, but I will still be with you for our usual online gatherings and meetings. Callie is happy to have her whole pack in one place, and it feels good to me, too. Rest assured; should my physical presence be required in Brunswick, I can be back in under three hours!

In this new year, the second half of our first church-year together, let us continue looking forward – imagining how your particular way of being in the world is just what many of our fellow humans are longing for. What are the "new words" and "new melodies" that we might learn together to embrace the new year, to engage in the work that lies ahead of us in these tumultuous times in our nation, and to prepare for the new ministries you will welcome into the life of this beautiful community of faith? I can't wait to see what comes next! Wishing you all a new year of peace, health, and happiness.

Blessings,

Justine

Rev. Justine Sullivan, Interim Minister, UUCB

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 uucbjaysandsorrows@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	(Summer/When in Maine)
Julie Dahmer	865-9688	jcdahmer@gmail.com	Grace Lewis-McLaren 760-822-4450
Jane Danielson	865-7094	Janedanielson90@gmail.com	6mainer6@gmail.com
Sally Horne	443-1327	sally.xwindfarm@gmail.com	
Sue Loeb	720-0009	sueloeb40@gmail.com	
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	

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

From Our Director of Religious Exploration

Shared Ministry brings with it a great many opportunities but it's not always easy, after doing things autonomously for years, to switch over to a more collaborative role. It's awfully easy to get attached to the way we do things as "the way" to do things. So, when I first started looking for ways to connect the work I do at First Parish UU Portland and with the work I do here at UUCB, I was prepared for some resistance and hesitation. So when I recently began discussing with the RE Committee ways to combine programming with First Parish, and was met with an enthusiasm and willingness to try new things, I was delighted. I really can't say that I was surprised. My experience at UUCB so far has shown me that this congregation is made up of resilient and adaptable people.

That resilience and adaptability are truly gifts to the work that I do. These are gifts that have allowed the Religious Exploration Program to find new ways to thrive in difficult times. During a time when many of my colleagues are feeling stymied and overwhelmed, I am feeling inspired and excited. We've only just begun to combine our Reli-

gious Exploration classes with First Parish Portland and already this shared ministry experiment has brought a new and special energy to our Sunday Zoom calls. I'm grateful for the recent opportunity to work with other local DREs to create a special Time for all Ages story for our shared Christmas Eve Service. I'm grateful for the opportunity to create a shared Coming of Age service that lifts up youth from both First Parish Portland and UUCB. I'm very much looking forward to combining our Youth Group with First Parish Portland in January.

The sharing of resources and ideas opens up so many different opportunities that we wouldn't otherwise have. COVID-19 has made for a difficult time in so many different ways but we UUs are a resilient and adaptable people; you all show me that on a regular basis. You give me faith. And for that I thank you.

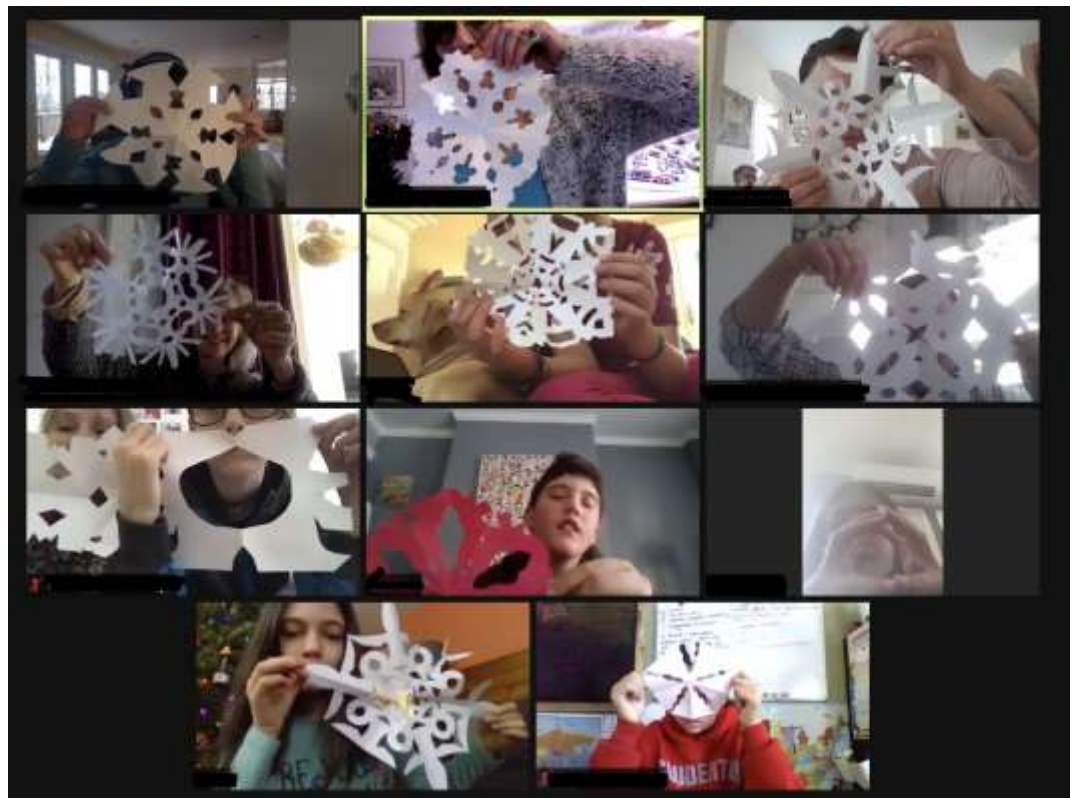
*Toben Cooney-Callnan, DRE
He, Him, His*

Office Hours — Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am-5pm

Join In the Virtual Coffee Hour!

Join us online! Sunday worship is at 10 on YouTube and Coffee Hour, follows immediately on Zoom.

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



Everyone knows that each snowflake is unique, including these wonderful UUCB RE Zoom flakes!

BOARD UPDATE



Dave Kew, Vice Chair

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

We think about how much we miss seeing each other in person. While we dream of the day that we'll be able to open the building up and

see each other again, for the time being we trust that our COVID Response Team will guide us as to how we can safely interact in the meantime.

If too much aloneness is weighing on you, please join us at virtual coffee hour after the Sunday service, attend Coffee with the Rev on Thursdays at 11, or reach out to Rev. Sullivan personally. More information on all of this is in the This Week at UUCB email that comes out each week.)

We think about the church's finances.

Expenses are different during this pandemic than they have been in previous years. High speed internet, hand sanitizer, and professional online services have suddenly become very important while many other expenses have decreased. Pledge payments are strong, yet plate giving is down. Overall, due to you, we are in a strong financial position. For more information see the box below.

The Board of Trustees has a lot on our minds and request that you reserve the afternoon of **January 31st** for an online all church meeting.

We also think about the process for selecting our next settled minister. We've been reading articles, watching videos, and having discussions about how a

search committee is formed, what the timeline for the process looks like, and how best to start the search process during a pandemic.

At the all church meeting on January 31st we'll have updates from the COVID Response Team, from the Finance Committee, and the ministerial search process. You'll hear from us with details about the meeting soon.

It is great to see that we continue to make connections and do important work. When our church family joined with the Yarmouth and Augusta churches for a live service on Christmas eve, it was wonderful to see new and old friends, to hear the new varieties of music, and to listen to the voices of so many.

We are truly blessed to be in an area of the country that has such a strong UU presence.

Dave Kew

Vice Chair, UUCB Board of Trustees

Did you know you can use your phone to text a "plate" donation to be shared between our Charities with Soul and UUCB?

Text 855-962-0440 with the amount of your donation and follow the instructions.

It's that easy!

For more information on new ways to give, go to [Online Giving](#) or [Text-to-Give](#) from the UUCB home page. **Thanks for your generosity.**

UUCB NEWS AND NOTES

Mitten Tree Success

Great thanks to all of you who contributed approximately 200 mittens, gloves, scarves, hats, socks and masks for this year's Mitten Tree.

Beautiful, warm, soft items – many hand knit - for people of all ages were donated to Oasis Free Clinic, The Teen Center, The Gathering Place and the Midcoast Clothing Bank (Union Street behind Hannaford). You all helped Brunswick area people warmer this winter.

The Worship Committee is most grateful for the turnout!

— Mary Larson



MEMCOM Connections

The UUCB Membership Committee (MEMCOM) met via Zoom on December 15. It was great to “see” everyone to catch up and re-connect. We all agreed that it is very important for UUCB members to stay connected. While Zoom is one way to do that on Sunday mornings and during the week with Rev. Justine at her coffee hour Zooms, sometimes people appreciate a more personal connection.

One idea would be to reach out to singles in our congregation, people who are living alone. A phone call to just check in would be a welcome connection. Another suggestion would be to have members set up “neighborhood” Zoom groups to meet periodically. Organizing these calls or groups would be up to individuals to set up.

Perhaps you are feeling the need to connect with others or you are interested in facilitating connections. Consider reaching out to someone you don't know or have not met yet. Using the church directory may be a useful tool.

Church Directory Updates

The message below came to me recently from Lifetouch. You may recall that in May of 2019 we had the opportunity to have our photos taken and a church directory was created. We had a lovely directory booklet and a mobile directory which provided photos, contact information and even maps and driving directions for each member. This mobile directory can be revised to reflect changes and corrections, but since the company is going out of business, the time for online changes is limited.

Over the next few weeks I will be making revisions to the directory and updating it with new members. When that is completed, I will have Shirley send out the Lifetouch link and passcode to you so that you can access the mobile directory and eventually create your permanent PDF copy as described below.

Betsy Roper



From Lifetouch:

“The Lifetouch Church Photography business has permanently stopped operations. As a valued mobile directory customer, we understand the importance of this tool to your community, especially during this unprecedented time. To provide you time to transition, our mobile directory offering will be available to you through June 30th, 2021.

If you would like to download the information in your mobile directory, create a PDF by visiting the Family view section of the mobile directory and click the Download icon in the upper right-hand corner.

We are incredibly grateful to have photographed your families, and we hope this extended timeframe will ease your transition.

If you have any questions, please reach out to LCDDesign@lifetouch.com by January 31, 2021.”

Thank you, Lifetouch

JANUARY 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. Donations by text are now possible, see the links on page 4.

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

Thank you!

The Gathering Place is open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:30am-3:00pm. We are located at 5 Tenney Way (off Union Street near Hannaford).

Want to help? Come volunteer! Stop by or give us a call to find out more at 729-0288 or visit our website at brunswickgathering-place.org.

The Gathering Place

The mission of The Gathering Place (TGP) is to provide a safe, welcoming, and comfortable space for the homeless, poor, and isolated to gather in downtown Brunswick where we offer our guests respect, encouragement, companionship, support, and hope. The Gathering Place exists so that individuals in need will have a welcoming, safe, and supportive environment in which to spend their day-time hours. As we look at the landscape left by the COVID 19 pandemic, our guests have no place to go during the day except for The Gathering Place. Their safety nets are shrinking so rapidly.

Prior to our closure in March as mandated by the state, TGP had an average daily attendance of 80-90 individuals. Many individuals found shelter at local campgrounds as the mild weather this summer and fall made this housing option viable. Now the weather is colder and our guests are scared. They are again unsheltered and forced isolation has impacted their mental and physical health. The first step is meeting our guests at their points of need with emergency services that can take them to the next step.

Keeping our guests and volunteers safe is our highest priority. We have adopted the physical distancing recommendations of the CDC and removed group seating. TGP is upgrading its air purification system to keep our guests and volunteers safe and illness free. The new space configuration is significantly different but we will work hard to ensure the warmth and comfort our guests and volunteers have come to expect.

We have upgraded technology, to allow greater access to computers to prepare on line applications, address landlord issues, job searches, access unemployment benefits, address social security or disability issues, help with MaineCare, stimulus funding, rental assistance, legal assistance and food stamps. Having access to zoom has allowed our guests to re-engage with their mental health and medical providers via telehealth. This is so critical to the health and welfare of our community.

Indoor occupancy must be limited under current CDC restrictions and therefore TGP is creating an outdoor space to offset the mandated indoor limitations. The outdoor pavilion is 200 square feet, covered by an awning, which will provide shelter. TGP secured radiant heaters that will be permanently fastened to the TGP building and will raise the ambient outdoor temperature by at least 30 degrees. Safe outdoor space will help TGP reduce harm and risk to our guests who are falling through the cracks today, while at the same time continue to create longer term links to basic needs services and companionship. We believe that providing for this will allow TGP to support more individuals in need of warm, safe shelter during these difficult times.



WORKING FOR JUSTICE

MUUSAN Issues Groups Updates

At MUUSAN's November Network Meeting, we learned more about the four Issue Groups for this year's legislative session: Health Care; Climate

Change; Racial, Native and Immigrant Justice; and Democracy in Action.



The Democracy in Action Issue Group met in December to begin the process of making recommendations to the MUUSAN Steering Group about support for upcoming legislation. We heard about the priorities of the Maine League of Women Voters, a significant partner with MUUSAN on these issues. The League's top priorities for the coming year: passing the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, banning corporate contributions, promoting online voter registration, and promoting a constitutional amendment for rank choice voting that would apply to all levels of elections. At our next Issue Group meeting we will consider all of these issues and decide which we recommend that MUUSAN actively support.

The next MUUSAN Network Meeting is Saturday, January 9, 10:00am to noon via Zoom. Please let Lynn Ellis know if you would like a link to attend. All are welcome!

— Betsy Williams,

UUCB liaison for MUUSAN's Democracy in Action Issue Group

Teen Center Update

December was a very busy month for the Teen Center: collecting gift cards, money, grants, and more for the teens' Christmas. The Center also took the families of six teens under its wing.

Donations of gift cards, money and grants have come from many people and organizations. UUCB not only donated gift cards and money but also some of the mittens, and warm items that we gathered in our mitten tree drive. The Brunswick Police Department donated some hams. A PS5 game system was donated to the Teen Center by the Alex Labbe Memorial Fund. Also, People Plus received a grant from the Alfred Senter Foundation for major ventilation improvements throughout the building to combat COVID. Christmas week the teens had pizza, made bubble gum machine ornaments, tried out a new paint technique, had cookies from the Union Street Bakery and overall just enjoyed gathering. Monday and Tuesday of Christmas week Center Director Jordan and her crew gathered the gifts for all the teens, put together the ingredients for a meal for one of the families, and then delivered it all.

The Teen Center is closed for the Winter break until January 4th. There will be much discussion during that time about the direction of the Teen Center in 2021 due to the COVID19 virus.



Indigenous Awareness

Please go to the Midcoast Indigenous Awareness (MIAG) website www.miag-group.org for educational resources and a continually updated calendar of events and presentations – local and statewide.



**Copy deadline
for the
January 2021
PARISH MESSENGER -
Saturday,
January 23**

WORKING FOR JUSTICE

Immigrant Justice Fundraising to Assist with Legal Fees

The Emergency Action Network (TEAN) and Mid Coast New Mainers Group (MCNMG) are launching a major fundraising effort to raise \$100,000 to aid new Mainers in Mid-coast Maine with legal expenses anticipated in their efforts to achieve asylum seeker status. TEAN will be the holder of the funds in an account designated for this purpose. \$26,000 has already been raised. It is estimated that each court case will cost about \$7600. There are approximately 23 Brunswick/Bath families, some of whom have more than one case due to the complicating circumstances of their particular situations. Each family will contract for a payment plan with their lawyers in which the families will assume responsibility for half of their legal expenses once they become employed.

An official letter to include more details about the fundraising effort will soon be available. If you wish to contribute, you can donate to TEAN through their website, www.emergencyactionnetwork.com, and send TEAN an email to alert them that it is for the Asylum Seeker Legal Fund, or mail a check to TEAN at 4 Chestnut Road; Brunswick, ME 04011 with "Asylum Seeker Legal Fund" in the memo line emergencyactionnetwork@gmail.com. If you have questions, Cathey Cyrus will try to answer them. (wdclark@gwi.net)



The Emergency Action Network (TEAN) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation formed by Brunswick community members to help support the children and families in our community



UUCB ARTIST FOCUS

Second Nature by Ed McCartan

Ed is currently showing his work on an innovative online gallery hosted by Curtis Memorial Library through exhibit.com. Visit the site and you can wander through the virtual Morrell Meeting Room to see several of his paintings.

<https://publish.exhibit.com/gallery/283889724/marble-gallery-23494/>

Ed's Artist Statement

My work is currently about natural forms, flowers, seed pods, etc., and abstract symbols that refer to liminal things, which bridge the space between the natural and the spiritual. I am open to wherever chance takes me, so that I go to a variety of subjects for my work. It's an ongoing endeavor. If you would like to contact me, please visit my website at www.emccartan.com and thank you for visiting.

Warm Harvest



Kitchen table and 6 chairs needed

A Bath asylum seeker family of two adults and four children under eight years old are in need of a kitchen/dining room table and 6 straight back chairs. Please let Cathey Cyrus know if you know where these items might be found.