



# Parish Messenger

Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick

February, 2021

## Our Minister's Message



*We will rebuild, reconcile and recover, in every known nook of our nation, in every corner called our country our people diverse and beautiful will emerge, battered and beautiful, when the day comes we step out of the shade aflame and unafraid, the new dawn blooms as we free it, for there is always light if only we're brave enough to see it, if only we're brave enough to be it. ~ Amanda Gordon, from her poem "The Hill we Climb"*

Dear Ones of UUCB,

It was a great day, the inauguration of Joseph Biden as the 46th United States president. For me the waves of relief mixed with gratitude and grief began the night before, at the simple memorial service held at the reflecting pool at the Lincoln Memorial. 400 lights, each one representing 1,000 people lost to Covid – reflected in the water of the reflecting pool. A few words were spoken and “Amazing Grace” and Leonard Cohen’s “Hallelujah” were sung. And then silence as President Biden and Vice President Harris and their spouses stood and reflected or prayed. They offered space for memory, grief, and tears. We all need that space right now. Even though Maine has been spared the level of illness and death from COVID-19 that so many others around us have experienced, every death and every illness has been affected by COVID, because it separates us from

*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  
(mail) PO Box 129  
Brunswick ME 04011

1 Middle Street, Brunswick  
(207) 729-8515

UUBruns@gwi.net

Rev. Justine Sullivan,  
Interim Minister

### UUCB Services in February

Sundays at 10:00 on YouTube.com

**Feb. 7 — Women in African American History** Rev. Justine Sullivan

**Feb. 14 — And the Greatest of these is Love.** Rev. Justine Sullivan  
Music by Ambrosia and the UUCB Choir

**Feb. 21 — Longfellow Days – A tribute to the art of writing letters**  
led by Maryli Tiemann

**Feb. 28 — Where the Light Enters You** Rev. Justine Sullivan

Online Worship Services Every Sunday followed by the virtual Coffee Hour  
[www.uubrunswick.org](http://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*

each other, interferes with our ability to comfort one another and grieve together. Help is on the way. For the first time in many months, I feel hopeful, confident even, that we will get through this and be able to return to the life we had before. Until then, I am so grateful that we have found many ways to be in community.

Over the next several weeks, we will have opportunities and purposes for gathering. We will be starting 3 new chalice circles. In February and March, our Transition Team will hold small group discussions for the purpose of hearing and telling the story of UUCB at its best; this story will help your ministerial search team (you'll soon be hearing more about that process, as well) find your next settled minister. All this activity over the winter months

will remind us that although the building may be closed, UUCB is wide open and continuing to flourish.

In the month of February, we make a special effort to lift up the stories of African Americans, and we will highlight that history in worship. Also our Working for Justice group is sponsoring a number of different events, including films, podcasts, and discussions that invite us to go deeper into the work of becoming intentionally antiracist in this community of faith. I look forward to engaging in that work with you. It is an honor to serve as your interim minister.

Blessings,

**Justine**

*Rev. Justine Sullivan, Interim Minister, UUCB*

### Pastoral Care

One of the ways that we care for one another in this community of faith is to share our joys and sorrows.

Glenn and Betsy Williams are overjoyed to be grandparents again! This from Betsy, "Casey John Williams—7 lbs. 9oz. Mom, Dad and baby all look great. It felt like Christmas morning as Josie and I waited to FaceTime with them—she's so excited!"

Our condolences go out to Meg Barker on the death of her mother Kathleen Steele, died on January 4 at age 83. Meg and Ben traveled to Los Angeles to be with family for the funeral.

And to Stephanie Bernier, whose father, Harold Siagel died January on 10 at age 89. He had been in poor health.

Faith Woodman and Hugh Maynard are pleased to announce that their daughter, Katharine Woodman-Maynard, has published her graphic novel adaptation of "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald. Katharine's fluid watercolors capture the extravagance and decadence of the Roaring Twenties that Fitzgerald eloquently described in his masterpiece.

If you have a joy or sorrow to share, please reach out to Rev Justine or to the pastoral care team at [uucbjoy-sandsorrows@gmail.com](mailto:uucbjoy-sandsorrows@gmail.com)

### Pastoral Care Associates

Irene Austin	751-7091	ireneannaustin@gmail.com	(Summer/When in Maine)
Julie Dahmer	865-9688	jcдахmer@gmail.com	Grace Lewis-McLaren 760-822-4450
Jane Danielson	865-7094	Janedanielson90@gmail	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	
John Trumper	725-4151	jytrumper@aol.com	
Betty Wurtz	406-4960	bettywurtz@gmail.com	

# RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

## What’s Happening In RE?

I hope you all enjoyed the Coming of Age service featuring two of our amazing youth, Sam Caswell and Aymeric Dauge-Roth! It was such a pleasure putting that service together and despite the technical difficulties, the brilliance and talent of our youth and the youth at First Parish Portland really shone through.

The youth from UUCB and First Parish Portland had their first combined Youth Group meeting on January 14th with me and Rev. Christina Sillari. The Youth Group will continue to meet as one large group with me leading every week and Rev. Justine and Rev. Christina switching off weeks. Our first meeting had twelve youth in attendance! We did some ice breaker exercises and there was a fair bit of laughing- that to me is a huge sign of success!

Our younger RE kids continue to meet in one large group with the First Parish Portland kids. It's been really fun to watch them get to know each other. Each month we offer a Game Day for kids to spend time connecting through play and laughter. On Sunday, January 24th, they did some *Mad Libs* and "Would You Rather, among other fun games! I'm told the teachers had as much fun as the kids.

I continue to send RE families bi-monthly packets of fun UU things to do like coloring pages and word puzzles. If your kids are not yet receiving these packets and would like to be added to the list please email me [uubrunswickdre@gmail.com](mailto:uubrunswickdre@gmail.com) so I can get you on the list!

For our next RE adventure in connecting with other UUs in Maine, I will be launching a Pen Pal program between kids at First Parish and kids at UUCB. I think it will be fun for the kids to get to know each other outside of their Zoom boxes, and what kid doesn't like getting mail?! Stay tuned for updates on this adventure!!



*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.

### Special Congregational Meeting

Please don't miss the online all church meeting  
**January 31st at 11:00**

**Use the Zoom link in your email.**

Read Glenn's description of the meeting on page 4.

## BOARD UPDATE



Glenn Williams, Board 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

### Optimism

The January meeting of the Board was on Inauguration Day. What a day it was! When we gathered on Zoom at 5:00 we were all bubbling over with joy as we basked in the relief we felt. It was great fun being together to celebrate. While we are very far from the end of the pandemic tunnel, one very large obstacle in the way of making progress on so many things we care about has been removed. It feels possible to be optimistic again. Whew!

### A New Phase

As I write this month's piece for the *Parish Messenger*, we are finalizing plans for our Special Congregational Meeting on January 31st at 11:00. I hope all of you are able to attend. We are entering a new phase in our two-year interim period. It's time to take a look at where we are, where we want to go, and what we need to do.

The Board is feeling very positive about the state of the congregation. You'll hear about some of the reasons for optimism at the meeting. As part of our collective

self-examination, we will soon begin to schedule small group meetings focused on exploring who we are and who we want to be.

We will begin the process of selecting our Settled Minister Search Team on February 1st. This is a carefully designed process informed by many years of experience at the UUA. The UUA also provides a great deal of support all along the way, including a retreat for the search team led by a Transitions Coach in the late spring of this year. It will be an exciting time.

### The Dream of Reopening

As Vice Chair David Kew commented in last month's *Parish Messenger*, we trust that our COVID Response Team will guide us as to how we can safely interact while we wait for the day we can be in the building together. I hope that, when I write next month's message, we will have seen a shift in the pandemic statistics that will lead to optimism on that front too.

Glenn Williams  
Chair, UUCB Board of Trustees

### Our Virtual Art Gallery

The Art Gallery Committee invites members and friends to share their artwork with the congregation.

In non-COVID times local artists hang shows in our church for all to enjoy. We know that there are many creative visual artists and crafters out there.

Are you interested in showing some images of your work in the *Parish Messenger*? We'd like to feature artwork by one or two artists each month. Please contact Joanne Allen, [ilaen543@gmail.com](mailto:ilaen543@gmail.com), if you are interested or have questions.

Steve Black's art is featured on the back page of this edition of the PM.  
— Joanne Allen



**Copy deadline  
for the  
March 2021  
PARISH MESSENGER  
Saturday,  
February 20**

# UUCB NEWS AND NOTES

## Transition Team Wants to Hear YOUR Stories

The UUCB Transition Team needs your input! This is such an important time in the history of the church, a fantastic opportunity for us to reflect on where we have been and where we are going - on who we are, and who we want to be. It's the job of the Transition Team to listen for the hopes and needs and dreams of the congregation, with the goal of steering us toward a bright future together. We will ask that all responses be kept confidential. So come and share your voice!

We will be hosting small-group facilitated sessions on Zoom over the next couple months. They are not only a vital part of our transition process, but also a great chance to get to know each other a bit better. We will have morning and evening slots available, weekdays and weekends.

Keep an eye out for an email with a [signupgenius.com](http://signupgenius.com) link. If you're not interested in Zooming, we're happy to talk to you on the phone as well. And feel free to reach out to any member of the Transition Team with questions or concerns about any of this."

- |             |  |                  |  |
|-------------|--|------------------|--|
| Jud Caswell | <a href="mailto:jud@judcaswell.com">jud@judcaswell.com</a>       | Carol Evans      | <a href="mailto:carolevans26@comcast.net">carolevans26@comcast.net</a>         |
| Mike Heath  | <a href="mailto:mheath04011@gmail.com">mheath04011@gmail.com</a> | Mary Larson      | <a href="mailto:marniel@windstream.net">marniel@windstream.net</a>             |
| Tom Rumpf   | <a href="mailto:trumpfy@gmail.com">trumpfy@gmail.com</a>         | Justine Sullivan | <a href="mailto:revjustinesullivan@gmail.com">revjustinesullivan@gmail.com</a> |



## Green Sanctuary—Where are we going?

THE GREEN SANCTUARY COMMITTEE, devoted to caring for the Earth, protecting vanishing species, encouraging reuse and recycling; acting to slow or delay climate change, and so forth, has been in the shadows for about 18 months.

As its founder and one-time chair, I'm taking the pulse of the congregation to see if anyone is passionate about creating a new group with the same commitments. We don't have to call it the Green Sanctuary Committee, we don't have to do anything the way we did, but we do need to be a voice for UUCB for the climate, vanishing species, and all that.

In the past, we organized or promoted or staffed

- a return-bottle program,
- a UUCB recycling program,
- a UUCB composting system,
- a well-insulated green church building powered with solar panels,
- an annual organic holiday wreathmaking project,
- lectures, classes to understand and promote climate action
- locavore public meals using only locally produced

- foods (except salt!)
- teams of volunteers to help with Habitat's First Step Weatherization program for low income homes
- an annual environmentally themed service—and
- a mess of other projects.

You see where we were. We've been resting for a while — you know, COVID, exhaustion, aging. Death. All that kind of stuff.



*Our Green Footprint*

**Would you be interested in helping create a new action team with environmental goals?** Respond to my email at [robinoh@comcast.net](mailto:robinoh@comcast.net). I'll collect names and find a way to meet on FaceTime or Zoom to completely reorganize and refocus. When COVID is over and we're all vaccinated, we can meet in person again and be ready to leap into action.

*Thank you,  
Robin Hansen*

## WORKING FOR JUSTICE



### Black Lives Matter Reinvigorated

Violence, protests, racial strife -- these are challenging times. The work of building a better world is ongoing.

The “Black Lives Matter” banner that we raised in 2018 represented our support for the movement and a commitment to understand our role as white people in a racially divided society. In a letter to the “Brunswick Times Record” about the banner that year, we acknowledged that white people and Black people live in separate worlds:

*“We live in a society where white people are afforded privileges. Those privileges are often denied to people of color, who instead face obstacles and biases. As a congregation, we are trying to identify and understand those privileges and biases so that we can work more effectively to help create a just and inclusive society.”*

Understanding our own privileges and biases is still our work.

### The Reunited States

**Tuesday, February 9, 7 pm**  
**Film screening and commentary**

UUCB collaborates with Curtis Memorial Library to co-sponsor a screening of the powerful new documentary film, “The Reunited States” based on the book of the same title by Mark Gerzon.

The film profiles several individuals and groups who want to understand better what has created the political, racial and other divides across which Americans no longer seem able to communicate. Central to the film is the road trip of a family who set out to talk with people in all 50 states to better understand what others are thinking. The film shows how deep the divisions are and tasks us all to find our roles in reuniting the country across those divides.

[Registration through Curtis Memorial Library](#) is required to see the film and engage in the post film commentary moderated by Rev. Sullivan. Go to the library events calendar and click on the event. Those who register will be able to view the film at their leisure once they receive the link. The commentary will be live on Zoom at 7pm on Tuesday, 2/9.

Now we begin a renewed initiative – a series of offerings that invite opportunities for reflection and discussion and engagement in a variety of ways. Our menu of choices draws from the wealth of books, films and online resources devoted to racial justice. There is much to explore here.

Thinking about white privilege and its impact on our country, you may say to yourself: ‘I get it -- what more do I need to know?’ By delving into a renewed effort of ‘doing the work,’ we hope you uncover some answers to that question.

Black Lives Matter: Doing the Work begins with a film and discussion followed by the podcast series and discussion.

### Seeing White

**Podcast series and Zoom discussions starting Feb. 14**

Betsy Williams will host a series of four Zoom meetings based on the 2017 Scene on Radio Podcast, “Seeing White.” This 14-part series, produced and hosted by John Biewen, sets out to take a different look at race and ethnicity.

We tend to think only about people of color and individual attitudes when we consider race, racism, and “race relations.” Biewen turns this lens around to look at what he calls “the elephant in the room”— whiteness and the institutions that were built to ensure (and continue to ensure) the supremacy of whiteness in the United States. Biewen’s style is conversational, self-effacing, and very effective in connecting his listeners to the reality of white supremacy without laying blame or creating guilt.

The podcast in its entirety is a rich history lesson as well as a call to action. Betsy has selected 5 episodes for discussions. In each 90-minute Zoom session we will listen to an episode together (30-45 minutes) prior to discussing it. Participants will be asked to listen to the first episode, “Turning the Lens,” on their own before the series begins. Please contact Betsy at [bwilliams120@gmail.com](mailto:bwilliams120@gmail.com) if you’d like to join this discussion series.

## WORKING FOR JUSTICE

### Funds Needed to Assist with Legal Fees of Local Asylum Seekers

The Emergency Action Network (TEAN) and Mid Coast New Mainers Group (MCNMG) have launched a major fundraising effort to raise \$100,000 to aid new Mainers in Mid-coast Maine with the legal expenses anticipated in their efforts to achieve asylum seeker status.

This money will bridge what families have contracted to pay to their lawyers when the families become better established financially and legally. \$26,000 has already been raised to support the filing of work permit applications – delayed repeatedly by federal policy changes. It is estimated that each asylum court case will cost about \$6600 not including application fees, translation and mailings. TEAN will be the holder of the funds in an account designated for this purpose.

There are 23 Brunswick/Bath families, some of whom will have more than one court case due to the complicating circumstances of their particular situations.

An official fundraising letter is available for potential contributors who would like more details about the fundraising effort. If you wish to contribute, donations can be mailed to TEAN at 4 Chestnut Road; Brunswick, ME 04011. Designate your donation to the Bath-Brunswick Asylum Seeker Legal Fund.

If you would like to see the more detailed fundraising letter or have other questions, please contact Cathey Cyrus who is a MCNMG steering group member—  
[wdclark@zwi.net](mailto:wdclark@zwi.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. Too many families in our community are struggling to meet their most basic needs. Our goal is to identify those needs and harness the resources of the community to support them.

### Habitat for Humanity: ReStore Needs Your Help!

We are looking for folks for a remarkable organization who can offer 2-3 hours a week or even several times a month to volunteer at the Habitat Restore in Topsham. We need volunteers who like to meet and engage with people in the showroom (COVID restrictions apply), who enjoy a spirit of camaraderie and who are happy working at the front desk managing transactions and taking phone messages -- no heavy lifting required.

For further information please contact Cuffy Chase ([cmc1322@gmail.com](mailto:cmc1322@gmail.com)), Gretchen Kamilewicz ([gkamilewicz@gmail.com](mailto:gkamilewicz@gmail.com)) or Nick DiConzo ([nick@habitat7rivers.org](mailto:nick@habitat7rivers.org)).



*Gretchen rings up a customer at the ReStore. It's easy and fun, consider joining in!*

## FEBRUARY CHARITY WITH SOUL



**Midcoast**  
H U M A N E

### Midcoast Humane

Midcoast Humane is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to saving homeless and abandoned pets and helping Mainers find loving companions. We strive to enhance the human/animal bond in everything we do, and be a resource for pet owners and animal lovers in our communities, helping people become better caretakers and advocates for all of our animal friends through classes, camps, workshops, and collaboration with our knowledgeable staff people. We serve 40 municipalities throughout Midcoast Maine, and care for nearly 3,500 animals each year. Every animal that comes through our doors receives excellent medical care, spay/neuter surgeries, vaccines, care and comfort while they're with us. We believe

that every life is worth saving, and are proud of our 97% Live Release Rate.

In 2020, we purchased a 24,000sqft building to serve as our new home in Brunswick. The building will undergo renovations during 2021 to create a modern, healthy, national-standard shelter. To learn more about this exciting project and to view our adoptable animals, please visit [midcoasthumane.org](http://midcoasthumane.org).

— *Kate Griffith, Community Programs Manager*  
(207) 449-1366



## OPTIONS FOR GIVING—FROM THE TREASURER

### New ways you can give to UUCB

We're accustomed to passing the offering basket from one hand to the next, adding our pledge payment or cash to be shared between the monthly Charity with Soul and UUCB (the "plate"). Without that physical reminder, some pledge payments have continued to come in, but our support of the plate has dropped by about half from this time last year. Our charities still need us; UUCB still needs us. So UUCB has developed some socially distanced, online ways of giving.

But first, an ALERT: all donations made online or via text are subject to fees from the processor. The church will be charged 2.75% of your donation plus 45 cents. If you make a \$500 pledge payment online, that's \$14.20. For a \$20 plate contribution, it's \$1.00.

#### Online Giving:

- To pay your pledge, contribute to the plate, or make a separate gift : go to the UUCB home page - DONATE ONLINE, right below the opening photo.
- Can be one-time-only or a repeating donation; you can cover the processing fee if you like.
- You'll receive an email receipt each time you donate online.

### Text Giving for the Plate: (Text-to-Give)

- Using your smart phone, text the amount you wish to donate as the message to 855-962-0440. Plate only.
- Click the registration link and enter your payment information.
- Receive a verification text as well as an email receipt.
- For future giving, simply send a text to the same number with the amount you wish to give, and your donation will process automatically.

### Direct Withdrawals

- For regular pledge payments automatically withdrawn from a bank account, with no added fees.
- To get started, please email our office administrator ([uubruns@gwi.net](mailto:uubruns@gwi.net)).

### Old Fashioned Postal Mail:

- Yes, our Office Administrator still picks up the mail and will happily deposit your check and attribute the payment in whatever way you designate.
- No fees apply, so consider this for any larger payments.

*Thank You!*  
*Cindy Parker, Treasurer*



## WORKING FOR JUSTICE

### UUCB and Maine UU State Advocacy Network

MUUSAN provides an important vehicle for UU's to have an impact on state legislation through collectively supporting legislation and lobbying.

For the first time, UUCB has a representative on each of MUUSAN's Issue Groups: Democracy in Action, Betsy Williams; Health Care for All, Lynn Ellis; Racial, Native and Immigrant Justice, Rob Stuart; and Climate Change, Faith Woodman. Rob Stuart is also our church's MUUSAN Congregational Legislative Liaison. He will be the central conduit between UUCB and MUUSAN, relaying important legislative action alerts and activities to our congregation and informing MUUSAN of our advocacy work.

At MUUSAN's January network meeting, Rep. Rachel Talbot Ross (D-Portland), Assistant House Majority Leader, addressed attendees about the upcoming session and her caucus's priorities. LD 1 would provide pandemic relief and recovery to Maine with \$7.6 billion of federal assistance. LD 2, a Racial Impact Statement, focuses on systemic racism. The legislation would require each bill to be evaluated through the lens of racial equity to determine whether the legislation furthers racial equity or racism. Of the 254 bills introduced last year, only 20 would have passed the racial



equity test. Tribal sovereignty legislation is the caucus's number one priority for passage. Criminal justice legislation is also in the works. A new change introduced this session permits incarcerated men and women to virtually testify in real time at the legislature.

Another of the caucus's priorities are recommendations from the Maine Climate Council appointed by Gov. Janet Mills to make recommendations to address climate change. MUUSAN's Climate Change Group will decide soon on which environmental bills to recommend to MUUSAN's Steering Committee for endorsement!

— Faith Woodman,  
congregational liaison for MUUSAN's Climate  
Change Group

### Teen Center Update

The Teen Center reopened on January 4th with COVID protocols in place, new flooring and a roomier arrangement of the space. The teens have been involved in how-to new projects: growing plants; repairing games; and of course enjoying tasty snacks!

Recent financial support to the Center includes a Senter Fund grant for purchasing several humidifiers and air purifiers. Also, almost \$17,000 has been raised in response to the yearly Back to School letter.

The teens have been dealing with a lot of upheaval for the past year because of COVID 19, the ups and downs of schooling, the suicide of a local teen, as well as events at the national level. Thankfully the Center has the resources for helping the teens.



## UUCB ARTIST FOCUS

### The Artist's Eye — Steve Black

*"To make images is a way of ordering one's world, of exploring and understanding one's relationship to existence...The images we make are often ahead of our understanding, but to say "yes" to a subject is also to have recognized, however dimly, a part of oneself; to live with that image, to accept its significance is perhaps to grow in understanding."* —John Blake-more

I trace my interest in photography and the visual arts to my early childhood experiences growing up on the coast of Maine. Surrounded by the natural beauty of ocean, rocky shore and vast, light-filled sky, I was forever being admonished to marvel at the astounding displays of nature engulfing Orr's and Bailey Islands. It was on Bailey Island that I was particularly struck by my grandmother's intense appreciation of her natural surroundings, although -or perhaps because - she was completely blind. Having assumed early on the task of sharing with her what her own eyes did not allow her to see, my photography became a means of extending my personal sight with others.

It wasn't until my retirement in 2004 that I began making found object folk sculptures and took up painting abstractly. My paintings often deal with social justice issues and themes of Holocaust remembrance. Expressing myself through art-making continues to be a source of personal growth and liberation.

