



Parish Messenger

Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick

March, 2021

Our Minister's Message



We are all longing to go home to some place we have never been – a place, half-remembered, and half-envisioned we can only catch glimpses of from time to time. Community. ~ Starhawk

Is anyone else finding yourself putting a lot onto the month of March? Anniversaries are powerful; even when we are not consciously aware of them, our bodies remember. I probably don't need to tell you that we are coming up on one year of doing this, of not-doing so many things. March 8th of 2020 was the last Sunday that I led worship in person. We knew we weren't supposed to shake hands, but somehow hugging felt ok then. I see now the failed logic in that, but I sure am grateful for those last hugs in that receiving line, and what I wouldn't give to have those moments back again.

A year. One year without touch from anyone outside our bubble. One year without being able to gather for weddings, funerals, graduations and proms. Babies

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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*



UUCB Services in March

Sundays at 10:00 on YouTube.com

March 7 — Stewardship Rev. Justine Sullivan

March 14 — Guest Leader: Rev. Molly Brewer, currently serving remotely as the Youth Ministry Coordinator at the First Unitarian Church of Rochester, NY and as a facilitator for the UUA Leadership Lab's Retooling for New Realities program. Fae lives in Portland with faer husband and two cats.

March 21 — Peace with the Religious Past Rev. Justine Sullivan

March 28 — Palm Sunday Rev. Justine Sullivan

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

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

born without grandparents being able to be present, without naming ceremonies, dedications, and baptisms held in community. One year ago, I couldn't have imagined (thank goodness) that we would still be in this frozen time of waiting.

And yet March is the month when spring arrives. The time of little green shoots somehow pushing their way through frozen ground and snow – a sign of hope, a reminder of life “longing for itself.” And just as in New England, March doesn't always really bring a complete thaw, we may have a ways to go yet in this frozen time of waiting. But let us have faith, Beloveds, that spring always comes. The light does return, and help is on the way. Many of you have already received or will soon receive your COVID vaccinations. The rest of us will get ours over the next few months, and gradually ... life will return to something more normal. Let us continue to be cautious, finding safe ways to “gather.” And let us remember that the longing we feel now reminds us of how precious this community is. Again, from Starhawk:

Community means strength that joins our strength to do the work that needs to be done. Arms to hold us when we falter. A circle of healing. A circle of friends. Someplace where we can be free.

May it be so.

*Peace and love to you,
Justine*

Rev. Justine Sullivan, Interim Minister, UUCB

Pastoral Care Associates

Irene Austin	751-7091	ireannaustin@gmail.com
Julie Dahmer	865-9688	jc Dahmer@gmail.com
Jane Danielson	865-7094	Janedanielson90@gmail
Sally Horne	443-1327	sally.xwindfarm@gmail.com
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John Trumper	725-4151	jytrumper@aol.com
Betty Wurtz	406-4960	bettywurtz@gmail.com

(Summer/When in Maine)

Grace Lewis-McLaren 760-822-4450 6mainer6@gmail.com

Pastoral Care

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

Kristen Pett and David Schinhofen share the sad news that David's father Raymond has died. Raymond was active in the First Unitarian Church in Pittsburg, PA, where a memorial is planned for May 1st.

<https://www.dalessandrold.com/obituaries/Raymond-Schinhofen/>

Steve and Sue Loeb ask for our prayers and good thoughts for their daughter Sarah, who has been diagnosed with cancer. Sarah will undergo treatment at Dana Farber. Steve and Sue will keep us posted.

Rev. Justine Sullivan

If you have a joy or sorrow to share, please reach out to Rev Justine or to the pastoral care team at uucbjoysandsorrows@gmail.com

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.

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Not Just For Kids

I absolutely love working with children and youth! Specifically, I love creating a safe space and a sense of community wherein children and youth can ask big questions and learn from one another. As such, being the Director of Religious Exploration is really fun for me. It challenges me in all of my favorite ways to be challenged.

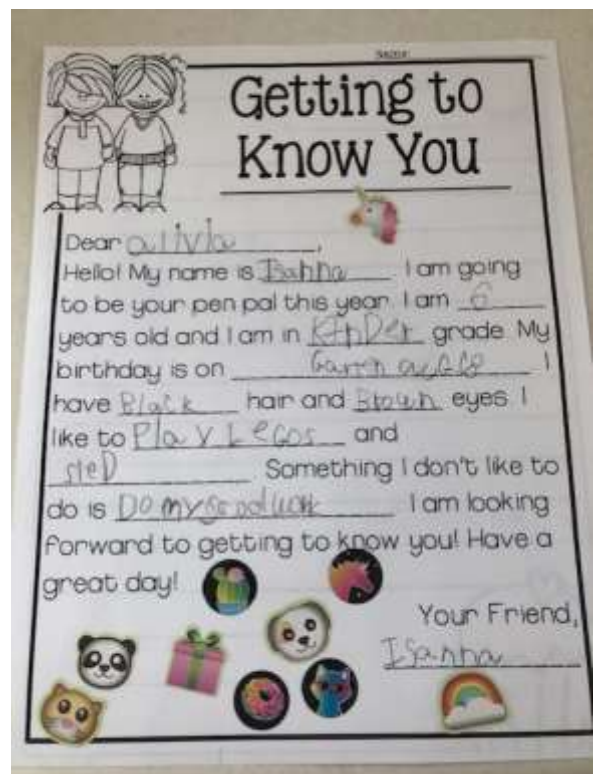
Recently, however, I was approached with a new idea, a new challenge. How would I feel about offering some programs for adults here at UUCB? To tell the truth, I was terrified at first. I feel really lucky to have received a lot of great feedback from UUCB members about my work with the younger members of the congregation, but I worried that no adult would want to attend a program by the DRE because, well, Religious Exploration is just for kids.

Still, I like a good challenge, especially one that pulls me out of my comfort zone, so I agreed to give Adult Religious Exploration programming a try. I spoke with Rev. Justine and the chair of the RE Committee, Betsy Williams, and began brainstorming my approach. A couple weeks later, Shirley sent out an all-church email announcing the "Following Your Path" workshop series that I am offering in March. Within one hour, I had nine people sign up and, within a couple of weeks, all the open spots for the workshop were filled!

From what I understand, UUCB had an impressive and active Adult RE Committee before I came along, and I know from my experience with you all, that this is a congregation that is committed to learning and growing, so I can't say that I was really surprised by how enthusiastically people responded to the workshop offering. But what I can say is that it means a lot to be given the opportunity to try something new and to have so many people show up willing to try out that new thing.

So, thank you again UUCB for being so you! And for giving me a chance to learn and grow with you all. I think we are going to have a lot of fun together!

*In faith,
Toben*



BOARD UPDATE



Glenn Williams, Board Chair

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

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

Settled Minister Search Team

The process of forming our Settled Minister Search Team is well underway. All members have been contacted by phone, and 128 individual names were suggested. The Board has been given the top 15 names, and will proceed eventually to recommend 7 people to serve on the Team. The congregation will be given an opportunity to vote as we narrow down the list, and when we have a final slate. We anticipate installing the Team at a worship service in April. Then they get to work!

Special Congregational Meeting

Thanks to all who attended our Special Congregational Meeting on January 31st. Our Zoom screens were full! It was a great opportunity to take stock of where we are and to hear about plans for the future. It was heartening to know that, although many activities are somewhat

curtailed due to the pandemic, important things are happening, and we are in good shape financially.

Interim Minister Contract

Our contract with Justine stipulates that if we wish to extend the agreement for a second year, the Board should notify the Interim Minister by March 1. It was not a difficult decision. The Board was unanimous in recommending that we do so, and Justine was pleased to accept. We are very fortunate to have her helping us through the transition period.

Wayside Pulpit

The new letters necessary to update our message finally arrived. Passersby will now see that Justine is with us and that services can be seen on YouTube at UUCB AV. Perhaps we'll get some new viewers!

*Glenn Williams
Chair, UUCB Board of Trustees*

COVID Vaccine Signups for Over-70s

Anita Ruff, one of our UUCB members, is working with Mid Coast Hospital to identify adults over 70 who would like to receive the COVID vaccine.

If you or someone you know is over 70 and have not received a vaccination, please email Anita at aruff@oasisfreeclinics.org. Please include name, email, phone, town and age. Currently, Mid Coast is only vaccinating those over 70, so please only respond if you are over 70.

We understand that not everyone has an email; it can belong to a family member or trusted friend. By including an email, the person will be contacted for an appoint-

ment more quickly than by telephone.

Within a few days, you will receive an invitation to sign up for a vaccine, as well as the required consent and registration forms.

Again, please respond to Anita Ruff at aruff@oasisfreeclinics.org. She is the person who is coordinating this outreach. You can cut and paste Anita's email address into a blank email, then include the information she needs - name, email, phone, town and age.

*Good Luck and Stay Safe
Shirley, UUCB Office Administrator*

INSPIRATION AND REMBRANCE

The following is an excerpt from the sermon by Maryli Tiemann on Feb. 21:

Recently I had the opportunity to assist in the closing of the family home of our Minister Emeritus, Brad Mitchell, after his death.

There were many days of packing and going through cupboards and files. One afternoon I came upon a folder labeled, LAST THINGS. In it were just three examples of a column Brad used to write for our Parish Messenger when he was minister.

I'm honored to share his thoughts with you from over 20 years ago.

LAST THINGS by Brad Mitchell

We lose a lot of life waiting for the weather to change. If you are like me, you let a drizzly day postpone the walk you were going to take. You say to yourself, "I'll just wait until the clouds go and the sun comes out." Perhaps the reason for the delay is that we think the day ahead might make us uncomfortable: the cold rain on our faces, our clothing damp, the wind-chill cutting through our serenity.

Emotional weather is like that, too. The storm clouds of anxiety or blues or impatience drive us from the moment as we put our lives on hold. "This is not the kind of life I'm prepared to live this moment," we think as we dive into one addiction or another to comfort ourselves until the weather changes.

Yet, the necessary fact of life is that weather changes are integral to living. My sense of it is while temperate and sunshiny days offer us the chance to celebrate life, stormy weather offers us the opportunity to deepen our lives. We need both the celebration and the deepening; both enhance our life experience. In stormy weather we have the opportunity to seek out that which really sustains us and to find the beauty and truth in our lives that is not so overt and obvious. The blues may haunt us, but they offer us the opportunity to plumb the depths of our being and to face truths we may be ignoring.

Yes, we need the sunshine for celebration, but let us not postpone living in the storms. Let us live the storms with a different kind of energy, which moves inward and reveals to us our deeper selves.



*J. Bradbury Mitchell,
1939-2020*

Opportunity to Volunteer with Rescued Animals?

This is a message from a friend that came in recently to the editor. It is an interesting introduction to a new organization and volunteer opportunity.

Graze in Peace is a 20-acre animal sanctuary in Durham where farmed animals such as pigs, chickens, turkeys, goats, sheep, and llamas are given a second chance at life in a safe, loving, and peaceful environment. We provide lifelong homes to all animals we take in and through our therapeutic care farm activities, we offer a place of hope, learning, and healing for children and other vulnerable

people in our local community.

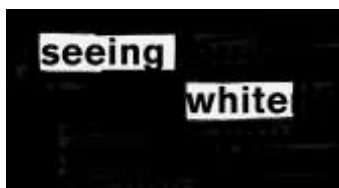
Volunteers make the work that we do possible and we need you! We're looking for a few Animal Care Assistants to help our caretaker for a few hours on weekday mornings, if you are unable to visit the farm; we have remote volunteer opportunities as well.

Learn more at grazeinpeace.com or contact me at volunteer@grazeinpeace.com.

— Debbie Atwood, Volunteer Coordinator



WORKING FOR JUSTICE



Black Lives Matter: Doing the Work

Response to the podcast, *Seeing White*, has been very positive, with over twenty people participating each week. On Sunday, February 28th and Sunday, March 7th from 4-5:30 pm we will conclude our discussion with the final two episodes, "White Affirmative Action", and "Transformation."

If you would like to join us for these final episodes, it is advised that you listen to the episodes already discussed on your own prior to the 28th. Please contact Betsy Williams at bwilliams120@gmail.com for information about how to listen to the earlier episodes and to sign up for the final two.

Immigrant Justice: Legal Fund



The Emergency Action Network (TEAN) and Mid Coast New Mainers Group (MCNMG) continue their major fundraising effort to raise \$100,000 to aid new Mainers in Midcoast Maine with the legal expenses anticipated in their efforts to achieve asylum seeker status. \$60,000 has been raised to date with the help of many in the UUCB and wider community who were able to contribute. The asylum seeker families are eager to contribute to their own legal expenses and have contracted with the lawyers to do so, but most are still waiting to receive work permits - delayed repeatedly by federal policy changes and an overwhelmed immigration system.

It is estimated that each asylum court case will cost about \$6600 not including application fees, translation and mailings. 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. TEAN will be the holder of the funds in an account designated for this purpose.

If you wish to contribute to this legal fund, 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 are interested to volunteer as an asylum seeker mentor, tutor or family support team member, please contact Cathey Cyrus who is a MCNMG steering group member. (wdclark@gwi.net)



Literacy Tutor Training Available

Midcoast Literacy training for tutors of children ages 6-14 will be offered March 29, March 31, and April 2. Contact Katie Clark k.clark@midcoastliteracy.org for more information.

WFJ



Indigenous Awareness

With the convening of the 2021 Maine legislative session, the newly reconstituted Judiciary Committee has begun to educate itself about the issues involved in last session's bill, LD 2094 – *An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act*.

Discussion and action on Task Force recommendations stopped in February, 2020 with the arrival of COVID – 19 and the subsequent closing of the legislative session. Citizen advocacy will help to assure that those recommendations get full attention by the new Judiciary Committee. Successor bills for last session's LD 2094 are now being considered. (LR 1341; 196;1551, 1787 and 1337). MUUSAN's issue group on Racial, Native, and Immigrant Justice is organizing support for these successor bills.

If you are interested in learning more or getting involved, please talk with Rob Stuart who is UUCB's liaison on MUUSAN's Racial, Native, and Immigrant Justice issue group. (see "MUUSAN Update" below)

For more information about other local indigenous issues, events and educational resources, go to the Midcoast Indigenous Awareness Group (MIAG) website (miag-group.org).

PLEDGE TO SUPPORT UUCB

UUCB Resiliency and Continuity

March is the month for this year's Pledge Drive! Our UUCB has stayed strong thanks to all of you showing your support through donations, attending virtual services and Zoom meetings galore! Your support during this pandemic and our transition to an interim minister has made UUCB continue to thrive even though we cannot meet in person! The quality of our virtual services continues to improve, Religious Exploration for our youth goes on as RE opportunities expand to adults, choir sings from afar, our office remains open providing communications to all including our Parish Messenger and emails, Working for Justice outreach continues, and the Pastoral Care team reaches out to those in need. Members published a UUCB cookbook and even had a mitten tree! Chalice circles are starting up, Black Lives Matter - Doing the Work Committee programs have begun and our Concerts for a Cause are returning



Note that this is a pre-COVID image concept!

online! UUCB is a very resilient and resourceful congregation!

Pledge Month is here so our Board can plan our budget for the July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 church year. Our goal for this year is \$245,000 with 100% member participation. Please watch your home mail for more detailed information on the budget and ways to pledge. This has been a difficult year financially for many so we encourage you to give as generously as you can to help those who cannot. The 2021-2022 budget will be voted on in the Annual Congregational Meeting in June. Your prompt reply by pledging online at UUBrunswick.org or returning your form by mail will allow us to wrap up the Pledge Drive by March 31. Thank you!

Members of this year's Pledge Drive Committee include Cuffy Chase and Mary Larson, Co-Chairs, Paul Peranteau, Cindy Parker, Susan Michaud and Carol Gillespie. Please contact any of us with your questions.

THANK YOU!

MARCH CHARITY WITH SOUL



Tedford Housing
P.O. Box 958
Brunswick, ME 04011
Office 207-729-1161
ext.101 | Cell 207-504-1425

Empowering people to move from homelessness to home.



Tedford Housing

Tedford Housing's mission is to empower people to move from homelessness to home.

Our programs include two emergency shelters, supportive housing units, and homeless prevention and outreach services. We serve individuals and families in every facet of our work, in order to best serve those experiencing homelessness and those on the brink of homelessness.

We serve 10 people in our emergency adult shelter, and 6 families in our emergency family shelter. Tedford has 37 supportive housing apartment units in Bath, Brunswick, Augusta, Lewiston, and Auburn. We have a growing homeless prevention and outreach program to reach those on the brink of homelessness and those that we cannot yet serve in the community. In fiscal year 2020, Tedford's programs served a total of 715 people in Maine.

*Blaine N. Flanders, MPA
Tedford Housing
Community & Donor Relations Coordinator*



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. Text the amount of your donation to 855-962-0440 (and follow the instructions to "register" with your first text donation).
- Mail a check to the church office: PO Box 129 Brunswick ME 04011, write "plate" in the memo line.

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

Thank you!

WORKING FOR JUSTICE

MUUSAN Update: Racial, Native and Immigrant Justice & Legislative Priorities



UUCB is playing a bigger role in MUUSAN—The Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network.

The MUUSAN networking relationship enables the UU congregations in Maine to work collaboratively in ways that increase our collective social justice work at the State legislative level. As MUUSAN delegates, we identify priority issues and then focus on particular bills that support those priorities as well as those that do not.

I am participating in the Racial, Native and Immigrant Justice Issue Group which addresses systemic oppression by advocating with and on behalf of racial, ethnic and indigenous populations and responding to the need to interrupt disparities in Maine's legal and economic systems. We are currently working on prioritizing legislation under this focus area.

I am also the Congregational Legislative Liaison between UUCB and the MUUSAN network. MUUSAN's website has links to two helpful resources about pending legislation – the MUUSAN Legislative Agenda and the Advocacy Calendar.

The Legislative Agenda shows the bills now in process, grouped by MUUSAN's priorities. Note that LR-numbered

bills have been entered and are in the process of going forward. LD-numbered bills, highlighted in blue, are published and now being considered and acted upon. The Advocacy Calendar shows the bills pending and their advocates including MUUSAN.

My role as the Congregational Legislative Liaison is to inform UUCB members of action alerts and other advocacy opportunities. One bill, LD2, focuses on systemic oppression by advocating on behalf of racial, ethnic and indigenous populations and the need to interrupt disparities in Maine's legal and economic systems. Supported by MUUSAN, LD2 requires the inclusion of racial impact statements in the legislative process. Such impact statements are viewed as an essential step in identifying the disparities of systemic racism in practice.

In an upcoming Parish Messenger, I will notify you about how to sign up for timely alerts and reports on bills that are of particular interest to you.

*by Rob Stuart frenchborobooks@icloud.com
Congregational liaison for the Racial, Native, and
Immigrant Justice Issue Group, and UUCB Congre-
gational Legislative Liaison*

Teen Center Update

In spite of the holidays, snow days, February school break, and increased COVID cases, the Center has been busy as usual this month, even enrolling more teens.

Thanks to the donation of gift certificates, budding teen artists bought more art supplies for the Center. House plants, also donated, are thriving and one was even taken home for adoption. A DVD of an aquarium with the sounds of its tank now plays on the wall-mounted television, a popular choice of the teens and a quieter alternative to their usual musical selections. One teen who walked to the Center because his bike was broken, found another in the "Bike Graveyard" shed behind People Plus,



took it home, repaired it, and now rides to the Center.

With the community's generous support, snacks, juice and a meal can be provided for the teens. Of course, they'd all eat macaroni, spaghetti, tacos and of course the ever-popular hot dog every day if they could.

UUCB ARTIST FOCUS



Joanne Allen Art Quilts

Before I retired, I taught art to high schoolers. They amazed me every day with their creativity, emotion and perspectives. At the time, I didn't have much energy at the end of the day for my own artwork. When I retired I did some acrylic paintings of landscapes. Painting just hasn't worked out for me this year. So, I thought I'd try quilting again.

I've had fun playing with bright colors and geometric shapes. There is a blurry line between art and craft. I enjoy them both. These are original designs and they are machine quilted. (Bless all of you who quilt by hand.)

— Joanne Allen



Art Gallery Committee

Joanne Allen, Ed McCartan, Pat Spock, Faith Woodman, Sharon Brown

Our Virtual Art Gallery

The Gallery Committee invites you to share some of your artwork and/or craftwork with us in the *Parish Messenger*. This year we aren't able to hang the art shows at church but hope to start again as soon as the church reopens. Please contact Joanne Allen if you are interested.

jlaen543@gmail.com

We are excited to see some of our young people's art in upcoming Messengers.