



Sanford Unitarian Universalist Church
UU NOTES Volume XXXXII
December 1, 2017, Issue 6

UUA PRINCIPLES

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- * The inherent worth and dignity of every person.
- * Justice equity, and compassion in human relations.
- * Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.
- * A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.
- * The right of conscience and the use of democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.
- * The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.
- * Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

(Adopted by the 1984 and 1985 General Assemblies)

Sanford UU Church
5 Lebanon Street
Sanford, ME 04073
Telephone: 207-324-3191
E-mail: info@sanforduuchurch.org
www.sanforduuchurch.org
Like us on Facebook
Minister: Rev. Steve Cook
Religious Education: Mesha and Ryan Quinn
Choir Director: Rev. Charles Grindle
Pianist: Ruth Leipold
Newsletter Editor: Mona Ouellette
Church Historian: Helen Kane
Maintenance: Bill Ouellette

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Worship Services are held every Sunday at 10:30am - Child Care is Provided Everyone is Welcome!

December 3rd Service - *Letter to the Future* - The service will be led by Rev. Steve Cook. Far in the future, a youth finds hidden in the church an old letter written by a past member to the members of the future. What could it say?

December 10th Service - We will NOT have a service at the SUUC on this day. You are encouraged to attend the service at our sister church in Saco, 60 School Street. Their service begins at 10:00am. The service will be followed by a potluck lunch and a workshop entitled *Beyond Categorical Thinking*.

December 17th Service - *Chose Something Like a Star* - The service will be led by Rev. Steve Cook. It is the season for the stars. Aside from the familiar Star of Christmas, what else can a star be for us?

December 24th Service - **Please note, no morning service on this day.** *Christmas Time is Here* - We will celebrate Christmas Eve with a special, candlelight service; music will be provided by our bell and vocal choirs. The service will begin at 6:00pm and will be led by Rev. Beverly Brent. Childcare will be provided and light refreshments will be served.

December 31st Service - This will be an RE service, led by our Directors of Religious Education, Mesha and Ryan Quinn, along with the RE youth.



Along the Way...

I like this poem by Patricia Fagnoli about the graces of winter. Not to minimize winter's challenges, but its slower pace and diminished activities can also give us moments of quiet reflection that are harder to find in busier seasons. We've had no snow as yet, but don't you think we will? In any case, whatever the season brings us, it's going to be busy; may we all find, here and there, a few moments of grace.

See you in church, Rev. Steve

Winter Grace Patricia Fagnoli

If you have seen the snow
under the lamppost
piled up like a white beaver hat on the picnic table
or somewhere slowly falling
into the brook
to be swallowed by water,
then you have seen beauty
and know it for its transience.
And if you have gone out in the snow
for only the pleasure
of walking barely protected
from the galaxies,
the flakes settling on your parka
like the dust from just-born stars,
the cold waking you
as if from long sleeping,
then you can understand
how, more often than not,
truth is found in silence,
how the natural world comes to you
if you go out to meet it,
its icy ditches filled with dead weeds,
its vacant birdhouses, and dens
full of the sleeping.
But this is the slowed-down season
held fast by darkness
and if no one comes to keep you company
then keep watch over; your own solitude.
In that stillness, you will learn
with your whole body
the significance of cold
and the night,
which is otherwise always eluding you.



Decorating the Church Christmas Tree

You are warmly welcome to remain following worship service on Sunday, December 3rd, to help us decorate the church Christmas tree. We hope you are able to join us at this annual, fun filled event!

Refreshments for Christmas Eve Service

Our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held at **6:00pm** on Sunday, December 24th. Our SUUC bell and vocal choirs will perform and childcare will be provided. Following the service, join us for some refreshments provided by the congregation. If you are able, we ask you to kindly bring finger foods, healthy snacks, or cookie treats. Coffee and other beverages will be available. Thank you. Please note, we will NOT have a morning service on Sunday, December 24th, Christmas Eve.

Candles Lit in Memory or Honor of a Loved One

Light a candle on Christmas Eve in memory or honor of a loved one. Donations are welcome.
In Honor/Memory of _____

Your name: _____

Please leave your donation and information in the office or in the offertory plate. Thank you.

Holiday Cheer UUCSB Fair
Saturday, December 9th - 8:00am to 2:00pm
Fine crafts by local artisans - Old Country Store - Granny's Attic
Soups, casseroles and lots more to eat in or take out - Plants - Books
Sweets and baked goods

Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco & Biddeford
60 School Street, Saco, ME 04072
207-282-0062 - www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com

→ The SUUC will have a table at this fair offering great items!
Come to this wonderful fair and support the fundraising efforts of the
UUCSB and SUUC Churches.

NEWS

Ringers and Singers - It's that time - time to prepare music for our wonderful Christmas Eve service. We will begin rehearsing the bells, and the choir has begun working on the vocal selections. Feel free to jump in and make a joyful noise with us. Even if you were involved last year, I'd like to hear from you concerning your availability this year. Contact me at interfaithchap@gmail.com or 321-1592. Let's make the heavens resound! Ringers, we will rehearse Christmas music from 6:00-6:50 on December 4, 11, 18 and possibly one more time before the rehearsal Christmas Eve in the afternoon. Singers- we'll rehearse on the same evenings from 6:50pm to 8:30pm. Everyone is welcome to join us. We'll appreciate a percussion person also.

Volunteer Your Talents for the Holiday Fair at the UU Church of Saco-Biddeford - Our second fundraiser of the fall is our participation in the Holiday Fair on Saturday, December 9th, from 8:00am to 2:00pm. We will be selling small homemade craft items as well as canned and baked goods, and we will need some volunteers to work our tables at the fair. Please volunteer to lend your crafting, baking or canning talents to this effort. Sign-up sheets are located in the parlor or you may contact Jan Sacco to volunteer at jrsacco@metrocast.net or 457-9268.

Storm Cancellation Information - As much as we don't like to think of winter and snow in our near future, we must be prepared. Sanford Unitarian Universalist Church service and event cancellations are announced on the following television stations: WCSH 6, WMTW 8 and WGME 13. You may also receive the latest information regarding cancellations by calling the church office (324-3191) for the latest recording or visit our website at www.sanforduuchurch.org or our Facebook page for the most recent information. In addition, a congregational email will be sent.

SUUC Book Group - The Church Book Group will meet on December 8th at 6:00pm in Goodall Hall to discuss "Becoming Nicole." A powerful and illuminating book about one couple's journey in coming to accept and nurture their transgender daughter. All are welcome and we invite you to join us.

Salvation Army Angel Tree - Our church is again supporting the Salvation Army's Angel Tree this holiday season! There are eight gift tags left. Choose one, buy a gift for that child, and return unwrapped gifts to church by Friday, December 8th. Thanks so much!

An Invitation to a Birthday Party! - Austin and Avery Ryder, my newest grandchildren, are celebrating their First Birthday on Sunday, December 30th, in Goodall Hall. Please come after 11:00am and celebrate this very special occasion with my family. No gifts; just join us for baby antics and lots of smiles and cake!

-Diane Whiteside-Peck

Thoughts From the President

I've said many times that I started attending our church because I needed a place in which to be grateful. This congregation of exceptional individuals I liken to a team, or a peaceful platoon perhaps, gathering once a week to plan our next win, our next mission, and the creativity erupting from these plans is thoroughly energizing to me. We raise funds, refurbish steeples and support beams, teach children, hold meetings, and support the community, happily and together. I've seen it over and over for over 20 years, and some of you have made it possible for longer than that! Last Sunday, Helen Kane's reenactment of Sarah Ballou's story was amazing, and this Sunday, Jan Sacco has made it possible for us once again to be enchanted by Judy Sakai's harp music. Patty Kidder is a one-woman Social Concerns committee through her work with Mainers for Healthcare. The goals of the Search Committee are accomplished at each meeting with equanimity and friendly trust. Your Board of Management members are vibrant, dedicated, and brimming with ideas. Even while our Unitarian principles are challenged by those who place monetary profits and self interests on pedestals, we can hold hands with friends here at church, and ask for enlightenment to enter the hearts of those with whom we disagree. You just have to read all the wonderfully important groups who meet at our church, listed at the end of this newsletter, to be heartened. As Thanksgiving day retreats, we still have much to be grateful for and to look forward to. May Christmas peace be yours.

-ever in hope, Diane

World Aids Day Service



December 1st World AIDS Day - A service will be held at our sister church entitled "Alphabet Soup." This community service will be held at 7:00pm in the sanctuary of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco and Biddeford, 60 School Street. They will host guests from the greater community. Three panels from the AIDS Quilt will be on display. Women In Harmony will be with them as well as Ryan Michael Fecteau, who will be speaking. Refreshments will be served in the Parish Hall after the service. You will be able to speak with the guests during the reception. Please invite your friends and family to join you.

Ministerial Search Committee Update

SAVE THE DATE!

BEYOND CATEGORICAL THINKING

Will the new minister hear me? Will my concerns and needs be met?
Will the minister understand my spiritual journey?
How will the community respond to our minister?

In answering these questions, a picture of the ideal minister (categorized by age, gender, gender identity, nationality, physical ability, race, and sexual orientation) comes to mind. With this picture in place, it can be easy to unintentionally exclude ministers who fall into particular categories. At times, as we get caught up in comparing candidates to our picture, we can even forget what it is we hoped for in a minister.

On Sunday, December 10, 2017 the UU Church of Saco-Biddeford and Sanford UU Church will participate in a Beyond Categorical Thinking (BCT) workshop offered by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) for congregations involved in the search for a new minister. Your Ministerial Search Committee invites all congregational leaders, members, and friends to participate in this workshop.

The Beyond Categorical Thinking program is designed to promote inclusive thinking and help prevent unfair discrimination in the search process for a new minister. This program starts with a 10:00am Sunday service followed by a **potluck lunch** (please bring something to share) from 11:00 – 12:00 and then a three - hour BCT workshop from 12:00 – 3:00pm with facilitators trained by the UUA. In the workshop, participants will:

- Consider the hopes, expectations, and concerns we have for a new minister
- Learn more about the ministerial search process, and
- Explore how thinking categorically about people sometimes interferes with choosing the best candidate.

Please come on Sunday, December 10th at 10:00am to the UU Church of Saco-Biddeford (60 School Street) to participate in this UUA-sponsored workshop led by Jane Dwinell of Burlington, VT and Jacqui Williams of Albany, NY.

Please note, we will NOT have a service at the SUUC on December 10th.

The selection of a minister is the most important thing for a congregation to complete. This spiritual journey is filled with passion, dedication and wonder. The Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop is another opportunity for everyone in our congregations to be a part of that process. Thank you in advance for participating and being a part of this important work.

Questions can be directed to Lisa Huestis, Chairman to Committee Chair

207 - 698 -1781



Welcome Christmas!

with

Judy Saiki & the Celtic Harp



Sunday, December 3, 2017 at 2:00pm

Sanford Unitarian-Universalist Church 5 Lebanon St; Sanford, ME - Reception will Follow Concert

The Sanford UU Church proudly welcomes back Judy Saiki and her Celtic Harp for a concert sure to get you in the holiday spirit. Concert-goers will be immersed in the ethereal magic of Judy's harp as she performs Christmas and seasonal music from the British Isles and around the globe.

Tickets Available At the Door

Adult - \$15.00 - Youth (Ages 5-18) - \$10.00

Family (2 adults and up to 5 children) - \$40.00

FMI and to purchase advance tickets,
please call 207-324-3191

Some of Our SUUC Family



SUUC Stalwarts



A pair of Bruces



Singing thankfully



Doing a duet



Each one an indispensable voice



Church Christmas Tree
Our sincere thank you to Judi Reis and Bev Brent for donating a beautiful tree from their property to the church. We appreciate their generosity and thoughtfulness!



DECEMBER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 World Aids Day Service at UUCSB 7:00pm Newsletter Day AA in Vestry 6:00pm to 7:00pm	2
3 Worship 10:30am Worship Associate meeting after the service Decorate tree Judy Saiki harp concert 2:00pm AA in Vestry 5:00pm to 6:15pm	4 Music Lessons 4:30pm-7:00pm Choir rehearsal, ringers 6:00pm-6:50pm, singers 6:50pm-8:30pm	5 MTN Meeting in Parlor and GH 6:00pm	6 Music Lessons 9:00am-11:00am Project CommUnity 6:30pm -8:30pm in Goodall hall Narcotics Anon. in Vestry 7:30pm to 9:00pm	7 VNM Vestry 5:00pm	8 AA in Vestry 6:00pm to 7:00pm Book Group 6:00pm in Goodall Hall	9 Church Work Party 8:00ish-noon Saco UU Church Holiday Fair 8:00am -2:00pm
10 UUSBC at 60 School St. in Saco Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop following 10:00am service with potluck NO WORSHIP AT SUUC AA in Vestry 5:00pm to 6:15pm	11 Music Lessons 4:30pm-7:00pm Choir rehearsal, ringers 6:00pm-6:50pm, singers 6:50pm-8:30pm	12 Board Meeting 6:00pm (potluck at 5:30pm)	13 Music Lessons 9:00am-11:00am Narcotics Anon. in Vestry 7:30pm to 9:00pm	14 VNM Vestry 5:00pm	15 CC sets up AA in Vestry 6:00pm to 7:00pm	16 Corner Cupboard is open 10:00-2:00 and free meal provided by Project CommUnity
17 Worship 10:30am AA in Vestry 5:00pm to 6:15pm	18 Music Lessons 4:30pm-7:00pm Choir rehearsal, ringers 6:00pm-6:50pm, singers 6:50pm-8:30pm	19 MTN Meeting in Parlor 6:00pm	20 Music Lessons 9:00am-11:00am Project CommUnity 6:30pm -8:30pm in Goodall hall Narcotics Anon. in Vestry 7:30pm to 9:00pm	21 VNM Vestry 5:00pm	22 AA in Vestry 6:00pm to 7:00pm	23
24 No morning service - Christmas Eve Service at 6:00pm - Vocal and bell choirs perform AA in Vestry 5:00pm to 6:15pm	25 Christmas Day Office is closed	26	27 Music Lessons 9:00am-11:00am Narcotics Anon. in Vestry 7:30pm to 9:00pm	28 V VNM Vestry 5:00pm	29 AA in Vestry 6:00pm to 7:00pm	30 Private birthday party in Goodall Hall 11:00am
31 Worship 10:30am New Year's Eve AA in Vestry 5:00pm to 6:15pm						

Board 2017-2018

President: Diane Whiteside-Peck June 30, 2019
Vice President: Karen Nelson June 30, 2019
Clerk: Bruce Harrison June 30, 2018
Financial Secretary: Janet Wood June 30, 2018
Treasurer: Marcel Gagnon June 30, 2019
Co-DREs: Mesha and Ryan Quinn

Liaisons:

Gary Wood June 30, 2018
Patty Kidder June 30, 2019
Judi Reis June 30, 2020

Church Leadership 2017-2018

Building and Grounds Chair: Bob McCormick
Caring Circle: Gail Lemley Burnett
Choir: Charles Grindle
Church Historian: Helen Kane
Corner Cupboard: Peg Sawyer, Judi Reis, Dee Ames, Helen Kane
Earth Stewards Green Team: Judi Reis
Finance Committee:
Fundraising Coordinator: Jan Sacco
Grant Manager:
Homesteaders: Jan Sacco and Melody Wood
Members and Friends: Tonia Chase
Music Committee: Melody Wood
Nominating Committee : Ginny Howe 2018, Lisa Huestis 2019, Vicky Bugado 2020
Pianist: Ruth Leipold
Religious Education Committee:
SUUC Search Committee: Lee Burnett, Evelyn LaBree, Tom Huber, Lisa Huestis
Stewardship: Kristie Praschak
UUSC:
Women's Alliance: Nancy Farnham
Worship: Rev. Steve Cook
Worship Associates: Rev. Steve Cook, Bev Brent, Judi Reis, Jan Sacco, Janie Waterhouse, Patty Kidder, Mesha Quinn, Vicky Bugado, Evelyn LaBree

Caring Circle

Gail Lemley Burnett is in charge of our Caring Circle for providing help in case of illness, hospitalization, need for a ride to church, doctors' appointments, etc. Please call Gail at 324-1596 if you need assistance.

Minister's Hours

Rev. Steve Cook will be in his office on Wednesdays, as needed, in the morning. Please call for an appointment at 781-330-2521
stephenmichaelcook@ME.com

Administrative Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
7:00-12:00 - info@sanforduuchurch.org

Co-Directors of Religious Education

Mesha and Ryan Quinn - dre@sanforduuchurch.org

Church and Community Groups

AA Meetings: AA meetings are held every Sunday from 5:00pm-6:15pm and Fridays 6:00pm-7:00pm in Vestry

Board Meeting: Tuesday, December 12th at 6:00pm in the Parlor. Meeting begins with a potluck supper at 5:30pm

Book Group: Friday, December 8th at 6:00pm in GH

Choirs: Rehearsals on December 4th, 11th and 18th, see December calendar in newsletter for times

Church Work Party: The next work day will be held on Saturday, December 9th from 8:00ish-noon

Corner Cupboard: Next date the CC is open is December 16th from 10:00am-2:00pm

Maine Transgender Network (MTN): Meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm in the Parlor and GH and the third Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm in the Parlor

Music Lessons: Mondays 4:30pm-7:00pm and Wednesdays 9:00am - 11:00am in the Sanctuary

Narcotics Anonymous: Meets every Wednesday in the Vestry from 7:00pm to 9:30pm

Project CommUnity: Meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday of each month in Goodall Hall from 6:30pm-8:30pm. Please email us at the following: projectcommunity@gmail.com or join the group on Facebook!

Violence No More: Every Thursday at 5:00pm in the Vestry

Women's Alliance: Meets the second Wednesday of the month at 12:00 noon

Worship Associates: The Worship Associates will meet on Sunday, December 3rd following worship service