

Sanford Unitarian Universalist Church History Timeline

1909	October 1, 1909, Rev. Elvin Prescott preaches at Town Hall Guest preachers, 300+ each Sunday
1910	February, 1910, Rev. Prescott is the First Minister February 22, the Women's Alliance is founded
1912-1914	Rev. Herbert Moulton Unitarian Men's Club founded
1914	Rev. George F. Pratt creates a church family and founds Young Men's Dirigo Club for "progressive fellowship and clean sports"
1915	The Church is incorporated as The First Unitarian Church of Sanford Women's Alliance members purchase land at Main and Lebanon Streets Junior Alliance Ball
1918	Church building and organ are dedicated on November 3 World War I ends *Miles H. Dodge is killed in action
1920	Laymen's League founded
1921	Rev. Harry Lutz (1921-1930) First to live in the new brick parsonage
1922 1928	The parsonage is built, money raised by the Women's Alliance Goodall Hall donated by Thomas M. Goodall (grandson)
1933	Rev. H. Sumner Mitchell (1931-1949) Women's Evening Alliance founded Annual Football dinner established
1935	September - Busy Bees present portable lectern to the church
1940	Rev. Mitchell is best remembered for his excellent rapport with young people
1942	World War II – Our Roll of Honor lists over 170 men and women
1945	War ends *Five of our brave young men die in service to their country
1950-1952	Rev. Leonard Helie reorganizes committees; preserves church's history December 21, 1950, first Christmas Candlelight Service 11p.m.
1953	Rev. Carl Seaward (1953-1967) Congregation is conservative Christian Unitarian Couples' Club and 40 Plus Club formed
1954	The Recreation Hall is renovated and rededicated as Goodall Hall
1955	Goodall Mills close
1960	First Vesper Candlelight Christmas Service at 4:30p.m. with Junior Choir
1961	Unitarian and Universalist Consolidation
1965	By this year Rev. Seaward has transformed the appearance of every area in the church "plant"
1967-1968	Rev. Arthur Hover (1967-1976) Rev. Hover is deeply involved in District and local ministry
1970	Rev. Arthur Hover brings a liberal and progressive perspective more in keeping with UU Consolidation

1971	Church front painted green; the town is upset!
1972 - 1973	Religious Education Director – Youth Group
1974 - 1975	Sanford Unitarian Church revises its by-laws and changes its worship services to present format
1976	Rev. Fred Muir (1976-1983)
1976-1977	Weekly Coffee House Church is declared a nuclear-free zone The arts flourish Social Concerns in forefront
1978	A singular Youth Group adopts leadership role
1980	First Annual Canvass \$\$\$\$
1982	Glenn Turner, District Executive Nasson College closes
1983	1983-1984 No minister Joyce Willard dies Diane Whiteside-Peck's husband (to-be) Gary, plays guitar at Peace Forum (Fund/education raiser) in Goodall Hall
1984	Rev. John Morgan Food Pantry is established with York County Shelters
1985	April – Sanford Area Peace Forum Coffee House draws over 100 people
1985-1986	Parlor bathroom installed
1986	Rev. R. Flanders (1986-1987)
1987	Rev. Bryan Jessup (1987-1998) Quilt made by Women's Alliance raffled – makes \$1,800 Peace Forum is instituted
1988	Buildings and Grounds take precedence when exterior walls are re-stuccoed and light green cementitious wash is applied
1989	Church spends \$60,000 on repairs
1989-1990	Meals Kitchen begins at the church
1990	Rear ramp access installed Altar cloths are made by Jacquie Lotz
1991	October 8, 1991 we become the Sanford Unitarian Universalist Church
1991-1992	Men's Group
1992	Strategic Planning Team convenes Plan is developed New hymnal, <u>Singing the Living Tradition</u> arrives
1993	Canvass Co-Chairs, the Reusches (1993-1996)
1994	Marlene Parent catalogues and cross-references the Sunday School library Book Group Deb Walsh chairs Strategic Planning Committee through 1997
1995	Youth Group to D.C. 'Stand For Children' Elizabeth Fraser is the UU Notes Newsletter editor from 1995 to 2005

1996	Rev. Jessup performs his first “gay” commitment ceremony Parlor furniture discussion
1997	Lisa Ryan is our DRE Don Reusch chairs the Building and Grounds '97-2003/4 Tom Huber makes the worship chalice Strategic Plan Reassessment, Board takes ownership Welcoming Congregation May, 1997 Roland Rhoades chairs Members and Friends Bryan's 10 Year Anniversary and Birthday Party Varieties of Meditation Groups
1998	Rev. Maurice Cobb and * Rev. Karen Brammer share one half time Interim Diane Whiteside-Peck Fun(d)raising Chair New carpet (2 nd replacement) in Sanctuary Ministerial Search Committee *Our first woman minister
1999	Rev. Paul Boothby (1999-2002) Parsonage is renovated by many members led by the Over 60s Group; wallpaper removed Rev. Maurice Cobb is named “Minister Emeritus”
2000-2001	New member Ginny Howe chairs successful canvass
2001-2002	Canvass co-chairs, John and Jan Steffens Margaret Munro, DRE
2002-2003	Rev. Jenny Justice full time Interim (2002-2003) Deb Folsom, 3 hours a week choir director/bell choir director Bill and Mona Ouellette begin as Sexton and Administrative Assistant Ministerial Search Committee
2003	Rev. Sue Kingman (2003- 2016) Church governance is restructured to Board/Committee Council We furnish a Caring Unlimited apartment A new roof is installed on Goodall Hall
2004	Eleanor "Ellie" Kingman is born on April 2nd Jr. Youth Group holds successful N.E. District Conference April 2nd & 3rd Flower and ingathering water ceremonies are introduced
2005	The Future! What's Next? Campaign After much discussion we decide to stay in our building following offers to buy church site Celebration of two Fraser weddings: Barbara and Tim DeCoteau, Jean and Chris Small We adopt Gandhi's "Be the change you wish to see in the world" as our guiding vision Mona Ouellette becomes UU Notes Newsletter editor in 2005

2006	<p>The Corner Cupboard, non-food pantry, opens in February</p> <p>Rev. Sue's family relocates from the Parsonage</p> <p>The Parsonage is sold to York County Shelter and becomes "Edie's Place" to honor Mrs. Jessup</p> <p>Worship Associates are first introduced into our services</p> <p>First annual spring yard sale is a huge success</p>
2007-2008	<p>September 2008 - Year one of our 5-year Sustainability Plan - "Leap of Faith"</p> <p>December 7, 2008 - Perry Fraser memorial steps commemorated</p> <p>The York County Shelter Program's Meals Kitchen moves to a facility with handicapped access and better parking</p> <p>Earth Stewards begin working on UUA's Green Sanctuary certification</p> <p>First annual Harvest Dinner is a huge success</p> <p>Kemper Award for community service is given to the Corner Cupboard, which holds its first annual benefit, live and silent auction</p> <p>We join Partners for Sacred Places</p> <p>The church begins flying the rainbow flag</p>
2009	<p>July 4 - Our Centennial Celebration begins with our "church of the future" float in the parade</p> <p>August 23 - Jazz service - Tom Stites and Howard Stone</p> <p>Labor Day concert with Jim Scott</p> <p>September 20 - Cemetery Walk - "Voices from our Past" is presented</p> <p>October 17 - Second annual Harvest Dinner celebration of Green Sanctuary Certification</p> <p>Helen Kane's centennial book "The People of the Windows" is published</p> <p>November 7 - "Voices" and "Regeneration" evening of theater</p> <p>November 8 - <u>100 Year Celebration Service</u> - Rev. Mary Higgins</p> <p>November 28 - Our Centennial Holiday Fair at Nasson Community Center is a huge success</p> <p>December 24 - Christmas Eve traditional special carols and bells candlelight service, circa 1909 at 6:00pm</p> <p>March 2009 - Several teens complete the OWL (Our Whole Lives) sexuality program</p>
2010	<p>Caring Circle Committee is formed to help church community in time of need</p> <p>Rev. Sue goes on sabbatical</p> <p>Bill Ouellette builds sturdy access ramp into Goodall Hall</p> <p>Deb Walsh's Socks for Soldiers campaign is launched</p> <p>In December, 2010, Rev. Sue marries Rudy Gabrielson and changes her last name to Gabrielson</p>
2011	<p>Rev. Sue becomes our three quarter time minister</p> <p>Second Century Fund is launched</p> <p>Parlor kitchen and enlarged bathroom are completed</p> <p>First Holiday Fine Arts and Crafts Fair is held at Nasson</p> <p>We fill a time capsule to mark our second 100 years</p>

2012	<p>Rev. Sue Gabrielson becomes our half time Minister</p> <p>Worship Associates play an ever-expanding role in church services</p> <p>Rev. Sue becomes the Faith Director for Equality Maine</p> <p>Rev. Sue works with RCAD - The Religious Coalition Against Discrimination</p> <p>November 6, UU Congregations help Maine to become the 1st state to legalize same-sex marriage at the ballot box</p> <p>New sanctuary roof is installed as part of Capital Campaign</p>
2013	<p>10th Anniversary of Rev. Sue and Bill and Mona Ouellette's employment</p> <p>Rev. Maurice Cobb's 10th year as Minister Emeritus, age 95</p> <p>Ruth Leipold's milestone as pianist for over 1,000 services</p> <p>February, Rev. Charles Grindle becomes our choir director</p> <p>Mesha and Ryan Quinn become R.E. Directors</p> <p>All-time reunion is organized by David Agan, 100 attending</p> <p>Rev. Sue becomes a Board Member of Equality Maine</p>
2014	<p>Choir and Worship Associates begin collaboration with sister churches in Saco-Biddeford and Kennebunk</p> <p>Insulation in Goodall Hall and in the parlor is completed</p> <p>Energy-efficient windows are installed in R.E. rooms</p> <p>January 16, Rev. Sue leads faith opposition for LD1428 bill, the so called religious freedoms</p>
2015	<p>Rev. Sue is named Executive Director of the Maine Council of Churches</p> <p>We celebrate Rev. Maurice Cobb's 97th birthday</p> <p>We enter into a collaborative relationship with the Biddeford-Saco Congregation by sharing our Minister, Worship Associates, combined choirs, staff and fundraisers</p> <p>The TriQuire of Saco, Sanford and Kennebunk unite to perform on special occasions</p> <p>Rev. Sue is on sabbatical in Costa Rica from September 1 through December 31, working on her PhD</p> <p>The Second Century Committee identifies building needs and renews Capital Campaign, which ultimately totals \$225,000 between 2011 and 2015</p> <p>October 24 - Rev. Maurice Cobb is eulogized in Memorial Service</p> <p>December - Solar panels, heat pumps and conversion system installed in Goodall Hall, purchased as an investment by the Dumas family</p>

2016	<p>Rev. Sue Gabrielson becomes half time minister at the Saco-Biddeford Unitarian Universalist Church</p> <p>Sanctuary roof support trusses are installed, some original wiring is replaced, and Sanctuary cap and walls are insulated</p> <p>Maine becomes part of the UUA's New England Region, joining the NNEDistrict, Clara Barton District and Mass. May District</p> <p>June 12, we say farewell to Rev. Sue, Grace and Ellie as they relocate to Costa Rica</p> <p>August 1, we welcome Rev. Stephen Cook as our Interim Minister</p> <p>New bulkhead, beams and supports over oil tanks are complete</p> <p>Engineering assessment of church tower structure is performed! 90% paid for by Maine Community Steeples Fund</p> <p>October - Proposal is submitted to MCSF to cover half the cost of securing and painting the church tower</p>
2017	<p>January - Rev. Steve leads a series of cottage meetings to explore options in the search for a shared settled minister</p> <p>March 5 - At a special meeting, congregation votes 31-2 to move forward with intentional shared ministry with the UU Church of Saco/Biddeford</p> <p>March 12 - UUCSB votes unanimously to move forward with us</p> <p>March 19 - Death by Chocolate bakery and café is a successful fundraiser</p> <p>May 7 - A joint service/discussion/lunch question-and-answer session is held by the newly-elected Ministerial Search Committee</p> <p>June 3 - A Celtic harp concert by Judy Saiki, followed by an authentic English tea created by the homesteaders is a huge success</p> <p>August - Work on the church tower is completed, aided by a matching grant of almost \$24,000 from the Maine Community Foundation's Steeple Project restoring it to its original state</p> <p>Work by the 8-member shared Ministerial Search Committee is ongoing</p> <p>August 19 - Rev. Steve attends huge Boston rally to protest KKK, white supremacy and pro-Nazi demonstration</p> <p>September - Ministerial Search Committee conducts a survey and holds 2 more cottage meetings for congregational input into prospective ministers' information packet</p> <p>October - Web page is created for searching ministers to visit</p> <p>December 3 - Judy Saiki holds us spellbound with a second Celtic Harp fundraising concert</p>
2018	<p>A variety of monthly fundraising efforts reap rewards including regifting raffle, R.E. breakfast, Fedco seed sale, Pie Fest and Corner Cafe, and mini-silent-auction</p> <p>Our Green Energy efforts are being reflected in much-reduced bills and environmental conservation</p> <p>March 24 - 10 UUCSB and SUUC members join March for Our Lives in Portland to protest rampant gun violence</p> <p>Emergency Action Plan for church safety is introduced</p>

	<p>April 29 - May 6 Candidating Week introduces Rev. Shay MacKay to SUUC and UUCSB congregations</p> <p>May 6 - Rev. Shay MacKay is called unanimously to be our new settled minister</p> <p>June 2 - Sister churches join together in Goodall Hall for an appreciation dinner honoring the Ministerial Search Committee's diligent work</p> <p>June 17 - A potluck picnic at Ferry Beach celebrates the time our interim minister Rev. Steve spent among us</p> <p>Our Centennial banner is hung on the back wall of the Sanctuary</p> <p>July - Culmination of Karen Nelson's Church Handbook revision and update</p> <p>August 26 - Clare Fortune-Lad reprises her UU Women's Federation Award sermon "Me Too. What's Next?" following its presentation to the UU General Assembly in Kansas City</p> <p>August - Our long-awaited outside trim and Sanctuary ceiling painting are completed, just in time for our Centennial celebrations</p> <p>September 9 - Rev. Shay conducts her first morning services at each sister church, the Ingathering Water Ceremony</p> <p>We embark upon a closer alliance between the two churches Rev. Shay serves, SUUC and UUCSB</p> <p>Rev. Shay introduces "Conversations with Shay" and Brown Bag suppers for collegial fellowship</p> <p>The weekend of November 4 is devoted to a celebration of our building Centennial, when we reenact our history and enjoy a Homesteaders' vintage lunch following the heritage service</p> <p>Our Handbook of Operations is revised</p>
2019	<p>We widen our circle of social justice outreach with Faith in Action (FIAT), Project CommUnity, Black Lives UU (BLUU) and Maine UU State Advocacy Network (MUUSAN)</p> <p>Rev. Shay introduces "Geography of Grace" and "Spirit of Life" spirituality group studies in Sanford and Saco, respectively</p> <p>Our long-established Book Club continues to meet monthly</p> <p>A Covenant of Right Relations is adopted, following months of careful deliberation</p> <p>An Emergency Action Plan is ongoing</p> <p>June 1st we welcome six new members into our fold at our annual Flower Ceremony</p> <p>Summer plans include vestry and kitchen flooring abatement and replacement</p> <p>Lay-led summer services are enjoyed throughout July and August</p>

	<p>We collaboratively change to a new Board structure, with no president, and review and update our by-laws accordingly</p> <p>Rev. Shay's sermons begin a journey through different world religions and wisdom traditions</p>
2020	<p>In March our church shuts down indefinitely as the COVID-19 PANDEMIC rages throughout our country and the world</p> <p>We receive a very generous \$100,000 grant to be accountably dispensed for community corona virus needs</p> <p>We also receive a forgivable loan of \$19,800 from the SBA Payment Protection Plan to forestall any employee monetary hardship</p> <p>Our Emergency Action Plan is now in place</p> <p>Though closed during the pandemic, Corner Cupboard's supplies are funneled through existing outlets so that our mission thrives. The non-food pantry continues to be extremely well-funded by a number of generous ongoing grants</p> <p>Early in June, church members spearhead a BLACK LIVES MATTER peaceful protest march in Sanford</p> <p>Our church members are interacting in innovative and creative ways to promote fellowship and help one another at this stressful time</p> <p>Joint Sunday services are held using ZOOM, with varying degrees of success, and summer services will also be 'socially distant'</p> <p>Autumn in the Time of Covid, and the church continues to function at a distance, largely through dual ZOOM Sunday services led by Rev. Shay MacKay and a number of guest speakers, followed by popular Coffee Hour discussions.</p> <p>Rev. Shay also leads online Thursday evening Vespers and a weekly Soul of Aging group</p>
2021	<p>A triennial review of our church's By-Laws results in a number of strategic changes that reflect the current make-up of our Board, eliminating the roles of President and Vice-President and replacing them with two At-Large positions</p> <p>Our March Stewardship Drive is on target, indicative of a committed membership-at-a-distance</p> <p>The very generous Covid Relief Fund will continue its disbursement to those in need until it is depleted</p> <p>A joint virtual candlelight concert and a Covid mask sale add to our fundraising coffers in January</p> <p>Corner Cupboard continues to find ingenious ways to distribute non-food items until it can reopen, aided by grants and support from members, friends, local churches and civic groups</p> <p>Our church is active in state government issues through MUUSAN: Democracy in Action, Climate Change, Health Care and Racial, Native and Immigrant Justice, led by our very committed Patty Kidder</p>

	<p>SUUC s very active book discussion group continues to meet virtually on a regular basis</p>
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	<p>In June, at an IN-PERSON Flower Ceremony, we say goodbye to Rev. Shay, our minister of three years, as she returns with her family to their Mid-Western roots We also say retirement farewells to Mona and Bill Ouellette, our indispensable Church Administrator and Sexton, respectively, who have been our mainstay for the past 18 1/2 years</p>
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