



Sanford Unitarian Universalist
Church
Sanford, Maine

Sanford Unitarian Universalist Church

UU NOTES Volume XLIV

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Religious Education Directors: Mesha
and Ryan Quinn
Choir Director: Rev. Charles Grindle
Pianist: Ruth Leipold
Church Administrator: Mona Ouellette
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Church Historian: Helen Kane
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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)

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/2399631729> Meeting ID: 239 963 1729

One tap mobile +16468769923,,2399631729# US (New York)

Dial by your location +1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

As we move into our final month of the 2019-2020 church year, it is time for us to celebrate all we have done this year. Let us come together, two congregations as one, to reflect on where we've been and to revel in the joy of being together.

June 7th - Celebration of our Youth, led by the Sanford RE kids

June 14th - PRIDE Celebration, led by Rev. Shay

June 21st - Flower Communion, led by Rev. Shay

Summer Services - After careful consideration, Rev. Shay, your Boards, and your worship teams, have decided to cancel live Sunday services during the summer. In-person gatherings still feel unsafe and the technicalities of Zoom services are daunting for many lay leaders. HOWEVER, Rev. Shay and other folks from both congregations will be writing and/or recording short reflections, meditations, presentations, etc. that will be made available to you throughout the summer. Stay tuned to email, the websites, and Facebook for more info! As of right now, no decisions have been made regarding services in the Fall. We will continue listening to recommendations from health professionals, our state government, and the UUA staff - and will re-evaluate as necessary as things move forward. Our first priority is keeping all of our members and friends as safe as possible, while also continuing to provide as much spiritual nourishment and community support as we can. In peace, Reverend Shay MacKay

Shay's Sharing...



Dear friends,

I know this is scary. I know things are hard to understand and even harder to imagine going on for an unforeseeable amount of time.

I also know that UUCSB, SUUC and their people have been through some really tough times before. And I know that we have to trust ourselves, that we have to trust in our strength and the combined strength of these communities, to stay together during these tough times, to not turn away or run away or withdraw into distressed isolation, but to stay and stand and survive. I know these congregations must survive! The world needs us - and we need each other.

And we can't survive if we don't have tough conversations about how to do that, in these ever-changing times, in these strange and unfamiliar landscapes, in these terrifying situations that are forcing us into making decisions we don't want to have to make.

I understand the desire to comfort and soothe rather than agitate. We certainly are called to be healers and peacemakers. AND we are called to be prophetic, to acknowledge that we are all interconnected, that we need each other to thrive, and that the world needs us to be brave - for ourselves, for each other, and for the future of everyone and everything we hold dear.

I believe that we ALL need to be invited into reflection, that we need to be heard, we all need to be reminded that each one of us is important to this community, that every single person matters in who and what we are, and that ALL of us are part of leading these two churches into the future.

I am truly sorry that what is being said by health professionals, government officials, and the UUA leadership is hard to hear. I am truly sorry if, two years into this ministry we're not where you hoped we would be. I'm truly sorry we are living through a global pandemic while in the bowels of an awful presidency and that it looks like we will continue living this way for many months.

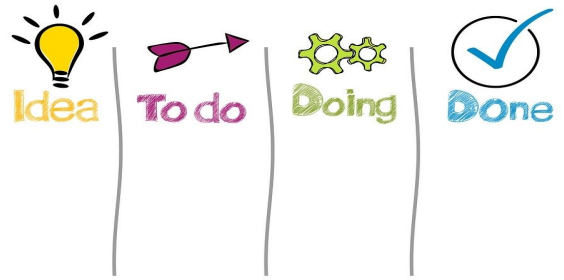
I'm scared and depressed and struggling with apathy, too. I'm feeling inadequate and incapable of living up to what I think YOU need. And I have to keep reminding myself that I don't actually know what any of you need until I ask you. I also don't have to be strong and brave enough for all of us. We can be strong and brave together. Perhaps giving all of us that purpose will help more than anything else. We need each other.

And I need all of us to have faith. That is, after all, what we're all about. I need all of us to have faith in the promises that bind us and the love that sustains us.

I am grateful for your compassion and concern for each other. I'm grateful for your thoughtfulness and caution around how to keep our communities safe and connected. I'm grateful for your dedication to these churches and this shared ministry. And I'm grateful for you, just you, each of you, and all you bring, all you give, all that you are.

As we continue moving through this time and having to make difficult decisions (and exciting ones!), whatever those may be, your Boards and I will be asking for you to stand with us, to offer support and guidance – for we cannot fulfill our promises to “lead in service to the will of our people” if we do not know your will! Keep showing up, keep speaking out, keep loving these churches and supporting the work that we do. Mostly, just keep being you.

In peace,
Rev. Shay



From the Board

We “zoomed” our Board Meeting on May 11. We are getting good at this, which is fortunate since there is no solid information about when we will be able to gather again at church. The UUA is still recommending against in person services and we are following those recommendations.

This year we’ll have our Annual Meeting remotely too. On June 14, at 11:15, after the worship service, we will meet via Zoom and the phone to make decisions about our church for the ‘20 - ‘21 church year. The Warrant is included in another part of this newsletter, please check it out. Rev. Shay sends out a phone number as well as a Zoom link days before Sunday, so we can all be ready to come to the meeting.

Covid 19 really has shaken up things everywhere. The only thing we know for sure is that everything is in flux. This uncertainty is reflected in our the new budget. Because no one is at church, we have not been spending as much for utilities, sewer and water, etc. but we’ve also been losing revenue from rentals and fundraisers. The new budget is based on pledges of \$53,569. That is very good, especially considering the circumstances of everyone’s lives right now. Although the stewardship campaign is officially over, new pledges are still welcome.

The Summer Services will not be held at church, because of safety concerns. However, there are plans in the works for ways for us to share pre-recorded stories, meditations, reflections, etc. More information will follow.

One last thing that is pretty awesome. While the Corner Cupboard is not able to distribute non-food items from church, it is still active. The CC has been partnering with other organizations to get supplies to people in need. They have worked with Meals on Wheels and the Backpack Program. We all know about shortages of toilet paper and cleaning supplies. These shortages make it impossible for the CC to order large supplies of the things given out every month. But as long as there are things to give away, the Corner Cupboard will continue to help.



Our Sister Church - Visit our sister church’s website at <http://www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com/>



Opportunities to Connect with UUCSB and SUUC

I have created some private Facebook groups for us to use as a space where we can share things with each other in a more informal way. Here's one where we can share books, movies, music, photos, and all things fun that we are doing while stuck at home: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/revshayfunathome> Sanford folks can connect and coordinate efforts to care for each other here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/suucconnect> Saco/Biddeford folks can connect and coordinate efforts to care for each other here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/uucsbconnect> Virtual Brown Bag Suppers with Rev. Shay: Every Wednesday from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Zoom - all are welcome to come chat and eat together! Follow this link on any Wednesday: <https://zoom.us/j/2399631729> In peace, Reverend Shay MacKay

Stewardship Update

We are now in our final month of fiscal year 2019-2020. Thank you all for sending in your current year pledges while we attend church virtually. At our annual meeting on June 14th, we will be voting on the new budget for fiscal year 2020-2021. The pledge total for the proposed budget is \$53,569. We appreciate your confidence in our shared future.



Sanford UU Church COVID Relief Fund

A few weeks ago, our church received a donation in the amount of \$100,000, specifically directed at easing financial burdens created by the Covid-19 crisis in the Sanford-Springvale community. The Board of Management met to discuss what to do next, and Shay and Marcel helped create an account for the funds.

Also, a coordinating team has been established. Members of the SUUC Covid Relief Fund team are Pat Herrick, Lee Burnett, Natasha Nolan, and Diane Whiteside-Peck. We met online on Monday, May 25. Our mission is to disburse the funds to community groups, and perhaps individuals, with needs created by the virus. Each of us, this week, is to contact groups who are currently working with people in the community affected by the pandemic: Pat will talk to YCCAC and Project CommUnity with Natasha; Lee will ask local farmers how we can coordinate with them; Diane will call Meals on Wheels. We also generated a few, brief questions to be answered by groups applying for the funds.

Our team decided to “Zoom meet” each Monday evening at 7 o'clock, and to communicate through emails during the week, to continue our mission. We are looking for one or two other people to join the team. If you are interested, please let one of us know as soon as possible! We welcome your joining us, whether as part of the actual team, as a volunteer to help in distribution of possible meals or other tangible needs, or to share your knowledge and ideas that will further our mission.

Thank you all, and please stay healthy! -Diane

CLYNK

End of May we picked up \$103.55 at Hannaford from money we received through CLYNK returns. Money that is generated through this program is picked up throughout the year and goes into our fundraising line. Please pick up a CLYNK bag at the church for your returnable cans and bottles, the bags are located on a table in Goodall Hall for your convenience. You may drop your CLYNK bag off at any Hannaford or at the church. This fiscal year we have made \$286.35 Thank you to everyone for participating in this recycling program, we can all make a difference!

Call to the Annual Meeting of Sanford Unitarian Universalist Church
Sunday, June 14 11:15 a.m. via Zoom.

Information on connecting to this Zoom meeting by internet or phone will
be widely posted in early June.

Our goal, as always, will be to involve as many members of the
congregation as possible.

Warrant

Members of the Sanford Unitarian Universalist Church are hereby notified and warned that the Annual Meeting of said religious society is to be held on Sunday, June 14, 2020, with action to be taken on the following:

1. Suspension of Robert's Rules of Order
2. Approve last year's Annual Meeting minutes
3. Receive Annual reports
4. Vote on the FY 2020-2021 Budget
5. Elect new officers - The following slate is presented to the Congregation for approval at the Annual Meeting:

Clerk--Judi Reis, Financial Secretary--Ginny Howe, Liaison--Janie Waterhouse,

Nominating Committee--Deb Folsom

6. Discuss Future Board Structure Proposal

Next year (2020 - 2021) the Board will continue to operate without a President. At some point next winter, we will ask the congregation to approve changes to the By-Laws including reducing the size of the Board to seven members, eliminating the roles of President and Vice President, and adding an At Large position.

Other small changes to the By-Laws will be necessary.

7. Hear from the Congregation in general.

Adjournment to the next Special church meeting.

Janie Waterhouse Clerk of the Church

June 2020 FiAT - MUUSAN News!

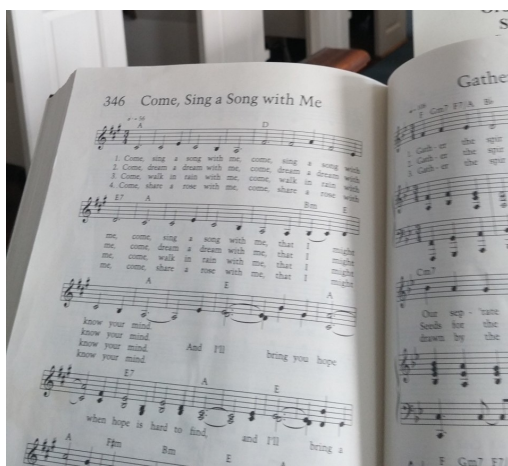
MUUSAN and the UUA - UU the Vote are reminding us all to either request an absentee ballot to vote by mail or to safely vote in person in the Maine Primary on July 14th. They are encouraging us to learn about all the candidates and their position on the issues that are important to us all as Unitarian Universalist and then vote accordingly. As a church, we can NOT tell you who to vote for or against but we can educate ourselves and others about the issues important to us and how each candidate feels about them or what they plan to do if elected. We have been asked to help people register to vote and then to help them requesting a ballot by mail or in getting safely to the polls on election day. I will add that we need to contact our Senators and Representatives in DC and tell them to financially support the USPS (United States Postal Service) with COVID 19 relief money. Phone Calls work best! The USPS is in trouble and we need them to be able to vote absentee. During the Pandemic it is critical that we are able to vote by mail and in person safely.

Other ways you can UU the Vote is to join other like minded local groups doing social justice work in Augusta. The one I joined in 2012 is the Maine Peoples' Alliance (MPA). MPA moved all its resources from lobbying to set up the MainersTogether.com website in response to the COVID 19 Pandemic. Anyone wishing to join Mainers Together helping people in need or advocating for policies (usually supported by MUUSAN, too) that help low income Mainers and people affected by the Pandemic, you can sign up on the website or contact me for more info.

SUUC's FiAT has been very busy responding to the needs of the people in the Greater Sanford Area brought on by the COVID 19 Pandemic. We have coordinated efforts with Mainers Together – MPA and our own Corner Cupboard, the local food pantries and the Sanford Backpack Program to bring groceries, supplies, medications and Hope to the people in need. The extent of poverty and how many people are just a \$1,000 emergency away from it has been exposed by this pandemic. Most people don't have the recommended 3 to 6 months of income in a rainy day savings account waiting for a Pandemic to take their job away.

Your FiAT has answered the call from a distant UU to check on their UU friend at a Sanford assisted living facility. We have gone shopping and delivered the groceries to her as needed and she is very grateful to our church for helping her stay safe.

If you have any questions, want to get involved, please call me at 207-324-8995 and leave a message (I screen my calls) or text me at 207-608-7956 or email me at patty_kidder@hotmail.com. Let's all help "Vote LOVE & UU the VOTE" this year and every year. LOVE not fear, Practiced Here!



We miss you all and look forward to when we can be together again in person!

MAINERS TOGETHER

A community-based response to coronavirus

- Do you or someone you know need assistance due to the COVID-19 outbreak?
- Are you able to make a financial donation to assist vulnerable Mainers?
- Do you want to volunteer to help within your community?

If so... ***Please*** visit

www.MainersTogether.com

or call **[207-797-0967](tel:207-797-0967)** and leave a message

About us: We are Mainers from York County and across the state who have experience in building a movement for change. In this time of crisis, the **Maine People's Alliance** has decided to dedicate organizing resources to supporting community-based efforts to respond to the community distress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and protect our most vulnerable friends and neighbors.



Board 2019-2020

Vice President: Karen Nelson - June 30, 2021
Clerk: Janie Waterhouse - June 30, 2020
Financial Secretary: Ginny Howe - June 30, 2020
Treasurer: Marcel Gagnon - June 30, 2021
Liaisons: Judi Reis - June 30, 2020, Natasha Nolan Parker - June 30, 2022, Diane Whiteside-Peck - June 30, 2021
DREs: Ryan and Mesha Quinn

Church Leadership 2019-2020

Building and Grounds: Marcel Gagnon
Capital Projects Building Committee: Howard Dupee, Bill Ouellette
Choir: Charles Grindle
Church Historian: Helen Kane
Corner Cupboard: Peg Sawyer, Judi Reis, Dee Ames, Helen Kane, Marcel Gagnon
Covenant of Right Relations Team: Aileen Fortune, Melody Wood, Lee Burnett, Karen Nelson, Rev. Shay
FiAT (Faith in Action Team): Patty Kidder
Finance Committee: Peg Sawyer, Pat Herrick, Ginny Howe, Deb Folsom
Fundraising Coordinator: Jan Sacco
Homesteaders: Jan Sacco, Melody Wood
Investment Management Committee: Peg Sawyer, Art Dumas, Howard Dupee
Members and Friends: Tonia Chase
Ministerial Relations Team: Tom Huber, Dee Ames, Bev Brent
Music Committee Chair: Melody Wood
Nominating Committee: Deb Folsom, David Agan, Jan Sacco
Stewardship: Natasha Nolan and Ginny Howe
Women's Alliance: Nancy Farnham
Worship: Rev. Shay MacKay
Worship Associates: Rev. Shay MacKay, Patty Kidder, Mesha Quinn, Tom Huber, Beverly Brent, Jan Sacco, Janie Waterhouse and Georgia Renfroe.

Minister - Rev. Shay MacKay. In the event of a pastoral emergency or caring concern, please contact Rev. Shay at 207-518-8059 (text/call) or at revshaymackay@gmail.com During the COVID-19 crisis, Rev. Shay will not have office hours until further notice.

Administrative Office Hours - Church office is closed, working from home - info@sanforduuchurch.org

Co-Directors of Religious Education - Mesha and Ryan Quinn - dre@sanforduuchurch.org

UUCSB Leadership

President: Allen Casad
Vice President: Ron Hiser **Secretary:** Pat Snyder
Treasurer: Wendy Coleman **Collector:** Betsy Pace
At Large: Susan Young, Laurie Sivonen, Isa Ahmed Mogens Ravn Please contact UUCSB at uuchurch@gwi.net for contact information

SUUC Events and Meetings

The church is closed to all activities, events, meetings, etc. until further notice.

