



Sanford Unitarian Universalist Church

UU NOTES Volume XLIV

December 2020, Issue 6

Sanford UU Church
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Website: sanfordunitarianuniversalistchurch.org/
Minister: Rev. Shay MacKay
Religious Education Directors:
Mesha and Ryan Quinn
Pianist: Ruth Leipold
Church Administrator: Mona Ouellette
Newsletter Editor: Mona Ouellette
Church Historian: Helen Kane
Maintenance/Sexton: Bill Ouellette

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)

Services Continue to be Celebrated Online via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2399631729> Meeting ID: 239 963 1729 Call In: (646) 876-9923

December 6th – Guest preacher, Matt Meyer is a musician, worship leader, and community organizer, as well as a lifelong Unitarian Universalist. He graduated from Berklee College of Music in 2004, where he studied hand drumming and world music. During that time, he also studied abroad in Cuba, Ghana, and Central America. Since then, Matt has led music and worship for hundreds of services in congregations all over the country. He is a founding worship leader and current Director of Operations for Sanctuary Boston, a contemporary worship community in Boston. He was a founding member of the Lucy Stone Cooperative and is a current organizer of the UU Songleaders Convergence. You can find out more about Matt at his website: www.RhythmRevelations.com

December 13th – Hope vs. Expectation – *The hope of the righteous ends in gladness, but the expectation of the wicked comes to nothing. ~ Proverbs 10:28*

December 20th – Honoring the Winter Solstice with Rev. Shay and the Youth of SUUC

December 24th – Joint Christmas Eve Service at 6:00 p.m. Have candles with you at home! Join Rev. Shay and both the SUUC and UUCSB Beloved communities for a special celebration of love and light, featuring music from our many talented congregants. One of the most special parts of our annual Christmas Eve services is the candlelight, so everyone is encouraged to have as many candles as you can safely have around you as you Zoom in from wherever you will be. Or fireplaces, firepits, LED candles, Christmas lights, fairy lights, etc.

December 27th – Guest preacher, Reverend Niki Norman from UUCSB – more information to come!

Rev. Shay's Sharing...

December Theme ~ Expectation

*"My expectations were reduced to zero when I was 21.
Everything since then has been a bonus."
~ Stephen Hawking*



I'm sad to say that whatever holidays you may celebrate this month, and however you normally expect to celebrate them, things are bound to be different this year.

December can be a difficult month even during "normal" times, full of complex emotions and intense (or absent) family interactions, holiday shopping madness, and societal expectations of joy and goodwill despite the growing loss of sunlight and warmth. When you throw in a tension-filled presidential transition and a global pandemic, well, I'm thinking we're in for a wild ride, a rollercoaster of emotions, punctuated by small delights and big frustrations. And while many of us may be able to hide the toll this is taking on our spirits, the reality is that we can all probably use a little help in managing our expectations and processing our disappointments this year.

How, do I hear you shouting?

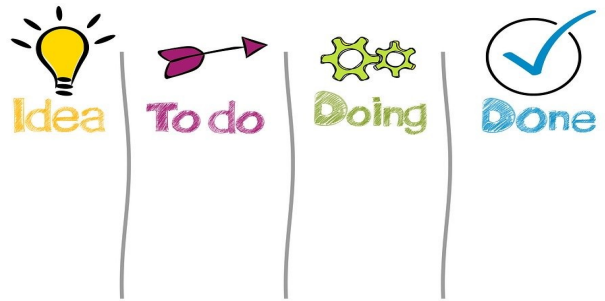
The problem of expectation occurs when we expect something to happen without good reasons for that expectation - for example, doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different outcome despite it never having worked in the past. Or, for example, expecting Christmas to be exactly the same as it has always been despite being in the middle of a pandemic this year.

BUT...when expectation is based on good reasons, on solid evidence, on positive past experience, that is when we can depend on the results. And yes, even then it is possible for the outcome to be different than what we had hoped it would be, but overall, our hope is well-founded, overall our faith will be rewarded.

In the Christian tradition – *our* tradition as Unitarians and Universalists – the four weeks leading up to Christmas are designated as a season called Advent, a time of waiting and preparation of the coming of Christ. More broadly defined – a time of rest and reflection as we wait *in expectation* for the return of Light to the world. And this expectation – that light will return is an expectation based on millions of years of natural cycles. As far as I know, the Earth's tilt on its axis hasn't changed much lately. If it ever does we'll have much bigger problems than how to do Christmas dinner over Zoom!

Here's my point: there are going to be disappointments this month and I'm sorry for that, but I can promise you that on December 21st light will begin its return and on December 25th Love will renew its promise to dwell among us all here on earth.

December Reflection Glimpses from the Roller Coaster



What a month it has been! If I had worked on this reflection over time, beginning on November 1st (prior to the election), or November 4th (before the election had been called), or even on November 7th (when the election was called), the range of my emotions would be plain to see.

The stretch of beautiful days at the beginning of November were an incredible gift. There was time to work on outdoor chores without extra clothing layers; time to open the windows in the house; time to sit and chat with friends just like it was summer; time for walking and taking in the beauty of the natural world.

As the daylight grows shorter, I am gradually getting used to the ‘winter-ish’ routine: getting up before the sun; keeping hat, gloves, and warm socks ready for action; cooking things like American chop suey or oven fried chicken for comfort; and thinking wistfully about the Fedco Seed Catalog.

Recent days have felt difficult to digest – the spiking Covid numbers; the ongoing challenges we face as a nation; and the heart aching choices around family gatherings, can feel overwhelming. Sometimes it is necessary to shut them out, read a book, take a walk, watch a movie, sit quietly. I find I am getting better at listening to myself and knowing when and how much of the outside world to let in.

Despite the difficulty of this time, I am buoyed by the sunlight; the birds at the feeder; talking on Zoom with friends and family; and seeing the faces of my church family on Sunday. We are all finding ways to weather this pandemic on our own, together. Our individual and collective resilience will see us through this extraordinary time.

- Ginny Howe

Bi-Choir Upcoming Rehearsals

Bi-Choir Upcoming rehearsals at 11:30 a.m. December 6th and 13th. Note – this is a new Zoom link!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4711193406?pwd=bEpvM1FQanR4ZzhKL2RpcTRhUmdvUT09>

Meeting ID: 471 119 3406

Passcode: 477441



Our Sister Church

Visit our sister church's website at <http://www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com/>

Relief Committee Update for



The Covid Relief Fund Team continues to fill requests and help people of our community. This month people have needed rent assistance and help getting into permanent homes. We are learning as we go and have set up procedures to verify landlord's identity as a way to prevent fraud. We have been working with the Sanford Police, Randy White, the general assistance officer, and with Mesha at Community Action.

We have welcomed a new participant at our meetings, Lucca Bellissimo. Thank you Lindsay for sharing him with us!

We know that as time passes and unemployment and other funding ends, the need will keep increasing and people will become more desperate. It is wonderful to be able to help people and to ease their worries. Thank you Art and Celina.

If you know of anyone who needs help and that need was caused or worsened by the virus, please contact us or have them contact us.

For the team, Pat Herrick

Other members: Diane Whiteside-Peck, Lee Burnett, and Lindsay Bellissimo



SUUC Book Group

The SUUC Book Group will meet for a Zoom happy hour on Friday, December 11, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. to discuss *All the Devils Are Here* by Louise Penny. Although some of us have read some or all of the first 15 novels about Armand Gamache, this novel is so well-written that you can jump in and will soon to be a fan of Penny's work. If you like the idea of escaping to Paris and struggling with issues of life and death, good and evil, secrets and lies – with a rich dose of history, art, and family dynamics, this book is for you. Karen Nelson will be hosting the hour. If you plan to join in, please email her (karenhnelson77@gmail.com) so she can add you to the list. At that meeting, we will confirm our next read for a January meeting, but Karen will send out a list of the books we are considering so you can weigh in on your preference for our next challenge.

CLYNK Bottle and Can Return at Hannaford

Money 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 also contact the office and have bags mailed to you. Please save only the cans and bottles that are redeemable. You may drop your CLYNK bag off at any Hannaford offering this incentive or at the church. Thank you to everyone for participating in this recycling program, we can all make a difference!

Ministerial Relations Committee (MRT)

“What is it?” “Who’s on it?” “What does it do?”

“Why don’t we know about it?” “Is it another name for the Committee on Ministries?”

These are some of the questions members and friends of our churches ask about the MRT or Ministerial Relations Team. Folks in the Saco & Biddeford church are even more confused because our church has both the MRT and the Committee on Ministries.

You may be surprised to know that the MRT is simply a group of three members from both churches appointed by Rev. Shay. We meet on a monthly basis to question, listen, reflect and advise on issues relating to our churches and minister. We are Tom Huber and Dee Ames from SUUC and Matt Gerken, Mark Young, and Donna Beveridge from UUCSB. Bev Brent from SUUC recently left the team and will be replaced by another member from Sanford. Each of us pays attention to Rev. Shay and our churches. We notice what is working well, focus on improvements rather than criticism, maintain respectful relationships, and operate, confidentially, as openly and honestly as possible.

To be more specific, the MRT provides Rev. Shay with support, provides valuable input into her annual evaluations while she is in preliminary fellowship, and gives feedback to her regarding challenges that may arise. The MRT also watches to be sure that Rev. Shay maintains a balanced work and personal life so that she fulfills her contract obligations but also takes care of herself.

The Committee on Ministries, on the other hand, evaluates all the various ministries and committees in the Saco church and provides support to individuals or groups when conflicts arise. The CoM was created during the time when we had no called minister. Once our two congregations called Rev. Shay, it was decided that we needed to create a combined Ministerial Relations – one specifically created to support our minister.

Feel free to talk to any of us about our roles on the team. And think about whether you would enjoy being a member as terms on the MRT rotate and end.



Dee Ames, SUUC



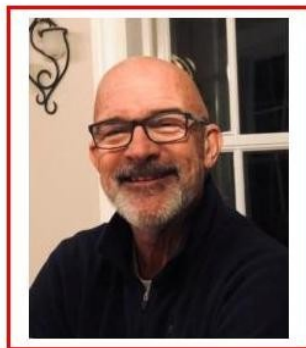
Matt Gerken, UUCSB



Donna Beveridge, UUCSB



Tom Huber, SUUC



Mark Young, UUCSB



Hear Ye! Hear Ye!
All ye good
citizens
of our kingdom!
Hold the date!



The UU Church of Saco & Biddeford and the Sanford UU Church are **UUUniting** to offer a virtual candlelight concert featuring talented performers of both churches. Their words and songs will be woven in and around a story about **Living in a Time of Change.** The MC of this special concert will be our very own Rev. Shay MacKay.

When? Saturday, January 16, 2021

Time? 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Where? Online link available in January

Cost? All are welcome! Pay as you wish and are able.

Donations accepted through PayPal and check.

We would love to have you and your family and friends join us virtually. Please feel free to contact any of us for more information.

Donna Beveridge (dbeveridge18@gmail.com)

Ellie Rolnick (erolnick@maine.rr.com)

Jan Sacco (jrsacco@metrocast.net)





OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION

**Virtual Brown Bag Suppers with Rev. Shay – Every Wednesday from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm on Zoom.
Brown Bags in December will take place on December 2nd, 9th, and 16th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89026676599>
Meeting ID: 890 2667 6599
Call In: (646) 876-9923

**Weekly Vespers Services – Every Thursday from 7:00 pm to 7:30pm on Zoom.
Vespers services in December will take place on December 3rd, 10th, and 17th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83734173380>
Meeting ID: 837 3417 3380
Call In: (646) 876-9923

Coffee Hour with your Board Members and Rev. Shay – Every Sunday after our worship service, join Rev. Shay and members of your Board of Trustees on Zoom for small group discussions based around the monthly theme, that day's sermon, and other relevant topics from your lives. Here is the zoom link for our Sunday services and Coffee Hour:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2399631729>
Meeting ID: 239 963 1729
Call In: (646) 876-9923

**The Soul of Aging with Rev. Shay – Every Tuesday from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Zoom
Soul of Aging in December will take place on December 1st, 8th, and 15th.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84624720782>
Meeting ID: 846 2472 0782
Call In: (646) 876-9923

Around the Church...



Leaves have been raked and disposed of and the top of the altar has been stripped and refinished; it turned out beautiful!



*Merry Christmas
Happy Holidays to All!*



Salvation Army Angel Tree

Many of you will remember how our congregants helped with the Salvation Army's Angel Tree project in past years. Stella would create a display for our Parlor, which held holiday "ornaments" with requests from area children for clothing, toys, and games. Anyone in our church family who wanted to purchase these items for a child did so, and dropped them off at our church. Stella and I hauled them next door, feeling like a couple of Santa's Elves! I was recently asked by the Salvation Army if we could participate this year. With our Parlor (sadly) empty, let this notice serve in place of the Angel Tree! Needed items are as follows:



- 1) STOCKING STUFFERS, such as "Slime", PlayDoh, or baby toys, and for the teenagers, nail polish, body wash, face cleansers, deodorant, or other hygiene products;
- 2) KINETIC SAND;
- 3) LOL DOLLS, which come with accessories and turn colors in warm or cold water.

If you want to participate in making the holidays cheerier for local kids, please purchase any of these items during your holiday shopping and bring them to the church marked "Angel Tree Donation". You can also take purchases directly to the SA next door; they are open from 9:00 to 3:00 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Ask for Jessica LaRose. Deadline is December 4th. Thank you! ~Diane

Announcing a Mini Fundraiser!

We are all familiar with The Three Ws to help stop the spread of Covid-19: Wash your hands; Watch your distance; Wear a Mask. And since we all need masks, why not sell masks as a fundraiser for our yoked churches?

Beginning the week of November 30th, here's how you can participate: on a slip of paper, indicate your name and phone number and how many masks you'd like, specify a preference for one of the colors pictured here or state that you will take any color, and send \$15 per mask to the Sanford UU Church, 5 Lebanon Street, Sanford, 04073. As simply as that, you have completed your order. Your mask(s) will be matched to your color preference as closely as possible, then bagged and labeled with your name, ready for pick-up at the church by mid-December.



Diane will call you about a pick-up time at the Sanford church, so having your phone number on the order is essential. UUCSB orders and their share of the proceeds will be brought to the Saco church, and Jan will help to coordinate those pick-ups.

Order as many masks at \$15 each as you'd like! Give them as holiday gifts or wear one yourself! Each mask is lovingly sewn by a church member with four layers of 100% cotton fabric and elastic ear loops. We are so grateful to our generous Mask Maker for donating all work and materials, making it possible for all proceeds to go directly to the two churches!

Be sure to make a note on your check that this is for the Mask Fundraiser. Also indicate if you need your order filled especially quickly. Fundraiser will run through December into the first half of January. Please contact Diane Whiteside-Peck (207-337-0014) with any questions. Happy Holidays, stay healthy, and thanks!

Board 2020-2021

Vice President: Karen Nelson - June 30, 2021

Clerk: Judi Reis - June 30, 2022

Financial Secretary: Ginny Howe - June 30, 2022

Treasurer: Marcel Gagnon - June 30, 2021

Liaisons: Janie Waterhouse - June 30, 2023, Natasha Nolan Parker - June 30, 2022, Diane Whiteside-Peck - June 30, 2021

DREs: Ryan and Mesha Quinn

Church Leadership 2020-2021

Building and Grounds: Marcel Gagnon

Capital Projects Building Committee: Howard Dupee, Bill Ouellette

Choir:

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

Music Committee Chair: Melody Wood

Nominating Committee: Deb Folsom

Stewardship:

Women's Alliance: Nancy Farnham

Worship: Rev. Shay MacKay

Worship Associates: Rev. Shay MacKay, Patty Kidder, Mesha Quinn, Tom Huber, Beverly Brent, Jan Sacco, Georgia Renfro

Rev. Shay's Schedule - Monday is Writing Day, with limited availability. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday completely available to you, please email, text or call to set up an appointment time! Friday is day off, emergency availability only. Saturday on call for pre-scheduled meetings and events; available for emergencies. Sunday is Worship and Coffee Hour. Email revshaymackay@gmail.com Phone/text 207-518-8059

Administrative Office Hours - Church office is closed due to pandemic, working from home - info@sanforduuchurch.org
Email anytime, always available

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

Newsletter Deadlines for 2020-2021 FY

December 28th for January newsletter

January 25th for February newsletter

February 22nd for March newsletter

March 22nd for April newsletter

April 26th for May newsletter

May 24th for June newsletter

June 21st for July newsletter

