



Sanford Unitarian Universalist Church
UU NOTES Volume XLIV
June 2021, Issue 12

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Website: [sanfordunitarianuniversalist](http://sanfordunitarianuniversalistchurch/)
church/
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

June 6th Service - To be announced

June 13th Service - Flower Communion and Final Service with Rev. Shay. This service will be held at Kael, Natasha, and River's house (also on Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2399631729> Meeting ID: 239 963 1729 Call in: (646) 876-9923) 43 Prospect Street in Springvale. The service will last 45 minutes and will be followed by our Annual Meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Information on summer services coming soon... stay tuned!

Rev. Shay's Sharing...



As I said in my sermon on May 23rd:

The very first sermon I shared with you, in the Sanford sanctuary at the beginning of candidating week three years ago, I told you about my dream of the singing stones, in which we chose each other by listening for the songs that were only ours to sing.

Our dreaming of new ministry, of two unique and blessed communities joining the journey with a new minister, coming together to create a new, vibrant story, your dreaming of partnership and support and collaboration in the shared ministry of this community, was a beginning of a new story.

And our dreamings brought us here, to this place, with each other. Our dreamings held the first notes of a new song – a new vision – a *shared* creation, built on affection and respect, honoring all of our pasts while opening to the wonder of the new world we were going to create together. My dreamings, and yours, created songlines; songlines that guided us as we explored new terrain, that revealed to us what it means to be on this journey together. Through creativity and cooperation, courage and compassion, we shaped this story, this shared ministry, and were shaped by it.

These years were our dreaming time, in which we all, together, created the songlines that guided us as we moved forward toward a shared vision. You, as a community, are now preparing to enter another dreaming time – a time of unknowing and uncertainty in the newness of things, as am I. Be patient! Be kind! Be silent sometimes and learn to listen! Allow everyone's voices to speak, to be heard, to move you. Let others hear your songs, and the wonder and joy all of you are so very capable of expressing.

We each have something special to offer in the creation of this new world, you each have a particular part only you can sing – and...none of it works if what we put forth forgets that the larger vision is what we are all about here.

This is not about power or personal gain. There will be moments when one voice, or a few, sing high above the chorus, sharing wisdom, insight, perspective, and ingenuity. But, if ever any voice loses the melody of the shared song, we, as a community, will encourage a renewed effort at harmony. It will take all of us to sing the world we want into being.

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Rev. Shay's Sharing Continued...

I'd like to believe that Life is constantly offering us invitations to create great music with others. Sometimes this music is joyful and sometimes it's not. In our listening for the songs of others, we will sometimes be challenged or feel threatened. Listen more carefully, especially then! When we disagree, when we misunderstand each other, when we are dealing with prejudices or fears or deep wounds, it is more important than ever to listen deeply, quieting our own assumptions and judgments and agendas. By listening in this way, we facilitate communication, collaboration, and respect. By listening in this way, we facilitate harmony.

May we, whether we are here together or separated by many miles, move together, our voices blending, finding expression for all the music our hearts long to sing. Make room as new voices join and others fade away.

I am now saying goodbye to you, gradually withdrawing my voice from the choir of this community, allowing us all to feel the sadness in that loss, and in that letting go enabling our hearts to begin listening for the notes of a different song, trusting that the breath of Spirit moves gently among us always, singing softly, an exhalation of Love.

With love, I thank you for letting me sing with you these past three years, and for the work you do to create Great Music that echoes throughout the world. I am deeply grateful for this time with you, and very much looking forward to listening from afar as your song continues with new voices, new harmonies, and new rhythms.

Don't ever stop doing the work you do to create beautiful, great music that echoes throughout the world.

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Flower Communion and Final Service with Rev. Shay June 13th at 10:00 a.m.

This service will be held at Kael, Natasha, and River's house (also on Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2399631729> Meeting ID: 239 963 1729 Call in: (646) 876-9923) 43 Prospect Street in Springvale. The service will last 45 minutes and will be followed by our Annual Meeting at 11:00 a.m.

We will be having a very special outdoor service to close out this church year together as a community, a time to look into each other's eyes and feel the energy of our bodies in one place together, something we have all been missing during this time of social distancing and isolation.

We will also be welcoming some new members into our community, as well as saying goodbye to Rev. Shay.

In order to make this as safe as possible for everyone, the following guidelines will be required:

- ◆ Bring water and snacks
- ◆ Bring your own chair
- ◆ Wear a mask at all times
- ◆ Try to maintain 6ft of social distancing at all times

And don't forget to bring some flowers and plants!

Relief Committee Update



This month, the Covid Relief Fund team has approved two individual requests, which are pending estimates from the individuals. Also, Southern Maine Area Agency on Aging requested funds to pay for much-needed technical support to keep confined seniors in touch with family and friends, the Phone Pal program to lessen seniors' anxiety, and virtual support for their caregivers. In addition, SMAAA has scheduled 1,600 vaccination appointments and delivered 1,877 meals to home-bound seniors, an increase of 40% since March, 2020. Our church deserves to be proud of how the Fund came to the aid of older local residents! There is still some money in the account, so please let a team member know of any need. Stay well.

Bill adding fresh flowers to the box beneath our Wayside Pulpit in honor of Bob McCormick.



Dear Beloved Congregation,

Please take time to read our Covenant of Right Relations not just with your eyes but with your heart. We are approaching a time of transition, in an already uncertain time. Our ability to offer each other respect, love, and to truly listen to each other will shape not just the journey through the process of determining what is next, but the strength and character of our congregation at the end of the process. Let us work for the good of all, making kindness our religion. On behalf of the Committee on Right Relations, Melody Wood

Our Beloved SUUC Community Covenant of Right Relations

Preamble

We enter this Covenant of Right Relations with open hearts and open minds.

To covenant with one another is to engage in the spiritual and everyday practice of loving better. Although this document expresses our written promise to each other, our true covenant lives and breathes in our actions. In times of growth we will use it to deepen our bonds with one another; during times when we are loving well, it will inspire us to love better; and in times of conflict, we will use it to guide us. We expect this document to be challenging, and we also expect it to inspire us to strengthen our relationships and deepen our sense of community.

Our Living Practices

(examples given by the congregation are in italics)

Radical Hospitality

We accept one another in all our complexity and diversity, fostering a multicultural and multigenerational community. We embrace radical hospitality, welcoming all those who enter, seeing diversity in all its manifestations as a sign of strength.

Greet people warmly, get acquainted with others; treat visitors as fellow worshipers; welcome newcomers into conversations; treat one another kindly outside of church as well as inside. Engage with those who are different from us; challenge bigotry in all its forms; work to empower those who are disempowered; actively confront our assumptions through critical and studied examination of the forces that disadvantage some and privilege others.

Respectful Listening and Speaking

We embrace listening and communication, cultivate active listening, sincere understanding, a culture of gratitude, and compassionate honesty using care-filled language. We trust one another's intentions and recognize that our behaviors have an impact regardless of our intentions.

Assume that people have good intentions; listen intentionally and compassionately; encourage people to speak without blaming or judging them when they do; ask open, honest questions; remember that respectful listening is especially important during meetings.

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Compassionate Conflict Resolution

We embrace conflict resolution – we communicate directly with one another, especially when we are in conflict and, when necessary, consider conflict resolution with a mediator. When conflict is not addressed, it festers and grows.

Make every effort to settle differences directly and openly; stay engaged with each other through difficult conversations; hold ourselves responsible for hearing all sides; be willing to come back into covenant.

Reconciliation and Forgiveness

We embrace reconciliation and forgiveness. When we are hurt or hurt others, we seek reconnection and/or forgiveness. When we engage in reconciliation, we invite change that will transform a relationship. Reconciliation transforms individuals by bringing the parties to a new consciousness of the way they see, treat, and interact with each other.

Acknowledge our own and others' imperfections; forgive ourselves and others; be accountable for keeping our promises; lovingly call each other to account for behavior that is hurtful to others; seek restitution; develop the courage, confidence and will to reconcile and forgive.

Generosity of Service and Accountability

We embrace service and accountability. We are responsible for ourselves and are accountable to one another for creating opportunities to encourage, challenge, and connect. We serve our church and local community with generosity and good humor, working to create social justice. We acknowledge the service of others.

Honor all levels of service to the church; solicit the input of others; encourage people to make choices that balance their needs with the needs of others; help others identify the right level of engagement for them; invite others to join us in our activities; honor the right of others to say no; see service as mission-driven; be planful and deliberate in our efforts, setting clear priorities; acknowledge equitably all service done by the congregation.

Closing

Through these choices and actions, we realize the interconnected network of both mutuality and responsibility to each other and to our beloved community – we support each other in times of joy and need; we pledge to accompany one another on the journeys we face publicly and privately; and we acknowledge that learning to live covenantally is an ongoing process.

Sanford UU Church Book Group

The SUUC Book Group will meet on Zoom on Friday, June 11th at 4:30 p.m. to discuss "Fortune's Rock" - a novel by Anita Shreve based on a setting in Biddeford Pool. Let Karen know if you would like to join the conversation. karenhnelson77@gmail.com



CLYNK

We recently picked up \$78.85 from returned bottles and cans at Hannaford. This fiscal year we have earned \$302.16, our best year yet! Money received through this endeavor is entered as fundraising money. CLYNK bags are located on the table in Goodall Hall. We thank everyone who participates in this program!

Music Notes from Choir Director, Ellie R.

BiChoir will be live on Sunday, June 6th in Saco and Sunday, June 13th in Sanford. It will be a pick-up choir and I hope that most of our regular singers will be at both services. However, anyone can sing with the choir those mornings – you just need to show up at 8:45 AND have a choir singing mask. For more information, please contact me via my email in the church directory or send an email to the church (uuchurch@gwi.net) and Brian will forward it to me.

Church Mailboxes

If you have a mailbox in the church office, please take a moment to come in and clean it out, a few of the mailboxes are overflowing. Let's begin the new year this fall with empty mailboxes. Thank you!

Thank

You

Thank you to all who have helped to make the church year a success in spite of the ongoing Covid 19 restrictions. Our thanks to all of our Board members, liaisons, all the members of the many committees we have, Rev. Shay, the bi-choir, members and friends of our congregation, directors of religious education, Corner Cupboard team, church historian, computer "tweakers" and the list goes on and on. You did so much in so many ways... giving of your time, out of your pocket, your knowledge.... and all done during the pandemic as we worked from home, holding

services, book groups and fundraisers via Zoom and continuing the work of the church in the best and safest way possible for everyone. We could not have done this without you!

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 following our 10:00 a.m. Flower Communion service on Sunday, June 13, 2021.

The Annual Meeting will be held in Natasha Nolan and Kael Parker's backyard located at 43 Prospect Street in Springvale, weather permitting. In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be held at church. We will notify the congregation on the preceding day.

Action to be taken on the following items:

Receive annual reports

Vote on church budget for 2021-2022

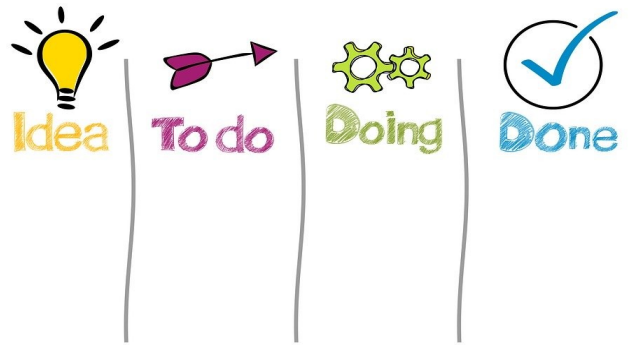
Elect members of the Board of Management and Nominating Committee

Vote to dissolve Rev. Shay's call to settled ministry and letter of agreement*

Congregational input, questions, and concerns

Judi Reis, Clerk of the Church

Explanation of "vote to dissolve Rev. Shay's call to settled ministry and letter of agreement." The Boards of SUUC and UUUCSB, along with Rev. Shay MacKay, have agreed to end Shay's employment as our called settled minister effective the end of this fiscal year, June 30. As this is a mutual agreement, neither a firing or a resignation, all that is needed to officially end this agreement is a majority vote by both congregations. If either congregation wishes to continue to work with Rev. Shay, it will be through a contractual agreement.



Update from the Board

The Board met on May 10th. As you all know, there are many changes coming for our church community, some which happened since our meeting. The Board meets weekly to address the needs of the church at this time. We are working to keep you updated as we receive more information.

Flower Communion Service and Annual Meeting: Mark your calendars. This year's Flower Service and Annual Meeting, held on June 13th, will be held in the beautiful backyard of Kael Parker and Natasha Nolan. Everyone is asked to bring a chair, water and snacks, to mask up, and to socially distance.

Ideas for a new “green” heating system are being explored. If we choose this option, the upfront cost will be higher but it will be easier on the environment, and save money over time. We’ll keep you updated as we learn more.

Another “stay tuned for...” item is summer services. There are several interesting possibilities, and/or a combination of them.

This quote from 17th century samurai and poet Mizuta Masahide, “Barns burnt down now I can see the moon” seems right for us at this point. Our barn is NOT burnt down but we are and will be facing challenges. We are a strong and loving community, these challenges may be opportunities for an even better view of the moon.

Janie Waterhouse

Celebration of Life

You are warmly invited to "Save the Date" for the Celebration of Life for Meredith (Marty) Walton, beloved family member and friend to so many.

Saturday, June 26, 2021 at the Sanford Unitarian Universalist Church*

- 1:00 p.m. Celebration of Life in the manner of Friends (Quakers) with sharing and reflection
- 4:00 p.m. Light refreshments, SUUC
- 5:00 p.m. Dedication of Memorial Bench in Marty's name at Laudholm Farm, Wells, Maine

For planning purposes, please RSVP with your name(s) and number of people in your party to:

Linda Lyman, lindajlyman@gmail.com, 207-251-1702

*This is a hopeful tentative date dependent on Covid restrictions and guidance. If you RSVP, you will be notified of any changes.

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: David Agan, Jan Sacco, Deb Folsom

Stewardship: Helen Kane

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, any time, any day.

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



Newsletter Deadline for 2021
Our FY ends June 30, 2021
June 21st for July newsletter



Our Sister Church

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