Getting to Know Us

Introducing Unitarian Universalism and UU Society of Bangor
Dear Friends,

Welcome and thank you for your interest in learning more about our beloved community.

Thanks to the help of our talented Membership Fellowship Committee we have created this resource to help you learn more about our community, how we function, and the variety of programs and activities that we engage in here at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Bangor (UUSB).

This self-study guide is full of useful information, but it is in no way complete. After you have read the guide we hope that you will bring your questions to us and perhaps join one of my informal post-worship service teas in my office to ask questions and learn more about the details of our amazing spiritual/religious community that is based on the principles of freedom of thought and belief and shared leadership.

I look forward to meeting you soon.

Namasté,

Rev. Drew

PS - As the Covid Pandemic continues to unfold our congregation has been focusing on maintaining a variety of programing online. We have opted to keep our weekly worship service online in order to keep people safe and to serve the greatest numbers of members. We hope that you will consider joining our online worship services and programs. You can also sign up with our office to receive weekly or monthly updates at: uubangor@gmail.com We hope that we will be able to meet in person soon. Rev. Drew
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

Introducing the liberal faith of
Unitarian Universalism

This section of “Getting to Know Us” includes:

- The 7 Principles of Unitarian-Universalism

- A special issue of *UU World*, published by the Unitarian
  Universalist Association, that gives the big picture of our faith.
  (The entire issue is important reading.
  Please at least read pp 4-6, 10-14, and 16-18)

If and when you become a member of the UUSB, we also will get you a

 copy of *The Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide*, with in-depth
 information about the UU faith. Meanwhile, let us know if you’d like a
 copy to borrow.
The 7 Principles of Unitarian Universalism
Envisioned as a structure, from foundation up

#1 The inherent worth and dignity of every person

#2 Justice, equity, compassion in human relations

#3 Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations

#4 A free and responsible search for truth and meaning

#5 The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large

#6 The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all

#7 Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.
UUSB:
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY OF BANGOR

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Bangor is a liberal religious community, celebrating diversity and supporting spiritual growth and social responsibility in each child and adult.

The following pages have information about

- Our history
- Our UUSB covenant
- Our minister and staff
- How we govern ourselves
- Our Religious Education Program
- How you can become involved at UUSB
- How we pay for things
- Member benefits & how to become a member

You can find a wealth of additional information on our website: www.uubangor.org

...where you also can find past editions of our monthly newsletter, Chalice & Chimes: http://uubangor.org/index.php/about-us/chalice-and-chimes/ and learn more about our many activities
The Unitarian Universalist Society of Bangor (UUSB) is a congregation that attracts people of many beliefs, cultures, and traditions. Meet some members of our community and read why they call the UUSB their spiritual home.

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Bangor opens the door to worship love, humanity, and oneness with unrestricted perception.

I value the seven principles and cherish being able to learn from so many different sources, both traditional sources and wisdom from the current time. For me, this community provides a balance.

We cherish our involvement in UUSB, where we honor the sacred in every person. We love cultivating unity in the world with this beloved community, which has become our extended family.

Shirin and Ali

Mike

Rissa and Linda

Unitarian Universalist 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 the 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.

Unitarian Universalist Society of Bangor

120 Park Street, Bangor, Maine 04401
(207) 947-7009, www.uubangor.org
uubangor@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook!

Unitarian Universalist Society of Bangor

Thank you to Tom Grogan Photography!

Welcome to our Community!
Welcome to the Unitarian Universalist Society of Bangor!

About Us
The Unitarian Universalist Society of Bangor (UUSB) has been a progressive religious voice in Bangor since the 1830s. Our religious heritage is derived from the Unitarian and Universalist traditions, which have strong histories of commitment to justice and compassion. As a faith community, we are focused on spiritual growth and service. We are a welcoming congregation, supporting the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

Worship
Most services are led by the minister and a lay worship associate. For a listing of upcoming sermons, please visit our website, www.uubangor.org.

Sunday Worship Service: 10 - 11 am (year round)

You are invited to a fellowship hour after the service. Refreshments are provided.

Staff
Rev. Andrew Moeller, Minister
Karen Childs, Director Religious Education
Christine Sprague, Office Administrator
Molly Webster, Music Director

Religious Education and Child Care
Childcare is provided during most worship services and UUSB activities. A safe Nursery-PreK classroom, staffed by volunteers, is available for children up to age four. Religious Education (RE) classes are held during Sunday services for infants through age 18 from mid-September - May. Our volunteer RE teachers nurture development through appropriate lesson plans chosen by the RE director and the Religious Education Action League. We encourage families to take part in the many educational and fun activities offered throughout the year.

You may also schedule a tour of our RE area by contacting Karen.

Other Activities and Offerings
For a full description of the activities and offerings listed below, please visit our website, www.uubangor.org:

Social Justice: Dedicated to justice and equity, we engage in activities involving bus transportation, food security, equal rights, climate change, healthcare and other democratic issues with faith organizations, and local and statewide groups.

Groups and Adult Education: Centered around fellowship, service, and discussion, our groups and adult education include Spirit of Drumming, Buddhist/Meditation, Religious Education Action League, Shawl Ministry, and Unitarian Universalist theology.

Choir: Led by our music director, all are welcome to join regardless of skill level.

Regularly Scheduled Activities:
• Souper Sundays - Soup lunches are scheduled throughout the year with soup provided by congregation members
• Holiday Basket Auction and Wreath Sale held first Saturday in December
• Annual Game Night
• Monthly Free Bean Suppers for the wider community

For more on UUSB visit us online: www.uubangor.org
A Brief History of the  
Unitarian Universalist Society of Bangor

The birth of the UU Society of Bangor in 1995 completed a journey of almost 35 years that brought together two historic churches in Bangor, the Unitarian Church on Union St. and the First Universalist Church on Park St. The consolidation accomplished a historic blending of voices for social justice and liberal religious values upheld by these two churches since the early 1800s. Ministers and the congregants from both churches spoke out strongly against slavery in the 1800s. UUSB has continued that legacy of support by taking action against militarism and anti-Semitism and supporting respect and equal rights for members of the LBGTQ community as well as welcoming immigrants to this country.

The Independent Congregational Society Unitarian was organized in Bangor on March 2, 1818, by 21 members of the original Congregational Society (Trinitarian) who found they could not live in an atmosphere they found “uncharitable, intolerant, and oppressive.” A year later William Ellery Channing preached his famous sermon, Unitarian Christianity, in Baltimore, Maryland, and a liberal religious movement was born. The original “Union Street Brick Chapel” was erected in 1827, then destroyed by fire in 1851. The current building was built in 1853. Bangor’s Hannibal Hamlin, Vice President under Abraham Lincoln, was an active member of the congregation. Though many years, historic moments, and ministries, the Bangor Unitarian Church advocated openly and sometimes forcibly on behalf of human dignity and worth.

The First Universalist Society was organized in 1833. Until the cornerstone of their first building was laid on June 25, 1860, the congregation met in various buildings including the Episcopal church and the Methodist church. The original Park Street building was destroyed in 1911 during the Great Bangor Fire. Rev. Dr. Ashley Smith, just five weeks installed as the minister, valiantly saved the cherished church Bible by burying it in his backyard. He completed a ministry of 25 years, the longest ministry either church has ever experienced. During his ministry the present building was erected in 1912 and the historic chime bells were acquired in 1919. The Dorothy Memorial Hall was dedicated in September 1925 as a memorial to Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Ashley Smith’s daughter Dorothy who died March 1, 1924, at the age of 23 after a long illness. Rev. Smith resigned in June 1936. The ministers to follow Rev. Smith took the Park St. church through some challenging periods of growth and change which brought the church from a predominantly Christian-identified congregation to a more diverse Unitarian Universalist identity.

Nationally, Unitarian and Universalist churches consolidated as Unitarian Universalist Association in 1961. The two Bangor churches consolidated in 1995, further strengthening and uniting diverse theologies into a warm and caring community.

- Adapted from the church history written by Dorothy A. Hawkes in March 1999
First Services in the
New Universalist Church

Bangor Daily News
Sept 30, 1912

Pastors of Many Churches United at Night in Extending Congratulations - Choice Musical Programs - a Vivid Sermon by Rev. Ashley A. Smith

On Sunday the first services were held in the new Universalist church edifice. The formal dedication will not come until later; but yesterday's observance was a dedication to all intents and purposes, and it was assisted in by the pastors of many other churches.

The new edifice is one of the finest in Bangor - quiet, yet beautiful; simple, but elegant. It has every modern comfort and convenience, and is a monument of which the city's religious world may well feel proud.

The pastor, Rev. Ashley A. Smith, preached at the morning service a sermon which will be found in full below. It tells the purposes of the church, its aspirations and ideals. At the evening service - attended by a congregation which filled every pew, notwithstanding the storm - the pastors of 11 churches and the president of the Theological Seminary united in making the occasion memorable. The responsive psalm reading was led by Rev. Walter Leonard Lott of St. John's Episcopal church; the scripture reading was by Rev. Horace B. Haskell of the First Methodist, and the prayer by Rev. Charles A. Moore of All Souls Congregational. Eneign Armstrong, of the Salvation Army, read a hymn.

Then followed addresses, of about ten minutes each, by six other clergymen - Rev. George C. Sauer of the First Baptist church, Rev. C. W. Collier of the Hammond Street Congregational, Rev Alva Roy Scott of the Unitarian, Rev. A. B. Hyde of the Bangor Theological Seminary. They were inspiring addresses, and nearly all of them touched in some way upon the great fundamental truth that the fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man - in short, the cardinal principles of the Christian church - are greater than mere differences in denomination or creed. The courage and faith of the Universalist people in building so fine an edifice was frequently touched upon, and the architectural beauties, seen on every side, were praised. A non-sectarian meeting such as this, with 12 clergymen of differing faiths seated upon one platform, would have been a sheer impossibility a dozen years ago. It held a broad and deep significance.

It was a handsome picture too - the huge congregation in its summer finery, the bright new auditorium, simple but elegant, as has been said, in color scheme of buff and white; the fine memorial windows; the twelve clusters of electric lights suspended from the ceiling; and, finally, the big organ, with its golden pipes. The final hymn, with the congregation standing, was led by Rev. Edwin C. Brown of the Forest Avenue Congregational church who also pronounced the benediction.

At both morning and evening services there were choice musical programs.
UUSB’S Covenant
Our promise to each other

We are a welcoming, inclusive, progressive community of spiritual seekers of all ages. We gather to nourish our souls, reflect on the big questions, steadfastly support each other through hard times, and joyfully celebrate life.

We commit to living our principles by treating each other and the greater community with genuine loving kindness, by listening intently, and by speaking our truth with compassion.

We are guided by our commitment to the Earth and all of its inhabitants. Through our service, we work to transform the world into a place of unity, peace, and justice.

Adopted by the Congregation, May 19, 2019
Our Minister and Staff

ANDREW MOELLER, MINISTER
The Reverend Andrew (Drew) Moeller is an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister serving the UUSB congregation as its full-time minister. His commitment to the ideals of Unitarian Universalism is infectious, and he is the beloved spiritual leader of our community. Before serving in Bangor, he was a contract minister for the Unitarian Universalist Society of Laconia, NH, while also serving the Lakes Region General Hospital in Laconia as a chaplain. He is a life-long Unitarian Universalist.

KAREN CHILDS, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS ED
Karen joined our staff in 2013, and our Religious Education program has been growing and rocking ever since. She comes from a varied career path that includes various professional positions and a whole lot of volunteer work! She is passionate about building community and whether noodling on her uke or enjoying a cup of dark roast you'll find that there is always room for one more at her fire.

MOLLY J WEBSTER, MUSIC DIRECTOR
Molly is a master choir director who lifts the UUSB Choir to new heights. She graduated from the University of Maine with undergraduate degrees in Music Education and Vocal Performance and a Master degree in Choral Conducting. She also directs New Renaissance Singers, Divisi, Husson University Singers, and teaches private voice lessons at Main Street Music Studios. She is a lover of road trips and all things out of doors.

CHRISTINE SPRAGUE, OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
Christine grew up in northern Massachusetts and, with a degree in English and formal training as a teacher, settled in the Bangor Area. She was welcomed onto UUSB’s staff in 2019. She is a wife, mother, teacher and crafter. She enjoys a variety of hobbies, from embroidery to video games, and sharing the skills she has gained with others.

In addition, as UUSB moved to remote services during the COVID-19 pandemic, JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ became an essential addition to our staff as Zoom Tech. She has been central to the smooth workings of worship services.
How We Govern Ourselves

The fifth Principle of Unitarian Universalism affirms "the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large."

Your voice counts! UUSB is, accordingly, a self-governing society. Ultimate control of its affairs rests with the members of the Society. Annually – and more often when major decisions are at hand – the membership meets in the manner of a “town meeting” to adopt policies, adopt a budget, and elect a Council and certain other positions; and discuss, debate, and vote on other articles that have been put before us. Only members have the right to vote, though friends of the society are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Council: A Council elected by the members provides for the overall supervision of the business and programs of the Society. The Council consists of seven to nine members, who serve 3-year terms. Four of the Council (Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Clerk) serve as officers of the Society. The Chair and Vice Chair are elected by the other members of the Council. The Treasurer and Clerk are elected by the members at the annual meeting. The Council has broad powers to carry out the business and policies of the Society. Members interested in serving on the Church Council are encouraged to contact a member of the Nominating Committee to be considered by vote of the congregation at the annual meeting, or to be considered in case of a vacancy on the Council. Such interest is welcome!

Trustees of Endowment Funds and Hersey Bequest: Two other important elected bodies are the Trustees of the General Endowment Funds and the Trustees of the Hersey Bequest. UUSB is fortunate to have a modest general endowment as well as a series of smaller endowments that can be used for various building and equipment purposes and help with the annual operating budget. An independent, five-person General Endowment Board of Trustees, elected by the members of UUSB at the annual meeting, decides how to manage and disburse the available funds (see the Section on Finances). Similarly, an independent, three-person Hersey Board of Trustees elected by the members manages and disburse funds in the Hersey Trust, created through the will of Samuel F. Hersey. The Hersey funds are primarily intended to provide opportunities for youth to participate in the programs of the Ferry Beach Retreat and Conference Center in Saco.

Minister: The Minister is responsible for the spiritual programs of the Society, as formulated with assistance from Council. The Minister is an ex officio, non-voting member of the Council. The Minister has the freedom of the pulpit as well as the freedom to speak publicly as an individual. The Minister aids the Council with, and has a vote in, the hiring of staff members. The Minister supervises all staff members. The staff currently consists of the Director of Religious Education, the Music Director, and Office Administrator.
Religious Education

Each week from September through May, UUSB supports a growing and thriving Religious Education program. From the nursery through the teen groups, our youth are involved in learning, growing and sharing together. Each Sunday, our entire Faith Community begins its time together in our Sanctuary. After the Story for All Ages, the children leave with their teachers to attend their Religious Education classes, downstairs in our beautiful RE Wing.

Classes are divided into age-appropriate groups, including Nursery-PreK, K-1st Grade, 2-3rd Grade, 4-5th Grade, 6-8th Grade, and Youth Group. We also offer the Our Whole Lives (OWL) program. The curriculum for each age group can be found at http://uubangor.org/index.php/religious-education/.

Karen Childs is our Director of Religious Education (uubangorre@gmail.com). The Religious Education Action League (R.E.A.L.), composed of parents and other interested people, helps Karen with visioning and feedback for the program.

The RE Program has a volunteer teaching staff of both parents and non-parents from our UUSB community. They allow us to sustain a high level of energy and quality teaching throughout our program. Teachers work in teams to deliver an interactive curriculum that explores our 7 Principles. In our kid friendly version, they are:

1: Each person is important.
2: Be kind in all you do.
3: We’re free to learn together.
4: We search for what is true.
5: All people need a voice.
6: Build a fair and peaceful world.
7: We care for our Earth, which we share with all living things

Beyond Sunday classes, RE provides several fun-filled activities during the year, such as a Welcome Back Pancake Breakfast in September, a Halloween Party in October, and a Pool Party in March. A Day Camp is available in the summer, including opportunities for older youth to serve as counselors.

In addition, youth 9 – 18 years old who are registered in and regularly attend the RE program are eligible for scholarships to cover one week in the summer at the Ferry Beach Retreat in Saco, either as part of a Family Camp or a Kids Camp. For more info, check out http://uubangor.org/index.php/religious-education/ferry-beach-hersey-scholarship-info/.
You Are Invited to Get Involved...Here’s How

Committees

Committees, made up of Members and Friends of UUSB, are the lifeblood of the Society’s day-to-day activities. They provide the people-power needed for UUSB to function and carry out its mission as a welcoming faith community. All members and friends are invited to be part of the life of the community through one of the committees. Here’s a quick rundown:

**Archives:** Preserves the history of the church by gathering, filing, and maintaining materials about UUSB, from the distant past on up to current events. Makes materials available to researchers, milestone events, and other occasions. Contact: Cindy Todd, detiii@aol.com

**Budget & Finance:** Works with the Treasurer to track the income and expenses of the Society. Oversees volunteers who count the weekly offerings. Prepares weekly bank deposits. Tracks pledges and provides quarterly pledge reports to Members and Friends and monthly reports to Council. Contact: Rosemary Parsons, Treasurer, roxemary@gmail.com

**Building & Grounds:** Repairs and maintains the church building and property, which is within Bangor’s Great Fire Historic District. Manages major construction and repair projects. Sponsors spring and fall clean-ups in which all members and friends are encouraged to help. Contact: Bob Kelly, wendylynnerickson@gmail.com

**Choir:** Although not a “committee” per se, participating Members and Friends, under the direction of the Music Director, typically sing at two services each month from September through June. Participates in special events and celebrations, including an annual, multi-congregation UU Festival of Choirs. Contact: Molly Webster, Music Director, uusbmusic@gmail.com

**Committee on Shared Ministry:** Annually reviews the Minister’s performance and the overall state of the ministries of the Society, following the Unitarian Universalist Association guidelines for reviews. Observes, listens, and reflects on the several ministries within our congregation (e.g. music, religious education, pastoral care, social justice, etc.) with the goal of increasing engagement among all Members and Friends of UUSB’s congregation. Contact: Rev. Drew Moeller, drewuu2@gmail.com

**Financial Stewardship:** Conducts three important mandates of the bylaws: The Annual Pledge Drive, the Legacy Gifting Program, and working with members to fulfill their pledges. Involves the entire congregation in the Annual Pledge Drive. Legacy Giving gives members and friends the opportunity to support the legacy of UUSB into the future. Contact: Amy Starkey-Lam, amystarkeylam@gmail.com
**Marketing:** Prepares outreach and informational materials, such as the *Welcome to UUSB* brochure in this Guide, monitors and revises the UUSB website, and helps provide content to social media – all aimed at informing the larger community about UUSB, inviting visitors to come through our door, and facilitating communications among members and friends. Contact: Karen Cashman, ksanborn2004@yahoo.com

**Membership-Fellowship:** Creates a welcoming environment for Members, Friends and visitors to UUSB. Supports friends and visitors in making decisions about membership and, in conjunction with the Minister, administers the membership-joining process (including preparing this Guide). Greets Members, Friends and visitors at the door every Sunday. Organizes and coordinates the teams that host Fellowship Hours after each weekly service. Sponsors several events, such as Souper Sundays and Game Night, and fundraisers that involve Members and Friends in the Society. Contact: Cathy Elliott, cathyelliott25@gmail.com

**Nominations:** Recruits Members for leadership positions in the Society, as specified in the bylaws, who are then posted for election by the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

**Pastoral Care Team:** Lends short-term assistance and support to those in need in UUSB’s community, including rides to doctor’s offices, bringing food, sending cards, and similar support. Contact Marj Lawrence, marjlawrence@yahoo.com

**Social Justice:** Helps put UU principles into action through wide-ranging activities. See the separate sheet on Social Justice in this Guide for information on the breadth of the Social Justice Committee’s activities and contacts for each subgroup. Co-Chairs: Suzanne Kelly, suziekrm@gmail.com, and Valerie Carter, vcgardener@gmail.com

**Spiritual Exploration Action League (SEAL):** Provides input, guidance and support to the Director of Religious Education to implement a thoughtful, dynamic and fun RE program, grounded in the seven UU principles. Contact: Karen Childs, uubangorre@gmail.com

**Worship:** Guides, supports and contributes to the weekly Sunday worship service. Provides lay leadership and supports the spiritual growth of the congregation. Worship Committee members have a visible presence every Sunday, both behind the scenes, such as making sure the order of worship, sound system, chalice, flowers, etc. are in place, and at the pulpit next to the Minister. Recruits guests to lead worship at times when the Minister is away. Contact Laurie Cartier, amalauriec@gmail.com

**A.U.W. Guild:** Although not a “committee” of UUSB, the Association of Universalist Women (A.U.W. Guild) is another way to become involved. A.U.W. Guild was founded

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**UUSB depends on the time, talents, and interests its Members and Friends are able to give. Please consider being part of the life of the Society through one of its committees.**
in 1926 as a social, service, and spiritual organization for women. In Bangor, the Guild has a monthly luncheon and participates in and initiates church and community service projects. It often helps to host special events, such as weddings, funerals, and other celebrations at UUSB. Contact: Susan Olson, sukeyolson@gmail.com

Music as Ministry: We’ve mentioned the Choir, but there are other ways to be involved through music. Among them: Drumming Circle, which meets at church the first Sunday at 11:30 am and the third Monday at 6 pm each month (contact: Laurie Cartier, amalauriec@gmail.com); and the Coffee House Open Mic, each 1st and 3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m., in the Vestry. Contact: Karen Childs, uubangorre@gmail.com.

One-time, periodic, or ongoing involvement – you choose

Here's a sampling of ways to connect with the UUSB community.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ONE-TIME</th>
<th>PERIODIC</th>
<th>ONGOING</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Fall clean-up</td>
<td>• Join a Fellowship Hour Team</td>
<td>• Join a Committee (many choices – see list above)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Spring clean-up</td>
<td>• Bring snack for Fellowship Hour</td>
<td>• Be a Counter (Sunday offerings)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Help with a Bean Supper or UUSB's day at Salvation Army Soup Kitchen</td>
<td>• Help with Bean Supper or Soup Kitchen periodically</td>
<td>• Choir</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Holiday decorating</td>
<td>• Bring food for Souper Sundays</td>
<td>• Note-taking for a particular Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Wreath decorating &amp; sale</td>
<td>• Office help</td>
<td>• Be back-up for sound system (instruction given)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Great Pumpkin yard sale</td>
<td>• Pass the offering plate</td>
<td>• Offer rides to church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Assembling holiday baskets</td>
<td>• Chalice lighting</td>
<td>• Talk to Karen Childs about opportunities to help with religious education (Spiritual Exploration Experience (SEE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Bring food for a Souper Sunday</td>
<td>• Tidying hymnals before or after service</td>
<td>• Volunteer at the Coffee House/Open Mic</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Offer a ride to church</td>
<td>• Offer rides to church</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Contribute food for a particular event (e.g., Membership Class, Choir Festival, Pledge Drive kick-off, etc.)</td>
<td>• Take the compost bucket home (after Fellowship Hour &amp; Souper Sundays)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Come to Game Night – share a game and food</td>
<td>• Grocery card sales help</td>
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<td>• Help with Plant Sale</td>
<td>• Volunteer at the Coffee House/Open Mic</td>
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<td>• Volunteer at the Coffee House/Open Mic</td>
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Social Justice Committee & Network

Social justice is core to UU principles, and UUSB is committed to a variety of social justice initiatives. The initiatives are under the umbrella of the Social Justice Committee, but the committee functions more like a network. Members and friends are involved in the activities of their choice, with overall coordination and budgeting provided by activity leaders. The committee has evolved toward organizing its activities more in parallel with the Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network (MUUSAN), which works on state legislative issues. Social Justice Committee’s issue groups (with names of contacts) are:

- Health Care (Patty Alcott, Andrew Sarto)
- Democracy (Tracy Haskell)
- Indigenous & Racial Justice (Joan Ellis)
- Environment/Climate Change (Valerie Carter)
- Local (Suzanne Kelly)

In addition, several members are directly involved in the statewide advocacy work of MUUSAN.

Among the longstanding activities at UUSB are:

- **Bean suppers** for the hungry, prepared and served for free, in UUSB’s Dorothy Memorial Hall on 4th and 5th Saturdays each month
- **Bag lunches**, distributed at the bean suppers
- **Soup kitchen** at the Salvation Army building, in which UUSB takes its turn to serve a noon meal on the 1st Monday each month
- **Gleaning**, in which donated produce is collected at Farmers’ Markets and delivered to the Bangor Homeless Shelter and the Ecumenical Food Cupboard
- **Giving Winds**, in which loans are provided to the Four Directions Development Corporation so Maine Native Americans can obtain mortgages and home improvement loans
- **Fair Trade** sale of Equal Exchange’s coffee, teas, and chocolates each Sunday in the Dorothy Memorial Hall (and through group orders)
- **Personal Care Products Pantry**, in which personal care products are collected at the church and delivered to the Ecumenical Food Cupboard
- **Bangor Homeless Shelter Laundry Fund**, collecting funds for the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter so residents can wash their clothes at Laundromats.
- **Local Justice Issues**, especially through Faith Linking in Action, advocates for services and necessities (e.g. improved public transportation, food security, affordable and reliable child care, skills that are needed to obtain jobs) and helps people who need help learn to advocate for themselves.
- **Political Action** on initiatives consistent with UU values, organizing UUSB’s own actions and participating in those of others, such as NAACP, Peace & Justice Center, and Food AND Medicine. UUSB was a moving force, for example, in Maine’s successful Marriage Equality initiative.
- **Green Sanctuary** – UUSB is a UUA-accredited Green Sanctuary.
UUSB Finances

We Are the Stewards of Our Society

Everything we are able to do at UUSB, from paying our Minister and small staff to maintaining an historic church building to contributing to the food security of the Bangor Region and everything in between, is the result of the generosity of our Members and Friends. The majority of funds comes from annual pledges, some from endowments left by past members, and a crucial amount from fundraising events run by volunteer Members and Friends. And a good deal of the work of the Society is by the in-kind services of Members and Friends. We are, in a word, as self-sufficient as possible.

Operating Revenues: In recent years UUSB’s annual operating budget has been in the range of $225,000 to $235,000. This chart illustrates a recent year’s sources of revenue.

- **Pledges** make up the majority of revenues. Each year the Financial Stewardship Committee carries out a pledge campaign, and we are fortunate that most Members and many Friends pledge to the best of their abilities.
- **Endowments** account for about a quarter of the needed revenues. UUSB has an unrestricted General Endowment Fund and several smaller restricted funds that can be used for various operational purposes. The Trustees of the General
Endowment are charged with assuring that the endowments are sustained in perpetuity. Therefore, only a small percentage of these funds (around 3%) will be tapped in any given year. They cannot be relied on to fill unanticipated gaps in the budget. The Hersey Bequest is restricted to providing opportunities for our youth and their caregivers to participate in summer recreation at the Ferry Beach Retreat in Saco. UUSB has a Legacy Gifting program to encourage additional gifts over time.

- **Fundraising** is crucial to enabling committees to actively conduct programs and carry out the mission of UUSB. Events include Great Pumpkin Yard Sale, annual auctions, Holiday wreath decorating and sales, “equal exchange” coffee sales, sale of grocery store gift cards, and others.
- **Plate cash** that is not tied to pledges is split between a charitable organization in the region (selected monthly) and UUSB’s operations.
- **Rental income** comes from outside organizations and individuals who rent our facilities, such as AA, Women With Wings, and private functions.

**Operating Expenses by Activity:**

Worship & music, administration/office/building upkeep, and religious education are the major funded activities. Committee-driven activities – such as social justice, pastoral care, and outreach – rely both on dollars and a great deal of volunteer activity.
Capital Budget: Capital expenses – primarily for building and equipment – are included in Building & Grounds. The Building & Grounds Committee periodically prepares a list of required repairs and replacement items that become the basis for a capital budget. Certain endowment funds can be used for some of these expenses, along with funds in the operating budget. The General Endowment Trustees earmark a portion of their annual allocation to help fund the capital budget. Occasionally we undertake a capital campaign for a major improvement, such as the elevator installed in 2015.

More information about UUSB’s finances, including annual revenues and operating expenses and endowments funds, can be found in the Society’s most recent annual reports, on line at http://uubangor.org/index.php/about-us/governance/reports/
Becoming a Member – If and When You Choose

Membership in UUSB is a two-way relationship: We welcome and need you as an active member of our community. You find meaning as you welcome and need us as part of your life.

Benefits of Membership

The major benefit of becoming a Member of UUSB is knowing that you are helping to sustain – for today and the future -- a creed-free, liberal theology that affirms the inherent worth and dignity of every person, respects the interdependent web of the existence of which we are all a part, and encourages a free and responsible search for truth and meaning. Many – sometimes for the first time -- find peace, comfort, even joy in the freedom to seek their own truth, the support of a congregation for doing so, and knowing that through membership in UUSB they are helping to sustain an environment in which others are also free to seek their truth and meaning. And in knowing that children, through a robust RE program, have the opportunity to grow spiritually within the same environment.

Membership gives you a voice in Society governance, including adoption of an annual budget, proposals that may arise to amend our bylaws, and election of leadership.

Membership opens the opportunity to be part of UUSB’s leadership. Only Members can be elected to Council or appointed to certain other key positions within UUSB.

Membership entitles you to the Minister’s services, free of charge, for weddings and memorials; and to free use of the building for “Member Events” – i.e., celebrations of occasional life events such as weddings, anniversaries, retirements, dedications, significant accomplishments (for example, a book release or an award ceremony). These represent significant financial savings versus non-member fees for the Minister’s services and use of the building.

Steps to Membership

There aren’t many:

- Read this Study Guide
- Bring your questions, thoughts, and insights to one of the Minister’s monthly Sunday teas; OR to one of the Membership-Fellowship Committee’s “New to UU” classes (held in the Fall and Spring); OR, if one of these doesn’t work, to an individual meeting with the Minister and a representative of the Membership-Fellowship Committee.
• Complete a “Request for Membership” form and a Pledge form (which will be provided to you on request). Upon request for membership, we also will have a name button made for you.
• Sign the Membership Book in the presence of the Minister
• You also will be formally welcomed by the congregation as a Member at a semi-annual Membership Sunday

Pledging

Part of the responsibility of being a Member is to make an annual pledge of financial support. This is what sustains our community, ministries, and services. The minimum pledge is currently $240 per year per member. The Unitarian Universalist Association has established income-based guidelines for pledging, and these can be provided to you.

Each year starting in January, UUSB undertakes a pledge drive to support its budget for the upcoming church year (which starts July 1). The drive is led by the Financial Stewardship Committee. If you become a Member of UUSB before the start of the annual pledge drive, you will make a pledge for the current church year. If you become a Member after the annual pledge drive has begun, we ask new Members to contribute as they can for the rest of the current year and make a pledge for the upcoming year.

Full and partial waivers are available to Members who are unable to pledge the minimum and want to be or remain active, voting members.

If you decide to become a Member, we will provide a Pledge Packet with details.

Next Step?

We welcome your membership at UUSB when you are ready. The next step after reviewing this Guide will be to attend one of Rev. Drew’s after-service teas or a New to UU class (we can provide you with schedules for both). One of these is preferred, but if needed we can schedule a time to meet with you individually.

At the same time, or following any of these sessions, we will give you a Membership Request form and a Pledge Package, get you set up for a name button, and….WELCOME.

Membership-Fellowship Committee members:
Jean Adamson, Gail Bickford, Cathy Elliott, Heidi Hooper, Sue McKay, Joe Montillo, Renee Montillo, Kerrie O’Brien, Evan Richert (chair)

NOTE: If you are transferring from another UU church or returning to UUSB after an absence, come talk to us. We will welcome your becoming a member or rejoining.
# Typical Annual UUSB Events Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Events</th>
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| **January** | • Martin Luther King Sunday  
• Souper Sunday (4th Sunday) |
| **February** | • Game Night  
• Souper Sunday (4th Sunday) |
| **March** | • Maple Syrup Communion  
• Northern Regional UU Festival of Choirs (may be April or May)  
• Souper Sunday (4th Sunday) |
| **April** | • Easter Sunday  
• Spring Cleanup  
• New to UU Class  
• New Member Sunday |
| **May** | • Mothers Day  
• Coming of Age Service  
• RE Recognition Service  
• Annual UUSB Auction  
• UUSB Annual Meeting  
• Plant Sale (may be in June) |
| **June** | • Father's Day  
• Flower Communion  
• Picnic (may be in September) |
| **July** | • Charlie Howard Memorial Sunday |
| **August** | • Summer Day Camp  
• Volunteering at American Folk Festival |
| **September** | • Gathering – Water Ceremony  
• RE Year begins  
• Souper Sunday (4th Sunday) |
| **October** | • Association Sunday (UUA event)  
• Great Pumpkin Yard Sale  
• Fall Cleanup  
• RE Multi-gen Halloween Party  
• Souper Sunday (4th Sunday) |
| **November** | • New to UU Class (may be Oct.)  
• New Member Sunday  
• Souper Sunday (4th Sunday) |
| **December** | • Gift Basket Silent Auction  
• Wreath Decorating & Sale  
• RE Holiday Pageant  
• Christmas Eve Service |

Also: UUSB Coffeehouse Open Mic, every 1st and 3rd Tuesdays; Drumming Circle 1st Sunday and 3rd Monday

Be sure to check the UUSB Calendar for these and more at [www.uubangor.org](http://www.uubangor.org).