



Unitarian  
Universalist  
Society of Bangor

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# Chalice & Chimes

**December 2019**

**SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10:00 A.M.**

## Awe

**December 1** - "Spirituality of Glaciers" - Join UUSB member, Jessica Scheick, John Arimond, and assorted ice-lovers in an appreciation of glaciers and an exploration of what they have to teach us in an age of global warming. Our worship associate this week will be John Arimond, with technical coordinators Tim & Judy Martin. Music will be provided by the UUSB choir and led by Molly Webster, UUSB Music Director.

**December 8** - *Waiting in the Moment* - This time of year can bring a mix of emotions that range from great joy to deep sadness. In this season of advent, how can we be true to ourselves and still be present with others? This week's service will be led by Rev. Drew, with our worship associate, Laurie Cartier, with technical coordinator Wendy Erickson. Music will be provided by the New Renaissance Singers and led by Molly Webster, UUSB Music Director.

**December 15** - *Of Wonder and Miracles* - With all the holiday activities, we often struggle to find meaning amidst the hyper-activity of the season. Join us this Sunday, as we focus our attention on the more intuitive and emotional sides of the stories we hear every year and explore how they can feed our sense of wonderment and awe. This week's service will be led by Rev. Drew, with our worship associate this week will be John Arimond, with technical coordinator, Phyllis Havens. Music will be provided by Divisi and led by Molly Webster, UUSB Music Director.

**December 22** - *Celebration of Winter Solstice* - Join us for the Winter Solstice Ceremony, led by the Winter Solstice Singers, a combination of the UUSB choir, Women with Wings, and community members. The service will be an abridged version for the whole family with interactive with songs and storytelling.

**December 24** - *Christmas Eve Service* - Join us for our annual candlelight service on Christmas Eve at 7:00pm. Rev. Drew will lead the service, with support from the Worship Team, and music provided by the UUSB choir and led by Molly Webster, UUSB Music Director.

**December 29** - *Youth Talent Service* - This week's service will highlight the many talents of our UUSB youth. The service will be organized and led by Wendy Erickson.

In January, our theme will be "Integrity." If you have any special stories, readings, or ideas on next month's theme please let Rev. Drew or a member of the worship committee know. We appreciate your ideas.

## Drew's Views

Dear Ones,

December is a time of contrast. The days grow shorter and the nights grow longer. The earth becomes frozen and fallow. The winter holidays are upon us, with many opportunities for joy and good cheer. It can also be a time of great sadness, as we move through the holiday season after experiencing the loss of loved ones, failing health, uncertain economic conditions, or changes in location.

Our spiritual theme for this month is "AWE," which is an interesting theme for this time of year. Many of the stories and traditions that we celebrate are stories of awe, from Pagan, Jewish, and Christian religious traditions. While the stories themselves offer great metaphors of challenging the darkness and returning the hope of light. Often, however, those deep spiritual messages get lost in the middle of holiday hubbub.

My hope is that you will find space to connect with the meaning of the holiday spirits. May you find a connection in Advent and Solstice - waiting and returning; the struggle and miracle; in Hanukkah and the return of hope against overwhelming odds; or in Kwanza with its call to celebrate the power of heritage and share it with future generations.

We can dismiss these stories as humbug or we can choose to embrace these stories as ageless

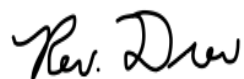
tales that bring a sense of mystery, wonder, and awe. Stories that feed the human spirit and help us understand the paradox of being alive and having to die and help us endure the hardships of life while finding new hope amid impermanence, sorrow, and grief.

My hope this holiday season is that we may all engage in these stories and how they speak to us in a reverent and sacred way; may we connect to those that speak to our hearts at this moment; and may we make room for awe, mystery, and wonder to come into our hearts, so that heaven AND nature can sing.

Happy Holidays to You All - However you experience them.

Love and Peace to you all.

Namasté,



Rev. Drew



## Rev. Drew's Schedule for December

<b>Monday</b>	Minister's Sabbath Day (day off)
<b>Tuesday</b>	10 AM - 1 PM - Office Hours   2 PM - 4 PM by Appt
<b>Wednesday</b>	10 AM - 1 PM - Office Hours   2 PM - 4 PM by Appt
<b>Thursday</b>	Sermon Writing / Worship Planning (Not in office / Not checking email)
<b>Friday</b>	10 AM - 1 PM - Office Hours   2 PM - 4 PM by Appt
<b>Saturday</b>	By Appointment
<b>Sunday</b>	Afternoons / Evenings by Appointment



Rev. Drew's weekend off this month is December 1-2.

Rev. Drew will be visiting family in Michigan from December 25-January 2.

If you wish to meet with Rev. Drew, please contact via email ([drewuu2@gmail.com](mailto:drewuu2@gmail.com)) or cell phone (1-860-655-5890), to set up an appointment.

YOU'RE INVITED!

### *Monthly Tea with Rev. Drew*

*December 15, 2019 at 12:00 PM*

*Join Rev. Drew to have an informal conversation  
and Q&A about the UU and what we are about.*

*Grab a coffee or tea and snack from coffee hour  
and head on down.*

*This fulfills one of the membership requirements.*

### **Collection Plate Reminders:**

- 1) If you use a check for anything other than your pledge, please indicate on the check's memo line for what your donation is intended.
- 2) If you pay your pledge with cash, it is important that we know it came from you! You can use your own envelope and write your name on the outside; you can pick up envelopes from the table to your left as you enter the sanctuary; or you are welcome to take several or a whole box of 50 envelopes. If you can't find them or have questions, please speak with Amy Starkey-Lam. Thank you.



Hello all!

November was a bit busy with the directory and Thanksgiving and all the fundraisers coming up. December is filled with fundraisers and even more holidays, so I don't imagine it will slow down much. As ever, if I can help with anything, please let me know and I will provide whatever assistance I can.

~ Christine Sprague, Office Admin

**Directory:** Thank you for bearing with me as I have worked on my first Directory of Members & Friends. It has been a fun and interesting process with a bit of a learning curve. I hope that it will meet everyone's expectations and be a useful tool for this year. As we go forward, if you have an update to your information, please let me know in the office by email, phone, or Post-It on my desk and I will try to keep the digital version up-to-date.

**Committees:** I need up-to-date information on committee members and responsibilities. If you are the primary person to contact regarding committee work or if you are responsible for the articles for the Chalice & Chimes, please let me know.

**Chalice & Chimes Deadlines:** To give committees a better chance to get articles in, I have made a change to the C&C deadline. Generally, on the 20th of each month is the *soft deadline*: I need to know you are submitting an article. On the 25th of each month is the *hard deadline*: this is the cutoff, if I haven't received it, it is not going to be in the C&C.

**Office Hours:** Tuesday-Friday, 10-2

**Office Closed:** 12/10, 12/25, 12/31, 1/1

Other times for meeting are available by appointment.

**Deadlines for December**

*Chalice & Chimes* (Jan. ed.)

Friday 12/18 - soft deadline

Wednesday 12/23 - hard deadline

E-News (weekly)

Every Thursday by 10:00am

Committee Notes for Council

Wednesday, 12/11

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## Unitarian Universalist Society of Bangor

**Minister:**

Rev. Andrew Moeller  
drewuu2@gmail.com

**Minister Emerita:**

Rev. Becky Gunn

**Music Director:**

Molly P. Webster  
uusbmusic@gmail.com

**Music Accompanist:**

Jessica Mehre

**Director of Religious Education:**

Karen Childs  
uubangorre@gmail.com

**Office Administrator:**

Christine Sprague  
uubangor@gmail.com

**Council Chair:**

Tom Bickford  
bickford@mainerobotics.org

**Council Clerk:**

Will Seavey  
william.seavey@gmail.com

**Council Treasurer:**

Rosemary Parsons  
roxemary@gmail.com



# Council Crier Notes ~ November 2019

Submitted by Gayle Zydlewski, UUSB Council Member

The ***Dinner for Two Anywhere in the World*** raffle is already a great success ... and still ongoing!! We are in the positive, adding to UUSB coffers with every new ticket sold! You can still buy and sell tickets. For \$20 you have a chance to win an overnight and dinner for two anywhere in the world, expenses up to \$5,000. Be sure to *return ticket stubs and funds to the church by December 1st*. Come to the drawing during the Festival of Lights celebration in downtown Bangor on Saturday December 7th. The winning ticket will be drawn by a non-affiliated public official at 6:30 pm at UUSB.



**Thank you:** We want to express our sincere thanks to the many volunteers who helped with the Great Pumpkin Yard Sale and UUSB Fall Clean-up. Collectively, we all make a difference to keep our church going and looking great!

**Reminders:** Committees with budgets should get their budget to Council liaisons by December 8th. If you have any questions, please contact your Council liaison or Rosemary Parsons.

**Vision:** The Council continues to engage UUSB committees in conversation during our monthly meeting and we are gearing up for a potluck social event with committee chairs to initiate discussions about our collective vision for the church.

**Security upgrades:** Contractors have started security upgrades! Stay tuned for new directions for accessing the church in the next few months.

**Information request:** The following photos are of items in the UUSB cellar. There is interest in selling/auctioning them off. Before we do that, we want to make sure there is not a compelling reason to keep them at UUSB - let us know! Please contact Rosemary if you do not want to see these items sold off.



## Treasurer's Report for November 2019



The report through October covers 1/3 or 33% of the year.

October Pledge Income continued to be strong: \$9,493. This brings our 4-month total to \$50,206 which is 40% of the budget. The quarterly pledge statements sent out in early October nudged people who had not made any payment. If you have not paid anything on your pledge, please try to do so. If you have an issue with fulfilling your pledge please contact myself, Ann Hartman the collector, or Rev Drew.

The October checking account balance was \$22,164. Last month it was \$12,228. A gift of \$10,000 in memory of Jane McGlaulin made the big difference. Council will decide how this money will be used, perhaps as an addition to our endowment funds.

The Dinner Anywhere Raffle brought in \$4,510 in October, which represents sales of about 225 tickets out of 1,000. We have nearly covered the cost of the prize. As of November 8, we have sold 288 tickets, there are 295 tickets left in the office, and 417 tickets that people have taken to sell. By the time you read this, the tickets could be all sold.

The Yard Sale was a terrific success. Many hands worked to make this project exceed the amount budgeted of \$1,200, bringing in \$1,429. A special thanks to Sue McKay for organizing this event.

Rental income is also doing well with \$2,462 which is 32% of the budget of \$7,750. Christine our Office Administrator is requesting that all groups that use space fill out a form. This guarantees that the calendar is accurate, and no double booking occurs. You can see the calendar at our website <http://uubangor.org/>

When the new stoves were installed in the Dorothy kitchen last February the propane bill plummeted. We purchased no propane from March 2019 to October 2019, and then the bill was \$6. In fiscal year ending June 30, 2018 the cost was \$491. Thanks to the Trustees for funding the project and Building and Grounds for managing the upgrade of the kitchen.

Income for the month of October was \$20,229. Expenses were \$17,356 leaving a balance of \$2,873 for the month. The net income for the 4 months ending 10/31/19 is \$13,332. In 2018 our balance at the end of October was \$1,859. Looking good!

In service,

Rosemary Parsons



# Mid-Maine YoUUtH Group

The Mid-Maine YoUUtH Group needs your help in fundraising for their trip to Guatemala! On November 15-16, eleven of our youth attended an overnight at UUSB. Together they sent out a mailing appeal to UUSB members and friends from the four UU congregations involved in this year's program. To make the trip a reality, they need to raise \$12K by December 12. If you received a letter from our youth, please respond with a donation, if you are able. Every bit is helpful. It is especially crucial that UUSB support this trip because over half of the group - six of our youth - are among the participants.

On behalf of the MMY, we'd like to thank the UUSB Women's Guild for their generous contribution to help support the trip.

Donate using one of two methods:

1. Sending a check to the UU Church of Ellsworth - 121 Bucksport Rd, Ellsworth, ME 04605 (Please make checks out to UUCE (the UU Church of Ellsworth) with "Safe Passage & UUSB" in the memo line
2. Online through the UUCE website using your bank account information. Visit [www.uuellsworth.org](http://www.uuellsworth.org) and fill in the donation form at the bottom of their home page.

Thank you all for supporting our youth in this significant multicultural learning and growth opportunity.

Namasté,

Rev. Drew



More information about the Safe Passage Support Team program can be found at <https://www.safepassage.org/take-action/support-team/>



# Unitarian Universalist Society of Bangor



# Religious Education News

UUSB has subscribed to Soulful Home, a section within the Soul Matters theme-based ministry, that is meant to help families find fun and inspirational ways to explore our monthly themes. This month our theme is Awe – the pause where our body, mind, and spirit come together in the “reverent and wonder-filled experience we are having. Awe can be a feeling in and of itself, but it can also inspire a positive action taken in light of a new understanding. It’s a powerful, moving, and universal force that can jolt us from where we are to the next step in our individual and collective evolution. Who of us doesn’t need a “jolt of awe” at times in our lives?”

Each month there are several theme-based activities that families can do together. On the next page is the monthly scavenger hunt. Be sure to keep your eyes open for emails and facebook posts with different activities throughout the month.

## Solidarity Harvest Field Trip

November 24, 2019

RE teachers, youth, and parents (28 youth and 20 adults!) trekked from church to Food AND Medicine, in Brewer, on November 24<sup>th</sup> for our annual trip to volunteer at the Solidarity Harvest!

We learned from the organizers about food insecurity in Maine, how this program is about solidarity, not charity, and how local farmers and organizations are strengthened through this work.

We weighed and sorted squash, carried 50lb bags of carrots, stacked turkeys, transported boxes of butter, put together food bags and more! Thanks to all who participated!

~ Connie McVey  
Chair of the Religious  
Education Action  
League (R.E.A.L.) ~







## A Treasure Hunt for the Awesomeness Hiding in our Neighbors

In this month's treasure hunt, we're going to seek out neighbors who have done awesome things in their lives. Think of this as doing an "awe interview." Below we've created a list to help you. You might go door-to-door around your neighborhood or simply carry the list with you so that you can ask questions during casual meetings. And these might not be the right questions for your incredible neighbors--there are so many ways people can be awesome! So, if

your neighbors haven't done any of the awesome things on the list, ask them to tell you a story of the most awesome and amazing thing they've ever done or seen and write that in.

Find a neighbor who...

1. has a living great-grandparent. \_\_\_\_\_
2. speaks more than two languages \_\_\_\_\_
3. knows how to fly a plane, drive a semi-truck, or drive a train \_\_\_\_\_
4. has ever saved another person's life \_\_\_\_\_
5. has written a book \_\_\_\_\_
6. can cook an entire holiday dinner (one that feeds lots of people--think Yule dinner, Passover Seder, Eid feast, etc.!) \_\_\_\_\_
7. has seen a lion, bear, boar, bison, or moose in the wild \_\_\_\_\_
8. has a famous or well-known ancestor or relation \_\_\_\_\_
9. has had a near-death experience \_\_\_\_\_
10. can identify more than three constellations \_\_\_\_\_
11. lives in the same home they grew up in \_\_\_\_\_
12. has competed in a marathon or other endurance event \_\_\_\_\_
13. knows a wilderness survival skill such as friction fire-making or emergency shelter creation \_\_\_\_\_

# ECUMENICAL FOOD CUPBOARD & PERSONAL CARE COLLECTION

During the service, on the 2nd Sunday each month items can be dropped off any day in the baskets

**SANCTUARY VESTIBULE**



## Looking Ahead with Membership-Fellowship

### New Options for UUSB Membership

The Membership-Fellowship Committee and Rev. Drew have launched new options for Friends and Visitors who want to consider becoming a member of UUSB.

Until now, joining has been possible only twice a year, following New to UU classes in the spring and fall. Now, joining will be possible at any time. The *new system* consists of (1) completing an *information request card* indicating interest in becoming a member; (2) reading through a Self-Study Guide describing UUism and UUSB; and (3) attending a new *Monthly Minister's Tea* or a New to UU Class. The Monthly Minister's Teas are on the UUSB's online calendar. The next Minister's Teas are Dec. 15 and Jan. 12. The information request cards will be available in the Sanctuary and at the Guest Book Table in the Dorothy. They can be dropped in the box at the door to the Sanctuary.

New members will continue to be introduced to the congregation at our semi-annual Membership Signing Sunday. The next Membership Signing Sunday is April 26. We can also quickly reactivate the membership of a past UUSB member or initiate a new membership for a member of another UU congregation who wants to join UUSB.

### New to UU Classes

The Membership-Fellowship Committee will continue to hold its semi-annual New to UU Classes in the Dorothy Memorial Hall. The spring classes will be held during the evenings of April 8 and 15 from about 6:30 PM to 8 PM. Whether you are interested in becoming a member, just curious about UUism, or want a refresher, these classes are for all interested parties. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board in the Dorothy Memorial Hall. Child care will be available if needed. (Please let us know in advance.)

### Monthly Tea with Reverend Drew

Rev. Drew will be holding a monthly tea that will provide opportunities for informal conversation/questions and answers for UUSB members, friends, and visitors. Attending one of these teas meets one of the requirements for those wishing to become a UUSB member. The next dates for the teas are Dec. 15, Jan. 12, Feb. 23, March 22, and May 10. There will be a limit of ten people per tea. Each participant can bring tea or coffee and a snack from the Fellowship Hour table and come down to Rev. Drew's office.

**PLEASE NOTE: The Dec. 15th tea will not start until after the bidding on holiday baskets has ended at Noon on that date!**

### Souper Sundays

Super Sundays are pot-luck style luncheons during Fellowship Hours (after the worship services) featuring soups, breads, desserts, and other complementary items. If you have a soup or other dish you would like to share, please bring it and an ingredient list on an index card with you (as many members have allergy or dietary restrictions).

The next Souper Sunday dates are Jan. 26, and Feb. 23.



## Looking Ahead with Membership-Fellowship (cont.)

### Annual UUSB Holiday Gift Basket and Wreath Silent Auctions

The Holiday Gift Basket Assembly will take place on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 8 AM to 12:30 PM in the Dorothy Memorial Hall. Bidding begins Dec. 8 and the Silent Auction continues to run until Dec. 15 at Noon. Committees and congregants are all invited to make a basket! New or like-new items (cookbooks, teapots, tea, scone mix, napkins, and scarves to tools) and baskets are needed. Drop off items on Friday, Dec. 6, from 1:30-5 or during basket assembly on Saturday, Dec. 7. Additional help on Friday, Dec. 6, would be appreciated to set up for Saturday's activities. Contact Suzanne Kelly ([suziekrm@gmail.com](mailto:suziekrm@gmail.com)) for more information or to volunteer.

Holiday Wreath decorating will take place in the Dorothy Memorial Hall on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 8 AM to 10:30 PM. The wreaths will go on sale at 10 AM to Noon on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> and on the 8<sup>th</sup> until they are gone. The cost for each wreath is \$22. Volunteers are needed to decorate the wreaths, and helpers will get first choice in purchasing wreaths. Contact Sue McKay ([suemckay@midmaine.com](mailto:suemckay@midmaine.com)) for more information or if you would like to volunteer.

**Save April 4<sup>th</sup> for the silent auction of meals, services, and other items that will occur from April 4<sup>th</sup> through April 12<sup>th</sup>.**

### Inaugural Open-Air Chimes Concert—December 7th



On December 7 from 2:30 – 3 pm the Unitarian Universalist Society of Bangor (UUSB) will provide a public holiday performance for downtown Festival of Lights participants from the church's historic bell tower. The church is located on Park Street behind the Bangor Public Library, and its chimes, which are unique to Bangor, were once named one of the finest sets in New England.

"We are celebrating the centennial of the chimes this year, and we couldn't think of a better way to honor the occasion then to share this unique treasure with the community during this joyous time," shared Rev. Andrew Moeller, minister of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Bangor.

The chimes, which fill downtown Bangor with a rich, beautiful sound, are typically played before Sunday church services or during special occasions. Church member, Rissa Moore, will be the performer during the afternoon of the Festival of Lights. Moore is musically trained and has been playing the chimes for 10 years. She is one of several congregation members that rotate the duty of performing. Moore shares, "I am delighted to have this opportunity to play our chimes for festival goers. Playing the chimes is a time-honored tradition for our church that has brought joy to our congregation for generations, and now we get to extend that joy outward for others to experience."

The chimes were presented to the First Universalist Church of Bangor in 1919 by Mrs. James Adams in memory of her daughter, Madeline. Originally purchased for \$12,000, the set contains ten chime bells made from Lake Superior copper and weighing eight tons. The chimes receive routine inspections to ensure that they ring beautifully for years to come.





SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29TH

# Calling All Youth & Their Talents

Do you sing? Play an instrument? Dance? Paint? Take photos? Act?  
The service on 12/29 will be dedicated to our children and their gifts.

If you have a talent you are willing to share or artwork to display during the service, please contact  
Wendy Erickson at [wendylinnerickson@gmail.com](mailto:wendylinnerickson@gmail.com)



FROM THE FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE



## **MONEY MATTERS**



The Financial Stewardship Committee has started working on the upcoming Pledge Campaign for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and we have some exciting things planned! In the upcoming months we'll continue to talk about "Money Matters" in this space to raise awareness of how our pledge of financial support reflects our values as a congregation, and some specific ways that our dollars are being put to good use as we plan for and invest in our future.

This month we'll be focusing on the Safety and Security improvements in progress; work on this project will be occurring over the next few months and will be a major upgrade for our security, both for ourselves and the building itself. A few highlights:

- Increased video channels and better cameras so that we have a better view of who is knocking at our door before opening it
- Additional motion detectors in the building will increase security and decrease the chance that the building alarm system is armed while someone is still present
- Card readers to Vestry and Dorothy door entrances will give better control over who continues to have building access
- Plans are underway to replace the Dorothy double door to ensure ADA compliance and integration with the new security system
- Installing additional emergency lighting units where none exist presently, such as the sanctuary and the Narthex
- Adding several magnetic fire door stops on fire doors in the building which will allow us to prop the doors open, but which will close automatically if the fire alarm is activated. This will help prevent the spread of fire should our building experience one

**PLEDGE SUNDAY IS MARCH 1ST**

**STAY TUNED FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS &  
ANNOUNCEMENTS!**

(SNOW DATE MARCH 8TH)





SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 - 11:30AM

# Christmas Caroling with Rev. Drew

Please RSVP to Christine in the office if you are planning on coming (this will help Rev. coordinate visits).



Continuing the tradition from last year, Rev.

Drew is inviting everyone who is interested to engage in some holiday cheer by going caroling with him on Sunday, December 22, after the service.

The crew will leave UUSB at 11:30 AM and visit several UUSB Members who are not able to get out much in the winter season.

LOCATED IN THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY THROUGH NEW YEARS

# MITTEN TREE

For more information, contact Laura Santilli ([laurabngr@aol.com](mailto:laurabngr@aol.com))



This year, we will give our collected items to Shaw House. This means we need items sized for adolescents and young adults

### Recommended Items:

- Mittens
- Gloves
- Hats
- Scarves
- Other Winter Items

UUSB Sanctuary  
**Mindfulness Meditation**

We will meet this month on December 3rd and 17th  
(the first and third Tuesdays).

Meetings start at 5:45 PM and end at 7:00 PM.

Our topic this month is "equanimity."



New participants are welcome. We encourage you to  
arrive at 5:30 PM for a quick introduction

**1ST & 3RD TUESDAYS 5:45-7:00 PM**  
**UPCOMING: DEC 3RD & DEC 17TH**



UUSB Vestry

## CoffeeHouse | Open Mic

1st & 3rd Tuesdays 7-10PM  
December 3rd & December 17th

We enjoy a variety of acoustic music and poetry and  
welcome any family-friendly acts you might come up  
with. Come join the fun!

## Spirit of Drumming

*with Laurie and LyAnn*

Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 6-7:30pm

We invite you to join us and access your inner rhythm, release ten-  
sion and stress, and generally have a good time. We will learn easy  
rhythms, play drumming games, and jam to the monthly theme.

*Awe*

No experience required. We have lots of drums to share or you can  
bring your own. Hope to see you there!

For more information you can contact Laurie at [amalauriec@gmail.com](mailto:amalauriec@gmail.com) or 944-0650.



Children 10 and over who are there to drum are welcome, but parental supervision is expected, so the circle  
is not disrupted.

December 7th, 8:00-10:30



# UUSB Annual Wreath-Decorating

A UUSB FUNdraiser

The wreaths you decorate will be sold for  
\$22

(Elves get first choice!)

See Sue McKay for details.



HELP BUILD THE BASKETS FOR THIS YEAR'S AUCTION



# UUSB HOLIDAY GIFT BASKETS

## BIDDING BEGINS DECEMBER 8

Do you have basket-worthy items, including baskets, that you can donate to the Silent Auction??

Drop off items on Friday, December 6 from 1:30-5:00, while we gather & sort items or during basket assembly on Saturday, December 7.

**DECEMBER 7 • SATURDAY**

**• 8:00 TO 12:30 •**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CONTACT SUZANNE KELLY**

**Committees & Congregants are all invited to make a basket!**

New or like-new items needed for the basket, including baskets!

From cookbooks to teapots to scarves to tools, anything that makes a good gift basket is welcome!

Additional help on Friday, December 6 would be appreciated to set up for Saturday's activities.

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## DECEMBER

## UUSB CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> 10:00 AM Service 11:00 AM Fellowship	<b>2</b> 9:00 AM Soup Kitchen 6:00 PM Glitter Done	<b>3</b> 5:45 PM Meditation Group 7:00 PM CoffeeHouse	<b>4</b> 5:30 PM Worship Committee 6:30 PM Shawl Ministry	<b>5</b> 5:15 PM Choir	<b>6</b> 1:30 PM Basket Auction Prep	<b>7</b> <b>THE BIG DAY FOR FUNDRAISING</b>  See Below for Full Schedule
<b>8</b> 10:00 AM Service 11:00 AM Fellowship Food & Self Care Item Collection Sunday	<b>9</b> 6:00 PM Glitter Done 6:00 PM Spirit of Drumming	<b>10</b> 6:30 PM Committee on Shared Ministry <b>Office Closed for Staff Lunch 11:30-1:30</b>	<b>11</b> 6:00 PM Membership-Fellowship 6:15 PM Financial Stewardship Committee <b>Reports Due</b>	<b>12</b> 5:15 PM Choir 6:30 PM Executive Committee	<b>13</b> 10:00 AM Budget & Finance 12:30 PM Knitting Circle	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 10:00 AM Service 11:00 AM Fellowship 11:45 AM Social Justice 12:00 PM Minister's Tea	<b>16</b> 6:00 PM Glitter Done	<b>17</b> 5:45 PM Meditation Group 7:00 PM CoffeeHouse	<b>18</b> 11:30 AM AUW Guild 2:00 PM Pastoral Care Team 6:30 PM Council <b>C&amp;C Soft Deadline</b>	<b>19</b> 5:15 PM Choir	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 10:00 AM Solstice Service 11:00 AM Fellowship	<b>23</b> 6:00 PM Glitter Done <b>C&amp;C Hard Deadline</b>	<b>24</b> 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	<b>25</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>26</b> 5:15 PM Choir	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10:00 AM Bag Lunch Prep 3:00 PM Bean Supper Prep 4:00 PM Bean Supper
<b>29</b> 10:00 AM Youth Talent Service 11:00 AM Fellowship	<b>30</b> 6:00 PM Glitter Done	<b>31</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH</b> Bangor Festival of Lights takes place all day, downtown 8:00 AM - Wreath Decorating 9:00 AM - Gift Basket Assembly 10:00 AM - Wreath Sale 11:00 AM - Gift Basket Silent Auction Begins 5:30 PM - Pre-Raffle Drawing Food & Drinks Available 6:30 PM - Raffle Drawing			

## Information Concerning the NNED Board Proposal to Dissolve the District

November 2019

*This document was compiled by NNED board member Rev. Paul Sanyer as an effort to provide some basic information for congregations prior to meeting with board members. The board will provide additional and more formal information as the process becomes clear and more settled in the coming months.*

After extensive consideration, your Northern New England District Board is recommending that delegates from our NNED congregations vote to dissolve the District at the 2020 annual meeting, which will take place April 24-25 in Nashua, New Hampshire.

It is the board's express desire to have as many delegates present as possible, from as many congregations in the District as possible, for this historic vote.

The board is also committed to ensuring that the boards, delegates, and other interested members of the congregations have as much information as possible concerning the proposal prior to the meeting, so that all those who are interested have ample time to consider the relevant information, and have been able to ask questions and share their thoughts with the board and others before we come to the time to take the vote.

This decision to recommend dissolution has come after a number of years of significant effort exploring the purpose of the District following the shift of all program responsibilities to the staff of the New England Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association in 2015. Through these last five years volunteer District board members have explored a number of possibilities for the role the District might play in continuing to support our congregations. While the board has been able to work productively with Regional staff and many volunteers from the congregations, we have also found that there is limited energy in congregations for increased levels of local programming and organization. In the past two years we have become increasingly convinced that our collective energy would be better used in some other fashion than in continuing to maintain the District-level structure.

In addition, we feel that adding an increased awareness of, and more intentional connection with our neighbor congregations in Southern New England will offer an opportunity for richer and more effective relationships among congregations facing similar concerns, challenges, hopes, and dreams to our own.

The following document addresses some of the most common and most important questions and concerns we have heard from congregations concerning the possibility of dissolution and the vote taking place on April 25. All congregations in the District are encouraged to contact the District board for further information, if needed.

### **What is the state of the District at this point?**

Currently the district continues to operate in conjunction with the New England Region. Since the beginning of the Region in 2015, all leadership positions at the District level have been volunteer positions.

The District currently employs two very part time staff: one administrative assistant and one bookkeeper. All program responsibilities and program staff positions formerly included in District operations are now held by New England Regional Staff.

Under a memorandum of understanding with the other New England districts, substantial income from our District trust funds continue to support the program staff and operation of the Region financially, as do funds from the other districts. In addition, the work of the Region continues to be supported by the UUA budget through annual program fund contributions of the congregations and other funding sources.



### **What is the current balance of funds held by the District? Where did these funds come from?**

At the close of fiscal year 2018-19 our assets totaled just over \$3.9 Million. Of this total, about \$3.2 Million is in various funds held by the District and about \$624,000 is in the form of trusts held by the UUA with the proceeds benefitting the District.

These funds nearly all originated from previous funds held by the state-level Unitarian and Universalist organizations in New Hampshire and Maine at the time of consolidation in 1961. Those funds were the result of a combination of earlier donations and bequests given to the state-level organizations by individuals and congregations, and the transmission of assets from disbanded congregations in New Hampshire and Maine.

At the time of consolidation in the 1960s, the Vermont legislature did not allow for similar funds held by the Vermont-Quebec Universalist Unitarian Convention to be transferred to the New Hampshire/Vermont District, so the VT-Quebec Convention still holds those funds in trust for the benefit of its member congregations. The VT-Quebec Convention regularly contributed to the operation of the NH/VT District in previous years, and in recent years has made generous annual donations in support of Chalice Lighter grants offered by the District.

### **What are our District funds being used for currently? How does that compare with past practice?**

In fiscal year 2018-19, which ended on June 30, 2019, distributions from District funds totaled just over \$175,000. Consistent with the practice in most non-profit organizations, the annual distribution of funds from our endowment is set by our Trustees, and can be no more than 5% of a 13-quarter rolling average balance.

Additional income in 2018-19 also came in in the form of registration fees, donations, and interest, giving us a total revenue of about \$192,600.

Under the memorandum of understanding with the other New England districts, in 2018-19 we contributed just over \$139,000 to “Regional Joint Projects” which is support for Regional staff and programs in essentially the same fashion, and in a comparable amount, as we provided under co-employment of District Staff before regionalization.

We spent about \$35,000 in FY 2018-19 on the infrastructure of the District, including the part-time staff salaries, office expenses, board and trustee expenses, legal fees, and other needed work. One primary aspect influencing our decision to recommend dissolution at this time is our hope to eliminate or at least seriously diminish this expenditure which is currently required simply to maintain the District structure.

All told, we spent about \$217,500 in fiscal year 2018-19, which reflects a nearly \$25,000 deficit. However, this amount includes \$44,272 dedicated to fulfilling matching contributions of congregations to Black Lives UU, so our actual budget for operations expenses, not including this one-time justice-centered contribution, was lower than our revenue.

While the structure is now different than it was in pre-regionalization years, the relative levels of financial support are consistent with the former shared co-employment structures that were in place for District Staff.

For comparison, in fiscal year 2014-15 distributions from District funds amounted to just over \$179,000. The UUA budget contributed just over \$159,000 toward co-employment of District staff. In addition we received about \$101,000 in district dues paid by congregations. Other income was produced as a result of registration fees and other program costs. In that year the total District expense budget was just over \$457,000, which represented a \$13,000 surplus.

### **If the District dissolves, what happens to the current District funds?**

Under the terms of our by-laws and articles of incorporation, directions for the transfer of funds upon dissolution is clear. In the words of the dissolution clause of our by-laws:

“In the event of dissolution of our District without successor organization(s), there will be a transfer of the investment of assets to our UUA with language guaranteeing that such transferred assets be held and used exclusively for the congregations within the area of the former District, wherever within that area, and however those assets and their income are determined to be most needed by our UUA.”

While numerous other possibilities for distribution of the funds have been raised (see below for further information), your District board feels that the most prudent course of action upon dissolution is to follow this action set out in our governing documents.

Following this action would mean that the funds would be held and managed by UUA staff, and that the funds would continue, essentially, to do the work they have done in previous years, supporting the programs, staff, and program volunteers that serve our congregations in Northern New England.

### **Are any of the current District funds restricted? What happens to those restrictions if the funds are turned over to UUA oversight?**

The vast majority of our funds, 98%, are unrestricted.

Over the last generation or two, District leaders have worked to decrease our holdings of restricted funds, many of which were small enough so that expenses for maintenance of the funds could be seen as out of balance with the expected proceeds. Where the funds were restricted to the benefit of a certain congregation, those funds were transferred to the congregation named in the restriction.

A small percentage of the funds currently held by the District, about 2%, are restricted for the benefit of all UU congregations in New Hampshire. Our governing documents require that we include language maintaining these restrictions in our transmission of funds to the UUA, so we anticipate that the current use of these funds will continue.

### **Could we decide to use our funds in a different manner than simply turning them over to the UUA to continue to be used for the benefit of Northern New England congregations? Could we divide the funds up among the congregations? Could we make distributions to organizations doing good UU work in the District prior to turning over the funds?**

Your District board feels strongly that the most prudent course of action is to proceed as directed in our governing documents, turning over our assets to the UUA for the ongoing benefit of congregations in the area served by the District.

However, suggestions to do otherwise have arisen from various sources in the District, and we are currently consulting with legal counsel to see what legal and organizational actions would be required to make other arrangements of any kind possible.

Currently we are aware only that such actions would complicate the process of dissolution to a significant degree, and would likely require extensive legal expenses and additional years of proceedings to accomplish. This complication is a significant factor in your board's decision to recommend that we hold to what we feel is the most efficient and prudent path, following the directions of our governing documents.

One action that we are clear we *cannot* take is a distribution of the funds directly to the congregations. Our articles of incorporation are explicit in stating: "There shall be no shareholders. No members shall be entitled to assets upon dissolution."

As we learn from our legal counsel what actions may be possible, and what procedures and provisions we would need to undertake to follow such possibilities, we will share the information with the congregations. If it is determined that there are legal possibilities for congregations to propose alternatives to a simple transfer of the funds to the UUA, the board will be clear in what actions need to be taken to formally propose such actions in a manner consistent with our by-laws and practices. As a board we are committed to following the will of the delegates as determined by voting at the annual meeting in April

### **Could we shift the current use of the income from our funds to hire our own dedicated District staff who would focus specifically on the needs of Northern New England congregations?**

We could not take on the oversight energy and expense of hiring District program staff without significantly changing our connection and commitments to the UUA and to the staff and congregations of the rest of the New England Region. To provide funding for even one full time program staff person, we would have to significantly decrease our current financial commitment to shared staff and programs in the New England Region. In addition we would need to devote significant leadership energy in the district to creating and overseeing the employment structure to support and supervise such program staff.

We feel that our energy and resources would be better directed toward strengthening our connections with our Regional staff, and working with that diverse and talented group of people to ensure that the needs of our congregations are appropriately served. While we're aware of some disappointment with the relationship of congregations to staff with the shift to regionalization, we're also aware that our regional staff have been going through numerous transitions and re-structuring in recent years, and that beginning in fall 2019 we're experiencing the first year that all the intended program positions on the regional staff are filled. We believe that if we clarify the structure of our relationship with the regional staff by removing the intermediate District layer, together we will be better able to offer feedback to regional staff and to work toward ensuring the specific support and programs we need from our staff.

It's also important to remember that when we had District program staff in past years, they were always "co-employed" and compensated by a combination of District and UUA funds. It is clear that UUA staff support is now dedicated to the regional staffing level, and would not be available for District staff. It's clear then, that the level of staffing we could provide on our own without seriously depleting the principal of our funds would be significantly lower than it was in earlier years, and for that reason that we would struggle to achieve a staffing level that had a reasonable chance of serving the diverse congregations in our District in an effective manner.

In short, we believe that we already have dedicated staff serving our congregations currently employed by the New England Region, and that while there is clearly still work to be done in relationship-building and clarifying how regional programs and staff match our needs, we will be better able to do that work in conjunction with our partner congregations in New England and without the intermediate structure of our District.



**What will happen at the Annual Meeting? Do delegates need to be present on Friday evening in order to vote? Will we use standard procedures including Roberts Rules of Order for the vote on April 25?**

Specific plans for the meeting are still being developed, but a few important considerations are already clear.

Delegates *do not* need to be present on the evening of Friday April 24 in order to vote on Saturday. The Friday evening program will be a time of connection, conversation, and, we hope, some fun. A professional Pub Trivia organizer who is a member of the Nashua congregation will lead us in a round of UU Pub Trivia. We'll also share a time for those who wish to tell stories and share memories about our District, and our previous Districts. And we will also have some time when those who wish to can further discuss information concerning dissolution.

The Saturday program will include brief opening and closing worship services and workshop programs offered by New England Regional staff, but we are committed to ensuring that ample time is given for the business meeting and the important vote on the resolution of dissolution.

In accordance with our by-laws we are also committed to ensuring that the procedures of the meeting follow accepted principles outlined in Roberts Rules of Order, and we are working with legal counsel to ensure that the procedure is appropriately followed, including having a qualified parliamentarian present.

However, we also plan to ensure that there is time for small group discussion and other less formal forms of consideration to occur during the day, prior to any final votes. Some of the program blocks during Saturday will allow attendees to choose further discussions concerning dissolution or to participate in workshop programming. Our hope is that such a structure will allow for both a full exploration of the issues involved in dissolution, and ample program options for those who wish to participate in other forms of learning and connection.

As we determine the final schedule and the rules of procedure for the meeting, we will share these plans with the congregations in a time frame that allows for feedback from congregations prior to the meeting.

**Is dissolution already a “done deal”? Are you on the District board reaching out to congregations just to tell us how you want us to vote in April, or are you actually interested in our opinions?**

Dissolution will only occur if it is the will of delegates at the annual meeting. While we on your District board feel that dissolution is the most prudent action at this time, we want delegates to consider all the issues involved as fully as possible, and to vote their conscience in accordance with their congregation's wishes at the annual meeting. We are reaching out to congregations at this time in an effort to provide the most complete and current information we have so that congregations and delegates will be as fully informed as possible.

We are deeply interested in your opinions, your feelings, and your wisdom concerning our faith tradition's shared future in our District and beyond. We are actively working to determine what alternatives or adjustments to simple dissolution would be legally possible and what processes would be required under our rules to determine if such alternatives are the will of the delegates.

While dissolution is not a “done deal” at all, our ongoing communications with congregations do suggest that a significant majority of our congregations and their delegates are in favor of dissolution at this time. We hope that every congregation will consider the issues fully, and will send delegates to the annual meeting who will make an informed vote in accordance with their conscience and congregation's wishes.

## **What are the benefits of dissolving the District?**

Your District board feels that there are many benefits to dissolving the District.

First, we know that many of the challenges and hopes and dreams of congregations in our District are shared by many of our neighbor congregations in Southern New England. We know that inviting a richer crossing of the old boundaries of districts and states will present numerous openings for sharing, in addition to those we already share through our connection with the programs and staff of the New England Region.

For instance, there are many small rural congregations in Central and Western Massachusetts that share similar structures, practices, and needs to those in our rural area. And many of these congregations are closer geographically to similar congregations in our District than some of us are to each other.

In addition, it is clear to your volunteer District leaders that many of those in our District are confused about what roles and responsibilities are held at the District level, and what roles and responsibilities are now held at the Regional level. We've seen that paths for feedback, communication, and support have been slowed down by this confusion. We're also aware that at times, advocacy for the needs of congregations that would be more effectively taken up with Regional staff has been directed at volunteer District leaders. We feel strongly that clarifying the lines of communication and responsibility, and simplifying the organizational structure of our shared connections will be a significant benefit to congregations in our District.

In addition, we hope that shifting some organizational energy away from maintaining the current District structure will allow many good and creative and faithful people from our congregations to focus on other connections, including local connections such as more formal combined efforts among neighbor congregations, such as the work currently underway in the Ellsworth-Castine-Belfast cluster in Maine, and currently emerging in the Upper Valley of New Hampshire & Vermont.

Just like many of you, many of us who are serving in your District leadership have experienced feelings of loss and some disappointment since the time of regionalization. As we've engaged with New England Region staff and programs, however, we've also found numerous experiences of inspiration, connection, and learning. It is clear to us as people who care deeply about our faith at all levels, and who understand the special nature and history of Unitarian Universalism in Northern New England, that opportunities for mutual support and the effective and faithful use of organizational energy and inspiration for innovation are far more likely to increase with dissolution than with an ongoing effort to maintain our current District structure.

Do you have a **CLYNK** Bag?? Be sure to have one handy, so you can easily be collecting bottles and cans to help raise money for our UU Youths' Social Justice Service Trip. The bags are in the Dorothy Memorial Room. Please see Laura Santilli for details. Thank you for your support!!!

**UUSB is always in need of volunteers** – for fundraisers, childcare, teaching, and to fill positions on our active committees. The great perks of volunteering are not just the satisfaction of contribution, but the sense of community we all feel when we accomplish important tasks with others. Since we don't always know who is able to take part, please contact a council or committee member if you are open to volunteering in any large or small way.

The **UUSB Worship Committee** is looking for more member participation in our worship services and is extending an INVITATION to one and all of you to consider if you might be interested in joining our services as READERS.

### Collection Plate Reminders:

1. If you use a check for anything other than your pledge, please indicate on the check's memo line for what your donation is intended.
2. If you pay your pledge with cash, it is important that we know it came from you! You can use your own envelope and write your name on the outside; or, you can pick up envelopes from the table to your left as you enter the sanctuary; or, you are welcome to take several or a whole box of 50 envelopes.
3. If you can't find them, or have questions, please speak with Amy Starkey-Lam.



### Ongoing Church Fundraiser



Hannaford Grocery  
Cards are sold every Sunday during fellowship time. Convenient to carry! Every card purchase helps UUSB!! Cards are available in increments of \$25, \$50 or \$100. Cash, or checks made out to UUSB are accepted. Buy cards for your own grocery shopping, or buy cards for gifts, or even donate a card to a local food bank.

### Friends and Frequent Visitors

*Please take a moment to make a name tag!*  
To avoid holes in your shirt, hook the pin to a necklace, lanyard, or tie. Wear it while you are here, and you can leave it in the rack when you leave. If you plan on being a regular attendee, name buttons are now an option for anyone. Ask the Sunday greeter for info!





## ABOUT US

### Unitarian Universalist Society of Bangor

#### Our Mission Statement

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

#### A Welcoming Congregation

We welcome individuals and families of all religious upbringings, racial and ethnic backgrounds and sexual orientations. We, a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

#### A Green Sanctuary

The UU Society of Bangor, recognized as a Green Sanctuary by the Unitarian Universalist Association, endeavors to incorporate care for the Earth into its worship and religious education while working to promote environmental justice and sustainable living. We covenant to affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part.

#### Church Council:

Tom Bickford, Chair

Will Seavey, Clerk

Rosemary Parsons, Treasurer

Francis Grey

Gayle Zydlewski

Catherine Foxson

Kate Dutra

Becky Anderson

*Council meets at 6:30 PM  
on the third Wednesday  
of each month.*



UU Green  
Sanctuary  
Member

#### UUSB Church Cancellation Guidelines

In the case of bad weather, the most important thing is for everyone to be safe. Please do not travel to the UUSB for morning worship if you feel that doing so would be unsafe. UUSB may need to be cancelled due to no lights, no heat, no water, disasters, and other unforeseen circumstances. The decision to cancel worship and religious education will be made by Sue McKay, Rev. Drew Moeller and Laurie Cartier—who will make such decision by 7:00 Sunday morning. An announcement will be put on the outgoing phone message of the church office (207-947-7009); announcements will also go out to the local network television and radio stations; if possible (power permitting), one will be sent out via email, on the UUSB Facebook page, and posted on the UUSB website ([www.uubangor.org](http://www.uubangor.org)).

#### About Our Newsletter

*The Chalice and Chimes* is published ten times a year (Sept-June). The deadline for submissions is the 20th day of each month. Contributions are solicited and should be sent to the Administrator/Editor at the church office. An email reminder is sent out to all member and friends on the church's database mailing list when the newsletter has been posted to the church website, where it may be viewed or down-loaded. It is also available in paper format on the table by the sanctuary entrance and by US mail (request from the Church Office).

#### Editorial Policy

Articles submitted for publication in the *Chalice & Chimes* must strive to include, in an unbiased way, only that information that is consistent with the UU faith. Articles should deal with issues of a spiritual nature meant to inspire, encourage, educate, or inform. Although every effort will be made to be inclusive, the Editor reserves the right to determine which articles are accepted for publication. The Editor has the right to edit for space, availability, libelous remarks, or unwarranted personal attacks. The Editor also reserves the right to refuse any item that may affect our Tax Exempt Status.



#### Newsletter Submittals Next Newsletter Deadline: December 23, 2019

The next issue will be January 2020. We value your contributions and very much appreciate submittals. When sending email contributions to *The Chalice and Chimes*:  
[uubangor@gmail.com](mailto:uubangor@gmail.com)