CHALICE & CHIMES

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF UUSB

DECEMBER 2020

THIS MONTH IN WORSHIP

During December, our services will be held remotely via Zoom. Please follow the weekly E-News and UUSB Facebook group for login information for each service, which will have a unique login code.

Our theme this month is "Stillness."

December 6 - The Power of Stillness - This week is our all-congregation worship model involving more interaction and discussion around the topic of stillness. This service will feature several opportunities for our youth to participate in the conversation, along with parents and adults. This service will be led by Rev. Drew Moeller and Karen Childs, Director of Spiritual Exploration, with Laurie Cartier as our Zoom tech, and music provided by Molly J. Webster and Sojourner Hodges Crowley.

December 13 - Find the Stillness, Hold the Stillness - During the month of December, we celebrate many holidays that ask us to hold a space for stillness from which miracles are born. This service will be led by Rev. Drew Moeller, with Vyvyenne Ritchie as our worship associate, and music provided by Molly J. Webster and Sojourner Hodges Crowley.

December 20 - Winter Solstice - This will be a shortened version of our traditional Winter Solstice Singing Ritual. We hope you will bring a candle to this Zoom service and help light up our worlds, as we enter the darkness and prepare for the return of the light. This service will be led by Laurie Cartier, with Kim McKeage as our Zoom tech, and music by Molly J. Webster, Sojourner Hodges Crowley, and the UUSB choir.

December 20 - Blue Holiday - The winter holidays are full of happiness and joy for many. For others, however, the holidays can be a time of great sadness, especially for people who are struggling with a sense of loss or major life changes. Join Rev. Drew and Phyllis Havens, as we offer a more somber service to hold the sadness and awkwardness that the winter holidays sometimes hold. This special evening service will take place at 6 PM via Zoom.

December 24 - Christmas Eve - Join us for our traditional Christmas Eve service at 7 PM via Zoom. This year's service will be online and feature some special musical offerings from UUSB singers. We will have a candle lighting and a special Christmas homily from Rev. Drew. This will be a co-led service with Rev. Drew, the Worship Committee, Molly J. Webster, Sojourner Hodges, and UUSB choir members.

UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY OF
BANGOR

120 PARK ST BANGOR, ME 04401

SUNDAYS AT 10:00 AM

(207) 947-7009

WWW.UUBANGOR.ORG

UUBANGOR@GMAIL.COM

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DREW'S VIEWS

BY REV. ANDREW MOELLER

Dear Ones,

Many years ago, shortly after I entered seminary, one of my mentors moved from her condo into a retirement community. Before she moved, she invited me to come over and go through her professional library to see if any of the books might help my studies. One of the many books that caught my eye was titled *Just Don't Sit There - Do Nothing!* It was a strange title, but it spoke to me. I always intended to read that book, yet in the hustle and bustle of reading and writing papers I kept putting it off.

Several years later, while doing my ministerial internship in Northborough, MA, my teaching minister kept encouraging me to explore and adopt a spiritual practice that would keep me grounded and help ride the ups and downs of ministry. That is when I discovered mindfulness meditation - a practice that continues to sustain me to this day.

As I continue to deepen my meditation practice and learn the art of teaching vipassana (mindfulness) meditation, I am asked, "What is the purpose of just sitting there on your meditation cushion and do nothing?" "How can just sitting there change your life or help you deal with all the craziness that is happening in the world?" The answer that I keep coming up with is "Everything!"

Meditation is about slowing down. When we slow down, many other things follow, like concentration, the ability to see things in perspective, and remind ourselves of what matters in life. By sitting still, we also become aware of many things that are hiding from our awareness in pain sight. Stillness is the ultimate antidote to the anxiety, confusion, and stress of the everyday world.

The winter holiday season also offers us a chance to slow down and find stillness amid the everyday hub-bub. But, only if we are willing to make space for it. One of the underlying

messages of the winter holidays is to sit in stillness. For Solstice, we wait for the return of the sun. For Hanukkah, we remember waiting and watching the profound miracle of the sacred lamp burning eight days, when the oil was expected to last for only a couple of days, Finally, for Advent, we wait for the birth of a child representing new hope and bringing new perspectives on loving and caring for our fellow human beings.

Slowing down and being still help us remember where we have come from, who we are, and who we are in the process of becoming.

So much of our world is focused on doing, accomplishing, and moving. Sometimes in our zeal to be productive, we neglect our spirit. We overlook the importance of reflecting on "why" and the meaning behind our actions and endeavors. In doing so, I think we often get led astray. We go rushing down one rabbit hole or another, chasing the elusive sense of accomplishment, instead of simply just being.

The holidays are a time to slow down and remember our ancestors' wisdom and mark the changes of time and create rituals for future generations to do the same.

So, my dear friends, it is my hope that you find some peace a stillness in your life in this holiday season. May you find a place of stillness, like pausing quietly in the woods on a calm day, sitting in front of the glow of a candle or fire, or resting in front of a window looking out on the beauty of the winter landscape unfolding before you. May you find a sense of peace in looking inward - returning to the wisdom within and spreading hope and gladness into a world full of busyness, stress, and uncertainty. May you find wisdom and healing in the stillness.

By the way, I never did read that book. But, its title continues to remind me to find the stillness in my life whenever I can. Perhaps someday I will get around to reading the book - and

DREW'S VIEWS

(CONT.)

Mindfulness Meditation Returns
Dec 8

perhaps not. In the meantime, I hope to find time to do a bit of "nothing this holiday season," so my spirits can be renewed.

Love, Namasté, and Happy Holidays to you all.

Rev. Dew

Rev. Drew

P.S. Thank you to LyAnn Grogan and Vyvyenne Ritche for answering the call to help out on our worship team. Your presence is a gift to our hard working worship team and your lifting lightens their burdens.

P.P.S. Thanks to those who offered suggestions for December's worship services. We had a couple great suggestions!



Photo by Annie Spratt via Unsplash

Starting December 8, Rev. Drew will be teaching a second five-week "Introduction to Mindfulness (vipassana) Meditation" program online. The program will meet online via Zoom on Tuesday nights from 5:45 to 7:15 PM.

This program will provide basic instruction on basic mindfulness meditation concepts, with the goal of building a foundation upon which one can develop their own meditation practice.

Students need to commit to attending all five sessions and fill out a feedback form as part of the requirements of this program. This program is part of Rev. Drew's Mindfulness Meditation Teacher Certification program practicum.

If you have questions or wish to learn more about the program, please contact Rev. Drew at drewuu2@gmail.com.

The regular UUSB Mindfulness Meditation group will resume in January. Keep watching the enews and *Chalice & Chimes* for updates.

Minister's Schedule - December 2020

Rev. Drew along with other UUSB staff will be working from home, until social distancing measures are withdrawn. He is reachable during the office hours listed below either online or via phone.

Mon - Minister's Sabbath Day (day off)

Tues - 12 to 2 PM - Office hours (ONLINE or by PHONE) 2 to 4 PM - by Apt.

Wed - 10 AM to 1 PM - Office hours (ONLINE or by PHONE) 2 to 4 PM - by Apt.

Thurs - Sermon Writing / Worship Planning Day (not taking calls or answering emails)

Friday - 10 AM to 1 PM - Office hours (ONLINE or by PHONE) 2 to 4 PM - by Apt.

Saturdays - By appointment (ONLINE or by PHONE)

Sundays - (afternoon / evenings by appointment) (ONLINE or by PHONE)

Note: Rev. Drew will be taking time off December 27 - 30

You can reach Rev. Drew directly at his local UUSB phone number!

You can reach him at **(207) 922-2956**



CHRISTINE SPRAGUE

Minister:

Rev. Andrew Moeller drewuu2@gmail.com

Minister Emerita:

Rev. Becky Gunn Music Director:

Molly J. Webster uusbmusic@gmail.com

Director of SE:

Karen Childs uubangorre@gmail.com

Office Administrator:

Christine Sprague uubangor@gmail.com

Council Chair:

Will Seavey william.seavey@gmail.com

Council Clerk:

Kate Dutra kate.dutra70@gmail.co m

Council Treasurer:

Rosemary Parsons roxemary@gmail.com

Building Closed

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and CDC recommendations, the UUSB building is closed until future notice. All staff are working from home. Please check the weekly e-news and monthly Chalice & Chimes for updates from the UUSB Council.

Contacting the Office

To contact me in the "office," I check email and receive voicemails from 10-2 Tuesday-Friday. I am unable to receive direct calls to the office at home, so please expect a delay in responses. The fastest method is to email and I will pass along the info or reply by email or phone, as you request. When leaving a voicemail, please provide any necessary info.

Security Update

Staff members have officially received their new key fobs! **On January 1,** all security codes will be deactivated, unless I have received an updated Key

Agreement form and approved your use of a new key fob. The building has not been re-keyed, so please be aware that if you open the building, the alarm will be set off and your code will not work from January 1 on.

Please fill out and return the following Access Key & Security User Agreement, if you need continued access to the UUSB building. If you wish to have a a copy of the Agreement mailed to your or a PDF of just the Agreement sent by email, please contact the office. If you have any questions, please contact me in the office.

UPCOMING DEADLINES

CHALICE & CHIMES (JAN. ED.) SUNDAY 12/20 - SOFT DEADLINE FRIDAY 12/25 - HARD DEADLINE E-NEWS (WEEKLY)
THURSDAYS AT 10:00AM
COMMITTEE NOTES FOR COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

"OFFICE" HOURS

BY VOICEMAIL OR EMAIL TUESDAY-FRIDAY, 10-2 OTHER TIMES AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT.



ACCESS KEY & SECURITY USER AGREEMENT

Each person issued a key fob and access code to the UUSB building must initially and annually acknowledge and sign off on the conditions of their use. Without annual renewal, access will be withdrawn. Please read this User Agreement and notes below, then sign and return to the Church Office, if you understand and agree. If you have questions about using the key and security system, you are responsible for contacting the office for help or not using either the key or access code. Failure to follow the listed conditions will result in loss of key and code privileges. Only those individuals with ongoing volunteer responsibilities requiring access to building spaces and church staff may keep keys in their possession. In case of short-term use, the keys must be returned to the church office administrator at the conclusion of the event. Other uses of the building will be subject to the key policy defined in the church's rental agreement. The UUSB Executive Committee reserves the right to decline key requests.

Current Contact Information for Requesting Key & Code User

Print Name:	
Address:	
City:	Zip Code:
Phone Number:	
Secondary Phone Number:	
Email:	
Date Requested:	
Reason (i.e. event or committee):	
Description:	
Dates:	
Times:	
Frequency:	
Keys Needed:	

Accurate times and days are needed with the security system. Building access is managed by days and hours, so without accurate information, you may not be able to access the building when needed.

Please read the reverse side for policies regarding building access. If you understand and agree, please sign at the end.

(207) 947-7009 uubangor@gmail.com www.uubangor.org











UUSB 120 Park St. Bangor, ME 04401





ACCESS KEY & SECURITY USER AGREEMENT

I realize that security of the church property is an important matter and the use of church keys is a responsibility. Further, I recognize that violating the trust placed in my by virtue of having key(s) and/or access numbers allotted to my care could result in loss to the church and/or individuals and departments within the church. With this in mind, I HEREBY AGREE THAT:

- 1. I will not hold meetings, practices, or events in church facilities without first gaining approval and having it cleared on the church's master calendar. Completing a "Facility Use Request Form" and receiving written approval from the Church Office.
- 2. I will ensure adherence to the church's "Facilities Use Policies" e.g. no smoking, no alcoholic beverages, etc.
- 3. I will not borrow or take any equipment, tables, or chairs out of the building without prior written approval. I will utilize the "Facility Use Request Form" as the method of requesting to borrow items.
- 4. I will not loan out my keys or security code to any other person. I will not copy or permit others to make copies of any church key issued to me.
- 5. I will return any keys to a coordinator of keys as soon as I no longer serve in the capacity that permitted me to have them initially. I will not reassign keys checked out to me, but will turn unneeded keys in to the coordinator of keys (i.e. church office administrator) for reassignment.
- 6. I will not mark, tag, or identify any key entrusted to me in a way that would disclose the use of the key to others in the event that it is lost or stolen. I will promptly report, in writing, to the church office the loss of any key and will do everything possible to find it.
- 7. Both a key and an alarm system access code are required to enter the church at any of the three (3) entrances: 1) Dorothy Memorial Hall [upper Park St. door]; 2) Sanctuary Level [middle Park St. door]; and 3) Vestry/Office Level [lower Park St. door under the clock tower]. There is a keypad at each door to enter the code.
- 8. When I access the building, I agree to the following:
 - a. If the building has been alarmed when I open the door, I will hear a beeping. This beeping lasts for 60 seconds, giving me time to enter the 4-digit security code + "1" into the available keypad. This should result in the beeping stopping. If the beeping does not stop, I will try re-entering the 4-digit code + "1."
 - b. If there is no beeping or flashing lights when I open the door, then the alarm was not set and I SHOULD NOT enter my code (this would alarm the building). c. If I end up setting off the alarm (wrong number entered, forgot to enter it, etc.), I will know because the klavon alarm will go off. I can still turn off the alarm by

I will know because the klaxon alarm will go off. I can still turn off the alarm by successfully keying in my 4-digit code.

i.IF I AM AT THE MIDDLE OR LOWER DOOR, I WILL STAY THERE. The alarm company will call within a minute and ask me who I am and what my 4-digit code is.

(207) 947-7009 uubangor@gmail.com www.uubangor.org











UUSB 120 Park St. Bangor, ME 04401



ACCESS KEY & SECURITY USER AGREEMENT

ii. IF I AM AT THE DOROTHY DOOR, I WILL GO TO THE KITCHEN PHONE. The alarm company will call within a minute and ask me who I am and what my 4-digit code is.

- d. Once the alarm company has talked with me and confirmed who I am, they will cancel the alarm.
 - i. If you do not wait and talk to the alarm company, they will contact the Bangor Police and the church is bill a \$100 false alarm fee. They will also contact the church security team and we will have to respond as well.
- e. When I am done with the building and ready to leave, it is my responsibility to check the building.
 - i. Check ALL thermostats in the area I have accessed or been given access to prior to leaving, ensure they are not "On Hold" and are set to the default of 55 degrees heat in the winter.
 - ii. Clean-up requirements have been met: trash removed to the cans by the lower doors; lights and appliances turned off; furniture and equipment returned to original positions; restrooms picked up; area vacuumed/mopped if needed.
 - iii. If I bring guests or children with me, I take full responsibility for their actions and commit to restoring, cleaning, and locking any room we have accessed or used.
 - iv. Check all outside doors prior to leaving to ensure they are all locked *and* securely latched. At times, children or guests have opened doors without the key holder being aware. A quick look outside, particularly at night, can reveal if there are any cars outside which could indicate others are still somewhere in the building.
- f. To leave, check that there is a GREEN light on the keypad (doors need to be closed and the office must be alarmed) and enter your 4-digit code + "2." This will start the 60 second alarm beeping, during which you can still open the door and go outside and lock the door.
 - i. You can still turn off the alarm if it is beeping and you changed your mind; just enter your 4-digit code + "l."
 - ii. When in doubt, DO NOT arm the system. The system self-arms itself every night at a pre-programmed time.

I have read and understand the above conditions and instructions. As I still wish to have a building key and 4-digit security code to access the UUSB building, I agree to follow all the aforementioned rules and guidelines.

Signature

Date

(207) 947-7009 uubangor@gmail.com www.uubangor.org











UUSB 120 Park St. Bangor, ME 04401

COUNCIL CRIER

BY KATE DUTRA

Good day everyone! Just a little note to help keep you all posted on what is happening on Council.

This month, we were visited by Amy Starkey-Lam from the Stewardship Committee and Connie McVey from SEAL. Amy filled us in on the initial brainstorming session held by the Stewardship Committee and some of their thoughts regarding the upcoming pledge campaign for FY22. Due to COVID, they are planning on taking up the task of running a virtual campaign. Connie let us know how SEAL and the SEE Community are faring during COVID and some of their plans for keeping the community connected. They have had some great successes in their socially distanced outdoor gatherings and have active classes for all age groups. As we are all feeling the trials of the pandemic, so it goes with the various committees, but they are doing a fantastic job of rising to the challenge!

From a fundraising perspective, we discussed the importance of the upcoming fundraisers, in particular the Raffle, as this has been slated to bring \$18,000 to our current FY21 budget. Without these funds, we will be facing a dire financial situation. We implore everyone to please get out there (virtually and socially distanced) and help sell tickets! One of the great things about this raffle is that since it is online, your friends and family from anywhere in the country can participate and join in the fun! Additionally, these opportunities to win make great gifts or stocking stuffers! The wreaths this year were all pre-ordered and most have already been spoken for, but you may still have an opportunity to get one or possibly a swag. Check in with Kerrie O'Brien on this if you are interested and missed the pre-order. Not to be forgotten, please join us for the Basket Auction on December 12th. It is sure to be a lot of fun and you will have the opportunity to bid on at least 30 fantastic baskets! There is a wide range of baskets that make great gifts for others or are just a nice way to do something for yourself!

Each Council meeting, we spend time discussing the latest on the pandemic and how it is impacting UUSB. First and foremost is the health of our staff, the UUSB community, and the community at large. Please refer to Will Seavey's update on COVID for more information.

Rosemary apprises us each meeting of the current financial status of UUSB and Drew informs us as to what he is working on and the big ticket items he is contending with. One of the larger topics this past meeting that was discussed was the need to hire a "Zoom Tech" to assist with our services. The Worship committee has been doing a remarkable job making services happen remotely but they need some help. As we are hoping to continue with a hybrid model once we can return to in person services, it was deemed important to look at hiring a person for a few hours a week to fill this role.

Reminder to all Committee Chairs to send in their Monthly Meeting Minutes and Committee Reports to uusbclerk@gmail.com and uubangor@gmail.com for archival purposes.

Until next month, take care of yourselves and those around you and have a wonderful Thanksgiving. Even in the midst of COVID and all of the challenges it brings, we always have our wonderful UUSB community for which to be grateful!

COVID-19 COUNCIL UPDATE

BY WILL SEAVEY, COUNCIL CHAIR

The Council continues to monitor the pandemic in Maine and nationally. As of the November council meeting, Maine has experienced a significant increase in cases and hospitalizations, especially in the Bangor region. We have a reopening plan ready for when we feel we can safely meet in person while maintaining an online service. On the bright side, vaccine development has gone well with the highest risk healthcare providers slated to be offered vaccination by the end of the year. Our highest priority continues to be the safety of the community and following the best available science. We will continue to provide updates. Be well, practice kindness, physically distance, and wear masks!



Open Mic Night LIVE!

presented by
UUSB CoffeeHouse
Every Monday
7:00-9:00PM
on Zoom

Want to share a song or two? Or just hang out in the ZoomRoom and enjoy the talents of our amazing musical line up??

Please email Karen Childs at for the Zoom login info at karenchilds75@gmail.com.

Chalice Side Chat

Every Tuesday at 7:30 PM

Join Rev. Drew and other members of our community each week on Zoom. Each session is a chance to offer and receive support and check in with those we miss seeing in person.

Please check your weekly e-news and Sunday morning service reminders/announcements for login info. If you are not signed up for the e-news, please email uubangor@gmail.com.



Photo by Chris Montgomery via Unsplash



TREASURER'S REPORT

BY ROSEMARY PARSONS

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MONTH OF October written in November.

This report covers 33% of the year.

Total income for the month of October was \$18,176. Expenses were \$16,676 leaving a net balance of \$1,500 for the month. The net income for the 4 months ending 10/31/20 is \$9,258.

October income included pledge of \$10,504. Great Month! Total pledges received through 10/31/20 is \$53,602 representing 45.8% of the budget. To keep on track, monthly pledges need to average \$7,925. Total Income for 4 months was 33.8%

VANCO payments came from 12 people totaling \$1,236.95 gross in all categories with a net of \$1,205.71 Fees were \$31.24 and the offset paid in was \$21.95. VANCO is very convenient, but mailing a check is cheaper (says a penny pincher).

The October checking account balance was \$20,553 - down \$3,945 from August's \$24,498

Plate contributions for October were a \$268, half of which will go to Ferry Beach.

Expenses for the month break down as \$12,030 for Personnel, \$2,068 for Building, \$837 Fair Share to the UUA, \$745 Administrative, and \$996 for Congregational expenses. Total expenses for 4 months was 29.8%

The UUSB Raffle is now open for business. Buy chances to win \$5,000 in any kind of home improvement. https://uubangor.rallyup.com/fixitupraffle.

In Service,

Rosemary Parsons, Treasurer

JUST ANOTHER ROOM BY CHRISTINE SPRAGUE

Are you hosting a meeting? Planning a UUSB hosted social event? Need to use the UUSB Zoom account?

The good news is that we have a UUSB Zoom account that can be used by our members to hold meetings and events, which we need more than ever in these socially distant times. This is available for committees, small groups, and planning meetings that are connected with UUSB.

To keep everything running smoothly, we need to know who needs the Zoom account and when. We can only host one meeting at a time, just like a regular room in the building.

You can submit your Zoom Room Reservation request at

https://forms.gle/aYgiDGcgM9PeTZS87

Thanks in advance for your cooperation!



"Fix It Up" Raffle!

Grand prize, \$5,000

10 tickets for \$10

DRAWING DATE: January 3, 2021 at 11:45 am EST

Three prize levels, three chances to win!



We all have things we need fixed or upgraded around our house or apartment. Maybe a room needs painting or the fridge needs replacing. Maybe the roof needs work or the garden needs a makeover! If you can imagine it, the winner can finally get it done!

Purchase tickets online at: uubangor.rallyup.com/fixitupraffle There are three chances to win: Grand prize \$5,000, second place \$750, and third place \$250.

LOOKING AHEAD WITH

MEMBERSHIP-FELLOWSHIP

BY KERRIE O'BRIEN

New Options for Membership

Last year, the Membership-Fellowship Committee and Rev. Drew launched new options for friends and visitors who want to consider becoming a member of UUSB. Joining is now possible at any time. The new system consists of (1) completing an information request card, now available online, 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 Tea is scheduled for December 13 and will be held online via ZOOM due to COVID-19.** The next New to UU Class will be held April 7 and 14 from 6:30-8:30 PM and will be held online via ZOOM due to COVID-19. If you are interested in participating in the one of the Minister's Teas or becoming a member, you can email uubangor@gmail.com.

The Self-Study Guide can be found at <u>uubangor.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Self-Study-</u> <u>Guide-2019.pdf.</u>

New Membership Signing Sundays

New members will continue to be introduced to the congregation at our semi-annual Membership Signing Sundays. The next Membership Signing Sunday is scheduled for November 22. 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.

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 Monthly Tea has been scheduled for December 13 at 11:30 and will be held online via ZOOM due to COVID-19. If you are interested in attending, please email uubangor@gmail.com

MITTEN TREE



This year's Mitten Tree is going socially distant! You can drop off your donations in marked totes at two December events: **December 5** at the wreath sale pickup and **December 13** at the Ringing Bells & Feeding Souls food collection.

These donations go to the Shaw House, which means we are looking for items sized for adolescents and young adults.

Recommended Items:

Mittens

Gloves

Hats

Scarves

Other Winter Items



If you have any questions, please contact Laura Santilli at laurabngr@aol.com.

COMMUUNITY CORNER

We miss your face! If you haven't been able to attend our services via Zoom (or you're just Zoomed Out), we would really love to hear from you. We have a new feature in our monthly Chalice & Chimes called ComUUnity Corner, a space where you can tell us your news. What have you been up to during the pandemic? Have you taken up any hobbies or new interests? Write us a couple of lines.(People really want to know.) Send your news, 75-word limit, to Cathy Elliott at cathyelliott25@gmail.com.

This month, we want to introduce our newest members!

Katherine Allen

Katherine grew up in Maine and attended the First Universalist Church of Yarmouth until she left for college. She studied Earth Science at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, Cambridge University, in the UK, and Columbia University, NYC. Katherine worked at Rutgers in New Jersey before moving back home to Maine and starting a job as an Assistant Professor at UMaine in Orono, where she now works.

Katherine attended churches everywhere she's lived, but has never became a member. She is just thrilled to be joining us as a member of UUSB today. To her wandering spirit, this place feels right and Katherine is finally ready to put down some roots. She hopes that in time you will also get to know her husband, Aaron, and her two-year-old daughter, Cora. Connecting with the UUSB community during the pandemic through virtual worship services has shed some light on what has otherwise often been a dark and lonely time for her family. Katherine says, "Many, many thanks to all of you for your warm welcome. It's good to be home."

Linda Sisson

Linda Gurley Sisson was born in Washington DC, grew up in Virginia, and moved with her family to Minnesota at the age of 18. She took a 'gap' year (although she didn't know that's what it was called back then) and spent a year in Cambridge, Massachusetts where she met her husband Jonathan and visited Acadia for the first time. She fell in love with both. Next June, Linda and Jonathan will celebrate 55 years of marriage.

Educated in classical languages at the University of Minnesota, Linda taught Latin for a few years until the birth of their son, Greg. Working in Greg's Montessori school in Minneapolis, she realized that she loved early education and got her Early Childhood Certification at the University of Minnesota. Since then her life has been dedicated to teaching, administering, and advocating for quality early childhood education. After 35 years in Minnesota, Jonathan and Linda returned to Boston when she took a position for a national non-profit organization promoting quality standards for after-school child care programs.

In 2001, they made a weekend trip to Eastport Maine. Smitten with the natural beauty and creative energy of that community, they decided to move there, and enjoyed a wonderful twelve years as members of the vibrant arts community in Eastport. Jonathan was poet laureate of the town and together they had a traveling puppet company "The Peregrine Puppets ... Sparking Imaginations, Spreading Joy" (if you were at the service on Nov 8 you were treated to a special

COMMUUNITY CORNER

Linda Sisson (cont.)

performance by the Peregrine Puppets!). While living in Eastport, Linda was also a volunteer for the domestic violence hotline, UMaine Extension's Master Gardeners, and Downeast Hospice. Linda loves music and while in Eastport discovered the joy of choral singing and started learning to play the cello at the tender age of 68.

Linda and Jonathan now live in the Little City area of Bangor, exactly two miles from their son Greg. Greg is a big support to Linda in her role as caregiver for Jonathan who has Alzheimer's disease.

Linda was active in Quaker Meetings in Minneapolis and Boston. She is happy that she has found a spiritual community where she connects so deeply to the UU guiding principles and to the members of the UUSB congregation. She looks forward to being a more connected, contributing member of this community.

Susan Vernal

Susan provided administrative support to UUSB for nearly two decades, before retiring in 2019. Her work history tree has an abundance of branches - including secretarial and office management for the local University, and bookkeeping for Stephen King's Bangor radio station and NYC accountants. After getting her degrees at UMaine, she was a Grade 2 classroom teacher and Grades K-3 Special Education teacher. After the birth of her son, she spent over a decade working in nursing home administration and human resources. Even now, during retirement, she works as caregiver to her aging mother and disabled son.

Susan has always had a strong sense of devotion to the special needs population. She pioneered special needs homeschooling at a time when it was virtually unheard of. She successfully petitioned Maine's Governor for a proclamation raising awareness of the importance of genetic and disability research being done in Maine by Jackson Labs and others. Her experience in special education and, subsequently, as the parent of a special needs child, gave her a deep appreciation for how nonprofits seek to improve the quality of life for the under privileged and differently challenged individuals in our society. She has long admired our UU principles and the

Susan lives in Bangor with her son, David; her Mom, Joan; her German shepherd, Gracie; and her aging cat, Zoey. In her spare time, Susan enjoys reading of all genres and doing genealogical research. Among her retirement hobbies is expanding her inventory of collectible glassware, cottage ware, and other special edition teapots.

Lynn Uhlman

social justice advocacy work of our members.

Lynn Uhlman is a Systems Librarian for the Maine State Library, mother of twin boys, and a visual artist focusing on pen and ink drawings. She has been working in the library field for over 20 years and is an avid science fiction and fantasy book worm. Lynn also has a penchant for all things Big Bang Theory, Labyrinth, watercolor painting, knitting, and hiking although with a sketchbook in hand, so she doesn't tend to get too far.

COMMUUNITY CORNER

Lynn Uhlman (cont.)

Lynn has been searching for a place of fellowship for quite some time. She has been searching for a congregation where the basic precepts are composed of learning, compassion, and kindness. A friend, who is a member of UUSB, mentioned it several times in various conversations, which sparked a keen interest. After attending several Sunday services and much introspection, Lynn determined she had found a place of worship that values all the tenets she was searching for, a place that feels safe for her children to explore their own faith, and a warm and inviting community. She is looking forward to furthering her spiritual growth and getting to know all the wonderful members of the UUSB community.

Janel Worcester-Brown

Janel was born and bred in Maine. She left briefly for Vancouver Island but returned after six months because Maine was proudly still her "home."

Janel is married to a wonderful partner, her hero, and they've been together for over 17 years. Janel's daughter, Cassidy, is almost 26 and works in the school system and is a very talented, aspiring writer. Her son, Caleb, is nearly 23, works at a local hospital, enjoys helping others, and has a kind heart. Janel's family is near and dear to her heart.

Janel worked close to 25 years as a social worker with the last half of her career in administration, developing and managing programs for children with special needs and child protective services. She became unable to work in 2015 and this remains ... for now! She really misses the sense of belonging that comes from working, and associating with like-minded people regarding social justice and treating everyone with kindness and respect and cheering for the most vulnerable. UUSB has offered all of that while also providing Janel with spiritual freedom that just didn't seem to be available anywhere else. UUs celebration of all religions, as marked in the beautiful stained glass throughout the church, made her feel at home where her values were truly reflected.

Janel is grateful to have found ... and now belong to ... a church that she is so very proud of. She writes: "I am blessed."

Buy Groceries, Support UUSB

Ongoing Church Fundraiser Hannaford Grocery Cards

Grocery Cards are still available!
Convenient to carry!
Every purchase helps UUSB!!

Cards are available in increments of \$25, \$50 or \$100.

Email or call for pick-up or delivery.

Cash or checks made out to UUSB are accepted.

Buy for your own grocery shopping!
Buy cards for gifts!
Buy to donate to a local food bank!

For purchase and pickup or delivery, contact:

Tim & Judy Martin 942-2696, jamandtim@myfairpoint.net 10 Highland Ct off Union St. OR delivery ANYWHERE.

Rosemary Parsons
327-1045
roxemary@gmail.com.
Delivering in the Orono/Old
Town/Hudson area.

Cards are also available at the monthly Ringing Bells & Feeding Souls events. The next will be December 13th at 12:00.



Ringing Bells and Feeding Souls

December 13 at 12:00 PM

Open Air Chimes Concert & Food Collection



On Sunday, December 13th, UUSB will once again host our Second Sunday Food Drive and Open Air Concert, the church's monthly community food collection, from 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. There will be drop off bins on the Park Street sidewalk in front of the church for those wishing to donate. Winter is coming, but UUSB's second Sunday food collection and chimes concert will go on. Worried about icy sidewalks? Don't be. Just drive by 120 Park Street, and wait in the comfort of your vehicle while someone takes your donation and places it in the bins. Crack a window and enjoy the chimes.

In addition, from 12:00 – 12:30 p.m., the church will offer a 30-minute bell/chimes concert from the church's historic bell tower. One of only 6 genuine tower bell instruments in Maine, and the only manually-played chime in Bangor (installed 1919), the 10-bell, Meneely "C Chime" instrument will be played.

We invite all within the Bangor community to step outside and take a listen. You are welcome to enjoy from the church lawn and surrounding areas, but please be absolutely certain to observe social distancing practices of at least 6 feet, or listen from the comfort of your enclosed car. People driving by or listening outside should wear cloth masks for the safety of all.

The food donations will be contributed to the Ecumenical Food Pantry in Bangor. So far this year, this curbside food drive has collected over 2,000 pounds of food.

When the temperatures really dip, collection times may be reduced from the usual noon to 1 p.m. to noon to 12:30. We will keep you posted on that. Happy winter, and be safe out there.



SHARE THE PLATE



SCAN ME

In December, half of the undesignated funds in the plate will go to the UUSB Food Security Programs. This includes the Bean Suppers that we host on the fourth, and fifth, Saturdays each month; our donation to the Soup Kitchen at the Salvation Army, in lieu of making lunches during the pandemic; and our Bag Lunch program, to give lunches for those attending our Bean Suppers.

In October, we were able to share \$134 with Ferry Beach. And, in November, we shared our plate with Penquis Fuel Assistance Program.





You can give to the collection plate through the UUSB website and Vanco or by mailing a check to the church office.

WORSHIP WEAVINGS

BY LAURIE CARTIER

Hello from your Worship Committee!

We want to warmly welcome LyAnn Grogan, as a new Tech Coordinator, and Vyvyenne Ritchie, as a new Worship Associate! They made their debut at New Member Sunday and did a great job. Cathy Elliott is also going to be joining us as a Tech Coordinator. Welcome to them all.

We are so pleased that November brought you so many wonderful services. From Rev Drew's "Health for our Souls," to Phyllis Haven's services for Veterans Day and on Grace, to the New Member Sunday where we welcomed 5 new members, we are meeting our goal to bring you amazing services during this pandemic.

December will have the worship theme of Stillness. It is feeling like it's going to be another amazing month. The service lineup is listed elsewhere in this issue of the *Chimes*, but I want to point out that over the holiday week, we will be bringing you the Winter Solstice Singing Ritual, an evening Blue Christmas service on Dec 20, and our traditional Christmas Eve Service. And, I hear a rumor that we may be welcoming the choir back for some of these services!! Also note that there is a probability that there will be no service on Dec 27th. More on that in upcoming enews issues as we make the final decision on this.

We still have two Worship Associates who are pulling double duty by being both Tech Coordinators and Worship Associates, so more volunteers are always welcomed. Please contact me at amalauriec@gmail.com if you are interested!

As we plan ahead for what will continue to be Zoom meetings into the new year, we hope you will share your ideas about what is working and what you'd like to see done differently. We obviously can't please everyone all the time, but we are trying to be flexible and creative. The fact that there are consistently 50 rectangles at each Zoom Service certainly speaks to the fact that people are coming back week after week and we find that so heartwarming!

Have a wonderful December full of all the joy you can muster in this pandemic. As we continue to be careful and social distance, I hope you find that our times together in Worship bring some of this Joy to your lives.

Many Blessings and Happy Holidays from all of us on the UUSB Worship Committee! Laurie Cartier. Chair

P.S. The theme for January will be Imagination. If you have ideas for readings, stories, or music to use with this theme, please let Rev. Drew or Molly Webster know.



The Soul Matters theme for December is **Stillness**. Stillness like you might find in a cave or a seed might find buried beneath the soil. This is a time for contemplation and healing and rest. A time for blanket forts, cozy fires, cups of tea, and hearing epic tales. Snuggle up with the ones you love and enjoy this peaceful and rejuvenating time of year.

Be sure to check your inboxes or your mailboxes for this month's edition of Soulful Home - a newsletter chock-full of fun games, activities, and conversation starters for you and your family.







We have been so blessed to have the tech available for our youth programs to continue during quarantine times. We are looking forward to continuing our online programming through the winter months. If you have yet to register your family for our Spiritual Exploration Program, please consider <u>doing so</u>. It provides us with much needed contact information to keep you up to date with links, programming schedules, and our Soulful Home newsletter.

In comm-UU-nity,



Karen Childs
UUSB Director of Spiritual Exploration
(207) 949-0733 ~ uubangorre@gmail.com

Schedule changes happen - please keep up to date through the <u>UUSB Google Calendar</u>, our <u>SEE</u> <u>Google Calendar</u>, our <u>UUSB Community FB Page</u>, or our all new <u>SEE Community Page</u>.



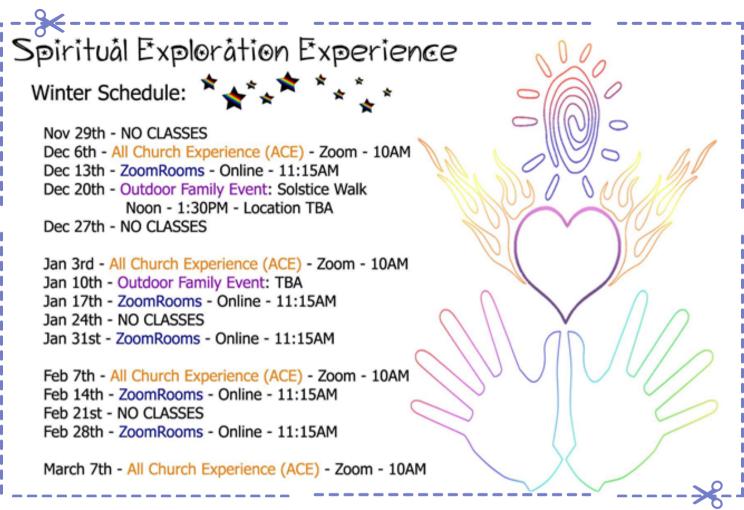
Connie McVev

We are excited to SEE together - SEE into our own hearts, minds, and spirits. SEE things from another's point of view. SEE what we can do to make our world a better place. SEE how love can change the world we live in.

On October 31, 2020 we gathered in Karen Childs' back yard to show off our fun Halloween costumes and get busy carving a variety of fun pumpkins for our front porches.



Jordan Seavey



Community Service Opportunities Available

There are two opportunities available to satisfy the "community service" project portion of the Ferry Beach scholarship qualifications.



The Building & Grounds Committee could use help with these two simple projects. Each project could be completed by one family.

- 1. Test the batteries in the smoke detectors and change them as needed.
- 2. Installing new roofing paper on the ramp leading into the Dorothy Memorial Hall.

If your family is interested in completing one of these projects or has questions about the projects, please contact Wendy Erickson at wendylynnerickson@gmail.com.

gift Basket AUCTION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12 7:00 PM LIVE ON ZOOM 30 BASKETS TO CHOOSE FROM! WHICH WILL YOU BUY?













Although we will not be displaying baskets in the Dorothy this year, we will be doing the auction, live! Under Suzanne Kelly's leadership, a small team has worked to get donations of baskets from UUSB committees, groups, and individuals. We met our goal to have about **30** high quality baskets to be auctioned. Read on to see what baskets will be available!

Adult Games

Backpack & Supplies for Walkers

Bread Baking

Care and Comfort

Dessert Extravaganza

Fair Trade Goodies

Gardening

Goodies for Cats

Goodies from the Garden

Green Cleaning

Growing Assets

Handyperson's Special

High Tea

Holiday Gathering in a Basket

Hors d'Oeuvres

Indoor Plants

Italian Wine & Dinner for Four

Lavender Blue

Meditation

RBG: Justice in Motion

Snowy Day

Souper Sunday

Supporting Downtown Bangor

Sweet Little Lambs for Baby

Sweetness

Worship

How the auction will work:

By Nov 21, those doing baskets will send a picture of their basket and a list of the contents to Cathy Elliott. In early December, the pictures and lists will be posted online and paper copies will be available to those without internet. At 7:00 pm on Saturday, Dec 12, we will have a live Zoom auction, just as we did for the spring auction, with Sue McKay as our auctioneer extraordinaire! You can pay online or by mailing in a check, and your basket will be delivered to you or you can arrange to pick it up.

So stay tuned!! More information and details will be coming soon! And many thanks to those who have already agreed to contribute!!

Holiday Wreath & Swag Sale

Celebrate the holidays with a beautiful UUSB-decorated wreath or swag!

You can pick up your wreaths and swags on December 5th from 10:00-12:00 in the **Dorothy Memorial Hall.**

Contact Kerrie O'Brien to place your order at kerriekat48@yahoo.com or (207) 521-6330.

Because each wreath is unique, you can pick out your wreath or swag on a "first come, first served" basis. Because of COVID 19, we have a pre-selected



Photo by Ellie Lord via Unsplash

team of decorators. Everyone participating will be masked and we will gladly bring a wreath out to your vehicle if you don't want to enter the building. If you would like to come in and look at them all, we can arrange for that to happen as well. Just let us know when you arrive that is what you would like and we can determine when you can enter based on number of people in the building. As in years past, we will accept cash and checks payable to UUSB.

In order to try and maintain adequate distancing during pick ups, we ask that when you place your order you also let us know about what time you would be arriving between the hours of 10:00 and 2:00 PM.



Photo by Vera Davidova via Unsplash

NEW this year!

We will also be selling face masks celebrating various holiday themes: Solstice, Winter, Christmas, and UU themed.

These masks created by UUSB members will be for sale for \$5. If you can sew, and would like to be one of our elves to make some of these masks, please let us know! You can email Kerrie O'Brien at kerriekat48@yahoo.com.



Solidarity Harvest: Sponsor-A-Meal

\$40 for a Thanksgiving basket for 8-10 people

Solidarity Harvest is complete for 2020. 1,400 locally-sourced Thanksgiving baskets went out to help families celebrate! So far, Solidarity Harvest has raised around \$51,000 of the \$58,000 fundraising goal to provide all 1,400 baskets. If you were and are interested in giving to support this outreach, you can donate online or mail a check to Food AND Medicine, 20 Ivers St, Brewer, ME 04412.

UUSB helped distribute baskets, once again this year, as well as providing some of the volunteers to pack the baskets that went

out. Joanie and Kirby Ellis and Suzanne and Bob Kelly had a great time, despite the frigid weather, when they went to help. Last Sunday, our Spiritual Exploration program went over and joined the fun. Thanks to all who participated and we look forward to next year!

For More Info call (207) 989-5860. Mail checks payable to Food AND Medicine, 20 Ivers Street, Brewer, ME 04412.

UPCOMING EVENTS The Who, What, Where, & When to find UU online

HOSTED BY UUSB WEEKLY

Sundays @10:00 AM

Worship Service

Join us weekly on Zoom. Find the link, meeting ID, and password in the weekly enews.

Mondays @7:00 PM

Zoom Open Mic

Join our online CoffeeHouse Open Mic for some community music every Monday. To receive the login info, please email karenchilds75@gmail.com.

Tuesdays @5:45 PM

Intro to Mindfulness Meditation

Join Rev. Drew for a five session introduction to Mindfulness (Vipassana) Meditation. See page 3 for more details.

Tuesdays @7:30 PM

Chalice Side Chat

Join us on Zoom to check in and find support. Find the link, meeting ID, and password in the weekly e-news.

HOSTED BY OTHER UU GROUPS WEEKLY

Sundays @8:00 PM

Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) Online Worship

Join CLF for a weekly worship service on Zoom. CLF is the largest UU congregation, exclusively meeting online. Check the enews for the registration link weekly.

Thursdays @11:00 AM

The VUU by CLF

A live Unitarian Universalist talk show discussing today's topics from an anti-racist, anti-oppressive, and multicultural perspective. Visit their Youtube page or check the weekly e-news for the newest link.

SPECIAL MEETINGS & SERVICES

Sunday, December 13 @11:30 AM

Minister's Tea

Join Rev. Drew and Membership committee members for a casual time to ask questions and learn about UUSB, UUism, and fill one of the membership requirements.

Sunday, December 13 @12:00 PM

Ringing Bells & Feeding Souls

Join us for an open-air concert with UUSB's historic bells and our monthly food collection for the Ecumenical Food Cupboard. Since December 2019, we've collected over 2,000 lbs. of food!

Sunday, December 20 @6:00 PM

Blue Holiday Service

Join Rev. Drew and Phyllis Havens for this special service aimed at the sense of loss many feel during the holiday season.

Thursday, December 24 @7:00 PM

Christmas Eve Service

Join us to meet and welcome our newest members in this special worship service!

Saturday, December 26 @4:00 PM

Bean Supper Served

Our only in-person event this month, the Bean Supper will be served in take-out containers with social distancing precautions taken.

DECEMBER

DECEN		-	7	A CONTRACTOR		26	
	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 9:45 AM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Chalice Side Chat	2 5:30 PM Worship Committee	3 6:00 PM Zoom Choir	4 6:30 PM Financial Stewardship Committee	5 10:00 AM Wreath & Swag Sale Pick-Up
	6 10:00 AM Service	7 7:00 PM Zoom Open Mic	8 5:45 PM Meditation 7:30 PM Chalice Side Chat	9 Committee Reports Due 6:30 PM Membership- Fellowship	10 6:00 PM Zoom Choir 6:30 PM Executive Committee	11 10:00 AM Budget & Finance	12 7:00 PM Holiday Gift Basket Auction
	13 10:00 AM Service 11:30 AM Minister's Tea 12:00 PM Ringing Bells & Feeding Souls	14 7:00 PM Zoom Open Mic	15 9:45 AM Staff Meeting 5:45 PM Meditation 7:30 PM Chalice Side Chat	16 2:00 PM Pastoral Care Team 6:30 PM Council Meeting	17 6:00 PM Zoom Choir	18 9:00 AM Committee on Shared Ministry	19
	20 C&C Soft Deadline 10:00 AM Service 11:45 AM Social Justice 6:00 PM Blue Holiday	21 7:00 PM Zoom Open Mic	22 5:45 PM Meditation 7:30 PM Chalice Side Chat	23	24 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service	25 C&C Hard Deadline	26 10:00 AM Bag Lunch Prep 3:00 PM Bean Supper Prep 4:00 PM Bean Supper
	27 10:00 AM Service	28 7:00 PM Zoom Open Mic	29 9:45 AM Staff Meeting 5:45 PM Meditation 7:30 PM Chalice Side Chat	30 5:30 PM Worship Committee	31	All Meetings & Services are currently being held on Zoom until further notice. Please subscribe to our e-news or join the UUSB community group on Facebook to get up-to-date info.	
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REMINDERS

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.







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 & Pledge Reminders

One way you can help continue our outreach efforts is to keep up with your financial pledge. Without our weekly passing of the collection plate, we still need to make sure that we can pay our bills. Keeping up with your pledge allows our staff and leadership to focus on providing services to members, friends, and guests. There are three options to make is easy to keep up with your pledge:

- 1. Mail a check to the church office at 120 Park St, Bangor, ME 04401
- 2.Contact Rosemary Parsons, our treasurer, to set up a direct withdrawal from your paycheck or bank account
- 3. Donate online through Vanco. This option will be available on our website, as well as shared in our weekly e-news



Thank you for your continued support as we all work to provide for our community.

ABOUT THE CHALICE & CHIMES

Church Council:

Will Seavey, Chair Kate Dutra, Clerk Rosemary Parsons, Treasurer Becky Anderson Tom Bickford Valerie Carter Gail Foss Francis Grey Kerrie O'Brien

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

UUSB Staff Contact:

Rev. Andrew Moeller, Minister (207) 922-2956 Christine Sprague, Office Admin. (207) 947-7009 Karen Childs, Director of SE (207) 949-0733 Molly J. Webster, Music Director (207) 947-7009

Due to delays caused by working remotely during the COVID-19, please be patient with responses. We will get back to you as quickly as possible.

About Our Newsletter

The Chalice and Chimes is published ten times a year (Sept-June). The hard deadline for submissions is the 25th day of each month. Please notify the office of your intent to contribute by the 20th of each month, on the soft deadline. 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 Submissions Next Newsletter Deadline: December 25, 2020

The next issue will be January 2020.
We value your contributions and very much appreciate submissions. When sending email contributions to The Chalice & Chimes: uubangor@gmail.com