

CHALICE & CHIMES

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF UUSB

DECEMBER 2021

THIS MONTH IN WORSHIP

This month, our worship services will continue to be held via Zoom due to the elevated levels of the COVID-19 delta variant. Currently, our online platform is the safest way we can serve the greatest number of our members, friends, and guests. Please check the weekly e-news and Facebook posts for all service and COVID updates. Let's hope we can safely begin hybrid services soon!

Our theme this month is **Opening to Joy**.

December 5 - *Opening to Joy* - Kicking off the winter holiday season, our service will consider the Jewish Holiday of Hanukkah and the struggle to endure through difficult times as we search for Joy in our lives. This service will be led by Rev. Drew Moeller, with Phyllis Havens as our worship associate, Jennifer Rodriguez as our Zoom tech, and music provided by Molly J. Webster.
Meeting ID: 968 2816 0108 Passcode: 361556 [Zoom Link](#)

December 12 - *Finding Light in the Darkness* - During December, we celebrate advent or the coming something special from the lengthening of days to the birth of hope of an Enlightened child. We will look for ways the ancient stories of waiting amid darkness can prepare us for finding joy in our hearts, even amidst the struggles of the pandemic-ridden holiday season. This service will be led by Rev. Drew Moeller, with Sue McKay our worship associate, with Jennifer Rodriguez as our Zoom tech, and music provided by Molly J. Webster.
Meeting ID: 966 5317 2812 Passcode: 749412 [Zoom Link](#)

December 19 - *Winter Solstice Ritual* - Come welcome the Winter Solstice and the return of lengthening days and shorter nights with music, story, and candles. This service will be led by Rev. Drew Moeller and Laurie Cartier, with Jennifer Rodriguez as our Zoom tech, and music provided by Molly J. Webster.
Meeting ID: 985 1562 0651 Passcode: 061594 [Zoom Link](#)

December 19 - *Blue Christmas* - For many, the winter holidays are full of a lot of the hustle and bustle and joyfulness. However, the holidays can be a great time of sadness for others, especially as we adapt to losing loved ones or living through difficult situations. If the holidays bring you down, join Rev. Drew as he explores a more somber side that the holidays often hold. This service will be led by Rev. Drew Moeller.
Meeting ID: 961 8353 0260 Passcode: 329927 [Zoom Link](#)

(Continued on page 3.)

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

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 2 - DREW'S VIEWS
- 3 - MINISTER'S SCHEDULE
- 4 - COUNCIL CRIER
- 5 - BUILDING USE UPDATE
- 6 - OFFICE BULLETIN BOARD
- 7 - TREASURER'S REPORT
- 8 - MEMBERSHIP-FELLOWSHIP
- 9 - SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION
- 13 - SOCIAL JUSTICE
- 15 - UPCOMING EVENTS
- 16 - DECEMBER CALENDAR

Dear Ones,

Heading into the holiday season this year feels very different. I usually associate the winter holidays with hope and a sense of joyfulness.

This year, however, the start of the holiday season feels different. The lingering pandemic has again postponed the joy and hopes that many of us expected to celebrate. In addition to increased infection rates, supply chain breakdowns, higher energy costs, and a new COVID variant that we know very little about, we are living in times of great uncertainty and dis-ease in our hearts and minds. These concerns are hard enough to endure, and when combined with the worn-down resilience of almost two years of the pandemic, it feels a bit overwhelming.

How can we feel the magic of joy and happiness when so much of the world is suffering? How can we feel gratitude when so much associated with the holidays have been taken away? We are tired and weary. I sometimes wish I were a black bear and could go into hibernation and wake up in spring when hopefully, things will be better. While that is a great thing to do as a bear, we, as human's don't have that option.

In mourning the loss of normalcy and the awkwardness of trying to constantly adjust to the randomness of COVID's disruption to our familiar ways of life, I am reminded of the wisdom of many of our winter holiday stories. Of Hanukkah, the Maccabees struggle to survive at the hands of the Greek invaders trying to destroy their faith and way of life. I think of devastation created by the abduction of Persephone by Hades, who made the suffering brought on by winter. I also look to the story of Jesus's birth and the fear of King Harrod, who was losing control over his kingdom and his authoritarian rule.

If there is anything that these ancient stories can teach us, well, the human condition is fragile. The human condition can also overcome great adversity when the spirit, faith, and community are

engaged. That is why these stories continue to endure and are retold every winter as the dreariness of longer nights and colder weather makes us give way to despair.

This month, our worship and reflection theme is "Opening to Joy," which at first feels like a Herculean theme giving all the adversity in the world. However, Joy is not just a passing emotion. It is a life skill, a choice, practice, and a way of being that we have control even in the most challenging times.

Last week our meditation group watched the new documentary "Mission: Joy" based on the 2015 meeting for Arch Bishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama. In this documentary, these two spiritual leaders share their wisdom on cultivating joy even through overwhelming hardships in their personal lives. Joy, like compassion, is a state of being that we can develop and is limitless if we give it our attention and focus.

So, even in these difficult, wearing, and stressful times, let us look to the ancient stories of the winter holiday season and take to heart their wisdom of the human ability to endure hardship and create a soul-nourishing ability to find Joy even amid difficulty and uncertainty. Stay tuned to this month's services and programs that will help us find ways of building joy within ourselves, our families, and our UUSB community as we move through this holiday season and the beginning of a new year.

Wishing you all Happy Holidays! May you all find ways to connect with joy in your holiday celebrations and may you find space to enjoy spirit of the season.

Love & Namasté,



Rev. Drew

THIS MONTH IN WORSHIP (CONT.)

December 24 - *Christmas Eve* - Usher in Christmas Holiday with our traditional Christmas Eve worship complete with the telling of the Christmas story, traditional carols and a Christmas message from Rev. Drew. This service will be led by Rev. Drew Moeller and our Worship Committee members, with Jennifer Rodriguez as our Zoom tech, and music provided by Molly J. Webster and the UUSB Choir.

Meeting ID: 947 1917 6945 Passcode: 011884 [Zoom Link](#)

December 26 - *Holiday Traditions* - Look for more information in the e-news or on the UUSB website or Facebook page as we get closer!

Meeting ID: 982 3881 9126 Passcode: 859728 [Zoom Link](#)

Minister's Schedule - December 2021

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, Wed, Fri - 12 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)

Saturdays - By appointment (ONLINE or by PHONE)

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

Note: **December 26-31** - Rev. Drew will not be off, for his regular Sunday and some vacation time.

You can reach Rev. Drew directly at his local UUSB phone number **(207)922-2956** or at his personal cell phone number **(860)655-5890**

January's worship theme is "Living with Intention."

If this theme makes you think of a poem, reading, or piece of music that speaks to this theme please share it with Rev. Drew, Molly Webster, or a member of the Worship Committee. Your suggestions inform and enhance our worship services.

2021-2022 Worship Themes

February: Widening the Circle

March: Renewing Faith

April: Awakening

May: Nurturing Beauty

June: Celebrating Blessings



UUSB Mindfulness Meditation Group

Tuesdays, 5:45 - 7:00 PM

This month, the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month will include a dharma lesson based on chapter 5, "The Mysterious Illusion of Self" from *The Wise Heart* by Jack Kornfield. In the 2nd and 4th weeks, the group will have slightly longer walking and sitting meditation and check-in and group discussion.

Our meditation is an open/drop-in style group. No previous meditation experience is required. People joining the group for the first time are highly encouraged to contact Rev. Drew (drewuu2@gmail.com) and make arrangements to sign in at 5:30 on their first night. This provides space for newcomers to become familiar with our process and receive a brief meditation instruction to make the first meeting experience more enjoyable. Other students have found this helpful.

Once the building is opened up, we will return to in-person meetings, but still provide a Zoom option. Stay tuned to the *Chalice & Chimes* and e-news for updates and links to our online sessions.

This program is free of charge. If one wishes to make a free-will offering (dana) to the group, one can donate by contributing to UUSB with "Meditation Group" in the memo line.

Please check your email for the login link or use the code **794 704 8437** to call in!





COVID-19 & In-Person Gatherings Update

COVID-19 cases remain very high. Fortunately, kids age 5 - 11 are now able to get vaccinations and adults age 18+ can receive boosters. While the risk is lower, there will always remain a risk. Our new AVS system, which we are excited to debut, will allow options for some attendees to remain home and some can come to a service in person. We had hoped to have an in-person service in time for Christmas, however, the health and safety of our congregation remains our top priority. The Council and UUSB staff are currently considering what logistics would need to be in place in order to safely allow an in-person service option. We will provide updates in the coming weeks once further discussion and evaluation has taken place. In regard to smaller UUSB groups who wish to meet in person, we voted that small groups can meet in the Sanctuary if the following measures are taken:

- masked (even while singing)
- participants are vaccinated (or have a negative COVID test 72 hours prior)
- a sign-up sheet is maintained for contact tracing
- attendees maintain proper physical distancing

For a full listing of our COVID in-person gathering policies, please reach out to the UUSB office.

Upcoming Council Retreat

The Council will be holding their winter retreat on January 8, 2022. Whether this event is in-person or via Zoom will be determined. Council will be reaching out to Committee Chairs to join us during the day and will provide further details.



Mitten Tree

This year's Mitten Tree will remain socially distant! You can drop off your donations in the marked totes December 12 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. If you aren't sure what you can donate, we can recommend these items:

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

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

BUILDING USE UPDATE

BY CHRISTINE SPRAGUE

I wanted to provide a more thorough update on the current use of the UUSB building, as we start to open for more uses. Since March of 2020, staff have been working from home most of the time, with limited appointments and visits to the office. Due to the current conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic, this will likely continue for some time. However, there has been some concern and frustration about who has been allowed, or not, to use the building throughout the pandemic. I wanted to clarify some of the process and provide answers or a starting point for further questions and dialogue. If you have any questions about any group or agreement, please contact me in the office at uubangor@gmail.com.

Regular Building Use

When we closed the building in March 2020, we also cancelled all building use for the foreseeable future as voted on by the Council. A few months later, Council approved Fresh Start/AA to restart in-person meetings in the vestry, with additional protocols in place, including masking, social distancing, and contact tracing sheets. Fresh Start/AA does not have a set fee for their facility use, but try to make quarterly donations, as they are able.

Other regular groups remained unable to use the space for a much longer time due to the much higher risk of singing and other physical activities. This includes Women With Wings, the UUSB choir, New Renaissance Singers, Contradance, etc. At this time, singing groups are allowed to meet, with restrictions, based on research provided by Molly J. Webster on safety while singing and from other members of the congregation who are familiar with the current infection rates in Penobscot County.

Woodland Pond School began hosting their homeschool co-op in UUSB in August 2021. We made the agreement with them over the summer, when the Council was still hoping we may be able to re-open for services this fall. At the time, rates were relatively low. Also, having regular organizations, like a school, provides stability for our budget, especially after the difficulties of the pandemic. When the Council voted to keep services fully remote because of the spike a few months ago, there was also discussion about whether to delay WPS moving in. Based on the already signed contract; their small number of students and staff; being able to keep the two floors separated for any activities; and the need to help alleviate budget strain, we decided to continue allowing WPS to move forward. They have been using the Dorothy since August, due to the SE Wing renovation, however they are planning to move downstairs to share some of the SE Wing space during the winter vacation this month. Their classroom space will be a shared one that our youth will also be using when we resume in-person SEE classes.

The Greater Bangor Area Housing Coalition has also been using the vestry on Saturdays during the colder months of the year. The Council approved to donate the space for their meetings, since we weren't using the building at all and providing a warming shelter and helping with housing justice align with our UU values. The initial agreement was through June 2021. Since then, GBAHC has been approved through this winter, with the stipulation that UUSB and paying groups have priority. On Saturdays that the vestry is unavailable, I provide notice at least one week ahead of time, so that GBAHC may move their meeting down to Pickering Square, where they meet in nicer weather.

Storage in the Sub-Basement

There are two groups now paying to store items in the UUSB sub-basement and one that the space is donated to. Torelin Jager, the Bangor Homeless Outreach Coordinator, uses the space to store items for newly housed community members whom she has been working with. Over the two years that she has been using the space, this has included some furniture and mattresses, primarily.

In the last few months, we have added the Peace & Justice Center and Needle Point Sanctuary. The pandemic made it clear that PJC didn't need a large office rented full time, so they were looking at storage units. We made an agreement for a slightly lower rate than the typical storage unit and have allotted some space in the subbasement for them. Needle Point Sanctuary had been storing their equipment and donated supplies at the Peace & Justice Center, so needed a new space as well and are paying a reduced storage rate as well.

small groups
@UUSB?
Good to Go!

Staff Working
from Home

Call
or
Email
~
all calls go to
voicemail

Use Vestry
door during
school hours

Photos to Feature
on Website or in
C+C ALWAYS
WELCOME

Committee
meetings OK
for in-person



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

Tech Coordinator:

Jennifer Rodriguez
uubangortechcoor@gmail.com

Council Chair:

Kerrie O'Brien
kerriekat48@yahoo.com

Council Vice Chair:

Valerie Carter
vcgardener@gmail.com

Council Clerk:

Kate Dutra
kate.dutra70@gmail.com

Council Treasurer:

Rosemary Parsons
roxemary@gmail.com

Building Partially Closed

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the UUSB staff are working primarily from home. Small groups and committees may meet in the office, but **must** contact the office to schedule time, receive approval, and verify required safety guidelines. Please check the weekly e-news and monthly *Chalice & Chimes* for updates. Committees and small groups may meet at UUSB, but no food or drink may be served. Masks are required for all people at all times. Proof of COVID-19 vaccination or a negative test result within 72 hours before are required for attendance at SEE events.

"Office" hours with contact by voicemail or email from 10-2, Tues-Fri

If there is some delay, please be patient with the complexities of working from home. I check for incoming messages 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 email and I will pass along the info or reply by email or phone, as you request. When leaving a voicemail, please provide all necessary info.

Do NOT Use Dorothy During School Hours (8:30-3:30)

Until the SEE Wing renovation is complete, Woodland Pond School has to remain in the Dorothy. Because of this, you must inform the office at least one day ahead if you need to access the Dorothy during school hours. The school can plan for less focused activities or to be out of the building when you are in the space, if they know ahead of time. Do not block exits or bathrooms, as it is a health and safety issue. Currently, the SE Wing update is hopefully going to be done this month, so WPS will be able to move downstairs during their holiday break, if all goes as planned.

UPCOMING DEADLINES

CHALICE & CHIMES (JAN. ED.)
MONDAY 12/20 - SOFT DEADLINE
FRIDAY 12/24 - HARD DEADLINE

E-NEWS (WEEKLY)
THURSDAYS AT 10:00AM
COMMITTEE NOTES FOR COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

"OFFICE" HOURS

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

BY ROSEMARY PARSONS

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MONTH OF OCTOBER. This report covers 33% of the year.

Total income for the month of October was \$12,489. In Oct 2020 the income was \$18,176 This YTD income is \$87,480, 38% of the year's budget. Last year's YTD income was \$78,006, 34% of the year's budget.

Expenses were \$16,496, leaving a loss of (\$4,007) for the month. YTD expenses are \$69,663, 29% of the budget. In Oct 2020 expenses were \$16,676 and last year's YTD expenses were \$68,748, 30% of the budget

October income included pledge of \$4,962. Plate donations were \$277. Half of that amount goes to the Bangor Homeless Shelter. Endowments were \$2,251, the Yard Sale was a whopping \$1,902 (\$1,350 was budget line), rent was \$875. General Fund was \$357. We also received \$1,600 towards our goal of \$18,000 in the Raffle

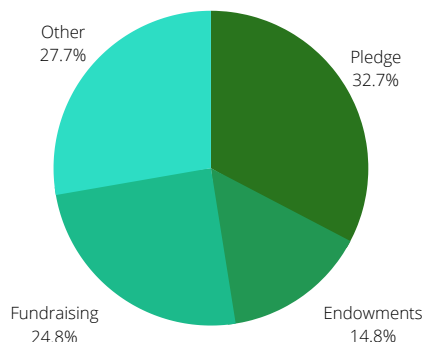
VANCO: In October: 12 people used the Vanco link to make payments totaling \$1,372 gross in all categories with a net of \$1,329. Fees were \$26.97 and the offset paid was \$26.98. Additional charges invoiced were \$14.20. Donations were General Fund for \$127, pledges for \$912, Share the Plate for \$177, SE Renovations \$100 and Minister's Discretionary \$27.

Expenses for the month break down as Personnel \$13,055 (79% of total costs), Building \$2,091 (8%), Fair Share to the UUA \$845 (5%), Administrative \$620 (4%), and Congregational expenses for \$698 (4%). Total expenses for 4 months was 29.2% of the year's budget.

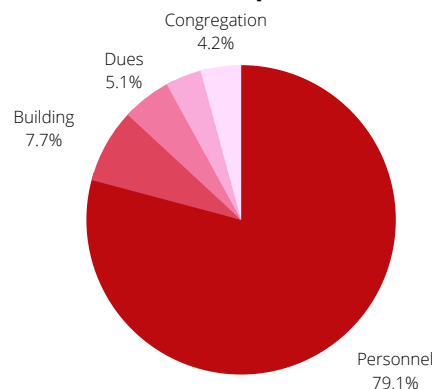
Our first fundraiser of the year, the Yard Sale, was a tremendous success. Many thanks to all involved. Remember that Raffle tickets are NOT being sold online this year. Contact Linda Sisson at 307-6431 to arrange a pick up - she lives in Little City at 75 Poplar. You can also contact Christine in the office for details: to buy tickets, or get tickets to sell. The raffle sales end on December 3. Success of this event is ESSENTIAL for funding salaries, building expenses, etc.

In Service,
Rosemary Parsons

October Income



October Expenses



LOOKING AHEAD WITH

MEMBERSHIP-FELLOWSHIP

BY KERRIE O'BRIEN

Looking for Friendly People to Help as Sunday Greeters

Although we don't yet know when we will be back for in-person services, the Membership-Fellowship Committee is getting ready to welcome all your smiling faces. To do this, we need your help! We like to have at least two people in the Dorothy to greet everyone as they arrive for Sunday services, as well as provide information to those who are new to UUSB. This is a wonderful way to meet folks and share our wonderful community. If you would like to help out, contact Cathy Elliott at cathyelliott25@gmail.com. We will be in touch to schedule dates. Thanks!

Options for Membership

Any friends and visitors who want to consider becoming a member of UUSB can now join at any time, not just twice a year! The joining 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 12th. The next New to UU Class will be held in the Spring. If you are interested in participating in the one of the Minister's Teas or becoming a member, you can email uubangor@gmail.com.

Monthly Tea with Reverend Drew

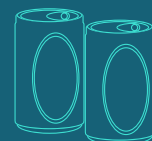
Rev. Drew holds a monthly tea via Zoom immediately following Fellowship Hour after service. Attending one of the teas meets one of the requirements to becoming a UUSB member. This is a little less formal and is a good way to ask any questions you may have about Unitarian Universalism, the UUSB and our commUUnity. The next Minister's Tea will be Sunday, December 12th, just after fellowship. If you would like to attend, please send an email to uubangor@gmail.com.



Ringling Bells and Feeding Souls

December 12th at 12:00 PM

Open Air Chimes Concert & Food Collection



On Sunday, December 12, UUSB will once again host our Second Sunday Food Drive & Open Air Concert, the church's monthly community food collection, from 12:00-12:30. There will be drop off bins on the Park Street sidewalk in front of the church for those wishing to donate.

From 12:00-12:30, there will also be a concert from the church's historic bell tower. UUSB's 10-bell, Meneely "C Chime" is one of only 6 genuine tower bell instruments in Maine and the only manually-played chime in Bangor (installed 1919).

We invite all within the Bangor community to step outside and take a listen. You are welcome to enjoy from the church lawn, surrounding areas, or your car, but please wear masks and social distance.

The food collected is given to the Ecumenical Food Pantry in Bangor. They can also take monetary donations, which buys up to six pounds of food for every dollar given. Make checks out to Bangor Ecumenical Food Cupboard (Bangor EFC), and we'll keep feeding souls.

In 2020, you gave 2,833.5 pounds of food, more than one and one quarter metric tons. In 2021, to date, you have contributed 2,822 pounds. You are making a difference!

SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION EXPERIENCE



The Soul Matters theme for December is Open to Joy. And why not?? This season is touted as the Season of Joy, after all. But a lot gets in the way of that. Planning for the holidays, affording extra food, buying just the right gifts, dealing with relatives, missing those that have passed on, not to mention the affects of Covid. It's a tough time of year for many.

So how do we open ourselves to Joy? In our Soulful Home packet this month, they share the idea that to be open to joy, one must aim to be in the moment, to come back to the present. Try to let go worry and fear, and release obsessions and resentments, to make space for the gifts that joy can bring.

This month, our activity pack, is chock-full of fun games and activities, as well as thoughtful conversation starters, a link to a listening meditation, and a bed time story. All wonderful tools to help you and your family find ways to be open to Joy in this holiday season.

In comm-UU-nity,

FALL SESSION SCHEDULE

December

Sun 12/5 @11:15 - Zoom Rooms
Online

Sun 12/12 @11:15 - Zoom Rooms
Online

Sun 12/19 @1:30- Circle of Trees
Outdoor Family Event

Bangor City Forest
Sun 12/26 - No S.E.E.

January

Sun 1/2 - No S.E.E.

Sun 1/9 @11:15 - Zoom Rooms
Online

Sun 1/16 @2:00 - Circle of Trees
Outdoor Family Event

Sun 1/23 @11:15 - Zoom Rooms
Online



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

Circle of Trees

Sunday, Nov 19th @2PM
Bangor City Forest

Join our Community for a
family-style Spiritual
Exploration Experience
amongst the trees...



WHAT TO EXPECT: WINTER SESSION

Due to the ongoing complexities of planning in this COVID-age, we continue to plan our programming with safety and flexibility as our top priority. For the second session of our programming, Jan 9th - Mar 27th, our coldest, wettest months - we will be modifying our multi-platform programming. At this moment in time, we are hoping to have partial reopening, beginning on February 6th. We'll be stretching our imaginations to find ways to create healthy and safe community experiences.

We are hoping to slowly reintegrate by shifting our Zoom-Room Classes into In-Person Classroom Experiences. And, as the weather allows, we will continue to Circle-up in the Trees to experience some fun and interactive outdoor time. Our high schoolers will continue to meet up to do a variety of activities with our local crew as well as to participate with our regional mid-coast youth group for larger projects. We hope to see you and your families both online and in person events this Winter!

We are committed to the safety of our community, and we will continue to practice these important safety precautions in an effort to reduce risk while participating at In-Person Events.

Masks must be worn, except when eating/drinking, during all UUSB In-Person Events. For S.E.E. specific events, proof of vaccination or proof of a negative COVID test within 72 hours, for all folks 12 years of age and older, must be presented to the DSE at the first In-Person S.E.E. event you and your family attend. Please continue to practice physical distancing when interacting with folks outside of your pod.

DROP OFF CARDS DECEMBER 12

HOLIDAY CARD CAMPAIGN

MAKE YOUR OWN CARD FOR HEALTH CARE HEROES

Dear Ones,

At a meeting this week of the Northern Light / Eastern Maine Medical Center Chaplain's Advisory Group (CAG), we talked about the profoundly stressful and challenging situation that most healthcare workers are dealing with after almost two years of working on the frontline of the COVID Pandemic.

One of the ways the CAG felt we could help offer support was to create cards of gratitude to be delivered to the many departments of Northern Light (EMMC) during the holiday season. We thought it would be a fantastic congregational opportunity to support our frontline healthcare workers, give people a fun home holiday activity, and share the holiday season's spirit.

To that end, we are encouraging all UUSB members, friends, and guests of all ages, to find a little time in the next couple of weeks to either create a homemade card, or printed holiday card, and write a message of gratitude addressed to "Dear Northern Light Health Care Workers..." Feel free to create cards, decorated with crayons, colored pencils, sharpies, water color, tempera paint - sky's the limit!

We will collect the cards during our Second Sunday Food Drive on December 12. Cards do not require an envelope - if you do use an envelope, please leave the outside blank and unsealed. Rev Drew will deliver the cards to Northern Light / EMMC's volunteer office on December 14, distributing them to Northern Light Employees in time for Solstice and Christmas.

Thanks for your help and for spreading a little extra Holiday Cheer!

Rev. Drew and Karen Childs

Dear UUSB Grade 9-12 Parents & Youth:

Chuck McKay has been deputized to coordinate our Youth Group experience during this church year! The curriculum this year will be a "MashUp" of experiences mostly oriented around service and social time.

We plan to offer in-person experiences rather than Zoom experiences - church guidelines for participation (vaccination, masking) will be in effect. There may also be a small social media component, so stay tuned for more info on that!

Here are some neat-o questions that Chuck will be asking folks to chew on:

- What is service like?
- Why serve?
- Does it require sacrifice?
- Should it be discreet or are there times when it is good to broadcast it?
- Who gains or loses power when we serve?
- Does any of this matter?

Please share this schedule with your youth, and please feel free to contact Chuck via email, chuckrates@gmail.com, if you have any questions or concerns.

Important Dates & Times

- December 12, 11:45 to 12:30 - Food Collection @ UUSB
- December 30 - Movie / game night, exact time and location TBA
- January 9, 11:45 to 12:30 - Food Collection @ UUSB
- January 28-29 - Mid-Maine YoUUTH service project and optional overnight at the Belfast Warming Center - more details to come
- February 13, 11:45 to 12:30 - Food Collection @ UUSB
- March 13, 11:45 to 12:30 - Food Collection @ UUSB
- April 10, 11:45 to 12:30 - Food Collection @ UUSB
- April 22-23 - Mid-Maine YoUuth service project with Wabanaki REACH and bean supper at UUSB, with optional overnight - more details to come.

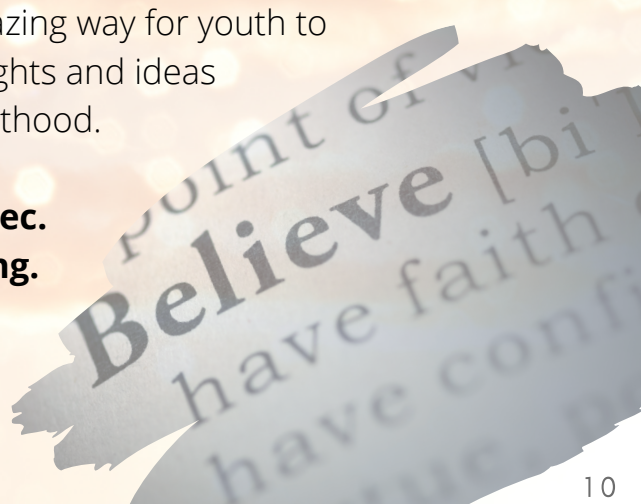
COA Program - Coming Soon!

We are planning on having a Coming of Age program for 7-9th graders this winter/spring. This program will involve six 1 1/2 hour sessions discussing and developing adolescent's ideas and beliefs around religion and spirituality.

They will also be connected with mentors that they will meet with to share ideas and put shape to their beliefs. The program is an amazing way for youth to team up with guiding adults to put form the the thoughts and ideas that they are trying to sort through as they enter adulthood.

We will be having an informational session on Dec. 19th for anyone that is interested in participating.

If you have interest in being an youth participant or mentor, **please contact Erin Seavey at erinseavey1@gmail.com.**





SHARE THE PLATE



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 gave \$139 to the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter.

In November, we gave Penquis LIHEAP a whopping \$652!!!



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



What Are Grocery Cards? And, Why Buy Them?



So, you want to know, "What are grocery cards?" Good question!

Grocery cards are Hannaford gift cards that UUSB sells as a type of fundraiser. We purchase the gift cards in bulk directly from Hannaford with a 5% discount. This means that, by purchasing grocery cards from UUSB, you are able to donate 5% of your grocery bill to UUSB without increasing your grocery bill!

The Hannaford gift cards, aka grocery cards, can be used for almost all purchases at Hannaford. The very limited exceptions being money orders, money transfer services, utility bills, and returned check fees. Most grocery cards purchased through UUSB also can not be used for tobacco or alcohol.

Now that you know what they are and how easy it is to give a few extra dollars to UUSB without any extra spending, I bet you want to know how you get your grocery cards. No need to worry because it is easy to start getting your cards at any time, using the following info.

Grocery Cards are 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!

Cards are also available at the monthly
Ringing Bells & Feeding Souls events.
The next will be November 14th at 12:00.

For purchase and pickup or delivery, contact:

Tim & Judy Martin
942-2696

jamandt@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.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Build Back Better - Contact Jared Golden

The UUA and others are urging people to contact Jared Golden to support the Build Back Better (BBB) bill when it returns to the House. He could be an important swing vote. You can contact his Bangor office at (207) 249-7400.

Faith Linking in Action - Ingathering Project

On Saturday, November 13, members from four of Faith Linking in Action's congregations (Unitarian-Universalist Society of Bangor, Islamic Center of Maine, St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, and the First United Methodist Church) delivered a jam-packed truck of hygiene items (including monthly menstrual hygiene packets) and cold weather accessories and clothing (socks, hats, gloves, scarves, hand warmers) to the weekly Greater Bangor Housing Coalition meeting at Pickering Square. Our congregations had been stockpiling these winter supplies for over a month for the occasion. Our new banner celebrates our purpose: joining hearts and hands to build a community of justice and dignity. When faith communities work together, there is so much we can accomplish in serving those in the Greater Bangor Area who are challenged, especially during these difficult times.



Save the date: Sunday, January 23, 2:00-3:30 - Our next event is designed to *Educate and Energize* our congregations around one of the huge issues that we are all working on: food insecurity. If we are able, this will be a live dessert, coffee, and sharing event held at the First United Methodist Church. If not, we will meet via Zoom. Our goal: Share the creative ways we are already working within our individual faith communities to lessen food insecurity; and to brainstorm some ways we can do it together. In other words: *Faith Linking in Action!*

MUUSAN - Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network!

Next MUUSAN Network Meeting: Saturday, January 8, 10:00-12:30 via Zoom

MUUSAN Issue Groups:

Realizing that we cannot respond to every issue and solve every problem, we have chosen four areas of public policy as our priority issues.

- **Democracy in Action** including efforts to strengthen our democracy by informing and engaging voters, protecting voting rights, promoting civil discourse, instituting Ranked-Choice Voting, supporting Clean Election laws and reducing the importance of money in campaigns.
- **Health Care** including advocacy for universal health care, monitoring legislation that affects our healthcare system, and promoting public health interventions.
- **Climate Change** including support for fossil energy conservation, development of solar and other renewable sources, and educating legislators and the public about the urgent call to slow climate change (with special attention to our own precious Gulf of Maine).
- **Racial, Native, and Immigrant Justice** addressing systemic oppression by advocating with and on behalf of racial, ethnic and indigenous populations and responding to the need to interrupt disparities in Maine's legal and economic systems.

[MUUSAN Legislative Action for 130th Legislature, 1st Session](#)

Remembering
Charles "Chuck" Rodrigues

Charles "Chuck" Rodrigues, of Westport, MA, formerly of Old Town, ME, passed away in November in Westport with his family. Chuck was a member of UUSB and very active with the monthly bean supper crew. He especially delighted in "behind the scenes" work like cleanup. Chuck was a musician, and learned to ring our chimes. He also played with the band for the Onion Creek Cloggers in Iowa, and lent his musical skills to various events in the Bangor area. He was active in the Peace & Justice Center, especially with Veterans for Peace, and he attended Quaker Meeting as well as UUSB. He also studied Tai Chi in Bangor and attended the Taoist Interest Group at UUSB. After moving on to Iowa, he continued his involvement in food ministries there. He also supported 4H and other students interested in pursuing scientific knowledge. He enjoyed nature, and regularly spent time in the Bangor City Forest and hiking Blue Hill. He helped many of us with our gardens and appreciated seeing what new plants people had installed. He loved his friends' children and pets, greetings them gently but with great enthusiasm. He enjoyed both local foodways and sampling new cuisines - he searched the country for the ultimate whoopie pie, even making his own, and he enjoyed peanut butter chocolate chip cookies. He joined friends in the Midwest in trying out a wide variety of ethnic restaurants, including German, Himalayan, Turkish and Kurdish. Chuck spent his life helping others, with no fanfare, complete humility, and taking little credit for all the ways he made this world a better place. He was a true "Mr. Rogers" and took to heart the motto "be a helper."



NOVEMBER 18, 2021

His family has asked that memorial donations be made to a food pantry or ministry of your choice, including (in the Bangor area) our own bean supper program, Food and Medicine, or the ecumenical food cupboard.

Chalice Side Chat

Tuesdays at 7:30 PM

Join Sue Henri-Mackenzie 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 email for the login link or use the following info to call in!

Meeting ID: 881 4667 4374 Passcode: 137985



Photo by Chris Montgomery via Unsplash

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

HOSTED BY UUSB REGULARLY

Sundays @10:00 AM

Worship Service

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

Tuesdays @5:45 PM

Mindfulness Meditation Group

Join Rev. Drew for our regular Mindfulness (Vipassana) Meditation Group. Open to all!

Tuesdays @7:00 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 e-news 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 12 @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. In 2021, we've already collected over 2,000 lbs. of food!

Sunday, December 19 @10:00 AM

Winter Solstice Service

Come welcome the Winter Solstice and the return of lengthening days and shorter nights with music, story, and candles.

Sunday, December 19 @6:00 PM

Blue Holiday Service

For many, the winter holidays are full of a lot of the hustle and bustle and joyfulness. However, the holidays can be a great time of sadness for others, especially as we adapt to losing loved ones or living through difficult situations. If the holidays bring you down, join Rev. Drew as he explores a more somber side that the holidays often hold.

Friday, December 24 @7:00 PM

Christmas Eve Service

Usher in Christmas Holiday with our traditional Christmas Eve worship complete with the telling of the Christmas story, traditional carols and a Christmas message from Rev. Drew.

2021

UUSB CALENDAR

DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>All Meetings & Services are currently being held on Zoom until further notice.</p> <p>Please subscribe to our e-news or join the UUSB community group on Facebook to get up-to-date info.</p>			<p>1 5:30 PM Worship Committee</p>	<p>2 5:30 PM Choir 6:30 PM Opening Up Services Special Meeting</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 8:00 AM Wreath Prep 10:00 AM Wreath Sale 12:00 PM Raffle Draw 7:00 PM Basket Auction</p>
<p>5 10:00 AM Service 11:15 AM SEE ZoomRooms</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 5:45 PM Meditation Group</p>	<p>8 Committee Reports Due 6:30 PM Mem-Fel Committee</p>	<p>9 6:30 PM Executive Committee</p>	<p>10 10:00 AM Budget & Finance</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 10:00 AM Service 11:15 AM SEE Zoom 11:30 AM Minister Tea 12:00 PM Food Drive 12:30 PM Drumming</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 12:00 PM Staff Lunch 5:45 PM Meditation Group 7:00 PM Chalice-Side Chat</p>	<p>15 11:30 AM Guild Meeting 6:30 PM Council</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 9:00 AM Shared Ministry</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 10:00 AM Solstice Service 11:30 AM Social Justice 1:30 PM SEE CoT 3:30 PM COA Info 6:00 PM Blue Holiday</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 5:45 PM Meditation Group 7:00 PM Chalice-Side Chat</p>	<p>22 5:30 PM Worship Committee</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
Woodland Pond School No School						
<p>26 10:00 AM Service</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 7:00 PM Chalice-Side Chat</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>31</p>
Woodland Pond School No School						

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 contact 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.

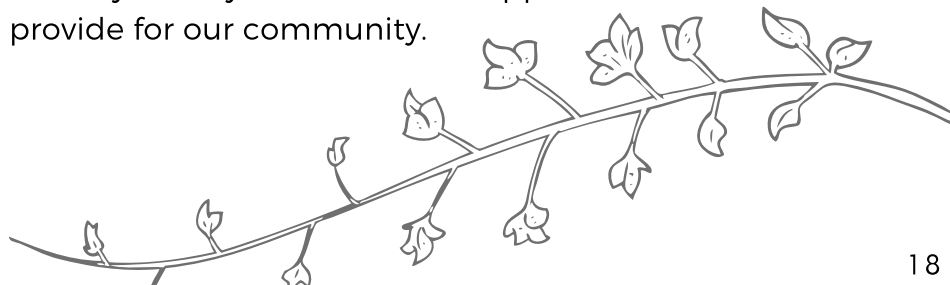
Collection Plate & Pledge Reminders

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:

Kerrie O'Brien, Chair
Valerie Carter, Vice Chair
Kate Dutra, Clerk
Rosemary Parsons, Treasurer
Becky Anderson
Karen Cashman
Nero Fyler
Francis Grey
Ali Khavari

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 24, 2021

The next issue will be January 2022.
We value your contributions and very much
appreciate submissions. When sending email
contributions to The *Chalice & Chimes*:
uubangor@gmail.com

