

Getting to Know Us



Introducing Unitarian Universalism
and
UU Society of Bangor



Unitarian
Universalist
Society of Bangor

Dear Friends,

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

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

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

I look forward to meeting you soon.

Namasté,

Rev. Drew

PS - As the Covid Pandemic continues to unfold our congregation has been focusing on maintaining a variety of programming online and in-person. We have updated our technology to offer our weekly worship service in-person and online to keep people safe and to serve the greatest numbers of members and friends. We hope that you will consider joining our worship services and programs in the way that is best for you. You can also sign up with our office to receive weekly or monthly updates at: uubangor@gmail.com We hope to see you soon. Rev. Drew



UUSB During the COVID-19 Pandemic

As this edition of the Self-Study Guide is being prepared, the Covid-19 pandemic is still active. Although the pandemic has limited us to some extent, we have been very creative in adapting to provide social and spiritual connection in several important ways:

- Worship services and most congregational activities are taking place both in-person and virtually through Zoom. To participate in these programs please contact our Office Administrator Christine Sprague (www.uubangor.org) and she will be happy to add you to our email list to receive information about Sunday service, our weekly E-News updates, and our monthly Chalice & Chimes newsletter.
- Our regular Sunday morning worship service begins at 10am.
- For the 2022 holiday season we are also offering two special services:
 - Sunday, December 18 at 10am will be a celebration of Winter Solstice
 - Saturday, December 24 we will hold our annual Christmas Eve Service at 7pm. There will not be a service on Sunday, December 25.

After each worship service we hold a Fellowship Hour. In-person congregants gather in the Dorothy Memorial Hall; Zoom participants are temporarily placed in small “Zoom rooms” with a group of 4 to 6 people for about 10 minutes. The time is used to chat, reflect on the day’s service, and catch up on personal news. Visitors are welcome to join these groups. It’s a great way to meet some of our wonderful members and friends.

- Fun learning opportunities for youth (grades K-12) known as the Spiritual Education Experience (SEE) is following a hybrid model. SEE classes are a combination of in-person, outdoor, and Zoom, depending on current covid status. Please contact Karen Childs for more information.
- During the week we offer these programs for adults:
 - Our weekly Mindfulness Meditation Group meets on Tuesday evenings from 5:45 to 7:00 and is open to all, beginner and experienced meditators alike. Contact Rev Drew for more information.
 - Tuesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 pm we have the Chalice Side Chat, a small group reflection and check-in community. Contact moderator Sue Henri Mackenzie for more information.

- Thursday evening our choir meets from 5:30 to 6:30 to rehearse. Everyone is welcome to join in. Contact Molly Webster for more information.
- Also please consider joining us for some of our long-standing community fundraising events, including our annual gift basket auction, services auction, and “Imagine” Raffle.
- How and when meetings and events occur may vary depending on covid status. Information about each is included in our weekly e-newsletter (sign up through our Office Administrator, www.uubangor.org) and monthly Chalice and Chimes.

Whether in-person or virtually, we welcome you!

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

Introducing the liberal faith of Unitarian Universalism

This section of “Getting to Know Us” includes:

- The 7 Principles of Unitarian-Universalism
- A special issue of *UU World*, published by the Unitarian Universalist Association, that gives the big picture of our faith.
(The entire issue is important reading.
Please at least read pp 4-6, 10-14, and 16-18)

If and when you become a member of the UUSB, we also will get you a copy of *The Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide*, with in-depth information about the UU faith. Meanwhile, let us know if you'd like a copy to borrow.

The Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism

Envisioned as a structure, from the foundation up

#4 A free and responsible search for truth and meaning

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

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

#2 Justice, equity, compassion in human relations

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

#1 The inherent worth and dignity of every person

#7 Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

UUSB: Unitarian Universalist Society of Bangor

Introducing the liberal faith of
Unitarian Universalism

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

This study guide, *Getting to Know Us*, includes information about:

- The Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism
- A special issue of UU World, published by the Unitarian Universalist Association (uua.org), that gives the big picture of our faith. The entire issue is important reading; please read at least pages 4 to 6, 10 to 14, and 16 to 18.
 - *Welcome to Our Community* brochure
 - Our History
 - Our UUSB Covenant
 - Our Minister and Staff Members
 - How we govern ourselves

- Our Spiritual Education Program
 - How to get involved
 - Our Social Justice Programs
 - How we pay for things
- Member benefits & how to become a member
 - Our Annual Events Calendar

You can find a wealth of additional information on our website:

uubangor.org

... where you can also find past editions of our monthly newsletter, Chalice & Chimes:

uubangor.org/community/chalice-chimes/

and learn more about our many events and activities

A Brief History of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Bangor

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

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

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

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

- Adapted from the church history written by Dorothy A. Hawkes in March 1999

UUSB'S Covenant

Our promise to each other

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

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

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



Adopted by the Congregation, May 19, 2019

Our Minister and Staff



Andrew Moeller, Minister

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



Karen Childs, Director of Spiritual Education

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



Molly J Webster, Music Director

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



Christine Sprague, Office Administrator

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

In addition, as UUSB moved to remote services during the COVID-19 pandemic we added a Zoom Tech to our staff, **Atticus Foster**, who is central to the smooth workings of worship services.

How We Govern Ourselves

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

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

Council: A Council elected by the members provides for the overall supervision of the business and programs of the Society. The Council consists of seven to nine members, who serve 3-year terms. Four of the Council (Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Clerk) serve as officers of the Society. The Chair and Vice Chair are elected by the other members of the Council. The Treasurer and Clerk are elected by



the members at the annual meeting. The Council has broad powers to carry out the business and policies of the Society. Members interested in serving on the Church Council are encouraged to contact a member of the Nominating Committee to be considered by vote of the congregation at the annual meeting, or to be considered in case of a vacancy on the Council. Such interest is welcome!

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

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

Spiritual Exploration Experience

Each week from September through May, UUSB supports a growing and thriving religious education program called Spiritual Exploration Experience. From the nursery through the teen groups, our youth are involved in learning, growing and sharing together. The Spiritual Exploration Experience (SEE) helps youth and their families SEE from different perspectives, and how love can change the world in which we live.

Karen Childs is our Director of Spiritual Education (uubangorre@gmail.com). The program's Action League (SEAL), composed of parents and other interested people, helps Karen with visioning and feedback for the program.

For the 2022-23 Church year, SEE is using a combination of in-person, outdoor, and hybrid Zoom-Room classrooms, depending on the current status of covid. For more information and details, please see <http://uubangor.org/religious-education> or contact Karen.

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

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

In addition, youth 9 to 18 years old who are registered in and regularly attend the SEE program are eligible for scholarships to cover one week of summer camp at the Ferry Beach Retreat in Saco, either as part of a Family Camp or a Kids Camp. For more info, check out <http://uubangor.org/index.php/religious-education/ferry-beach-hersey-scholarship-info/>.

You Are Invited to Get Involved ... Here's How

Committees

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

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



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

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

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

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

Financial Stewardship: Conducts three important mandates of the bylaws: the Annual Pledge Drive; the Legacy Gifting Program; and working with members to fulfill their pledges. Involves the entire congregation in the Annual Pledge Drive. Legacy Giving gives members and friends the opportunity to support the legacy of UUSB into the future. Contact: Amy Starkey-Lam, amystarkeylam@gmail.com

Marketing: Prepares outreach and informational materials, such as the *Welcome to UUSB* brochure in this Guide, monitors and revises the UUSB website, and helps provide content to social media – all aimed at informing the larger community about UUSB, inviting visitors to come through our door, and facilitating communications among members and friends. Contact: Karen Sanborn, ksanborn2004@yahoo.com

Membership-Fellowship: Creates a welcoming environment for Members, Friends and visitors to UUSB. Supports friends and visitors in making decisions about membership and, in conjunction with the Minister, administers the process of new members joining UUSB (including preparing this Guide). Greets Members, Friends and visitors at the door every Sunday. Organizes and coordinates the teams that host Fellowship Hours after each

weekly service. Sponsors several events, such as Souper Sundays and Game Night, and fundraisers that involve Members and Friends in the Society. Contact: Evan Richert, evanrichert1771@gmail.com

UUSB depends on the time, talents, and interests its Members and Friends are able to give. Please consider being part of the life of the Society through one of its

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

Pastoral Care Team: Lends short-term assistance and support to those in need in UUSB's community, including rides to doctor's offices, bringing food, sending cards, and similar support. Contact Phyllis Havens, pdhavens@gmail.com

Social Justice: Helps put UU principles into action through wide-ranging activities. See the Social Justice Committee & Network section of this Guide for information on their activities and contacts for each subgroup. Co-Chairs: Suzanne Kelly, suziekrm@gmail.com, and Valerie Carter, vcgardener@gmail.com.

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

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

UUSB Guild: Although not a “committee” of UUSB, the UUSB Guild is another way to become involved. The Guild was founded in 1926 as a social, service, and spiritual organization for women. In Bangor, the Guild has a monthly luncheon and participates in and initiates church and community service projects. The Guild often helps to host

tea service at special events, such as weddings, funerals, and other celebrations at UUSB. Contact: Laurie Cartier, amaalaurie@gmail.com

Music as Ministry: We've mentioned the Choir, but there are other ways to be involved through music, such as the Spirit of Drumming circle that meets in the sanctuary on second and fourth Sundays at 11:30 am (contact: Laurie Cartier, amalauriec@gmail.com) and the Coffee House Open Mic that meets in the Vestry and will be restarting in late 2022 or early 2023 (contact: Karen Childs, uubangorre@gmail.com).

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

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

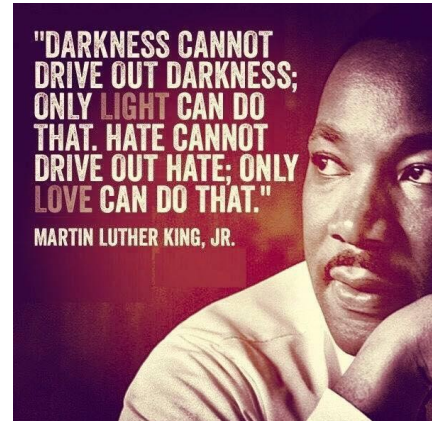
One-Time	Periodic	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fall clean-up ● Spring clean-up ● Help with a Bean Supper ● Decorate for Holidays ● Decorate wreaths for sale ● Great Pumpkin yard sale ● Assemble holiday gift baskets ● Bring food for a Souper Sunday ● Offer a ride to church ● Contribute food for a particular event (e.g., Membership Class, Choir Festival, Pledge Drive kick-off) ● Come to Game Night and share a game and food ● Volunteer at the Coffee House Open Mic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Join a Fellowship Hour Team ● Bring snack for Fellowship Hour ● Help with Bean Supper periodically ● Bring food on Souper Sunday ● Help in the Office ● Pass the offering plate ● Light the chalice ● Tidy hymnals before or after service ● Offer rides to church ● Help with grocery card sales ● Volunteer at the Coffee House Open Mic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Join a Committee (many choices; ask the contact for more information) ● Be a Counter (Sunday offerings) ● Join the Choir ● Take notes for a particular Committee ● Be back-up for the AV system (instruction given) ● Offer rides to church ● Talk to Karen Childs about opportunities to help with Spiritual Exploration Experience (SEE) ● Volunteer at the Coffee House Open Mic

Social Justice Committee & Network

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

- Health Care (Patty Alcott, Andrew Sarto)
- Democracy (Suzanne Kelly)
- Indigenous & Racial Justice (Jessica Glant)
- Environment & Climate Change (Valerie Carter)
- Local & Faith Linking in Action (Suzanne Kelly)

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



Among the longstanding activities at UUSB are:

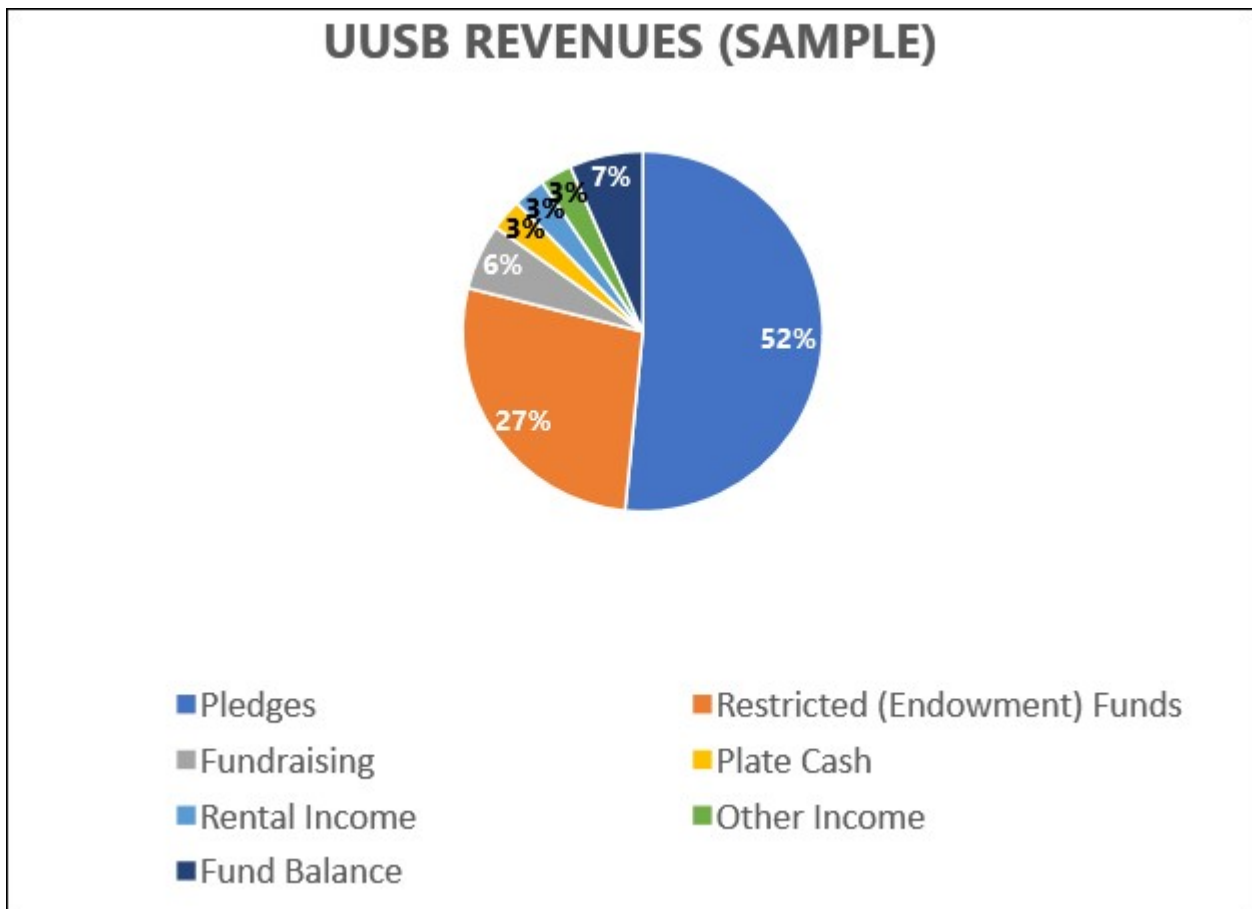
- **Bean suppers** for the hungry, prepared and served for free, in UUSB's Dorothy Memorial Hall on 4th and 5th Saturdays each month
- **Bag lunches**, distributed at the bean suppers
- **Gleaning**, collecting donated produce at Farmers' Markets and delivered to the Bangor Homeless Shelter and the Ecumenical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

UUSB Finances

We Are the Stewards of Our Society

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

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



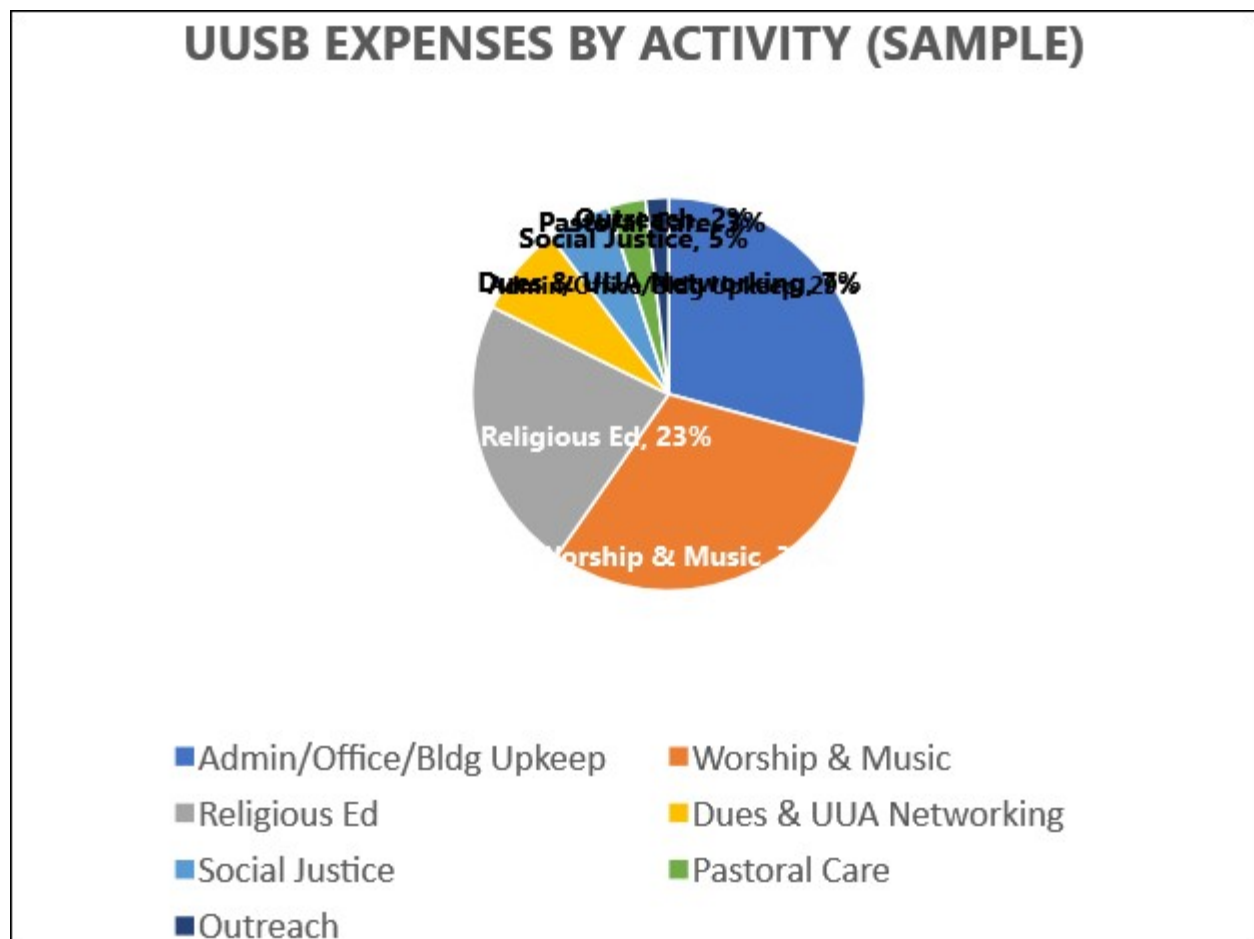
- **Pledges** make up the majority of revenues. Each year the Financial Stewardship Committee conducts a pledge campaign, and we are fortunate that most Members and many Friends pledge to the best of their abilities.
- **Endowments** account for about a quarter of the needed revenues. UUSB has an unrestricted General Endowment Fund and several smaller restricted funds that can be used for various operational purposes. The Trustees of the General Endowment are charged with assuring that the endowments are sustained in

perpetuity. Therefore, only a small percentage of these funds (around 3%) will be used in any given year. They cannot be relied on to fill unanticipated gaps in the budget. The Hersey Bequest is restricted to providing opportunities for our youth and their caregivers to participate in summer recreation at the Ferry Beach Retreat in Saco. UUSB has a Legacy Gifting program to encourage additional gifts over time.

- **Fundraising** is crucial to enabling committees to actively conduct programs and fulfill the mission of UUSB. Events include the Great Pumpkin Yard Sale, annual spring and fall auctions, holiday wreath decorating and sales, Equal Exchange coffee sales, grocery store gift card sales, and others.
- **Plate cash** that is undesignated is shared 50-50 with a charitable organization in the region (selected monthly) and UUSB operations.
- **Rental income** comes from outside organizations and individuals who rent our facilities, such as AA, Women With Wings, and for private functions.

Operating Expenses by Activity:

Worship & music, administration & office & building upkeep, and religious education are the major funded activities. Committee-driven activities, such as social justice, pastoral care, and outreach, rely both on dollars and a great deal of volunteer activity.



Capital Budget: Capital expenses, primarily for building maintenance and equipment, are included in Building & Grounds. The Building & Grounds Committee periodically prepares a list of required repairs and replacement items that becomes the basis for a capital budget. Certain endowment funds can be used for some of these expenses, along with funds in the operating budget. The General Endowment Trustees earmark a portion of their annual allocation to help fund the capital budget. Occasionally we undertake a capital campaign for a major improvement, such as the elevator and bathrooms installed in 2015.

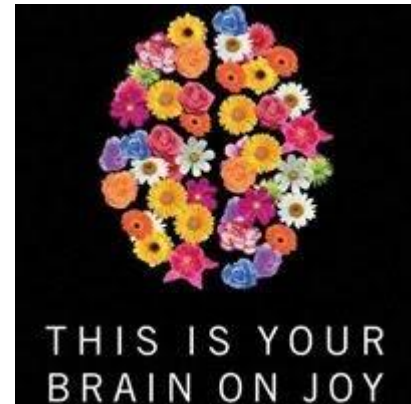
More information about UUSB's finances, including annual revenues, operating expenses, and endowments funds, can be found in the Society's most recent annual reports, online at <http://uubangor.org/index.php/about-us/governance/reports/>

Becoming a Member – If and When You Choose

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

Benefits of Membership

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



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

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

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

Steps to Membership

There aren’t many:

- Read this Study Guide
- Bring your questions, thoughts, and insights to one of the Minister’s monthly Sunday chats; OR to one of the Membership-Fellowship Committee’s “New to UU” classes (held in November and April); OR, if one of these doesn’t work, to an individual meeting with the Minister and a representative of the Membership-Fellowship Committee.
- Complete a Request for Membership form and a Pledge form (available on our website or provided to you upon request). Upon request for membership, we also will have a name button made for you.

- Sign the Membership Book in the presence of the Minister and a member of the Membership-Fellowship Committee
- You also will be formally welcomed by the congregation as a Member at our semi-annual New Member Sunday

Pledging

Part of the responsibility of being a Member is to make an annual pledge of financial support. This is what sustains our community, ministries, and services. There isn't a minimum amount for pledge; we ask that you contribute an amount that has meaning for you. The Unitarian Universalist Association has established income-based guidelines for pledging, and these can be provided to you. Pledges at UUSB range from a dollars a week to over \$100 per week. Waivers are available to Members who are unable to pledge and want to be or remain active, voting members.



Each year starting in January, UUSB undertakes a pledge drive to support its budget for the upcoming church year (July 1 to June 30). The drive is led by the Financial Stewardship Committee. If you become a Member of UUSB before the start of the annual pledge drive, you will make a pledge for the remainder of the current church year.

Please contact any of us if you have any questions or concerns.

Membership-Fellowship Committee members:

Cathy Elliott, Linda Koehler, Kerrie O'Brien, Evan Richert (chair), Linda Sisson

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

Typical Annual UUSB Events Calendar

January

- Martin Luther King Sunday
- Souper Sunday (4th Sunday)

February

- Game Night
- Souper Sunday (4th Sunday)



March

- Maple Syrup Communion
- Northern Regional UU Festival of Choirs (may be April or May)
- Souper Sunday (4th Sunday)

April

- Easter Sunday
- Spring Cleanup
- New to UU Class
- New Member Sunday

May

- Mother's Day
- Coming of Age Service
- SEE Recognition Service
- Annual UUSB Auction
- UUSB Annual Meeting

June

- Father's Day
- Flower Communion
- Picnic (may be in September)

July

- Charlie Howard Memorial Sunday

August

- Summer Day Camp
- Volunteering at American Folk Festival

September

- Gathering – Water Ceremony
- RE Year begins
- Souper Sunday (4th Sunday)

October

- Association Sunday (UUA event)
- Great Pumpkin Yard Sale
- Fall Cleanup
- RE Multi-gen Halloween Party
- Souper Sunday (4th Sunday)

November

- New to UU Class
- New Member Sunday
- Souper Sunday (4th Sunday)



December

- Gift Basket Auction
- Wreath Decorating & Sale
- SEE Holiday Pageant
- Christmas Eve Service

Also: UUSB Coffeehouse Open Mic 4th Wednesdays; Spirit of Drumming 2nd & 3rd Sundays; Shawl Ministry 1st Tuesday

Check the UUSB Calendar for more details and more events: www.uubangor.org