



UUSB

December 2023

CHALICE & CHIMES

Unitarian Universalist Society of Bangor



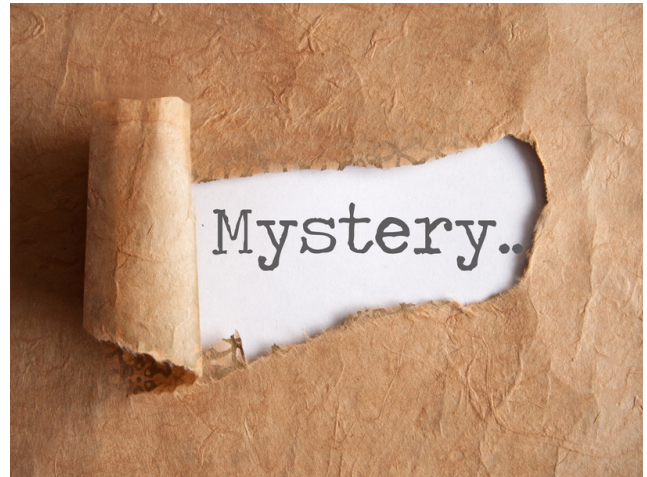
DECEMBER SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

Our theme this month is **Mystery**. This month, we welcome Rev. Justine Magara of Kenya and celebrate the many holidays of the season. We will host our annual Winter Solstice Ritual and Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

See page 2 for full service descriptions!

More on Page 2

120 PARK ST
BANGOR, ME 04401
SUNDAYS AT 10:00 AM
(207) 947-7009
WWW.UUBANGOR.ORG
UUBANGOR@GMAIL.COM



Above: The UUSB Guild members standing by the piano in the Dorothy Memorial Hall. See Page 15 for more info.

DECEMBER EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Wreath & Swag Sale on December 2
- Shawl Ministry on December 5
- Holiday Gift Basket Auction on December 9
- Chat with the Minister on December 10
- Winter Solstice Ritual on December 17
- Community Bean Supper on December 23 & 30
- CrUUnes on December 29
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on December 24



DECEMBER SERVICES

December 3: "Unitarianism in Kenya" with Rev. Justine Magara

This Sunday, we welcome Unitarian minister Rev. Justine Magara from Kenya who will share about the two congregations that he serves in Kenya and his work within his community to bring food sovereignty to the communities he serves.

This week's worship team is: Rev. Drew Moeller, Rev. Justine Magara, Phyllis Havens, John Arimond, and Atticus Foster. Music will be provided by the UUSB Choir, Molly J. Webster, and Jack Derosier.

Meeting ID: 942 1480 9403 Passcode: 433336 [Zoom Link](#)

December 10: "Finding Hope in Contrasts of Life" with Rev. Drew

As we head into the advent and the winter holiday season we find hope in the many festivals and holidays the celebrate the contrast of darkness and light. What wisdom does this contrast hold for us in these rapid change.

This week's worship team is: Rev. Drew Moeller, Julie Eubanks, and Sue McKay. Music will be provided by Jack Derosier.

Meeting ID: 913 9602 4359 Passcode: 705916 [Zoom Link](#)

December 17: Winter Solstice Ritual

Join us as we welcome the beginning of winter and hold hope for the promise of spring through song and story telling.

This week's worship team is: Rev. Drew Moeller, Laurie Cartier, Phyllis Havens, and Atticus Foster. Music will be provided by the UUSB Choir, Molly J. Webster, and Jack Derosier.

Meeting ID: 958 4234 7869 Passcode: 231424 [Zoom Link](#)

December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Rev. Drew

Join us for our annual Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 PM for classic hymns and a message from Rev. Drew.

This week's worship team is: Rev. Drew Moeller, Atticus Foster, and members of the Worship Committee. Music will be provided by the UUSB Choir, Molly J. Webster, and Jack Derosier.

Meeting ID: 944 7934 0802 Passcode: 661247 [Zoom Link](#)

We Love Your Suggestions! Do you have a poem, reading, piece of music, story, or personal experience that relates to a monthly theme? Share your ideas with Rev. Drew, Molly, or Laurie. Your suggestions make our worship experience even richer!

Upcoming Themes: January - Liberating Love
March - Transformation
May - Pluralism

February - Justice & Equity
April - Interdependence
June - Renewal

DREW'S VIEWS

Dear Ones,

One of the many paradoxes in life is the tension between our human need for safety and familiarity, and living with what is unknown or unknowable which is mystery.

All of us have our own tolerance for different levels of these two extremes. In fact in many ways this dynamic is one that often guides our journey into exploring our spirituality and faith. Some of us find a rigid, and narrow faith helpful because knowing how things are supposed to work provide a level of security that puts us more at ease if we follow a certain patterns or flow. Others are more drawn into being fascinated by what is unknown and feel limited by ridged rules and rituals.

I remember as a child being fascinated by the concept of Santa Clause - this jolly old soul who knew if you were naughty or nice and who doled out reward or punishment. My imagination ran wild thinking of his ability to fly around the world in a magic sleigh pulled by eight reindeer, and slide up chimneys after giving a special nod. Santa Rocked! I also remember that when I was younger - while I liked Santa I was also terrified by him. There is a family story about me standing in line to see Santa (probably for the first time) only to run back to my mom and dad when it was my turn to sit on Santa's

lap. My need for safety our weighed my ability to decode the mystery of this strange person in a bright red suit.

The point is that there are more than one way to approach the sacred. Knowing when to use each approach is something we develop from our individual experiences. Sometimes we take risk in approaching the unknown and sometimes we need to be safe and sure. Both approaches can be useful depending on our temperament and needs and any given moment.

In the traditional Christmas story of Jesus birth we have the examples of King Herod who was terrified by the news that a new king was born who might challenge his rule and the Magi who were fascinated by prophecy of a new born king and star arising in the East.

The truth is that most of us live in somewhere in the middle of these two extremes. The holidays of this time of year can bring an awkwardness about the stories that bring mysterious happenings. The holidays might even bring a fear of dread like Scrooge or in

STAFF

Rev. Andrew Moeller,

Settled Minister

drewuu2@gmail.com

Karen Childs,

Director of Spiritual Exploration

uubangorre@gmail.com

Christine Sprague,

Office Administrator

uubangor@gmail.com

Molly Webster,


Music Director

uusbmusic@gmail.com

our pagan ancestors who feared that the sun growing ever lower on the horizon might actually disappear and never come back. Or the holidays can fill us with a glow of the mystery of life, or curiosity about why we continue to tell these stories over and over again. We know how they all end and yet there is something about retelling these stories that bring us comfort and continue to intrigue our curiosity.

Wherever you are in your spiritual journey this time of year I bid you Happy Holidays and blessings for the New Year. May the season bring you connection and joy with the ones you love and renew your sense of hope in the growing darkness as the earth rest for a while.

Love and Namasté,



Rev. Drew



CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING CHAT

Join us for an informal Chalice-Side Chat gathering this Christmas Eve morning. Together we'll share stories, some music, and some of our favorite holiday traditions from the comfort of your own home. You can even hang out in your pajamas and enjoy your favorite holiday snacks. Remember this is online only (UUSB will be closed).

MINISTER'S SCHEDULE

Sunday

- 10:00 AM UUSB Service
- Afternoon/Evening by Appointment

Monday

- *Minister's Sabbath: Unavailable*

Tuesday

- 10:00-1:00 Open Office Hours
- 2:00-4:00 By Appointment

Wednesday

- 10:00-1:00 Open Office Hours
- 2:00-4:00 By Appointment

Thursday

- *Writing Day: Unavailable*

Friday

- 10:00-1:00 Open Office Hours
- 2:00-4:00 By Appointment

Saturday

- By Appointment Only

Please Note:

While Rev. Drew does have open office hours, he often has morning meetings that may occur during that time. You may want to call ahead, just to check.

COUNCIL

Sue McKay, *Chair*

Tracy Haskell, *Vice Chair*

Jessica Glant, *Clerk*

Rosemary Parsons, *Treasurer*

Zach Falcon

Francis Grey, Jr.

Ali Khavari

Tim Martin

Erin Seavey

COUNCIL CRIER

Dear UUSB Community,

In November, just as I was finishing up an hour long swim in one of our lakes, snow started to fall. I had to stop and splash and play in the beauty of the moment. By the time you read this update we may well have had more snow falling as winter winds her way forward.

You will notice our entrance shifting as work on our new accessible Dorothy door begins. This much needed project as been in the works for some time and, because of a generous donation from Charlie & Judy Boothby, it is soon to become a reality.

Council and the Buildings & Grounds Committee continue our discussions around opening our UUSB building as an emergency (for example when temperatures plummet below -20 F) warming sanctuary again this winter. All have agreed that the most comfortable and most secure place to welcome folks is the Dorothy. Rev. Drew is scheduling a walk through of our building with Jeff Wallace, the City of Bangor's Code Enforcement Officer, to ensure we offer sanctuary in the safest manner we are able to.

Rev. Drew has also organized a meeting of people interested in a Visioning Process for our congregation. Interested folks should get in touch with him.

Council approved Tim Martin's editing suggestions of the UUSB Board Book. These included removing the old, unused Disruptive Behavior Policy as it is now incorporated into our Safer Congregation Policy and Tim has graciously updated our UUSB History document to the present for Council to review.

We were delighted that Eric Strong was able to join our meeting this month. He has been working closely with Rosemary to ensure a smooth transition when she retires her treasurer's hat.

Please don't forget to pick up your raffle tickets, you will find further information about this elsewhere in the newsletter. Remember it takes all of us to keep UUSB going.

Lastly, a message of gratitude and thanks for our Beloved UUSB Community. This is a hugely busy time of year both within our community and beyond. Council is grateful for everyone for pitching in, in whatever way you have done; from participating in Fellowship Hour, helping with our fall clean up day, greeting a visitor, smiling as you pass in the hallway or for simply showing up and being with us.

In faith,

Tracy Haskell

TREASURER'S REPORT OCT. 2023

This report covers 33% of the year.

Total income for the month of October 2023 was \$16,100. In October 2022, the income was \$19,170. The YTD income is \$81,767, 31% of the year's budget. Last year's YTD income was \$74,858, 31% of the year's budget.

Expenses were \$20,178, giving us a loss of (\$4,078) for the month. YTD expenses are \$79,518, 30.5% of the budget. YTD net income is \$2,249. In October 2022, expenses were \$17,554 and last year's YTD expenses were \$73,101, 30% of the budget.

October income included pledge of \$8,241. Plate donations were \$975; half of that is shared with Bangor Area Recovery Network (BARN). Endowments were \$1,918. The final Yard Sale income was \$2,761 (\$1,011 over the budgeted amount). Many thanks to Paul Boothby, who donated MANY items from his parents' house, and the dedicated volunteers, especially Kate Dutra and Betsy Reed. Rental income was very good at \$1,030. General Fund was \$390.

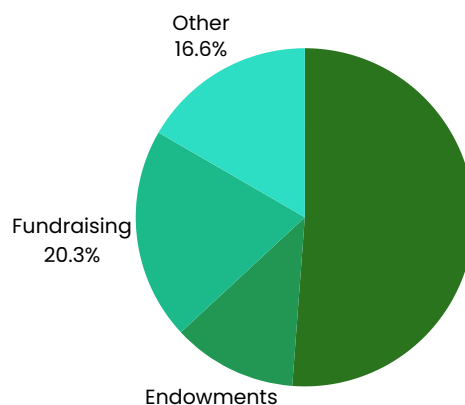
VANCO: In October 2023, 12 people used Vanco, totaling \$1,392.48 gross in all categories, with a net of \$1,352.01. Fees were \$20.86 and the offset paid was \$19.61. Additional charges invoiced were \$19.61. Donations were General Fund for \$105; Pledges for \$1,137; and Plate for \$130. In October 2022, Vanco was used by 12 people for \$1,372 gross.

Expenses for the month break down as Personnel \$14,029 (69% of total costs); Building \$2,129 (11%); Fair Share to the UUA \$869 (4%); Administrative \$1,004 (5%); and Congregational expenses for \$2,147 (11%). Total expenses for 4 months was 30.5% of the year's budget.

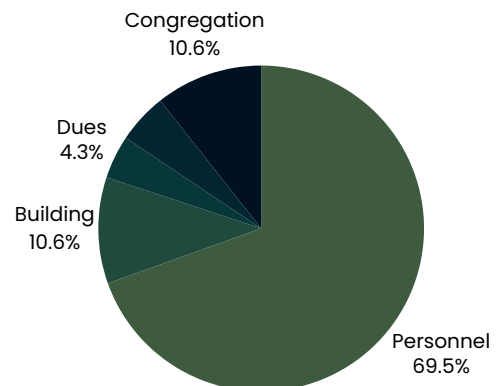
The Great Getaway Raffle started November 5th. Pick up your tickets or purchase tickets for yourself from Lesa and Marshall at Sunday services. You can also contact the office to pick up posters, buy tickets, or get tickets to sell. The winning ticket will be drawn on January 14 immediately after the service. Success of this fundraiser is ESSENTIAL for funding salaries, building expenses, etc. Over 40% of the tickets are sold to people outside of the congregation.

In Service,
Rosemary Parsons

October Income



October Expenses



SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION EXPERIENCE



Howdy, Spiritual Explorers!!

Here we are, at the doorstep of Winter. The venture into the dark times – a time for contemplation, planning, cozy snuggles, a perfect place in time for pondering the MYSTERIES – be they the everyday mysteries or the ones that boarder on the profound (or somewhere in between!), we are given this time of year, not as a time of year to endure, but to one to experience. An offering from the universe to snuggle down into the darkness and dream big dreams.

There is so much to chat about with your families when it come to talking about mystery – be sure to check out the At the Table section of your Soulful Home for this month's batch of discussion starters!

Karen Childs

Director of Spiritual Exploration

S.E.E. FIELD TRIPS



We returned to the Penobscot Nation's Tribal Farm this Fall to help put their greenhouse to rest for the winter. We helped clear dead plants, excavated some rubble to make space for next year, and added to and turned the compost pile.

Our crew turned out in force to help with Food & Medicine's Solidarity Harvest. We packed boxes, and weighed squash, and culled the piles for damaged fruits.



UPCOMING DATES

Dec 3rd – **SEE Classes**

SE Wing, 10AM

Dec 10th – **SEE Classes**

SE Wing, 10AM

Dec 17th – **SEE Classes**

SE Wing, 10AM

Dec 24th – **No Classes**

Winter Break

Dec 31st – **No Classes**

Winter Break

Jan 7th – **SEE Classes**

SE Wing, 10AM



THE OFFICE ORGANIZER

Find all your UUSB Church Office Updates in this updated space. You can find publication deadlines, office hours and scheduled closures, as well as important building updates and more!

December Office Hours & Closures

The in-person office hours for the administrator are generally 10:00 to 2:00 on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday.

If you need to meet and can't during the normal in-person hours, please schedule a time ahead and Christine can adjust the flexible hours in the week to meet.

The Office will close at 1:00 on Friday, December 22. There will be no office hours December 26-January 2.



Important Publication Deadlines

The **Chalice & Chimes** submission deadline for FY2024 is the **20th of each month**. Late submissions can be posted on the website, in the e-news, or the Sunday announcements.

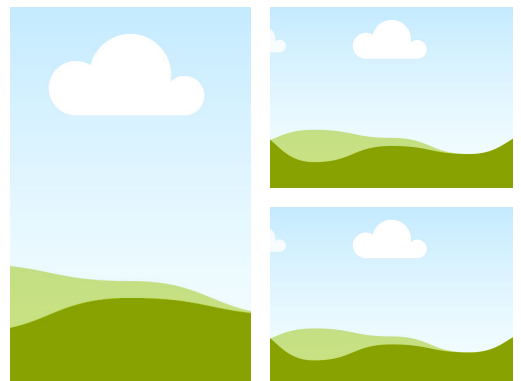
Submit Announcements by Fridays

To have an announcement read on Sunday morning, it must be submitted to Rev. Drew or the office by Friday before the service.

Miscellaneous Office Announcements

Photos & Art Wanted! Your photo or art could be featured in our newsletter! Email your photo, whether it's of a UUSB event, congregation members, or just something that inspires you, it's all worth celebrating!

Please remember to schedule all room use with the office.



Chalice & Chimes Deadline:
Wednesday, December 20

Weekly E-News Deadline:
Thursdays @10:00

In-Person Office Hours: 10:00-2:00
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

MEMBERSHIP-FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship Hour

Members, friends, and visitors enjoy socializing with some coffee or juice and other tasty treats during the fellowship hour in the Dorothy after the service. The coffee and refreshments are provided by teams of volunteers each Sunday. (They are the people you see quietly stealing out of the Sanctuary at the beginning of the last hymn.) Each team serves four times a year. If you'd like to be on one of the teams, please contact Cathy Elliott cathyelliott25@gmail.com.

THANK YOU to all the volunteers who make our Fellowship Hour possible!

Our Sunday, December 24 the Fellowship Hour will be in the evening so we are asking anyone who is able to bring treats to share after our Christmas Eve Service.

Next Chat with Reverend Drew will be Sunday, December 10, following the service. This will be held in Reverend Drew's office downstairs. The "Chat" is a good way to learn more about our UU congregation. It's also a good time to ask questions of Reverend Drew in a small informal setting.

Interested in Joining UUSB?

If you are interested in joining UUSB, there are a few required steps to help you to learn about our community and for us to get to know you.

First, you complete a membership request card. This is available on our [website](#) or at the welcome table at the church. Second, you read through a Self-Study Guide describing Unitarian Universalism and the Unitarian Universalist Society of Bangor which is on our [website](#). Third, you attend a New to UU Class or a Chat with the Minister.



UUSB's new members after signing the membership book on November 19, 2023. From left to right: Beverly Cooper, Linda Costelloe, Betsy Reed, and Tom Armstrong

New Members Welcomed into our UUSB Family

Here are the bios from the five new members who signed the book and became members of the UUSB at our New Member Sunday Service on Sunday, November 19. Welcome to UUSB!!!

Tom Armstrong

Tom was born a while ago, in 1951, in Harrisburg PA. He grew up on a small farm in Perry County that was in his family for almost 100 years. In 1969 he started studies at Drexel University in Philadelphia, thus beginning a long, three-degree relationship with Drexel. While there, he met fellow chemistry major Barbara Gallen, a Philadelphia girl. They married in 1975.

During the early years, Barbara and Tom moved a few times for jobs – Havre de Grace MD, Chicago, IL, Ridgeway PA, and for 35 years, Branchburg Township of Somerset County, NJ. In NJ, Barbara and Tom were long time members of North Branch Reformed Church, a Reformed Church of America Congregation. However, after a long period of spiritual reflection, Tom decided there were too many aspects of that theology and liturgy he did not believe. The inclusiveness of UUSB, the guidance of its principles, the Unitarian Universalist basis, and the congregation he knows appeal to Tom.

Tom retired from Exxon-Mobil Biomedical Sciences and his Environmental Health career in 2008. After the passing of his mom at age 93 in late 2019, settling that estate in central PA, and selling the NJ home in 2021, Tom, Barbara and son Tim moved to Bangor in summer of 2021. Their Bangor home is two blocks from daughter Elizabeth, son-in-law Saul, and two grandchildren, Ilyas and Leena, who settled in Bangor Little City in 2017.

Tom enjoys bicycling, bicycle repair, fishing, nature photography and hiking and birding with Barbara.

Beverly Cooper

Beverly moved to Maine in 2013 to live with her daughter, Linda Costelloe, in Hampden. She used to live in a small town near Yosemite National Park in California. Beverly a people person, and she enjoys gardening and loves animals. While she was in California she owned a luncheon restaurant for many years.

Linda Costelloe

Linda moved to Hampden from Southern California with her late husband in 1995. She worked as an ed tech before going back to college. Linda earned an MA in History with a concentration in Women's Studies from the University of Maine and an MA from Bangor Theological Seminary. She is especially interested in Goddess spirituality and is a member of Women With Wings. Linda love tea parties, reading, and walking in the woods behind the home that she shared with her Mom and their two cats.

Nancy Knauber

Nancy has lived in Maine for 53 years; she spent her first 21 years in Cincinnati, where she was a Republican. During her first year here, someone took her to the 1st Parish UU in Portland ... there and then she became a Democrat. Since then, Nancy is proud to have participated in several projects:

- In 1972, she helped organize the Southern Maine Abortion Rights Alliance at the 1st Parish.
- In 1978, she was instrumental in creating a Maine State law regarding Rape Confidentiality.
- In 1981, she organized support for legislation regarding prostitution in Maine – she was ticked off because Hookers were sitting on the doorsteps of her elderly women neighbors who were afraid to come out of their homes!
- More recently, in 2021, Nancy suggested to Governor Mills' Aging Task Force the idea of creating an Elder Justice Roadmap like the U.S. Department of Justice's, and they did.
- Since April 2021, she has been trying unsuccessfully to find a State Representative to introduce a bill regarding Elderly Financial Exploitation. Nancy knows from personal experience that it should be a crime in Maine, but it isn't. There are many states that have statutes protecting the elderly and the handicapped from exploitation by family members, staff, and clergy.

Betsy Reed

Betsy remembers when she was very young her parents played a 78 rpm record called *Accentuate the Positive*. Years later, when working as an assistant high school principal with kids from very diverse backgrounds, she asked a staff member for the lyrics. These have been her mantra ever since:

Accentuate the Positive
Eliminate the Negative
Latch on to the Affirmative
Don't mess with Mister in Between

Betsy grew up in a small town in northern Vermont, went to college at UVM, married, relocated to Woodstock, NY and had three children. On her first day as assistant principle at that high school in 1973, she walked into the office at 7 AM to meet with the other three administrators – all men. They expected her to make the coffee. Betsy's immediate response was "no, I will not, but I will be happy to drink the coffee that YOU make." She spent 17 years there, working with over 500 kids a year, emphasizing personal responsibility and the importance of being true to oneself.

There have been countless changes in Betsy's life, all ultimately positive. In 1993, she was very lucky to meet a wonderful man who would become her second husband. They had 13 memorable years together. Since then, Betsy has moved several times, eliminating the negative and not messing with the in between. In July of this year, Betsy relocated to Orono and here she is being welcomed by all of us, accentuating the positive.

Betsy concludes, "By the way, that little Prius parked outside with the license plate 'LUCKE' is mine."

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Monthly Meeting on December 17 @11:30

The Local Justice Committee had its first “freestyle agenda meeting” on Sunday, November 19. We each shared social justice items of concern/interest to us. For Maine Unitarian-Universalist State Advocacy Network (MUUSAN) news we shared notes provided by Jessica Glant who attended the recent network meeting. The theme was “Flipping MUUSAN”, essentially making our advocacy work more targeted in terms of the issues we focus on and the legislative bills we select to work on. It looks as though UU congregations statewide are experiencing burnout. We’ll know more about the bills being considered in January.

Between the survey results and the MUUSAN network meeting choices it looks like the key areas of effort statewide would be Housing Crisis, Climate Change, Human Rights (including gun safety), Dangers to Democracy and Wabanaki Sovereignty. Please check out the copies of Maine UU congregational priorities and responses to the following questions on the Social Justice table in the Dorothy: “What are the issues of most importance to your congregation? (compiled from individual responses within each congregation), “What would make you more likely to engage in advocacy activities?” “What were your best experiences doing MUUSAN or UU advocacy work?” “Why does your congregation care? Where does this fit with UU values and principles?”. Also included is a list of UUSB priorities.

Rev. Drew brought us up to speed about UUSBs inclusion as a Warming Station for the homeless people in our community when the temperature is -20 or below. The City of Bangor is very enthusiastic about our participation. Needlepoint will be in charge and will have another training for volunteers in January. They will be looking for people to help coordinate food and provide warm clothing. Rev. Drew is the point person for this endeavor. It’s especially important for all of us in the community to work on stereotypes we have about people who are homeless, e.g. drug addiction, dangerousness.

Other local justice issues addressed were improvements to the Community Connector (330 easily identified STOPS throughout the Connector system), what to do about lack of public restrooms, and helping with Welcome Boxes for people entering Fresh Start housing in Bangor. We are all concerned about protecting voting rights and saving democracy.

Laurie Cartier announced that the first meeting for the S.U.R.E. Common Read book, *On Repentance and Repair*, will be Sunday, December 3rd at 11:30 AM. Joanie Ellis can be contacted for books.

We are excited about our new format. Come with a social justice concern to add to our “freestyle agenda”. Join us on December 17th, 11:30 PM for our next meeting.

FLIA – Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

This year’s Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration will take place on Sunday, January 14, 2024.

We will welcome Dr. Harold Dorrell Briscoe as our keynote speaker. Dr. Harold Dorrell Briscoe is the author of *There’s a Storm Comin’: How the American Church Can Lead Through Times of Crisis*.



Mitten Tree



This year, Mitten Tree Returns! You can drop off items at the Mitten Tree in the back of the Sanctuary. Drop off items now through December 17!

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, No child-sized items, please.

FAIR TRADE SALES RETURN!

Prior to the closing of the UUSB building due to COVID, the Social Justice Committee sold fair trade coffee, tea, and chocolate products during the after-service Fellowship Hour. This was managed by Natalie Norton. With our building now fully open again, we will be selling fair trade products again, resuming in early December.

The history of these sales is the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Coffee Project, which began in 2007. The UUSC partnered with Equal Exchange, a fair trade organization. Through this partnership with UU's and other faiths, farmers in Central America, South America, Africa, and the Middle East could earn a fair price for their products and have access to affordable credit. In addition, for each pound of coffee, tea, or chocolate purchased by UU congregations, Equal Exchange would make a contribution to UUSC's social justice and human rights activities in the farmers' growing regions. We sell the coffee, tea, and chocolate products with an added price that is competitive to Hannaford products. Hence, it is a win-win-win situation. The farmers, the UUSC, and UUSB profit.

Please support UUSB's fair trade project by locating the sales table in D.M. on Sundays and buy Equal Exchange products!

RINGING BELLS, FEEDING SOULS

On **Sunday, December 10**, UUSB will once again host our Second Sunday Food Drive & Open Air Concert, the church's monthly community food collection, from 11:30–12:00.

There will be drop off bins on the Park Street sidewalk in front of the church for those wishing to donate. You can also drop items off inside, before or after the service. The bins will be in the Dorothy, before moving outside for the drive-thru and curbside donations.

We invite everyone to step outside and take a listen to our historic chimes.

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 November, we collected 128 pounds of food!



COMMUNITY BEAN SUPPER

Everyone is invited to join community members and our amazing volunteers for our monthly community bean supper!

Meals may be eaten at UUSB in the Dorothy Memorial Hall or taken home in to-go containers. This allows us to enjoy the community and social aspects of this monthly event, while still accommodating those who may be unable to attend in person.

If you have any large paper grocery bags, like from Hannaford2Go, the Bean Supper crew are looking for additional bags to use to send meals home with those who attend each month.

BAG LUNCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Starting in January, we need someone to take on the task of organizing the bag lunch prep. This involves purchasing groceries for the bag lunches (currently 45 bags); contacting the list of volunteers to find 1-2 people to help that Saturday; and showing up to help stuff the bags, which takes about an hour. The bag lunch organizer is also responsible for submitting expense slips to the bookkeeper and treasurer. Not too hard!

This is a wonderful way to support social justice work and UUSB's food programs.

Please contact Joanie Ellis if you are willing to take on this task. jellis@ellisnursery.com.

SMALL GROUPS



Mindfulness Meditation Group

We will continue meeting on Tuesdays from 5:45 to 7:00. You can join in-person or online.

This meditation group is accessible to meditators of all experience levels, including people new to meditation. The program consists of walking and sitting meditation and a Dharma lesson with group discussion. The group intends to meet in a supportive, friendly, and non-judgmental environment. Each session is self-contained

material-wise. Regular attendance is helpful though optional.

Drop-ins are always welcome, though we encourage newcomers to arrive or sign in fifteen minutes early (at 5:30 PM). Signing in and coming early allows newcomers to meet Rev. Drew and help Rev. Drew learn more about newcomers' familiarity with meditation, as well as a chance to settle in and receive a brief introduction to sitting and walking meditation and the group process before the group begins promptly at 5:45 PM.

The group begins promptly at 5:45 PM. Don't hesitate to get in touch with Rev. Drew Moeller if you have questions @ drewuu2@gmail.com.

This program is free of charge to ALL. If one wishes to make a free-will offering (dana) to the group, one can do so in person in our dana basket, cash, check, or online. Checks can be made to "UUSB" with "Meditation Group" in the memo/notes line.

UUSB Choir

The UUSB Choir meets weekly, every Thursday from 5:30 - 6:30pm in the sanctuary! The group is looking forward to providing music every other week for our services! If you are interested in joining the choir (or in other musical outlets), please reach out to our Music Director, Molly J. Webster for more information: uusbmusic@gmail.com.

The Choir will provide music on December 3, December 17, and December 24 at the Christmas Eve Candlelight service.

Spirit of Drumming

December 10 at 11:30 AM in the Sanctuary

The Spirit of Drumming Circle is led by Laurie Cartier, LyAnn Grogan and Jim Shimko. With a variety of drumming including basic instruction, directed rhythms, and jamming to a song or the monthly theme, we rock out in the sanctuary every second and fourth Sunday after church. We start about 11:30 and drum until 1. No experience is necessary. We have a good supply of drums or you can bring your own. We hope you will join us soon.



SMALL GROUPS



Shawl Ministry

December 5 at 6:30 PM in the Dorothy

Are you interested in knitting or crocheting? Are you interested in creating gifts for beloved members of our community?

You don't have to have any experience with knitting or crocheting ahead of time to join the Shawl Ministry. Bring your own supplies or borrow some. All that matters is you come and join the fun!

CrUUnes

December 29 at 3:00 PM at Ann Perkins' House

This group is for older, single women in the church, as evidenced by the name, Cruunes, a take on the word crone which has the meaning, old Wise Woman. The purpose of the group will be for socialization, celebration, support, and networking.

The November meeting will be Friday, December 29 around 3:00–8:00 PM at Ann Perkins' home. You can show up any time during that window to participate in sharing, mutual support, activities, games, and, of course, fun!

Please reach out to Ann for additional info or to verify meeting dates and times. As the days get shorter, times may change to allow for safer driving during daylight hours.

Meetings are generally on the last Friday of each month.

UUSB Guild

The UUSB Guild meets monthly to discuss business, share good company, and enjoy a variety of guest speakers throughout the year. One part of the Guild's business is helping keep UUSB beautiful, welcoming, and loved. Recently, they are working to update and maintain the Dorothy Memorial Hall. They have purchased a second folding wall, so that UUSB has one for the Dorothy and the Vestry. And, as pictured here and on the front page, they recently purchased a new cover for the piano in the Dorothy.



Recent guest presenters have included Rev. Drew, speaking about his time at the meditation retreat last winter, and Mike Howard, speaking about basic income.

The December Guild meeting is on December 13 at 11:30. As usual, we will have our annual Christmas potluck and gift swap at Phyllis Havens' house.

Many thanks to the UUSB Guild's generous donation to protect our piano and beautify our halls!



Holiday Wreaths & Swags

The beautiful double-sided Piper Mountain Wreaths will again be decorated by our UUSB elves the morning of the sales, December 2. We will decorate the wreaths and swags from 8:00-10:00. If you reserved a wreath or swag, you can pick it up Saturday, 10:00-1:00. If you forgot to reserve your wreath or swag, you can pick one of the unreserved ones 12:00-1:00.

If you would like to help decorate the wreathes, please arrive as close to 8:00 as possible. We have 2 hours to decorate 75 wreathes! If you pre-ordered your wreathes, please try to pick them up that day if possible. Spread the word, the wreathes can be purchased on a first served basis if not pre-ordered.

Holiday Gift Basket Auction

SAVE THE DATE
DECEMBER 9 @7:00 ON ZOOM

The annual UUSB online gift-basket auction is rapidly approaching!

There are over 35 Baskets, including themes like gardening, crafting, specialty foods, worship, fun, pets, pizza, and so much more! You can watch the auction preview video or download the PDF version at uubangor.org/2023-holiday-gift-basket-auction-preview/. If you need or want a physical copy and cannot print your own, please contact uubangore@gmail.com or call the church office at (207) 947-7009 to have a copy set aside for you or mailed to you. Please reach out as soon as possible, to receive a copy in time for the auction.

SAVE THE DATE: December 9 on Zoom

The auction will take place on December 9. The Zoom connection will open at 6:30 PM. Bidding will start promptly at 7:00.

Last year's auction netted more than \$3,000. Let's try and beat that!



This year we have provided some exciting possibilities for trips for families of all sizes. Only 800 tickets are available for sale at \$20 each. We will draw two winners on January 14th, one for up to \$3500 in value and the other for up to \$1500. If you want to design your own get away, you can. Maybe visit or include family or friends?

We need the ticket sale proceeds to cover the costs of our amazing programing at UUSB. We can't do it without your participation. Purchase tickets and pick up packets of 10 tickets at the table in the Dorothy Memorial Hall. Two lucky winners will enjoy a get-a-way of a lifetime! If you can't attend on a Sunday, contact Sue McKay at swm4631@gmail or contact the Church office 947-7009 and we can arrange for pick up. Details are posted on the UUSB website and descriptions are in the packets.

ARTICLE II FINAL REVISION

An excerpt from the UUA Communications office's email:

After extensive engagement with UUs across our faith tradition, the Article II Study Commission have completed their Final Proposed Revision to Article II of the UUA Bylaws. Links to the text and additional important information are [on the [UUA website](#)], including a deadline of 5pm ET on February 1, 2024 for submitting any new amendments. [. . .]

As your congregation prepares to review the language describing Unitarian Universalist shared values, it's worth noting that this process began in 2020, when the Article II Study Commission was charged by the UUA Board to review that section of UUA Bylaws that includes the Principles, Purposes, and Sources. The Commission was to propose revisions that will enable our faith tradition to be a relevant and powerful force for spiritual and moral growth, healing, and justice. Learn more about the history of this process [in the Article II section of UUA.org](#). [. . .]





SHARE THE PLATE

In December, half of the undesignated funds in the plate will go to the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter. Bangor Area Homeless Shelter is one of the organizations that the UUSB congregation voted to support with our share the plate money this year. The Bangor Area Homeless

Shelter is open 365 days a year, providing Overnight Shelter, Day Services, a daily Soup Kitchen, Food Pantry, and an overnight Winter Warming Center. For more information, you can visit www.bangorareashelter.org/ or call (207) 947-0092.

In October, we were able to share \$467 with the Bangor Area Recovery Network.

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



Gift Card Fundraiser

Convenient to carry! Every card purchase helps UUSB!!

Cards are available in increments of \$25, \$50, \$100, \$200, or \$300. Just email or call to set up pick-up or delivery. Cash, or checks made out to UUSB are accepted. Buy cards for your own grocery shopping, or buy cards for gifts, or even donate a card to a local food bank.

To purchase your Hannaford card and support UUSB, please purchase after the Sunday service or contact Rosemary.

- Kate Dutra: Sundays in the Dorothy Memorial Hall after the Sunday Service
- Rosemary Parsons: 327-1045, roxemary@gmail.com

If you are interested in setting up an automatic grocery card purchase, please contact Rosemary. You can schedule to get your card once per month or get an emailed code to use in store.

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

Mystery

DECEMBER

2023

1

2

8:00 AM
Wreath
Assembly
10:00 AM
Wreath Sale



3

10:00 AM
Service
SEE Classes

4

5

11:30 AM
Staff Meeting
5:45 PM
Meditation
Group
6:30 PM
Shawl Ministry

6

5:30 PM
Worship
Committee

7

5:30 PM
Choir

10

10:00 AM
Budget &
Finance

11

7:00 PM
Holiday Gift
Basket Auction



10

10:00 AM
Service
SEE Classes
11:30 AM
Minister's Chat
Spirit of
Drumming
Food
Collection

11

12

5:45 PM
Meditation
Group

13

**Committee
Reports Due**
11:30 AM
Guild
6:30 PM
Membership-
Fellowship
Committee

14

5:30 PM
Choir
7:00 PM
Executive
Committee

15

16

17

10:00 AM
Solstice Ritual
SEE Classes
11:30 AM
Local Justice

18

19

9:00 AM
Visioning
Planning
5:45 PM
Meditation
Group

20

**Chimes
Deadline**
2:30 PM
Pastoral
Care Team
6:30 PM
Council
Meeting

21

5:30 PM
Choir
7:45 PM
Communications

22

12:00 PM
Office Closing

23

10:00 AM
Bag Lunch
Prep
3:00 PM
Supper Prep
4:00 PM
Bean Supper

24

10:00 AM
Chalice-Side
Chat
7:00 PM
Christmas Eve
Service

25

26

5:45 PM
Meditation
Group

27

28

5:30 PM
Choir

29

2:00 PM
CrUUnes

30

10:00 AM
Bag Lunch
Prep
3:00 PM
Supper Prep
4:00 PM
Bean Supper

31

10:00 AM
Service

Office Closed

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:

Sue McKay, Chair
Tracy Haskell, Vice Chair
Jessica Glant, Clerk
Rosemary Parsons, Treasurer
Zach Falcon
Francis Grey, Jr.
Ali Khavari
Tim Martin
Erin Seavey

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

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UUSB Staff Contact:

Rev. Andrew Moeller,
Settled Minister
(207) 922-2956
drewuu2@gmail.com

Christine Sprague, Office Admin.
(207) 947-7009
uubangor@gmail.com

Karen Childs, Director of SE
(207) 949-0733
uubangorre@gmail.com

Molly J. Webster, Music Director
(207) 947-7009
uusbmusic@gmail.com

Jack Derosier, Accompanist
Atticus Foster, AVS Tech

About Our Newsletter

The *Chalice and Chimes* is published ten times a year (Sept-June). 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 20, 2023

The next issue will be January 2024. We value your contributions and very much appreciate submissions. When sending email contributions to The *Chalice & Chimes*: uubangor@gmail.com