

November
2019

The Point

Universalist Unitarian Church of Waterville
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Non-summer services start at 10:00
July & August services start at 9:30

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To the Point

By the time you read this, barring any unforeseen delays, the lift for members and friends who have difficulty with stairs should be fully operational. This means they can join us for Sunday services and then share in the food and fun afterward downstairs in Averill Parlors without concern for weather, exertion or safety.

We all know this has been a large expense for our little congregation and has called upon us for commitments of time, treasure and energy. It has required us to be adaptable and to make sacrifices. This is particularly true for the children and parents who have had their nursery and RE space disrupted.

The lift project has required the many to make sacrifices for the few. So why do we do this? The answer lies, I think, in the same wonderful motivation that caused our state legislature to change the name of Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day. The many — those who grew up with the tradition of the Columbus story — have been asked to sacrifice the familiar for the new in order to think about and recognize the importance of a relatively few members of our state family and their contributions to our heritage. We are all ennobled by this kind of sacrifice.

The UU Principles are demanding. Both the lift in our sanctuary as well as the celebration of our new state holiday spring from honoring and practicing our first principle: the inherent worth and dignity of every person. I am proud of our church and our state. And for the same reason. *Dennis Perkin*, President

From the Editor

With the recommendation by the Communication Team and approval from the Board, an abbreviated version of *The Point* will be added to the church website by the end of this year. Web-version newsletters will omit the following columns: Among Ourselves, birthday announcements and “Who’s that UU Sitting in the Pew?”.

We’ll give it a few months’ trial to see how it goes. Eventually our IT Team (Rurik and Beth) will be able to give us reports about traffic on our website, i.e., how many hits per day/week, how much time an average visitor stays online, where the visits come from, etc. It will be fascinating. *Connie Winship*

Religious Exploration

With the beautiful weather we have been experiencing this Fall, the children and I have spent considerable time outside exploring the beauty of nature and playing games on the Point.

I have switched the curriculum to *Moral Tales* (part of the “Tapestry of Faith” curricula from the UUA), which suits the needs of our group on Sundays more closely. We are still working on finding a way to meet the needs of the entire group with a more diversified curricula.

Many thanks to Linda Lee who provided some activities that coordinated with the topic of birds when we had a speaker from the bird sanctuary. The children love exploring and learning about nature. Christel Kesler volunteered to provide RE on Indigenous Peoples’ Day weekend. I’m grateful that I could attend the service in the sanctuary that day.

Thanks also to Luke Brooks-Shesler and Christel Kesler for finding an additional young person, Beatrice Beale-Tate, to help Sunday mornings with the children. We hope she and Lexi can split Sunday mornings between them, giving everyone a break! Namaste, *Margrit Thomas DRE*

Update on the Lift

The building work around the lift and shaft have been completed. We have our sanctuary back and the lift area looks as if it were always a part of the church! Everybody’s pew is back where it belongs. Ken Frost did a remarkable job upstairs to match the color of the sanctuary and downstairs to make an area to store additional folding chairs where they will always be easily accessible and another area for archive files so that the archive room can be fully adapted to a new nursery and the stage area free. Bravo on a job well done, Ken! The last piece of the puzzle is scheduled to fall in place on Thursday, October 23 when the state inspection of the lift occurs. Fingers crossed! *Lift Committee*

Communication Team Update

In general, the primary goal of the Communication Team is to help promote and grow our church. At this moment in time, our focus is on identifying the small and large changes we must consider to better communicate the values of our UU Church to those people who would most likely be interested in knowing about us.

Who are these people?

We know them well: Some of them are the “nones” — the “spiritual but not religious” folk who check “none” when filling out application forms that ask their religious denomination. Others are interfaith families or members of the gay community and their allies. Finally, there are the young activists.

If we want to draw in these unchurched individuals we’ll increasingly need to take advantage of the opportunities offered on social media.

Going forward, some of the changes we try may make some of us uncomfortable, but change is necessary if we want to grow our church and attract younger people.

To those of us who are challenged by technology, know that there will likely be a Second Hour in early January, a hands-on communications tutorial of sorts. Congregants will get one-on-one help from other congregants about using their devices. *Connie Winship*

Humor is the Best Medicine

For those of you who missed Rev. Nancee Campbell’s service on October 20, I am including the words to *I am the Very Model of a Modern Unitarian* at the end of this newsletter. A riotous rendition it was with our own Anna Beth Rynders providing piano accompaniment.

Worship Committee Report

The Worship Committee is delighted to announce that we received 41 responses to the Worship Service Survey, which is an impressive response rate given that our regular church attendance varies from about 55 to 65 people.

Thank you to all who participated! This response rate underscores once again that we are a vibrant, committed faith community that is committed to the well-being of our church. The Worship Committee is in the process of analyzing the responses and we are looking forward to sharing the findings over the next few weeks.

The Worship Committee continues to emphasize the spiritual component of our services by connecting our services to the Principles for which the UU faith stands. We have also been working to make sure that our worship services do not exceed 60 minutes, or that they do not exceed 60 minutes by very much.

We recently added “Greeting Our Neighbors” to our services, which follows “Welcome and Announcements.” We think that “Greeting Our Neighbors” is a great opportunity to say hello to the people we know and to welcome visitors.

As always, please feel free to invite friends or family to our worship services. We believe that the UU message is especially important in today’s world and that it will resonate with many people, even those who have never attended a UU worship service.

We are proud to serve this congregation. Please feel free to contact me at uuworshipcommittee@gmail.com at any time to discuss our worship. Sincerely, *Luke Brooks-Shesler* Worship Committee Chair

Using Social Media

At our last Communications Team meeting, we discussed ways to attract new people to our church. One way is to increase our visibility on Facebook. Each week we post next Sunday’s service, and we periodically post church events and other information that might appeal to people.

We would like to see more people share our posts. If you have not already liked our page, google UU Waterville Facebook and click “like.” Then, if you click “follow,” you will be able to see our posts. At the bottom of each post, you will have the option of sharing the post to your page. In doing this, many more people will see what we are doing here at church. Some are already doing this, and we have increased the number of people who like and comment on our posts as a result. *Ray Winship*

Invitation to Visitors and Friends

It has been almost a year since we had new members join the church. If you have either questions or interest in finding out about becoming a member of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Waterville — either by transfer from another UU congregation or as a first-ever UU — plan on attending a brief meeting following the November 17 service. Attending this meeting in no way obligates you to become a member. It is informational only. For more information before this meeting, see Rachel Marsh-Sachs, Kathy McKay, Dennis Perkins or Ray Winship

Men’s Coffee

Have you been looking for an opportunity to get together with other men from church over coffee and solve the world’s problems? There is a group of between three and 15 of us who meet every Thursday at Jorgenson’s from 9:30 until whenever we decide to leave. Come whenever you can, and leave whenever you need. There is no set agenda, but always interesting discussions. *Ray Winship*

Lay Interfaith Council

The Lay Interfaith Council meets on the 4th Thursday of each month from 6 - 7 pm. The location rotates between the places of worship. Currently they have three places of worship participating: Pleasant Street United Methodist Church; Beth Israel Synagogue; and Winslow Congregational Church. For more information, go to https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=%20lay%20interfaith%20council%20Waterville&epa=SEARCH_BOX.

If you are interested in joining this group, contact Grace Peck at gracebpeck@yahoo.com.

Lay Interfaith Council: Advent

In the midst of the Advent season, give yourself the gift of quiet time with God on Sundays, December 1, 8, 15, 22, at 6 p.m. Contemplative worship will be offered in the Chapel at Pleasant Street United Methodist Church, Waterville. This 45-60-minute quiet service of music, prayer and scripture invites us to "center down" on the deeper meaning of the season. All are welcome. Call Susan MacKenzie with questions, 660-3513.

Second Sunday Offering

November's Second Sunday Offering is *Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mid-Maine*

Reparations Discussion

A dozen people from within and outside of our UU congregation met for five nights in October to discuss Reparations. For decades, discussions about reparations in this country revolved around the merits and feasibility of handing checks to descendants of enslaved Americans. More recently the intention is to broaden the lens to examine disparities in the criminal justice system, access to education, housing, and even infrastructure.

The need now is to repair damage done in the past in ways that meaningfully impact those striving toward better lives today. The discussion group benefited from learning through the words of those affected, which you're welcome to explore through: <https://policy.m4bl.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Reparations-Now-Toolkit-FINAL.pdf>

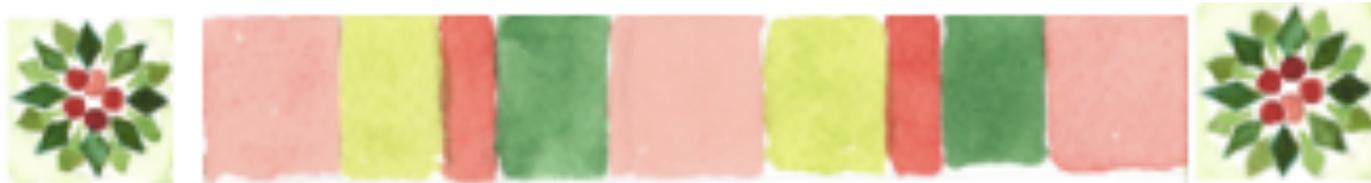
Church Pictures

From time to time, you may observe Peter Burgher and Carolyn MacRae taking photos at major church events as well as random group candids. If you have pictures of church activities that you think would be fun to share with others, please send them to Peter Burgher and Carolyn MacRae, who will scan them for various occasions. Your picture(s) will not be damaged in any way. One use for the photos is a slide show to be presented at the annual meeting illustrating the life of the church in the past year. No pictures will be used without the consent of the person(s) whose pictures have been taken and no names will ever be posted.

Evening Sandwich Program (ESP)

Many thanks for all your donations to the Second Sunday Souper Wagon. We are still using plastic shopping bags for the take-meals. Do you have any you can donate? We are also trying to encourage our guests to bring their own reusable bags. ESP is hoping that as more stores discontinue the use of the plastic bags, more guests will bring their own bag.

ESP will be open on Wednesday the day before Thanksgiving with a crew from the UU Church and Colby students.
Sue Morrill, ESP President



Holiday Food & Craft Fair

Saturday, December 14, 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

This is one of our biggest (and most fun) fundraisers. All proceeds will go to the Lift Project.

What can **you** do to help?

~Bake cookies for the UU Cookie Walk. We need 300 dozen! Please bring cookies in a container or throw-away box, ready to set up. We still need more cookie tins, especially medium size, for this year's cookie walk.

~Make something for the **UU Market**. Bread, rolls, brownies, cupcakes, pies, candy, spiced nuts, trail mix, party mix, cheese balls, jams, jellies, pickles, etc. Let's try to include some sugar-free, no-nut and gluten-free choices. Please label them. Cook up some **Soup-to-Go**. We'll provide the containers.

~Donate collectables, new or slightly used items that can be "re-gifted." Our own **UU Mall** is part of this fund-raiser and starts on December 1. Contact Maili Bailey at mailibailey@yahoo.com.

~Be creative. Knit, crochet, woodwork, sew, quilt, make jewelry, make wreaths — any homemade art or craft is welcome for the **UU Craft** area.

~Offer to help out with the **UU Cafe**!

~Volunteer to work an hour or two at the fair.

Sign-up sheets are posted in Averill Parlors.

If you are interested in helping out or have questions, see Rachel Marsh-Sachs, zone4color@gmail.com or Linda Lee, lhlee47@hotmail.com



Sermons at a Glance

- November 3 Spiritual Journey/Spiritual Healing. Worship Leader: Linda Woods
Fall quickens our sense of transitoriness and often intensifies our appreciation of beauty. It gives us tangible evidence that all things, including us, must pass. But on the way, it's possible to shiver with awe at the shimmer of the willow in the afternoon light. Poets invite us to a deeper, more vivid, more emotionally complete experience of this season and our own lives.
- November 10 Small Group Ministry. Worship Associate: Trip Gander
Worship Leader: Luke Brooks-Shesler
Our Lay-Led Congregation and Religious Tradition
This message explores the religious history of lay-led congregations and our congregation's place within this tradition. This message also presents key findings from our church's Worship Service Survey.
- November 17 Social Justice. Worship Associate: Joy Barnett
Rev. Twinkle Marie Manning
Sacred Service: Answering the call to social activism with one's spiritual journey.
- November 24 Thanksgiving Service
Principle and Faith Traditions
Worship Leader: Rev. Nancee Campbell
A Hunger for Gratitude
It's often easy to express gratitude for the things and people that make our lives fuller. This year I'd like us to go searching for the less obvious elements in our lives, when gratitude might not be the obvious payoff.

Beyond Our Walls

1. Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network (MUUSAN)

UUs as a group made for a visible social justice presence during 2019 where they testified, took positions on laws, bills and other actions representing UU values. If you are interested in seeing the laws which passed (as well as those which did not), click here: [Legislative Active Summary](#).

Our own church has had several social justice services this year. Whether it be for climate change, healthcare, immigration, GLBTQ legislation or health care, Waterville UUs have stepped up with a passion and activism that cannot be denied.

Please follow MUSSAN on [Facebook](#) for frequent notifications and to sign up on its [email list](#) for "Calls to Action" and important announcements. For questions or comments about what is happening here in our own church or in Central Maine, [contact Karen Kusiak](#) or [Dick Thomas](#)

2. Pleasant Street Methodist Church: 75th Anniversary Holiday Fair

The 75th Holiday Fair will be held at the Pleasant Street Methodist Church on November 2, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. To celebrate the 75th Anniversary, there will be a special drawing for a silver coin donated by Kennebec Savings Bank.

3. Transgender Day of Remembrance

Transgender Day of Remembrance will be held at St. Mark's Episcopal Church on November 20 at 6:00 p.m. It is sponsored by PFLAG Waterville and St. Mark's. Snow Date is November 21.

November 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 All Saint's Day 11:30 – 1:30 Women's Group 4:00 – 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	2
3 Daylight Savings Time ends First Sunday Donation: Waterville Boys & Girls Club Hospitality Team #1 10:00 Peter Harris: <i>Poetry and the Imagination of Fall</i> 11:00 – 12:00 Coffee Hour 4:00 - 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	4 4:00 - 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	5 11:00 – 1:00 Fellowship Group 4:00 - 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	6 10:00 – 1:00 Arts and Crafts Group 4:00 – 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	7 9:30 Men's Coffee 4:00 – 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	8 11:30 – 1:30 Women's Group 4:00 – 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	9
10 Sunday Souper Wagon Hospitality Team # 2 10:00 Luke Brooks-Shesler <i>Our Lay-Led Congregation and Religious Tradition</i> 11:00 – 12:00 Coffee Hour 4:00 - 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	11 Veteran's Day 4:00 - 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	12 11:00 – 1:00 Fellowship Group 4:00 - 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program 5:00 – 6:00 Worship Committee	13 10:00 – 12:00 Small Group Ministry/ Mark Jose 10:00 – 1:00 Arts and Crafts Group 4:00 – 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program 6:00 – 8:00 Board of Trustees	14 9:30 Men's Coffee 4:00 – 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	15 11:30 – 1:30 Women's Group 4:00 – 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	16
17 Hospitality Team # 3 10:00 Rev. Twinkle Manning <i>Sacred Service: Answering the call to social activism with one's spiritual journey</i> 11:00 – 12:00 Coffee Hour 4:00 - 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	18 4:00 - 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	19 11:00 – 1:00 Fellowship Group 4:00 - 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	20 10:00 – 1:00 Arts and Crafts Group 4:00 – 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program 6:00 - 8:00 Small Group Ministry Peter Burgher	21 9:30 Men's Coffee 4:00 – 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	22 11:30 – 1:30 Women's Group 4:00 – 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	23
24 Hospitality Team # 4 10:00 Rev Nancy Campbell Thanksgiving <i>A Hunger for Gratitude</i> 11:00 – 12:00 Coffee Hour 4:00 Evening Sandwich Program	25 4:00 - 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	26 11:00 – 1:00 Fellowship Group 4:00 - 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program 5:00 – 6:00 ESP Board meets	27 10:00 – 1:00 Arts and Crafts Group 4:00 – 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	28  NO ESP	29 11:30 – 1:30 Women's Group 4:00 – 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	30

I am the Very Model of a Modern Unitarian

Sung to the tune of "I am the Very Model of a Modern Major General" from "Pirates of Penzance"

I am the very model of a modern Unitarian,

Far broader than a Catholic, Hindu, Jew or Presbyterian,
I know the world's religions and can trace their roots historical,
From Moses up to Channing, all in order categorical.

I'm very well acquainted, too, with theories theological.
On existential questions I am always wholly logical.
About most any problem I am teeming with a lot of views.
I'm full of fine ideas that should fill our church's empty pews.

Chorus members:

We're full of fine ideas that should fill our church's empty pews.
We're full of fine ideas that should fill our church's empty pews.
We're full of fine ideas that should fill our church's empty, empty pews.

I quote from Freud and Jung and all the experts psychological.
I'm anti-nuke, I don't pollute I'm chastely ecological.
In short, in matters spiritual, ethical, material,
I am the very model of a modern Unitarian.

Chorus members

In short, in matters spiritual, ethical, material,
We are the very model of a modern Unitarian.

I use the latest language; God is never Father or the Lord,
But Ground of Being, Source of Life or almost any other word.

I never pray, I meditate, I'm leery about worshipping.

I serve on ten committees none of which accomplish anything.
I give to worthy causes and I drive a gas-conserving car,

I have good UU principles (although I'm not sure what they are).
I'm open to opinions of profound or broad variety,
Unless they're too conservative or smack of righteous piety.

Chorus members:

Unless they're too conservative or smack of righteous piety.
Unless they're too conservative or smack of righteous piety.
Unless they're too conservative or smack of righteous pie-piety.

I formulate agendas and discuss them with the best of 'em,

But don't ask me to implement — we leave that to the rest of 'em.
In short in matters spiritual, ethical, material,

I am the very model of today's religious liberal.

Chorus members:

In short, in matters spiritual, ethical, material,

We are the very model of today's religious liberal.