

**December
2019**

The Point

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*Universalist Unitarian Church of Waterville
69 Silver Street
Waterville, ME 04901*

Office Phone: 207-873-4006

*Non-summer services start at 10:00
July & August services start at 9:30*

Dennis Perkins, President
julep1027@yahoo.com

Rurik Spence, Vice President
rurik.spence@gmail.com

Rebecca Heath, Administrative Assistant
uuwtvladm@gmail.com

Connie Winship, Point Editor
cwinship@roadrunner.com

Church website: <http://uucwaterville.com>
Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/uucwtvl>

To the Point

Luke's November 10 message on lay-led churches got me to thinking. Any religious organization that loses its leader, its minister, is bound to go through trying emotional times. Questions abound. What will happen to us? Have we lost our identity, our authenticity? Will we survive? Of course, our little church is not the only one to have gone through this. As Luke said, the earliest Christian congregations of the first century as well as many UU congregations of the mid-twentieth century — and today — are facing the same thing. But we're lucky to have a record of the first time a congregation was faced with the imminent loss of a beloved leader. And we're lucky also to have the words of that leader to his congregants 2,500 years ago.

On his death bed, Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha, told his despairing followers not to worry that he would be gone. For, he said, they would always be in possession of the Three Jewels: the Dhamma, the Sangha and the Buddha. The teachings of the Eight-fold Path and the Four Truths constituted the Dhamma. The spiritual companionship shared as the disciples joined together (the Sangha) to learn and practice the teachings. And the central spiritual experience (the Buddha) that occurred for each individual as he shared in the glow of enlightenment produced from his own search interwoven with that of his fellows.

Thought about in this way, the Universalist Unitarian Church of Waterville has itself been left with the Three Jewels. As Dhamma, we have the teachings of our Principles, distilled from the greatest religious teachers in history. We have each other when we come together to worship — our Sangha. And, together, we feel the warmth of our own Buddha-natures glowing in our hearts like the flame of our chalice.

We should trust the Buddha's words. *Dennis Perkins* Board President

Communications Team

Luke Brooks-Shesler	REM representative
Peter Burgher	Photographer
Rebecca Heath	Administrative Assistant
Mark Jose	Wayside Pulpit
Karen Kusiak	MUSSAN & Facebook
Carolyn MacRae	Photographer
Charlie Morrill	Outside Bulletin Board
Sue Morrill	Interfaith Council
Beth Schiller	Co- webmaster
Rurik Spence	Co-webmaster
	IT Administrator
Sarah Webster	<i>The Point</i> newsletter
Connie Winship	Morning Sentinel
Liaison	<i>The Point</i> newsletter
	Co-Chair:
Communication	Team
Ray Winship	Facebook
	Co-chair:
	Communication
	Team

Evening Sandwich Program

Maili Bailey: Director

ESP Board

Maili Bailey: Director
Larry Dickey
Charlie Morrill: Treasurer
Sue Morrill: President
Ray & Connie Winship

Facebook

Karen Kusiak
Ray Winship

Fellowship-Membership Team

Bill & Joy Barnett
Rachel Marsh Sachs
Kathy McKay
Dennis Perkins
Ray Winship

Finance Committee

Allane Ball: Chair
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Mark Jose
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Housekeeping

Gina Boudreau: Housekeeper
Maili Bailey: Director

Interfaith Council

Sue Morrill

Investment Management

Peter Burgher: Chair
Mark Jose

Keyboardists

Anna Beth Rynders: Keyboardist
Anne Marie Thibodeau: Associate Keyboardist

MUSSAN

[Maine Universalist Unitarian
State Advocacy Network]
Karen Kusiak
Dick Thomas

Religious Exploration

We have had some new and some very young faces joining us on Sunday mornings. I am so grateful that parents are willing to share their children with me on Sundays. They each bring something unique and rewarding to our group interactions and activities.

The month of December will be filled with the joy and wonder of the holidays. I will be deviating from our curriculum to work on special projects with the children. Look for some surprises! Namaste, *Margrit Thomas* DRE

Interfaith Council

At the November meeting of the Interfaith Council, two groups came to speak about their work in the community and how this Council could work with them. The first speakers, Peter Phair and Dean Dollham, were from Waterville Area Habitat for Humanity. Several of the programs they offer to the community, such as Brush with Kindness (a repair service), winterization of homes, the Restore Store and free pick-up of donated items, could dovetail with services requested of the Interfaith Council.

AmeriCorps volunteers, Elizabeth Kate and Lauren Rex from the Colby Office of Civil Engagement, spoke of the AmeriCorps Day of Service on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, on January 20, 2020. Projects are needed for all the AmeriCorps volunteers to do from 9-12 that day. This will be followed by a lunch. Please contact either Elizabeth or Lauren with project ideas at erkane@colby.org or lerex@colby.edu.

Our final discussion concerned the plight of folks in our community who remain homeless when the shelter is full. A possible solution could be the project called BEDS. For more information go to <https://beds-plus.org/who-we-are/history/>.

The Interfaith Council plans to invite a representative from the Salvation Army join us at our December meeting. *Sue Morrill*

Evening Sandwich Program

“Food gleaning will bolster programs at Universalist Unitarian Church in Waterville” was the front-page article in the most recent *Two Cent Times*. As part of KV Connect (kvconnect@gmail.com), leftovers from Colby College's Take Four Cafe are taken to the Evening Sandwich Program twice per week. KV Connect is a networking group for professionals in the Greater Waterville area.

Our terrific Tuesday volunteers have stepped up three times to volunteer extra days in November to cover days other volunteers could not work. We worked on Veterans' Day to cover for the volunteers from the Lions' Club. Next ESP opened on the miserable Tuesday of ice and snow... THANKS TO LARRY DICKEY AND GWEN HAWES! Finally, we will work to feed folks on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

Please check your closets and drawers for warm clothing you may no longer need. Many folks who come to ESP are not dressed for the cold and snow. Please consider donating these items to ESP.

As the Holiday Season approaches, please consider giving an ESP gift card to benefit the program. See Connie Winship for further information.

Peace, *Sue Morrill*, ESP President

Lift Fundraising Update

We are over the \$66,000 mark for paying for our new lift! Thanks to all! Our goal is about \$80,000. It's not too late to make a cash donation. Remember ALL proceeds from the **Holiday Fair** are earmarked to pay for the elevator. So consider helping out and doing your holiday shopping here.

Thank you.

Rachel Marsh-Sachs and Kathy McKay, Fundraising Chairs

Nominating Committee

Peter Burgher
 Karen Kusiak
 Margrit Thomas

Planned Giving

Jon Rogers

Point Newsletter

Connie Winship: Editor
 Sarah Webster: Proofreader
 Marilyn Wheeler: Postal Clerk

Property & Grounds

Jim Ashton
 Jim Easton
Jerry Saint Amand: Chair
 Jim Shipsky
 Ed Spear
 John Wilder

Religious Education

Margrit Thomas: DRE

Restorative Communication Team

Sally Harwood
 Mark Jose
 Carolyn MacRae
 Mary Matson
 Jon Rogers
 Dick Thomas

Small Group Ministry

Peter Burgher
 Mark Jose

Stewardship Committee

Peter Burgher
 Sarah Michaud
 Dennis Perkins

UU Singers and Musicians

Maili Bailey
 Bill Barnett
 Nancy Brooks
 Sally Harwood
 Mark Jose
 Kesler, Christel
 Iver Lofving
 Elaine Post
 Beth Schiller
 Linda Seekins
 Olga Shabunya Payne
 Dick Thomas
 Margrit Thomas
 Harry Vayo: Director
 Marilyn Wheeler
 Ray Winship
 Linda Woods
 Nancy Wynne

Website

Luke Brooks-Shesler
 Beth Schiller: Co-webmaster
 Rurik Spence: Co-webmaster
 Administrator
 Connie Winship
 Ray Winship

Worship Committee

The results are in from the Worship Service Survey! We are delighted to announce the overall results. We received 41 responses, which represents 2/3 of the church membership.

The first question that we asked the congregation was "To what extent have the worship services met your spiritual needs?" Seventeen people said that their spiritual needs were being met *very much*; 17 people said that their spiritual needs were being met *somewhat*, and 7 people said that their spiritual needs were being met only *a little bit*. No one said that their spiritual needs were *not being met at all*.

When we asked what people liked most about our worship services, the most common responses related to:

1. learning about new ideas and perspectives,
2. the fellowship and community of our worship services,
3. the variety of topics, ministers and speakers; and,
4. the music.

The most common suggestions for how we could improve our worship services related to:

1. practical ideas for helping the services run more smoothly,
2. having an ordained minister who was either full-time or part-time, or who was simply a regular monthly speaker at our church; and,
3. connecting the worship services to the UU Principles.

The Worship Committee is grateful to everyone who participated in the Worship Service Survey, and we are working hard to incorporate the congregation's feedback into our services as much as possible.

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, and please feel free to contact me at any time to discuss our worship.

Sincerely,

Luke Brooks-Shesler: Worship Committee Chair
uuworshipcommittee@gmail.com

What is a Facebook "Event"?

The website *Whatis* provides the following description of a Facebook Event:

A Facebook event is a calendar-based resource which can be used to notify users of upcoming occasions. Events can be created by anyone, and can be open to anyone or kept private. The creator can invite his friends, members of a group, or fans of a page.

Facebook events are a great way to spread the word on upcoming event or occasions, since they can reach thousands of people in a short amount of time. The event can also provide an "RSVP" list, which displays lists of invitees grouped by their response. Invitees are either placed in "attending," "not attending," "may be attending" or "hasn't responded" lists. If an invitee RSVPs that they are "attending" the event, it appears in their news feed to notify their friends. When the date of the event approaches, it is displayed on the invitees' home pages to remind them. Source:

<https://whatis.techtarget.com/definition/Facebook-event>

Summary: Consider "liking" any of our [UU Church Facebook](#) events and indicate that you are "interested," or "attending." Other folks will see your RSVP and may want to join in the event, too. Our Facebook [page](#) has an [event](#) set up for the [Holiday Fair](#); try RSVP-ing to it! *Karen Kusiak*

Worship Committee

Ellie Adams
Steve Ball
Luke Brooks-Shesler: Chair
Peter Burgher
Jan Fichuk
Bernie LaCroix
Rock LaCroix
Jan Mathieu
Sarah Michaud
Dennis Perkins
Connie & Ray Winship

Worship Committee: Sub-Committees

I. Social Justice

Steve Ball
Bill Barnett
Joy Barnett
Iver Lofving
Audrey McGee
Dick Thomas
Ray Winship: Chair

II. Small Group Ministry

Luke Brooks-Shesler
Peter Burgher: Chair
Mark Jose

III. Spiritual Journeys/ Spiritual Healing

Marian Flaherty
Mary Matson
Sarah Michaud: Chair
Deb Stinneford
Linda Woods
Nancy Wynne

IV. Principles/Faith Traditions

Kathy McKay
Dennis Perkins: Chair
Jon Rogers

V. Fifth Sunday

Jan Fichuk: Chair
Caroline Gander

Caring Committee

As I sit here writing this Point article, it's still 10 days before Thanksgiving and I find myself reflecting again on the warm and caring people who make up our church community. It's a time of year when my thoughts naturally turn to the kind gestures, helping hands and encouraging words that have made a difference in my life, and I see how people in this church make a difference in the lives of others.

The sense of caring about each other goes beyond the Caring Committee. Yes, some of us are on the committee or have volunteered to be on call when help is needed, but showing concern and caring about each other doesn't stop there. It was the Arts and Crafts group who provided lovely, hand-crafted baby quilts for the youngest members of our community – Luther, born in May, and Evelyn, just born in October. The Evening Sandwich Program goes well beyond our church walls to feed hungry people, thanks to the dedicated leadership and hard work of several church members.

Our recent pot luck for Ellie began with a committee (two, in fact, until we discovered each other and joined forces), but so many others simply saw their own way to take part – music and songs, gifts, a crown of flowers for Ellie's head, Hawaiian shirts on loan, delicious food and so much more. Then there are all the less conspicuous things that make such a difference in our lives – rides when needed, meals, errands, sitting with a friend in the emergency room, cards sent out to let people know they are in our thoughts, and on and on. Some of these bits of kindness originate with the Caring Committee, but so many others just happen spontaneously among us. We are truly blessed to be part of such a caring community. *Carolyn MacRae*

Save the date

UU Coffee House featuring Jackson Gillman, the "Stand-up Chameleon"
Saturday, January 11, 2020 at 7 p.m.

FMI: <http://www.jacksongillman.com> or greenladywoods@gmail.com

First Sunday Donation

The First Sunday donation for November was \$130.22 to the Waterville Boys and Girls Club.

Sermons at a Glance

- December 1 Worship Leader: Rev. Twinkle Marie Manning
- December 8 *Healing Turtle Island: One Drop at a Time*
Pat Berger will share her journey to a healing ceremony at Turtle Island.
- December 15 *Poor Peoples' Campaign: 101*
Elizabeth Leonard will talk about the principles and current activities of the Poor Peoples' Campaign.

Decorating of Tree

- December 22 *Winter Solstice, will the light come back this time?*
Children's Pageant
New Member ceremony will follow the service
- December 24 Christmas Eve Service: Worship Leader: Rev. Nancee Campbell
Traditional Service of Candles and Music
- December 29 Meditation Service: Sweet Memories



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



December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>First Sunday Donation: Fellowship Discretionary Fund</p> <p>Advent begins</p> <p>Hospitality Team # 3</p> <p>10 Rev. Twinkle Marie Manning</p> <p>11 - 12 Coffee Hour</p> <p>4 - 5 Evening Sandwich Program</p>	<p>2</p> <p>4 - 5 Evening Sandwich Program</p>	<p>3</p> <p>11 - 1 Discussion Group</p> <p>4 - 5 Evening Sandwich Program</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10 - 1 Arts and Crafts Group</p> <p>4 - 5 Evening Sandwich Program</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:30 – 11 Men's Coffee Jorgensen's</p> <p>4 - 5 Evening Sandwich Program</p>	<p>6</p> <p>11:30 – 1:30 Women's Group</p> <p>4 - 5 Evening Sandwich Program</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Advent (2nd week) Second Sunday Super Wagon</p> <p>Hospitality Team # 4</p> <p>10 <i>Healing Turtle Island: One Drop at a Time</i></p> <p>11 - 12 Coffee Hour</p> <p>4 - 5 Evening Sandwich Program</p>	<p>9</p> <p>4 - 5 Evening Sandwich Program</p>	<p>10</p> <p>11 - 1 Discussion Group</p> <p>4 - 5 Evening Sandwich Program</p> <p>5 – 6 Worship Committee Meeting</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10 - 12 Small Group Ministry Mark Jose</p> <p>10 - 1 Arts and Crafts Group</p> <p>4 - 5 Evening Sandwich Program</p> <p>6 – 8 Board of Trustees meets</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:30 – 11 Men's Coffee Jorgensen's</p> <p>4 - 5 Evening Sandwich Program</p>	<p>13</p> <p>11:30 – 1:30 Women's Group</p> <p>4 - 5 Evening Sandwich Program</p>	<p>14</p>  <p>Holiday Food & Craft Fair 8:30 -1:30</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Advent (3rd week)</p> <p>Hospitality Team # 5</p> <p>10 <i>Poor Peoples' Campaign: 101</i></p> <p>11 - 12 Coffee Hour</p> <p>4 - 5 Evening Sandwich Program</p>	<p>16</p> <p>4 - 5 Evening Sandwich Program</p>	<p>17</p> <p>11 - 1 Discussion Group</p> <p>4 - 5 Evening Sandwich Program</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10 - 1 Arts and Crafts Group</p> <p>4 - 5 Evening Sandwich Program</p> <p>6 - 8 Small Group Ministry Peter Burgher</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:30 – 11 Men's Coffee Jorgensen's</p> <p>4 - 5 Evening Sandwich Program</p>	<p>20</p> <p>11:30 – 1:30 Women's Group</p> <p>4 - 5 Evening Sandwich Program</p> <p>5:30 – 8:30 Holiday Recital Kennebec Piano Studio</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Winter Solstice</p> 
<p>22</p> <p>Advent ends; Hanukkah starts</p> <p>Hospitality Team # 6</p> <p>10 <i>Winter Solstice, Will the light come back this time?</i></p> <p>11 - 12 Coffee Hour</p> <p>4 - 5 Evening Sandwich Program</p>	<p>23</p> <p>4 - 5 Evening Sandwich Program</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:00 Christmas Eve Service of Candles and Music</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Christmas Day</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>Kwanzaa</p> <p>9:30 – 11 Men's Coffee Jorgensen's</p> <p>4 – 5 Evening Sandwich Program</p>	<p>27</p> <p>11:30 – 1:30 Women's Group</p> <p>4 – 5 Evening Sandwich Program</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Hanukkah continues</p> <p>Hospitality Team # 7</p> <p>10 <i>Meditation Service: Sweet Memories</i></p> <p>11 - 12 Coffee Hour</p> <p>4 - 5 Evening Sandwich Program</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Hanukkah ends</p> <p>4 - 5 Evening Sandwich Program</p>	<p>31</p> <p>New Year's Eve</p> <p>11 - 1 Fellowship Group</p> <p>4 - 5 Evening Sandwich Program</p>		<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>