

**December
2020**

The Point

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

Office Phone: 207-873-4006

Services start at 10:00 a.m.

Dennis Perkins, President

Rurik Spence, Vice President

Beth Schiller, Administrative Director
uucwtvladm@gmail.com

Connie Winship, Point Editor

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

**During the corona virus pandemic
online worship services will be held at 10:00 a.m.
and will be followed by a virtual Coffee Hour.
For more information, go to uucwaterville.com.
All are welcomed**

To the Point

If January is the month of beginnings — vows, promises, resolutions to change, the dawn of a year — then December must be the month of endings. It is a simple but important truth that without an ending, there can be no beginning. December is a great month to ask, “What do I need to let go of so that I am free to grow into the new year?” We have all heard of that ingenious trick for capturing monkeys. A covered wooden box is tied to a tree, filled with small pieces of fruit. Next a small hole, just large enough for a monkey’s open hand to squeeze into, is drilled into the end. When the monkey comes, reaches in and grabs the small fruit, its fist becomes too large to pull out through the hole. If the monkey refuses to give up the fruit — which many do — it is captured and taken away.

As the “days dwindle down to precious few” remaining in 2020, it’s a good time to look over all of our old ideas, both as individuals and as a church, and ask what might we be holding onto that will keep us prisoner to the past. What ideas, what beliefs, what behaviors? Perhaps like the Druids of old as well as the Louisiana levee dwellers of today, we should build bonfires on Christmas Eve both to consume the old that no longer works and to welcome the new light of the coming year. Not a bad thought as we light candles for our own Christmas Eve service this year. *Dennis Perkins*, President of the Board of Trustees

Committee Members, Officers and Trustees

Board of Trustees and Officers

Officers

Pres: Dennis Perkins 2021
VP: Rurik Spence 2021
Treasurer: Allane Ball 2021
Clerk: Sarah Seder 2021
Collector: Marilyn Wheeler

Trustees

Elyse Apantaku 2022
Katie Clifford 2022
Trip Gander 2021
Sally Harwood 2022
Jon Rogers 2022
Beth Schiller 2021

Committees and Teams

Bookkeeper

Katrina Goodrich

By Laws

Bill Lee: Chair
Dave Wynne

Caring Committee

Allane Ball
Ellie Duhamel
Marcel Duhamel
Carolyn MacRae: Chair
Sue Morrill
Ann Paradis
Rurik Spence
Linda Woods

Collector

Mark Jose
Marilyn Wheeler

Communications Team

Peter Burgher	Photographer
Beth Schiller:	Administrative Director
Mark Jose	Wayside Pulpit
Karen Kusiak	Community Liaison
	Facebook
Carolyn MacRae	Photographer
Charlie Morrill	Outside Bulletin Board
Sue Morrill	Interfaith Council
Beth Schiller	Webmaster
Rurik Spence	IT Administrator
Sarah Webster	The Point newsletter
Connie Winship	Community Liaison
	The Point newsletter
	Co-Chair Comm Team
	Facebook
Ray Winship	Co-Chair Comm Team

Evening Sandwich Program

ESP Board

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

Facebook

Karen Kusiak
Ray Winship

Fellowship/Membership Committee

Bill Barnett
Joy Barnett
Jan Fichuk
Rachel Marsh Sachs: co-chair
Kathy McKay: co-chair
Dennis Perkins
Ray Winship

Finance Committee

Peter Burgher
Mark Jose
Margrit Thomas
Dave Wynne

History and Archives

Kit Alexander
John Wilder

Housekeeping

Gina Boudreau: Housekeeper
Maiili Bailey: Director

Interfaith Council

Sue Morrill

Investment Management

Peter Burgher: Chair
Mark Jose
Jon Rogers

MUUSAN

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

Nominating Committee

Peter Burgher
Karen Kusiak
Margrit Thomas: Chair

Organists

Anna Beth Rynders: Lead Organist
Beth Schiller
Anne Marie Thibodeau

Planned Giving

Jon Rogers

Point Newsletter

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

Property & Grounds

Trip Gander: Chair
Dennis Perkins
Jerry Saint Amand
Ed Spear

From the Editor

What an extraordinary year it has been! Who among us could have imagined we'd be taking part in "virtual services" for these many months? Who even knew what a virtual service was? Would anyone have recognized the name *Faith Rocket* back then?

Would any one of us have guessed that meetings could take place outside at Fort Halifax Park rather than Averill Parlors? A Discussion Group met on Tuesdays, Arts and Crafts on Wednesdays, a Men's Group on Thursdays and a Women's Group on Fridays. Participants raved about the camaraderie and feelings of intimacy that characterized these meetings. Only now with cold weather upon us are these groups resuming their meetings via ZOOM.

What a gift we've been given to be able to meet safely outside and virtually with friends and members of the church during this time of COVID! It's been a much-needed opportunity to laugh, to talk freely about concerns in our lives, to have our spirits renewed and to connect. I have been truly grateful for all of these opportunities and look forward to many more as we look to 2021. *Connie Winship*, Editor

Among Ourselves

If you have not done so already, be sure to read **Terri Hibbard's** column in the Fall issue of *The Women's Quarterly* in the Morning Sentinel: *Weighed down with weariness/Buoyed up with hope*. Go to

<https://edition.pagesuite.com/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&edid=d93a7b7c-74f9-47c2-8576-04ab1c08286b>

"Members and Friends" Directory

The 2020 version of the "Members and Friends" church directory was emailed as a PDF attachment or, in the case of a few people who do not use email, mailed via USPS to the people who appear in it. Thanks to all who contributed to the effort. As noted before, it's a confidential document intended only for personal use.

If you haven't received a directory but wish to be included, please send your directory information (name, mailing address, email, phone) to me at uuwtvladm@gmail.com or at UU Church of Waterville, PO Box 435, Waterville, ME 04903. Please also continue to send me any additions or corrections throughout the year.

Updated versions of the directory will be released on at least an annual basis or can be obtained by sending me a request. We may also periodically send out a list of additions and corrections if that seems appropriate.

Thanks again!

Beth Schiller (Administrative Director)

Religious Education
Margrit Thomas: DRE

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
Jan Fichuk
Sally Harwood
Mark Jose
Joanna Linden
Iver Lofving
Anna Beth Rynders
Beth Schiller
Linda Seekins
Olga Shabunya
Dick Thomas
Margrit Thomas
Harry Vayo: Director
Marilyn Wheeler
Ray Winship
Linda Woods
Nancy Wynne

Website
Luke Brooks-Shesler
Beth Schiller: Webmaster
Rurik Spence: IT Administrator
Connie Winship
Ray Winship

Welcoming Congregation

**Worship Committee:
Sub-Committees**

I. Social Justice
Bill Barnett
Joy Barnett
Iver Lofving
Audrey McGee
Dick Thomas
Connie Winship
Ray Winship: Chair

II. Small Group Ministry
Luke Brooks-Shesler
Peter Burgher: Chair
Mark Jose
Dick Thomas

**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

Friendship & Fellowship

As we head into the winter months and shorter days, the Fellowship Committee reminds you that in this time of social distancing, we need each other. We need fellowship, community, friendship, understanding and companionship.

Let's all make a commitment to take care of each other and reach out to one person every day! You might make a call, send an email, send a card, or have a Zoom get together. This doesn't need to be limited to our church community!

Also, there are several opportunities for us to come together outside of the Sunday service and Coffee Hour. These groups all meet by Zoom. All are welcome! Please look for details below, and in the Mid-week Update.

- The **Tuesday Discussion Group** meets weekly, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. We discuss a wide-ranging variety of subjects, picking a new topic for the next week at the end of each meeting. Topic announcements are included in the Midweek Update each week, and all who are interested are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Carolyn MacRae
- The **Wednesday Arts & Crafts Group** also meets from 11 to 1. We will meet by Zoom for the winter months, so grab your knitting or your mending or whatever other project that you're working on and join us for a lively time of friendship with good laughs. Please feel free to "stop by"! Contact Rachel Marsh-Sachs for more information.
- The **Thursday Men's Coffee Group** will meet at 9:30 each Thursday during the cold months via Zoom. There is no particular weekly topic. We just go where the conversation leads. Anyone interested can contact Ray Winship.
- **Thursday Night Coffee House** - Every Thursday evening at 6:30 (except Thanksgiving & Christmas Eve), Harry Vayo hosts a virtual UU Coffeehouse via Zoom. We spend about 90 minutes entertaining each other by singing, playing music, reading poetry or short stories, and chatting in between. This is a family show so everyone of any age is welcome. Performance is optional; it's fine to just listen. Hope you'll join us! For more information, please contact Harry Vayo.
- The **Friday Women's Group** is also meeting by Zoom from 11 to 1 this winter. All women are welcome. We support and encourage each other, discuss ideas and enjoy being together, even if it is by Zoom for now! If you're interested in more details, contact Rachel Marsh-Sachs.

Feel free to share your ideas with Kathy McKay or Rachel Marsh-Sachs, Fellowship Team chairs.

Interfaith Council

At the November Zoom meeting of the Interfaith Council, our guest speaker was Aline Poulin from the newly established Waterville Area Soup Kitchen (WASK). This group has just gotten up and running and will serve food on Monday and Wednesday at noontime. Using the kitchen at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, the volunteers make sandwiches and a cold side. These are distributed at four locations in Waterville - north and south end as well as Head of Falls and Veterans Park. This noontime meal is served from two food trucks. ESP will give WASK any sandwiches remaining on Tuesday.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, the UCC and the Pleasant Street Methodist Church have all returned to virtual church services as the cold weather arrives.

Free face masks are available at the Waterville Fire Department.
Be Well, *Sue Morrill*

Blue Christmas Service

I will be the worship leader for a "Blue Christmas" service on 12/20/20. Blue Christmas refers to the song that says, "I'll have a Blue Christmas without you." It is a service to acknowledge that the December holidays are not all happiness and joy, and for many people, grief about recent and even past losses are a part of the holidays.

If you have a short story about grief/loss during the holidays that you would like to share, in person or through another reader, please let me know. I am also interested in readings you might have to offer. Please feel free to contact me, Mark Jose. Thank you

Evening Sandwich Program

ESP reopened on Election Day. Pre-bagged sandwiches were handed out outdoors by a volunteer who stood behind plexiglass. The Evening Sandwich Program is receiving bread, fruit and vegetables from the Food Bank. Thank you! It is hoped that this limited selection of items may soon be supplemented with hot homemade soup and a favorite - desserts. Safety for guests and volunteers is paramount!

Stay safe, *Sue Morrill*, ESP President

History and Archives

Archives Committee has recently been reborn as the History & Archives Committee. Kit Alexander and John Wilder are heading up the newly formed group as chairs.

The major part of the Unitarian Church, Universalist Church and Unitarian Universalist Church of Waterville archives have been organized and completed. A finding guide is available. The Archives from 1826 to 1999 are in a fire-proof cabinet located in the elevator foyer on the Averill Parlors level. Records exist from 2000 until the present and are in the process of being organized in other file cabinets in the same area.

We plan to announce various projects as time goes on and hope you will join us. You can volunteer to do as much or as little as you want.

We'd like to make our history more available to our members. Do you have a question? If so, please let us know and we will try our best to help. We would also like to highlight various aspects of our history by way of The Point, church announcements and special programs.

Our first project involves the glass-top cabinet located in the sanctuary to the right of the ramp door. This cabinet was donated in 1969 by the Larsen Family along with members of the Universalist-Unitarian Church family and friends. The cabinet contains a lovely red leather "Book of Remembrance" dedicated to Otto and Helen Larsen. No names have been entered in the book, so we thought we would like to start this process. If you know of someone who was a member, friend or associated in some way with the church who has passed on, please let us know. Just send Kit or John an email with the person's name and birth/death dates. We'd like to go back at least as far as 1969, but if you can provide information on someone before that date, please do.

We'll keep you posted as projects come along...and will ask for help as needed. We'd really like to share our church's rich history with everyone.

Contact Kit Alexander or John Wilder

A Gentle Reminder: If you have something to donate to the History & Archives Committee, please put it in the Archives mailbox at the church or contact Kit Alexander. If you would like to use the Archives, please let John or Kit know. Otherwise, please don't put anything in any of the file cabinets or take anything out. Thank you!



Worship Committee

Dear members and friends of UUC-Waterville!

The Worship Committee is looking forward to celebrating the holiday season with you, albeit under these unusual and challenging circumstances. On each of the four Advent Sundays (Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13 & 20), members of the congregation will do the Advent readings. We are delighted to welcome back Katie Covey, who will be leading our worship on December 6. Rev. Al Boyce will be joining us on December 13. Mark Jose will be leading our “Blue Christmas” service on December 20 in which we acknowledge that the holidays are a painful time for many. Rev. Nancee Campbell will be doing our Christmas service on Dec. 24. On December 27, the last Sunday of 2020, Connie Winship will lead a special service in which we reflect on 2020 and our transition to virtual services.

2020 has been challenging in unexpected ways. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused us to rethink worship and how we interact with one another. Perhaps we have an even greater appreciation for being together in person. Regardless of our worship service format, our church has never wavered in its dedication to stay together and to continue as a community of faith. The Worship Committee is honored to be part of this community.

Thank you all for your dedication and love.

Take care, and stay safe – and let us be thankful for one another.

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

Evening Sandwich Program

With Maili’s permission I am posting parts of her last email to me and other ESP Board members about ESP numbers on the 4th afternoon of serving food since ESP re-opened. Her comments capture the deep satisfaction that comes with working in tandem with local sister organizations in this time of COVID. *Connie Winship*

Well, well, well! Today we started with a ton of food! I had asked the Friday crew to cut down on the amount of food they prepare because numbers were down, but they couldn't help themselves and we had a lot of PBJs and bologna and cheese.

Unexpectedly, the Food Pantry delivered chili, corn muffins, carrot sticks with dip and coleslaw, and a few loaves of banana bread with chocolate chips; Colby volunteers brought sandwiches, stir-fry with tofu, soups and various other things.

Given that the most number of people we’ve served since we reopened ESP three weeks ago was 17 and that we served only 9 people on one of the three days we were open, we thought...well, we thought we had too much food!

We were wrong! At the end of the hour, we’d served 36 people a total of 107 meals! This was encouraging given that our totals for the three weeks had been VERY LOW, i.e. 6, 9, 17.







Two people took meals for several people. We piled it on!

As it turned out there were still many PBJs left at the end of that day, but we did a great job of moving the bounty on! Maili Bailey

Services at a Glance

- December 6 The First Sunday Offering will be donated to Sustain Maine Coalition
Second Week of Advent
UU Principle: #3: Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
- Worship Leader: Rev. Katie Covey
Worship Associate: Linda Woods
- Center Stillness to Find Peace*
In this service, we will honor the way stillness helps us pay attention to the beauty and peace of the season. Stillness is a practice that helps us deal with feelings of being overwhelmed and helps us find our center. Katie will lead us in setting an intention for how we want to act, what we want to remember or how we want to treat others this Winter Holiday season.
- December 13 Third Week of Advent
UU Principle #3: Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
- Worship Leader: Reverend Al Boyce
Worship Associate: Peter Burgher
- Lessons from the Lady of Guadalupe this Holiday Season*
Our Lady of Guadalupe became the champion of our neighbors, our brothers and sisters to the nation south of us. She is the patron of Mexico. The sermon will address the story and hope found in this December religious tradition.
- December 20 Fourth Week of Advent
UU Principle #3: Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
- Worship Leader: Mark Jose
Worship Associate: Barbara Covey
- Blue Christmas*
Blue Christmas refers to the song that says, "I'll have a Blue Christmas without you." This service acknowledges that the December holidays are not all happiness and joy, and that for many people, grief about recent and even past losses are part of the holidays.
- December 24 6:00 Christmas Eve Service
Worship Leader: Reverend Nancee Campbell
Worship Associate: Dennis Perkins
- Readings, carols and a message of hope. Make sure to bring candles to your Zoom windows!
- December 27 UU Principle #4: A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- Worship Leader: Connie Winship
Worship Associate: Ray Winship
- Worship Committee Musings and Maneuverings*
No smoke-filled backroom deals revealed about the innerworkings of the Worship Committee, but rather a firsthand narrative of the types of challenges faced after March 2020 when COVID struck. Think resilience and resourcefulness. Think networking and getting up to speed with technology. Think a ton of hard work. Think a happy ending!

December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<p>1</p>  <p>11:00 – 1:00 Discussion Group FMI, contact Carolyn MacRae</p>	<p>2</p> <p>11:00 – 1:00 Arts and Crafts Group For more information, contact Rachel Marsh-Sachs</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:30 – 11:00 Men's Coffee For more information, contact Ray Winship</p> <p>6:30 – 8:00 Zoom Coffeehouse FMI, contact Harry Vayo</p>	<p>4</p> <p>11:00 – 1:00 Via Zoom</p> <p>Women's Group For more information, contact Rachel Marsh-Sachs</p>	<p>5</p> <p>2:00 – 3:00</p> <p>Virtual Memorial and Celebration of Life</p> <p>Meg Wickes</p>
<p>6</p> <p>Second Sunday of Advent</p> <p>10:00 Online Service Rev. Katie Covey <i>Center Stillness to Find Peace</i></p> <p>11:00 - 12:00 Virtual Coffee Hour</p>	7	<p>8</p> <p>11:00 – 1:00 Discussion Group FMI, contact Carolyn MacRae</p> <p>5:00 – 6:00 Worship Committee</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:00 12:00 Small Group Ministry Mark Jose</p> <p>11:00 – 1:00 Arts and Crafts Group For more information, contact Rachel Marsh-Sachs</p> <p>5:30 – 7:00 Board of Trustees</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:30 – 11:00 Men's Coffee For more information, contact Ray Winship</p> <p>6:30 – 8:00 Zoom Coffeehouse FMI, contact Harry Vayo</p>	<p>11</p> <p>11:00 – 1:00 Via Zoom</p> <p>Women's Group. For more information, contact Rachel Marsh-Sachs</p>	12
<p>13</p> <p>Third Sunday of Advent</p> <p>10:00 Online Service Rev. Al Boyce <i>Lessons from the Lady of Guadalupe this Holiday Season</i></p> <p>11:00 - 12:00 Virtual Coffee Hour</p>	14	<p>15</p> <p>11:00 – 1:00 Discussion Group FMI, contact Carolyn MacRae</p>	<p>16</p> <p>11:00 – 1:00 Arts and Crafts Group For more information, contact Rachel Marsh-Sachs</p> <p>1:00 – 2:00 Small Group Ministry Peter Burgher</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:30 – 11:00 Men's Coffee For more information, contact Ray Winship</p> <p>6:30 – 8:00 Zoom Coffeehouse FMI, contact Harry Vayo</p>	<p>18</p> <p>11:00 – 1:00 Via Zoom</p> <p>Women's Group For more information, contact Rachel Marsh-Sachs</p>	19
<p>20</p> <p>Fourth Week of Advent</p>  <p>10:00 Online Service Mark Jose <i>Blue Christmas</i></p> <p>11:00 12:00 Virtual Coffee Hour</p>	<p>21</p> 	<p>22</p> <p>11:00 – 1:00 Discussion Group FMI, contact Carolyn MacRae</p>	<p>23</p> <p>11:00 – 1:00 Arts and Crafts Group For more information, contact Rachel Marsh-Sachs</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:00 Christmas Eve Service Rev. Nancee Campbell</p> 	<p>25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Christmas</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>Kwanza</p> 
<p>27</p> <p>10:00 Online Service Connie Winship <i>Worship Committee Musings and Maneuverings</i></p> <p>11:00 - 12:00 Virtual Coffee Hour</p>	28	<p>29</p> <p>11:00 – 1:00 Discussion Group FMI, contact Carolyn MacRae</p>	<p>30</p> <p>11:00 – 1:00 Arts and Crafts Group For more information, contact Rachel Marsh-Sachs</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9:30 – 11:00 Men's Coffee For more information, contact Ray Winship</p> <p>6:30 – 8:00 Zoom Coffeehouse FMI, contact Harry Vayo</p>		