

March
2021

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
julep1027@yahoo.com

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

Beth Schiller, Administrative Director
uuvtvladm@gmail.com

Connie Winship, Point Editor
cwinship@roadrunner.com

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

“It’s an ill wind that blows nobody (to) any(when) good,” wrote John Heywood in 1546. Certainly, the first part of that quote that can be said of this awful pandemic that has cloaked our little earth in fear and darkness. It has been and continues to be an “ill wind” indeed: more than two million deaths worldwide, families unable to be with their elderly parents, small business owners who have seen the fruits of their struggles evaporate, children’s education delayed and their futures compromised, hundreds of thousands of families trying to decide between food, rent or heat; congregations who can’t sit, sing and worship in their sanctuaries. The list of “ills” seems endless.

And yet, as Heywood noted half a millennium ago, this same ill wind may be the impetus that drives us to truths and innovations we might not otherwise have discovered. One example alone might save millions of lives in future epidemics. Scientists have discovered how to create vaccines in record time — far faster than humankind has ever accomplished before. Another is the rapid adoption of communication technologies like Zoom that have allowed schools, businesses and churches to operate virtually and safely — a technique which is sure to have many more applications post-COVID .

Committee Members, Officers and Trustees

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VP: Rurik Spence 2021
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Clerk: Sarah Seder 2021
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Katie Clifford 2022
Trip Gander 2021
Sally Harwood 2022
Jon Rogers 2022
Beth Schiller 2021

Committees and Teams

Bookkeeper

Katrina Bouchard
katrinagoodrich@gmail.com

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
Ray Winship	Facebook

Evening Sandwich Pgm Board

Maili 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

Lisa Lichterfeld: Housekeeper
Maili 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

And perhaps a third hidden benefit is that this common disaster may make more evident to more people the inescapable truth of UU's 7th principle: that we are part of a worldwide web of existence to which we are all intimately connected. *Dennis Perkins*, for the Board of Trustees

From the Editor

Are you looking to try something new, something both fun and challenging? Something that gives you real-life opportunities to apply those mind-numbing grammar rules you learned as a child?

Well, here's the deal. Come this spring, we will need an editor for *The Point*! Interested persons need a computer (iPads do not work) and some rudimentary skill in using word processing programs. Good organization skills keep things running smoothly. It's a fun gig! You can negotiate your own package of perks! For more information, contact Connie Winship at cwinship@roadrunner.com.

ESP Heroes

A very special note of appreciation to volunteers Maili Bailey, Ann Paradis, Larry Dickey and Gwen Hawes, who in spite of COVID-19, have shown up faithfully each Tuesday since the Evening Sandwich Program re-opened in November. Thanks also to Larry and Maili who continue to make themselves available on Fridays to serve sandwiches made by St. Mark volunteers.

In my mind, the decision to volunteer knowing that you are potentially exposing yourself to COVID 19 is nothing short of heroic. And while every precaution is made to ensure the safety of ESP clients and volunteers, there is always some measure of risk. Understandably, most of ESP's cadre of veteran volunteers have withdrawn their names from the master schedule as their ages and underlying medical issues put them at higher risk for infection.

ESP is grateful for the generosity of these volunteers without whose sustained efforts ESP would have been discontinued until a later date. *Connie Winship*: ESP Board member.

Worship Committee Report

One year ago, the Worship Committee took on the unexpected assignment of providing weekly services remotely since it was no longer safe to hold services in our sanctuary. For the first few months, the members of the committee (initially Luke and family) produced services by taping segments — message, music, welcome, announcements and so on — separately and then splicing and editing the segments together to make a small movie, which was then uploaded to the church website where members could enjoy it at their leisure. Visiting ministers and musicians were all great sports in accommodating to this new form of worship. (You can check out the archive on the church website to review some of these early services. They are a treasure!)

After a time, however, the amount of technical work required in segment recording and then movie-making became too much and so was born at UUC Waterville its first Zoom service. Again the ministers and musicians showed great bravery: unlike in the recorded segments, mistakes on Zoom cannot be erased and done over. The Worship Committee after the first Zoom service was thrilled. Although still virtual, these services with each of our smiling faces beaming from our Zoom apartment windows felt more vibrant, more like our sanctuary services.

Apparently the congregation agreed. For many weeks now over the last 10 months, we have had 60 or more attendees and the excitement and joy exhibited during Greeting Neighbors and Coffee Hour has been gratifying, not to mention the fun of having snowbird friends from the Carolinas, Georgia, Florida, and even Hawaii join us! Many thanks for your faithful attendance.

Stewardship Committee

As you read this, we are a little more than three-quarters through our 2021-22 pledge drive. If you have not yet returned your pledge cards, please do so promptly. The Finance Committee uses the results of the drive to plan the budget for presentation at annual meeting and for the operation of the church during the fiscal year to come. Your support and generosity make the Universalist Unitarian Church of Waterville possible. The final report will appear in the April

Religious Education

Margrit Thomas, Director

Small Group MinistryPeter Burgher
Mark Jose**Stewardship Committee**Allane Ball
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**Beth Schiller: Webmaster
Rurik Spence: IT Administrator**Worship Committee**Jim Evans
Caroline Gander
Karen Kusiak
Sarah Michaud: Co-chair
Dennis Perkins: Co-chair
Connie Winship
Ray Winship**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**

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

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Evening Sandwich Program

ESP applied for and received a grant for a new door for Averill Parlors. The grant was from Good Shepherd Food Bank and covers the cost of building the new door with a big window so volunteers can see safely outside. The church will pay for the installation of the door.

ESP is open on Tuesday and Friday from 3:00 - 4:00 pm. As always, ESP could use jams/jellies and brown shopping bags with handles. *Sue Morrill*, President Evening Sandwich Program

(This space left intentionally blank. Newsletter continues on p.4)

Who's that UU ~~sitting in the pew?~~ sitting on the Piano Bench?



Demographics: Anna Beth Rynders

My last name is my Dutch mother's maiden name. I live in Waterville, 1.8 miles from the church, near Washington Street.

I've held church organist and choir director positions since age 15, as well as jobs that pay the rent, like 17 years of federal service as contract negotiator. I retired in 2019 from Colby's Music Department after 25 years, during which I taught two of your organists, i.e., Sam and Stacy!

What brought you to the UU Church? When I moved into my condo, my next-door neighbor was Pam Thompson, who invited me to attend services with you when I could (I was employed at another church). I liked the friendly and open-minded atmosphere here, so when Stacey left as keyboardist, I applied for the job.

What keeps you coming back? Well, being employed here helps! But if I wasn't, I would still come, because I've found a spiritual home here, as well as being impressed by the cooperation and active participation of so many in worship and lay leadership.

What's a UU Principle that you are thinking about right now and how is it relevant in your life?

#7, Respect for the interdependent web of all existence. It completely changed my understanding of what "God" may be, and increased my awareness of what we have in our common humanity; how all things fit together.

What's something you have learned/are learning about? I'm learning to let go of unhappy memories and old resentments or perceived offenses. It is easier now to not worry about the future, but be aware of, and thankful for, the dozens of blessings, kindnesses and joys that each day brings, from all kinds of sources!

by *Katie Clifford*

From the Editor: Thank you to Anna Beth for her role in helping to select the hymns each week, and for leading us in song so that we can sing as a congregation even though we are physically apart; our heartfelt appreciation to her and everyone else through whose efforts we now use a split screen as a high-tech hymnal.

How to contact members of the Board and Trustees

Officers	Trustees
President: Dennis Perkins julep1027@yahoo.com	Elyse Apantaku emapantaku@gmail.com
Vice President: Rurik Spence rurik.spence@gmail.com	Katie Clifford clifford.katiemae@gmail.com
Treasurer: Allane Ball allaneball@gmail.com	Trip Gander tripgander@gmail.com
Clerk: Sarah Seder sseder@roadrunner.com	Sally Harwood harwood8350@roadrunner.com
Collector: Marilyn Wheeler mwhee64@gmail.com	Jon Rogers sebasticook53@gmail.com
	Beth Schiller schillb@colby.edu

UU Singers and Musicians

Our church musicians have proven very resourceful in meeting the challenges imposed by the pandemic. Unable to safely gather in person, the UU Singers have gone virtual, providing prerecorded music for one service each month. Several other musicians have generously sung or played special music, either recorded or live via Zoom. Our steadfast organist Anna Beth Rynders has continued to play the church organ and piano. Each Sunday she provides prelude, postlude, and more recently hymns with screen-shared lyrics. The church has purchased a special microphone which has noticeably enhanced the sound quality of the organ and piano. Thanks to all singers and instrumentalists who have stepped outside their comfort zone to enhance our virtual services with beautiful music!

Harry Vayo

One Year Anniversary of Virtual Services

March

15th marks the one-year anniversary of our church offering virtual online services. It happened overnight, literally. Jerry Saint Amand was scheduled to lead the service on March 15, but the Board had voted the day before to cancel all on-site services based upon the recommendations of the UUA and the CDC. We did not know it then, but canceling the on-site March 15 service would be the first of many adaptations the church would undertake in the weeks ahead.

Most people never imagined that we would be participating in online services a year later. And yet here we are.

Some history.

Between March 2020 and March of this year, online services were led by seven ministers (see below). Additionally, there were 10 lay persons (our own folks who prepared their services from start to finish) and 10 Faith Rocket services (services prepared by UU ministers whose orders of worship are available for a fee to members). Finally, there was a shared service with a minister in Massachusetts and two services with a “virtual guest in your pulpit” from Colorado.

Rev. Pam Barz (Massachusetts) (2x)

Rev. Al Boyce (4x)

Rev. Nancee Campbell (11x)

Rev. Marti Garrison (1x)

Rev. Sarah Gillespie (4x)

Rev. Twinkle Manning (3x)

Rev. Carl Shesler (1x)

There have been unexpected pluses of going online. Folks who served as worship leaders or associates did so in the privacy of their homes rather than in front of a large group in a formal church setting; in doing so, they gained confidence speaking before a large group, even though they were home. Given the opportunity to ease in this way rather than “go for broke” from a pulpit, folks developed a comfort level that they did not previously have. Perhaps their new-found confidence will make it more likely they will volunteer again when we are back inside the church, particularly if the service is a Faith Rocket service where all parts of the service are provided.

Children likewise were more likely to volunteer to take part in a virtual service given that they too could do their part from the security of home. The occasional drop-in of pets added to the poignancy! What fun it was to listen to these kids sing alongside their parents, read the Story for all Ages or play their instruments! Similarly, how moving to see grandparents read to their grandkids. Priceless.

Zoom enabled us to participate in services with friends and members from a myriad of states, notably Hawaii, Wisconsin, Colorado, Georgia, North Carolina and Florida. Guests, even complete strangers, joined us at times and their voices were heard during Special Music. Some stayed for Coffee Hour.

Presently between 55-65 people attend virtual services each week which is approximately the number who were attending before COVID -19 when we had onsite services. *Connie Winship*: Worship Committee

Services at a Glance

March 7 Worship Leader: Katie Covey
 Worship Associate: Karen Kusiak

What is the "Personality" of Our Faith?

Have you ever thought about our faith as having a certain character? It wouldn't be that of "Javert," the one-track-minded policeman in *Les Miserables*. What about "Pippin Took," the mischievous and curious hobbit in *Lord of the Rings*?

We need to understand the personality of our faith in order to grow and mature as a faith. Join me in reflecting on our UU personality by looking at two of the traits that make us Unitarian Universalist: a commitment to change and a commitment to curiosity.

March 14 Faith Rocket service (by Lissa Anne Gundlach)
 Worship Leader: Sally Harwood
 Worship Associate: Sue Morrill

Beauty as Well as Bread

This service speaks of the importance of food to nourish us, while at the same time poignantly emphasizing the need for beauty to nourish us.

March 21 Worship Leader: Rev. Marti Garrison
 Worship Associate: Caroline Gander

Like trees planted by streams of water

Sunday's contemplation includes excerpts from Psalm 1 and Rilke's poem "Gravity's Law." We will consider how we might "rise up rooted, like trees."

March 28 Worship Leader: Rev. Nancee Campbell
 Worship Associate: Margrit Thomas

April Fool's Day: The Joke's on us

The lesser holiday of April Fool's Day can go unnoticed, but it could be a time for creative understanding when considering life's circumstances these days.

March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 3:00 – 4:00 Evening Sandwich Program 11:00 – 1:00 Discussion Group Contact Carolyn MacRae (carolynrmae@gmail.com) for sign-in instructions	3 11:00 – 1:00 Arts and Crafts Group For more information, contact uwtvladm@gmail.com	4 9:30 – 11:00 Men's Coffee Contact Ray Winship rwinship@roadrunner.com 6:30 – 8:00 Zoom Coffeehouse For more information, go to vayowoods@live.com	5 11:00 – 1:00 Women's Group For more information, contact uwtvladm@gmail.com 3:00 – 4:00 Evening Sandwich Program	6
7 First Sunday Donation: Waterville Area Habitat for Humanity 10:00 Online Service Katie Covey <i>What is the 'Personality' of Our Faith?</i> 11:00 - 12:00 Virtual Coffee Hour	8	9 11:00 – 1:00 Discussion Group Contact Carolyn MacRae (carolynrmae@gmail.com) for sign-in instructions 3:00 – 4:00 Evening Sandwich Program 5:00 – 6:00 Worship Committee	10 10:00 – 12:00 Small Group Ministry with Mark Jose 5:30 – 7:00 Board of Trustees 11:00 – 1:00 Arts and Crafts Group For more information, contact uwtvladm@gmail.com	11 9:30 – 11:00 Men's Coffee Contact Ray Winship rwinship@roadrunner.com 6:30 – 8:00 Zoom Coffeehouse For more information, go to vayowoods@live.com	12 11:00 – 1:00 Women's Group. For more information, contact uwtvladm@gmail.com 3:00 – 4:00 Evening Sandwich Program	13
14  10:00 Online Service <i>Beauty as Well as Bread</i> Faith Rocket service 11:00 - 12:00 Virtual Coffee Hour	15	16 11:00 – 1:00 Discussion Group Contact Carolyn MacRae (carolynrmae@gmail.com) for sign-in instructions 3:00 – 4:00 Evening Sandwich Program	17 11:00 – 1:00 Arts and Crafts Group For more information, contact uwtvladm@gmail.com 1:00 – 2:00 Small Group Ministry With Peter Burgher	18 St. Patrick's Day 9:30 – 11:00 Men's Coffee Contact Ray Winship rwinship@roadrunner.com 6:30 – 8:00 Zoom Coffeehouse For more information, go to vayowoods@live.com	19 11:00 – 1:00 Women's Group For more information, contact uwtvladm@gmail.com 3:00 – 4:00 Evening Sandwich Program	20
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