



## MINISTER'S MESSAGE



### OUR MISSION

To be a spiritual community,  
To welcome all,  
To nurture one another,  
To work for justice,  
And to care for the earth.

### STAFF

Rev. Dr. Kharma Amos  
*Minister*

Rev. Sylvia Stocker  
*Minister Emerita*

Toben Cooney-Callnan  
*Lifelong Spiritual Formation Director*

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Rev. Kharma Amos, Minister

Office Hours: Tues-Fri, 10-4

### Two Things, briefly

Dear Ones,

We are entering into the final month of the calendar year, the days of lengthening dark and frostier window-panes. The world continues to rotate and revolve slowly and deliberately, even when it may seem to some of us like everything is uncertain. There are two things that I want to call your attention to in this final newsletter of 2024.

1. We need one another. We need to community. Always, and perhaps more than ever, we need one another and we need community. Our theme for this month is the *Practice of Presence*, and I appreciate that this is where the bar is—not top of class, not savior of the world, simply “present.” Who and what do you need to show up for right now? What needs to be cleared so that you can show up and be truly present for those most important of people/creatures and occasions? December is often a busy time of year when it’s difficult to stay on top of all the requests, meetings, parties, obligations, chores, and unplanned surprises that life has in store. What would it mean for you to prepare yourself for those things (or decline some of them!) with the hope that you could simply bring your fullest self to simply be fully there in those moments and experience life? How might the practice of presence change how you experience this season? This is a great opportunity to try it out! And, let us know what you discover!
2. From time to time, I like to remind you that I have a monthly column in the Brunswick Times Record called *Spirit of Life*. This month, I’d like to point you to it because I haven’t had a chance to share directly with you about my experience on election day (or what it meant to me), nor what I have taken away from my first presential election in Maine. If you go to <https://www.uubrunswick.org/people/from-our-ministers/rev-kharma-spirit-of-life/>, the first entry should be my column from November 22.

I am so grateful for this spiritual community. You and your commitments to our shared values inspire me and give me hope. Whatever lies ahead, I am glad to be in this community to face whatever the future brings with purpose and meaning.

Blessings,  
Kharma



## SERVICES IN DECEMBER

### Monthly Theme: The Practice of Presence

#### **Sun., Dec. 1st The Presents of Presence**

Led by Rev Dr. Kharma Amos, Music by Will Bristol and the UUCB Choir

Our monthly theme for December is the Practice of Presence, and we'll be diving right into the heart of things by discussing the tremendous gift that our simple presence can be for others. Especially when things are difficult, the simple gift (i.e. present) of "being with" someone can often be enough. Sometimes in fact, presence can be everything. Let's remember how we might be called to practice presence in this final month of the year, and always. (Note: This is the first Sunday of Advent)

#### **Sun., Dec 8th The Presence of Dark and Light**

Led by Rev. Dr. Kharma Amos, Music by Will Bristol and the Highlands Chorale

In this season of shifting light, let's reflect on the values of both darkness and light for our spiritual journeys. It's not the solstice yet (soon!), but this is the time to make ourselves ready to welcome it mindfully, with Presence. The Highlands Chorale, under the direction of our own Will Bristol, will be sharing music for this service.

#### **Weds., Dec. 11th- 6 pm Blue Holidays: the Presence of Absence**

Led by Rev. Dr. Kharma Amos and Pastoral Care Associates, Music by Jill Sherer (Harp)



Blue Holidays is a gentle, contemplative service for those who are having a difficult time getting to the "joy" that is such a Hallmark (pun intended) of this season. If you are carrying pain or grief during this season of celebration, if you find this to be a difficult season or a reminder of loss or challenging times, or if you are simply burdened by the weight of the world's grief, this service is for you. Hosted and led by the Pastoral Care Associates, our service will include readings, songs, a candle lighting liturgy, and opportunities for reflection on how to manage the feelings that arise during this busy and often complicated time. Music provided by Jill Sherer (harp). The service will be followed by time to share cookies, coffee, tea, and cocoa, as well as to engage in conversation with pastoral care associates and others in a relaxed fashion.

#### **Sun., Dec. 15th Strangers, Immigrants, Angels: The Presence of the Holy**

Led by Rev. Dr. Kharma Amos, Music by Will Bristol and friends

In the midst of rising white Christian nationalism, let's take a moment to pay attention to one of the core lessons of the Christmas (and Christian) narrative. Namely, that when searching for signs of the holy, one is better off looking not to places of power, but rather to the most vulnerable among us. The immigrant, the stranger, the poor, the outcast, the rejected ... these are the ones in the center of the Christmas story ... and might that also be the case now? NOTE: We will be participating in our Mitten Tree Ritual this Sunday, led by our Children and Youth

#### **Sun., Dec. 22nd Struggling to Stay Present? You're not alone**

Led by Rev. Dr. Kharma Amos, Music by Will Bristol and the UUCB Intergenerational Orchestra

On this final Sunday of the Advent season, our Intergenerational Orchestra will provide our music for this service focused on the context for many of our seasonal celebrations--being together in community. Let's reflect on some wisdom for staying present amidst the chaos of a very full holiday season (not to mention a troubled world)

## SERVICES IN DECEMBER

### Monthly Theme: The Practice of Presence

#### Tues., Dec. 24th (5 pm) Christmas Eve - Family Service



Music by Will Bristol and friends

Join us for Christmas Eve at 5 pm for a service designed for children and families (featuring a no-rehearsal pageant). As we hear again the well-known story of the birth of Jesus -- an incarnation of divine love, let us ponder how we can ready ourselves for the new incarnations of holy love and light so desperately needed in our world today.

#### Tues., Dec. 24th (7 pm) Christmas Eve - UU Traditional Service



Music by Will Bristol and the UUCB Choir

Join us for Christmas Eve at 7 pm for our traditional service (featuring the choir). As we hear again the well-known story of the birth of Jesus -- an incarnation of divine love, let us ponder how we can ready ourselves for the new incarnations of holy love and light so desperately needed in our world today.

#### Sun., Dec. 29th - a service led by the UUCB Worship Committee

Music by Will Bristol and friends

Join us as we share music, readings, and stories to inspire strength and hope for the new year.

## MITTEN TREE SUNDAY – SHARE YOUR WARMTH



Our annual Mitten Tree celebration will be on **Sunday, December 15**. This is our chance to provide new mittens, hats, scarves and socks to warm people in our area this coming winter. All donations will be given to local charities

who will distribute them to those needing help. New items for all ages will be greatly appreciated. We'll decorate our tree during the service and give them away the following week.

## BABIES BORN IN 2024 – LET US KNOW!



Has your family welcomed a new baby in 2024? At UUCB it is our custom to light a candle on Christmas Eve for each baby born into a family in our congregation during the year. Parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents, please email the full name of the baby, birthdate, photo, and who they are related to in our congregation so that we can light a Christmas Eve candle in their honor. Send email to the church office at [administrator@uubrunswick.org](mailto:administrator@uubrunswick.org) by **Friday, December 13**.

## PARKING DURING SUNDAY SERVICES

The owner of the Brunswick Business Center, which is the office building across Pleasant Street from UUCB, will allow members of our church to park at his building during Sunday services. This includes all parking spaces painted and signed as 'Reserved' including those signed for the Bank of America.



## CHRISTMAS EVE POINSETTIA ORDERS

### TIME TO ORDER POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

It is a UUCB tradition for members and friends to purchase poinsettia plants to grace the sanctuary for our Christmas Eve service.



Poinsettias are often given in memory of or to honor special people or life events.

These statements are printed in the Order of Service on Christmas Eve.

We will order and pick up the plants, and decorate the sanctuary. You can take your poinsettias home after the Christmas Eve service to grace your home.

*Note: Please take your poinsettia with you after the Christmas Eve service, or have a friend take it for you if you won't be there. Due to the difficulty of caring for these plants, all poinsettias left in the church after the Christmas Eve service will be donated to a local health care facility.*

### HOW TO ORDER

Complete the order form below and submit order form and payment to the Church office by Wednesday, December 11 at 5:00pm. Payment can be cash or check (payable to UUCB)

### HOW TO GET FORMS AND PAYMENT TO THE OFFICE

- Mailing the order and payment to UUCB PO Box 129, Brunswick ME 04011
- Drop it by the Church Office Tuesday-Friday, 10am-4pm
- Put the order form and payment in the mail slot outside the church office.

Poinsettias Pot Size	QUANTITY/COLOR			TOTAL
	Red	White	Pink	
6 in pot (4-6 blooms) @ 12.99 each				
7.5 in pot (9-12 blooms) @ 23.99 each				

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(as you want it to appear in the Order Or Service)

**MESSAGE for the Order Of Service::**

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## DECEMBER EVENTS

### CIRCLE DINNER – CHRISTMAS DAY



Would you like to share Christmas Dinner with your friends at UUCB? Judy Strano is hosting a dinner at the church on Christmas day, Wednesday, December 25. The format will be planned potluck, with participants signing up for specific dishes. More information and sign-up sheets will be at the Visitor's Table on Sundays, or you can contact Judy Strano, (732) 320-6093, judystrano@gmail.com .

The Circle Christmas Dinner was a lovely event last year. You are welcome to come and enjoy the holiday and fellowship. Thanks to Judy for offering this dinner again.

Come together to remember lives lost to gun violence

We join other locations nationwide recognizing  
victims & survivors of gun violence

## December 14, 2024

Doors open at 1:30pm

Opening words at 2:00pm



**UU Church of Brunswick**  
**One Middle Street**

Hosted by:



### UPDATE ON SMALL GROUP MINISTRY FROM *TASTE & SEE* From Rev. Lucy Ijams

#### *Chalice Circles Returning in January*

*Taste & See* brought a lovely group of people to the table for soup, salad, bread, and conversation. After an explanation of the evolution of UU small group ministry, some new, relatively new, and seasoned UUs sampled three abbreviated sessions of small group ministry from Soul Matters, UU Wellspring, and Chalice Circles. Before people departed, they kindly gave Lifelong Spiritual Formation Director Toben Cooney-Callnan and I their feedback and survey responses about their preferences. **The number one choice, Chalice Circles, are returning and set to begin meeting the second week of January (12th -19th).**

Chalice Circles are created to foster friendships as individuals share thoughts and feelings about a variety of spiritual topics. Spirituality can be defined as anything that helps us make meaning of universal human experiences such as love and loss, growing and learning, having fun and working, joys and pains, belonging and alienation, oppression and liberation, thriving and failing.

The Circles will meet in person, or by video conference, once or twice per month January through June. Most meetings are for two hours. Information about how to register to be in a group will be presented soon. Meanwhile, save a date in the second week of January.

## DECEMBER EVENTS

### WHITE MEN FOR RACIAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SESSION

If the most recent election was anything, it was a stark reminder of how much work we need to do as a country. Doing this work alone is hard. It is much more impactful and meaningful to do it in community.

**Join us at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick on Sunday, December 8 at 3pm for an information session on White Men for Racial Justice.**

White Men for Racial Justice (WMRJ) is a national community of YES, white men, who believe in an America where everyone feels valued and has access to equitable resources to reach their full potential.

WMRJ works in community to create an America in which everyone thrives: rural, urban, and suburban; wealthy, poor, and middle class; White, Black, and every beautiful shade in between.

This session will introduce you to WMRJ and some of the community members based here in Maine. It will be an interactive session, so we ask that you **please register in advance** at <https://forms.gle/9yXoDGFEahYptTLc8>.

Or scan the QR Code to the right with your phone camera to go to the registration page.

We also encourage you to invite a friend. The more the merrier!

For more information about WMRJ please visit [www.wmrj.org](http://www.wmrj.org).

If you have any questions, please reach out to Jeremy Litchfield at [run4themiracle@gmail.com](mailto:run4themiracle@gmail.com).

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*P.S. In the WMRJ community, we agree that people are more than any single racial, gender, class, or other identity. And we also know that being White and male shapes our experiences of the world, and others' experiences of us. It's complicated. White men need to do our own work to show up with more confidence, skill, and consistency in the work with others to create an America where everyone can thrive.*

*If you do not identify as being a White male and are looking for other communities to get involved, please reach out to Jeremy at [run4themiracle@gmail.com](mailto:run4themiracle@gmail.com). He is happy to share information on other communities.*



Scan the QR Code above to go to registration page.



## UUCB Holiday Fair

Saturday, December 7, 2024 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

The Holiday Fair is almost here! The community has once again wonderfully pulled together, and many elves are busy. The church will be festive, colorful, busy, music-filled, and fun. What a day it will be!

Please spread the word. Come join in the fun!  
A really big thank you to Ev-er-y -one!

Lisa Durrell [edurr13@aol.com](mailto:edurr13@aol.com)

### **VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SHEETS**

**Sign-up sheets** will be put out after church on December 1st:

Questions? Ann Gardner [anngardner22@gmail.com](mailto:anngardner22@gmail.com)

**DONATIONS DATES FOR WHITE ELEPHANTS and USED TOOLS** in green below: (For donation times for other departments, see below.)

Signs in lobby will indicate where to leave items.

**WEEK OF DECEMBER 3.**

Tuesday, December 3, 10-4

Wednesday, December 4, 10-4

Thursday, December 5, 10-7

Friday, December 6, 10-12. Note noon cut-off to allow time for pricing/display

### **CAFÉ**

Contribute a potful, eat it for lunch at the Fair, and bring it home in quantity! This year's cafe will feature real bowls of hot soup to eat on site as well as cold soup to take home for dinner or freeze for later. New this year: if you're a soup-maker, we ask that you choose a recipe from one of six favorites (a range from vegan through chowder and chili) that we'll provide when you sign-up. We also need kitchen workers, servers, and cashiers to help the day go smoothly. It's a great way to get to know a few people better!

**SOUP DONATIONS:** Preferred: Sat., Dec. 7 (Fair Day). 8-10AM

Or Fri., Dec. 6. 3-5 PM (Overnight refrigerator space for only a few.)

Questions? Cindy Parker [cindyparker48@gmail.com](mailto:cindyparker48@gmail.com) Peg Duston [pegduston@gmail.com](mailto:pegduston@gmail.com)

### **CRAFTS**

**CRAFT DONATIONS: LEAVE IN THE OFFICE**

**TUES.-FRI. 10-4 THE FIRST WEEK OF DECEMBER.**

Questions? Betsy Williams ([bwilliams120@gmail.com](mailto:bwilliams120@gmail.com)) or Rebecca Waddle ([rebecca.waddleis@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.waddleis@gmail.com)).



### **EATS AND TREATS—EATS AND TREATS AND MORE!**

The table of goodies! You'll find an idea list with the Sign-up Sheets. From sweets to jellies to pickles. How about your family's favorite cookies?

**DONATIONS: Non-perishables—during the pre-Fair week (See above.)**

**Perishables –Friday, Dec. 6th until 7:00 PM**

Apron queries? See Donna T.

Questions? Penny Elwell. [pennyelwell@yahoo.com](mailto:pennyelwell@yahoo.com) Gretchen Kamilewicz. [gkamilewicz@gmail.com](mailto:gkamilewicz@gmail.com) Leigh Parenteau. [leigh763@yahoo.com](mailto:leigh763@yahoo.com) Donna Tompkins [donnatompkins@comcast.net](mailto:donnatompkins@comcast.net)

### **GREETERS**

The welcoming face of the fair for visitors! You will receive an email with details from Susan Babb.

Questions: Susan Babb [esbabb@gmail.com](mailto:esbabb@gmail.com)

### **JEWELRY**

Earrings, bracelets, necklaces, tie tacks, and more!

**DONATIONS: Pre Dec. 3, Your gently used costume jewelry can be left in the box on Membership Table until Dec. 1; afterwards in the jewelry room.**

Questions? Lisa Durrell [edurr13@aol.com](mailto:edurr13@aol.com) Adair DeLamater [adairdelamater@gmail.com](mailto:adairdelamater@gmail.com)

### **TABLES ( the placing of just the furniture) SET-UP**

9:00-10:30 AM Tues., Dec. 3

### **TOOLS REMINDER**

Hand tools or electric powered (no gas powered)

Working condition

**DONATION TIMES: SEE LIST AT TOP OF PAGE 6**

### **WHITE ELEPHANTS**

The WE Room is always filled with an amazing, eclectic assortment of things needing new homes. Once again, we will have an area devoted to holiday decorations and another to children's toys and puzzles. The books we will be collecting are of these genres: your summer reads, cookbooks, gardening books, children's, and mysteries.

Please NO clothes, or computers /electronics, or holiday lights, or textbooks.

**Be sure donations are clean and intact.**

**If you have a table you could loan WE, please contact Mary or Erika.**

**DONATION TIMES: SEE LIST AT TOP OF PAGE 6**

Questions? Mary Larson [larsonmbrun@gmail.com](mailto:larsonmbrun@gmail.com) Erika McKenney [egmckenney@gmail.com](mailto:egmckenney@gmail.com)

### **WREATHS: WREATH MAKING**

**Wreath Making- Sunday, December 1 after church. Sign up**

Contact Robin Hansen [robinoh@comcast.net](mailto:robinoh@comcast.net) Penny Elwell [pennyelwell@yahoo.com](mailto:pennyelwell@yahoo.com)

**Questions? Lisa Durrell, [edurr13@aol.com](mailto:edurr13@aol.com)**



# From the Lifelong Spiritual Formation Director (LSFD)

## ACCOMPLICES NEEDED



Toben Cooney-Callnan

Last week I had the absolute privilege of attending a retreat for trans UU professionals. Over forty-five trans UU professionals came together from all over the country (and at least one person came from Canada) for an opportunity to support one another in our

identities and in our work. At dinner during the opening night of the retreat I realized that I had never knowingly been in a room with so many trans (never mind trans UU) people at once. The realization was overwhelmingly affirming. I'm used to being one of only representatives of the trans community that people know. I am used to being the only trans voice in most conversations, used to squeaking by silently when I don't want to be the only trans voice in a conversation. From what I heard in personal shares throughout the retreat, the same is true for many of the folks that I was on retreat with. We weren't the only group staying at the resort that we had booked but, among the forty-five of us, there were so many different presentations of gender that I forgot to worry about standing out in a crowd. I let my mannerisms be as masculine or as flamboyant as the moment called for IN PUBLIC and I loved it. It's a powerful thing - not being alone.

On the second night of the retreat, a bunch of us joined together in the chapel at First UU San Diego for a Trans Day of Remembrance service. A few people who (understandably) weren't up for a service that mourned the lives of trans people, went back to the resort. As we were singing our closing hymn, I counted - there were thirty-four of us - the same number of candles we had just lit. I can't claim to know why some people live and some people die but I do know that I owe my life to the trans people who came before me, the trans people who walked beside me as I was coming out, and to our allies and accomplices. I'd imagine that the same is true for most of the forty-five of us on retreat. Around the time that I came out as trans, Judy Shepard, founder and president of the Matthew Shepard Foundation, came to my school and talked to us about LGBTQIA+ rights. She told us that, by definition, marginalized people cannot fight oppression alone, that we needed allies to join us in the

fight. At face value, it was an obvious statement but it hit me deep in my gut. It's a powerful thing - not being alone.

Shortly after the recent election, I witnessed a lot of fear. People talked about their worries for immigrants and trans people. And, I get it, this upcoming change of power will deepen the normalization of oppression of certain marginalized communities and that is super scary. But, most of the people who I heard talking about "how bad it's going to be" weren't trans or otherwise marginalized. Those people weren't safe by any means but they were not at the level of direct risk as most marginalized people in this country. As a person who (with a little policing of my more flamboyant qualities) can pass as a cis white male, it's really tempting to just squeak by silently so that I don't get noticed as the only trans voice in a conversation. The same can not be said for many of the people who I was on

retreat with. Activist Lilla Watson is quoted as saying, "If you come here to help me, you're wasting your time. If you come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together." The liberation of all trans people is bound together and I cannot afford to be silent. As a trans person in Maine, I am currently safer than trans people in most other states because Maine legislation has put protections in place for trans people. I am obligated to speak for the trans people who are unable to do so because they do not have the same privilege of safety that I do.

It's a powerful thing - not being alone

I am grateful that so many people attended the Trans Day of Remembrance service but, if you look at the adult anti Trans Legislative Risk Assessment Map created by trans journalist Erin Reed, you might begin to suspect that attending a trans memorial service organized by queer people isn't enough. We need accomplices - people who realize that their "liberation is bound up with mine" who use their privilege and power to challenge systems that oppress marginalized groups. You don't need permission from a trans person to learn about trans organizations (in Maine and beyond). You don't have to be trans to join a trans organization's mailing list. You don't have to be trans to read books or blogs by trans authors. You certainly don't have to be trans to Google "how to be an accomplice for the LGBTQIA+ community"- and maybe that's a good enough place to begin.

Toben Cooney-Callnan

## A Note from the Music Director



Will Bristol, Music Director

**A**lthough cliché—I often think, this time of year, of the scenario of a guest asking what they can bring to a holiday gathering. The host says something like, “your presence is enough.” Although often an exchange of platitudes on the part of both parties, I wonder what it would be like to take at least the core of this message to heart. For the host—what would it be like to truly feel that the presence of another is great enough to negate a need for material things? For the guest—what would it be like to exist in knowing that their own presence is this precious?

Despite this busy month of December, I invite you to feel how your presence is essential to any musical experience at UUCB. As a sort of host of many musical groups, I always feel that participants’ presence is more valuable regardless of the performative outcome of a given musical moment. What would it be like for you to honor your own presence in

these moments more than you already are, and to realize that it is special **no matter the outcome of the moment?**

Here are some musical group happenings in the month of December—besides choir rehearsals and offerings—which are open to all:

**Recorder ensemble rehearsal**—Sunday December 1st following worship service

**Intergenerational orchestra rehearsal**—Sunday December 8th following worship service

**Intergenerational orchestra rehearsal**—Sunday December 15th following worship service

**Community Caroling**—Sunday December 15th 4pm-5pm

**Intergenerational orchestra rehearsal/offering**—Sunday December 22nd at 9am and offering during service at 10am

**4th Sunday All-Stars**—Sunday December 29th at 9am and offering during service at 10am

You can also email me at [music-director@uubrunswick.org](mailto:music-director@uubrunswick.org) for more information on any of these happenings.

Looking far ahead now—on Saturday, January 18th from 2-3:30pm, a friend of mine is coming to give a **workshop on drumming**. His presence will provide those attending with more rhythmical vocabulary in an easy-to-learn kind of way which can then be applied at drumming circles. If you find yourself, like me, sometimes at a loss for imagining new rhythms or tones you might create with an African drum, then this would be a good workshop to attend. Donations of \$15 per person will be welcomed for this event at the door. A sign up to the event can be found here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/15YJyRniEbC4pHRnOt4hLwNDXHp76LpShwfmIAv38A6o/prefill>

You can also email me at [music-director@uubrunswick.org](mailto:music-director@uubrunswick.org) to sign up.

Best,  
Will



## From the Board of Trustees



**A**s we look ahead to the holidays and the joy that we find in family and friends, I also look back at a very difficult month and wonder at the profound differences among us. We remind ourselves of the many things we share, of our belief in the power of love. We have found comfort in the support we offer each other and the deep commitment we all make to peace and justice.

As we have pointed out in previous Messengers, the Board is working to identify the steps it must take to engage the congregation in finding solutions to our crowded sanctuary, our “bounty of people”. What a wonderful problem to have. The Board has already begun to reach out to the congregation as well as the UUA for ideas and, perhaps, steps we can take to accommodate our growing numbers. We are mindful that there are potential risks as well as successes in this effort; we want to be able to welcome all who wish to be here, and for everyone to feel comfortable and safe. You will be seeing and hearing more about this in the coming weeks and months.

There is much going on in this church, ranging from our excellent Concerts for a Cause, the delightful Murder at the Pie Auction (who knew the talent we have among us?), the art gallery with so many pieces from our own members and friends (again, such talent!), and a variety of fun and serious events that are part of our holiday traditions.

Our annual Holiday Fair is nearly upon us. Every Sunday provides an opportunity to participate in the preparation, planning, and signing-up going on in the back of the sanctuary and in the May Sarton Room. Be sure December 7 is in your calendar. Lisa Durrell has entertained us with her reminders and assurances that the elves will be ready for the crowds that morning (and afternoon). Let’s make this a wonderfully successful event.

So much of what happens at UUCB is possible because volunteers help make it so: helping with our young people and families in the Lifelong Spiritual Formation program, our amazing choir, the committees which form the backbone of the church, coffee hour, ushers and greeters, Sacred Ground, and so much more. This commitment to UUCB extends into all aspects of our church community and the greater community within which we flourish.

Finally, we recognize that none of this would be possible without the commitment our members and friends make to supporting the work of this congregation, and we honor our staff and the wonderful work they do to engage and lead this spiritual community into the present and the future.

With deepest respect,  
Joel Austin, Member, Board of Trustees

## WHAT IS THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY?

The Committee on Ministry provides support to Rev. Kharma Amos and to the larger ministry of the church, promoting growth and healthy relationships within the congregation. The Committee is charged with observing and assessing the conduct and progress of the larger ministry to meet the church mission. This year we worked on gathering input for Kharma's application for full fellowship status. We meet with Rev. Kharma monthly. We discuss and offer input on many aspects of ministry. You may connect with us on issues relevant to the shared ministry of our church. Our members are: Irene Austin, Cathey Cyrus, Penny Elwell, Carol Evans and Tom Rumpf.



Congrats to Rev. Dr. Kharma Amos on gaining full Fellowship status!

# From the Communications Committee

## PARISH MESSENGER SURVEY RESULTS



Thanks to the 55 people who responded to the survey conducted by the Communications Committee as a means to assess congregational opinions about the *Parish Messenger*.

**We wanted to know how important it is to continue producing the document and, if we do, what changes would readers like to see?**

- 87% of respondents indicated that they do read the Messenger, while 13% indicated that they do not.
- While a few people prefer to read a printed paper copy, most use either the email PDF link or the website as a means to access it.
- Asked which sections of the newsletter are most important to them, the Minister's Message ranked highest at 81%, followed by Upcoming Events (37%) and Worship Service Descriptions (45%).
- Opinions were equally divided on the question of how often people would like to see it produced: monthly-45%, quarterly-43%.
- Many people took the time to express opinions in writing, and it is clear that the work of the *Parish Messenger* editors is greatly appreciated. People who suggested less frequent publication often did so in recognition of the amount of work it entails.

Some of the specific suggestions follow:

- **Items to be added**
  - Introduce new members—short profiles of new folks from time to time.
  - Committee updates
  - More info on what our young people are doing in RE
  - More specifics from the Board about what they are working on
  -
- **Items to be eliminated**
  - None
  - Working for Justice could be shorter
  - All contributors could try to write fewer words in their submissions
  - Repeating information

- **Other comments**

Respondents frequently commented that a lot of information is presented in This Week at UUCB, and it may not be necessary to include it in both places. In general, overall length of the *Parish Messenger* is seen by some people as a negative factor. One person summarized as follows: "Clearly much/some of the info is irrelevant to many of the recipients and folks simply stop reading it because it is simply too long." On the other hand, there were many positive comments: "I think the newsletter's strength is that it offers a sense of community with glimpses of who people are and what they care about." "The *Parish Messenger* is beautiful." "The PM gives the only overview of our church culture to give to visitors or new folks. I think this is incredibly important."

The Communications Committee reviewed the survey results carefully and will be keeping the helpful suggestions in mind going forward. Our clear consensus is that we should continue publishing the *Parish Messenger* on a monthly basis. While we appreciate the concerns expressed by many respondents about the amount of work involved, the people who do it enjoy it!

Glenn Williams, Communications Committee Chairperson

# Working for Justice

## NOVEMBER’S CHARITY WITH SOUL: IMMIGRANT LEGAL ADVOCACY PROJECT



IMMIGRANT LEGAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

Contact: Stephen Wood [swood88@outlook.com](mailto:swood88@outlook.com)

From Sarah Barton, Senior Development & Communications Lead



The Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project (ILAP) is Maine’s only state-wide immigration legal services organization. We work to advance justice for immigrants and their families through direct legal services, legal education, and systemic advocacy.

ILAP provides free or very low-cost legal help with immigration cases, including trusted support for asylum seekers in preparing and filing asylum applications. Our experienced legal staff helps individuals and families achieve safety from violence and persecution, pursue opportunity, and make Maine home. ILAP also works with our partners to advocate for immigrant justice on the local, state, and federal levels.

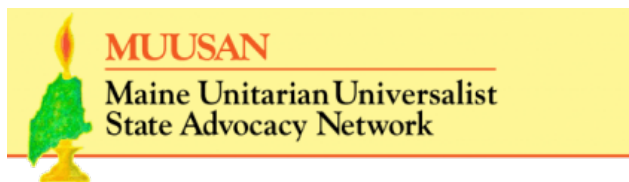
The result of this fall’s election carries tremendous weight for our clients, immigrant families, and the fight for immigrant justice. ILAP remains committed to standing shoulder-to-shoulder with Maine’s immigrant communities. **We will not cease in our mission to fight for a more just and humane immigration system and to provide immigration legal services that transform lives.**

Your support makes our continued work possible and will help us get ready for the years ahead. Together, we can defend and advocate for the rights of all immigrants. On behalf of the entire ILAP community, thank you for steadfast support and unwavering commitment to justice for immigrants in Maine.

You can learn more about ILAP at [www.ilapmaine.org](http://www.ilapmaine.org). For the latest legal and advocacy news, follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn and sign up for our monthly e-newsletter at [signup.ilapmaine.org](http://signup.ilapmaine.org).

3 Ways to Give:

From <a href="http://uubrunswick.org">uubrunswick.org</a> , click <b>"Donate Online"</b> Choose the "Plate" option	or	Text the amount of your donation to (855) 962-0440
or		Mail a check to: PO Box 129 Brunswick ME 04011 Memo Line: "plate"



**MUUSAN --Maine UU State Advocacy Network**  
**Contact: Steve Eagles, [seagles4@gmail.com](mailto:seagles4@gmail.com)**

As we approach the Maine Legislature session, NOW is the time to sign up for Action Alerts as bills which have been endorsed by the Maine U-U Support Action Network. As bills come before the Legislature emails will be sent out to you explaining the bill with suggestions of who to contact. It can make a difference to let representatives know that you believe our U-U values should be reflected in our laws. Send an email or talk with either Betsy Williams ([bwilliams120@gmail.com](mailto:bwilliams120@gmail.com)) or Steve Eagles ([seagles4@gmail.com](mailto:seagles4@gmail.com)) to get in on the action.

Here's at least one answer to the question: "Now what do we do?" Join UUs across the state for the MUUSAN Network Meeting, "Centering Love: MUUSAN Moves Forward", at the Rockland UU Church or on Zoom **Sunday, December 8** from **1:30pm-4:00pm**. It feels good to be doing something! Follow this link to register: <https://forms.gle/1dsU98iNvTGRedVdA>

# Working for Justice

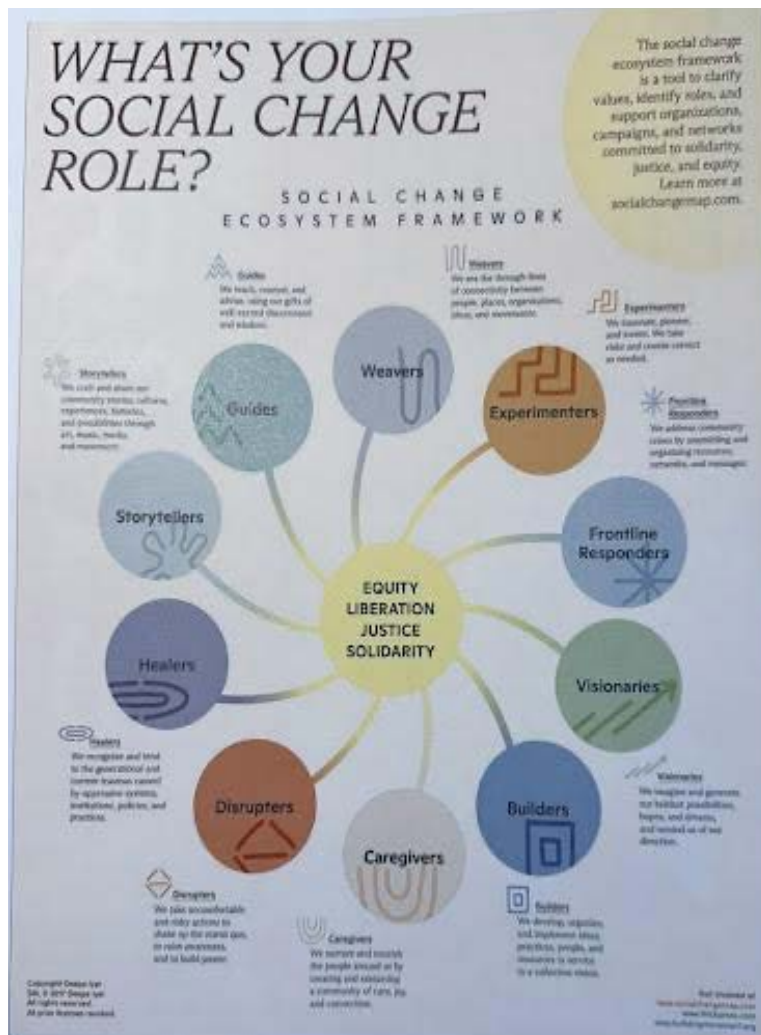
## WORKING FOR JUSTICE RETREAT

### Summary: Working for Justice Steering Group Retreat 11/9/24

The Working for Social Justice Steering Group Retreat on November 9 was a great success.

- We each shared what motivates us to get involved and do social justice work.
- A brief presentation of the group’s history resulted in a discussion of social justice engagement or interest within the congregation, this group, and in partnership with the greater Brunswick community. All the while keeping in mind whose needs we are filling.
- This conversation led to a listing of our partner organizations and the need to survey the congregation. What groups are members of the congregation involved with and in what capacity, as well as what do we (this group, the congregation) need to be more effective in facilitating (y)our social justice work?
- Kharma asked each of us to consider "What is your social justice role?" based on the attached chart below.

Conversations will continue at our next Steering Group meeting in January. ALL ARE WELCOME! Faith Barnes, [FaithB.56@gmail.com](mailto:FaithB.56@gmail.com)



### TEEN CENTER

Contact: Cuffy Chase [cmc1322@gmail.com](mailto:cmc1322@gmail.com)

From Joanne Allen, for Teen Center Group:



Thank you to all those who bring in food for the Teen Center on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month. We collect snack items such as cookies, personal sized bags of chips, juices, fruit, crackers, etc. Our group makes a meal a month for the teens. They are provided a meal every day that the center is open. We plan to donate gift cards for their holiday celebration.

The new location at the Coffin School in Brunswick is working out well. They have a place to play basketball and other games just outside their rooms. The teens enjoy cooking and eating! They enjoy making crafts and playing video games, too. The majority of the teens are middle schoolers, but all teens are welcomed through high school.

## Working for Justice

### IMMIGRANT JUSTICE

Contact: Faith Barnes [faithb.56@gmail.com](mailto:faithb.56@gmail.com)

#### Midcoast Literacy

Midcoast Literacy helps struggling readers and multilingual learners to improve their literacy skills. Midcoast Literacy's Read Together program seeks volunteer tutors who want to work with school-age children. Tutoring is twice a week, year-round. 3-day tutor training January 27, 29, and 31. 9:00-1:00 each day. FMI email Katie at [k.clark@midcoastliteracy.org](mailto:k.clark@midcoastliteracy.org)

#### Mid Coast New Mainers Group

We continue to need drivers to assist with transporting asylum seekers to English classes, driving lessons, and medical appointments. Asylum seekers who have completed their ten hours of driving lessons, need more practice to hone their driving skills. If you are interested in volunteer opportunities with MCNMG, or know someone who is, please go to their [website](#) and complete the volunteer application at the bottom of the first page.

#### Clothing Closet

The Little Sparrows Clothing Closet, located at The Nazarene Church at 94 McKeen Street is only open by appointment at this time. They are currently not taking any donations. If you are interested in volunteering at the clothing closet please contact Katya Rogers at (207) 509-4236 or [littlesparrowsclothingcloset@gmail.com](mailto: littlesparrowsclothingcloset@gmail.com)

#### Pihcintu Girls Multicultural Chorus

We are working with the Welcome Center of the Immigrant Resource Center to identify girls who might be interested in joining the chorus. Initially, rehearsals will take place in Brunswick then move to Portland. When we have more definitive information, we will need drivers to assist with transportation. If you are interested in learning more about Pihcintu, please click [here](#).

### INDIGENOUS AWARENESS

Contact: Cathey Cyrus [wdclark@gmail.com](mailto:wdclark@gmail.com)

#### Permanent rental gathering space needed for *Mawita'nej Epijij* families and young people

Heather Augustine, Elisipogtog First Nation member and former Wabanaki REACH staff, is looking for a permanent gathering place in Brunswick for *Mawita'nej Epijij*, (*M'nE*) a group of Wabanaki youth and families (approximately 12 families and growing) spread out across this area - distanced from each other and the associated community and resources found on the Wabanaki reservations. With Heather's guidance and leadership, *M'nE* seeks a local place of its own to come together to reclaim cultural lifeways, to nurture one another and honor the inherent dignity of all.

*M'nE* hosts monthly gatherings to share a meal and build community. Attendees pick up food boxes and other resources and are given gas cards that allow them to reach the gatherings. Food from many sources – grown by *M'nE* as well as purchased with grant funds or donated by other organizations – is put together for all community members. Rather than being “needs based” the group recognizes and honors the inherent values of generosity and reciprocity. Each gathering also includes traditional art and cultural practices for youth. Going forward *M'nE* is developing programming to get Wabanaki youth out on the land (hiking, fishing, skiing, etc.), and to support language reclamation.

In past months, Durham Friends Meeting (Quaker) has generously shared their space with *M'nE* gatherings (as will UUCB for this year's *M'nE* holiday party), but the group longs for (and should have) its own space where materials can be stored, meals can be cooked, projects can be left out to finish and enjoy, classes can be held, and coming and going can be spontaneous and welcomed.

Please let Cathey Cyrus know ([wdclark@gwi.net](mailto:wdclark@gwi.net)) if you have any knowledge of potential rental space in the Brunswick area or if you'd like more specifics about the space that is needed.

## UUCB Art Gallery

### DECEMBER ART SHOW: ED McCARTAN AND JOANNE ALLEN

#### FROM THE ART GALLERY COMMITTEE

The exhibit this month will feature the work of Ed McCartan and Joanne Allen. Please take some time to enjoy their paintings.

**Joanne's paintings are called *Purple Dahlia Tubers* and *Orange Dahlia Stems*.**

Artist statement : This year I'm looking at my garden and painting the bulbs, tubers, dried leftover plants, the orphans, and plants past their prime glory.



**Ed's paintings are called *A Thin Place* and *Forest Image*.**

Artist statement: I am interested in responding to nature and natural forms and how we can enter their world by paying attention to them.



## Concerts for a Cause

### AN EVENING WITH DAVE MALLETT

**"Few people could be called the living embodiment of the state where they live. But what Garrison Keillor is to Minnesota, Mallett is to Maine." – *Orlando Sentinel***



**SATURDAY, January 11, 2025**

**7:30-9:30 PM**

The UUCB *Concerts for a Cause* series presents Maine's singer-songwriter David Mallett, one of America's true troubadours on Saturday, January 11, 2025 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick, 1 Middle Street, Brunswick to raise money for the Brunswick Area Teen Center and Maine Family Planning.

Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door, and \$10 for students/children. Available at the church office (729-8515), Gulf of Maine Books, or online at <http://ticketstripe.mallett.com>. Monies raised from the concert will benefit the programming of the church and local charities.

**The January Parish Messenger Deadline is Wednesday, December 18.**

***Please send your submissions to [parish-messenger-editor@uubrunswick.org](mailto:parish-messenger-editor@uubrunswick.org).***