

UU NEWSLETTER

UUBELFAST

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THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF BELFAST
37 MILLER ST. • PO BOX 452 • BELFAST, MAINE 04915 • (207) 338-4482 • UUBELFAST.ORG

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WE ARE a vibrant, inter-generational faith community, inspired by thought and spirit and grounded in love. Our mission is to honor differences and to foster peace, justice, and sustainability in ourselves and in our world.



TO ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

We are thrilled to announce that with the heartfelt dedication and skill of our Mission Team (Liz Fitzsimmons, Chris Goosman, Chris LeGore, Kathy Muzzy, Judith Simpson and Wendy Watkins) and the invaluable input from our congregation over the past year, a new Mission Statement was unanimously approved at a congregational meeting on Oct. 6th (photo, left). The statement is above, on the masthead.



Every year, we invite the community into our sanctuary for a potluck turkey supper beginning at 1 on Thanksgiving Day. In this, our fifth celebration, we continue as a local beacon for families and individuals looking to party together on the gratitude holiday.

Thanksgiving organizer Jennifer Hill reminisces, “It feels so good standing in the hallway of our church, witnessing the music, decorations, conversation and laughter among people from such different backgrounds. Tables are laid with boughs and berries, garden gourds

and candles. I think back to Belfast’s first community-wide Thanksgiving potluck supper in 1987 at the First Church’s parish hall when my daughter, now 26, was an infant. I was new to Maine and it was wonderful to be surrounded with my new little family and so many others

in community.”

The welcome we give to our guests has always been vital to the success of our Thanksgiving here at the UU Church of Belfast. Greeters meet people at the door with smiles and hugs. Guests are directed to the buffet table with their potluck dishes.

November Sunday Services

Services start at 10:00 AM at the UU Church of Belfast, 37 Miller St., behind the Belfast Free Library. Please call 338-4482 for more information.

Children, infants and new faces are always welcome. Please join us!

NOV. 3

Deane Perkins

NOV. 10

The Kitchen as a Sacred Place

with Kathy Muzzy

Sacredness is all around us in everyday tasks. Choosing, preparing and sharing food are just a few of these sacred acts. The early beginnings of these tasks, as well as modern versions, will be woven into this service.

NOV. 17

Deane Perkins

NOV. 24

Dick Snyder

DEC. 1

Deane Perkins

Index cards are proffered for ingredient lists. Volunteers stand ready in the kitchen to keep food warm.

Guests come and sit wherever they want, commence to eat whenever they're ready, and no one is asked for money, ever. Only after people are seated do we welcome everyone formally (to avoid cold mashed potato syndrome) and there is never proselytizing about our church's ideas.

The planning crew for this event has experimented with traditions at the UU church and every year is different. There was the year we discovered the turkey fold, where folding napkins to resemble the fan of a turkey's wings made them stand up in the plate, adding color to the landscape. One year we had a children's table with crayons and scissors. This year there is talk of reviving the touch football game at 10 am at Wales Park.

The UU church provides two turkeys, which our volunteers roast on Thanksgiving morning. Volunteers carve the turkeys just

before 1 and lay them out on the buffet tables. Decorators spend a few hours in the morning setting tables and the clean-up crew works for a few hours afterward doing dishes and vacuuming the sanctuary.

Still, we get last minute guests who show up and want to help. If there is no task left to be done, we ask them to seek out individuals arriving alone and help them to feel like they're part of things. It's a sure formula for a lively party and it works every time.

So, if you're looking for a rousing good time this Thanksgiving and want to join in the satisfying volunteer activities, we will have sign-up boards in the Hospitality Room after the service every Sunday in November. There are so many ways, large and small, for you to help. Please see Arthur Richardson for details after church on Sunday or call him at 342-4649 and join our happy crew!

Or, just come on down to the UU church at 1 this Thanksgiving with your potluck dish or beverage and

bring a friend – or the whole family. No reservations necessary.

Life of the Church

Have you ever thought of being a Missionary? I never have. However, with our new Mission statement front and center, now may be the time to redefine the word missionary. We Unitarian Universalists are not known for being missionaries or proselytizing our faith. This seems to be changing. The president of the UUA, Peter Morales, and our own Rev. Deane speak clearly of ours being a "religion for our time". Hearing their message, I am convinced that now IS the time. It is time for us to embrace who we are and what we are committed to become. It is time to reach out and engage with other faiths and show through action what we have to offer.

Won't this new Mission statement just go the way of so many others that get put in drawers or gather dust on bulletin boards, never to be actualized? Not if we as a church embrace, celebrate and build on the investment that was shown in creating it AND commit to bringing it to life.

SAVE THE DATE for the Winter Solstice celebration

This year's celebration is at The Blue Goose on Saturday, Dec. 21 at 4:00 PM. Snow date Sunday, Dec. 22.

Greeting in November

- Nov. 3 Marion Brown & Cheryl Richardson
- Nov. 10 Jacqui Lee & Francine Brown
- Nov. 17 Su Wood & Ivy Lobato
- Nov. 24 Ezra Kreamer & Cheryl Richardson

included in our directory? Then you need to call or email Maret and say Yes! I want to be included! How about sharing a photo, too?

Cary Bradford will be available after church to take photos, especially of our growing families and newcomers.

We have grown steadily over the past several years -committing ourselves to full time ministry and expansion in both programming and service and, in the near future, new space. Our new Mission promises to be a reference point for us as individuals, for our leadership, for our committees and our church as a whole as we continue our growth. Hand in hand with our covenant of right relations, our Mission can bring us back to our core values- what we have decided is important in how we treat and live with each other and the world around us.

So I plan on becoming a new kind of missionary right here in Belfast! I will do my part to hold up our Mission, and encourage continued investment and commitment to its message from the Church Council, the committees comprising the Program Council and each and every member and friend. I hope that you will join me in finding ways to bring our Mission to life through action.

In Love, *Jane Dopheide*

New Directory

Calling all UUs! The new directory will be coming out in January, with the latest and greatest contact information for everyone. Moved? New phone, cell or email? Please contact Maret in the office at 338-4482 or office@uubelfast.org with all the details. Are you an active friend of the UU Church of Belfast, contributing time, talent and/or treasure to our community, and want to be

Joys and Concerns

As co-chairs of our UU Worship Services Committee, we are deeply moved by the caring and passion of our community. We understand that the decision to move spoken Joys and Concerns to one Sunday a month may seem abrupt. However, our committee has explored different approaches to Joys and Concerns over the past several months, striving to meet the diverse spiritual needs of our members. This most recent exploration has come on the heels of much input from congregants and many lengthy discussions during the Service reviews that take place at our meetings. We are hoping that those who gave us feedback as well as those who have not expressed their thoughts will be patient as we continue to work on Joys and Concerns within our Sunday worship service. At this time, we are only exploring this monthly schedule and would like to assure everyone that this is not necessarily a permanent change.

We welcome and embrace all of the feedback we are receiving, both critical and supportive. We are grateful to those who have shared their thoughts and we encourage those who have not yet spoken to let us know your thinking and feeling about this change. The feedback we have received is full of compas-

WHO'S WHO & WHO TO CALL

- Minister
Rev. Deane Perkins 338-4482
minister@uubelfast.org
- Administrative Assistant
Maret Knight 338-4482
Email: office@uubelfast.org
office hrs: Mon. & Thurs. 8:30-12:30
- Church Council
Jane Dopheide 338-1730
Chris LeGore 589-4421
- LifeSpan Education
Susan Coe 691-5153
- Children's Religious Exploration
Danielle Bannister 505-5383
- Music
Lila Nation 338-5002
- Finances
Roger Lee (treas) 338-6837
- Sunday Services
Jessie Gower 525-4427
- Membership Chair
Marje Stickler 338-5059
- Social Action
Cathy Mink 338-4920
- Congregational Life
Chip Curry 930-3590
- Green Sanctuary
Jasmine Fowler 342-3260
Corliss Davis 930-3562
- Buddhist Sangha
Judith Simpson 338-0579
- Caring Circle
Patty Smith 338-5802
- Safe Congregation
Marilynn Petit 907-9082
- LGBT Welcoming Congregation
Patty Smith 338-5802
- Sound Coordinator
Cary Bradford 338-8448
- Hospitality **Cheryl & Arthur Richardson 342-4649**
- Nominating Committee chair
Jacqui Lee 338-3075
- Endowment Committee
D Andrews
- Greeters
Marty Daniels 338-0129
- Newsletter
Douglas M. Coffin 567-3707

To change address, tel. no., email, newsletter status, or to subscribe to the UUBB or UUCC, email office@uubelfast.org

sion, conviction, the desire for connection, and, in some cases, relief. We are open and listening, so please let us hear more.

Kathy Muzzy and Jessie Gower

Hannaford cards

Buy a \$50, \$100 or \$200 Hannaford card through the church, as a nearly effortless way to add to our general fund.

The card-holder receives its full value toward grocery or pharmacy purchases, but Hannaford gives the church \$5 for every \$100 worth of cards we buy. Those five-dollar bills add up, earning the church thousands of dollars since 2010.

Minister's news

This past Sunday we had our first Congregational Conversation of the year focused on the questions and ideas raised by the service and sermon. It is an hour where we all have a chance to discuss things in a safe context, though we don't necessarily agree with each other.

For example, a few of the questions asked were: If we are a Religion for Our Time (using the phrase from UUA President, Rev. Peter Morales), what does that mean? What might that look like? Can we call ourselves a religion if we do not have creeds and an established belief system? How do we be a faith community for ourselves and for

our world? Do we have a message that is salvific?

All these questions and more were raised, questions that ask about who we truly are as UUs.

I think it is vitally important for us to keep having these discussions where we struggle with our identity. I think it is part of being a religion for the 21st century. And my real hope is that these discussions will allow us to go deeper into our own theology and our own soul. So when these discussions occur (we're trying for the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month), feel free to join the Congregational Conversation.

Rev. Deane Perkins

Please join in and help us with this fundraiser. The cards are sold for 1/2 an hour every Sunday after church

services in the hospitality room.
FMI: Kathy Kreamer, 338-9513,
kreamers@myfairpoint.net