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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.

Life of the Church

What Do You Believe?

That was the question posed to church council members by Ministerial Intern Amy Fiorilli during the Small Group Ministry circle at our annual retreat on September 2. As one by one we shared our responses and the life experiences which had informed them, we began to know one another on a deeper level, with the hope and intention to draw upon this new level of connection and trust as we move into this year of church work together.

As the day unfolded, we considered together another question asked by our President Elect Sarah Nicholson-How does our perspective on leadership change if we see our work (on the council, on committees, out in the community) as ministry? How might we come to see ourselves as spiritual leaders, less in terms of appraising the result of our efforts and more in terms of HOW we go about doing our work? If all our work is a form of ministry, as we believe it is, isn't the process as important as the product?

We learned that authority carries associations not entirely comfortable to all of us and we began to unpack the many layers of meaning connected to the word, and how this affects us in our role as church leaders. How might this word feel different to us if we considered it an essential part of our responsibility as trusted fiduciaries for the congregation?

We considered ways in which we might make our work as a governing body more easily understood, more transparent and more accessible to the congregation. A novel solution we came up with was a system of questions which will help us discern how to process questions, concerns, and issues brought before the council. This system we hope will give us an approach which is fair and consistent and in harmony with our council covenant. Experi-learning in action!

Over the course of our day-long retreat, we deepened our connections with one another, learned new ways of thinking about old concepts, and began forming a vision of how we will work together in the year to come. And we had fun!

In a Sunday sermon later in the month, Reverend Deane returned to the question, What do you believe?, and suggested that now is the time for us, our entire congregation, to deepen our personal soul work. We are all struggling theologians, he reminded us, as we seek within our personal truths for an answer.

This is the time of ingathering- of our annual Water Communion, in which waters brought from far and near, from close to home and from far-away adventures, mingle and swirl together; this is the time we will welcome visitors from the community at our Open House on September 30 and gather for our Building Dedication on October 15.

And in the days and weeks to come, as we continue the process of settling back into our Miller Street home, we will start to shift our focus from doing to being, to deepen our faith and our connections to one another, and to begin to answer the question What do you believe?

In fellowship,
Karen Wigglesworth
President

Fundraising Volunteer Opportunities

Everything we do connected to this church is a spiritual practice. In its history, fundraising has helped to buy this building, call a full-time minister, fund RE programs and pay

guest speakers for Sunday service and much more. It is an intricate part of our church life, so please consider volunteering to support this spiritual aspect of our church community. Here are some opportunities to think about.

- Amazon Book Sellers – two people needed
- Volunteering for fundraising events – there's a Mystery Dinner Theater in the works, and a clothing sale
- Craig's List – selling non-book items online

- A Talent night
- Opening your home to the UU Bed and Breakfast Program
- Maybe you have ideas of your own, let us know.

Contact a member of the fund raising committee: Kathy Muzzy, Chair, Anna Wood-Cox, Robyn Tarantino and Chip Curry

RE news

By now, most of you have likely seen a Coming of Age or Senior high bridging ceremony. You've likely heard one of the youth services. You've heard, first hand, how their time in RE has helped shaped who they have become. Now it's time to become part of the spiritual journey of the next set of youth coming up.

RE is in search of guides and mentors. We call our teachers Guides because we aren't teaching them about what to believe, but guiding them along their own spiritual path. Mentors are adults that are paired with our COA kids (middle schoolers) to help bridge the gap from childhood to young adulthood.

We are looking for people who are willing to spend ONE Sunday a month with our children (you can even pick which age group you'd prefer, though we have a large need in our Intermediate room-Grades 2-5). Sessions are prepared for you by

the DRE. They are sent to you the Thursday before you teach and are in the classroom along with all supplies you might need for the day on Sunday. You are paired with another adult to team teach. What I need are engaged and caring adults.

Not sure if it's right for you? Here's a look at what each age group is doing:

This year we will be doing Spirit Play with our youngest children. Some of you may remember the story I did during the Time for All Ages about why we light a chalice. The Spirit Play baskets are like that one. We tell stories about our principles and our faith through manipulatives that the children can see and touch and use to retell the stories after if they choose.

Our Intermediate room is doing a new Harry Potter Curriculum! How exciting! We'll need some more 'Professors' to join in the fun, however. Do you love the books? Never heard of them but are interested to see what the fuss is about? Want to make wands and destroy some social justice Horcuxes? Sign up to be a guide--er Professor!!

Our Coming of Age room is going to need several new mentors this year. We have about six kids coming up and each one of them will need a mentor. A mentor is someone who

will come to their RE class on occasion, participate in our wicked fun overnight retreats (spending the night for mentors is optional) and helping our youth discover their own spiritual path. This truly is engaging work. If you'd like to talk to a past mentor before deciding, let me know! I'll provide you with a list of our past ones.

Are the toddlers more your style? Contact Shannan Boyorack our Child Care Coordinator. I know she's always looking for help with the youngest ones.

sboyorak@hotmail.com

Worried you won't know what to do? Fear not! All volunteers will be screened and trained by me and I'll partner you up with an experienced guide the first few times so you get the hang of it. There is lots of support and love to be shared.

With our new space, we may get some new families. I would love to be ready to greet them with guides who are ready to serve. Won't you please consider being a guide or a mentor this year?

If any of these wonderful experiences interests you or you'd like to find out more, please let me know at dre@uubelfast.org

Danielle Bannister
Director of Religious Exploration,
DRE dre@uubelfast.org
505-5383

Sabbath fall hiking

Get out and enjoy late summer and early fall with other lovely people!

This will be a series of Congo life fall sunday hikes to various places in the midcoast area. They will be open to all ages but not necessarily all abilities (see specifics). I would describe them as being somewhere

between a good walk and a hike.

There is no need to RSVP. Just show up, but if you want more information, contact Linda Buckmaster at lsbuck1@gmail.com.

general guidelines:

- Check the weather forecast for bringing appropriate layers. If actual rain is forecast, we won't go.

- Bring your own food, water, bug dope, etc.

- Be at the meeting place on time. Hikes will be 2:00 to 3:30/4:00.

- Walk at your own pace; stop when you like; turn back if you want.

Proposed hikes

Oct. 1: Cameron Mountain in

Camden Hills State Park. Check out the early foliage through the woods on a wide woods road to the short steep climb through blueberry fields with a lovely 360-degree view.

Moderate, approximately 4–5 miles round trip (only slight elevation gain until the blueberry hill). Dogs on leash. Take Route 173 in Lincolnville Beach to the Youngtown Road. Turn left, and parking lot on left (same as for Bald Rock).

Oct. 22: Whitten hill/northern headwaters trail in Montville.

Oct. 29: Fernald's Neck preserve in Lincolnville.

more details on uubb.

New offering!

Spiritual Discussion Group facilitated by our Collaborative Ministry Intern, Amy Fiorilli

This group, similar in structure to Seasoned Souls except with no age restrictions, will run for two hours

October Sunday Services

All services start at 10:00 AM at OUR CHURCH! Please call 338-4482 for more information. Children, infants and new faces are always welcome. Please join us!

The Worship Arts theme for October is Change.

OCT 1 – Reverend **Deane Perkins** will give a sermon titled I, Beauty, and the UUCB choir will sing under the direction of Steve Weston.

OCT 8 – Chaplain **Al Boyce** returns to Belfast for another lively, and thought-provoking service. After 35 years as an evangelical minister, Al attended Harvard Divinity School and became a Unitarian Universalist minister. He has served as parish minister for congregations from Vermont to Miami. We are excited to welcome Al back, and to hear him preach in our new sanctuary.

OCT 15 – Reverend **Deane Perkins** will lead us in a celebratory service to dedicate our building and new sanctuary!

OCT 22 – Our Collaborative Ministry Intern, **Amy Fiorilli**, will explore October's theme of Change.

OCT 29 – We hope you will join us at Ferry Beach, but if you cannot, please join us for a small and intimate Vespers service. This will be a time for guided meditation, poetic reflection, and song.

WHO'S WHO AND WHO TO CALL

Minister

Rev. Deane Perkins 338-4482
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[On sabbatical until mid-April 2017]

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twice a month beginning on Saturday October 14th from 10:00-12:00 noon.

The purpose of our time together is to explore answers to meaningful questions about life and purpose, struggle and meaning. Each session group members will choose to address two separate questions together with time for individual sharing, deep listening and engaged

conversation.

Possible questions might be: How do we deal with grief? What exactly is prayer? How do you define healthy relationship? How do you find meaning in the world? What do you do with anger? What do you believe about death? How is parenting a spiritual practice?

There are so many things that we could learn from just being together

and sharing our individual wisdom and our listening and witnessing hearts. It is a group focused on mutual support and encourages seeking and searching as we all muddle through this thing called life...let us remember in tangible ways that we are not alone. Please contact Amy to sign up or to get more information. 207-930-0007 or amyfiorilli@gmail.com

MUUSAN to work for Question 2

By Rick Davis

Question #2 on Maine's November 7 ballot is a citizen-driven initiative to expand MaineCare eligibility to approximately 70,000 Mainers, most of them working adults. MaineCare is Maine's version of Medicaid, the federal-state partnership that provides healthcare coverage to low-income and disabled persons. The MaineCare expansion would bring more than \$500 million in federal funds into Maine each year, supporting about 3,000 new jobs spread across the entire state.

The state's share of this expansion would rise to a cap of 10% -- about \$54 million -- in two years. Reductions in state payments for uninsured care and reduced costs in the criminal justice system would offset about half of that cost.

Increased revenue from new jobs would also contribute to the state's share.

Thirty-one states have already expanded their Medicaid programs and their citizens are reaping the benefits, including good health coverage, less financial stress, improved health, and access to treatment for opioid addiction, which is at crisis levels in Maine and elsewhere. In those states, rural hospitals like Waldo County General Hospital have benefited from increased Medicaid payments. That reduces the amount of uninsured care that we all pay for through our own insurance plans.

Not one of those states has rescinded its decision to expand Medicaid coverage. Instead, earlier this year, the Governors in those states, including red states like Kentucky and Ohio, pressured their U.S. Senators not to repeal Obamacare, which

would also repeal the Medicaid expansion program.

The Maine legislature has passed bills to expand MaineCare five times. Each time, Governor LePage has vetoed the bill and the legislature has not been able to override his veto.

At its meeting on September 9, MUUSAN (the Maine UU Statewide Advocacy Network) confirmed its commitment to make Question 2 a priority effort between now and election day on November 7. Question 2 is in complete conformity with our first two UU principles: promoting the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. It is the right thing to do.

For more information about Question 2 or MUUSAN, contact Rick or Corliss Davis or Linda Buckmaster.

Fourth Sunday Potlucks!

The Fourth Sunday Potlucks have begun! Actually, October will be a third Sunday potluck, but that's the only exception. Don't worry -- there will be reminders! Once a month, after the service, bring some food to share and come join us! You know the conversation will be lively and the folks friendly!

I have agreed to coordinate the potlucks, and this is my vision: If you are coming to the potluck, and appreciate the good food and fellowship offered there, plan on helping with the setup and cleanup! I would like to see potlucks where everyone attending helps with the work each potluck entails (as you are able, of course). The more help, the faster

everyone everything is done and the church is back in its usual clean and organized state.

Finding volunteers is often difficult, and I'd rather everyone be a volunteer for the activity they support through their attendance! I'd like to see the work of the potlucks be shared in the same way the food and fellowship is shared -- everyone

helps! Is this a crazy dream? Let's try it out!

Sue Cobb

alaughingdog@gmail.com

518-744-1240 (mobile) 207-338-6776 (home)

Collaborative ministry Intern

As I write this, I am here in my library. Lilliana is just off to school, Brian long gone to work, a cup of coffee next to me and my dachshund gently snoring in the chair across the room. In this moment, I am aware of how important and lovely the simple things can be. At this point in the month I have officially covenanted with each of you, my three teaching congregations. Thank you for making each ritual moment meaningful. I take those words we shared very seriously.

I have co-led a service in Castine with Margaret Beckman and a service in Belfast on September 24th. I

have attended several meetings including worship and religious education, two board retreats, coffee hour and two delicious potlucks, with many wonderful conversations thrown in.

It is a good start.

Now that the initial and official introductions have happened I feel free to breathe a little easier and to say with certainty that I am blessed beyond words to be in this collaborative ministry internship. Each congregation has welcomed me with kindness and enthusiasm. Not only do I know that I will learn deep and important lessons from you all but I also know that I am excited to do good work with you and for you.

I look forward to starting a spiritual discussion group in Belfast on October 14th. I am excited to be working with the newly formed Pastoral Visitors Team in Ellsworth and with the special attention of the Vice President in Castine I hope we

will launch our first collaborative Parent's Night Out. A time for parents from each congregation to have a couple of hours to have dinner and unwind, perhaps getting to know each other better while their kids meet and play and have time of their own.

Of course, this monthly article could never cover all I would wish to say and share and do but I am glad for this simple moment of checking in. I hope you will feel comfortable to reach out or to stop by for a visit. I will be in Castine most Tuesday mornings and in Belfast on most Thursday mornings. I am also always willing to make an appointment for time together and I look forward to learning more and more about who you are and who we are becoming together.

Amy Fiorilli

Collaborative Ministry Intern

207-930-0007

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