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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

From Rev. Deane Perkins

A Time of Transition

“My hope for us this year is that we deepen our personal soul work, that we learn more about one another on a deeper level, that we look more deeply at our service to our community.” This quote is from a sermon that I gave in October. It suggests that this year could be a time when we focus less on “doing,” and more on “being.”

Given that the first—and the major—phase of our building renovation is near completion, this year is the perfect opportunity to pause, breathe deeply, and look at who we are, both as individuals walking a spiritual path and as a faith community. To that end there have already been a number of discussions on “what do you believe?”; “what is spiritual leadership?”; “what are your gifts?”; “what is ‘soul work’?”; “what is the source of our being?”

Our Adult Lifespan offerings this Fall (e.g. the Covenant Group with Amy, or the Compassionate Communications class with Deane), along with our Sunday morning Congregational Conversations have provided space to ask these questions and more. But the Church Council and Program Council have also been instrumental in leading these kinds of discussions. I know, too, that Fundraising talks about its work as ministry. These groups have inspired me, in fact, to think that all of our

committee work could consider spiritual matters more--of being and not always doing.

Usually during Opening Words at a Sunday service I say that church is about connections and transformation. These connections, and even transformation itself, can occur when we’re together, in small groups, talking about and experiencing what’s most meaningful to us. So I continue to look forward to this year as a year of transition where deepening occurs, where our spirits thrive, and where we walk together in Beauty.

Blessings,
Deane

December Fourth Sunday Potluck

December’s monthly congregational potluck falls on December 24th, Christmas Eve.

We will hold the potluck as an opportunity to share food and good company within the church community. Bring something to share, whether it’s healthy food or those

UU ANNUAL WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16th Belfast, ME

The annual Winter Solstice Celebration, our 21st, presented by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Belfast, will take place on Saturday, December 16th at 4:00 p.m. at the Belfast UU Church, 37 Miller Street. Featuring music, dance, storytelling poetry and other seasonal entertainment for all ages, proceeds from this event will benefit the Belfast UU minister’s discretionary fund.

Rain Date for this event is Sunday, December 17th at 4:00.

The Winter Solstice Celebration marks the shortest day of the year, when in the Northern Hemisphere the sun is at its southernmost point in the sky. The Winter Solstice has been a time of significance to people around the world for many centuries, marking the sun’s return and a hopeful turn towards spring renewal and rebirth. It has been observed in many ways by various cultures, including festivals, rituals, silliness, and special music and dances. The Winter Solstice Celebration will draw from many of those traditions and highlights of the event include the Belfast UU Choir, the Highland Mary Morris dancers, Sisters Sword dance, an original Mummer’s Play, and many others. Seating is limited.

Tickets will be available at the door, \$10 for adults, \$5 for children and youth ages 6 to 18, and \$25 for a family; children under age 6 are free. For more information, contact Joanne Moesswilde at jmoesswilde@gmail.com.

cookies and treats that sometimes accumulate during the season, or just come. You are welcome as you are!

From your Congregational Life friends

CongoLife will be hosting a wreath/pomander making event on December 2, at my home, 122 Lincolnville Avenue, Searsmont, Maine. Please contact my email - a_cinality@yahoo.com - and we will provide directions to our home.

The wreath bases are usually \$5 each. If you want a base(s), please let me know how many you would like.

We will provide oranges and the

cloves and ribbons for the pomanders. Of course, folks can bring their own decorations/ribbons for the wreaths.

We also plan to host an evening of Caroling. We'll announce the date of that event by mid-December.

Thank you!!

Cheryl

Cheryl Richardson
207.342.4649 Home
207.213.7334 Cell

I have attended several meetings, small group ministry circles, done pastoral visits and helped chop vegetables for the tween overnight in Belfast. Most of that has been wonderful. And, now and then I am reminded that part of our work together involves conflict and hurt feelings. Sometimes there are difficult conversations that don't happen the way we want them to. Sometimes, it is hard to stay engaged. Luckily there are fewer of these moments, but it has been a powerful experience to accept that real growth, real progress, real ministry happens in the process of dealing with these difficult times. The times when we know there is love between us but maybe we don't like each other very much for a moment. There is great healing in the opportunity to speak our truths, and choose not to run. It is powerful to face a struggle, to name it and to take accountability for the part we play in how things went wrong. And then through the bravery and grace of remembering that we are all in this together to come back to the conversation with love and determination to move forward. Realizing that of course, we never really stopped liking each other after all.

These lessons are priceless. Thank you for your gifts and your wisdom.

Love,

Amy

Your Collaborative Ministry Intern

Collaborative Intern report

Hello All,

As I browse through my emails, I see the reminders. It is time for the December newsletter already? Didn't I just write one for November? Time is certainly moving quickly as I continue to go deeper into this internship year. It has been a full, rewarding, challenging and instructive month. I wrote my last article before our multi church retreat to Ferry Beach and I have to say that I had a wonderful time. From Lilliana's joyful and unrestrained foray into the atlantic ocean's waves to the shared worship under the pines. It was very special to be there. As I shared during one of our communal gatherings, it was a privilege to know that I belong to you all, and that all of you are my people. I was reminded daily of how lucky I am to have this particular internship, with these particular con-

gregations, full of you, my particular people.

I have travelled the state this month. From Auburn to hear about a church's journey to a new governance system, to Houlton for a minister's meeting that nourished my soul and taught me more of what it is to do this profession well. The driving continues to be a reality of my work that I don't love but completely accept as necessary. I was privileged to be involved in every church's worship this month, from helping Rev. Sara Hayman, Ellsworth, with her service, to being a Worship Associate in Belfast for our guest Rev. Dick Snyder. Then to leading my first full service in Castine with Rev. Margaret as my worship associate. I have felt supported, included and busy in ways that make me grateful. Tired. But grateful.

There have been hard moments too.

December Sunday Services

Follow on the next page!

December 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 theme for the month of December is Hope.

DEC 2

Rev Deane Perkins, TBA

DEC 10

From Childhood Comfort to Personal Spiritual Practice

Jane Dopheide, one of the founders of UUCB, will share her spiritual journey with us. Jane will speak about her journey from her early religious experiences to developing daily practices rooted in gratitude and joy.

DEC 17

Pageant Sunday!

Join us for a multigenerational holiday service which will allow for engagement from all ages and take a closer look at the spirit of the holidays.

DEC 24

On this Christmas Eve morning

at the edge of a miracle story and the 4th Sunday of advent, join Amy Fiorilli as we explore the ways we get ready for the big moments in our lives, how mindful preparation can help us to see and savor that which is most important in our lives. With song, and story, quiet and reflection let us begin this day with clarity and peace, with joy and connection.

DEC 24 Christmas Eve evening service with Rev Deane Perkins at 7:00 PM. Expect lots of music!

DEC 31

New Year's Eve morning service.

Mandi Thomas will give a homily entitled "Beginning Again in Love." New Year's resolutions can be daunting and often lead to disappointment when we do not achieve the unrealistic goals we set for ourselves. This service will focus on letting go of that which hurts us and embracing unconditional love for ourselves. There will be guided meditation, special music, and we will bring back the old tradition of the Stick Ceremony during the Time for All Ages.

WHO'S WHO AND 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. 9:00-1:00
[To change address and contact information or manage subscriptions to UUBB, UU News, UU Caring Circle.]

Church Council

President, Karen Wigglesworth
kwi88les@gmail.com
Vice President, Sarah Nicholson
snicholson@woodardcurran.com
Capital Campaign, Chris LeGore
egore@maine.edu, 589-4421
and Roger Lee, grogerlee@gmail.com
522-8007

Religious Exploration RE & YRUU

Danielle Bannister 505-5383
dre@uubelfast.org

LifeSpan Advisory

Jane Dopheide
janedopheide4@gmail.com

Music

Steve Weston saweston17@gmail.com
992-7472

Finances/Treasurer

Susan Coe susan.coe.13@gmail.com
691-5153

Sunday Services

Mandi Thomas
mandirhubbard@yahoo.com

Membership

Teresa Piper teresapiper@gmail.com
Karen Wigglesworth
kwi88les@gmail.com

Fundraising

Kathy Muzzy 338-9672

Congregational Life

Cheryl Richardson
a_crinitaly@yahoo.com

Green Sanctuary

Joe Watts jwatts226@gmail.com

Caring Circle

Patty Smith fiddleheadisland@gmail.com

Safe Congregation

Tara Kennedy tekennedy@fairpoint.com

LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation

Patty Heath hthptty@gmail.com

Sound Coordinator

Cary Bradford hapcary@gmail.com

Nominating Committee

Anna Wood-Cox
awood@drinkwaterschool.org

Endowment Committee

Scott Denman sdenman@earthlink.net

Greeter Coordinator

Cheryl Richardson
a_crinitaly@yahoo.com

Collaborative Ministry Intern

Amy Fiorilli amyfiorilli@gmail.com
930-0007

Website Content

content@uubelfast.org

Newsletter

Douglas M. Coffin
douglas.coffin@lettercutter.com

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

Website contributions:
content@uubelfast.org