

April
2020

The Point

*Universalist Unitarian Church of Waterville
69 Silver Street
Waterville, ME 04901*

Office Phone: 207-873-4006

*Non-summer services start at 10:00
July & August services start at 9:30*

*Dennis Perkins, President
julep1027@yahoo.com*

*Rurik Spence, Vice President
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*Rebecca Heath, Admin Assistant
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*Connie Winship, Point Editor
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Church website: <http://uucwaterville.com>
Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/uucwtvl>

Committee Members, Officers and Trustees

Archives

Bookkeeper

Katrina Goodrich

Board of Trustees and Officers

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VP: Rurik Spence 2021
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Clerk: Sarah Seder 2020
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Trip Gander 2021
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Jerry Saint Amand
Rachel Marsh-Sachs
Kathy McKay
Jim Shipsky
Ed Spear

By Laws

Bill Lee: Chair
Dave Wynne

Caring Committee

Allane Ball
Ellie Duhamel
Marcel Duhamel
Sally Harwood
Carolyn MacRae: Chair
Sue Morrill
Ann Paradis
Jerry Saint Amand
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Linda Woods

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Marilyn Wheeler

To the Point

The first and the seventh principles form the bookends of UU Principles. The first celebrates the importance of every human life (even, by extension, the importance and inherent dignity of each particle — human, animal, plant and inorganic — of existence. The seventh widens our perspective and tells us that each of us is simultaneously part of a vibrant whole from which we take our meaning and our sustenance. The web of all existence.

This current pandemic draws each of these great principles into sharp focus for me. The financial panic of 2008-09 reached its nadir on March 10, 2009. The stock market fell to a 27-year low. I happened to be sitting in an early meeting on that morning, listening to anxiety and despair fill the room. All at once I thought of the tens of thousands of strangers who at that very moment around the globe were at work, employing all of their experience and expertise, to try and solve my own (and everybody else's) financial dilemma. What a sense of peace it brought me!

I feel the same at this moment. Around the world in labs and factories, tens of thousands of individuals are working night and day to develop and manufacture testing kits and vaccines. These remarkable men and women whom I will never know by name are working because they think my life and yours are valuable. The first principle in living color.

The seventh principle of course has endless ramifications. But one is startlingly clear at this moment. When we vote as a church to cease meeting, when we choose to remain in our homes as much as possible, we are doing so somewhat out of fear, yes.

But, more importantly, we are denying ourselves the warmth of social contact out of love for one another. This tiny virus has made it crystal clear how much each of us is tied to the other.

Communications Team

Luke Brooks-Shesler REM representative
Peter Burgher Photographer
Rebecca Heath Administrative Assistant
Mark Jose Wayside Pulpit
Karen Kusiak MUSSAN & Facebook
Charlie Morrill Outside Bulletin Board
Sue Morrill Interfaith Council
Beth Schiller Webmaster
Rurik Spence Co-webmaster
IT Administrator
Sarah Webster *The Point* newsletter
Connie Winship Morning Sentinel Liaison
The Point newsletter
Co-Chair Communication Team
Facebook
Co-chair Communication Team
Ray Winship

Evening Sandwich Program

Maili Bailey: Director

ESP Board

Maili Bailey: Director
Larry Dickey
Charlie Morrill: Treasurer
Sue Morrill: President
Ray & Connie Winship

Facebook

Karen Kusiak
Ray Winship

Fellowship-Membership Team

Bill & Joy Barnett
Rachel Marsh Sachs
Kathy McKay
Dennis Perkins
Ray Winship

Finance Committee

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Peter Burgher
Mark Jose
John Wilder
Dave Wynne

Housekeeping

Gina Boudreau: Housekeeper
Maili Bailey: Director

Interfaith Council

Sue Morrill

Investment Management

Peter Burgher: Chair
Mark Jose

Keyboardists

Anna Beth Rynders: Keyboardist
Anne Marie Thibodeau: Associate Keyboardist

MUUSAN

[Maine Universalist Unitarian
State Advocacy Network]
Karen Kusiak
Dick Thomas

As this catastrophe passes, and it will, I hope I can carry the lesson of this experience more fully into my life: everything I do, say, think and feel reaches out to touch every other thread in the great web of existence. Be safe, be well and be very, very optimistic. *Dennis Perkins*, President Board of Trustees

From the Editor

Like for many of you, this past month for me has been one of unsettledness and anxiety as the COVID-19 virus wreaks its havoc. I thought my column this month could focus upon the good that is happening among us.

How incredible for us that some of our tech-savvy members were already familiar with software that would allow them to splice various slips of video from multiple sources to help design a service for when we could no longer meet inside the church! And better still, these people had the resourcefulness and creativity to put everything together to suit our unique needs. Without the efforts of Luke, Christel, Karen, Rurik and others, we'd have no virtual service video, no way to "worship together" for the months of social isolation in effect.

There are many parts of the virtual service videos that are noteworthy, but for me, what stands out the most is the introduction of children to the liturgy. It is heartwarming to see our youngest members take part in the service -- such earnestness and pride on their faces as they play their instrument, read their book, sing hymns with their parents, light candles, etc. Perhaps this will carry over when we are again back in our beloved sanctuary.

Those of you who have not seen the two virtual service videos can do so by going to the church website <https://uucwaterville.com> or simply do a Google search "UU Church Waterville."

I'll end with a shout-out to the newly organized folks whose goal is to make as many cloth face masks as possible to give our local health care providers, nursing home workers, etc., as a way to protect themselves from the COVID-19 virus. For more specific information about this, read *Help our Healthcare Heroes*. *Connie Winship*, Editor

Update on Organ Repair: Servicing of our Allen 1996 Protégé Electronic Organ

I'll bet you didn't know it was called a "Protégé" model, did you? Very classy! It had not been attended to in some time, so on Friday March 6th, Ed Gormley of Allen Organ of Maine came to our sanctuary and spent several hours working on our instrument: cleaning it thoroughly, including removing the pedal board so everything lost under there could be retrieved, then vacuuming the space; re-weighting springs under pedal notes that had gotten loose and noisy, and replacing felts on keyboard notes where the same had occurred.

We found some dubious extension cords and wires inside the instrument, so those were removed, and also connections to the outdated recorder module, which he took with him when he went, including any components.

He replaced the lithium battery that secures storage of any stop settings on the seven general pistons. (If you want to know what that means, come on up to the organ sometime and I'll give you a tour!). Last of all he spent an hour explaining to me how the MIDI Expander works and demonstrating its options. This unit, in a pull-out drawer under the right-hand jamb of the organ, contains digitalized recordings of 100 different organ sounds, including ensembles. These can be "saved" on any one of 60 levels and accessed while playing by using a special tab stop on the organ console. It greatly increases the number of stops available to the organist and allows for exciting possibilities. Some of you heard the "Spanish Trumpet" on March 10th!

This servicing assures that our fine instrument will remain comfortable to play and sound good for the years ahead. My thanks to the church committee members who approved this being done and the attendant expense.

Also, I'm looking for a piano light, the kind with a brass base, and tubular screw-in bulb. The clip-on light for the pedal board, which only illuminated half the board, had to be removed during the work, and though it was put back in place, it was found broken and detached the next morning. The former organ light (a brass-based piano light) proved to work even better for the purpose when set on the floor at the right-hand end; a 2nd light for the left-hand end is needed. If someone has a used one to donate, that would be great! *Anna Beth Rynders*, Keyboardist

Nominating Committee

Peter Burgher
Karen Kusiak
Margrit Thomas

Planned Giving

Jon Rogers

Point Newsletter

Connie Winship: Editor
Sarah Webster: Proofreader
Marilyn Wheeler: Postal Clerk

Property & Grounds

Jim Ashton
Jim Easton
Jerry Saint Amand: Chair
Jim Shipsky
Ed Spear
John Wilder

Religious Education

Margrit Thomas: DRE

Small Group Ministry

Peter Burgher
Mark Jose

Stewardship Committee

Allane Ball
Peter Burgher
Sarah Michaud
Dennis Perkins

UU Singers and Musicians

Maili Bailey
Bill Barnett
Nancy Brooks
Sally Harwood
Mark Jose
Christel Kesler
Iver Lofving
Elaine Post
Beth Schiller
Linda Seekins
Olga Shabunya Payne
Anna Beth Rynders
Dick Thomas
Margrit Thomas
Harry Vayo: Director
Marilyn Wheeler
Ray Winship
Linda Woods
Nancy Wynne

Website

Luke Brooks-Shesler
Beth Schiller: Co-webmaster
Rurik Spence: Co-webmaster
Administrator
Connie Winship
Ray Winship

Worship Committee

Online Worship Services and Virtual Coffee Hour

The Worship Committee has important announcements as we transition from in-person to online worship in the time of coronavirus. We are delighted to announce the following:

1. Online worship services will be available on www.uucwaterville.com every Sunday by 10 a.m.

Go to www.uucwaterville.com and click the “Play” button on the thumbnail image of the video for the week’s current worship service. We also have an online archive of past services. So far, we have had two online worship services, which are available on www.uucwaterville.com.

2. Virtual coffee hour will be every Sunday at 11 a.m.

Join us by going to www.uucwaterville.com and following the instructions for how to join the virtual coffee hour. If you do not have Zoom, you will need to install it on your computer. Instructions are on www.uucwaterville.com. If you have questions, send us an email at uuworshipcommittee@gmail.com.

3. Email uuworshipcommittee@gmail.com your Announcements and/or Joys & Concerns by Friday at 5 p.m. on the Friday before the Sunday service or leave a voicemail at (207) 873-4006. Someone will check the church voicemail every day and will forward the message to the Worship Committee.

Someone will read the Announcements, Joys and/or Concerns in the online worship service video; however, we will omit people's names from personal or sensitive messages to protect people's privacy. Please email us your Announcement or Joy or Concern using the *exact text* you want us to use in the worship video. We want to be sure we share only the information you are comfortable sharing publicly.

Our church – and our world – are in uncharted territory, but we will make it through these challenging times. How wonderful that we can be part of our tremendous community of faith.

In the days and weeks ahead, I hope everyone will maintain social distance in body, but not in spirit or mind. Reach out to your loved ones, friends or even acquaintances to see how they are doing. In times like these, even a small gesture of thoughtfulness can make someone’s day.

Take care and hope to see you at the next virtual coffee hour!

Sincerely, Luke Brooks-Shesler, Chair, Worship Committee

uuworshipcommittee@gmail.com

Religious Exploration

It’s a new world we are operating in right now. Inspired by watching Luke, Christel, Karen and others starting to provide online worship services on Sunday morning, I’m trying to wrap my head around how I can connect with the children in a meaningful and spiritual way in the weeks ahead. Whether we can gather together at church at any time soon or not, this is surely an opportunity for me to learn about this new way of doing religious exploration and connecting with the children. So, stay tuned for new adventures in religious exploration and stay safe and connected. Namaste, *Margrit Thomas* DRE

Weekly Group Gatherings in Averill Parlors

The Board has voted to allow small groups to decide if and how they wish to meet. To date, all of the groups that normally meet during the week are currently on a self-imposed hiatus. Small Group Ministry groups are postponed until mid-April.

Worship Committee

Steve Ball
Luke Brooks-Shesler: Chair
Peter Burgher
Jan Fichuk
Bernie LaCroix
Rock LaCroix
Jan Mathieu
Sarah Michaud
Dennis Perkins
Connie & Ray Winship

Worship Committee Sub-Committees

I. Social Justice

Steve Ball
Bill Barnett
Joy Barnett
Iver Lofving
Audrey McGee
Dick Thomas
Connie Winship
Ray Winship: Chair

II. Small Group Ministry

Luke Brooks-Shesler
Peter Burgher: Chair
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

V. Fifth Sunday

Jan Fichuk: Chair
Caroline Gander

Help our Healthcare Heroes

As you all have probably heard, healthcare workers are in dire need of face masks for their safety. We can help! There is quite a lot of information available about sewing face masks from cotton cloth. Testing shows they can effectively offer some protection. Connie and Ray Winship, Kathy McKay, Sue Morrill and Sally Harwood have formed a team to organize getting these masks made and distributed. We need people who would like to help sew the masks.

There are several patterns and instructions for sewing the masks. We realize those who sew probably have cotton cloth to use, but may need the elastic that is used to secure the mask to a person's ears. Sue Morrill has picked up 10 yards of elastic donated from Yardgoods to get us started and will reserve and pick up more on Monday. Sarah Seder has kindly offered her porch for those who would like to pick up the elastic, and if anyone does need cloth, we can make that available at Sarah's also. Let Sue or Kathy know if you need fabric dropped off at Sarah's for you.

Please email Kathy McKay or Sue Morrill, for information about the face masks, for Sarah's address, or for help with the sewing instructions.

Thanks to all who can help and best to you all as you deal with these challenging times.

In a similar vein, be aware that there is also a need for plastic face shields that go from the forehead to below the chin, curving around the face. This likely needs the plastic, a foam guard to go inside against the forehead, and wider elastic to hold the guard in place. If you're interested in that, maybe others with that interest can come up with instructions and materials. *Sally Harwood*

Earth Day Celebration: 50 years

Earth Day is an annual event celebrated around the world on April 22 to demonstrate support for environmental protection. First celebrated in 1970, it now includes events coordinated globally by the Earth Day Network in more than 193 countries.

The theme for Earth Day 2020 is climate action. The enormous challenge — but also the vast opportunities — of action on climate change have distinguished the issue as the most pressing topic for the 50th anniversary. Presently there are no local celebrations planned.

Is This Virus Getting You Down?

This congregation is a truly a caring community. I felt the caring this morning as I virtually attended the Sunday church service for today, available on our website, and followed that up by joining others to participate in a live virtual coffee hour. After a week of solitude in my home, it brought me to tears to hear the messages and music during the service and to see so many friends and fellow congregants live on my computer screen during the coffee hour. We chatted and checked in with each other and our spirits were lifted.

Individually, we can lift spirits and help each other, too, even if we are staying in our own homes by ourselves all day long. A phone call or an email to check in with a friend, a relative or a neighbor to see how they are managing makes everyone feel better.

In much the same way, the Caring Committee also lifts spirits and helps others. The Caring Committee lends a helping hand to members of our church community who are faced with health challenges or other difficult situations. We can give rides, prepare meals, do errands, visit, send cards and provide other similar services.

If during this unsettling time you find yourself unable to get out and pick up that prescription, buy needed groceries or mail a birthday present to a grandchild, think of the Caring Committee. To request assistance for yourself or for somebody else in our church community, or to volunteer to help others, please contact me. *Carolyn MacRae*

Virtual Coffee Hour

Our church's first ever "virtual coffee hour" was held on Sunday, March 23 at 11. Counting children, there were nearly 35 participants.

It was great to "see" our friends and to catch up with one another. Zoom hostess, Christel Kessler, demonstrated some of the components of Zoom and even the least tech-savvy among us could follow along. There is some fine-tuning to be done but repeated use will work out the minor glitches.

For the time being, using Zoom is a prayer answered as it allows groups large and small to meet. Shown here is the gallery view of participants; we also were put into "breakrooms" (smaller groups). It was fun.

Karen Kusiak, Ray Winship and Christel Kessler are available to help anyone get registered. Step-by-step instructions will be given over the phone.

Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee is delighted to report that this year's Stewards of Hope campaign has surpassed its goal. Although we are anticipating still a few more responses, at this point we have received a total of \$63,070 of pledges and dues against a goal of \$59,000 in pledges and dues. (We combine pledges and dues since dues are now carried as a budget expense.) Given that this generosity occurred in a year when the congregation was also asked to support a large Accessibility project, the results are especially gratifying. This is yet another indication of the resiliency, vitality and optimism of our little church. Thanks to all the members and friends who responded. Stewardship Committee

Evening Sandwich Program

Yes! The Evening Sandwich Program is open as usual six days a week! Thank you to all who have made this happen. Some of our long-time volunteers have opted out of volunteering over health and age concerns...and rightly so! Our Colby volunteers have headed for home.

We now have some new folks joining us ... teachers, restaurant workers and volunteers from other churches.

ESP has a new serving system. Guests come in one at a time down the few steps and are stopped by a table that lists fruit and vegetable choices. The chalk board displays the sandwich menu. As choices are made by the guest, the food is put into paper bags and then into plastic bags at the packing table which is six feet away. One volunteer puts the guest's bags on the table in front of him/her. No contact is made.

All surfaces are sanitized regularly and volunteers wear gloves at ALL times.

On a note of gratitude several restaurants have offered their extra and unused food items to ESP.

If you would like to volunteer at ESP, please call our director, Maili Bailey.

Stay well, *Sue Morrill*, ESP Board president

Services at a Glance

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|----------|---|
| April 5 | Onsite services suspended until April 19.
Online services at http://www.uucwaterville.com |
| April 12 | Onsite services suspended until April 19.
Online services at http://www.uucwaterville.com |
| April 19 | Onsite services suspended until April 19.
Online services at http://www.uucwaterville.com |
| April 26 | Onsite services suspended until April 19.
Online services at http://www.uucwaterville.com |

When this is over,
may we never again
take for granted
A handshake with a stranger
Full shelves at the store
Conversations with neighbors
A crowded theatre
Friday night out
The taste of communion
A routine checkup
The school rush each morning
Coffee with a friend
The stadium roaring
Each deep breath
A boring Tuesday
Life itself.

When this ends,
may we find
that we have become
more like the people
we wanted to be
we were called to be
we hoped to be
and may we stay
that way—better
for each other
because of the worst.

LAURA KELLY FANUCCI