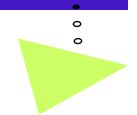


The Point



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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 rurik.spence@gmail.com

Rebecca Heath, Admin Assistant Connie Winship, Point Editor uuwtvladm@gmail.com cwinship@roadrunner.com

Church website: http://uucwaterville.com
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To the Point

I had a chance a couple of weeks ago to attend a remarkable mini-concert at Colby with my oldest friend — friends since kindergarten. The occasion was a narrative performance by John Farrell of T.S. Eliot's The Four Quartets juxtaposed by the five sections of Beethoven's String Quartet in A-minor, performed by the DaPonte String Quartet. The Four Quartets is a heroic effort to create an authentic spiritual response to the experiences of the 20th century: war, scientific upheavals of what had been the established universal order, and the rise of religious nihilism. The Beethoven work had been selected as accompaniment because 1) Eliot claimed to have been listening to this particular quartet as he began to frame his own Quartets, 2) the quartet forms mirrored each other and 3) because Beethoven, who thought he was dying when he wrote this music, dedicated the long and astoundingly moving middle section of the work as a hymn of thanks for having been spared from death by the effect of the music upon him. This last must have been echoed by Eliot's own feelings about his composition since he wrote no poetry after The Four Quartets.

I mention this wonderful experience because I believe that Unitarian Universalism is in the same situation that Eliot found himself: how to give authentic voice to the deep human spiritual urge when the old language no longer suffices. One of lines from Four Quartets is "The sea has many voices," Many gods and many voices." I think of our services here at church — many different voices, many different perspectives — but all springing from the same sea, the same spiritual source. Near the end of the fourth Quartet, summarizing perhaps the new millennium which lay not too far in the future, Eliot wrote (and this makes me think particularly of our little church): "And to make an end is to make a beginning./The end is where we start from.. . ./We shall not cease from exploration/And the end of all our exploring/Will be to arrive where we started/And know the place for the first time."

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Luke Brooks-Shesler REM representative Photographer Administrative Assistant Wayside Pulpit MUSSAN & Facebook Outside Bulletin Board Interfaith Council Webmaster IT Administrator The Point newsletter Morning Sentinel Liaison The Point newsletter

Ray Winship

Facebook Co-chair Communication Team

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

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Allane Ball: Chair 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**

From the Editor

Having recently returned from Atlanta where we visited our son and his husband, I came home more acutely aware of the significance that local churches play in the lives of individuals ... and of history. While in Atlanta, Ray and I toured the original Ebenezer Baptist Church where so much history took place. Like other churches in the South 60 + years ago. the Ebenezer Church challenged the way people thought and acted. Churches gave them the courage to attempt changing the status quo even when doing so was dangerous.

Standing up for what is unpopular by the majority is never an easy thing to do. Yet such is the case for some UUs in Waterville who tirelessly work to make the world a better place. UUs stand proudly in support of climate change legislation; we push for more humane treatment of immigrants. We do so knowing that our activism is not always well received by the general public, or by extended family members. Even friends weary of our crusade!

We do it nonetheless, like and I did for LGBT rights 25 years ago, because our consciences compel us to do so. For us as well as for other activists, the stepping out into the fray was made less frightening because church gave us the wherewithal and courage to take those first tentative steps.

I am convinced that it was the work of UU friends/members throughout Maine which led to the passage of Question One in 2011 making Maine the first state to allow same-sex marriage by popular vote. And it was the continued advocacy of activists which resulted in the 2015 ruling by the Supreme Court asserting that the Constitution guaranteed a right to same-sex marriage.

Churches can be the stepping stone for activism in a variety of social justice issues. Without the groundbreaking work of activist churches in the South, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 would never have passed. Similarly, without the work of UU churches in the 1990s, GLBT folks would likely still not have the right to a legal marriage. Connie Winship

Hospitality Teams

Thoughts for Hospitality Teams:

- Do you have a team leader to send out reminders when your Sunday approaches? That is helpful; you might talk/email among yourselves about who would be willing to do that.
- If you are going to be away on your scheduled Hospitality Sunday, swapping Sundays with a member of another team keeps the numbers balanced. Looking at the team list for the Sunday before and after the week you'll be gone, for example, can be an easy way.
- If there are any problems with how things are running for you/your team, feel free to give one of us a call to help brainstorm solutions.

Thank you for being a part of the church social life in this way - many people REALLY LOVE our post-service Coffee Hour. Keeping the service running smoothly by greeting, taking up the collection and helping with Joys & Concerns is also much appreciated - thanks! Kathy McKay, Rachel Marsh-Sachs and Rebecca Heath (administrative assistant)

Annual Lenten Organ Recital Series

The annual Lenten Organ Recital Series at the Waterville First Baptist Church will start this year on Sunday, March 1. Our own keyboardist, Anna Beth Rynders, will perform the following week on March 8, doing works by J. S. Bach, Flor Peters, John Stanley, Katherine K. Davis, Dale Wood, and Percy Whitlock. All recitals are free and open to the public, and are held in the sanctuary of Waterville First Baptist Church, located at the corner of Park and Elm Streets, on Sunday afternoons at 2:00pm. The performances are usually about 45-60 minutes long, followed by refreshments in the parlor.

Nominating Committee

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Planned Giving

Jon Rogers

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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: Webmaster Rurik Spence: Co-webmaster IT Administrator

Connie Winship Ray Winship

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee does not meet until after this month's Point deadline, so I wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on our church's ministry. As I think about our February services, I could not be prouder of our church and our congregation's commitment to ministry.

So far this month, our worship leaders have been an ordained minister, Rev. Nancee Campbell, and two members of our congregation, Katie Clifford and Christel Kesler. Rev. Campbell delivered her message with her characteristic wit and energy. Katie Clifford gave a personal message about her experience as a child protective supervisor that linked her work to our UU principles. I felt like the congregation was hanging on Katie's every word. Christel Kesler gave a Faith Rocket message, written by an ordained UU minister, that conceptualized faith as a willingness to take risks, as keeping hope alive during those inevitable phases of life that occur after you let go but before you know what comes next. I think these messages formed the core of a spiritually fulfilling experience at our church.

Faith Rocket has been an excellent spiritual resource for our church. Faith Rocket is an online repository of worship services and messages written by UU ministers. When preparing a Faith Rocket service, the Worship Committee reviews Faith Rocket messages until we find one that we think is just right for the speaker and the occasion. The speaker can also edit the Faith Rocket text so it aligns with his or her ideas as well as with our church. I have been delighted with our Faith Rocket messages. Not only are Faith Rocket messages written by ordained UU ministers, but they are also tailored to our church. We get to hear new yet familiar voices because they are delivered by members of our own congregation.

Over the next few weeks, the Worship Committee will be preparing a statement that describes the principles that the Worship Committee uses to create our services. We feel it is important to communicate how and why our services exist in their current form, and we are delighted to engage the congregation in the development of our worship.

As always, please feel free to invite friends or family to our worship services. We believe the UU message is especially important in today's world and that it will resonate with many people, even those who have never attended a UU worship service.

We are proud to serve this congregation, and please feel free to contact me at any time to discuss our worship.

Sincerely, *Luke Brooks -Shesler* Worship Committee Chair

P.S. May 3rd is "Bring a Friend to Church" Sunday!

Lift Project: "Thanks and Over-and-Out on Lift Fundraising!"

When our congregation committed to having a lift put in to make our sanctuary and downstairs accessible, we knew we would need to raise about \$80K. Proceeds from fundraisers such as the Holiday Fair, Crepe Gala and Lawn Sale went toward this commitment, and in early fall, appeal letters were sent to church members and friends. Now, about a year later, we have raised all but about \$5000-\$6000, and we send a huge THANK YOU to all who pitched in.

We are grateful that you joined in to make this happen. The Board will use the line of credit that was part of a planned loan to finish paying off the lift. You're welcome to contribute toward that final amount, but at this point, your fundraising chairs are celebrating the congregation's accomplishment, and knowing that the rest of the expenses will be met, we put this fundraiser to bed. You lifted us up!

Thanks from your happy, grateful fundraising chairs. *Rachel Marsh-Sachs and Kathy McKay*

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

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

Property & Grounds

Parking Arrangements with Nicholson, Michaud & Co

For those of you who have reported seeing two pickup trucks in our front parking lot, I am reminding everyone of our long-standing arrangement with the "Nicholson, Michaud & Co" accounting & tax business at 76 Silver Street. They allow us to use their parking lot for 2 or 3 cars every Sunday, and also use the lot whenever we have a church function on a Friday or Saturday evening. In exchange, we offer them 2 parking places during the busy January to April tax time, when they hire 4 or 5 additional people to help with the workload. They are a popular and highly respected firm and we are glad to work with them on this mutually beneficial arrangement.

Driveway Woes

As many of you have noticed, our main drive through driveway is in terrible shape. The section that you drive on as you leave Silver Street and proceed up to the parking area, or continue to connect with Silver Street has been badly damaged by the constant freezing and thawing we have had this year. We were hoping to wait until spring, when the frost heaves and sand dunes would be gone, but it is not safe to hold off any longer. We have had several incidents of people falling on the rough surface, and the truth is we should not be plowing it at this time. Jim Hubert of CDH Construction will address this situation soon, with an estimated cost of \$500 to \$600. This will be a temporary fix until we can do a decent, more permanent job in the summer. *Jerry Saint Amand*. Property & Grounds Manager

First Sunday Offering

The first Sunday offering for March goes to the Waterville Area Habitat for Humanity (WAHFH). Established in 2001, Waterville Area Habitat for Humanity is a locally-managed affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. WAHFH's mission is to enhance our community by helping qualified families to become independent owners of decent, affordable homes. WAHFH serves the communities of Albion, Belgrade, Benton, China, Clinton, Fairfield, Oakland, Rome, Smithfield, Unity, Vassalboro, Waterville and Winslow. Every 2 or 3 years WAHFN builds a house for a deserving family. They also are an active participant in a weatherization program.

Stewardship Committee

As of February 16, we are at 84% of our goal with about two weeks remaining in the Stewardship Drive. Thank you, thank you to those who have returned their cards and please, please, to those who have yet to do so. These pledges not only give the Finance Committee the resources they need to adequately plan the budget for the next fiscal year, but also exemplify the breadth of support for sustaining our little ship of a church as it sails into ever newer waters. *Stewardship Committee*

Evening Sandwich Stats

In 2019, ESP served 50,351 meals. For each of the last six years, ESP has served over 50,000 meals. Since the beginning in 1990, ESP has served a total of 780,830 meals. In the early years, ESP was only open from Tuesday through Friday. Monday meals started 10-12 years ago, and Sunday meals began about 5-6 years ago. That means there would have been a lot more meals served if we had been serving six days a week from the beginning. *Ray Winship*, ESP Board

More on the Evening Sandwich Program

This January the Evening Sandwich Program fed more folks than any other January in the past 30 years! ESP served 4,263 meals! Why? Perhaps less harsh weather, or cuts in food stamp funding or simply more hungry folks.

Most of our volunteers at ESP work in the kitchen making sandwiches and hot homemade soups and serving our guests. I would like to highlight one of our volunteers who helps Larry on Tuesday and Friday as he makes his pick-up rounds to Hannaford's, Caswell's, Sacred Heart Church, and Thayer Center for Health (MaineGeneral).

His help all began with a chance encounter in the church parking lot. Our volunteer lives close by and noticed that Larry's car had a veteran's license plate. WM is also a veteran and he asked Larry if he could help him unload his car. Then he asked to go with Larry on his "rounds" to do the loading as well as the unloading. While WM is not comfortable in crowds, he enjoys helping Larry and often comes in early to chop vegetables for the soups. It is a win-win situation for all! Thank you, WM! *Sue Morrill*, ESP president

Property & Grounds Manager Duties

I had promised church President, Dennis Perkins, that I would submit a list showing some of the duties and responsibilities that accompany this position. Please keep in mind that many of these were "acquired" by the P & G Manager as others retired, passed away or left the church. It is NOT true that he sometimes wore a flaming red shirt with a giant "S" on display along with a cape with matching insignia.

There is a growing awareness that many of these duties could be separate parts of our P&G puzzle - making it far easier for church members to serve on the committee. Here is a partial list for your review:

- Create a list of church projects, large and small, for Board and congregational review.
- Schedule actual project start/complete timetable after obtaining cost estimates whenever possible.
- Organize separate "Lawn & Garden" branch of P & G Committee to maintain current lawn and garden space and plan for expansion in future.
- Create separate "Door & Window" folder with detailed list of what we have now and what we need coming years.
- Organize separate "Carpet & Flooring" department of P & G to better schedule replacement dates for carpet and review condition of all interior stairs.
- Attend 1 or 2 board meetings a year.

Property & Ground Projects in the Works

The completion of the wheelchair lift project has moved the long-awaited expansion of our main bathroom to the top of our projects list. We will be adding hot water capability and replacing the sink, vanity and mirror.

Nursery bathroom expansion: Make this small bathroom originally designed for children into a comfortable area with space to maneuver a wheelchair easily. This will involve carpentry, plumbing and electrical work and is once again out to bid. We have a March 30 completion date and hope to meet that.

Replacement of worn carpet in the main church and Averill Parlors: We are looking for one flooring contractor to do all three projects at a special price.

Handicap ramp removal: Now that we have the wheelchair lift in its place, we no longer need this monstrosity which requires almost constant care. We will need to dispose of the scrap lumber and may use volunteer labor for part of this spring project.

New exterior stairway: This will replace the ramp and provide the required second (or third) exit from the church in case of fire

First Sunday Pledge for February

Last month's First Sunday donation for the Family Violence Program was \$202.60

Facebook Stats

Our Facebook page is seeing more and more activity. Currently 454 people are following our Facebook page. Of these, 70% are women and 62% are 45 or older. Of the 428 people who have liked our page, 416 are from the U.S. including 9 different states. There are people from 9 foreign countries who have liked our page. We are adding new likes and followers as people share our posts, and our posts are reaching more people locally. *Ray Winship*, Communication Team

The following comment was posted on our church's Facebook page following Katie Clifford's message, "Meeting Childhood Adversity with Compassion". YAY, Katie!



Services at a Glance

March 1 Mary Dunn

Opening Our Hearts to Those Seeking Asylum

While thousands of families wait in Mexico to ask for asylum in our country, many others are flown back to Central America, their asylum denied. This is a difficult time in our country's history but it's also an opportunity to examine our own beliefs and explore ways in which we can open our hearts to those in such need. After a year of working with organizations along our southern border and visiting twice, I'd like to help you understand the needs, the importance of not looking away, and ways to join the efforts to right what is wrong.

March 8 Rev. Nancee Campbell

The Bright Light of Spring

The darkness of the winter fades as the bright light of spring softens the edges of our moods.

March 15 Jerry Saint Amand

This Changes Everything

What happens when one of the healthiest, most active people in the community is diagnosed with Parkinson's disease? UU church leader Jerry Saint Amand gives you an inside look at all that goes with dealing with this terminal illness and what lies ahead.

March 22 Rachel Marsh-Sachs

Politics and Religion

The UU denomination connects its spiritual beliefs with work for justice, and a commitment to a democratic and fair world. Faith, unlike partisan politics, is about clear and uncompromising values, and including all of people. This is a Faith Rocket service with the message written by Rev. Meg Riley.

March 29 Rev. Twinkle Marie Porter-Manning

Awakening Wisdom

Rev. "Twinkle" Marie Porter-Manning will explore the natural, spiritual, genetic and experiential sources of awakening wisdom. We will also consider how to apply such wisdom in our lives and in our faith communities.

Contact Information for Trustees and Officers

Officers			Trustees		
President: Dennis Perkins	2021	julep1027@yahoo.com	James Breslin	2022	jamesbreslin7843@gmail.com
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Collector: Marilyn Wheeler		mwhee64@gmail.com	Jon Rogers	2022	sebasticook53@gmail.com
			Beth Schiller	2021	schillb@colby.edu

March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 First Sunday Donation: Waterville Area Habitat for Humanity Hospitality Team # 2 10:00 Mary Dunn Opening our Hearts to those Seeking Asylum 11:00 – 12:00 Coffee Hour 4:00 - 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	2 4:00 - 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	3 11:00 – 1:00 Discussion Group 4:00 - 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	4 10:00 – 1:00 Arts and Crafts 4:00 – 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	5 9:30 – 11:00 Men's Coffee Jorgensen's 4:00 – 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	6 11:30 – 1:30 Women's Group 4:00 – 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	7
Souper Sunday Wagon Hospitality Team # 3 10:00 Rev. Nancee Campbell The Bright Light of Spring 11:00 – 12:00 Coffee Hour 4:00 - 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	9 4:00 - 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	10 11:00 – 1:00 Discussion Group 4:00 - 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program 5:00 – 6:00 Worship Committee	11 10:00 – 12:00 Small Group Ministry Mark Jose 10:00 – 1:00 Arts and Crafts Group 4:00 – 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program 6:00 – 8:00 Board of Trustees	12 9:30 – 11:00 Men's Coffee Jorgensen's 4:00 – 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	Friday the 13th 11:30 – 1:30 Women's Group 4:00 – 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	14
15 Hospitality Team # 4 10:00 Jerry Saint Amand This Changes Everything	16 4:00 - 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	17	18 10:00 – 1:00 Arts and Crafts Group	19	20 11:30 – 1:30 Women's Group	21

11:00 – 12:00 Coffee Hour 4:00 - 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program		St. Patrick's Day 11:00 – 1:00 Discussion Group 4:00 - 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	4:00 – 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program 6:00 - 8:00 Small Group Ministry Peter Burgher	HAPPY FIRST DAY OF SPRING! 9:30 – 11:00 Men's Coffee Jorgensen's 4:00 – 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	4:00 – 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	
22 Hospitality Team # 5 10:00 Rachel Marsh Sachs Politics and Religion 11:00 – 12:00 Coffee Hour 4:00 - 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	23 4:00 - 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	24 11:00 – 1:00 Discussion Group 4:00 - 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	25 10:00 – 1:00 Arts and Crafts Group 4:00 – 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	26 9:30 – 11:00 Men's Coffee Jorgensen's 4:00 – 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	27 11:30 – 1:30 Women's Group 4:00 – 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	
28 Hospitality Team # 6 10:00 Rev. Twinkle Marie Porter-Manning	29 4:00 - 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	30 11:00 – 1:00 Discussion Group 4:00 - 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program	31 10:00 – 1:00 Arts and Crafts Group 4:00 – 5:00 Evening Sandwich Program 5:00 – 6:00 Evening Sandwich Program Board meets			

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