

June
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
rurik.spence@gmail.com

Rebecca Heath, Admin Assistant
uuwvtvladm@gmail.com

Connie Winship, Point Editor
cwinship@roadrunner.com

Church website: <http://uucwaterville.com>

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/uucwvtvl>

Committee Members, Officers and Trustees

Archives

Bookkeeper

Katrina Goodrich

Board of Trustees and Officers

Officers

Pres. Dennis Perkins 2021
VP: Rurik Spence 2021
Treasurer: Allane Ball 2021
Clerk: Sarah Seder 2020
Collector: Marilyn Wheeler

Trustees

Jan Fichuk 2020
Trip Gander 2021
Carolyn MacRae 2020
Jon Rogers 2022
Beth Schiller 2021

Committees and Teams

Accessibility Team

Jim Easton
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
Rurik Spence
Linda Woods

Collector

Marilyn Wheeler

To the Point

By the time you read this, you will know already that our Board has voted to suspend on-site services for the months of June and July, will conduct this year's annual meeting via ZOOM on June 14 and has announced that there will be no Lawn Sale until 2021. All three of these actions were done with regret, but also for the same good reason. If just one of our congregation, or even if just one of the members of our greater communities, can be spared an infection that might prove deadly, then these inconveniences and sacrifices will have been worth it. Perhaps, also, there is a greater lesson in these sacrifices for the good of another.

Just as children have singular experiences that alter the course of their lives, so too do communities and countries. This pandemic has shown us both how vulnerable we are and how dependent we are on the good graces of one another. We wear masks not so much out of fear for ourselves as out of care for one another so we might not unwittingly infect a friend or a stranger. Oddly, our masks (so often associated with criminal behavior) are badges of honor — the honor we show toward each other. Let's hope this lesson is at least in part imbedded in our psyches long after the virus has run its course. *Dennis Perkins*, President, Board of Trustees

From the Editor

As is our custom, there will be no Point newsletter in July and August. Send your announcements to Rebecca Heath, our administrative assistant, at uuwvtvladm@gmail.com.

This summer promises to be one for the books for our church. Our fiscal year starts with a virtual Annual Meeting on June 14 — without question, a historic event. The Evening Sandwich Program will continue to operate on a reduced schedule, i.e. Sundays, Tuesdays and Fridays because these are the days that a team can be put together. Sadly, there will be no Yard & Plant Sale, a popular event in the area and one of our best fundraisers.

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 Committee

Bill Barnett
Joy Barnett
Jan Fichuk
Rachel Marsh-Sachs: co-chair
Kathy McKay: co-chair
Dennis Perkins
Ray Winship

Finance Committee

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

Virtual services will be offered in different formats with live broadcasts in July followed in August by a variety of speakers. UU ministers are scheduled for specific Sundays in each of the summer months. All services will be posted online and on Facebook as well as in the Weekend Worship page of the Morning Sentinel which comes out on Saturdays. Services will be additionally posted in the mid-week update.

Wishing you a restful summer. *Connie Winship*, Editor

Worship Committee

Dear members and friends of UUC-Waterville,

To say that the last few weeks of worship have been unusual would be an understatement. We have transitioned from in-person, “live” worship services to pre-recorded worship service videos posted to www.uucwaterville.com. One way or another, we have figured out how to record videos for the worship service components while adhering to social-distancing best practices. We are becoming experts at Zoom, QuickTime, iMovie, Google Drive and the other technology needed for these services. Special thanks to Beth Schiller, Dennis Perkins, Christel Kesler, Nick Lykling, Margrit Thomas, and Karen Kusiak for their continuous contributions.

Based on UUA guidance, we may have to extend online services substantially beyond July, and the Worship Committee, with the support of many additional members of the congregation, is prepared to do so. This new reality means Worship Committee members are in the process of transforming their skill sets to meet our congregation’s spiritual needs through online worship. Just this past Sunday, Ray and Connie Winship recorded and uploaded videos for their first online worship service. The Worship Committee cannot do it alone, though, and we depend on other members and friends of our church to support us. We are delighted that on Sunday, Beth Schiller edited her first online worship service.

Even though we would prefer to worship in person, the online worship services do have some benefits. We can record videos from any location we want, such as from the Colby woods and Runnals Hill, which I think offers a nice change of pace. We can also include more contributions from a wider variety of members and friends into the worship services. For the May 17 service, Dave and Nancy Wynne shared their story of perseverance when hiking on Mount Rainier. I hope to receive contributions from as many people as possible, so don’t be surprised if the Worship Committee reaches out to you.

I think our worship services are important to our church during these uncertain and often lonely times. The online worship services – and the process of creating them – bond us together. I am proud of our church for being so resilient and adaptive. Although we cannot be together in person, we are still in one another’s thoughts and minds as we worship from separate locations. When the pandemic is over, we will worship in person again and we will continue on in the spirit of our church’s tradition.

If you have ideas or suggestions for the Worship Committee, please reach out to us at any time. If you would like to become more involved with the Worship Committee, we would be delighted to hear from you!

Take care, and stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,
Luke Brooks-Shesler
Worship Committee Chair
uuworshipcommittee@gmail.com

Nominating Committee

Peter Burgher
Jim Easton
Karen Kusiak
Jon Rogers
Sarah Seder: co-chair
Margrit Thomas: co-chair

Planned Giving

Jon Rogers

Point Newsletter

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

Property & Grounds

Jim Ashton
Jim Easton
Trip Gander: Chair
Dennis Perkins
Jim Shinsky
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

Treasurer's Report

We are finishing up our fiscal year at the end of June. In these unprecedented times, we have missed the hands-on fellowship. We have also missed the weekly plate donations, but happily many of you have sent your pledge checks in by mail and we are close to meeting our goals for Fiscal Year 2019-20.

Our bookkeeper, Katrina, has been sending out final pledge statements this month by email. Please look yours over. If you have a balance due, please try to send that in as soon as possible so it can be counted in the correct fiscal year. Of course, if for any reason you are unable to finish your contribution, just let us know. If you do not receive an emailed statement and believe you should have, please let me know. Thank you.

Allane Ball, Treasurer

Virtual Coffeehouse

Join your church friends for a virtual coffeehouse each Thursday evening from 6:30 – 8 p.m. Come to sing, play music, read a poem, do a comedy routine, or just to listen and enjoy.

Performers of all ages are welcome. You can join by clicking on this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/473083251> .

If you are using a phone, dial 1 313 626 6799, then enter meeting ID 473 083 251. If you like to perform, please email Harry Vayo at vayowoods@live.com before the coffeehouse. Hope to see you!

Updating of Church Directory

Plans are being made to update the Church Directory. As part of this updating, you will be asked to confirm/correct your most recent email address, mailing address, phone number and partner/spouse and children's names.

Importantly, we want to add the names of church friends and members whose names are not listed in the present directory. More on this later in the summer. *Rebecca Heath*, administrative assistant

Pride Portland 2020

Pride Portland 2020 - originally scheduled for June 20 - has been cancelled but a Virtual Pride is in the works. Pride Portland! and several other Pride organizations throughout the state are coming together to find ways for everyone to celebrate together and connect. Portland Pride! has tentatively made the decision to move the event to the end of August. If you have any questions about Pride events, click on info@prideportland.org or go to Pride Portland!'s website or Facebook page. *Connie Winship*

Religious Education

One lesson I have learned during my life is that, no matter how difficult some event, circumstance or change is, there is also almost always a silver lining or unexpected benefit. So it has been with the shelter-at-home order and closing of church. It was difficult at first. I missed seeing the children and interacting with them. Then, I found Zoom and for several weeks, with the help of Christel Kesler, I met with the children and tried to engage in some kind of learning activity.

I found acorns that were beginning to sprout when I was walking the dog and brought several of them home. I planted them with the children watching and when they began to grow, Dick and I made an expedition to bring the young oak trees to each of the children (with social distancing, of course). I spent several Sundays reading a picture book and having a conversation with the children. But the greatest blessing has been reading chapter books aloud. In addition to meeting on Sunday morning, we meet on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons for a half hour and I read aloud. We started with *Charlotte's Web* and are now reading *The Wizard of Oz*. It has been so much fun. The children and I are hoping we can continue doing this through the summer.

I do miss seeing everyone in person on Sunday mornings and I hope we can gather again soon on Sunday mornings. Namaste, *Margrit Thomas*, DRE

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

Evening Sandwich Program

Good news! The Evening Sandwich Program has re-opened! After being closed for about three weeks, ESP began to serve our guests on Sunday, May 17. There is a shortened schedule: Sunday, Tuesday and Friday. The hours are the same: 4 - 5 p.m.

Enhanced volunteer and guest protocols are in place. Everyone, guests and volunteers alike, must wear gloves and a face covering/mask at all times. ESP received a donation from Rotary of masks. These are handed out, along with gloves, to any guest needing them to enter and receive food.

Six-foot intervals are clearly marked on the sidewalk, thanks to Maili. There is a sign announcing the social distancing requirement. Guests enter one at a time to the bottom of the steps. A table and plexiglass barrier separate the guest from the volunteers as well as a six-foot distance. The menu is posted on a chalkboard and has a limited number of sandwich choices plus soup. Two tables are set up in the center of Averill Parlors with desserts and fruit/vegetables. Guests are given choices verbally. All is bagged up and put on the guest's table. This revised system is working well and the numbers are gradually returning to normal.

Thank you to our director, Maili Bailey, Larry Dickey and all volunteers. In addition, Maili hired our church cleaners to strip and re wax the kitchen and entryway! Lookin' good! *Sue Morrill*, ESP President

1000 Masks! WOW

Our small group of UU-based mask stitchers helped fill MaineGeneral Medical Center and community needs, and moved on to sending masks to Mary Dunn's Team Brownsville (TX/MX border) and to some Maine migrant workers. We'll have made around a thousand masks when all is said and done.

Special shout out to Mary, the mother of our administrative assistant, Rebecca. Mary made 230 masks using the same machine that has turned out over a thousand dresses and hundreds of quilts for Maine foster children - using her grandmother's treadle sewing machine.

Thanks to all who sewed and who supported the stitchers in producing amazing masks. We wish you good health and clean breathing. If you sewed with us and would like a "We can sew it" sticker, let Sarah Seder or Kathy McKay know - we have some to share with you.
Kathy McKay

Virtual Services at a Glance

- June 7 Worship Leader: Rev. Nancee Campbell
Flower Service
In the spirit of this UU holiday try to have a flower with you when you watch this service.
- June 14 **Annual Meeting:**
We will hold our annual meeting live via ZOOM beginning at 10 a.m.
All members who are able are asked to attend.
- June 21 Worship Leader: Rev. Al Boyce
G.R.A.C.E. and Gratitude
The sermon will focus on living with the virus from a spiritual perspective as we honor those laboring on the high-risk front lines.
- June 28 Worship Leader: Peter Burgher
Faith Rocket service