

September
2020

The Point

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

Office Phone: 207-873-4006

Services start at 10:00 a.m.

Committee Members, Officers and Trustees

Archives

Bookkeeper

Katrina Goodrich

Board of Trustees and Officers

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Pres: Dennis Perkins 2021
VP: Rurik Spence 2021
Treasurer: Allane Ball 2021
Clerk: Sarah Seder 2020
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Dave Wynne

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Carolyn MacRae: Chair
Sue Morrill
Ann Paradis
Rurik Spence
Linda Woods

Collector

Mark Jose
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Dennis Perkins, President
julep1027@yahoo.com

Rurik Spence, Vice President
rurik.spence@gmail.com

Beth Schiller, Interim Administrative Assistant
uuwvtvladm@gmail.com

Connie Winship, Point Editor
cwinship@roadrunner.com

Church website: <http://uucwaterville.com>
Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/uucwtvl>

During the corona virus pandemic,
online worship services will be held at 10:00 a.m.
and will be followed by a virtual Coffee Hour.
For more information, go to uucwaterville.com
All are welcomed

To the Point

Welcome back to *The Point* as we resume our strange new journey through a virtual and viral fall at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Waterville!

I've been thinking a lot about this virus and about the frustrations of the kindly Dr. Fauci with the self-centeredness of so many Americans. He has said that if only 18-year-olds on Florida beaches could understand and feel they have a deep responsibility for the life of an 80-year-old man in Chicago or that the unmasked man declaring his political freedom in a Waterville store felt that same responsibility for an immunity-compromised infant in Harlem, then the handful of common-sense public health guidelines of masking, distancing, foregoing large gatherings, etc., would bring the virus down to controllable levels in fairly short order and hasten the successful opening of the economy for everybody. But such is not the case across this nation.

This brings back memories of a story-lesson of 2,700 years ago written in the Torah's Book of Genesis. The story of Cain and Abel: Cain, jealous of his brother Abel's more acceptable burnt offerings, kills him and runs away. When asked by the spirit of God (in modern parlance, by "his conscience"), "Where is your brother?", Cain answers, "How should I know? Am I my brother's keeper?" 2,700 years! And still, the country known as history's greatest democracy,

Communications Team

Peter Burgher	Photographer
Beth Schiller: Interim	Admin Assistant
Mark Jose	Wayside Pulpit
Karen Kusiak	Community Liaison
	Facebook
Carolyn MacRae	Photographer
Charlie Morrill	Outside Bulletin Board
Sue Morrill	Interfaith Council
Beth Schiller	Webmaster
Rurik Spence	IT Administrator
Sarah Webster	The Point newsletter
Connie Winship	Community Liaison
	The Point newsletter
	Co-Chair Comm Team
	Facebook
Ray Winship	Co-Chair Comm Team
	Team

Evening Sandwich Program

ESP Board

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

Facebook

Karen Kusiak
Ray Winship

Fellowship/Membership Committee

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

Finance Committee

Peter Burgher
Mark Jose
Margrit Thomas
Dave Wynne

Housekeeping

Gina Boudreau: Housekeeper
Maili Bailey: Director

Interfaith Council

Sue Morrill

Investment Management

Peter Burgher: Chair
Mark Jose
Jon Rogers

MUUSAN

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

Nominating Committee.

Peter Burgher
Karen Kusiak
Margrit Thomas: Chair

Organists

Anna Beth Rynders: Lead Organist
Beth Schiller
Anne Marie Thibodeau

Our UU Principles, particularly the 7th which declares that everything is both dependent upon and responsible for everything else in creation, lead us clearly in the right direction. Am I my brother's keeper? Yes, yes, yes. We express our "yes" answer in many ways. We cast votes for those office-seekers who support programs of inclusion and equality. We accept responsibility for our climate behavior. We accept higher taxes so that those with least may have more. We demand truthfulness from ourselves, our information sources, and our leaders. We support the full range of spiritual search. Just to name a few of our "yesses." And some of us give for the benefit of others without any desire for recognition: the anonymous gift of the new heat pumps in Averill Parlors being a remarkable recent example. Now there is someone "keeping their brothers and sisters" in every sense of the word.

So, hello to this fall. May its lessons not be lost on us.
Dennis Perkins, President, Board of Trustees

From the Editor

This begins my 17th year as editor of *The Point*! No one is more surprised than me! When I signed on, it *WAS* supposed to be just for a few months so that a friend could spend more time with a seriously ill family member.

Then, as now, my goals are threefold: to share information among church members, to promote membership to visitors, and to serve as a historical record of what the church does. Of those three, the first has been of most importance to me as I've intentionally tried to find ways of helping us to better know one other.

In that spirit I would like to announce a new column entitled *Here's our Staff!* The autobiographical series will begin in October; and will answer the question, "What would you like people to know about you?"

Going forward, we will post short bios about new members.

As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions. Best, *Connie Winship*

Interfaith Council

The Interfaith Council meets once per month and represents faith-based organizations as well as Colby College and Thomas College. It is open to all.

At the July meeting, held by Zoom, Rev. Mark Wilson, of the UCC Church on Eustis Parkway announced it had sold its building and is now leasing space on the lower level of The Elms (next to the Post Office). Rev. Wilson will be leaving his position in mid-September. He was hired specifically as an interim minister to help the church sell its building and find a new location. The Interfaith Council will say its goodbyes and well wishes in person at The Elms during the September meeting.

Most of our meetings center on two areas - the extreme lack of affordable housing and the creative way churches and schools are meeting with their congregations and students.

During the pandemic, the Waterville Homeless Shelter has been full and has experienced no outbreaks of COVID-19. Families are housed in area motels and provided three meals per day. Many folks have housing vouchers for apartments but end up waiting many weeks before obtaining housing.

The Methodist Church is currently holding "lawn chair" services once per month and uses Zoom the other weeks.

The Episcopal Church has two services - an outdoor service at 9 a.m. and a Zoom service at 10:30 a.m. I shared our wonderful experiences with Zoom services and coffee hours as well as outdoor group meetings in Fort Halifax Park. *Sue Morrill*

Planned Giving

Jon Rogers

Point Newsletter

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

Property & Grounds

Trip Gander: Chair
Dennis Perkins
Jerry Saint Amand
Ed Spear

Religious Education

Margrit Thomas: DRE

Small Group Ministry

Peter Burgher
Mark Jose

Stewardship Committee

Peter Burgher
Sarah Michaud
Dennis Perkins

UU Singers and Musicians

Maili Bailey
Bill Barnett
Nancy Brooks
Jan Fichuk
Sally Harwood
Mark Jose
Joanna Linden
Iver Lofving
Anna Beth Rynders
Beth Schiller
Linda Seekins
Olga Shabunya
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
Administrator
Connie Winship
Ray Winship

Welcoming Congregation

Worship Committee

Brooks-Shesler: Co-chair
Jim Evans
Caroline Gander
Karen Kusiak
Bernie LaCroix
Rock LaCroix
Jan Mathieu
Sarah Michaud
Dennis Perkins: Co-chair
Connie Winship
Ray Winship

Evening Sandwich Program

The Evening Sandwich Program closed indefinitely on June 8, 2020. The ESP Board met by Zoom on June 4, 2020. The Board decided unanimously that the risk to volunteers made it unsafe to keep ESP open. The number of guests had decreased dramatically, and many were not happy with the one-at-a-time format. The ESP Board will reconvene in September by Zoom to re-evaluate options. The sign on the door directs folks needing food or other services to call 211.

On a further note, the dumpster has been removed. If anyone creates garbage in the kitchen, please take it home with you. Also, please NO donations of food at this time.
Sue Morrill, ESP President

Small Group Ministry

There are currently two Small Group Ministry groups in existence in our church. They have taken a break in the summer, but will be starting up in September. The groups are facilitated by Mark Jose, whose group meet at 10:00 on the second Wednesday of the month; and Peter Burgher, whose group meets on the third Wednesday at 1:00. Both groups are open to new members from our church community.

Just as a reminder, Small Group Ministry groups are active in many UU Churches around the country (see the UUA website for more information). Our groups meet once a month and discuss the same topic so that members from other groups can talk together. Please speak to Peter or Mark if you are interested. *Mark Jose*

Caring Committee

During this difficult spring and summer, we have all had to adapt to living with the disruption to our lives caused by the novel coronavirus. It has been harder to maintain our connections with each other, especially without our normal in-person church services and other activities.

Especially at this trying time, the Caring Committee remains ready to lend 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, run errands, visit, send cards and provide other similar services.

One thing that has become more difficult as a result of the virus, though, is knowing who among us needs or wants an extra helping hand. Can you help? If you know of someone in our church community who needs a bit of extra help at this time, or if you, yourself, could use some assistance, please let us know. It's easy to request help. Simply contact Carolyn MacRae by email at carolynmacrae@gmail.com or by phone at 207-873-1244. We will be glad to hear from you.

Items for the Holiday Sale

Given that there will be no Holiday Fair this December, please do not leave clothing and other items at church on the stage.

Tuesday Discussion Group

The Tuesday Discussion Group is one of fellowship and serious discussion on cogent topics. The group meets from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesdays. Meetings begin and end on time. They often begin with a few minutes for members to check in if they want to share particular joys or concerns that are on their minds. Check-in time is brief; the purpose of this time is for sharing, and the group time is not to be used as a therapy session. That said, personal information shared during our meetings is considered to be confidential and not to be shared with others outside the group. During the meetings, only one person speaks at a time. Members attempt to stay on topic and give others time to speak by taking turns and keeping comments reasonably brief while still completing their thoughts. Members try to be aware of individual differences; for example, speaking loudly enough for all to hear. A topic for the next meeting is chosen at the end of each meeting and is published in the Mid-Week Update and the Sunday Order of Service. New members are welcome. *Carolyn MacRae*

**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
Dick Thomas

**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

Worship Committee

Welcome to Jim Evans, Caroline Gander and Karen Kusiak who have joined the Worship Committee. Thanks to outgoing member, Peter Burgher, who has served for many years.

Religious Exploration

This morning for the first time in a while, I was able to interact with all my RE kids on Zoom. It felt a little like it had when we were all together on Sunday mornings, with the more boisterous children clamoring and the quieter children patiently waiting to get a work in edgewise. It was wonderful!

So, I am happy that we will return to a full hour of RE starting Sept. 13 at 9 a.m., rather than at 10. This will give me, parents and any children who wish it the opportunity to be part of the online worship service. I have been doing a read-aloud with the group several times a week for the last several months. On Sept. 13 we will transition to a more interactive program for Sunday mornings. What that will look like is still in the works. I would like to continue with the read-aloud on weekdays in the late afternoons twice a week. Days and times will be decided upon after consulting with parents.

Happy Fall! Namaste, *Margrit Thomas* DRE

Women's Group

In contrast to other years, the Women's Group has continued to meet on Fridays from 10-12 throughout the summer. In response to the Covid pandemic, we have been meeting over Zoom as most other church groups have been doing.

On nice days, however, we have been meeting in person (live!) at Fort Halifax Park in Winslow. We, of course, have been maintaining the six-foot rule, sitting in the shade under the trees, enjoying the wonderful, cool breeze coming off the Kennebec and Sebasticook Rivers. The park is wheelchair accessible, so please don't let that be a barrier to joining us. An email is sent out Thursday morning letting folks know if we will be meeting on Zoom or in the park.

The Group has morphed into more of a social organization where we share information about ourselves and our families with each other. Conversations can center on our church, community, national goings-on, our hopes and fears...and, of course, Covid-19.

If you would like to have your name added to the email list, please let me know. Please join us!
Kit Alexander, kita0847@roadrunner.com

UU the Vote

UU the Vote is a nationwide campaign by the UUA to engage congregations in efforts to influence the electoral process of the upcoming election.

Would you like to see our congregation engage in a UU the Vote campaign for the upcoming elections in Maine? Would you like to lead such a campaign? Or be part of a team?

You won't need to invent the playbook if you are part of the campaign leadership. You will have the support and resources of the UUA and of MUUSAN (Maine UU Social Advocacy Network). You will find a wealth of suggestions in the UU Campaign Guide from the UUA website.

Zoom Coffee Hour

Come visit us "after church" when the Worship Committee hosts a Zoom coffee hour on Sundays at 11. This is the time when we "greet our neighbors" and share our Joys and Concerns. The session begins as a large-group discussion where folks can get the big picture of what is happening in each other's lives; after a period of a few minutes, the large group is split into smaller groups so participants can have more in-depth conversations.

The details for connecting to the Zoom meeting that includes both the church service and the coffee hour which follows are posted on the church website, included in the Mid-Week Update, and sent to the all-church email list each week.

Please remember that even if you cannot Zoom on your computer, you can join the chat on your cell phone. The Zoom information will include phone numbers for you to use.

Lastly, if you would like help using Zoom, contact Karen Kusiak or Ray Winship and they will get you set up. One of the unexpected benefits of using Zoom for Ray and me is that it has enabled us to "visit" with our entire family at the same time – kids and grandkids in CT, VA, GA. What a gift. *Connie Winship*

Water Communion Ceremony: Sunday September 13

The Water Communion Ceremony was first used at a Unitarian Universalist worship service in the 1980s. Many UU congregations now hold a Water Communion once a year, often at the beginning of the new church year.

Traditionally members bring to the service a small amount of water from a place that is special to them. During the appointed time in the service, people one by one pour their water together into a large bowl. As the water is added, the person who brought it tells why this water is special to them. The combined water is symbolic of our shared faith coming from many different sources. It is often then blessed by the congregation, and sometimes is later boiled and used as the congregation's "holy water" in child dedication ceremonies and similar events. Unfortunately, given that services are virtual, we will not be able to observe this ceremony this year.

Online Services at a Glance

September 6 Labor Day service
 Worship Leader: Luke-Brooks-Shesler
The Spiritual Significance of Work

This Labor Day weekend worship service explores the spiritual significance of work. Work can nourish our spirit by giving us a chance to be part of something that is bigger than ourselves and by allowing us to achieve personal and professional fulfillment. Yet, work can also take a toll on our spirit if we experience poor working conditions, or if we do not have work at all. This message explores the spiritual significance of work and its ripple effects throughout our lives as we live through the Covid-19 pandemic.

September 13 Water Communion Service
 Worship Leader: Rev. Nancee Campbell
 Worship Associate: Connie Winship

September 20 Worship Leader: Rev. Al Boyce
Resiliency in the time of Covid

September 27 Faith Rocket Service
 Dennis Perkins: Worship Leader
Imagine all the people...choices...possibilities

Contact Information for Trustees and Officers: 2020-2021

Officers			Trustees	
			Elyse Apantaku	emapantaku@gmail.com
President: Dennis Perkins	2021	julep1027@yahoo.com	Katie Clifford	clifford.katiemae@gmail.com
VP: Rurik Spence	2021	rurik.spence@gmail.com	Trip Gander	tripgander@gmail.com
Treasurer: Allane Ball	2021	allaneball@gmail.com	Sally Harwood	carolyn.macrae@yahoo.com
Clerk: Sarah Seder	2020	sseder@roadrunner.com	Jon Rogers	sebasticook53@gmail.com
Collector: Marilyn Wheeler		mwhee64@gmail.com	Beth Schiller	schillb@colby.edu

September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 11:00 – 1:00 Discussion Group Contact Carolyn MacRae (carolynmacrae@gmail.com) for sign-in instructions	2 10:00 – 12:00 Arts and Crafts Group FMI email Ellie at duhamellie@gmail.com	3 9:30 – 11:00 Men’s Coffee For more information, contact rwinship@roadrunner.com	4 10:00 – 12:00 Women’s Group Contact Kit Alexander for more information	5
6 10:00 Online Service <i>The Spiritual Significance of Work</i> 11:00 - 12:00 Virtual Coffee Hour	7 Labor Day	8 11:00 – 1:00 Discussion Group Contact Carolyn MacRae (carolynmacrae@gmail.com) for sign-in instructions 5:00 – 6:00 Worship Committee	9 10:00 – 12:00 FMI email Ellie at duhamellie@gmail.com 10:00 – 12:00 Small Group Ministry Mark Jose 6:00 -8:00 Board of Trustees	10 9:30 – 11:00 Men’s Coffee For more information, contact rwinship@roadrunner.com	11 10:00 – 12:00 Women’s Group Contact Kit Alexander for more information	12
13 10:00 Online Service  Rev. Nancee Campbell Water Communion Service 11:00 - 12:00 Virtual Coffee Hour	14	15 11:00 – 1:00 Discussion Group Contact Carolyn MacRae (carolynmacrae@gmail.com) for sign-in instructions	16 10:00 – 12:00 Arts and Crafts Group FMI email Ellie at duhamellie@gmail.com 1:00 – 2:00 Small Group Ministry Peter Burgher	17 9:30 – 11:00 Men’s Coffee For more information, contact rwinship@roadrunner.com v	18 10:00 – 12:00 Women’s Group Contact Kit Alexander for more information	19
20 10:00 Online Service Rev. Al Boyce <i>Resiliency in the time of Covid</i> 11:00 12:00 Virtual Coffee Hour	21	22 11:00 – 1:00 Discussion Group Contact Carolyn MacRae (carolynmacrae@gmail.com) for sign-in instructions	23 10:00 – 12:00 Arts and Crafts Group FMI email Ellie at duhamellie@gmail.com	24 9:30 – 11:00 Men’s Coffee For more information, contact rwinship@roadrunner.com	25 10:00 – 12:00 Women’s Group Contact Kit Alexander for more information	26
27 10:00 Online Service Faith Rocket Service <i>Imagine all the people..choices...possibilities</i> 11:00 - 12:00 Virtual Coffee Hour	28	29 11:00 – 1:00 Discussion Group Contact Carolyn MacRae (carolynmacrae@gmail.com) for sign-in instructions 5:00 – 6:00 ESP Board meeting	30 10:00 – 12:00 Arts and Crafts Group FMI email Ellie at duhamellie@gmail.com			

