



Along the Way...

As I write this, nor'easter #4 is bearing down upon us, bringing heavy snow and high winds for the fourth time in a month—and the first day of spring was March 20! Even for New England, this doesn't seem fair. March came in like a lion and is going out like one as well.

We take heart, however, in knowing that spring training is in full swing and opening day of the 2018 baseball season is March 29. The first home game of the Red Sox will be April 5. We look ahead in hope!

Accordingly, this might be an apt time to share a tongue-in-cheek comparison between not going to baseball games and not going to church. It's been around for a while, perhaps you've seen it, but in any case I hope it will give you a chuckle. We can use one around now, I think.

Why People Stop Going to Baseball Games

- * No one sent me a personal invitation to attend the game.
- * Every time I went to a game, they asked me for money.
- * The people around me in the stands didn't seem very friendly.
- * The umpire made some decisions with which I didn't agree.
- * Some games went into extra innings and I was late getting home.
- * They always played games on the weekend, the only time I have to rest.
- * The seats were uncomfortable.
- * The ballpark organist played tunes I didn't know.
- * My parents made me go to games when I was little.
- * I recently read a book about baseball and I feel I know as much as the players and the manager anyway.
- * I don't feel I should make my children attend baseball games. When they are old enough they can decide for themselves which team they want to support.

Play ball—and see you in church!
Rev. Steve



In the Family...

Clare Fortune-Lad, formerly of SUUC and now the Director of Religious Education at the UU Church of Haverhill, MA (UUCH), won the 2018 UU Women's Federation Sermon Award. Clare's sermon was "Me Too, What's Next?" preached at UUCH on January 21st. See podcast recording and sermon text at

[https:// www.uuhaverhill.org/sermons/2018/1/21/me-too-now-what](https://www.uuhaverhill.org/sermons/2018/1/21/me-too-now-what)

She will be preaching it again at the UU General Assembly, our annual national denominational gathering, in Kansas City in June! The UU Women's Federation was founded in 1963 as a circle of liberal religious people working to advance justice for women and girls and promote their spiritual growth. Clare's SUUC family send our congratulations and love to her on this accomplishment, we are so proud of her!

SUUC Book Group

The SUUC book group has rescheduled the March 16th book group meeting to April 6th at 6:00pm. The Search Committee members will be free of their search duties in April and will be able to attend and participate in the discussion. The book selected is Jack Kornfield's latest book: *There's No Time Like The Present*. It's timely - and timeless - message: we can be happy and free at any moment, no matter what our circumstances, even in periods of great change, whether chaotic or peaceful. In fact, when times are difficult, full of upheaval, it is the perfect moment to open your mind and heart and to draw upon the inner power of courage, mindfulness and compassion. And there is no time like the present. All are welcome.

Corner Cupboard's New Hours Begin This Month - April

This month, April, our non-food pantry, the Corner Cupboard, begins new operating hours of 10:00am to 1:30pm.

Pie Fest and Corner Cafe Fundraiser

A huge thank you goes out to all those who contributed in any way, shape or form to make the Pie Fest a success, not only monetarily (\$500.00), but also to the happy atmosphere that prevails whenever good food and good company come together. Patrons enjoyed reading the biographies of our RE kids while conversing over coffee and treats, then others took home luscious pies to savor later. Together, we make it happen! As always, my gratitude to Mona and Bill is boundless! Next March, CAKE CARNIVAL!!

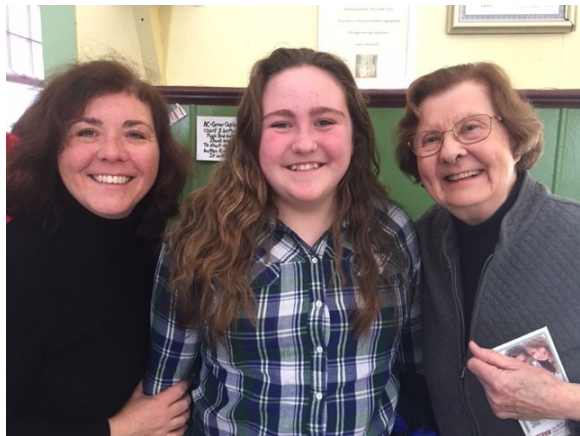
Stewardship Drive, 2018-2019

Our Simple Gifts Pledge Drive ended on time this past Sunday, realizing a grand total of \$55,762.00. I want to say a huge thank you once again for the spirit of generosity and sense of gratitude that prompts your wholehearted commitment to the church we all believe in so strongly. And I would particularly like to thank Janie Waterhouse for her willingness to make reminder phone calls, which she did with grace and an open heart. Together, our church family has assured our fiscal solvency for the coming year. Well done!

Sincerely, Helen Kane, Pledge Drive Chair



**TriQuire - Pie Fest and
Coffee Corner , RE Pancake Breakfast
and Around the Church...**



Helen's people

I've never won anything before!



Treaters!!



Some guy tries mince!



Music lovers try pie



TriQuire



Harmonious direction

TriQuire - Pie Fest and Coffee Corner , RE Pancake Breakfast and Around the Church Continued...



We love the harp!



How were the pancakes?



Ready for the Corner Cupboard!



Pies and leaders



← Typical moment, typical day.



They're optimistic!

Thoughts From the President

We have shoveled and shivered through the beauty and challenges of another Maine winter, and are ready to welcome the thaw and new growth of spring. If you see Building and Grounds Bob, or Sexton Bill, tell them how much you appreciate their faithful snow removal from all around our church! Speaking of successful accomplishments, Helen's Budget Drive and Pie Fest fundraiser were just that. And ten UUCSB and SUUC members walked to Portland's City Hall on March 24th, March for Our Lives, supporting the intrepid youth who are demanding an end to gun violence and are working to vote out politicians beholdng to the NRA. Speakers were students at middle and high schools throughout Maine, and their words were tremendously moving. Aileen has expressed interest in being our delegate to UUA General Assembly in June, and Karen will travel to the Northern New England District meeting in April—thanks to you both! On top of all this, our dedicated Ministerial Search Committee has almost completed their hard work in finding us a settled minister—good news announced Sunday! Our church surely proves this quotation true: “A mighty flame followeth a tiny spark”. One final note: I'd like to hear from anyone who is interested in joining a Building Security Team, to work collaboratively with UUA guidelines in developing a safety plan for all who use our church. There are so many steps we can take to prepare for, minimize, and even prevent many threats to our safety, while maintaining our welcoming principles and supporting learning, growth, and openness.

In gratefulness and hopeful excitement, Diane



Ministerial Search Committee

Yahoo!!!! The Ministerial Search Committee has chosen a candidate and she said yes!!! Her name is Reverend Shay MacKay. You will get an opportunity to meet her, hear her give a sermon, learn who she is, talk to her, cheer her on, sing with her... before the 2 churches vote!! I can tell you she is wonderful.

When voted in she will be taking on a big job – getting to know all of us in Sanford and Saco/Biddeford Churches and working to get a schedule in place. I know everyone will be supportive and encouraging as our candidate learns more about our needs and desires, our hopes and dreams, and our shared communities. There is so much we can do when we put our collective minds together, so much we can give one another... and I think this candidate can join us on this wonderful journey – feeding our spirits and minds along the way.

I ask that you mark your calendar for Candidating Week April 29 – May 6 (Sunday to Sunday). It will be an exciting and busy time with meetings and gatherings with the candidate, plus two services – the last one followed by a vote! And we need everyone to come and be a part of the decision and the celebration. Think of the energy of a church full of people cheering on their new called Minister, clapping, singing, laughing, crying – a moment not to be missed!

Lisa Huestis
Chairperson
Ministerial Search Committee

Church Emergency Plan Update



With the expert guidance of Sergeant Jason Champlin of the Sanford police department, our church is in the process of developing an Emergency Action Plan, to ensure the health and safety of all who enter our building. I know that the important but numerous discussions all around us after the latest school shooting can create anxiety, sadness, and maybe even resistance to further talk of safety. It is not my intent to alarm anyone, but rather to help us feel prepared, and stronger. Emergencies come in many forms, from health issues to fires to unwelcome visitors, and although our UU Principles promote inherent worth, freedom, and acceptance, we cannot be defenseless.

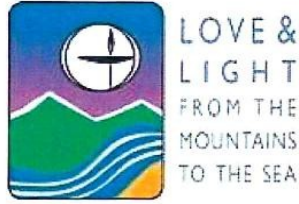
Sergeant Champlin met with Mona, Bill, Reverend Steve, and I for a “security threat assessment” walk-through on February 21st, and suggested a few practical and easy improvements. In the past two weeks, Bill has installed door locks on the downstairs Meditation room, the former Youth room next to the Nursery, and the Tower room near our main entrance; keys are in the office if you need access. The doors opening to the pulpit area will also be locked when the Sanctuary is not in use. Having doors that lock will prevent anyone from entering these rooms without permission.

We now have two portable telephones - one in the Minister's office and a second one in the downstairs RE office - which can be carried to the pulpit or anywhere in the building, and used for communication both internally and with the outside world if need be. Sgt. Champlin explained that an emergency call is more easily located by P.D. Dispatch when using a landline. Mona and Bill also can call each other more quickly when they are the only ones in the church, and RE can contact upstairs if the need arises.

Also, each of us would do well to familiarize ourselves with the location of church Fire Extinguishers. There are three on the main floor: in the Parlor, the Pulpit area, and Goodall Hall; there are three downstairs: in the RE office, the hallway across from the Nursery, and at the bottom of the stairs that lead to the main entrance. Ironically, they were inspected on the day of our walk-through, so are up-to-date!

If you have any questions on what safety improvements have been accomplished so far, or if you have your own ideas for safety, please don't hesitate to talk with Steve, Bill Ouellette, or me.

With hope and thanks, Diane



Northern New England District Spring Assembly & Annual Meeting

*Learning Our Power, Learning Our Stories:
Dismantling White Supremacy and
Building Liberation as Unitarian Universalists*

Program Led by Aisha Hauser & Liz Loeb

Friday, April 13 & Saturday, April 14

UU Church of Nashua

58 Lowell Street, Nashua NH

For more details and to register, go to

<https://nnedspringassembly-annualmeeting2018.eventbrite.com>

Lodging available at the Radisson Hotel www.radisson.com/nashuanh

Use the code NNE DISTRICT UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

Question? Contact us at NNEDAdmin@comcast.net or 603-732-7795

Northern New England District – UUA
PO Box 333
New Ipswich NH 03071-0333

Telephone: 603-732-7795
Fax: 603-878-1869
Email: NNEDAdmin@comcast.net



April 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>1</i> Easter Worship with Rev. Cook 10:30am SUUC choir sings</p> <p>AA in Vestry 5:00pm to 6:15pm</p>	<p><i>2</i> Newsletter Day</p> <p>Music Lessons 4:30pm-7:00pm</p> <p>Choir rehearsal 6:30pm - 8:00pm</p>	<p><i>3</i></p> <p>MTN Meeting in Parlor and GH 6:00pm</p>	<p><i>4</i> Music Lessons 9:00am-11:00am</p> <p>Project CommUnity 6:30pm -8:30pm in Goodall hall</p> <p>Narcotics Anon. in Vestry 7:30pm to 9:00pm</p>	<p><i>5</i></p> <p>VNM Vestry 5:00pm</p>	<p><i>6</i></p> <p>Book Group meeting in Goodall Hall at 6:00pm</p> <p>AA in Vestry 6:00pm to 7:00pm</p>	<p><i>7</i></p>
<p><i>8</i> Worship Associate meeting 9:30am</p> <p>Worship 10:30am with Rev. Larry Greer</p> <p>AA in Vestry 5:00pm to 6:15pm</p>	<p><i>9</i></p> <p>Music Lessons 4:30pm-7:00pm</p> <p>Choir rehearsal 6:30pm - 8:00pm</p>	<p><i>10</i></p> <p>Board Meeting 6:00pm (potluck at 5:30pm)</p>	<p><i>11</i> Music Lessons 9:00am-11:00am</p> <p>Narcotics Anon. in Vestry 7:30pm to 9:00pm</p>	<p><i>12</i></p> <p>VNM Vestry 5:00pm</p>	<p><i>13</i></p> <p>AA in Vestry 6:00pm to 7:00pm</p>	<p><i>14</i> Church Work Party 8:00ish-noon</p>
<p><i>15</i> Worship 10:30am with Rev. Cook</p> <p>AA in Vestry 5:00pm to 6:15pm</p>	<p><i>16</i> Patriots' Day Office is closed</p> <p>Music Lessons 4:30pm-7:00pm</p> <p>Choir rehearsal 6:30pm - 8:00pm</p>	<p><i>17</i></p> <p>MTN Meeting in Parlor 6:00pm</p>	<p><i>18</i> Music Lessons 9:00am-11:00am</p> <p>Project CommUnity 6:30pm -8:30pm in Goodall hall</p> <p>Narcotics Anon. in Vestry 7:30pm to</p>	<p><i>19</i></p> <p>VNM Vestry 5:00pm</p>	<p><i>20</i> CC sets up</p> <p>Book Group 6:00pm</p> <p>AA in Vestry 6:00pm to 7:00pm</p>	<p><i>21</i> Corner Cupboard is open 10:00-1:30</p>
<p><i>22</i> Worship 10:30am with Judi Reis Earth Day Choir sings</p> <p>AA in Vestry 5:00pm to 6:15pm</p>	<p><i>23</i></p> <p>Music Lessons 4:30pm-7:00pm</p>	<p><i>24</i></p>	<p><i>25</i> Music Lessons 9:00am-11:00am</p> <p>Narcotics Anon. in Vestry 7:30pm to 9:00pm</p>	<p><i>26</i></p> <p>VNM Vestry 5:00pm</p>	<p><i>27</i></p> <p>AA in Vestry 6:00pm to 7:00pm</p>	<p><i>28</i></p>
<p><i>29</i> Worship 10:30am Ministerial Search Candidate Inaugural Sermon</p> <p>AA in Vestry 5:00pm to 6:15pm</p>	<p><i>30</i></p> <p>Music Lessons 4:30pm-7:00pm</p>	<p>Candidating Week through May 6th</p>				

Board 2017-2018

President: Diane Whiteside-Peck June 30, 2019
Vice President: Karen Nelson June 30, 2019
Clerk: Bruce Harrison June 30, 2018
Financial Secretary: Janet Wood June 30, 2018
Treasurer: Marcel Gagnon June 30, 2019
Co-DREs: Mesha and Ryan Quinn

Liaisons:

Gary Wood June 30, 2018
Patty Kidder June 30, 2019
Judi Reis June 30, 2020

Church Leadership 2017-2018

Building and Grounds Chair: Bob McCormick
Caring Circle: Gail Lemley Burnett
Choir: Charles Grindle
Church Historian: Helen Kane
Corner Cupboard: Peg Sawyer, Judi Reis, Dee Ames, Helen Kane
Earth Stewards Green Team: Judi Reis
Finance Committee:
Fundraising Coordinator: Jan Sacco
Grant Manager:
Homesteaders: Jan Sacco and Melody Wood
Members and Friends: Tonia Chase
Music Committee: Melody Wood
Nominating Committee : Ginny Howe 2018, Lisa Huestis 2019, Vicky Bugado 2020
Pianist: Ruth Leipold
Religious Education Committee:
SUUC Search Committee: Lee Burnett, Evelyn LaBree, Tom Huber, Lisa Huestis
Stewardship: Kristie Praschak
UUSC:
Women's Alliance: Nancy Farnham
Worship: Rev. Steve Cook
Worship Associates: Rev. Steve Cook, Bev Brent, Judi Reis, Jan Sacco, Janie Waterhouse, Patty Kidder, Mesha Quinn, Vicky Bugado, Evelyn LaBree

Caring Circle

Gail Lemley Burnett is in charge of our Caring Circle for providing help in case of illness, hospitalization, need for a ride to church, doctors' appointments, etc. Please call Gail at 324-1596 if you need assistance.

Minister's Hours

Rev. Steve Cook will be in his office on Wednesdays, as needed, in the morning. Please call for an appointment at 781-330-2521
stephenmichaelcook@ME.com

Administrative Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
7:00-12:00 - info@sanforduuchurch.org

Co-Directors of Religious Education

Mesha and Ryan Quinn - dre@sanforduuchurch.org

Church and Community Groups

AA Meetings: AA meetings are held every Sunday from 5:00pm-6:15pm and Fridays 6:00pm-7:00pm in Vestry

Board Meeting: Tuesday, April 10th at 6:00pm in the Parlor. Meeting begins with a potluck supper at 5:30pm

Book Group: Friday, April 6th at 6:00pm in GH

Choirs: Rehearsals on April 2nd, 9th, 16th

Church Work Party: The next work day will be held on Saturday, April 14th from 8:00ish-noon

Corner Cupboard: Next date the CC is open is April 21st from 10:00am-1:30pm

Maine Transgender Network (MTN): Meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm in the Parlor and GH and the third Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm in the Parlor

Music Lessons: Mondays 4:30pm-7:00pm and Wednesdays 9:00am - 11:00am in the Sanctuary

Narcotics Anonymous: Meets every Wednesday in the Vestry from 7:00pm to 9:30pm

Project CommUnity: Meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday of each month in Goodall Hall from 6:30pm-8:30pm. Please email us at the following: projectcommunity@gmail.com or join the group on Facebook!

Violence No More: Every Thursday at 5:00pm in the Vestry

Women's Alliance: Meets the second Wednesday of the month at 12:00 noon

Worship Associates: Meeting on Sunday, April 8th at 9:30am