

### **News Update This Week...**

**Veteran's Day:** We will honor all of our Veterans in Worship on November 11<sup>th</sup>. We would like to include the names of those who have served, branch and years of service on an insert to honor you that day. There will be a sheet on the table in the entrance to share your info, or please send it to [pnorbert1217@gmail.com](mailto:pnorbert1217@gmail.com). Thanks.

**One To One's:** We will offer the opportunity again on the third Sunday of November. Select a name and have a chat or plan a visit to get to know someone a little better. All are welcome. Ask Paul Schlaver for more details.

**Safety Planning-** A committee has been working on safety plans for Union Church in the event of a fire, medical event, or other unexpected concern.

**Planned Fire/Evacuation Drill-**Following the Service on October 28<sup>th</sup>, we will have a brief meeting to review Safety Procedures at the church and then hold a fire drill. Weather makeup will be on Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Snacks for Children:** We have begun collecting healthy snacks for students at the Biddeford Primary School to be delivered following the first Sunday of each month. Many thanks for your help with this. There is a collection bin in one of the front pews where contributions may be placed during the month.

### **Mark Your Calendars:**

**Save the Date** – Seeds of Hope Benefit Brunch: Seeds of Hope's major annual fundraiser – the Give Thanks ~ Give Hope Benefit Brunch, Silent Auction and Raffle will be held at The Nonantum Resort in Kennebunkport on Sunday, November 18, 2018 from 10 AM – 2 PM. Tickets for this popular event (\$30 each or \$210 for a table for 8) will be available on-line at [www.seedsofhope4me.org](http://www.seedsofhope4me.org).

**Interested in helping out?** Would you consider using your creativity and skills to put together a basket or offer a class or adventure for the silent auction or raffle? This could be a fun way to participate even more directly in the event! If you have any questions or for more information, please contact Debbie Lamb (207-475-8505 or [dlamb4711@gmail.com](mailto:dlamb4711@gmail.com)).

**Michelle's music schedule** for October @ The Front Porch Piano Bar & Restaurant/OGT, ME

THURS. 4 & 11 6-8pm / 18 & 25 6-9pm

FRI. 12 & 26 5-9pm / 19th 9-Close

SAT. 5-9pm (Every Saturday)

### **For Your Reflection... A Theology of Halloween**

The name itself comes from "All Hallow's Eve," of course, the night before All Saints' Day, a carnival-like inversion of celebrating the shadow side of life - ghosts and ghouls and the like - just before the great festival celebrating the saints. Its deep roots may well include folk traditions of honoring the dead, appeasing evil spirits, and marking the end of the summer harvest and the beginning (in the Northern hemisphere, at least!) of the darkest days of the year.

But whatever its origins, Halloween today is worth thinking about. It's now arguably the second-most-popular holiday in North America (second only to Christmas!), and at its best, it's above all a magical, playful night of community-building and neighborhood-making. From this point of view, we might even call it a sacramental glimpse, if only for one night, of how the world is supposed to be: homes decked out in mischievous fun, front doors thrown wide open to visitors of all ages, a spirit of wit and excitement in the air, and simple, sweet gifts distributed to children (all children, not just "our" children!) dressed up as heroes and villains alike.

It's easy to grumble about "all that sugar," "marauding teenagers," "a waste of time," and so forth. But think of it: when else do we intentionally spend this kind of time together as a community?

When else do we do something as a neighborhood that's this intergenerational? This open to all? This playful, witty, and plain old fun? When else do our front doors swing open to so many strangers? And when else are so many gifts given out - gifts often given by strangers, to strangers - just for sake of delight? And there's an even deeper side to all of this, too: in many neighborhoods, lines of social division - segregated lines of race and class, for example - are often crossed on Halloween night. In such moments, Halloween can become an all-too-brief time of sharing experiences and resources, catching sight of a true "commonwealth" too often obscured from view on the other 364 nights of the year. And what's more, there's now some intriguing social science showing a strong correlation between a community's health and the extent to which it celebrates Halloween.

At its best, then, Halloween amounts to a vivid portrait of what "neighborhood" actually looks like. That alone is worth celebrating. After all, what better way to honor the dead, prepare to celebrate the saints, and enter together the darkest time of the year than to embody - with equal parts creativity and joy - the "loving our neighbors as ourselves" to which Jesus calls us every day? Those mini peppermint patties never tasted so good!  
Happy Halloween,  
The SALT Team ([www.saltproject.org](http://www.saltproject.org))