



2017 Update

Dear Members and Friends of Union Church,

June is upon us; a significant time in coastal southern Maine. Our beaches will soon be populated, our traffic will increase and we'll have plenty of opportunities to provide hospitality to our friends and family from away. And because

our summer season is relatively short most of us try to pack in as much as possible. As a result we can become over-tired and this can rob us of some enjoyment. Perhaps this year we can plan ahead and protect a little down time for ourselves which might allow us to be fully involved and relish the activities that we do participate in.

For Union Church June means joyfully welcoming back our snowbirds. It will be wonderful to be a full contingent of worshipers again. This June we also have several opportunities to affirm and support members and friends of our church family who are sharing their talents with the wider community. (See below.)

This month our church also begins a new phase in its transition process. The interim period is almost over and we know that Rev. Paula Norbert will be our settled pastor. The search committee has worked long and hard to find someone who is a good fit for our unique, diverse church and they have been successful in this; selecting someone who is excited about our profile and eager to collaboratively lead us. When the deacons met her they enthusiastically supported the search committee's choice and recommended her to the church body, who in turn voted unanimously to affirm their decision. With her rich and varied academic and experiential background Paula has much to offer us. Though she will not begin serving as settled pastor until some time in September, she will visit Union Church during the summer and you will get a chance to experience her warm and friendly manner for yourselves.

May you all enjoy the many blessings of the summer.

Love, Nancy

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- June 3** – Saco Bay Gardening Club Annual Plant Sale (Dyer Library –Saco Museum Lawn) 9:00 a.m. – Noon
- June 4** – Pentecost Sunday: The birthday of the Christian Church and Communion Sunday. If possible, wear red and come ready to celebrate! **Our 9:30 start time begins!**
- June 8** – Deacons' Meeting (Nancy's home, 2 Courtlynn Circle, Saco) 4:30 – 6:00, followed by pot luck supper with spouses.
- June 9** – Chris Humphrey Big Band: Tribute to the Rat Pack (Biddeford's City Theater) 7:30 p.m.
- June 11** - McKenney Photography set up for photo shoots at the Community Center
- June 18** – Father's Day and Semi-Annual Union Church meeting following the service

June 25 - *Lessons from Summer* (You are invited to contribute to this service with music, art, poetry, original writing or something you've read that is meaningful to you. If you want to be involved, please contact Nancy. Annegret will be our guest musician)

June 26 – Michelle Currie's *Simply Red* CD Release Concert (Vinegar Hill Music Theater, Kennebunkport) 8:00 p.m.

June 28 – *Dare to be Wild* Movie Screenings (Saco Cinemagic Theater) 1:00 p.m. & 3:45 p.m.

June 29 – Spiritual Development for Families with Children (Union Church Office, 221 North Dam Mill) 6:30 p.m.

Save the Date – July 22, 8:00 p.m. Rob Duquette CD Release Show (1 Longfellow Square, Portland)

Follow this link: <https://onelongfellowssquare.com/event-registration/?ee=749>

Alternative Pathways:

Knit Wits go to school and love it!

The Alternative Pathways School has had a special place in the heart of Union Church for several years. This year Jim Boisvert and Celeste Guay asked us if we would try something new - teach a couple of their students how to knit. The Knit Wits said-----yes. The students were invited to come to our Knit Wits meetings at the church office. In truth, it was a slow start with 2 students showing up sometimes, but everyone persisted.

Eventually it was decided that we should go to Alternative Pathways Center (APC) every week. We would develop a plan, get supplies, and teach knitting. The Knit Wits had 2 outstanding former teachers, Nicky and Sally, and they were "on board". We had 9 students (boys and girls) at our first visit. It decreased the next visit

and we finally thought that we need to take a new approach (maximum flexibility was our motto). We weren't leaving. We really liked these students! A short term project was the next plan, so Marianne taught adult drawing and duct tape wallet making. Change did not stop there. It was decided to ask the students what they wanted to do. Games were the answer. Sowe all learned to play many different kinds of games. They taught us!! More and more students participated. We all learned. We all grew. As someone said, it is from your students that you will be taught. We ended this year with cake and homemade goodies

for students and staff, congratulating the 20 graduating students.
Marianne, Marjorie, Polly, Nicky, Sally, Laura, Jan, Margie and Carol



Nicky playing a game with students

Thank you notes from students to Knit Wits



Marjorie reading thank you notes





Time to Celebrate Graduation!



Preparing for a new Directory:

Next week, June 11th, McKenney Photography will be set up again at the Community Center to take head shots of Union Church members and friends, in preparation for our new directory.

They will return for another shoot on **July 16th**. Family photos can be taken for no charge at the same time.

If you haven't had your photo taken yet and can't make either of these next two dates, please contact McKenney Photography at (207) 590-1355 to set up your own shoot. We want your photo included in our new directory.

Lisa Barstow's Book Release by Nancy Bernier

Last month I attended Lisa Barstow's book release which took in place in the comfortable and creative atmosphere of Engine in Downtown Biddeford. The title of Lisa's book is "In the Company of Women: Women's Musings on Elderhood." What an enjoyable afternoon. The presentation, the presenters and of course the content. Lisa's opening words, "This book is for those people who want to age consciously. I hope that the following voices of women ranging in age from the fifties to the nineties will inspire the readers who are in "eldergrowth" as well as younger women who are, as we used to be in denial and don't have time or the desire to think about it. Getting older is part of our life journey and evolves over time. I for one want to accompany myself, be the witness of my unfolding into more life, not less, now that I find myself in the final passage of this lifetime." "I am afraid that my life is getting small. If I lack the energy to be creative and try new things how will I grow? I don't want to settle, become complacent, "act my age." I do not want to feel like I have to fit in an "old mold". I want to keep shedding the old skin to find new cells that come with being a Sage." Beautifully said by Lisa. Twenty women responded "yes" to participating in this wonderful endeavor. Those who were able gathered to form a circle of beautiful elders. Lisa has included their individual and

extremely rich voices in her book. The following is Deborah Burke's poem. (Please note that Lisa's book may be purchased at Trilliums and NoneSuch Books, both in Biddeford.) Also if you have interest in purchasing this book, you may notify Lisa directly as well at: lisabarstow9@gmail.com



Aging
I didn't think much
about aging
until I did.
Until it inhabited my
my life like a fierce
like a smelly chemical spill,
like a wind that never quit.

I'm saying it was before me
behind me,
above and below.

At first I considered it
a disagreeable companion.
Over time I've come to
see it as a curmudgeon,
but the kind that--if
you let it--loves you.

Good News from the Mission Committee!

Thanks to the great success of the 2016 Summer Speaker Series, whose proceeds fund the mission outreach of our church, the Mission Committee was able to reach out and help fund several projects above and beyond our regular 2016 annual budget. One of those was Education for All Children-Kenya (EFAC).

Now the EFAC organization has picked a student for us to sponsor. Her name is Diana Jepchirchir and she attends the Vanessa Grant Girls School, a secondary school from which she will graduate in 2021. This school is situated on farmland in the community of Rongai, Kenya, and has a special emphasis on science and technology. This fits well with Diana's ambitions to become either a surgeon or an engineer. The Committee will be working on ways to communicate with Diana through the EFAC organization. In the meantime, more information about EFAC organization is available on their website: <https://educationforallchildren.org>.

Meet Diana Jepchirchir



Notes from the Finance Committee

Actually this first part is from your pastor. As you can see from the articles in this update as well as in those of the past, for a small church Union Church contributes significantly through financial support and volunteerism to the local and wider community. Every week worshipers comment on our meaningful services, fantastic music and beautiful church. All of this, as you know, takes money; and we don't have the amount that we need. Many of you are as generous as you can be. Thank you. Others could do more. If those of you who could give even \$5.00 a week more, we would be in a much healthier place. In preparation for our settled pastor I ask that we work together to become more financially stable.

Below is an article that the finance committee placed in an Update this winter. If you have not responded and can, I ask that you do so. Let's all do what we can, in whatever way we can, for our church community.

Blessings, Nancy

As you may remember from the annual meeting, or from previous notes from the Finance Committee, Union Church ran a deficit in 2016 of about \$4500, and we are projecting a budget deficit of over \$15,000 for 2017. Obviously, this was not happy news. Since we made our appeal earlier this year for those who have not pledged to do so, and for those who have pledged to consider a bit of an increase, we have received ten responses, with a total pledge increase of about \$3600.

We try to run a tight financial ship and believe that we are fairly conservative in the use of our dollars. There are three areas where most of our income goes: Pastor salary, music ministry, and keeping the physical church in good condition. There is general agreement that maintaining excellence in our ministries, pastoral or music, is essential for the life of our church, and that skimping in any of these areas could in fact harm our church's long term health.

We know that many do all they can for Union Church, in terms of both time and treasure, and we truly and deeply appreciate that. Not everyone can do any more, but many of us can. Just a little bit more from a lot of folks can go a long way toward solving this problem. On top of that, if some of our members and friends who have overlooked their pledges up to this point were to send them in now, we could easily see our problem disappear altogether. It is never too late!

We are continually blessed by the faithful generosity of this congregation. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Simply
RED



Michelle
CURRIE

Michelle Currie Simply Red CD Release Concert
Monday June 26, 8:00 pm

Vinegar Hill Music Theater, Kennebunkport

Tickets: \$10 each.

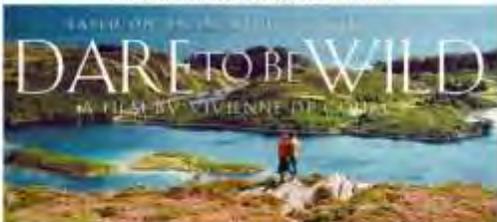
www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2954912

OR www.MichelleCurrieLive.com

PLEASE NOTE: Tickets available online only. No tickets will be sold at the door.

CDs will be available for purchase before and after the show.

Union Church of Biddeford Pool Presents



DARE TO BE WILD
MOVIE SCREENINGS

And Q&A with Film Director,
Vivienne de Courcy
Wednesday June 28th,
1PM and 3:45 PM
Saco Cinemagic Theater



DARE TO BE WILD is a romantic adventure inspired by real life Mary Reynolds, a young landscape designer determined to preserve wild nature, who dares to compete in the Olympics of Gardening... The Chelsea Garden Show. Written and directed by Irish filmmaker, Vivienne de Courcy, *Dare to be Wild* is a beautiful story, and an occasion to treasure the wild spaces in our gardens and our lives.

"People travel the world in places of untouched natural beauty, yet our gardens often ignore the true spirit of nature: the magical places where wilder people reconnect from childhood."

To Benefit: Clifford Park, Biddeford and Kennebunkport Conservation Trust

Limited Seating! Tickets on Sale May 12th at www.kpcstrust.org/events

Two Ticket Options: (1) By 6PM: \$10 (2) \$20 (3) \$30 (4) \$40 (5) \$50 (6) \$60 (7) \$70 (8) \$80 (9) \$90 (10) \$100 (11) \$110 (12) \$120 (13) \$130 (14) \$140 (15) \$150 (16) \$160 (17) \$170 (18) \$180 (19) \$190 (20) \$200 (21) \$210 (22) \$220 (23) \$230 (24) \$240 (25) \$250 (26) \$260 (27) \$270 (28) \$280 (29) \$290 (30) \$300 (31) \$310 (32) \$320 (33) \$330 (34) \$340 (35) \$350 (36) \$360 (37) \$370 (38) \$380 (39) \$390 (40) \$400 (41) \$410 (42) \$420 (43) \$430 (44) \$440 (45) \$450 (46) \$460 (47) \$470 (48) \$480 (49) \$490 (50) \$500 (51) \$510 (52) \$520 (53) \$530 (54) \$540 (55) \$550 (56) \$560 (57) \$570 (58) \$580 (59) \$590 (60) \$600 (61) \$610 (62) \$620 (63) \$630 (64) \$640 (65) \$650 (66) \$660 (67) \$670 (68) \$680 (69) \$690 (70) \$700 (71) \$710 (72) \$720 (73) \$730 (74) \$740 (75) \$750 (76) \$760 (77) \$770 (78) \$780 (79) \$790 (80) \$800 (81) \$810 (82) \$820 (83) \$830 (84) \$840 (85) \$850 (86) \$860 (87) \$870 (88) \$880 (89) \$890 (90) \$900 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Saco Bay Gardening Club

Annual Plant Sale



Saturday, June 3, 2017

9:00 AM until 12:00 Noon

Location: 371 Main Street, Saco Maine

Dyer Library/Saco Museum Lawn

To Donate Plants or FMI, Call: 284-1114

We will also have our Children's Table!

Our mission is to promote a forum which inspires home gardening through education, community beautification, service, support and fellowship. This includes volunteer work and charitable contributions to gardening related causes in order to beautify the community.

Eco Alert!

Dear friends,

By 2050, our oceans will have more plastic trash than fish.

It's shameful. Half of the plastic made we use just once and throw out, choking our seas and all the animals in it.

But in days, our governments can stem this tide when they meet at a historical summit to outline their clean ocean commitments. Public pressure just got #2 polluter Indonesia to commit to a 70% reduction in plastic waste! Now we need to go after the other top polluters.

If one million of us get behind a global call, the Head of the UN Environment Programme will announce our petition from the summit podium and work with us to push countries to ban single-use plastics and let our oceans breathe again. Add your name:

https://secure.avaaz.org/campaign/en/end_plastic_pollution_co2/?tMbUMib&v=500317009&cl=12651839895&checksum=63634e25aeeafa0a69f4b563f0249901c13f77373cbb855dadfe57dfa9546bac

No matter where we live, each breath we take connects us to our oceans. Most of our oxygen is generated by them. They regulate our climate and weather, turn water into clouds that give us rain. And oceans provide a home for near 80% of all living things on earth. We can't live without our oceans.

But now, our oceans can't live without us.

Humans have destroyed ocean health and we need to fix it. The good news is, more than half the plastic trash in our oceans come from just five nations. If we focus global attention on the biggest polluters now, we can create global system-change for plastic-free seas. What's missing is the motivation -- and that's where we come in.

Let's build a massive call on our governments to stop suffocating our oceans. Once we reach a million signers, Avaaz will launch targeted campaigns on the top polluters to ramp up the pressure for them to act.

https://secure.avaaz.org/campaign/en/end_plastic_pollution_co2/?tMbUMib&v=500317009&cl=12651839895&checksum=63634e25aeeafa0a69f4b563f0249901c13f77373cbb855dadfe57dfa9546bac

Our community has fought fiercely to protect magnificent rainforests and vast areas of our oceans. Now time is running out to kill plastic pollution before it kills us.

With hope and determination,

Dalia, Lisa, Alice, Carol, Danny and the entire Avaaz team

MORE INFORMATION:

The Oceans Are Drowning In Plastic — And No One's Paying Attention (Huffington Post)

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/plastic-waste-oceans_us_58fed37be4b0c46f0781d426

The Arctic Ocean Is Clogging With Billions of Plastic (The Atlantic)

<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2017/04/the-arctic-ocean-is-filling-with-billions-of-plastic-bits/523713/>

Even your sea salt is almost certainly contaminated with plastic (Quartz)

<https://qz.com/979101/sea-salt-is-likely-to-contain-microparticles-of-plastic-according-to-a-new-study/>

Full scale of plastic in the world's oceans revealed for first time (The Guardian)

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/dec/10/full-scale-plastic-worlds-oceans-revealed-first-time-pollution>

Avaaz is a 44-million-person global campaign network that works to ensure that the views and values of the world's people shape global decision-making. ("Avaaz" means "voice" or "song" in many languages.) Avaaz members live in every nation of the world; our team is spread across 18 countries on 6 continents and operates in 17 languages. Learn about some of Avaaz's biggest campaigns [here](#), or follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

Children's' Ministry: Gail Quinney has been enthusiastically ministering to our children almost every Sunday that she is in town. She deserves a break and an opportunity to participate in the whole service from time to time. Please consider signing up for a Sunday to provide ministry to our children. If you are willing, please let Gail know the date, and Pastor Nancy will let you know the Sunday theme well in advance.

Good Energy Cafe



Historic Porter Hall (54 Temple Ave. Ocean Park) will be alive with music, message, inspiration and fellowship this summer of 2017.
THE GOOD ENERGY CAFE
Arts & Appetizers by the Sea
Sponsored by Ocean Park Association
Mondays: July 10 –August 14, 4:30 – 6:00
FMI: Jan Hryniewicz - jhryniew@maine.rr.com

Gather and enjoy performances and table creativity. Be energized by music, poetry, story, film and more! Celebrate together the beautiful, peaceful energy of Ocean Park that we all enjoy. \$5.00 donation; Appetizers included!

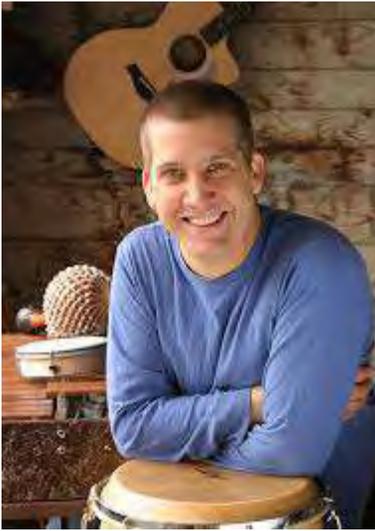


July 10: Film; Oscar nominated filmmaker, GERALD WHITE DREYFOUS; Documentary *Alive Inside*.
The documentary follows social worker Dan Cohen, founder of the nonprofit organization Music & Memory, as he fights against a broken health-care system to demonstrate music's ability to combat memory loss and restore a deep sense of self to those suffering from it. *Life changing, beautiful, inspirational film!*

July 17 – JENNIFER COMEAU *“Jennifer Comeau is out to change the world one gratifying song at a time, and you know what, I think she's onto something.”*~ Aimsel Ponti, Portland Press Herald

Stop climbing everybody else's mountain. The only mountain longing to be climbed is your own.” ~Jennifer Comeau

A Creative Entrepreneur who has inspired people in hundreds of organizations and concert halls, Jennifer's event will be an *interactive experience* of music and living theater, anchored by a dream she had, called *The Peace Dream*. Jen has released two CD's, donating much of the proceeds to various charities. Her mission is inspiration, and her passion and energy are gifts to the community and the planet. Come, and be immersed in the magic



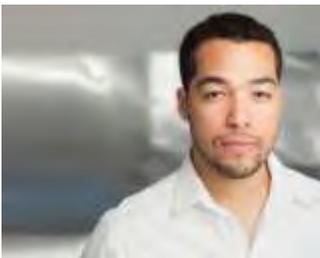
July 24- ROB DUQUETTE

Rob Duquette is a multi-instrumentalist musician with an emphasis on drums and percussion. A full time performer and music educator since 1998, Rob maintains an active gigging career splitting most of his time between Boston, Portland, Maine, and his own Game room Studios in Saco, Maine where he regularly teaches drums, percussion, and guitar. A classically trained percussionist, Rob also teaches World Music, African Drumming, and American Popular Music at the University of New England. Rob has just released a new Duquette CD called *Trust the Night*. That release party will be at One Longfellow Sq in Portland on July 22nd. "Amazing multi-instrumentalist, Rob Duquette on percussion, guitar, vocals and whatever else he can fit in the van."- Jonathan Edwards

JULY 31 - CHRISTIAN EASON

Christian Eason is a Singer/Songwriter/actor, from Philadelphia, PA., where he recently performed to rave reviews in the *New Brain* at Theater Horizon. Two-time winner (2012, 2013) of the Marian Anderson Young Artist Award for outstanding music abilities. American Idol finalist, 2016 top 50. Don't miss Christian in concert with his band on Sunday evening, July 30th at the Temple in Ocean Park. *Whether it's classical, Broadway, pop or original, Christian's amazing voice soars. Settle into the Café and be transported to a magical place on the wings of song... awestruck by the talent of this rising young star.*

<https://soundcloud.com/christian-eason>



(Photo: Niki & Scott)

August 7- Subcircle: Niki and Jorge Cousineau, Scott McPheeters - FILM/ THEATER/DANCE

Founded in 1998, by Niki and Jorge Cousineau, Subcircle's work transforms theatrical and site-specific spaces, merging dance, sound, set design, lighting and film. Whether site-specific or performance for the stage, the work aims to convey to audience and performer alike – an inseparability of performance from environment. Subcircle is interested in ways of taking things out of their normal context – placing them differently, slightly skewed or distorted. It is through this process that the goal remains – to test people's ideas of where they see dance and theater, how and most importantly, why; and while doing so challenging them to be more than a passive audience member. In 2014 choreographer and performer Scott McPheeters joined the Cousineau's as a codirector. Along with their artistic work in Philadelphia, together they have purchased a

farm in Biddeford Maine, which they will develop into an artists' residency and retreat center over the next five years. **NOTE: This gathering will be in JORDAN HALL.**



Michelle Currie is a local Piano/Vocalist/Cabaret Performer (formerly from Boston) who possesses a wide range of stylistic abilities ranging from Broadway, Pop, Standards and Blues. Michelle performs all over New England, and locally she is The Music Director at Union Church in Biddeford Pool, ME. Michelle is currently starting her 12th season as a regular year round performer at The Front Porch Piano Bar and Restaurant in OGT, ME, performs regularly at Club Café in Boston, MA (where she is on hiatus until September), and can also be found locally this coming Summer at The Biddeford Saco Country Club performing once a month as part of the Musical Duo "The Members". Michelle is extremely excited to be releasing her much anticipated CD - Michelle Currie "Simply Red" with Musical Director Jim Rice (NYC), with a CD Release Concert slated for Monday Night June 26th @ Vinegar Hill Music Theatre in Arundel, ME. *Michelle is known for her ability to in one moment have you clapping your hands and stomping your feet, and in the very next melting your heart with a beautiful ballad and always leaving you wanting more!*