

Union Church Spring Update 2018



From the Pastor...

As I write this morning, the third Nor'Easter in weeks is hitting northern New England. Sadly, I cannot see even the buds of crocuses in my front garden, now buried under more than two feet of snow, and yet, I know they are there. As the French philosopher Albert Camus once wrote, "In the midst of winter, I found there was, within me, an invincible summer. And that makes me happy. For it says that no matter how hard the world pushes against me, within me, there's something stronger – something better, pushing right back." I may not feel the hope of summer quite yet, but with recent sunny days and the change of clocks, I do feel that spring, at least, is on the horizon.

Lent is the season of lengthening days and of remembering the 40 days that Jesus spent in the desert in preparation for his public ministry which would inevitably lead to his death on Good Friday. We have been exploring important themes during Lent with the invitation that we mark this time with prayer and reflection, with asking for and extending forgiveness, and exploring the important relationships within our lives with family, friends, ourselves and with our Creator. It is a time to focus and to do the work that enables us to be in right relationship with others as we understand how beloved we are in the eyes of God.

When we are able to immerse ourselves in the 'work' of Lent, we become better prepared to truly share in the joy of Easter and to understand that love is stronger than death and that even in the frozen places of our own hearts or the places of heartache in our world, hope is always possible, for God indeed has a hope for our world. We are invited to help build this beloved community where all may live in peace and dignity. As we journey through these final days of Lent, may you spend some moments connecting to the deepest spiritual places within yourself so that you may in turn share the hope, the peace, and the joy of Easter.

Blessings,

Paula

Rev. Paula Norbert

Moderator Musings...

As we await the passage from winter weather to the coming of spring and the promise of warmth, the green of leaves and grass and color of early flowers, we are focused at Union Church on the solemn Lenten season and the promise of joy that comes with Easter. The regular activities of our Trustees, Deacons, and Mission team continue as well as the many hands needed to make our fellowship activities so successful. Pastor Paula welcomes the helping hands that support her efforts to minister to us with our individual needs and in the collective support we gain on Sunday morning. The wheels of Union Church continue to spin smoothly.

Each Sunday this winter has brought over 50 people to our services and only once this season were we forced to cancel our service due to the weather. Pastor Paula, with the counsel of the Deacons, has made some adjustments to the usual order of service on Sunday and also to the format of the Communion part of the first Sunday of the month. Your feedback is always welcome either directly to her or through the Deacons or me.

I continue to try to keep those of you not always able to attend Sunday Service or the many of you gone from the area for much of the winter informed of the news from Union Church. In addition to my periodical newsy emails I urge you to go to the Union Church web page to read the Sunday Bulletins and news inserts and most importantly, the sermons you were unable to hear from the pulpit.

<http://www.unionchurchme.com/home/>

With thoughts of the joy of Easter and the promise of Spring....

Paul Schlaver, Moderator

Holy Week and Easter Schedule

Palm Sunday - Sunday, March 25th 10am Service

Maundy Thursday - March 29th 6pm Service

Easter Sunrise Service will be held at dawn at the home of Brad and Anita Coupe at 20 Ocean Ave. We will gather at about 6am with sunrise at 6:21am.

Easter Breakfast will follow the Sunrise Service at the BPCC. All are welcome. Sign up online or in the foyer.

Easter Morning Service at 10am.

Easter Flowers-If you are interested in donating flowers for the Service on Easter morning, please contact Katie Koles so that she may include your information and the names of those in whose honor or memory the flowers are donated. Thank you. Katie Koles: lassierosy@aol.com

An Invitation to Help the Earth

Joran Slane Oppelt asked his five-year-old son what he loved about the Earth. "He listed things like 'clear water' and 'lime green grass'. I asked him what he thought was hurting the Earth. He narrowed his eyes and with a frown he described things like 'garbage' and 'smoke' and 'cutting down trees'. So, I asked him what he

thought we could do to help the Earth. Then, his eyes lit up and a smile came across his face and he said we could “pick up the garbage’ and put a ‘lid’ on all the chimneys so that the smoke couldn’t get out, and that we should ‘watch out’ for the ‘builders and their axes’ when they come to chop down the trees.”

Please join a happy and healthy intergenerational effort to 'pick up garbage' in our downtown at a date to be determined. Please sign up in the foyer or contact Joyce Morrissette for more info. The plan is to meet-up at Mechanics Park. POC Joyce Morrissette, [207-391-9023](tel:207-391-9023).

Knit Wits Activities and Outreach

What did the Knit-Wits do when we were given 7 big homemade bags? WE FILLED THEM!

We put in things that a person might need when they were uprooted from their home before they had time to pack. We had cosmetics and other personal items for mothers, cards, toys and coloring books for children, and a cozy blanket for anyone who might need it. Then, when we got to the very top, we tossed in a big helping of love from the Knit-Wits and Union Church and delivered them to Caring Unlimited.

by Marjorie Jamback

Outreach to Alternative Pathways...

The Alternative Pathways Center (APC) is affiliated with Biddeford High School (BHS). The Center is located in a beautifully renovated house at 73 Bacon St. in downtown Biddeford. Its mission is to give alternative learners an opportunity to receive a BHS diploma through coursework that is individualized, project-based and combined with pre-vocational training, work experience and social/emotional learning. The Union Church Knit Wits and other church volunteers spend time at APC twice monthly striving to model to students continuity in relationships, positive adult interaction, and friendship, in a relaxed environment. Recent activities have included playing games, doing puzzles and various craft projects while sharing tasty homemade snacks. The rewards of working with the students are on-going and heart-warming.

-by Beth Baskin

PREVIEW 2018 Summer Speaker Series

The Subcommittee on Speaker Selection is thrilled to have acceptances from three fascinating and diverse speakers, and is in hot pursuit of some exciting prospects for a fourth. When we have all four confirmed, we'll officially announce the final line-up and begin ticket sales.

In the meantime, here's a sneak preview just for you . . .

(First event in July TBD,
but aiming for Thursday, July 12)

Thursday, July 26, Bill Roorbach,

author of *The Girl of the Lake*, a collection of stories, lauded for his "wild imagination, brilliance as a story teller, relentless humor, and tender understanding of humanity." (Lilly King, author of *Euphoria*)

Thursday August 9, Wes McNair,

Maine Poet Laureate 2011-2016, a "poet of place" who captures the lives of Northern New Englanders.

"One of the great storytellers of contemporary poetry" (*poet Philip Levine*), and recent winner of an American Artists Fellowship as one of America's "finest living artists."

Thursday, August 23, Noah Isenberg,

celebrated film historian, "*We'll Always Have Casablanca: The Life, Legend, and Afterlife of Hollywood's Most Beloved Movie*," a rich and lively account of the film, published on the 75th anniversary of the film's release in 1942, just two weeks after *Casablanca* surrendered to General Patton's troops. Please watch your in-box for an e-announcement.

Storms and more Storms!



The wild surf at Biddeford Pool, taken by Peter McPheeters after the Nor'easter of March 3, 2018.



This is the view to the road outside my conference room window at high tide. I'm thinking of giving gondola rides this summer, but I draw the line at singing O Sole Mio!
From Peter McPheeters

Spectacular Surf in the Pool

The first weekend of March brought impressive surf during astronomical high tides to the Pool. Due to the merging of two nor'easters while the moon was full, tides on Friday, Saturday and Sunday rivaled those last seen ten years ago during the Patriot's Day weekend storm. Partial roadways were washed out in some areas and rocks and granite boulders were strewn across roads and lawns during the surge. Ocean water flowed onto Mile Stretch from both sides making the Pool an island on a few occasions. Many of us viewed the spectacular waves and spin drift action from what was thought to be a safe vantage point at South Point,

only to be forced to higher ground (a neighbor's stone wall) by the crashing, roiling waters.

Shared by Beth Baskin

From the Union Church Mission Committee

On April 10 the Mission Committee will be preparing a light supper meal to be served at the In-a-Pinch Non-Food Pantry at Seeds of Hope Neighborhood Center in Biddeford. In-a-Pinch serves people in Biddeford who need the kinds of items not provided by traditional food pantries, things like soap, laundry detergent, paper towels, toilet paper and other household supplies. It operates from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. two Tuesdays a month, and a half-dozen organizations take turns providing a light supper meal for the participants.

Seeds of Hope Neighborhood Center is planning a fundraiser that is being coordinated by Laura Cobb. It is a 40-mile fundraising walk that will take place over two days, Saturday, June 2, 2018 and Sunday, June 3, 2018. There will be no more than 30 walkers this first year, each of whom will be hoping to raise \$800 from family and friends. Union Church is being asked to prepare a light lunch for the 30 walkers on the first day, June 2nd, and bring it to a location to be determined later. The committee agreed this was a worthwhile event to benefit one of our mission partners and committed itself to getting volunteers to prepare the lunch and to publicizing the event. Detailed plans will be developed at our May meeting.

Ken Murray

Mission Committee Chair

Social Justice Groups

In January, two groups began meeting for prayerful reflection and discussion on how they might work together on some issue of social justice. One of the groups

will meet monthly on a weekday morning at the church office and the other group will meet in the early evening at the home of Bonnie and Dennis Tallagnon. The conversations have been thoughtful and lively as folks have shared their interest in learning more about particular issues that we face from the environment to childhood hunger to homeless issues and more.

Each group will meet once a month with time for prayer and discussion as they formulate what types of actions they might take as they narrow their focus to one issue which they will follow in the months ahead. We hope to generate a list of speakers, educational opportunities, and legislative items that may be helpful to others in the church who would like to involve themselves further in a particular issue. The idea is to focus on an issue of concern by looking at the wider causes which affect the community in various ways and to imagine how we might take concrete steps to address it. The model for the groups is one of prayer, reflection and action, followed by reflection upon the action.

Senior College Offerings by Church Members...

Brad Coupe is teaching a Watercolor Painting Class on Wednesdays, 1 - 4 at the Biddeford Pool Community Center starting on March 28th for 8 weeks.

Anne Murray is teaching a course called ***The Long and Winding Road*** at Trinity Episcopal Church in Saco on Thursdays, 9:30- 11:30 starting March 28th for 6 sessions.

Dr. Joseph Valenza (Debbie Lamb's husband) is teaching ***The History Plays of William Shakespeare: Fake News?*** for 4 Tuesday afternoons at the Wardwell in Saco from 1 - 3 starting on April 3rd.

Jan Hryniewicz is teaching ***Nourishing our Inner Child*** on eight Tuesday mornings from 9:30 - 11:30 at the Saco Community College Office in Shaw's Plaza starting March 27th.

You do have to be a YCSC member to sign up for classes.

Annual Membership fee is \$25.00 and each class is \$25.00.

Pay by check to York County Senior College and mail to York County College, 4 Scammon St, Suite # 18, Saco, ME 04072 by March 16th.

For information , Call [\(207\) 282-4030](tel:2072824030) or check the website at www.yorkcountyseniorcollege.org

Music Updates

Our Music Director, Michelle Currie, will be performing in June once again at the Vinegar Hill Music Theater. The tickets for Michelle Currie's brand new concert "Live At Vinegar Hill" scheduled for Monday June 25, 2018 @ Vinegar Hill Music Theatre in Arundel, Maine are now on sale.



Wednesday, March 28

sonata for piano: A Stroke survivor's story

"My Journey in Music" by Tina Callahan & Patricia Mulholland

Sonata for Piano is an original composition created by stroke survivor Tina Callahan and Music Therapist, Patricia Mulholland. The piece consists of nine short compositions within five movements and is performed as a duet on two pianos by Ms. Callahan and Ms. Mulholland. Tom Callahan, husband of Tina, provides brief narration between the movements.



Sonata for Piano: A Stroke Survivor's Story

The Sonata chronicles Ms. Callahan's experience of stroke from the onset to her current state of recovery. The piece charts her journey from Darkness to Awakening, Curiosity, Acceptance and Joy. The program is facilitated by Ms. Mulholland and includes time for questions and discussion as well as a description of the process of creating the composition.

Wednesday, March 28

4:00 – 5:30 pm

**St. Francis Room,
Ketchum Library**

sponsored by UNE's
psychology club

For more information,

News from Church Member, Deborah Burke...

Dear Friends of the Union Church Community,

My son, his wife, and 3 month old Isadora, and I left Washington DC on March 5 and arrived in Pristina, Kosovo at 11 am on March 6. We have spent this last week settling in and getting accustomed to a different way of life. Three groups of people had all four of us to lunch, dinner, barbecue within our first week here. Everyone is friendly and seems to want the best for us. The Albanian people are reserved and respectful but friendly. Most Kosovars are Albanian, and I am learning some needed phrases such as “good day,” “thank you” and “I am very full!” which is a nice way in Albanian to complement the meals, which are large and plentiful. Small shared dishes--but 6 or 7 or 8 courses of them--and always served with wine. At one restaurant there were a series of 4 dessert courses.

Sarah’s job at the Embassy is going well and my son Patrick has had to be away at the Embassy many days for training; he also has a diplomatic passport.

I get to spend many hours a day with Isa as we call her now and that is a delight! I think of you all often and will look forward to seeing you again in May. We are 6 hours ahead of you in time, but the same day. Instead of watching the sun rise over the ocean, I watch it rise over the snow-covered mountains, but I always think of the ocean and of you.

Wishing you all an end to winter and a start to spring.

With love

Deborah Burke