

October 2017

Update from Union Church



From your Pastor...

Dear Friends,

It has been a pleasure to begin my time at Union Church over these past few weeks. I have felt so warmly welcomed by everyone in the church community and I am deeply grateful. We began with the Installation on Sunday, September 10th, and that Service included humor, beautiful music, and the ritual of Installation. My thanks to Moderator, Paul Schlaver, Chair of Deacons, Katie Koles, and to outgoing Interim Pastor, Nancy Bancroft, all who assisted in making that such a nice Installation. I received a lovely stole handcrafted by Nancy

as my welcoming gift from the community. We were joined that day by my husband, Rich, and our two children, Emma and Liam and by several of my siblings and some friends. The weather was beautiful and my family commented on the warmth of this church community.

In recent weeks, I have begun to meet with several of the important Committees at the church. I was impressed by the important outreach that is done through the Mission Committee and the success of the summer speaker series. I met with the members of the Executive Committee and was pleased by the support that everyone offers in helping Union Church remain vital as a community.

On Tuesday morning, September 19th, I accompanied church member, Anne Murray, to Saint Andre's Rehab to share a wonderful time of music, prayer, and story with some of the residents there.

On Sunday afternoon, September 24th, I had the honor of joining several of our members for the Annual Blessing of the Animals that was held on the lawn near the McPheeter's home. It was a real privilege to bless the dogs and one cat who were accompanied by their companions for this special event.

A real highlight of these early weeks has been the opportunity to share visits with a number of folks, both at the church and at the church office. I have been so grateful for this opportunity to come to know a little more about so many of you and I look forward to having more opportunities to come to know your stories over time. I do plan to continue to offer 'Visits with the Pastor' over the coming months, as well as visiting with people in their homes. I find it is a wonderful way to connect with folks at the church.

My hope in these early months is to gain a sense of what has been important to this community, both in worship and in your care for one another and outreach to the broader community. I thank you for your patience with me and your willingness to help me learn your names,

your traditions, your concerns and hopes for Union Church as we look ahead together.

Blessings and peace, Paula

(Rev. Paula Norbert)



From the Mission Committee:



Many thanks to all who helped with Union Church's annual Blessing of the Animals event on September 24. On a beautiful afternoon on the McPheeters' lawn we blessed somewhere between 15 and 20 dogs and 1 brave cat. We also raised funds for our community partners, Lucky Pup Rescue and the Animal Welfare Society. In addition, we raised some support for a wildlife rescue center in Florida that was badly damaged by Hurricane Irma. It was a good day for our church's Kindness to Animals program.



Union Church Men's Group

The concept for a Union Church Men's Group originated from some informal discussions among the members of the Fellowship Committee (chaired by Elaine Robinson). The goal was to create opportunities for the men of Union Church to enjoy one another's company and to get to know each other by engaging in fun events outside of Church. Previous activities have included a trip to a Portland SeaDog's baseball game, an informal breakfast get-together at the Goose Rocks' Dairy, a trip to the Wood Island Lighthouse (unfortunately cancelled due to adverse weather), and a trip to Bentleys in Arundel to attend a car show. Some members of the group, along with others from

church, have also provided assistance with setting up the space for various Church events such as the summer Speaker Series and the church picnic. Upcoming events have yet to be planned; however, the group will hold another Men's Breakfast in October. We welcome all participants and ideas for future events. For more information, please contact Steve Fox, Bob Sherman, and Chris Sorrentino.

Healthy Snack Donations Requested



Donate some healthy snack items please!

The Union Church Mission Committee has decided to expand the collection of healthy snacks for kids promoted during Lent last spring. Starting October 1st, and lasting through the entire school year, we ask that our Union Church family bring in healthy snack items to on Sunday and place them in a plastic bin in the front side pew. The focus will be on the first Sunday of each month, communion Sunday. Whatever is collected will be taken to the Biddeford Primary School on the following Monday. You are welcome to bring in items on other Sundays if you cannot attend on the first Sunday.

In the 2017-2018 school year there are 44 kids in the 1st through 3rd grade that are in a special program for kids learning English since they speak another language as their first language. The special education teachers we have connected with at this school report that many of these

kids come to school hungry and are so happy to receive a healthy snack item to supplement their school breakfast and lunch. The teachers have been using their own cash for these snack items until we connected with them to help.

Mark Your Calendars!

The annual benefit brunch for the Seeds of Hope Neighborhood Center will take place on Sunday, November 19, from 10 AM – 2 PM at the Nonantum Resort in Kennebunkport. The Nonantum's chefs will prepare a delectable brunch, and the event will be capped off by a unique silent auction featuring adventures and experiences as well as a great raffle. Join us right after church!

Tickets are \$30 each – or purchase a table for 8 at a price of \$210. Tickets are available from Debbie Lamb or on line at seedsofhope4me.org. Seeds of Hope is one of our mission partners and offers a free expanded continental breakfast/lunch, clothing, job search support and health and educational programming within a caring community. This year has seen a significant increase in the number of neighbors served, reflecting a jump in the homeless population in downtown Biddeford. You will be supporting a great cause!



NOVEMBER
2017
10 AM - 2 PM

The Nonantum Resort
95 Ocean Ave.
Kennebunkport, ME

Tickets are \$30 per person
Reserve a table of 8 for \$210

RAFFLE & SILENT AUCTION

Looking Ahead...

October 1st: Last chance for Church Directory Photos at BP Community Club at 11:15am

October 5th: Financial Committee meets at 10am at Peter McPheeters office

October 11th: Knit Wits meet at 10am at Church Mill office

October 12th: Deacons Meet at 4:30pm at Church Mill Office

October 25th: Knit Wits meet at 10am at Church Mill office

October 25th: Women of Union Church 6pm potluck at BP Community Club

October 30th: Executive Committee meets at 10am at Church Mill office



The Beautiful Changes

By Richard Wilbur

One wading a Fall meadow finds on all sides
The Queen Anne's Lace lying like lilies
On water; it glides
So from the walker, it turns
Dry grass to a lake, as the slightest shade of you
Valleys my mind in fabulous blue Lucernes.

The beautiful changes as a forest is changed
By a chameleon's tuning his skin to it;
As a mantis, arranged
On a green leaf, grows
Into it, makes the leaf leafier, and proves
Any greenness is deeper than anyone knows.

Your hands hold roses always in a way that says
They are not only yours; the beautiful changes
In such kind ways,
Wishing ever to sunder
Things and things' selves for a second finding, to lose
For a moment all that it touches back to wonder.