



# Parish Messenger

Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick

JULY  
2025



## OUR MISSION

To be a spiritual community,  
To welcome all,  
To nurture one another,  
To work for justice,  
And to care for the earth.

## STAFF

Rev. Dr. Kharma Amos  
*Minister*

Rev. Sylvia Stocker  
*Minister Emerita*

Toben Cooney-Callnan  
*Lifelong Spiritual Formation Director*

Will Bristol  
*Director of Music*

Shirley Bernier  
*Office Administrator*

Tony & Mary Sulkoski  
*Sextons*

## CONTACT US

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1 Middle Street, Brunswick

(207) 729-8515

[administrator@uubrunswick.org](mailto:administrator@uubrunswick.org)

Rev. Kharma Amos, Minister

Office Hours: Tues-Fri, 10-4

## Services in July

SUMMER THEME: ROOTS AND WINGS

### July 6<sup>th</sup> - Bigger than Me – Songs and Reflections on How Music Grounds and Elevates

Led by the Caswell family; Music by the Caswell family

We experience music in the moment, but it also permeates into our roots and ripples out into our relationships and community. The Caswell family will bring a service of songs and reflections on how music grounds and connects us.

### July 13<sup>th</sup> - Our Spiritualities: What's Thoreau Got to Do With It?

Led by Rev. Dr. Larry Peers; Music by Will Bristol

Sometimes, people assume that Unitarian Universalists aren't that "spiritual." This is often because some of the fixed criteria for "spiritual" may limit our understanding of our various "spiritualities." Richard Higgins's recent book about Henry David Thoreau, *Thoreau's God*, explores Thoreau's spirituality in a way that has eluded some previous scholars' assumptions. Thoreau's life demonstrates how his social action and broader spirituality combined in a way that speaks to contemporary seekers. Moreover, Thoreau's spirituality may resonate with a radically inclusive spirituality that we might not otherwise recognize within us and among us. *Bio on Page 3.*

### July 20<sup>th</sup> - The Spiritual Practice of Gardening

Led by Elizabeth Forrest and Pollyanne Melton; Music by Will Bristol

What does it mean to cultivate your garden? Whether it's literally the plants in your yard, your own life, or the life you share with your family, your church, and the community in which you live, many of the same principles apply. Join Elizabeth Forrest, a professional gardener and Pollyanne Melton, a retired Landscape Architect in exploring how we can cultivate our many gardens.

### July 27<sup>th</sup> - Tides of Becoming: Lessons from the Shoreline and the Semester

Led by John Robert O'Connor; Music by Derek Herzer

Cycling like the tides that govern our oceans, I've lived the last twenty years working in the cycle of an academic year. This cycle can be both predictable but also brings the unexpected and as a newer member of the Unitarian Universalist community, I have developed a deep appreciation of our values of interdependence and pluralism as they intersect with my own experiences. I hope my reflection on these values will resonate and give everyone something to think about. *Bio on Page 2.*

# Staff Summer Schedule & Office Hours

## UUCB STAFF SUMMER SCHEDULE

**Rev. Dr. Kharma Amos**  
**Minister**  
Study Leave & Vacation: Months of July & August

**Toben Cooney–Callnan**  
**Life Long Spiritual Formation Director**  
Vacation: Month of July

**Will Bristol**  
**Music Director**  
Vacation: Month of August

**Shirley Bernier**  
**Office Administrator**  
Vacation: July 7-11  
**Please submit materials for Sunday July 6 and July 13 Order of Worship by Tuesday, July 1** so there is time to complete both Orders of Worship before the Office Administrator begins vacation.

Vacation: August 10-16  
**Please submit materials for Sunday August 10 and August 17 Order of Worship by Tuesday, August 5** so there is time to complete both Orders of Worship before the Office Administrator begins vacation.

## SUMMER OFFICE HOURS – JULY & AUGUST

### From June 30-August 31

Sunday..... Closed  
Monday..... Closed  
Tuesday..... 10am-4pm  
Wednesday..... 10am-4pm  
Thursday..... 10am-4pm  
Friday..... Closed  
Saturday..... Closed

### Friday, July 4

Office Closed For Independence Day

### Week of July 7-11

Office Closed – Office Administrator on Vacation

### Week of August 10-16

Office Closed – Office Administrator on Vacation

For the months of July and August, please submit items for Order of Worship, Announcement Sheet, and All Church Emails by **Tuesday at 12:00pm.**

Please submit articles via email at [administrator@uubrunswick.org](mailto:administrator@uubrunswick.org)

*Continued from Page 1*

### Bio: John Robert

John Robert is a lifelong educator and student affairs professional currently serving as Associate Dean of Students at the University of Southern Maine. A proud Unitarian Universalist and recent new member of the UU Church of Brunswick, John Robert brings humor, heart, and a deep commitment to community building in everything he does. He has spent the past two decades working with college students—especially those just starting their journeys—helping them find belonging, purpose, and a sense of place. His service this month will explore themes of interdependence, cycles of change, and the power of pluralism, weaving in lessons from his own spiritual path and professional experience.



# From the Lifelong Spiritual Formation Director (LSFD)



Toben Cooney-Callnan

## ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION – FALL PROGRAMMING

Have you been curious about meditation and what it might offer you?  
Have you been a meditator but want to learn more or have company on your path?  
Have you ever wished someone would explain why people meditate and where to start?



### Meditation for Everybody – Save the Dates!

Come join our Meditation for Everybody sessions with meditation and mindfulness instructor Helene McGlaufflin. Bring your curiosity, your skepticism, your enthusiasm, your reluctance—it is all welcome on the path of practice. Find safety and support in your inquiry about whether it is a practice for you! Stay tuned for more information in August and spread the word!

Starting this fall, all our sessions will be held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. The 2025-26 church year schedule will be as follows:

<p><b>Teaching sessions (3 total) :</b></p> <p><b>When:</b> Wednesday Sept. 10, 24 and Oct 8. 3-4 PM</p> <p><b>Where:</b> UUCB 1 Middle St Brunswick in Sanctuary</p> <p><b>Topics:</b>  <i>Session 1:</i> Consider Practice  <i>Session 2:</i> Getting to know your mind  <i>Session 3:</i> Finding Discipline for Practice</p>	<p><b>Practice sessions: Sept-May</b></p> <p><b>When:</b> 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month starting September 10, 2025. 4-5:15 PM</p> <p><b>Where:</b> UUCB 1 Middle St Brunswick in Sanctuary</p> <p><b>Structure:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Welcome and Offering of a Practice Word</li> <li>-20 minute silent sit</li> <li>-5/10 minute mindful movement (change from walking meditation)</li> <li>-20 minute silent sit</li> <li>-Break for tea</li> <li>-15 minute discussion: return to practice word, conversation about practice.</li> </ul>
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### Bio: Rev. Dr. Larry Peers

Rev. Dr. Larry Peers is the minister at First Unitarian Church of Wilmington, DE. Larry started his career as a therapist and not-for-profit manager in Massachusetts. His first ministerial position, following his ordination in 1987, was at the First Church in Boston (UU). Throughout his career, Rev. Larry has worked for national organizations that served congregations, their lay leaders, and clergy by providing training, consulting, and management. These have included serving on the national UUA staff, being a senior consultant with the Alban Institute and the Director of Learning of the Pastoral Excellence Network. Larry has a B.A. in Psychology from Eckerd College, master’s degrees in clinical psychology from Antioch University and theology from Boston University, a Doctor of Ministry from Hartford Seminary, and a Doctor of Organizational Change from Pepperdine University. He is also a certified spiritual director focusing on the interface between psychology and spiritual life.

## From the Board of Trustees



UUCB has wrapped up another official church year on a high note. The 2024–2025 year saw record attendance, prompting several meetings to explore how best to accommodate our growth. These discussions are ongoing and will continue through the summer. This level of growth is uncommon among churches today—and it affirms what a vibrant and meaningful community we have built.

From the inspiring services led by our minister, Reverend Dr. Kharma Amos, to the music programming and Lifelong Spiritual Formation for children and adults, our staff has been busier than ever. In recognition of this, the Board of Trustees approved increased compensation for staff. This led to a record-setting budget, and our congregation stepped up with generous pledges to support it. Thank you—our community is truly extraordinary, and the future of our services, programs, and activities is bright.

We also celebrated a major milestone this year as Reverend Amos became a full fellow with the UUA—a culmination of years of dedication and hard work. This recognition affirms our ability to attract and retain exceptional staff, which in turn enhances everything we offer. Congratulations again to Kharma!

Our programming continues to expand. This year brought new offerings such as meditation, first aid, a recorder ensemble, a drumming circle, and an a cappella group. We also continued beloved programs like Chalice Circles, Stories with Soul, Family Game Night, Spirit Feast, and many other events. Special highlights included the ever-popular Holiday Fair, our online auction, and the highly entertaining “Murder at the Pie Auction.” These events only happen because of the talent and dedication of our congregation—thank you for making them possible.

In a world full of challenges and headlines that weigh heavily, UUCB remains a place of connection and refuge. Summer services will continue, led by our own members. I hope you’ll join us to stay connected and get to know the wonderful people who guide these services.

This year, we say thank you and farewell to Board members David Kew, Louise Gephart, and Joel Austin. Their contributions have been invaluable and deeply appreciated. At the same time, we welcome Mary Cay Harrington, Ann Butenhof, and Marsey Caswell, who bring fresh perspectives and energy. The Board will meet over the summer to prepare for the year ahead and continue planning for our growth.

It is my sincere hope that more people—both new and longtime members—will take advantage of our exceptional programs, concerts, and opportunities for community. Don’t be a stranger this summer!

It is my honor to serve another year as Chair of the Board of Trustees, and I look forward with anticipation to all that UUCB will accomplish in the year ahead.

Warmly,  
**Curt Neufeld**  
*Chair, Board of Trustees*  
board-chair@uubrunswick.org

### Board of Trustees Comings and Goings

*Farewell and thank you:*

David Kew  
Louise Gephart  
Joel Austin

*Welcome to the Board:*

Mary Cay Harrington  
Ann Butenhof  
Marsey Caswell

## UUA Statement

### THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION CONDEMNS U.S. SUPREME COURT'S DECISION IN THE UNITED STATES V. SKRMETTI CASE

June 18, 2025

Media Contact:

Suzanne Morse

Ph: 617-948-4650

Email: [pr@uua.org](mailto:pr@uua.org)

**Boston, Mass. (June 18, 2025)** – The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is condemning the U.S. Supreme Court's [decision](#) (PDF, 118 pages) in the United States v. Skrmetti case that will harm the rights of transgender youth to receive gender affirming care in this country.

“The Supreme Court’s decision today will irreparably harm transgender youth by allowing states to deny them the kind of care they need for their physical and mental well-being,” said Rev. Dr. Sofía Betancourt, the UUA’s president. “As a part of our faith tradition, Unitarian Universalists embrace transgender, nonbinary, intersex, and gender diverse people. This is a central expression of our faith. We also believe that denying healthcare to the trans community is a moral violation. We send our love and care to all the trans youth and their families who are directly affected by this ruling, we will keep fighting for you. We will continue to work with and on behalf of the trans and nonbinary community to ensure that their dignity as human beings and rights are protected across this country.”

The case was based on a bill that the State of Tennessee passed in 2023 that would prevent young transgender people from receiving life-saving, gender affirming care. That law was challenged by transgender youths, their families, and health care professionals who argued that the legislation violates Constitutionally-guaranteed rights of equal protection. The Supreme Court’s decision today will allow states the right to regulate this kind of care for transgender and nonbinary young people.

Unitarian Universalists (UUs) believe that embracing transgender, nonbinary, intersex and gender diverse people is a fundamental expression of UU religious

values. In 2024, an overwhelming majority – 92 percent – of UUs voted to approve a Business Resolution at General Assembly, the UUA’s annual meeting, which asserted this belief of the liberal denomination. Business Resolutions are one mechanism by which UUs express their religious beliefs, and once passed, require the UUA to implement as part of the Association’s work. This religious commitment remains fundamental to the UUA’s ministry and outreach, and the Association and its member congregations will continue to work closely with partners to advocate for these shared values in the months ahead, as the full implications of this case are understood.

“The imperative to care for those most at risk, especially due to systems of injustice, is one of our defining religious commitments throughout our UU history. These systems imperil the basic human right to experience freedom from discrimination in all areas of life, including healthcare, education, housing, employment, free expression, and beyond. Denial of medical care and basic human rights causes profound damage and trauma, and is a violation of our core religious principles. Securing these rights for LGBTQI+ people and communities, whose rights are now at risk, is essential for their lifelong development and thriving,” the resolution said. It highlighted that laws which restrict access to gender affirming experiences and health care for youth cause “painful impacts to social, intellectual and emotional wellbeing... [We must] protect and honor our transgender, nonbinary and gender expansive youth members and their families as they go through the stages of spiritual and personal identity.”

“Our religious tradition is a living one, and today we collectively declare that our covenant inescapably binds us to affirmation and protection of our transgender and intersex members and kindred, in faith and in practice.”

The Business Resolution – “[Embracing Transgender, Nonbinary, Intersex and Gender Diverse People is a Fundamental Expression of UU Religious Values](#)” – is available at the UUA’s website.

## Church Happenings and Announcements

### ALL CHURCH PICNIC – AUGUST 17



Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick  
**Let's get together for an  
All Church Picnic  
Sunday, August 17  
noon to 3:00ish  
Clear Skies Only. Rain Cancels.**  
At the property of  
Stephanie and Ren Bernier  
690 River Road, Topsham  
**Everyone is invited!**

**What to bring**

- A pot-luck side, salad or dessert—All Cold
- Musical instruments for possible sing-along
- Chairs, Tick/insect repellent, sunscreen, games

**What will be provided**

- utensils, plates
- beverages (water, seltzer, soda),
- games (bocci, croquet, etc.)

**More Information**  
Betsy Roper  
207-233-8422  
betsyroper1@gmail.com  
Sarah Fabian  
603-728-8533  
farahsabian@gmail.com

### DRUMMING CIRCLE

**Every Third Friday of the Month 5-7pm**

I'm happy to announce a mutually beneficial merging – our church's drumming circle with another. The group that used to meet at the Curtis Library has now joined our drum circle and we will be meeting every 3rd Friday of each month (including during the summer) from 5-7pm at UUCB.

We have some very talented drum facilitators who have joined from the Library's group and I look forward to collaborating with these folks!

Spread the word to anyone who might like to drum up some good times. Will Bristol, Music Director—  
music-director@uubrunswick.org

### WHAT'S UP AT UUCB

#### VISITOR'S & NEWCOMER'S CHAT – SUNDAY, JULY 6

Sunday, July 6 following services:

This chat offers a chance to learn about UUC. Chat is held in the Wendell Berry Room.

#### STORIES WITH SOUL

*Taking The Summer Off - See You In September!*

Open to the Greater Brunswick community; held the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month in the Wendell Berry room. One short, fictional story is read followed by lively discussion.

#### SUNDAY SERVICE PARKING

The owner of the Brunswick Business Center, which is the office building across Pleasant Street from UUCB, will allow members of our church to park at his building during Sunday services. This includes all parking spaces painted and signed as 'Reserved' including those signed for the Bank of America.

#### FLOWERS!!

Summer is here, and gardens are flourishing! Please share the flowering bushes, and summer flowers with us to enjoy in our services. If you wish, you can make a dedication in honor, memory or celebration of a loved one. Please contact Mary Larson at [larsonmbrun@gmail.com](mailto:larsonmbrun@gmail.com) to reserve a date.

# Church Happenings and Announcements

## UUCB HOLIDAY FAIR – SUMMER PREP

### YOU CAN HELP THE HOLIDAY FAIR THIS SUMMER!!

UUCB will be abuzz with activity at our **Holiday Fair** on Saturday, December 6, 2025. It’s always a time of palpable energy and fun as we create one of UUCB major fund raisers. During the summer there are many things you can do to add to our success. Here are just some.

#### For the White Elephant Table: Please save:

- Your summer reads, popular fiction, and mysteries
- Winter holiday decorations
- Children’s toys and books
- (Note: No CD’s, DVD’s, or electronics this year.)

Questions: reach out to Mary Larson [larsonmbrun@gmail.com](mailto:larsonmbrun@gmail.com) or Erika McKenney [egmckenney@gmail.com](mailto:egmckenney@gmail.com), Leaders of White Elephants

#### For the Handcraft Table:

#### To all crafters, sewists, & artists of all abilities:

We would love your help building our supply of crafted items ahead of our December fair. We have project ideas for most ability levels as well as project ideas, instructions, and materials, if needed. If you have great ideas for new or unique items, please share! If anyone is interested getting together to craft this summer, let us know! Donations of 1.5-2 yd. of fabric for aprons would be welcomed. For more info, please reach out to Rebecca Waddle [Rebecca.waddleis@gmail.com](mailto:Rebecca.waddleis@gmail.com) or Betsy Williams [bwilliams120@gmail.com](mailto:bwilliams120@gmail.com)

#### Things you can help us make:

- Aprons, aprons & more aprons!
- passport holders & small organizer “wallets”
- recipe holders
- potholders
- fabric games

#### For the Jewelry Room:

Gently-used costume jewelry is welcomed all year long so that the team can start readying it for finding a new home. Donations may be left on the membership table. Questions? Contact Lisa Durrell, [edurr13@aol.com](mailto:edurr13@aol.com)

#### For the Tool Table:

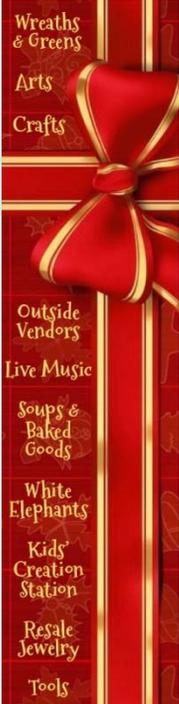
Don’t toss your used tools that are in good condition. They’ll be sought-after items at the Holiday Fair. (No gas-powered)



**REMINDER:**

**Holiday Fair  
Launch  
Meeting –**

**Saturday  
morning,  
September  
13, 2025**



## Our Community

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Each month we plan to share photos and bios of our new members to celebrate our growing community.



#### Susie Wren

I live in Georgetown. I am an artist, gallerist and an experienced caregiver. I was a licensed lobster boat captain in my early years. I enjoy walks in nature and at the beach, painting in my studio, visiting friends, inventing vegetarian meals and kayaking on the bay. I was looking for an inclusive community in which to sing and bring more peace to our world. I lived at Seguin Lighthouse for two summers and started the museum there.

#### Alyson Dame

I grew up in a converted Quaker Meeting House on top of a hill in Manchester, ME. I've been a high school English teacher and a school principal and now serve as Director of Secondary Academics in Portland. Viva public education!

I like to cross country ski 'til I'm warm inside. I also like to talk about a good book with a friend. I joined UUCB because I wanted my kids, Caius and Tess, to experience living in a community of faith. I am a Preacher's Kid - My dad was the UU minister in Augusta for 20 years. I considered following in the tradition and I have an M.Div that I don't use, but will never regret.



#### John and Caroline Davison

John is from Virginia and Maine. He is a life-long rock drummer and had a career as a non-profit finance guy. Caroline is British-born but a lifelong Mainer. She is a registered nurse, psychotherapist and Reiki master. Both are now retired. They like reading, kayaking, music, holding game nights, and increasing the biodiversity of their land. Although they don't like being activists, they have become so in the past six months. They came to UUCB looking for community that is based on humane principles. John is in two local bands: Misspent Youth and Cattle Call. Caroline is a shamanic practitioner.

#### Debbie and Steve Hartline

Debbie is originally from Westchester County in New York State and has lived in many places since. Steve grew up in Shillington, Pennsylvania. In September they moved to Maine and will be settling in Topsham. Debbie was an elementary educator. Steve was a ceramic scientist who worked for a large corporation as a researcher and in marketing. Now both are retired. Over the years they have enjoyed hiking, reading, gardening, attending concerts, working in their local library and almost made it to their goal of visiting all the National Parks! Their daughter, who lives in Pownal, urged them to attend UUCB. "They are your people!" she said. She was right!



## Concerts for a Cause

The mission of **Concerts for a Cause** is to hold a series of concerts to raise money for the church and local charities while sharing a variety of quality music with the Brunswick area community. The 2024-25 season's charities will be Brunswick Area Teen Center and Maine Family Planning. See the entire lineup of concerts and more details about each performer at <https://uubrunswick.org/concerts>.

### Last Concert of the Season: Susan Werner Plays to a Sold-Out Audience

Our final concert on June 14th was another sellout, and didn't the audience love her. Werner is an incredibly gifted singer, and she is funny as heck. Not to mention she is a really down-to-earth person, making everyone feel right at home. People came from miles around to see her.



### Review of the 2024-2025 Concert Series

We scheduled 8 concerts this season, and every one of them was a hit and financially successful. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the David Mallett concert due to his terminal illness and death. The music world lost an icon in January. But what a fun and varied season it was: singer-songwriters, soft-rock, jazz, blues, Celtic, and choral music. Every concert was well-attended, and 3 were sell-outs. We sold **1,280 tickets**, and raised **\$10,324 for our charities** through ticket sales, and we raised **\$838 for the church** through refreshment donations. The money raised this year was divided between our charities of the year: Brunswick Area Teen Center and Maine Family Planning.

*Receiving their monetary gifts from Concerts for a Cause Committee members Susan Michaud (L) and Louise Gephart (R) are Lauren Ouelette (Associate VP of Fund Development, Maine Family Planning) and Taylor Carter (Director of BrunswickTeen Center).*



## Working for Justice

### JULY'S CHARITY WITH SOUL: THE GATHERING PLACE

Contact: Stephen Wood [swood88@outlook.com](mailto:swood88@outlook.com)

From Mary Connolly, Executive Director:

The Gathering Place (TGP) is dedicated to providing a safe, welcoming, and comfortable space for individuals to gather in downtown Brunswick. Our mission is to offer our guests respect, encouragement, companionship, support, and hope. We strive to ensure those in need have a friendly and supportive environment to spend their daytime hours.

At The Gathering Place, we stand ready to welcome those experiencing their most challenging times. The importance of feeling truly accepted cannot be overstated, particularly for those without other options. Every individual we serve is entitled to the opportunity to become a valued and contributing member of our community.

We recognize that many guests require support beyond what we can offer through safe space, hospitality, companionship, and basic necessities. Therefore, we have decisively expanded our services to include a Support Services Program. This program provides direct access to community resources through TGP's Community Navigator to address urgent needs such as housing instability, homelessness, food insecurity, poverty, legal representation, etc. We actively forge relationships with community partners and service providers to ensure our guests receive the quality support they need. If we cannot fulfill a guest's need internally, we will take all necessary steps to connect them with the appropriate community resources that can.

The Gathering Place is relentless in its dedication to our mission of providing hospitality, support, and respect to everyone who enters our doors. We are a powerful example of what happens when a community opens its heart and offers a sense of home to its most vulnerable neighbors.

The Gathering Place is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM and Saturday from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM. We are located at 5 Tenney Way (off Union Street). Want to make a difference? Volunteer with us! Visit us or call 729 0288 to learn more, and visit our website at [brunswickgatheringplace.org](http://brunswickgatheringplace.org).

#### **EXCITING NEW PROJECT: RUSSELL'S PLACE**

***The Gathering Place has recently purchased the neighboring building at 1 Tenney Way to create "Russell's Place"***

To meet the increasing needs of our guests and our community, **we are thrilled to announce a strategic partnership with the town of Brunswick, Tedford Housing, the Immigrant Resource Center, Oasis Free Clinic, and local housing experts.** Together, we are acquiring and transforming 1 Tenney Way into Russell's Place—a regional warming and cooling center and service hub. This collaborative effort is a significant step in the fight to protect our most vulnerable neighbors and alleviate the impact of housing insecurity in southern midcoast Maine.

At Russell's Place, our programs and services will be all-encompassing, catering to various ages, identities, and needs. TGP is fully committed to this initiative, leveraging our mission and proven success to create a centralized hub of vital services for those in need. Together, we are dedicated to making a significant impact in our community. TGP has successfully funded the property purchase but is seeking support to undertake the necessary renovations.



# Working for Justice

## BRUNSWICK AREA TEEN CENTER

Contact: Carol Briggs, bcarol189@gmail.com



The Teen Center celebrated 20 years of opening its doors with some added festivities and goodies. Awards were presented to those whose services contributed to the founding and continuance of the Teen Center. Jordan Cardone, retired director of the Teen Center, received an award for her 18 years of service. An open house tour of the teen’s new location at the Coffin School followed.

The garden has been planted with vegetables in the planter boxes and trees in the barrel planters. The flourishing gardens are tendered by Renee, Taylor’s assistant, and some of the enthusiastic teen gardeners. Grace, a Bowdoin Fellow, and Lauren, led the teens on their first nature walk. One of the teens acted as the photographer for the adventure.

There is much being planned for the teens and by the teens as well for these summer vacation months. Trips to the beach, the Botanical Gardens and the Maine Aquarium, the planetarium, the Brunswick Farmers Market, and the Maine Wildlife Park. To name just a few of the summer ideas. And of course, weekly ice cream parties seem to be a popular happening.

On the first Sunday of the month, we collect donations of toothbrushes and travel sized toothpaste, shampoos, deodorants, lotions and body washes are greatly appreciated. The popular snack foods are fruit, cut up carrots, cookies, flavored water, and chips. Beverages and snacks aren’t required to be in individual servings any more.

Once again, Taylor and the teens want to thank all of you at UUCB for the support you have given them this year as well as in the past. Thank you. Questions? Please contact: Joanne Allen, Carol Briggs, Cuffy Chase, Pat Moore, Susan Snow, Donna Tomkins, or Betty Wurtz.



## INDIGENOUS AWARENESS

Contact: Cathey Cyrus, wdclark@gwi.net



Mihku Paul

Looking ahead to the fall, the Indigenous Awareness focus group is exploring ways to engage the congregation in reflection and learning about local Wabanaki presence and concerns. We anticipate creating a display space at the church dedicated to those efforts.

We look forward to offering the October 19 Sunday morning worship service, working with invited guest, Mihku Paul, local Maliseet poet, visual artist, storyteller and activist.

## Working for Justice

### IMMIGRANT JUSTICE

Contact: Faith Barnes, FaithB56@gmail.com

**Midcoast New Mainers Group (MCMNG)** was represented at the Partner Fair and was pleased with the results. Several volunteers offered to drive new Mainers to appointments and others signed up for the Adult Literacy tutor training through Midcoast Literacy.

MCMNG has started to offer a new program to assist new Mainer parents to obtain passports for their children born in the US. MCMNG is covering the cost of the passport - \$100 and the \$35 processing fee. The parents/guardians are responsible for paying the cost of the photo (\$15-\$20).

MCMNG continues to provide job coaching to new Mainers who are looking for work or are interested in changing jobs. Some current employers are offering English classes on site for their new Mainer employees.

MCMNG continues to work with the local new Mainer community to provide transportation to English lessons, driving lessons, and medical appointments. In conjunction with a grant from TEAN (The Emergency Action Network) MCMNG and the Welcome Center offered a seminar on driving rules and regulations presented by Ben Tucker a former DMV attorney. The turnout was good and had two interpreters one for Portuguese and one for French.

**Maine Immigrant Resource Center (MIRC)** is developing Rapid Response interventions regarding potential ICE raids in our community. Parents are encouraged to appoint a Power of Attorney for their children and to keep all their important documents in one safe place.

**The Little Sparrows Clothing Closet** at the Church of the Nazarene on the corner of Baribeau and McKeen Streets will open two days a week in July for shoppers.

**Immigration Legal Advocacy Project (ILAP)** continues to follow new immigration orders coming from the Trump Administration and to fight them in court.

“June 15th marks 13 years since immigrant youth and allies won the creation of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program. DACA was created to ensure immigrant youth could continue to live, go to school, and work in the country they call home, without fear of deportation. As we face incredible challenges and the devastating threats of mass deportation policy, ILAP remains steadfast in continuing to call for a pathway to citizenship for DACA recipients and other undocumented people here in Maine and across the country. To DACA recipients and all undocumented people in Maine: You are not forgotten. You deserve better. Your home is here. The creation of DACA reminds us that when we organize, stand together, and never give up, change is possible.” *ILAP*



“We all deserve safety. Unrest in any community is concerning. Even more concerning: the treatment of our neighbors and turning Americans against one another. Today, we have a choice about how to respond: from our values or from our fears...This is a moment to resist efforts that use immigrants to strip away everyone’s rights to protest, speak out, and defend equal protection.” *Welcoming America*

To follow their legislative and legal updates, please visit their website at <https://ilapmaine.org/>

# Working for Justice



Contacts: Betsy Williams and Steve Eagles

Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network

The legislative session is winding down rapidly. Many bills that came out of committees as divided reports (meaning not unanimous) are now being brought for floor votes. If they pass and need money, they are placed on the Appropriations Table for financial commitments. After all that is done, bills go to the Governor where they can be signed into law, vetoed, or simply allowed to become law without her signature.

The following priority bills all passed floor votes and are currently on the Appropriations Table:

- PFAS removal and disposal,
- Funding for Maine Family Planning,
- Sustaining Emergency Homeless Shelters,
- Establishing an Eviction Protection Program.

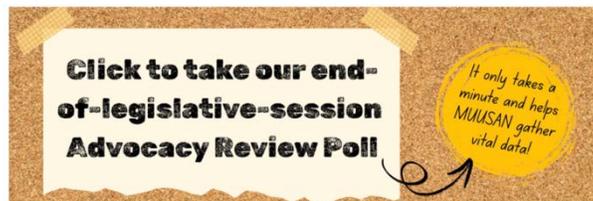
Bills we supported or opposed that went the way we hoped:

- All 8 anti-trans bills have been rejected by the legislature and are dead.
- PFAS removal and disposal passed unanimously out of committee
- Requiring voter ID failed unanimously out of committee
- Eliminating background checks failed and is dead
- Requiring serial numbers on all firearms passed both chambers.
- Amending mobile housing laws to prevent excessive rent and fee increases passed
- Expanding rank choice voting to include state representatives and governor
- Establishing sentencing alternatives for primary caregivers
- Prohibiting eminent domain taking of tribal lands
- Strengthening the teaching of Wabanaki studies in public schools

Priority bills requesting to be carried over the second half of the session:

- Defining ICE/local law enforcement agreements
- Prohibit housing discrimination
- Eliminate 72-hour waiting period on firearm purchases

Finally, 14 UUCBers completed the Advocacy Review Poll indicating they took some action on these bills this year. Eleven of those wrote or delivered testimonies, most on multiple bills. If you took action this year and didn't complete the one-minute poll, please do so [here](#). Thank you all!



For up-to-date information about the status of all our bills, go to the MUUSAN [Bill Tracker](#).



**Correction:** This caption in last month's Parish Messenger incorrectly identified Midcoast Literacy's tutoring program for children as 'Read With Me'. The correct name is **READ TOGETHER**. Apologies to program director Katie Clark.



## UUCB Art Gallery

### JULY ART SHOW: CAROLYN GABBE - NOBLEBORO, MAINE

Carolyn Gabbe is a contemporary realist painter living and working in Nobleboro, ME. She received classical fine art training in Philadelphia focused on portraiture and still life. Upon finally landing in Maine full-time, she expanded into landscapes and wildlife. Oil painting is a mid-life pivot to pursue a long standing desire to provide a visual witness, to share beauty and to express wonder.

#### Artist's Statement

I'm focused on balance in my subject matter and myself. Looking out and looking in. Some days my work is about beauty in people, some days about interesting objects, and all days it is about wonder found in the natural world. Always, it is about color and form.

I enjoy painting people from life. Spending time with them, watching thoughts flicker and float across their faces. What is their story? It gives such depth to the encounter between painter and subject. Similarly, in painting still life I find myself curious about the journey an object has taken before falling into my hands. In painting the natural world, landscapes or wildlife, I'm endlessly filled with wonder at the balance in nature, the extraordinary adaptation and constant change.

I start paintings with very abstracted shapes of color, focused on composition and the relationships between all of the parts. Sometimes, I know exactly where I am going and what I want to describe. Other times, it is more like dancing a tango.

*Images: Artwork by Carolyn Gabbe*



*Please take some time to enjoy the artwork in Fellowship Hall. Each month the Gallery Committee installs a new exhibit. FMI: contact Joanne Allen, [jlaen543@gmail.com](mailto:jlaen543@gmail.com)*

**The Parish Messenger Deadline for the August issue is Saturday, July 19.  
Please send your content to: [parish-messenger-editor@uubrunswick.org](mailto:parish-messenger-editor@uubrunswick.org).**