



**The Thinker,
Auguste Rodin**

January 2012

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 Please call the church if you'd like
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Cancellations

In the event of snow or ice, or
 other inclement weather, please
 tune to Channel 8 for cancellation
 notice.

Free Thinker Delivery

Please leave a message at the
 church office if you'd prefer to
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 Thinker* mailed to you. We use e-
 mail and have copies in the
 sanctuary.

How to reach us:

743-2828
 www.norwayuu.org
 479 Main Street
 Norway, ME 04268

The Free Thinker

First Universalist Church of Norway, Unitarian Universalist
 Since 1799, the Oldest Continuously Existing Universalist Church in Maine
 Our Mission, as we live our historic liberal faith, is to nurture spiritual growth, honor
 diversity, and offer service with love.

Services

January 1 No service

January 8 Sarah MacLaughlin “Thriving Parents =Thriving
 Community”

Sarah is the author of “What Not to Say. Tools for talking with
 young children.” MacLaughlin has worked with children and
 families for over twenty years. She is a mom with a young son
 who gives her plenty of opportunities to take her own advice
 about “What Not to Say.” She is also the daughter of Kathi
 Pewitt.

January 15 Jennifer Wixson “A New Heaven and a New
 Earth” New Beginnings

Jennifer is a 2001 graduate of Bangor Theological Seminary and
 regular speaker at the Norway UU Church.

January 22 Cynthia Reedy “(Sometimes) Tranquil Streams”
 The roots of Unitarianism and Universalism.

Cynthia is a teacher at Hebron Academy, life-long UU and
 frequent speaker at church. She lives with her husband Brad and
 three children in Norway.

January 29 Sue Gabrielson “Essential Jesus” Reconciling the
 historical Jesus, the Christ of Faith and the Pop
 Star.

Rev. Sue Gabrielson is Minister for the Sanford UU Church.
 Before attending seminary at Andover Newton Theological
 School, she worked as a police officer, undercover narcotics
 officer and administrator and faculty member in higher
 education. Sue has traveled extensively, enjoys the outdoors, is a
 certified personal fitness trainer and has even hiked the
 Appalachian Trail. She has two young daughters.

Welcome New Members

If you are interested in joining the Norway UU Church, please
 contact the church. You are always welcome to just visit without
 joining and hope you will!

WAYSIDE PULPIT

The universe will reward you for taking risks on its behalf.

—Shakti Gawain

From the Board Chair

Whether we begin our new year with the winter solstice, the lunar new year or on January 1st we find in this time of darkness limitless possibilities for the year to come. While not all of the possibilities before us will take us where we want to go in our lives, we nevertheless find ourselves once again on the threshold of what could and will be. So what is it that we wish to nurture in our lives as we move into the growing light?

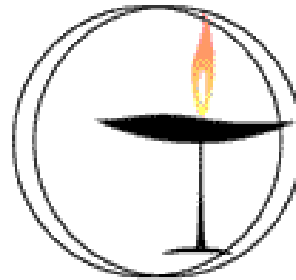
Making meaningful changes that shape the course of our lives can often come slowly. Reflection of our spiritual or life journey over the past year can reveal the pathways that have led us to where we find ourselves today and point to possible headings for our tomorrows to come. As we look back over the year, what experiences call to us to open our hearts and minds more fully to what might be?

As we rest in the quiet of the long night and the peace of the dawning light, seeds of hope flow in the heart. It is a hope nurtured by new discoveries as we move through the changing landscape of our lives. It is a hope

sustained by embracing the change we desire. It is a hope that trusts in the infinite possibilities of Holy Mystery and finds fulfillment in our actions in the world.

May the New Year bring peace, love and joy to all.

Blessings Bernice



*Love is the spirit of this church . These are our goals:
To worship God in Freedom,
To affirm the dignity of all people,
To dwell together in peace,
To serve one another,
And to seek the truth in love.*

Pastoral Associates



Congratulations and Condolences this month to our Church Family:

Joan and Richard B. are welcoming their new Grandson JJ, who resides with his parents in the Boston area. A mid-westerner by birth, he was brought home by his mom and dad, Barney, very soon after his birth----completing a successful adoption. By photos, he is beautiful with lots of dark hair!

Dee and Kevin F. are welcoming their former Thai exchange student, Nieu, for a holiday in the US. Nieu lived with them several years ago as a High School student. This will be her first visit since then. They have a lot of catching up to do.

Bernice M. was asked to lead the singing for this season's Christmas celebration in the town of Stoneham.

Cookie M. has been wrestling with her knee acting up lately. She literally needs support for healing that knee.

Deborah C. recently lost her mother and was able to be with her, her father, and sister where they reside in Texas. She stayed for a lovely service for her mom before returning to Maine.

Joyce L. is said to have experienced some suspicious symptoms during a recent service at the West Paris church. We send her healing thoughts as she continues to be under doctor's care.

Jan C. is recovering slowly but surely from a nuisance virus. Sally B. has had bronchitis bully her recently but is also feeling some early recovery.

Nancy W. lost the father of her two sons this last month. He was a lifelong resident of Norway. Sally B. also attended his service and lovely reception at his son Peter's home she has many fun memories of their shinanigans together as neighbor kids.

The Pastoral Associates are Becky H., Nancy W., Sally B., and Kathi P. Please contact any of us with your needs or concerns. Blessed be.

Don Mayberry of Oxford Hills Clergy handles the money that our church gives to this organization. When Heidi or Bernice hears from someone in need they will call Nancy Wood or Sally Bradley with the information. We will direct the request to Don Mayberry and or the person can go to the Congregational Church of South Paris with the request. The office of the Congregational Church is located in the white building next to the church. There are referral sheets in the office for the food pantry which is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9-11. It is located in the Episcopal Church at the back door. Please contact Heidi in the office at 207-743-2828 for referral sheets.

Do you have an interest in being more involved in the care of the congregation? We as the pastoral associates are in need of new members, particularly since we are in transition without a minister.

Please consider our openings.....any of us would be happy to discuss our role with you.

Kathi P., Nancy W., Sally B., and Becky H.

Board Summary

Summary of the December 13,2011 Norway UU church Board meeting.

The First Universalist Church Norway, UU board met on Tuesday, 12/13/11 with Matt Simard, a financial advisor. Mr Simard is the second advisor the Board has met with. The next step is to look at the UUA website and their management practices. Then we can decide which management would best for the church finances.

Bids are being looked at for the immediate repairs necessary for the belfry.

The Worship committee reported that all but four openings for speakers for the pulpit have been filled. The committee has also agreed to take on cancellation of

Sunday services as they are in touch with the speakers.

All pods need to be reminded of the dish washing procedures-wash, rinse, into sterilizer. A note will be put up with instructions in the kitchen.

Davy Sturtevant will cover for Heather while she is gone this winter.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan C

Meeting times
Board meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30.
All are welcome!

Hospitality January

January

- 8 Pilots
- 15 Belugas
- 22 Minkes
- 29 Finbacks

Don't forget all the pod responsibilities:

- Post hymn numbers and responsive reading
- Altar table Greeting
- Offertory Chalice Closing Circle
- And Coffee Hour

Ongoing Committees and other Group Meetings. All welcome.

Drumming Circle 7:00 PM at church
January 20th, 2012
Social Justice
TBA Check with Joan Beal.
Worship Committee
Please give all suggestions, comments and feedback to
Gay De Hart or Kathi Pewitt

Note on Ongoing Committees & Groups

Please feel free to join us for as much time as you can— You do not have to attend regularly to participate, have fun and give your input.

Women's Group

Women's Group in December was held at the Black Horse Tavern in Bridgton. Over 20 women attended and we raised over \$270 for Christmas for Teens.

Next meeting:
January 20 at 5:00 PM
"Snacks and a movie at Lou's." Bring a snack to share. Hosted by Lou and Sally.
Call Lou for directions: 583-4872

Women's Group other months.

Details to be determined by host:
February: Joan B.
March: Kathi P
April: Joan E.
May: Claire and Deborah
June: Lerryn
Looking forward to a fun year!



Farmers' Market

The Farmers' Market will begin again from January to April on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays from 10:00a.m. to 2:00p.m.

Other regular meetings held at the Church.

Mon, Tues, Wed Thurs, Fri 8:00 AM AA
Saturday 10:00 PM AA
Wed 11:30 AM Community Lunch
First Thurs Community Dinner 5:00 PM

Order of Service

The deadline for announcements for the Order of Service: Tuesday prior to the service.

Year-Long Calendar

Don't forget to check with Kevin before scheduling time at the church. Kevin will add items to the calendar in the church so that everyone is aware of scheduled meetings.

A NOTE FROM HEATHER

You've probably heard the rumors: "Heather's leaving? When? Where is she going? How long? Why?" So, here's the scoop:

I'm taking a couple of months off to do some travelling, writing and a little performing. On January 1st, Shawn (my bassist and my sweetie) and I are headed to Arizona (and a few points beyond!) for some new adventures! I will be gone for just the months of January and February and will return home the first of March.

While I am gone, your interim music director will be the very capable and very talented Davy Sturtevant. Davy is a singer/songwriter, performer and a former UU music director from Erie, PA who now lives in Sweden, ME. He's got a lovely tenor voice, plays a mean guitar and fiddle (and banjo and steel guitar and...), has a terrific sense of humor and I have no doubt that you will love hearing his music fill the sanctuary on Sunday mornings!



Keep our voices singing!



We have purchased five new hymnals and are ready to order two more. Thank you all!

You can still contribute if you want to and we will place another order soon. Buy one in memory of or in honor of someone. Your name will be placed in the front of the hymnal along with the name of the person you honor.

They are \$28 each plus shipping. Please make your check out to Norway UU with "hymnal" in the memo line and give to Lou Burdick, Treasurer.



If you are on Facebook, and haven't taken the time to "Like" and "Share" our page, please do so. It is a great way to tell your friends about us. Just look for Norway UU Church.

We are growing slowly but surely--so far we have up to 20 "Fans" and I know there are more people out there who would like to see our posts. This is a great way to let all your "friends" learn more about your church.

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Unitarian Universalist

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Everybody Welcome! Please Join us!

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Sexton Kevin Farr 539-4232 farrout@roadrunner.com

Music Director Heather Pierson (603) 733-6350 heather@heatherpierson.com

A Welcoming Congregation that Puts Its Faith in You

Next deadline is January 18th for submission of articles.

