



**The Thinker,
Auguste Rodin**

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

November

Nov 6 Bill Leggett
“Fall Ingathering-A Place to Hang Your Hat

Nov 13 Helen Zidowecki “We are here!”

Nov 20 Jennifer Wixson “Come, Ye Thankful People”
The importance of Gratitude

Nov 27 Charles Howes
Stone Soup Sunday. Sermon topic be announced

December

Dec 4 Joen Beal Worship Leader, Rodney Abbott
Speaker:
“What is your relationship with God, and does it matter?”

Dec 11 Sarah Shepley Sermon to be announced

Dec 18 Jennifer Wixson Sermon to be announced

Dec 24 Bernice Martin Christmas Eve

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!

November 2011

Board of Trustees

Bernice Martin	Chair
Dorothy Raymond	Co-clerk
Jan Cardoza	Co-clerk
Lou Burdick	Treasurer
Claire Gelinias	Trustee
Gay De Hart	Trustee
Allen Erler	Trustee

Pastoral Associates

Becky Hardy Nancy Wood
Kathy Pewitt Sally Bradley
Please call the church if you'd like a home number.

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 have a paper copy of *The Free 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

WAYSIDE PULPIT

There is a story of hope, and we are characters in the story.

—Robert R. Walsh

From the Board Chair

Heidi Linscott

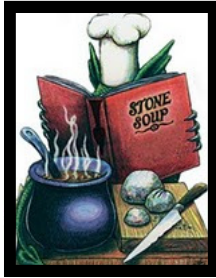
Bernice was unable to submit an article this month due to her extremely busy work load.

But as always she sends her blessings your way..



*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.*

STONE SOUP SUNDAY



Once upon a time, there was a great famine in which people jealously hoarded whatever food they could find, hiding it even from their friends and neighbors. One day, a kindly looking stranger came into a village and began asking questions as if he planned to stay for the night.

There's not a bite to eat in the whole province," he was told. "Better keep moving on."

"Oh, I have everything I need," he said. "In fact, I was thinking of making some stone soup to share with all of you." He pulled an iron cauldron from his wagon, filled it with water, and built a fire under it. Then, with great ceremony, he drew an ordinary-looking stone from a velvet bag and dropped it into the water.

By now, hearing the rumor of food, most of the villagers had come to the square or watched from their windows. As the stranger sniffed the "broth" and licked his lips in anticipation, hunger began to overcome their skepticism.

"Ahh," the stranger said to himself rather loudly, "I do like a tasty stone soup. Of course, stone soup with cabbage — that's hard to beat."

Soon a villager approached hesitantly, holding a cabbage he'd retrieved from its hiding place and added it to the pot.

"Wonderful" cried the stranger. "You know, I once had stone soup with cabbage and a bit of salt beef as well, and it was fit for a king."

The village butcher managed to find some salt beef . . . and so it went, through potatoes, onions, carrots, mushrooms, and so on, until there was indeed a delicious meal for all.

The Moral of the Story:

By working together, with everyone contributing what they can, a greater good is achieved.

COME AND JOIN US

We will be celebrating our Stone Soup Sunday on November 27th after the Sunday Service.

Thanksgiving leftovers can be dropped off in the morning in the kitchen. After the service the contributions that people have brought in will be enjoyed by all.

Pastoral Associates

The Pastoral Associates are Becky H., Nancy W., Sally B. and Kathi P. Please contact them with your needs or concerns.

We send our love and condolences to Dorothy and Bunk R. and family. Dorothy's mother Janet passed away the 1st of October. Dorothy shared with us last month in the Free Thinker that her mother has planned her own memorial service to be held next summer at the Chatham Unitarian Universalist Church.

It is with great sadness that we offer our condolences to the family of Barbara H and Polly R. Barbara's sister Nancy's son Benjamin died in Kuwait. We wish them peace and comfort. We also share their joy in welcoming Barbara's new grandson Owen Benjamin to their family.

Becky H. took a trip to Idaho at the end of October to gather with friends from High School. It is nice to have the opportunity of reminisce with those people who "knew you when."

Lou B. will be heading to Florida at the end of November to embark on another cruise. Bon Voyage! She will be back to spend most of the winter in Maine.

We hope you are finding joy in the changing of the season. The foliage has been beautiful, some of our congregation have enjoyed time at our various agricultural fairs around the state, and we continue to have wonderful speakers in the pulpit. To anyone who has been ill or experienced a loss we send healing thoughts and prayers. Blessed be.

Thank you.
Kathi P.

For anyone we have not mentioned who has been ill or experienced a loss, we send you healing thoughts and wish you a speedy recovery, and peace.



From Dorothy

Our dear sweet mom, Janet Raymond, passed away on Oct. 1st, peacefully and painlessly, after a brief illness- pancreatic cancer- which was diagnosed less than two months ago. We are so grateful for the month we had with her at home, but we are very sad to lose her so soon.

She enjoyed and was present for all the friends and family who visited, called, and sent cards (and/or chocolate) and my brothers and I are grateful for all the help and love that came our way.

Everyone who knew her, loved Janet- she was funny, beautiful, smart, with an open mind and open heart. I know she felt that love all around her. We had some wonderful moments with her, but we miss her madly.

Thank you to my Norway UU friends who sent cards and called. It will be very hard to close up Mom's house and walk away, but it is comforting to be coming home to friends and family.

Love, *Dorothy*

Board Summary

Summary of October 11, 2011

Board meeting.

The Norway UU Board met with the first of a series of financial planners they are planning to meet with in order to find someone to oversee our finances and help us plan for the future. After meeting with some local planners and talking with the UUA financial advisors the board will make a decision as to who should help us manage our funds. We need to develop a financial policy to follow.

Al Larrivee, computer service technician, came in and volunteered his services to clean up the computer files. He found that although older, our computer is in good working order and we have good virus protection.

Cayenne has checked on our website and feels it can be cleaned up to do what we would like it to do for our church. She is working on procedures with screen shots so that we can maintain it more easily.

From our Congregational Meeting with Karen Brammer we realized we need to revamp our mission statement. The Board will schedule time in February for Karen to come and help us with this.

Heidi, our office manager, has typed up a new copy of the By-laws and is working on a new directory.

Meeting times

Board meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30.

Please note the day has changed.

All are welcome!

Keep our voices singing!

The church is in need of additional hymnals to make sure that there is one available for everyone in our choir and attending a service.

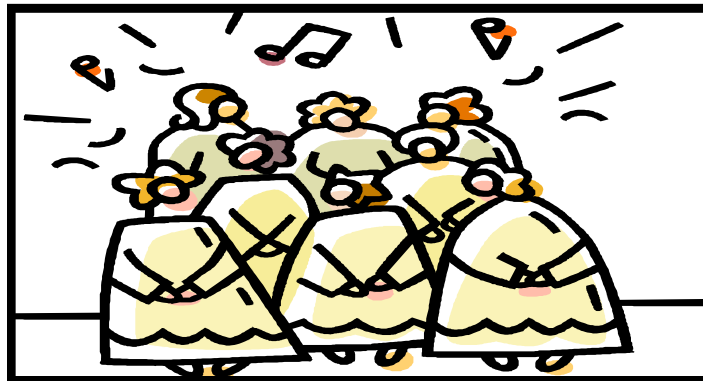


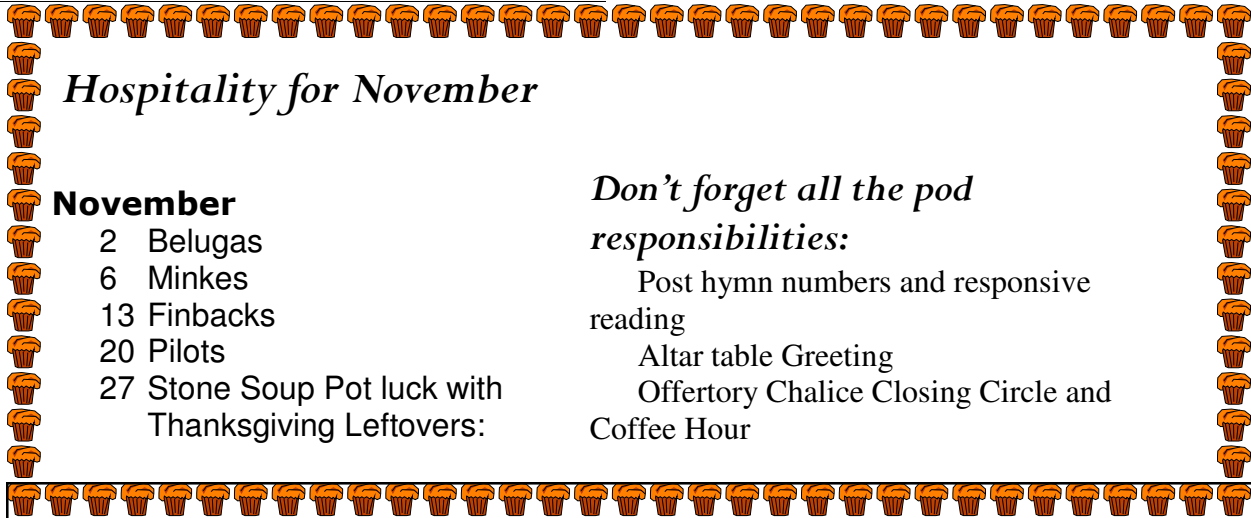
They are \$28 each plus shipping, but there is a chance we can pick them up to eliminate the shipping cost.

So who would like to sponsor a hymnal for the church? 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.

Make checks out to Norway UU Church, with “hymnal” in the memo line and leave in the treasurer’s box.

We’ll place our order by December 1 so we will have the hymnals in time for our Christmas Eve service.





Hospitality for November

November

- 2 Belugas
- 6 Minkes
- 13 Finbacks
- 20 Pilots
- 27 Stone Soup Pot luck with Thanksgiving Leftovers:

Don't forget all the pod responsibilities:

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



The board would like to extend a very sincere thank you to Al Larrivee for the generous contribution of his time to give our office computer a thorough check-up.

Al lives in Waterford and is a great one to call if you are having computer problems.

If you need computer help, contact Al at 890-7767 or email him at acl@megalink.net.

Update on Endowment:

We will be meeting with Matt Simard, financial advisor, on November 8 and reviewing materials from the UUA.

All are welcome to join the discussion.

Fourth Sunday Beyond Our Walls Collection

On the fourth Sunday of each month the non-pledge contributions received during the morning offertory are donated to a service project or organization. There are three guidelines for being a Beyond Our Walls recipient. The organization must: 1) Serve the Oxford Hills area, 2) Be a UU Service Committee project or 3) Be suggested by a member of the congregation. A suggestion form is posted on the Social Justice Bulletin Board in the concert hall. The Social Justice Committee chooses a recipient for the collection at the monthly meeting. Our Fourth Sunday Collection in November will be donated to **Partners In Health**.

Ongoing Committees and other Group Meetings. All welcome.

Drumming Circle 7:00 PM at church
November 18th
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

November 15th, 2011
Social Meeting beginning at 5:30 PM at Rowena's home
Host: Rowena Palmer
Cheryl Wixson, Rowena's older daughter, will present us with a problem for discussion. "What do you do with 30,000 pounds of tomatoes" I trust we will be able to help her. There will be a light supper---at some point in the evening. It probably will be tomatoes!!! An rsvp will be appreciated so we will have enough tomatoes for all. Rowena: 743-2882

For anyone new to the church, Women's Group meets monthly and is hosted by someone different each month with a different theme, content or activity each month. All women welcome!

Women's Group other months.

Details to be determined by host:
December: Becky
January: Lou and Sally at Lou's
February: Joan B.
March: Kathi P
April: Joan E.
May: Claire and Deborah
June: Lerryn
Looking forward to a fun year!

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

Open Mic

Always the last Friday of the month.

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.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

I hope everyone had a chance to enjoy the wonderful summer and fall we were so lucky to have this year.

It does not seem possible that tonight's forecast includes snow for the mountains. I have to admit winter is my least favorite season. However, I do enjoy all the holidays that accompany it.

I hope that you all have a very safe Halloween !

Heidi

Office Manager



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.

So far we have up to 18 "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 935-4505(h)vesselrecordings@yahoo.com

A Welcoming Congregation that Puts Its Faith in You

Next deadline is November 17 for submission of articles.

 Find us on
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