

# NEWSLETTER

Welcome! Our worship service begins at 10AM

**Dec 4th - "An Advent God" - Led by Rev. Mark Glovin** In the season of Advent, we see different images of God, expectant mother, baby waiting to be born. We'll continue with our theological reflection on God's presence in our world, holding up a different perspective. Wherever you are on the continuum of belief, whatever your theology, there will be place for you in this service as we ask what is possible in this moment in history.

**Dec 11th - "Hope" - Led by Rev. Mark Glovin.** We'll celebrate our new member ceremony during this Sunday service will hold up a grounded realistic hope that is born from engaging with the world not turning away from it. In this wilderness time and this solstice moment, we'll see that joy and woe are inextricably woven together, both legitimate responses to this beautiful, terrible, healing, holy world.

**Dec 18th - Winter Solstice** - Celebrating Winter Solstice led by members of the Worship Committee. Join in celebrating the return of the light as we enter into this coldest time of the year.

**Dec 24th - "Christmas Eve" - Led by Rev. Mark Glovin** We'll have one family friendly Christmas Eve Service this year at 6:30. We'll tell the christmas story, and explore the idea of messengers. We'll sing our favorite carols. We'll have our traditional candle lighting ceremony, celebrating our beloved community and this holy night together. Bring friends.

**Dec 25th - "A Christmas Surprise" - Led by Rev. Mark Glovin** Our last service before Mark heads off on sabbatical will be a small special gathering. The intimacy of worshipping on Christmas morning allows us the opportunity to worship in a different way. This experiential service will feature music, ritual and interactive spiritual practice.



## UUR Contacts

Minister	
Rev. Mark Glovin	594-8750
President	
Reba Richardson	273-3044
Director of Religious Exploration	
Carney Doucette	975-9994
Music Director	
Sojourner Hodges	230-9167
Worship	
Lois Anne	542-7348
Building and Grounds	
Joe Patten	542-7762
Treasurer	
Dick Tomeo	596-7989
Wall Coordinator	
Peter Lehman	542-1496
Area Interfaith Outreach	
BOT liaison	
Pinny Beebe-Center	
Tonian Circle - Co-presidents:	
Charmarie Blaisdell	372-6118
Susan St. John	594-9084
Office Administrator	
Sarah Rogers	594-8750

*We are a Welcoming Congregation*

## REV. MARK GLOVIN

Tony Larsen is a UU minister serving a church in Racine, Washington who has, for more than thirty years, ended every letter, every newsletter article and every sermon with the phrase “peace and unrest.” The focus and discipline of that thirty year practice is humbling and a little daunting to someone whose spirit animal could be a butterfly. And I also find it challenging and inspiring, to find something that so simply and for so long speaks to the core of your belief in what ministry is and what church is.

I also find the sentiment itself challenging and inspiring “peace and unrest” because both of those aspects are absolutely central to what UUR offers each of us and all of us.

Church has to offer both peace and unrest. We should absolutely feel sanctuary here, feel held and supported, and lifted. And we should also feel emboldened and empowered to experience and work with our justifiable unrest. Together these experiences give us a sense that we are in this together, and that we give each other strength to act in the world, and make a difference in our lives and in our community.

Another way of looking at it comes from the author James Lough, who says, “In life, as in bicycling, pedal when you have to, coast when you can.” We each experience these gifts from the church (peace, unrest, pedaling, coasting) at different times; and my deep belief is that there is a critical mass of each at church in any moment, so that those who need rest can and that those who can pedal will take their turn. And the healing, holy work of the church continues.

As I look toward sabbatical, I am struggling a bit with the irony that just as you have sent me off to do a little coasting, I am feeling a call to pedal hard, that I think our church is being called now to to pedal too, to respond to this moment.

I believe that our presence now is very important: our clear voice for justice and compassion, our deep witness of both every single being’s inherent worth and our interconnectedness, our experience and practice with building bridges across difference, and our long history of the standing with those on the margins.

Let’s make the most of this last month before I am off for a while, preparing ourselves for whatever pedaling and coasting is called for over these next few months.

And in the months apart, I hope that you each find the best balance you can between peace and unrest, that peace doesn't become complacency and that unrest doesn't become burnout.

Know that I’ll be seeking that balance too, coasting as I can and pedaling in new ways. I can’t wait to see where you are in June and to hear how you got there.

Know that even in this challenging time my hope still burns brightly. I believe in us, I believe in life. I believe that in any moment and every moment we can discover a way in the world and in ourselves and that we can find the creative energy we need to change into the new thing we must become.

May it be so for each of us and for all of us.

peace and unrest

Mark

## BOARD PRESIDENT'S NOTE

As I write this letter I am still in recovery from a long weekend full of Thanksgiving pie, pie and more pie! I can't believe that the holiday season is upon us, but I know that certain events at church will help me get in the spirit: the greening of the sanctuary and the children's shop are two of my absolute favorite seasonal events. And this coming Saturday December 3rd, starting at 5:30, we'll have the first of what might become a new tradition: a church-wide potluck and Yankee Swap. Bring food for the potluck and a wrapped gift (no label on it) to participate in the Yankee Swap!

After many consultations, Amy Libby and I decided to postpone the biennial UUR auction until the new year. Maybe we were just speaking for ourselves, but we decided that our energy felt sapped at the moment and that a late-winter celebratory event would be better timing this year. We're currently deciding between a couple dates and will publicize it asap, so keep brainstorming and dreaming up great auction contributions in the meantime!

As current church president, I feel a lot of responsibility (of course) for the continued health and smooth functioning of the church during Mark's upcoming sabbatical. Mark's Christmas service will be his last official role before he begins his five-month sabbatical. During his absence we have an amazing team, lead by Amy Libby, in place to address pastoral care. The Sunday pulpit will be filled by talented ministers and lay people. And we are blessed with skilled and steady staff. To learn more about the sabbatical, please pick up a copy of the Sabbatical Brochure that is available on the table in the foyer and outside the sanctuary, and always feel free to come to me or others on the sabbatical team with any questions. We will miss Mark, but we're grateful that he can have this time of renewal and that our church community will continue to thrive during his break.

Your church Board of Trustees continues to have jam-packed monthly meetings. In the last meeting alone we grappled with community plate donations, the social justice initiative, the potential for church electricity from solar panels, the timing of a potential church ministerial intern, how to best support UUR buildings and grounds needs, our church website, and much more. There's a lot of work going on behind the scenes at our church, and I have so much appreciation for all the hands that help make our community strong. I also want to acknowledge the hard work, vision and creativity of the Holiday Craft Fair planners and crafters. The craft fair was an amazing success and I felt so proud of the progressive message that our church put out to the visiting community with our signs, programs and posters, along with our amazing crafts.

As always, please be in touch with any questions or concerns. Thank you for being a part of this community!

Reba Richardson



# HAPPENINGS IN RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION...

## **Advent Activities for All Ages**

For Unitarian Universalists, Advent can provide an opportunity to deepen our awareness of the spiritual values inherent in this season. Hope, love, joy and peace are all reflected in the nativity story of Jesus. As our Lower Elementary group learned in the story of Advent, Unitarian Universalists can find hope, love, joy and peace, just as they can be found in the Christian story of Advent. Here are two ways you can participate in this Advent season:

(1) Have a conversation each night at the dinner table with your loved ones based on a [daily table top advent question](#). These questions were created with children in mind, but can work for all ages. Take time to slow down in the bustle of this season to talk, listen and reflect using these questions.

(2) Each Sunday of Advent (starting November 27), Carney will post on Facebook an Advent candle lighting on a theme of hope, love, joy or peace. Then over the week you are invited to see if you can observe an action – capture it with a photo or describe it in a few words, and share it on our group Facebook page. For example, you might see someone helping another person, which gives you hope. Write a few words about that and share. Or take a picture of a sign or share a link to a news article that gives you hope.

Through sharing, let us discover the deeper meaning of this Advent season.

## **Crafters & Helpers wanted for Holiday crafts & RE Café**

On Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> after worship, we will set up crafting tables for all ages to make something for the holidays. We need crafters to volunteer their time – all levels of crafting are needed. Past crafts have included: making balsam pillows, baking stained glass cookies, cutting out snowflakes and making wax candles. If you have a craft in mind, but cannot afford the materials, please contact Carney Doucette. Crafters please let Carney know before December 4 if you can help. We also will have soup and bread available for a light lunch. Plan to have lunch (donations support RE), and enjoy making some holiday crafts together.

## **Holiday Shop – Saturday, December 17, 3-5 p.m.**

The RE Holiday Shop will be open on Saturday, December 17, 3-5 p.m. Children bring their shopping lists and quarters. Congregants bring in their gently used small items for the shop. The red & yellow basket is in the lobby. On the day of this event, parents can gather upstairs while their children shop and sip on hot chocolate or go run some errands. Children shop and elves, a.k.a. the Tonian Women and friends, help with wrapping gifts and finding the right present for the people on their list. All items are 25¢. Please bring in your items today. You can label your bag “Holiday Shop,” and leave it by the door if you can’t bring it in on Sunday. Anything goes; our children are shopping for all ages.

## **New Year’s Eve**

You are invited to welcome in the New Year at First Universalist Church on December 31<sup>st</sup> from 5-9 p.m. We will have a meal together, play games or watch a movie, and toast in the new year at 8 p.m. This is a multi-generational event, all ages welcome! If you would like to coordinate the food (in the past we have had pizza and tacos – bring your own ingredients), please speak to Carney Doucette, [dre@uurockland.org](mailto:dre@uurockland.org).

# CHURCH EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> – The Greening of the Sanctuary 11am

Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> - Churchwide Potluck 5:30pm & Yankee Swap 7pm

Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> – UUR Auction - **POSTPONED!**

Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> – Path to Membership Class 6:30pm

Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> - Leading Worship Class at 10:30am

Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> - Women's Holiday "take-a-break" gathering, 5pm overnight

Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> - New Member Ceremony at service

Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> - Leading Worship Class at 6pm

Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> – Tonian Lunch at the Offshore Restaurant 11:30am

Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> - Leading Worship Class at 10:30 am

Saturday, Dec 17<sup>th</sup> - Holiday Shop 3-5pm

Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> - Leading Worship Class at 6pm

Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve Service, 6:30pm

Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day Service 10am

Wednesday, December 28<sup>th</sup> – (DATE CHANGE) UUR Book Bunch meets at Hayden's 11:30am

Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup> – New Years Eve Party. 5-9pm

Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> – Rev. Mark Glovin sabbatical begins through June 2017

# NEW MEMBERS & LEADING WORSHIP & WOMEN'S OVERNIGHT

## New Member Class

Next Path to Membership class: December 7, 2016

Next New Member Ceremony: December 11, 2016

Path to Membership Class - Wednesday, December 7th, 6:30pm - This class provides an opportunity for anyone in our church community to learn more about Unitarian Universalism, to learn about the Rockland UU in particular, and to understand better the privileges and responsibilities of church membership. It's a chance to get to know the other newer faces in our community, and a chance to meet a few of the current members who welcome you into their midst. If you are interested in participating in the New Member Ceremony on December 7th, we encourage you to either attend this class or schedule a meeting with Mark beforehand (mglovin@roadrunner.com). If you have attended this class before, you are welcome to attend again. Childcare available on request. Please RSVP to Caitlin Clark (caitlin.s.clark@gmail.com or 593-7896), who is the chair of the Membership Committee.

New Member Ceremony - December 11th during church service, preceded by a welcome breakfast.



## Women's Holiday "take-a-break" gathering

If you identify as a woman, consider taking a break and join other women for a brief retreat at UUR. We will be gathering on Saturday, December 10 at 5 p.m. Join us for supper – bring a favorite pizza topping or complimentary dish, drink and snacks. We will play games, do some crafting, watch a movie, maybe even sing some songs. The Sanctuary will be decorated in greens; a wonderful time to be there at night. Stay for the evening or stay overnight. Please let Karen Vellekamp, [kvellekamp@gmail.com](mailto:kvellekamp@gmail.com) know if you are planning to come. Overnighters will plan to eat breakfast together before worship. Teens do not get to have all the fun!

## Have you thought about leading worship at UUR?

While Mark is on sabbatical, many of our Sunday services will be led by other UU ministers as part of an agreement between Maine congregations. And we will also have a number of opportunities to lead worship for each other during these months. If you have been thinking of leading worship or have the seed of a worship idea you'd like to explore, now is a great time to take the plunge.

Mark is offering a two-session workshop about leading worship to prepare scheduled lay preachers and anyone interested in leading worship. Topics covered will be:

What makes good worship

The difference between a sermon and a lecture

The importance and mechanics of creating a safe inclusive worship space

Shaping liturgy and dynamic flow

Music in worship and the hymnal as your friend

Each session will be offered twice Saturday morning and the following Tuesday evening:

Session 1

Saturday 12/10 at 10:30

Tuesday 12/13 at 6

Session 2

Saturday 12/17 at 10:30

Tuesday 12/20 at 6

If you have any questions, be in touch with Mark at 207-701-7485 [mglovin@roadrunner.com](mailto:mglovin@roadrunner.com)

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

For the **January issue** is:  
**Mon. Dec 19th** Submissions may  
be sent to [mail@uurockland.org](mailto:mail@uurockland.org)

**Dec 2016**

## Hospitality TEAMS

**Dec 4 - Dolphins**

**Dec 11 - Lobsters**

**Dec 18 - Foxes**

**Dec 25 - Moose**

### Holiday Fair:

Thank you to everyone who helped make this Holiday Fair happen! Thank you to the many, many crafters who toiled for hours to produce such beautiful donations to tempt shoppers. Thank you to the bakers and cooks who made yummy treats, soups, and breads for the bake sale, luncheon, and pie sale. Thank you to the volunteers who helped set-up, decorate, greet and assist shoppers, serve food and run the kitchen, and cleanup. And thank you to the shoppers who came, and many of you brought friends and family, to support the Holiday Fair fundraiser. All of you did your part, sharing your individual time and talents, to raise approximately \$2,500 (more is still coming in, as remaining Fair items are available in the Library). So thank you all for your willingness to try a new fundraising event, and especially thank you for making it such a success!

On a business note, crafters, if you notice that some of your donated items are still unsold after this Sunday (Nov. 27), please feel free to take home your items, or consider donating appropriate items to the Children's Sale (on December 17th). Any left items will either be given to the Children's Sale or saved for a possible future craft sale.

With Gratitude, Pam Bryer, Patty King, and Becky Meinersmann

For any further questions: Becky at [LTMeinersmann@gmail.com](mailto:LTMeinersmann@gmail.com)

**Another project looking for donations: The Oceanside East High School "emergency closet"**, located in the office of the school nurse, Ilmi Carter, is ready for restock. I've carried over some gift cards for Hannaford, and shopped for some of these items, suggested by the Guidance secretary, Sue Snow, in consultation with Ilmi. "The kids have been coming in sporadically for [AIO's weekend] back packs. The needs seem to be for things that they don't need to do much to: Canned pasta, baked beans, peanut butter and crackers. Boxed cereal or cereal cups would be good too." The staff have ziploc baggies for handfuls of crackers if you buy a boxfull -- and if you wish to rid your home of excess Halloween candy by-and-by, send it along, as that also can be portioned out for these kids. Who knew they liked baked beans? There'll be a tote next to the AIO baskets. There's a good deal of overlap between AIO's needs and those of couch-surfing teens, of course. And there's the "One Less Worry" tote for feminine hygiene supplies (which are made up into kits for a typical woman or girl's cycle, and given out at AIO, and the high schools). All of this expresses our desire for care and support to our neighbors. Cathy Baker

# TONIANS

## **TONIANS MEET for CHRISTMAS LUNCH, WED. DEC. 14th at the OFFSHORE RESTAURANT in ROCKPORT -- RSVP to STEVIE**

For our Dec. meeting, the Tonian Circle, our church's women's group, will hold our annual Christmas Lunch Out, something that was instituted long ago, by our foremothers who realized that we're usually the people who do all the work at the holidays. We are on for Wed., Dec. 14th at the OffShore Restaurant on Rte. 1, Rockport, just north of PBMC. Please indicate to our hostess, Stevie Kumble, whether you think you can come, and if you wish to include a friend, update her also. You can e-mail her at [saskumble@roadrunner.com](mailto:saskumble@roadrunner.com), or leave a message at 236-2352. Stevie has reserved for 11:30am on, so that we can be ready to order by noon, making a complex waitressing job a bit easier. So come early if you can, with bells on, or any bit of holiday trimming you fancy. This is primarily a social gathering, but if there is business outstanding, we'll try to do it after our orders are in.

### **JAN. 14th MEETING: WE WELCOME SHLOMITAUCIELLO on "FINDING CONSENSUS in a FRACTURED WORLD" ALL WELCOME**

Looking ahead to our next meeting, in the new year, we hope to hear from Shlomit Auciello. Shlomit was a fulltime newspaper journalist in our area for years, a political activist and organizer, and she still takes an interest in local and national politics. We have asked her to speak at our Jan. 11th meeting, on "finding consensus in a fractured society." Here is her introduction: "Shlomit Auciello is a nontraditional undergraduate at College of the Atlantic and a long-time member of the Knox County community. Her talk will address the ways we align and divide ourselves in the public discourse, the challenge of listening, and the double-edged safety pin." She signs herself with a quote from poet Mary Oliver: "I believe in kindness. Also in mischief. Also in singing, especially when singing is not necessarily prescribed."

This program is by way of a follow-up to our Nov. meeting. I really think we did ourselves a favor, planning an Election Recovery meeting for the 9th. We had a good group (17, including a newcomer, Fay Larkin, who has joined already!), and a lot to talk about, even before we got to hear Lorrie Kniesner's presentation on Masons On a Mission. Our hostesses for the day, Norma Athearn, Sue Wieluns, Negar Paydar Smith, and Susan Solman, had decorated the tables for fall, made two pots of coffee, and set out desserts in plethora for us -- all this plus vibrant conversation made a terrific restorative for poll-weary spirits. Many thanks to the four of you!

## TONIANS CONTINUED

Sue Crane had agreed to stand in as President of the Day, since Susan St. John was out on the West Coast visiting her daughter Alexis, and Eleanor Richardson is already settled in Naples, FL. One of the orders of business for the day was to recruit a few other possible Temporary Presidents, and I am happy to report that Penny Dunning and Jean Morrison are willing to be called upon when Susan St.J. isn't available. We heard our Treasurer Audrey Moody's report, and she has since sent a document listing all the members who have paid dues for this coming year (this includes a number of additional contributions, for which we are very grateful). Of the 44 names on our membership list, 23 of you have paid dues (we have a couple of Honorary members, from whom dues are not expected). If you aren't sure when or whether you've paid for 2016-17, check with Audrey, or me. It was fast and furious there for a bit at both our Oct. and Nov. meetings, and we may have missed you. We also discussed possible programs for the coming year -- Penny Dunning described an interesting conversation with Shlomit Auciello, at work at Reny's as she makes her way to completion of her degree at the College of the Atlantic. We also have Gin Mackay to welcome, to talk about her writing career as she prepares to publish her second crime novel. And Norma Athearn would love to teach us some of simpler Bulgarian dances in her repertoire; she made a trip to eastern Europe to expand those skills last summer.

Finally, I gave an update on Ida Berg, based on a recent conversation with Fred at Hannaford's, and some notes on our collections for AIO, One Less Worry (pads, tampons & now, toilet paper!), the Purse Project, and the Emergency Closet at Oceanside East High School (food for couch-surfing and food-insecure teens). We were also glad to see Flo Harlow Oct. 30th; she and Bob made the trip north for church, and caught up a bit with their many friends.

Then, we got to hear Lorrie Kniesner speak about her trip with Masons On a Mission last March, to the highlands above Lake Titicaca in Guatemala. Lorrie came with a map, some handcrafts, a history of the project's growth over 20 years, and a good series of slides showing the country, the altitude, the people, and the process of building masonry stoves that will heat and cook without the health dangers of open firepits. Lorrie wants to make another trip this coming March, before tackling a long-cherished goal of raising a guide-dog puppy. She will need to raise \$300 for the costs of the stoves she'll help build, and also money for her travel. I hope Tonians will assist her work with a scholarship, and we thank her for her presentation. We are fortunate to have so many new attenders and members; they bring us a wealth of interesting perspectives and experience. All women of the church community are invited to become Tonians, and we welcome men at any program which interests them. For more information on the Tonian Circle, call or write Cathy Baker, Secretary, at 596-6865, or [snowbake@midcoast.com](mailto:snowbake@midcoast.com).