

May Update

May 1, 2016

Dear Members and Friends of Union Church,
It's hard to believe that we are 3½ months into our transition. Although we've experienced small changes that naturally occur when a different person assumes leadership, individuals seem comfortable with the community and worship life of our church.



April 17th was a celebration, not only of my ordination into the ministry of spiritual and religious leadership; it was also an affirmation of everyone's call to ministry –to service to one another. The ordination service and the reception that followed demonstrated all of your generous responses to your calls as you ministered a planners, presider, minister of ordination, homilist, deacon, musician, lector, greeter, reception organizer, decorator, provider of refreshments, photographer, as you selected gifts, welcomed guests, and joyously celebrated in the worship and festivity. Hopefully you all felt the joy and gratitude of being part of this marvelous church community that calls you forth to share your gifts and enriches you in the giving and through the talents of others.

As days get longer and warmer more people will return to the area and our church numbers will grow. Those of you who have braved the winter here have experienced gradual changes in the church during these past few months. Those returning may feel the differences more sharply and will likely need the comfort of old friends to support their re-entry. Through you they may need to recognize that together we are the church – a people who seek to know God better and imitate God more fully. We are still a beautiful faith community. That is what we celebrated so magnificently on April 17th. That is what we celebrate every Sunday when we are together. That is what we celebrate when we minister in the community. That has not changed.

May God bless you all in your ministry.

With love and gratitude, Nancy

Cohen Center

Our Union Church Mission Committee is participating in a newly evolving partnership with the Samuel L. Cohen Center in Biddeford, Maine. The Cohen Center, under the auspices of the Southern Maine Agency on Aging, opened its doors in January of 2016. It is an adult day treatment center to serve a population of persons with a range of dementia spectrum issues. The program options offer a wide range of activities based on individual and family needs. There are many potential volunteer opportunities available for Union Church members and friends

including gardening, reading, music, light cooking or baking projects, speaking/ reading in French, or woodworking, with Center members to name a few.



There will be an Open House to tour the Cohen Center on Barra Road in Biddeford on May 7th from 1-3pm. Please contact Heather Davis at 282 8096 heatherd@maine.rr.com with questions or interest in carpooling to this event.



Celebrate Cinco de Mayo

Saturday May 7th

5:30 – appetizers / 6:15 – dinner

Bring your Muchachos! Wear A Sombrero, por favor!

Chefs: Peter & Eve McPheeters

Guacamole, chips & salsa, Chicken Enchiladas

Choose: Medium, Mild or Vegetarian

Pinto Beans/Green Rice

and Chocolate Bread Pudding

BYO Beverage

\$ 15.00

RSVP - Cynthia @ 286-7776 ASAP charchibald@me.com
Please specify number attending AND regular or mild or vegetarian
Fire Barn, Biddeford Pool

Sponsored by Union Church

In A Pinch : Bakers Needed: Union Church will be providing the meal on **Tuesday, May 10, for the In-A-Pinch** non-food pantry -- and desserts are needed. Can you help by baking cookies or brownies or bars for the event? A sign-up sheet is in the foyer.

Union Church Web Site: *The Union Church Web Site continues to improve and contain relevant news and information about the “doings” of the Union Church family. Here is the home page link:*

<http://www.unionchurchme.com/home/> *The weekly sermon and Sunday Bulletins and inserts are posted each week. An improved photo gallery pages is also worth a look and more images will be going up in the weeks ahead: <http://www.unionchurchme.com/home/galleries/> Soon there will be news about the upcoming Speaker Series posted as well. Please visit our web page often!*

Calendar of Events:

May 7th - Cohen Center Open House, 1:00p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

May 7th -Cinco de Mayo, 5:30 p.m. –

May 8th - Mother’s Day

May 10th – In a Pinch Meal at Seeds of Hope...cookies needed

May 11th – Deacon’s meeting at the Church office at 4:00 p.m.

May 12th – Mission Committee meeting at the Church Office at 12:30 p.m.

May 15th – Pentecost Sunday – Wear red!

May 16th – Union Church’s Meatloaf Dinner at Saco Meals Program

May 20th – Karen Barbie’s Memorial Service at the Church at 1:00 p.m.

May 25th – Executive Committee meeting at the Church office at 3PM

Union Church of Biddeford Pool
2016 SUMMER SPEAKER SERIES
 Hosting Fascinating Speakers for 15 Summers!

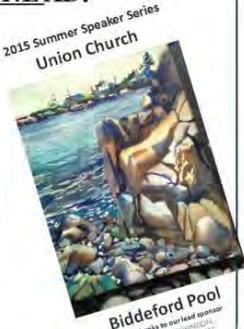
			
July 14, Hank Phillippi Ryan, Award-Winning Mystery/Crime	July 28, Anita Diamant, NYT Best- Selling Author	Aug 11, Emerson Baker, Historian, 17th Century NE	Aug 18, Sy Montgomery, Award-Winning Adventure Writer

Events 7PM at Union Church Biddeford Pool
 FMI: www.unionchurchme.com or Contact Elaine—
erobinson4@maine.rr.com

EVERYONE CAN SELL ONE AD!

Remember this great program from last year's Summer Speaker Series? Maybe your business or personal ad was in it. We invite *you* to Please buy (or sell to your favorite Business owner) ONE AD. Everyone's Got one in them!

Ad forms are at the back of the church. Please see Jen Comeau for questions.
 Deadline June 3rd.



Retreats at Marie Joseph Spiritual Center

10 Evans Road, Biddeford Pool

May 27 – 29, 2016 ~ Mary and Women Today with Marie May Lausier, p.m.

In her person, Mary not only unites and mirrors the central truth of our faith, but the essential nature of womanhood as well. We will focus on the four major images of Mary as: Mother, Virgin, Intercessor and Companion to release the feminine energy contained therein, which is part of every woman's experience. We will see how these images played out in her unfolding mission, tracing a path of light across the centuries and also learn of the meaning of her appearances today and the impact of her messages. Cost: \$190.00

July 29 – 31, 2016 ~ Teresa of Avila; A Saint Who Has a Message and a Secret with Fr. Frank Demers.

Teresa of Avila – mystic, saint and doctor of the Church. She has been for a great number of souls, a reliable companion on the road to contemplation and to holiness. With Teresa as our guide, we will focus on the message and the secrets of the mystics, and learn how to read and understand them. By following her footsteps, we may better travel our own path toward God in contemplative holiness. Cost: \$190.00

In addition to the Guided (theme related) Retreats offered at Marie Joseph's, the Center is also available for Private Retreats in which a retreatant follows no set program, no conferences, no meetings; rather using the time to pray, rest and reflect on their own. Also offered are Directed Retreats, in which the individual meets with a Spiritual Director for a one-on-one session. The following dates have been set aside for these particular types of retreats, however Private and Directed retreats can be made most times throughout the year, providing there is space available, and can be scheduled for both weekends and weekdays.

June 26 – July 2, 2016 Religious and Lay Women's 6-day, Silent Retreat

Cost: Private \$450.00 Directed: \$480.00

July 2 – 9, 2016 Men's / Women's 7-day Silent Retreat

July 16 – 23, 2016 Men's / Women's 7-day Silent Retreat

Cost: Private \$500.00 Directed: \$540.00

July 23 – 29, 2016 Men's / Women's 6-day Silent Retreat

Cost: Private \$450.00 Directed: \$480.00

FMI and to register, call 207-284-5671 or visit www.mariejosephspiritual.org



The **2016 Biddeford Ball** will take place on Saturday, June 18th. The location this year is the Factory Island Saco Mill Building #4, the large mill building directly across from the Saco Transportation Center (Downeaster Train Station) now under rehabilitation for housing and office/retail use. The 7pm to midnight event will be an evening of music, dancing, a fashion runway show, silent auction, good locally made food/drink and other surprises. All of the proceeds raised by the Ball will go to help organizations trying to alleviate hunger and promote healthy food options for those in the most need. The web site for more information is: www.biddefordball.org Soon tickets will be available at the Sugar Boutique at 25 Alfred St. in Biddeford and other locations as well as from the website.

Remembrance Garden

On Sunday, May 1st the children at Union Church planted annuals in the Remembrance Garden. Members and friends gathered there at the end of the Sunday service to bless all who will use the site. The blessing ritual and a copy of a trifold about the Remembrance Garden are found below.



Blessing of the Remembrance Garden

Leader: As individuals and as a church we remember those who have gone before us and live in the fulness of God. We dedicate this site where we can come to experience God's peace and presence, where we can honor our loved ones who have died by placing their remains here, and where we can feel close to those who are important to us and who have left this earth, by recalling our shared lives with them. Today we acknowledge the sacredness of this space and bless all those who will come here in grief, and in celebration. I invite you to put your hand over your heart as we pray

Together: Almighty and ever-living God, in you we place our trust and hope, in you the dead whose bodies were temples of the Spirit find everlasting peace. Lord Jesus Christ, by your own three days in the tomb, you hallowed the graves of all who believe in you. We pray that this site be a sign of hope that promises resurrection even as it claims our mortal bodies. Bless all whose bodies are returned to the earth in this place.

Leader: As Mary Magdalen wept at your tomb, many will come here in sadness and grief.

Together: May they experience your gifts of refuge, trust, rest and quiet, refreshment and wisdom. May their presence here ease their sadness and strengthen their hope, and in time, bring them joy and gladness.

Leader: In times of loss, may we come here together as a loving community and console one another in the faith of Jesus Christ.

Together: Amen and Amen!

Request Form

If you wish to use the Remembrance Garden, please submit this form to Pastor Nancy Bancroft, Union Church. P.O. Box 344, Biddeford Pool, Maine 04006. Phone: (207) 205-4951.

An Eternal Resting Place of Peace and Presence ~ The Remembrance Garden at Union Church

Applicant's Name and Address:

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Relationship to deceased: _____

Deceased's Information:

Full Name: _____

Date of Death: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Next of Kin: _____

Residential Address: _____

Place of Death: _____

Behold the creator's hallowed ground
where fresh, new flowers may be found
To visit here and mark the space
where a loved one's ashes have been placed

A sanctuary to pray and rest
giving thanks; how we've been blessed
To have the chance to spend some time
by a church that's small, with air sublime

A cherished love within a stone
to honor just one life alone
Whose consequence was right and just
Into this setting we entrust

We know you are not far away
in the loving arms of Yahweh
Out of reach, not once the heart
it is but a trifle we are apart

For when we meet on angel's wings
the trumpets will sound their reveling
And all of Heaven will cheer and then
At last we will be joined again.

~ Jennifer A. Comeau



The Remembrance Garden



at Union Church
3 Stonecliff Road ~ Biddeford Pool





A place of peace and presence by the sea — that reflects both the Spirit of God and the beauty of the landscape — in order to honor those whose remains are placed here.

A beautiful place where **all are welcome**

Where **Memorial Services can occur in ways respectful of our diverse community**

Where our **respect for the earth is honored** in our choice of plantings and hardscape.

The Remembrance Garden is available for services as nature and weather allow — usually between April and November.

Though a donation is gratefully accepted there is no additional fee for the use of the Remembrance Garden.

Those wishing to place their loved one's ashes in the vault or to scatter them at the site are kindly asked to contact Union Church's pastor to make arrangements.

The attached form will be kept with church records.

Flowers or other remembrances left behind will be removed after a respectful period of time. No permanent markers are permissible.



Burial Booking Details:

Date of Interment: _____

Time: _____

Officiate for Committal Service:

Number of Family Expected:

Special Instructions, If Any:

Funeral Director Details:

Funeral Director or Company:

Contact Information: _____

Signature of Applicant:

Date: _____

Signature of Officiate:

Date: _____