

The angel speeding down the runway pulls up her wing flaps, and, wouldn't you know it, wobbles, then dribbles to a stop. She stands on the windy tarmac, embarrassed, brushing her blond hair from her eyes, trying to remember how to elevate herself, wishing she'd worn jeans instead of the girly skirt that works for flying. It's gravity's old malice, showing up in the strangest places, for instance at the corner where the fortune cookie truck forgets how to turn, tipping gracefully, sliding on its side as cookies spill into the summer night. Around the city good luck stalls, turning us into bodies, just protoplasm for a wasp to sing. Even love is a sad mechanical business then, and prayer an accumulation of words I would kill to believe in. There's no happy end to a poem that lacks faith, no way to get out. I could mention that doubt—no doubt—is a testing. Meanwhile our angel glances toward the higher power, wondering how much help she'll get, not a manual, for sure, but a pause in entropy perhaps, until she can get her wings scissoring. Call it cooperation, how a rise can build, sustain itself, and lift her past the tree line. Then she knows she won't fall, oh holy night, can't fall. Anything but.

by Jeanne Murray Walker from Helping the Morning: New and Selected Poetry, Word Farm Press, <http://bit.ly/1412FzV>

Christmas. We prepare and prepare and prepare. There is noise, bustle and bells. There is laughter and song. There is hurrying and skidding around for a last minute this or that. Despite all of it, however, Christmas still comes upon us in a moment of quiet—no trumpet fanfare, no crashing cymbals, no flying banners or blinking lights or crush of torn wrapping paper. That's because Christmas comes in individual hearts—one at a time. Where will Christmas happen for you this year? Maybe you'll take out the trash and be just standing there in the driveway with a blanket of snow covering the world, and suddenly in the stillness, you know. Your grateful heart 'rises', and you are 'lifted past the tree line'. In the silence, you understand that yet again the world has been made different, changed into something better than it was a month ago or last week. One has to take this moment of holy silence in order to hear the first breath of the baby.

See you in church,

*Lorna*

The Reverend Lornagrace Grenfell



# The Church of Universal Fellowship

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Orono, Maine 04473

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[cufoffice@icloud.com](mailto:cufoffice@icloud.com)

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[churchofuniversalfellowship.org](http://churchofuniversalfellowship.org)

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CUF thanks the Board of Trustees for all its hard work on this year's stewardship program

*Community . . . the shape of God's face.*

We are especially grateful for those who brought desserts—especially Rachel Dobbs!--to the Leadership Dessert and Coffee, and for Sam Kunz our artist extraordinaire, and for our Sunday worship stewardship speakers: Rachel Dobbs

Kathy Barry  
Rori Knott  
Ginny Gallant  
Judy Perkins-Walker  
Brian McGill

*Around CUF . . .*

CUF welcomes Rania Ben Said, an American Field Service student staying with the Perkins-Walker family. Rania deeply touched our hearts and minds with her #12:10 presentation *Life in Gaza* depicting the terrors and hardships for Muslims in that area... Our congregation thanks the CUF Social Justice Team--Johanna Szillery, Cathy Marquez, Deb Blease and Sandy Caron—and ALL of their many, many helpers who joyfully organized and delivered **nineteen** Thanksgiving Baskets of food and a number of fruit baskets!

We especially thank the children and youth for their energy and for their beautiful artwork on the cards that accompanied the baskets!... The Annual Fall Fair was again a huge success and we



thank Judy Whitney and Leah Vetelino for their leadership! Thank you to all who made and donated items and who lugged and carried boxes—especially Dennis Mann and Dale Mitchell--and to Rachel Dobbs and her kitchen crew! And aren't Nancy Leavitt's snowflakes absolutely gorgeous?! The fair raised \$2,460 and donated the money to the CUF operating budget!... CUF congratulates all those in the OHS musical! Jessie Walker and Eli McGill were both terrific, and Cami Carter did a great job as Director and Jon Hawley's set and tech design made it all come together!... Our congregation also thanks our YAWPers for the great skit about CUF's endowment—Xander as the large and powerful and Castine as the tiny—but still adorable!... And now--our beautiful Wyman Memorial Christmas Tree is up in the Sanctuary thanks to Thomas Griffith and with special thanks to Chuck Ledbetter for coming by with the final helping hand for the very top!

**December Gospel Lessons (Year C)**

December 6: Luke 3:1-6  
December 13: Luke 3:7-18  
December 20: Luke 1:39-55  
December 27: Luke 2:41-52

Condolences to  
Joanne and Matt Harriman  
on the death of Joanne's father  
**David Warren Cassida**  
143 Forest Avenue  
Orono, ME 04473

**Cards of love and encouragement to:**

**Elizabeth Buck**

191 Bennoch Rd., Orono, ME 04473

**Doris Gray**

33 Wagner Dr., Apt. 332, Orono, ME 04473

**Lorraine Lick**

44 Kelley Road, Orono, ME 04473

**Sandra Warner**

86 Forest Ave., Orono ME 04473

**CUF COMMUNITY!**

**Stay in touch!**

**New Church Directories**  
are available in the Gathering Place!

and . . .

**churchofuniversalfellowship.org**

Have you subscribed? Our church website has received thousands of "views"! If you would like to keep up with what's happening at CUF, here's how:

1. go to the website above
2. scroll down to bottom of the page
3. enter your email address
4. click on subscribe

**It's that easy!** Then, when something new is posted for church, the notice will automatically appear in YOUR email! Don't miss out on the activities of your faith family! Subscribe today!

**? Who ? Who ? Who ? Who ?**

How well do you know your church family? Each month, the WIND asks a question about someone in our congregation. Can you discover the answer? Ask around! Talk to people!

**December Challenge:** What CUF member is on the St. Joseph's Hospital Patient Advisory Board and also on the Board of the Maine Atlantic Salmon Museum?

**November Challenge:** What CUF couple celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with a Viking River Cruise on the Mosel River in Germany?

**Answer: Susan and Fred Heath!**

The Church of Universal Fellowship welcomes everyone's presence and participation in worship and in any and all of our services, programs, and events. We greatly value our diversity and especially appreciate peoples' faithfulness in prayers, presence, gifts, and service.

Twice during the year, the church extends an invitation **to everyone** for formal membership. If you desire at this time to become a formal member of our faith community, and we sincerely hope you do, here are two dates to remember.

## *"Info-Coffee"*

**Sunday, December 13, 2015**

**9:00 AM**

**The MacKenzie Room (*upstairs at the end of the hall*)**

**Together with our Minister, representatives from the Trustees and Deacons will be available to talk with you and to answer any questions you may have. Children welcome!**

Although it is not necessary to attend an "Info-Coffee" in order to join the church, we do hope you will take advantage of this time to get better acquainted with us.

## *The Reception of New Members*

**Sunday, December 20, 2015**

**10:15 AM in our Sunday Morning Worship Service**

Know that CUF always welcomes your presence among us and would look forward to welcoming you formally on December 20. If it is your desire to join the church at this time, please call the church office at 866-3655 and let us know?

If you have any questions whatsoever about the process of membership, membership transfer, or dual membership, or if you would like to meet with The Reverend Grenfell individually, again please call the church office at 866-3655. Thank you.

*... a beloved CUF tradition continues!*

**The Curtis and King Families  
Invite the Entire Church Family!**

**New Year's Eve Open House  
Thursday, December 31st**

**6:00 – 9:00 pm at 123 Main Street, Orono**

**Happy  
New Year!**

...with New Year's in England celebrated at 7 pm our time! Multigenerations are most welcome. Cheerful fireplaces, music, citrus punch wassail bowl (non-alcoholic) and New Year's countdown all included!



**POINSETTIAS:** If you wish to provide a white poinsettia for the church this holiday season, in memory, honor, or celebration of someone, please call the church office at 866-3655 by December 15 to place your order. The flowers are \$15 each. Please let us know if you would like to donate your poinsettia or take it home with you on Dec. 20 after worship. Donated flowers will be delivered to home-bound members of our congregation who are unable to attend our services.

## ~ A CUF CHRISTMAS ~

EUPHONY CONCERT  
SAT., DEC. 12, 7:00 PM

MOUNT VIEW CHAMBER SINGERS  
TUES. DEC. 15, 7:00 PM

CHRISTMAS CAROLING AT DIRIGO PINES  
SUNDAY, DEC. 20, 12:00 PM

*ALL WELCOME!*

*MEET IN THE GATHERING PLACE AT 11:45!  
OR MEET US IN THE LOBBY AT DIRIGO PINES!*

CHRISTMAS EVE ~ DECEMBER 24

A CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE      4:00 PM

*Do you want to be a wise man? An angel? A shepherd? Come and help us retell the ancient story. This is a creative and participatory presentation of the nativity.*

*Come and join the fun! Refreshments!*

CANDLELIGHT LESSONS AND CAROLS      7:00 PM

*Come into our Sanctuary . . . come home for Christmas!*

### EUPHONY CONCERT

Orono's Chamber Choir under the direction of Francis John Vogt presents its winter concert on **Saturday, December 12 at 7pm in the Sanctuary.**

The concert entitled "*He wrote music*": *New Works by American Composers* will feature compositions that the choir performed at the Society for Composers Inc. Conference held this past October. The program will also include "A Procession Winding Around Me" by Jeffrey Van, a cycle of four Civil War poems of Walt Whitman set for choir and guitar. A \$10 donation will be accepted at the door, and the concert is free to all students.



HELP US

HELP OTHERS!

YAWP is headed to New Orleans to rebuild houses for Hurricane Katrina victims!

Sponsor a foot, a leg, an arm, or a whole person and we'll be on our way to helping victims of Hurricane Katrina who are still rebuilding their homes.

Sponsor a student. Build a home. Change lives.

One hand- \$10.00

One Foot- \$10.00

One Arm- \$25.00

One Leg- \$25.00

Torso- \$50.00

Head- \$50.00

Whole Person: \$240.00

Buy a whole person- get a hug from Xander Lanigan!

Joy to the World!

**Intergenerational Caroling Sunday December 20th after church**

On Sunday Dec 20<sup>th</sup> folks of all ages (zero to a hundred!) are invited to join us as we gather after coffee hour and head to Dirigo Pines' assisted living facility to spread some musical Christmas cheer. Along the way we will stop to deliver some Christmas Poinsettias (and a few Christmas carols) to housebound church members in their homes as well.

Absolutely no singing experience or talent is needed in order to participate, just a joyful heart and plenty of Christmas spirit. We will provide packets with the words to the carols and as many jingle bells as we own. Christmas sweaters, reindeer antlers, Santa hats, etc. are all welcome! This is a great chance to give back to our community and it's always LOTS of fun.

Phone Sarah Marx at 866-8615 with any questions.

## CUF Thanksgiving Baskets 2015

With the generous support and efforts of the congregation, the Social Justice Team assembled and delivered 19 Thanksgiving Baskets to families in our community. Throughout November, CUF gave generously to the Thanksgiving Basket fund—totaling \$477. The morning of Sunday, November 22, donations of non-perishables decorated the altar at CUF... ready for assembly into Thanksgiving Baskets. In the afternoon, CUF kids and YAWPers helped organize and sort the donations. Social Justice team members shopped and assembled the baskets, and delivered the goodies. The boxes contained not only a Thanksgiving dinner, but also an abundance of staples, such as peanut butter and raisins, and some fun things too, like mints and cocoa! Fruit baskets were also delivered to home-bound members of our Church community. We thank the Stillwater Montessori School for bringing lots of canned goods to add to our baskets! Thank you for your continued generosity and partnering with us in this effort! The blessings truly do overflow!

*The Social Justice Team:* Johanna Szillery, Sandy Caron, Deb Blease, Judy Perkins-Walker, Thomas Griffith



### A Note from the Trustees

From time to time we find envelopes with cash in the collection plates marked "Pledge", but with no name. If you put cash in an envelope and you want it to count toward your pledge, be sure to mark it "Pledge" and be sure **to write your name on the envelope**. We very much appreciate your donations.

**Church leaders**, please send in your annual reports! The leaders of each board, committee, team, as well as staff, are asked to send an **Annual Report** via e-mail to the church office: [cufoffice@icloud.com](mailto:cufoffice@icloud.com) by **Monday, January 11, 2016 or earlier!** Thank you!

...from the Commissioned Minister

Welcome to the month of December, a month of celebrations: *World Aids Day (Dec. 1)*, *Hanukkah (Dec 6 to 14)*, *Winter Solstice (Dec 22, the beginning of Winter)*, *Christmas Day (Dec. 25)*, *Boxing Day (Dec. 26)*, *Kwanzaa (Dec. 26 – January 1)*, and *New Year's Eve (Dec. 31)*, the oldest of all holidays. This is but a very brief list of worldwide celebrations. Each culture celebrates December in its own way. Christmas is the time we remember Jesus' birth and the meaning of his life in each of our lives, the influence he had in his community, which spread throughout the world, and of our responsibility to spread his love in our daily lives, so that in loving others, we bear witness to Jesus' love. December is a busy month, but despite the din and busyness of these days, let's remember to take time to be quiet. The following is a poem by John Oxenham, on a bookmark I received from "Guideposts."

**Prayer for Quietness**

'Mid all the traffic of the ways, Turmoils without, within, Make in my heart a quiet place,  
And come and dwell therein.

A little shrine of quietness, All sacred to thyself, Where Thou shalt all my soul possess,  
And I may find myself.

A little place of mystic grace, Of self and sin swept bare, where I may look into Thy face,  
And talk with Thee in prayer.

My love, prayers, and blessings to each and every one here at our Church—beginning with our minister. Heartfelt thanks to everyone for your prayers and support for me as I minister to the residents of the Maine Veterans' Home, and for them and their families in their time of need. This month, I have been present with the sick and with those that make their transition, often visiting them after work hours. A special thanks to our faithful volunteer, Geneva, for the love and understanding she brings and to the staff for their tireless efforts for our veterans. I pray that this Christmas brings you the blessings you so deserve and may these blessings continue into 2016.

*"In returning and rest shall you be saved; in quietness and confidence shall be your strength."*

Isaiah 30:15.

*Anne Borreggine*

**CHURCH OF UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP  
ADULT EDUCATION-SPRING 2016**

<b><u>Jan. 3, Sunday at 12:10 pm in the Library:</u></b>	Workshop: <i>Personal Theology</i>	Host: Will Hunter
<b><u>Jan. 10, Sunday at 12:10 pm in the Library:</u></b>	Workshop: <i>Personal Theology</i>	Host: Will Hunter
<b><u>Jan. 17, Sunday at 12:10 pm in the Library:</u></b>	Workshop: <i>Personal Theology</i>	Host: Will Hunter
<b><u>Jan. 31, Sunday at 12:10 pm in the Library:</u></b>	Workshop: <i>Personal Theology</i>	Host: Will Hunter
<b><u>Feb. 14, Sunday at 12:10 pm in the Library</u></b>	Seminar: <i>Ecology</i>	Host: Brian McGill
<b><u>Feb. 21, Sunday at 12:10 pm in the Library</u></b>	Seminar: <i>Ecology</i>	Host: Brian McGill
<b><u>Feb. 28, Sunday at 12:10 pm in the Library</u></b>	Seminar: <i>Ecology</i>	Host: Brian McGill
<b><u>March 6, Sunday at 12:10 pm in the Library</u></b>	Seminar: <i>Ecology</i>	Host: Brian McGill
<b><u>March 13, Sunday at 12:10 pm in the Library</u></b>	Seminar: <i>Ecology</i>	Host: Brian McGill
<b><u>March 20, Sunday at 12:10 pm in the Library</u></b>	Seminar: <i>Ecology</i>	Host: Brian McGill
<b><u>April 3, Sunday at 12:10 pm in the Library</u></b>	<i>Theology of Brian McLaren</i>	Host: Darren Morgan
<b><u>May 1, Sunday at 12:10 pm in the Library</u></b>	<i>Theology of Frederick Buechner</i>	Host: Will Hunter

**Friday Book Night  
2016 – All Welcome**

**7:00 pm Gathering Place!**

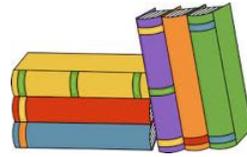
**Jan. 8,** *The Absolutely True Diary of the Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie

**Feb. 5,** *Small Gods* by Terry Pratchett

**Mar. 4,** *Best Maine Stories* Edited by Phippen, Waugh, Greenberg

**Apr. 1,** *Tattoos on the Heart: the Power of Boundless Compassion* by Fr Gregory Boyle

**May 6,** *The Burgess Boys* by Elizabeth Strout



## Library News

In the library this month, we are featuring books about the life of Jesus, including *The First Christmas*, a book by John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg, outlining what we really know about the first Christmas, and a video of walking in places Jesus knew. Books and other materials may be signed out on the clipboard on the library table.

**State of Grace, Book Group  
2016 – All Welcome!**

**December 21** – *At the Water's Edge* by Sara Gruen – meeting at the Perkins-Walker residence, 25 Winterhaven Drive.

**March 21** – *All the Light We Cannot See: A Novel* by Anthony Doerr

**April 18** – *The Walk: A Novel* by Richard Paul Evans

**May 16** – *The Winter House* by Joan MacCracken

Join us for one, a few, or all of these discussions. We meet at **5:30 pm in the Gathering Place** and share discussion, laughs and often pizza too! Call Irene von Hoffmann at 866-2879 for more information. All welcome!

*State of Grace Book Group Change of Date!*

Come to a potluck on Monday, December 21 at 5:30 pm. Location: 25 Winterhaven Drive, the home of Judy Perkins-Walker.

Book discussion: *The Water's Edge*. For further details contact Irene von Hoffmann, 866-2879.

Save the Date!

**YAWP Bake Sale to support NOLA Trip!  
Sunday, December 13 after worship!**

**Running an errand?** Give someone a ride to a medical appointment at the same time. Call OHA at 866-4648 to get connected!



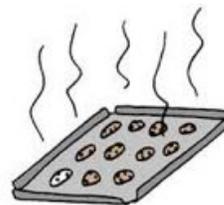
## Alliance

**Tuesday, December 8, Noon  
in the Gathering Place**

Alliance and friends are meeting for Christmas Tea on Tuesday, December 8 in the Gathering Place. Please bring your wrapped presents for the Orono Commons "Angel Tree" and a plate of cookies to share. Come and enjoy conversation, tea and cookies. **All Welcome!**

### Christmas Presents for the Foodie!

Some jars of Phyllis Born's mouthwatering watermelon pickle are left over from the Harvest Fair. Find them together with Alma Homola's delicious jams in the Gathering Place. These make great Christmas presents and all money goes to the Heifer Fund!



### Calling All Bakers!!

*Christmas is just around the corner! With Christmas come special concerts and social gatherings at CUF. If you bake Christmas cookies would you make an extra batch for church?*

*Thank you for all you do!*

*The Deacons, Fellowship & Caring Team*

No Movie Night in December.  
Movie Night will be back in January 2016.