

Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church
Wednesday, December 21, 2022

In this Issue:

- [Upcoming Services](#)
- [Upcoming Special Events](#)
- [Ongoing Connections](#)
- [Notices / Updates / News](#)
- [General / Contact Info](#)



69 Winthrop St., Augusta ME

[Zoom](#)
[Room](#)

(207)622-3232 – info@augustauu.org
www.augustauu.org

A Message from our Minister

Dear Members and Friends of UUCC,

I hope you are all well. If you are not well, please reach out to me. I am here for you as your minister to listen, to support, to lean into when times are tough. This is a challenging time of the year. Yet, this week is the celebration of the return of the sun. Although we have many winter months ahead, we can rest and rejoice in the days getting longer. And this is a time to make friends with the darkness and the shadow parts of ourselves we prefer to ignore. Carl Jung wrote: “Everyone carries a shadow, and the less it is embodied in the individual’s conscious life, the blacker and denser it is. At all counts, it forms an unconscious snag, thwarting our most well-meant intentions.” Remembering that our shadows are often seen when there is light shining upon us and these shadows can be the most magnificent or most horrific aspects of our self. Often this light comes from another...a lover, a friend, our family, a church member. It is often those closest to us who help us see our shadows. And it is easy to deflect the light, to hide, or respond with fear, because we do not want to be seen. My intention for this winter season is to allow myself to be seen, both in my beauty and my brokenness. And as I write these words, I am aware that I need to slow down to hear the holiness of the season. To sit and be with all the feelings in my heart is not easy, but necessary, if I want to experience the splendor of living.

I wish each one of you healthy and peaceful times during this holiday season.

Many blessings,

Reverend Christina



Winter Solstice by Rebecca Parker

Perhaps
 for a moment
 the typewriters will stop clicking,
 the wheels stop rolling
 the computers desist from computing,
 and a hush will fall over the city.
 For an instant, in the stillness,
 the chiming of the celestial spheres will be heard
 as earth hangs poised
 in the crystalline darkness, and then
 gracefully
 tilts.
 Let there be a season
 when holiness is heard, and
 the splendor of living is revealed.
 Stunned to stillness by beauty
 we remember who we are and why we are here.
 There are inexplicable mysteries.
 We are not alone.

In the universe there moves a Wild One
 whose gestures alter earth's axis
 toward love.
 In the immense darkness
 everything spins with joy.
 The cosmos enfolds us.
 We are caught in a web of stars,
 cradled in a swaying embrace,
 rocked by the holy night,
 babes of the universe.
 Let this be the time
 we wake to life,
 like spring wakes, in the moment
 of winter solstice.

Upcoming Services

Saturday
 December 24, 2022
 4:30 p.m.

**Special Holiday
 Service**



Join us at an earlier time this year -- 4:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary
 We will also livestream this event on Boxcast using our same link.

There will be no childcare available during our Christmas Eve Service. We invite you all to join us in the Sanctuary for this Multi-Generational Service.

<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday December 25, 2022</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No Service</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">“Christmas Day”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">There will be no Sunday morning service on Christmas morning.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday January 1, 2023</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m.</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">“Choose your Own Adventure” Toben Cooney Callnan</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Join us on New Year’s Day as we renew our intentions and resolution to live full and interesting lives.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A special thank you to our worship arts team. Nan Bell will be our worship associate and Angie Blevins will manage technology. Stefanie Barley will be our pianist.</p> <p>Bio: Toben Cooney-Callnan is passionate about poetry, the Great Outdoors, and working with children. He discovered Unitarian Universalism through the West Hartford Unitarian Universalist Church in Connecticut. Shortly after moving to Maine, Toben became a Religious Exploration teacher at First Parish in Portland. In 2014, he stepped into the role of Director of Religious Exploration. He currently serves as the Director of Religious Exploration at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday January 8, 2023</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">“Atheism” Reverend Christina Sillari</p> <p>What are the blessings of Atheism? How does it shape our faith? What role has religious humanism played in our search for truth and meaning? "Frankly, do you need to believe in God to be convinced that sincerity is preferable to dishonesty, courage to cowardice, generosity to egoism, gentleness and compassion to violence and cruelty, justice to injustice, love to hate." By Andre Comte-Sponville</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A special thank you to our worship arts team. Sara Hodgkins will be our worship associate and Marty Peters will manage technology. Hannah Faulkner will be our pianist and our choir will also be present.</p>

Sunday worship service is now being held IN-PERSON in the Sanctuary.
Our services are no longer accessible by Zoom

If you want to watch the livestream of the service, please visit:

<https://boxcast.tv/channel/mtifpthOutvesiqggyej>

If you missed a service or want to watch a service again, the link above also allows access to prior services. Click on the play button on the video of the “broadcast date” you are interested in watching.

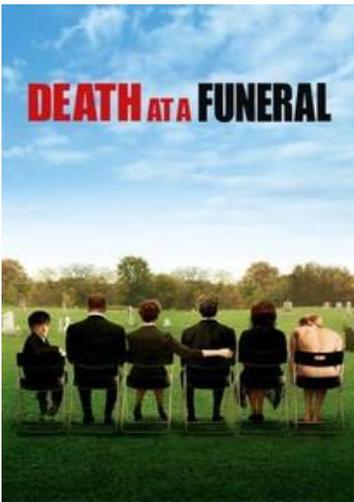
Special Events / Opportunities

Social Activities

POPCORN AND A MOVIE

~~On Friday, December 16, 2022, 5:30 p.m.~~

Rescheduled to Fri. Jan 6th at 5:30 pm



The movie DEATH AT A FUNERAL will be shown.

This is a hilarious British comedy.
You will laugh.....ALOT!

A good group attended last month's movie and we had a grand time. We ALSO laughed a lot, in between eating.

**Come and join us for POPCORN AND A MOVIE.
Bring a snack to share if you wish.**

--Monique, Debbie and Cheryl

January Brings → → → → → The Return of a Monthly After-Service Sit-down Luncheon

Beginning in January, the third Sunday of each month is Fellowship Lunch Sunday which will replace coffee hour. This event will be in the style of our pre-covid Elder Lunch and be open to all service attendees. This is quite posh and definitely not a potluck. Attendees are encouraged to enjoy community at a restaurant style sit-down meal.

I, Marilyn Dunn, have again agreed to be the coordinator and my previous fabulous kitchen crew of Catherine Palmer, Becky Harvey, Cheryl Clukey, and Richard Bridges have signed up for the season. However, I will need a few *Extra* volunteers at each luncheon to help set up and serve. Kitchen crew and setup *Extras* will have to watch a stream of the service while working. If you want to attend the service but can volunteer as a server that is fine too. If you are willing sign up as an *Extra* for January or another month, please email me (maine2007@hotmail.com) or call 207-512-5382.

Call soon please, so I don't fret.
Marilyn Dunn



Small Group Ministry:

We have received several inquiries about joining/rejoining Small Group Ministry!

If you are interested in exploring this, please send us the following information for planning:

- Time you are available for meetings: daytime, evening, specific days of week
- Available: in person, virtually (zoom or hybrid)
- Composition: group randomly selected (usually by time availability), men's group, women's group, mixed group
- Other consideration or questions that you have:

Please also contact us if you are interested in being a Group Leader. We would like to work on placements in groups after the holidays. Please contact us regarding your interest with responses to the questions, or other questions. We look forward to hearing from you, preferably by January 13!

Linda Findlay (377-8028, linda.findlay@gmail.com) or Helen Zidowecki (582-5308, hzmre@hzmre.om).

An opportunity for reflection...



An opportunity to reflect on the latest wayside pulpit message being shared on the corner of Winthrop and Summer Streets.

“Some times I need only to stand wherever I am, to be blessed.”
~Mary Oliver.

In these difficult times, let us all strive to recognize the blessings present in our everyday spaces,
--in the here and now,
--in the whenever and wherever,
--in the whomever or the whatever.

Thank you to Angie Blevins for maintaining the wayside pulpit and providing us with messages to ponder.

Connections by Day of the Week

ALL church events and meetings are reflected on the UCC calendar
Click below to view ALL events, including any group meetings or other business meetings.
<https://www.augustauu.org/calendar-and-communications/>

Some events are still being held in the UCC Zoom Room.
[Click here to join Events in the Zoom Room:](#)

For other ways to join Zoom, see [General Information](#)



Zoom meeting id: 823 807 0673 – Password: 6971

<p><u>Monday</u> Each week</p> <p><u>6:30 – 8:00</u> <u>p.m.</u></p> <p><u>Please note:</u> <u>location</u> <u>changes</u></p>	<p><u>Peaceful Heart Sangha</u></p> <p>You may join us at 6:15 to settle in.</p>  <p>NEW schedule for Sangha gatherings (beginning 11/28/22):</p> <p>-- BY Private ZOOM --every Monday (except the last Monday of the month). -- IN-PERSON in the UCC Sanctuary on the last Monday of each month.</p> <p>Please contact Marty Soule for updated Zoom login information at: email: martysoule@gmail.com. FMI: peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com</p> <p><i>Sangha gatherings are free and open to all</i></p>
<p><u>Wednes-</u> <u>days</u></p> <p><u>6:00 -</u> <u>7:30 p.m.</u></p> <p>Resumes on Wed. 1/4/23</p>	<p><u>UCC Choir Rehearsal</u></p> <p>*** The UCC choir is currently on break. ***</p> <p style="background-color: yellow;">Rehearsals will resume on Wednesday 1/4/2023 from 6:00-7:30pm in the sanctuary.</p> <p>N95 or KN95 masks are required, we have plenty, if you need a mask.</p> <p>Questions? Please reach out to Bridget Convey at: musicdirector@augustauu.org.</p> <p>All are welcome!</p>
<p><u>Wednes-</u> <u>days</u></p> <p>Each Week</p> <p><u>5:00 – 6:00</u> <u>p.m.</u></p>	<p><u>Gentle YOGA</u></p> <p>Hosted by Debbie Mattson</p>  <p><u>UPDATE:</u> Beginning December 21st, UU Yoga will now be offered as a hybrid. People can choose to gather in the Fellowship Hall for yoga, Wednesdays 5 PM-6 PM or join via zoom. Here is the zoom link: https://maine.zoom.us/j/95825651125?pwd=UWJpOVFjVFJGb3dMWmZoOTRXa3VoUT09 Password: 174192</p>

PLEASE NOTE: UU Yoga will be CANCELLED on December 28. We will meet again, in person or via zoom, on January 4, 5 PM to 6 PM.

Please join us a few minutes before 5:00 to settle in so we can begin class right at 5:00 p.m.
FMI: DebbieMattson@hotmail.com

**2nd & 4th
Wednesday**

**10:30 a.m. -
Noon**

2nd Wed. – C-FH
4th Wed. - Zoom

Seasoned Souls

Seasoned Souls is a group of older church members that meet as a study/support group to talk openly about topics related to the aging process. Seasoned Souls is open to any church member over 65 years of age. On the 2nd Wednesday monthly we will meet in the Fellowship Hall and on the 4th Wednesday, we will meet in the UUCC Zoom room.

FMI: please contact Diane (dmoongrove@gmail.com or 446-6162) or Stefanie (stefbarley@gmail.com or 629-8890)

**Thursdays
Each Week**

**8:00 – 9:30
a.m.**

Peaceful Heart Sangha

You may join us by Zoom at 7:45 a.m. to settle in. Meet from 8-9:30

NEW schedule for Sangha gatherings (beginning 11/28/22):

- IN-PERSON every Thursday at the River Studio, 332 Water St. Hallowell (except the last Thursday of the month)
- BY Private ZOOM – last Thursday of the month

Please contact Marty Soule for updated login information at martysoule@gmail.com. FMI: peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com

Sangha gatherings are free and open to all.



**2nd & 4th
Thursday**

**In the
UCC
Zoom room**

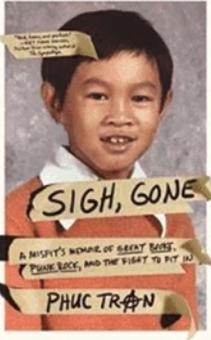
**9:00 – 10:30
a.m.**

Writing to Wake the Soul

This is an open group that gathers and writes together to explore spiritual themes. The writing is used as a conveyance to connect more deeply with ourselves and each other. We are not writing to develop skill.

Come and try it out; there is no obligation to come each time we gather. This group will be meeting in the UUCC Zoom Room.

FMI: please contact Debbie at (207)557-2697 or debbiemattson@hotmail.com

<p>1st Thursday</p> <p>Noon-1:30 p.m.</p> <p>Next Meeting is Jan. 5th</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Read, Learn, Share</u></p> <p>READ SHARE LEARN meets on THURSDAY January 5th at NOON. You can join us in the Fellowship Hall or in the UUCU ZOOM ROOM. We will be using the UUCU OWL technology to include people on line. Anyone interested in discussing <u>Sign, Gone</u> by Phuc Tran is welcome to join us. We will end at 1:30.</p>  <p>For more information, contact Kathy Kellison at kell6787@gmail.com or June Zellers at jjzellers@roadrunner.com</p> <p>“SIGH, GONE is utterly beautiful, poetic, haunting, insightful, funny, and brilliant.” Goodreads</p> <p>Our book for February 2 is <u>The Last Watchman of Old Cairo</u> by Michael Lukas.</p>
<p>4th Friday</p> <p>6:30 – 8:30 Sanctuary</p> <p>Next Meeting is Dec. 23</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Free Style Drum Circle</u></p> <p>The Augusta Community Drum Circle is a free style drum circle welcoming people of all ages, walks of life, and abilities. Free style means no one is assigned ‘pieces’ to play. Just play! Or don’t play! Just come watch, sing, dance, or bring your own instruments. No one cares if you’ve never played before or if you make a mistake. As long as you are having fun you can’t get it wrong! ALL are welcome. Event is FREE, No RSVP, just come!</p> <p>The Drum Circle meets the fourth Friday of each month at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary. For more information you can contact Mike Moody at mtmoods@gmail.com or 229-1118.</p>
<p>Saturday</p> <p>9:30–11 am</p> <p>1st & 3rd Saturdays</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">UUCU Occasional Orchestra</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Come and share your musical talents with our UUCU community. Rehearsals are the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. All are welcome, please join us!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Questions: please contact Dale McCormick at: dmmccormick11@aol.com.</p>
<p>4th Sunday</p> <p>1-2:30 p.m. In-Person</p> <p>Next Meeting is Jan. 22, 2023</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Goddess / Earth Circles</u></p> <p>Winter Solstice Service 2020 with readings, pictures and reflections is available at https://augustauu.org/minister-staff-and-church-life/goddess-continuing/ and click on Archive</p> <p>Next meeting is: January 22, 1-2:30pm by Zoom -- Topic is Imbolc (awakening of the earth), planning session topics</p> <p>Goddess/Earth Circles focuses on Goddess, women’s lives and earth-based spirituality. All ages and genders welcome. Contact: Helen Zidowecki (582-5308, hzmre@hzmre.com).</p>

Notices / Updates / News



Condolences to Becky Harvey and Catherine Palmer on the loss of Becky's mother, Jane S. Harvey. Jane passed away at Maine General on December 21st after a long illness. A memorial service will be held at Old South Congregational Church in Hallowell, 135 Second St. on Thursday 12/29 at 1:00 p.m. Arrangements are in the care of Knowlton and Hewins Funeral Home. An obituary will be published soon and will be available on the funeral home's website. (khrfuneralhomes.com).

Cards of condolence or messages of support are welcome: Becky Harvey, 9 Congress St, Augusta 04330 or via email: beckyhaugusta@gmail.com or Catherine Palmer palmercatherinemaine@gmail.com.

DON'T MISS THE NEXT SHARING CAFE

EXPLORING OUR FOURTH PRINCIPLE:

"A free and responsible search for truth and meaning"

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8th

11:15 to 12:30

We will again gather in small groups to consider a new question or two on Sunday, January 8th immediately following our coffee fellowship. For those attending our service on Box Cast or who otherwise cannot attend in person, there will be a Sharing Café session hosted in the Church's Zoom Room at 11:30. The Church Zoom

Meeting ID is: 823 807 0673. Password: 6971

We are so looking forward to seeing you there and to this opportunity for sharing.



Sending Happy Holiday Wishes to Everyone and Many Warm Smiles of Thanks for All the Donated Gifts for the Family Violence Project Holiday Program!



They are Sure to Bring Comfort and Joy!



TAX TIP

If you are over 70 ½ you can save taxes by making any charitable contributions by Transferring IRA funds directly to charity. Additionally, these *Qualified Charitable Distributions* count toward your *required minimum distribution* for the year they are dispersed.

Example: Let's say I don't itemize deductions and take the standard deduction and I am in the 15% tax bracket Federally and 5% at the state level then I could either:

- Take \$1000 from my IRA into my income and be left with \$800 for charitable contributions after taxes --- Or ---
- Transfer the \$1000 to charities directly from my IRA and pay no taxes. The \$1000 is excluded from my income.

Questions – contact your IRA plan holder, tax advisor or call me, Marilyn Dunn 207-512-5382

Updates / Messages from our Social Justice Committee

Donation boxes have been placed in the church coat room for **Augusta Food Bank** (non-perishable food items), **Bridging the Gap/ Essential Hygiene Pantry** (items requested are listed on front of box) and **Overnight Shelter at South Parish Congregational Church** (complete list of needed items is on the church bulletin board) – see below for some urgent needs.

All are worthy organizations that provide much needed services to our community. Your donations will be greatly appreciated and put to good use.

Stefanie Barley, Carolyn Ladd and Susan Shaw

OVERNIGHT SHELTER NEEDS:

Men's Coats and Boots (they have all the women's coats they need for now)
New underwear and socks (both men and women).
Donation box is in coat room. Thank you.

Board of Trustees

Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Augusta

Board Meeting A G E N D A

December 8, 2022 - 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

<https://zoom.us/j/8238070673>, then enter passcode: 6971

Join by phone: dial 1 646 558 8656, at first prompt (meeting id: 823 807 0673#)

Chalice Lighting Rev. Christina Sillari

Board Covenant: Board Members

Check in: 1) In 1 word, describe your energy? 2) What has uplifted you about UUCC, of late?

NEW BUSINESS

- Search Committee Process Update Michaela Loisel
- Staff Job Description Discussion Christina
- Nov. 20 Leadership Council Debrief Susan Burnett

REPORTS

1. Clerk's Report: Catherine / **VOTE**
2. Treasurer's Report: Nancy
3. Finance Committee's Report: Harry
4. President's Report: Michaela
5. Minister's Report: Christina

OLD BUSINESS

Progress Toward Goals (Recurrent Item)

1. Determine how to live in a time of chronic, endemic Covid
How to enforce compliance with mask wearing requirement at UUCC
2. Review and revise UUCC By-Laws:
3. Address matters of our physical plant (window repair or replacement, ventilation estimates for board consideration)
4. Assess Safety and Security concerns and a plan for building safety
5. Develop a Congregational Covenant

ADJOURN

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

At the December 8 meeting, the Board:

- Discussed the upcoming search processes
- The interim minister application will be filed with the UUA prior to April 19. The interim search committee should receive names and begin interviews by May 1.
- In either February or March the Board will meet with a representative from the Transitions Office of the UUA who will guide our search for a settled minister. The congregation will approve the members of the search committee at the Annual Meeting in June.
- As part of contractual duties, Rev, Christina will complete job descriptions for all staff and conduct evaluations by January.
- Acted on a recommendation from the Leadership Council that steps be taken to improve microphone use by members of the congregation.
- Empowered the Social Justice Committee to research ways to use our Fellowship Hall to support our unhoused neighbors.
- Agreed to monitor correct mask use in our building.
- Authorized Kathy Ann Show and Michaela Loisel to review our church bylaws.
- Accepted names for a five-member writing team to create a congregational covenant.
- Heard reports from the Clerk, the Treasurer, the Finance Committee Chair, the President of the Board and the Minister.

FOR MORE DETAILS, SEE THE COMPLETE MINUTES AT AUGUSTAUU.ORG

Board meetings are open to ALL. If you have an item that you would like the Board to consider, please contact Michaelatloisel@gmail.com

Next Board meeting: January 12, 2023

General Information

Worship Services are now being held IN-PERSON **Events may still be held virtually in the** ***UCC ZOOM ROOM***

Other ways to UCC Zoom Room Zoom:

- 1. Join from your internet browser by clicking this link or typing this into your browser:**
<https://zoom.us/j/8238070673>, launch Zoom, then enter **passcode: 6971**
- 2. Select “Join Meeting” from the Zoom application on your computer or mobile device.**

UCC Meeting ID: 823 807 0673 – then enter **passcode: 6971**

- 3. Join by phone:** dial 1 646 558 8656 (**NOTE:** toll charge may apply)

At first prompt (meeting id: 823 807 0673#)

At second prompt: press # (no personal id needed) <No passcode needed when joining by phone>

NOTE---*6 is mute AND un-mute on your phone. The host cannot mute or un-mute people who phone-in.

HOSTS: Once in your meeting, claim the host using the **HOST KEY** as you have done in the past.

Ad-hoc Covid-19 Advisory Group

This group has generously volunteered to be available to support members with personal safety, health or travel questions, concerns, or anxieties. Feel free to reach out to one of them directly.

Betty Cairn, RN	StonehengeMaine@yahoo.com	207-215-6394
Terry Lee Cairn, ND, MSOM, Lac.	tlcnaturalhealth@yahoo.com	207-557-2557
Harry Grimmnitz, MD	hgrimmnitz@gmail.com	207-685-9270
Don Naber, Ed.D	donnaber1364@gmail.com	207-887-1104
Cathie Nielsen, MD	cathieenielsen@gmail.com	207-441-0248
Marty Soule, PA-C	martysoule@gmail.com	207-685-9270

UCC Pastoral Ministry Team

We are here for you. Feel free to reach out in times of need for compassionate listening, for casual conversation, to share some good news, to share your struggle or just to say hello.

Martha Pelletier, Chair	207-685-9592 (H)	Mjpell14@roadrunner.com
Helen Zidowecki	207-582-5308 (h)	hzmre@hzmre.com
Tracy McNaughton	207-623-3110 (h)	tracy.mcnaughton@yahoo.com
Peggy Lamb	207 622-5174 (h)	plambflowers@outlook.com

Caring Cooperative support includes rides, meals, errands, get well and condolence cards as well as companion visits.
If you would like to request or suggest meal support: contact Martha Pelletier 685-9592.
If you would like to request or suggest cards: contact Peggy Lamb 622-5174.

UUCC Small Group Ministry



Looking for greater human and spiritual connection during this most disconnected of times? Small Group Ministry offers this vital need in our spiritual community, and so much more! For more information, contact the Church Administrator at 207-622-3232 or admin@augustauu.org.

UUCC Office Hours & Notes

UPDATED E-blast & Office Hours

E-blasts will be produced on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. The upcoming schedule is:

- E-Blast (12/21) NO E-Blast (12/28)
- E-Blast (1/4) NO E-Blast (1/11)

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The office will be closed between Christmas and New Year's Day

We will reopen Tues. Jan. 3, 2023.

UUCC Office Hours NEXT WEEK

Open office hours:
Tues, Wed and Thurs – 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
No open office hours on Fridays

Rev. Christina Sillari
Office Hours on Wednesday and Thursday
Call or email to set up an appointment

minister@augustauu.org
(207) 807-9232

Staff Contact information:

Church Administrator, Lynn M. Smith, admin@augustauu.org, Phone 622-3232
Coordinator of Lifespan Faith Formation, M. Monique Bergère, LifespanFF@augustauu.org
Music Director, Bridget Convey, musicdirector@augustauu.org