

# Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church  
Wednesday, February 15, 2023

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(207)622-3232 – [info@augustauu.org](mailto:info@augustauu.org)

[www.augustauu.org](http://www.augustauu.org)

[Zoom  
Room](#)

## A Message from our Minister

**Dear Members and Friends of UCC,**

Because we live in a body with an ego, it is natural for us to calculate our giving in terms of our love, our time, or our resources. Yet, if our giving initiates in our ego, we are less likely to experience blessings and transformation because we may experience depletion or loss. When our giving initiates from our hearts we are tapping into a universal reservoir of energy that does not come from our individual selves, but from the cosmos, the spirit of life, the quantum soup.

Giving can transform us if we see it as a spiritual practice. Perhaps this week we can each make a commitment to give something to someone every day for the pure satisfaction of giving. We can give our time or money to someone in need, we can give someone a smile or a hug or a compliment for no reason. We can give someone a gift: a flower, a candy bar, a book we have read, we can give to someone we love, someone we are challenged by, or someone we don't even know. We can notice as we give each day how we feel about ourselves, about the world. And when we encounter situations where we think people are withholding from us – whether it is praise, appreciation, assistance, loving care – we can give it to them, because we cannot receive what we do not give. We can ask ourselves often: “What can I give here: how can I be of service to this person, this situation?”

We can practice giving. With practice, the spirit of giving informs our actions. Our hearts will grow stronger and lighter. Giving can lead to new levels of letting go and greater happiness, a miracle that can transform the heaviest of hearts.

Many Blessings,

Reverend Christina



**When Giving is All We Have, by Alberto Ríos**

One river gives Its journey to the next.  
We give because someone gave to us.  
We give because nobody gave to us.  
We give because giving has changed us.  
We give because giving could have changed us. We have been better for it,  
We have been wounded by it—  
Giving has many faces: It is loud and quiet, Big, though small, diamond in wood-nails.  
Its story is old, the plot worn and the pages too, But we read this book, anyway, over and again: Giving is, first  
and every time, hand to hand, Mine to yours, yours to mine.  
You gave me blue and I gave you yellow. Together we are simple green. You gave me What you did not have,  
and I gave you  
What I had to give—together, we made Something greater from the difference.

**Request from the Pastoral Ministry Team**

Do you drive?

Lately, a few members of our congregation have expressed an increased need for rides to church, appointments, and errands. If this is something you could help with, please contact Martha Pelletier at [mjpell14@roadrunner.com](mailto:mjpell14@roadrunner.com). Please include any information about preferred locations and times. I am hoping to give those who need rides a few names, so that no one person is always called. I will continue to offer rides when I can, as well. It does take a village!

Thank you,  
Martha Pelletier

## Upcoming Services

Sunday

February 19, 2023

Ingathering music to begin at 9:55  
a.m.

### **“The Struggle of Love”**

Reverend Christina Sillari

Love is necessary and complicated. Reverend Christina will explore different types of love and specifically focus on the struggle of loving oneself. Using three stages of self-love and poetry we will contemplate the challenges and blessings of loving ourselves.

A special thank you to our worship arts team. Nan Bell will be our worship associate and John Seksay will manage technology. Karen Allen will be our pianist and the Choir will offer “From Your Heart” by Carson Cooman.

### **SHARE THE PLATE SUNDAY**

The recipient for today’s SHARE THE PLATE offering will be Global Fund for Human Rights and White Helmets. We will split the offering 50/50 to these civic organizations that are responding to the devastation caused by the February 6, 2023 earthquake on Turkey and Syria. 100% of the funds go to the relief effort.

Sunday

February 26, 2023

Ingathering music to begin at 9:55  
a.m.



### **“A Fabric of Care “**

Gabe Burford\*

Climate change is typically framed as either a vast political crisis to be solved by policymakers, or as an economic problem in which our primary agency is to be found in changing our individual consumption patterns. As spiritual communities, where do we find ourselves in these systemic patterns? Let us explore and call forth our role as a sanctuary: a precious community center in which we generate the intention to care for one another and the world, as well as give each other the relational and cultural nourishment to embody that care beyond the walls of our meeting house.

A special thank you to our worship arts team. John Seksay will be our worship associate and Angie Blevins will manage technology. Stefanie Barley will be our pianist.

**\*Gabe’s bio:** As a deep-roots community & climate chaplain ordained by the interfaith Chaplaincy Institute of Maine, Rev. Gabe is passionate about belonging in the context of climate. By advocating for this time as an opportunity to revive the social fabric we all share, Gabe highlights that climate work and activism at large are not just for public advocates, politicians, or scientists. If we find our place together as communities of belonging, we can find our place caring for the world. In strengthening our values of mutual support, we can strengthen a climate response right where we are.

**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/mtifpth0utvesiqgjei>

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**

### ***Your Opportunity to Nominate Members of the Settled Ministry Search Committee***

Dear Congregation:

This is to update you on the status of our professional ministry here at UUCC. Since our long-term minister, Reverend Carie Johnsen departed in 2020, after a 13-year ministry, we have been in an “interim period”. We were served for one year by Interim Minister Chloe Briede who completed one year of a two-year ministry due to personal reasons. Rev. Christina Sillari was then contracted for this church year as a ½ time minister. The Board is currently assessing our ministerial needs for the next church year, and we will again be served by a contract minister as we move into our search for a Settled Minister beginning this June.

Reverend Christina came to us at a time of transition during which we are coming back together in community - strong, determined and hopeful. We are fortunate to have her with us at this critical time as we ready ourselves for our Settled Minister in 2024.

So, within the next few weeks you can expect a call from one of your UUCC Board members to ask you to nominate one or more members of the congregation to serve on the critical Settled Minister Search Committee. We are looking for committee members who will represent the entire Congregation, have all our trust, develop a good process for the selection and be in good touch with the nature and the needs of our Congregation.

We thank you, in advance, for the time you can put into this and appreciate your continued commitment to the UUCC community. This is indeed one of the biggest and most significant acts of service a congregant can provide to our community.

Questions? Please contact President, Michaela Loisel at 207/ 592-5655, [michaelatloisel@gmail.com](mailto:michaelatloisel@gmail.com) or Past President, Kathy Ann Shaw at 207/620-4082, [kathyannshaw@roadrunner.com](mailto:kathyannshaw@roadrunner.com).

In Gratitude,

Michaela Loisel & Kathy Shaw

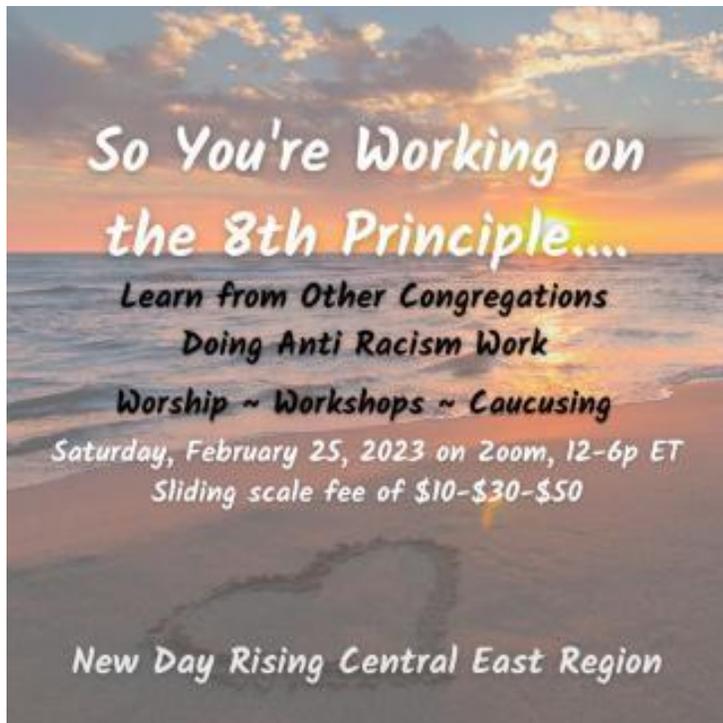
#### **2023 UUCC Board Members**

Michaela Loisel, President  
Susan Burnett, Vice President  
Nancy Fritz, Treasurer  
Catherine Palmer, Clerk  
Kathy Ann Shaw, Past President  
Harry Grimmnitz, Finance Committee Chair  
Terry Cairn, Member-at-Large  
Hal Booth, Member-at-Large

## NON-VIOLENT COMMUNICATION TRAINING WITH LEAH BOYD

Was held Sunday, February 5, 2023, 12:00 to 3:00 p.m, Sanctuary

You may still view this program on the Boxcast link. Click here: <https://boxcast.tv/channel/mtifpth0utvesjggiyej> and look to the bottom right to find the NVC video. You may also request for copies of the handouts from the program by contacting <mailto:michaelatloisel@gmail.com>.



### SAVE THE DATE

#### **8TH PRINCIPLE UU ZOOM EVENT; "NEW DAY RISING 2023" ANYONE CAN ATTEND**

A few Social Justice Committee members and I attended the "2021 New Day Rising" event and it was amazing! It offers a wealth of information around the 8th Principle, what other SJ work congregations are involved in and their pathway towards adopting the 8th Principle. Here is an opportunity to experience this energizing zoom event and gather an abundance of SJ resources/connections:

To read more and register go to this link:

<https://www.uua.org/central-east/calendar/new-day-rising-cer-2023>

A small suggested donation is asked to register (\$10, \$30, or \$50).

### **Join us for Finance 101 on February 26<sup>th</sup>**

Each year, the Finance Committee offers an educational, question and answer session on the church budgeting process; we call it Finance 101.

It will begin at 11:15am, directly after the morning worship service and is scheduled to last one hour. There will also be a second zoom session on Tuesday Feb 28th 5-6 PM. Stewardship Sunday will be March 5th.

This year's budget is largely influenced by four major items:

1. Salary increases for our staff
2. The cost of a settled minister search
3. The cost of hiring a  $\frac{3}{4}$  time minister for the coming year
4. Increased utilities cost in the coming year.

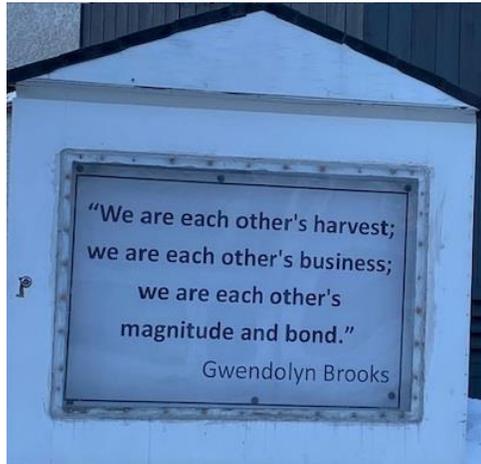
Plan to attend to find out more about the budget process before we adopt a budget at the annual meeting. We will be discussing the proposed draft budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

**DON'T MISS THE NEXT SHARING CAFE**  
**EXPLORING STEWARDSHIP**  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 5th**  
11:30 to 12:30

We will again gather in small groups to consider a new question or two on Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 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 by Harry Grimmetz 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 and to this opportunity for sharing.



An opportunity for reflection...

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

“We are each other’s harvest; we are each other’s business; we are each other’s magnitude and bond.”  
~Gwendolyn Brooks

Gwendolyn Brooks was the first African American to receive a Pulitzer. Find out more: [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gwendolyn\\_Brooks](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gwendolyn_Brooks)

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/>

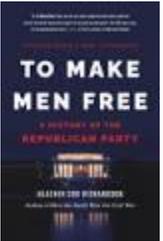
***Some events are still being held in the UCC Zoom Room.***

**[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><b><u>Monday</u></b> Each week</p> <p><b><u>6:30 – 8:00</u></b> <b><u>p.m.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Please note:</u></b> <b><u>location</u></b> <b><u>changes</u></b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Peaceful Heart Sangha</u></b></p> <p>NEW SCHEDULE, effective Jan 30<sup>th</sup>: -- <b>BY Private ZOOM –EVERY Monday</b> (we will no longer meet in person at the UCC on the last Monday of the month). You may join us at 6:15 to settle in.</p>  <p>See Events / Opportunities about an open house at the River Studio in Hallowell. Sangha meets there in person on most Thursday mornings.</p> <p>Please contact Marty Soule for updated Zoom login information at: email: <a href="mailto:martysoule@gmail.com">martysoule@gmail.com</a>. FMI: <a href="mailto:peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com">peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sangha gatherings are free and open to all</i></p>
<p><b><u>Wednes-</u></b> <b><u>days</u></b></p> <p><b><u>6:00 -</u></b> <b><u>7:30 p.m.</u></b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>UCC Choir Rehearsal</u></b></p> <p>Rehearsals are held every Wednesday from 6:00-7:30pm in the sanctuary. N95 or KN95 masks are required, we have plenty, if you need a mask. Questions? Please reach out to Bridget Convey at: <a href="mailto:musicdirector@augustauu.org">musicdirector@augustauu.org</a>. All are welcome!</p>
<p><b><u>Wednes-</u></b> <b><u>days</u></b></p> <p>Each Week</p> <p><b><u>5:00 – 6:00</u></b> <b><u>p.m.</u></b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Gentle YOGA</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hosted by Debbie Mattson</p>  <p>UU Yoga is now offered as a hybrid gathering. 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: <a href="https://maine.zoom.us/j/95825651125?pwd=UWJpOVFjVFJGb3dMWmZoOTRXa3VoUT09">https://maine.zoom.us/j/95825651125?pwd=UWJpOVFjVFJGb3dMWmZoOTRXa3VoUT09</a> Password: 174192</p> <p>Please join us a few minutes before 5:00 to settle in so we can begin class right at 5:00 p.m. FMI: <a href="mailto:DebbieMattson@hotmail.com">DebbieMattson@hotmail.com</a></p>
<p><b><u>2nd &amp; 4<sup>th</sup></u></b> <b><u>Wednesday</u></b></p> <p><b><u>10:30 a.m. -</u></b> <b><u>Noon</u></b></p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. – C-FH 4<sup>th</sup> Wed. - Zoom</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Seasoned Souls</u></b></p> <p>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 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday monthly we will meet in the Fellowship Hall and on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, we will meet in the UCC Zoom room.</p> <p>FMI: please contact Diane (<a href="mailto:dmoongrove@gmail.com">dmoongrove@gmail.com</a> or 446-6162) or Stefanie (<a href="mailto:stefbarley@gmail.com">stefbarley@gmail.com</a> or 629-8890)</p>

<p><b>Thursdays</b> <b>Each Week</b></p> <p><b>8:00 – 9:30</b> <b>a.m.</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Peaceful Heart Sangha</u></b></p> <p>You may join us by Zoom at 7:45 a.m. to settle in. Meet from 8-9:30</p> <p>-- IN-PERSON every Thursday at the River Studio, 332 Water St. Hallowell (except the last Thursday of the month)</p> <p>--BY Private ZOOM – last Thursday of the month</p> <p>There will be an Open House at River Studio in Hallowell (1-4pm this Saturday 2/4) offering opportunities to talk with people who offer practices there - and members of Peaceful Heart Sangha plan to be there to talk with people who have questions about our practice.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please contact Marty Soule for updated login information at <a href="mailto:martysoule@gmail.com">martysoule@gmail.com</a>. FMI: <a href="mailto:peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com">peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sangha gatherings are free and open to all.</i></p>
<p><b>2nd &amp; 4<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Thursday</b></p> <p><b>In the</b> <b>UCC</b> <b>Zoom room</b></p> <p><b>9:00 – 10:30</b> <b>a.m.</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Writing to Wake the Soul</u></b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Come and try it out; there is no obligation to come each time we gather. This group will be meeting in the UCC Zoom Room.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FMI: please contact Debbie at (207)557-2697 or <a href="mailto:debbiemattson@hotmail.com">debbiemattson@hotmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>1<sup>st</sup></b> <b>Thursday</b></p> <p><b>Noon-1:30</b> <b>p.m.</b></p> <p><b>Next</b> <b>Meeting is</b> <b>Mar 2<sup>nd</sup></b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Read, Learn, Share</u></b></p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p>On March 2, we will meet at noon in the UCC ZOOM ROOM and in FELLOWSHIP HALL We will use the OWL technology to have a hybrid meeting. Anyone who interested in discussing “To Make Men Free” is welcome to join us. We will end at 1:30.</p> <p>“Expansive and authoritative” ~Goodreads</p> <p>For more information, contact Kathy Kellison at <a href="mailto:kell6787@gmail.com">kell6787@gmail.com</a> or June Zellers at <a href="mailto:jzellers@roadrunner.com">jzellers@roadrunner.com</a>. Our book for April is “The Midcoast” by Adam White.</p> </div> </div>
<p><b>4<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Friday</b></p> <p><b>6:30 –</b> <b>8:30</b> <b>Sanctuary</b></p> <p><b>Next</b> <b>Meeting is</b> <b>Feb 24</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Free Style Drum Circle</u></b></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! <b>ALL are welcome.</b> 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 <a href="mailto:mtmoods@gmail.com">mtmoods@gmail.com</a> or 229-1118.</p>



<p><b><u>Saturday</u></b></p> <p><b><u>9:30–11 am</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Select Saturdays</u></b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">UUCC Occasional Orchestra</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Come and share your musical talents with our UUCC community. Rehearsals are in the Sanctuary from 9:30-11:00 a.m. on the following upcoming Saturdays:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; width: 10%;">11</td> <td style="text-align: center; width: 20%;">FEB 2023, SAT</td> <td style="text-align: center; width: 10%;">●</td> <td style="text-align: center; width: 20%;">9:30 – 11am</td> <td style="text-align: center; width: 40%;">UUCCOO Rehearsal (C-Sanct)</td> </tr> <tr><td colspan="5" style="border-top: 1px solid black;"></td></tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">18</td> <td style="text-align: center;">FEB 2023, SAT</td> <td style="text-align: center;">●</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9:30 – 11am</td> <td style="text-align: center;">UUCCOO Rehearsal (C-Sanct)</td> </tr> <tr><td colspan="5" style="border-top: 1px solid black;"></td></tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">MAR 2023, SAT</td> <td style="text-align: center;">●</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9:30 – 11am</td> <td style="text-align: center;">UUCCOO Rehearsal (C-Sanct)</td> </tr> <tr><td colspan="5" style="border-top: 1px solid black;"></td></tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">18</td> <td style="text-align: center;">MAR 2023, SAT</td> <td style="text-align: center;">●</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9:30 – 11am</td> <td style="text-align: center;">UUCCOO Rehearsal (C-Sanct)</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">All are welcome, please join us! Questions: please contact Dale McCormick at: <a href="mailto:dmmccormick11@aol.com">dmmccormick11@aol.com</a>.</p>	11	FEB 2023, SAT	●	9:30 – 11am	UUCCOO Rehearsal (C-Sanct)						18	FEB 2023, SAT	●	9:30 – 11am	UUCCOO Rehearsal (C-Sanct)						4	MAR 2023, SAT	●	9:30 – 11am	UUCCOO Rehearsal (C-Sanct)						18	MAR 2023, SAT	●	9:30 – 11am	UUCCOO Rehearsal (C-Sanct)
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<p><b><u>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday</u></b></p> <p><b><u>1-2:30 p.m.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>In-Person</u></b></p> <p><b>Next Meeting is Feb. 26<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Goddess / Earth Circles</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Goddess/Earth Circles February 26, 1-3:30pm on UUCC Zoom.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Celebration of Imbolc or the Awakening of the earth and planning for Earth Circles Acknowledging wisdom through Croning – planning celebration for this Spring.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Goddess/Earth Circles focuses on Goddess, women’s lives and earth-based spirituality. All ages and genders welcome. Contact: Helen Zidowecki (582-5308, <a href="mailto:hzmre@hzmre.com">hzmre@hzmre.com</a>) for more information.</p>																																			

**Notices / Updates / News**

**Has YOUR Contact Information Changed?**

A new Church Directory is being prepared with updated UUCC leadership information AND contact information for church members and friends.

**Has any of YOUR contact information changed?** (e-mail, phone, physical or mailing address?)

If so, please report any changes to the Office Administrator.  
Admin phone (207) 622-3232 or email [admin@augustauu.org](mailto:admin@augustauu.org)

**DEADLINE to submit changes is Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>**

[HELP US](#) keep in touch with you and keep you informed.

## Save your quart milk containers and any other small square plastic or coated cardboard containers - spring is on the way!

Dale McCormick is starting to think about planting her baby tomato seeds and her helpers will be expanding the plant offering to a variety of herbs, vegetables and flowers. The attached photo shows ideas on what type of containers we can re-use for planting.

Please leave containers in the committee room and they will be picked up regularly. Look for more information on ordering tomatoes and other delectables in March.



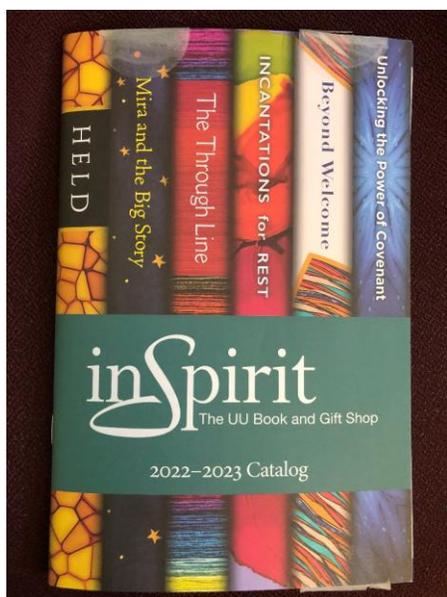
## A new inspirit, UU Book and Gift Shop catalog has arrived.

The catalog is jammed with resources to guide and inform us as we do our best to live our values and be our best selves.

The catalog is in the pamphlet racks in Fellowship Hall.

Feel free to browse the catalog when in the building but please don't remove the catalog so that others can use this resource also.

You can also browse the bookstore at <https://www.uua-bookstore.org/>



## **Saturday Breakfasts Report**

The Social Justice Committee has provided breakfasts for guests of the Augusta Overnight Warming Shelter for 3 consecutive Saturdays. During these 3 weeks we fed 26, 23, and 33 unhoused individuals.

The work is accomplished by: a team of 15 UUC member volunteers; volunteers from the Catholic Parish, Temple Beth El, South Parish Congregational Church, Vassalboro Quaker Meeting, as well as non-church affiliated community members; Individual financial contributions and food supplies from members of the UUC and an Augusta community member; financial contributions from Vassalboro Quaker Meeting; and food contributions from Friends of the Vassalboro Quaker Meeting, the Augusta Foodbank, Pepperidge Farm Breads, UUC members and members of the wider community.

The volunteers (with help from the guests) clean the kitchen, fellowship hall, hallways, and bathrooms. A guest shoveled and sanded both walkways; he was not asked, he saw the need and the shovel and did it.

Our guests express appreciation and gratitude. They eat heartily. We witness acts of beauty and generosity between the guests and volunteers and among the guests.

If you are interested in helping on Saturdays, please contact Mary Kane [marykane072@gmail.com](mailto:marykane072@gmail.com) or Debbie Mattson [debbiemattson@hotmail.com](mailto:debbiemattson@hotmail.com). If you want to make a financial contribution, please write a check to UUC with Saturday Breakfast in the memo line.

The Social Justice Committee is grateful for all the support we have received to manage and maintain Saturday Breakfasts.

### **Updates / Messages from our Social Justice Committee**

Donation boxes have been placed in the church coat room for non-perishable food items to go to the **Augusta Food Bank** and for toilet paper, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, tampons, sanitary pads, diapers and wipes, which are high priority needs right now, to go to the **Essential Hygiene Pantry at Bridging the Gap**.

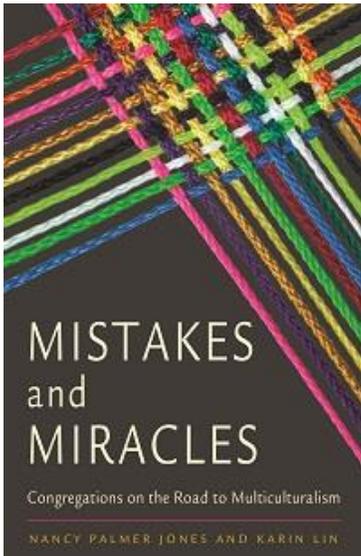
**The Augusta Overnight Emergency Warming Shelter** (located at South Parish Congregational Church) has many needs which frequently change. Go to their Facebook page and check "Our Needs" to find out what's urgent. There is a donation box for the Shelter in our coat room, too.

All are worthy organizations that provide much needed services to our community. Your donations will be greatly appreciated and put to good use. For more information, contact co-chairs Stefanie Barley ([stefbarley@gmail.com](mailto:stefbarley@gmail.com)) and/or Susan Shaw ([susanmaine@gmail.com](mailto:susanmaine@gmail.com)), who will make regular deliveries of items that you contribute.

or email Susan Shaw, [susanmaine@gmail.com](mailto:susanmaine@gmail.com) regarding food donations.

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## **Mistakes & Miracles Discussion UPDATE**



On January 22, thirteen congregation members met to discuss our reactions and learnings from the UUA Common Read Mistakes and Miracles. We focused on two questions:

1. How can we, at the corner of Winthrop and Summer St., become more inclusive and truly create “Beloved Community” within the congregation and into the wider community?
2. How and where do we start to move towards our goal of “Beloved Community”?

As you may imagine, the sharing of reactions to the book and the ideas for moving forward were wide-ranging and very thoughtful. We did not arrive at “the answers”, but with many possibilities for exploration and action.

We will be inviting the congregation to a follow-up meeting (no need to read the book first, but there are copies available for loan if you are interested.) More information on the follow-up meeting will be in the next E-Blast.

### **Board of Trustees**

From the Board President:

Last week, the Board approved the continuation of the Saturday Breakfast Program for people who stay at the Homeless Shelter at South Parish Community Church. I am proud of our community for providing this much-needed service of a warm breakfast every Saturday through the end of April. During one of our monthly (after service) Sharing Cafes, members of one group spoke of wanting our congregation to do something meaningful for our church neighborhood- acting on our UU Principles. Within what seemed like days, the idea to launch this breakfast at UUCC was taking shape. It took one determined person to start the conversation and it took off.

I will admit to some complicated feelings around people who are unhoused. It is possible that it brings up fear and guilt in me. My mother was homeless a few times in my adult life. Homelessness makes me uncomfortable. Perhaps it does so for others as well. And it should make us uncomfortable.

So, this past Saturday, I attended the Breakfast to see firsthand how it worked - and to help if my help was needed. Volunteers were plentiful- the Fellowship Hall became a place of respite with a hearty, home-cooked breakfast and perhaps a momentary sense of community?

It took me a while to get the courage (why, I don't know) to ask if I could join a couple of women as they were having breakfast. One of the women was very open to chatting with me and within minutes we had discovered

that we shared very fond memories of the same woman- one of my closest friends who died a few years ago. We teared up as we arrived at this significant realization. We were connecting woman to woman- heart to heart, having a meaningful, unexpected, and delightful conversation.

These Saturday Breakfasts are causing a ripple effect within our community. I imagine that every single volunteer has their own wondrous experience that is an opportunity for growth and delight. The people we are feeding are feeding our community in unexpected ways. Finding the gifts in this program of outreach makes me wonder about what else might this community do? Let's stay open to becoming the community we want to be.

In so much gratitude,

Michaela



**Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Augusta**  
**BOARD HIGHLIGHTS**

At the February 9 Board Meeting, the Board:

- Discussed the Ministerial Search Process to begin in June
- Heard the Treasurer note the strong financial health of the church
- Increased the 23-24 pledge goal to \$172,000
- Voted to continue serving Saturday breakfast to guests of the Warming Center at South Parish Church through April 30.
- Reviewed the work of the Restorative Justice Committee. A draft of a covenant for the congregation will be presented at the April Sharing Café
- The next meeting is scheduled for March 9 at 5 pm.
- Full minutes of Board Meetings can be found on the church website: [augustauu.org](http://augustauu.org)

-- Look for full minutes of the meeting on the church website at [www.augustauu.org](http://www.augustauu.org)--

## 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.

### **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)	<a href="mailto:Mjpell14@roadrunner.com">Mjpell14@roadrunner.com</a>
Helen Zidowecki	207-582-5308 (h)	<a href="mailto:hzmre@hzmre.com">hzmre@hzmre.com</a>
Tracy McNaughton	207-623-3110 (h)	<a href="mailto:tracy.mcnaughton@yahoo.com">tracy.mcnaughton@yahoo.com</a>
Peggy Lamb	207 622-5174 (h)	<a href="mailto:plambflowers@outlook.com">plambflowers@outlook.com</a>

**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.

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### **UCC 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@augus-tauu.org](mailto:admin@augus-tauu.org).

# UCC 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 (2/15)            NO E-Blast (2/22)
- E-Blast (3/1)            NO E-Blast (3/8)
- E-Blast (3/15)           NO E-Blast (3/22)

### UCC 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](mailto:minister@augustauu.org)  
(207) 807-9232

### Staff Contact information:

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