

Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church
Wednesday, April 5, 2023

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69 Winthrop St., Augusta ME

(207)622-3232 – info@augustauu.org

www.augustauu.org

[Zoom
Room](#)

A Message from our Minister

Dear Church,

It is a privilege and a joy to serve you and be a part of the UUCC community. Spring is here and church life is humming and buzzing. We recently hosted a newcomer dinner that was so much fun. We chatted about what it means to be a heretic and our thoughts about God. During this past Sunday's service and Sharing Café we explored what it means to be in covenant with one another. The UUCC covenant is still in the works, and we are grateful to all of those who have participated in the process. Pledges are coming in, the Saturday breakfast continues to be a success, new folks are signing the membership book, and committees are doing great work. I could go on and on about the great things at UUCC. Maybe I am biased and projecting because I love you and see myself reflected by you. Yet, I received an affirmation about our congregation.

A ministerial colleague and friend tuned into our service this past Sunday on Boxcast. She was recovering from COVID and feeling a little down. I did not know she was there because she never put her name in the chat. Later that day we spoke, and she told me she not only really enjoyed the service but also loved our congregation. She is someone who gets triggered easily during UU worship services. She was not triggered at all and said she understands why I love UUCC so much. She said the sweetness and ease of our congregation was palpable, it brought her joy. So, thank you for being the warm, kind, caring folks you are and let us also remember that conflicts and disagreements are okay. When we consistently value our relationships with one another and with our greater community we will continue to grow and thrive as a congregation. Bravo to each one of you who are committed to UUCC and thank you for sharing your joy in our spiritual home.

With deep gratitude and affection,
Rev. Christina Sillari

PS: We need someone to lead worship on Sunday May 14th.

Please reach out to Rev. Christina if you are interested minster@augustauu.org



Welcome Morning by Anne Sexton

"There is joy
in all:
in the hair I brush each morning,
in the Cannon towel, newly washed,
that I rub my body with each morning,
in the chapel of eggs I cook
each morning,
in the outcry from the kettle
that heats my coffee
each morning,
in the spoon and the chair
that cry 'hello there, Anne'
each morning,
in the godhead of the table
that I set my silver, plate, cup upon
each morning.

All this is God,
right here in my pea-green house
each morning
and I mean,
though often forget,
to give thanks
to faint down by the kitchen table
in a prayer of rejoicing
as the holy birds at the kitchen window
peck into their marriage of seeds.

So while I think of it,
let me paint a thank-you on my palm
for this God, this laughter of the morning,
let it go unspoken.

The Joy that isn't shared, I've heard,
dies young."

Upcoming Services

<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday April 9, 2023 Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">“Easter Sunday: Truth-Telling and Liberation” Reverend Erika Hewitt</p> <p>What does “salvation” mean to Unitarian Universalists? What if we aren’t redeemed through sacrifice and suffering, but through choosing justice and love? Join guest preacher Rev. Erika Hewitt as she uses both the Easter narrative and popular culture to celebrate our UU theology of truth-telling, liberation, and collective redemption.</p> <p>A special thank you to our worship arts team. Sara Hodgkins will be our worship associate and Angie Blevins will manage technology. Karen Allen will be our pianist. Our Choir and UUC Occasional Orchestra will present “Alleluia” by Michael John Trotta.</p>
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Sunday
April 16, 2023
 Ingathering music to begin at 9:55
 a.m.

“The Earth is Liberating Us!”
 Reverend Christina Sillari

We will explore the Incan prophecy that says, in this age, when the eagle of the North and the condor of the South fly together the earth will awaken. What is our role in this awakening? How do we allow the earth herself to wake us up to the reality that all is connected, all is sacred?

A special thank you to our worship arts team. Nan Bell will be our worship associate and Angie Blevins will manage technology. Karen Foust will be our pianist. **Our Choir will present “The Sound of Silence” by Paul Simon, arranged by Emerson.**

SHARE THE PLATE: This month's recipient, chosen by the Social Justice Committee is **Hope Brokers** in Portland Maine.

"Hope Brokers brings grassroots leaders in the recovery community together to advocate for people in recovery, offering human-centered spaces of care, to ultimately end overdose death. The project aims to raise voices of people in recovery, offer resources, and support leaders in the recovery movement in building leadership, communications, and policy advocacy skills."

~ Marshall Mercer, Executive Director of Hope Brokers

Join us after the service for a sit down FELLOWSHIP LUNCH
<See details in [Special Events/Opportunities] below>

Sunday
April 23, 2023
 Ingathering music to begin at 9:55
 a.m.



“What’s It All About”
 Rev. Douglas Wilson

What is the Nature of Reality? Is Nature Itself Reality? The earth is our home and our home is made up of nature itself. But wait. There is more. There are *ideas* about nature, and ideas about the nature of nature, but what are ideas? We are just creatures, walking in nature, in reality, across?

A special thank you to our worship arts team. Lori Milner will be our worship associate and Marty Peters will manage technology. Stefanie Barley will be our pianist.

Truths Mr. Wilson Has Learned in 76 years:
 The Rev. Douglas Wilson was born in Vancouver, grew up in Santa Barbara, and fell in love with the music of the Beatles and Bob Dylan in the mid-sixties. He graduated from UCSB in religion and philosophy and from Starr King School for the Ministry. In 1971 he was ordained in Brooklyn in 1971. After hiking the Appalachian Trail in 1973, he moved to UU Rowe Camp, which was founded in 1924. Doug founded UU Rowe Conference Center in 1974 and co-directed it, mostly with his wife Prue Berry, for 39 years. Since then, he’s mostly been doing whatever he wants to do.

	Doug is a writer, political activist, amateur comedian, wise guy, collage artist, and non-profit entrepreneur, his favorite oxymoron. In divinity school he heard ministers who haven't been to a church before try to say everything they know, but hopefully he's outgrown this prophecy, so he'll only tell us <i>some</i> of what he knows.
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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/mtifpthOutvesjqgjei>

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

Fellowship Lunch – Sunday April 16, 2023

11:30 - 12:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

The third Sunday of each month (Oct thru May) is Fellowship Lunch Sunday which replaces coffee hour. This event will 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.

We generally have a "base" kitchen crew but 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 from Fellowship Hall while working. If you want to attend the service but can volunteer as a server that is fine too. If you are willing to sign up as an *Extra*, please email Marilyn Dunn (maine2007@hotmail.com) or call (207) 512-5382.

Announcement: WORK CREW AUCTION FUNDRAISER!

The ever-popular UUCS Work Crews are up for auction again! This year, we will resume online bidding via email bids sent to Catherine Palmer (email: palmercatherinemaine@gmail.com). We have four one-half day work crews (this includes a group of 4-5 volunteers who can finish your indoor/outdoor chores (from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30, but workers will need snacks provided!). Bidding for the half-day work crews starts at \$400 charitable dollars. Organizers for the half-day work crews include Michaela Loisel, Denis Thoet, Karen Foust and Marilyn Dunn.

We also have one full-day work crew (this includes a group of 8-10 volunteers who work from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., but workers will need lunch provided). For the full-day crew, bidding will start at \$700 charitable dollars. Catherine and Becky will assemble the all-day work crew. All you do is make a list of what has to be done at your property.

Here's how bidding works. Beginning at noon on Monday, April 10, you may submit an email bid for one or more work crews. You can choose any summer day that works for the crew manager. If you are outbid, Catherine will let you know what the amount of the highest bid. PLEASE MARK YOUR EMAIL SUBJECT: "Half Day" or "Full Day" UU Work crew. Please give the crew managers an idea of what type of jobs are on your list, and what tools or supplies are required.

Bidding will end at 5 p.m on Friday, April 14. If there is a final bid within the last three minutes of the end of bidding, the bidding will be EXTENDED another three minutes until no one has entered a higher bid for a full three minutes (no one can win a work crew by waiting until just before the five o'clock close on April 14). You will be notified of the highest bid by email. Terry Cairn will serve as auctioneer for the final "live bidding" on Sunday, April 16, right after church service. All work crew winners must send full payment to UUCC in advance of their scheduled work crew day.

This is a fundraiser and a fun-raiser!! If you have ever served with the UUCC regular workers, you know what we mean. Get dirty AND help a member with their checklist of jobs!

UUCC WORK CREWS ARE COMING

GET READY, GET SET TO BID ON YOUR OWN UUCC WORK CREW!

Here are pictures taken of UUCC Work Crew Members at homes of UUCC members in recent years





Preliminary Results from the April 2nd Sharing Café on Covenant

Thank you everyone for your enthusiastic participation this past Sunday. Although we are still compiling the data, here's what we're seeing. No one said, "I cannot promise this." There were, however, lots of suggestions about how we could better word the Covenant. We also received ideas about new promises that could be explored in future Covenant work.

We will publish all this data in the next E-Blast. In the meantime, the Covenant Writing Group will consider your suggested edits before sending the proposed Covenant to the Board. The suggestions for new promises will be passed onto the Board.

The Restorative Justice Committee

Next Sharing Café – May 7th

Don't miss our next Sharing Café sponsored by the Social Action Committee. We will focus on the Eighth Principle and the lessons other UU congregations learned as illustrated in the book "Mistakes and Miracles."

Connections by Day of the Week

ALL church events and meetings are reflected on the UUCU 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 UUCU Zoom Room.

[Click here to join Events in the Zoom Room:](#)

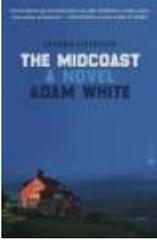
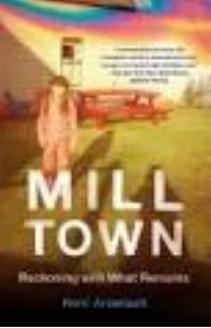
For other ways to join Zoom, see [General Information](#)
Zoom meeting id: 823 807 0673 – Password: 6971



<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>NEW SCHEDULE, effective Jan 30th: -- BY Private ZOOM –EVERY Monday (we will no longer meet in person at the UUCU 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: martysoule@gmail.com. FMI: peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com</p> <p><i><u>Sangha gatherings are free and open to all.</u></i></p>
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<p>Wednes- days 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>UUC</u>C Choir Rehearsal</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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: musicdirector@augustauu.org. All are welcome!</p>
<p>Wednes- days Each Week 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Gentle YOGA</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hosted by Debbie Mattson</p> <div style="text-align: right;"></div> <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: https://maine.zoom.us/j/95825651125?pwd=UWJpOVFjVFJGb3dMWmZoOTRXa3VoUT09 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: DebbieMattson@hotmail.com</p>
<p>2nd & 4th Wednesday 10:30 a.m. - Noon 2nd Wed. – C-FH 4th Wed. - Zoom</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Seasoned Souls</u></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 2nd Wednesday monthly we will meet in the Fellowship Hall and on the 4th Wednesday, we will meet in the UUC Zoom room.</p> <p>FMI: please contact John Seksay (netmotel1@gmail.com or 317-69-3636) or Stefanie (stefbarley@gmail.com or 629-8890)</p>
<p>Thursdays Each Week 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Peaceful Heart Sangha</u></p> <div style="text-align: right;"></div> <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) --BY Private ZOOM – last Thursday of the month</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please contact Marty Soule for updated login information at martysoule@gmail.com. FMI: peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i><u>Sangha gatherings are free and open to all.</u></i></p>

<p>2nd & 4th Thursday <u>In the</u> <u>UCC</u> <u>Zoom room</u> 9:00 – 10:30 <u>a.m.</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Writing to Wake the Soul</u></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 debbiemattson@hotmail.com</p>
<p>1st Thursday Noon-1:30 <u>p.m.</u> Next Meeting is April 6 ** ZOOM ROOM ONLY on 4/6 **</p>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="flex: 1;">  </div> <div style="flex: 2;"> <p>On April 6, READ LEARN SHARE will meet at noon in the UCC ZOOM ROOM ONLY!! Anyone interested in discussing “The Midcoast” is welcome to join us. We will end at 1:30. For more information, contact Kathy Kellison at kell6787@gmail.com or June Zellers at jzellers@roadrunner.com</p> <p>“A propulsive drama that cares as deeply about its characters as it does about the crimes they commit, <i>The Midcoast</i> explores the machinations of privilege, the dark recesses of the American dream, and the lies we tell as we try, at all costs, to achieve it.” ~Goodreads</p> </div> </div> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="flex: 1;">  </div> <div style="flex: 2;"> <p>READ SHARE LEARN meets THURSDAY May 4 at noon in the UCC ZOOM ROOM and in FELLOWSHIP HALL. We will use the OWL technology to have a hybrid meeting. Anyone who is interested in discussing our May book <u>Mill Town</u> is welcome to join us. We will end at 1:30. For more information, contact Kathy Kellison at kell6787@gmail.com or June Zellers at jzellers@roadrunner.com</p> <p>A galvanizing and powerful debut, <u>Mill Town</u> is an American story, a human predicament, and a moral wake-up call that asks: what are we willing to tolerate and whose lives are we willing to sacrifice for our own survival? ~Goodreads</p> </div> </div>
<p>4th Friday 6:30 – 8:30 <u>Sanctuary</u> Next Meeting is April 28</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><u>Saturday</u></p> <p><u>9:30–11 am</u></p> <p><u>Select Saturdays</u></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%;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center; width: 20%;">APR 2023, SAT</td> <td style="text-align: center; width: 10%;">●</td> <td style="text-align: center; width: 30%;">9:15 – 11:30am</td> <td style="text-align: center; width: 30%;">UUCCOO Rehearsal (C-Sanct)</td> </tr> <tr><td colspan="5"><hr/></td></tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">22</td> <td style="text-align: center;">APR 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"><hr/></td></tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">MAY 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"><hr/></td></tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">27</td> <td style="text-align: center;">MAY 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: dmmccormick11@aol.com.</p>	8	APR 2023, SAT	●	9:15 – 11:30am	UUCCOO Rehearsal (C-Sanct)	<hr/>					22	APR 2023, SAT	●	9:30 – 11am	UUCCOO Rehearsal (C-Sanct)	<hr/>					6	MAY 2023, SAT	●	9:30 – 11am	UUCCOO Rehearsal (C-Sanct)	<hr/>					27	MAY 2023, SAT	●	9:30 – 11am	UUCCOO Rehearsal (C-Sanct)
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<p><u>4th</u></p> <p><u>Sunday</u></p> <p><u>1-2:30</u></p> <p><u>p.m.</u></p> <p><u>In-Person</u></p> <p style="color: red; text-align: center;">Next Meeting is Apr. 30th</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Goddess / Earth Circles</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">April 30, Croning Ceremony and Celebration. Fellowship Hall Hybrid, 1-2:30pm. Contact Helen Zidowecki for information on this ceremony and celebration and to be 'croned'.</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, hzmre@hzmre.om) for more information.</p>																																			

Notices / Updates / News

Volunteers Needed for Sunday Coffee Hour!
No one has signed up for Easter Sunday!

Everything you need is at the church - snacks, fruit, creamers, tea, coffee, napkins, cups and paper products! Sign up sheet is on bulletin board in Fellowship Hall OR Contact Monique Bergere (CLFF) directly @: Lifespanff@augustauu.org -- 207-242-6415

Welcome to our newest Member, Scott Klinger

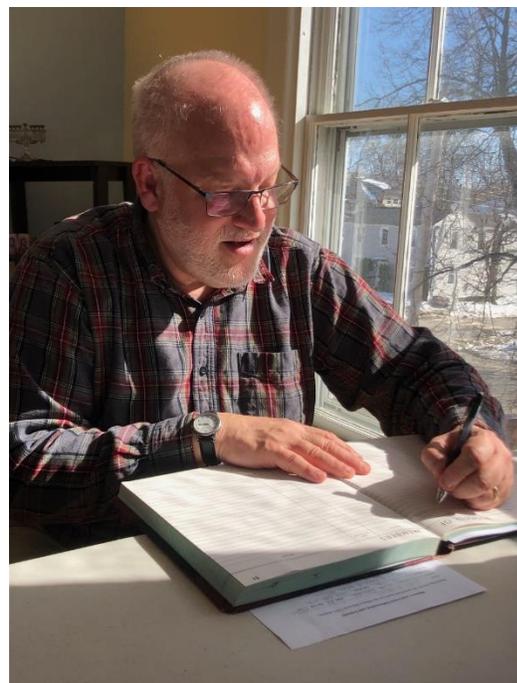


Greetings, UUCC! My name is Scott Klinger and I am so happy to be a new member of UUCC. My wife, Kathy, and I moved to Gardiner at the start of the pandemic and feel deeply at home here.

Faith has been an important part of my life since childhood. Over the years I have been a part of Lutheran, Catholic, Quaker, Episcopal, and UU (First Church in Jamaica Plain, MA) communities. I studied religion in college, with a split focus on Liberation Theology and Indigenous Spirituality, and after graduation joined Lutheran Volunteer

Corps where I worked as a community organizer in Baltimore, before switching to Jesuit Volunteer Corps in Bethel, Alaska where I loved and cared for adolescent Yupik Native Alaskan boys in a group home setting.

Since arriving in Maine I have been active in supporting Wabanaki sovereignty and most recently helping with UUCC's Saturday breakfast program and the Suds Up Sunday shower program at the Augusta YMCA. I am also actively working on writing a racial history of Gardiner and hope to begin offering a related walking tour either this summer or in 2024.



We are so glad to have you in our community!! WELCOME!!!

Stewardship News!

Total Pledges so far: 60

Increased pledges: 29

New pledges: 6

Amount Pledged: \$152,020

Our financial goal for pledges for the upcoming budget is \$172,000. You can see we are well on our way but the Stewardship Campaign to support our operating budget is coming to a close.

If you have not pledged yet, we would appreciate you dropping it in the mail to UUCC as soon as possible. We are very grateful for your support of the Unitarian Universalist Community Church in Augusta.

If you have questions reach out to: Terry Cairn 207-557-2557 (tlcnaturalhealth@yahoo.com) or Betty Cairn 207-215-6394 (stonehengemaine@yahoo.com).

Our Condolences -- Death in the UUCC Community

Beloved member Karen Foust's dad, Cleve Leckey, died on April 2, 2023. Please keep her and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

!! Yard Sale is B-A-C-K !!



-We need bags for customer purchases-

We are bringing back the ever popular Yard Sale May 27th. Please save all your paper and 'reusable' plastic bags. There

is a labeled bin in the coat room for you to leave them in.

Help us tidy up the properties for Easter Sunday!

Building and grounds will be raking up the church properties on April 8th from 9-12 and would like your help please.

We rake onto tarps and dump into the compost behind the Drew House so it goes quickly. If we have a good turnout it only takes a couple of hours. Bring a rake and gloves if you have them or we can provide them if you don't.

WORSHIP ARTS TEAM SEEKS SUMMER SERVICE LEADERS

Have you ever considered leading a worship service?

The Worship Arts Team is looking for volunteer worship leaders for the five Sundays in July, continuing our UUCC custom of offering lay-led summer services. Leading a service can be a wonderful opportunity to share some of your story with your fellow UUs, or to explore a meaningful idea or experience. You will have the support of a Worship Associate, Tech Assistant, and pianist. Our hymnals are a good resource for music, and the gray hymnal has many readings. The UUA website also offers helpful resources for worship.

If you're interested but not ready to lead worship on your own, consider teaming up with someone else. Rev. Christina and I would be glad to talk with you about ideas and the planning process. Feel free to contact either of us at minister@augustauu.org (Rev. Christina) or kwallen@gwi.net (Karen).

We look forward to seeing what the summer may bring!
Karen Allen, Chair, Worship Arts

MUUSAN Updates

MUUSAN News: The Legislature is now holding Committee Hearings on the bills introduced this session. Here is just one example that many of us will want to pay attention to:

MUUSAN opposes [LD 1038](#) which would re-instate plurality voting and abolish all ranked-choice voting laws in Maine. If enacted, this bill could return us to the days when legislators were elected by a minority of the voters. Support for this bill was surprisingly strong at the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs hearing, so MUUSAN urges people to ask their representatives to oppose this bill when it comes to the floor. Click the following links to read [MUUSAN Testimony](#) & [talking points](#) <If these links don't work, try this link to get the testimony and talking points and other legislative links.> <https://www.muusan.org/current-legislature.html>

Are you curious about the issues that we as UUs might want to advocate on? Check out the [MUUSAN Bill Priorities](#) and the [MUUSAN Bill Watchlist](#)! If you are passionate about any of these issues, you can follow up on any of these issues by contacting the relevant [Issue Group chair](#) or just directly contacting your legislator or testifying at a hearing by using the [MUUSAN Tips and Tools](#)!

Did you write a letter, make a call, testify, send an email, or participate in a vigil or rally? Click the below [button](#) and let us know! We want to record every UU action taken for social justice this legislative session!

From: Michaela Loisel, Board President

In lieu of my own thoughts about our Congregation's interest in what more we might do to make our UU voices heard and impactful, attached to this E-blast is a letter submitted yesterday to the Joint Select Committee on Housing by Jane Makela (MUUSAN Steering Committee member) in support of this legislation:

LD 2 An Act to Address Maine's Housing Crisis

This bill establishes the Housing First Program within the Department of Health and Human Services to facilitate the delivery of stabilization and support services to residents of properties established or developed to provide permanent housing to persons who have been chronically homeless and to fund technical assistance, administered by the Maine State Housing Authority, for the development of housing consistent with the program. The program is funded from the real estate transfer tax by depositing half of the funds that would otherwise be deposited into the General Fund into the Housing First Fund created by the bill.

Sponsor: Speaker TALBOT-ROSS of Portland. **Co-sponsor:** President JACKSON of Aroostook. **Committee:** Housing

Ongoing efforts 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) and/or Susan Shaw (susanmaine@gmail.com), who will make regular deliveries of items that you contribute or email Susan Shaw, susanmaine@gmail.com regarding food donations.

Observations from Afar - Don Naber

I am proud to be a member of UUCC. My feelings have been strengthened with the Saturday breakfast program and especially so when the church was kept open during last Saturday's storm for those who needed shelter from the weather. Since it began in February, people have come forward with food, with funds and with labor to make it successful. Efforts like this spark interest and participation in a church and meet a local community need. A little personal history seems in order.

There is a well-funded and effective homeless shelter in Waterville. It began humbly as an effort by the Waterville UU church to provide overnight accommodation in a local motel to the unhoused. After a short time part of a rental property was secured for lodging and an evening meal was provided for guests. Police from Augusta, Belfast and Pittsfield would occasionally drop off those needing care. As outside groups participated in staffing, including Colby College and other churches, the Interfaith Shelter became true to its name. It soon acquired and expanded into the entire building and began to offer social services on site.

When the need to provide an evening meal for those in the area was identified the UU church started the Evening Sandwich Program. Initially it ran two late afternoons a week from the downstairs kitchen of the UU church. Donations, USDA Commodity Foods and expired breadstuffs, desert pastries and other foods were donated by local grocery stores. Other church and civic groups used the kitchen to expand the program to five days a week. The location was perfect - right in the middle of town.

I've seen how community service projects can energize a church. I know there are other ideas for the service utilization of UUCC floating around out there. I've heard a few. I think (and hope) I may be seeing steps in this process at UUCC.

Board of Trustees



Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Augusta

Board Meeting - March 9, 2023, 5-7 p.m.

Board Highlights...

> At its March 9 meeting, the Board:

- Learned that 97% of pledges for the current fiscal year have been paid in full and the \$13,000 goal for the Annual Appeal has been exceeded.
- Learned that the church received a \$25,000 unrestricted bequest from the estate of Mark Goldberg.

- Voted to sign a contract with Revision Energy to join the Sandy River Solar Farm.
- Created a work group to take steps to involve the congregation in decisions about our masking policy.
- Discussed the make-up of the Search Committee for our next settled minister. The Board will confirm the committee in May and present the slate to the congregation for affirmation at the Annual Meeting in June.
- Agreed to meet with Buildings and Grounds for advice on sprucing up our buildings before we invite ministerial candidates to visit.
- Received from the Safety Committee a list of 18 concerns and agreed to apply for a grant to address them.

-- Full minutes will be posted on the website as soon as they are available.
 Please visit the church website at www.augustauu.org

The next Board Meeting will be held on April 13, 2023. Board meetings are open to ALL. If you have an item that you would like the Board to consider, please contact Michaelatloisel@gmail.com.

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.

UUC 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.

UUC 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.

UUC 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 (4/5) NO E-Blast (4/12)
- E-Blast (4/19) NO E-Blast (4/26)
- E-Blast (5/3) NO E-Blast (5/10)

UUC Office Hours NEXT WEEK

Church Administrator - 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