

# Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church  
Wednesday, April 19, 2023

## In this Issue:

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



69 Winthrop St., Augusta ME

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

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



## A Message from our Minister

### **Rain Light** by W.S. Merwin, from *The Shadow of Sirius* (2009)

All day the stars watch from long ago  
my mother said I am going now  
when you are alone you will be all right  
whether or not you know you will know  
look at the old house in the dawn rain  
all the flowers are forms of water  
the sun reminds them through a white cloud  
touches the patchwork spread on the hill  
the washed colors of the afterlife  
that lived there long before you were born  
see how they wake without a question  
even though the whole world is burning



\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Church,

“Rain Light” reminds me of the mystery and my need for wonder amidst the chaos of busyness and bad news. The simple act of being present to the rain fills my mind and heart with a soothing so deep, I forget myself. In the quiet grief of releasing, each little death prepares me. As I begin to let go of my daughter, yet again, who is

about to graduate from college. As I reflect on my aging mom and how she may slip away more quickly than I know. As I try and ignore my hair thinning and the power of gravity taking over my face. As I say goodbye to people I love as they leave this world. I become transparent. So, I am compelled to cherish each day and each person no matter who appears before me, no matter if the sun is shining or if grayness covers the city. I prefer the rain because it soothes the burning of my heart. And I long to weep, for tears melt away disconnection from what I do not quite know.

I am humbled by you in your strength and vulnerability as you do the work of the church. On Sunday, the choir re-connected me to my heart. You teach me how to be human. And I want to learn how to be a spirit so I can fly between heaven and earth bringing magnificent blue light that feeds us all. Because you remind me of all that is good and true in this world, I bow to you. I wish we could communicate through color like the flowers do because then we would all see who we really are and our shyness and loneliness, resentment and fear would melt away forever.

I will soon move my large bright ceramic pots up from the basement and fill them with pansies to remind me of beauty. And I wonder who I am if I let go of being a daughter, a mother, a minister, a friend. Who am I when my beauty fades and my mind is no longer interested in complicated things or saving the world? Who am I when my heart has cried all the tears it will ever cry or when it is free of all hatred?

All my gratitude and blessings of love and light to you,

Christina

## Upcoming Services

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

	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday April 30, 2023 Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>“Living Faithfully”</b> Bettina Lehovec</p> <p>What does it mean to live faithfully? How can we bring our whole selves into alignment with our ideals? This service will explore strategies for living mindfully and reminding ourselves of what matters most.</p> <p>A special thank you to our worship arts team. John Seksay will be our worship associate and Angie Blevins will manage technology. Karen Foust will be our pianist. <b>Our Choir and UCC Occasional Orchestra will present “Alleluia” by Michael John Trotta.</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday May 7, 2023 Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>“From Courage to Resilience”</b> Reverend Christina Sillari</p> <p>Margaret Wheatley wrote: “certainty is a very effective way of defending ourselves from the irresolvable nature of life.” The cosmos is not providing us with very much certainty these days. What does it take to foster resilience, to keep flowing in the irresolvable river of our lives, even when we don't know where we are going? We will explore how courage fosters resilience through story and poetry.</p> <p>A special thank you to our worship arts team. Marty Peters will be our worship associate and John Seksay will manage technology. Karen Allen will be our pianist. <b>Our Choir will present “We Are” by Ysaye Barnwell</b></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/mtifpthOutvesjggjyej>

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**

Small Group Ministry Leadership meeting  
Sunday, May 7, 11:30-1:00pm  
in the Fellowship Hall, with virtual connection.

The agenda includes: Sharing from the Groups, the 2023 Story of Small Group Ministry; SGM and the Eighth Principle. Leaders and group participants are welcome. We also encourage SGM participants to attend the Sharing Café after church on May 14.



### **ADVENTURES IN SEWING** **(a new 4-week offering at UUCC)**

Are you interested in learning some basic hand and machine sewing skills? Do you already have a project you'd like to work on in the company of others? Would you like to make pillowcases, lined napkins or a basic patchwork quilt with all supplies provided?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then this 4-week group is for you. Martha Naber and Nancy Fritz will offer the group on four Mondays in June from 9:30 to noon in the fellowship hall. You can see a display in Fellowship Hall during May that will show samples of possible projects.

Sign up at the display or by calling Martha at 887-1104 or 313-5859, or Nancy at 213-3047.

### **Results from the April 2<sup>nd</sup> Sharing Café on Covenant**

We have now sorted and/or categorized the wonderful suggestions from the April Sharing Café. In response to Question 1, no one suggested that any part of the proposed Covenant was unworkable for them. We did receive many comments about the specific wording of various parts. You may access the data from Question 1 through this link <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VdppGXdaUG9zJjTVH6GHzuzw6SdbL2Dc/view?usp=sharing>.

Question 2 asked what might be missing from this Covenant. That data will be used in the future to expand and refine our Covenant. You may access the data from Question 2 through this link <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zjicYBhbqu8qLSdz4KsaCaDh60W9o4sq/view?usp=sharing>.

Thank you everyone for your enthusiastic participation in sharing your ideas and concerns. This has truly been a community effort.

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 7<sup>th</sup> <Date Changed to May 14th>**

Don't miss the LAST Sharing Café of this fiscal year. Our Social Justice Committee will pose some questions about the Eight Principle. We will focus on the Eighth Principle and the lessons other UU congregations learned as illustrated in the book "Mistakes and Miracles."

The Restorative Justice Committee

**Connections by Day of the Week**

ALL church events and meetings are reflected on the UUCC 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 UUCC 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**



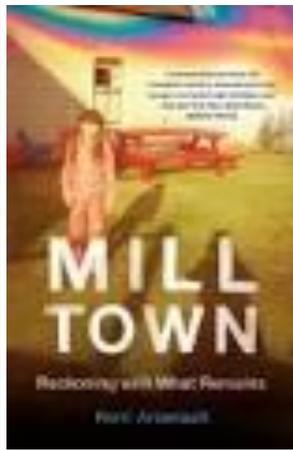
<p><b><u>Monday</u></b> <b><u>Each week</u></b></p> <p><b><u>6:30 – 8:00</u></b> <b><u>p.m.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Please note:</u></b> <b><u>location</u></b> <b><u>changes</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Peaceful Heart Sangha</u></b></p> <p>NEW SCHEDULE, effective Jan 30<sup>th</sup>: -- <b>BY Private ZOOM –EVERY 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><i><u>Sangha gatherings are free and open to all.</u></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><b><u>UUCC Choir Rehearsal</u></b></p> <p>Rehearsals are held every Wednesday 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: <a href="mailto:musicdirector@augustauu.org">musicdirector@augustauu.org</a>.</p> <p>All are welcome!</p>	

<p><b><u>Wednes- days</u></b> <b><u>Each Week</u></b>  <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> 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>  <b><u>10:30 a.m. -</u></b> <b><u>Noon</u></b>  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 UUC Zoom room.</p> <p>FMI: please contact John Seksay (<a href="mailto:netmotel1@gmail.com">netmotel1@gmail.com</a> or 317-69-3636) or Stefanie (<a href="mailto:stefbarley@gmail.com">stefbarley@gmail.com</a> or 629-8890)</p>
<p><b><u>Thursdays</u></b> <b><u>Each Week</u></b>  <b><u>8:00 – 9:30</u></b> <b><u>a.m.</u></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) --BY Private ZOOM – last Thursday of the month</p> <p>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><u>Sangha gatherings are free and open to all.</u></i></p>
<p><b><u>2nd &amp; 4<sup>th</sup></u></b> <b><u>Thursday</u></b>  <b><u>In the</u></b> <b><u>UUC</u></b> <b><u>Zoom room</u></b>  <b><u>9:00 – 10:30</u></b> <b><u>a.m.</u></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 UUC Zoom Room.</p> <p>FMI: please contact Debbie at (207)557-2697 or <a href="mailto:debbiemattson@hotmail.com">debbiemattson@hotmail.com</a></p>

**1<sup>st</sup>  
Thursday**

**Noon-1:30  
p.m.**

**Next  
Meeting is  
May 4**



On May 4, READ LEARN SHARE 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 interested in discussing “Mill Town” is welcome to join us. We will end at 1:30. For more information, contact Kathy Kellison at [kell6787@gmail.com](mailto:kell6787@gmail.com) or June Zellers at [jzellers@roadrunner.com](mailto:jzellers@roadrunner.com)

A galvanizing and powerful debut, Mill Town 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

**4<sup>th</sup>  
Friday**

**6:30 –  
8:30  
Sanctuary**

**Next  
Meeting is  
April 28**

### Free Style Drum Circle

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!

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](mailto:mtmoods@gmail.com) or 229-1118.

**Saturday**

**9:30–11 am**

**Select  
Saturdays**

### UCC Occasional Orchestra

Come and share your musical talents with our UCC community. Rehearsals are in the Sanctuary from 9:30-11:00 a.m. on the following upcoming Saturdays:

8	APR 2023, SAT	● 9:15 – 11:30am	UCCOO Rehearsal (C-Sanct)
22	APR 2023, SAT	● 9:30 – 11am	UCCOO Rehearsal (C-Sanct)
6	MAY 2023, SAT	● 9:30 – 11am	UCCOO Rehearsal (C-Sanct)
27	MAY 2023, SAT	● 9:30 – 11am	UCCOO Rehearsal (C-Sanct)

All are welcome, please join us!

Questions: please contact Dale McCormick at: [dmmccormick11@aol.com](mailto:dmmccormick11@aol.com).

<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	<h2 style="margin: 0;"><u>Goddess / Earth Circles</u></h2> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">Goddess/Earth Circles Celebration, April 30, 1-2:30 in the Fellowship Hall Hybrid, 1-2:30pm in honor of the crone phase of women's lives and recognition of inner wisdom. (Please note that we are meeting on the fifth Sunday rather than our usual fourth Sunday.)</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0; text-align: center;">Contact Helen Zidowecki for information on this ceremony and celebration and to be 'croned'.</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">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.om">hzmre@hzmre.om</a>) for more information.</p>
<p style="margin: 0;"><b><u>1-2:30</u> <u>p.m.</u> <u>In-Person</u></b></p> <p style="margin: 0; color: red;"><b>Next Meeting is Apr. 30<sup>th</sup></b></p>	

**Notices / Updates / News**

**Our Condolences to Karen Foust and her family**

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

A Celebration of Life will be held at 11:00 a.m. on May 16<sup>th</sup> at Meader & Son Funeral Home, 3 Franklin St., Rumford followed by a funeral at 1:00 pm and then interment at Sunnyside Cemetery in Rumford. The obituary can be found at:  
<https://www.meaderlandson.com/obituaries/Cleve-Leckey?obId=27710987#/obituaryInfo>



**Volunteers Needed for Sunday Coffee Hour!**

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](mailto:Lifespanff@augustauu.org) -- 207-242-6415

\*\*\*\*\*

## Welcome to our new Members

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

**WELCOME!!!**    **WELCOME!!!**    **WELCOME!!!**

### Lori Milner

Hi, UU friends! I'm Lori Milner and most of you already know me or have seen me. I've been hanging around since you returned to in-person services a year ago.

My steps to joining this congregation went like this:

1. Show up for a few Sundays and get on the email list.
2. Someone offered to make me a name tag and I accepted.
3. Take home a pile of literature and read it while eating lunch.
4. Keep showing up sporadically when my schedule allowed.
5. Come to a MUUSAN event and make a donation.
6. Sign up for the Worship Arts team.
7. Pledge financial support for the upcoming fiscal year.



Lori and her dog Sarayu

At that point, it was a no-brainer. Sign the membership book, already! Which I did, on April 13th.



I love the openness of the UU way. I spent Easter Sunday with you, friends who may or may not share my beliefs in the Trinity, the divinity of Jesus or his Resurrection; and none of it mattered, because of our shared values.

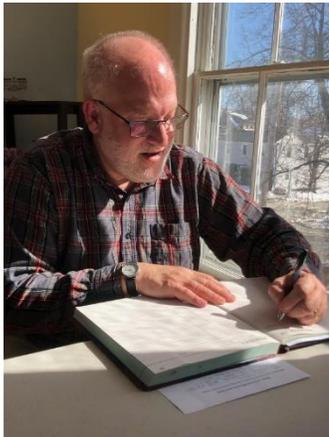
I'm enrolled at the Chaplaincy Institute of Maine (ChIME) and am on track to be ordained as an interfaith chaplain in June. While holding on to those core Christian beliefs I mentioned, I've been "deconstructing" the rest of it. ChIME has been a good, safe place for that work. I feel the same way about this church. As I continue re-building a faith I can live with, I feel certain that the love we share will hold us steady.

### 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.

\*\*\*\*\*



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

**-We needs bags for customer purchases-**

We are bringing back the ever popular Yard Sale May 27<sup>th</sup>. Please save all your paper and 'reusable' plastic bags. There is a labeled bin in the coat room for you to leave them in.

## **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](mailto:minister@augustauu.org) (Rev. Christina) or [kwallen@gwi.net](mailto:kwallen@gwi.net) (Karen).

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

---

**Communications Update from: The Communications Work Group**

What is the role of *The Flaming Chalice*, our Newsletter?

We have the E-Blast and announcements to update us on events and things to do. But isn't there more to 'church' than the calendar?

In September 2018, the Board of Trustees voted to move the newsletter from monthly to three times a year with more in-depth articles on our congregational life and related items. We are continuing the three newsletter-type publications throughout the year as we live and share stories of how and why we are part of this Unitarian Universalist community. We are the current chapter of our history!

The October newsletter will be the Invitation for the startup activities of the new church year.

The February newsletter will focus on how our work and ministries have evolved during this church year.

June will be the Annual Report with a focus on the Story of Our Church Year.

The Annual Report 2023 will be both this year's chapter in the story of UUCC, as well as the beginning of a new cycle.

We will communicate this plan with the Congregation in the April 19, 2023 E-Blast

Typically the Annual Report article is written by the Committee Chair. It is our intention to have each committee write a collective story, as a group, of their shared ministry experience during the church year.

We would like to suggest a few questions to start reflections toward articles, such as:

I (we) were drawn to working with this community activity.....

What I (we) hope for our community through this activity is.....

- May 8 : Annual reports/articles are due to Lynn in the Office.
- May 24: Annual Report and Meeting Notice mailed to congregation
- June 4 : The Annual Meeting: The Story of Our Year.

---

Communications in Year 2023-2024:

October – Invitation to The Church Year! Articles are due in October, newsletter is distributed in early November

February -- describing what has happened in the opening few months, and what is emerging, possibly aligned with Stewardship activities. Articles are due in February, newsletter is distributed in early March

April –back to the planning cycle for Annual Meeting 2024.

Comments and questions? Contact Kathy Kellison [kell6787@gmail.com](mailto:kell6787@gmail.com)

Communications Work Group: Helen Zidowecki, Kathy Kellison, Lynn Smith, Administrator; Monique Bergere, Lifespan Faith Formation Coordinator

---

## The Tomato Baby Sale has been greatly Expanded!!

For the first time, the UU seedling sale will include Tomatoes, Vegetables, Herbs, and Flowers! This required a new Catalog Title: **UU 2023 Tomato Baby / Vegetable / Herb / and Flower Catalog!!** Click here to browse the catalog:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1U6QgRKgJr-9NScdWWvOL-73xW7MekAMc/view?usp=sharing>

### **The catalog includes:**

- 26 varieties of tomatoes
- 13 Vegetables
- 7 Herbs
- and 6 Flowers!

### **What's New?**

- Sauce Tomatoes
- Eggplants,
- Peppers
- and much more.

Another thing that's new is our dedicated email address for you orders

Please send your orders to: [UUplants@gmail.com](mailto:UUplants@gmail.com)

Please fill out your order soon and either send to the email address above or give it to Dale McCormick, Karen Foust, or Nan Bell at church.

**2023 prices:** [\\$5 Tomatoes](#), [\\$4 Single Vegetables/Herbs/Flowers](#), [\\$7 Containers of 4-6](#)

Pick up times are: **Wednesday May 24 6:30-7:30 and**

**Thursday May 25 noon-1pm both at 87 Court St, Augusta.**

**All Proceeds go to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Augusta, Maine.**

---

## SCAM HELP!

We have been alerted to an increase in persistent scam calls and tactics. Here are some educational links and resources on how to handle and avoid being a victim of a scam.

**If you receive intimidating calls or questionable solicitations, talk with family and friends or your local authorities first! Chances are they have been getting the same calls or solicitations!**

Here are some helpful scam-fraud protection centers websites and phone contact information:

If you are a Maine resident who is 60 or older and you think you have been scammed, call the Legal Services for the Elderly Helpline at: 1-800-750-5353 to talk to an attorney for free.

Legal Services for the Elderly scam information resource link: Know what's out there!:

<https://mainelse.org/handbook/watch-out-scams/sources#:~:text=If%20you%20are%20a%20Maine,to%20an%20attorney%20for%20free.>

AARP offers a free sign up for biweekly "watchdog alert" to get information on the latest scams.

[www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork](http://www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork) or call our dedicated helpline to speak to a fraud specialist at 1-877-908-3360. <https://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/info-2022/message-app-scam.html>

The Elder Protection Center:

<https://elderprotectioncenter.com/five-common-medicare-scams/>

<https://www.maine.gov/ag/consumer/scams.shtml>

1(877)353-3780

(877) ELDER 80

Government scam information websites:

<https://www.maine.gov/doe/sitepolicies/security>

(207) 624-6600

<https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-avoid-scam#signs>

<https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/data-visualizations/data-spotlight/2023/02/romance-scammers-favorite-lies-exposed>

<https://www.usa.gov/where-report-scams>

1-844-872-4681

---

## *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](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.

## Board of Trustees

Dear Congregation: This is an important update that may be a welcome change for many while others may receive the news with disappointment.

Effective May 1, 2023, the UUCC Church and office building will be mask **optional** environments. Most of you know that this has been a challenging situation since we reopened our Church one year ago. After considering input from the congregation, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously on Thursday, April 13, 2023, to remove the mask requirement. We decided against establishing a section of the Sanctuary exclusively for those who wish to mask because we did not believe, in a building our size, we would achieve any additional health or safety benefits.

We will be supportive of all who continue to mask for whatever the reason and encourage staying home when sick and mask wearing if you have any symptoms that merit doing so.



Board Highlights to come...

\*\*\*\*\*

Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Augusta

Board Meeting – April 13, 2023, 5-7 p.m.

-- Full minutes will be posted on the website as soon as they are available.  
Please visit the church website at [www.augustauu.org](http://www.augustauu.org)

The next Board Meeting will be held on May 4, 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](mailto:Michaelatloisel@gmail.com).

## General Information

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

### **Other ways to UUCC 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.**

UUCC 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)	<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	<b>&lt;NEW Phone # 4/19&gt;</b>	207-530-1898 (c) <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.

## 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](mailto: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 (4/19) | NO E-Blast (4/26) |
| ○ E-Blast (5/3)  | NO E-Blast (5/10) |
| ○ E-Blast (5/17) | NO E-Blast (5/24) |

### 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](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)