

Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church
Wednesday, May 3, 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,

I hope you are doing well. If you need me, I am here for you. Just send me an email or give me a call.



*Sunrise: Green Mountains of Vermont overlooking
Lake Chaplain, Westport, NY.*

I have been thinking about conflict and how it can destabilize human relations. So many couples, communities, and congregations I know are in conflict. Conflict is not bad. Conflict is inevitable, but hostility is optional. We are souls inhabiting human bodies from ancestral lines who have been through conflict. The good news is that we are alive on this earth today and we would not be here if our ancestors did not survive their conflicts. My question is: How can we thrive, not just survive, through conflict?

Recently, one of my teachers, Daniel Foor, shared his perspective on conflict. He answered my question in four points. The following is my interpretation of his teaching:

1. When we live an authentic life and have the intention of being awake and kind in our interactions with the world, we may be seen as provocative. Being out there in the world in this way may surprise people and make them uncomfortable which could possibly draw more conflict to us. Whereas, if we hide, numb out, and not live an intentional life, it is easy to avoid everything including conflict. He talked about the gatekeepers of conflict like Jesus and Siddhartha.
2. It is important to know our own threshold of conflict. When we can hold our center and still be our best self in the face of conflict, then staying with the conflict is healthy. But when we get thrown off center or begin behaving in ways that do not express our best self, then we need to move away from the conflict or take a break perhaps returning later.
3. How we relate to outer and inner conflict tend to be similar. If we have a hard time with inner messiness, we will not be able to manage messiness around us. We all have different parts to the self. All our parts of us need to have a voice. If they do not, a part may create conflict to be heard or get attention.
4. It is not okay to demonize someone you conflict with unless they are truly dangerous. Then you call the cops. Just because we disagree with someone, does not give us the right to annihilate, reject or negate them. We cannot allow our adversaries stop us from seeing the world as whole.

I leave you with some questions: How do you deal with conflict? What parts of you avoid it or are attracted to it. How do you cultivate loving boundaries, compassionate detachment, inclusive discernment? Do you want to be awake? Do you want to be kind? Do you want to live an authentic life? How will wrestling with these questions build the beloved community?

Big love and deep gratitude to you!

Rev. Christin

Upcoming Services

<p>Sunday May 7, 2023 Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m.</p>	<p>“From Courage to Resilience” 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 Angie Blevins will manage technology. Karen Allen will be our pianist. Our Choir will present “We Are” by Ysaye Barnwell</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday May 14, 2023 Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">“The Changing Faces of Ministry Today”</p> <p>In this service, we will explore what ministry at UCC may look like in the near future. As we move into our Settled Ministry Search, what do we think we need from our minister? How do we minister to one another? Let's explore possibilities.</p> <p>A special thank you to our worship arts team. Priscilla J. Jenkins will be our worship associate and Marty Peters will manage technology. Stefanie Barley will be our pianist.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Join us after the service for the last Sharing Café of the year. <See [Special Events / Opportunities] below.></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday May 21, 2023 Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">“Transcendentalism” Reverend Christina Sillari</p> <p>Come and explore the theology of Transcendentalism and how it shaped Unitarian Universalism. Through the writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Margaret Fuller, Henry David Thoreau, and Emily Dickinson we will look at how the message of Transcendentalism may be more relevant today than it was in the mid-19th century.</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 Foust will be our pianist. Our Choir will present "Sakura" (Cherry Blossoms) Japanese Folksong</p> <p>SHARE THE PLATE: This month's recipient, chosen by the Social Justice Committee is the Rev. Carie Johnsen Social Justice Fund held at the Maine Community Foundation. <See letter from the Social Justice Committee about this fund in [Special Events/Opportunities] below.></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Join us after the service for a sit down FELLOWSHIP LUNCH <See details in [Special Events/Opportunities] below.></p> <p style="text-align: center;">LEADERS: Remember to stick around for the Leadership Meeting in the Sanctuary at Noon.</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/mtifpthOutvesjqgjej>

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

Fundraising Opportunities

FUNDRAISING (Work Crews):

Several half-day work crews were sold at auction (and one full day work crew) and are now being assigned calendar dates this summer and fall. The first one is set for Saturday morning, June 3, in Mt. Vernon. Please contact Karen Foust if you can help with any upcoming work crew, each of which will be announced in the E-blast.



Yard Sale Memorial Day Weekend:

The annual UU yard sale is back! We will open the doors of the church at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 27, until about 2 p.m.

We need VOLUNTEERS: Please see the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall if you can help with either table set up, sales, coffee/snacks or cleanup.

We need BAGS: We could use paper and ‘reusable’ plastic bags for customer purchases. If you have bags to spare, there is a labeled bin in the coat room for you bag donations.

DROP OFF of yard sale items: Clothes, household goods and books will be accepted Sunday May 21 after service until 1pm, on Thursday 5/25 from 4-7 p.m. and Friday 5/26 from 2-8 pm. <Please do not drop off items that are broken, dirty, torn, moldy, etc.> If you have perennials, we can make space for them, too!

Let's raise some money for the UCC and have some FUN!

**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.

Next Sharing Café – 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



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 patch-work 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. The dates we will meet are June 5, 12, 19 and 26. 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.

Dear Members and Friends of UUCC,

In this exciting time of renewal of life and energy, we invite you to join us in renewing support for the Reverend Carie Johnsen Social Justice Fund. Our Share the Plate Offering on May 21 will be the yearly opportunity to support this important aspect of our shared ministry. From the time she joined us in August 2009 until May 2021, Reverend Carie showed up over and over again for social justice, leading by example, even when she was in very stressful situations. During the Poor People's Campaign, she was arrested with other clergy as they participated in nonviolent protests. She also spent weeks at Standing Rock, assisting in the ministry to water protectors. She showed up, uncertain of her role, and stood in where needed.

Rev. Carie played a pivotal role in creating and developing Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network, a faith-based advocacy network promoting progressive and compassionate social justice legislation in Maine.

As a co-founder of the Capital Area New Mainers Project she also helped inspire our congregation to rent the Drew House to an immigrant family. Others in the congregation have become members of Family Mentor Teams, helping immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers navigate living in a new community, state, and country.

These are only examples, there are many more social justice actions and stories of her commitment to a fair and just community, country, and world. All of the stories describe dedication, fortitude, and shared leadership.

In appreciation for all we learned about showing up for social justice, the UUCC created the Reverend Carie Johnsen Social Justice Fund. The Maine Community Fund manages the investment which is self-sustaining and allows the congregation to donate at least \$1,000 to a Maine social justice group each year. In the last three years, \$1,000 was given to MUUSAN, Wabanaki Reach, and Capital Area New Mainers Project.

Please help support the Reverend Carie Johnsen Social Justice Fund so that future UUCC members will continue to be inspired by her actions and grassroots organizations in Maine with a social justice focus will get a monetary boost to help fulfill their missions. Please write RCJ SJF on the memo section of your check. The offering of May 21, 2023 will be dedicated to this fund, but we certainly welcome donations at any time. Donations may be mailed or dropped off at the Church Office.

With gratitude,
UUCC Social Justice Committee

An opportunity for reflection...

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



“There is always light...if only we’re brave enough to be it.”

Amanda Gorman

Read about Amanda Gorman on Wikipedia, click link below:

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amanda_Gorman

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



Connections by Day of the Week

ALL church events and meetings are reflected on the UCC calendar
Click below to view ALL events, including any group meetings or other business meetings.

<https://www.augustauu.org/calendar-and-communications/>

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

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

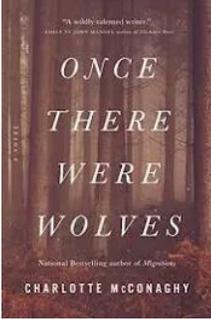
For other ways to join Zoom, see [General Information](#)
Zoom meeting id: 823 807 0673 – Password: 6971



<p><u>Monday</u> Each week</p> <p><u>6:30 – 8:00</u> <u>p.m.</u></p> <p><u>Please note:</u> <u>location</u> <u>changes</u></p>	<p><u>Peaceful Heart Sangha</u></p> <p>NEW SCHEDULE, effective Jan 30th: -- BY Private ZOOM –EVERY Monday (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: martysoule@gmail.com. FMI: peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com <i><u>Sangha gatherings are free and open to all.</u></i></p>
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<p>Wednes- day 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>UUCS Choir Rehearsal</u></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="float: right; text-align: center;">  </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</p> <p>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 UUCS 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> <p>You may join us by Zoom at 7:45 a.m. to settle in. Meet from 8-9:30</p> <div style="float: right; text-align: center;">  </div> <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>Sangha gatherings are free and open to all.</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 June 1</p>	<p>READ SHARE LEARN meets THURSDAY June 1 at noon in the UCC ZOOM ROOM and in FELLOWSHIP HALL. We will use the OWL technology to have a hybrid meeting.</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;">  <div> <p>Anyone who interested in discussing <u>Once There Were Wolves</u> by Charlotte McConaghy 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 vividly realized story of trauma and the attempted “rewilding” of the Scottish Highlands.” Publishers Weekly</p> </div> </div> <p>This is our last meeting for the year. We will discuss the procedure for choosing books for next year, how to make suggestions and how to vote. Anyone who has a book to suggest is welcome to submit the title and author and to get a ballot and vote!</p>
<p>4th Friday 6:30 – 8:30 <u>Sanctuary</u> Next Meeting is June 23</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Free Style Drum Circle</u></p> <p>The Augusta Community Drum Circle is a free style drum circle welcoming people of all ages, walks of life, and abilities. Free style means no one is assigned ‘pieces’ to play. Just play! Or don’t play! Just come watch, sing, dance, or bring your own instruments. No one cares if you’ve never played before or if you make a mistake. As long as you are having fun you can’t get it wrong! ALL are welcome. Event is FREE, No RSVP, just come!</p> <p>The Drum Circle meets the fourth Friday of each month at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary. For more information you can contact Mike Moody at mtmoods@gmail.com or 229-1118.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>May 26th event has been CANCELLED due to the Memorial Day holiday.</u></p>
<p>Saturday 9:30–11 am <u>Select Saturdays</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">UCC Occasional Orchestra</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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:</p>

	<p>6 MAY 2023, SAT ● 9:30 – 11am UUCCOO Rehearsal (C-Sanct)</p> <hr/> <p>27 MAY 2023, SAT ● 9:30 – 11am UUCCOO Rehearsal (C-Sanct)</p> <hr/> <p>3 JUN 2023, SAT ● 9:30 – 11am UUCCOO Rehearsal (C-Sanct)</p> <hr/> <p>10 JUN 2023, SAT ● 9:30 – 11am UUCCOO Rehearsal (C-Sanct)</p> <p>All are welcome, please join us! Questions: please contact Dale McCormick at: dmmcormick11@aol.com.</p>
<p>4th Sunday</p> <p>1-2:30 p.m. In-Person</p> <p>Next Meeting is May 3rd</p>	<p><u>Goddess / Earth Circles</u></p> <p>May 3, 7:15pm, zoom -Special meeting by zoom to prepare the Annual Report. May 21 meeting is cancelled June 25 1-2:30 in person and zoom. Topic to be announced.</p> <p>Goddess/Earth Circles focuses on Goddess, women’s lives and earth-based spirituality. All ages and genders welcome. Contact: Helen Zidowecki (582-5308, hzmre@hzmre.om) for more information.</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 16th 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.meaderandson.com/obituaries/Cleve-Leckey?obId=27710987#/obituaryInfo>

Welcome to our new Members

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

WELCOME!!! WELCOME!!! WELCOME!!!

Misty Kreuger



Twelve years ago Misty moved to Maine to teach English courses at the University of Maine at Farmington. Being a professor is a life calling, not a job for Misty, which is why they moved all the way up to Maine for their career. Misty is a Jane Austen scholar, too. Want to talk about Austen? Misty will talk your ear off, as they are writing a book about Austen and monsters.

In their spare time, Misty enjoys watching British detective shows, playing board and card games, working puzzles, listening to audiobooks, traveling, and chatting on the phone with family.

Adam Black

Adam is a new member to the UUCC church. He has always been drawn toward the difficult (and interesting) questions in life. He loves to cook, spend time outdoors, play music, and spends a lot of time doing data analysis and software development with healthcare data for work. Most recently he has been wondering if free will is an illusion. Adam looks forward to many great conversations with the other members of the UUCC!



James Belanger

Bio: I'm a native Mainer, returning after a long absence. Most of my career has been spent in accounting and auditing. I have two adult children who live in the Midwest. I enjoy hiking, bike riding, reading, and cooking.

No photo available at this time. Let's see if we can find him on Sunday morning.

Roberta Whitney



“It is so nice to join you all as a community member and I thank you each for your warm welcome in recent months. I am an interfaith minister and chaplain, having relocated to Maine for work in December 2022. I am enjoying the rivers, seeing spring unfurl and getting to know people and places. The seasons ahead promise opportunities to explore which feels exciting!

I am happy to find a spiritual community actively serving others and one exploring issues and topics that have meaning for me. I have been part of several Unitarian Universalist communities over the last thirty years and am thrilled to find a vibrant and active group in Augusta. I look forward to finding ways to participate and bring my gifts to the circle.”

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.

Annual Report articles are DUE May 8, 2023
-- see below for details and suggested changes to content this year.

REVISED PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:

The newsletter/annual report publication schedule has changed.

We did not have an April newsletter this year and because of timing, the Annual Report 2023 will be this year's last large publication which we hope will portray "a chapter in The Story of UUC".

Next year, we plan to have a newsletter in October to start the year, one in February on how the church year is evolving, and the June Annual Report as the "Story of Our Church year".

SUGGESTED CONTENT CHANGES for ANNUAL REPORT:

Typically the Annual Report article is written by the Committee Chair or Program Chair.

This year, we'd like to have each committee and program 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.....

The Timeline for the Annual Report is:

May 8 - Annual reports/articles are DUE to the church administrator. Please send to admin@augustauu.org.

May 24 - Annual Report and Meeting Notice will be mailed to the congregation by the church administrator.

June 4 - Annual Meeting will be held in the Sanctuary beginning at 10:00 a.m.

We look forward to your articles.

For more details: See the Communications Work Group article in the April 19, 2023 E-Blast or the website (<https://augustauu.org/calendar-and-communications/newsletters/>) Comments and questions? Contact Kathy Kellison 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

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 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/oe/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

**Register today for MUUSAN's In-Person Network Meeting
Saturday, May 6th in Brunswick!**

Maine's Housing Crisis: Where we go from here

10am-12:30pm at UU Brunswick
1 Middle Street, Brunswick, 04011

**All Mainers - no matter where we come from -
need affordable health care.**

However, many Mainers are unjustly excluded from MaineCare due to their immigration status and must choose between their health and other basic needs like food and shelter. **LD 199 will make sure that our friends, family, and neighbors who are immigrants can visit the doctor or fill a prescription when they're sick.**

All Means All: MaineCare should cover everyone with low income - no exceptions, no exclusions. Contact your legislators today to tell them you support LD 199!

- MUUSAN [Talking Points](#)
- MUUSAN [Sample Letter](#) (save a copy of the template to make your own!)

UPDATE: Saturday Breakfast Ministry

We have been serving breakfast at the UUCC to our unhoused neighbors since January. Most of our guests were spending nights at the South Parish Congregational Church Emergency Low Barrier Overnight Warming Center. The “Center” closed for the season on Monday morning, May 1 at 7 AM during heavy rain. The unhoused were given wagons, tents, sleeping bags, flashlights, and ponchos. Although they are grateful for the camping supplies, there are no legal camp sites in the City of Augusta to set up camp.

The long-term answer is affordable housing. Until then, we can do what we can to create some certainty. We are doing this by continuing to offer Saturday breakfast from 7am-9am every week. Please contact Co-Chairs of the Social Justice Committee, Mary Kane (marykane072@gmail.com) or Debbie Mattson (debbiemattson@hotmail.com) if you want to be added to the volunteer list.

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.

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.

Update: Settled Ministry Search Committee

The Board is pleased to announce the slate of nominees recommended to serve on the Settled Ministry Search Committee and will be voted on at the Annual Meeting on June 4, 2023. This group was chosen as the result of Board outreach to most congregants, seeking nominations for this committee. We were pleased with the level of thoughtful input and quality of the nominations.

The congregation will be voting on this slate of nominees and, unlike for other officers and committee chair positions, this vote is not subject to nominations from the floor.

Recommended Settled Search Committee Members:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Stephanie Korol Barley | 5. Becky (Rebecca) Harvey |
| 2. Nan Bell | 6. Kevin Kane |
| 3. Angie Blevins | 7. Debbie Mattson |
| 4. Harold Burnett | |

Thank you for your participation in this important endeavor and we look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting.

Warmly,

Michaela Loisel
President, Board of Trustees

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.

UUCC 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
Peggy Lamb	207 622-5174 (h)	plambflowers@outlook.com

Caring Cooperative support includes rides, meals, errands, get well and condolence cards as well as companion visits.

If you would like to request or suggest meal support: contact Martha Pelletier 685-9592.

If you would like to request or suggest cards: contact Peggy Lamb 622-5174.

UUCC Small Group Ministry



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

UUCC Office Hours & Notes

UPDATED E-blast & Office Hours

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

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| ○ E-Blast (5/3) | NO E-Blast (5/10) |
| ○ E-Blast (5/17) | NO E-Blast (5/24) |
| ○ E-Blast (6/7) | NO E-Blast (6/14) |

UUCC 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