

Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church
Wednesday, June 21, 2023

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69 Winthrop St., Augusta ME

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



A Message from our Minister

Dear Church,

This past Sunday service was glorious. We welcomed and honored new members, we celebrated a very special youth, we ritualized the new covenant, and we said goodbye. It was a beautiful, bittersweet day filled with gifts and blessings.

It has been an honor and pleasure to serve you. You may think, as someone said on Sunday, that I saved you this year. Yet, all I did was say yes to your community and showed up with an open heart. But I did so with trepidation because I was uneasy about parish ministry. My reality is that you saved me this year. You renewed my faith in Unitarian Universalism. You helped heal the wounded and broken parts of myself as a minister. You compensated me fairly. You were open to my ideas. You supported me as your leader. I feel fulfilled from having served you and being a part of your community.

Your congregation is healthy and engaged. Your care for one another is real. Your staff and leaders are committed and competent. You are financially sound. You are serving the greater community. Your choir is buzzing with joy. And so much more.

My wishes and prayers for you are:

You work through your conflicts directly.

You stay engaged with your covenant.

You appreciate each other regularly.

You find ways to welcome new folks, especially families and youth.

And most of all, you keep being you...a kind, courageous, beautiful community of souls on a powerful spiritual journey together.

I love you! I am grateful to you! I bow to you!

One last poem in honor of the solstice.

The Sun Never Says *by Hafiz*



Even after all this time
The sun never says to the earth,
“You owe Me.”

Look what happens with
A love like that,
It lights the Whole Sky.

Infinite blessings,
Reverend Christina



Rev. Christina Sillari wrapped herself in a beautiful, colorful patchwork quilt as she bid farewell to the Congregation Sunday, June 18. The custom quilt was handmade by Nancy Fritz.

Other goodbye gifts given to our outgoing minister included personal notes from leadership members and a decorative box to hold memories, presented by Kathy Ann Shaw.

Upcoming Services

<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday June 25, 2023 Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">“Let Us Sing Together” led by Martha Naber -- FOLLOWED BY -- UUA General Assembly Streams</p> <p>The "Let Us Sing Together" service will be a hymn sing when congregation members have an opportunity to choose the hymns they want to sing. Singing together helps bind a group together. Which hymn is your favorite? Why would you choose this one? A special thank you to our worship arts team. John Seksay will be our worship associate and Angie Blevins will manage technology. Stefanie Barley will be our pianist.</p> <p>After the Hymn Sing service, we will take a short break and then gather again from 11:00 - 12:30 to join, by livestream, the largest annual gathering of UUs at the UUA General Assembly (GA) being held in Pittsburgh PA this year.</p> <p>Service at 11:00 a.m. GA Livestream "Ever Willing: Becoming the People Our World Needs" Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti</p> <p>Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti is the Senior Minister of the First UU Congregation of Ann Arbor, MI. <u>GA Service description:</u> <i>The pandemic has created uncertainty for institutions, like our Unitarian Universalist congregations, and our wider world. Who and what are we becoming, individually and collectively? Join the service to explore these themes as we gather in community to celebrate the best of who we UUs are.</i></p> <p><u>After the GA Service ends at approximately 12:30 p.m., we will take another break.</u> You are invited to bring a "brown bag lunch" to eat with us in community. After lunch we will gather again to watch the stream of the final Closing Session of General Assembly at 2:00 p.m. We hope you can join us for some or all of the General Assembly offerings.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday July 2, 2023 Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">“A Catholic, an Evangelical Christian, and a UU Walk Into A Bar” {OR} “How Did I Wind Up Here?” Reverend Lori Anne Milner</p> <p>New member and recently ordained interfaith minister Lori Milner will share the path that led her to us.</p> <p>A special thank you to our worship arts team. Marty Peters will be our worship associate and Priscilla Jenkins will manage technology. Stefanie Barley will be our pianist.</p>

<p>Sunday July 9, 2023 Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m.</p>	<p>“Spiritual Journey” Ken Farrington</p> <p>This service was inspired by a UCC Small Group Session Plan (Spiritual Journey). Sharing a spiritual journey is a way to acknowledge the importance of connection and community. Even though it is a personal quest, we soon learn it takes the holding of hands to move forward.</p> <p>A special thank you to our worship arts team. John Seksay will be our worship associate and Angie Blevins will manage technology. Hannah Faulkner will be our pianist. YES – Hannah will be back at the piano for this service!</p>
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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/mtifpthOutvesiqgjyej>

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.

PLEASE NOTE: A change is being made that affects the accessibility of prior services.

<See details in [Notices / Updates / News] below for this important update by our Worship Arts Team.>

Special Events / Opportunities



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
PITTSBURGH • JUNE 21 - 25, 2023

**** TONIGHT ** Wednesday, June 21, from 7:30-9:00 pm**

is the Opening of General Assembly being held this year in Pittsburgh PA.

The opening offers a welcome to the GA, presents various reports and recognitions, and details how we connect at GA. Karen Allen and Helen Zidowecki will be viewing this in the church building. You are welcome to join them.

**Poetry Service being organized
for Sunday, July 23rd.**

Emily Dickinson once wrote to a friend, including the phrase '...pardon my sanity in a world insane...'
I will be organizing a poetry service that speaks to - Sanity in a World Insane - through the voices of our congregation in poetry and prose for Sunday, July 23rd.

All members of the congregation are welcomed to write a poem or a short prose paragraph that speaks to the topic. If you find a referenced quote that you like, please confirm that it is in the public domain before sending it. Please send your submissions to John Seksay at netmotel@gmail.com and I will weave as many as possible into this service.

I will be organizing the content starting July 9th, so that will be my cutoff for receiving content."



**ADVENTURES IN SEWING <UPDATE>
(a new 4-week offering at UCC)**

Adventures in Sewing was a huge success at the first session. Twelve people arrived, got settled and worked on their individual projects. Two folks started learning how to use a sewing machine. Lots of sharing of projects and conversation was seen.

The next two sessions were equally successful. The last session is being held on June 26 from 9:30am to noon. Haven't made it to a session and want to stop in? GREAT! Just give Nancy Fritz or Martha Naber a quick ring if you plan on attending – Martha at 887-1104 or 313-5859, or Nancy at 213-3047. Thanks.

An opportunity for reflection...



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

“We use flowers to help us symbolize the love that is hidden deep inside us.” ~Anonymous

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 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><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 UUCC 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>Sangha gatherings are free and open to all.</i></p>	
<p><u>Wednes-</u> <u>day</u> <u>6:00 -</u> <u>7:30 p.m.</u></p> <p>Will resume Aug. 30th</p>	<p><u>UUCC Choir Rehearsal</u></p> <p>Our last choir rehearsal was May 31 and our final performance was the Flower Communion service on June 11. We are now on a break for the summer. Rehearsals will resume Wed. Aug. 30th. Rehearsals are held every Wednesday from 6:00-7:30pm in the sanctuary</p> <p>Questions? Please reach out to Bridget Convey at: musicdirector@augustauu.org.</p> <p>All are welcome!</p>	
<p><u>Wednes-</u> <u>days</u> Each Week</p> <p><u>5:00 – 6:00</u> <u>p.m.</u></p>	<p><u>Gentle YOGA</u></p> <p>Hosted by Debbie Mattson</p> <p>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</p> <p>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 UCC Zoom room.</p> <p>FMI: please contact John Seksay (netmotel@gmail.com or 317-69-3636) or Stefanie (mstefbarley@gmail.com or 629-8890)</p>
<p>Thursdays Each Week</p> <p>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> <p>-- IN-PERSON every Thursday at the River Studio, 332 Water St. Hallowell (except the last Thursday of the month)</p> <p>--BY Private ZOOM – last Thursday of the month</p> <p 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</p> <p>In the UCC Zoom room</p> <p>9:00 – 10:30 a.m.</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>FMI: please contact Debbie at (207)557-2697 or debbiemattson@hotmail.com</p>
<p>1st Thursday</p> <p>Noon-1:30 p.m.</p> <p>Will resume Oct. 2023</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Read Learn Share Book Group</u></p> <p>The READ LEARN SHARE book group is now on break for the summer months. The group will resume Oct. 5th. We meet the first THURSDAY of each month (Oct. thru June) at noon in the UCC ZOOM ROOM and in FELLOWSHIP HALL using the OWL technology to have a hybrid meeting.</p> <p>Right now the group is choosing books for next year. For more information, contact Kathy Kellison at kell6787@gmail.com or June Zellers at jzellers@roadrunner.com</p>

<p><u>4th</u> <u>Friday</u></p> <p><u>6:30 – 8:30</u> <u>Sanctuary</u></p> <p>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><u>Saturday</u></p> <p><u>9:30–11 am</u></p> <p>Will resume Sept. 16th</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>UUCC Occasional Orchestra</u></p> <p>The UUCC Occasional Orchestra is now on break for the summer months. We will resume rehearsals on September 16th. Rehearsals are in the Sanctuary on Saturday mornings from 9:30-11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Join us this September. Come and share your musical talents with our UUCC community. All are welcome, please join us!</p> <p>Questions: please contact Dale McCormick at: dmmccormick11@aol.com.</p>
<p><u>4th</u> <u>Sunday</u></p> <p><u>1-2:30</u> <u>p.m.</u> <u>In-Person</u></p> <p>Next Meeting is July 23rd</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Goddess / Earth Circles</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Goddess/Earth Circle Gatherings for the Summer</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>June 25</u> Meeting will <u>not</u> be held in lieu of GA activities</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>July 23</u> Fellowship Hall and zoom: 1-2:30pm: Summer Connection, Celebrating Lammas, Earth-based Music. Leaders: Mary Shifman, Rachel Small</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>August 27</u> Fellowship Hall and zoom: 1-2:30pm: Summer Connection, Creating Gatherings for Fall</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

Some IMPORTANT Reminders

REMINDER: E-blasts are produced the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. Articles for inclusion are due by noon on Tuesday, the day before the E-blast is distributed. Articles received after this time may not be included in the E-blast.

Coming to the church for an activity or a Sunday service? Please park on the street only. There is **NO PARKING in the Kennebec County Sheriff's Lot** (on the other side of the Judd House). Thank you!

Notes from Worship on Boxcast and Copyright

Recently the Worship Committee has been wrestling with two related issues: copyright considerations and accessibility of our recorded services on Boxcast. After learning that we paid storage fees for recordings kept longer than 90 days, we started deleting older services. However, questions about copyright and broadcasts made us look again at how we manage our services on Boxcast.

In consultation with Rev. Christina, we decided our best course of action was to keep our broadcasts as private as possible to reduce copyright concerns, and to continue to select readings and music for worship as we have in the past. We will safeguard our privacy in two ways: we will not link our broadcast to wider public venues such as Facebook and YouTube, and we will delete each recording after a week, when a new service becomes available. Most people who view a recorded service do so within a few days, so this will probably not substantially change viewing habits. The policy will go into effect on Flower Communion Sunday, June 11th.

It's important to note that the recording of a service actually belongs to the worship leader, not to UUCC. If a worship leader asks us to remove the recording sooner, we will do so. Churches across the country have been facing these issues since the pandemic moved them to online venues, and like us, many have chosen to keep broadcasting even after returning to worship in person. We will continue to pay attention to the issues raised, and to do our best to respect the rights of the musicians and writers whose work enhances our worship.

Karen Allen, Chair, Worship Arts

Social Justice Committee

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

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

At its June 8 meeting, the Board:

- Welcomed new members Jim Caldwell and Cheryl Ring
- Voted to offer Rev. Donna Dolham the three-quarter time position as our contract minister from August 1, 2023 through July 31, 2024
- Agreed to ask our cleaning service to address the stain on the back corridor rug.
- Agreed that Michaela will compile a list of tasks for the Building and Grounds committee.
- Agreed to consider moving the date of the Board meeting from the first Thursday of the month due to book keeping concerns.
- Agreed that the treasurer will publish the total received from Share the Plate each month in the E-blast.
- Voted to appoint Helen Zidowecki as our delegate to General Assembly
- Agreed to hold the Board's annual retreat in August.
- Voted to enhance Sunday morning security: As of July 1, both exterior doors will be locked 10 minutes after worship begins. The board greeter will remain by the front door to admit latecomers.
- Agreed that worship associates will receive instruction on using the air conditioning system in the sanctuary

TO SEE COMPLETE MINUTES OF THESE MEETINGS,
VISIT THE CHURCH WEBSITE: www.augustauu.org

The next regular meeting of the Board will be AUGUST 3.

General Information

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

Other ways to UCC Zoom Room Zoom:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

UCC Pastoral Ministry Team

We are here for you. Feel free to reach out in times of need for compassionate listening, for casual conversation, to share some good news, to share your struggle or just to say hello. Please contact Martha Pelletier for any pastoral ministry concerns for the month of July, except for July 8th through 16. For that week, Peggy Lamb will be the contact person.

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.

UCC Small Group Ministry



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

UCC Office Hours & Notes

UPDATED E-blast & Office Hours

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

- E-Blast (6/21) NO E-Blast (6/28)
- E-Blast (7/5) NO E-Blast (7/12)
- E-Blast (7/19) NO E-Blast (7/26)

UCC 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 <Off for the summer>

Music Director, Bridget Convey, musicdirector@augustauu.org <Off for the summer>