

Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church
Wednesday, December 8, 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
www.augustauu.org

[Zoom](#)
[Room](#)

A Message from our Minister

*All that you touch You Change.
All that you Change, Changes you.
The only lasting truth Is Change. ~ Octavia E. Butler*

Science fiction author Octavia Butler's statement points us in the direction of growth in this ever-changing world. It's necessary for us to continue to be awake to how we engage our expressions of faith. As we ground ourselves in the familiar, we can prepare for the possibilities that lie in change. The moments are waiting to engage transformation in us and in our communities. As we develop relationships, engage curiosity, and work together for more justice, the beauty of beloved community unfolds. In this season of shorter days, longer lists and the business of preparing for winter, may we ground ourselves in the possibilities of change and community.

I hope you'll join us for the opportunities to be in community together at UUCC!

Tuesday, December 12th at 6:15pm: Quiet Refuge Service

In the season of lights, carols, and parties, all is not always merry. Many of us carry grief, stress, estrangement, financial crises, and illness. This service in mid-December offers a quiet reflective space for healing and wholeness. This vespers style service is led by Rev. Donna and the Pastoral Ministry Team.

There will be **No Morning Service on December 24th!** We hope you'll join us for our 4:30pm service.

Christmas Eve Service, Sunday, December 24 at 4:30pm

Our annual Christmas Eve Service offers people of all ages the opportunity to reflect on the spirit of the season. Join us as we explore the light of Jesus with familiar hymns in this traditional candle lit service.

Upcoming Opportunities in January

Lectio Divina Group: Tuesday Mornings beginning on January 9th on UUCC's zoom account Lectio Divina (Latin for "Divine Reading") is a traditional monastic practice of scriptural reading, meditation and prayer ... This group will offer readings from various authors and texts and will integrate reflection and sharing. This group will be facilitated by Rev. Donna Dolham and Lori Milner, from UUCC's Pastoral Care Ministry Team.

Into the New Year Retreat on Saturday, January 13th, 10:30 – 1:30pm Join us as we head into the new year for this retreat including a brief ritual, time of personal reflection and the creation of a personal vision board. Please contact Rev. Donna Dolham at minister@augustauu.org with any questions. Registration requested, one registration form per attendee: [New Year Retreat registration link](#). Lunch will be provided. There is no charge for this retreat.

Upcoming Services

<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday December 10, 2023 Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">"Finding Jesus in Portsmouth New Hampshire" Rev. Donna Dolham</p> <p>As we head into the holiday season, what do our Christian roots have to offer us and how does Unitarian Universalism today call us to resist the empire of now. Join us as we explore liberation and justice and our capacity to live into it.</p> <p>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 play piano with special music Do Not Be Daunted with Tonia Reiter. We do not yet have a volunteer for Fellowship Hour - can you help? - If so, please sign up on the sheet in Fellowship Hall. Cheryl Ring will be our greeter.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Stick around after the service for a Sharing Cafe. <See details in [Special Events/Opportunities] below.></p>
--	---

<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday December 17, 2023 Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">“Radical Love: Harm Reduction and Recovery” Social Justice Committee & Courtney Gary-Allen, Organizing Director of the Maine Recovery Advocacy Project.</p> <p>This service will help us contemplate how Harm Reduction and Recovery relate to the Principles of our Faith (1st, 2nd, 6th and 8th). The service will also include instructions on how to use naloxone.</p> <p>A special thank you to our worship arts team. Lori Milner will be our worship associate and Nan Bell will manage technology. Karen Foust will be our pianist. Our greeter will be Susan Claska Burnett.</p> <p style="background-color: yellow; text-align: center;">Join us after the service for a sit down FELLOWSHIP LUNCH <See details in [Special Events/Opportunities] below.></p> <p>SHARE THE PLATE: This month's recipient, chosen by the Social Justice Committee is Mobilize Recovery. Mobilize Recovery is an ongoing initiative to empower, skill share, and train recovery community organizers. The purpose of Mobilize Recovery is to create spaces for recovery advocates to step into their own power as organizers and take learned skills and shared expertise back to their communities.</p>
---	--

Sunday worship service is held IN-PERSON in the Sanctuary. Please be aware that the church doors will now be locked 10 minutes after the service begins. The greeter will be at the front door to let anyone in after that time.

If you want to watch the livestream of the service, please visit:

<https://boxcast.tv/channel/mtifph0utvesjggjvej>

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. Services may be viewed by Boxcast for a week after the service is live.

Special Events / Opportunities



The Poor People's Campaign is on the move.

On March 2, 2024, the Campaign will hold statehouse assemblies in state capitals all across America. Here in Maine we will gather in Augusta with people from dozens of Maine organizations and communities that share our goal of justice for all, and together we will present to the legislature and the governor our policy demands for addressing poverty, racism, environmental devastation, our broken healthcare system, and other related injustices.

addressing poverty, racism, environmental devastation, our broken healthcare system, and other related injustices.

We hope many of you will stand with us on March 2nd. We'll be sending you lots more information about the Maine assembly as we get closer to it. But we also want to invite you to join us in planning this assembly, and right now we want to alert you to an extraordinary opportunity. **On Saturday, December 9th, from 1 to 4 PM <NOTE: Time Change to 2 to 5 pm>Bishop William Barber, national co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign, will be in Augusta to train us on organizing strategies for our assembly.** Most of you know what an amazing orator he is; he is also a terrific teacher. Every state PPC is getting this training; very few will have Bishop Barber as their trainer.

We are opening up this training to any supporter of the Poor People's Campaign willing to help us organize our statehouse assembly to make it the powerful, inspiring event we know it can be. **If you're interested in the December 9th training with Bishop Barber, RSVP!**

And one more thing, if you are involved in other organizations that you see as natural allies of the campaign, please tell them about us and the Maine statehouse assembly. Let us know about them too. Send us the organization name and contact information, and tell us if you've already talked with them about the Poor People's Campaign. We would love to reach out and get them involved, working with us in planning and conducting the assembly.

Can you join me? Click here for details and to RSVP: <https://actionnetwork.org/events/training-planning-for-march-2nd-capital-event?source=email&>

This December 9th event is scheduled to be held at UUCC!

SHARING CAFÉ RETURN!

UUCC'S WORK WITH THE UNHOUSED
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10th
11:30 to 12:30

After feeling the need to postpone the October Sharing Café, the Congregational Engagement Team is happy to present our next Sharing Café in December with a discussion about the congregation's work, in collaboration with other houses of worship, with Augusta's unhoused community. We will gather in small groups on Sunday, December 10th, immediately following our coffee fellowship, to consider the impact of this program on our congregation.

We are so looking forward to seeing you and to this opportunity to share.

“A QUIET REFUGE”, Tuesday, December 12th at 6:15pm:

In the season of lights, carols, and parties, all is not always merry. Many of us carry grief, stress, estrangement, financial crises, and illness. This service in mid-December offers a quiet reflective space for healing and wholeness. This vespers style service is led by Rev. Donna and the Pastoral Ministry Team.

Fellowship Lunch – Sunday December 17, 2023

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

The third Sunday of each month (Oct thru May) is Fellowship Lunch Sunday which replaces coffee hour. This event will be open to all service attendees. This is quite posh and definitely not a potluck. Attendees are encouraged to enjoy community at a restaurant style sit-down meal.

We generally have a "base" kitchen crew but need a few extra volunteers at each luncheon to help set up and serve. Kitchen crew and setup *Extras* will have to watch a stream of the service from Fellowship Hall while working. If you want to attend the service but can volunteer as a server that is fine too. If you are willing to sign up as an *Extra*, please email Marilyn Dunn (maine2007@hotmail.com) or call (207) 512-5382.

Please contact Marilyn Dunn if you can donate a quiche for this December luncheon.

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> <u>Each week</u></p> <p><u>6:30 – 8:00</u> <u>p.m.</u></p> <p><u>Private</u> <u>Zoom</u></p>	<p><u>Peaceful Heart Sangha</u></p> <p>BY Private ZOOM –EVERY Monday. You may join us at 6:15 to settle in.</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>2nd & 4th</u> <u>Monday</u></p> <p><u>9:30 – Noon</u></p>	<p><u>Sewing Group</u></p>	

**Next Meeting
is Dec 11th**

**We will not
meet on
Christmas
Day.**

Sewing Group meets in the Fellowship Hall the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month from 9:30 am - 12:00 Noon. We ask that attendees help set up and put away tables and chairs.

Just bring whatever you'd like to work on, either machine or hand sewing, and we will all help one another as needed. Be sure to let us know if there is anything you need from one of us... we are likely to have whatever it is!

Martha at 887-1104 or 313-5859, or Nancy at 213-3047.

All are welcome. Bring a friend, if you like.



**Wednes-
day
6:00-
7:30 p.m.**

UUCC Choir Rehearsal

**The choir is on break until Wednesday 1/3/24, rehearsals will resume at 6pm that evening.
Happy holidays and take care!**

Choir rehearsals are held every Wednesday from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Questions? Please reach out to Bridget Convey at: musicdirector@augustauu.org.

All are welcome!

**Wednes-
days
Each Week
5:00 – 6:00
p.m.**

Gentle YOGA

Hosted by Debbie Mattson



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

Please join us a few minutes before 5:00 to settle in so we can begin class right at 5:00 p.m.

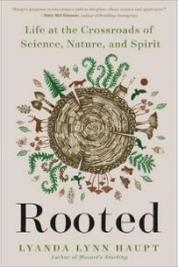
FMI: DebbieMattson@hotmail.com

**2nd & 4th
Wednesday
10:30 a.m. -
Noon
2nd Wed. – C-FH
4th Wed. - Zoom**

Seasoned Souls

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 UUCC Zoom room.

FMI: please contact John Seksay (netmotel@gmail.com or 317-69-3636) or Stefanie (mstefbarley@gmail.com or 629-8890)

<p>Thursdays Each Week</p> <p>8:00 – 9:30 <u>a.m.</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Peaceful Heart Sangha</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">You may join us at 7:45 a.m. to settle in. Meet from 8-9:30</p> <p>-- IN-PERSON every Thursday at the River Studio, 332 Water St. Hallowell (except the last Thursday of the month) --BY Private ZOOM – last Thursday of the month</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please contact Marty Soule for updated login information at martysoule@gmail.com. FMI: peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>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 <u>a.m.</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Writing to Wake the Soul</u></p> <p>PLEASE NOTE: Our next session will be December 14th. Elise will facilitate. (Topic TBD) Our session will start earlier at 8:30 and wrap up between 9:30-9:45.</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. 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</p> <p>Noon-1:30 <u>p.m.</u></p> <p>Next Meeting is Jan 4th</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Read Learn Share Book Group</u></p> <p>READ LEARN SHARE is a group for booklovers. Once a month between October and June we meet to discuss a book chosen by the group in our summer ballot. Our multiplatform meetings occur on the first Thursday of the month from noon until 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall and in the church zoom room. Anyone is welcome to join for one discussion or all nine.</p>  <p>On JANUARY 4 we will be discussing <u>Rooted: Life at the Crossroads of Science, Nature and Spirit</u> by Lyanda Lynn Haupt.</p> <p>Deepen your connection to the natural world with this inspiring meditation, "a path to the place where science and spirit meet" (Robin Wall Kimmerer).</p> <p>Our book for February 1 is <u>My Antonia</u> by Willa Cather</p> <p>For more information or to receive email related to the group, contact June Zellers: jzellers@roadrunner.com jzellers@roadrunner.com or Kathy Kellison: kell6787@gmail.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 Dec. 22nd</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! <u>ALL are welcome.</u> 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>1st and 3rd</u> <u>Saturday</u></p> <p>9:30–11 am</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>UUC Occasional Orchestra</u></p> <p>The UUC Occasional Orchestra rehearsals are usually held the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month. We practice in the Sanctuary from 9:30-11:00 a.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Come and share your musical talents with our UUC 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>Regular time is 1-2:30 p.m.</u> <u>In-Person</u></p> <p>Next Meeting is Dec. 31</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Goddess / Earth Circles</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">December 31st - 1:00 – 2:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall and Zoom</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Goddess / Earth Circles: Yule, Solstice and the Turning of the Year December 31st, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Join us for Celebration, Reflection, Retrospection with Food, Symbolism and Tarot Cards that bring richness and depth as we approach the New Year.</p> <p>Goddess/Earth Circles focuses on Goddess and women’s lives, pagan and earth-based spirituality and practices, earth celebrations and cycles, the role of women today. Includes Women of Wisdom celebration. All ages and genders are welcome.</p> <p>For more information, contact Helen Z at hzmre@hzmre.com or 207-582-5308.</p>

Notices / Updates / News

Update on November Share the Plate...

A Triple Header...

The two individuals in need of beds (a woman who had previously been living in her car and was finally able to rent a room, but it did not have any furniture and the disabled gentleman who had all of his furnishings discarded because of a bed bug infestation in a building where he had just secured an apartment) are now both sleeping comfortably in new beds. And... thanks to your generosity my friends, a third individual, a disabled gentleman who had been trying to rest in a broken recliner, also has a new bed that allows him a much more peaceful sleep.

With much gratitude,
Susan Shaw on behalf of these individuals and the Poverty Action Coalition

There will be No Morning Service on December 24th!
We hope you'll join us for our 4:30pm service.

Christmas Eve Service, Sunday, December 24 at 4:30pm

Our annual Christmas Eve Service offers people of all ages the opportunity to reflect on the spirit of the season. Join us as we explore the light of Jesus with familiar hymns in this traditional candle lit service.



Our Annual Pie Sale on Saturday, Nov. 18th at Longfellow's Greenhouse was a great success – we had 36 pies and raised \$623 for the church budget. Thank you to all the pie makers, the packing and pricing crew, and our sellers.

Priscilla Aston has moved to Heritage Rehabilitation and Living Center.
She would appreciate cards and calls: 457 Old Lewiston Road, Winthrop 04364, Phone (207)520-0110.

Social Justice Updates

Ridgely Fuller from the Belfast UU Church is helping communities organize *“The Third Act.”* It is a Bill McKibben climate change organization for folks over 65 who want to use the third act of their lives working on retaining a livable planet by stopping future fossil fuel exploration and development. She will lend her expertise in helping us organize. If anyone is interested in taking a leadership role with this, please contact Debbie Mattson (debbiemattson@hotmail.com) and she will introduce you to Ridgely.

Breakfast Update: The church is entering its 11th month in hosting and providing weekly breakfasts to our un-housed neighbors. The number of guests have steadily increased to an average of 40 per week. We also offer sandwiches to go. This past week we had contributions from church members of warm outer wear to distribute. Other weeks we have had contributions of tents, sleeping bags, and venison sausage. The relationships between volunteers and guests continue to deepen. We have been asked 4 times to provide impromptu memorial services for their companions. We have been asked to help with birthday celebrations—for adults and once for a one-year-old. Appreciation for our church is expressed each week. You can read some of the written ones on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. One guest was reading the Wayside Pulpit and turned around to a church member to say: “This is really inspirational.”

Green Street United Community Living Center: A Sanctuary For All Tuesday evening, we attended the open house at the Green Street Methodist Church in Augusta. The open house was put on to introduce community members to this very exciting project: a shelter and supported housing to provide low barrier shelter beds for up to 40 guests and up to 16 affordable, supported housing units. The spacious facility is beautiful, with up to date utilities, kitchen, sprinkler system, and an elevator. The core group has done good background work and planning - now the goal of funding the purchase of the building is the primary focus.

For more information, contact them at uclc2023@outlook.com. They welcome checks, cash or pledges. At this time, UUCC is acting as their fiscal agent, you can send a donation by check to UUCC, PO Los 8, Augusta ME, 04330. Be sure to put United Community Living Center or UCLC in the memo line.

Board of Trustees

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

At its November meeting the Board:

- Discussed the overage in the Building Maintenance Budget and referred the issue to the Finance Committee
- Discussed funding safety upgrades pending reimbursement from our grant
- Announced that Michael Atkinson will serve as Director of our orchestra
- Discussed rolling out our new database

- Approved the proposed by-law revisions and scheduled a congregational vote on them at the June Annual Meeting
- Approved a form for Incident Reports
- Discussed the security package from Seacoast Security which will be paid for by the safety grant
- Heard that Rev. Paul Langston-Daly will return on the first Sunday in February lead worship and conduct a workshop on Covenant
- Discussed concerns about people wearing fragrance in our buildings

Board meetings are open to ALL. If you have an item that you would like the Board to consider, please contact Michaelatloisel@gmail.com **Next Board meeting: Thursday, December 14, 2023**

General Information

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

Other ways to UCC Zoom Room Zoom:

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

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

- 3. Join by phone:** dial 1 646 558 8656 (**NOTE:** toll charge may apply)
 At first prompt (meeting id: 823 807 0673#)

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

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

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

UCC Pastoral Ministry Team

We are here for you. Feel free to reach out in times of need for compassionate listening, for casual conversation, to share some good news, to share your struggle or just to say hello.

Martha Pelletier, Chair	207-685-9592 (h)	Mjpell14@roadrunner.com
Helen Zidowecki	207-582-5308 (h)	hzmre@hzmre.com
Peggy Lamb	207 622-5174 (h)	plambflowers@outlook.com
Lori Milner	520-437-3442 (c)	lmilner3@gmail.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 Linda Findlay (207-377-8028, linda.findlay@gmail.com) or Helen Zidowecki (207-582-5308, hzmre@hzmre.com)

The UUCC Website

ACCESSING THE UUCC WEBSITE	<u>UPDATES</u>
<p>The Website has two primary functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">--Inviting people who are searching for information about Unitarian Universalism and/or a connection to come and see what we have to offer.---Providing a communication network and prominent resource for people who are already involved with UUCC. <p>-Go to www.augustauu.org</p> <p>-<i>Sections</i> are in bold capital letters at the top. Click on a section.</p> <p>-Left side of page has a menu. Click on an <i>item</i>. If there is > next to the title on the left, click for more options.</p> <p>Send comments, updates and suggestions to website@augustauu.org.</p>	<p>Home Page:</p> <p>Directions and Parking. Parking in the lot at 61 Winthrop Street, across from church on Summer Street is no longer available to UUCC at any time.</p> <p>Minister/Staff/Church Life:</p> <p>Nonviolent Communication was removed as a section. It can be returned if it becomes active.</p> <p>Library was added as a new section.</p>

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 (12/6) Released Fri. 12/8 off sch)
- NO E-Blast (12/13)
- E-blast (12/20)
- NO E-Blast (12/27)

EBLAST SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Articles 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.

UCC Office Hours NEXT WEEK

Church Administrator - Open office hours:

Tues, Wed and Thurs – 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Rev. Donna Dolham

Minister's study – (207) 623-3663

Pastoral Emergencies only – (207) 701-1581

Email: minister@augustauu.org

Visit [Calendly Scheduling Link](#) to schedule an appointment with Rev. Dolham.

Staff Contact information: Church Administrator, Lynn M. Smith, admin@augustauu.org, Phone 622-3232
Music Director, Bridget Convey, musicdirector@augustauu.org