

Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church
Wednesday, December 20, 2023

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69 Winthrop St., Augusta ME
(207)622-3232 – info@augustauu.org
www.augustauu.org

A Message from our Minister

Winter Solstice By [Rebecca Parker](#)

Perhaps
for a moment
the typewriters will stop clicking,
the wheels stop rolling
the computers desist from computing,
and a hush will fall over the city.
For an instant, in the stillness,
the chiming of the celestial spheres will be heard
as earth hangs poised
in the crystalline darkness,
and then gracefully tilts.
Let there be a season
when holiness is heard,
and the splendor of living is revealed.
Stunned to stillness by beauty
we remember who we are and why we are here.

There are inexplicable mysteries.
We are not alone.
In the universe there moves a Wild One
whose gestures alter earth's axis
toward love.
In the immense darkness
everything spins with joy.
The cosmos enfolds us.
We are caught in a web of stars,
cradled in a swaying embrace,
rocked by the holy night,
babes of the universe.
Let this be the time
we wake to life,
like spring wakes, in the moment
of winter solstice.

The earth hangs in the crystalline darkness, and then gracefully tilts. Let there be a season when holiness is heard. May the love of community, quiet times of reflection and moments of surprising joy invite you into the holiness of life. The season brings wonder and challenge.

Augusta and surrounding area neighbors have lost power, experienced flooding, and unexpected loss. This holiday season, this community has the capacity to hold all we bring to it. The calendar is filled with opportunities to be together both in person and on Boxcast. UUCC is deeply rooted in hope and living its faith in the world. I hope you will join in community and find comfort and joy in our time together.

I am delighted and joyful with the invitation to candidate for UUCC's settled ministry. I indeed have fallen in love with the community, it's vibrant life, commitment toward health and opportunities for outreach and growth. There will be opportunities in the coming weeks to continue to get to know each other and engage in the life of UUCC!

Light and Love,
Rev. Donna

Upcoming Events:

Please join the Maine Gun Safety Coalition on January 3rd at the State House, Hall of Flags. Recommended arrival time, 9am.
[Registration Link.](#)



ALSO ... see in Upcoming / Special Events below:

Lectio Divina -- Tuesday's Beginning January 9th, 2024 at 10:30am on zoom

Into the New Year Retreat -- Saturday, January 13th, 2024, 10:30 to 1:30

Please join us on Saturday, January 13th, 10:30 to 1:30 at UUCC. As we head into the new year, this retreat will offer an opportunity for spiritual grounding and setting annual intentions. We will begin with a spiritual grounding and ritual before the invitation to create your own vision board for the year. The day will include a free light lunch and supplies. This workshop will be facilitated by Rev. Donna Dolham. **This event is open to the Augusta Community**, registration is required. [Registration Link](#)

Upcoming Services

<p>Sunday December 24, 2023</p> <p><u>No Morning Service</u> <u>Please join us at 4:30 p.m.</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">There will be <u>No Morning Service on December 24th!</u> We hope you'll join us for UUCC's annual Christmas Eve service at 4:30pm.</p> <p><u>Christmas Eve Service, Sunday, December 24 at 4:30pm</u> Our annual Christmas Eve Service offers people of all ages the opportunity to reflect on the spirit of the season. This special service will include the UUCC Occasional Orchestra, familiar and special music and readings as well as a candle lighting with Silent Night. We hope you'll join us!</p> <p>A special thank you to our worship arts team. Nan Bell will be our worship associate and Marty Peters will manage technology. The UUCC Orchestra along with Karen Foust will present special music. No fellowship hour will be held after the service. Our greeter will be Jim Caldwell.</p> <p><u>SHARE THE PLATE:</u> Special Christmas Eve collection to benefit the <u>United Community Living Center: Low Barrier Shelter & Supported Housing Program.</u> <See more information under Social Justice Updates below>.</p>
<p>Sunday December 31, 2023 Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">“Seeds for the New Year”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A service from the UUA's WorshipWeb and UUA President, Rev. Sofia Betancourt, with Kathy Kellison and Karen Allen</p> <p>What seeds are you planting for the new year? How are you weaving your magic into your relationships with others? How can we center beauty and goodness and love in all that's ahead? Join us for a multi-media worship service using materials offered by WorshipWeb and Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Kathy Kellison and Karen Allen from the Worship Committee will be our in-person worship leaders.</p> <p>A special thank you to our worship arts team. Kathy Kellison will be our worship associate and John Seksay will manage technology. Stefanie Barley will be our pianist. A Fellowship hour volunteer is still needed. Can you help? Our greeter will be Susan Claska Burnett.</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/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. Services may be viewed by Boxcast for a week after the service is live.

Special Events / Opportunities

Upcoming Opportunities in January



Committee on Committees Meeting Sunday, January 7th at 11:30. Light snack offered. If you are a chair, co-chair or lead of one of UUCC's committees or teams, and you've not been contacted yet by Susan Claska Burnett, please reach out to her. Looking forward to being together!

Lectio Divina Meditation ~ Beginning January 9th, 2024



Come join us for UUCC's
Reflective Meditation Group
Every Tuesday at 10:30 am on zoom
UUCC's Zoom link can be found in every eblast.

UUCC will offer a Tuesday, reflection meditation group. The group invites you to join divine reading and lived experience through a practice called Lectio Divina.

Lectio Divina originated as a monastic practice of scripture reading, meditation, prayer and action. The group utilizes various authors and scripture as our written word for reflection. Please feel free to join as you can.

All are welcome.



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.

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>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>We will not meet on Christmas Day.</p> <p>Next Meeting is Jan 8th</p>	<p><u>Sewing Group</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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!</p> <p>Martha at 887-1104 or 313-5859, or Nancy at 213-3047.</p> <p>All are welcome. Bring a friend, if you like.</p>	
<p><u>Tuesday</u></p> <p><u>10:30 a.m.</u></p> <p><u>UCC</u> <u>Zoom</u></p> <p><u>Begins 1/9</u></p>	<p><u>Lectio Divina</u></p> <p>Lectio Divina will be a weekly group facilitated by the Rev. Donna Dolham and Lori Milner, Pastoral Ministry Associate. The group will be held on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 on the UCC zoom account <u>beginning on January 9th, 2024.</u></p> <p>The group invites you to join divine reading and lived experience through a practice called Lectio Divina. Lectio Divina originated as a monastic practice of scripture reading, meditation, prayer and action. The group utilizes various authors and scripture as our written word for reflection. Please feel free to join as you can. All are welcome.</p>	

**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
1:00-2:30pm**

2nd Wed. – C-FH
4th Wed. – Zoom

Seasoned Souls

Please Note the TIME CHANGE for this group – Beginning 12/27/23.

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).

**Thursdays
Each Week
8:00 – 9:30
a.m.**

Peaceful Heart Sangha

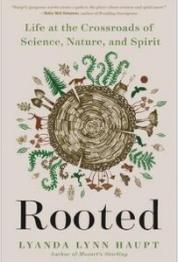
You may join us at 7:45 a.m. to settle in. Meet from 8-9:30



-- 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

Please contact Marty Soule for updated login information at
martysoule@gmail.com. FMI: peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com

Sangha gatherings are free and open to all.

<p>2nd & 4th Thursday <u>In the</u> <u>UCC</u> <u>Zoom room</u></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. 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 p.m.</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> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;">  <div> <p>On JANUARY 4 we will be discussing <u>Routed: 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> </div> </div>
<p>4th Friday</p> <p>6:30 – 8:30 Sanctuary</p> <p>Next Meeting is Jan. 26th</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>1st and 3rd Saturday</p> <p>9:30–11 am</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>UCC Occasional Orchestra</u></p> <p>The UCC 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 UCC community. All are welcome, please join us!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Questions: please contact Dale McCormick at: dmmccormick11@aol.com.</p>

4th Sunday	<h2 style="margin: 0;"><u>Goddess / Earth Circles</u></h2> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">December 31st - 1:00 – 2:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall and Zoom</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">Goddess / Earth Circles: Yule, Solstice and the Turning of the Year Join us for Celebration, Reflection, Retrospection with Food, Symbolism and Tarot cards that bring richness and depth as we approach the New Year. Bring your own cards and cards will also be available there. We will have two groups: those new to Tarot cards and those with some experience. Rachel Small and Anne Thompson will facilitate.</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">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 style="margin: 5px 0;">For more information, contact Helen Z at hzmre@hzmre.com or 207-582-5308.</p>
<p style="margin: 5px 0;"><u>Regular time is 1- 2:30 p.m. In-Person</u></p> <p style="margin: 5px 0; color: red;">Next Meeting is Dec. 31</p>	

Notices / Updates / News

RESULTS of the December 10th SHARING CAFÉ (UCC’s work with the unhoused)

Thank you to everyone who participated in our December 10th Sharing Café. We had wonderful conversations and thoughts. We have grouped your responses into categories. All recorded responses are included. We hope you find these thoughts as illuminating as we did as they were being presented.

You can review this amazing collection of reflections and wisdom via this link: [Dec. 10 Sharing Café Link](#).

Annual appeal!

You should have received an annual appeal letter in the mail. As you consider your end of year contributions to the many important causes out there, please consider UCC. A critical piece of our Annual Budget, approved in June, was \$13,000 from the Annual Appeal. To help us reach that goal, for the fifth consecutive year, a member of our beloved congregation has offered *a \$6,000 Annual Appeal matching gift, if we can raise the first \$6,000.*



Several contributions have already been made. Some are in memory of:

Denise Belanger	Nelson Ingalls	Martin Spahn
Mildred Stengel	Krista Zidowecki	

Your generosity makes possible outreach to the wider Augusta community, stewardship of our three campus buildings, fair wages to our employees and the ongoing presence of Unitarian Universalist values. We appreciate your support of the Unitarian Universalist Community Church in Augusta. If you have questions reach out to: Terry Cairn (207-557-2557) (tlcnaturalhealth@yahoo.com) or Betty Cairn (207-215-6394) (stonehenge-maine@yahoo.com).

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

Social Justice Updates

SAVE THE DATE:
Wednesday January 3, 2024.

Please mark your calendars for a [Gun Safety Day of Action](#), when Mainers from across the state will descend on the State House in Augusta to demand that our legislators pass strong gun safety legislation this year.

This legislature has resisted passing common sense bills like background checks, red flag law, assault weapons ban, and 72 hour waiting periods before now. But after the massacre in Lewiston, it's time for our legislators to hear from the vast majority of Mainers, who WANT these bills. Showing up in LARGE numbers that display the breadth and diversity of voices on our side will be vital to passing these bills, and YOUR presence is requested!

Save the date now, and talk 5-10 of your friends into coming, too. Maine can't wait for another mass shooting to happen before we pass gun safety bills that are vital to public health. The time is now!

Please let us know that YOU can come on January 3 by signing up [HERE](#).

**MAKE A BAG
SAVE A LIFE**

night

**The bag
you make
could
save a
life!**

January, 11th 2024
4pm-7pm
59 Bangor St. Augusta, Me
04330

Bring your friends, co-workers
or family to join the event!

Pizza and refreshments will be
provided. Along with music and good
connections! Volunteers will be
helping to prep canvassing bags that
will be used for door to door
canvassing in the summer of 2024.

MOBILIZE RECOVERY

Board of Trustees

Agenda

Thursday, December 14, 2023
5:00 to 7:00 pm
in-person



Present:

[Board Covenant](#)
Chalice Lighting:
Check-in:

Board Members (Read)
Rev. Donna
Michaela

New Business

1. Approve [11/9/2023 - Minutes](#) VOTE
2. [Finance Committee's Report](#): Harry
 - i. Updates on options for increasing the building maintenance budget
 - ii. Update on process for expenditures on safety upgrades
3. [Treasurer's Report](#) Nancy
4. [President's Report](#) Michaela
 - a. [Request for free use of office space in Judd House](#)
 - b. Leadership development (Nominating Team) update
 - c. [Donation of Drums](#)
5. Minister's Report Rev. Dolham
 - a. Housing allowance vote for time period January 2024 - July 30, 2024.
6. Executive Session

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, January 11, 2024.**

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.

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
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

<u>ACCESSING THE UUCC WEBSITE</u>	<u>UPDATES</u>
<p>The Website has two primary functions: --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> <p>-Go to www.augustauu.org -<i>Sections</i> are in bold capital letters at the top. Click on a section. -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: 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: Nonviolent Communication was removed as a section. It can be returned if it becomes active. 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 (12/20)
- NO E-Blast (12/27) – Office closed for Holidays
- E-blast (1/3)
- NO E-Blast (1/10)

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.

The office will be closed between Christmas and New Year's Day due to the holidays. The office will reopen on Tues. Jan 2nd.

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