

Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church
Wednesday, January 3, 2024

In this Issue:

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

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



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

A Message from our Minister

Gathering in memory, hope and love...

Arthur Bannard, whose son Arthur Strout died in the mass shooting on October 25th, made his way to the microphone to share his hope born of this community tragedy. Hundreds gathered this morning at the State House, Hall of Flags in support of gun safety legislation. Shoulder to shoulder, present to give voice to the call for legislation that supports the safety of all people. Heads bowed in prayer, hands holding signs in hope and voices raised in demand.

Two hours later, the line continued to fill the walkway toward security, people waiting to engage in the democratic process. UUCC members and friends, UU's from around Maine and people and clergy representing many different faith traditions and none at all, present to speak to those creating and eventually voting on gun safety. Together we make a difference...

Today's events follow a time of great gratitude for the opportunity to serve UUCC as your 3/4th time contract minister and to be put forward as your candidate for called settled ministry. My heart is full of gratitude for the opportunity to do the work of our Unitarian Universalist faith with you, building a shared ministry that tends to its members and friends while also engaging in the work we are called to do in the larger community.

When I began ministry with you last August, I did not imagine that I would have this opportunity to be UUCC's candidate. I did not imagine that UUCC's ministry and community would open my heart in so many ways that delight and move me. Thank you for all you do and for all you are. We will have more opportunities to get to know each other and if you'd like to connect with me 1:1, please don't hesitate to reach out by email at minister@augustauu.org.

Love and light,
Rev. Donna, she, her

See the below events 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 style="text-align: center;">Sunday January 7, 2024</p> <p>Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">“Where Do We Find Ourselves?” Reverend Donna Dolham</p> <p>In the story of now, how do we find ourselves as a Unitarian Universalist community, engaging in love, seeking justice in times of uncertainty? How will we draw on the strength of our history?</p> <p>A special thank you to our worship arts team. Sara Hodgkins will be our worship associate and Marty Peters will manage technology. Karen Foust will be our pianist. Fellowship Hour will be hosted by Hilary Neckles and George LaPointe. Our greeter will be Jim Caldwell.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday January 14, 2024</p> <p>Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">“Long Haul Work” Reverend Donna Dolham</p> <p>What does it take to live our Unitarian Universalist faith in the long haul? Please join us as we consider how to do this together.</p> <p>A special thank you to our worship arts team. Marty Peters will be our worship associate and John Seksay will manage technology. Our choir will return after its holiday break to present Hymn #1020 <i>Woyaya</i> by Ysaye M. Barnwell; accompanied by Morgan Lee on piano. A Fellowship hour volunteer is still needed. Can you help? If so, please sign up on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Our greeter will be Nancy Fritz.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Join us after the service for a <i>Sharing Café</i>. <<See Special Events / Opportunities below for more info >>.</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/mtifpth0utvesjqgjej>

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



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 UCC'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 UCC's
Reflective Meditation Group
Every Tuesday at 10:30 am on zoom
UCC's Zoom link can be found in every eblast.**

UCC 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.

SAVE THE DATE

February 4th

Workshop with Rev. Paul Lanston-Daley

The Rev. Paul Langston-Daley will share our pulpit with Rev. Donna Dolham on Sunday, February 4th. Following coffee fellowship he will conduct a two-hour workshop, as a follow-up to our work on our new Covenant.



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.

JOIN US FOR SOMETHING NEW AT THE NEXT SHARING CAFE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14th - 11:15 to 12:30

We will consider two questions based on the sermon from the morning’s Worship Service. As usual, we will gather in small groups at 11:30 immediately following our coffee fellowship.

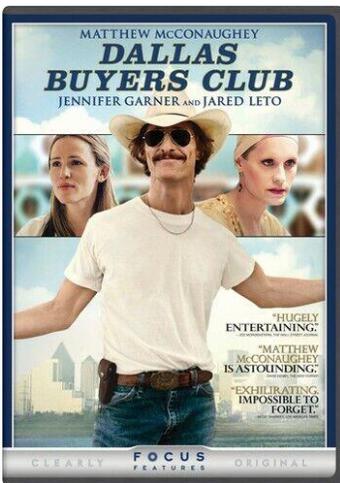
We are so looking forward to seeing you there and to this opportunity for sharing.

The Congregational Engagement Team

Social Activities

POPCORN AND A MOVIE

Friday, January 19th at 5:30 pm



Join us for DALLAS BUYERS CLUB with a great cast, starring Mathew McConaughey, Jennifer Garner and Jared Leto. The film tells the story of Ron Woodroof (Matthew McConaughey), a cowboy diagnosed with AIDS in the mid-1980s, a time when both the etiology and the treatment of HIV/AIDS are poorly understood and its sufferers subject to stigmatization. As part of an ongoing experimental AIDS treatment movement.

~ Wikipedia

**Socialize a bit at 5:30 – Movie starts at 6:00 p.m.
Bring a snack to share if you wish.**

--FMI: contact Cheryl C.

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.

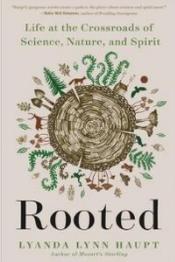
[Click here to join Events in the Zoom Room:](#)

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 style="text-align: center;"><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><u>Sangha gatherings are free and open to all.</u></i></p>	
<p><u>2nd & 4th</u> <u>Monday</u></p> <p><u>9:30 – Noon</u></p> <p>Next Meeting is Jan 8th</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Sewing/Craft/Hobby Group</u></p> <p>Sewing/Craft/Hobby 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, machine or hand sewing, craft or hobby item you are working on, 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. All are welcome. Bring a friend, if you like.</p>	
<p><u>Tuesday</u> <u>10:30 a.m.</u></p> <p><u>UCC</u> <u>Zoom</u></p> <p><u>Begins 1/9</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><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>	

<p>Wednes- day 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>UUC</u>C Choir Rehearsal</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The choir is back from its holiday break!! Rehearsals resume tonight, Wed. 1/3!</p> <p>Choir rehearsals are held every Wednesday from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.</p> <p>Questions? Please reach out to Bridget Convey at: musicdirector@augustauu.org.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">All are welcome!</p>
<p>Wednes- days Each Week 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Gentle</u> YOGA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hosted by Debbie Mattson</p> <div style="text-align: right;"></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 1:00-2:30pm</p> <p>2nd Wed. – C-FH 4th Wed. – Zoom</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Seasoned</u> Souls</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please note the TIME CHANGE for this group effective 12/27/23.</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 UUC Zoom room.</p> <p>FMI: please contact John Seksay (netmotel@gmail.com or 317-69-3636).</p>
<p>Thursdays Each Week 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Peaceful</u> Heart Sangha</p> <p style="text-align: center;">You may join us at 7:45 a.m. to settle in. Meet from 8-9:30</p> <div style="text-align: right;"></div> <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 <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! Questions: please contact Dale McCormick at: dmmccormick11@aol.com.</p>

4th Sunday	<h2 style="margin: 0;"><u>Goddess / Earth Circles</u></h2> <p>January 28th - 1:00 – 2:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall and Zoom</p> <p>Celebration: Imbolc (Awakening) Nine Noble Virtues for the New Year, from Norse Paganism Harmony of the natural world and in the life of individuals.</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>
<p><u>Regular time is 1-2:30 p.m.</u> <u>In-Person</u></p> <p style="color: red; text-align: center;">Next Meeting is Jan. 28th</p>	

Notices / Updates / News

<Reprint> RESULTS of the December 10th SHARING CAFÉ (UUCC’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 UUCC. 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.*

Twenty-nine contributions have already been made – total amount to date is \$10,189.84.



Some are in memory of:

Denise Belanger	Nelson Ingalls	Martin Spahn (several)
Mildred Stengel	Krista Zidowecki	Everyone who died nobly

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).

Social Justice Updates

**MAKE A BAG
SAVE A LIFE**

night

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

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

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

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**

Gun Safety Press Conference at Maine State House,
Hall of Flags, Augusta

January 3, 2024



Photographer: Brianna Soukup

People from all over Maine
showing up for gun safety!
Unitarian Universalists among
those advocating for gun safety
legislation.

Board of Trustees

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.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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)	pellsav64@gmail.com <NEW EMAIL 12/31/23>
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

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.

-Go to www.augustauu.org

-*Sections* are in bold capital letters at the top. Click on a section.

-Left side of page has a menu. Click on an *item*. If there is > next to the title on the left, click for more options.

Send comments, updates and suggestions to website@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 (1/3)
- NO E-Blast (1/10)
- E-Blast (1/17)
- NO E-Blast (1/24 or 1/31)

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.

UUCC 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