

Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church

Wednesday, November 25, 2020

Sunday Services for November 29th and December 6th

Worship Themes: November – HEALING
December – STILLNESS

THIS Sunday 11/29



“The Words of My Mouth” by visiting minister, Rev. Lane Fisher with John Seksay as the Worship Associates and Karen Foust as the pianist.

In these fractious times, how can we speak our truths in love? Come, let us reflect on this question together and continue this month's exploration of healing.

Bio: Rev. Fisher is a newly ordained UU minister entering her third career. A 25-year member of the UU Church of Belfast, she continues to live there while serving Peterborough (NH) UU Church as sabbatical minister this fall.

NEXT Sunday 12/6

“Music Sunday” with Rev. Carie Johnsen and Susan Burnett as the Worship Associate.

<More information to come...>

Sunday services and all other events (unless noted) are held in the
UCC ZOOM ROOM ← ← click this **UPDATED LINK** to join

Other ways to join 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.**

Virtual Connections

Upcoming:

Sunday, November 29, **Goddess/Earth Circles.** 1-2:30pm by Church Zoom

Join us for “Toward Winter Solstice”. The darkness of this year is different from other years. Explore how we walk with Mother Darkness in these next few weeks. Bring/share readings, songs, activities that sustain your spirits. This sharing will become part of planning for “Winter Solstice Arrival” on morning service, December 27. For more information or if you are not able to join us, please send items to Helen Zidowecki (hzmre@hzmre.com, 582-5308) by Saturday noon for inclusion.)

Tuesday, December 1, **Social Justice Committee Event**

Please join the Social Justice Committee to set the UUCC social justice agenda for the year. Come with ideas or come to listen. Join in any capacity that suits you.

The meeting will be December 1, 6:30-7:30. The zoom link is:

<https://maine.zoom.us/j/87647113157?pwd=ZUtuanA4UjltalE4ZFkrdEQvaEM3Zz09> and passcode is 650942.

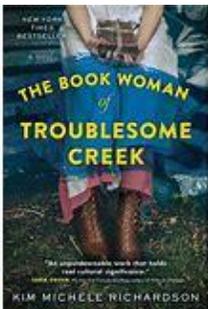
If you are interested but are unable to attend, please email your ideas and thoughts to co-chairs

debbiemattson@hotmail.com or michaelatloisel@gmail.com



Thursday, December 3, **Read. learn Share**

Join READ LEARN SHARE on December 3 from 1:00 until 2:30 in the UUCC Zoom Room to explore this book with our group. Anyone who is interested is welcome. For more information contact June Zellers at jzellers@roadrunner.com or Kathy Kellison at kell6787@gmail.com. See the quarterly newsletter to find out what else we are reading this year and plan to join us if a particular title interests you.



Inspired by the true and historical blue-skinned people of Kentucky and the brave and dedicated Kentucky Pack Horse library service, The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek showcases a bold and unique tale of the Packhorse Librarians in literary novels – a story of fierce strength and one woman's belief that books can carry us anywhere - even back home. ~Goodreads

Weekly Events

Monday

Each week

2:00 – 3:30

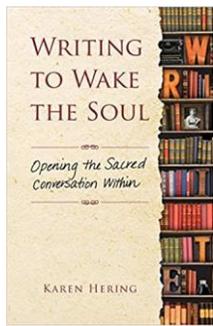
p.m.

Read Aloud & Discussion

The Monday afternoon reading and discussion group has changed our process. We have chosen to have each person who joins us, and who wishes to, bring a poem, an article, a book excerpt with something in it to spark a discussion. What has grabbed your attention or what is something you are wondering about? Our discussions are always lively and interesting. Join in! FMI: admin@augustauu.org

UUCC ZOOM ROOM (← click this link OR see Pg. 1 for other ways to join)

<p><u>Monday</u> Each week <u>6:30 – 8:00</u> <u>p.m.</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Peaceful Heart Sangha</u> You may join us at 6:15 to settle in.</p> <p>The login and password information has changed. Please contact Marty Soule for updated login information at email martysoule@gmail.com. FMI: peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com</p> 
<p><u>Wednesdays</u> Each Week <u>5:00 – 6:00</u> <u>p.m.</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Gentle YOGA Hosted by Debbie Mattson</p> <p>Please join us a few minutes before 5:00 to settle in so we can begin our class right at 5:00 p.m. Zoom Login: Click link below to join.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">https://maine.zoom.us/j/95825651125?pwd=UWJpOVFjVFJGb3dMWmZoOTRXa3VoUT09 Password 174192 FMI: DebbieMattson@hotmail.com</p> 
<p><u>Wednesday</u> 1st & 3rd weeks of each month <u>7:00 – 7:30</u> <u>p.m.</u> <u>Ends Dec. 2nd</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i><u>UUCC Music Zoom Zone</u></i> <u>LAST MEETING will be Dec. 2nd</u></p> <p>1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month from 7:00pm to 7:30pm.</p> <p>This is an opportunity for our UUCC musicians (singers and instrumentalists) to gather, sing and share UUCC music updates and information.</p> <p>We will meet using the church's Zoom room. If you would like more information, please email Bridget Convey at: musicdirector@augustauu.org</p> 
<p><u>Thursdays</u> Each Week <u>8:00 – 9:30</u> <u>a.m.</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Peaceful Heart Sangha</u> You may join us at 7:45 a.m. to settle in. Meet from 8-9:30</p> <p>The login and password information has changed. Please contact Marty Soule for updated login information at martysoule@gmail.com. FMI: peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com</p> 
<p><u>Every Other Thursday</u> <u>9:00 – 10:30</u> <u>a.m.</u></p>	<p><i>Writing to Wake the Soul</i> Every OTHER Thursday morning -- 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.</p>



This is an open group and if you would like to participate in this event, please contact Debbie Mattson (debbiemattson@hotmail.com) for the login/passcode information. Hosting of this event is shared and zoom link changes week to week.

We gather and write 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.

PLEASE NOTE: This group will now meet EVERY OTHER Thursday (instead of every Thursday). Upcoming meetings are scheduled on 12/3 and 12/17. The group will NOT meet on Thanksgiving Day.

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/>

Notices

FROM THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Our church has a clear policy on the use of email for personal concerns. It can be found in the document, How Our Church Works. It states:

“The UCC email list is not an appropriate venue for personal announcements, personal appeals, personal reflections or editorials. Exception to this guideline includes announcements regarding death, birth or rites of passage of members and friends. Such announcements will not be made without expressed consent. Permission is never assumed.”

Recently we have had numerous violations of this policy. This stemmed from an email sent from the church office without the bcc in place. We sincerely regret this mistake and we apologize for the impact on those of you who have experienced negative reactions to the email messages that followed. The church office is unable to stop the misuse of the email list since so many have received it. It is the personal responsibility of each member to decide whether they are going to honor the policy and respect the implied boundary.

With this email we ask our membership to recommit to best practices of right relationship by honoring the policy adopted by this congregation.

UCC ANNUAL GIVING TREE ANNOUNCEMENT



As we have all experienced, 2020 has been a year of change for our community and The Family Violence Project Shelter. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions put in place their holiday program has also been modified. They are asking that we change to a **Gift Card Holiday Program** this year so their residents can order gifts for their families with contactless pick up:

We know that everyone enjoys picking gifts for families, but we need to do what is safest for you and us. We are amazed every year at how generous your community is to our residents and hope that you'll help us make this transition as smooth as possible.

Amy Silvinski, Shelter Advocate



Recommended Gift Cards:

Food Cards: Shaw's, Hannaford

General Stores: Walmart, Target, Dollar Tree, Goodwill, Kohl's, TJ Max, Supercuts, etc.

Gas Cards: (Irving, Citgo, Shell, etc.)

Restaurants: Local Pizza/sandwich gift card, Drive-thru restaurant gift cards, etc.

Other: Straight Talk phone card, Visa or Mastercard prepaid cards

PLEASE DROP OFF YOUR GIFT CARD IN THE CHURCH MAIL SLOT AT THE SIDE DOOR ON SUMMER ST. --- OR MAIL YOUR CARDS AS FOLLOWS:

Mail Cards to: UCCA

Monique McAuliffe

P.O. Box 8

Augusta, ME 04332-0008

GIFT CARDS NEED TO BE RECEIVED BY

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 9TH.

Please contact me with any questions or assistance at Lifespanff@augustauu.org or 207-242-6415.

Healthy Holiday Blessings Everyone,

Monique McAuliffe

Coordinator of Lifespan Faith Formation

lifespanff@augustauu.org

207-242-6415

**The Fair is coming... The Fair is coming...
The Fair is coming....**

The Holiday Fair catalog/flyer has been sent containing photos and brief descriptions of items for sale at this year's Fair. Take a look and place your order with Nancy Fritz.

Curbside pickup of your purchases will be December 5, 10AM to Noon. See you at the COVID safe Fair on line.

--- Thanks, Martha and Nancy

November Board Highlights:

- Heard from the Personnel work group primarily on transitional job duties of the Coordinator of Lifespan Faith Formation.
- Reviewed church finances.
- Reviewed the recommendations of the COVID-19 Advisory Group about building use when the CDC metrics allow reopening and agreed to share it with the congregation.
- Discussed doing exit interviews with people who have recently resigned their church membership and agreed to take this topic up again early in 2021.
- Revisited the Congregational Engagement Working Group recommendations and did a brainstorming session regarding the best ideas to move forward.
- Celebrated the fact that the rental of Drew House seems to be going well.
- Agreed to convene a working group to make plans for accommodating church groups displaced from Drew House and consider physical space impacts.

Dr. Don on Covid-19

Dr. Don on COVID-19

GIVING THANKS IN A PANDEMIC

In the midst of the many losses that have occurred in 2020 and that I do not need to enumerate to you, I would like to take a moment to be thankful beyond the joy that family and friends bring to me.

I am thankful for the truly wonderful people who run to those infected and sick, not away. We have asked too much from them and owe them a great debt. The brittleness and fatigue shows. They deserve our best efforts to take care of ourselves and not become their additional burdens.

I am thankful for the medical science which stands in the way of pandemic death. Admittedly it functions in ways that are too slow and careful to be satisfying for the general public. It has complexities which make comprehension difficult and lead many to disregard and dismiss its findings. The disagreements and opinions of scientists are part of its creative process but also allow it to be manipulated to public disadvantage.

I am thankful for intelligent leadership that is properly trusted to have public welfare foremost in concern. I am particularly grateful for Doctors Fauci and Shah and Governors Mills, Cuomo, Baker, Sununu and Scott who have provided able leadership despite being routinely verbally and physically threatened.

And I am most thankful for every action taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19. It is only by limiting our exposure to others, masking, handwashing and distancing that we can prevent an even larger outbreak of this disease than we have seen so far.

Please feel free to send questions, comments or rumors even and I will try to address them in future e-blasts.

Don Naber naber@gwi.net

Ad-hoc Covid-19 Advisory Group

This group has generously volunteered to be available to support members with personal safety, health or travel questions, concerns, or anxieties. Feel free to reach out to one of them directly.

Betty Cairn, RN	StonehengeMaine@yahoo.com	207-215-6394
Terry Lee Cairn, ND, MSOM, Lac.	tlnaturalhealth@yahoo.com	207-557-2557
Harry Grimmnitz, MD	hgrimmnitz@gmail.com	207-685-9270
Don Naber, Ed.D	naber@gwi.net	207-887-1104
Cathie Nielsen, MD	cathieenielsen@gmail.com	207-441-0248
Marty Soule, PA-C	martysoule@gmail.com	207-685-9270

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.

Rev. Carie Johnsen, Minister	508-221-5295 (c)	revcariejohansen@gmail.com
Martha Pelletier, Chair	207-685-9592 (H)	Mjpell14@roadrunner.com
Helen Zidowecki	207-582-5308 (h)	hzmre@hzmre.com
Tracy McNaughton	207-623-3110 (h)	

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 Angie Blevins, 592-5655

UUC Office Hours – NEXT WEEK

UUC Administrator Hours

Tues, Wed & Thurs. 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Church Administrator: Lynn M. Smith,
admin@augustauu.org or 622-3232

To schedule a visit, appointment, or meeting,
please

Rev. Carie

VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS

To schedule a visit, appointment or
meeting with Rev. Carie, please call (508)
221-5295 or use her local # (207) 623-3663
(both lines will reach her!) or email her at
RevCarieJohnsen@gmail.com.

She is happy to meet outdoors, by phone,
or zoom.

Staff Contact information:

Church Administrator, Lynn M. Smith, admin@augustauu.org, Phone 622-3232

Coordinator of Lifespan Faith Formation, Monique McAuliffe, LifespanFF@augustauu.org

Music Director, Bridget Convey, musicdirector@augustauu.org