

Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church

Wednesday, December 23, 2020

Upcoming Services

Worship Themes: December – **STILLNESS**
 January – **IMAGINATION**

What does it mean to be a people of (worship theme)?

<p>Thursday, 12/24 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p><u>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</u> Thursday, December 24th 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>This year we will join our siblings in faith from the Yarmouth and Brunswick UU Churches to celebrate this season of Hope and Love. This traditional service of readings, carols, and lights will close with the magical moment of singing silent night with friends across Maine. Bring with you to the service a candle for each member of the family.</p> <p>Zoom SPECIAL LINK: CHRISTMAS EVE ZOOM ROOM Special Meeting ID: 813 5238 7136 – Passcode: 382132. (DO NOT USE UCC ZOOM ROOM)</p> <p><u>Joining the Christmas Eve SPECIAL EVENT by phone?</u> Dial: 1-646-876-9923 Meeting ID: 813 5238 7136 followed by # key A password is not needed to dial in by phone, press #</p>
<p>THIS Sunday 12/27 10:00 a.m.</p>	<p><u>Winter Solstice Arrival</u> – Goddess/Earth Circles Sunday, December 27th 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>The darkness of this year is different from other years. Walk with Mother Darkness toward the celebration of Winter Solstice, the turning of the Light. Dark and Light together, bonded companions for our lives. Stories, Reflections, Songs, Readings for this time as we step over the threshold into a new year. LOCATION: UCC ZOOM ROOM</p>
<p>NEXT Sunday January 3, 2021 10:00 a.m.</p>	<p><u>January Imaginations!</u> <u>Imagining New Year Hopes and Possibilities!</u> by Worship leader, Monique McAuliffe</p>

UUCS Sunday services and all virtual other events (unless noted) are held in the
UUCS 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.**

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

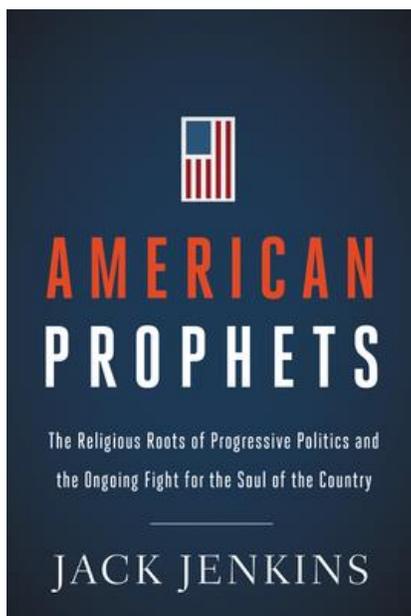
3. **Join by phone:** dial 1 646 558 8656 (**NOTE:** toll charge may apply)
At first prompt (meeting id: 823 807 0673#)

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



READ. SHARE. LEARN will meet in the UUCS zoom room on Thursday January 7, 2021 to discuss our current book. We begin at 1pm and end at 2:30. Anyone who is interested in this book is welcome to join us whether or not you have attended before. See the upcoming newsletter for the titles we have chosen for the rest of the year. For more information about this or any meeting of the group, contact June Zellers at jzellers@roadrunner.com or Kathy Kellison at kell6787@gmail.com We would love to have you join us!

From one of the country's most respected religion reporters, a paradigm-shifting discussion of how the Religious Left is actually the moral compass that has long steered America's political debates, including today.

~Goodreads

Weekly Events

Monday

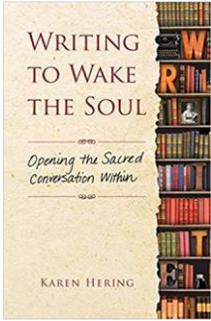
Each week
2:00 – 3:30

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

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

<p><u>Monday</u> <u>Each week</u> <u>6:30 – 8:00</u> <u>p.m.</u></p>	<p align="center"><u>Peaceful Heart Sangha</u> You may join us at 6:15 to settle in. 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> <u>Each Week</u> <u>5:00 – 6:00</u> <u>p.m.</u></p>	<p 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. https://maine.zoom.us/j/95825651125?pwd=UWJpOVFjVFJGb3dMWmZoOTRxa3VoUT09 Password 174192 FMI: DebbieMattson@hotmail.com</p> 
<p><u>Thursdays</u> <u>Each Week</u> <u>8:00 – 9:30</u> <u>a.m.</u></p>	<p 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>  <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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p align="center"><u>PLEASE NOTE: This group will now meet EVERY OTHER Thursday (instead of every Thursday). Upcoming meetings are scheduled on 12/31 and 1/13/21.</u></p>

ALL church events and meetings are reflected on the UUCU calendar
Click below to view ALL events, including any group meetings or other business meetings.
<https://www.augustauu.org/calendar-and-communications/>

Notices

Condolences to the family of William “Bill” Byrne

With sadness and condolences to the family, we share the death of William “Bill” Byrne on 11/12/2020. Roxanne Reed welcomes cards, calls, texts, and emails.

Address: 2 Academy St. #410
Hallowell, ME 04347

Phone: 207-530-4965 <Note the change in phone number... no longer have home phone.>

Email: roxreed215@hotmail.com

PLEASE NOTE: The CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE **CLOSED** from Christmas Day until after the New Year’s Day holiday. The office will reopen on Tues. Jan 5th. While this is a relatively new practice at UUCC of Augusta, this is a common practice in church culture.

Monique and Bridget are typically flexing hours during this timeframe, but Lynn has generally worked through this period. All of our staff deserve accolades and restorative space to enjoy the holidays.

Board of Trustees

December 2020 Board Highlights: At its December 10th meeting, the Board...

- Approved a motion to acknowledge the minister’s housing allowance which has no impact on the church budget but has tax implications for the Minister.
- Celebrated earnings from the Holiday Fair and Hannaford card program and discussed hopes for the upcoming year-end annual appeal.
- Agreed to discuss issues arising from the lack of a Stewardship Chair (as well as the need to recruit a Facilities Chair) at the January meeting.
- Discussed the Congregational Engagement Working Group recommendations and assigned tasks to Board members to pursue the priorities set by the Board.
- Discussed Building and Grounds issues and the need to do renovations.

PLEASE NOTE: Board meeting TIME changes beginning in Jan 2020!

Beginning with the Board Meeting on January, 14, 2020, the Board of Trustees will now meet from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. (instead of 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.). The Board will continue to meet on this schedule for the remainder of the Fiscal 2020-21 year or as we continue to meet remotely. The Board will continue to meet in the UUCC Zoom Room.

Small Group Ministry facilitators and members!

Mark your Calendars!



The first Leadership Meeting of the New Year (already!?) will be held on Sunday January 17th from 12:30-2:00 p.m. via Zoom (of course). All current, past and even hopefully future participants in our SGM movement are not only welcome, but encouraged, to attend. These gatherings are an essential part of Small Group in that they reinforce the bond that all of our groups have with each other and the UUCC in particular.

As always, we will be very mindful of your valuable time and the meeting will not stray past 2:00 p.m. More information will be sent out as we near the date. Of course, if any group has a concern or topic that they feel needs addressing, please be sure to let us know. Thank you for your commitment to this wonderful movement!

-- Michael, Helen, Judy and Linda --

FREE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

Community volunteers will be providing a free (curbside or delivery) Community Christmas dinner on Christmas day at So. Parish Congregational Church, 9 Church Street, Augusta, Maine from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Please share this invitation with your Church Community. A poster is also attached for sharing. If you would like a hard copy of the poster, please let me know and I will get one delivered to you.

Donated items needed for dinner – Desserts.

Those unable to come to the church and who would like a dinner delivered to the greater Augusta area (Augusta, Manchester, Chelsea, Gardiner, Hallowell, Randolph), please call the So. Parish Congregational Church office at 622-0552.

Social Justice: It's Who We Are

As Unitarian Universalists we affirm seven principles through which we envision an equitable, interconnected world community. Each principle offers aspirational guidance for being our best selves, while together they articulate a collective responsibility for social justice. In recognition of the many ways UU's are defined by social responsibility toward all humanity, this year our Social Justice Committee will identify and facilitate opportunities for all members to advance social justice, both individually and in community with other church members.

First, we recognize that many folks at UUCC are already engaged in a wide variety of social justice activities. We will create a directory of UUCC Social Justice Actions where folks can learn who's doing what and identify potential areas for individual action. We hope that members already doing this good work will serve as resources for others. Please send your name, contact information, and area of social justice engagement to Hilary Neckles (hneckles@gmail.com) to be included in the directory and inspire others to action.

Second, we have identified two focus areas for active engagement this year, racial justice and electoral justice. Watch for the Social Justice Corner in the first e-blast of each month, where we will identify ways to take positive action toward “justice, equity, and compassion in human relations”

Dr. Don on Covid-19

Dr. Don on Covid-19

COVID-19 Vaccines

More than 150 coronavirus vaccines are in development across the world; a little over a handful have been approved by individual countries including two for use in the U.S. Reading through the list I found projects underway by corporations, health centers, universities, governments and combinations of these groups cooperating together, many working together internationally.

The candidates, like all vaccines, essentially aim to instruct the immune system to mount a defense, which is often stronger than what would be provided through natural infection and comes with fewer health consequences. To do so, some vaccines use the whole COVID virus, but in a killed or weakened state. Others use only part of the virus, whether a protein or a fragment. Some transfer the coronavirus proteins into a different virus that is unlikely or incapable of causing disease. Finally, some vaccines like the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines in use in the U.S. rely on deploying pieces of COVID-19 genetic material, which our cells can temporarily use to make COVID-19 proteins which stimulate our own immune defense systems.

It can typically take many years to bring a vaccine to market. The vaccine for mumps was previously the quickest in development taking four years in the 1960s. Vaccines go through a multi-stage clinical trial process which starts by checking their safety and whether they trigger an immune response in a small group of healthy humans. The second phase widens the testing pool to include groups of people who may have the disease or are likely to catch it, to determine vaccine effectiveness. The third phase expands testing to a pool of thousands to make sure the vaccine is safe and effective among a wider array of people, since immune response can vary by age, ethnicity, or by underlying health conditions. It then goes to regulatory agencies for approval, often a lengthy process itself.

COVID-19 vaccine development has compressed the process by running clinical trial phases simultaneously, mass producing vaccine early and pre planning its distribution. This has been done with the promise of U.S. Food and Drug Administration fast-tracking the approval process. Emergency Use Authorization was approved for the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines within the past two weeks.

Has this quick vaccine development compromised safety? A number of factors enter here. First and foremost, money has not been an issue, and frankly a number of other medical projects have been sidelined. Also a large pool of willing participants has been available to medical researchers. The technology being utilized is well understood assuring the immune response to the vaccine. While no vaccine ever produces 100% positive response, the quality of the work in developing the vaccines being employed in this country, the UK and Germany (by other research groups) is impressive.

Happy Holidays! (Send your questions, comments or suggestions to naber@gwi.net)

Don Naber

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.	tlcnaturalhealth@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

UUCC Office Hours – NEXT WEEK

UUCC Administrator Hours

NO OFFICE HOURS week of 12/28 – 1/1-
Church Office is Closed for the holidays

Church Administrator: Lynn M. Smith,
admin@augustauu.org or 622-3232
To schedule a visit, appointment, or meeting,
please

Rev. Carie

VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS

Rev. Carie is on study leave from
Christmas Day until Jan 13th

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