

Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Upcoming Services

Worship Theme: February - **BELOVED COMMUNITY**
March - **COMMITMENT**

What does it mean to be a people of {theme}?

<p>THIS Sunday February 28, 2021 10:00 a.m. via Zoom</p>	<p><u>An Ethic of Risk</u> – Bettina Lehovec*</p> <p>John Seksay and Monique McAuliffe will serve as worship associates and Karen Foust will be on piano.</p> <p>How do we live into an uncertain future? An ethic of risk asks us to embrace possibilities rather than outcomes, trusting the process more than a predetermined goal. Living creatively in the present moment, we make space for change. We lean into relationships and points of view other than our own.</p> <p>*<u>Short bio</u>: Bettina Lehovec is currently serving as Collaborative Ministry Intern with the Ellsworth, Belfast, and Castine congregations. A candidate for UU ministry, she hopes to achieve preliminary fellowship in the fall. She loves the beauty of Maine and the warm welcome she has found here.</p>
<p>NEXT Sunday March 7, 2021 10:00 a.m. via Zoom</p>	<p><u>Poets Among Us</u> - Rev. Carie Johnsen</p> <p>Sarah Hodgkins and Susan Burnett will serve as worship associates and Stefanie Barley will be on piano.</p> <p><i>Join us for a morning of poetry. In this service, we will center the voices of poets in our midst.</i></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#)

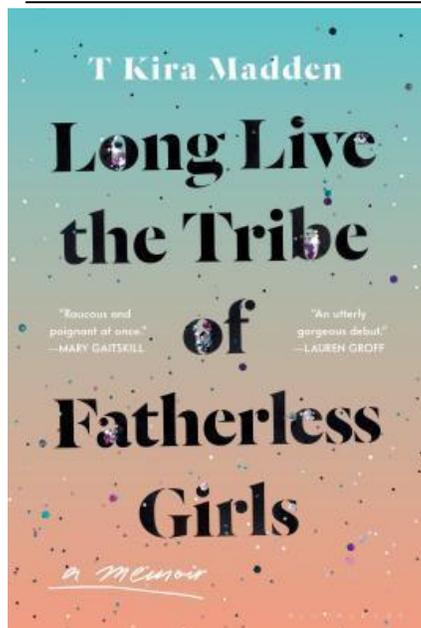
At second prompt: press # (no personal id needed) <No passcode needed when joining by phone>

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

Goddess/Earth Circles – Sunday, February 28, 1-2:30pm, “Prayer and the Goddess” on UUCC zoom. Consider prayers as spiritual practice to, with, and about goddesses. What are similarities and differences with the Lord’s Prayer – traditional and the translation from Aramaic - and a Lady’s Prayer. A sampling of prayers is being sent to Goddess/Earth Circle participants and is available to anyone that would like to attend. Contact Helen Zidowecki (582-5308, hzmre@hzmre.com)



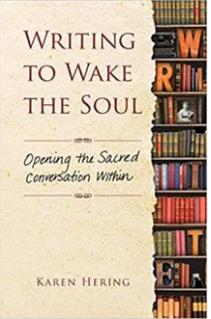
Read. learn. Share book group will meet on Thursday March 4.

**** NOTE the NEW TIME**** at NOON in the UUCC Zoom Room. Anyone who is interested in discussing this month’s book is welcome to join us. We meet for an hour and a half to discuss topics relevant to the book which are raised by participants.

Long Live the Tribe of Fatherless Girls, a memoir from the literary essayist T Kira Madden, is a searing, vivid, and deeply thoughtful take on growing up in a turbulent family in Boca Raton, Florida" - Elle

Weekly Events

<p><u>Monday</u> <u>Each week</u> <u>2:00 – 3:30</u> <u>p.m.</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Read Aloud & Discussion</u></p> <p>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</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>UUCC ZOOM ROOM</u> (← click this link OR see Pg. 1 for other ways to join)</p>
<p><u>Monday</u> <u>Each week</u> <u>6:30 – 8:00</u> <u>p.m.</u></p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Peaceful Heart Sangha</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">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>Tuesday</u> <u>Each week</u> <u>5:30 – 6:15</u> <u>p.m.</u></p> <p><u>Through</u> <u>March 30,</u> <u>2021</u></p>	<p><i>Winter Meditations with Rev. Carie</i> Meets weekly on Tuesdays through March 30th 5:30 - 6:15 in the UCC Zoom Room</p> <p>Drawing from <u>An Almanac for the Soul: Anthology of Hope</u>, by Marc and Nancy Hiles, Rev. Carie will facilitate a weekly 20 minute guided and silent meditation. Participants will be invited to stay for an optional time of shared reflections. Rev. Carie will alternate hosting from sanctuary and home chapel. On occasions the meditation may be prerecorded. The meditation (not discussion) will be recorded and made available on the UCC Facebook page. Copyright permission obtained.</p> <p>**NOTE: There was no meditation last night (2/23) since Rev. Carie is on Study leave this week**</p>
<p><u>Wednesdays</u> <u>Each Week</u> <u>5:00 – 6:00</u> <u>p.m.</u></p>	<p>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>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><u>Peaceful Heart Sangha</u></p> <p>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><u>PLEASE NOTE: This group will now meet EVERY OTHER Thursday (instead of every Thursday). Upcoming meetings are scheduled on 2/25, 3/11 and 3/25.</u></p>

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/>

Notices

Create your account for auction bidding.

UUCC's First Online Silent Auction

Our 2021 Auction items are now ready for you to see! If you would like to bid later this month, create your account under "get started"... You will need to put your name, email address and choose a password.

Everyone who wants to bid will need an account.
Here's the path for you to see all 88 items.

<https://www.32auctions.com/AuctionLink2021>

Bidding begins at 6 a.m., Friday, March 26.

Please send this auction link to all your friends and family and tell them to get ready for a fun week at the end of March!

The auction will close at 5 p.m., Friday, April 2.

If you have questions, or would like to help auction winners load items in their cars on Saturday, April 3, from 10-noon, please contact Catherine Palmer (palmercatherinemaine@gmail.com or call 207.458.7384), or Hannah Faulkner (hannahbfaulkner@gmail.com or call 207.485.4335).

News from UUCC Social Justice Committee

Opportunity extended from UUCC Social Justice Committee:

What do we as a community want to do to continue our anti-racism work? The UUA has organized a full-day conference to discuss just that question:

February 27: New Day Rising Conference: Identifying Your congregations Next Faithful Steps in Changing White Supremacy Culture. This Saturday conference includes a worship and afternoon sessions. Congregational teams are encouraged to register. Team up with UUCC friends to do this important anti-racism work. The entrance fee is \$20.00 pp

For questions, contact: Michaela Loisel @ Michaelatloisel@gmail.com

Two ADDITIONAL opportunities to promote social justice in our community:

The Central Area New Mainers Project (CANMP) is reaching out for volunteers to VIRTUALLY tutor adult English learners- to help them to practice college or adult education homework, practice short conversations, and provide general social interaction via a video platform of your choice. FMI Contact Karina Escajeda

(CANMP program director) at 207-458-9920 or karinamarieescajeda@gmail.com or visit their website at <https://www.newmainersproject.org/>

The Augusta Food Bank is currently serving 700 folks per month. They are still accepting donations of food at their 161 Mt Vernon Ave, Augusta location (ring the doorbell from Mon through Thursday anytime between 8-4 and a volunteer will come out and get your food donation). This month they can particularly use empty egg cartons, canned beans, small packs of crackers for lunch packs, ramen noodles and instant mashed potatoes. Visit their website at <https://www.augustafoodbank.org/>

FMI about either of these additional opportunities contact Pam Lombard from the Social Justice Committee at pamlombard@gmail.com or at 207-458-4409.

Board of Trustees

Questions and Answers from Zoom Meeting “What’s On Your Mind” held on Feb. 7, 2021

Note: Our Covid Advisory Group will answer questions related to the virus and vaccinations. Please address your questions to Don Naber at naber@zwi.net. <See Don’s article below for a response>

Q: What’s next in finding a new minister?

Answer: The Worship Arts Team will locate a guest summer minister for 11 weeks and then the Board will engage with the UUA to locate an interim minister for two more years, beginning in August.

Q: Where can I find our bylaws and the “How Our Church Works” document?

Answer: See the church’s website page relating to church governance.
Direct Link: <https://www.augustauu.org/minister-staff-and-church-life/church-governance/>

Q: How do people become a member and can “friends” attend board meetings?

Answer: Only church members may vote at our Annual Meeting in June, but anyone can listen to monthly board meetings. If you are interested in UUCC membership, please contact Diane Moongrove at dmoongrove@gmail.com or (207)446-6162.

Q: What do I do if I am bullied at church or receive unsolicited emails?

Answer: Please speak to a member of the Committee on Ministry. Contact Kathy Kellison at kell6787@gmail.com or (207)445-4415.

Q: If someone leaves the church, does our church administrator remove her or his name from the mailing list?

Answer: If a member decides to leave the church, they are generally removed from the mailing/ e-mail list unless they specifically request to remain on the mailing list.

Q: When is the next “What’s on Your Mind” zoom meeting with board members?

Answer: Sunday, March 7, 11:30 a.m. at the church zoom account.

you are
INVITED

So, What's On Your Mind?

The UUCC Board wants to hear what you are thinking, your ideas, your concerns, your suggestions about how UUCC is doing. Please join board members on the first Sunday of the month right after the church service to talk about this. Responses to inquiries made at our first session Feb. 7th are above. We will meet again on March 7th at 11:30-12:30 on the ZOOM church site.

Do you have questions about how UUCC operates? Do you wonder "Why?" about something? Are there things you would like to learn more about? Bring all this and what you want to discuss with board members.

We will not be making decisions during these times, but will listen intently and take all comments and ideas back to the board. See you there!

Feb 2021 Board Highlights

The following highlights are offered to give you an overview of the work of the UUCC Board. They are not as thorough as the minutes taken by Board Clerk, Susan Caldwell. As we enter a time of significant transition in our community, the Communication Work Group encourages you to request copies of the complete minutes from the church office to remain as informed as possible about the work of the Board.

At its February 11 meeting, the Board:

- Heard from the Treasurer that the church continues to be in good financial shape.
- Voted to continue paying Rev. Carie's salary through June (including paid vacation time).
- Discussed what it will mean as Rev. Carie follows UUA guidelines to "make a clean break" with UUCC when she leaves.
- Discussed the idea of "technical" and "adaptive" change as they relate to our continued embrace of shared ministry.
- Discussed the February 7 "What's on Your Mind?" session.
- Voted to move forward with a plan for renovation including a fundraising campaign.
- Voted to set March 21 as Stewardship Sunday with a campaign goal of \$165,000.
- Noted that we will submit an application to the UUA for an interim minister. Suggestions are being sought for members to serve on that search committee.
- Voted to authorize the Worship Committee to do a search for a contract minister to serve from mid-May through early August and bring a recommendation to the Board.

Dr. Don on Covid-19

Dr. Don on COVID-19 is taking this week off. The column will return next week. While these are some of the headlines and topics I find interesting, I welcome yours.

- The Johnson and Johnson vaccine needs no refrigeration and utilizes a single dose.
- COVID viruses are mutating into new variant types.
- The COVID variants have a higher infection rate.
- Do the vaccines prevent the spread of the virus from "healthy carriers"?
- Manaus, Brazil is experiencing a second major epidemic of COVID.
- Dr Fauci says masks may be needed into 2022.
- The US has the highest rate of COVID infection and deaths in the world.

Send your questions, comments or suggestions to naber@zwi.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.	tlcnaturalhealth@yahoo.com	207-557-2557
Harry Grimmnitz, MD	hgrimmnitz@gmail.com	207-685-9270
Don Naber, Ed.D	naber@zwi.net	207-887-1104
Cathie Nielsen, MD	cathieenielsen@gmail.com	207-441-0248
Marty Soule, PA-C	martysoule@gmail.com	207-685-9270

UUCM 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

Rev. Carie

VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS

If you would like 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