

Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church
Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Upcoming Services

Worship Theme: March = **COMMITMENT**

What does it mean to be a people of Commitment?

<p>THIS 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>
<p>NEXT Sunday March 14, 2021 10:00 a.m. via Zoom</p>	<p><u>One Year Later</u> – Rev. Carie Johnsen</p> <p>Monique McAuliffe and Marilyn Gordon will serve as worship associates and Karen Foust will be on piano with Joelle Morris singing “Fields of Gold”.</p> <p><i>Grief and loss mark this year of living safer at home in a pandemic. And now, trusting and cultivating opportunity as we gaze upon a horizon not yet known.</i></p>



The Worship Arts Team invites YOU to imagine with them a future where one day we return to our sanctuary on the corner of Winthrop and Summer Streets. A small team (Rev. Carie, Marty Peters, Karen Allen, Bridget Convey, and Susan Burnett) are in the beginning stages of exploring hybrid

service options and the necessary technology needs and costs to support a model that fits our community.

Please join on **Sunday, March 14th** immediately following morning service for a conversation focused on what is most important in the process of supporting people’s sense of safety and comfort with returning to the church building. While we plan to have members of the Covid-Advisory Group present, this conversation is not about the virus or vaccines or even plans for opening. **This conversation is about creating and leading worship that meets the changing needs of our community.** Please be a part of shaping the future by sharing your voice: perspective, hopes, and expectations.

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)

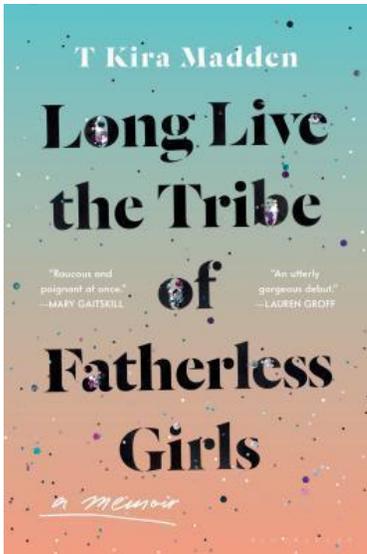
At first prompt (meeting id: 823 807 0673#)

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, learn, share book group will meet on Thursday March 4.

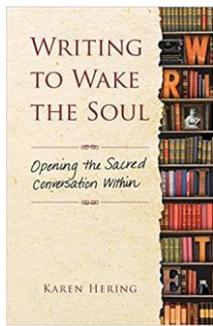
**** NOTE the NEW TIME**** at NOON in the UUCS Zoom Room. Anyone who is interested in discussing this month’s book is welcome to join us. We meet for an hour and a half to discuss topics relevant to the book which are raised by participants.

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><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><u>UUCS ZOOM ROOM</u> (← click this link OR see above for other ways to join)</p>
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<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>Tuesday</u> Each week <u>5:30 – 6:15</u> <u>p.m.</u></p> <p><u>Through</u> <u>March 30,</u> <u>2021</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Winter Meditations with Rev. Carie</i> Meets weekly on Tuesdays through March 30th 5:30 - 6:15 in the UUCS Zoom Room</p> <p>Drawing from <i>An Almanac for the Soul: Anthology of Hope</i>, 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 pre-recorded. The mediation (not discussion) will be recorded and made available on the UUCS Facebook page. Copyright permission obtained.</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. https://maine.zoom.us/j/95825651125?pwd=UWJpOVFjVFJGb3dMWmZoOTRxa3VoUT09 Password 174192 FMI: DebbieMattson@hotmail.com</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</u> <u>Other</u> <u>Thursday</u></p> <p><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 3/11 and 3/25.

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

[News about the search for the UCC Interim Minister](#)

Our Interim Minister search is on its way and has started this week with the development of a Search Committee. The Committee exists of three board members and two congregants (see below). They will work with the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Transition Office to review and interview candidates from the region and beyond. A comprehensive application is submitted by the Committee to the Transition Office by April 22nd, after which interested candidates are presented to the Committee for review. The finalists are ultimately interviewed to begin on August 1st for a term of two-years. In the meantime, the Worship Arts team is undergoing their own process to consider a Worship Minister to support their ministry and lead Sunday services from May 17th to August 1st.

Interim Minister Search Committee Members:

1. Harold Burnett, Congregant
2. Terry Lee Cookson, Board Member, COVID-19 Task Force member
3. Dennis Maddi, Congregant
4. Kathy Ann Shaw, Board President,
5. Jill Watson, Board Member (former Board President)

Questions? Please contact Kathy Ann Shaw, board President at kathyannshaw@roadrunner.com.



A "THANK YOU" FROM HELEN WING

"to all of the folks who have been so gorgeously sending meals my way.

Thanks."



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!

We have groups already up, running, and flourishing, or we can help facilitate the formation of a new group.

SGM is a nationwide UU movement, but the epicenter was right here in Augusta. Now is the time to be a more involved UCCer through Small Group Ministry!

For more information, please contact Michael Conley at 207-248-7948 or at estherpearl67@gmail.com

UCC's First Online Silent Auction

Please use this link to create your auction login: <https://www.32auctions.com/users/new>

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

Please send this **"create an account"** 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, please contact Catherine Palmer (palmercatherinemaine@gmail.com or call 207.458.7384), or Hannah Faulkner (hannahbfaulkner@gmail.com or call 207.485.4335).

EMBODY OUR PRINCIPLES WITH MUUSAN

The Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network (MUUSAN.org) creates opportunities for each of us to put our religious values into practice with the State Legislature. MUUSAN is a network of people from our congregations across Maine who follow the activity when the legislature is in session and invite interested people to take action such as writing letters or making phone calls at significant moments in the process of making laws.

MUUSAN is organized into four issue groups, each one rooted in our seven principles.

The **DEMOCRACY IN ACTION** group promotes our fifth principle, the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and society at large.

The **HEALTH CARE** group promotes our second principle, justice, equity and compassion in human relations.

The **CLIMATE CHANGE** group promotes our seventh principle, respect for the interconnected web of all existence of which we are a part.

The **RACIAL, NATIVE AND IMMIGRANT JUSTICE** group promotes our first principle, the inherent worth and dignity of every person, the second principle cited above, and the sixth, the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.

Connecting with any of these groups will give you an opportunity to join your voice and your values in a meaningful way.

You will find a wealth of information at MUUSAN.org. In addition, we have two congregational legislative liaisons who can answer questions. You are invited to contact Kathy Kellison kell6787@gmail.com or Michaela Loisel at michaelatloisel@gmail.com. We will have information in the weekly E-blast for the duration of the legislative session.

If you have wondered how to be involved with Maine's legislature, MUUSAN is here for you.

News from UCC Social Justice Committee

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



So, What's On Your Mind?

The UCC Board wants to hear what you are thinking, your ideas, your concerns, your suggestions about how UCC is doing. Please join board members on the first Sunday of the month right after the church service to talk about this.

We will meet again on March 7th at 11:30-12:30 on the ZOOM church site.

Do you have questions about how UCC 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!

Dr. Don on Covid-19

Dr. Don on COVID-19 The New Johnson and Johnson Vaccine

Last Saturday twelve members of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices endorsed the J&J vaccine, with none voting against and a single member recusing due to potential conflicts. The vote came after the FDA authorized emergency use of the shot for adults 18 and older. CDC Director Rochelle Walensky signed off on the recommendation shortly after the vote. "This vaccine is also another important tool in our toolbox to equitably vaccinate as many people as possible, as quickly as possible," Walensky said in a statement.

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is the first single-dose shot authorized in the U.S. That means no follow-up visits, none of the red tape needed to make sure people return for those second shots, and none of the worry about making sure a second dose is available at the right time. It requires no deep cold for storage and transportation making it especially useful in rural communities and for hard-to-reach populations.

The shot was found to be 66 percent effective in preventing moderate to severe Covid-19 at least 28 days after vaccination, and 85 percent effective in preventing severe to critical Covid over the same time frame, according to the FDA. Four weeks after the shot, data from the clinical trial participants showed there were no hospitalizations or deaths. This response is two weeks faster than the two vaccines in current use.

The J&J vaccine's efficacy rate is lower than both the Pfizer and Moderna shots, however, public health officials warn the rates don't offer apples-to-apples comparisons. The J&J trial may offer a better measure of how the company's vaccine stacks up against new, more transmissible COVID strains that are proliferating around the world because the Johnson & Johnson vaccine was given in different populations and at a different time. It was tested in 44,000 people in the US, South Africa and Latin America months later in the pandemic than the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. They were tested in the spring and summer before variant COVID began to show up.

Vaccine experts agree that all the vaccines provide very good protection by the most important measure, which is whether they keep people from getting seriously ill. "I think we need to pull away from this comparing and parsing numbers until you compare them head-to-head. Just be really grateful that we have three really efficacious vaccines," Anthony Fauci, the government's top infectious disease expert, said Sunday on ABC's "This Week."

(More on the Johnson & Johnson Vaccine next week.)

Send your questions, comments or suggestions to 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.	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

UCC 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)	revcariejohnsen@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

UCC Office Hours – NEXT WEEK

UCC 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