

Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church
Wednesday, March 17, 2021

Upcoming Services

Worship Theme: March = **COMMITMENT**

What does it mean to be a people of Commitment?

<p>THIS Sunday March 21, 2021 10:00 a.m. via Zoom</p>	<p><u>Stewardship Sunday</u> - Rev. Carie Johnsen</p> <p>Susan Burnett and John Seksay will serve as worship associates. Music Video "Come Sing a Song with Me".</p> <p>Faith in Unitarian Universalism isn't an intellectual exercise: it's "heart" work. Join us as we join the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) for a special service. The UUA service will feature a sermon by UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, as well as vibrant music, storytelling, and other worship elements that will help us to grow in spirit, in courage, and in generosity.</p>
<p>NEXT Sunday March 28, 2021 10:00 a.m. via Zoom</p>	<p><u>Intergenerational Reflections</u> – Monique McAuliffe</p> <p>John Seksay will serve as worship associate and Stefanie Barley will be on piano. Special music will include "Forgive Me" by Debbie Wiseman.</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.

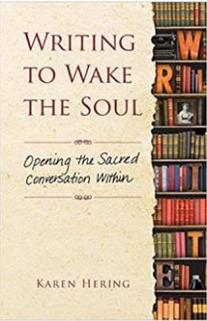
HOSTS: Once in your meeting, claim the host using the HOST KEY as you have done in the past.

Virtual Connections

Goddess/Earth Circles Sunday, March 28, 2021, 1:00-2:30 PM via Zoom
Meet Changing Woman: Change and Growth is all there is!
With the Navajo tradition, we visit the cycles of our lives with wisdom from experience and anticipation from reflection. This blends with the celebration of Spring Equinox.

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;"><i>UCC ZOOM ROOM</i> (← click this link OR see above 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>	<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 style="text-align: center;"><i>Winter Meditations with Rev. Carie</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">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 pre-recorded. The mediation (not discussion) will be recorded and made available on the UCC Facebook page. Copyright permission obtained.</p> <p>The link to the Tuesday, March 16, 2021 meditation is below: https://drive.google.com/file/d/16fhXHf8-8JT8wjksV_5Uqv3ZGVJl7709/view?usp=sharing</p>

<p>Wednesdays <u>Each Week</u> 5:00 – 6:00 <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>Thursdays <u>Each Week</u> 8:00 – 9:30 <u>a.m.</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><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>Every Other Thursday 9:00 – 10:30 <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 style="text-align: center;"><u>PLEASE NOTE: This group will now meet EVERY OTHER Thursday (instead of every Thursday). Upcoming meetings are scheduled on 3/25, 4/8 and 4/22.</u></p>

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



Stickered CLYNK bags are available at the front of the church building.
Help support the church by dropping your bagged returnable bottles and cans to Hannaford.

So What is Square UP? How does it work?

During a typical worship service in the UUCC sanctuary, there is a time during which “the plate is passed” to collect donations of pledges, checks, and other offerings. It demonstrates our support of the financial needs for the church to live its mission in the world.

During a ZOOM worship service there is also an opportunity for those present to donate an offering to add to the financial resources of UUCC. One way to do this is to send a check to the church (with “offering” noted in the memo line). Another way is to use the Square Up option to use your credit card to complete a donation. There is a link to this option in the chat box during the service. When you click on the link it will take you to the site where you can donate to UUCC. Catherine Palmer is notified of the amount of the offering, but not the person who made it. She then lets the treasurer know of the amount to add to the operating account. One difference with this method is that there is not a way to add any offering you make to your yearly record of church charitable donations. You would need to keep track of this with your credit card statement for tax purposes. Thank you for considering this additional option to financially support UUCC.



REGISTER for NEXT WEEK's ONLINE AUCTION

First, create your auction login here: <https://www.32auctions.com/users/new>

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

Please send this update to all your friends and family and tell them to get ready for a fun week of bidding!

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

If all you want to do is look at the items for now, you can peek here: <https://www.32auctions.com/AuctionLink2021>

Contact Catherine Palmer at 207.458.7384, palmercatherinemaine@gmail.com or Hannah Faulkner at 207.485.4335 (hannahbfaulkner@gmail.com)

News about the search for the UUCC Interim Minister

Our Interim Minister search started 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.

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.

EMBODY OUR PRINCIPLES WITH MUUSAN

How we elect our President could change in the near future. Perhaps you have heard of the National Popular Vote (NPV)?

NPV assures that the presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and D.C. wins. It takes power away from the Electoral College without amending the US Constitution.

MUUSAN and the League of Women Voters of Maine are among several organizations supporting - **LR 47 — An Act to Base Election Results on Vote Totals.** (National Popular Vote Interstate Compact). Sponsor: President Troy Jackson of Aroostook.

Our UUCC Social Justice Committee is planning to sponsor a presentation by the League of Women Voters so that we can become informed of this important initiative. Details will be forthcoming.

In the meantime, the book- **Let The People Pick The President** by **Jesse Wegman** is a good read on how the NPV came about in response to concerns about threats to our democracy by the Electoral College.

Also, check out the League of Women Voters website LWVME.org for more information.

FMI: Michaela Loisel or Kathy Kellison, MUUSAN Congregation Legislative Liaisons for MUUSAN. Kathy Kellison kell6787@gmail.com and Michaela Loisel michealatoisel@gmail.com

Board of Trustees

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

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

Answer: a committee comprised of board and congregational members has been developed and is working to the UUA Transition Team to welcome a 2-year Interim Minister in the Fall. A full description of the process including a list of the committee members, was outlined in the last eBLAST and is repeated here as well. A participant thanked the Board for including that information.

Q: Is there a list of volunteer tasks for the renovation plans toward reopening the church campus?

Answer: There is a list of projects area by area that can be made available and will be shared in the next newsletter. Work groups will be limited to two people/area due to COVID concerns.

Q: What’s happening with the historical Ballard Trust stained glass window?

Answer: We are exploring a light box, and that there will be a ceremony to share the importance of the Ballard’s contribution. It was mentioned that Brunswick uses light boxes for the windows salvaged after a fire and they might be a useful resource.

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

Answer: April 11 (please note that this is *not* the standard first Sunday of the month because that is Easter), at the church zoom room

Comment: There was “an amazement” expressed about how close we are in so many ways even though we can’t be together and gratitude for people hanging in there, and for the Board opening the door a little wider.



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 April 11th 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!

Board Highlights: At the March 11, 2021 meeting the Board:

- Heard from the treasurer that the annual appeal raised \$11,896.00, including the \$5000.00 anonymous matching gift.
- Approved the final copy of the stewardship letter to be sent this week.
- Accepted a gift of two heat pumps and their installation from Hal Booth with gratitude.
- Voted to proceed with hiring Bettina Lahovec of Belfast to be our contract minister to lead Sunday worship between Rev. Carie's departure and the arrival of our interim minister.
- Discussed technology needs connected to returning to use of our church buildings.
- Voted to accept the report of the personnel work group creating a job description for the Coordinator of Lifespan Faith Formation.
- Heard a report of the renovation work underway in our buildings.

A message from our COVID-19 Advisory Group

Despite today's sub-zero wind chill, spring is just around the corner. Within our church community there is a lot of energy and activity directed toward preparing our facilities for the day when we can return to in-person gatherings. It has now been one full year since the pandemic was declared and Maine saw its first case of COVID-19. On March 13th the COVID-19 Advisory Group met via Zoom to take stock of where we are and where we need to go to maintain everyone's safety. In order to better align our meeting schedule with that of the church Board, we decided to change our monthly meeting to the first Wednesday evening each month at 5:00 PM.

Maine has done a far better job controlling the virus than most states. However, we have still recorded over 47,000 cases of COVID-19 and 725 of our neighbors have died as a result of this infection. As of March 12th, the number of new cases of COVID in Kennebec county was 32 per 10,000 people. This is dramatically better than the peak in January, but still 4 times higher than the metric we set for small groups to meet indoors. We will continue utilizing this metric to guide our recommendations on when it will be safe for us to allow small groups to begin meeting indoors. As the weather warms up, small groups certainly may resume meeting outdoors behind the Judd House.

Every day, our medical and scientific knowledge about COVID-19 increases dramatically. This allows us to refine and sometimes completely change our recommendations about what we all need to do to remain safe and protect others from this virus. We now know for certain that this disease spreads by breathing in the virus from the air, not from touching a contaminated object. According to Dr. Nirav Shah of the Maine CDC, with over one year of experience with COVID-19, there have been **NO (NONE, ZERO) DOCUMENTED CASES OF PEOPLE BECOMING INFECTED BY TOUCHING CONTAMINATED SURFACES**. With this knowledge, the COVID-19 Advisory Group is **REMOVING** the requirements that individuals or groups entering church facilities must disinfect all surfaces before and after using indoor spaces.

The brightest news regarding COVID-19 is the arrival of three (3) highly effective and extraordinarily safe vaccines. As of this writing, 24% of Maine's population has received at least one shot of COVID-19

immunization and the vaccine supply is getting larger and more robust. We realize that many people have struggled to find a way to get immunized. Three (3) helpful phone numbers for accessing immunization clinics are:

- (833) 633-0808
- (877) 780-7545
- (207) 204-8551 (Be advised that this is not a toll-free number.)

We urge anyone who continues to have problems signing up for their COVID-19 immunizations to contact Rev. Carie and we will find ways to help you get your shots.

The question was raised about utilizing proof of immunization (so called “immunization passports”) as a way to allow small groups to begin meeting indoors before the Maine CDC metrics reach our established thresholds. There was a lot of discussion about this topic. The most troubling issue centered upon the lack of equity in such a plan. It clearly excludes people who have been unable to access immunization or who cannot be immunized for a variety of reasons. The Advisory Group recommended that the church Board is the appropriate venue for this discussion and referred the question to them.

Please stay safe, keep wearing your masks when out in public spaces and maintain that six (6) foot physical distance when in groups.

--- The COVID-19 Advisory Group

Dr. Don on Covid-19

Dr. Don on COVID-19

COVID Vaccine Myths and Misinformation (Suggested by several)

I thought as I began researching I could make short work of dispensing with the myths and misinformation that have appeared about COVID vaccines . I now think it will take more than just a week or two to present the facts. There is more myth and misinformation than I had anticipated and it has more complicated and sophisticated sources than I thought.

On March 7 the Wall Street Journal reported that Russian intelligence agencies are using several online platforms and social media sites to undermine confidence in COVID-19 vaccines being used in the U.S. said State Department officials. Russian goals are in part an effort to fight skepticism of its own COVID-19 vaccine called Sputnik V which has become a major propaganda effort important for the Kremlin.

“We can say these outlets are directly linked to Russian intelligence services,” a State Department Global Engagement Center official said of the sites behind the disinformation campaign. “They’re all foreign-owned, based outside of the United States. They vary a lot in their reach, their tone, their audience, but they’re all part of the Russian propaganda and disinformation ecosystem.” An additional report from the Alliance for Securing Democracy found that during the COVID-19 pandemic, Russia along with other countries including Iran have tried to portray their response to the outbreak as superior to that of the United States and other western governments.

Some of the misinformation relied on actual news reports, but presented it without the broader context of data showing that the vaccines are safe and effective. One of the reasons for these actions seems clear. The campaign against the widely used Pfizer and Moderna vaccines is likely due its potential competition with Russia’s Sputnik V vaccine, a report by the Alliance for Securing Democracy said.

It is against this spread of COVID-19 misinformation that I will provide the clearest information I can find to counter the most popular COVID-19 Vaccine myths. My sources will include key national publications, leading researchers and publications of the CDC, the FDA and major research institutions, hospitals and academic centers. Now to the first two of the many myths.

1. MYTH: COVID-19 vaccines cause COVID-19.

THE FACTS: NO. None of the authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccines or COVID-19 vaccines currently in development in the United States contain the live virus that causes COVID-19. This means that a COVID-19 vaccine cannot make you sick with COVID-19.

2. MYTH: The COVID-19 vaccine changes your DNA.

THE FACTS: NO. The COVID-19 vaccines help your body's immune system fight the coronavirus. The messenger RNA from the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines does enter cells, but not the cell nucleus where DNA resides. The mRNA causes the cell to make COVID virus spike protein that stimulate the immune system, and then it quickly breaks down — without affecting cell DNA. The DNA of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine enters cells in an incomplete Adeno or common cold virus. This DNA does enter cell nuclei to stimulate mRNA production to make COVID spike proteins as well. But cells infected by a virus, even though incomplete and non-reproductive, are marked for destruction by the immune system's second part, called T-cells, providing a fuller immune response.

Upcoming Myths: The vaccine has frequent serious side effects; if you don't have a reaction to the vaccine, its not working; the vaccine causes infertility or puts government microchips into the body; vaccine development was rushed, mask use can now end and more.

Send your questions, comments or suggestions to naber@zwi.net

Faith (Scotti) Soria Celebration of Life

Dear friends and family:

Our mother, Faith [Scotti] Soria passed away at home in her sleep, 11 January 2021, after several weeks in hospice care. You are invited to an online remembrance and celebration of her life on Sunday, March 21 at 2 pm, Central Time. Details are below - for those new to Zoom, please sign in to zoom with your name, so that we can admit you from the "waiting room" prior to the event.

Zoom Link: Topic: Faith Soria - a remembrance and celebration of her life
 Time: Mar 21, 2021 02:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87534639938?pwd=eFd1Qzd4Q0xsd2l1WjdpK0tVcGFTUT09>
 Meeting ID: 875 3463 9938
 Passcode: 049854

Faith's obituary appeared in the Friday, January 22 edition of the Elmhurst Suburban Life, and is posted on Legacy.com. There is a guest-book for her at the Legacy link below.

[Faith Soria Obituary - Death Notice and Service Information \(legacy.com\)](#)

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in her memory to the Unitarian Universalist Association, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108 (www.UUA.org), to The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Rd,

Ithaca, NY 14850 (www.birds.cornell.edu), or to GreenMan Theatre Troupe, PO Box 514, Elmhurst, IL, 60126 (www.greenmantheatre.org).

Correspondence to the family may be sent c/o Steven Soria, 203 Maple Avenue, Elmhurst, IL 60126.

We thank you for your loving friendship to our mother over her many years.

Sincerely,

Her children, Steven, Karen, and David Soria

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

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)	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

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 Michael Conley at 207-248-7948 or at estherpearl67@gmail.com.



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