

Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church
Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Worship Theme for May is **STORY**.
Join us as we explore what it means to be a people of STORY.

Upcoming Services

<p>THIS Sunday</p> <p>May 23, 2021 10:00 a.m. via Zoom</p> <p>UUC Zoom room</p>	<p><u>The Comfort of the Known</u> With summer worship minister Bettina Lehovec</p> <p>As humans, we long for a sense of certainty even as we live amid ongoing change. How do we reconcile this tension, particularly as it pertains to our Unitarian Universalist faith? What is it in our ever-changing tradition we can count on? Where do we find the comfort of the known?</p> <p>Susan Burnett and Sara Hodgkins will serve as our worship associates with Marty Peters managing technology. Karen Foust will be our pianist.</p>
<p>NEXT Sunday</p> <p>May 30, 2021 10:00 a.m. via Zoom</p> <p>UUC Zoom room</p>	<p><u>Wounds to the Soul: Understanding Moral Injury</u> With guest minister Reverend Lane Fisher of Belfast</p> <p>Memorial Day began as an occasion to honor military personnel killed in service to our country—but how will we care for those whose lives have been shattered by situations demanding that they violate their own moral codes? This Sunday we will expand our compassion as we consider the wounds that many soldiers, police officers, and civilians carry in their souls and how healing is possible.</p> <p>John Seksay and Marilyn Gordon will serve as our worship associates with Marty Peters managing technology. Stefanie Barley will be our pianist.</p>

**All worship services AND virtual events (unless noted) are held in the
UUC ZOOM ROOM**

Other ways to UUC Zoom Room 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.**

UUC 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.

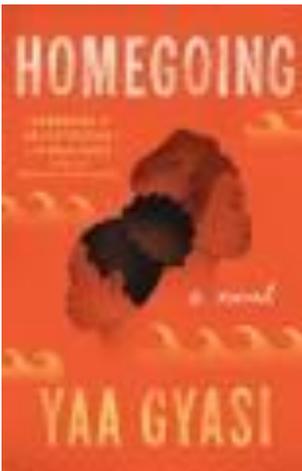
Connections

Sunday, May 23, 1-2:30pm via UCC zoom

Goddess/Earth Circles is exploring several themes in the next few months. Phases of Goddess and women's lives (through the Women of Wisdom celebration on October 31). Several-session introduction to Wicca, with the possibility of having a Wicca group in the Fall. Contact Mary for more information at shifmanmary@gmail.com. Special celebrations and the gathering times and topics for the rest of 2021.

Please join us, whether you have participated or not. We would like to hear from you.

Contact: Helen Zidowecki hzmre@hzmre.com (582-5308)



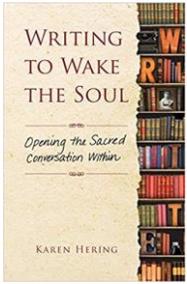
Read. learn. Share will meet Thursday June 3rd at noon in the UCC Zoom Room.

Anyone who interested in discussing our book for the month is welcome to join us. We will end at 1:30. For more information, contact Kathy Kellison at kell6787@gmail.com or June Zellers at junezellers@roadrunner.com

“Homegoing is an inspiration.” —Ta-Nehisi Coates

Weekly Events

<p><u>Monday</u> <u>Each week</u> <u>2:00 – 3:30</u> <u>p.m.</u></p> <p><u>NOT meeting</u> <u>on 5/24 or</u> <u>5/31</u></p>	<p><u>Read Aloud & Discussion</u></p> <p>This group will NOT meet on Mondays 5/24 and 5/31</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>UCC ZOOM ROOM</u> (← 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><u>Peaceful Heart Sangha</u></p>

	 <p>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>Wednesdays <u>Each Week</u> 5:00 – 6:00 <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. 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><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>2nd & 4th</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> We meet the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month - 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>

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

Sunday, May 16th Farewell Service

If you were unable to attend the Sunday, May 16th Farewell Service, the link below is to the recording of the event:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/hkie3S3fcs4XVv_uVkc9pJP-GsnJyCrGvFv4CtJJVJrfFGHj_qfpO4EzD3WCrKi4.B8ZTJptO3Mh1-nE- Passcode: %0mdjQjV

Two ASKS from Building and Grounds

First ask - Building and Grounds is reorganizing storage and needs 'copy boxes with lids'. These are the boxes that copy paper come in and the perfect size for shelf storage. If you see anywhere you work please leave with Lynn or if you score a number of them call Marilyn 512-5382 and she will pick them up.

Second ask - Help is needed getting the church organized. The kitchen needs cleaning and sorting, as does the committee room and storage closet. Additionally, there are boxes of RE crafting supplies that need going through to sort out the useless, trim down the useful and donate the excess. We still are working two to a room max with masks per Covid protocols. If you, or you and a friend are willing to help please choose a task and call/email Marilyn 207-512-5382 maine2007@hotmail.com to schedule. Building and grounds is busy banging nails, painting and mowing and could really use some volunteer hands in the air to help with sorting.

Now that Carie's actually left the building...



If you would like a copy of the 5x7 soft cover photobook of 29 memorable UUCC photos of Rev. Carie and members of our Congregation, contact Catherine Palmer at 458.7384, or palmercatherinemaine@gmail.com.

Booklets cost \$20 each (see cover photo attached). Lynn has an office copy if you'd like to see it first, or I can send you an electronic link to the Snapfish page where we assembled this booklet. Please send your order and check payable to UUCC by June 11.



Tomato Babies and MORE!!!

Orders would be appreciated by 5/22

The final list of tomatoes and vegetables (New additions and the GRAPES) is attached to this E-Blast.

Return order form by 5/22 to: dmccormick11@aol.com

Pick up your order or browse the tomatoes and purchase them on:
Wednesday May 26 from noon to 1 pm <OR>
Thursday May 27 from 6-7 pm

**If you haven't placed your order ahead of time, come and browse.
There are plenty this year.**

Please wear a mask and observe social distancing during browsing and pick up.

*This is a fundraiser for the Unitarian Universalist Community Church.
All proceeds to the UUCC.*

**<See the attachment to this E-blast for the FINAL list of items available
AND all the juicy details>**

EMBODY OUR PRINCIPLES WITH MUUSAN
(Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network)

Faith Communities Rally around Democracy

In collaboration with the Maine Council of Churches and the Maine Episcopal Diocese, **MUUSAN is inviting Unitarian Universalists throughout Maine to sign a petition from people of faith urging Senator King and Senator Collins to support S.1, the For the People Act.**

Although MUUSAN usually focuses its efforts on state-level advocacy, we recognize that **the success of all our social justice legislative advocacy depends upon a fair and inclusive democracy.**

[S.1, The For the People Act](#), empowers ordinary voters in every state by mandating same-day voter registration, restoring voting rights to people with prior convictions, ending partisan gerrymandering of congressional districts, reforming campaign finance, and more. Check out this [discussion of how The For the People Act ensures that democracy works for everyone](#) by the Brennan Center for Justice.

The House passed the **For the People Act** in March, so it is now in the hands of the Senate. Our Maine Senators need to hear from as many constituents as possible in support of this vital effort to enshrine and extend voting rights across our country!

[Sign the petition](#)

For more information, contact Kathy Kellison kell6787@gmail.com or Michaela Loisel at [:michaelatloisel@gmail.com](mailto:michaelatloisel@gmail.com).

2021-2022 Pledge Campaign UPDATE

Thank you to all who have sent a pledge form in to the church office.

Our goal is \$165,000. We are now at 69% of our goal!!!

As of today **55 pledges** have been received, raising **\$129,135** for the work of UUCU in the next fiscal year.

All pledges are important. Please return your pledge as soon as you can.

Thank you, thank you all!

Dr. Don on Covid-19

Dr. Don on COVID-19 Maine Leads in Full Vaccinations

As of Monday Maine leads the country with 49.8 percent of its population fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Vermont leads the country with 65.7% of its population at least partially vaccinated against the virus. All the New England states (plus Hawaii) lead the nation in partial vaccination rates with Rhode Island the lowest of the leading group at over 57% partially vaccinated. Massachusetts is second in the nation with a 63.1% rate. Maine has a total of over 59.7% of the population at least partially vaccinated. Rates across the rest of the nation are lower, some substantially.

Maine CDC and the Department of Health and Human Services has implemented novel strategies to increase Maine vaccination rates. Examples include mobile vaccine clinics travelling the state, hiring drug stores to vaccinate, offering incentives that are meaningful to Mainers, expanding vaccination clinic hours and offering clinics at factories and businesses. Dr. Shah, Commissioner Lambrew and their staff members should be applauded for their innovation and pandemic responsiveness in helping Maine achieve its nation leading vaccination status.

According to the New York Times, using data from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), at the bottom is Mississippi, where 32% of the population has received at least one vaccine dose. Similarly, every state bordering it has vaccinated less than 40% of its residents.

The reported contrast between states and regions largely fits along partisan political lines. States that voted Democratic in the most recent presidential election have higher vaccination rates than those that voted Republican. The 22 states with the highest percentage of vaccinated people all voted for President Joe Biden. Among the 17 states with the lowest vaccination rates, only Georgia went for Biden, according to the CDC.

Other demographic differences, including age, race and education, have similarly influenced vaccination rates. There are slight differences in state rankings depending on whether you look at those partially or fully vaccinated, or whether you compare total population, those older than 18 or those older than 65. Still, the overall demographic trends are clear, and they fit cleanly with America's politics and demographics.

The differences are largely because young people and Republicans have shown the highest levels of vaccine hesitancy, according to a CNN poll in late April. Further, those without a four-year college degree were more likely to say they will not seek out a vaccine, the CNN poll found. Racial demographics also play a role in the differences, as Black and Hispanic people have been vaccinated at rates lower than their percentage share of the population, according to CDC data. Health advocates and polling have indicated vaccine misinformation and a lack of access are the key reasons behind this difference.

The Times concludes that when you combine those trends you can understand why Vermont, and the New England states, have been so successful at vaccinations. Its population is older and more white, with more college graduates and more Democrats. Mississippi is at the opposite end. It is younger and less white, with fewer college graduates and more Republicans, according to Census data.

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

Board of Trustees

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS MAY 13, 2021

At its May 13 meeting, the UCC Board:

- Heard from the Treasurer that we are 83% of the way through the fiscal year and that 88% of pledges have come in. Income is on track, expenses are lower than budgeted.
- Heard from the Finance Chair that we have received 55 pledges totaling \$129,135 to date toward the goal of \$165,000.
- Created a task force with members of the Board and COVID Advisory group to explore reopening the building using science, safety and ethics as guiding principles. Members are Don Naber, Betty Cairn, Harry Grimmnitz, Kevin Kane and Catherine Emery. They will hold congregational conversations and interview other organizations to collect best practices before making recommendations.
- Heard from the President that UCC will make an offer to an interim minister candidate before the end of May. The UUA process was commended.
- Heard details of building renovations which are going well.
- Discussed the draft budget, which still shows a deficit. Therefore extra meetings have been scheduled to continue working through it to see how we might reduce expenses and increase income. The budget will be presented to the congregation for review at the annual meeting on Sunday, June 6th.
- At the close of business the Board presented Rev. Carie with a photo memory book and a card announcing the formation of the Rev. Carie Johnsen Social Justice Fund which has raised over \$15,000 to date (held in a fund at the Maine Community Foundation).

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

UUCU 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.

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)	tracy.mcnaughton@yahoo.com
Peggy Lamb	207 622-5174 (h)	plambflowers@outlook.com

Pastoral Ministry Team Summer On-Call Schedule

1. May 17 – May 23	Helen	7. June 28 – July 4	Tracy
2. May 24 – May 30	Peggy	8. July 5 – July 11	Martha
3. May 31 – June 6	Tracy	9. July 12 – July 18	Helen
4. June 7 -- June 13	Martha	10. July 19 – July 25	Tracy
5. June 14 – June 20	Helen	11. July 26 – August 1	Martha
6. June 21 – June 27	Peggy		

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 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.

UCC Office Hours – NEXT WEEK

UCC Office Hours

Tues, Wed, Thurs and Friday
8:00 am to 1:00 pm.

TEMPORARY HOURS

<plus 7 flex / work at home hours>

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