

Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church

Wednesday, November 3, 2021

Upcoming Services



Daylight Savings Time ENDS
THIS Sunday Nov. 7th

REMEMBER to turn back your clocks
1 hour on Saturday night (Nov. 6th)!

<p>THIS Sunday</p> <p>November 7, 2021 10:00 a.m. via Zoom</p> <p>UCC Zoom room</p>	<p><u>"Why History?"</u> Chloë Briedé, UCC Interim Minister</p> <p>The Soul Matter's theme this month is Holding History. Coincidentally, we are also looking at our congregation's history as a part of the interim process. Why do we look at history? What can it tell us about our current identity?</p> <p>Our worship associate will be Susan Burnett. Our pianist will be Karen Allen.</p> <p>Join us after the service for the next session of <u>WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?</u> with the Board of Trustees. We will begin at 11:30 after coffee fellowship on the church ZOOM.</p>
<p>NEXT Sunday</p> <p>November 14, 2021 10:00 a.m. via Zoom</p> <p>UCC Zoom room</p>	 <p>"Recovenanting in a New World: We Were, We Are, and We Can Be." Small Group Ministry</p> <p>Small Group Ministry has been a vital part of the spiritual life of the UCC for over two decades. Once a year, the Small Group Committee hosts a service in the fall which brings together all our groups in a special way. We hope you join us for this year's service. Marilyn Gordon will serve as Worship Associate, Stefanie Barley will be our pianist and the choir will share a video of the "Sacred Circle".</p> <p>As we slowly emerge from the pandemic, many of the societal norms that we took for granted have been frayed, if not shredded, completely. This stress has caused our groups to interact with each other in unique ways, searching for spiritual and interpersonal equilibrium in this challenging era.</p> <p>Immediately following the service, please <u>join us for a real SGM session, too!</u> See for yourself what SGM is all about, and consider becoming a member of an existing group (we have a number of both daytime and evening opportunities) or even form your own group!</p>

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

Other ways to UCC 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.**

UCC 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.

Did you miss last Sunday’s worship service “Welcome All You Saints”

Chloë Briedé, UCC Interim Minister

Watch the service by clicking the following link:

[Link to 10/27 "Welcome All You Saints" service](#)

A Message from the Minister

“It is possible to prepare for the future without knowing what it will be. The primary way to prepare for the unknown is to attend to the quality of our relationships, to how well we know and trust one another.” - Margaret Wheatley

I have heard from many church members over the last couple of months. I am trying to meet one-on-one with members and friends to get to know you as people and your thoughts on UCC. One refrain I have heard is “we miss each other and moments of deep connection.” Yes! This pandemic has made connection so much harder, especially casual connection. The kind of connection you get walking into the church and seeing an acquaintance or a friend. A person who greets you with a genuine “how are you?” This person is curious to know *really* how you are doing. We miss that.

While the COVID numbers are still high, keeping us on Zoom, I have heard you. We have started doing breakout rooms more during zoom worship. Ten minutes in a random room to reflect on a question together and learn from each other's wisdom. For example, this last Sunday, we reflected on the question, “Who has been a saint in your life?” While folks shared various answers, one name came up in several groups, Dan Sorenson, a well-missed congregation member. The Worship Arts Team has also added Joys and Concerns to the service once a month. By sharing the milestones in our lives, we can connect more deeply to each other.

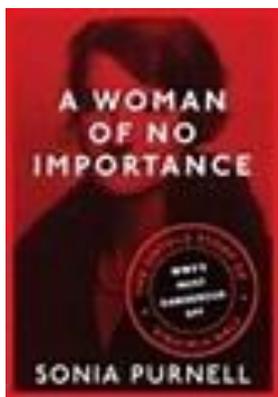
There will be other opportunities! We are in the process of planning a pumpkin bread social for after the Sunday service on November 21. How nice does warm cider and good company sound? The Pastoral Ministry Team is also planning their “A Quiet Refuge” service for outside in mid-December. A time for reflection and grieving amid the holiday season. Please keep an eye on the e-blast and join us!

On a different note, we are celebrating Diwali in my household on Thursday. Diwali is the Indian festival of lights. Monday, I decorated our apartment with orange flower garlands and multi-colored lights. My partner, who is originally from India, loves Diwali and the food and fun that comes with it. I will be talking a bit about the Diwali story in the service on Sunday. I hope you will come and learn!

As always, you are invited to reach out to me for any reason. I am available for a conversation by appointment. As an interim, I am especially interested in getting to know individual members and hearing your thoughts. Additionally, I am available for pastoral care conversations on a range of topics.

With blessings on your week,
Chloe, Interim Minister
chloeucc@gmail.com
207-623-3663

Connections



READ. SHARE. LEARN will meet in the UUCC zoom room on Thursday November 4, 2021 to discuss our current book. We begin at noon and end at 1:30. Anyone who is interested in this book is welcome to join us whether or not you have attended before. 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!

‘The never-before-told story of one woman's heroism that changed the course of the Second World War’ Goodreads

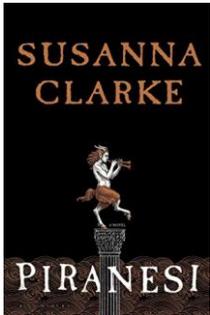


Annual Leaf Raking - Sat. Nov 6th at 9:30 am

Please help with the annual grounds clean up. We rake onto tarps and dump into the compost bin. Easy, no bagging. If we get a good turnout we are done by noon. Please help that happen. Bring a smile and rakes and gloves if you have them. We will be outside but a mask is still a good idea for when you might get close to someone. Please confirm your good intentions to participate by emailing or calling Marilyn Dunn at maine2007@hotmail.com or 512-5382.

A look ahead – READ, SHARE, LEARN for DECEMBER

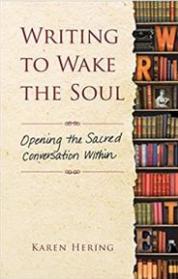
We will meet in the UUCU zoom room on Thursday December 2, 2021 to discuss Piranesi. We begin at noon and end at 1:30. Anyone who is interested in this book is welcome to join us whether or not you have attended before. For more information about this or any meeting of the group, contact June Zellers at jjzellers@roadrunner.com or Kathy Kellison at kell6787@gmail.com We would love to have you join us!



'Clarke's power certainly extends beyond mere suspense, but her story relies on the steady accretion of apprehension that finally gives way to a base-shifting revelation.' Washington Post

Weekly Events

<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> 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>Wednesdays</u> <u>Each Week</u> <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:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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 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><u>2nd & 4th</u> <u>Wednesday</u></p> <p><u>10:30 a.m. - Noon</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Seasoned Souls</u></p> <p>Seasoned Souls is a group of older church members that meet as a study/support group to talk openly about topics related to the aging process. Seasoned Souls is open to any church member over 65 years of age.</p> <p>We will meet in the yard behind the Judd house. When the weather is not so good, the group will meet via Zoom - Meeting ID 823 807 0673. If the meeting will be switched to Zoom, an email will be sent by 8:00 a.m. the morning of the meeting. The message will be sent by John Seksay, Diane Moongrove or Catherine Palmer.</p> <p>The group meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 10:30 a.m. until noon. FMI: , please contact Diane (dmoongrove@gmail.com or 446-6162) or Stefanie (stefbarley@gmail.com or 629-8890)</p>
<p><u>2nd & 4th</u> <u>Thursday</u></p> <p><u>9:00 – 10:30 a.m.</u></p>	<p><i>Writing to Wake the Soul</i></p> <p>We meet the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month - 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. in the UCC Zoom Room</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;">  <div style="flex-grow: 1;"> <p>This is an open group and if you would like to participate in this event Join using: Meeting ID: 823 807 0673, Password: 6971</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> </div> </div>

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

ANNUAL UCC THANKSGIVING PIE SALE IS BACK!

The Annual UCC Pie Sale at Longfellow's Greenhouse has been approved! We will pick up where we left off in 2019, and display as many pies [and mini pies or cakes] as possible to sell to customers and meet our UCC fundraising goal.

If you can bake or buy a pie or two, please let us know so that we can prepare carryout boxes. Bring your fresh pies to the church (Summer St. entrance) by no later than 4 p.m. on **Friday, Nov. 19.**



Or, bring your pie donation directly to Longfellow's Greenhouse, (81 Puddleduck Road, Manchester) no later than 9 a.m. on **Saturday, Nov. 20,** which is the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

Masks are required!

There is no signup sheet this year, but letting us know your pie decision by email or telephone call will help so much. Thank you!

~Catherine Palmer, Hannah Faulkner and Kathy Ann Shaw.

In 2019, Kathy Ann Shaw welcomed customers to the Longfellow's Greenhouse's UUCC Annual Fresh (and frozen) Pie Sale.

The 2021 UUCC FAIR COMETH!!

Below is the link to find the catalog for the Winter Wonderland Fair 2021 — 69 pages of wonderful items for you, for loved ones, for gift giving. Share this link with MANY so lots get to see the wonderful items available for sale to support the mission and work of UUCC.

Nancy Fritz will begin taking orders on November 4, 2021, no earlier than 8:00 AM! If previous experience is repeated many items sell quickly so enjoy browsing the catalog and make that call to Nancy.

Payment for your purchases and distribution of items will be on Dec. 4 at the church from 10 AM to Noon. If you have further questions, please call Nancy Fritz or Martha Naber.

Click here for the link to the→→→ [UUCC Winter Wonderland Catalog 2021](#)

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

At its October 14 meeting the Board:

- Heard from the treasurer that:
 - 38% of pledges have been paid so far this year
 - \$155 has been raised from advance sales for the holiday fair
 - A discussion is occurring with the administrator about the copier lease
 - She is willing to look into paying off the energy loan ahead of schedule
- Voted to adopt the Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement with MUUSAN to clarify our relationship with that organization
- Voted to accept the Financial Background Information Consent Form to be signed by volunteers who handle significant amounts of money
- Discussed the possibility of acquiring an affordable ventilation system for the church building
- Voted to charge the Committee on Ministry with convening a community discussion regarding the painting on the walkways
- Heard a report on the September What's On Your Mind session
- Adjourned

ANYONE INTERESTED IN MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE BOARD MEETING CAN REQUEST A COPY OF THE MINUTES FROM LYNN SMITH IN THE CHURCH OFFICE: admin@augustauu.org or attend the WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND Session on November 7 after the morning service.

Update from COVID-19 Advisory Group

The plan for reopening UUCS for in-person, indoor gatherings approved by the Board on August 12, 2021 depends on the COVID-19 pandemic being under control in our state and county. The Delta variant of the virus (now widely circulating in Maine) is primarily affecting unvaccinated individuals, but some fully vaccinated folks are being infected and a few are getting very sick despite immunization.

The Board adopted a Maine CDC metric that measures “community (person to person) transmission” of the virus. We are closely monitoring this metric for both our county and the entire state (since the virus does not pay attention to county lines on the map). We sought expert advice from an infectious disease specialist and have set an upper safe limit of 10 new cases of COVID-19 per 10,000 people based upon the 14 day average. *If either county or state are over 10, it is not safe for us to reopen.* This data is published by the Maine CDC every Thursday morning (see below for how to access this information for yourself).

The most recent Maine CDC data: Published on October 28, 2021

14 day average	Oct. 7	Oct. 14	Oct 21	Oct 28
Kennebec County	80.54	61.49	46.93	49.06
State	59.69	49.71	44.46	47.70

The necessary CDC metric for us to reopen is no more than 10 new cases per 10,000 people.

The present CDC metric data means that there is currently too much COVID-19 activity for us to safely reopen.

To access the Maine CDC data on your computer:

1. Search for “Maine CDC data” in browser
2. Open COVID-19: Maine Data| Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID ...
3. Scroll all the way down to the heading “View Tables of Data for the Previous 14 and 28 days” and click on that heading
4. Click on Download Data for the Previous 14 and 28 Days (PDF)
5. We are using the 14 day “Case Data” (middle 4 columns) “Rate per 10,000” for Kennebec County and the total for the State.

Dr. Don on Covid-19

Dr. Don on COVID-19

Maine COVID-19 Current Status

Even as vaccinations against COVID-19 are being administered at a brisk pace, Maine CDC reported 588 new cases of COVID on Saturday and four additional deaths. 863 new cases were reported for Sunday and Monday. (Weekend case reports are usually lower.) The seven-day daily case average has remained stubbornly high, over 450 cases for most days last month. It was at 470.6 last Saturday while across much of the country, cases have been steadily declining.

Saturday’s case count comes during a time of increased vaccinations in Maine. The per-day pace of COVID vaccines administered is at its highest rate since May, according to Maine CDC, and this week children ages 5 to 11 will be able to receive Pfizer’s vaccine, a move Maine CDC Director Nirav Shah hailed as “a solid step forward in our response to the pandemic.” There are roughly 80,000 children that age in Maine.

Last week Maine COVID vaccinations reached some of the highest daily totals since May. Maine is already in the top five states with the highest vaccination rates, all of which are in New England. In Maine 69.5 percent of all residents and almost 79 percent of those 12 and older who are currently eligible are fully vaccinated.

The Bangor Daily News reports that COVID case levels remain high in Maine and five other states even as they decline nationally, suggesting continued public health challenges remain as winter approaches. Virus cases in Maine appeared to peak in late September and dropped in the first two weeks of October, but rose again in the past two weeks with increased virus cases correlated with local vaccination rates. Maine’s least-vaccinated county, Somerset, also has the highest current seven-day case rate, more than three times higher than that of Cumberland County, which currently has the lowest case rate and highest vaccination rate. Other mostly rural counties, including Aroostook, Washington and Hancock, also have lower vaccination rates and higher infection rates.

“We need to have equal coverage around the state and right now we have a variance,” Maine CDC Director Shah said. “It won’t surprise anyone to hear there is a correlation between vaccination rates at the county levels and COVID-19 rates at the county levels.”

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

UUCS 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

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 or Peggy Lamb 622-5174.

UUCS 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 es-therpearl67@gmail.com.

UUCS Office Hours – NEXT WEEK

UUCS Office Hours

Tues, Wed, Thurs and Friday
8:00 am to 1:00 pm. <plus 7 flex hrs >

Interim Minister, Chloë Briedé

Email: chloeucc@gmail.com

Office: (207) 623-3663

Church Administrator: Lynn M. Smith,
admin@augustauu.org or 622-3232

For pastoral emergencies please call her cell phone (757) 234-1303. She will return your call as soon as possible.

Minister Briede's office hours:

Monday No office hours - Sabbath
Tuesday Noon – 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday Noon – 4:00 p.m.

Thursday Noon – 4:00 p.m.
Friday No office hours – Writing day
<Other hours available by appointment>

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