

# Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

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[www.augustauu.org](http://www.augustauu.org)

## A Message from the Minister

Happy Hannukah! A very happy festival of lights to all those in our congregation and community that celebrate. Sunday, in our service, I shared a reading by the Rev. Kendyl Gibbons. You can find the end of her reading below. She talks about not hoarding the light but instead sharing it. I love this idea. Part of our mission is to share the light with those around us, especially those who need it more than us.

As a community, we are sharing the light in a couple of ways. First, we are participating in Guest at Your Table—an annual appeal from the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee to support their work. Second, we are doing our yearly giving tree with the Family Violence Project. Monique is coordinating both of their efforts, so please be in contact with her to participate. There are also links in this e-blast. I hope as you continue into this holiday season, you will find more opportunities to share the light in whatever way you can.

On an interim note, the transition team is kicking off their listening circles around the congregation's history. It is crucial that we hear your voice in this process. As the interim minister, hearing your perspective will help me give feedback to the congregation and its leadership as we move forward. I also hope to work with the transition team to share your various stories through worship and other avenues.

As always, you are invited to reach out to me for any reason. I am available for a conversation by appointment. I am still 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.

Blessings,  
Chloe Briede, Interim Minister  
[chloeucc@gmail.com](mailto:chloeucc@gmail.com)  
207-623-3663

*Release its beauty to the public view.  
Do not hoard the light; it is not yours to gloat over in private...  
Blessed is the heritage of freedom.  
Blessed is the custom that illuminates our common darkness.  
Blessed is the sharing of the light.*

~Rev. Kendyl Gibbons

## Upcoming Services

Worship Theme for December: Opening to Joy

Let us explore the challenges and adventures of *Opening to Joy*.

<p>THIS Sunday December 5, 2021  10:00 a.m. via Zoom</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>"Music Sunday"</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chloë Briedé, UUCI Interim Minister and the UUCI Music Program</p> <p>This Music Sunday, the choir, the orchestra, and the congregation will share pieces that remind us that seasonal comfort and joy are found even on the darkest night. Chloë's sermon explores the theme of comfort; sometimes, we need to push our limits, and sometimes, we need just to settle in.</p> <p>Special thanks to our worship associate Susan Burnett and our UUCI Choir and UUCI Occasional Orchestra.</p> <p><b><u>AFTER the Service (at 11:30 a.m.):</u></b> Join the Board of Trustees for another session of <b><u>"What's on your Mind"</u></b>.</p>
<p>NEXT Sunday December 12, 2021  10:00 a.m. via Zoom</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>"Share the Joy"</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chloë Briedé, UUCI Interim Minister</p> <p>This month's Soul Matter's theme is "Opening to Joy." A sometimes mis-quoted phrase from the Buddhist canon says, "a single lamp may light hundreds of thousands of lamps without itself being diminished." Our service will reflect on how we share and spread joy during this season.</p> <p>Special thanks to our worship associate Sara Hodgkins and our pianist, Stefanie Barley.</p>

*All services and events are held in the UUCI Zoom Room unless noted.*

[Click here to join:](#)



For other ways to join Zoom, see [General Information](#)

### **Did you miss last Sunday's worship service?**

#### **"Power, Partnership, and Change"**

Chloë Briedé, UUCI Interim Minister

Watch the complete service by clicking the following link:

[Link to 11/28 "Power, Partnership, and Change" service](#)

## Upcoming Special Events

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### What's on Your Mind?

Sunday, Dec. 5 (after service)

Join us after the Sunday December 5 service for the next session of WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND? with the Board of Trustees.

We will begin at 11:30 after coffee fellowship on the church ZOOM.



### Last Chance for Beautiful Handmade Items Church Fair UPDATED Catalog

Below is an updated link for you to browse the Winter Wonderland Holiday Fair catalog.

[UUCU Winter Wonderland Holiday Fair UPDATED Catalog](#)

Items must be ordered by this Friday, Dec. 3. Pickup and payment for all orders will be Saturday, Dec. 4, from 10 to noon at the church.

Just some of the things still available are ornaments, table runners, wall hangings, aprons, decorated swags, cookie assortment, placemats and shirt savers. **DON'T DELAY!! Place your order today!!**

If you would like to place an order or get additional details about an item, contact Nancy Fritz at [nfritz@roadrunner.com](mailto:nfritz@roadrunner.com) or 213-3047.

Thank you all so much! -- Nancy Fritz and Martha Naber

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## Social Justice Opportunities

### UUSC's virtual Human Rights Leadership Celebration

will take place on **Thursday, December 9, 2021 at 7:00 PM ET / 4:00 PM PT**. This will be an evening of inspiration and hope in advance of Human Rights Day. Spotting human rights and social justice work around the world, the event will feature a keynote presentation, musical performances, and appearances by special guests.

We also want to include you in our celebration! We invite you to share a photograph illustrating what you feel is important about human rights work. If you are interested in participating, please visit [this page](#), <https://www.uusc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Photo-Directions.pdf> to learn more about the process.

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### “What will you do with your gifts to bless the world?”

When we were asked this question during last Sunday's service on “Power, Partnership & Change” by the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, many of us felt so grateful to be part of the larger UU Community.

Press [Ctrl-Home] to return to Pg. 1

Working toward social justice is the reason many of us joined this church, before we could even imagine the immense challenges facing us today. Has there ever been so important a time to work in community and to use our gifts to bring change to our world?

[Below are listed some ways to get involved:](#)

The **Social Justice** group will soon decide which Maine-based, grassroots organization will be the next recipient of a grant from the Carie Johnson Social Justice Fund. Please join us on the church Zoom account on **Sunday, December 16, 2021 at 11:15.**

**MUUSAN** (Maine Unitarian Universalist State Action Network) is gearing up for the Legislative session focusing on Democracy in Action, Health Care, Racial, Native and Immigrant Justice, and Climate Change. Come to the next MUUSAN Network meeting on Zoom (registration link at [muusan.org](http://muusan.org)) on **Saturday, January 8 from 10:00-12:30** to see how you can contribute, or contact Michaela Loisel at 592-5655 or Kathy Kellison at 445-4415 with any questions.

In the new year, we are considering forming a **Social Justice-related Small Group Ministry** and/or a **book group** to read *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson. If you are interested in joining either a book group or small group ministry, please let Lynn Smith in the office know at [admin@augustauu.org](mailto:admin@augustauu.org).

## Updates on Recent Events

***MUUSAN's 1<sup>st</sup> Online Fall Auction was a great success!!!***

UUC is proud to be the fiscal sponsor for MUUSAN as it works to bring about positive change through legislation and public policy and to educate and empower our citizens to take part in our democracy at the state level. If you were able to support MUUSAN in this fundraiser, THANK YOU!

**Auction ENDED on Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>  
with MUUSAN raising \$2,303 out of its Goal of \$3,000.**

[Thank you.](#) [Thank you.](#) [Thank you.](#)

## **PIE SALE -- A complete success - PIES SOLD OUT**

Thank you to all who contributed pies and desserts for our 12th Annual UUC Pie Sale at Longfellow's Greenhouse on Sat. 11/20. Because the Nursery always sets up tables for us on the day of the store's Live Reindeer Event, we always sell out of pies by noon. We earned more than \$600 for the church.

Thank you to the following bakers and donors: Hannah Faulkner, Kathy Ann Shaw, John Seksay, Jane Gilbert, Karen Foust, Becky Harvey, Linda Findlay, Ida Gammon, Mary Kane, Denis Thout, Marilyn Dunn, Lynn Smith, Judy McCown, Marty Soule, Martin Spahn, Chloe Bridie and Catherine Palmer. If I omitted your name, please let me know, so I can make amends.

Next year, it will be even bigger!

**Hint:** *Apple pies sell out fast!*

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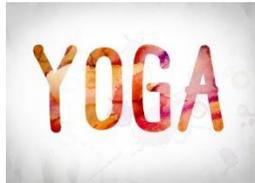
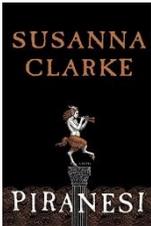
**Pumpkin Bread Social – Mill Park, November 21, 2021**  
**A wonderful gathering on a beautiful day.**

Thank you to all who made this wonderful social event happen. We shared space while enjoying some wonderful goodies. We also had the pleasure of viewing the lovely Holiday Fair items and choosing gift tags from our holiday tree for the Family Violence Project again this year. It was great to see so many of you!!



## Connections by Day of the Week

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/>

<p><b><u>Monday</u></b> Each week</p> <p><b><u>6:30 – 8:00</u></b> <b><u>p.m.</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Peaceful Heart Sangha</u></b></p> <p>You may join us at 6:15 to settle in.</p> <p>Please contact Marty Soule for updated login information at email <a href="mailto:martysoule@gmail.com">martysoule@gmail.com</a>. FMI: <a href="mailto:peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com">peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com</a></p>	
<p><b><u>Wednesdays</u></b> Each Week</p> <p><b><u>5:00 – 6:00</u></b> <b><u>p.m.</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Gentle YOGA</u></b></p> <p>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. Click the link below to join. <a href="https://maine.zoom.us/j/95825651125?pwd=UWJpOVFjVFJGb3dMWmZoOTRXa3VoUT09">https://maine.zoom.us/j/95825651125?pwd=UWJpOVFjVFJGb3dMWmZoOTRXa3VoUT09</a> Password <b>174192</b> - FMI: <a href="mailto:DebbieMattson@hotmail.com">DebbieMattson@hotmail.com</a></p>	
<p><b><u>2nd &amp; 4<sup>th</sup></u></b> <b><u>Wednesday</u></b></p> <p><b><u>10:30 a.m. -</u></b> <b><u>Noon</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Seasoned Souls</u></b></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. We will meet in the UUCC Zoom Room.</p> <p>FMI: please contact Diane (<a href="mailto:dmoongrove@gmail.com">dmoongrove@gmail.com</a> or 446-6162) or Stefanie (<a href="mailto:stefbarley@gmail.com">stefbarley@gmail.com</a> or 629-8890)</p>	
<p><b><u>Thursdays</u></b> Each Week</p> <p><b><u>8:00 – 9:30</u></b> <b><u>a.m.</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Peaceful Heart Sangha</u></b></p> <p>You may join us at 7:45 a.m. to settle in. Meet from 8-9:30</p> <p>Please contact Marty Soule for updated login information at <a href="mailto:martysoule@gmail.com">martysoule@gmail.com</a>. FMI: <a href="mailto:peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com">peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com</a></p>	
<p><b><u>1<sup>st</sup></u></b> <b><u>Thursday</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Noon-1:30</u></b> <b><u>p.m.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Next Meeting</u></b> <b><u>is: Dec. 2</u></b></p>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="flex: 1;">  </div> <div style="flex: 2; padding-left: 10px;"> <p>We will meet in the UUCC zoom room on Thursday December 2, 2021 from Noon – 1:30 p.m. to discuss <u>Piranesi</u>. Anyone interested in this book is welcome to join us whether or not you have attended before. FMI about this or any meeting of the group, contact June Zellers at <a href="mailto:jzellers@roadrunner.com">jzellers@roadrunner.com</a> or Kathy Kellison at <a href="mailto:kell6787@gmail.com">kell6787@gmail.com</a> We would love to have you join us!</p> <p>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</p> </div> </div>	

<b>More Connections by Day of the Week</b>	
<p><b><u>2nd &amp; 4<sup>th</sup></u></b> <b><u>Thursday</u></b></p> <p><b><u>9:00 – 10:30</u></b> <b><u>a.m.</u></b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Writing Group</u></b></p> <p>This is an open group that gathers and writes 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.</p> <p>Come and try it out; there is no obligation to come each time we gather. We meet in the UUCC Zoom Room.</p>
<p><b><u>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday</u></b></p> <p><b><u>1-2:30 p.m.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Next Meeting</u></b> <b><u>is: Nov. 28</u></b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Goddess / Earth Circles</u></b></p> <p><u>Goddess/Earth Circles gathering November 28, 1-2:30pm by Zoom</u></p> <p>We will be focusing on Goddesses and Gratitude. We will be dedicating our Women of Wisdom Book for 2021. In addition, we will be considering Yuletide in preparation for the December 26 service. We look forward to your joining us.</p>

**Notices / Updates / News**

**Condolences to the Palmer family**

Catherine Palmer wants you to know that her beloved 94-year-old father, Gerald, died on Thanksgiving morning in Hermon, Maine. Catherine and her wife, Rebecca Harvey, were at his bedside.

**Condolences may be sent to:** 9 Congress St., Augusta, ME 04330, or you may call her at 207.458.7384.

**Condolences to the Caldwell family:**

Susan Caldwell’s mother, Shirley Hemphill Jessup, 91, of Topsham, Maine, passed away peacefully on November 11, 2021. In the week before her passing, her loving family gathered to visit and celebrate her life and say farewell. Shirley’s obituary will be in today’s Kennebec Journal. A service will be held at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Brunswick, Maine, in the spring of 2022, where her ashes will be returned to the earth.

**Condolences may be sent to:** Jim and Susan Caldwell, 150 Indiana Road, West Gardiner, ME 04345

**UUCC is holding a giving tree to benefit the Family Violence Project again this year.**



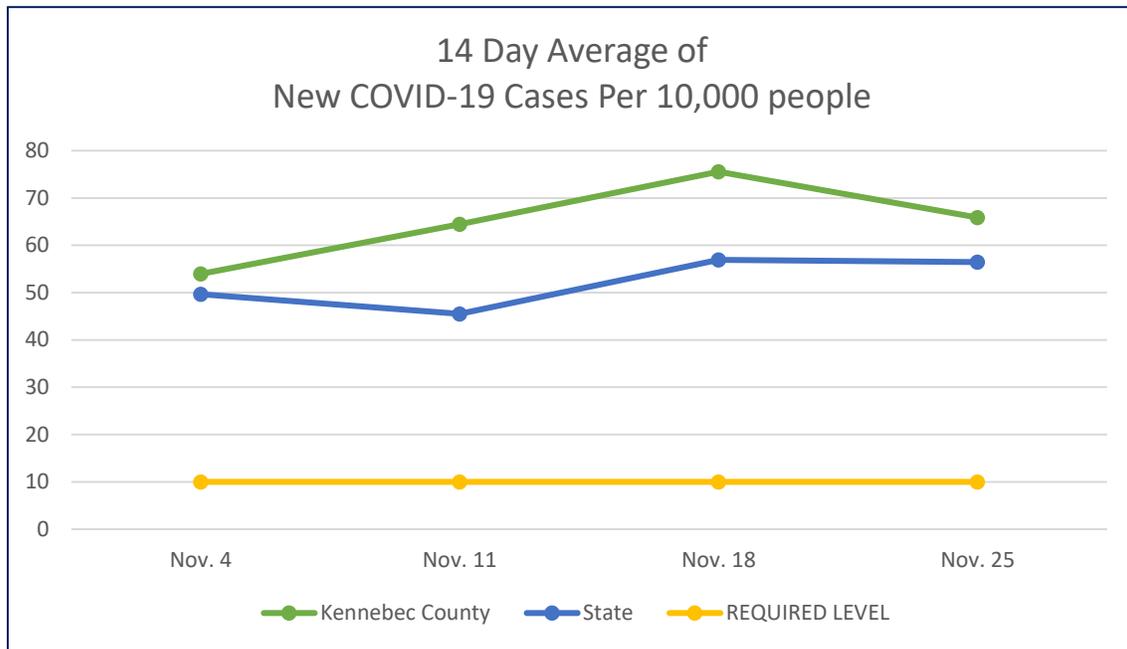
Thank you to each of you that selected a gift tag from our giving tree at the Pumpkin Bread –Cider social held on Sunday, Nov. 21.

For those of you that did not have an opportunity to select a gift from the tree (or those of you that can provide an additional gift), please visit: [Link to UPDATED Family Violence Project Gift List](#)

REMINDER: Please drop off Family Violence Project donation gifts by 2:00 PM Friday 12/3 @ Church Office or Sat. 12/4 @ the Church coat room between 10:00 AM - 1:00PM.

## Update from COVID-19 Advisory Group

The plan for reopening UCC 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 Board adopted a Maine CDC metric that measures “community (person to person) transmission” of the virus. **The necessary CDC metric for us to reopen is no more than 10 new cases per 10,000 people in Kennebec County or the State of Maine.**



**The present CDC metric data indicates that it is still unsafe for us to safely reopen.**

## Dr. Don on Covid-19

Dr. Don on COVID 19      The New Variant, Omicron

South African scientists identified a new version of the coronavirus last week that they say is behind a recent spike in COVID-19 infections. It's unclear where the new variant actually arose, but it was first detected by scientists in South Africa and as of this week has now been seen in several southern African countries, Belgium, Netherlands, Hong Kong, Israel, England, France, Australia, Japan and Canada. (I think we can assume it has travelled widely, and that current travel bans will only slow the spread.)

Scientists know that the new variant is genetically distinct from previous variants including the beta and delta variants, but do not know whether these genetic changes make it any more transmissible or dangerous. So far, there is no indication the variant causes more severe disease. Even though some of the genetic changes in the new variant appear worrying, it's still unclear whether they will pose a public health threat. Some previous variants, such as the beta variant, initially alarmed scientists but didn't end up spreading very far.

As for where it came from, the coronavirus mutates as it spreads. Many variants, including those with worrying

genetic changes, often just die out. Scientists monitor COVID-19 sequences for mutations that could make the disease more transmissible or deadly, but they cannot determine that simply by looking at the virus. Sharon Peacock, Professor of Public Health and Microbiology in the Department of Medicine of the University of Cambridge said the variant "may have evolved in someone who was infected but could then not clear the virus, giving the virus the chance to genetically evolve." This is a scenario similar to how experts think the alpha variant which was first identified in England, also emerged, by mutating in an immune-compromised person.

Dr. Angelique Coetzee, a private practitioner and chair of South African Medical Association, was one of the first doctors in South Africa to detect the new variant. She told Reuters that the symptoms of the omicron variant were "very mild" and could be treated at home. Initial reported infections were among university students, younger individuals who tend to have more mild disease, but understanding the level of severity of the omicron variant will take days to several weeks, according to the World Health Organization.

Lawrence Young, a virologist at the University of Warwick, described the variant as "the most heavily mutated version of the virus we have seen." He said it was concerning that although the variant was only being detected in low levels in parts of South Africa, "it looks like it's spreading rapidly." There are some thirty mutations in the new virus, many in the virus spike proteins changing the spike structure. (The virus spike is what enables infection and are the point at which current vaccine and antibody therapy are effective. Spike changes may alter these agents' efficiency and enhance virus transmission.)

"We don't know if this new variant could get a toehold in regions where delta is," said Sharon Peacock, of the University of Cambridge. "The jury is out on how well this variant will do where there are other variants circulating." To date, delta is by far the most predominant form of the coronavirus, accounting for more than 99% of infections submitted to the world's biggest public database. Peacock said the data so far suggest the new variant has mutations "consistent with enhanced transmissibility," but said that "the significance of many of the mutations is still not known."

Jeffrey Barrett, director of COVID-19 Genetics at the Wellcome Sanger Institute, thought that the early detection of the new variant could mean restrictions taken now would have a bigger impact than when the delta variant first emerged. "With delta, it took many, many weeks into India's terrible wave before it became clear what was going on and delta had already seeded itself in many places in the world and it was too late to do anything about it," he said. "We may be at an earlier point with this new variant so there may still be time to do something about it."

Francis Collins, director of the National Institute of Health, told Fox News Sunday that it will take two or three weeks to tell whether antibodies from vaccines or previous infections will be effective against omicron. "We expect that most likely the current vaccines will be sufficient to provide protection," Collins said. "And especially the boosters will give that additional layer of protection."

Collins and Fauci both said the troubling emergence of omicron is yet another reason for Americans to get vaccinated and obtain booster shots. "Whether or not we're headed into a bleak or bleaker winter is really going to depend upon what we do," Fauci said. "So this is a clarion call as far as I'm concerned of saying let's put aside all of these differences that we have and say, 'if you're not vaccinated, get vaccinated. If you're fully vaccinated, get boosted, and get the children vaccinated also.' We now have time."

Send your questions, comments or suggestions to [naber@gwi.net](mailto:naber@gwi.net)

## General Information

**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.

### **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	<a href="mailto:StonehengeMaine@yahoo.com">StonehengeMaine@yahoo.com</a>	207-215-6394
Terry Lee Cairn, ND, MSOM, Lac.	<a href="mailto:tlcnaturalhealth@yahoo.com">tlcnaturalhealth@yahoo.com</a>	207-557-2557
Harry Grimmnitz, MD	<a href="mailto:hgrimmnitz@gmail.com">hgrimmnitz@gmail.com</a>	207-685-9270
Don Naber, Ed.D	<a href="mailto:naber@gwi.net">naber@gwi.net</a>	207-887-1104
Cathie Nielsen, MD	<a href="mailto:cathieenielsen@gmail.com">cathieenielsen@gmail.com</a>	207-441-0248
Marty Soule, PA-C	<a href="mailto:martysoule@gmail.com">martysoule@gmail.com</a>	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.

Martha Pelletier, Chair	207-685-9592 (H)	<a href="mailto:Mjpell14@roadrunner.com">Mjpell14@roadrunner.com</a>
Helen Zidowecki	207-582-5308 (h)	<a href="mailto:hzmre@hzmre.com">hzmre@hzmre.com</a>
Tracy McNaughton	207-623-3110 (h)	<a href="mailto:tracy.mcnaughton@yahoo.com">tracy.mcnaughton@yahoo.com</a>
Peggy Lamb	207 622-5174 (h)	<a href="mailto:plambflowers@outlook.com">plambflowers@outlook.com</a>

**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.

### **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 [es-therpearl67@gmail.com](mailto:es-therpearl67@gmail.com).

## UCC Office Hours – NEXT WEEK

### **UCC Office Hours**

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

**Church Administrator:** Lynn M. Smith,  
[admin@augustauu.org](mailto:admin@augustauu.org) or 622-3232

**Interim Minister,** Chloë Briedé  
Email: [chloeuucc@gmail.com](mailto:chloeuucc@gmail.com)  
Office: (207) 623-3663

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](mailto:admin@augustauu.org), Phone 622-3232  
Coordinator of Lifespan Faith Formation, Monique McAuliffe, [LifespanFF@augustauu.org](mailto:LifespanFF@augustauu.org)  
Music Director, Bridget Convey, [musicdirector@augustauu.org](mailto:musicdirector@augustauu.org)