

Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church
Wednesday, December 8, 2021

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A Message from the Minister

I can't believe it's December! This last Sunday, we talked about comfort and the Danish concept of *hygge*. I appreciated everyone in the service sharing their own version of *hygge*; how they find comfort and light in this dark, cold season. I heard folks talk about pets, fireplaces, the outdoors, and family. I shared my own version of *hygge*, gathering around the woodstove with my partner, parents, and dogs and drinking a warm cup of coffee. This Sunday we will talk about sharing and spreading joy.

After the service on Sunday, the Board of Trustees held their "What on Your Mind?" session. It was an interesting discussion about the pandemic and reopening. I have noticed some confusion about who makes the decisions regarding reopening. The COVID-19 Advisory Group is a group of medical experts who meet monthly. The advisory group discusses and makes recommendations to the board. The board decides to accept those recommendations or not. I encourage anyone who has thoughts about reopening to contact the Board. The easiest way to do this is to email Kathy Ann Shaw (kathyannshaw@roadrunner.com).

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.

Blessings,
Chloe Briede, Interim Minister
chloeucc@gmail.com
207-623-3663

Upcoming Services

Worship Theme for December: Opening to Joy

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

<p>THIS Sunday December 12, 2021</p> <p>10:00 a.m. via Zoom</p>	<p>"Share the Joy" Chloë Briedé, UUCC 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>
<p>NEXT Sunday December 19, 2021</p> <p>10:00 a.m. via Zoom</p>	<p><u>"Finding Joy"</u> Chloë Briedé, UUCC Interim Minister and the UUCC Music Program</p> <p>Sometimes, we have to be willing to look inside ourselves to find joy. This Sunday, we will be encouraged to notice the treasures we already have if we are just willing to see them.</p> <p>Special thanks to our worship associate John Seksay and our pianist, Karen Foust.</p>
<p>** Special Service** Sunday, Dec. 19th</p> <p>3:30 p.m. - outside the church -</p>	<p>A Quiet Refuge: Grief and the Holidays Sunday, December 19 at 3:30 pm, outside the church</p> <p>The holiday season is often hard. It can bring up memories of loved ones lost and relationships broken. Join us outside the church for a time of reflection and remembrance. We will gather at 3:30 pm, share a prayer at 4 pm, and end by 4:30 pm. There will also be warm beverages to share!</p>
<p>** Special Service ** Friday, Dec. 24th</p> <p>5:30 p.m. via Zoom</p>	<p>Christmas Eve Service December 24 at 5:30 pm, on the church zoom</p> <p>Celebrate Christmas with your UUCC community! Chloe and Monique will share lessons of joy along with a selection of familiar carols from our UUCC musicians.</p> <p>(Susan Claska Burnett is our worship associate. Music will be provided by the UUCCOO and other guests!)</p>

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

[Click here to join:](#)

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



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Did you miss last Sunday's worship service?

"Music Sunday"

Chloë Briedé, UUC Interim Minister and the UUC Music Program

Watch the complete service by clicking the following link:

[Link to 12/1 "Music Sunday" service](#)

Upcoming Special Events

UUA CURRENT EVENTS: BE IN THE KNOW (!)

about the current UUA Movement and Transformation towards Inclusion and Diversity

Sponsored by UUCA Lifespan Faith Formation Coordinator

Please read this thread and then check out the links.

1. <https://sanjoseuu.org/frequently-asked-questions-what-is-beloved-community/>
2. <https://www.uua.org/leadership/library/communities>

Dear All,

I am running an educational series for December and January on:

1. **UUA's vision of *Beloved Community***
2. **UUA's movement towards a vision of our UU Church as a *Community of Communities* - what does it mean and what does that look like?**
3. **How are they all connected to the evolution and development of the transforming *8th Principal*.**

I am sharing 2 links with you today (above) that reference the first 2 topics in this series.

I invite you to take the time (at your leisure) to read #1

and then view # 2 - a video with Paula Cole Jones (*see bio below), who was instrumental in developing this philosophy of Community of Communities and the 8th Principle. She explains both UUA visions of Beloved Community intertwined with Community of Communities and the 8th Principle.

The video is over 1 hour and I expect you may need to take breaks and watch it more than once to absorb this exciting vision and practice!

I will send links for topic 3 in this series in early January.

PLEASE NOTE: The previous scheduled December round table discussions have been rescheduled to January, as follows:

There will be 2 opportunities for a virtual round table discussion in January 2022 to share your thoughts and ask questions surrounding the topics of this series.

Tuesday, 1/14 @ 5:30 PM

PLEASE NOTE: Dates were corrected

Friday, 1/17 @ 10:30 AM

---- (you do not need to attend both)----

***Bio for Paula Cole Jones:** Paula is the founder of ADORE (A Dialogue on Race & Ethnicity), a former president of DRUUMM (Diverse and Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries) and an independent consultant specializing in multicultural competencies and institutional change. She lives in Washington, D.C. She served as an Interim Congregational Life Consultant for the Central East Region from 2018-2020.

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. Spotighting 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.

Links to UUSC sponsored Guest at Your Table:

Axel Fuentes: <https://vimeo.com/596023719/669a7f5070>

Myra Dahgaypaw: <https://vimeo.com/596042719/9f6f7eb1f4>
Extended interview: <https://vimeo.com/596031488/f6902ad2d8>

Maina Talia: <https://vimeo.com/596027172/967fc177f5>

“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. 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) 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.

Join virtually with UUA President Susan Frederick-Gray, Dec 13 at noon.



In this Holy Season, it is time to raise a prophetic moral voice for a just economic recovery and voting rights. Our UU Contingent at the Moral March will gather with Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray before the march and rally for fellowship, reflection, and a centering prayer circle as we head into the action.

Link to sign up for the event: [Link to Sign Up](#)

Updates on Recent Events

December Fair Results

Let's begin with thank you!



To all the craft people, the knitters, the bakers, the stitchers, the quilters and embroiderers, the decorators of wreaths and swags, the candy maker, the gift basket maker, wreath maker, thank you all. We must also thank the banker, the photographer, the catalog developer, AND of course, the patrons of the fair!!! **The fair would not have happened without you all working together.**

The fair exceeded the budget goal of \$2250! **Thank you ALL!**

The **What's on Your Mind?** session on **December 5th** entailed a lively decision of mostly one

topic: **the church reopening!**

Attending were two congregants and four Board members.

Participant comments were as follows:

- *People are frustrated that we are not in church*
- *Things have 'changed' since [the Board] first developed their guidelines with the 10-person metrics*
- *Maybe there is some kind of compromise, going hybrid like UU churches in Brunswick and Yarmouth for instance*
- *'Tis the season' and people are looking for connection*
- *I've talked with more than seven people who are feeling the same way*

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- *Have been asked where our psyche is; how are we going to heal this church without community*
- *People are thinking of quitting*

The Board responded:

- Thank you for bringing this to us
- We had planned to discuss this further at our Board meeting on the 9th (already planned)

Participants:

- *It's a cost benefit concern, not just safety*
- *Starting to feel like the church is 'melting away'*
- *Maybe we need to articulate what we are missing*

Board:

- A note of clarification: ultimately the decision is up to the Board not the COVID Task Force
- There is a Reopening Budget for technology to allow everyone to participate in the way they want to, so let's use it!
- The Renovations Group worked hard in the spring and summer to make changes to the campus to get us ready to return

The only other topic that came up during the meeting was the following;

Participants:

- *Why do so few people show up for the **What's on Your Mind** sessions. There are more Board members than participants*
- *Does the congregation find the Board important to decisions?*

Board:

- Perhaps the timing is bad on a Sunday afternoon when folks have been on zoom throughout a full service
-

MUUSAN's 1st 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 30th
with MUUSAN raising \$2,303 out of its Goal of \$3,000.**

Thank you. Thank you. Thank 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><u>Monday</u> Each week</p> <p><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>Please contact Marty Soule for updated login information at email martysoule@gmail.com. FMI: peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com</p> <div style="text-align: right;"></div>
<p><u>Wednesdays</u> Each Week</p> <p><u>5:00 – 6:00</u> <u>p.m.</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Gentle YOGA</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">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. https://maine.zoom.us/j/95825651125?pwd=UWJpOVFjVFJGb3dMWmZoOTRXa3VoUT09 Password 174192 - FMI: DebbieMattson@hotmail.com</p> <div style="text-align: right;"></div>
<p><u>2nd & 4th</u> <u>Wednesday</u></p> <p><u>10:30 a.m. -</u> <u>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. We will meet in the UUCC Zoom Room.</p> <p>FMI: please contact Diane (dmoongrove@gmail.com or 446-6162) or Stefanie (stefbarley@gmail.com or 629-8890)</p>
<p><u>Thursdays</u> Each Week</p> <p><u>8:00 – 9:30</u> <u>a.m.</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Peaceful Heart Sangha</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">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 martysoule@gmail.com. FMI: peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com</p> <div style="text-align: right;"></div>
<p><u>1st</u> <u>Thursday</u></p> <p><u>Noon-1:30</u> <u>p.m.</u></p> <p><u>Next Meeting</u> <u>is: Jan 6</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Read, Learn, Share</u></p> <p>We will meet in the UUCC zoom room on Thursday January 6, 2021 from Noon – 1:30 p.m. to discuss <u>Becoming Nicole</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 jzellers@roadrunner.com or Kathy Kellison at kell6787@gmail.com We would love to have you join us!</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <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>

More Connections by Day of the Week	
<u>2nd & 4th</u> <u>Thursday</u> <u>9:00 – 10:30</u> <u>a.m.</u>	<u>Writing Group</u> 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. Come and try it out; there is no obligation to come each time we gather. We meet in the UUCC Zoom Room.
<u>4th Sunday</u> <u>1-2:30 p.m.</u> <u>Next Meeting</u> <u>is: Dec. 26</u>	<u>Goddess / Earth Circles</u> <u>Goddess/Earth Circles gathering, 1-2:30pm by Zoom (Next meeting is Dec. 26)</u> Goddess/Earth Circles focuses on Goddess and women’s lives, pagan and earth-based spirituality and practices, earth celebrations and cycles, the role of women today. Includes Women of Wisdom celebration. All ages and genders are welcome.

Notices / Updates / News

This past week Martha and my mutual email was hacked and our email list was used to plead for gift cards to a supposed Martha friend suffering from liver cancer and having a birthday. The hackers were fortunately poorly organized and too obvious. No one seems to have fallen for their story, especially with its strange address, poorly written appeal and unworkable request. We found later it was suspected that they were going to extort a ransom for the return of our contact list of email addresses and our last two years of emails, all of which we have lost.

So.....Please send to my new email address donnaber1364@gmail.com copies of most recent communications so I can get reestablished, and thanks.

(Martha's new email address is marthaber73@gmail.com)

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.

NOVEMBER 2021 BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

At its November meeting the Board:

Heard from the Treasurer that we continue in good financial shape

Discussed Naomi Koneski’s resignation as Vice Pres. of the Board and explored options for her replacement

The amount of time the Treasurer's job currently takes

How useful the Weekly E-blast is for all church communication

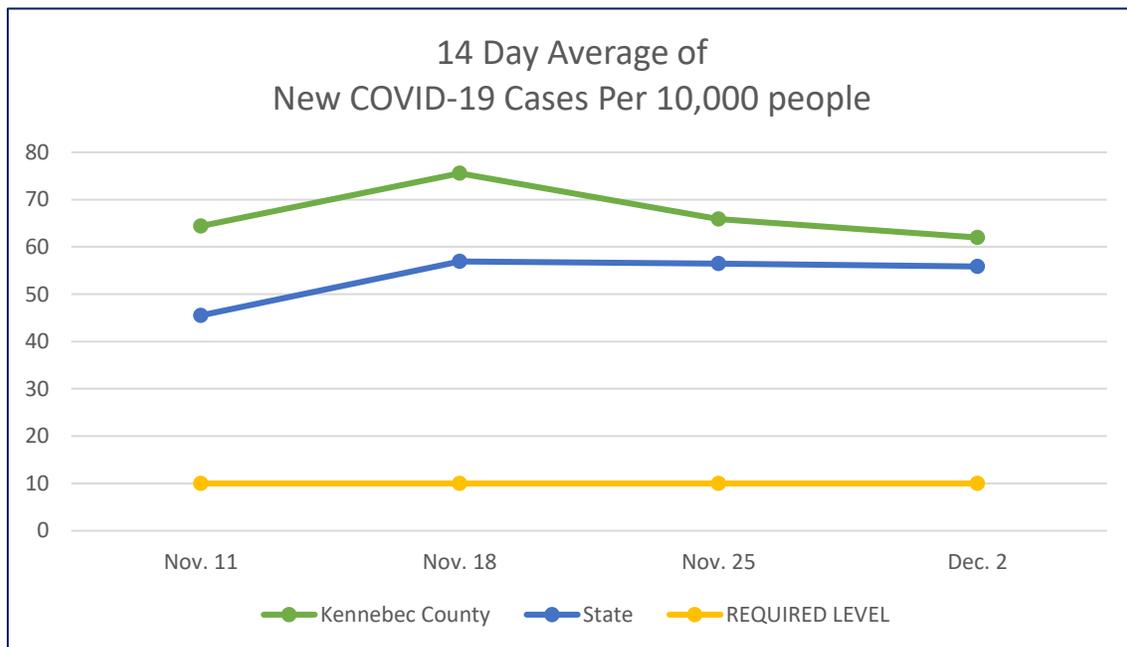
Reactions to the Leadership retreat held with UUSA staff in October

Complete minutes of the meetings are available by request from the church office, admin@augustauu.org

COVID-19 Updates / News

Update from COVID-19 Advisory Group

The plan for reopening UUCG 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.

Please note that discussions are taking place around reassessing the re-opening plan approved by the Board in August. The discussions may lead to a changing of the metrics OR to reopening the church. See the discussion in the update from the 12/5 “What’s on your Mind” session (in this edition under updates on Recent Events). The Board of Trustees will be discussing the reopening plan at the Board meeting tomorrow night. Stay tuned...

Dr. Don on Covid-19

Dr. Don on COVID-19

A Small Glimmer In The Dark

I thought we could all use a few positive moments taken from the Auburn Mall COVID vaccine clinic.

Just ten weeks ago we would see perhaps 35 or 40 people in an entire 8 to 5 day. Now we have lines that are that long routinely. Two weeks ago most people were receiving booster shots, now we are seeing a very substantial number receiving their first vaccination, a few grumbling, some fearing needles, but almost all glad to be there, even if it meant having to wait in line for a while.

One older gentleman couldn't wait to tell me how pleased he was to be at the clinic. He was waiting in line for a booster and with delight. He had recently recovered from COVID that placed him in the hospital for almost two weeks. "My doctor said if I hadn't been vaccinated I would have died, so I'm here for my booster and glad of it."

Entire families show up, occasionally led by dad, usually by mom, with kids from older teens to babies in carriers. Two parents at least in their late 70's came in yesterday with their two younger (50's?) sons for their first vaccinations. I was pleased to see them, and never considered asking them what changed their minds.

The clinic is scheduled to open at 8AM, we often open earlier. People show up early, some very early. The conversations go something like this: "You sure are early, (kiddingly) you want to help us set up?" "Sure! What do you want done?" or "Gosh you're here early. Yup, but I'm first!" Me: "You wanted to avoid the lines?" He followed with "I don't mind lines...as long as they're behind me."

Often younger teens are so eager they have a hard time waiting. They have wanted to get back to school, sports, friends, and group activities. Older teens and young adults often dress in clothing preplanned to make vaccination easier while remaining stylish and trendy. Some adults wear so many layers and with long sleeves that partial disrobing is necessary while curtains are closed. Last week, when the line got really long I quipped that everyone must have heard about the free buffet. A woman not missing a beat said "I thought it was a wine bar!"

And always there is gratitude. For the clinic, the Central Maine Medical Center staff, the volunteers with their identifying badges and the National Guard, in uniform, who have been with us since June. They have done a huge amount of work they never expected to be participating in. As one said to me "the guard in Mass (Massachusetts) are driving school buses. I sure am glad to be here and not there!" So was I.

Send your questions, comments or suggestions to donnaber1364@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE: **This is a new email address. Our previous email was hacked and substantially stolen.**

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	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

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)	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.

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.

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 or 622-3232

Interim Minister, Chloë Briedé
Email: 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, Phone 622-3232
Coordinator of Lifespan Faith Formation, Monique McAuliffe, LifespanFF@augustauu.org
Music Director, Bridget Convey, musicdirector@augustauu.org