

Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

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69 Winthrop St., Augusta ME
(207)622-3232 – info@augustauu.org
www.augustauu.org

A Message from the Minister

It has been quite a week! I feel the holiday stress commencing. I still have holiday cards to send! How are you all feeling? Excited and festive? Tired or down? Maybe a little bit of everything? I've been thinking about the tornados in the south and mid-west and feeling sad. A tornado did considerable damage in Bowling Green, KY, near the UU congregation. The church was okay, but some of their congregants' homes were damaged. We are left to pray for folks in mourning. If you are wondering how to help, there are some places to make donations. A minister from Kentucky recommended the [Team Western Kentucky Tornado Relief Fund](#). You can also always give to the [Unitarian Universalist Association's Disaster Relief Fund](#).

Last week's service talked about the power of small gifts. Small gifts that can take on meaning beyond their monetary value. We also finished our four-week-long focus on the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's Guest at Your Table program. Thank you, Monique, for organizing that effort! Additionally, it was a delight to hear the advent wreath story shared by our two retired religious educators, Linda and Helen. Remember the advent wreath's name is Patience! I need to remember to have patience during this season, patience.

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.

Sending warm wishes,
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 19, 2021 10:00 a.m. via Zoom</p>	<p><u>"Finding Joy"</u> Chloë Briedé, UCC Interim Minister and the UCC 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 3:30 p.m. - outside the church -</p>	<p><u>A Quiet Refuge: Grief and the Holidays</u> 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 5:30 p.m. via Zoom</p>	<p><u>Christmas Eve Service</u> December 24 at 5:30 pm, on the church zoom</p> <p>Celebrate Christmas with your UCC community! Chloe and Monique will share lessons of joy along with a selection of familiar carols from our UCC musicians.</p> <p>(Susan Claska Burnett is our worship associate. Music will be provided by the UCCCOO and other guests!)</p>
<p>Sunday December 26, 2021 10:00 a.m. via Zoom</p>	<p><u>"Yuletide: The Holiest time of the Year "</u> Goddess/Earth Circles Group</p> <p>What is holy? We will reflect on themes from survival to celebration. What do we observe in our feelings, our needs, and what we do to create rituals to cope in these twelve days of yule?</p> <p>Special thanks to our pianist, Stefanie Barley.</p>

All services and events are held in the UCC 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?

"Share the Joy"

Chloë Briedé, UUCC Interim Minister

Watch the complete service by clicking the following link:

[Link to 12/12 "Share the Joy" service](#)

Upcoming Special Events

FREE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER



Once again community volunteers will be providing a free (curbside or delivery) Community Christmas dinner on Christmas day at So. Parish Congregational Church, 9 Church Street, Augusta, Maine from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Those unable to come to the church and who would like a dinner delivered to the greater Augusta area (Augusta, Manchester, Chelsea, Gardiner, Hallowell, Randolph), please call the church office at 622-0552 and leave a message.

UUA CURRENT EVENTS: BE IN THE KNOW (!)

about the current UUA Movement and Transformation towards Inclusion and Diversity

Sponsored by UUCCA 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

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>

Fundación Entre Mujeres: <https://vimeo.com/595963115/0944875137>



**Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network
Next Network Meeting: Saturday, Jan. 8
10:00 am - 12:30 pm via Zoom**

Special focus on the Maine Tribal Sovereignty bill (LD 1626) with guest speaker Passamaquoddy Tribal Representative Rena Newell

Sign up at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAqcO2rqj0oE9xO1LTdHPfmdIwr9d1p0qr>

“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.

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!**

UPDATE on Family Violence Project collection to be issued next week.

The **What's on Your Mind?** session on **December 5th** entailed a lively discussion 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*
- *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:

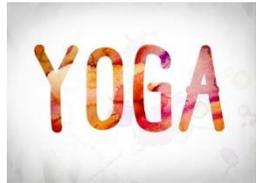
- *Why do so few people show up for the **What's on Your Mind** sessions. There are more Board members than participants*
- *Does the congregation find the Board important to decisions?*

Board:

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

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: flex-start;">  <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--	
<p><u>2nd & 4th</u> <u>Thursday</u></p> <p><u>9:00 – 10:30</u> <u>a.m.</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Writing Group</u></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 UUCU Zoom Room.</p>
<p><u>4th Sunday</u></p> <p><u>1-2:30 p.m.</u></p> <p><u>Next Meeting</u> <u>is: Jan 23rd</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Goddess / Earth Circles</u></p> <p>** Please note that the <u>December 26th Goddess group</u> is <u>CANCELLED</u> since Goddess will be leading our “Yuletide” service instead that day. **</p> <p><u>Please join the next Goddess/Earth Circles gathering on Jan 23rd, 1-2:30pm by Zoom</u></p> <p>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.</p>

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.

(Marttha's new email address is marthanaber73@gmail.com)

Two Important ANNOUNCEMENTS

The office will be closed between Christmas and New Years Day.

There will be no E-blast on Dec. 29th. If you have information you want to get to the congregation for early January, please submit a notice to the Admin by Tuesday 12/21 for inclusion in the 12/22 E-blast.

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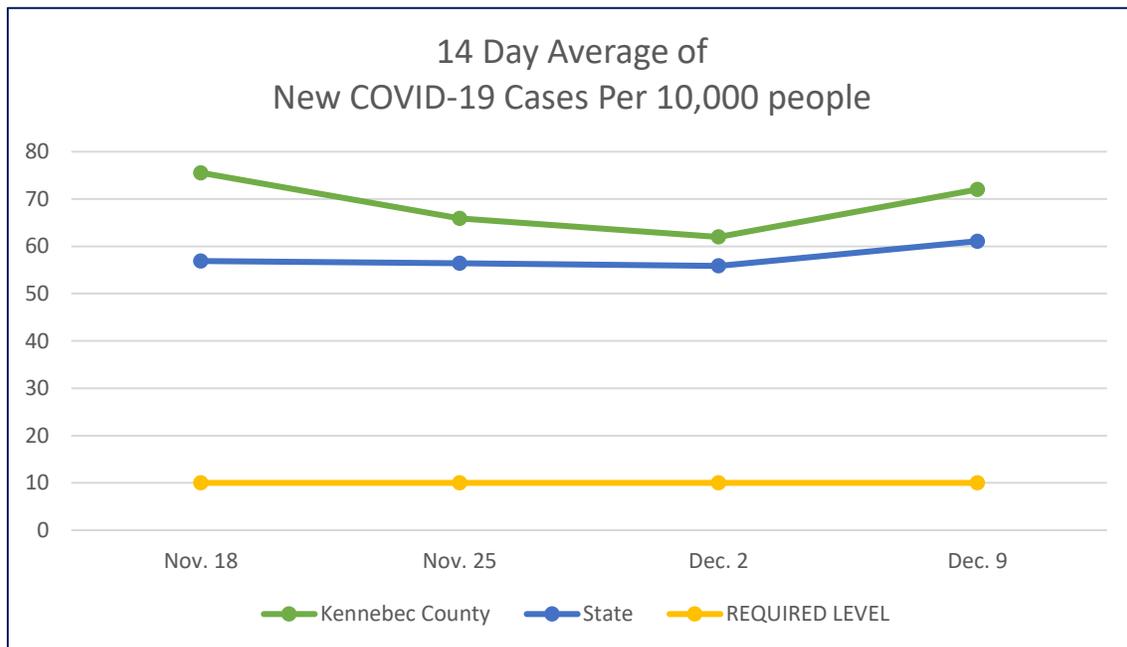
Winter newsletter articles are due by the end of the day THIS Monday, December 20th.

Please submit your articles to newsletter@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 discussed the reopening plan at its meeting on Dec. 9th. More information will come.. stay tuned..

Dr. Don on Covid-19

Dr. Don on COVID 19 Taking a Break, (while seeking reliable truth)

The very wise woman I live with has appropriately suggested that it might be time for a break from writing these weekly articles. She's right. So with this 65th submission I will be taking a brief hiatus.

I urge you to be as careful now as you have been at any time previously. This virus is a tiny protein covered mechanism that only reacts to the opportunity to multiply and nothing else. In its process of spread and reproduction in our bodily tissues it destroys the cells it uses for growth. It has no intelligence, emotion, or frustration and shows no fatigue.

We are all, and I mean to a person, tired and frustrated. And now increasingly scared. The pandemic numbers are clear and fearful. Please care for yourselves and those around you. Listen to the medical and scientific professionals on the front line. Even though they are in the same emotional state as the rest of us, it is their job to provide the best advice they can, and here in Maine they do. Remember it is the job of politicians to be reelected, media to sell advertising, and media personalities to follow the business model of their outlets. Truth does not meet the needs of some of these groups.

My holiday wish for you is health, happiness and the joy of the season, tempered with caution. I will be writing you in the new year from Florida.

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

This is a new email address, as our other 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	donnaber1364@gmail.com	207-887-1104
Cathie Nielsen, MD	cathieenielsen@gmail.com	207-441-0248
Marty Soule, PA-C	martysoule@gmail.com	207-685-9270

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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

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.

UUCU 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.

UUCU Office Hours – NEXT WEEK

UUCU 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

(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>

For pastoral emergencies please call her cell phone

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