

# Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church

Wednesday, December 22, 2021

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69 Winthrop St., Augusta ME  
(207)622-3232 – [info@augustauu.org](mailto:info@augustauu.org)  
[www.augustauu.org](http://www.augustauu.org)

## A Message from the Minister

Happy Solstice! I hope you made it through the longest night of the year okay. I am writing this as my partner, Div, drives us and our dog Dobby, down to Virginia to spend a week with my family. I am excited to see them. I am looking forward to the cozy comforts of home and resting after the Christmas Eve service.

I know we miss Christmas Eve in the Sanctuary. I also love singing Silent Night together and lighting candles in the dark. Unfortunately, with covid-19 cases on the rise, we continue on Zoom, at least for now. I hope you will join us for the Christmas Eve service at 5:30 pm on December 24. We have a very special service of music, readings, and reflections planned for the congregation. Karen Allen, Stefanie Barley, Marilyn Gordon, and Dale McCormick formed a quartet and recorded, from the sanctuary, a lovely variety of carols for our enjoyment. There is also a special prelude from Hannah Faulkner. It will be great to see Hannah at the piano - I know she has been missed by the congregation. It will be a joyful, familiar gathering. I look forward to zooming with you from Virginia.

As always, you are invited to reach out to me for any reason, even over the holiday. Please let me know if you need support during this season. I look forward to resuming conversations around the interim process, and general church work in January.

Warm wishes to you and yours,  
Chloe Briede, Interim Minister  
[chloeucc@gmail.com](mailto:chloeucc@gmail.com)  
207-623-3663

## Upcoming Services

Worship Themes:      December: Opening to Joy  
    January:    Living with Intention

*Let us explore the challenges and adventures of <Theme of the month>.*

<p><b>** Special Service **</b>  <b>Friday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p><b>5:30 p.m. via Zoom</b></p>	<p><b><u>Christmas Eve Service</u></b>                  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>
<p>THIS Sunday                  December 26, 2021</p> <p>10:00 a.m. via Zoom</p>	<p><b>"Yuletide: The Holiest time of the Year "</b>                  Goddess/Earth Circles Group</p> <p>Engage with the turning of the light at Solstice, survival to celebration, connections with family and community, and attributes of Twelfth Night as a new year approaches. What do we observe, what are our feelings and needs, and what rituals and myths do we create in these Twelve Days of Yuletide?</p> <p>Special thanks to our pianist, Stefanie Barley.</p>
<p>NEXT Sunday                  January 2, 2022</p> <p>10:00 a.m. via Zoom</p>	<p><b><u>"Poetry for the New Year: Intentions and Resolution"</u></b>                  Chloë Briedé, UUCC Interim Minister and UUCC Poets</p> <p>Our New Years' service will feature poems from our UUCC poets. They will reflect on intentions and resolutions as we embark on 2022.</p> <p>Special thanks to our worship associates Marilyn Gordon and John Saksay, to Chloë who will also serve as our worship tech and to our pianist, Karen Allen-</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](#)



**Did you miss last Sunday's worship service? "Finding Joy"**

with Chloë Briedé, UUCC Interim Minister and the UUCC Music Program

Watch the complete service by clicking the following link:

[Link to 12/19 "Finding Joy" service](#)

## Upcoming Special Events

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### 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.**

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## Social Justice Opportunities

We had our last Guest at Your Table Service (GAYT) on 12/12. The links to each of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) videos that we viewed in our services are listed below.

If you still have a GAYT box to drop off at our Church office, you may do so during office hours in the first week of January 1/4 to 1/7. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. each day. You may also mail a check payable to “UUC” designating it for GAYT in the memo line of your check. Checks should be mailed to UUC, P.O. Box 8, Augusta ME 04330-0008. You can also donate online at UUSC secure link: <https://donate.uusc.org/give/75595/#!/donation/checkout>

### 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>

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

**Signup link: [MUUSAN Network Meeting, Sat. Jan. 8th](#)**

MUUSAN is gearing up for the Legislative session focusing on Democracy in Action, Health Care, Racial, Native and Immigrant Justice, and Climate Change. Come to this Network meeting to see how you can contribute, or contact Michaela Loisel at 592-5655 or Kathy Kellison at 445-4415 with any questions.

**Special focus at our Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> meeting will be on the Maine Tribal Sovereignty bill (LD 1626).** We are fortunate to have guest speaker **Rena Newell**, the Passamaquoddy Tribal Representative in the Maine House of Representatives. Representative Newell is the former Tribal Education Director for the Passamaquoddy Tribal Government and is deeply involved with efforts in the legislature to expand upon Tribal-State coordination, as well as Tribal sovereignty. In preparation for the Network Meeting, visit MUUSAN's new [Stand With Wabanaki](#) webpage.

*[Opportunities to become involved in Social Justice:](#)*

The COVID pandemic has limited so much, even restricting our ability to help our neighbors. Here are some ideas from the Social Justice Committee, the ideas range from no risk to low risk of COVID exposure; from local to statewide.

**Local Community, No Risk:** It's COLD in Augusta! Bridging the gap is a free clothing and essentials pantry and they are in need of new or gently used clean WARM, waterproof Coats and Boots. Bring to 209 Eastern Ave, Augusta (the Episcopal Church) Monday to Thursday, 10 am to 2 pm. Please schedule large donations in advance by calling Melissa at 458-7088

**Local Community, Low Risk:** Deliver Meals on Wheels. This meal program has expanded due to COVID and more people are eligible to have meals delivered to their homes. Volunteers may sign up for one or more routes per week. From start to finish, it will take as little as an hour and as long as two hours. Meals are delivered at the person's door; the exchange is less than 30 seconds. If you are interested, call the Cohen Community Center in Hallowell, 207-626-7777. Or if you want to talk with a current volunteer, email [debbiemattson@hotmail.com](mailto:debbiemattson@hotmail.com).

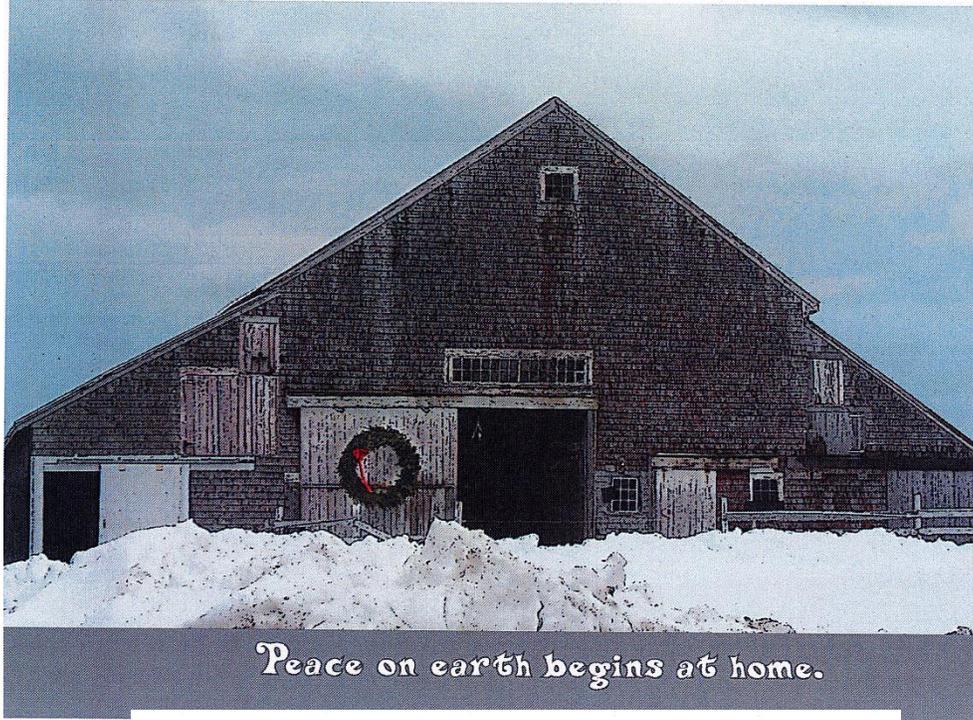
**Statewide, No Risk:** Support for the Maine Tribal Sovereignty Bill (LD 1626) is a major focus for MUUSAN this upcoming Legislative Session. If you are interested in joining with other UUs to ensure passage and implementation of this bill, contact Mary Kane [MaryKane072@gmail.com](mailto:MaryKane072@gmail.com).

If you, as a reader, want to promote other ideas for social justice, please contact the Co-chairs of the Social Justice Committee, Debbie Mattson [debbiemattson@hotmail.com](mailto:debbiemattson@hotmail.com) or Michaela Loisel [michaelatloisel@gmail.com](mailto:michaelatloisel@gmail.com).

## Updates on Recent Events

Thank you everyone for supporting the Family Violence Project Christmas "Gift Tree" with your donations! See the below "Thank you" card received from FVP. If you would like to become a trained volunteer or learn more about the Family Violence Project and the work they do, please visit their website:

<https://www.familyviolenceproject.org/>



**We wish you a peaceful and warm holiday  
and all the best for the new year**

Thank you for your participation in the holiday program this year. Your generous gifts and gift cards gave single individuals in the shelter an amazing Christmas.

Thank you for your  
continued support,  
FVP



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## **Board Highlights:**

**At the December 9, 2021 meeting the Board:**

- The Treasurer reported that 75% of pledges have been received and that the pie sale and the holiday fair both exceeded the budgeted amount.
- The Finance Committee
  - reported that the job description for the treasurer is being rewritten to reduce the tasks required of a volunteer.
  - recommended a 3.3% raise for the staff
  - noted the lack of a chair for the stewardship campaign
- Various members reported on how other UU churches are handling reopening
- Two guests requested that the Board consider some form of reopening the church buildings
- The Board voted
  - to sell our snowblower as we have contracted for snow removal
  - that church checks cannot be written for cash
  - to require all staff and contractors who have contact with people in the congregation be vaccinated
  - to allow up to 5 people to meet in the sanctuary for an hour and a half to prepare for holiday services

**For more information about the meeting, please request a copy of the minutes from the church administrator, [admin@uuccaug.org](mailto:admin@uuccaug.org)**

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## **Connections by Day of the Week**

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/>

<p><b><u>Monday</u></b> <u>Each week</u></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>	
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<p><b><u>Wednesdays</u></b>  <u>Each Week</u></p> <p><b><u>5:00 – 6:00</u></b>  <u>p.m.</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Gentle YOGA</u></b></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.  <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>  <u>Noon</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><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 UCC 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>  <u>Each Week</u></p> <p><b><u>8:00 – 9:30</u></b>  <u>a.m.</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><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>  <u>p.m.</u></p> <p><b><u>Next Meeting</u></b>  <u>is: Jan 6</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Read, Learn, Share</u></b></p> <p>We will meet in the UCC zoom room on Thursday January 6, 2021 from Noon – 1:30 p.m. to discuss <b><i>Becoming Nicole</i></b>. 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>
<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>  <u>a.m.</u></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 UCC Zoom Room.</p>
<p><b>--See next page for More Connections by Day of the Week--</b></p>	

<p><b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b></p> <p><b>1-2:30 p.m.</b></p> <p><b>Next Meeting is: Jan 23<sup>rd</sup></b></p>	<p align="center"><b><u>Goddess / Earth Circles</u></b></p> <p align="center">** Please note that the <b>December 26<sup>th</sup> Goddess group</b> is <b>CANCELLED</b> since Goddess will be leading our “Yuletide” service instead that day. **</p> <p>Please join the next Goddess/Earth Circles gathering on Jan 23rd, 1-2:30pm by Zoom</p> <p><b>Goddess/Earth Circles</b> 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>
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**Notices / Updates / News**

From: Don Naber

Two weeks ago 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](mailto:donnaber1364@gmail.com) copies of most recent communications so I can get reestablished, and thanks.

(Martha's new email address is [marthanaber73@gmail.com](mailto:marthanaber73@gmail.com))

**Two Important ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

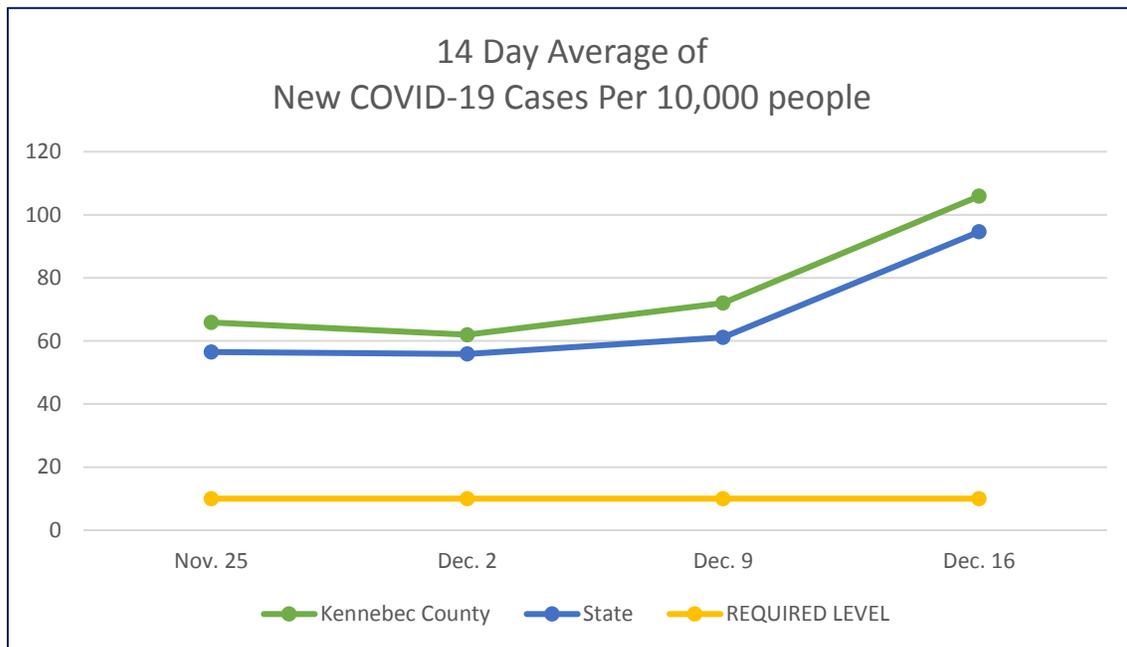
There will be no E-blast on Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> and there will be no office coverage. Please leave a message and or email and I will return your messages when I return on Tues. Jan 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Thank you all for your Winter newsletter articles.**

## 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. 9<sup>th</sup>. More information will come.. stay tuned...

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### 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 last week's 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](mailto: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.**

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## **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:donnaber1364@gmail.com">donnaber1364@gmail.com</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

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

## UUC 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.

## UUC 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).

## UUC Office Hours – NEXT WEEK

### UUC Office Hours

Tues, Wed, Thurs and Friday

8:00 am to 1:00 pm. <plus 7 flex hrs>

**\*\*OFFICE CLOSED next week\*\***

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

**Interim Minister,** Chloë Briedé

Email: [chloeucc@gmail.com](mailto:chloeucc@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

**\*\* OFFICE CLOSED next week\*\***

<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)