

Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church

Wednesday, January 5, 2022

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A Message from the Minister

Over the holiday, I traveled to Virginia to see my family. It was nice to spend time with them and have them join us for Christmas Eve services on Zoom. Like many of you, I carried some anxiety during my travels, especially as we watched the surge in coronavirus cases from the new variant. I have also received texts from friends in other parts of the country telling me they have the virus. It is hard to watch our country and our loved ones suffer.

We are also starting a new year. This last week we had a lovely service, which featured a selection of poems from our UUCB poets, both living and dead. The theme centered on resolutions and intentions, along with some seasonal imagery. Someone at the end put it well; the service showed the many talents that UUCB congregants possess, including being skilled writers!

I have spent the last five months getting to know you and the system here at UUCB. As I look ahead to the new year, I am excited to work with the board and the transition team to focus on some specific areas during my interim ministry. I am committed to helping the church transition well so that you may find a great settled minister for you.

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 blessings for the new year,
Chloe Briede, Interim Minister
chloeucc@gmail.com
207-623-3663

Upcoming Services

Worship Themes: January: Living with Intention

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

<p>THIS Sunday January 9, 2022</p> <p>10:00 a.m. via Zoom</p>	<p>"Living with Intention" Chloë Briedé, UUCI Interim Minister</p> <p>"Living with Intention" is this month's Soul Matters theme, a fitting theme for the new year. What does it mean to live with intention? Does it look different than making a resolution?</p> <p>Special thanks to our worship associate, Susan Burnett, our pianist, Karen Foust and our Sunday tech, Marty Peters. We will also enjoy a piano solo by our Music Director, Bridget Convey.</p>
<p>NEXT Sunday January 16, 2022</p> <p>10:00 a.m. via Zoom</p>	<p><u>"The Mouse and the Elephant"</u> Chloë Briedé, UUCI Interim Minister</p> <p>On this Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday, we take inspiration from Desmond Tutu's quote, "If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality." We will hear a children's book based on this quote, along with a reflection on our modern fights for justice.</p> <p>Special thanks to our worship associate John Seksay, our pianist, Stefanie Barley and our Sunday tech, Marty Peters.:-</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 the following services?

Fri. 12/24 - Christmas Eve Service - with Chloë Briedé, UUCI Interim Minister and UUCCOO and other guests

Watch the complete service by clicking the following link: [Link to 12/19 "Finding Joy" service](#)

Sunday 12/26 – Yuletide: The Holiest time of the Year – with the Goddess/Earth Circles Group

Watch the complete service by clicking the following link: [Link to 12/26 "Yuletide" service](#)

Sunday 1/2/22 – Poetry for the New Year – with Chloë Briedé, UUCI Interim Minister and UUCI poets

Watch the complete service by clicking the following link: [Link to 1/2 "Poetry" service](#)

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

Upcoming Special Events

SPEAK UP AND BE HEARD – this Sun. 1/9!

Members of the TRANSITION TEAM will be available after the service on Sunday, January 9th for a drop in opportunity to respond to our questions about your UUCS story. We are trying to ‘see’ our congregation from as many viewpoints as possible.

If you haven’t been part of a group that has done this, please join us this Sunday.

You may be surprised by what you hear!

Social Justice Opportunities

There is still time to [register](#) for MUUSAN's Network Meeting
Saturday, Jan. 8, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm via Zoom

A special focus for the January 8th meeting will be the Maine Tribal Sovereignty bill (LD 1626) - and we are fortunate to have as our guest speaker - Rena Newell - who is serving her first four-year term as Passamaquoddy Tribal Representative in the Maine House of Representatives. Newell is the former Tribal Education Director for the Passamaquoddy Tribal Government. She is very involved with efforts in the legislature to expand upon Tribal-State coordination, as well as Tribal sovereignty.

Register in advance for this meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAqcO2rqj0oE9xO1LTdHPfdmlwr9d1p0qr>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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

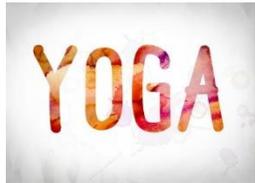
Updates on Recent Events

Guest at Your Table Service (GAYT)

If you still have a GAYT box to drop off at our Church office, you may do so during office hours this week, 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 “UUCS” designating it for GAYT in the memo line of your check. Checks should be mailed to UUCS, P.O. Box 8, Augusta ME 04330-0008. You can also donate online at UUCS secure link: <https://donate.uusc.org/give/75595/#!/donation/checkout>

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><u>Peaceful Heart Sangha</u></p> <p>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>	
<p><u>Wednesdays</u> Each Week</p> <p><u>5:00 – 6:00</u> <u>p.m.</u></p>	<p><u>Gentle YOGA</u></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. https://maine.zoom.us/j/95825651125?pwd=UWJpOVFjVFJGb3dMWmZoOTRXa3VoUT09 Password 174192 - FMI: DebbieMattson@hotmail.com</p>	
<p><u>2nd & 4th</u> <u>Wednesday</u></p> <p><u>10:30 a.m. -</u> <u>Noon</u></p>	<p><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><u>Peaceful Heart Sangha</u></p> <p>You may join us at 7:45 a.m. to settle in. Meet from 8-9:30</p> <p>Please contact Marty Soule for updated login information at martysoule@gmail.com. FMI: peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com</p>	
<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>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;">  <div style="flex-grow: 1;"> <p><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> <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>	

- 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: Jan 23rd</u>	<u>Goddess / Earth Circles</u> ** 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. ** Please join the next Goddess/Earth Circles gathering on Jan 23rd, 1-2:30pm by Zoom 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

WOW! Gifts for the annual appeal have come in totally \$5315!!

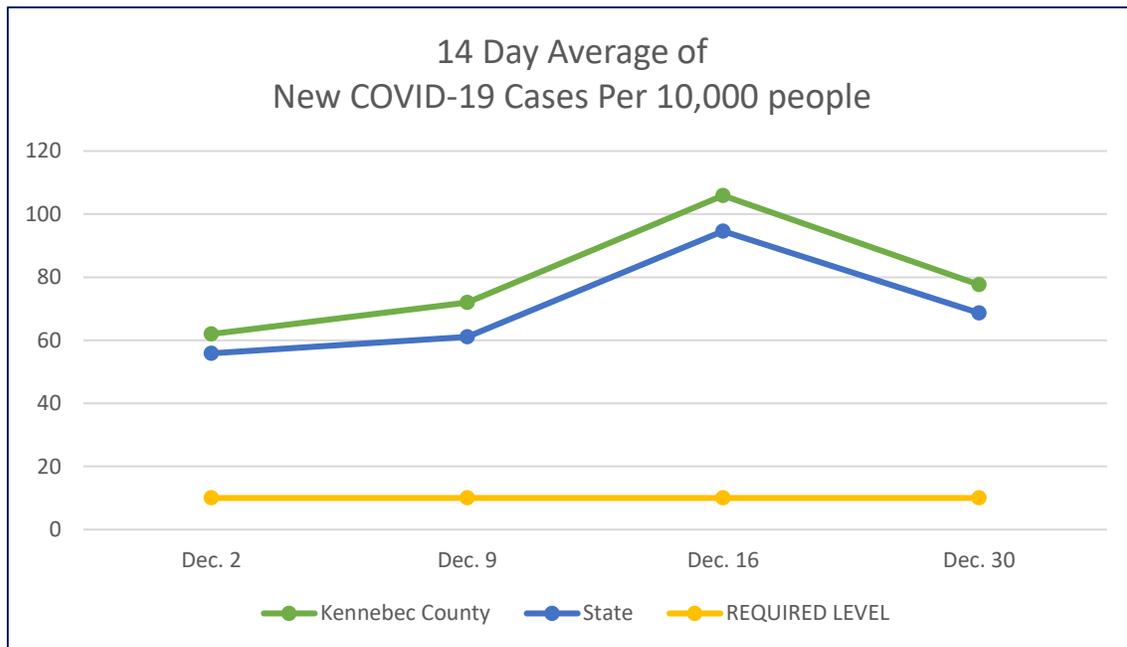
We only need \$685 to reach the match amount of \$6000. Have you made a gift yet? Every little bit and big bit helps UUCC fulfill its budget to continue service to us all.

Thank you to you all.
Martha Naber, Treasurer

COVID-19 Updates / News

Update from COVID-19 Advisory Group

The plan for reopening UUCC 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. Discussions are continuing at the COVID-19 Advisory group meeting this evening and the Board meeting next Thursday. . More information will come. Stay tuned...

Dr. Don on Covid-19

Dr. Don on COVID 19 The Arrival of Omicron in Maine

In the last three weeks of 2021 the Omicron Variant of COVID-19 accounted for 1%, then 5.5% and in the final week of the year it was 8.8% of new Maine infections. The growth of new COVID infections in Maine can fairly be called explosive.

During a Monday appearance on the public radio program Maine Calling, state CDC director Dr. Nirav Shah said the omicron variant is not yet causing a majority of cases in Maine, but it may only be a matter of time. "It's expanding at such a pace that it will not be long before Omicron is at least on equal footing as the Delta variant, if not having overtaken it entirely," he said.

Unfortunately the result in Maine has been new rise in the number of patients hospitalized with COVID-19. The Maine CDC reports that 369 people are currently in the hospital with the disease — that's up from around 330 a week ago. But it's still below the state's record-high total of 384, which was set in mid-December. Of those, 113 patients are in critical care and 54 are on ventilators.

Even more worrying is the state CDC graph for positivity rates in the COVID tests being performed. This rate has reached an all-time high nearing 20%, telling us that the infection is both wide-spread and rising.

The rapid increase of Omicron and the continuing extreme demand on hospitals and overburdened healthcare workers continues to trouble hospitals, and particularly those in our largest cities. In a unanimous vote of the city council in Portland this week a mask mandate has been reimposed for all indoor public activity. The only exception is for those public facilities which already require full vaccination. The vaccine mandate already in place for public sector workers also continues with added emphasis on booster shots which have been repeatedly shown to prevent hospitalization of those infected with the new variant.

Maine vaccination clinics are busy and more widely available with "pop-up" clinics being utilized in remote locations. Nationally and here in Maine booster doses of the vaccines are now available for 12 to 15 year olds. "There's no doubt in the scientific community that these vaccines have blunted the pandemic in really meaningful ways," said Dr. Laura Blaisdell, a South Portland pediatrician and infectious disease expert. "The science and the data doesn't lie."

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

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: 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

<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