

Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church

Wednesday, January 12, 2022

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

A Message from the Minister

I am learning so much about UUC. I have especially appreciated everyone who participated in the transition team's history gathering over the last month. We had a fascinating discussion after the service on Sunday. If you didn't get a chance to answer, you can still respond by filling out this form- <https://forms.gle/y4pFEsyu57PCq4Pi9>.

I have had some folks ask me about interim ministry. Interim ministry is a best practice within our denomination and the faith world at large. The main reason a church does interim ministry is to ease the transition between ministers. It helps a church get used to seeing another person in the role of minister. Many people at UUC have only seen Carie and her ministry. It also gives the church intentional time to think about their mission and vision for the future and the type of minister who would fit into that vision. Without intentional time, the church risks not picking a good match for their next minister or even taking assumptions and conflicts from the last minister and putting them on the next person. The church needs time to think, heal, and intentionally act as they go into the search process.

On a lighter note, I hope everyone stays warm during this cold weather. I have been drinking a lot of tea. My dog has only been going out in short spurts, dressed in two layers of dog clothing, much to his disappointment!

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 warming prayers,
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 16, 2022 10:00 a.m. via Zoom</p>	<p><u>"The Mouse and the Elephant"</u> Chloë Briedé, UUCC 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>
<p>NEXT Sunday January 23, 2022 10:00 a.m. via Zoom</p>	<p>"Despite our Best Intentions " Chloë Briedé, UUCC Interim Minister</p> <p>Sometimes despite our best intentions, things do not work out. Sometimes despite our best intentions, we mess up. Chloe will reflect on failure, repair, healing, and the idea that sometimes our lives and community will be permanently changed.</p> <p>Special thanks to our worship associate, Sara Hodgkins, our pianist, Karen Allen and to Chloe for handling tech for us. We may also enjoy a song by our choir led by our Music Director, Bridget Convey.</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](#)



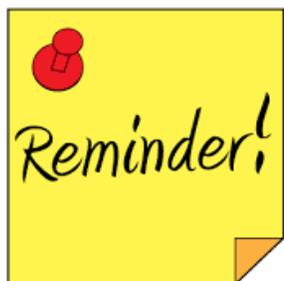
Did you miss the following services?

Sunday 1/2/22 – Poetry for the New Year – with Chloë Briedé, UUCC Interim Minister and UUCC poets
Watch the complete service by clicking the following link: [Link to 1/2 "Poetry" service](#)

Sunday 1/9/22 – Living with Intention - with Chloë Briedé, UUCC Interim Minister
Watch the complete service by clicking the following link: [Link to 1/9 "Living with Intention" service](#)

Upcoming Special Events

UUA Current Events: Be in the Know Round Table Discussion:



TUESDAY -- 1/18 @ 5:30 PM in the UUCZ ZOOM
FRIDAY -- 1/21 @ 10:30 AM in the UUCZ ZOOM
RSVP not required.

This discussion is sponsored by Monique McAuliffe, Coordinator of Lifespan Faith Formation; Co-hosted by our Social Justice Committee

PLEASE READ/WATCH these links below about Beloved Community, Community of Communities and the 8th Principle:

<https://sanjoseuu.org/frequently-asked-questions-what-is-beloved-community/>

<https://www.uua.org/leadership/library/communities>

<https://www.8thprincipleuu.org/origin>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=byqcvX9ZRBA>

**** Looking forward to our time together. ~Monique****

Social Justice Opportunities

THE LATEST FROM MUUSAN

The Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network is a statewide group of volunteers from our churches who work to promote Unitarian Universalist principles and values by influencing legislation as it is created in our state capitol.

MUUSAN ISSUE GROUPS:

Our issue groups work in four policy areas: Climate Change; Democracy in Action; Health Care; Racial, Native and Immigrant Justice. To view our legislative priorities by issue group, click on this link: <http://www.muusan.org/legislative-agenda-second-session.html>

Periodically we will reach out to you to ask you to contact your legislators and encourage their vote on a particular bill. We also welcome you to become informed and testify at a legislative hearing.

Actions you can take - From Climate Change Issue Group (co-chairs Jill Linzee and Corliss Davis)

Sign the petition that is linked to this important 2022 bill - LD 1639, An Act to Protect the Health and Welfare of Maine Communities & Reduce Harmful Solid Waste

Go to: <https://www.nrcm.org/take-action/>

Find the title that reads: Stop Filling Maine's Landfills with Out-of-State Waste

And click on Sign the petition button.

This petition and your signatures will be shared with all Maine state legislators by the Natural Resources Council of Maine, and will help in the effort to get this bill passed. **Then you can ask your state senator and representative to please vote to support this important bill.**

Sign the petition that is linked to this 2022 bill that MUUSAN and the EPC opposes - LR 2167 - An Act To Clarify the Role of the Legislature in Sustaining Good-paying Jobs in the Forest Products Industry and To Promote Healthy

Go to: <https://www.nrcm.org/take-action/>

Find the title that reads: Add Your Voice: Support a Free-Flowing Kennebec River

And click on the Add Your Voice button.

This petition and your signatures will be shared with all Maine state legislators by the Natural Resources Council of Maine, and will help in the effort to oppose this bill.

We will also alert you to programs presented by our partners. For instance, the **Natural Resources Council of Maine** is hosting a webinar on Zoom on **THURSDAY JANUARY 13 from 6-7 pm** to discuss their legislative priorities. If you want to attend, click on this link to register. <https://nrcm.salsalabs.org/legislativepriorities2022/index.html?eType=Email-BlastContent&eId=dfc3d100-058f-4f11-b909-8c28d8f73108>

How you can stay up to date on MUUSAN Activities:

If you want to stay current with MUUSAN's activities you can sign up for the email list at:

<https://facebook.us7.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=199901c5903119f799e5596bc&id=f1ad3c57e0>

For more information, contact your Congregational Legislative Liaisons: Kathy Kellison at kell6787@gmail.com or Michaela Loisel at Michaelatloisel@gmail.com

Updates on Recent Events

SPEAK UP AND BE HEARD was held Sun. 1/9!

Members of the TRANSITION TEAM met with our community after the service last Sunday, 1/9 for great history conversations. If you didn't get a chance to participate to share YOUR history, you can still respond by filling out this form- <https://forms.gle/y4pFEsyu57PCq4Pi9>.

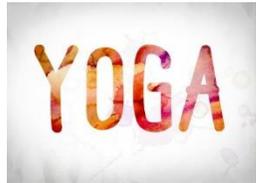
Guest at Your Table Service (GAYT)

If you still have a GAYT box to drop off at our Church office, you may do so during office hours this week. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. each day. You may also mail a check payable to "UUCC" designating it for GAYT in the memo line of your check. Checks should be mailed to UUCC, 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>

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

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 style="text-align: center;">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 style="text-align: center;">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>Our next meeting will be February 3, 2022. We will meet in the UUCC zoom room from Noon – 1:30 p.m. to discuss <u>The Midnight Library</u> by Matt Haig. Anyone interested in this book is welcome to join us whether or not you have attended before.</p> <p>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>

- 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> Goddess/Earth Circles: Overview of Wicca January 23, 2022, 1-2:30pm in the UUCC zoom Join us to explore: Is this an ancient or contemporary religious system? Said to be spiritually empowering, life changing, world-transforming, what does that mean today? Does Wicca have anything to offer UUs? What are your experiences with Wicca? What questions or reflections do you have? Session leader: Mary Shifman. 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

Volunteer needed

We are looking for a volunteer to recruit items for bid and to manage UUCC online fundraising auction in late March.

Please contact Catherine Palmer (palmercatherinemaine@gmail.com)

or Hannah Faulkner (hannahbfaulkner@gmail.com).

WOW! Gifts for the annual appeal now total \$5,640!!

We only need \$360 to reach the match amount of \$6,000.

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

Dot Bell has moved to Connecticut

Dorothy (Dot) Bell has very recently moved to Connecticut to be closer to the support of her family. She is sorry to have to move away from our beloved community. Send her a card if you can to let her know she is being thought of during this difficult time of transition. She would love to hear from her friends at UUC.

Her new address is: 10 Loeffler Rd. #422
Bloomfield, CT 06002

No new phone number yet.

Board of Trustees



Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Augusta

Board Meeting A G E N D A

January 13th, 2022 - 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

<https://zoom.us/j/8238070673>, then enter passcode: 6971

Join by phone: dial 1 646 558 8656, at first prompt (meeting id: 823 807 0673#)

Chalice Lighting

Words to Inspire: Karen

Check in

REPORTS

1. Clerk's Report: Karen / **VOTE**
2. Treasurer's Report: Martha
3. Finance Committee's Report: Harry
4. COVID-19 Task Force's Report: Terry and Harry
 - a. Discussion on reopening the church
(noted that TF did not pass on a recommendation)
5. President's Report: Kathy

6. Minister's Report: Chloë

NEW BUSINESS

- Presentation from the Leadership Development Team: Stef Barley and Cheryl Ring
- Update on Carie Johnsen Social Justice Fund: Debbie Mattson
- Review of Finance Committee's Draft Budget
- Interim Work: Chloë
 - Church Life Cycle
 - Settled Search Calendar
- Other as Needed

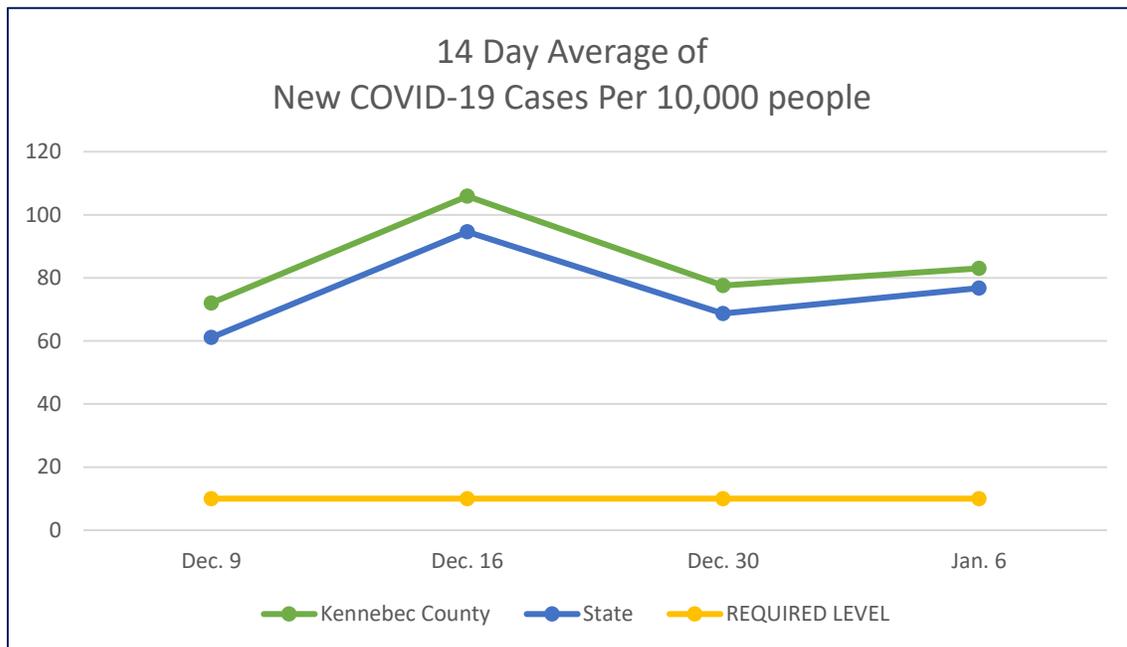
Board meetings are open to ALL. If you have an item that you would like the Board to consider, please contact Kathy Ann Shaw at kathyanshaw@roadrunner.com.

Next Board meeting: February 10th, 2022

COVID-19 Updates / News

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.

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

COVID Restrictions To Our North

As you know mask mandates are now in place in Portland and Brunswick and St. Mary's Hospital in Lewiston has declared a state of critical staffing permitting COVID positive testing staff to return to work but only in the COVID units. The situation in Maine remains at near record levels where it has been for the last few weeks. More National Guard have been called up to help in the hospitals. The Omicron variant is spreading quickly and the unvaccinated are clearly in the greatest danger. I thought a look to our north might be instructive.

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The situation across the border in Quebec is similarly difficult, however COVID public health measures are strikingly different. Quebec Premier François Legault announced that Quebecers would once again be prevented from leaving their homes between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. with a few exceptions. Legault first imposed a curfew Jan. 9, 2021 which lasted until May 28, 2021, longer than expected. Since December 31, 2021, a curfew has again been in effect. Most retail stores are closed on Sundays, except for essential businesses and all must operate at 50% capacity. Restaurant dining rooms are closed and offer take-out and delivery only. The return to school for elementary and high school students is delayed. Everyone 10 years of age or over must wear a mask or face covering.

The other measures include the closing of non-essential indoor activities such as performance venues, gyms, bars, movie theaters and casinos. All places of worship are closed except for small gatherings at weddings and funerals. Non-essential public activities, including conventions, conferences, seminars or other events are suspended. Indoor sports are now prohibited, but there are no new restrictions for outdoor activities. Interregional and domestic travel is not banned, but non-essential travel and gatherings are to be avoided. Fines for non-compliance are steep.

Additional measures are being authorized. On Thursday of last week Quebec Health Minister Christian Dubé announced new vaccine measures. Vaccine "passports" will require three doses of a COVID-19 vaccine. Dubé said these measures are part of efforts to slow down the rapid increase in COVID-19 hospitalizations and necessary to protect unvaccinated people, who represent over half of those in hospital with the virus. "If the unvaccinated aren't happy with this situation, there is a very simple solution at your disposal," the minister said. "It is to get vaccinated. It's free." The minister also said "By limiting the places they can go, we're limiting their contacts," Dubé said, referring to those not vaccinated, "If you don't want to get vaccinated, stay home."

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

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

UUCS 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.

UUCS 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.

UUCS Office Hours – NEXT WEEK

UUCS 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