

Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

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www.augustauu.org

A Message from the Minister

I hope you all made it through the snowstorm okay! This last weekend was my Sunday off, and it was nice to curl up at home with a cup of coffee and a warm dog.

This week I'm at a virtual conference. The Monday night worship talked about letting go. A lot of us need a reminder to let go. Attendees talked about letting go of expectations and assumptions, both internal and external pressure, challenging situations and conflicts, and grief and sorrow. It was a service that spoke to the challenges of the pandemic and of keeping our church communities together in the midst of it all. A musical duo joined the service and even sang a song about grief. All of this leads me to ask, what do you need to let go of? How can you lighten your burden?

Perhaps you missed it! For at least the month of February, I will be on the church zoom on **Tuesdays from 10-11 am** to chat and check in with UUCC-ers. No RSVP required; drop in when the spirit moves. I'm calling it "**Coffee with Chloe**," but feel free to bring a warm beverage of your choice.

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 prayers for an easing of burdens,
Chloe Briede, Interim Minister
chloeuucc@gmail.com
207-623-3663

Upcoming Services

Worship Themes: February Widening the Circle

Let us explore the challenges and adventures of Widening the Circle.

<p>THIS Sunday February 6, 2022 10:00 a.m. via Zoom</p>	<p>"Widening the Circle of Concern " Chloë Briedé, UUCS Interim Minister</p> <p>In June 2020, the Unitarian Universalist Association published a groundbreaking report on racism within the association. This month, our Soul Matter's theme engages that report along with the broader theme of "Widening the Circle" within ourselves and our faith. Chloe's sermon will consider this report and how it calls our congregation to action.</p> <p>Special thanks to our worship associate John Seksay, our pianist, Karen Allen and our Sunday tech, Marty Peters.</p>
<p>NEXT Sunday February 13, 2022 10:00 a.m. via Zoom</p>	<p><u>"On the Side of Love"</u> UUCS Social Justice Committee</p> <p>Join the UUCS Social Justice Committee for the service "On the Side of Love." We will examine social justice work motivated by love by exploring the 8th principle and how it applies to legislative advocacy with the Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, Maliseet, and Micmac Tribes. The 2022 recipient of the Carie Johnsen Social Justice Award will be announced.</p> <p>Special thanks to our worship associate Susan Burnett, our pianist, Stefanie Barley and our Sunday tech, Marty Peters. We may also have special music from our Music Director, Bridget Convey or the UUCS Choir. Stay tuned...</p>

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

[Click here to join:](#)

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



Did you miss the following services?

Sunday 1/23/22 – "Despite our Best Intentions" - with Chloë Briedé, UUCS Interim Minister

Watch the complete service by clicking the following link: [Link to 1/23 "Despite our Best Intentions" service](#)

Sunday 1/30/22 – "This One Wild Precious Life, How Do We Live with Intention",

Beyssa Buil, Visiting Community Minister

Watch the complete service by clicking the following link: [Link to 1/30 "Wild Precious Life" service](#)

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

Upcoming Special Events



“Coffee with Chloë”

For at least the month of February, Minister Chloe will be on the church zoom on **Tuesdays from 10-11 am** to chat and check in with UCC-ers.

No RSVP required; drop in when the spirit moves. Chloe is calling this event “**Coffee with Chloë**,” but feel free to bring a warm beverage of your choice.

Social Justice updates

The UCC Social Justice group held a robust letter writing party (January 30th) in support of the "Tribal Sovereignty" bill (LD 1626). IF you missed it - here is another opportunity to make your voices heard:

MUUSAN is planning a Zoom letter writing party on 2/13 at 2 pm.

Register [here](#). Join with UUs from across Maine as we work to reach our goal of 500 letters in support of Tribal Sovereignty and LD 1626! View invitation [here](#).

Other MUUSAN Updates:

From the Democracy in Action Issue Group

In [this video](#) on election integrity (about 30 minutes in) Maine Secretary of State Shenna gives an excellent talk on one of the bills we are supporting, LD 1779.

Election Integrity with Shenna Bellows:

<https://www.acadiaseniorcollege.org/archives#bellows>

And one more how-to video...

Interested in testifying in front of your state legislators on a bill that matters to you? [Here's a video](#) by Senate President Troy Jackson on how to testify!

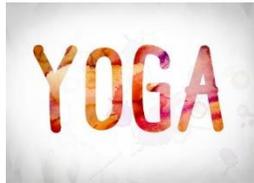
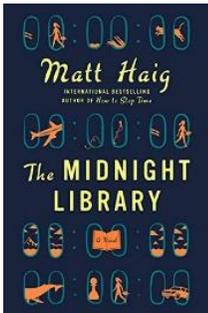
From the Healthcare Issues Group Health Care Issue Group

LD 1861 An Act to Establish the Safe Homes Program.

Sponsor: Senator DESCHAMBAULT of York
This bill does two main things: 1. Creates a statewide month of safe homes awareness, promoting the safe storage of firearms, weapons and prescription drugs, with educational programs, public outreach, etc., and 2. creates a grant program to distribute safe storage devices through non-profits, law enforcement, etc.
PUBLIC HEARING Wednesday, February 2, 2022
10AM CRIMINAL JUSTICE PUBLIC SAFETY
FMI, contact your Congregational Legislative Liaisons:
Kathy Kellison at Kell6787@gmail.com or Michaela Loisel at Michaelatloisel@gmail.com

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: Feb 3</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Read, Learn, Share</u></p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="flex: 1;">  </div> <div style="flex: 2; padding-left: 10px;"> <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 izellers@roadrunner.com or Kathy Kellison at kell6787@gmail.com</p> <p>We would love to have you join us!</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>A dazzling novel about all the choices that go into a life well lived. ~ ~Goodreads</i></p> </div> </div>

- More Connections by Day of the Week

	<u>Writing Group</u>
<u>2nd & 4th Thursday</u> <u>9:00 – 10:30 a.m.</u>	<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 UUCC Zoom Room.</p>
<u>4th Sunday</u> <u>1-2:30 p.m.</u> <u>Next Meeting is: Feb 27th</u>	<u>Goddess / Earth Circles</u> Meets the 4 th Sunday of each month, 1-2:30pm in the UUCC zoom Our next meeting will be on Feb. 27 th
	<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

A Message of Condolence

Dear UUCC Community,

It is with sadness that I share the news that UUCC member Robert (Bob) Rand died on Sunday, January 30, at MaineGeneral after a long illness. He had his beloved wife, Mary, and son, David, at his side. Bob was 78. We send condolences and deep sympathy to Mary, David, and Bob’s family and friends.

Bob was a kind and generous soul. He was a veteran of the Navy Reserves. Bob enjoyed spending time with family and friends, including many from our congregation and in his magic club. Bob was loved by our community and will be dearly missed.

Messages of condolence and support may be sent to Mary (207-557-3863, 9 Pike St., Augusta, ME 04330) and David (16 North St., Apt. A, Augusta, ME 04330).

More information about a celebration of life will be forthcoming.

With love,
Chloë Briedé, Interim Minister
207-623-3663



The Augusta Food Bank is happy to receive donations from our congregation again. We used to collect items in the coatroom, but that has to change because of Covid. We learned that the most needed items right now are:

Chicken Noodle Soup, Tomato Soup, Mayo, Oil, Spaghetti's, Cheese, and Butter.

Please drop off your contributions at Judd House during Lynn's office hours (Tuesday through Friday 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.). For more information, contact Stefanie Barley at stefbarley@gmail.com, or Carolyn Ladd at 621-2362. Thank you."

Board of Trustees

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

At the January 13, 2022 Board Meeting:

The Treasurer reported that 75% of pledges have come in with 50% of the fiscal year complete.

The Finance Committee reported:

Volunteers are being recruited to run the annual service auction.

The leaders of the service auction and the holiday fair are stepping down.

There are plans to hire a bookkeeper to assist the treasurer.

In other business:

What's on Your Mind was scheduled for February 6 after the service

An appointment has been set with a contractor to explore options for building ventilation.

Cleaning of the church building will start in January.

The Covid vaccine policy for church staff was discussed.

Leadership vacancies were discussed with the Leadership Development Committee.

The draft budget will be presented to the Board in February and the final proposed budget for next fiscal year will be finalized in May.

Discussed use of the Drew House garage.

Discussed the process for creating the search committee to find a candidate for our next settled minister.

Discussed reopening the church building.

TO SEE COMPLETE MINUTES OF THE MEETING, PLEASE REQUEST A COPY FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE: admin@augustauu.org.

*** Board meetings are open to ALL. ***

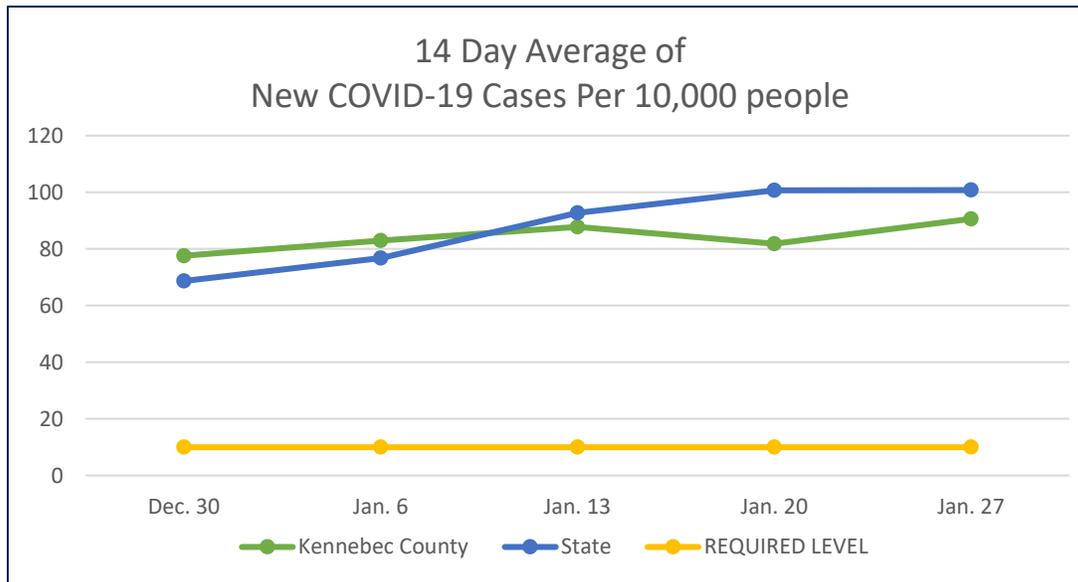
If you have an item that you would like the Board to consider, please contact Kathy Ann Shaw at kathyannshaw@roadrunner.com.

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.

Discussions continue 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 and Board meetings. More information will come. Stay tuned...

Dr. Don on Covid-19

Dr. Don on COVID-19 COVID in Children

According to the Maine CDC, Maine set new records for COVID-19 cases among children younger than 10 in December as the virus continues to take a toll on the state’s unvaccinated population and child vaccinations lag. In December the COVID-19 infection rate among children younger than 12 — about 250 cases per 10,000 kids — was more than double the rate among adults 20 and older. The high infection levels have continued as children younger than 5 remain ineligible for the vaccine, while vaccinations have stalled among children between the ages of 5 and 11 in recent weeks.

The lower vaccination rates among kids are a likely reason for higher case rates in Maine, state data suggest. Across all age groups between Dec. 3 and Jan. 3, about 1 out of every 26 Maine people not fully vaccinated tested positive for COVID-19, according to a Bangor Daily News analysis of Maine CDC data, compared to 1 out of every 108 fully vaccinated people. The infection numbers have only gotten worse following the holidays and children returning to school. Just 30 percent of kids between ages 5 and 11 are fully vaccinated compared to 65 percent of kids between the ages of 12 and 19 and 80 percent of adults aged 20 and older. The increase in cases among Maine children also fits with a national trend. Across the U.S., COVID-19 cases among children increased 7 percent in the second half of December, according to an analysis from the American Academy of Pediatrics.

"It seems like people have tried to downplay the significance of the disease in children," said Dr. Mark Kline, the physician-in-chief at Children's Hospital New Orleans. "We've spent two years rebutting myths pertaining to COVID and children, that it's 'harmless' for children. It's not." As of Monday, 14 children were sick enough with COVID-19 to be hospitalized at Kline's facility, with three in intensive care all under the age of 2. The youngest is just 8 weeks old, Kline said.

Kline co-authored a study, published last week by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which analyzed 915 COVID cases among children and teenagers hospitalized at six medical centers. More than three-quarters, 78 percent, were hospitalized because of COVID complications. About half needed help breathing, and nearly a third were placed in intensive care. A third of the 915 patients had no underlying health problems that would have put them at greater risk for severe COVID infection.

"I think a lot of parents have been relying on the narrative that if you have a healthy child, it's very unlikely that your child can get sick from COVID. That's not true," Dr. Amy Edwards, a pediatric infectious disease expert at University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital in Cleveland, told NBC News. "It is true that statistically speaking, your kid probably won't have severe COVID, but statistics don't matter when it's your child who ends up getting sick," she noted.

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

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
(757) 234-1303. She will return your call as soon as

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