

# Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

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[www.augustauu.org](http://www.augustauu.org)

## A Message from the Minister

*Beloveds, what's on your minds this week? I have been thinking about our calling as Unitarian Universalists. My sermon last Sunday was on efforts in our association and our faith to widen the circle to become more diverse and inclusive. I shared my thoughts on the UUA's report Widening the Circle of Concern. I would love you to join me in reading it. You can find it here (<https://www.uua.org/uua-governance/committees/cic/widening>). You can even listen to it. There are audio recordings that accompany each section.*

*On a related note, I sent a letter to the Augusta Planning Board opposing the proposed relocation of the Melville Fuller statue to 33 Winthrop Street. The proposal wants to create a park and museum to honor the statue. The UUCC Social Justice Committee also sent a letter opposing the museum. Here is an excerpt from my letter: "The statue and the proposed museum would go against our ideals of a welcoming city. It sends a message to brown and black people that they are not welcome and that Augusta, instead, honors white supremacy. I am a minister. My moral grounding reminds me to honor every person's inherent worth and dignity. As a part of that ideal, I believe in creating a warm and welcoming environment for all. I hope that the planning board shares my ideals and will vote against the proposed museum." If you want to learn more, I appreciated this blog post on the issue (<https://pine-androses.org/anti-racism/august-mulls-new-museum-to-white-supremacy/>).*

*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. For at least this month, I am continuing to offer weekly "Coffee with Chloe" sessions on Tuesdays from 10-11 am on the church zoom.*

*Sending blessings of inner stillness and compassion,*

Chloe Briede, Interim Minister  
[chloeuucc@gmail.com](mailto: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 13, 2022</p> <p>10:00 a.m. via Zoom</p>	<p><b><u>"On the Side of Love"</u></b> UUCC Social Justice Committee</p> <p>Join the UUCC 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 UUCC Choir. Stay tuned...</p>
<p>NEXT Sunday February 20, 2022</p> <p>10:00 a.m. via Zoom</p>	<p><b>"Centering Empathy "</b> Chloë Briedé, UUCC Interim Minister</p> <p>One tool that can help us widen our circle of prospective and inclusivity is empathy. It is the intention to set aside our ego and feel with another person. Chloe's sermon will talk about the power of empathy. We will also share joys and sorrows together as a community.</p> <p>Special thanks to our worship associate Marilyn Gordon, our pianist, Karen Foust and to Chloe for also managing our Sunday tech needs.</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 1/30/22 – “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](#)

**Sunday 2/6/22 – “Widening the Circle of Concern”-** with Chloë Briedé, UUCC Interim Minister

Watch the complete service by clicking the following link: [Link to 2/6 "Widening the Circle" service](#)

## Upcoming Special Events

### TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE

On Tuesday February 8, the church office distributed our summary of the Listening Circles that we did with members of the congregation. We hope that the team and other leadership will find good uses for the information.

If you have questions or want to discuss anything in the summary, **YOU ARE INVITED** to the church zoom room at 11:30 on Sunday February 13. Members of the team will be happy to hear what interests you. Hope to see you Sunday.



### “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.

### MUUSAN Updates:

**MUUSAN invites UUs from all Maine congregations to a**

### **Virtual Testimony & Letter Writing Party for LD 1626**

Sunday, February 13, 2022 ~ 2:00 to 3:30 pm on Zoom

LD 1626 is the Tribal Sovereignty bill that will restore self-governance to Maine’s Wabanaki Tribes, much of which they lost in the 1980 Settlement Acts. [MUUSAN supports LD 1626](#). The bill’s hearing before the legislature’s judiciary committee is set for Tuesday, February 15th at 9 am.

The Wabanaki Alliance and its coalition of over 100 ally groups are aiming for the committee to receive 500 or more written testimonies in support of this legislation – and you can help get us there!

**REGISTER HERE** or at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAp-murT0sE9F6xrUWQV875yQtE3WGjJyF>

**ACTIONS from CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUE GROUP for the next two weeks:**

Contact legislators to support **LD 1634 - An Act to Create the Maine Generation Authority**. This is likely the MOST IMPORTANT climate change bill before the legislature this session, as it will lower the cost for expanding renewable energy in Maine.

For information for **LD 1634** see [talking points document](#) and a [one-pager](#).

For a very inspiring one-hour recorded presentation about **Spiritual Leadership for a Climate Changed World**, given by the BTS Center director, click [here](#).

**Fighting the Big Lie: Combating Misinformation**

Hosted on Zoom by **THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**

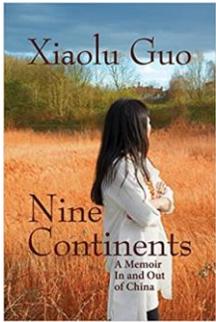
*In order to combat harmful mis- and disinformation, we're arming ourselves with useful tips so that we can spread accurate and good information about voting and election cycles. This interactive workshop is designed to give you practical tools to do just that within your own communities.*

Tuesday, February 15  
Noon - 1:00 PM [Register here](#)

**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><b><u>Monday</u></b> Each week</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>	
<p><b><u>Wednesdays</u></b> Each Week</p> <p><b><u>5:00 – 6:00</u></b> <b><u>p.m.</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Gentle YOGA</u></b></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. <a href="https://maine.zoom.us/j/95825651125?pwd=UWJpOVFjVFJGbzNlZWpZb3dMWmZlOTRlXzVlUT09">https://maine.zoom.us/j/95825651125?pwd=UWJpOVFjVFJGbzNlZWpZb3dMWmZlOTRlXzVlUT09</a> Password <b>174192</b> - FMI: <a href="mailto:DebbieMattson@hotmail.com">DebbieMattson@hotmail.com</a></p>	

	<b>- More Connections by Day of the Week -</b>	
<b><u>2nd &amp; 4<sup>th</sup></u></b> <b><u>Wednesday</u></b>  <b><u>10:30 a.m. - Noon</u></b>	<b><u>Seasoned Souls</u></b> 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.  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)	
<b><u>Thursdays</u></b> Each Week  <b><u>8:00 – 9:30 a.m.</u></b>	<b><u>Peaceful Heart Sangha</u></b> You may join us at 7:45 a.m. to settle in. Meet from 8-9:30  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>	
<b><u>1<sup>st</sup></u></b> <b><u>Thursday</u></b>  <b><u>Noon-1:30 p.m.</u></b>  <b><u>Next Meeting is: March 3</u></b>		<b><u>Read, Learn, Share</u></b> Our next meeting will be March 3, 2022. We will meet in the UUCC zoom room from Noon – 1:30 p.m. to discuss <u>Nine Continents A Memoir in and Out of China</u> by Xiaolu Guo. 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.  <i>A gripping memoir about growing up in—and leaving—China, from one of Britain's most acclaimed young novelists. ~Kirkus Reviews</i>
<b><u>2nd &amp; 4<sup>th</sup></u></b> <b><u>Thursday</u></b>  <b><u>9:00 – 10:30 a.m.</u></b>	<b><u>Writing Group</u></b> 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.	
<b><u>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday</u></b>  <b><u>1-2:30 p.m.</u></b>  <b><u>Next Meeting is: Feb 27<sup>th</sup></u></b>	<b><u>Goddess / Earth Circles</u></b> The February 27, 2022 Wicca Follow-up: How does/could Wicca enhance our spirituality as UUs? Would you like to have additional sessions on Wicca? Resource: What is Wicca? A Beginners Guide to the Wiccan Religion <a href="https://wicaliving.com/what-is-wicca">https://wicaliving.com/what-is-wicca</a>  Goddess/Earth Circles focuses on Goddess and women’s lives, earth-based spirituality, role of women today. All ages and genders welcome. More information on UUCC website: Minister/Staff/Church Life--Goddess Contact Helen Zidowecki (207-582-5308), <a href="mailto:hzmre@hzmre.com">hzmre@hzmre.com</a> )	



**Last call for Guest at Your Table (GAYT) Box donations!**

Please mail in or drop off your donation with Lynn at the Church office **by Friday 2/18**. Please designate **GAYT** in your check memo box. You can also make your donation online at this secure link and designate it from UUCA:

<https://donate.uusc.org/give/75595/#!/donation/checkout>

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**Link for UUA Article II Study Commission Widening the Circle of Concern Report:**

<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/cic/widening>

**Link for Information on UUA Article II Commission and Individual Survey:**

<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission>

In last Sunday's Service Interim Minister Chloe highlighted the UUA Widening the Circle of Concern Report. The Report of the UUA Commission on Institutional Change represents the culmination of the Commission's work analyzing structural and systemic racism and white supremacy culture within Unitarian Universalism and makes recommendations to advance long-term cultural and institutional change that redeems the essential promise and ideals of Unitarian Universalism.

Appointed by the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations in 2017, the UUA Commission on Institutional Change served through June 2020. The members and staff of the UUA Commission on Institutional Change were Chair Rev. Leslie Takahashi, Mary Byron, Cir L'Bert Jr., Rev. Dr. Natalie Fenimore, Dr. Elías Ortega, Caitlin Breedlove, DeReau K. Farrar, and Project Manager Rev. Marcus Fogliano.

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**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



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](mailto: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](mailto:admin@augustauu.org).**

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

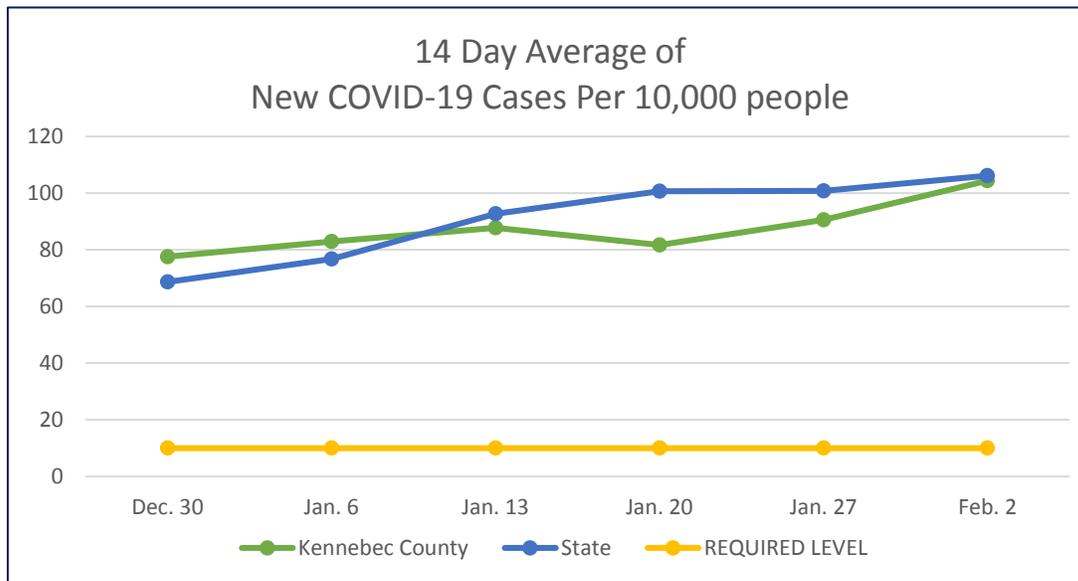
If you have an item that you would like the Board to consider, please contact Kathy Ann Shaw at [kathyannshaw@roadrunner.com](mailto:kathyannshaw@roadrunner.com).

Next Board meeting: February 10<sup>th</sup>, 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      The Current Maine COVID Decline

COVID-19 hospitalizations declined again early this week, and the number of patients is now 25 percent lower than the January peak as the omicron wave continues to subside in Maine. The pace of positive tests submitted to the state each weekday also continues to fall, dropping more than 50 percent over the past three weeks.

The number of hospital patients and positive tests remain much higher than during previous surges of the pandemic. This steady decline follows a pattern experienced in other parts of the country and the world where the Omicron variant led to a spike in infections followed by a sharp drop. Critical care utilization is also falling, from 133 ICU patients on Dec. 19 to 79 on Monday, a 41 percent decrease. COVID deaths are also in decline.

The drop in hospitalizations led Maine Medical Center to announce Monday that it will ease some visitor restrictions it has had since December. MMC now will allow one visitor per day for non-COVID-patients. Masking requirements remain, and the ongoing patient load means the hospital continues to postpone elective medical procedures like joint replacement surgery.

Speaking to the recent COVID data, Dr. Nirav Shah, director of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, said in a tweet on Monday, “These numbers are better than they have been, but still challenging. In other countries around the world that also came down from their Omicron surge, the question is how far did they go? In some countries they went back to their Delta or pre-Delta baseline. In other countries, like for example the UK, they came down but still at a level that was higher than they were at before. And in... at least two countries, Denmark and Norway, they are going the opposite direction back up. So the question for me is the data right now are encouraging but we need more of it to really get a sense of what the latter part of our curve will look like.”

Clearly individuals, organizations and businesses are fatigued. Many are very willing to set aside COVID precautions if they have not already done so. To separate itself from the politics, emotion and exhaustion, the sciences, as always, utilize mathematics and statistics. This has never lent itself to glitzy presentation or ease of explanation. Adding in the complexity of the science itself, it's easy to see how messages are easily corrupted by polished performers, charlatans and the loud uninformed. I see the current statistics and mentally cross my fingers and hope. When I look at the charts and graphs I see this is the fifth decline in COVID numbers and that each of the previous four declines was followed by a new and very rapid increase in COVID numbers. I remain hopeful, but tempered by COVID science and recent history.

Send your questions, comments or suggestions to [donnaber1364@gmail.com](mailto: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	<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

### **UUCC 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.

### **UUCC 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).

## **UUCC Office Hours – NEXT WEEK**

#### **UUCC 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](mailto:admin@augustauu.org) or 622-3232

**Interim Minister,** Chloë Briedé

Email: [chloeuucc@gmail.com](mailto: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](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)