

Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church

Wednesday, February 23, 2022

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A Message from the Minister

Last Sunday, I talked about empathy. If you missed the service and are curious, the previous two services are in the e-blast. I had considered using this video in the service but didn't. Instead, I am sharing it with you here. Below is a lovely video by Brené Brown on empathy. It was my introduction to this subject and still one of the best explanations I've heard. I hope you take three minutes to watch it. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Ewgu369Jw>

Are you getting a moment to enjoy the warm weather? I took my dog on a big hike on my sabbath on Monday. I had gotten out of the practice in the cold, and I'm looking forward to getting out more again. It was a slippery adventure since the paths near my house are still icy. Dobby, my dog, didn't notice the ice too much; instead, he would flail a bit and just keep running.

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. I am continuing to offer weekly "Coffee with Chloe" sessions on Tuesdays from 10-11 am on the church zoom. I hope to see you there!

Sending warm thoughts,
Chloe Briede, Interim Minister
chloeucc@gmail.com
207-623-3663

Upcoming Services

Worship Theme: February Widening the Circle

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

<p style="text-align: center;">THIS Sunday February 27, 2022</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:00 a.m. via Zoom</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">"Guest Speaker: Tribal Ambassador Maulian Dana"</p> <p>This week's service will feature a reflection by Maulian Dana. You can read her biography below. Chloe will offer opening words and a prayer.</p> <p>Bio: Tribal Ambassador Maulian Dana was appointed by Penobscot Nation Chief Kirk Francis in September 2017. As Ambassador, Maulian is responsible to act as a representative of the Penobscot Nation and to serve as a liaison for the Nation at the local, state and federal levels of government to educate and advocate for policy and laws that impact and protect the Penobscot Nation's sovereignty, culture, natural resources and the general welfare of the Penobscot people.</p> <p>Prior to serving as Ambassador, Maulian served as an elected member of the Penobscot Tribal Council. Maulian grew up on Indian Island within the Penobscot Nation's Reservation. She graduated from the University of Maine in Orono with a degree in political science. She also serves as a co-chair of the Permanent Commission on the status of Indigenous, Racial, and Maine Tribal Populations as well as co-chair of the Sub-Committee on Equity for the Maine Climate Council. She is the proud mother of two daughters (with another daughter on the way) and uses she/her/hers pronouns.</p> <p>Special thanks to our worship associate Sara Hodgkins, our pianist, Stefanie Barley and to our Music Directory, Bridget Convey who will play a meditative piano piece for us.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">NEXT Sunday March 6, 2022</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:00 a.m. via Zoom</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">"Stewardship Sunday " Chloë Briedé, UCC Interim Minister</p> <p>Join us as we kick-off our stewardship campaign. After our service we will hold a "Finance 101" session. See Upcoming Special Events for more information on the Finance 101 session.</p> <p>Special thanks to our worship associate Susan Burnett and our pianist, Karen Foust.</p>

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

[Click here to join:](#)

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



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Did you miss the following services?

Sunday 2/13/22 – “On the Side of Love”,

UUCC Social Justice Committee

Watch the complete service by clicking the following link: [Link to 2/13 "On the Side of Love" service](#)

Sunday 2/20/22 –“Centering Empathy”- with Chloë Briedé, UUCC Interim Minister

Watch the complete service by clicking the following link: [Link to 2/20 "Centering Empathy" service](#)

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 UUCC-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.

Join us for Finance 101 – March 6th

(after Sunday service in the “What’s on Your Mind” Zoom session)

Each year, the Finance Committee offers an educational, question and answer session on the church budgeting process; we call it Finance 101. This year’s presentation will happen on Sunday, March 6th (Stewardship Sunday) and will be combined with the monthly What’s on Your Mind session held by the Board of Trustees. It will begin at 11:00 am, directly after the morning worship service and is scheduled to last one hour.

This year’s budget is largely influenced by four major items:

1. A 3.3% salary increase for our staff
2. The costs of a settled minister search
3. Hiring a bookkeeping firm
4. Decreased fund raising potential for the coming year.

We will discuss each of these items in the weekly e-blasts over the next few weeks. Last week we covered staff salary increases, today we’ll talk about the costs of a settled minister search.

It has been about 13 years since the last time we were engaged in a search for a new settled minister. The 2009 search committee interviewed four (4) candidates and spent about \$5,000 to cover travel expenses, lodging and meals for the candidates and miscellaneous expenses such as printing and mailing of the congregational profile

and UUA expenses. We were fortunate that we secured our new minister on the first round of our search and did not have to repeat the process, as some congregations must.

As we are all too aware, prices have gone up since 2009. This year, the Finance Committee reviewed the estimated costs of our search and came up with the following budget:

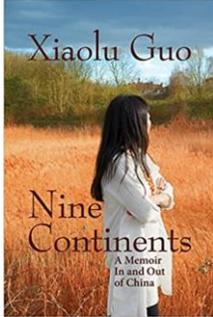
- Lodging – \$400 a weekend (x 4 candidates) = \$1,600
- Meals – for candidates and search committee (x 4 candidates) = \$1,700
- Travel (mileage or airfare & car rental) – (x 4 candidates) = \$2,000
- UUA fee – we receive a special rate for paying >85% of our annual program fund = \$1,000
- Candidating week & contingencies (such as having to interview additional candidates) = \$3,700
- **Grand total – \$10,000**

This is a huge one time addition and the single largest increase in this budget. Recognizing that the average length of tenure for a settled minister is about seven (7) years, it is our intention to fund an ongoing line item in our budget of \$1,500 a year to cover our next settled minister search &/or sabbatical costs.

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><u>CANCELLED TONIGHT 2/23</u></p> <p><u>We will resume next week.</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>	

- More Connections by Day of the Week -	
<u>2nd & 4th</u> <u>Wednesday</u> <u>10:30 a.m. - Noon</u>	<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>
<u>Thursdays</u> Each Week <u>8:00 – 9:30 a.m.</u>	<p style="text-align: center;"><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> 
<u>1st</u> <u>Thursday</u> <u>Noon-1:30 p.m.</u> <u>Next Meeting is: March 3</u>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Read, Learn, Share</u></p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p>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 jzellers@roadrunner.com or Kathy Kellison at kell6787@gmail.com We would love to have you join us.</p> <p><i>A gripping memoir about growing up in—and leaving—China, from one of Britain's most acclaimed young novelists. ~Kirkus Reviews</i></p> </div> </div>
<u>2nd & 4th</u> <u>Thursday</u> <u>9:00 – 10:30 a.m.</u>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Writing Group</u></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 UUCC Zoom Room.</p>
<u>4th Sunday</u> <u>1-2:30 p.m.</u> <u>Next Meeting is: Feb 27th</u>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Goddess / Earth Circles</u></p> <p>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 https://wicaliving.com/what-is-wicca</p> <p>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. Contact Helen Zidowecki (207-582-5308), hzmre@hzmre.com)</p>

Dear UCC Community,

It is with sadness that I share the news that Caelan Lapointe died at his home in Boulder, Colorado, on Sunday, February 13. Caelan grew up in the UCC community and his parents, Hilary and George, are beloved members of our church. We will miss his gentle nature.

You can find Caelan's obituary here:

<https://murphyfuneraldirectors.com/tribute/details/826/Caelan-Lapointe/obituary.html#content-start>

From Hilary Neckles:

We know it's a long way, and there are no expectations, but if anyone is able to join us at a Celebration of Life for Caelan, the details are as follows:

Saturday, June 25th, 11 AM - 3 PM
at The Riverside, 1724 Broadway, Boulder, CO

A memorial service will be followed immediately by a luncheon reception featuring Caelan's favorite foods and beverages. Weather permitting -- and remember, Boulder boasts over 300 days of sunshine per year -- the celebration will take place outside on the [Riverside's beautiful patio](#) alongside Boulder Creek.

Cards and emails of condolence are welcome to

hneckles@gmail.com

georgelapointe@gmail.com

40 Middle Street
Hallowell, ME 04347

Sending love and blessings,
Chloë

Tonight's YOGA CLASS is
CANCELLED.

We will resume next week.

---Debbie Mattson

David Rand fell & broke his ankle.

He would appreciate receiving cards. He is currently at Augusta Rehab, 188 Eastern Ave., Augusta, ME 04330.

We wish him a speedy recovery!

Financial information from UCC Treasurer

At the recent What's on Your Mind? session, a request was made that information about the finances at UCC be put into the e-blast. SO....Here it is!

As the treasurer, I present a draft of the monthly report to the finance committee on the first Thursday of the month meeting. Edits, corrections, questions are shared, and a final report is done for the Board for the meeting on the third Thursday of the month. Each report is for the previous month's income and expenses. This changes as new expenses are paid and new income is deposited into the bank accounts.

The figures below are from the Feb. Board meeting report. They represent all activity through Jan. 31, 2022. This is 58% of the fiscal year.

Pledges paid to date: \$116,615 which is 80% of the goal of \$145,500.

Annual appeal: Donations of \$6,030 without the match added yet.

Offering received during services: \$65.00

Total income from all sources: \$180,937 which is 72% of budget goal of \$241,880

Total expenses to Jan. 31, 2022: \$119,299 leaving a positive balance of \$61,638

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Martha Naber, Treasurer, at marthanaber73@gmail.com.



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



Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Augusta

Board Meeting

A G E N D A

February 10th, 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#)

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

Chalice Lighting
Words to Inspire: Kathy
Check in

REPORTS

1. Clerk's Report: Karen / **VOTE**
2. Treasurer's Report: Martha
3. Finance Committee's Report: Harry
 - a. Update on Judd House tenant / **VOTE**
 - b. Stewardship strategies (see below)
4. COVID-19 Task Force's Report: Terry and Harry
 - a. Update on reopening, ventilation and small group meetings
5. President's Report: Kathy

- a. Settled Ministry By-laws
- b. Script for recruitment of search committee

6. Minister's Report: Chloë

NEW BUSINESS

- Congregational Covenant: Micheala Loisel, CoM
 - Stewardship Campaign/timeline and board roles: all
- FY2022-23 Budget Review

EXECUTIVE SESSION

-

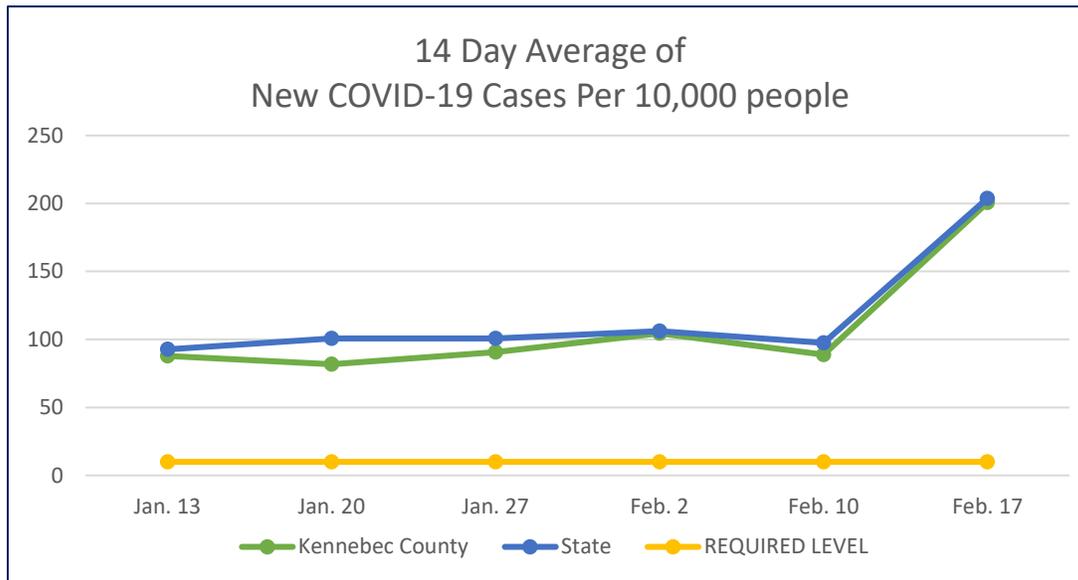
Board meetings are open to ALL. If you have an item that you would like the Board to consider, please contact Kathy Ann Shaw at kathyannshaw@roadrunner.com. Next Board meeting: March 10, 2022

Board Highlights for the February Board meeting should be in next week's E-blast.

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.

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 Deadly Price Of The "New Normal"

Many leaders of public policy are declaring an end to the COVID pandemic. Since Israel is usually ahead of the global curve when it comes to public health policy, Israelis thinking of COVID as "endemic" could be a harbinger of a similar approach in other wealthy countries.

What does "endemic" mean? Once a country or community has all the tools it thinks it needs to reduce the threat a disease poses to an acceptable level, the disease becomes endemic and people get on with their lives. It looks like Israel is getting ready to add COVID to the long list of diseases Israelis consider a daily risk, but an acceptable one like Chicken pox, West Nile fever and the flu.

It might seem paradoxical that one of the countries that took the novel coronavirus the most seriously is also one of the first to accept that the virus might never fully go away. Just a few months ago, it seemed Israel had all but beaten COVID-19. Infections, hospitalizations and deaths were low and it's not hard to see why. The country's vaccination rate was high, most vaccinated Israelis were also boosted, and the health ministry had begun offering a second booster to its most vulnerable residents. Masks were required in indoor public spaces, and a vaccine card was required to enter the most crowded spaces like restaurants, bars and theaters. The strict approach to COVID was working.

Then Omicron hit and everything changed. Israel is now having its worst COVID surge, with record infections, hospitalizations, and deaths, all in the past few weeks. “Omicron hits everyone, whether vaccinated or not,” says Gili Regev-Yochay, a Harvard epidemiologist. But hospitalizations and deaths haven’t risen nearly as much as cases. That disconnect, “decoupling,” epidemiologists call it, helps explain Israel’s nonresponse to their current COVID surge.

The country did nothing which may signal a new attitude toward COVID in Israel and similar countries. The vast majority of Israeli cases have been mild, due to vaccine-induced immunity and the tendency of Omicron to stay in the head as a bad cold rather than attack the lungs like previous variants. Deaths in the current wave are concentrated in that quarter of the Israeli population that isn’t vaccinated at a rate 10 times higher than the death rate for the vaxxed, the Israeli health ministry reports.

Through it all, there has been no widespread panic, not from the government, health experts or the general public. “There was no need for lockdown or school closures,” said Leshem Eyal, director of the Center for Travel Medicine and Tropical Diseases at Tel Aviv University School of Medicine. “Commerce and culture remained open and the country functions normally.” Decoupling means that Israelis have decided that a few hundred deaths is a price worth paying to keep schools and businesses open. The implication is clear. There’s little to no political will for new limits on crowds and businesses. If anything, people want fewer limits, even if that means higher risk for the unvaccinated.

America isn’t far behind. Many of the states with COVID-related restrictions began lifting them in February. A new strategy is emerging where COVID response is a mostly local responsibility. The majority of the country would be wide open most of the time. But there will still be COVID deaths in the unvaccinated, the immunocompromised and the elderly.

"We should never forget the cost of this possible new normal, in Israel or somewhere else", says Jennifer Reich, a sociologist at the University of Colorado Denver specializing in vaccination. “Over the next few years, we should watch how discussions of ‘learning to live with the virus’ erase the lives that might be lost along the way.”

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

UCC 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.

UCC 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.

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UUC Office Hours – NEXT WEEK

UUC 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