

Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church
Wednesday, March 30, 2022

In this Issue:

- [Upcoming Services](#)
- [Upcoming Special Events](#)
- [Ongoing Connections](#)
- [Notices / Updates / News](#)
- [COVID-19 Updates / News](#)
- [General / Contact Info](#)



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(207)622-3232 – info@augustauu.org
www.augustauu.org

A Message from the Minister

A big thank you to those who joined us for the reopening organization day on Sunday. It made a huge difference! The church looks ready to welcome people back into its sanctuary.

By now, you have probably seen our email about reopening. This is an exciting time at UUCC with many transitions. We spent some time reflecting on the change from Zoom to live-streamed, multi-platform worship at service on Sunday. Folks shared their gratitude for the online community we created during the two years of the pandemic.

Here were some of our appreciations:

- Joining from far away places like Florida and Ghana, and nearby places like outside!
- Coming to church in comfortable clothes like pajamas and slippers.
- Getting to know pets and individuals' homes.
- Seeing faces instead of the backs of heads.
- Getting to be a part of a community in scary, isolating times.

I sincerely appreciate you all joining me in marking this transition.

As a reminder, members continue to receive scam emails that claim to be from me. Please double-check which email address the request came from. I always use chloeucc@gmail.com. I will never ask for gift cards or money from 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 various topics. I continue to offer weekly "Coffee with Chloe" sessions on Tuesdays from 10-11 am on the church zoom.

Sending gratitude,
Chloe Briede, Interim Minister

chloeucc@gmail.com
207-623-3663

Upcoming Services

Worship Theme for April - Awakening

Join us as we explore the challenges and adventures of Awakening.

<p>THIS Sunday April 3, 2022</p> <p>10:00 a.m. IN-PERSON</p> <p>Ingathering music to begin at 9:50 a.m.</p> <p>PLEASE Register to attend in- person services https://rsvp.church/r/UimVwfiQ</p> <p><see [Covid-19 Updates/News] below for all the details of In- Person Sunday Worship></p>	<p>"Awakening to Now" Chloë Briedé, UCC Interim Minister</p> <p>Our April theme is "Awakening." As we make changes, with both the coming of spring and our move to hybrid worship, let us awaken to now. We will ground in what is true for us at this moment, both celebrations and sorrows.</p> <p>Special thanks to our worship associate Marilyn Gordon, our Sunday tech, Marty Peters, and our pianist Karen Foust. Our Music Director, Bridget Convey will also offer a meditation on piano.</p> <hr/> <p> What's On Your Mind? In-Person AND Zoom</p> <p>Join us after coffee time (in person or by Zoom) as we meet for this regular monthly listening session. The UCC Board wants to hear what you are thinking, your ideas, your concerns, your suggestions about how UCC is doing. Board members will be present to hear your questions and concerns.</p> <p>Do you have questions about how UCC operates? Do you wonder "Why?" about something? Are there things you would like to learn more about? We will not be making decisions during these times, but will listen intently and take all comments and ideas back to the board. See you there!</p>
<p>NEXT Sunday April 10, 2022</p> <p>10:00 a.m. IN PERSON</p> <p>Ingathering music to begin at 9:50 a.m.</p> <p>PLEASE Register to attend in- person services https://rsvp.church/r/UimVwfiQ</p>	<p>"To be determined " Rev. Claire Curole, Affiliate Minister</p> <p>Rev. Claire is a member of UCC and was co-ordained by our congregation in 2019. Rev. Claire currently serves as a staff chaplain at the Central Maine Medical Center.</p> <p>Special thanks to our worship associate John Saksay, our Sunday tech Marty Peters, and our pianist Stef Barley. We may also have a new video from the choir.</p>

Sunday worship service is now being held IN-PERSON

Events will still be held in the UCC Zoom Room (unless noted).

[Click here to join Events in the Zoom Room:](#)

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



Did you miss the following services?

Sunday 3/20/22 –“Wonder and Awe”- with Chloë Briedé, UCC Interim Minister

Watch the complete service by clicking the following link: [Link to 3/20 "Wonder and Awe" service](#)

Sunday 3/27/22 –"Invitations to Faith" with Chloë Briedé, UCC Interim Minister

Watch the complete service by clicking the following link: [Link to 3/27 "A Leap of Faith" service](#)

Special Events / Opportunities

*****SAVE THE DATE*****

On SATURDAY MAY 21, PAUL LANGSTON-DALEY will offer us an experience of restorative justice around the conflict that has simmered in our congregation for several years. The Board and Committee on Ministry know that some of you have come to terms with what happened. At the same time, there are people who remain deeply unsettled by those events.

We are offering this opportunity to hear from one another so that we can learn more about being a community of mutual support and grace. We expect that this will be an in-person event following the protocol in place at the time for Covid precautions.

We will also be offering this opportunity on Zoom and will let you know as soon as that date is set.

More information will follow as we get closer.

Bridging the Gap is looking for items to be donated to their Everyday Basic Essentials Hygiene Pantry.

Specifically, they need Shampoo, Toothpaste, Soap, and Toilet Paper. Donations can be left in the coat closet off the main hallway at church. If you have any questions, please contact Stefanie Barley (stefbarley@gmail.com) or 207-629-8890) or Carolyn Ladd (207-621-2362). Thank you!

News from MUUSAN

(The Maine UU State Advocacy Network)

We'd love for ALL UUs in the state to be on the MUUSAN email alert list! [Sign up here](#) to receive MUUSAN alerts. We will never share your email address with anyone else! You'll receive on average 2 emails a month that will keep you in the loop about the important statewide advocacy and public policy actions that Maine UUs can take.

There are now 3 different amended versions of the bill LD 1959 (An Act To Ensure Transmission and Distribution Utility Accountability) that will be voted on by the Maine Legislature - Amendments A, B & C. **MUUSAN is supporting Amendment B** because it includes important provisions that the other two Amendments DO NOT. See this action alert for the complete reasons why.

We encourage you to ask your Maine state legislators to support Amendment B of LD 1959 by using this easy action letter for your legislators at [this link](#) or write your own letter or call. Emails and letters to the Governor are also helpful.

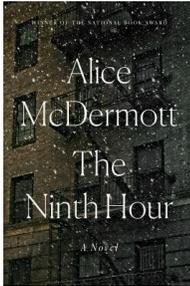
ALSO - If you haven't already asked your state legislators to support these two other important Climate Change bills, then please do - as the vote is coming very soon:

- 1) **LD 1634 - An Act to Create the Maine Generation Authority**
For more information click on these 2 links: [Talking points](#) and [one-pager](#).
- 2) **LD 489 - Pine Tree Amendment.**
For more information go to: <https://www.pinetreamendment.org/>

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>	
<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=UWJpOVFjVFJGbz3dMWmZoOTRXa3VoUT09 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 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>	

	- More Connections by Day of the Week -	
<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: April 7</u></p>	 <p>Our next meeting will be April 7, 2022. We will meet in the UCC zoom room from Noon – 1:30 p.m. to discuss <u>The Ninth Hour</u> by Alice McDermott. 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 magnificent new novel from one of America's finest writers—a powerfully affecting story spanning the twentieth century of a widow and her daughter and the nuns who serve their Irish-American community in Brooklyn.</i> -- Goodreads</p>	<p><u>Read, Learn, Share</u></p>
<p><u>2nd & 4th</u> <u>Thursday</u></p> <p><u>9:00 – 10:30</u> <u>a.m.</u></p>	<p><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 UCC Zoom Room.</p>	
<p><u>4th Sunday</u></p> <p><u>1-2:30 p.m.</u></p> <p><u>Next Meeting</u> <u>is March 27</u></p>	<p><u>Goddess / Earth Circles</u></p> <p>We are continuing exploration of Wicca: March 27 - Mysticism and Spirituality, and Karma and the Afterlife April 24 – Ancestry May 22 - Magic, Ethics and Morality June 26 - Other Topics for Consideration</p> <p>Resource: A Beginners Guide to the Wiccan Religion: https://wiccaliving.com/what-is-wicca</p> <p>Goddess/Earth Circles focuses on Goddess, women's lives and earth-based spirituality. All ages and genders welcome. More information on UCC website. Leader for the series is Mary Shifman (213-9760, shifmanmary@gmail.com).</p>	



We have been informed that church member, **Mark Goldberg** has passed away. We don't have many details yet so please stay tuned for more details as they become available.

We have just learned that **Rita Moran** passed away on March 14th after a short illness. Rita was a friend of the UUC and had (pre-COVID) offered our community ritual celebrations from the Pagan tradition (Yule and Imbolc for example). Click the below link to read her memorial.

<https://earthtides.org/in-memorial-rita-moran/>

It's Auction Time



LAST CHANCE for a renown UU work crew of members and friends to come to your home and complete those long-awaited fixer and cleanup projects!

Our auction ends at 5 pm Thursday, March 31.

The Current bid is \$700 for a team of 8-10 people to come help you for the day. We also have a second Work Crew available for bidding.

To win one of these special offers, send your bid by email to auction coordinator Catherine Palmer at palmercatherinemaine@gmail.com.

Work Crew Details

One work crew will be led by Marilyn Dunn and the other by Michaela Loisel. Each work crew will be made up of 8-10 able-bodied members and friends of the church. You will decide ahead of time the chores to be done and the tools that we will need.

The work crew arrives at your property ready to fix, paint, assemble, rake, trim, plant, wash, scrape and much more! **We can accomplish almost any chore.** Just ask people who have won previous work crew bids, such as Nancy Fritz, Kathy Ann Shaw, Kevin Kane and Hannah Faulkner.

You will be asked to provide paint, if needed, and we would all appreciate it if you made lunch for the crew.

YOU ARE AMAZING!!!

UKRAINE FUNDRAISING UPDATE

"Your contributions are incredibly useful, they are needed, and they are so much appreciated." This is a quote from my son and daughter-in-law in Czech Republic when I spoke with them earlier today.

You are among 75+ people who raised more than \$14,000 in the past month to directly benefit refugees from Ukraine who are pouring into the Czech Republic. As of two days ago, the Czech government reported more than 300,000 refugees have arrived in the past few weeks. And many more are expected as the bombing in western Ukraine accelerated this weekend.

Here are some of the ways your donations are being spent this week: completed repairs and purchased supplies for a small cottage that is ready to receive two or three refugees and their pets by tomorrow; purchased much needed supplies for two of the refugee shelters in Prague. This includes items for children, canned goods and other food, and first aid supplies.

My family members living in a small village in the Czech Republic report that support from many parts of the world is overwhelming and extremely gratifying. Thank you so much for being part of this effort.

Nancy, Fritz

Board of Trustees

Moving on with the Interim Process...

At a special meeting on March 24th, the Board voted to go forward with the UUA Interim Search process again this year in the hopes of securing a two-year Interim Minister.

The process will mirror what we did to bring Minister Chloe to our community. The same search committee has agreed to serve again this year. They are:

Harold Burnett, Chair, Interim Transition Team; Terry Cairn, Board Member and COVID-19 Advisory Group member; Dennis Maddi, congregant; Jill Plourd, former Board President; and Kathy Ann Shaw, Board President.

It is our hope that several other members of the congregation will be added as well.

The implications of securing a two-year interim are (at least) two-fold:

1. We can give ourselves the time to build on the good work that Chloe and the Transition Team did this year while allowing a new Interim the time to complete the full work of an interim period,
2. We will push the search for a settled minister forward to FY 2023-24.

As is always the case, please feel free to be in touch with me with questions about this or any other Board related decision at kathyannshaw@roadrunner.com.

My best to you,

Kathy Ann Shaw, Board President

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

Update from COVID-19 Advisory Group

On Thursday, March 10th, the UCC Board of Trustees adopted a new plan to reopen the church to in person gatherings. We have adapted the recently released United States CDC Community Level assessment guide as our metric for phased reopening. This assessment guide rates each county on three separate metrics and assigns a color code of green, yellow or red based on the level of COVID risk in that county.

We will be using those color codes to determine what level of physical distancing is necessary to minimize the risk of COVID exposure to our attendees during in person church gatherings. Green = 3 foot distancing, yellow = 6 foot distancing and red = no in person gatherings. Kennebec County is currently yellow.

UPDATE for 3/30/22: Kennebec county is presently **Green**

Below is a reprint of Minister Chloe's email regarding Opening the church for Services

Multi-Platform service will begin THIS SUNDAY, APRIL 3rd

Dear UCC Community,

I am happy to announce that we will begin multi-platform worship this Sunday, April 3. This is an exciting development for our community. I am grateful for the many hours of work put in by the board, the covid advisory group, the worship arts team, building and grounds, and other volunteers to make this happen!

There will be one service on **Sunday at 10:00 am**, with ingathering music beginning at 9:50 am.

To watch the service online:

If you want to watch the service online from home, you can use this link <https://boxcast.tv/channel/mtifpth0utvesjggjyej>. We will use the same link every week, so please bookmark it. This link is a live video feed or live stream of the service, like watching TV. We will not have service in the UCC Zoom room. However, we will continue to use the UCC Zoom room for meetings and smaller interactive gatherings. You can also watch our live stream on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Unitarian-Universalist-Community-Church-of-Augusta-ME-271847882875674/>.

To attend in person:

If you want to attend the service in person, we request that you RSVP. By RSVPing, you will help us plan out seating in the church. You can RSVP for Sunday morning worship here <https://rsvp.church/r/UimVwfiQ>.

Information for attending:

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

- Masks are required. Please wear a surgical, N-95, or KN-95 mask. Surgical masks will be available as you enter the church. If you choose to wear a cloth mask, we will kindly ask you to place a surgical mask over it.
- Keep 3 feet of physical distance, except for family units.
- All doors and windows will be open. Please bring a coat!
- There will be no singing inside at this time.
- Coffee hour will be outside on the front sidewalk, with coffee, tea, and water available after the service.

I am in the process of working with the staff to reopen the church for small group meetings. We have a great camera called an OWL, which should allow groups to meet both on zoom and in person. We expect to be open to small groups starting Monday, April 18. If your group is interested in meeting at the church, please let Lynn know, and we will get back to you with more details.

In faith,
Chloe

Dr. Don on Covid-19

Dr. Don on COVID-19 Second Booster Available

On Tuesday, March 29th, the Centers for Disease Control and the Food and Drug Administration announced that second booster doses of the Pfizer and Moderna would now be made available for those who are 50 years of age and over. This important addition has the potential to more fully protect against the COVID virus variants now infecting the US population.

Those who received the Johnson and Johnson vaccine have been encouraged to receive booster doses of either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines. Research has shown they provide a superior immune response against infection.

The value in “booster doses” has long been known and the name results from early immune system research and is clearly appropriate. What booster doses do is increase the body’s response to an infectious agent. Typically this occurs in two ways. One, the immune system, families of specialized white blood cells, produce highly increased levels of protective antibodies to neutralize the infecting viruses and two, other white blood cells recognize virus infected cells and destroy them.

There are two additional benefits that result from booster doses being administered. First these additional doses also cause these immune system cells to react more rapidly should the infection take place. Secondly these reactions occur causing the immune system to remember these reactions, called anamnestic response, for a longer period of time. This valuable addition provides protection for an extended period of time.

The strongest motivator that has led to this announcement is the knowledge that many of us do not react in the typical fashions mentioned above. In those of us who are older and especially for those who are immune compromised due to the use of immune suppressing drugs for cancer therapy, preventing the rejection of transplants or treating autoimmune diseases, normal immune reactions do not occur, or occur at reduced levels and for a

shorter period of time. The use of these additional booster doses provides an opportunity for protecting these individuals and greatly reducing the likelihood of hospitalization and death for those “boosted.”

Comments, questions or suggestions can be sent to donnaber1364@gmail.com

General Information

Worship Services are now being held IN-PERSON **Events may still be held virtually 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.

UUC 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.

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