

Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church
Wednesday, April 6, 2022

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A Message from the Minister

Wow! The first in-person service was great! The technology worked well without any big issues. We got to see each other! We danced! We had coffee outside! It was a lovely day. A big thank you to everyone who pitched in to make it happen. I am so filled with gratitude.

Are you enjoying the change of seasons? Yesterday, I sat outside and had a phone meeting in the church's backyard. As I sat there, I watched a cat escape from its house. The cat came slowly towards me, unsure of me and very curious. Soon after, his owner came racing up to bring him back inside. It feels like a blessing to have the sunshine and warmth and to be blessed by a cat's curious feet approaching me. The world is alive again!

On another note, April 2nd was World Autism Awareness Day. I have recently read about the importance of organizations that center autistic voices. An excellent example of this is the Autism Self Advocacy Network. If you want to learn more about the autism rights movement and efforts toward neurodiversity inclusion, I found this article helpful- <https://hbr.org/2022/04/your-autism-awareness-day-might-be-excluding-autistic-people>.

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. This coming Tuesday, April 12, Monique will be hosting my weekly Zoom since I will be in Virginia visiting my grandfather.

Sending love,
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 10, 2022</p> <p>10:00 a.m. IN PERSON</p> <p>Ingathering music to begin at 9:50 a.m.</p>	<p>"The Gospel According to Starlings " Rev. Claire Curole, UUCC Affiliate Minister*</p> <p>Join us as we seek meaning and wisdom in the world above our heads.</p> <p>Special thanks to our worship associate John Seksay, our Sunday tech Marty Peters, and our pianist Stef Barley. We may also have a new video from the choir.</p> <p>PLEASE Register to attend in-person services https://rsvp.church/r/UimVwfiQ</p> <p>*Rev. Claire is a member of UUCC 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>NEXT Sunday April 17, 2022</p> <p>10:00 a.m. IN-PERSON</p> <p>Ingathering music to begin at 9:50 a.m.</p>	<p>"Easter Sunday" Chloë Briedé, UUCC Interim Minister</p> <p>We will read familiar passages from the Bible and hear traditional tunes. Chloe will talk about the resurrection story and themes of forgiveness and compassion. What does the story tell us about the Christian God and our own humanity?</p> <p>Special thanks to our worship associate Sara Hodgkins and our pianist Karen Allen. Our Choir will present a video of "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" by JS Bach.</p> <p>PLEASE Register to attend in-person services https://rsvp.church/r/UimVwfiQ</p>

<see [Covid-19 Updates/News] below for all the details of In-Person Sunday Worship>

Sunday worship service is now being held IN-PERSON in the Sanctuary.

Our services are no longer accessible by Zoom.

If you want to watch the livestream of the service, please visit:

<https://boxcast.tv/channel/mtifpthOutvesjggjyej>

Did you miss the following services?

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

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

Sunday 4/3/22 –"Awakening" - with Chloë Briedé, UUCU Interim Minister

Watch the complete service by clicking the following link: [Link to 4/3 "Awakening" service](#)

Special Events / Opportunities

Events are still being held in the UUCU Zoom Room (unless noted).

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

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



Dale's Annual UUCU Tomato Babies and Vegetable Sale

It's time to think about gardening and here to help you is the link to the 2022 catalog.

Click here to browse the catalog: [Tomato Babies and Veggies Catalog](#)

I thought I'd give you the list early to help you plan your garden or what you want to put in pots on your porch. I also have planted more of what you liked last year so I wouldn't run out. I have started 20-40 kale and basil plants because those were the most popular plants last year. I added up all the 2021 orders for tomatoes and planted a few more of your favorites: Ultra Girl, German Pink, Oregon Spring, Sungold and Sweet 100, Moonglow, Wapsipinicon Peach.

I have started more yellow tomatoes this year because they are low in acid and taste great. **New** this year are: Yellow Brnadywine, Mandarin Cross, Pork Chop tomato, Sungold cherry tomatoes, Dwarf Blue Kale, Italian smooth leaf kale, Albino beet with succulent greens, Parsley, cukes and chard.

My plants have been transplanted once into deep containers. Re-potting tomatoes up to the lowest set of leaves increases their root systems. The fuzzy part of the lower stem produces new roots and that is why my tomatoes are healthy and produce well. When you plant them in the ground or a pot and again bury then up to the lower leaves, you are increasing the root system still more. That's why my tomatoes are worth \$5 and the veggies are worth \$4. And don't forget all the money goes to the church.

You can fill out your orders now or wait till later. Pick up time will be during the second half of May.

Happy Spring!

Dale

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

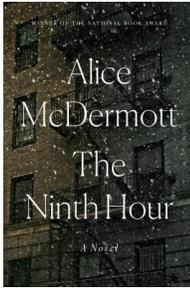
Specifically, they need Shampoo, Toothpaste, Soap, and Toilet Paper. Donations can be left in the coat closet off the main hallway at church. If you have any questions, please contact Stefanie Barley (stefbarley@gmail.com) or 207-629-8890) or Carolyn Ladd (207-621-2362). Thank you!

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 align="center"><u>Peaceful Heart Sangha</u></p> <p 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 align="center"><u>Gentle YOGA</u></p> <p 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 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 align="center"><u>Peaceful Heart Sangha</u></p> <p 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>	

- More Connections by Day of the Week -

<p align="center">1st Thursday</p> <p align="center">Noon-1:30 p.m.</p> <p align="center">Next Meeting is: April 7</p>	<p align="center"><u>Read, Learn, Share</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 align="center"><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. -- Goodreads</i></p>
<p align="center">2nd & 4th Thursday</p> <p align="center">9:00 – 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p 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 UCC Zoom Room.</p>
<p align="center">4th Sunday</p> <p align="center">1-2:30 p.m.</p> <p align="center">Next Meeting is April 24</p>	<p align="center"><u>Goddess / Earth Circles</u></p> <p align="center">We are continuing exploration of Wicca: 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://wicaliving.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 UCC 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 memoriam.

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



PEEPERS

Peepers were first heard at 10:00pm on Tuesday, April 5th by Terry Cairn in Windsor

Spring is here!!!

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

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

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

COVID-19 Updates / News

Update from COVID-19 Advisory Group

On Thursday, March 10th, the UUCC 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 4/6/22: 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 UUCC 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/mtifpth0utvesjggijeyj>. 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 UUCC Zoom room. However, we will continue to use the UUCC 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:

- 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 Maine At Low Risk, But With Concern

This past week all Maine counties have been CDC classified as "Green" indicating that there is low risk of COVID infection across the entire state. This good news from last week comes however with a caveat early this week, specifically the number of patients hospitalized with COVID-19 has started to rise. The Maine CDC reported 104 people were hospitalized both Monday and Tuesday with the virus, up from 93 on Sunday. The last time Maine had more than 100 inpatients was March 18. The number had hovered in the 90s since then.

Both cases and hospitalizations had plummeted from the peak of the omicron wave in January before the decline stalled this month. The leveling off of cases and hospitalizations coincides with the spread of the omicron BA.2 subvariant, which is more contagious than the original version of omicron. The spread of BA.2 typically shows up in the US a few weeks after affecting Europe where it has already caused wide infection of the United Kingdom and Scandinavia.

The BA.2 subvariant, which is spreading in Maine and nationally, has made doctors and public health officials somewhat wary. Health experts are not expecting a major surge in hospitalizations because vaccinations are working well and prior infections provide some immunity. The increasing availability of the antiviral drug Paxlovid, a mixture of two drugs that prevents the COVID virus from building the proteins of its structure, is limiting viral effects and reducing the spread of infections. Those who are hospitalized with the virus continue to be mostly people who have not been vaccinated.

BA.2 is about 50 to 80 percent more contagious than the original omicron variant, although scientists say it does not cause more severe disease. While less severe than delta and previous strains of the virus, omicron and omicron BA.2 can still be deadly, especially for those who are unvaccinated and have higher risk factors for severe disease, such as obesity, diabetes and compromised immune systems.

The official Maine CDC report shows that 10.4 percent of samples tested in March were the BA.2 omicron subvariant, but the report lags real-time data by about two weeks. Testing by Walgreens, the retail pharmacy chain, is showing more than 70 percent of the cases in Maine are now caused by the subvariant.

The value of vaccination and booster doses for those 70 and older or at risk of serious disease due to underlying conditions is obvious.

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.

UUCC 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

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)	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.

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.

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 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.

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>	

Minister Briede's office hours:

Monday No office hours - Sabbath

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