

Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church
Wednesday, July 6, 2022

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A Final Message from the Minister

On my first vacation day, I'm planning to watch the Tour de France. Today's stage has them going over cobblestone roads. Can you imagine trying to bike as fast as you can, perhaps with your career depending on it, over cobblestones? Today may be the most challenging day of the Tour, though these things are not predictable, like life.

As we say goodbye, I hope the path for you and this congregation is smooth without many cobblestones. And if they come, may you have the skill and grace to navigate them well. There is no need to bike over them frantically. Instead, may you navigate them slowly, with intention and patience. I know that this congregation will be okay. I have seen a strong and resilient community, ready to thrive into the future. May it be so.

I want to leave you with these words from Rabindranath Tagore from the service on Sunday. "Peace, my heart, let the time for the parting be sweet. Let it not be a death but completeness. Let love melt into memory and pain into songs. Let the flight through the sky end in the folding of the wings over the nest. Let the last touch of your hands be gentle like the flower of the night. Stand still, O Beautiful End, for a moment, and say your last words in silence. I bow to you and hold up my lamp to light you on your way."

Sending wishes for a smooth road ahead,

Chloe Briede

Upcoming Services

<p style="text-align: center;">THIS Sunday July 10, 2022</p> <p>10:00 a.m. IN-PERSON Ingathering music to begin at 9:50 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">“Words That (Still) Matter” Jim McKenna, UUC Member</p> <p>In these days of alternative facts and Orwellian double speak, such as Russia’s “peacekeeping duties” in Ukraine, we will discuss words from our past that still matter and why they were spoken.</p> <p><u>What might be some examples?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “In its majestic equality, the law forbids rich and poor alike to sleep under bridges, beg in streets, and steal loaves of bread.” • “In the middle of the journey of our life, I came to myself in a dark wood, where the straight way was lost.” • “I returned and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favor to men of skill, but time and chance happeneth to them all.” <p>There will be time for members and friends to suggest their own examples of words that still matter to them and how they came to be spoken.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <p>A special thank you to everyone who is participating. Susan Claska Burnett will serve as our worship associate. Karen Allen will be our pianist.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">NEXT Sunday July 17, 2022</p> <p>10:00 a.m. IN-PERSON Ingathering music to begin at 9:50 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">"How Do We Want to be Together?" Micheala Loisel and Kathy Kellison</p> <p>This question takes on urgency as our church's ministerial leadership changes dramatically. Michaela and Kathy will share thoughts from UUA trainings they have attended.</p> <p>A special thank you to everyone who is participating. Stefanie Barley will be our pianist.</p>

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/mtifpthOutvesjggjvej>

If you missed a service or want to watch a service again, the link above also allows access to prior services. Click on the play button on the video of the “broadcast date” you are interested in watching.

MAINE UUs SUPPORT DEMOCRACY!

Would you like to help make sure everyone in your community is registered to vote?

Join MUUSAN and Peg Balano from the [League of Women Voters of Maine](#) to learn the ins and outs of voter registration in Maine! After this training you'll be able to participate or hold voter registration drives, help people understand the process, and answer questions about how voting works here.

When and Where: **Wednesday, July 13th at 12:00 pm on Zoom**

Register in advance for this training [here](#) or at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEtf-qsqzkiHddz1q24Yeyps3dAGCWylj2q>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing the link to join the training. Questions? Contact admin@muusan.org. **All are welcome!**

Just Guys – RETURNS in person on July 20, 2022

Just Guys is a local social/support group for gay, bisexual or questioning men. The group will be meeting IN-PERSON at the church on July 20, 2022 (for the 1st time since COVID began.) The group usually meets from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. to enjoy movies, discussions, social awareness, guest speakers, and game nights. This meeting will just be about reconnecting, socializing and sharing.

FMI: www.justguys.info. If you would like to receive the newsletter from Just Guys, please send an email to welcome@justguys.info.

Read Learn Share Book Group

CONSIDER JOINING US

The **Read Learn Share Book Group** is in the final stages of choosing their reading list for next year. We will announce the first two books in the E-blast when the list is in place. The full list will be published in the fall newsletter.

The Group is open to anyone with an interest in discussing one or more of the books for the year. Everyone is welcome, whether you are interested in just one book or in them all. For more information, contact June Zellers at jzellers@roaldrunner.com or Kathy Kelison at kell6787@gmail.com.

Connections by Day of the Week

ALL church events and meetings are reflected on the UUCC calendar
 Click below to view ALL events, including any group meetings or other business meetings.
<https://www.augustauu.org/calendar-and-communications/>

Some events are still being held in the UUCC Zoom Room.

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

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



Zoom meeting id: 823 807 0673 – Password: 6971

<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 style="text-align: center;">Please contact Marty Soule for updated login information at email martysoule@gmail.com. FMI: peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com</p> <div style="text-align: right;">  </div>
<p><u>Wednesdays</u> Each Week</p> <p><u>5:00 – 6:00</u> <u>p.m.</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Gentle YOGA</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hosted by Debbie Mattson</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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=UWJpOVFjVFJGbzdmZWmZoOTRXa3VoUT09 Password 174192 - FMI: DebbieMattson@hotmail.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>YOGA class resumes today, July 6th after our yoga instructor's well deserved break last week.</u></p> <div style="text-align: right;">  </div>
<p><u>2nd & 4th Wednesdays</u></p> <p><u>10:30 a.m. - 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 align="center">- More Connections by Day of the Week -</p>
<p><u>Thursdays</u> <u>Each Week</u></p> <p><u>8:00 – 9:30</u> <u>a.m.</u></p>	<p 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> 
<p><u>2nd & 4th</u> <u>Thursday</u> <u>By Zoom</u></p> <p><u>9:00 – 10:30</u> <u>a.m.</u></p>	<p align="center"><u>Writing to Wake the Soul</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>1st</u> <u>Thursday</u></p> <p><u>Noon-1:30</u> <u>p.m.</u></p> <p><u>Next Meeting</u> <u>will be in Oct.</u> <u>2022</u></p>	<p align="center"><u>Read, Learn, Share</u></p> <p>Our final meeting of this year was June 2nd in the UCC zoom room from Noon – 1:30 We discussed <u>Beneficence, A Family, A Farm, An Unshakable Feeling</u> by Meredith Hall, 296 pgs. (Fiction)</p> <p align="center">Books for next year will be chosen by July 8. Stay tuned for a sneak peek at the first few books.</p>
<p><u>4th Friday</u></p> <p><u>6:30 – 8:30</u> <u>Sanctuary</u></p> <p>Next Meeting is July 22</p>	<p align="center"><u>Free Style Drum Circle</u></p> <p>The Augusta Community Drum Circle is a free style drum circle welcoming people of all ages, walks of life, and abilities. Free style means no one is assigned ‘pieces’ to play. Just play! Or don’t play! Just come watch, sing, dance, or bring your own instruments. No one cares if you’ve never played before or if you make a mistake. As long as you are having fun you can’t get it wrong! ALL are welcome. Event is FREE, No RSVP, just come!</p> <p>The Drum Circle meets the fourth Friday of each month at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary. For more information you can contact Mike Moody at mtmoods@gmail.com or 229-1118.</p>

4th Sunday	<u>Goddess / Earth Circles</u>
<u>1-2:30 p.m.</u> <u>In-person w/</u> <u>Zoom backup</u>	Goddess/Earth Circles meet July 24, 2022 at 1-2:30pm on UUC Zoom Topic: Summer Connections and Reproductive Justice--Spiritual Connections Bring drums, rattles, rain sticks See UUC website: Church Life/Goddess: Meetings and Archives
Next Meeting is July 24	Goddess/Earth Circles focuses on Goddess, women's lives and earth-based spirituality. All ages and genders welcome. Contact: Helen Zidowecki (582-5308, hzmre@hzmre.com) and see UUC website.

Notices / Updates / News

The Pastoral Ministry Team recently shared with the Board our plan for coverage of pastoral needs for the summer, as indicated below. If changes in coverage occur, I will notify the Board and our administrative assistant. In the event of an emergency or a death, Helen Zidowecki, retired minister and member of the Pastoral Ministry Team, will step in. As in the past, Helen is also willing to be contacted regarding special services, so such requests can go directly to her.

July and August PMT On-Call Schedule:

- July 1 – 8 Martha Pelletier mjpell14@roadrunner.com 685-9592
- July 9 – 18 Tracy Mc Naughton tracy.mcnaughton@yahooo.com 623-3110
- July 19-Aug 26 Martha Pelletier mjpell14@roadrunner.com 685-9592

Condolences to the family and friends of Bruce Bierce. Bruce passed away on Jun 16th surrounded by his loving family. His obituary was in the Tues. June 21 Kennebec Journal.



UPDATE: Celebration of Life and Meal of Comfort for Bruce Bierce

Saturday - July 23, 2022 - 11:00 AM

La Fleur's Restaurant
224 Main Street
Jay, Maine

Summer Schedule of Office Hours, Vacation and Church Publications

As I mentioned in my recent newsletter article, there is much work to be done in the office over the summer. I need to update our Google Workspace and transition us to a new (and much needed) Church Management System. In order for this to be possible, some other tasks need to be minimized or let go to make space in the schedule for these important updates. As a result, the following will be the changes pertaining to the office:

- **E-blasts will be produced every OTHER week.** The schedule is as follows:

E-Blast today (7/6)

NO E-blast (7/13)

E-blast (7/20)

NO E-Blast (7/27) – Office closed 7/26-7/29
for Admin Vacation

E-Blast (8/3)

NO E-blast (8/10)

E-Blast (8/17)

NO E-Blast (8/24)

E-Blast (8/31)

- **Summer Office hours will change**

NEW Office Hours will be Tues, Wed and Thurs from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

There will be NO office hours on Friday. I will still produce the Order of Service but will otherwise spend the day working on the updates solely.

Board of Trustees

Dear Friends,

I am excited to take on the role of board president at such a significant time in our community. Like many of you, I love this church. Like many of you, I wonder how we will manage without an interim minister in place. I imagine, for many of us, this community is more important now than ever. It is for me.

These past few years have shown us how important we are to one another. For some of us, it was hard to stay connected through zoom, but connect we did. As we return to in-person services, and continue to work through the difficulties with patience and trust, I hope.

I assume I'm not alone in feeling relief, understanding, forgiveness and hope following our restorative listening circles this spring. The Board will soon review the report prepared by the Rev. Paul Langston-Daley and make a plan for next steps that I believe will keep us on this evolving path to reconciliation. You will all receive a copy of this report as well.

Leadership is actively working on the other pressing issue- our need to hire an interim minister in a time when such ministers are in short supply. The UUA Transitions Office is in the process of connecting us with a potential contract minister who will provide short-term ministerial support for Sunday Services, Pastoral Care and Administration. Our Pastoral Ministry is at the ready to support this congregation as needed and we have new volunteers stepping up to fill some important positions in our leadership team. In addition- we keep seeing new faces at Sunday Services!

In gratitude,
Michaela Loisel
Board President

I look forward to working with all of you over the next church year.

Board meetings are open to ALL. If you have an item that you would like the Board to consider, please contact:

Michaela Loisel at micaelatloisel@gmail.com.

Next Board meeting: July 14, 2022

Board Meeting minutes are available from the UUC website (www.augustauu.org) at the following link

<https://www.augustauu.org/minister-staff-and-church-life/church-governance/board-of-trustees>

COVID-19 Updates / News

Dr. Don on Covid-19

Dr. Don on COVID-19 Endemic Has Arrived - So Long but Not Goodbye

COVID has entered a phase that has been expected by medical researchers. It has become a part of everyday life, not seasonal like the many influenza viruses, but having the same characteristics of changing to produce new variants. Each year the federal CDC conducts foreign monitoring during our summer to try and determine which flu variants will arrive the next winter and what new vaccine will best prevent infection. COVID has become a part of year-round everyday life, like the common cold, but with its nearly two thousand different types making immunity and vaccine development impossible.

COVID is with us for the long haul. The same variants are created here as are first seen elsewhere. Or they arrive with the next plane full of passengers, some of whom are healthy but are carriers of a new COVID that may have even developed in their bodies. The COVID virus is genetically unstable and produces new types, some so damaged that they fail to reproduce. Others show traits that make themselves more capable of infection and being shed from new human hosts. Some existing immunity is no longer effective in preventing them from sickening those previously infected or vaccinated.

In a case of pure Darwinian evolution, the more effective a strain of virus is in reproducing in us the more likely it will spread new waves of disease. What we see now with COVID infecting those previously infected or vaccinated will continue. It may become an annoyance like the common cold, constantly present but not commonly dangerous. It could also mutate into an entirely new form which no one will have defense against.

I wish, like the mythological Cassandra, I could see the future, but like Cassandra if I did see ahead I would likely not be believed and cast aside. We have been led and conditioned to mistrust and only accept what we feel is right. Experts have such little standing with some of the citizenry that they are immediately dismissed or worse, physically threatened. This lack of trust works against us.

So after 90 plus of these articles it seems time to say so long, but not goodbye. When the situation (not if, but when, and assuming I'm still around) calls for it I hope I will again be part of a team looking out for the best health interests of our congregation.

Take care and of each other,
Don Naber (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

Pastoral Ministry SUMMER COVERAGE

In the event of an emergency or a death, Helen Zidowecki, retired minister and member of the Pastoral Ministry Team, will step in. As in the past, Helen is also willing to be contacted regarding special services, so such requests can go directly to her.

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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.

UCC Office Hours – NEXT WEEK

UCC Office SUMMER Hours

Monday – No office hours

Tues, Wed, and Thurs - 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Friday – No office hours

See the above schedule from Pastoral Ministry Team for pastoral coverage.

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