

Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church
Wednesday, July 20, 2022

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69 Winthrop St., Augusta ME

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

[Zoom](#)
[Room](#)

A Message from our new Minister

Dear members and friends of UUC,

I am excited to serve as your half-time minister for the 2022-2023 church year. I come to you after taking a year off from serving First Parish in Portland for eleven years. I live with my husband, Arne and daughter, Selena. After rejecting the religious oppression of my childhood, I emerged as a UU in my late twenties. I love our faith and congregational life.

At my best I am a wildly open minded, intuitive, compassionate spiritual leader who supports individuals and communities through change and transformation. At my worst, I am a shmuck. I am passionate about food, beauty, water, yoga, shamanism, consciousness, and non-human intelligence.

During my time with you, I will lead worship, pastor to you, supervise staff, and support leaders. Beginning in August, I will be available Wednesdays on zoom and Thursdays in person. Please reach out to me by email or phone if you would like to set up a time to get together. I know you have been through much change over the past few years. As corny as it may sound, I hope to bring faith, hope, and love to you over the year. I look forward to meeting you!



Blessings of summer rain,
Christina

minister@augustauu.org
207-807-9232

Upcoming Services

<p style="text-align: center;">THIS Sunday July 24, 2022</p> <p>10:00 a.m. IN-PERSON Ingathering music to begin at 9:50 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">“The Deal on Those Days” UUA General Assembly Service (abridged/streamed) Guided by Sara Hodgkins, Worship Association</p> <p>The last few years have not been easy, including in our local congregations. Whole swaths of members have simply stopped coming; COVID is confusing, and polarizing; many ministers have joined the great resignation; and Pew studies and friends alike have pronounced the end of the local church.</p> <p>In this moment, when so many of us might be wondering if we should just give up, and relent, now’s the time instead to double down on our commitment to the local church -this unique community that saves us and also breaks our hearts - often much more of the latter than we’d like to admit. In the midst of our culture of death, the church is a place of life. Or it is, as long as we are willing to bring our own lives to it.</p> <p>Join us for a morning of celebration, witness, and future-visioning for the already and not yet power of the local Unitarian Universalist church.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">NEXT Sunday July 31, 2022</p> <p>10:00 a.m. IN-PERSON Ingathering music to begin at 9:50 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">"The Books That Stir my Soul " Susan Claska Burnett</p> <p>Reading has always been a major part of my life. I will speak on various books that supported me throughout the stages of my life. The congregation will be asked to share their favorite books.</p> <p>A special thank you to everyone who is participating. Martin Peters will be our worship associate and Karen Allen 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

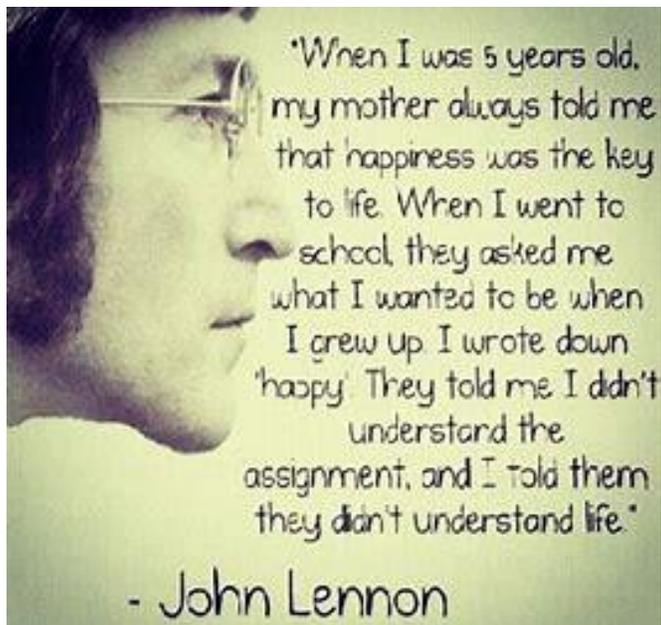
If you want to watch the livestream of the service, please visit:

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

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.

Special Events / Opportunities

Peaceful Heart Sangha now practices on zoom and in person.



Come join us **in person** for **Monday mindfulness meditation practice 6:30-8 pm July 25 and August 1, 15, and 29** in the UUCC sanctuary (dates with odd numbers). We will practice on zoom August 8 & 22 (dates with even numbers). We also practice on zoom on Thursday mornings 8-9:30 and will be moving to some in person soon.

Sangha begins with time for settling in and 20 minutes of sitting meditation. This is usually followed with 10-15 minutes of walking meditation, special offerings and a time for sharing.

For zoom details contact martysoule@gmail.com or peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com

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

The **Read Learn Share Book Group** has chosen its book list for next year. 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. FMI: contact June Zellers at jzellers@roadrunner.com or Kathy Kellison at kell6787@gmail.com.

Sneak Peek at the first two books:

October: *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki, 2021, 548 pages

December: *The Lowering Days* by Gregory Brown, 2021, 268 pages

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 <u>6:30 – 8:00</u> p.m. <u>Please note:</u> <u>location</u> <u>changes</u> <u>weekly</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. <u>NEW SCHEDULE</u> for SANGHA Monday meetings for July 25 and the month of August. Stay tuned for the September and beyond schedule.</p> <p>-- IN-PERSON in the UUC Sanctuary - July 25 and August (Aug. 1, 15 and 29). (odd dates)</p> <p>-- BY Private ZOOM - On the odd dated Mondays in August (Aug. 8 and 8/22). (even dates)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please contact Marty Soule for updated login information at email martysoule@gmail.com. FMI: peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com</p>	
<p><u>Wednes-</u> <u>days</u> Each Week <u>5:00 – 6:00</u> p.m.</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=UWJpOVFjVFJGbz3dMWmZoOTRXa3VoUT0 9 Password 174192 - FMI: DebbieMattson@hotmail.com</p>	
<p><u>2nd & 4th</u> <u>Wednesday</u> <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>	
<p>- See next page for More Connections by Day of the Week</p>		

	- More Connections by Day of the Week -	
<u>Thursdays</u> Each Week <u>8:00 – 9:30</u> <u>a.m.</u>	<u>Peaceful Heart Sangha</u> 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 martysoule@gmail.com . FMI: peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com	
<u>2nd & 4th</u> <u>Thursday</u> By Zoom <u>9:00 – 10:30</u> <u>a.m.</u>	<u>Writing to Wake the Soul</u> 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. For more information, please contact Debbie at (207)557-2697 or deb-biemattson@hotmail.com	
<u>1st</u> <u>Thursday</u> <u>Noon-1:30</u> <u>p.m.</u> <u>Next Meeting</u> <u>is Oct 6th</u>	<u>Read, Learn, Share</u> Our final meeting of this year was June 2 nd . We will resume meetings in the UUCC zoom room from Noon – 1:30 on Oct 6th <div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Books have been chosen for next year.</div> <u>Sneak Peek at the first two books:</u> October: <i>The Book of Form and Emptiness</i> by Ruth Ozeki, 2021, 548 pages December <i>The Lowering Days</i> by Gregory Brown, 2021, 268 pages	
<u>4th Friday</u> <u>6:30 –</u> <u>8:30</u> <u>Sanctuar</u> <u>y</u> <u>Next Meeting</u> <u>is July 22</u>	<u>Free Style Drum Circle</u> 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! <u>ALL are welcome.</u> Event is FREE, No RSVP, just come! 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.	
	- See next page for More Connections by Day of the Week	



- AND Even More Connections by Day of the Week -

**4th
Sunday**
1-2:30 p.m.
By Zoom
**Next Meeting
is July 24**

Goddess / Earth Circles

Goddess/Earth Circles will meet July 24, 2022 at 1-2:30pm on UUCC Zoom
Topic: Summer Connections followed by Spiritual focus of Reproductive Wholeness.

What terms describe various perspectives? What hopes and concerns have arisen for you since we last met? How do we offer and accept support? Bring drums, rattles, rain sticks

See UUCC website: Church Life/Goddess: Meetings and Archives

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 UUCC website.

Notices / Updates / News

Our Church Admin will be on vacation next week

Our Church Administrator will be on vacation
NEXT WEEK – July 26 through July 29th

The office will be CLOSED for the week. Please be patient and allow time for the Admin to get to your email and/or schedule your event or group meeting when she is back in the office.



Beloved church member Bruce Bierce passed away on Jun 16th surrounded by his loving family.

Celebration of Life and Meal of Comfort for Bruce Bierce

Sat. - July 23, 2022 - 11:00 AM

La Fleur's Restaurant
224 Main Street
Jay, Maine

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 19-Aug 26 Martha Pelletier mjpell14@roadrunner.com 685-9592

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)	E-Blast (8/3)
NO E-blast (7/13)	NO E-blast (8/10)
E-blast (7/20)	E-Blast (8/17)
NO E-Blast (7/27) – Office closed 7/26-7/29 for Admin Vacation	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.

Social Justice Committee News

We are excited to return to our monthly practice of **Share the Plate**. The third Sunday of each month the collection is given in to a local, national or international non-profit organization. We call this share the plate, but in practice the entire offering, other than designated pledges, is given to the selected organization. The offering taken on July 17, 2022 will be given to Maine Family Planning, which has an office in Augusta, as well as other locations throughout Maine. Did you miss the July 11th service? Do you want to contribute more to this group? Checks can be mailed to the church at: UUCC, P.O. Box 8, Augusta ME 04332-0008 - please write "Maine Family Planning" in the Memo line of your check. You can also drop your check in the mail slot at the the Summer St. entrance to the church.

Wabanaki Alliance update: Tribal leaders in Maine are celebrating the advance of a bill introduced by Democratic Rep. Jared Golden in the U.S. House that would recognize the sovereignty of the Wabanaki Nations. The week of June 17, the House Natural Resources Committee approved H.R. 6707, a bill that would give Wabanaki tribes the same access to benefits from future federal laws as nearly every other federally recognized tribe in the U.S. receives. The House bill is cosponsored by Rep. Chellie Pingree, and has the backing of the Native American Rights Fund, the National Indian Child Welfare Association, the National Congress of American Indians, as well as the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Board of Trustees

Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Augusta Board Meeting -- A G E N D A

July 14, 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#)



Chalice Lighting

Words to Inspire: Michaela

Board Covenant

Check in: 1. What are you hopeful for relative to our church/board work?

2. How goes your summer so far?

REPORTS

1. Clerk's Report: Catherine/ **VOTE**
2. Treasurer's Report: Nancy <NONE>
3. Finance Committee's Report w/ Invested Funds Report: Harry
4. COVID-19 Task Force's Report: Terry and Harry <NONE>
5. President's Report: Michaela <NONE>

NEW BUSINESS

- Ministerial Support Plan Update
 - Christina Sillari
 - What's next for UUCC (after the 2022-2023 church year)
- Unfilled Leadership Positions
 - Worship Arts Chair
 - Committee on Ministry (new member approval)
- Board Retreat -September or October?
- Restorative Justice: What is next? ad-hoc workgroup

ADJOURN

Board meetings are open to ALL. If you have an item that you would like the Board to consider, please contact Michaela Loisel at Michaelatloisel@gmail.com.

Next Board meeting: August 11th, 2022

Board Meeting minutes are available from the UUCC 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 So Long but Not Goodbye

In the July 6th E-Blast, Don Naber issued a <sort of> final article. In closing, he wrote:

... 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)

Thank you so much Don for all your articles that kept us informed and educated about Covid-19.

We hope to hear from you again soon (Um NOT!!!) - But truly, THANK YOU!!

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

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

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.

July and August PMT On-Call Schedule:

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

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 the Church Administrator at 207-622-3232 or admin@augus-tauu.org.

UCC Office Hours – NEXT WEEK

UCC Office Hours NEXT WEEK

Office closed week of 7/26 – 7/29
Our Church Administrator is on VACATION

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

Summer Office Hours:
Tues, Wed and Thurs – 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Staff Contact information:

Church Administrator, Lynn M. Smith, admin@augustauu.org, Phone 622-3232
Coordinator of Lifespan Faith Formation, M. Monique Bergère, LifespanFF@augustauu.org
Music Director, Bridget Convey, musicdirector@augustauu.org