

# Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church  
Wednesday, September 7, 2022

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[www.augustauu.org](http://www.augustauu.org)

## A Message from our new Minister

Dear members and friends of UUCC,

I am nervous and excited to be with you and lead worship this Sunday. As a minister, I have never been fond of Ingathering Sunday. September always feels like a beginning which means something has ended. The transition is challenging. What have I not tended to all summer that lingers... like the vegetables in my garden that still need nourishment? What challenges and surprises lie ahead that are not yet known...like when the snow will begin?

Also, although I appreciate the roots of our water communion ritual which began in 1980 to uplift women's spirituality, community, the interconnected web of life, and inclusivity, I often feel troubled by the ritual, both as a congregant and as a minister. As people come to the altar to pour their water into the common bowl and share where their water is from, I cannot help but to see it as a class divider. One family brings water from an exotic place they visited in the summer and another from the local stream or their own faucet. I also feel that moving water from its original location to another place is not ecologically friendly.

**So, during our water communion this Sunday, each of you will be given a small glass of water to use during our ritual.** We will spend time with our water and send our healing prayers and intentions into the water. We will reflect on the values and energies we want to give and receive at UUCC this year and blow them into our water. We will then pour our good thoughts and feelings into the common bowl. And eventually in the weeks and months to come, we will create a communal covenant to live by at UUCC.

I hope to see you on Sunday! Until then, I offer you the poem **"When You See Water"** by **Alice Walker**.

When you see water in a stream  
you say: oh, this is stream water;  
When you see water in the river  
you say: oh, this is water of the river;  
When you see ocean water  
you say: This is the ocean's water!  
But actually, water is always only itself  
and does not belong  
to any of these containers  
though it creates them.  
And so, it is with you.

Many blessings,  
Reverend Christina Sillari

## Upcoming Services

<p><b>THIS Sunday</b> <b>September 11, 2022</b></p> <p>10:00 a.m. IN-PERSON Ingathering music to begin at 9:50 a.m.</p>	<p><b>"Ingathering / Spirit of Water"</b> Christina Sillari, Minister</p> <p>Join Rev. Christina during her first Sunday at UUCC when we will explore the spirit and consciousness of water and how it connects to our community and our values.</p> <p>A special thank you to everyone who is participating. Mary Peters will be our worship associate and Angie Blevins will manage our technology. Karen Foust will be our pianist. The UUCC Board of Trustees will present our post service coffee fellowship to welcome Rev. Christina Sillari.</p>
<p><b>NEXT Sunday</b> <b>September 18, 2022</b></p> <p>10:00 a.m. IN-PERSON Ingathering music to begin at 9:50 a.m.</p>	<p><b>"Give Me This Water"</b> Rev. Sara Gillespie, Visiting UU Minister*</p> <p>After two years of pandemic stress and worry, we must try to re-fill our spiritual cups. But like the woman at the well (in Christian scripture), we are challenged to dig deeper and reflect on what our faith offers us in this moment.</p> <p>*Rev. Sarah Gillespie is an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister and board-certified chaplain. She works at Androscoggin Home Healthcare and Hospice and tends to the emotional and spiritual needs of hospice patients and families. Immersed in grief for her professional work, she balances some of that by baking, singing and watching baseball with her partner and their young son.</p> <p>A special thank you to everyone who is participating in this service. Susan Claska Burnett will be our worship associate with Angie Blevins managing technology. Karen Allen will be our pianist. We don't have a volunteer to present post service fellowship. If you can volunteer for this task, please contact Susan Claska Burnett at 242-9100.</p> <p>SHARE THE PLATE collection to benefit the Augusta Food Bank.</p>
<p><b>September 25, 2022</b></p>	<p><b>"Liminal Space"</b> Christina Sillari, Minister</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/mtifpthOutvesiqgjyej>

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.

**MOVIE – DATE CHANGED TO September 18, 2022**

Since the common ground fair is on the 25th



**Sunday, September 18, 2022**  
**6:00 p.m. in the Church**  
**Sanctuary**

**UUCU Movie Night**

The UUCU Social Justice Committee, the Social Activities Committee and the Lifespan Faith Formation Coordinator are collaborating to present movies that depict “social equity issues” that are important to our church.

On Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, we will show the movie LOVING.



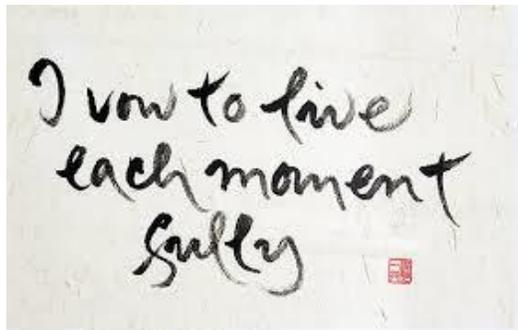
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**I**n 1958, in the state of Virginia, the idea of interracial marriage was not only considered to be immoral to many, it was also illegal. When Richard (Joel Edgerton, *Black Mass*) and Mildred (Ruth Negga, *World War Z*) fall in love, they are aware of the eyes staring at them and the words said behind their backs. It is when they get married, however, that words and looks become actions, and the two are arrested. The couple decide to take their case all of the way to the Supreme Court in order to fight for their love in this passionate and gripping drama that critics are calling “a masterpiece.”  
– Jason Gorber, *ScreenAnarchy.com*

**Event is FREE.** FMI: Contact Cheryl Clukey at [cherylclukey5@yahoo.com](mailto:cherylclukey5@yahoo.com)

See the movie trailer: [Official Movie Trailer: "Loving"](#)

## **Peaceful Heart Sangha now practices on zoom and in person.**



Come join us **in person** for **Monday mindfulness meditation practice 6:30-8 pm**. Sangha will meet on the **1st & 3rd Mondays** in September in the UUCS Sanctuary. On the **2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays** we will meet on zoom.

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](mailto:martysoule@gmail.com) or [peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com](mailto:peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com)

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## **RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CIRCLES – ACTION PLAN**

A Board-appointed Working Group has begun implementing Rev. Paul Langston-Daly's recommendations from his recently circulated report. We are excited to announce the following:

**NEW:** We will begin on In-Gathering Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, with our Water Ceremony.

**LOOK FOR:** Information from Rev. Christina about changes to this ceremony.

**OUR GOAL:** To have the Water Ceremony become part of our visioning process for creating our new covenant.

**NEW:** We will launch a series of SHARING CAFES on the FIRST SUNDAY of each month immediately after the Service (yes, with coffee), starting in OCTOBER. The Sharing Cafes will involve a structured conversation in small groups with representatives from leadership to facilitate the process.

**OUR GOAL:** To build trust among the congregation and with leadership.

**NEW:** Rev. Christina, the Covenant Work Group, members of Small Group Ministry, and other interested members will collect views from various sources, including the In-Gathering Service, the October Sharing Café, and other small group discussions, about how we want to be together here at the UUCS.

**OUR GOAL:** Casting a wide net for input into our new covenant.

**UPCOMING RITUAL:** In early November, Christina will conduct a fire ritual around letting go, making amends, and practicing forgiveness.

**WORKSHOPS:** We are considering a workshop on managing anxiety within our congregation and a separate workshop on Non-Violent Communication.

Feel free to speak with any member of the work group for more information or if you have ideas.

**The Working Group:** MICHAELA LOISEL, KATHY SHAW, JUNE ZELLERS, and REV. CHRISTINA SILLARI; and KATHY KELLISON on covenant issues.

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## Sunday Morning Hospitality Volunteers

Each Sunday a few people supply snacks and coffee/beverages for fellowship following the service. The following individuals have volunteered:

<p>9/4/22 Hannah Faulkner, Betty and Terry Cairn With a belated birthday celebration for Helen Z</p> <p>9/11/22 The UCC Board of Trustees Welcoming Christina Sillari at fellowship</p>	<p style="background-color: #00FFFF; padding: 2px;">9/18/22 Available</p> <p>9/25/22 Catherine Palmer</p>
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Contact Susan Burnett at [slcburnett@me.com](mailto:slcburnett@me.com) to volunteer for September 18 OR for any another Sunday.

## Connections by Day of the Week

ALL church events and meetings are reflected on the UCC 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 UCC 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 style="background-color: #FFDAB9; padding: 2px;"><b><u>Monday</u></b></p> <p><u>Each week</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>6:30 – 8:00</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>p.m.</u></b></p> <p style="background-color: yellow; padding: 2px;"><b><u>Please note:</u></b></p> <p style="background-color: yellow; padding: 2px;"><b><u>location</u></b></p> <p style="background-color: yellow; padding: 2px;"><b><u>changes</u></b></p> <p style="background-color: yellow; padding: 2px;"><b><u>weekly</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Peaceful Heart Sangha</u></b></p> <p>You may join us at 6:15 to settle in.</p> <p><u>NEW SCHEDULE</u> for SANGHA Monday meetings for September. Stay tuned for a longer term schedule.</p> <p>-- IN-PERSON in the UCC Sanctuary – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays</p> <p>--BY Private ZOOM – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays</p> <p>Please contact Marty Soule for updated Zoom login information at: email: <a href="mailto:martysoule@gmail.com">martysoule@gmail.com</a>. FMI: <a href="mailto:peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com">peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com</a></p>	
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<p><b>Wednes- days</b> Each Week <b>5:00 – 6:00</b> <b>p.m.</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Gentle YOGA</u></b> 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. <a href="https://maine.zoom.us/j/95825651125?pwd=UWJpOVFjVFJGb3dMWmZoOTRXa3VoUT09">https://maine.zoom.us/j/95825651125?pwd=UWJpOVFjVFJGb3dMWmZoOTRXa3VoUT09</a> Password <b>174192</b> - FMI: <a href="mailto:DebbieMattson@hotmail.com">DebbieMattson@hotmail.com</a></p> 
<p><b>2nd &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday</b> <b>10:30 a.m. - Noon</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Seasoned Souls</u></b></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 UUCU Zoom Room.</p> <p>FMI: please contact Diane (<a href="mailto:dmoongrove@gmail.com">dmoongrove@gmail.com</a> or 446-6162) or Stefanie (<a href="mailto:stefbarley@gmail.com">stefbarley@gmail.com</a> or 629-8890)</p>
<p><b>Thursdays</b> Each Week <b>8:00 – 9:30</b> <b>a.m.</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Peaceful Heart Sangha</u></b></p> <p>You may join us by Zoom at 7:45 a.m. to settle in. Meet from 8-9:30</p> <p>Please contact Marty Soule for updated login information at <a href="mailto:martysoule@gmail.com">martysoule@gmail.com</a>. FMI: <a href="mailto:peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com">peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com</a></p> 
<p><b>2nd &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday</b> In-Person (see de- tails) <b>9:00 – 10:30</b> <b>a.m.</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Writing to Wake the Soul</u></b></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.</p> <p><b><u>VENUE CHANGE</u></b> On Thursdays, 8/25/22 and 9/8/22, this group will meet in the yard of an off premises location (32 Winthrop St., Hallowell). In the event of inclement weather, the group will meet in the Fellowship Hall. The meeting schedule and location after 9/8 will be determined soon.</p> <p>FMI: please contact Debbie at (207)557-2697 or <a href="mailto:debbiemattson@hotmail.com">debbiemattson@hotmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Thursday</b> <b>Noon-1:30</b> <b>p.m.</b> <b>Next Meet- ing is Oct 6th</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Read, Learn, Share</u></b></p> <p>We will resume meetings in the UUCU zoom room from Noon – 1:30 on Oct 6<sup>th</sup>. We will Discuss Ruth Ozeki’s novel The Book of Form and Emptiness. The full list of books for the year will be announced in the fall newsletter.</p> <p>For more information, contact June Zellers at <a href="mailto:jzellers@roadrunner.com">jzellers@roadrunner.com</a> or Kathy Kellison at <a href="mailto:kell6787@gmail.com">kell6787@gmail.com</a>.</p>

<p><b>4<sup>th</sup> Friday</b></p> <p><b>6:30 – 8:30 Sanctuary</b></p> <p><b>Next Meeting is Sept 23</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Free Style Drum Circle</u></b></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! <b>ALL are welcome.</b> 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 <a href="mailto:mtmoods@gmail.com">mtmoods@gmail.com</a> or 229-1118.</p>
<p><b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b></p> <p><b>1-2:30 p.m. By Zoom</b></p> <p><b>Next Meeting is Sept 25</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Goddess / Earth Circles</u></b></p> <p>Goddess/Earth Circles will meet September 25, 2022 at 1-2:30pm on UCC Zoom Zoom to plan the Wisdom Celebration.</p> <p>October 30 is the Wisdom Celebration. This includes the recognizing new "Crones" (Women of Wisdom) and sharing wisdom in general. And we will celebrate Samhain (Halloween).</p> <p>For more information on the programs or being croned, contact Helen Zidowecki. See UCC website: Church Life/Goddess: Meetings and Archives</p> <p>Goddess/Earth Circles focuses on Goddess, women’s lives and earth-based spirituality. All ages and genders welcome. Contact: Helen Zidowecki (582-5308, <a href="mailto:hzmre@hzmre.com">hzmre@hzmre.com</a>).</p>

**Notices / Updates / News**

**Summer Office Hours continue into the fall –and--  
reduced E-blast schedule continues <with a change>**

As my work on the Office systems continues, we will maintain the following E-Blast schedule and office hours:

- **E-blasts will be produced every ~~OTHER~~ week on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month.**  
The upcoming schedule is as follows:

E-Blast (9/7)	NO E-Blast (9/14)
E-Blast (9/21)	NO E-Blast (9/31)
E-Blast (10/5)	NO E-Blast (10/12)
E-Blast (10/19)	NO E-Blast (10/25)
- **Summer Office hours will remain in effect into the fall**  
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 spend the day working on tech updates solely.



Monday September 12<sup>th</sup> is the  
**DEADLINE**  
for submissions to the  
*FALL* Newsletter.

Please send your submissions to [newsletter@augustauu.org](mailto:newsletter@augustauu.org). Questions, please call the church administrator at (207) 622-3232 or [admin@augustauu.org](mailto:admin@augustauu.org)

## Board of Trustees



Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Augusta

Board Meeting

**A G E N D A**

September 11<sup>th</sup>, 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: Rev. Christina Sillari

Board Covenant

Check in

### REPORTS

1. Clerk's Report: Catherine / **VOTE**
2. Treasurer's Report: Nancy
3. Finance Committee's Report: Harry
4. COVID-19 Task Force's Report: Harry/Terry (screen shared)
5. President's Report: Michaela
6. Minister's Report: Christina

### NEW BUSINESS

- Safety & Security Issues (Active Shooter, sanctuary Vulnerability)

### OLD BUSINESS

- Settled Ministerial Search Update
- Restorative Justice Initiatives Kathy Shaw/Rev. Christina

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

### ADJOURN

Board meetings are open to ALL. If you have an item that you would like the Board to consider, please contact [Michaelatloisel@gmail.com](mailto:Michaelatloisel@gmail.com) Next Board meeting: October 13th, 2022

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**Board Highlights:** from the August 11, 2022 meeting:

- The Treasurer reported a carryover from fiscal year '21-'22 of \$17,562.
- In other financial matters, the board adjusted the fiscal year '22-'23 budget to reflect new information. The need for withdrawals from the money market and UCC endowment funds was eliminated. The revised income is \$217,230 and revised expenses \$213,424.
- There was a unanimous vote to accept the recommended changes to the MUUSAN Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement.
- There was a unanimous vote to accept the recommended changes to the Drew House Rental Agreement with Capital Area New Mainers Project.
- There was a unanimous vote to accept Rev. Sillari's housing allowance form.
- UCC has applied for a \$7,600 IRS tax refund as part of the federal CARES Act for Employee Retention Credit during the pandemic.
- In addition, Nancy Fritz was authorized to open a new account at Kennebec Savings Bank to hold the \$1,000 security deposit for Drew House tenants.
- The Board considered the need for a community discussion to discern the risk tolerance for Covid-19 and ways to move forward.
- There was a unanimous vote to accept the Advisory group's recommendation that pulpit presenters and Worship Associates be allowed to remove masks during services provided other presenters accept the choice.
- A Board retreat is planned for September 18.

**Board Meeting minutes** are available from the UCC website ([www.augustauu.org](http://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**

The COVID-19 Advisory Group has resumed meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday monthly from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. The group's next scheduled meeting is Wed. September 7<sup>th</sup>.

Below is a reprint of highlights from the Aug. 11 Board meeting related to the work of the COVID-19 Advisory Group.

- › The Board considered the need for a community discussion to discern the risk tolerance for Covid-19 and ways to move forward.
- › There was a unanimous vote to accept the Advisory group's recommendation that pulpit presenters and Worship Associates be allowed to remove masks during services provided other presenters accept the choice.

## 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	<a href="mailto:StonehengeMaine@yahoo.com">StonehengeMaine@yahoo.com</a>	207-215-6394
Terry Lee Cairn, ND, MSOM, Lac.	<a href="mailto:tlcnaturalhealth@yahoo.com">tlcnaturalhealth@yahoo.com</a>	207-557-2557
Harry Grimmnitz, MD	<a href="mailto:hgrimmnitz@gmail.com">hgrimmnitz@gmail.com</a>	207-685-9270
Don Naber, Ed.D	<a href="mailto:donnaber1364@gmail.com">donnaber1364@gmail.com</a>	207-887-1104
Cathie Nielsen, MD	<a href="mailto:cathieenielsen@gmail.com">cathieenielsen@gmail.com</a>	207-441-0248
Marty Soule, PA-C	<a href="mailto:martysoule@gmail.com">martysoule@gmail.com</a>	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)	<a href="mailto:Mjpell14@roadrunner.com">Mjpell14@roadrunner.com</a>
Helen Zidowecki	207-582-5308 (h)	<a href="mailto:hzmre@hzmre.com">hzmre@hzmre.com</a>
Tracy McNaughton	207-623-3110 (h)	<a href="mailto:tracy.mcnaughton@yahoo.com">tracy.mcnaughton@yahoo.com</a>
Peggy Lamb	207 622-5174 (h)	<a href="mailto:plambflowers@outlook.com">plambflowers@outlook.com</a>

**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 Peggy Lamb 622-5174.

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## 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 the Church Administrator at 207-622-3232 or [admin@augustauu.org](mailto:admin@augustauu.org).

### **UCC Office Hours – NEXT WEEK**

#### UCC Office Hours NEXT WEEK

Office Hours:

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

Rev. Christina Sillari

Office Hours on Wednesday and Thursday

Call or email to set up an appointment

[minister@augustauu.org](mailto:minister@augustauu.org)

(207) 807-9232

#### Staff Contact information:

Church Administrator, Lynn M. Smith, [admin@augustauu.org](mailto:admin@augustauu.org), Phone 622-3232

Coordinator of Lifespan Faith Formation, M. Monique Bergère, [LifespanFF@augustauu.org](mailto:LifespanFF@augustauu.org)

Music Director, Bridget Convey, [musicdirector@augustauu.org](mailto:musicdirector@augustauu.org)