Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church Wednesday, November 16, 2022

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69 Winthrop St., Augusta ME



 $(207)622\text{-}3232 - \underbrace{info@augustauu.org}_{www.augustauu.org}$

A Message from our Minister

Dear Members and Friends of UUCC,



Just to check my memory I asked my husband if he ever remembers me cooking a turkey at home on Thanksgiving. He was silent for a few moments and then said, "No, you have never cooked a turkey, but you don't like cooking turkeys anyhow," I responded: "How would I know, if I have never cooked one?" I love to cook and would be happy to cook a turkey with all the fixings. But as an adult I have never spent a Thanksgiving in my own home. For me my memories of Thanksgiving involve arguments about where to go. I long

to stay home for my favorite holiday, no presents, no religion, time off from work, reflections on colonization, and words of gratitude. But I am always in someone else's home. Even as a child there was tension around which side of the family, we would spend Thanksgiving with. Often, we ended up at two gatherings. Turkey and Italian food at noon and then turkey and Greek food in the evening.

When I met my husband, it became more complicated because our respective families lived in different states. Where would we go for thanksgiving? We made deals with our mothers, Thanksgiving with one family, Christmas with the other and switching every year. That seemed to work out for a while. Until my stepdaughter's family grew to the point where it was too expensive to fly all six of them to New England from the West Coast.

Do I sound like I am complaining? I feel like complaining because I long to stay home for Thanksgiving. But then I think of all the people in my life who have nowhere to go for Thanksgiving, many of my friends, and perhaps some of you reading this. While my memories of this day are overwhelmed by all the people in my life who want my little family to be with them, my heart breaks open with a river of tears for all the people who have no family, no invitation, nowhere to go, no one to be with. Then I feel hope and gratitude for this community and how much you care for one another.

For the past few years we were in Plymouth Massachusetts, where my mother lives, and attended the National Day of Mourning for Indians on Coles Hill overlooking Plymouth Rock. The gathering is powerful. Native people fast and pray and enter ceremony as non-native people engage in sacred witness. Native people speak their truth about their history, current issues, and struggles they face. They are working on deconstructing the pilgrim mythology of Thanksgiving.



This year we are going to Northern California to be with our four grandchildren and taking my daughter and my mom. It will be stressful, chaotic, and interesting. I still have hope that someday I will stay home and cook a turkey on Thanksgiving.

Gratitude and blessings,

Reverend Christina

A Poem to Read at Thanksgiving

Perhaps the World Ends Here by Joy Harjo



The world begins at a kitchen table.

No matter what, we must eat to live.

The gifts of earth are brought and prepared, set on the table.

So it has been since creation, and it will go on.

We chase chickens or dogs away from it.

Babies teethe at the corners. They scrape their knees under it.

It is here that children are given instructions on what it means to be human.

We make men at it, we make women.

At this table we gossip, recall enemies and the ghosts of lovers.

Our dreams drink coffee with us as they put their arms around our children.

They laugh with us at our poor falling-down selves and as we put ourselves back together once again at the table.

This table has been a house in the rain, an umbrella in the sun.

Wars have begun and ended at this table. It is a place to hide in the shadow of terror.

A place to celebrate the terrible victory.

We have given birth on this table and have prepared our parents for burial here.

At this table we sing with joy, with sorrow.

We pray of suffering and remorse. We give thanks.

Perhaps the world will end at the kitchen table, while we are laughing and crying, eating of the last sweet bite.

Much love and many blessings, Reverend Christina Sillari

Upcoming Services

THIS Sunday	"Kindness" Christina Sillari, Minister
November 20, 2022 10:00 a.m. IN-PERSON Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m.	Do you see yourself as kind? Is kindness related to joy or sorrow? Can kindness be a vehicle for change and transformation? Does the world need more kindness? We will explore what kindness really is and how can we use it to heal ourselves and each other. A special thank you to our worship arts team. Nan Bell will be our worship associate and Marty Peters will manage our technology. Karen Allen will be our pianist and we will have music from our Choir. Leadership Council Meeting After worship on Sunday November 20 th
	With Reverend Christina
NEXT Sunday November 27, 2022 Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m.	"UUCC Sings!" Harold Booth For two and a half years we haven't been able to sing - and humming is a poor substitute. This week we're going to celebrate the return of congregational singing to our sanctuary. I've selected more than a dozen hymns, mostly based on the music, for our celebration. We may not get to all of them, but we're gonna try. A special thank you to our worship arts team. Marty Peters will be our worship associate and John Seksay will manage technology. Stefanie Barley will be our pianist.
Sunday December 4, 2022	"Music Sunday" Choir and UUCC Occasional Orchestra
Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m.	Join us for this traditional holiday service filled with music to make the heart sing.

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/mtifpth0utvesjqgjyej

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

Social Activities

Our UU traditional all church Harvest Dinner is B-A-C-K!!

Join us FRIDAY, November 18, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Please bring your favorite dish to share. We will supply the turkey! If anyone has any small pumpkins, gourds or any other fall decoration you would be willing to share for tables...that would be appreciated.

Always looking for helpers, please contact Cheryl Clukey – cherylclukey5@yahoo.com.

WANTED - donations for the Annual Pie Sale at Longfellows, 81 Puddle-



dock Road in Manchester. Please bring your yummies to the UUCC on Friday, Nov. 18, no later than 4 p.m.so that we can box them and take them to the sale. You can also bring your donation directly to Longfellows no later than 9 a.m. on Saturday,

November 19th. ***Credit, cash or checks ok for donations to buy pies if you prefer. ***

Any leftover pies will be sold on Sunday during Fellowship Hour, Nov. 20.

THANK YOU!	Pie Fundraising	Committee (Karen Foust,	, Catherine F	Palmer and Kathy	Ann Shaw)
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Wreaths and Swags!

Pre-order and customize your wreaths and swags. There are 7 wreaths and more swags available to pre-order! Order forms are available in the Fellowship Hall or click here <u>Link to Wreath Form</u>. Please give the form to Karen Foust, Dale McCormick or Nan Bell or leave them on the counter in the Committee Room. Delivery of all wreath and swag orders will be on December 4th. Any extra swags or available wreaths will be sold at the Holiday Craft Sale Boutique on December 4th.

Holiday Craft Sale Boutique –Come peruse the crafting talents of our community and get ready for the holidays at the early bird preview sale on November 27th after the service. The full Holiday Craft Sale Boutique will be on December 4th in the Fellowship Hall after church. Swags, grape vine wreaths, hand-knitted, sewn, needle-pointed and crocheted items, beautifully designed eye glass cases, note cards, cookies, sweets, woodworking gifts and more. Volunteers needed to help with setting up, selling or clean-up – please see Karen Foust if you're willing to help. If you have hand-made items that you would like to donate we would love to add them to the list!

Have a favorite holiday cookie that you would like to share? We will be offering customized boxes of cookies at the Holiday Craft Sale Boutique. We will need cookies delivered by 9:30 am on Music Sunday. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall or see Karen or Allison Foust

Update -- POPCORN AND A MOVIE

We had a lively bunch come to our last Friday's movie. Lots of laughs, popcorn, gingersnaps and Debbie's tasty lentil soup and of course the movie. The next movie will be scheduled for December. We hope you will join us.

--Monique, Debbie and Cheryl

Goddess/Earth Circles Events

November 27, 1-2:30pm in Fellowship Hall

Along with the theme of Gratitude, we hope to have the Women of Wisdom Books 2022 available for distribution. Contributions are due to Helen by November 16.

For more information on the programs, contact Helen Zidowecki. 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.om).

SAVE THE DATES

Full Moon Forgiveness Ceremony



Tuesday, December 6th

5:30 – 6:30 PM In person at UUCC (hopefully outside)

As part of the Restorative Justice process, Reverend Christina will lead a full moon ceremony focused on forgiveness with an outside fire ceremony (weather permitting) or in the sanctuary.

All are welcome!

A Quiet Refuge: Grief and the Holidays

With the Pastoral Ministry Team and Reverend Christina

Tuesday, December 15, 2018 - 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

A Quiet Refuge: Cultivating healing and wholeness in this season of merriment and lights.

Are you grieving the absence of a loved one?
Are you exhausted? Lonely? Afraid? Anxious? Depressed?
Are you tired of just coping with one thing after another?
Are you Unemployed? Navigating financial crisis?
Are you overwhelmed by life circumstances or world events?

Is this season of lights and merriment simply more than you can bear?

If you answered yes to any one or more of the above questions, then this vespers style service is for you.

Please join us in the Sanctuary for a time of quiet facilitated reflection.

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



Monday

Each week

6:30 - 8:00p.m.

Please note: location **changes** weekly

Peaceful Heart Sangha

You may join us at 6:15 to settle in. NEW SCHEDULE for SANGHA Monday meetings is as follows.

-- IN-PERSON in the UUCC Sanctuary - 1st - 3rd & 5th Mondays --BY Private ZOOM – 2nd and 4th Mondays



YOGA

Please contact Marty Soule for updated Zoom login information at: email: martysoule@gmail.com. FMI: peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com

Sangha gatherings are free and open to all

Wednesdays

Each Week

6:00-7:30p.m.

UUCC Choir Rehearsal

The UUCC choir is always looking for new members, the more the merrier! All levels welcome, reading music is NOT required. Come and share your voice with our UUCC community.

Rehearsals are currently on Wednesdays from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary of the Church Rehearsals are usually held from late August through the first Wednesday in June. There is usually a short break for the holidays (after Thanksgiving through December 31st).

All are welcome, join us!

Questions: please contact Bridget Convey at: musicdirector@augustauu.org

Wednesdays

Each Week

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Gentle YOGA

Hosted by Debbie Mattson

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=UWJpOVFjVFJGb3dMWmZoOTRXa3VoUT09

Password 174192 - FMI: DebbieMattson@hotmail.com



2nd & 4th Wednesday

Seasoned Souls

10:30 a.m. -Noon 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. On the 2nd Wednesday monthly we will meet in the Fellowship Hall and on the 4th Wednesday, we will meet in the UUCC Zoom room.

2nd Wed. – C-FH 4th Wed. - Zoom FMI: please contact Diane (<u>dmoongrove@gmail.com</u> or 446-6162) or Stefanie (stefbarley@gmail.com or 629-8890)

Thursdays

Peaceful Heart Sangha

Each Week

You may join us by Zoom at 7:45 a.m. to settle in. Meet from 8-9:30

8:00 - 9:30 a.m.

-- IN-PERSON at the River Studio, 332 Water St. Hallowell

1st - 3rd & 5th Mondays

--BY Private ZOOM – 2nd and 4th Mondays



Please contact Marty Soule for updated login information at martysoule@gmail.com. FMI: peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com

Sangha gatherings are free and open to all.

2nd & 4th Thursday

Writing to Wake the Soul

In the UUCC

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.

Zoom room

Come and try it out; there is no obligation to come each time we gather. This group will be meeting in the UUCC Zoom Room.

9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

FMI: please contact Debbie at (207)557-2697 or debbiemattson@hotmail.com

1st Thursday

Read, Learn, Share

Noon-1:30 p.m.

Next Meeting is Dec 1st READ SHARE LEARN meets on THURSDAY DECEMBER 1st at NOON. You can join us in the Fellowship Hall or in the UUCC ZOOM ROOM. We will be using the UUCC OWL technology to include people on line. Anyone who interested in experimenting with new connections and discussing <u>The Lowering Days</u> by Gregory Brown is welcome to join us. We will end at 1:30.



For more information, contact Kathy Kellison at kell6787@gmail.com or June Zellers at jzellers@roadrunner.com

'A novel of place, myth, and clashing loyalties set in 1980s Penobscot, Maine.'

--Kirkus Reviews

<u>4th</u>	Free Style Drum Circle				
Friday 6:30 - 8:30 Sanctuary Next Meeting is Nov. 24	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! 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.				
Saturday	UUCC Occasional Orchestra				
	Come and share your musical talents with our UUCC community. Rehearsals are typically the 1 st and 3 rd Saturday of each month from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. However, there are a few additional rehearsals schedule to help us get ready for Music Sunday on Sun. Dec. 4 th (see the schedule below for all the practices scheduled to date). All are welcome, please join us! Questions: please contact Dale McCormick at: dmmcormick11@aol.com. 19 Nov 2022, SAT 9:30 – 11am UUCCOO Rehearsal (C-Sanct) 1 3 DEC 2022, SAT 9:30 – 11am UUCCOO Rehearsal (C-Sanct) 1				
4 th Sunday	Goddess / Earth Circles November 27, 1-2:30pm in Fellowship Hall				
1-2:30 p.m. In-Person	Along with the theme of Gratitude, we hope to have the Women of Wisdom Books 2022 available for distribution. Contributions are due to Helen by November 16. See UUCC website: Church Life/Goddess: Meetings and Archives				
Next Meeting is Nov.	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).				

Notices / Updates / News

Thanksgiving Holiday Schedule:

<u>Reverend Christina Sillari</u> will be taking a vacation week November 21 st -November 28 th. She is traveling to Northern California to visit family. She will not be responding to calls or emails. If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Martha Pelletier at 207-685-9592 or martha@pelletierlawme.com.

<u>Lynn Smith (Church Administrator)</u> – The church office will be closed on Thanksgiving Day and on Good Friday so our church administrator can spend time with her family.



DONATIONS NEEDED: Non-perishable items for Coffee Hour Please help to restock our cupboards!! Having supplies available means no volunteer hosting coffee hour needs to buy any supplies to host!!

The Church will supply fruit, all creamers, sugars, tea and coffee - The Membership Committee will monitor these supplies to make sure they are fresh

and available each Sunday.

So let's join together and Restock our cupboards with non-perishable food supplies! You will find a box in Fellowship Hall to receive donations!

With Gratitude from the Membership Committee, Monique Bergere, Hannah Faulkner, Denis Thoet, Kathy Kellison

Updates / Messages from our Social Justice Committee

The Social Justice Committee will meet in the church Zoom room Tuesday, November 22 at 6:00 pm.

All are welcome to join. *UUCC ZOOM ROOM*

The Share the Plate offering for November will go to MUUSAN to support their ongoing work to make positive change through legislative action.

Donation boxes have been placed in the church coat room for Augusta Food Bank (non-perishable food items), Bridging the Gap/ Essential Hygiene Pantry (items requested are listed on front of box) and Overnight Shelter at South Parish Congregational Church (list of needed items is on the church bulletin board).

All are worthy organizations that provide much needed services to our community. Your donations will be greatly appreciated and put to good use.

Stephanie Barley, Carolyn Ladd and Susan Shaw

Welcome to our newest Member, Edward Democracy.



My name is Ed Democracy. (pronouns he/him) I am proud to be a new member of the Augusta UU Community Church. I have also joined MUUSAN & the Social Justice Committee. I live on Florence Street in Augusta and work at the Maine State Archives.

I am the proud father of a brand new voter! My daughter Sophia Democracy, also an Augusta resident, is recently eligible and will be voting for the very first time this year! I am very, very proud of her for many other things as well, but, most of all for what an independent, kind and smart human being she is.

I was born in Biddeford and grew up in Eliot, Maine. In 1983, I moved to Portland to attend the University of Southern Maine where I earned a BA in Philosophy and began my 40 years of community organizing. In summary, I am a human being, father, neighbor, citizen, union member, democracy practitioner, permaculture practitioner, social systems philosopher, community organizer, writer, cooperative entrepreneur, future farmer, sailor, and a US Navy veteran for peace through **strength** of *humanity*, by *humanity*, and for *humanity*.

Ed – we are so glad to have you in our community!! WELCOME!!!



Thanks to our hardworking crew that participated in fall cleanup on Friday Nov. 11 and thanks to our worker /cameraperson too.

Looking GOOD!

(and the grounds look GREAT too!

Board of Trustees

The UUCC Board of Trustees met on November 10, 2022.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

At the November 10 meeting, the Board

- Voted to hire Leah Boyd of Clarity services to lead a skill session on Non-Violent Communication
- Heard from Susan Burnett, Chair of the Congregational Security Committee about options to evaluate our campus safety.
- Agreed that the Restorative Justice Committee will review nominations for a Congregational Covenant Writing Team. June Zellers will assemble a group to present a draft by year's end.
- One group from the Sharing Cafes suggested reaching out to the neighbors around UUCC and inviting them to join us in community.
- Acknowledged positive feedback on changes in our Covid 19 policies.
- Changed Monique Bergere's duties to include membership and Fellowship Hour responsibilities.
- Agreed that Board members will serve as greeters.
- Rev. Christina invited all staff and other church leaders to a Leadership Council on Nov. 20 after the service to 'affirm our commonalities.
- Voted to subscribe to PowerMarket Maine's solar farm project in Bristol.
- Approved the Clerk's report and received reports from the Treasurer, the Finance Committee Chair, the President's report and the Minister's report.
 - -- Complete minutes will be available on the church website. --

Board meetings are open to ALL. If you have an item that you would like the Board to consider, please contact <u>Michaelatloisel@gmail.com</u>

Next Board meeting: December 8, 2022

General Information

Worship Services are now being held IN-PERSON Events may still be held virtually in the

UUCC ZOOM ROOM

Other ways to UUCC Zoom Room Zoom:

- 1. <u>Join from your internet browser by clicking this link or typing this into your browser:</u> 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. <u>Join by phone</u>: 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 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@augustauu.org.

UUCC Office Hours & Notes

UPDATED Fall E-blast & Office Hours

E-blasts will be produced on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. The upcoming schedule is:

o E-Blast (11/2) NO E-Blast (11/9)

o E-Blast (11/16) NO E-Blast (11/23 or 11/30)

o E-Blast (12/7) NO E-Blast (12/14)

o E-Blast (12/21) NO E-Blast (12/28)

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The office will be closed on Thanksgiving Day 11/24 and on Good Friday 11/25.

The office will be closed between Christmas and New Year's Day (reopens Tues. Jan. 3, 2023).

UUCC Office Hours NEXT WEEK

Open office hours:

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

No open office hours on Fridays

Office Hours on Wednesday and Thursday Call or email to set up an appointment

<ON VACATION 11/21 – 11/28> See NOTICES

minister@augustauu.org (207) 807-9232

Rev. Christina Sillari

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