Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church Wednesday, December 7, 2022

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69 Winthrop St., Augusta ME



(207)622-3232 — <u>info@augustauu.org</u> www.augustauu.org

A Message from our Minister

Dear Members and Friends of UUCC,

Happy December! As the days become shorter and the temperature drops, I am reflecting on the things that warm my body and soul. Sitting by my wood stove, walking in the woods on sunny days, ginger tea, homemade soup, seeing the moon in the night sky, and you, my friends.

I am so grateful to be serving UUCC. My heart grows warm and full as I witness you being in community. Your passion for music is especially heartwarming. I watched this week's Music Sunday service online and wish I had been there with all of you. I could feel the joy and passion beaming through my screen as I sensed how profoundly important music is to so many of you. It is a life saver.

I am sending gratitude to all who created the service especially our Music Director, Bridget Convey; our pianist and worship coordinator, Karen Allen; and our orchestra leader, Dale McCormick for their commitment, passion, and creativity.

It was also powerful to hear the deep sharing of Wick Johnson, Heide Munro, and Jenny McKendry who reminded me of the power of music to build community and heal the world.

And thank you to all the singers and musicians who showed up creating beautiful songs and magical moments. You all made me realize "I Am in Need of Music" a sentiment expressed eloquently in the poem by Elizabeth Bishop.

I am in need of music that would flow Over my fretful, feeling fingertips, Over my bitter-tainted, trembling lips, With melody, deep, clear, and liquid-slow. Oh, for the healing swaying, old and low, Of some song sung to rest the tired dead, A song to fall like water on my head, And over quivering limbs, dream flushed to glow! There is a magic made by melody:
A spell of rest, and quiet breath, and cool
Heart, that sinks through fading colors deep
To the subaqueous stillness of the sea,
And floats forever in a moon-green pool,
Held in the arms of rhythm and of sleep.



I know this time of year can be challenging for people. Please feel free to reach out to me for support. Please also consider attending the service A Quiet Refuge: Grief and the Holidays on December 15th at 5:30 pm in the sanctuary.

Gratitude and blessings, Rev. Christina Sillari

Upcoming Services

THIS Sunday December 11, 2022	"Small Group Ministry – Building Blocks for UUCC" Small Group Ministry	
10:00 a.m. IN-PERSON Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m.	Celebrate 25 years of Small Group Ministry as we share our 10 th SGM service. We are reflecting on the eplace of SGM in the UUCC community and how SGM can work toward the vision of our future.	
	Small Group Ministry: • Bonding and Community • Going deeper with life issues • Ministering to each other • Service - faith in action. A special thank you to our worship arts team. Sara Hodgkins will be our worship associate and John Seksay will manage our technology. Stefanie Barley	
Thursday, Dec. 15 th	will be our pianist. A Quiet Refuge: Grief and the Holidays	
5:30 – 6:30 p.m.	With the Pastoral Ministry Team and Reverend Christina Are you grieving the absence of a loved one?	
Special Holiday Service	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.
NEXT Sunday	"The Light of Jesus"
December 18, 2022	Reverend Christina Sillari
Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m.	Through poetry, song, and scripture from the Gospels of John and
7,00 0,121	Thomas we will explore the energy of Jesus as light. How can we move
	with the holiday season with a sense of peace? How can Christmas be a
	halting of hate time in our lives? How can we be beacons of light for ourselves and one another during this time of darkness? How can we reclaim
	Jesus as an ally, a teacher, a friend?
	A special thank you to our worship arts team. John Seksay will be our worship associate and Angie Blevins will manage technology. Karen
	Foust will be our pianist.
Saturday	
December 24, 2022	
C 1 II . 1' 1	Christmas
Special Holiday	Eve Service
Service	
Curdov	Join us at an earlier time this year 4:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary
Sunday December 25, 2022	"Christmas Day"
December 25, 2022 No Service	There will be no Sunday morning service
	on Christmas morning.

<u>Sunday worship service</u> 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

POPCORN AND A MOVIE

On Friday, December 16, 2022, 5:30 p.m.



The movie **DEATH AT A FUNERAL** will be shown.

This is a hilarious British comedy.

You will laugh.....ALOT!

A good group attended last month's movie and we had a grand time. We ALSO laughed a lot, in between eating.

Come and join us for POPCORN AND A MOVIE. Bring a snack to share if you wish.

--Monique, Debbie and Cheryl

January Brings→→→→→ The Return Of A Monthly After-Service Sit-down Luncheon

Beginning in January, the third Sunday of each month is Fellowship Lunch Sunday which will replace coffee hour. This event will be in the style of our pre-covid Elder Lunch and be open to all service attendees. This is quite posh and definitely not a potluck. Attendees are encouraged to enjoy community at a restaurant style sitdown meal.

I, Marilyn Dunn, have again agreed to be the coordinator and my previous fabulous kitchen crew of Catherine Palmer, Becky Harvey, Cheryl Clukey, and Richard Bridges have signed up for the season. However, I will need a few *Extra* volunteers at each luncheon to help set up and serve. Kitchen crew and setup *Extras* will have to watch a stream of the service while working. If you want to attend the service but can volunteer as a server that is fine too. If you are willing sign up as an *Extra* for January or another month, please email me (maine2007@hotmail.com) or call 207-512-5382.

Call soon please, so I don't fret. Marilyn Dunn

The Holiday Season has begun!



On 11/27 we launched our: UUCC ANNUAL FAMILY VIO-LENCE PROJECT HOLIDAY PROGRAM! You may have noticed the lighted Holiday Tree in the lobby with gift item tags for suggested donations.

In previous years we donated to a specific family, but this year the Augusta Family Violence Project is creating a "Holiday Shop" in one of their spaces for a parent or guardian to pick out gifts for their children and children can also have a day to

pick out something for their family members!

They welcome donated gifts for the "Holiday Shop" that are universally loved by children of different ages and some for the parent or guardian too.

Select a gift item to donate from our **HOLIDAY TREE!**

If you are unable to grab a gift tag off the tree? No Problem -- here is a list to choose from:

Teen puzzle books, sketch book & pens or pencils, haircut gift card, child game elementary age, elementary age science kit, child hat & gloves, adult hat or gloves or scarf, adult wellness or beauty kit or item, child imaginary play toy, teen wellness kit or item. Gift cards are also great as they allow a parent to create a festive celebration for their children.

<u>DEADLINE for GIFTS</u>: Return gift items under the Holiday Tree OR to our Church office during office hours by Sunday, December 11th. Please do not wrap gifts.

Questions? Please contact our Coordinator of Lifespan Faith Formation Monique Bergere 207-242-6415 cell lifespanff@augustauu.org

Goddess/Earth Circles Events

The Goddess Group will not meet in December.

Please see the website for information about Winter Solstice

Goddess will meet again on January 22, 1-2:30pm in Fellowship Hall

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).

AN INVITATION: Join in the UU Common Read

Please join the Social Justice Committee and Rev. Christina as we explore the path toward Beloved Community. We will be participating in the UU Common Read by reading and discussing Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism (Skinner House, 2019). Authors Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin—a white minister and a layperson of color—document the joys, disappointments, and growth of five UU faith communities on a journey toward Beloved Community.

In 2017, as this book moved toward publication, a racial justice, equity, and inclusion movement began that shook the structure of the Unitarian Universalist Association. The UUA has since embraced recommendations from the Commission on Institutional Change that offer pointed challenges to congregations and our faith. Many more congregations are working intentionally to dismantle white supremacy culture and live into Beloved Community.

Rev. Christina will lead our church wide discussion of Mistakes and Miracles following the regular worship service on January 22, 2023.

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 Peaceful Heart Sangha Each week You may join us at 6:15 to settle in. 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. NEW schedule for Sangha gatherings (beginning 11/28/22): Please note: location changes -- BY Private ZOOM --every Monday (except the last Monday of the month). -- IN-PERSON in the UUCC Sanctuary on the last Monday of each month. Please contact Marty Soule for updated Zoom login information at: email: martysoule@gmail.com. Sangha gatherings are free and open to all

Wednes-	UUCC Choir Rehearsal		
<u>days</u>	*** The UUCC choir is currently on break. ***		
ON BREAK	Rehearsals will resume on Wednesday 1/4/2023 from 6:00-7:30pm in the sanctuary. N95 or KN95 masks are required, we have plenty, if you need a mask.		
DREAK	Questions? Please reach out to Bridget Convey at: <u>musicdirector@augustauu.org</u> .		
	All are welcome!		
Wednes-	Gentle YOGA		
days	Hosted by Debbie Mattson Please join us a few minutes before 5:00 to settle in so we can begin		
Each Week	Please join us a few minutes before 5:00 to settle in so we can begin		
5:00 - 6:00	our class right at 5:00 p.m. Click the link below to join.		
<u>p.m.</u>	https://maine.zoom.us/j/95825651125?pwd=UWJpOVFjVFJGb3dMWmZoOTRXa3VoUT09 Password 174192 - FMI: <u>DebbieMattson@hotmail.com</u>		
2nd & 4 th	Seasoned Souls		
Wednesday	Seasoned Souls is a group of older church members that meet as a study/support group to talk		
10:30 a.m	openly about topics related to the aging process. Seasoned Souls is open to any church member over 65 years of age. On the 2 nd Wednesday monthly we will meet in the Fellowship		
<u>Noon</u>	Hall and on the 4 th Wednesday, we will meet in the UUCC Zoom room.		
2 nd Wed. – C-FH 4 th Wed Zoom	FMI: please contact Diane (<u>dmoongrove@gmail.com</u> or 446-6162) or Stefanie		
4" Wed 200m	(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	NEW schedule for Sangha gatherings (beginning 11/28/22):		
<u>a.m.</u>	IN-PERSON every Thursday at the River Studio, 332 Water St. Hallowell (except the last Thursday of the month)		
	BY Private ZOOM – last Thursday of the month		
	Please contact Marty Soule for updated login information at		

Sangha gatherings are free and open to all.

2nd & 4th Writing to Wake the Soul **Thursday** This is an open group that gathers and writes together to explore spiritual themes. The writing In the is used as a conveyance to connect more deeply with ourselves and each other. We are not UUCC 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<u>a.m.</u> FMI: please contact Debbie at (207)557-2697 or debbiemattson@hotmail.com 1st Read, Learn, Share Thursday READ SHARE LEARN meets on THURSDAY January 5th 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 interested in discussing Sign, Noon-1:30 Gone by Phuc Tran is welcome to join us. We will end at 1:30. <u>p.m.</u> **Next** For more information, contact Kathy Kellison at kell6787@gmail.com or **Meeting** is June Zellers at jzellers@roadrunner.com Jan. 5th "SIGH, GONE is utterly beautiful, poetic, haunting, insightful, funny, and brilliant." Goodreads Our book for February 2 is The Last Watchman of Old Cairo by Michael Lukas. 4th **Free Style Drum Circle Friday** 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 6:30 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! Sanctuary The Drum Circle meets the fourth Friday of each month at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary. For **Next** more information you can contact Mike Moody at mtmoods@gmail.com or 229-1118. Meeting is Dec. 23 **UUCC** Occasional Orchestra Saturday Come and share your musical talents with our UUCC community.

Rehearsals are the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. All are welcome, please join us!

Questions: please contact Dale McCormick at: dmmcormick11@aol.com.

9:30-11 am

1st & 3rd

Saturdays

4th Sunday

1-2:30 p.m. In-Person

Next Meeting is Jan. 22, 2023

Goddess / Earth Circles

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Notices / Updates / News



Loyal UUCC pie baker, Marty Soule (left), and former church Board chair Kathy Ann Shaw, show off a table of holiday pies for sale at Longfellows Greenhouse in Manchester November 19. The pie sale raised \$700 for the church.

RESULTS - NOVEMBER 6th SHARING CAFE

A big thank you to everyone who participated in our second Sharing Café. Such an incredible number of heart-felt conversations.

We have grouped your responses into categories. All recorded responses are included, and some responses appear in more than one category. You can review this amazing collection of reflections and wisdom via this link https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lpBM1XtGeH9zm3voSS9wvl922Bo m 18/view?usp=sharing.

TAX TIP

If you are over 70 ½ you can save taxes by making any charitable contributions by Transferring IRA funds directly to charity. Additionally, these *Qualified Charitable Distributions* count toward your *required minimum distribution* for the year they are dispersed.

Example: Let's say I don't itemize deductions and take the standard deduction and I am in the 15% tax bracket Federally and 5% at the state level then I could either:

- Take \$1000 from my IRA into my income and be left with \$800 for charitable contributions after taxes --- Or ---
- Transfer the \$1000 to charities directly from my IRA and pay no taxes. The \$1000 is excluded from my income.

Questions – contact your IRA plan holder, tax advisor or call me, Marilyn Dunn 207-512-5382

* DONATIONS NEEDED: Non-peris

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

<u>Updates / Messages from our Social Justice Committee</u>

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

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

Stefanie Barley, Carolyn Ladd and Susan Shaw

OVERNIGHT SHELTER NEEDS:

Men's Coats and Boots (they have all the women's coats they need for now)

New underwear and socks (both men and women).

Donation box is in coat room. Thank you.

Board of Trustees

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

December 8, 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: Board Members

Check in: 1) In 1 word, describe your energy? 2) What has uplifted you about UUCC, of late?

NEW BUSINESS

 Search Committee Process Update Michaela Loisel

• Staff Job Description Discussion Christina

Nov. 20 Leadership Council Debrief Susan Burnett

REPORTS

- Clerk's Report: Catherine / VOTE
- 2. Treasurer's Report: Nancy
- 3. Finance Committee's Report: Harry
- 4. President's Report: Michaela
- 5. Minister's Report: Christina

OLD BUSINESS

Progress Toward Goals (Recurrent Item)

 Determine how to live in a time of chronic, endemic Covid

How to enforce compliance with mask wearing requirement at UUCC

- 2. Review and revise UUCC By-Laws:
- Address matters of our physical plant (window repair or replacement, ventilation estimates for board consideration)
- Assess Safety and Security concerns and a plan for building safety
- 5. Develop a Congregational Covenant

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

Next Board meeting: January 12, 2023

Board President's Reflections:

Our UUCC community has much for which to be grateful.

On November 20th, following a Sunday Service, Rev. Christina convened a group of about 30 (members and staff) who hold leadership roles within our Congregation. It was good to hear from each staff member including Music Director, Bridget Convey, Church Administrator, Lynn Smith and Lifespan Faith Formation Coordinator, Monique Bergère. The group also included Small Group Ministry Leaders, Committee Chairs, and the Board of Trustees. Looking around this large circle, I was inspired by our shared sense of commitment and the realization that we are united in our loving care of this, *our* beloved community.

When we shared what makes us hopeful about our community, we heard: our vibrant ministry and the sense of active engagement, conciliation, cooperation, resilience, love, and joy.

On December 4th – Music Sunday, our Choir and UUCC Occasional Orchestra regaled us with beautiful music. There were over 80 people present and it was joyful to hear so many voices singing together. Also happening this same day was our monthly Sharing Café where, in small discussion groups, we talked about who we considered to be part our families and how will we celebrate the winter holidays (or what will we miss or mourn). These Sharing Cafes enrich our relationships and deepen our connections, please join us next month. All are welcome.

If that were not enough for one Sunday, our Fellowship Hall was abuzz with energy, excitement, and holiday shopping. The Holiday Boutique, organized by Karen and Allison Foust and several helpers was a roaring success. Much appreciation to everyone who donated, created, served, purchased, ate goodies, and contributed to a bit of holiday cheer.

In Gratitude,

Michaela Loisel, Board President

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 E-blast & Office Hours

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

E-Blast (12/7)
 E-Blast (12/14)
 E-Blast (12/21)
 NO E-Blast (12/28)

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

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

<u>UUCC Office Hours NEXT WEEK</u> Rev. Christina Sillari

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

minister@augustauu.org (207) 807-9232

Staff Contact information:

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