Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church Wednesday, March 1, 2023

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69 Winthrop St., Augusta ME



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

A Message from our Minister

Dear Members and Friends of UUCC,

There is so much happening at UUCC. Stewardship is beginning. The covenant process is underway. A search team is being sought for the process of calling a minister in a year and a half. The Saturday breakfast is serving the community and creating community. Fellowship lunches are amazing. The Safety Team is working on keeping us safe. New people are walking through the doors. The choir sounds fantastic. The Worship Arts Team rocks! Membership is getting organized. Small groups are meeting. We have not had to cancel a Sunday service yet, even with all the snow. There have been births and deaths and pastoral support and caring as the wheel of life turns around.

Life is good at UUCC. You are an incredible congregation with a competent staff; healthy, creative, and committed leaders; and a deep sense of connection and care for one another. What more could you ask for? Let me know if you come up with anything. You are perfect just the way you are. There is always more to do both within our congregation and in the greater community. There are also ways to be better with our words and actions and how we treat and communicate with each other. But for now, in this bleak midwinter, let us celebrate ourselves as a congregation who is thriving, because each of us is doing the best we can.

I love this reading by Starhawk from *Dreaming the Dark: Magic, Sex, and Politics* that is in our hymnal:

We are all longing to go home to some place we have never been—a place half-remembered and half-envisioned we can only catch glimpses of from time to time.

Community.

Somewhere, there are people to whom we can speak with passion without having the words catch in our throats.

Somewhere a circle of hands

will open to receive us, eyes will light up as we enter, voices will celebrate with us whenever we come into our own power.

Community means strength

that joins our strength to do the work that needs to be done.

Arms to hold us when we falter.

A circle of healing.

A circle of friends.

Someplace where we can be free.

Thank you all for making this congregation a wonderful community!

Many blessings,

Reverend Christina

Request from the Pastoral Ministry Team

Do you drive? Lately, a few members of our congregation have expressed an increased need for rides to church, appointments, and errands. If this is something you could help with, please contact Martha Pelletier at mjpell14@roadrunner.com. Please include any information about preferred locations and times. I am hoping to give those who need rides a few names, so that no one person is always called. I will continue to offer rides when I can, as well. It does take a village!

Thank you, Martha Pelletier

Upcoming Services

Sunday March 5, 2023

Ingathering music to begin at 9:55

"Stewardship Sunday"

Reverend Christina Sillari

"What is a steward? What does it mean to be a steward of UUCC and our liberal religious tradition? How does stewardship turn, as Martin Buber says, the "I" into a "we"?

Rev. Christina will explore the eastern spiritual practices of Simran, Satsang, and Seva and how they relate to stewardship and their transformative impact on us and our community."

A special thank you to our worship arts team. Marty Peters will be our worship associate and Angie Blevins will manage technology. Karen Allen will be our pianist and the Choir and Orchestra will offer "The Size of Your Heart" by Eleanor Daley.

Join us after the service for the next SHARING CAFÉ
<See details in Events below>

REMEMBER TO CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS <SPRING FORWARD>

Sunday March 12, 2023

Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m.

Sunday March 19, 2023 Ingathering music to begin at 9:55

a.m.

"A Tale of Two Mountains"

Terry Cairn

In this service, we will explore two of Africa's tallest mountains, Mt. Meru and Mt. Kilimanjaro, and see what they can teach us about the challenges and choices we face in life, whether those challenges are actual mountains or molehills.

Terry will share her recent experiences climbing these two mountains in Tanzania and the insights that we can apply to everyday life.

A special thank you to our worship arts team. John Seksay will be our worship associate and Angie Blevins will manage technology. Stefanie Barley will be our pianist.

"Was Jesus a UU?"

Reverend Christina Sillari

If Jesus walked into UUCC on a Sunday morning, would he resonate with our values? Why and how did some of us throw Jesus away even though Unitarian Universalism has deep Judeo-Christian roots? Rev. Christina will share her relationship with Jesus and explore his teachings through sacred text and our UU principles.

A special thank you to our worship arts team. John Seksay will be our worship associate and Marty Peters will manage technology. Stefanie Barley will be our pianist. Our choir will present "And So It Goes" by Billy Joel.

SHARE THE PLATE Sunday Recipient will be chosen by the Social Justice Committee

Join us after the service for a sit down FELLOWSHIP LUNCH <See details in Events below>

<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

DON'T MISS THE NEXT SHARING CAFE EXPLORING STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY, MARCH 5th

11:30 to 12:30

We will again gather in small groups to consider these two questions on Sunday, March 5th, immediately following our coffee fellowship:

- 1. What vision do you hold for Stewardship at the UUCC?
- 2. What do you see as your role in that vision?

For those attending our service on Box Cast or who otherwise cannot attend in person, there will be a Sharing Café session hosted by Harry Grimmnitz in the Church's Zoom Room at 11:30. The Church Zoom Meeting ID is: 823 807 0673. Password: 6971

We are so looking forward to seeing you and to this opportunity for sharing.



Join us on Friday March 10 for UUCC GAME NIGHT

Starting at 6:00 p.m.

Many of us have returned to or continued playing games over the last few years. Bring a friend and your kids to play a game. We will supply scrabble, cards, cribbage or backgammon, etc. Or bring games of your choice, or a game that you want to learn...we will teach you. Historically this has always been a fund niht of entertainment. Snacks provided or bring whatever you wish.

Sponsored by the Social Activities Committee and the Lifespan Faith Formation Coordinator. FMI: Contact Cheryl Clukey or Monique Bergere.

<u>Fellowship Lunch – Sunday</u> <u>March 19, 2023</u>

11:30 - 12:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

The third Sunday of each month (Oct thru May) is Fellowship Lunch Sunday which replaces coffee hour. This event will 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 sit-down meal.

We generally have a "base" kitchen crew but 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 from Fellowship Hall while working. If you want to attend the service but can volunteer as a server that is fine too. If you are willing to sign up as an *Extra*, please email Marilyn Dunn (maine2007@hotmail.com) or call (207) 512-5382.

Newcomers,
Let's Get Acquainted:
** Be our guests for Dinner! **

SAVE THE DATE:

Thursday, March 30th, 5:30-7:00pm At UUCC in Fellowship Hall

Stay tuned for more information!

Sponsored by Rev. Christina Sillari & Monique Bergere (Coordinator of Lifespan Faith Formation 207-242-6415 cell; lifespanff@augustauu.org

Fundraising Helpers needed



Are you interested in helping out in ANY way with the UUCC auction in April and/or the yard sale in May/June?

If so, please plan to attend at least one of two short fundraising organizing session in the Robbins Room at the church at 9:00 am either on March 5th or March 12th.

Contact Karen Foust (207) 441-8971 either text or phone) if you are unable to attend but would like to participate in one or both of these events.

An opportunity for reflection...

An opportunity to reflect on the latest wayside pulpit message being shared on the corner of Winthrop and Summer Streets.

> "Love is the most powerful and still the most unknown energy of the world." ~Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Thank you to Angie Blevins for maintaining the wayside pulpit and providing us with messages to ponder.



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

 $\frac{6:30 - 8:00}{\text{p.m.}}$

Please note: location changes

Peaceful Heart Sangha

NEW SCHEDULE, effective Jan 30th:

-- BY Private ZOOM –EVERY Monday (we will no longer meet in person at the UUCC on the last Monday of the month). You may join us at 6:15 to settle in.



See Events / Opportunities about an open house at the River Studio in Hallowell. Sangha meets there in person on most Thursday mornings.

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 6:00 -7:30 p.m.

UUCC Choir Rehearsal

Rehearsals are held every Wednesday from 6:00-7:30pm in the sanctuary.

N95 or KN95 masks are required, we have plenty, if you need a mask.

Questions? Please reach out to Bridget Convey at: musicdirector@augustauu.org.

All are welcome!

Wednesdays Each Week

Gentle YOGA

Hosted by Debbie Mattson

YOGA

5:00-6:00p.m.

UU Yoga is now offered as a hybrid gathering. People can choose to gather in the Fellowship Hall for yoga, Wednesdays 5 PM-6 PM or join via zoom. Here is the zoom link:

https://maine.zoom.us/j/95825651125?pwd=UWJpOVFjVFJGb3dMWmZoOTRXa3VoUT09

Password: 174192

Please join us a few minutes before 5:00 to settle in so we can begin class right at 5:00 p.m.

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 John Seksay (netmote1@gmail.com or 317-69-3636) or Stefanie (stefbarley@gmail.com or 629-8890)

Thursdays

Each Week

Peaceful Heart Sangha

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 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

There will be an Open House at River Studio in Hallowell (1-4pm this Saturday 2/4) offering opportunities to talk with people who offer practices there - and members of Peaceful Heart Sangha plan to be there to talk with people who have questions about our practice.

> 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

In the UUCC

Zoom room

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Writing to Wake the Soul

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. This group will be meeting in the UUCC Zoom Room.

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

1st Thursday

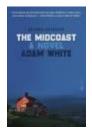
Noon-1:30 p.m.

Next Meeting is Mar 2



On March 2, READ LEARN SHARE will meet at noon in the UUCC ZOOM ROOM and in FELLOWSHIP HALL We will use the OWL technology to have a hybrid meeting. Anyone who interested in discussing "To Make Men Free" 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

"Expansive and authoritative" ~Goodreads



THEN, we will then meet on THURSDAY APRIL 6.

'A propulsive drama that cares as deeply about its characters as it does about the crimes they commit, *The Midcoast* explores the machinations of privilege, the dark recesses of the American dream, and the lies we tell as we try, at all costs, to achieve it.' Goodreads

Our book for May 4 is Mill Town: Reckoning With What Remains by Kerri Arsenault.

4th Friday

6:30 – 8:30 Sanctuary

Next Meeting is Mar 24

Free Style Drum Circle

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			
9:30–11 am	Come and share your musical talents with our UUCC community. Rehearsals are in the Sanctuary from 9:30-11:00 a.m. on the following upcoming Saturdays:			
<u>Select</u> <u>Saturdays</u>	4 MAR 2023, SAT • 9:30 – 11am UUCCOO Rehearsal (C-Sanct)			
	18 MAR 2023, SAT 9:30 – 11am UUCCOO Rehearsal (C-Sanct)			
	1 APR 2023, SAT 9:30 – 11am UUCCOO Rehearsal (C-Sanct)			
	22 APR 2023, SAT 9:30 – 11am UUCCOO Rehearsal (C-Sanct)			
	All are welcome, please join us! Questions: please contact Dale McCormick at: dmmcormick11@aol.com.			
<u>4th</u>	Goddess / Earth Circles			
Sunday	Goddess/Earth Circles			
1-2:30	March 26, 1-3:30pm on UUCC Zoom. Spring Equinox: Balance of Yin and Yang			
<u>p.m.</u>				
In-Person	April 30 Croning, Fellowship Hall Hybrid, 1-2:30pm. Contact Helen Zidowecki for information on this ceremony and celebration and to be 'croned'.			
Next Meeting is Mar 26 th	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) for more information.			

Notices / Updates / News

Has YOUR Contact Information Changed?

A new Church Directory is being prepared with updated UUCC leadership information AND contact information for church members and friends.

Has any of YOUR contact information changed? (e-mail, phone, physical or mailing address?)

If so, please report any changes to the Office Administrator. Admin phone (207) 622-3232 or email admin@augustauu.org

DEADLINE to submit changes is Sunday, March 5th

HELP US keep in touch with you and keep you informed.

Social Justice Committee Notices <u>Share the Plate – February 19, 2023</u>

LINKS TO DONATE

February 6, 2023 Earthquake Relief: Many of us feel powerless as we consider the massive suffering of the people of Turkey and Syria in the aftermath of the 2 earthquakes. The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee provides guidance by encouraging us to donate to the Global Fund for Human Rights and White Helmets.

Here is a description from the Global Fund for Human Rights website:

"Following two earthquakes that killed and injured thousands of people in and around Turkey, the Fund is working to deliver emergency support to 20 local groups providing lifesaving support and protecting the rights of marginalized people affected by the disaster. Your help is critical to ensuring a sustainable, equitable, and effective recovery."

100% of donations will go to the response effort by the distribution to "on the ground" civil society groups.

Here is a description form the White Helmets website:

"All of the White Helmets teams are working full capacity to save everyone they can, but with their limited resources, this is a herculean task. Several hospitals buckled in the tremors and the health system in northern Syria is already severely depleted after years of deliberate attacks by Russia and the Syrian regime. That's why the White Helmets urgently need your support to act quickly to provide resources, shelter, and care for injured people who have lost their homes."

Donations can be made from their websites.

March 11, 2023 ~ 10am - noon MUUSAN Zoom Network Meeting:

Amplifying our Voices: UU Principles, Community Partners, and Legislative Advocacy

Featuring four of MUUSAN's Community Partners: Maine Climate Action NOW!, Wabanaki Alliance, Maine Equal Justice, and League of Women Voters of Maine

We'll hear from each community partner about their priorities for this legislative session, have break-out rooms with each organization, and will link the advocacy work to be done back to our UU Principles!

Register HERE!

The Maine Legislature's 131st session is underway and we want YOU to be ready to advocate for issues that are important to you! Whether you're new to advocacy with 20 minutes on your hands or an experienced advocate who wants to know the newest Zoom testimony guidelines, you can find what you need to speak up for UU values at the state level in MUUSAN's Advocacy Tips and Tools:



To view or print the above resources in a single document, click here.

MUUSAN needs your financial support! Please help us magnify the voices of Maine's UU congregations, partners, and friends to the elected officials and policymakers in Augusta. Your gift of any size helps MUUSAN be an effective voice for our Unitarian Universalist Principles in the public arena. Tax-deductible donations can be made https://muusan.kindful.com/. Thank you!

Ongoing efforts from our Social Justice Committee

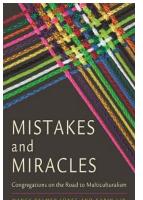
Donation boxes have been placed in the church coat room for non-perishable food items to go to the <u>Augusta</u> <u>Food Bank</u> and for toilet paper, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, tampons, sanitary pads, diapers and wipes, which are high priority needs right now, to go to the <u>Essential Hygiene Pantry at Bridging the Gap.</u>

<u>The Augusta Overnight Emergency Warming Shelter</u> (located at South Parish Congregational Church) has many needs which frequently change. Go to their Facebook page and check "Our Needs" to find out what's urgent. There is a donation box for the Shelter in our coat room, too.

All are worthy organizations that provide much needed services to our community. Your donations will be greatly appreciated and put to good use. For more information, contact co-chairs Stefanie Barley (stefbar-ley@gmail.com) and/or Susan Shaw (susanmaine@gmail.com), who will make regular deliveries of items that you contribute.

or email Susan Shaw, susanmaine@gmail.com regarding food donations.

Mistakes & Miracles Discussion UPDATE



On January 22, thirteen congregation members met to discuss our reactions and learnings from the UUA Common Read <u>Mistakes and Miracles</u>. We focused on two questions:

- 1. How can we, at the corner of Winthrop and Summer St., become more inclusive and truly create "Beloved Community" within the congregation and into the wider community?
- 2. How and where do we start to move towards our goal of "Beloved Community"?

As you may imagine, the sharing of reactions to the book and the ideas for moving forward were wide-ranging and very thoughtful. We did not arrive at "the answers", but with

many possibilities for exploration and action.

We will be inviting the congregation to a follow-up meeting (no need to read the book first, but there are copies available for loan if you are interested.) More information on the follow-up meeting will be in the next E-Blast.

Board of Trustees



Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Augusta BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

At the February 9 Board Meeting, the Board:

- Discussed the Ministerial Search Process to begin in June
- Heard the Treasurer note the strong financial health of the church
- Increased the 23-24 pledge goal to \$172,000
- Voted to continue serving Saturday breakfast to guests of the Warming Center at South Parish Church through April 30.
- Reviewed the work of the Restorative Justice Committee. A draft of a covenant for the congregation will be presented at the April Sharing Café
- The next meeting is scheduled for March 9 at 5 pm.
- Full minutes of Board Meetings can be found on the church website: augustauu.org
 - -- Look for full minutes of the meeting on the church website at www.augustauu.org--

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/i/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.

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 (3/1)
 E-Blast (3/8)
 E-Blast (3/15)
 E-Blast (3/22)
 E-Blast (4/5)
 E-Blast (4/12)
 E-Blast (4/19)
 NO E-Blast (4/26)

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

Rev. Christina Sillari

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

minister@augustauu.org

(207) 807-9232

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