# Weekly E-Blast

# Unitarian Universalist Community Church Wednesday, June 7, 2023

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69 Winthrop St., Augusta ME



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

## A Message from our Minister

#### Hello Church!

What a wonderful annual meeting as a spiritual practice many of us experienced on Sunday.

It made me happy to see you tend to church business with such grace and positivity. You passed the amended budget, honored outgoing leaders, recognized staff, elected and commissioned new leaders, adopted the 8<sup>th</sup> principle, and you now have a covenant. Congratulations on a successful year of shared ministry. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve you. My time with you is almost complete. I am looking forward to my last Sunday with you on June 16<sup>th</sup> when we will celebrate our new members and share our new covenant. In the meantime, as Jane Kenyan expresses in her poem, I invite you to notice where happiness shows up in your life, perhaps in places you least expect. For me happiness sneaks up at dawn as the birds lull me from sleep, when hugging a child on my street who magically became a young adult in the blink of an eye, while watching an old man in the grocery store looking for pickles, and witnessing your community growing in love.

Many blessings,

Christina



#### **Happiness by Jane Kenyon**

There's just no accounting for happiness, or the way it turns up like a prodigal who comes back to the dust at your feet having squandered a fortune far away.

And how can you not forgive?
You make a feast in honor of what
was lost, and take from its place the finest
garment, which you saved for an occasion
you could not imagine, and you weep night and day
to know that you were not abandoned,
that happiness saved its most extreme form
for you alone.

No, happiness is the uncle you never knew about, who flies a single-engine plane onto the grassy landing strip, hitchhikes into town, and inquires at every door until he finds you asleep midafternoon as you so often are during the unmerciful hours of your despair.

It comes to the monk in his cell.

It comes to the woman sweeping the street with a birch broom, to the child whose mother has passed out from drink.

It comes to the lover, to the dog chewing a sock, to the pusher, to the basketmaker, and to the clerk stacking cans of carrots in the night.

It even comes to the boulder in the perpetual shade of pine barrens, to rain falling on the open sea, to the wineglass, weary of holding wine.

# **Upcoming Services**

Sunday	"Flower Communion"
June 11, 2023	Kathy Kellison & Lori Milner
Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m.	Come and celebrate with us! This year is the 100th anniversary of the Flower Communion service. Our orchestra and choir have been diligently working on special music to enhance the beauty of this annual tradition where we honor the acceptance of diversity that makes us uniquely "church".
	Please bring a flower (or two) if you can, but join us anyway, with or without one.
	A special thank you to our worship arts team. Nan Bell will be our worship associate and John Seksay will manage technology. Karen Allen is our pianist. We will also have several special musical performances: our choir and orchestra will present <i>The Size of Your Heart</i> by Eleanor Daley. Our Choral Prelude is: <i>Sing a Song Today</i> by K.R. Mitchell-Parker; Orchestra: <i>Three German Dances</i> by Mozart and <i>Concerto</i> Grosso by Corelli.
Sunday	"Let's Celebrate"
June 18, 2023	Reverend Christina Sillari
Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m.	Join Reverend Christina at her last worship service of the year as we recognize and celebrate our new members, share our new covenant, acknowledge our fathers, and honor our youth.
	A special thank you to our worship arts team. Priscilla J. Jenkins will be our worship associate and Marty Peters will manage technology. Karen Allen will be our pianist.
	SHARE THE PLATE: This month's recipient chosen by the Social Justice Committee is Equality Maine.
	Join us after the service for a sit down FELLOWSHIP LUNCH <see [special="" below.="" details="" events="" in="" opportunities]=""></see>
Sunday	"Let Us Sing Together"
June 25, 2023	Martha Naber
Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m.	The church service on June 25 will be a hymn sing when congregation members have an opportunity to choose the hymns they want to sing. Singing together helps bind a group together. Which hymn is your favorite? Why would you choose this one?
	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.

## 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.

PLEASE NOTE: A change is being made that affects the accessibility of prior services. <See details in [Notices / Updates / News] below for this important update by our Worship Arts Team.>

# **Special Events / Opportunities**

# Fellowship Lunch – Sunday June 18, 2023

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 (<a href="mailto:mailt

\*

# TWO UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS Submitted by our Social Justice Committee

June 17th
Save the Date for Pride Portland!

Make a plan to come with others from your congregation to march with UUs from around the state!

More details to come soon, contact <u>admin@muusan.org</u> with any questions.

The State of Black Maine Symposium 2023 Mon, June 19, USM, Portland

https://atlanticblackbox.com/2023/04/03/save-the-date-the-state-of-black-maine-on-juneteenth/#:~:text=The%20State%20of%20Black%20Maine%20Symposium%20is%20a%20daylong%20event,collaboration%2C%20holds%20space%20for%20creative

# <u>Poetry Service being organized</u> <u>for Sunday, July 23rd.</u>

Emily Dickinson once wrote to a friend, including the phrase'...pardon my sanity in a world insane...' I will be organizing a poetry service that speaks to - Sanity in a World Insane - through the voices of our congregation in poetry and prose for Sunday, July 23rd.

All members of the congregation are welcomed to write a poem or a short prose paragraph that speaks to the topic. If you find a referenced quote that you like, please confirm that it is in the public domain before sending it. Please send your submissions to John Seksay at <a href="mailto:netmote1@gmail.com">netmote1@gmail.com</a> and I will weave as many as possible into this service.

I will be organizing the content starting July 9th, so that will be my cutoff for receiving content."

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*



# ADVENTURES IN SEWING < UPDATE > (a new 4-week offering at UUCC)

Adventures in Sewing was a huge success at the first session. Twelve people arrived, got settled and worked on their individual projects. Two folks started learning how to use a sewing machine. Lots of sharing of projects and conversation was seen.

The next three sessions are June 12, 19 and 26 from 9:30am to noon. Be sure to let Nancy Fritz or Martha Naber know if you will be attending – Martha at 887-1104 or 313-5859, or Nancy at 213-3047. Thanks.

## An opportunity for reflection...



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

"We use flowers to help us symbolize the love that is hidden deep inside us." Anonymous

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

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

# **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.



Please note: location changes

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: <a href="martysoule@gmail.com">martysoule@gmail.com</a>. FMI: <a href="mailto:peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com">peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:Sangha gatherings">Sangha gatherings are free and open to all.</a>

## Wednesday 6:00 -

6:00 -7:30 p.m.

## **UUCC Choir Rehearsal**

Rehearsals are held every Wednesday from 6:00-7:30pm in the sanctuary. Our last rehearsal was May 31. Our final performance this church year will be at the Flower Communioin service on June 11. We will then break for the summer. Rehearsals resume Wed. Aug. 30<sup>th.</sup>

Questions? Please reach out to Bridget Convey at: <a href="mailto:musicdirector@augustauu.org">musicdirector@augustauu.org</a>.

All are welcome!

# Wednesdays

Each Week

 $\frac{5:00-6:00}{\text{p.m.}}$ 

## **Gentle YOGA**

Hosted by Debbie Mattson

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 & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday

# **Seasoned Souls** Seasoned Souls is a group of older church members that meet as a study/support group to talk

10:30 a.m. -Noon

openly about topics related to the aging process. Seasoned Souls is open to any church member over 65 years of age. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday monthly we will meet in the Fellowship Hall and on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, we will meet in the UUCC Zoom room.

2<sup>nd</sup> Wed - C-FH 4th Wed. - Zoom FMI: please contact John Seksay (netmote1@gmail.com or 317-69-3636) or Stefanie (mstefbarley@gmail.com or 629-8890)

## Thursdays

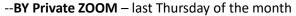
# **Peaceful Heart Sangha**

Each Week

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

8:00 - 9:30a.m.

-- IN-PERSON every Thursday at the River Studio, 332 Water St. Hallowell (except the last Thursday of the month)





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 & 4<sup>th</sup> **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 - 10:30a.m.

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

# **Thursday**

READ SHARE LEARN met on THURSDAY June 1 at noon in the UUCC ZOOM ROOM and in FELLOWSHIP HALL using the OWL technology to have a hybrid meeting. They discussed Once There Were Wolves by Charlotte McConaghy.

Noon-1:30 p.m.

Will resume Oct. 2023

This was the last meeting for this church year – we will resume meetings in October. In the meantime, we will discuss the procedure for choosing books for next year, how to make suggestions and how to vote. Anyone who has a book to suggest is welcome to submit the title and author and to get a ballot and vote!

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

4 <sup>th</sup>	Free Style Drum Circle		
<u>Friday</u>	The Augusta Community Drum Circle is a free style drum circle welcoming people of all		
6:30 – 8:30 Sanctuary	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!		
Next Meeting is July 28	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.		
<b>Saturday</b>	<u>UUCC Occasional Orchestra</u>		
9:30–11 am  Select Saturdays	Come and share your musical talents with our UUCC community.  Rehearsals are in the Sanctuary from 9:30-11:00 a.m. We will meet one last time this church year in preparation of our performance at the Flower Communion Ceremony on Sunday, June 11 <sup>th</sup> . After this service we will break for the summer and resume practices in September.		
	10 JUN 2023, SAT 9:30 - 11am UUCCOO Rehearsal (C-Sanct)		
	All are welcome, please join us!  Questions: please contact Dale McCormick at: <a href="mailto:dmmcormick11@aol.com">dmmcormick11@aol.com</a> .		
<u>4<sup>th</sup></u>	Goddess / Earth Circles		
Sunday  1-2:30 p.m. In-Person	Goddess/Earth Circle Gatherings for the Summer  June 25 Meeting will not be held in lieu of GA activities  July 23 Fellowship Hall and zoom: 1-2:30pm: Summer Connection,  Celebrating Lammas, Earth-based Music. Leaders: Mary Shifman, Rachel Small  August 27 Fellowship Hall and zoom: 1-2:30pm: Summer Connection,  Creating Gatherings for Fall		
Next Meeting is July 23rd	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.om">hzmre@hzmre.om</a> ) for more information.		

# Notices / Updates / News

# NO PARKING in Kennebec County Sheriff's Lot



As Don and I were leaving church on Sunday May 21 we met Deputy Sheriff Boudreau. He talked with us about the Kennebec County Sheriff Department which recently moved into the building next to Judd House. They request that NO CARS be parked there as they need the space free for the movement of sheriff dept. vehicles. He was glad this message would be shared with the congregation.

~Martha Naber

#### Notes from Worship on Boxcast and Copyright

Recently the Worship Committee has been wrestling with two related issues: copyright considerations and accessibility of our recorded services on Boxcast. After learning that we paid storage fees for recordings kept longer than 90 days, we started deleting older services. However, questions about copyright and broadcasts made us look again at how we manage our services on Boxcast.

In consultation with Rev. Christina, we decided our best course of action was to keep our broadcasts as private as possible to reduce copyright concerns, and to continue to select readings and music for worship as we have in the past. We will safeguard our privacy in two ways: we will not link our broadcast to wider public venues such as Facebook and YouTube, and we will delete each recording after a week, when a new service becomes available. Most people who view a recorded service do so within a few days, so this will probably not substantially change viewing habits. The policy will go into effect this Sunday with Flower Communion.

It's important to note that the recording of a service actually belongs to the worship leader, not to UUCC. If a worship leader asks us to remove the recording sooner, we will do so. Churches across the country have been facing these issues since the pandemic moved them to online venues, and like us, many have chosen to keep broadcasting even after returning to worship in person. We will continue to pay attention to the issues raised, and to do our best to respect the rights of the musicians and writers whose work enhances our worship.

Karen Allen, Chair, Worship Arts

#### **RESULTS**

#### MAY 14 SHARING CAFE 8 TH PRINCIPLE

A big thank you to everyone who participated in our Sharing Café. Such good ideas and insights.

We have grouped your responses into categories. All recorded responses are included, and some responses may 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/1-hEKxggfM7463TPTsOQUTyjut54C9uE\_/view?usp=sharing.

## Social Justice Committee

8th Principle UPDATE — The Social Justice Committee is thrilled to announce the passage of the 8th Principle at our Annual Meeting last Sunday. We want to thank everyone who supported this important step on our UUCC journey toward Beloved Community. We have shared this with the national UU 8th Principle Learning Community, and learned that at least four other churches across the country adopted the 8th Principle on the same day.

#### **MUSAN Legislative Updates**

Maine's forests play a critical role in mitigating climate change! They absorb 60% of the state's annual greenhouse gas emissions and also protect biodiversity.

#### LD 993 is a bill to establish a Forest Advisory Board for Maine.

A Forest Advisory Board would bring together a variety of viewpoints – loggers and biologists, commercial landowners and indigenous tribes, sportsmen and ecologists – to share information, facilitate public input, look at the forest comprehensively, and advise the Maine Forest Service on policies to keep our forests healthy, intact, and productive.

LD 993 has just been voted on and passed in the Maine legislature. Governor Mills vetoed this bill in the past. Now is the time to write Gov. Mills and/or a letter to the editor in favor of this bill (tips and links here).

Want more information or talking points? Check out <u>this link</u>. You can also "share your opinion" with the Governor on this online form.

Then go to the MUUSAN website and click on the button I Took Action to report your action.

Thank you SO much for taking the time for this important Climate Action!

# Contact your Legislators! Ask them to support LD 2004

An Act to Restore Access to Federal Laws Beneficial to the Wabanaki Nations

This legislation would amend the portion of the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act that specifically excludes the Wabanaki Nations from the federal Indian laws that have benefitted the other 570 federally recognized tribes: laws meant to improve public health, recover from natural disasters, and promote economic development.

- Sample letter to legislators to copy and paste HERE
- Read Talking Points for LD 2004 HERE
- Read MUUSAN's Testimony <u>HERE</u>

## **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 (<a href="stefanie-barley@gmail.com">stefanie Barley (stefbarley@gmail.com</a>) and/or Susan Shaw (<a href="susanmaine@gmail.com">susanmaine@gmail.com</a>), who will make regular deliveries of items that you contribute or email Susan Shaw, <a href="susanmaine@gmail.com">susanmaine@gmail.com</a> regarding food donations.

## **Board of Trustees**

### **BOARD HIGHLIGHTS**

#### At its meeting on April 13, the Board:

- Created the roster for the Search Committee for our Settled Minister.
- Voted to continue the Saturday breakfast indefinitely.
- Voted to modify the UUCC Covid mask policy.
- Voted to take \$23,580 from Mark Goldberg's bequest to the church to pay for our share of the Sandy River Community Solar Farm. This is a loan to be paid back over 10 years at 4% interest.
- Acknowledged an anonymous gift to pay off the church's energy loan balance.
- A security assessment of our buildings was completed at the end of March. A grant request to fund recommendations will be submitted by April 17.

#### At its May 11 meeting, the Board:

- Expressed interest in Hope Brokers request to use space in our building and will get more information.
- Tabled discussion of the Safety Plan until June.
- Approved a draft budget for presentation at the June Annual Meeting.
- Entered Executive Session to handle a personnel matter.

TO SEE COMPLETE MINUTES OF THESE MEETINGS, VISIT THE CHURCH WEBSITE: www.augustauu.org

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for June 8 and will include newly elected members.

Board Meeting Agenda Thursday, June 8, 2023 5:00 to 7:00 pm via the UUCC zoom

Chalice Lighting	Rev. Christina Sillari
Board Covenant	Board Members (Read)
Check in	In one word, how are you today?
Thoughts about Annual Meeting?	

#### i noughts about Annual Meeting?

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Welcome new Board members ...... Michaela & Board
- 2. What would you like to say to Jim and Cheryl?
- 4. Sprucing up Judd House/Church Building ...... Michaela / All

#### REPORTS

Clerk's Report:	Cheryl/Catherine/VOTE
Finance Committee's Report:	
President's Report:	Michaela
Minister's Report:	Christina
	President's Report:

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Safety Committee ...... Susan

#### PROGRESS TOWARD GOALS (RECURRING ITEMS)

- Review and revise UUCC By-Laws this Summer ...... Kathy Anne Shaw
- 2. Address matters of our physical plant (window repair or replacement, ventilation estimates for board
- 3. Assess Safety and Security concerns and a plan for building safety (In Progress)

#### **A**DJOURN

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: July or August?** 

Vision: Enhance spiritual growth; provide a respectful religious home for all ages; join in celebration and friendship; be a common voice for justice; share the light of our principles with the wider community

Mission: worship, learn, and minister together, embracing diversity and religious freedom

# **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. 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.

UUCC 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.

### **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

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 (6/7)
 E-Blast (6/14)
 E-Blast (6/21)
 E-Blast (7/5)
 NO E-Blast (6/28)
 NO E-Blast (7/12)

UUCC Office Hours NEXT WEEK Rev. Christina Sillari

Church Administrator - Open office hours:

Office Hours on Wednesday and Thursday

Call or email to set up an appointment

Tues, Wed and Thurs – 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. No open office hours on Fridays 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