

Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church
Wednesday, July 5, 2023

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[Zoom](#)
[Room](#)

Farewell to Reverend Christina Sillari



Rev. Christina Sillari wrapped herself in a beautiful, colorful patchwork quilt as she bid farewell to the Congregation Sunday, June 18. The custom quilt was handmade by Nancy Fritz. Other goodbye gifts given to our outgoing minister included personal notes from leadership members and a decorative box to hold memories, presented by Kathy Ann Shaw.

As we move towards a new church year and prepare to welcome a new minister (coming in August), let us continue to reflect on the wishes and prayers Rev. Christina offered us in her final E-blast message:

My wishes and prayers for you are:

You work through your conflicts directly.

You stay engaged with your covenant.

You appreciate each other regularly.

You find ways to welcome new folks, especially families and youth.

And most of all, you keep being you...a kind, courageous, beautiful community of souls on a powerful spiritual journey together.

Upcoming Services

We are now in “Summer Mode” for worship services which means that lay leaders in our community offer services throughout the summer. The varied worship leaders offer an exciting period with variety in topic and style. Please join us for these compelling and unique service offerings.

<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday July 9, 2023 Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">“Spiritual Journey” Ken Farrington</p> <p>This service was inspired by a UUCU Small Group Session Plan (Spiritual Journey). Sharing a spiritual journey is a way to acknowledge the importance of connection and community. Even though it is a personal quest, we soon learn it takes the holding of hands to move forward.</p> <p>A special thank you to our worship arts team. John Seksay will be our worship associate and Angie Blevins will manage technology. Hannah Faulkner will be our pianist. YES – Hannah will be back at the piano for this service! Fellowship Hour will be hosted by Ed Democracy and Carolyn Ladd with an assist by Susan Claska Burnett.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday July 16, 2023 Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">“Fungi and oysters, our spiritual teachers?” Scott Klinger</p> <p>Scientists tell us that of our 69 trillion cells, just 30 trillion are human cells; some 39 trillion of the rest are microbial. Today, we'll explore important lessons from our microbial and mollusk kin that can help enrich our lives as humans.</p> <p>A special thank you to our worship arts team. Nan Bell will be our worship associate and Angie Blevins will manage technology. Karen Foust will be our pianist. Fellowship Hour will be hosted by Michael Conley and Annie Reiter.</p> <p><u>BIO:</u> Scott is a new member of UUCU. He is passionate both about fungi, and about discovering hidden connections between seemingly disparate things. He is active in UUCU's Saturday morning breakfast ministry and the Social Justice Committee.</p> <p><u>SHARE THE PLATE:</u> This month's recipient, chosen by the Social Justice Committee is <u>Wabanaki Alliance</u>, an alliance of tribes in Maine. Its purpose is to educate the people of Maine on the importance of Maine tribes securing sovereignty.</p>

<p>Sunday July 23, 2023 Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m.</p>	<p>“Sanity in a World Insane (poetry service)” John Seksay</p> <p>"Emily Dickinson once wrote to a friend, including the phrase'...pardon my sanity in a world insane..." This service speaks to - Sanity in a World Insane - through the voices of our congregation in poetry and prose. If you would like to submit something, see the submission details below in [Special Events / Opportunities].</p> <p>A special thank you to our worship arts team. Kathy Kellison will be our worship associate and Marty Peters will manage technology. Stefanie Barley will be our pianist. Fellowship Hour will be hosted by Janet Caldwell -- could you be her assistant?</p>
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Sunday worship service is now being held IN-PERSON in the Sanctuary.

IMPORTANT UPDATE: The church doors will now be locked 10 minutes after the service begins. The greeter will be at the front door to let anyone in after that time.

If you want to watch the livestream of the service, please visit:

<https://boxcast.tv/channel/mtifpth0utvesjqgjej>

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. Services may be viewed by Boxcast for a week after the service is live.

Special Events / Opportunities

Poetry Service being organized for Sunday, July 23rd.

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 netmotel@gmail.com 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 submissions.**

WORSHIP LEADER NEEDED FOR AUGUST 27

The UCC summer worship schedule is complete except for Sunday, August 27. Would you consider volunteering as a guest worship leader that morning? We have a strong tradition of lay-led worship during the summer and enjoy hearing from members and friends old or new. You would be supported by a Worship Associate, Tech Assistant, and pianist. Our hymnals are a wonderful resource for both music and readings. To learn more or to sign up please contact Karen Allen, Worship Committee Chair, at kwallen@gwi.net or 622-3868.

----By Popular Demand----
“SEWING ADVENTURES”
<CONTINUES>



Hello everyone:

By popular demand, we are continuing our Sewing Adventures for an additional four Mondays this summer: July 10 and 24 <and> August 14 and 28
The time is 9:30 to noon and all are welcome. Bring a friend, if you like.

There will be some changes for these next few weeks. We ask that attendees help set up and put away tables and chairs. We will not be setting up ahead of time. Also, Nancy and Martha have been facilitators/teachers for the first month. As we move forward, we ask that participants bring whatever they'd like to work on, either machine or hand sewing, and we will all help one another as needed, so that Martha and Nancy can also participate in sewing. Be sure to let us know if there is anything you need from one of us we are likely to have whatever it is! Martha at 887-1104 or 313-5859, or Nancy at 213-3047.

Hope to see you on July 10.

Nancy and Martha

An opportunity for reflection...

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



“So long as the human spirit thrives on this planet, music in some living form will accompany and sustain it and give it expressive meaning.”

~Aaron Copland

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



<p><u>Monday</u> Each week</p> <p><u>6:30 – 8:00</u> <u>p.m.</u></p> <p><u>Please note:</u> <u>location</u> <u>changes</u></p>	<p><u>Peaceful Heart Sangha</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>See Events / Opportunities about an open house at the River Studio in Hallowell. Sangha meets there in person on most Thursday mornings.</p> <p>Please contact Marty Soule for updated Zoom login information at: email: martysoule@gmail.com. FMI: peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com <i>Sangha gatherings are free and open to all.</i></p>	
<p><u>Wednes-</u> <u>day</u> <u>6:00 -</u> <u>7:30 p.m.</u></p> <p>Will resume Aug. 30th</p>	<p><u>UUCC Choir Rehearsal</u></p> <p>Our last choir rehearsal was May 31 and our final performance was the Flower Communion service on June 11. We are now on a break for the summer. Rehearsals will resume Wed. Aug. 30th. Rehearsals are held every Wednesday from 6:00-7:30pm in the sanctuary</p> <p>Questions? Please reach out to Bridget Convey at: musicdirector@augustauu.org.</p> <p>All are welcome!</p>	
<p><u>Wednes-</u> <u>days</u> Each Week</p> <p><u>5:00 – 6:00</u> <u>p.m.</u></p>	<p><u>Gentle YOGA</u></p> <p>Hosted by Debbie Mattson</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p>	

<p>2nd & 4th Wednesday</p> <p>10:30 a.m. - Noon</p> <p>2nd Wed. - C-FH 4th Wed. - Zoom</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Seasoned Souls</u></p> <p>Seasoned Souls is a group of older church members that meet as a study/support group to talk openly about topics related to the aging process. Seasoned Souls is open to any church member over 65 years of age. 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.</p> <p>FMI: please contact John Seksay (netmotel@gmail.com or 317-69-3636) or Stefanie (mstefbarley@gmail.com or 629-8890)</p>
<p>Thursdays Each Week</p> <p>8:00 – 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Peaceful Heart Sangha</u></p> <p>You may join us by Zoom at 7:45 a.m. to settle in. Meet from 8-9:30</p> <p>-- IN-PERSON every Thursday at the River Studio, 332 Water St. Hallowell (except the last Thursday of the month)</p> <p>--BY Private ZOOM – last Thursday of the month</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please contact Marty Soule for updated login information at martysoule@gmail.com. FMI: peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sangha gatherings are free and open to all.</i></p> 
<p>2nd & 4th Thursday</p> <p>In the UUCC Zoom room</p> <p>9:00 – 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Writing to Wake the Soul</u></p> <p>This is an open group that gathers and writes together to explore spiritual themes. The writing is used as a conveyance to connect more deeply with ourselves and each other. We are not writing to develop skill.</p> <p>Come and try it out; there is no obligation to come each time we gather. This group will be meeting in the UUCC Zoom Room.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FMI: please contact Debbie at (207)557-2697 or debbiemattson@hotmail.com</p>
<p>1st Thursday</p> <p>Noon-1:30 p.m.</p> <p>Will resume Oct. 2023</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Read Learn Share Book Group</u></p> <p>The READ LEARN SHARE book group is now on break for the summer months. The group will resume Oct. 5th. We meet the first THURSDAY of each month (Oct. thru June) at noon in the UUCC ZOOM ROOM and in FELLOWSHIP HALL using the OWL technology to have a hybrid meeting.</p> <p>Right now the group is choosing books for next year. For more information, contact Kathy Kellison at kell6787@gmail.com or June Zellers at jzellers@roadrunner.com</p>

<p>4th Friday</p> <p>6:30 – 8:30 Sanctuary</p> <p>Next Meeting is July 28</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Free Style Drum Circle</u></p> <p>The Augusta Community Drum Circle is a free style drum circle welcoming people of all ages, walks of life, and abilities. Free style means no one is assigned ‘pieces’ to play. Just play! Or don’t play! Just come watch, sing, dance, or bring your own instruments. No one cares if you’ve never played before or if you make a mistake. As long as you are having fun you can’t get it wrong! ALL are welcome. Event is FREE, No RSVP, just come!</p> <p>The Drum Circle meets the fourth Friday of each month at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary. For more information you can contact Mike Moody at mtmoods@gmail.com or 229-1118.</p>
<p>Saturday</p> <p>9:30–11 am</p> <p>Will resume Sept. 16th</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>UUCC Occasional Orchestra</u></p> <p>The UUCC Occasional Orchestra is now on break for the summer months. We will resume rehearsals on September 16th. Rehearsals are in the Sanctuary on Saturday mornings from 9:30-11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Join us this September. Come and share your musical talents with our UUCC community. All are welcome, please join us!</p> <p>Questions: please contact Dale McCormick at: dmmccormick11@aol.com.</p>
<p>4th Sunday</p> <p>1-2:30 p.m. In-Person</p> <p>Next Meeting is July 23rd</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Goddess / Earth Circles</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Goddess/Earth Circle Summer Gatherings</p> <p style="text-align: center;">July 23 Fellowship Hall and zoom: 1-2:30pm: Summer Connection, Celebrating Lammas. Send notes of Goddess and Earth-Centered music for inclusion. Leaders: Mary Shifman, Rachel Small</p> <p style="text-align: center;">August 27 Fellowship Hall and zoom: 1-2:30pm: Summer Connection, Creating Gatherings for Fall</p> <p>Goddess/Earth Circles focuses on Goddess, women’s lives and earth-based spirituality. All ages and genders welcome. Contact: Helen Zidowecki (582-5308, hzmre@hzmre.om) for more information.</p>

Notices / Updates / News

General Assembly Follow-up:

Michaela Loisel and Helen Zidowecki attended UUA General Assembly in June, virtually. Karen Allen and Kathy Kellison organized the June 25 GA Sunday Service Live Stream in the Fellowship Hall. General Assembly 2023 Report is on UUA Connections on the UUCC website, specifically the vote on Article II of the Bylaws and Actions of Immediate Witness.

In addition, a Small Group Ministry Session Plan, "UU Purposes, Values and Principles Matter, is available for small groups and other opportunities. Contact Helen or Michaela for more information.

Some IMPORTANT Reminders

EBLAST SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

E-blasts are produced the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. Articles for inclusion are due by noon on Tuesday, the day before the E-blast is distributed.

Articles received after this time may not be included in the E-blast.

STREET PARKING ONLY!

Coming to the church for an activity or a Sunday service? Please park on the street only. There is no parking in any of the lots belonging to other business surrounding the church. ALSO... our new neighbor on the other side of the Judd House, **the Kennebec County Sheriff's Office**, has specifically requested that we **NOT park in their lot.** Thank you!

Social Justice Committee

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 **Augusta Food Bank** and for toilet paper, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, tampons, sanitary pads, diapers and wipes, which are high priority needs right now, to go to the **Essential Hygiene Pantry at Bridging the Gap.**

The Augusta Overnight Emergency Warming Shelter (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 (stefbarley@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.

Board of Trustees

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

The Board will not meet in July. The next regular meeting of the Board will be AUGUST 3.

General Information

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

Other ways to UCC Zoom Room Zoom:

- 1. Join from your internet browser by clicking this link or typing this into your browser:**
<https://zoom.us/j/8238070673>, launch Zoom, then enter **passcode: 6971**
- 2. Select “Join Meeting” from the Zoom application on your computer or mobile device.**

UCC Meeting ID: 823 807 0673 – then enter **passcode: 6971**

- 3. Join by phone:** dial 1 646 558 8656 (NOTE: toll charge may apply)

At first prompt (meeting id: 823 807 0673#)

At second prompt: press # (no personal id needed) <No passcode needed when joining by phone>

NOTE---*6 is mute AND un-mute on your phone. The host cannot mute or un-mute people who phone-in.

HOSTS: Once in your meeting, claim the host using the HOST KEY as you have done in the past.

UCC Pastoral Ministry Team

We are here for you. Feel free to reach out in times of need for compassionate listening, for casual conversation, to share some good news, to share your struggle or just to say hello. Please contact Martha Pelletier for any pastoral ministry concerns for the month of July, except for July 8th through 16. For that week, Peggy Lamb will be the contact person.

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.

UCC Small Group Ministry



Looking for greater human and spiritual connection during this most disconnected of times? Small Group Ministry offers this vital need in our spiritual community, and so much more! For more information, contact Linda Findlay (207-337-8028, linda.findlay@gmail.com) or Helen Zidowecki (207-582-5308, hzmre@hzmre.com)

UUC 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 (7/5) NO E-Blast (7/12)
- E-Blast (7/19) NO E-Blast (7/26)
- E-Blast (8/2) NO E-Blast (8/9)

UUC Office Hours NEXT WEEK

Church Administrator - Open office hours:

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

No open office hours on Fridays

Rev. Christina Sillari

My ministry is almost complete with UUC.

I will not be in the office or answering emails for the month of July as I am taking my vacation and study leave.

Rev. Donna Dolham will begin her ministry at UUC on August 1st.

If you have a pastoral emergency please contact Martha Pelletier mjpell14@roadrunner.com or Helen Zidowecki hzmre@hzmre.com.

If you have a church related question or emergency please contact UUC president, Michaela Loisel michaelatloisel@gmail.com.

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 <Off for the summer>

Music Director, Bridget Convey, musicdirector@augustauu.org <Off for the summer>