Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church Wednesday, August 16, 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 New Minister

What a delightful beginning it is! Your warm welcome and kindness creates an atmosphere where people are welcomed, new adventures will unfold, and strengths will sustain the life and heart of UUCC's vision and mission in the world. On day one, I felt the breeze warm my face as I gently joined the moving train of congregational life. So many activities in motion!

Some have asked me why congregational ministry? Every day is a new adventure and opportunity to collaborate with others in the creation of community. It's a wonderful surprise to see how as Unitarian Universalists we will live our faith in the world. I love that part of ministry.

It will be a while yet before we really get to know each other. Over the last three weeks, some have taken the opportunity to schedule get acquainted meetings with me. Thank you. I will hold unscheduled open office time on Tuesday mornings starting on Aug. 29th between 10 to noon. This will be an opportunity to just drop in for a visit with me and whoever else happens to pop in. I will continue to use the <u>calendly link</u> inviting you to schedule time with me if you'd like something more formal.

In the spirit of getting to know each other, I'll be facilitating listening circles this fall.

The first two will be:

Zoom Listening Circle: Wednesday, August 23rd at 6:30pm on the congregation's zoom link found in the eblast. 8/23 Registration Form

In Person Listening Circle: Tuesday, September 12th at 6:30pm in the church. 9/12 Registration form

To pre-register please fill out the registration form for the listening circle you'd like to attend or email me at minister@augustauu.org and let me know which listening circle you'd like to attend.

Blessings,

Rev. Donna (she, her, hers)

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.

Sunday	"Threads Through Time"
August 20, 2023	Rev. Donna Dolham
Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m.	UUCC has been moving and shifting over time. With joys, challenges, and hopes, what are the threads through time that anchor the community in love? Join us on Sunday, August 20th as we take a moment to pause and appreciate UUCC's strengths as we move forward into a new year together.
	A special thank you to our worship arts team. Kathy Kellison will be our worship associate and Angie Blevins will manage technology. Karen Foust will be our pianist. Fellowship Hour will be hosted by Lori Milner and Jean Anderson.
	SHARE THE PLATE: This month's recipient, chosen by the Social Justice Committee is UU Service Committee (UUSC). Unitarian Universalist Service Committee makes a difference around the world. It joins with local grassroots organizations to advance human rights.
Sunday	"How Do We Stay Relevant"
August 27, 2023	Rev. Claire Curole, Michaela Loisel, Rev. Helen Zidowecki
Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m.	We will share our energy and optimism from attending the June 2023 UUA General Assembly. What is GA? How does UUCC benefit from connecting with other UU congregations? What can we do to engage with and promote the values of our faith? We will share our ideas about who and what we want to be as a church now and into the future.
	A special thank you to our worship arts team. Nan Bell will be our worship associate and Priscilla J. Jenkins will manage technology. Karen Allen will be our pianist. Fellowship Hour will be hosted by June Zellers and Hannah Faulkner for Charlene Clevens Birthday (84th).

Sunday September 3, 2023

Ingathering music to begin at 9:55

"The Legacy of Frances Perkins"

Priscilla J. Jenkins and Karen Allen

In many ways Frances Perkins was a woman ahead of her time. As Secretary of Labor under FDR, she was one of the architects of the New Deal and the first woman to serve in a presidential cabinet. On this Labor Day weekend we will honor her legacy as a champion of workers' rights, and explore her ties to Maine and our community.

A special thank you to our worship arts team. Lori Milner will be our worship associate and Marty Peters will manage technology. Hannah Faulkner will be our pianist. Fellowship Hour will be hosted by Catherine Palmer.

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

Special Events / Opportunities

REAL LEARN SHARE is a group for booklovers. We choose a book a month to read and discuss between October and June. Our multiplatform group meets on the first Thursday of the month from noon until 1:30 in Fellowship Hall and in the church zoom room. Anyone is welcome to join for one discussion or all nine. For more information, contact June Zellers: <u>jellers@roadrunner.com</u> or Kathy Kellison; kell6787@gmail.com. **The selected titles for this year are as follows:**

October 5 Fellowship Point: A Novel by Alice Elliott Dark (2022), 608 pages

November 2 Rough Sleepers by Tracy Kidder, 280 pages
December 7 Horse by Geraldine Brooks (2022), 362 pages

January 4 Rooted: Life at the Crossroads of Science, Nature, and Spirit by Lyanda Haupt(2021), 217 pages

February 1 My Antonia by Willa Cather (1918), 146 pages

March 7 The Creative Lives of Animals by Carol Gigliotti (2022), 304 pages

April 4 Mad Honey by Picoult & Finney, 464 pages
May 2 Our Migrant Souls by Hector Tobar, 256 pages

June 6 Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus (2022), 400 pages

< <u>PLEASE NOTE</u>: Individual meeting dates and book information is also listed in the < Connections by Day of the Week> section of this publication and on our website calendar.>

"SEWING ADVENTURES"

One more summer connection

There is one more Sewing Adventures session planned for this summer, Monday, <u>August 28</u>. The time is 9:30 to noon and all are welcome. Bring a friend, if you like.

Haven't had a chance to stop in. It's not too late! Just bring whatever you'd like to work on, either machine or hand sewing, and we will all help

one another as needed. 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. -- Nancy and Martha

We ask that attendees help set up and put away tables and chairs.

An opportunity for reflection...



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

"The greatest gift you can give another is the purity of your attention."

~Richard Moss

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

Social Activities

Social Activities Committee is considering activity ideas for the upcoming church year. Have any thoughts or ideas for activities? I would love to hear from you!

Contact Cheryl Clukey at cherylclukey5@yahoo.com.

Connections by Day of the Week

ALL church events and meetings are reflected on the UUCC calendar Click below to view ALL events, including any group meetings or other business meetings. https://www.augustauu.org/calendar-and-communications/

Some events are still being held in the UUCC Zoom Room. Click here to join Events in the Zoom Room:

For other ways to join Zoom, see General Information **Zoom meeting id: 823 807 0673 – Password: 6971**



Monday Each week 6:30 – 8:00	Peaceful Heart Sangha NEW SCHEDULE, effective Jan 30 th : 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.
<u>p.m.</u> <u>Private</u> <u>Zoom</u>	Please contact Marty Soule for updated Zoom login information at: email: <u>martysoule@gmail.com</u> . FMI: <u>peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com</u> <u>Sangha gatherings are free and open to all.</u>
<u>Wednes-day</u> 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Will resume	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. 30 th . Rehearsals are held every Wednesday from 6:00-7:30pm in the sanctuary Questions? Please reach out to Bridget Convey at: musicdirector@augustauu.org . All are welcome!
Aug. 30th Wednes- days	Gentle YOGA Hosted by Debbie Mattson UII Yoga is now offered as a hybrid gathering. People can choose to
Each Week 5:00 – 6:00 p.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 & 4 th Wednesday	Seasoned Souls 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 2 nd Wednesday monthly we will meet in the Fellowship

Hall and on the 4th Wednesday, we will meet in the UUCC Zoom room.

10:30 a.m. -Noon

2nd 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

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 - 9:30a.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



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 - 10:30a.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

Thursday

Noon-1:30 p.m.

Will resume Oct. 2023

Read Learn Share Book Group

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.

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



Plan to join us as we resume or meetings on October 5. We will be discussing Alice Elliott Dark's novel Fellowship Point.

"Fellowship Point" is a novel rich with social and psychological insights, both earnest and sly, big ideas grounded in individual emotions, a portrait of a tightly knit community made up of artfully drawn, individual souls." NY Times

Our title for November 2 is Rough Sleepers by Tracy Kidder. A full list for the year will be included in the Fall Newsletter.

∕ th	Frag Styla Drum Cirola
4 th Friday 6:30 – 8:30 Sanctuary Next Meeting is Aug. 25 th	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	The UUCC Occasional Orchestra is now on break for the summer months. We will resume rehearsals on September 16 th . Rehearsals are usually held the 1 st and 3 rd Saturday of each month. We practice in the Sanctuary from 9:30-11:00 a.m.
Will resume Sept. 16 th	Join us this September. Come and share your musical talents with our UUCC community. All are welcome, please join us! Questions: please contact Dale McCormick at: dmmcormick11@aol.com .
4 th	Goddess / Earth Circles
Sunday	NEXT Goddess/Earth Circle Summer Gathering
1-2:30 p.m. In-Person	August 27 Fellowship Hall and zoom: 1-2:30pm: Summer Connection, Creating Gatherings for the Church Year With "Pagan and Earth-Centered Voices in Unitarian Universalism", by Shirley Rank The eight Earth Celebrations, Music, Readings, Food Library section of Goddess/Earth-Circle publications
Next Meeting is Aug. 27th	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.
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Notices / Updates / News

Condolences to the family and friends of Martin Spahn

Martin Spahn who was part of the UUCC community and a member of the choir died while kayaking off the coast of Campobello on Aug. 6th. We will share more as information becomes available. Please feel free to reach out for pastoral support. Rev. Donna Dolham can be reached at Minister's study (207) 623-3663, cell (207) 207 701-1581 or minister@augustauu.org.

Condolences to Susan Claska Burnett and her family

Joseph Claska, brother of Susan Claska Burnett, passed away on July 9, 2023. He was 78 years old. Joe was the oldest child, followed by 8 sisters. He lived in Eugene, Oregon. He will be greatly missed.

Pastoral Ministry Team - Coverage - 8/19 - 8/26

Martha Pelletier will be on vacation from August 19th through the 26th. For pastoral concerns during that week, please contact Reverend Donna or Helen Zidowecki.

See [General Information] below for contact information.

Ministerial Search Committee Update

Our Committee for the search for the new Settled Minister includes Angie Blevins, Deb Mattson, Harold Burnett, Kevin Kane, Nan Bell and Stefanie Barley. We met for the first time August 3 and have plans to send out a Church Member Survey for advice from the Congregation about our search process. We will have in person meetings in the fall for this as well. We have a "retreat" planned in September with a leader from the UUA and a long list of suggested tasks to prepare for the search. We will not "see" potential candidates until late January 2024 in video interviews.



CHURCH ACCESS LIMITED

Beginning Sun 8/20 (after service) through Tuesday, 8/22

The Back Hallway, Summer Street Entrance to the church and Bathrooms WILL BE INACCESSIBLE.

The Hallway Rug is being cleaned.

Please do not enter this area as floors will be wet and will need to dry sufficiently before foot traffic resumes.

Last Sunday's service entitled *The Joy of Singing* led by Hal Booth Included a reading of "The Lord's Prayer".

A number of people requested the version of the Lord's prayer read during the service. Below is the Prayer as read in the service, the version many of us probably remember, and another translation of the prayer from the Aramaic.

Prayer read in Hal's service...

This is The Lord's Prayer...translated from Aramaic directly into English (rather than from Aramaic to Greek to Latin to English).

Archaeologists uncovered a scroll in 1892 that contains this version of the prayer, one which has been mistranslated as "Our Father, who art in heaven..." for millennia. Imagine how many other things have been lost in translation through the years.

"O cosmic Birther of all radiance and vibration, soften the ground of our being and carve out a space within us where your Presence can abide.

Fill us with your creativity so that we may be empowered to bear the fruit of your mission. Let each of our actions bear fruit in accordance with your desire.

Endow us with the wisdom to produce and share what each being needs to grow and flourish.

Untie the tangled threads of destiny that bind us, as we release others from the entanglement of past mistakes.

Do not let us be seduced by that which would divert us from our true purpose, but illuminate the opportunities of the present moment.

For you are the ground and the fruitful vision, the birth, power, and fulfillment, as all is gathered and made whole once again. And So It Is!"

And for those who can't remember—or never knew it:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdome come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day, our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses [debts], as we forgive those who trespass against us [our debtors]

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever, amen.

Matthew 6:10-13. There's also a slightly different version at Luke 11:2-4 that does not have the last verse.

Another translation from the Aramaic

Prayers of the Cosmos

Meditations on the Aramaic words of Jesus Translation by Neil Douglas-Klotz, from Aramic o Birther! Father-Mother of the Cosmos! Focus your light within us-make it useful Create your reign of Unity now.

Your one desire then acts with ours, as in all light, so in all forms.

Grant what we need each day in bread and insight Loosen the cords of mistakes that bind us, as we release the strands we hold of

others' guilt.

Don't let surface things delude us but free us from what holds us back.

From you is born all ruling will-

The power and life to do, the song that beautifies all, from age to age it renews

Truly-Power to these statements-

May they be the ground from which all my actions grow. Amen



Introducing our Choir Accompanist and "Choir Sunday" pianist



Morgan Lee has built a dynamic career as a soloist, collaborative pianist, and teacher. She graduated in 2022 with her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in piano performance, where she studied with Angelina Gadeliya. Morgan also holds a Master of Music from Mannes School of Music and a Bachelor of Arts from Brown University. She has participated in numerous music festivals in the US and abroad and has performed recitals in New York City, Italy, France, Spain, and the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C.

Morgan has nearly ten years of private teaching experience and has served as an adjunct faculty member at Eastern Connecticut State University, piano faculty at the Bronx Conservatory of Music, and a teaching fellow at Mannes School of Music.

Morgan currently serves as staff accompanist at the University of Maine Osher School of Music, teaches piano at Stone Coast Music, regularly performs as principal keyboardist with the Portland Symphony Orchestra, and will be accompanying the Maine Music Society Chorale starting this fall.

Social Justice Committee

Thank you!

Wound Care Items were collected for our Unhoused Neighbors July 23 & 30

A huge thank-you to those who contributed wound care items to help our unhoused neighbors with whom we share breakfast each Saturday morning. Last Saturday, we distributed two dozen wound care kits, each containing band-aids, antibiotic ointment, lip balm, pain relievers and more.

We also have enough supplies to replenish the kits in the weeks ahead. Our friends were very grateful and so is the UUCC Social Justice Committee. Thank you for your generosity.

** SAVE THE DATE **

MUUSAN's Network Meeting Saturday, Sept. 16, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm In-person at UU Community Church

<Details will be sent out soon>

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 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 (stefanie-Barley@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

Draft Board Meeting AGENDA Thursday, August 10, 2023 - 5:00 to 7:00 pm (UUCC Zoom)

Chalice Lighting Rev. Donna Dolham
Board Covenant Board Members (Read)

New Business

 Welcome Rev. Dolham Michaela & Board

- 2. Finance Committee's Report: Harry
- 3. Treasurer's Reports Nancy
- 4. President's Report:

a. Board Retreat - August 18 Michaela

- 5. Minister's Report: Rev. Dolham
 - a. Hosting UUA/Church Boards Retreat Oct

Old Business

1. Drew House Rental agreement

ADJOURN

Board highlights for the August 10th board meeting will be in the next E-blast.

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: Thursday, September 14, 2023

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

General Information

Worship Services are 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.

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) <u>Mjpell14@roadrunner.com</u>

Helen Zidowecki 207-582-5308 (h) hzmre@hzmre.com

Peggy Lamb 207 622-5174 (h) <u>plambflowers@outlook.com</u>

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 Linda Findlay (207-337-8028, linda.findlay@gmail.com) or Helen Zidowecki (207-582-5308. hzmre@hzmre.com)

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:

- o E-Blast (8/16) NO E-Blast (8/23 or 8/30)
- o E-Blast (9/6) NO E-Blast (9/13)
- E-Blast (9/20) Church Admin on Vacation
 —A volunteer will prepare an E-blast in my absence. Please be brief and timely with submissions and your patience would be appreciated.
- o NO E-Blast (9/27)

EBLAST SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Articles 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.

UUCC Office Hours NEXT WEEK

Church Administrator - Open office hours:

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

Rev. Donna Dolham

Minister's study – (207) 623-3663 Pastoral Emergencies only – (207) 701-1581

Email: minister@augustauu.org

Open office hours (beginning 8/29)

Tues. mornings between 10 to noon, just drop in for a visit with me & whoever else happens to pop-in.

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>