Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church Wednesday, November 15, 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

Greetings UUCC!

As the cool breeze and frost remind us that winter is coming, it is also a herald for upcoming activities in the life of the congregation. This Friday, UUCC will hold its annual Thanksgiving Dinner at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome. November 19th will be our monthly Fellowship lunch following service. And on Friday, December 1st will be Dinner & the Arts program.

This year, the Pastoral Ministry Team will once again be offering a Quiet Refuge service on Tuesday, December 12th at 6:15pm in person in the sanctuary. As we head into this holiday season, we bring both celebrations and grief. Join us for this service created to hold tenderly, our losses and challenges as we navigate this time. Through readings, music and ritual we will create space together.

UUCC will also hold a Christmas Eve Service on December 24th at 4:30pm. We will sing and celebrate together with a candle lighting ritual. There will be no Sunday morning service on December 24th this year.

Please read the E-blast for more information about what's going on at UUCC and how to get involved. Looking forward to how the winter will unfold! Together We Make a Difference!

Love and light, Rev. Donna, she, her

Upcoming Services

Sunday November 19, 2023 Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m.

"Apple Communion"

Rev. Donna Dolham

This Sunday we will share in an apple communion ritual inviting us to be present and mindful as we move into the winter holidays so often filled with commercialism, driven by capitalism. May we come together, grounding ourselves in community. If you are joining us by zoom, please gather your chalice and a piece of fruit for the service.

A special thank you to our worship arts team. Nan Bell will be our worship associate and Micah Alltid Strava will assist with remembrance candle. Priscilla J. Jenkins will manage technology. Morgan Lee will be our pianist and the Choir will present "Thanksgiving Song" by Mary Chapin Carpenter; Morgan Lee, piano. Our greeter will be Susan Claska Burnett.

Join us after the service for a sit down FELLOWSHIP LUNCH <See details in [Special Events/Opportunities] below.>

SHARE THE PLATE: This month's recipient, chosen by the Social Justice Committee is Poverty Action Coalition. The coalition, which is affiliated with KVCAP is funded through donors known as Community Investors and serves as a resource for people in need of items or assistance that cannot easily be obtained through other means.

Sunday November 26, 2023 Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m.

"Pursuing Liberation"

UUSC Service

Each year the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee shares materials for a Guest at Your Table program on a theme; for 2023-2024 the theme is "Pursuing Liberation." Join us for this service to learn what UUSC partners are doing to address immediate injustices – as well as the collective liberation they envision for the future. Their stories will offer inspiration and guidance on the path toward justice and liberation for all. Worship Associates Kathy Kellison and Lori Milner will guide us through the service, which will include a mix of live and recorded components.

A special thank you to our worship arts team. Kathy Kellison and Lori Milner, our worship associates and Angie Blevins will manage technology. Karen Allen will be our pianist. Fellowship Hour will be hosted by Betty and Terry Cairn. Our greeter will be Terry Cairn.

<u>Sunday worship service</u> is held IN-PERSON in the Sanctuary. Please be aware that 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

Fellowship Lunch – Sunday November 19, 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 (<u>maine2007@hotmail.com</u>) or call (207) 512-5382.

We are all set for November entrees but please contact Marilyn Dunn if you can donate an entrée for December's luncheon.



Social Activities

UU traditional all church **Harvest Dinner** Join us FRIDAY, November 17, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Please bring your favorite dish to share. We will supply the turkey!

Always looking for helpers, please contact Cheryl Clukey – cherylclukey5@yahoo.com.

Please help decorate the fellowship hall for winter season. Remember how beautiful the lights and hanging snowflakes looked pre-covid? Please help make that happen again. It is a lot of fun-work to make a blizzard of paper snowflakes to hang. Please join Marilyn Dunn and channel your inner child to make snowflakes. Instruction provided with materials though you please bring scissors if possible. Goal is to compete the project for Poetry night on December 1st.

Times are:

Sunday - November 19th - After fellowship lunch approximately 12:30 - whatever time you can give

Monday November 20th - 1-3 in Fellowship Hall

Monday November 30th - 1-3 in Fellowship Hall

WE ARE INVITED

At its regular September 14th Board Meeting, the UUCC Board of Trustees discussed a request to serve as the fiscal sponsor for a community group working on housing issues in Augusta. At a special Board meeting held on September 21 by Zoom, the Board voted unanimously to enter into an agreement with United Community Living Center (UCLC) to become a fiscal sponsor for a period not to exceed 12 months from 9/21/2023.

The UCLC plans to create a low barrier shelter and supportive housing program utilizing the Green Street United Methodist church building at 13 Green Street, Augusta. The UCLC has invited the UUCC community to attend an open house to hear more about their vision. Please see the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall for its flier containing additional details.



The Holidays are upon us!

Thanks to all who ordered festive, custom decorated holiday wreaths or swags! Pick up your wreath or swag at the UUCC the evening of December 1st or Sunday December 3rd. Questions: please contact Karen Foust at karmafoust@gmail.com.

Are you a crafter, artisan, baker, or holiday decorating enthusiast? A Holiday Craft Sale Boutique will be held the evening of Friday December 1st and after Music Sunday on December 3rd in the Fellowship Hall. Donations of hand-made crafts, baked goods, gently used holiday items and your talents are needed for the fair. Please contact Karen Foust at karmafoust@gmail.com if you have items, ideas, or want to help decorate or help at the Craft Fair Boutique.

WHAT'CHA COOKIN'?



Our Annual Pie Sale is on Saturday, Nov. 18th at Longfellow's Greenhouse. This is our traditional UU Saturday-before-Thanksgiving Pie Sale. Thank you to everyone who has added their name to the signup sheet in Fellowship Hall to bake or donate pies. Haven't signed up yet, no problem. Please make your pies and bring them to the church between Noon and 3 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 17th, so that volunteers can label and deliver the goodies to the Greenhouse.

Last year, we sold nearly 50 homemade and bakery-bought pies to raise \$1,000 for our church! We can sell both fresh and frozen pies as well as cakes (all sizes). Don't forget gluten-free!

Contact: Catherine Palmer at (207)458.7384.

The Social Activities and Fund Raising committees are collaborating to organize <u>Dinner and the Arts: A Poetry Night / Holiday Craft Fair</u>

Join us on December 1st for a Soiree unlike any other!

Come enjoy an evening of tasty soups, salad and bread, original poetry, singing and holiday shopping.

We will have dinner for a suggested donation of \$7, poetry, music and a chance to purchase items from the Holiday Craft Fair Boutique. Dinner will be available from 5-6 and can be purchased for on site or take home. After dinner we will enjoy poetry and music from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The Holiday Craft Fair will be set up from 5 to 8:00 (or later if there is a need).

We are seeking poets and musicians to support this event. Original poetry and music, also reading or singing of a favorite are welcome. Please contact Ken Farrington at <u>kenrick10@hotmail.com</u> if you are interested in joining the poets and musicians.

If you have a special creative talent that you would like to share for the craft boutique please let us know! There is a signup sheet for people and items on the bulletin board in the Fellowship.

Crafts can be anything from food to artwork, needlepoint and sewn items to items crafted from wood or recycled goods. You may also connect with Ken or Karen during Sunday services.

This will be an event not to be missed but, if you absolutely cannot make it to the Friday event, the Holiday Craft Fair will also be set up on Sunday December 3rd after Music Sunday.

Contact Karen Foust for more information on the Holiday Boutique or Hannaford Gift Cards. Karmafoust@gmail.com or (207) 441-8971

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 <u>General Information</u> **Zoom meeting id: 823 807 0673 – Password: 6971**



Monday Each week 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Private Zoom	Peaceful Heart Sangha BY Private ZOOM –EVERY Monday. You may join us at 6:15 to settle in. 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.		
2 nd & 4 th	Sewing Group		
Monday	Sewing Group meets in the Fellowship Hall the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month from		
9:30 - Noon	9:30 am - 12:00 Noon. <u>UPDATE:</u> The sewing group will now continue this schedule beyond Nov. 27. We will not meet on Christmas Day. We ask that attendees help set up		
	and put away tables and chairs.		
Next Meeting is Nov. 27 th	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.		
	All are welcome. Bring a friend, if you like.		
Wednes-	UUCC Choir Rehearsal		
<u>day</u> 6:00 -	Choir rehearsals are held every Wednesday from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.		
7:30 p.m.	Questions? Please reach out to Bridget Convey at: musicdirector@augustauu.org .		
	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:

 $\underline{https://maine.zoom.us/j/95825651125?pwd=UWJpOVFjVFJGb3dMWmZoOTRXa3VoUT09}$

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

<u>10:30 a.m. -</u> Noon

2nd Wed. – C-FH 4th Wed. - Zoom

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 2nd Wednesday monthly we will meet in the Fellowship Hall and on the 4th Wednesday, we will meet in the UUCC Zoom room.

FMI: please contact John Seksay (<u>netmote1@gmail.com</u> or 317-69-3636) or Stefanie (<u>mstefbarley@gmail.com</u> or 629-8890)

Thursdays

Each Week

Peaceful Heart Sangha

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



-- 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



YOGA

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

PLEASE NOTE: We will not meet on Thanksgiving. Our next session will be December 14th. Elise will facilitate. (Topic TBD) Our session will start earlier at 8:30 and wrap up between 9:30-9:45.

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

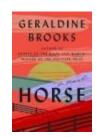
1st Thursday

Read Learn Share Book Group

Noon-1:30 p.m.

Next Meeting is Dec 7th READ LEARN SHARE is a group for booklovers. Once a month between October and June we meet to discuss a book chosen by the group in our summer ballot. Our multiplatform meetings occur on the first Thursday of the month from noon until 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall and in the church zoom room. Anyone is welcome to join for one discussion or all nine.

On December 7 we will talk about <u>Horse</u> by Geraldine Brooks. A discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in an attic, and the greatest racehorse in American history: from these strands, a Pulitzer Prize winner braids a sweeping story of spirit, obsession, and injustice across American history. Goodreads



On JANUARY 4 we will explore <u>Rooted: Life at the Crossroads of Science, Nature and Spirit</u> by Lyanda Haupt.

For more information or to receive email related to the group, contact June Zellers: jzellers@roadrunner.com jzellers@roadrunner.com or Kathy Kellison: kell6787@gmail.com

4th Friday

Free Style Drum Circle

6:30 - 8:30 Sanctuary

Next Meeting is Nov. 24th 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! <u>ALL are welcome</u>. 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.

1st and 3rd Saturday

UUCC Occasional Orchestra

9:30-11 am

The UUCC Occasional Orchestra rehearsals are usually held the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month. We practice in the Sanctuary from 9:30-11:00 a.m.

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.

4th Sunday

Regular time is 1-2:30 p.m. In-Person

Next Meeting is Nov. 26th

Goddess / Earth Circles

November 26th - 1:00 – 2:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall and Zoom

Wisdom and Balance: Wisdom -- a way of knowing: Balance -- a way of being.

How do balance and wisdom change through the phases of our lives?

How do we find our own balance through spiritual practice?

Our statements of balance and wisdom will be compiled into this year's the Wisdom Book.

Goddess/Earth Circles focuses on Goddess and women's lives, pagan and earth-based spirituality and practices, earth celebrations and cycles, the role of women today. Includes Women of Wisdom celebration. All ages and genders are welcome.

For more information, contact Helen Z at hzmre.com or 207-582-5308.

Notices / Updates / News

Our condolences to Michaela Loisel and her family

On Friday, Michaela Loisel's family experienced a great loss. Michaela's nephew, Simon, son of Laurie Loisel and Lydia Rackenberg, died of an accidental overdose. Laurie and Lydia live in North Hampton MA where Michaela and Angie have been staying.

Michaela serves our congregation as President of the Board of Trustees. This note is sent with Michaela's permission sharing this sad news and sharing Michaela and Angie's and Laurie and Lydia's addresses if you would like to reach out with a card.

Laurie Loisel & Lydia Rackenberg 46 Grant Avenue North Hampton, MA 01060 Michael Loisel & Angie Blevins 4 The Ledges Hallowell, ME 04347

Please don't hesitate to reach out to Rev. Donna or to a member of our pastoral care ministry committee for support or resources. They are here to support you.

Our thoughts to...

Lorna Doone, a longtime member of UUCC and the Peaceful Heart Sangha, fell last week. Her evaluation in the ER didn't show any significant injury. She is doing pretty well, though it is more difficult for her to get around and her dementia is somewhat worse. She is less likely to answer phone calls. Her family has been providing significant support and assistance.

Sending a card or stopping by for a visit would be a wonderful gift. 22 Gray Birch Dr, Apt 206, Augusta

Staff Time-Off

Our Church Administrator will be on vacation next week, November 21-24th. The office will be closed in her absence. She will return to the office on Tues. Nov. 28.

Minister's Scheduled Time Off:

Rev. Donna will be on Study Leave the last week of November and will be taking a vacation week the first week in December. Rev. Donna will return to her regularly scheduled ministry on December 12.

If you have a pastoral need in her absence, please contact a member of the pastoral ministry team. If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Rev. Donna at (207) 701-1581.

If you have a church related question or emergency please contact UUCC president, Michaela Loisel <u>michaelatloisel@gmail.com</u>.

Our outstanding Fall Cleanup Crew on Saturday, Nov. 11



UUCC and others show up at Love is Louder Rally on Sunday, Nov. 12 at Mill Park



Board of Trustees

** DRAFT ** AGENDA
Thursday, November 9, 2023
(contact clerk Cheryl Ring 11/8 or 11/9 for agenda changes>
5:00 to 7:00 pm -- in-person

Board Covenant Board Members (Read)

Chalice Lighting Rev. Donna

Check-in - How do you find centering/calm/joy especially now? Michaela

New Business

- 1. Approve Sept 14 and Oct 12 minutes
- 2. Affirm the Board's emergency zoom meeting on 10/27/23 regarding its motion to hold Sunday services online in the event the shooter is still at-large and subsequent email vote VOTE (2)
- 3. Finance Committee's Report: Harry
- 4. Treasurer's Reports Nancy
- 5. President's Report Michaela
- 6. Minister's Report Rev. Dolham
- 7. Final Bylaws Review and approval finalize the 5 revisions from the Sept meeting Cheryl

- a. Set dates for Congregational Presentation of By-Laws (No Vote)
- b. Congregational Vote on By-Laws

8. Clarification of training regarding de-escalation/solicitation for financial support? Nancy/ Jim

9. Update on Rev. Paul's rescheduled service/congregational discussion

Donna

10. Update on Rev. Paul Langston-Daley project proposal

Susan

11. Shared Drive - how are we doing with it?

Cheryl, et.al.

- a. would we like a zoom on this?
- b. has anybody tried to upload or edit any docs on the Shared Drive? How'd it go?

Old Business - Goals Review create a separate document on the GDrive for anyone to add to these goals,

- 1. Increase our presence in the community through outreach and visibility; Susan, Lead; Cheryl assists
- 2. Develop a vision of how our physical plant should look and be, then develop and implement a work plan to address these needs; **Hal, Harry, Susan**
- 3. Develop opportunities for more engagement in the life of the congregation. Identify many ways for people to support and participate with the UUCC. a concerted effort from all
- 4. Develop and implement a safety and security plan; Jim Caldwell, as leader of the Safety Committee
- 5. Complete the bylaws revision and present to congregation for vote; **Cheryl**

ADJOURN:

Board meetings are open to ALL. If you have an item that you would like the Board to consider, please contact Michaelatloisel@gmail.com

Next Board meeting: Thursday, December 14, 2023

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)	Mjpell14@roadrunner.com
Helen Zidowecki	207-582-5308 (h)	hzmre@hzmre.com
Peggy Lamb	207 622-5174 (h)	plambflowers@outlook.com
Lori Milner	520-437-3442 (c)	lmilner3@gmail.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 Linda Findlay (207-377-8028, linda.findlay@gmail.com) or Helen Zidowecki (207-582-5308. hzmre@hzmre.com)

The UUCC Website

ACCESSING THE UUCC WEBSITE

The Website has two primary functions:
--Inviting people who are searching for information about Unitarian Universalism and/or a connection to come and see what we have to offer.

- ---Providing a communication network and prominent resource for people who are already involved with UUCC.
- -Go to www.augustauu.org
- -Sections are in bold capital letters at the top. Click on a section.
- -Left side of page has a menu. Click on an *item*. If there is > next to the title on the left, click for more options.

Send comments, updates and suggestions to website@augustauu.org.

UPDATES

Calendar and Communications contains E-Blasts and The Flaming Chalice Newsletters that are uploaded as they are published. The Church Calendar gives the latest items that have been given to the Church Administrator.

Social Justice section, see menu on left for the new location for **Eighth UU Principle**.

Minister/Staff/Church Life: Small Group Ministry—click on Meetings for the scripted copy of the **SGM service on October 22** & presentations from the groups.

Minister/Staff/Church Life: UUA Connections>Special Initiatives/General Assembly: link to the revised wording of the UUA Bylaws Article II for final vote at GA in June 2024.

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 (11/15)
- o NO E-Blast (11/22 or 11/29)
- o E-blast (12/6)
- o NO E-Blast (12/13)

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.

Our Church Administrator will be on vacation next week, November 21-24th. The office will be closed in her absence. She will return on Tues. Nov. 28th.

Rev. Donna Dolham

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

Email: minister@augustauu.org

Visit <u>Calendly Scheduling Link</u> to schedule an appointment with Rev. Dolham.

See [Notices] section about upcoming time off scheduled for Rev. Donna>

<u>Staff Contact information:</u> Church Administrator, Lynn M. Smith, <u>admin@augustauu.org</u>, Phone 622-3232 <u>Music Director</u>, Bridget Convey, <u>musicdirector@augustauu.org</u>