

Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church

Wednesday, April 20, 2022

In this Issue:

- [Upcoming Services](#)
- [Upcoming Special Events](#)
- [Ongoing Connections](#)
- [Notices / Updates / News](#)
- [COVID-19 Updates / News](#)
- [General / Contact Info](#)



69 Winthrop St., Augusta ME
(207)622-3232 – info@augustauu.org
www.augustauu.org

A Message from the Minister

An excerpt from Sunday's reading by Rev Dr. Kendyl R. Gibbons, "the dead don't rise – but we do. One day, it happens; you take a breath, and it doesn't hurt to breathe. You start to see people again, really see them. Hope rises. Community rises. You rise. We rise. Life rises." Happy spring and Happy Easter to All!

The in-person service at church was lovely, thanks to the UUCC Occasional Orchestra and the choir! I do want to apologize for the technical trouble on Easter. I know it's a meaningful holiday, and the technology didn't broadcast the sound. Instead, folks reported hearing a horrible buzzing noise. While we knew technological struggles would happen, I'm sorry it happened on Easter! Marty Peters and I will work this week to fix the problem. If you missed the service on Easter and would like a copy of my sermon, please email me. I'm happy to share.

As we've embarked on multi-platform worship, we have found some gaps. On Sunday, during announcements, I passed around sign-up sheets for coffee hour hosts and greeters. We still have open slots! I will have the sign-up sheets at service again this Sunday. I still need someone to set up the coffee hour this week; send me an email if you are willing to do it!

One last announcement, this Sunday, we will discontinue the practice of collecting RSVPs for the service for now. However, if the CDC community level goes to yellow, we will likely reinstate the RSVP system. We will keep you updated if things change.

As always, you are invited to reach out to me for any reason. I am available for a conversation by appointment. As an interim, I am especially interested in getting to know individual members and hearing your thoughts. Additionally, I am available for pastoral care conversations on various topics. I continue to offer weekly "Coffee with Chloe" sessions on Tuesdays from 10-11 am on the church zoom.

Love rises!
Chloe Briede, Interim Minister

chloeucc@gmail.com
207-623-3663

Upcoming Services

Worship Theme for April - Awakening

Join us as we explore the challenges and adventures of Awakening.

<p>THIS Sunday April 24, 2022</p> <p>10:00 a.m. IN PERSON</p> <p>Ingathering music to begin at 9:50 a.m.</p> <p><u>An RSVP to attend in-person services is NO LONGER required.</u></p>	<p>"The Promises We Make " Chloë Briedé, UCC Interim Minister</p> <p>When we gather together, as humans in relationship, we make promises to each other. These are formal or informal acknowledgments of how we will come together. Chloe will spend time talking about the religious origin of the concept of covenant and how this may help the UCC move into healing.</p> <p>Special thanks to our worship associate Marilyn Gordon and our pianist Hannah Faulkner.</p>
<p>NEXT Sunday May 1, 2022</p> <p>10:00 a.m. IN-PERSON</p> <p>Ingathering music to begin at 9:50 a.m.</p> <p><u>An RSVP to attend in person services is NO LONGER required.</u></p>	<p>"Cultivating Peace: ethical guidelines of the 5 Mindfulness Trainings" Peaceful Heart Sangha</p> <p>Six members of the Peaceful Heart Sangha mindfulness meditation group will share music, readings, and personal experiences in working with these trainings, as a path toward having greater Peace and Happiness in one's life.</p> <p>The Peaceful Heart Sangha members that will be part of this service are: Johnnie Beane, Lynn Deeves, Greg Fahy, Piper MacLeod, Marty Soule and Bob Woods.</p> <p>Special thanks to our worship associate Sara Hodgkins and our pianist Karen Allen.</p>

<see [Covid-19 Updates/News] below for all the details of In-Person Sunday Worship>

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/mtifpthOutvesjqgjej>

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: We had technical difficulties with sound at the 4/17 Easter service so that video is not useable.

Press [Ctrl-Home] to return to Pg. 1

Special Events / Opportunities

Events are still being held in the UCC Zoom Room (unless noted).

[Click here to join Events in the Zoom Room:](#)

For other ways to join Zoom, see [General Information](#)



Restorative Justice Events, May 19th and May 21st

I am the person who has been putting mysterious articles in the E-blast about restorative justice and save the date. I now have more to say.

Our community was roiling with conflict when Covid shut us down. We did not address what was happening as well as we might have. Two years later we have a range of reactions to that conflict. We have added another layer.

When the subject of the conflict comes up, someone is sure to approach leadership to ask why it keeps coming up. It's over, done with and time to move on. There are others who respond by saying that we have never sufficiently addressed what happened and that our leadership has fallen short in this regard. This range of responses is a new layer of difficulty.

Something must be done. The Board has engaged the service of Paul Langston-Daley to help us sort this out. Paul has been an ordained UU minister for 25 years and is very familiar with UU congregations, principles and values. He has worked doing restorative justice work for some time in addition to his work with his congregation.

He will be working with a small group of us to design a tailored event to help us come to a new understanding of our community and how we want to be together. We will address the conflict as we need to. It is important to know that the purpose of this experience is for us to come away as a more connected and caring community, the community we will need to be to be ready to engage our next settled minister.

We have planned a zoom session for those with that preference. It will be on Thursday May 19 from 6-9pm in the church zoom room. For those who prefer to meet in person, we will be at the church on Saturday May 21 from 10AM to 2 PM. The time difference for the two sessions is to allow time for lunch on Saturday.

All of this information will be in the eblast over the next several weeks. Please consider attending. Your community will be better for your presence and participation.

If you are planning to attend one of the sessions, please let Lynn in the church office know: admin@augustauu.org. Thanks so much.

Kathy Kellison

Dale's Annual UUC Tomatoes Babies and Vegetable Sale

It's time to think about gardening and here to help you is the link to the 2022 catalog.
Click here to browse the catalog: [Tomato Babies and Veggies Catalog](#)

I thought I'd give you the list early to help you plan your garden or what you want to put in pots on your porch. I also have planted more of what you liked last year so I wouldn't run out. I have started 20-40 kale and basil plants because those were the most popular plants last year. I added up all the 2021 orders for tomatoes and planted a few more of your favorites: Ultra Girl, German Pink, Oregon Spring, Sungold and Sweet 100, Moonglow, Wapsipinicon Peach.

I have started more yellow tomatoes this year because they are low in acid and taste great. **New** this year are: Yellow Brnadywine, Mandarin Cross, Pork Chop tomato, Sungold cherry tomatoes, Dwarf Blue Kale, Italian smooth leaf kale, Albino beet with succulent greens, Parsley, cukes and chard.

My plants have been transplanted once into deep containers. Re-potting tomatoes up to the lowest set of leaves increases their root systems. The fuzzy part of the lower stem produces new roots and that is why my tomatoes are healthy and produce well. When you plant them in the ground or a pot and again bury then up to the lower leaves, you are increasing the root system still more. That's why my tomatoes are worth \$5 and the veggies are worth \$4. And don't forget all the money goes to the church.

You can fill out your orders now or wait till later. Pick up time will be during the second half of May.

Happy Spring!

Dale

A REQUEST FROM MUUSAN (Maine UU State Advocacy Network)

We'd love for ALL UUs in the state to be on the MUUSAN email alert list!

[Sign up here](#) to receive MUUSAN alerts.

We will **never** share your email address with anyone else!

You'll receive on average 2 emails a month that will keep you in the loop about the important statewide advocacy and public policy actions that Maine UUs can take.

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/>

<p><u>Monday</u> Each week</p> <p><u>6:30 – 8:00</u> <u>p.m.</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Peaceful Heart Sangha</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">You may join us at 6:15 to settle in.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please contact Marty Soule for updated login information at email martysoule@gmail.com. FMI: peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com</p> <div style="text-align: right;"></div>
<p><u>Wednesdays</u> Each Week</p> <p><u>5:00 – 6:00</u> <u>p.m.</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Gentle YOGA</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hosted by Debbie Mattson</p> <p>Please join us a few minutes before 5:00 to settle in so we can begin our class right at 5:00 p.m. Click the link below to join. https://maine.zoom.us/j/95825651125?pwd=UWJpOVFjVFJGb3dMWmZoOTRXa3VoUT09 Password 174192 - FMI: DebbieMattson@hotmail.com</p> <div style="text-align: right;"></div>
<p><u>2nd & 4th</u> <u>Wednesday</u></p> <p><u>10:30 a.m. -</u> <u>Noon</u></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. We will meet in the UUCC Zoom Room.</p> <p>FMI: please contact Diane (dmoongrove@gmail.com or 446-6162) or Stefanie (stefbarley@gmail.com or 629-8890)</p>
<p><u>Thursdays</u> Each Week</p> <p><u>8:00 – 9:30</u> <u>a.m.</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Peaceful Heart Sangha</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">You may join us at 7:45 a.m. to settle in. Meet from 8-9:30</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please contact Marty Soule for updated login information at martysoule@gmail.com. FMI: peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com</p> <div style="text-align: right;"></div>
<p><u>2nd & 4th</u> <u>Thursday</u> <u>By Zoom</u></p> <p><u>9:00 – 10:30</u> <u>a.m.</u></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. We meet in the UUCC Zoom Room.</p>

- More Connections by Day of the Week -

<p align="center"><u>1st</u> <u>Thursday</u></p> <p><u>Noon-1:30</u> <u>p.m.</u></p> <p><u>Next Meeting</u> <u>is: May 5</u></p>	<p align="center"><u>Read, Learn, Share</u></p> <p>Our next meeting will be May 5, 2022. We will meet in the UUCC zoom room from Noon – 1:30 p.m. to discuss <u>You'll Never Believe What Happened to Lacey: Crazy Stories about Racism</u> by Amber Ruffin, Lacey Lamar, 2021, 240pages. (Non-fiction)</p> <p>Anyone interested in this book is welcome to join us whether or not you have attended before. FMI about this or any meeting of the group, contact June Zellers at jzellers@roadrunner.com or Kathy Kellison at kell6787@gmail.com We would love to have you join us.</p>
<p><u>4th Sunday</u></p> <p><u>1-2:30 p.m.</u> <u>By Zoom</u></p> <p>Next Meeting is April 24</p>	<p align="center"><u>Goddess / Earth Circles</u></p> <p align="center">Goddess / Earth Circles April 24, 1-2:30pm zoom</p> <p align="center">We are continuing exploration of Wicca: April 24 – Ancestry</p> <p align="center">How does Wicca encourage us to engage with our own ancestry and enhance our understanding of traditions and practices?</p> <p align="center">How has or does your ancestry affect your spiritual practice ?</p> <p>Goddess/Earth Circles focuses on Goddess, women’s lives and earth-based spirituality. All ages and genders welcome. More information on UUCC website. Leader for the series is Mary Shifman (213-9760, shifmanmary@gmail.com).</p>

Notices / Updates / News

Board of Trustees

Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Augusta

Board Meeting

A G E N D A

April 14th, 2022

5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

<https://zoom.us/j/8238070673>, then enter passcode: 6971

Join by phone: dial 1 646 558 8656, at first prompt (meeting id: 823 807 0673#)

Chalice Lighting

Words to Inspire: Kathy

Check in

Press [Ctrl-Home] to return to Pg. 1

REPORTS

1. Clerk’s Report: Karen / **VOTE**

2. Treasurer's Report: Martha
 - a. Stewardship Update
3. Finance Committee's Report: Harry
4. COVID-19 Task Force's Report: Terry and Harry
5. President's Report: Kathy
 - a. Restorative Justice Sessions
 - b. Interim Search Update
 - c. Hybrid Board Meetings?
6. Minister's Report: Chloë

- Debriefing of Hybrid Services
 - a. What was your experience: all
 - b. Technology: Chloe
 - c. COVID Requirements: Harry and Terry
- Life Span Formation Coordinator Update: Chloe
- Church Life Cycle: Chloe
 - a. State of the Church
 - i. How are we doing in relationship
 - ii. How are congregants feeling

ADJOURN

NEW BUSINESS

Board meetings are open to ALL. If you have an item that you would like the Board to consider, please contact Kathy Ann Shaw at kathyannshaw@roadrunner.com.

Next Board meeting: May 12th, 2022

Minutes of the 3/10 & 3/24 Board meetings are available.
Please contact the Church Administrator at admin@augustauu.org

**** Next week we plan to have the minutes available on the website.****

COVID-19 Updates / News

Update from COVID-19 Advisory Group

On Thursday, March 10th, the UUCU Board of Trustees adopted a new plan to reopen the church to in person gatherings. We have adapted the recently released United States CDC Community Level assessment guide as our metric for phased reopening. This assessment guide rates each county on three separate metrics and assigns a color code of green, yellow or red based on the level of COVID risk in that county.

We will be using those color codes to determine what level of physical distancing is necessary to minimize the risk of COVID exposure to our attendees during in person church gatherings. Green = 3 foot distancing, yellow = 6 foot distancing and red = no in person gatherings. Kennebec County is currently yellow.

UPDATE for 4/20/22: Kennebec county is presently Green

Below are some details of our Multi-Platform Services

Multi-Platform service began SUNDAY, APRIL 3rd

There will be one service on **Sunday at 10:00 am**, with ingathering music beginning at 9:50 am. Join us in the Sanctuary OR to **watch the service online, please** use this link <https://boxcast.tv/channel/mtifpthOutvesjggjyej>. We will use the same link every week, so please bookmark it.

This link is a live video feed or live stream of the service, like watching TV. We will not have service in the UUCS Zoom room. However, we will continue to use the UUCS Zoom room for meetings and smaller interactive gatherings. We are no longer offering the live stream on our Facebook page. Please see Chloe's message on Page 1 for more details on this decision.

To attend in person:

If you want to attend the service in person, we request that you RSVP. By RSVPing, you will help us plan out seating in the church. You can RSVP for Sunday morning worship here <https://rsvp.church/r/UimVwfiQ>.

Information for attending:

- Masks are required. Please wear a surgical, N-95, or KN-95 mask. Surgical masks will be available as you enter the church. If you choose to wear a cloth mask, we will kindly ask you to place a surgical mask over it.
- Keep 3 feet of physical distance, except for family units.
- All doors and windows will be open. Please bring a coat!
- There will be no singing inside at this time.
- Coffee hour will be outside on the front sidewalk, with coffee, tea, and water available after the service.

We are reopening for small group meetings as of April 18th. We have a great camera called an OWL, which should allow groups to meet both on zoom and in person. We are working on setting up and testing that technology. If your group is interested in meeting at the church, please let Lynn know, and we will get back to you with more details.

Dr. Don on Covid-19

Dr. Don On COVID-19 A Dubious New Leader of COVID Politics

COVID controversies come as no surprise. When Edward Jenner pioneered the vaccination against smallpox in the 1790's, with the same vaccine still in use today, he was subjected to any number of indignities. (Look up the famous James Gillray cartoon "The Cow Pock" as an example.) But today's divisive COVID challenges have taken public health issues out of the hands of experts to the point where anyone, qualified or not, can widely obscure, defame or even vilify medical leaders and the creation and implementation of health measures.

As an increasingly popular and distressingly predictable sign of our conflict-filled times, the website Reddit has created the "Herman Cain Award" for those "who have made public declaration of their anti-mask, anti-vax, or

Covid-hoax views,” only to die from COVID-19 or COVID-related complications. Herman Cain was a former presidential candidate and COVID denier who died from COVID-19 complications in 2020 after attending a Trump campaign rally in Oklahoma. And now a new name has emerged in this unfortunate conflict.

On Monday as reported in the Daily Beast news website "Judge Kathryn Kimball Mizelle in Florida threw out the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s mask mandate for air travel and other forms of mass transportation. Deaths from COVID-19, and the mask mandates intended to prevent them, may be on the wane nationwide, but whatever you think about such policies, this is the latest and most egregious example of a judge acting as a partisan warrior in the COVID-19 culture wars. Mizelle was appointed to the federal bench by President Trump in 2020. She was 33, and had been practicing law for only 8 years. She had never tried a case as a lead attorney. The Senate confirmed her even though the American Bar Association gave her a rating of “not qualified.”

The Daily Beast continued, "This nominee should have been rejected by the Senate not because of her judicial philosophy and not because of her age, but because she simply didn’t have the credentials and experience to be a federal judge with lifetime tenure. Now she is substituting her opinion for that of scientific professionals at the CDC, and dictating health policy in America. The outcome could be disastrous, only serving to further embolden the right-wing activists who dispute the reality of this horrifically lethal pandemic."

What are we to think? I recognize the nature of scientific research is slow and plodding, even when self-correcting its mistakes. This makes science poorly compatible with instantaneous news reporting and as a result often taken advantage of for sensational headlines and loud criticism. We seem, once again, to need to take care of ourselves. I suggest not seeking a judge or politician for medical advice or surgical skill. When all else fails, consider the eight word reaction Delta Airlines had for its employees after the judge's ruling: "remember to show understanding and patience with others." Good words, tough assignment. Take Care.

Comments, questions or suggestions can be sent to donnaber1364@gmail.com

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.

Ad-hoc Covid-19 Advisory Group

This group has generously volunteered to be available to support members with personal safety, health or travel questions, concerns, or anxieties. Feel free to reach out to one of them directly.

Betty Cairn, RN	StonehengeMaine@yahoo.com	207-215-6394
Terry Lee Cairn, ND, MSOM, Lac.	tlcnaturalhealth@yahoo.com	207-557-2557
Harry Grimmnitz, MD	hgrimmnitz@gmail.com	207-685-9270
Don Naber, Ed.D	donnaber1364@gmail.com	207-887-1104
Cathie Nielsen, MD	cathieenielsen@gmail.com	207-441-0248
Marty Soule, PA-C	martysoule@gmail.com	207-685-9270

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.

Martha Pelletier, Chair	207-685-9592 (H)	Mjpell14@roadrunner.com
Helen Zidowecki	207-582-5308 (h)	hzmre@hzmre.com
Tracy McNaughton	207-623-3110 (h)	tracy.mcnaughton@yahoo.com
Peggy Lamb	207 622-5174 (h)	plambflowers@outlook.com

Caring Cooperative support includes rides, meals, errands, get well and condolence cards as well as companion visits.

If you would like to request or suggest meal support: contact Martha Pelletier 685-9592.

If you would like to request or suggest cards: contact Angie Blevins, 592-5655 or 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 Michael Conley at 207-248-7948 or at es-therpearl67@gmail.com.

UCC Office Hours – NEXT WEEK

UCC Office Hours

Tues, Wed, Thurs and Friday

8:00 am to 1:00 pm. <plus 7 flex hrs >

Church Administrator: Lynn M. Smith,
admin@augustauu.org or 622-3232

Interim Minister, Chloë Briedé

Email: chloeuucc@gmail.com

Office: (207) 623-3663

For pastoral emergencies please call her cell phone (757) 234-1303. She will return your call as soon as possible.

Minister Briede's office hours:

Monday No office hours - Sabbath

Tuesday Noon – 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday Noon – 4:00 p.m.

Thursday Noon – 4:00 p.m.

Friday No office hours – Writing day

<Other hours available by appointment>

Staff Contact information:

Church Administrator, Lynn M. Smith, admin@augustauu.org, Phone 622-3232

Coordinator of Lifespan Faith Formation, Monique McAuliffe, LifespanFF@augustauu.org

Music Director, Bridget Convey, musicdirector@augustauu.org