

Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

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A Message from the Minister

How are you doing, beloveds? I worked for a couple of years at a UU summer camp, and we had the practice of checking in called: Rose, Bud, Thorn. The roses were the great or beautiful things about our day, the thorns were the hard things, and the buds were the things we were looking forward to tomorrow. This week I'm attending an interim conference virtually. The conference is everything to me, a rose, a thorn, and a bud. It is inspiring and heartwarming. It is also tiring and even depressing at times as we talk about the struggles faced by our congregations. It does remind me how much I love this work, though.

This past week we talked about covenants in the service, which are the agreements we make as a community. I shared a common UU covenant by the Rev. James Vila Blake. I want to share it again because I think it bears repeating.

*Love is the spirit of this church,
and service is its law.
This is our great covenant:
To dwell together in peace,
To seek the truth in love,
And to help one another.*

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 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.

Be well beloveds, be well,
Chloe Briede, Interim Minister

chloeucc@gmail.com
207-623-3663

Upcoming Services

Worship Theme for May – Nurturing Beauty

Join us as we explore the challenges and adventures of Nurturing Beauty.

<p>THIS Sunday May 1, 2022</p> <p>10:00 a.m. IN-PERSON 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>
<p>NEXT Sunday May 8, 2022</p> <p>10:00 a.m. IN PERSON 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 Future of Religious Exploration " Chloë Briedé, UCC Interim Minister with</p> <p>It's Bridging Sunday! Come celebrate our bridging high school students with our Lifespan Faith Formation Coordinator, Monique Bergere. The service will talk about the future of religious education in our denomination and in our congregation. This idea has been brought up repeatedly in the transition team's listening circles. Chloe will talk about the current state of RE and possible visions for the future.</p> <p>Special thanks to our worship associate John Seksay and our pianist Karen Foust and the UCC Choir.</p> <p>This will be an "ALL GENERATIONS SERVICE" so there will be no nursery care during this service.</p>

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/mtifpthOutvesiqgjyej>

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](#)



Spiritual Leadership and Political Advocacy for a Climate Changed World. MUUSAN May 14th Zoom Network Meeting 10:00 A.M. -12:30 P.M.

We'll hear an inspiring presentation about *Spiritual Leadership for a Climate Changed World* - by Rev. Allen Ewing-Merrill of the BTS Center of Portland.

We'll have the chance to learn a lot more information about the Consumer-Owned Utility from **State Representative Seth Berry**, Co-Chair of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee for the Maine Legislature. As well as updates about **the Our Power petition & the campaign to get it on the November 2023 ballot.**

We'll get to hear **Emily Rochford**, youth activist with **Maine Youth for Climate Justice** and also have the chance to discuss (in one of the Break out sessions) ways that MUUSAN can partner with some of these youth organizations.

Here's the [link to register](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84411111111) (it's free) for the meeting (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84411111111>)

Or click [here](#) to see a full description of the event.

****An invitation to join with UU's around Maine in this important issue****

BLANKETS FOR UKRAINE

This announcement came from the Waterville UU church. If you make blankets, please get them to Kathy Kellison (kell6787@gmail.com) who will see that they get to Cape Neddick

We are all aware of the world news and feel deeply helpless for the Ukrainian people and those in neighboring countries trying to assist in this long crisis.

THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR SINGLE LAYER, WASHED FLANNEL BLANKETS FOR BABIES AND TODDLERS.

We like them approximately 42" long (which is 1 ¼ yards.) Please finish the edges with serging, zigzag or fold and stitch. We are NOT accepting fleece blankets at this time due to the added weight.

When we have sufficient blankets to fill boxes they will be shipped off to Baranova 27 in New Jersey. Once there, our blankets will be loaded in container ships or air freighted to Odessa, Ukraine and Warsaw, Poland.

Please feel free to drop off blankets in the DAG box at 189 Clay Hill Road, Cape Neddick, ME 03902

:



Save the Date - **Fri. May 13**

A remembrance of church member Mark Goldberg will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Friday May 13th from 2-3:00 p.m. More details to come.

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 UCC Tomato 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

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>Please contact Marty Soule for updated login information at email martysoule@gmail.com. FMI: peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com</p>	
<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>	
<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>Please contact Marty Soule for updated login information at martysoule@gmail.com. FMI: peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com</p>	
<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">1st Thursday</p> <p align="center">Noon-1:30 p.m.</p> <p align="center">Next Meeting is: May 5</p>	<p align="center"><u>Read, Learn, Share</u></p> <p>Our next meeting will be May 5, 2022. We will meet in the UCC 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 align="center">4th Sunday</p> <p align="center">1-2:30 p.m. By Zoom</p> <p align="center">Next Meeting is May 22</p>	<p align="center"><u>Goddess / Earth Circles</u></p> <p align="center">Goddess/Earth Circles, May 22, 1-2:30pm in zoom room We are continuing exploration of Wicca: Magic, Ethics and Morality Resource: A Beginners Guide to the Wiccan Religion: https://wicaliving.com/what-is-wicca</p> <p>Goddess/Earth Circles focuses on Goddess, women’s lives and earth-based spirituality. All ages and genders welcome. More information on UCC website. Leader for the series is Mary Shifman (213-9760, shifmanmary@gmail.com).</p>

Notices / Updates / News

Financial information from UCC Treasurer for March 2022

At the recent What’s on Your Mind? session, a request was made that information about the finances at UCC be put into the e-blast. SO....Here it is!

As the treasurer, I present a draft of the monthly report to the finance committee on the first Thursday of the month meeting. Edits, corrections, questions are shared, and a final report is done for the Board meeting on the third Thursday of the month. Each report is for the previous month’s income and expenses. This changes as new expenses are paid and new income is deposited into the bank accounts.

The figures below are from the March Board meeting report. They represent all activity through March 31, 2022. This is 75% of the fiscal year. There are 4 months to go to the end of the fiscal year (June 30).

Pledges paid to date: \$131,311 which is 90% of the goal of \$145,500.

Annual appeal: Donations of \$6180 without the match added yet.

Offering received during services: \$65.00

Total income from all sources: \$199,018 which is 82% of budget goal of \$241,880

Total expenses to March 2022: \$156,473 leaving a positive balance of \$42,545.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Martha Naber, Treasurer, at marthanaber73@gmail.com.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

- 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

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

**** We are still working on getting the minutes available on the website.
Please stay tuned...****

Dr. Don on Covid-19

Dr. Don On COVID 19 Update On Maine's COVID Status

The Maine CDC is reporting 132 patients with the virus, up from 103 on Friday. This surge comes as a more transmissible offshoot of the so-called stealth omicron variant is gaining a foothold in Maine, making up 12 percent of cases in April, according to the state's latest COVID-19 variants report. Unvaccinated people represent roughly 67 percent of the COVID-19 patients treated in Maine hospitals through April 15, according to the Maine CDC website.

The emergence of the BA.2.12.1 strain, an offshoot of the so-called BA.2 "stealth variant," in Maine accounted for 12.4 percent of COVID-19 cases in Maine that have undergone genomic sequencing through Jackson Laboratory, according to the latest report published by the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention on Monday. That is up from 1 percent in March.

COVID transmission in Aroostook County is now considered to be high, and Franklin County is now medium, as the new subvariant continues to spread. "We are seeing lots of people with COVID," Dr. Dora Ann Mills from MaineHealth said. "This particular subvariant is actually much more contagious than the omicron variant we saw in January, which is more contagious than prior variants." Mills says the new subvariant is less severe and that it's "unlikely" that Maine will see a return to winter hospitalization levels despite the recent increases.

Dr. Laura Blaisdell, a South Portland pediatrician and infectious disease expert, said she is "relatively reassured" that the health care system will not be overwhelmed this spring despite the recent increase in hospitalizations. "We should not be shocked that we are seeing an increase in cases and hospitalizations," Blaisdell said, pointing to relaxed public health measures such as the suspension of mask mandates. But Blaisdell agreed with Mills that vaccination levels and prior infection should help keep any surges to a "hill, not a mountain. Cases are going up, but they are not going up with that same velocity that we saw with delta and omicron," Blaisdell said.

Meanwhile, COVID-19 wastewater testing from the past week is showing mixed results, but many sewer districts in Maine are reporting decreases in virus prevalence. Bangor, which had experienced a recent surge in virus levels in its wastewater, dropped to about 220,000 copies of the virus per liter of wastewater, a decline of about 80 percent compared with recent weeks.

Lewiston-Auburn also saw steep declines in virus prevalence in its wastewater. The Portland Water District's wastewater plants in Westbrook and in the East End have seen upticks but remain at relatively low levels. Brunswick, Belfast, York, Calais and Fort Kent are reporting substantial drops in virus prevalence in wastewater, but Houlton recorded a sharp increase. Augusta's numbers are relatively the same and remain at an elevated level.

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.

UUC Office Hours – NEXT WEEK

UUC 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