

Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church
Wednesday, May 4, 2022

In this Issue:

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



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A Message from the Minister

The news Monday night about Roe has been hard. Are you angry or disheartened? I cannot help but feel resigned to the inevitability of it all. I also feel mad. Mad that the court could overturn my rights after all this time. This decision is a reminder of the importance of our progressive faith. A faith that believes in fighting for bodily autonomy. Beloveds, please know, that if you need a safe space to process these events or anything else that has come up, I would be happy to talk. I'm an email or a phone call away.

Thank you so much to Peaceful Heart Sangha for hosting Sunday's service!

I attended an interim ministers' conference last week. It reminded me that Covid has been hard on many UU communities. Leaders feel tired or burnt out. Members consider questions about Covid exposure and risk. Others have seen declining RE numbers as well. We are all struggling in different ways. We are *also* all continuing to innovate and try new things. We know church is important and needed in today's world. I enjoyed reading about this [Lutheran church in New Jersey](#) as they continue to consider who they are and what the future might hold.

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.

Sending love in times like these,
Chloe Briede, Interim Minister
chloeuucc@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 style="text-align: center;">THIS Sunday May 8, 2022</p> <p>10:00 a.m. IN PERSON</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ingathering music to begin at 9:50 a.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>PLEASE NOTE</u> This will be an “All generations service” so there will be NO nursery care during this service.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">"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 style="text-align: center;">Special thanks to our worship associate John Seksay and our pianist Karen Foust and the UCC Choir.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>After the Service:</u> final spring session of <i>“What’s on Your Mind”</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>We will start shortly after the end of the service and continue as long as we need to. Come with your questions, concerns, or ideas for the Board.</i> <u>Additionally, we will have an update on the Interim Search process.</u></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">NEXT Sunday May 15, 2022</p> <p>10:00 a.m. IN-PERSON</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ingathering music to begin at 9:50 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">“To be determined” Molly Brewer</p> <p>More information to come.</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/mtifpthOutvesjqggyej>

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

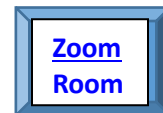
PLEASE NOTE: We had technical difficulties with sound at the 4/17 Easter service so that video is not useable.

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](#)



Drum Circle is B-A-C-K!

4th Friday Monthly in the Sanctuary

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.

“What’s on Your Mind”

Please join members of the Board for the final “What’s on Your Mind” session for the spring on **Sunday, May 8th.**

We will start shortly after the end of the service and continue as long as we need to. In this case you will be able to join in person or via the church zoom room. Come with your questions, concerns, or ideas for the Board. **Additionally, we will have an update on the Interim Search process.**

Questions? Contact Board President, Kathy Ann Shaw at kathyanshaw@roadrunner.com.

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 Breakout sessions) ways that MUUSAN can partner with some of these youth organizations.

Here's the [link to register](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtd--qrD-kvGN3ogsNTrx5EJn8kfKSLxLA0) (it's free) for the meeting (<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtd--qrD-kvGN3ogsNTrx5EJn8kfKSLxLA0>)

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

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UUC Small Group Ministry



SGM Leadership Meeting will be Sunday, June 5, 8:30-9:30am by UUC Zoom. All SGM participants are welcome.

Update on Remembrance for Mark Goldberg



Friends of Mark Goldberg are invited to attend a Remembrance of his life to be held in the Fellowship Hall on Friday May 13th from 2-3:00 p.m. Light refreshments (weather permitting) will be provided in the backyard/courtyard/garden following the gathering. We still have a restriction on food and drink indoors. Masks are required indoors.

PLEASE SIGN UP

Paul Langston Daly will be coming in two weeks to facilitate our RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROCESS. Please let Lynn know (admin@agustauu.org) whether you will be attending the ZOOM session on Thursday May 19 from 6 until 9 pm or the IN PERSON session on Saturday May 21 from 10 until 2, with a break for lunch (provided). There is no charge for either event.

For more information, contact Kathy Ann Shaw, Kathy Kellison or Minister Chloe.

Hope to see you there!

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"><u>1st</u> <u>Thursday</u> <u>Noon-1:30</u> <u>p.m.</u> <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 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"><u>4th Friday</u> <u>6:30 – 8:30</u> <u>Sanctuary</u></p>	<p align="center"><u>Free Style Drum Circle</u></p> <p>The Augusta Community Drum Circle is a free style drum circle welcoming people of all ages, walks of life, and abilities. Free style means no one is assigned ‘pieces’ to play. Just play! Or don’t play! Just come watch, sing, dance, or bring your own instruments. No one cares if you’ve never played before or if you make a mistake. As long as you are having fun you can’t get it wrong! ALL are welcome. Event is FREE, No RSVP, just come!</p> <p>The Drum Circle meets the fourth Friday of each month at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary. For more information you can contact Mike Moody at mtmoods@gmail.com or 229-1118.</p>
<p align="center"><u>4th Sunday</u> <u>1-2:30 p.m.</u> <u>In-person w/</u> <u>Zoom backup</u> <u>Next Meeting</u> <u>is May 22</u></p>	<p align="center"><u>Goddess / Earth Circles</u></p> <p>Goddess/Earth Circles, May 22, 1-2:30pm In-Church Meeting Room / Zoom Backup Wicca: Magic, Ethics and Morality Leader for Wicca series is Mary Shifman (213-9760, shifmanmary@gmail.com).</p> <p>Resource: A Beginners Guide to the Wiccan Religion: https://wiccaliving.com/what-is-wicca</p> <p>Goddess/Earth Circles focuses on Goddess, women’s lives and earth-based spirituality. All ages and genders welcome. Contact: Helen Zidowecki (582-5308, hzmre@hzmre.com) and see UCC website.</p>

Fellowship Coffee Hour is BACK

Staples like cookies and crackers are needed for the Fellowship food closet.

Our cupboards were completely emptied during the COVID shutdown. If you are able, please bring in a package or two of crackers or cookies. Fudge stripes and gingersnaps are enjoyable staples available from Dollar Tree.

On Sunday morning, feel free to bring in home baked goods, cheese or fruit to add to that Sunday's refreshments for all to enjoy!

NEWSLETTER/ANNUAL REPORTS UPDATE

The Communication Work Group has decided to postpone the next edition of the quarterly newsletter. We will not be looking for submissions until later in the spring/summer.

In the meantime, we encourage you to be aware of the deadline for ANNUAL REPORTS. Your review of this past year needs to be in Lynn's hands by MAY 10th. We hope you will take the opportunity to put in writing reflections from your perspective on the second year of the pandemic and our return to using the building again. This report will be a document for the future of how our community managed uncertainty and significant transition.

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

May 12th, 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

Check in

REPORTS

NEW BUSINESS

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...****

[COVID-19 Updates / News](#)

[Dr. Don on Covid-19](#)

Dr. Don On COVID 19 Maine Stories Of A New Normal

While it is clear that the general public wants to declare the COVID pandemic over, viruses are plentiful, change quickly and spread to simply use other cells, like ours, in which to grow. This is a process as old as

viruses themselves and part of the world we live in. For the moment it seems that we are coming to a plateau period during which current COVID variants are becoming endemic, a part of everyday life that is always with us, just as the versions of influenza seen every year. Given COVID's potential severity, endemic means the acceptance of disease and death in some members of society in exchange for returning to pre-pandemic lives.

Here is what endemic COVID may continue to look like.

* COVID numbers have been climbing slowly but steadily in the state, and wastewater analysis suggests that hospitalizations will continue to rise in some city areas. There is no monitoring of parts of the state without centralized wastewater treatment facilities, so predictions there are much more difficult to make. Most hospitalizations are occurring to unvaccinated individuals.

* As of April 28, the Maine Department of Education reported that eight schools in Maine were in outbreak status for COVID-19. That means more than 15% of the school population was absent, the same standard used for other illnesses, like the flu. Elementary schools in Rumford and Brooklin were closed Tuesday due to COVID outbreaks. At the Rumford Elementary School Principal Jill Bartash wrote a letter to families Monday saying that 14 staff members had tested positive for COVID-19 since Thursday and others were out sick with symptoms. She said more staff members tested positive during the day, leaving them too short-staffed to open Tuesday and that it was "by far the highest number of sick staff and students" the school has had since the start of the pandemic. The school sent COVID-19 test kits home with all students on Monday and the hope was to reopen the school on Wednesday. Mask use will return when the school is reopened.

* On Monday, North Haven Community School students were sent home early because a third of the teachers were stuck on the mainland. Access to the island 12 miles off the coast of Rockland was limited after COVID-19 cases among the ferry boat crew forced the cancellation of more than a half-dozen ferry runs leaving commuting teachers and those who left the island for various reasons like running errands, back on the mainland.

* Paul Merrill, spokesperson for the Maine Department of Transportation, said a member of a ferry crew tested positive for COVID-19 and it spread to the rest of the crew. Merrill said a crew and vessel that serve Vinalhaven were able to do some of the North Haven runs, which resulted in fewer runs to Vinalhaven. On North Haven, islanders said between seven and nine runs were canceled. On Monday, the Maine State Ferry Terminal in Rockland was closed for several hours for cleaning after an employee there tested positive for the virus. Merrill said he did not know if that case was directly related to the cases among the ferry crew.

* Maine's public universities are seeing COVID-19 cases rise as students take final exams and prepare for graduation ceremonies that are just days away. The University of Maine System has seen 187 positive tests at its campuses across the state in the past 14 days, up from 54 less than a week ago. The increase in cases has prompted the system to enforce a mask mandate in all academic and lab settings, including during final exams this week, spokesperson Margaret Nagle said. In addition, universities will evaluate this week whether to require face coverings at upcoming commencement ceremonies. So far, only the University of Southern Maine is requiring that those attending commencement wear masks, Nagle said. USM's commencement is set for Saturday.

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 estherpearl67@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