## Weekly E-Blast

## Unitarian Universalist Community Church Wednesday, May 11, 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

Two months ago, a colleague of mine asked, "Beloved agnostic colleagues: Where are you getting fed these days?" This question has stuck with me. Some folks answered the question with jest. These included jokes like "the grocery store" or the Japanese word "Tsundoku," which means acquiring reading materials but letting them pile up in one's home without reading them. There were also some predictable comments, ones I may have left like "nature," "community," and mentions of different books. I appreciated someone mentioning that they browse PubMed, a biomedical citation website. PubMed reminds them to be in awe of all the good humans doing good work to make a difference. What is feeding you? Where do you find wonder?

In a sermon in December, I mentioned the James Webb Telescope. If you haven't seen it, NASA released a test image comparing a picture from Webb to an older telescope. It is truly stunning.

I wanted to let everyone know my schedule as I depart the UUCC. My last Sunday sermon will be July 3. My last day in the office will be Tuesday, July 5. After that, I will be on vacation before my wedding and move. I look forward to continuing to work with you all until then.

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.

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 Nuturing Beauty.

THIS	S Si	ınday
May	15,	2022

### "The World That We Are Writing"

Rev. Molly Brewer

10:00 a.m. IN-PERSON Ingathering music to begin at 9:50 a.m.

Creative and imaginative pursuits such as writing, art, roleplaying games, and beyond are often discussed in terms of the benefits they can bring to the individual creator. Creativity and imagination can help us to explore our own interior landscapes, center ourselves in our values, and appreciate the world around us—but they can also be a powerful tool to help us connect with one another across difference by expanding our sense of who we are in the world. Our Sunday service will explore the ways our imagination and the spirit of creativity prepare us to offer radical welcome to our communities and to ourselves.

**Rev. Molly Brewer** (fae/faer pronouns) is a Unitarian Universalist minister based in rural New Hampshire, where fae lives with faer spouse and three cats. Rev. Molly has previously served the First Unitarian Church of Rochester, NY as Youth Ministry coordinator. In addition, Rev. Molly has served as a group facilitator for the UUA's LeaderLab and for the Church of the Larger Fellowship; and fae has preached and hosted educational workshops at UU congregations across the country.

## NEXT Sunday May 22, 2022

#### "The Speed of Trust "

Chloë Briedé, UUCC Interim Minister with

10:00 a.m. IN PERSON

Ingathering music to begin at 9:50 a.m.

adrienne maree brown talks about "moving at the speed of trust." On this weekend of restorative justice circles, Chloe will talk about making trust a spiritual practice. How can we deepen our trust in one another and ourselves?

Special thanks to our worship associate Sara Hodgkins and our pianist Karen Foust and the UUCC Chor.

## <u>Sunday worship service</u> 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/mtifpth0utvesiggjyej

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: Technical sound difficulties led us to remove the 4/17 Easter service from our Boxcast offerings...

## **Special Events / Opportunities**

Events are still being held in the UUCC 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! 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### 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 (it's free) for the meeting (https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtd--qrDkvGN3ogsNTrx5EJn8kfKSLxLA0)

Or click **here** to see a full description of the event.

#### **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

**RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROCESS** 

#### Please R.S.V.P.

<Reprint of email 5/10/22>

Dear UUCC,

The Board has contracted with the Rev. Paul Langston-Daley to facilitate two restorative justice circles for us. These circles will be an open and honest place for you to share your experience of the conflict, hear from others, and consider the next steps. From our reflections, Rev. Paul will then give us his recommendations for becoming more of the community we want to be.

Rev. Paul is a Unitarian Universalist minister with experience running restorative circles for many congregations. He is an independent contractor and not UUA staff. He views his role as being a neutral third party. The framing of these circles and questions for reflection are attached to this email.

When and Where? Thursday, May 19 from 6–9 pm on the church Zoom or Saturday, May 21 from 10 am–2 pm in the Sanctuary. Lunch will be provided on Saturday.

Please RSVP so we can get the right amount of food for Saturday. RSVP to Lynn at admin@augustauu.org.

Questions? Contact Interim Minister Chloe, Kathy Ann Shaw, or Kathy Kellison.

I hope you will join us to get your voice heard in this important process.

In Faith,

Chloë

#### **UUCC Small Group Ministry**



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

welcome.

## Remembrance for Mark Goldberg THIS Friday, May 13, 2022

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.

## Tomato Babies and Veggie Pick up announced!

Click here to browse the catalog: [Tomato Babies and Veggies Catalog]
Attached to this E-blast is the ONE Page Order form.

Sourt In Half & Half Planme

The tomatoes are doing very well and were 6-12 inches with nice strong stems on May 9. They will be two or three times as tall on May 25 when you pick them up.

The kale, cukes, grapes, and basil is doing very well. The chard and parsley are currently about 2-3" tall. I pat the seedlings

every day and also blow wind on them to strengthen their stems.

Please fill out your order soon and give it to me at church or send it to dmccormick11@aol.com

- The tomatoes are \$5 each and the veggies are \$4. You pay when you take them home.
- Pick up times are Wednesday May 25 noon-1pm or Thursday May 26 5:30-6:30 at 87 Court
   St, Augusta.

## **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. <a href="https://www.augustauu.org/calendar-and-communications/">https://www.augustauu.org/calendar-and-communications/</a>

Monday	Peaceful Heart Sangha	
Each week	You may join us at 6:15 to settle in.	
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.	Please contact Marty Soule for updated login information at email martysoule@gmail.com.	
<u> </u>	FMI: peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com	
Wednesdays	Gentle YOGA	
Each Week	Hosted by Debbie Mattson  Please join us a few minutes before 5:00 to settle in so we can begin	
<u>5:00 – 6:00</u>	rease join as a rew inflates before 5.00 to settle in so we can begin	
<u>p.m.</u>	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: <u>DebbieMattson@hotmail.com</u>	
2 1 0 4th	Seasoned Souls	
2nd & 4 <sup>th</sup>	Seasoned Souls is a group of older church members that meet as a study/support group to talk	
<b>Wednesday</b>	openly about topics related to the aging process. Seasoned Souls is open to any church	
10:30 a.m	member over 65 years of age. We will meet in the UUCC Zoom Room.	
Noon	FMI: please contact Diane ( <u>dmoongrove@gmail.com</u> or 446-6162) or Stefanie (stefbarley@gmail.com or 629-8890)	
	Peaceful Heart Sangha	
<b>Thursdays</b>		
Each Week	You may join us at 7:45 a.m. to settle in. Meet from 8-9:30	
<u>8:00 – 9:30</u>	Please contact Marty Soule for updated login information at martysoule@gmail.com. FMI: peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com	
<u>a.m.</u>	martysource gman.com. 1111. peacerameartsungna e gman.com	
2nd & 4 <sup>th</sup>	Writing to Wake the Soul	
Thursday	This is an open group that gathers and writes together to explore spiritual themes. The writing	
By Zoom	is used as a conveyance to connect more deeply with ourselves and each other. We are not writing to develop skill.	
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.	Come and try it out; there is no obligation to come each time we gather. We meet in the UUCC Zoom Room.	

	- More Connections by Day of the Week -	
1st Thursday	Read, Learn, Share  Our next meeting will be May 5, 2022. We will meet in the UUCC zoom room from Noon –  1:30 p.m. to discuss Beneficence, A Family, A Farm, An Unshakable Feeling by Meredith	
Noon-1:30 p.m.  Next Meeting is: June 2	Hall, 296 pgs. (Fiction)  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.	
4 <sup>th</sup> Friday	Free Style Drum Circle	
6:30 – 8:30 Sanctuary  Next Meeting is May 27	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 <a href="mailto:mtmoods@gmail.com">mtmoods@gmail.com</a> or 229-1118.	
4th Sunday	Goddess / Earth Circles	
1-2:30 p.m. In-person w/ Zoom backup  Next Meeting is May 22	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, <a href="mailto:shifmanmary@gmail.com">shifmanmary@gmail.com</a> ). Resource: A Beginners Guide to the Wiccan Religion: <a href="mailto:https://wiccaliving.com/what-is-wicca">https://wiccaliving.com/what-is-wicca</a>	
	Goddess/Earth Circles focuses on Goddess, women's lives and earth-based spirituality. All ages and genders welcome. Contact: Helen Zidowecki (582-5308, <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/journal.com">https://doi.org/10.1007/journal.com</a> ) and see UUCC website.	

## **Notices / Updates / News**

#### 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!

#### **Board of Trustees**

#### Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Augusta Board Meeting A G E N D A

May 12<sup>th</sup>, 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: Catherine

Check in

#### **REPORTS**

1. Clerk's Report: Karen / VOTE

2. Treasurer's Report: Martha

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

6. Minister's Report: Chloë

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Final review of the FY2022/2023 Budget / VOTE
- Discussion of Annual Meeting on June 5<sup>th</sup>
  - Update on Board and Committee selections: Kathy
  - Choosing a Moderator: all
  - Honoring Special groups: Who and How: all

#### 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 <a href="mailto:kathyannshaw@roadrunner.com">kathyannshaw@roadrunner.com</a>.

Next Board meeting: May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Minutes of the 4/14 Board meetings are available. Please contact the Church Administrator at admin@augustauu.o rg

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

## **COVID-19 Updates / News**

## **COVID-19 Advisory Group UPDATE**

#### **Kennebec County is now YELLOW**

There is no question that we are all fed up with COVID dominating our lives. We're tired of wearing masks, avoiding crowds, reading about COVID, hearing about COVID and thinking about COVID. Unfortunately, COVID has not gotten tired of us.

Maine currently has the nation's fourth highest number of new cases per capita of COVID. As of today, there were 209 Mainers in the hospital with COVID, the highest number since February. Kennebec county has gone from green to yellow on the federal CDC's website, with half of the counties in Maine now being red. The Augusta waste water COVID concentration is 2 1/2 times higher than the national average, placing us in the top 14% of waste water COVID in the United States. All of this means that there is a lot of COVID-19 circulating in the Augusta area.

As a result of Kennebec county being labeled yellow, th church will move to 6 feet of physical distancing between seats and rows for the worship service on Sunday, May 15. This will limit the capacity of the Sanctuary to about 30 people with the Fellowship Hall being used for additional attendees.

## Dr. Don on Covid-19

Dr. Don On COVID-19 When Second In The Nation Is Not Good

A week ago I speculated on what "endemic" COVID might look like and this week we have additional indications of what we may continue to see.

Maine is currently second in the nation for highest COVID case rate behind Rhode Island according to the U.S. CDC, and new COVID variants account for 80 percent of these new infections in Maine. Maine CDC says that increase shows the pandemic is not yet behind us and Mainers should continue to keep their guard up.

Maine State Epidemiologist Dr. Isaac Benowitz said "I think it makes sense to take precautions when COVID is around and when there's more of it around. We've gotten quite good at these precautions over the past few years but what we've gotten a little less good at is actually using them when we know that we need them."

The U.S. CDC updated its county-level risk assessments designating eight Maine counties as high risk for COVID-19 after a rise in cases due to the new variants. The eight counties designated as high-risk are Cumberland, Sagadahoc, Lincoln, Knox, Hancock, Penobscot, Piscataquis and Aroostook. Under current CDC guidelines everyone is urged to wear masks while in indoor public spaces in high-risk areas. Androscoggin is the only green, low risk, county. All remaining counties are considered to be at medium risk, which urges people with underlying health conditions to mask.

Some health experts say that the current state of the disease is such that wearing a mask in areas of high caseloads is like putting on a coat when it's raining. "I think it's just a matter of just like we watch the weather... to figure out what we're going to wear every day. And it's the same thing with COVID," said Dr. Dora

Mills, of MaineHealth. "You know, look at the incidences and your area, and if it's high, it's going up and put on some extra layers of protection."

Despite the rising numbers, there are no current requirements from the Maine CDC. Several municipalities are calling for masks to be worn in town offices and facilities regardless of vaccination status. Schools in Portland, Bangor, Brunswick and several other communities are returning to mask use. Acadia National Park is again requiring masks be used in any of their buildings as is Bangor International Airport.

Knowing the ability of this virus to quickly change it seems likely that we will need to be prepared to protect ourselves against new versions of COVID in the future.

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

#### **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.

### 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

#### **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
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.

## **<u>UUCC Small Group Ministry</u>**



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 <u>es</u>-therpearl67@gmail.com.

### **UUCC Office Hours – NEXT WEEK**

#### **UUCC 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: <a href="mailto:chloeuucc@gmail.com">chloeuucc@gmail.com</a>
Office: (207) 623-3663

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

 $\begin{array}{ll} Tuesday & Noon-4:00 \ p.m. \\ Wednesday & Noon-4:00 \ p.m. \\ Thursday & Noon-4:00 \ p.m. \end{array}$ 

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