

# Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church  
Wednesday, May 25, 2022

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69 Winthrop St., Augusta ME  
(207)622-3232 – [info@augustauu.org](mailto:info@augustauu.org)  
[www.augustauu.org](http://www.augustauu.org)

## A Message from the Minister

Thank you to everyone who attended the restorative justice circles this last weekend. While it was a long process, I appreciated you all holding a sacred space for sharing stories and emotions. I found the sharing profound and enlightening. It helped me, and I hope others understand the breadth of experiences held by our church members. Rev. Paul will be providing the board with a report in the coming weeks, and we hope to share those insights with the congregation soon after that. So again, thank you, I was so heartened by your participation and engagement.

I've heard from some members about their heartbreak at the news of the school shooting in Texas. If you, too, are feeling heartbreak, you are not alone. Your outrage, despair, sadness, anger, and even disconnection are normal reactions. You are not alone in your grief.

I want to share this prayer from the Episcopal Relief and Development Service:

"God of abundant love, In the aftermath of another horrific act of violence, we pray for blessing and healing in the Uvalde, Texas community. We pray for innocent lives lost, their loved ones, and all who were present during the attack and who are grappling with its aftermath. Inspire each of us to act with prophetic love so that violence has no place to grow in this world. Amen."

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 prayers and love,  
Chloe Briede, Interim Minister  
[chloeucc@gmail.com](mailto: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 style="text-align: center;">THIS Sunday May 29, 2022</p> <p>10:00 a.m. IN-PERSON Ingathering music to begin at 9:50 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>“Boundaries as Spiritual Practice”</b> Chloë Briedé, UCC Interim Minister with</p> <p>By knowing our limits and boundaries, we can lead more genuine, integrated lives. Chloe will explore how good boundaries are a spiritual practice. She will do this within the context of the minister and congregational relationship and in all the relationships we have in our lives.</p> <p><b>**THIS IS AN ALL GENERATIONS SERVICE**</b> Everyone please join us in the Sanctuary as we begin this service with <b>OUR ANNUAL YOUTH BRIDGING CEREMONY</b>. Nursery Care and an RE craft will be available <b>AFTER</b> the Bridging Ceremony.</p> <p>Special thanks to our worship associate Susan Claska Burnett and Hannah Faulkner, our pianist.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">NEXT Sunday June 5, 2022 10:00 a.m. Ingathering music to begin at 9:50 a.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Ways to join</u></b> <b>To vote:</b> please join us: In Person By Zoom By phone (through Zoom)</p> <p>You can still join by Boxcast (but you cannot vote).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>"Annual Meeting as a Spiritual Practice"</b></p> <p>The business of the church is as much a spiritual practice as anything we do on Sunday morning, Tuesday night or Wednesday at noon. In this service the spiritual practice of church governance is a tangible expression of our faith.</p> <p>A special thank you to everyone who is participating. Susan Claska Burnett will serve as our worship associate. Stefanie Barley will be our pianist.</p> <p><b><u>WE NEED YOU!!</u></b> Without a quorum of members, we cannot conduct the business of this church. We need to approve minutes from last year’s annual meeting, commission new Board members and committee leaders, look at this year’s finances and approve a new budget for next year, and more...</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>*** We cannot proceed without our members. ***</b> <b>Please join us to see democracy in action!</b></p>

**Sunday worship service is now being held IN-PERSON in the Sanctuary.**

Our services are no longer accessible by Zoom (except for our Annual meeting)  
(see next page for livestream boxcast link)

*If you want to watch the livestream of the service, please visit:*

<https://boxcast.tv/channel/mtifpth0utvesjqgjej>

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

## [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](#)



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## [Tomato Babies and Veggies – Don’t miss out!!](#)

[Last day to pick up or browse – Thurs. 5/26 at 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.](#)

**Pickup Location: 87 Court St, Augusta**

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Dale’s greenhouse is overflowing with delicious veggies and tomatoes. There is still lots to choose from.

Click here to browse the catalog:

[\[Tomato Babies and Veggies Catalog\]](#)

-- The tomatoes are \$5 each and the veggies are \$4 ea. -- You pay when you take them home. --

**At this point, just join others at the pickup location to browse or get your order filled.**





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.



## to the Harlow Gallery

160 Water Street, Hallowell, ME 04347-1315

*to view a Mini Photographic Exhibit by UUCC member,  
Bruce Bierce*

The Harlow Gallery is hosting a mini exhibit of some of Bruce's Mexican photographs. The exhibit will run from Thursday, June 2, through Saturday, June 4. Gallery hours are 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.

The exhibit will be in the street level part of the Harlow on the right side and therefore very accessible.

A guestbook will be provided and exhibit visitors are encouraged to write messages to Bruce.

## Connections by Day of the Week

ALL church events and meetings are reflected on the UCC calendar  
Click below to view ALL events, including any group meetings or other business meetings.

<https://www.augustauu.org/calendar-and-communications/>

<p><b><u>Monday</u></b> Each week</p> <p><b><u>6:30 – 8:00</u></b> <b><u>p.m.</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Peaceful Heart Sangha</u></b></p> <p>You may join us at 6:15 to settle in.</p> <p>Please contact Marty Soule for updated login information at email <a href="mailto:martysoule@gmail.com">martysoule@gmail.com</a>. FMI: <a href="mailto:peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com">peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com</a></p>	
<p><b><u>Wednesdays</u></b> Each Week</p> <p><b><u>5:00 – 6:00</u></b> <b><u>p.m.</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Gentle YOGA</u></b></p> <p>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. <a href="https://maine.zoom.us/j/95825651125?pwd=UWJpOVFjVFJGbz3dMWmZoOTRXa3VoUT09">https://maine.zoom.us/j/95825651125?pwd=UWJpOVFjVFJGbz3dMWmZoOTRXa3VoUT09</a> Password <b>174192</b> - FMI: <a href="mailto:DebbieMattson@hotmail.com">DebbieMattson@hotmail.com</a></p>	
<p><b><u>2nd &amp; 4<sup>th</sup></u></b> <b><u>Wednesday</u></b></p> <p><b><u>10:30 a.m. -</u></b> <b><u>Noon</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Seasoned Souls</u></b></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 UCC Zoom Room.</p> <p>FMI: please contact Diane (<a href="mailto:dmoongrove@gmail.com">dmoongrove@gmail.com</a> or 446-6162) or Stefanie (<a href="mailto:stefbarley@gmail.com">stefbarley@gmail.com</a> or 629-8890)</p>	
<p><b><u>Thursdays</u></b> Each Week</p> <p><b><u>8:00 – 9:30</u></b> <b><u>a.m.</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Peaceful Heart Sangha</u></b></p> <p>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 <a href="mailto:martysoule@gmail.com">martysoule@gmail.com</a>. FMI: <a href="mailto:peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com">peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com</a></p>	
<p><b><u>2nd &amp; 4<sup>th</sup></u></b> <b><u>Thursday</u></b> By Zoom</p> <p><b><u>9:00 – 10:30</u></b> <b><u>a.m.</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Writing to Wake the Soul</u></b></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 UCC Zoom Room.</p>	

**- More Connections by Day of the Week -**

<p align="center"><b><u>1<sup>st</sup></u></b>  <b><u>Thursday</u></b>    <b><u>Noon-1:30</u></b>  <b><u>p.m.</u></b>    <b><u>Next Meeting</u></b>  <b><u>is: June 2</u></b></p>	<p align="center"><b><u>Read, Learn, Share</u></b></p> <p>Our final meeting of this year will be June 2<sup>nd</sup> in the UUCC zoom room from Noon – 1:30 We will discuss <u>Beneficence, A Family, A Farm, An Unshakable Feeling</u> by Meredith Hall, 296 pgs. (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 <a href="mailto:jzellers@roadrunner.com">jzellers@roadrunner.com</a> or Kathy Kellison at <a href="mailto:kell6787@gmail.com">kell6787@gmail.com</a> We would love to have you join us.</p>
<p align="center"><b><u>4<sup>th</sup> Friday</u></b>    <b><u>6:30 – 8:30</u></b>  <b><u>Sanctuary</u></b>    <b><u>Next Meeting</u></b>  <b><u>is May 27</u></b></p>	<p align="center"><b><u>Free Style Drum Circle</u></b></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! <b><u>ALL are welcome.</u></b> 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 <a href="mailto:mtmoods@gmail.com">mtmoods@gmail.com</a> or 229-1118.</p>
<p align="center"><b><u>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday</u></b>    <b><u>1-2:30 p.m.</u></b>  <b><u>In-person w/</u></b>  <b><u>Zoom backup</u></b>    <b><u>Next Meeting</u></b>  <b><u>is June 26</u></b></p>	<p align="center"><b><u>Goddess / Earth Circles</u></b></p> <p>Goddess/Earth Circles, June 26, 1-2:30pm <b>In-Church Meeting Room / Zoom Backup</b> Summer Connections, and continuing with 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="https://wiccaliving.com/what-is-wicca">https://wiccaliving.com/what-is-wicca</a></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, <a href="mailto:hzmre@hzmre.com">hzmre@hzmre.com</a>) and see UUCC website.</p>

## Financial information from UCC Treasurer For April 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 for the meeting on the second 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 April Board meeting report. They represent all activity through April 30, 2022. This is 83% of the fiscal year. There are 2 months to go to the end of the fiscal year (June 30).

- Pledges paid to date: \$141,209 which is 97% of the goal of \$145,500.
- Annual appeal: Donations of \$12200. Thank you to the anonymous donor!
- Offering received during services: \$355.00
- Total income from all sources: \$216,600 which is 90% of budget goal of \$241,880
- Total expenses to April 30, 2022: \$ 173,405 leaving a positive balance of \$43,195.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Martha Naber, Treasurer, at [treasurer@augustauu.org](mailto:treasurer@augustauu.org).

## 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>

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

- 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 [kathyannshaw@roadrunner.com](mailto:kathyannshaw@roadrunner.com).

Next Board meeting: June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Complete minutes of the 4/14 Board meeting is available from the UUCS website ([www.augustauu.org](http://www.augustauu.org)) at the following link

<https://www.augustauu.org/minister-staff-and-church-life/church-governance/board-of-trustees>

## COVID-19 Updates / News

### COVID-19 Advisory Group UPDATE

#### Kennebec county is still YELLOW

As of this morning, May 25<sup>th</sup>, Kennebec county remains “yellow” per the Federal CDC color coding system.

The good news is that both hospitalizations and ICU admissions for COVID patients are gradually declining across the state. The worrisome news is that the Augusta wastewater COVID concentrations are nearly 6 times higher than the national average, meaning that there is still plenty of COVID going around in our area.

#### Dr. Don on Covid-19

Dr. Don On COVID-19      The Making Of A Successful Virus

COVID has been a disastrous and deadly illness for millions of people, but as a virus, it’s been highly successful. The key to its success are mutations that make it easier for the virus to infect new hosts, as well as those previously infected. This success is likely to continue for some time.

While the mutations have resulted in new strains that tend to cause less severe symptoms, they also have made it more likely for people to be infected even after they have already had the disease or been vaccinated. The newest subvariants are also better able to infect people who have waning levels of immunity, which is why many Americans are advised to get booster doses four months after their last dose of vaccine.

The virus is likely to have the ability to continue building on its success at mutating, said Dr. Nirav Shah, head of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention. That means anyone hoping the pandemic will end



soon is likely to be disappointed.

“The fact that it has been circulating widely for more than two years provides opportunities to mutate as humans with the virus transmit it to other humans,” Shah said in an email Friday. “COVID-19 virus adapts in similar ways to other common viruses. Viruses need hosts, so they mutate in ways that ensure that they will continue to have available hosts.” Although some variants seem to be less affected by vaccines and natural immunities, it’s still important for people to get vaccinated and boosted, Shah said.

“Data show that being vaccinated and boosted greatly reduces the risk of hospitalization or death with any known COVID variant,” he said. “The protection was strongest for the original strain and a bit less with the current strain, which is why the booster doses of the vaccine are so important, to provide the added protection needed as the virus changed.

“There is a possibility we’ll get a new vaccine at some point that is based on the newer variants,” Shah said. “For right now, though, we still have COVID in our communities and we need to protect ourselves and the best way to protect yourself today is with the vaccines that we have right now.”

Comments, questions or suggestions can be sent to [donnaber1364@gmail.com](mailto: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	<a href="mailto:StonehengeMaine@yahoo.com">StonehengeMaine@yahoo.com</a>	207-215-6394
Terry Lee Cairn, ND, MSOM, Lac.	<a href="mailto:tlcnaturalhealth@yahoo.com">tlcnaturalhealth@yahoo.com</a>	207-557-2557
Harry Grimmnitz, MD	<a href="mailto:hgrimmnitz@gmail.com">hgrimmnitz@gmail.com</a>	207-685-9270
Don Naber, Ed.D	<a href="mailto:donnaber1364@gmail.com">donnaber1364@gmail.com</a>	207-887-1104
Cathie Nielsen, MD	<a href="mailto:cathieenielsen@gmail.com">cathieenielsen@gmail.com</a>	207-441-0248
Marty Soule, PA-C	<a href="mailto:martysoule@gmail.com">martysoule@gmail.com</a>	207-685-9270

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## UUCS 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)	<a href="mailto:Mjpell14@roadrunner.com">Mjpell14@roadrunner.com</a>
Helen Zidowecki	207-582-5308 (h)	<a href="mailto:hzmre@hzmre.com">hzmre@hzmre.com</a>
Tracy McNaughton	207-623-3110 (h)	<a href="mailto:tracy.mcnaughton@yahoo.com">tracy.mcnaughton@yahoo.com</a>
Peggy Lamb	207 622-5174 (h)	<a href="mailto:plambflowers@outlook.com">plambflowers@outlook.com</a>

**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.

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## UUCS 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](mailto:es-therpearl67@gmail.com).

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

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:admin@augustauu.org), Phone 622-3232

Coordinator of Lifespan Faith Formation, Monique McAuliffe, [LifespanFF@augustauu.org](mailto:LifespanFF@augustauu.org)

Music Director, Bridget Convey, [musicdirector@augustauu.org](mailto:musicdirector@augustauu.org)