

Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

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(207)622-3232 – info@augustauu.org
www.augustauu.org

A Message from the Minister

Saying goodbye is hard. A good goodbye takes some time. Yes, we will have one big joyous goodbye at the service on July 3; there will be other moments too. If you won't be present on July 3, maybe I'll see you this Sunday or during the week sometime. So, I invite you to take a moment and say goodbye. I will miss each of you!

Today, leadership from UUCC joined to discuss priorities for the next ministry. We are still waiting for news from the Unitarian Universalist Association on possible options, so I am grateful for your steady patience as UUCC faces this uncertainty. I know it's not easy. As we wait, please know that the leadership is working diligently to prepare for whatever might come next. For example, we have a full schedule of lay-led worship services for the summer. A big thank you to Susan Claska Burnett for that work! The community is continuing strong together.

I will be out of town next week attending the Unitarian Universalist Associations General Assembly in Portland, Oregon. I am excited to serve as a co-lead for the conflict & covenant team this year. I will be gone from Monday, June 20, to Tuesday, June 28. I will only be holding one more Coffee with Chloe on Tuesday, July 5, on the UUCC Zoom.

As always, you are invited to reach out to me for any reason. I am available for a conversation by appointment. Sending love,
Chloe Briede, Interim Minister
chloeucc@gmail.com
207-623-3663

Upcoming Services

Worship Theme for June – Celebrating Blessings

Join us as we explore the challenges and adventures of Celebrating Blessings.

| | |
|---|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">THIS Sunday June 19, 2022 10:00 a.m. Ingathering music to begin at 9:50 a.m.</p> <p>10:00 a.m. IN-PERSON Ingathering music to begin at 9:50 a.m.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">"Juneteenth " Chloë Briedé, UUCC Interim Minister</p> <p>Juneteenth celebrates the emancipation of enslaved African-Americans. This Sunday we will hear about the history of Juneteenth and consider its implications for the future. Chloe will share a wisdom story and a reflection.</p> <p>A special thank you to everyone who is participating. Sara Hodgkins will serve as our worship associate. Karen Allen will be our pianist.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">NEXT Sunday June 26, 2022</p> <p>10:00 a.m. IN-PERSON Ingathering music to begin at 9:50 a.m.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">“Chaos, Gravity & Grace” Peter Mendall Sr., UUCC Member</p> <p>"Every child needs to know that the world makes sense, that their parents love them, and lots of play time." Jean Piaget, child psychologist.</p> <p>Printer's Note: The "non-use" and the "use" of the "Oxford comma" in these two statements is of substantive importance. The Oxford comma is an application of Set Theory which is intimately linked to Plato's Allegory of the Cave -- an imaginative metaphor for "real Reality".</p> <p>A special thank you to everyone who is participating. Susan Claska Burnett will serve as our worship associate. Hannah Faulkner will be our pianist.</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/mtifpthOutvesjqgjej>

If you missed a service or want to watch a service again, the link above also allows access to prior services. Click on the play button on the video of the “broadcast date” you are interested in watching

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](#)



Read Learn Share Book Group

CONSIDER JOINING US

The BOOK GROUP is planning for next year. We welcome anyone to join in the process. Feel free to suggest titles for the ballot or request a ballot and get your votes in. We would love to have you join us every month. It is completely fine to attend only the sessions that appeal to you.

We alternate between fiction and non-fiction so you can suggest either. The deadline for suggesting titles, author(s), number of pages whether it is fiction or non-fiction is FRIDAY JUNE 24 at NOON. We prefer books that are available through interlibrary loan so there is no need to buy books. Feel free to add a brief description or a link to a review. You are on your own beyond that to research the titles and make your decisions.

Voting is by ranked choice with the HIGHEST number indicating your first choice. The ballot with complete instructions will be emailed on JUNE 24. The deadline for voting is FRIDAY JULY 8 by the end of the day,

JUNE ZELLERS will be collecting the suggestions and preparing the ballot. Please email her at jzellers@roadrunner.com to let her know how you would like to participate or with any questions.

To find local events,

PRIDE

please visit

the Google Maine Pride Calendar for 2022 at the following link:

<https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=maine%20pride%20calendar%202022&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiw6Lmy5Zz4AhXHUjABHcksA4cQ6LwDCLUD&sxsrf=ALiCzsZKDtXQEuf1toM6X9myjIYvgMqrFQ:1654654771668>

Interested in joining other UU's at the

Pride March in Portland?

Here are the details:

March with MUUSAN in Pride Portland! -- Saturday, June 18th, 2022

after a 10:00 am Interfaith Pride service at
First Parish in Portland, UU, 425 Congress St!

Each year MUUSAN pays the registration fee for the Pride Portland! parade and invites all Maine UU congregations to bring their congregational banner and march as a group.

**PLEASE NOTE: A congregational presence is not required.
All UUs are welcome to march as part of MUUSAN.**

The schedule is as follows:

- 10:00 Interfaith Service at First Parish in Portland, UU. Please wear masks inside the building.
- 11:15 UUs gather on the front steps of First Parish before moving to our spot in the parade.
- 11:30 Marchers begin lining up at an assigned location near Monument Square.
- 1:00 Parade starts in Monument Square and ends about 45 minutes later in Deering Oaks Park, where the PRIDE Festival runs until 5:00 pm.

First Parish in Portland, UU will be open for us to use the bathrooms and rest.

Wear a YELLOW SHIRT if possible.

Congregational banners, loving signs, and rainbow flags are encouraged.

Please let us know (admin@muusan.org) if your congregation will be attending, and we will share additional plans and info with you as it becomes available!



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
MULTIPLATFORM / PORTLAND • 2022

The Annual Meeting of Unitarian Universalist Association, is being held on June 22-26, 2022, in Portland, OR. The following are attending from UCC: Minister Chloe Briede will be attending in person, and David Rand and Helen Zidowecki will be attending virtually.

Business Sessions several events can be accessed by Live Streaming at <https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2022>. Connect with the broader UU community! Understand the scope and breadth of UUism!

The following events will be streamed here as they occur (schedule is subject to change). On-demand video will be available after each event begins.

General Sessions Daily. Check for the time of the session and items that are expected to be covered. Contact Helen if there are items of particular to you. Please look at the scope of things covered.

Service of the Living Tradition Thursday, June 23, 2022, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. EDT This service honors fellowshiped and credentialed religious leaders; remembering those who have died, recognizing those who have completed active service, and welcoming those who have received fellowship or credentialed status in the past year. The service includes a collection to benefit the [Living Tradition Fund](#).

Synergy Bridging Worship Friday, June 24, 2022, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. EDT This is a transformative multigenerational worship. Be inspired and illuminated at a celebration of treasured worship elements, rites of passage and brilliant contemporary music.

Sunday Worship Sunday, June 26, 2022, 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. EDT Join us virtually for the largest annual gathering of UUs joining in worship. See <https://www.uua.org/ga/program/highlights/sunday-morning-worship> for indepth information.

A Sunday Service is planned related to the experience of GA and our connection with the UU community from local to world-wide connections.

Interested in joining the Poor People's Campaign?

Fliers will be in the Fellowship Hall. Participation is possible in this trip to Washington by bus, regardless of any financial hardship. If you would like to participate, just contact the group at www.PoorPeoplesCampaign.org/June18.

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><u>Monday</u> <u>Each week</u></p> <p><u>6:30 – 8:00</u> <u>p.m.</u></p> | <p><u>Peaceful Heart Sangha</u></p> <p>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> <u>Each Week</u></p> <p><u>5:00 – 6:00</u> <u>p.m.</u></p> | <p><u>Gentle YOGA</u></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. 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><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 UCC 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> <u>Each Week</u></p> <p><u>8:00 – 9:30</u> <u>a.m.</u></p> | <p><u>Peaceful Heart Sangha</u></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 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><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 UCC Zoom Room.</p> | |

| | - More Connections by Day of the Week - |
|---|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>1st</u> <u>Thursday</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Noon-1:30</u> <u>p.m.</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Next Meeting</u> <u>will be in Oct.</u> <u>2022</u></p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Read, Learn, Share</u></p> <p>Our final meeting of this year was June 2nd in the UUCC zoom room from Noon – 1:30 We discussed <u>Benevolence, A Family, A Farm, An Unshakable Feeling</u> by Meredith Hall, 296 pgs. (Fiction)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please see Invitations above for details on how to participate in suggesting and participating in a ranked choice vote to pick next year’s book selections.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">There are some deadlines so please take a look and join us.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>4th Friday</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>6:30 – 8:30</u> <u>Sanctuary</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Next Meeting is June 24</p> | <p style="text-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 style="text-align: center;"><u>4th Sunday</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>1-2:30 p.m.</u> <u>In-person w/</u> <u>Zoom backup</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Next Meeting is June 26</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Goddess / Earth Circles</u></p> <p>Goddess/Earth Circles, June 26, 1-2:30pm In-Church Meeting Room / Zoom Backup Summer Connections, and continuing with Wicca: Magic, Ethics and Morality Leader for Wicca series is Mary Shifman (213-9760, shifmanmary@gmail.com). 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. Contact: Helen Zidowecki (582-5308, hzmre@hzmre.com) and see UUCC website.</p> |

Our Church Admin is on vacation this week – she will return on Tuesday, June 21.

The office is CLOSED for the week. Please be patient and allow time for the Admin to get to your email or phone message and/or schedule your event or group meeting when she is back in the office.

Newsletter articles for the July edition of the Flaming Chalice newsletter

are due by June 21, 2022.

Please submit your articles to newsletter@augustauu.org.



Board of Trustees

As most of you already know, the search for an interim minister did not provide us with a prospective candidate. This is to give you an update of where the interim ministry process is now. On June 15th a group with members from the Interim Transition Team, the Board, the Interim Search Committee, Chloe, Joe Sullivan from the NE Region UUA and others met in a retreat to discuss the future of UUCC's shared ministry.

We prioritized our immediate ministerial needs for the coming church year. They are:

- Worship and rites of passage
- Pastoral care
- Administration

A summary of this meeting will soon go to the Transitions Office of the UUA. They will then attempt to match our needs from a pool of potential candidates which will then be given to the Interim Search Committee for consideration.

We know that it can be uncomfortable to live with this uncertainty and please know that we are working diligently and will keep you apprised along the way.

In gratitude,

Michaela Loisel
Board President

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



Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Augusta

****REVISED** Board Meeting A G E N D A**

June 9th, 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
3. Finance Committee's Report: Harry
4. COVID-19 Task Force's Report: Terry and Harry
 - a. Revised Reopening Plan / **VOTE**
5. President's Report: Kathy

A. Welcome to New Board Members:

- i. Michaela
- ii. Susan
- iii. Nancy
- iv. Catherine
- v. Hal

B Goodbye to Outgoing Board

Members:

- I. Martha
- II. Kevin
- III. Karen
- IV. Allison

6. Goodbye and Bon Voyage: June 19th
7. Minister's Report: Chloë

NEW BUSINESS

- **ADDED**- Update to final responsibilities: Nancy Fritz/VOTE
- Follow up to Annual Meeting

- Discussion of Interim Search Situation

- Rental of Office in **Judd House / VOTE**
- Chloe's Evaluation

ADJOURN

Board meetings are open to ALL. If you have an item that you would like the Board to consider, please contact:

Michaela Loisel at micaelatloisel@gmail.com.

Next Board meeting: August 11, 2022

Complete minutes of the 5/12 Board meeting is available from the UUCC website (www.augustauu.org).
at the following link
<https://www.augustauu.org/minister-staff-and-church-life/church-governance/board-of-trustees>

Stay tuned for Board Highlights from the June 9, 2022 Board Meeting

COVID-19 Updates / News

COVID-19 Advisory Group UPDATE

As of June 3rd, hospitalizations, cases & wastewater data are all improved in Kennebec county AND...

we are now GREEN per the federal CDC.

This is good news indeed!

Dr. Don on Covid-19

Dr. Don On COVID-19 Another Variant - Is The 'New Normal' Here?

You will not be surprised to hear the following from this week's news: Maine health officials said a new variant of the coronavirus has arrived in Maine. Expect to hear this type of report again and again in the future as we begin to experience this "new normal."

In its latest sampling and testing of Mainers, the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention said it detected one case of the variant labeled BA.4, a subvariant of the omicron version of the virus. Omicron emerged earlier this year and spread rapidly through the state due to its easier transmission when compared to prior COVID variants.

State officials have not released any more information about the test that turned up the new version of the coronavirus, such as where in the state it was found or anything about the person who contracted it.

“It’s more transmissible than previous variants, so it’s not surprising that genome testing would detect it in Maine,” Dr. Nirav D. Shah, director of the Maine CDC, said in a statement. Shah previously has said that he believes the COVID-19 pandemic has now entered a stage where the virus will “ebb and flow,” as new variants emerge, spread and then fade. These new variant viruses will again establish themselves in those unprotected either by lack of vaccination or diminishing immunity which occurs over time.

When previous variants have turned up in the state, Shah recommended that Mainers stay up to date on vaccines and boosters and talk to a medical provider about getting therapeutic treatments quickly if they test positive for COVID. As I mentioned in a previous article, when taken within five days of initial symptoms the COVID anti-viral drug Paxlovid from Pfizer, has shown a remarkable 90% prevention of hospitalizations and deaths in those most at risk.

Meanwhile, the number of hospitalized patients with COVID-19 in Maine has held steady over the past several days. There were 137 patients hospitalized statewide as of Monday morning, including 18 in critical care and six on ventilators. That’s up slightly from 135 patients on Sunday but well down from 169 just a few weeks ago.

BA.4 was first identified in South Africa, although that doesn’t mean that it developed there. South Africa has a robust public health system and new variants are often identified there first. The same genetic variations in the virus can occur anywhere it is spreading and multiplying.

As always in viral epidemiology the big concern is not a new variant but an all "new" easily spread virus to which none of us has previous exposure or immunity.

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.

UUCC 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.

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: 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