

Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church
Wednesday, August 17, 2022

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69 Winthrop St., Augusta ME

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

[Zoom](#)
[Room](#)

Messages from our Minister and Board President

Dear members and friends of UUCC,

I am feeling excited about our ministry together. It has been great getting to know some of you. The topic of covenant has been coming up in leadership conversations. Covenants are created from the values we hope to live by in our relationships with each other. I am wondering what values you aspire to uphold and convey at UUCC.

During our first Sunday together, on September 11th, we will explore the spirit and consciousness of water. Understanding water enables us to sense imbalances in life-sustaining systems. Congregations are life-sustaining systems that are like water, physically and spiritually interrelated and interconnected. Covenants based on the values we hold dear to us, keep our community in right relationship. Covenants protect us and enable us to grow and transform both as individuals and as a community. And change is difficult.

I know you have been through a lot of change over the past few years. One of my favorite Christian writers Richard Rohr says: “Change is not what we expect from religious people. They tend to love the past more than the present or the future.” I know this is true for me. And it is important that together we move forward with curiosity and hope to build a church based on our values as people of faith. A covenant at UUCC will support us in creating a healthy community that sustains us all.

Many blessings,

Christina

I will be available in person on Wednesday and Thursday 8/25 and 8/26 by appointment.

I am working remotely on Wednesday and Thursday 8/31 and 9/1 by appointment.

Please call or email me to set up a time. 207-807-9232 minister@augustauu.org

Board President's Observations

We keep seeing new faces at our Sunday services -including children, on occasion, which is wonderful. I am in awe of the talents of our musicians, poets, and worship associates. Thank you to all who are leading us in these worship services.

The work of developing our resilience and strength as a community continues as Kathy Shaw, June Zellers, Rev. Christina Sillari and I consider Rev. Paul Langston-Daley's report recommendations. When the Fall church year begins, Rev. Christina is poised to focus us on how we want to be in community with one another. She is able to assess where we are and assist us in doing the work of being in relationship with one another so we can move forward with intention, integrity and love.

Conflict is a journey as well as an opportunity to ask ourselves questions: what does this say about us as a community? What was/is my role in this situation? How do I respond to conflict? What am I willing to contribute to the strength of our community?

Let us together embrace this opportunity to create the kind of community we want us to be.

In loving gratitude,
Michaela Loisel, Board President

Upcoming Services

<p>THIS Sunday August 21, 2022</p> <p>10:00 a.m. IN-PERSON Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m.</p>	<p>"Music, Me, and UU" Karen Allen</p> <p>Music has always been important to Karen, and was in part what drew her to Unitarian Universalism. Her reflections will begin with her own experience, then potentially venture into the realms of psychology, neuroscience, physics, metaphysics, and the nature of art and time.</p> <p>A special thank you to everyone who is participating in this service. Kathy Kellison will be our worship associate with Marty Peters managing technology. Stefanie Barley will be our pianist. Martha Pelletier and Tracy McNaughton will present our post service coffee fellowship.</p> <p>** SHARE THE PLATE ** The third Sunday of each month the collection is given in to a local, national or international non-profit organization. We call this "share the plate", but in practice the entire offering, other than designated pledges, is given to the selected organization. This Sunday's collection will be given to Capital Area New Mainers Project. CANMP continues to make a difference in the lives of new Mainers. See <Notices/Updates/News> below for a reprint of and 8/3 article about CANMP.</p>
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<p>NEXT Sunday August 28, 2022</p> <p>10:00 a.m. IN-PERSON Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m.</p>	<p>"A Single Glorious Thing Bettina Lehovec, Visiting Minister*</p> <p>Focusing on the big picture can induce overwhelm. “How can I possibly address all that’s wrong with the world?” A more effective strategy is to look at the small things in front of us. Focusing on the particulars renews our energy and shifts us from ideas to actions. It’s also a spiritual practice: Noticing the single glorious thing that makes our spirits come alive.</p> <p>*Bettina Lehovec served as worship minister for UUCC during the summer of 2021. She's delighted to reconnect before leaving Maine for an adventure as a grandmother/nanny in New Hampshire.</p> <p>A special thank you to everyone who is participating. Susan Claska Burnett will be our worship associate with Angie Blevins managing technology. Karen Allen will be our pianist. Hannah Faulkner and Kathy Ann Shaw will present our post service coffee fellowship.</p>
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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](#)

Sunday Morning Hospitality Volunteers

Each Sunday a few people supply snacks and coffee/beverages for fellowship following the service. The following individuals have volunteered: This is a great way to get to know us better.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>8/21/22 Martha Pelletier and Tracy McNaughton</p> <p>8/28/22 Hannah Faulkner and Kathy Shaw</p> <p>9/4/22 Hannah Faulkner, Betty and Terry Cairn
 With a belated birthday celebration for Helen Z</p> | <p>9/11/22 UUCC Board of Trustees
 Welcoming Christina Sillari at fellowship</p> <p>9/18/22 Available</p> <p>9/25/22 Available.</p> |
|--|---|

Contact Susan Burnett at slcburnett@me.com to volunteer for one of the available September dates OR for another Sunday this next church year.

Social Justice Opportunity

An opportunity to make state & nationwide change:

Be a part of **UUtheVoteME!** The upcoming elections are taking place at a crucial moment for American democracy, and members of Maine's UU congregations can play an important role in everything from poll-watching to get-out-the-vote efforts. Contact us (admin@muusan.org) if you'd like to be involved, or visit the **UUtheVoteME Take Action page** to learn about upcoming ways to get involved.

On **Tuesday, August 23th 12:00 – 1:00 pm** we invite MUUSAN members and friends around the state to learn how to help make sure that all Maine towns are covered in the League of Women Voters of Maine's invaluable vote411.org online voter guide.

The goal of the guide is to ensure that every voter in Maine can enter their address at vote411.org and see exactly what will be on their ballot. In order to cover every candidate race and ballot question, from federal to local, the League needs our help to fill in the local information. [Register](#) for this 45-minute orientation session to learn the League's research process and see how you can help out!

If your town doesn't have its municipal elections in November, don't worry - the League can use all the research help they can get! Inviting people to vote is important - but so is making sure they have the information they need to make their votes count. Register to attend [here!](#) If you have any questions, please email Evan at evan@lwwme.org.

Save the Date! Saturday, September 10th from 10am-12:30pm: MUUSAN's next Zoom Network Meeting with a special focus on the upcoming election! Registration coming soon.

UUCC's outreach to our neighbors:

Share the Plate. The third Sunday of each month the collection is given in to a local, national or international non-profit organization. We call this "share the plate", but in practice the entire offering, other than designated pledges, is given to the selected organization. The Share the Plate for the month of August will be a collection for the Capital Area New Mainers Project. CANMP continues to make a difference in the lives of new Mainers. See <Notices/Updates/News> below for a reprint of and 8/3 article about CANMP.

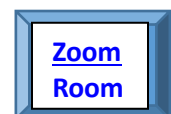
Connections by Day of the Week

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/>




Some events are still being held in the UUCC Zoom Room.

[Click here to join Events in the Zoom Room:](#)

For other ways to join Zoom, see [General Information](#)



Zoom meeting id: 823 807 0673 – Password: 6971

<p><u>Monday</u> Each week</p> <p><u>6:30 – 8:00</u> <u>p.m.</u></p> <p><u>Please note:</u> <u>location</u> <u>changes</u> <u>weekly</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. NEW SCHEDULE for SANGHA Monday meetings for July 25 and the month of August. Stay tuned for the September and beyond schedule.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-- IN-PERSON in the UUCS Sanctuary - July 25 and August (Aug. 1, 15 and 29). (odd dates) BY Private ZOOM - On the odd dated Mondays in August (Aug. 8 and 8/22). (even dates)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">https://maine.zoom.us/j/95825651125?pwd=UWJpOVFjVFJGb3dMWmZoOTRXa3VoUT0 9 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 UUCS 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 style="text-align: center;">Please contact Marty Soule for updated login information at martysoule@gmail.com. FMI: peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com</p> 
	<p style="text-align: center;">- See next page for More Connections by Day of the Week</p>

	- More Connections by Day of the Week -
2nd & 4th Thursday <u>In-Person</u> (see details) 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.	<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.</p> <p><u>VENUE CHANGE</u> On Thursdays, 8/25/22 and 9/8/22, this group will meet in the yard of an off premises location (32 Winthrop St., Hallowell). In the event of inclement weather, the group will meet in the Fellowship Hall. The meeting schedule and location after 9/8 will be determined soon.</p> <p>Hosted by: Debbie Mattson FMI: debbiemattson@hotmail.com.</p>
1st Thursday Noon-1:30 p.m. Next Meeting is Oct 6th	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Read, Learn, Share</u></p> <p>We will resume meetings in the UUCC zoom room from Noon – 1:30 on Oct 6th</p> <p>In OCTOBER we will be discussing Ruth Ozeki’s novel <u>The Book of Form and Emptiness</u>. Because we alternate fiction and non-fiction, the book for NOVEMBER will be <u>The Library Book</u> by Susan Orleans. The full list of books for the year will be announced in the fall newsletter.</p> <p>For more information, contact June Zellers at jzellers@roadrunner.com or Kathy Kellison at kell6787@gmail.com.</p>
4th Friday 6:30 – 8:30 Sanctuary Next Meeting is Aug. 26	<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! <u>ALL are welcome.</u> 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>
	- See next page for More Connections by Day of the Week -

	- AND Even More Connections by Day of the Week -
4th <u>Sunday</u> <u>1-2:30 p.m.</u> <u>By Zoom</u> Next Meet- ing is Aug 28	<u>Goddess / Earth Circles</u> Goddess/Earth Circles meets August 28, 1-2:30pm in the church yard or on zoom. Summer connections and "Living Intentionally" as we focus on the Wiccan Rede that says to "harm none". What awareness and accountability is implied for life practice? 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). See UCC website: Church Life/Goddess: Meetings and Archives

Notices / Updates / News



Condolences to Linda Findlay and her family on the passing of her brother, Jonathan Russell, on July 30. A private service is being held at the Veteran's Home where he was a resident, with burial later in Braintree MA. Jonathan's obituary can be found at the following link: khrfuneralhomes.com. Cards of condolence can be send to Linda Findlay, 37 Robin Hood Dr, Winthrop, ME 04364.

Pam Rosen died August 10. She is the sister of Jacqui Clark and sister-in-law of Debbie Mattson. Pam attended the Unitarian Church on King Street and the UCC on Winthrop Street. She was a soprano in the choir. Her daughters, Leslie and Jessica, were raised in the church. Messages of condolence can be sent to: 32 Winthrop St. Hallowell, ME 04347.

Healing Cards and Thoughts NEEDED

Marcianne Rautenberg has been dealing with spinal stenosis for a couple of years. Since January her mobility has diminished to almost zero and her extreme pain has increased to severe and constant. She has now undergone a spinal / back operation and is beginning the recovery journey. She would appreciate cards and prayers. Her address is: 200 So. Beech Rd., Pittston, ME 04345



REMINDER ABOUT PARKING -- I just want to remind you all that parking for church activities and events is **"on street" ONLY**.

Parking anywhere in the lot next to the Judd House (near the yard area) is **not permitted**. That lot belongs to the Maine Primary Care Association and is not for our use during the work week. We are allowed to park there on Sunday mornings ONLY PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE...Let us respect our neighbor and maintain good neighborly relations by parking on the street.

Summer Schedule of Office Hours, Vacation and Church Publications

As I continue to work on updating Office systems this summer, the following changes will continue as follows:

- **E-blasts will be produced every OTHER week.** The schedule is as follows:

E-Blast (8/3)	NO E-blast (8/10)
E-Blast (8/17)	NO E-Blast (8/24)
E-Blast (8/31)	

- **Summer Office hours will change**

NEW Office Hours will be Tues, Wed and Thurs from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

There will be NO office hours on Friday. I will still produce the Order of Service but will otherwise spend the day working on the updates solely.

Social Justice Committee News – <Reprinted from 8/3>

Five and a half years ago, I joined a crowd of people in the Fellowship Hall at St. Mark's Episcopal Church to talk about creating a structure to welcome and support immigrants and refugees in the Capital Area. Dotted among the crowd were other members of our church. The energy in the room was high; we wanted to help create and sustain an integrated and thriving community in Central Maine. From this meeting and many more, Capital Area New Mainers Project (CANMP) emerged.

Members of our church have continued to be an integral part of CANMP. Currently, three members of the Social Justice Committee are part of a Family Mentor Team for a family of 5 from Afghanistan. As members of the team, we reach out to the family in friendship and assist their transition to a new community in a new country. Please check out the website <https://www.newmainersproject.org/>. It is informative, inspirational and invites all each of us volunteer to support our immigrant neighbors. Or, email debbiemattson@hotmail.com to learn more about CANMP and Family Mentor Teams.

First Saturday Public Supper – COORDINATOR NEEDED

UUCS sponsors the first Sunday of the month Public Supper in Augusta. The supper is held at the South Parish Congregational Church. South Parish is looking for a new coordinator for the Dinner. Please see the details below.

<message from So. Parish>

We are trying to find a coordinator for the 1st Saturday Community Dinner. Below is an idea of what is needed. Pre-Covid the UU church was very involved so I was hoping someone might want to help. There is an opportunity this weekend to job shadow if someone wanted to.

Thank you for your help,

Sue Gayne
Missions Motivator
South Parish Congregational Church

Coordinator

- come up with a plan for the next supper (with Keith) during the current supper for the following month. This is often based on what is available for meat/protein in the freezer.
- Check with the food bank for bulk vegetables or purchase through Sam's club enough in advance for delivery.
- Email the food bank letting them know our plan for the next month's supper and request items we need.
- Need someone to send out a monthly email to volunteers two weeks ahead of time asking for help and requesting them to "reply all" to the message.
- The week prior to the supper check the kitchen at So. Parish to make sure there are take-out containers and any other supplies that might need to be purchased.
- If having a meal that requires cooked ground beef or chicken, will usually start cooking a few days before so it is ready to go into whatever is being made on the day of the supper. This cuts down on the amount of prep time on the day of the meal.
- On the day of the meal assist the cook in prepping.
- Most of the current volunteers know what needs to be done when they arrive and they just pitch in and help.
- Bring dirty laundry home for washing and return to the Church.
- If Heidi is unavailable, take recycling.
- Send an invoice to the UU Church (every six months or so) for \$35.00 per month rental fee for the hall.

You will see from this notice that the long-standing debate re: supper (a/k/a "suppa") and "dinner" continues... Nonetheless, if you are interested in more information about this coordinator position or if you are considering taking on this task, please contact admin@augustauu.org.

Board of Trustees

Covid precautions update from the Board:

At the August 11th Board meeting, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Covid Advisory Team's recommendation that pulpit presenters and Worship Arts Associates be allowed to remove masks during services, provided other presenters accept that choice.

The Board, in consultation with the Covid Advisory Team will continue to monitor and consider how we can most effectively balance congregational safety, comfort and community connection within our church premises.

In the works is a plan to hold a town-hall type meeting to discuss this further with all who are interested. Stay tuned for the details as they unfold.

If you have any questions about this, please contact:
Michaela Loisel Board President at: Michaelatloisel@gmail.com.

Board Highlights: from the August 11, 2022 meeting:

At the August 11, 2022 meeting:

- The Treasurer reported a carryover from fiscal year 21-22 of \$17,562.
- In other financial matters:
 - › The Board approved the adjustment of the fy22-23 budget to reflect that the need for withdrawals from the money market and UCC endowment funds was eliminated. The revised income is \$217,230 and revised expenses total \$213,424.
 - › There was a unanimous vote to accept the recommended changes to the MUUSAN Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement. There was a unanimous vote to accept the recommended changes to the Rental Agreement for Drew House to Capitol Area New Mainers.
 - › There was a unanimous vote to accept Rev Sillari's housing allowance form.
 - › UCC has applied for a \$7600 IRS tax refund as part of the federal CARES Act for Employee Retention Credit during the pandemic.
 - › Nancy Fritz was authorized to open a new account at Kennebec Savings to hold the \$1000 security deposit for Drew House tenants.
- There was a discussion of the need for a community discussion to discern the risk tolerance for Covid-19 and ways to move forward.
- There was a unanimous vote to accept the Covid-19 Advisory team's recommendation that pulpit presenters and Worship Associates be allowed to remove masks during services provided other presenters accept the choice.

There will be a Board retreat on September 18.

Board meetings are open to ALL. If you have an item that you would like the Board to consider, please contact Michaela Loisel at Michaelatloisel@gmail.com.

Next Board meeting: September 8, 2022 (UCC Zoom Room)

Board Meeting minutes are available from the UCC website (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

The COVID-19 Advisory Group presented recommended changes to the Board of Trustees on Aug. 11, 2022.

Please see the Board of Trustees update in the [Notices/Updates/News] section in this publication for some important updates.

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

Pastoral Ministry SUMMER COVERAGE

In the event of an emergency or a death, Helen Zidowecki, retired minister and member of the Pastoral Ministry Team, will step in. As in the past, Helen is also willing to be contacted regarding special services, so such requests can go directly to her.

July and August PMT On-Call Schedule:

July 19-Aug 26 Martha Pelletier mjpell14@roadrunner.com 685-9592

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 the Church Administrator at 207-622-3232 or admin@augustauu.org.

UCC Office Hours – NEXT WEEK

UCC Office Hours NEXT WEEK

Summer Office Hours:

Tues, Wed and Thurs – 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Rev. Christina Sillari

Office Hours will be on Wednesday and Thursday

Times to be announced soon

minister@augustauu.org

(207) 623-3663 (minister's study)

(207) 807-9232 (cell – for pastoral emergencies)

Staff Contact information:

Church Administrator, Lynn M. Smith, admin@augustauu.org, Phone 622-3232

Coordinator of Lifespan Faith Formation, M. Monique Bergère, LifespanFF@augustauu.org

Music Director, Bridget Convey, musicdirector@augustauu.org