

Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church
Wednesday, January 22, 2025

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69 Winthrop St., Augusta ME
(207)622-3232 – info@augustauu.org
www.augustauu.org

A Message from our Minister

Inspiration

The words of Maya Angelou

*We, unaccustomed to courage
exiles from delight
live coiled in shells of loneliness
until love leaves its high holy temple
and comes into our sight
to liberate us into life.*

*Love arrives
and in its train come ecstasies
old memories of pleasure
ancient histories of pain.
Yet if we are bold,*

*love strikes away the chains of fear
from our souls.*

*We are weaned from our timidity
in the flush of love's light
we dare to be brave
and suddenly we see
that love costs all we are
and will ever be.
Yet is it only love
which sets us free.*

Maya Angelou's poem *Inspiration*, reminds us to ground ourselves in a community of courage and love. In her words, I hear an invitation to love courageously, to connect with our full history and remember that together we can create a way forward giving voice to our Unitarian Universalist Values. We know that the true humanity and dignity of people cannot be erased with executive orders, and we know that these orders will impact our beloveds in ways that are harm filled.

As a faith community we are called by our faith to follow the lead of the communities most impacted. At times it may mean having the courage to give voice to our understanding of what it means to be human and at other times, we may be invited into subversive acts intended to offer safety. Both will be vital. Our Unitarian Universalist Association describes one effort in this [World Article](#). The Maine Council of Churches is also actively engaging in opportunities to collectively respond to injustice. For more information about the Maine Council of Churches, visit their website [here](#).

The Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network, is another opportunity to engage in not only passing just legislation but also participating in stopping unjust legislation. This Saturday, January 25th, there will be a network meeting, organizing for action. Please visit [MUUSAN](#) to read more about local efforts of Unitarian Universalists and to register for the network meeting.

I look forward to creating community with you!

Love and Light,
Rev. Donna, she, her

What is Our Story?

Please help us center our theme this month by submitting a picture, (with permission from any people who you capture) that reflects the story we have to tell. Please use this [link](#) to submit your picture. Rev. Donna will follow up if she has any questions regarding your submission.

January Photo Submission Link: <https://uuccme.breezechms.com/form/Story>

Upcoming Services

<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday January 26, 2024</p> <p>Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Radical Kinship</i> Social Justice Committee</p> <p>Join the Social Justice Committee as we explore Radical Kinship. We recognize that our Saturday Breakfast Program is a spiritual practice. Through creating a warm space for everyone, for providing delicious, nutritious food, and an opportunity to build mutually transforming relationships through genuine conversations, UUCC is entering into kinship with all members of the community.</p> <p>A special thank you to our worship arts team. Nan Bell will be our worship associate. Cheryl Ring will run slides developed by Nan Bell. Marty Peters will manage Boxcast technology.</p> <p>Our Choir, led by Music Director, Bridget Convey and accompanied by Morgan Lee, pianist, will present "Love one Another" by Jason Shelton. The choir selection will also feature Mike Moody and Darryl Bowles, hand drummers. Mary Kane will lead the team that is hosting coffee hour. Our greeter will be Cheryl Ring.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday February 2, 2024</p> <p>Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>We Would be One</i> Reverend Donna Dolham</p> <p>A special thank you to our worship arts team. Sara Hodgkins will be our Worship Associate. Cheryl Ring will run slides developed by Hanna Brown. Angie Blevins will manage Boxcast technology. Stefanie Barley will be our pianist. Lori Milner will lead the team that is hosting coffee hour. Our greeter will be Jim Caldwell.</p>

Sunday worship service is held IN-PERSON in the Sanctuary. Please be aware that the church doors will be locked 10 minutes after the service begins. The greeter will be at the front door to let anyone in after that time.

As a community committed to "going green", we do not hand out paper orders of service.

If you would like to print one at home or bring it up on your phone during the service, don't hesitate to go to our online order of service.

The order of service is updated on Fridays. [Here is the OOS link](#)

If you want to watch the livestream of the service, please visit:
<https://boxcast.tv/channel/mtifph0utvesjqgiyej>

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. Services may be viewed by Boxcast for a week after the service is live.

Accessibility Reminders

- Please leave the empty spots in the first two rows of the sanctuary seating for our folks using wheelchairs.
- Due to fragrance allergies, we are asking people not to wear perfumes or natural scents when attending services and programming at UUCC.
- If you require one of our hearing assistance devices to access services, please ask the greeter for assistance.
- Please let us know how we can help you engage with our community!

Special Events / Notices / News

SOCIAL ACTIVITY:

Lewiston Public Theater presents the play: Every Brilliant Thing

“If you have ever written a “gratitude list”, this hilarious heartbreaking, surprising, interactive play is for you”. When a mother goes into a hospital since she finds it “hard to be happy”, her 6 year old daughter starts writing her a list of the brilliant things worth living for, #1 is ice cream.

Friday, Jan 24 at 7:00 p.m. or Sunday Jan 26 at 2:00 p.m. Wondering if any UU's are interested in attending. Contact Cheryl C. for more info. Tickets are \$35

I can also reserve your ticket if you wish. cherylclukey5@yahoo.com or call/text (207)441-0337

Sustainable Health & Breast Health Qigong **ENDS Jan 28, 2025**

The last class for the Sustainable Health & Breast Health Qigong will be held on January 28, 2025, 4pm in Fellowship Hall. Plans are being considered for possible future Qigong programming as a drop in or some other form. Details will be shared as they become available.



The UUCC Library, located in the Committee Room, focuses on UU resources. Books that are not included in the Library are available at no cost.

VISIT the FREE BOOK table in the Fellowship Hall on the fourth Sundays during Fellowship Hour -- starting this Sunday, January 26, 11am-12pm.

An opportunity for reflection...

An opportunity to reflect on the latest wayside pulpit message being shared on the corner of Winthrop and Summer Streets.



“We have forgotten that we all belong to one another”.

~Mother Teresa

Thank you to Angie Blevins for maintaining the wayside pulpit and providing us with messages to ponder.

The Covenant Engagement Team (CET)

January Covenant Promise

Our January promise is: “Because we value our relationships with each other, we promise to: Accept one another for who we are and not allow differences of opinion to affect our respect for the person.”

We think a good way to dive into this promise is to share some stories. Do you have a friend who you love despite your differences? Tell us what makes that friendship work for you by writing a short vignette describing how you and this friend navigate your differences. Please aim for a word count of less than 500 words.

One way we will share these stories is in a Sharing Café on February 16h (see below). And listen to the Announcements at the end of Worship and also check upcoming E-Blasts for other ways to share.

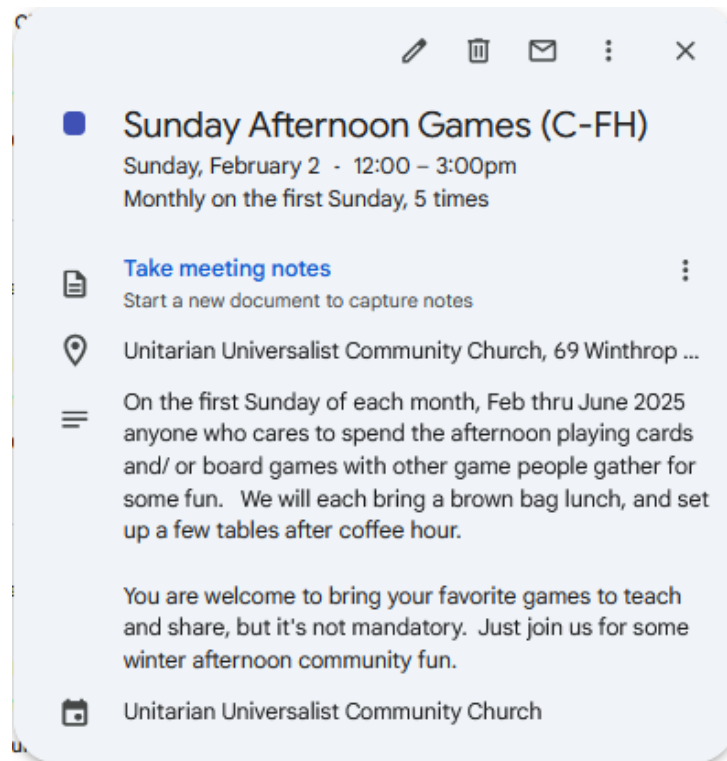
Join Us! FEBRUARY 16 at noon.

Navigating differences with others, along with your stories, will become the basis for a Sharing Café on Sunday, February 16 immediately following our Fellowship Lunch.

We will break into small groups and share what we have learned from these friendships in response to at least one Sharing Café question. Watch for more details.

Covenant Engagement Team, Rev. Donna Dolham, Michaela Loisel, and June Zellers

**** Upcoming events to add to your calendar!****



INQUIRERS SERIES

Designed for visitors, new church members and inquirers, this 9 session series will be offered continuously through the year. It will be held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, at 11:15 in the nursery/meeting room.

9 session cycle includes:



-Q&A with the minister (1/12)

-UU history, principles, sources and values with Kathy Kellison and Michaela Loisel (1/26)

-Campus Tour and Orientation

-Faith Development for Children and Adults

-Worship and Liturgical Year

-Social Action, Community Service and Racial Equity

-Pastoral Care

-Connections

-Membership

New guidelines - anyone interested in becoming a member of UUCC should attend at least 4 of these sessions.

Questions-refer to Susan O'Keefe, Global Hospitality Chair, slcburnett@me.com or 242-9100

The Shared Pulpit Class Starts February 20th!

In our Unitarian Universalist tradition, we speak of shared ministry-the belief that everyone, not just the ordained minister, can take part in the ministry of the congregation. To support the shared ministry effort, we are pleased to offer a Shared Pulpit course which will be an in-person class offered for 6 sessions, twice a month. The meetings will be held in the Fellowship Hall at UUCC from 6:00 pm to 8:00pm on the third and fourth Thursdays in February, March and April 2025. The program will be facilitated by the Rev. Donna Dolham and Sara Hodgkins, Worship Arts Chair.

Using a series of small group meetings, this program is designed to deepen connection with group participants and support participants who want to learn to craft thoughtful, faithful sermons/reflections anchored in their own experience. You don't need to think of yourself as a writer or be an established worship leader to attend.

Participants who completed this program report that it transformed their relationship to their congregations and to Unitarian Universalism.

The program is limited to 8 participants and the registration link will close when 8 participants are registered.

The link to the registration form for The Shared Pulpit class:

<https://uuccme.breezechms.com/form/TheSharedPulpit>

For more information, please contact Rev. Donna or Sara Hodgkins.

Are you interested in offering programming or scheduling an event for the UCC community?

Please use this [program request online form](#) to help guide the process.

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/>

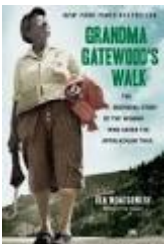
[Click here to join Events in the Zoom Room](#)

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>See details</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Peaceful Heart Sangha</u></p> <p>We meet EVERY Monday online. You may join us at 6:15 to settle in. PLEASE NOTE: Starting on December 2, the group will also meet in-person in the Sanctuary (not hybrid), ONLY on the first Monday of each month.</p> <p>Please contact Marty Soule for updated Zoom login information at: email: martysoule@gmail.com. FMI: peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com <u>Sangha gatherings are free and open to all.</u></p> 
<p><u>2nd & 4th</u> <u>Monday</u></p> <p><u>9:30 – Noon</u></p> <p>Next Meeting is Jan 27th</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Sewing/Craft/Hobby Group</u></p> <p>Sewing/Craft/Hobby Group meets in the Fellowship Hall the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month from 9:30 am - 12:00 Noon. We ask that attendees help set up and put away tables and chairs.</p> <p>Just bring whatever you'd like to work on, machine or hand sewing, craft or hobby item you are working on, and we will all help one another as needed. Be sure to let us know if there is anything you need from one of us...we are likely to have whatever it is! Martha 887-1104 or 303-5859 / Nancy 213-3047. All are welcome. Bring a friend, if you like.</p>
<p><u>Tuesday</u> <u>10:30 a.m.</u></p> <p><u>UCC</u> <u>Virtual</u> <u>Zoom</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Lectio Divina</u></p> <p>A weekly Lectio Divina program will be offered weekly on Tuesdays beginning on September 10th from 10:30 to 11:30. Lectio Divina can be translated as divine reading. We will share a chalice lighting, centering meditation, sharing and reflection time based with a variety of sources.</p> <p>This program will be facilitated by Rev. Donna Dolham and Lori Milner and is open to the wider community. Join as you're able, you do not need to attend every week, although you are welcome to!</p>

Wednes- day 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>UUCChoir Rehearsal</u></p> <p>Our weekly choir rehearsal takes place from 6pm to 7:30pm in the sanctuary. We look forward to welcoming new members! Inquiries to Bridget Convey at musicdirector@augustauu.org.</p>
Wednes- days Each Week 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Gentle YOGA</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hosted by Debbie Mattson</p> <p>UU Yoga is offered as a hybrid gathering. People can choose to gather in the Fellowship Hall for yoga, Wednesdays 5 PM-6 PM or join via zoom. Here is the zoom link:</p> <p>https://maine.zoom.us/j/95825651125?pwd=UWJpOVFjVFJGb3dMWmZoOT-RXa3VoUT09 ----- Password: 174192</p> <p>Please join us a few minutes before 5:00 to settle in so we can begin class right at 5 p.m. FMI: DebbieMattson@hotmail.com</p> 
2nd & 4th Wednesday 1:00-2:30pm 2 nd and 4 th Zoom ONLY	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Seasoned Souls</u></p> <p>Seasoned Souls is a group of participants in the UUCCh community who are over 65 years of age and meet as a study/support group to talk openly about topics related to the aging process. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. in the UUCCh Zoom Room only. We will not meet in the Fellowship Hall until future notice.</p> <p>FMI: For more information please contact Hal Booth at halbooth1@yahoo.com or (207)623-8383 [land-line, no text].</p>
Thursdays Each Week 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Peaceful Heart Sangha</u></p> <p>You may join us at 7:45 a.m. to settle in. Meet from 8-9:30 -- IN-PERSON every Thursday at the River Studio, 332 Water St. Hallowell (except the last Thursday of the month) --BY Private ZOOM – last Thursday of the month</p> <p>Please contact Marty Soule for updated login information at martysoule@gmail.com. FMI: peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com <i>Sangha gatherings are free and open to all.</i></p> 
1st Thursday Noon-1:30 p.m. Next Meet- ing is Feb 6 th	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Read Learn Share Book Group</u></p> <p>We are a friendly and thoughtful group. We meet regularly on the first Thursday of the month from noon until 1:30 in the Fellowship Hall and on Zoom. We welcome anyone who wants to join us. Come once or always! FMI: contact June Zellers at jzellers@roadrunner.com or Kathy Kellison at kell6787@gmail.com.</p>

	 <p>Join us on February 6 to discuss <u>Grandma Gatewood's Walk</u> by Ben Montgomery.</p> <p>Grandma Gatewood's Walk is a great story about keeping going, toughing it out and being resourceful.</p> <p>On March 6 we will meet to discuss <u>Frozen River</u> by Ariel Lawhon</p> <p>We are an open group, so you are welcome to this discussion or any of those in the future. The full list of the books for the year is available on our website calendar (in the details of any book group meeting).</p>
<p><u>Fridays</u> <u>Each Week</u></p> <p><u>6:00 – 7:00</u> <u>p.m.</u></p>	<p><u><i>Fabulous Friday AA Meeting</i></u></p> <p>Join us for this Alcoholics Anonymous meeting from 6-7pm in the church at 69 Winthrop St. Please enter through the Summer Street door and join us in the room straight ahead and through the double doors.</p>
<p><u>4th</u> <u>Friday</u></p> <p><u>6:30 – 8:30</u> <u>Sanctuary</u></p> <p>Next Meeting is Jan. 24th</p>	<p><u><i>Free Style Drum Circle</i></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>
<p><u>Every</u> <u>Saturday</u></p> <p>9:00–11 am in the Sanctuary</p>	<p><u><i>UUCC Occasional Orchestra</i></u></p> <p>Rehearsals are held Saturdays in the Sanctuary from 9:00-11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Come and share your musical talents with our UUCC community. All are welcome, please join us!</p> <p>Questions: please contact our UUCCOO Orchestra Director, Michael P. Atkinson at: mpatkinson@gmail.com.</p>
<p><u>3rd</u> <u>Sunday</u></p> <p><u>11am-</u> <u>12:30 p.m.</u></p> <p>Next Lunch is Feb 16th</p>	<p>FELLOWSHIP LUNCH 3rd Sunday (October – June) 11:30-12:30pm, Fellowship Hall</p> <p>Enjoy community at a restaurant style sit-down meal – no need to register – just join us in Fellowship Hall after the service. We generally have a "base" kitchen crew but need a few extra volunteers to help set up and serve. To sign up to help set up or serve, please email Marilyn Dunn (maine2007@hotmail.com or call (207) 512-5382.</p>

<p>4th Sunday</p> <p>1-2:30 p.m.</p> <p>Next Meeting is Jan 26th</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Goddess / Earth Circles</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, January 26 1-2:30pm on UUCC zoom ONLY</p> <p>Topic: Turning of the Year: Toward a Year of Hope Bring Reflections readings and thoughts about how are we connected with cycles of the earth, and how we Hope in time of change or chaos.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Goddess/Earth Circles focuses on the phases of our lives and earth-based spirituality.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">All ages and genders are welcome FMI Contact Helen Zidowecki (207-582-5308, hzmre@hzmre.com).</p>
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Social Justice Updates

Thanks to the generosity of this congregation, the Social Justice Committee was able to present a check for \$666, garnered from Share the Plate contributions, to the Overnight Warming Center. These much needed funds will assist the shelter in providing services for guests seeking a place of respite during these long, often frigid, nights.

With gratitude and appreciation,
SJC



Our December network meeting was both productive and inspiring, as more than 60 Unitarian Universalists expressed our commitment to bringing our UU values into action in response to unprecedented threats on much that we hold sacred.

Join us for Part Two as we build on what we learned in December. Mark your calendars and watch for a registration link and pre-meeting survey coming soon!

MUUSAN NETWORK MEETING PART TWO: ORGANIZING FOR ACTION

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25TH
10 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.
ON ZOOM (LINK TO COME LATER)

Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network

PO Box 8

Augusta, ME 04332

admin@muusan.org

<http://www.muusan.org>

Board of Trustees

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

At the January 9 meeting the Board:

- Met with the chair of Global Hospitality to get updated on achievements and plans.
- Discussed the use of funds from our reserve accounts.
- Decided to hold an open house at Drew House on January 26.
- Accepted the donation of a chest freezer.
- Voted to fund the Maine Family Leave tax rather than have it deducted it from employees' wages.
- Went into executive session to discuss the minister's compensation.
- Voted to provide a 3% cost of living adjustment for the minister in FY 25-26

Complete minutes will be posted on the UUCS website and on the Board of Trustees bulletin board in the church vestibule when they are available.

The next board meeting is Thursday, February 13, 2025

All are welcome to attend but please see the [UUCS Policy for Board Meeting Visitors](#).

If you have an item that you would like the Board to consider, please contact michaelatloisel@gmail.com.

General Information

Worship Services are held IN-PERSON
Events may still be held virtually in the
UUCC ZOOM ROOM

Other ways to UUCC 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.**

UUCC 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.

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)	pellsav64@gmail.com
Helen Zidowecki	207-582-5308 (h)	hzmre@hzmre.com
Peggy Lamb	207 622-5174 (h)	plambflowers@outlook.com
Lori Milner	520-437-3442 (c)	lmilner3@gmail.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 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 Linda Findlay (207-377-8028, linda.findlay@gmail.com) or Helen Zidowecki (207-582-5308.

hzmre@hzmre.com)

UUCC Office Hours & Notes

UPDATED E-blast & Office Hours

E-blasts will be produced on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. The upcoming schedule is:

- E-Blast (1/22)
- NO E-Blast (1/29)
- E-Blast (2/5)
- NO E-blast (2/12)

EBLAST SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Articles due by noon on Tuesday, the day before the E-blast is distributed. Articles received after this time may not be included in the E-blast. Send articles to admin@augustauu.org

UUCC Office Hours NEXT WEEK

Church Administrator - Open office hours:

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

Rev. Donna Dolham

Minister's study – (207) 623-3663

Pastoral Emergencies only - use cell phone

Email: minister@augustauu.org

Visit [Calendly Scheduling Link](#) to schedule an appointment with Rev. Dolham.

Minister's Fall schedule

Mondays will be Rev. Donna's Sabbath. If you are having a pastoral care emergency, please call her cell phone and leave a message at: 207 701-1581.

Fridays will be a writing day and Rev. Donna will not regularly be checking emails or returning non urgent calls.

Staff Contact information: Church Administrator, Lynn M. Smith, admin@augustauu.org, Phone (207)622-3232
Music Director, Bridget Convey, musicdirector@augustauu.org