Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church Wednesday, September 3, 2025

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www.augustauu.org



A message from our Minister

Please join us this Sunday, September 7th UUCC's Ingathering Service!

UUCC celebrates the beginning of Fall with the Unitarian Universalist ritual of Ingathering. At UUCC we combine this moment in time with the Water Ceremony ritual celebrating the many paths we travel to be together. To read more about the Water Ceremony origins please visit:

https://www.uua.org/worship/holidays/water-communion/original-water-ritual. UUCC welcomes back our awesome choir!

Please bring a little bit of water to share in our ritual.

This year in September we will focus on Building Belonging, our Soul Matters focus for the month. UUCC participates in Soul Matters program, a network of Unitarian Universalist congregations who follow the same monthly themes so we can more easily share small group material, as well as worship, sermon, music and children's religious education resources. Soul Matters is a web of support and connection. Companions traveling a new journey together each month. This year worship, small group ministry and our eventual multiage nursery space will be invited to use this year's monthly themes.

This year's themes include:



Please join us as we continue to build belonging together!

Love and Light!

Rev. Donna Dolham

Upcoming Services

Sunday September 7, 2025

Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m.

Coming Together and Reaching Out Ingathering & Water Ceremony Rev. Donna Dolham

Join us as we celebrate the beginning of a new Fall season. Please bring a little bit of water to share in our Water Ceremony ritual. See minister's article above for more details on the service. We will also hold space in this service for you to share your <u>Joys and Sorrows</u> with our community.

A special thank you to our worship arts team. Nan Bell will be our worship associate. Slides developed by Hanna Brown will be run by Angie Blevins. Betty Cairn will serve as our Boxcast tech.

Our led by Music Director, Bridget Convey will present Silver Rain by BE Boykin. The choir will be accompanied by Morgan Lee, pianist and special guest cellist, Eliza Meyer.

Other members of the team are our greeter Nancy Fritz and our fellowship hour hosts, Jamus Hanscom and Sandlin Preecs.

During Coffee hour 9/7: Fresh Fruits and Vegetables will be sold in a "Pay as you Can, Pay as you Will format". sing with our Watershed BEGINS SEPT. See the details below. Sunday Values, Values, Values September 14, 2025 Rev. Donna Dolham A special thank you to our worship arts team. Lori Milner will be our Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m. worship associate. Slides developed by Angie Blevins will be run by Cheryl Ring. Angie Blevins will manage Boxcast technology and Karen Foust will be our pianist. Other members of the team are our Board of Trustees greeter, Becky Harvey and our fellowship hour hosts, Annie Blanchard and Rob Shore. Join us after the service for an Inquirers session. See details below. At this Time Sunday, September 21 Reverend Donna Dolham Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m. A special thank you to our worship arts team. Marty Peters will be our worship associate. Slides developed by Nan Bell will be run by Angie Blevins. Cheryl Ring will manage Boxcast technology. Our Choir led by Music Director, Bridget Convey, will present Filled with Loving Kindness, a traditional Buddhist meditation. The choir will be accompanied by Morgan Lee, pianist. As of this time, we have no volunteers to be coffee hour hosts for this service. Please reach out to Global Hospitality to volunteer. Hilary Neckles will serve as our greeter. SHARE THE PLATE: UU Service Committee will be the September Share the Plate recipient. After the Service – Join us for a special time to Welcome Visitors and New Folks to UUCC

<u>Sunday worship service</u> is held IN-PERSON in the Sanctuary.

Please be aware that the 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/mtifpth0utvesjqgjyej

If you missed the service or want to watch the service again, the link above also allows access to the prior service. A service may be viewed om 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!
- NEW -- Closed Captioning is now available on Boxcast!

Special Events / Notices / News

A *Remembrance service for <u>Robert and Andy Rand</u>* will be held on September 20th. More details to come.

<u>Liz and Robert Nitzel invite us to join in a Celebration of Life for Liz's parents, Jan and Barry Roche</u> on September 20th beginning at 11am. The service will be followed by a luncheon and then an hour of JitterBug (East Coast Swing) Dance Instruction and laughter. If you are unable to attend in person, we welcome you to join us via livestream on BoxCast: <u>Watch the Service Here</u>. To help us plan, please let us know if you'll be attending by filling out this brief RSVP form: RSVP Here

Guests are encouraged to bring a pair or pack of white Gold Toe socks for Bridging the Gap.

Some Housekeeping Requests and Needs

The Quest for More Storage Space-room where the tables are stored.

The week of September 21st we will be de-cluttering the left side of this room. If you have items in this area, please try to consolidate them, take them home if they are rarely used or donate if they aren't used.

Organizers / Declutterers needed!

Looking for volunteers to declutter/organize the kitchen and committee room in the near future.

Questions / concerns / volunteers: Contact Susan O'Keefe

** Note some schedule changes coming this fall**

The Board of Trustees is changing its regular meeting time to 5:15 to 7:15.

The meeting day will still be the second Thursday of the month.

UUCC Choir Rehearsals resumed Wednesdays on Aug. 27th at an earlier time - time has been changed to 5:00 – 7:00 pm.

Gentle YOGA began meeting on TUESDAYs at 5:00 p.m. beginning on 8/26.
Yoga no longer meets on Wednesdays

READ LEARN SHARE Book Group - CHANGE IN MEETING TIME

Starting when we convene for our first meeting in the church's new year (October 2), we are changing our meeting time (but not the day) to 10:30 a.m. to noon. Our new list of titles is shown below:

Schedule of Books - 2025-2026

October 2	The Lioness of Boston, E. Franklin (408 pages)
November 6	The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew (297 pages)
December 4	The House in the Cerulean Sea, TJ Thune (400 pages)
January 1**	See No Stranger, Valarie Kaur (307 pages)
February 5	Catalina: A Novel, Villavicencio (224 pages)
March 5	Cloistered: My Years as a Nun, Coldstream (328 pages)
April 2	Heartwood, Gaige (320 pages)
May 7	The Ride of Her Life, Letts (336 pages)
June 4	West with Giraffes, Rutledge (346 pages)

^{*}We didn't realize the first Thursday in January was the 1st - a holiday. We will need to discuss an alternative.*

Lectio Divina Begins Again!

This weekly online program will begin again on Tuesday, September 9th at 10:30am on UUCC's Zoom Room. The group invites you to join divine reading and lived experience through a practice called Lectio Divina. Lectio Divina originated as a monastic practice of scripture reading, meditation, prayer and action. The group utilizes various authors and scripture as our written word for reflection. Please feel free to join as you can. **All are welcome.**



Engaging with our Watershed 3-Part Series Starting September 7th at 11:45 a.m.

June Zellers and Kathy Kellison will be offering a 3-part series entitled "Engaging with our Watershed" on the three Sundays closest to the Full Moon at the beginning of this church year. For those of you who do not keep a Lunar Calendar, that's September 7th, October 5th, and November 2nd. The series is based on programming developed by The Center for Spirituality in Nature and inspired by our work with The BTS Center.

We will meet in the small park by the Kennebec River at the bottom of Winthrop Street at 11:45. You may drive down or join those of us who will walk down from the church at 11:30.

We will gather with a reading; enjoy a contemplative exercise while engaging with the "more-than-human" beings around us; have a time of sharing; and then end at 12:30 with some closing words. (Feel free to bring food/beverage if you wish.)

We hope you will join us in observing our watershed as summer retreats and autumn steps forward. For information, contact June or Kathy at <u>Green Team</u>.

Panel and Community Conversation on Immigration

September 16, 2025, 5:30-7:30, Lithgow Library, Augusta *To help you, your neighbor, and your country*

In this panel discussion, attendees will:

- Explore and clarify terms like illegal immigrants, migrants, asylum seekers, documented/undocumented status, green cards, and work visas, so we can engage our communities in informed, respectful conversations that foster understanding of our immigrant neighbors.
- Understand the services being provided regularly as people go through this legal immigration process.
- Learn about current dangers to our immigrant neighbors and the responses to protect and support them, as well as the possible impact on commerce and agriculture with the detaining and removal of our neighbors.

Join Jon Godbout, executive director of the Capital Area New Mainers Project, and Lisa Parisio, an attorney with Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project based in Portland.

This program is free and open to the public.

INQUIRER SERIES

A rotating series of 9-10 conversations for visitors, newcomers and new members, and occasional inquiring members.

Sunday September 14th

Campus Tour and New England beginnings of Unitarian Universalism with Susan O'Keefe

Sunday September 28th

Worship and Liturgical Year with Sara Hodgkins.

Sunday October 12th

Social Action, Community Service and Racial Equity with Mary Kane

Sunday October 26

Pastoral Care with Martha Pelletier

Meets in the room next to the nursery 15 minutes after the Service.

COME MEET YOUR FELLOW CONGREGANTS WHO SERVE

IN CRITICAL UUCC LEADERSHIP ROLES

UUCC Committees play a very important role in the health of church life. The UUCC Bylaws identify Committee works as: "the lifeblood of the UUCC". Committee members demonstrate commitment to the principles of the church and compassion for our community. Service on the committee is a ministry to the church and is received by the congregation with gratitude.

So, this is *your* chance to meet the folks who are doing this important work. *Kicking off the Church Year:* Engaging with the Magic of UUCC Leadership will be held on Sunday September 28th, from 11:15 am to - 12:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. At this point, 12 members from seven committees (with three sub-committees represented under finance) will be in attendance.

Specifically, Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs will:

Welcome you! Especially new members of the congregation. They will also tell you all about the role of Leadership is in our community.

- 1. Describe the ministry of *their* specific committee and its role in building Beloved Community within UUCC.
- 2. Develop relationships early in the church year. Which committee would you like to sign up for by the end of the morning?

There's a lot going on that Sunday which just demonstrates once again how vibrate our church has become. But do make sure you visit us in the Fellowship Hall. You may be in for a few surprises!

Kathy Shaw and Dennis Maddi Co-Chairs Leadership Development Committee

The Covenant Engagement Team (CET)

"What does it mean to you to be a member of this church?"

As we look to the new church year, the Covenant Engagement Team is delighted to have Liz Nitzel (Board Member-At-Large) join our team that includes Rev. Donna Dolham, June Zellers, and Michaela Loisel. We will continue bringing the covenant to the attention of our congregation so that we are able to ground ourselves in what it actually means to practice the promises we have made to each other.

<u>Our September Promise is</u>: "Because we value our relationships with each other, we promise to: Get to know each other, create opportunities to gather, work, and play together, and build trust in our relationships." Our September worship theme is "Building Belonging". —Let's have fun sharing what this means to us.—

YOU ARE INVITED to tell us: "What does it mean to you to be a member of this church?"

When: Ingathering Sunday, September 7th after worship.

How: By making a short video recording of your answer.

Where: In the Robbins Room, at the back of the Sanctuary (or on your right as you exit onto

Summer Street).

Who: Rev. Donna, Liz Nitzel, and Michaela Loisel will facilitate.

Questions: contact the Covenant Engagement Team



Thank you, Angie Blevins for sharing this wonderful message in our wayside pulpit at the corner or Winthrop and Summer Streets.

Thanks for reminding us that Love rules and Hope reigns!

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

Please use this **program re- quest online form** to help guide the process.

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/events-calendar

<u>Click here to join Events in the Zoom Room</u>For other ways to join Zoom, see <u>General Information</u>

Zoom meeting id: 823 807 0673 – Password: 6971

Zoom meeting id: 823 80/ 06/3 – Password: 69/1		
Monday	Peaceful Heart Sangha	
Each week 6:30 – 8:00	We meet EVERY Monday online. You may join us at 6:15 to settle in. The group also meets <u>in-person</u> in the Sanctuary (not hybrid), <u>ONLY on the first Monday of each month</u> .	
p.m. See details	Please contact Marty Soule for updated Zoom login information at: email: martysoule@gmail.com . FMI: peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com . Sangha gatherings are free and open to all.	
2 nd & 4 th	Sewing/Craft/Hobby Group	
Monday 9:30 – Noon	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.	
Meeting September 8 th & 22 nd	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 uswe are likely to have whatever it is! Questions: Contact Martha or Nancy at Contact Sewing/Craft Group All are welcome. Bring a friend, if you like.	
Tuesday	<u>Lectio Divina</u>	
10:30 a.m. <u>UUCC</u>	A weekly Lectio Divina program will be offered weekly on Tuesday 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.	

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!

	Gentle YOGA	
Tuesdays Each Week	Please note: Gentle Yoga is now meeting on Tuesday (eff 8/26). Hosted by Debbie Mattson	
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.	UU Yoga is offered as a hybrid gathering. People can choose to gather in the Fellowship Hall for yoga, Tuesdays 5 PM-6 PM or join via zoom. Here is the zoom link:	
	https://maine.zoom.us/j/95825651125?pwd=UWJpOVFjVFJGb3dMWmZoOT- RXa3VoUT09 Password: 174192	
	Please join us a few minutes before 5:00 to settle in so we can begin class right at 5 p.m. FMI: Contact Yoga Class	
2nd 6- 4th	<u>Seasoned Souls</u>	
2nd & 4 th Wednesday	Seasoned Souls is a group of participants in the UUCC community who are over 65 years of age and meet as a study/support group to talk openly about topics related to the aging	
1:00-2:30pm Fellowship Hall	process. We meet on the 2^{nd} and 4^{th} Wednesday of each month from $1:00-2:30$ p.m. inperson in the Fellowship Hall ONLY.	
Meeting September 10 th & 24 th	FMI: For more information please contact Hal Booth at Contact Seasoned Souls.	
Wednes-	<u>UUCC Choir Rehearsal</u>	
<u>day</u> 5:00 -	Choir rehearsals resumed August 27th"> at a NEW time 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.	
7:00 p.m.	We look forward to welcoming new members! Inquiries to Bridget Convey at Contact	
	Music Director.	
Thursdays	Music Director. Peaceful Heart Sangha	
Thursdays Each Week 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.		
Each Week 8:00 - 9:30	Peaceful Heart Sangha 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)	
Each Week 8:00 – 9:30	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 Please contact Marty Soule for updated login information at martysoule@gmail.com. FMI: peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com	
Each Week 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.	Peaceful Heart Sangha 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 Please contact Marty Soule for updated login information at martysoule@gmail.com. FMI: peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com Sangha gatherings are free and open to all.	

Fridays	Fabulous Friday AA Meeting
Each Week 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.	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.
Every	UUCC Occasional Orchestra
Saturday	UUCCOO rehearsals resume September 6 th every Saturday morning, 9-11:00 a.m.
9:00–11 am in the Sanctuary	Come and share your musical talents with our UUCC community. All are welcome, please join us! Questions: please contact our UUCCOO Orchestra Director, Michael P. Atkinson at: Contact UUCCOO Director
Sundays Each Week	Serenity Sunday Al-Anon Every Sunday, In person, use door on Summer St.
5:00-6:00pm Fellowship Hall, Zoom	Or ZOOM: Meeting ID #846 4156 7190 Passcode: #04330 Use Zoom only during inclement weather.
3 rd	FELLOWSHIP LUNCH
Sunday 11am-	3rd Sunday (October – May) 11:30-12:30pm, Fellowship Hall
12:30 p.m.	Lunches will resume in October 2025.
4 th	FREE BOOK CENTER
Sunday	Usually held on the 4th Sunday during Fellowship Hour however,
<u>Fellowship</u>	In SEPTEMBER we will hold this the 3 rd Sunday, 9/21 due to scheduling conflict.
Hour Next Sept. 21st	Special Display and Free Book offerings of books used in UUCC programs over the years, and we have extra copies. Books for all ages!
	Visit the Library when the Committee Room is available. Service Project of Small Group Ministry Contact: Mary Shifman at FREE BOOKS

4th Sunday

> 1-2:30 p.m.

Next Meeting is Sept 28th

Goddess / Earth Circles

GODDESS/Earth Circles

Goddess/Earth Circles: 1:00-2:30pm - In person in FH and UUCC Zoom

September 28: Celebrating Fall Equinox

Reflection on "Vibrant, Juicy, Contemporary: Or, Why I Am A UU Pagan" by Margo Adler – and - Planning gathering topics for the church year. Join us!

Goddess/Earth Circles focuses on the phases of our lives and earth-based spirituality. All ages and genders are welcome. FMI Contact Helen Zidowecki at Contact Goddess/EC.

Social Justice Updates

MUUSAN

Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network Visit http://www.muusan.org for more information about how YOU can join other UU's to get involved promoting just, humane laws and policies in keeping with our UUA Principles.

Creating a Green Sanctuary

Please join us on September 28th for our Sunday service on the UU Green Sanctuary Program. This is another step along the path of becoming more involved in climate justice work. Many members will remember the Climate Justice Service we had last September, as we joined with over 400 UU congregations to learn about the current state of our planet, and to consider our role in creating a healthy future for everyone. In January, we heard from two amazing young adults (former members of our congregation), who shared their knowledge about the startling and imminent dangers we continue to experience due to climate change, and then to hear how we could become active in finding solutions, and advocate for positive change.

A Lament for the Earth evening service, arranged and facilitated by Kathy Kellison and June Zellers, brought many folks into a spiritual experience which focused on our personal reactions and feeling about climate change.

We now have the opportunity to engage with other UU congregations in Maine and the United States in the UUA's Green Sanctuary Program, which focuses on four areas: Congregational Transformation, Community Resilience, Justice and Mitigation. Our service September 28th will give an overview of the program, including ways that we are already doing good work, and to get input of your ideas and if you will enthusiastically support UUCC becoming a Green Sanctuary Congregation.

UUCC Social Justice Committee

Board of Trustees

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS:

At the August 14 meeting, the Board:

- Noted a surplus of \$8024 from fiscal year 24-25
- Discussed the lease of Drew House to Capital Area New Mainers
- Discussed shades for the windows in the Sanctuary and new chairs for Fellowship Hall

NEXT BOARD MEETING SEPTEMBER 11 from 5:15-7:15 p.m.

All are welcome to attend but please see the <u>UUCC Policy for Board Meeting Visitors</u>. If you have an item that you would like the Board to consider, please contact <u>Karen Allen</u> to make your item request to Karen one month in advance of the Board Meeting. September Board agenda will soon be available on the Website – Governance page and will be posted on the "Board of Trustees" bulletin board in the hallway of the Sanctuary.

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. <u>Join from your internet browser by clicking this link or typing this into your browser:</u>
 https://zoom.us/j/8238070673, launch Zoom, then enter passcode: 6971
- 2. Select "Join Meeting" from the Zoom application on your computer or mobile device.

UUCC Meeting ID: 823 807 0673 – then enter passcode: 6971

3. <u>Join by phone</u>: dial 1 646 558 8656 (**NOTE**: toll charge may apply) At first prompt (meeting id: 823 807 0673#)

At second prompt: press # (no personal id needed) <No passcode needed when joining by phone> NOTE---*6 is mute AND un-mute on your phone. The host cannot mute or un-mute people who phone-in.

HOSTS: Once in your meeting, claim the host using the HOST KEY as you have done in the past.

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.

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 or cards, contact us too.

Reach out to: Contact Pastoral Ministry Team

Martha Pelletier, Chair Helen Zidowecki Lori Milner

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 and Helen Zidowecki Contact SGM Leaders

UUCC Office Hours & Notes

Our Church Administrator will be taking time off September 12th thru September 19th. The office will be closed in her absence. She will return to the office on Tues. September 23rd. As a result of the office closing, the E-blast schedule will change as follows:

September E-blasts will be published 9/3 and 9/24

October E-Blasts will be published on 10/8 and 10/22.

The deadline for submissions to the E-Blast is noon on the Tuesday preceding the publication date.

The upcoming E-Blast schedule is:

- o E-Blast (9/3)
- o NO E-Blast 9/10 or 9/17
- o E-Blast (9/24)
- o NO E-Blast (10/1)

UUCC Office Hours NEXT WEEK

Open office hours (Tues and Thurs 10am - 2pm) Or by appointment

Rev. Donna Dolham

Minister's study – (207) 623-3663 Pastoral Emergencies only - use cell phone

Email: Contact Minister

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

Visit <u>Calendly Scheduling Link</u> to schedule an appointment with Rev. Dolham.

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, Contact Admin, Phone (207)622-3232

Music Director, Bridget Convey, Contact Music Director