



The Flaming Chalice

The newsletter of The Unitarian Universalist Community Church
69 Winthrop Street ~ PO Box 8 ~ Augusta, ME 04332-0008

Fall 2020

Worship at UCC

Sunday Services each week at 10:00 A.M. on Zoom

Information on Sunday services is included in the Weekly E-blasts.

Upcoming Special Services on Zoom

Join us for these traditional services reimagined and crafted for these unusual times.
For more information on Special Services see the weekly E-blast.

Harvest Communion, Sunday, November 22nd

Our annual Harvest Communion service is a time to pause in gratitude for all that is our life. With the symbolism of cider and pumpkin bread, we partake in the story of community, abundance, and interdependence.

Music Sunday, Sunday, December 6th

This traditional December service has become a favorite among members and friends. Bring your family, friends and neighbors for this holiday treat. This service brings us together to sing and enjoy a morning of music highlighting the Unitarian Universalist Community Church music program.

Grief and the Holidays, Thursday, December 17th

The season of lights, carols and parties, all is not always merry. Many of us carry grief, stress, estrangement, financial crises, and illness. This service in Mid-December offers a quiet reflective space for healing and wholeness. This vespers style service is led by Rev. Carie and the Pastoral Ministry Team.

Christmas Eve Service, Thursday, December 24th

Our annual Christmas Eve Service offers people of all ages the opportunity to center their spirit around the many gifts of the holiday season: peace and joy, light and love.

All services are held in the

UCC ZOOM ROOM ← ← **click this UPDATED LINK to join**

Meeting ID# 823 807 0673 - Passcode: 6971

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.

A Faith Journey...

We got this. We know how to do hard things!

As this newsletter arrives in your inbox the citizens of this nation are showing up for early voting. The voice of the people is shaping the future of democracy. We are preparing for winter stay safer-at-home practices as coronavirus cases increase globally. We continue our efforts to dismantle the structures and systems of white supremacy in our hearts and minds, homes and neighborhoods, workplaces and worship spaces. Climate change brings unprecedented fires in the west and hurricanes in the south. We bear witness to complicated congregational tensions and conflict with broken hearts, desires for truth with love, and healing resolutions. And we have our own personal stories and family situations that further challenge our ability to return to gratitude, blessings, and joy.

Still I say,
We got this. We know how to do hard things!

Yeah, we know how to do hard things, but still it is hard! Even as fatigue, despair, and/or depression are knocking on our door. Even as we observe in ourselves and others increased frustration, agitation, and anger. Even as we recognize divides that seem insurmountable. Even as the list of lamentations reflect the burden of loss, grief, and loneliness. Even as we wish we could press the escape button, board a plane, and go on vacation.

We got this. We know how to do hard things!

Reality is we can't take away the hard part. We can only commit to staying engaged and journeying through it together as a friend, as a family member, as a citizen of this nation, as a member/friend of this congregation. Reality is life is hard. Differences emerge. Tension grows into conflict. Conflict has the power to divide. Chaos is part of the ordering. We ask the unachievable, "Why can't we just get along?" We ask with noble aspiration, "Why can't we just listen to each other?" Even as we know, peace and harmony are not always easily attained. This, my friends, is the **hard** part.

The way isn't always clear or easy and we know how to do hard things!

Last week I participated in two days of anti-racism work with faith and non-profit leaders from Maine. The Racial Equity Institute out of North Carolina invited us to swim in the waters of racism. To understand how people of different races are blamed for their circumstances. To sit in the discomfort of our shared history. To hear the truth of our racial story beginning in 1607 with the founding of Jamestown to present day. To see the gross disparity of inequality across ALL systems (health, employment, economics, education, incarceration, etc). To understand structural racism as the groundwater equipping the systemic racism. At the close, I said I was eager to attend part two to better understand how to take action to address the groundwater of structural racism. Monica, a senior advisor for REI, who is black, told me not to move to quickly out of discomfort. She invited me to stay in the place of waking up and witnessing and experiencing the pain of our shared story. She said before I could move to action, I need to **really** see and understand the legacy race in America.

It is natural to want to stop the pain and move into fixing, healing, and repairing. Truth is every day I have multiple moments of imagining how I might bury my head in the sand or make plans to escape. I wonder just how much money I need to be an expatriate in some coastal tropical paradise. Then something happens and I am swiftly back in the reality of this time and place. Sitting in discomfort, being broke open, witnessing pain, understanding how we got here, speaking truth with love, shining light on the dark side, holding the complexity of a situation is all part of the journey of strengthening, healing and repairing community.

As Monica reminds us, we don't get to skip the hard part. It is all necessary in the vision of and commitment to changing systems and structures. We are not responsible for the legacies we receive. We are however responsible to the present unfolding and the future we imagine. And so, I say once again.

*The path is not easy. The way is not clear.
And, my people, we know how to do hard things!*

In faith, Rev. Carie

Chaplain's Note from Claire Curole

Rev. Claire here.

I've been invited to comment on ministerial relations and collegiality, but before that I would like to clarify the distinction between personal ethics and professional ethics. It's an important idea in the conversation our congregation is having right now.

Most things that would be unethical for a person in their private life would of course also be unethical in their professional life but the reverse is not always true. For example, a person could ask their neighbor to lend them money, but a social worker or a dentist can't ask that of their client. Your friend might accept an invitation for dinner and a movie, but your doctor or therapist can't, because their relationship with you is professional, not personal.

Professional ethics, or codes of professional conduct, describe a standard of what's appropriate for a person in a particular professional role. Attorneys, public officials, educators, licensed helping professionals including doctors, nurses, therapists, and social workers all have ethical standards of professional behavior; and so do ministers. In our tradition, the UU Ministers Association (UUMA) works to establish and publish guidelines for best practices for UU ministry.

The UUMA guidelines are revised from time to time. The most recent revisions were approved by vote of the UUMA membership in June 2020. It is important to understand that these guidelines are not something handed down by some distant authority. Instead, this document describes the agreement we ministers make with one another to guide our work toward the wellbeing of the congregations we serve and participate in. We are accountable to one another; we are in covenant.

Although the guidelines are focused on congregational ministry, they apply to Unitarian Universalist ministers across our tradition: ministers are in collegial relationship with one another regardless of whether they serve in the same congregation, type of ministry, or geographic area. A minister's professional responsibility doesn't end when they finish service in a particular setting; those connections and commitments remain as long as we are in UU ministry. Our commitments to one another include supporting one another's ministries, refraining from interference in each other's ministerial relationships, and a commitment to call one another (and be called) back into right relationship on those occasions when we err.

When we talked about professional ethics and the UUMA guidelines in my first year of seminary, I remember several of my classmates being startled by these expectations and commitments, on being held in (and limited by) professional relationship. But ministry is the work of relationship, always: between minister and congregant, between chaplain and patient, between colleagues in all forms of ministry. In particular, the ministerial relationship, with congregation as a whole as well as with individual congregants, cannot rightly prioritize the emotional needs of the minister above the wellbeing of the person or community served.

Our guidelines help us to remember this, and stick to it, and to remind each other of it when we fall short, as human beings do.

As a community minister affiliated with this congregation, I am in covenanted collegial relationship with the UU ministers both active and retired in this congregation and beyond. I have a particular covenant with the minister serving this congregation, and a covenant of affiliation with the Board, describing my role and relationship to this community. And for me, it is complicated by my personal relationship with UUCG, where I was a member before I began the journey to ministry: one could say that this congregation is my "pre-existing condition" and while I am -a- minister, I cannot ever really be -our- minister in a professional sense. I am a little too much at home here.

This letter is longer than I originally intended, but I hope it serves, or begins to serve to clarify what ministers expect of one another in our professional relationships.

If folks have any questions about collegial relationships, the guidelines for professional ministry, or anything related, please feel free to contact Rev. Carie Johnsen, Rev. Helen Zidowecki, Rev. Nancee Campbell, or myself for a personal conversation.

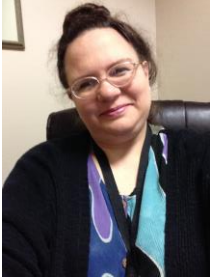
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Rev. Claire Curole has been a member of UUCC since 2008. She served as a lay leader at UUCC before and during seminary, chairing the Music Committee and serving as a Worship Associate, before entering congregational internship at the UU Church of Brunswick, ME. She earned her M.Div from Meadville Lombard Theological School in 2018 and was ordained jointly by UUCC (Augusta, ME) and UUCB (Brunswick, ME) in October 2019, at which time the UUCC Board of Trustees voted to covenant with Rev. Claire as an Affiliated Community Minister. Rev. Claire currently serves as a health care chaplain at Maine Medical Center (Portland, ME) and Mt. St. Joseph's Residence and Rehab (Waterville, ME.)

A message and INVITATION from the Committee on Ministry

The Committee on Ministry has received several responses to our letter RE: Ministry of Rev. Alun-Wyn Dafis in addition to ones that went to the entire membership list. We know that many of you have had a strong reaction to our letter. We appreciate the time and energy that you have put into responding. We see it as a statement of your caring about our congregation. We know we have work to do. We are taking a step in that work with this invitation.

The Committee on Ministry would like to extend an invitation to a **congregational conversation for November 9th from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.** The evening will include an opportunity to engage with Rev. Jonalu Johnston, a specialist on Ministerial Guidelines, Code of Conduct, and Right Relationship. Rev. Johnston is a settled parish minister and Good Officer for the UU Ministers Association.

Kathy Kellison
Chair, Committee on Ministry

IN PRAISE OF LIMITS By Sean Parker Dennison

A river without banks
isn't a river but a marsh,
a swamp encroaching,
rotting the roots of the tree where
songbirds once welcomed the dawn.

A pasture without end,
missing fences, is not a space
of safety from storms of
predators or weather, too much
for any dog or shepherd to guard.

A person without skin may be
a ghost or pile of bones,
unguarded from dirt and disease,
unable to touch or be touched,
to hold or be held without pain.

Life without limit
and unfettered, festers into
something that does more harm
than good, takes more than can
be given, becomes death's instrument.

Freedom that cannot perceive
that others must also be free
is not freedom at all, but entitlement,
greedy and overstuffed,
the libertine imposter of liberty.

Dennison, Sean Parker. *Breaking and Blessing: Meditations* (p. 52). Skinner House Books.
Shared with you by the Committee on Ministry

Notes from the UUCC Board of Trustees

Last week, as fall began its early journey, I took three days to cut back my perennial and fruit gardens. As I cut back each plant, I thanked it for its glory and gifts, and I realized what a bittersweet task it was. I think of that now --- bittersweet --- as we move into our winter months as a blessed community. It is true that our congregation is at a bit of a crossroad being nimbly managed by the Committee on Ministry (COM). But as Reverend Carie always says “we can do this!”

But there are many highlights too:

Many, many, (too many to name), volunteers transformed the Drew House into a lovely home for the Najars, a Syrian family of ten who were brought to us through the Capital Area New Mainers Project (CANMP).

Catherine Palmer, Board member and Finance Committee Chair, who participated in much of the renovation activity says “it was a three week daily haul and all [involved] worked hard. But it was a labor of love“! Join the Drew Crew in welcoming our new neighbors while respecting their privacy!

Also, at its October meeting the Board approved the Financial Policies and Procedures plan. This document, developed over months by the Finance Committee provides best practices for fundraising requests, behaviors exercised by the Treasurer and other fiduciary activities so important to the church.

Additionally, the Board has embarked on a two-part Board Development retreat geared at covenanting and developing communication methods so that we can in turn be transparent, consistent, humble and grateful in our interactions with you as we go forward.

Lastly, and perhaps coming full circle, the Board at its November meeting will take a deep dive into the Report of the Congregational Engagement Working Group (CEWG), each of us bringing our wisdom and thoughts as to how we might implement it. This report, which has been shared with all of you, suggests a working roadmap for next steps in better congregational communications.

As always, please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns. Email is best at kathyannshaw@roadrunner.com.

In faith,
Kathy Ann Shaw
President

News from Religious Exploration

From Coordinator of Religious Exploration to Coordinator of Lifespan Faith Formation

Across the nation Unitarian Universalist churches have been experiencing dramatic changes in congregational demographics, specifically a steady decline in the participation of children and youth. New models for better serving the multigenerational spiritual development, and a sense of belonging and connectedness, are emerging across the religious landscape.

In keeping with national trends, with the adoption of the UUCC congregational budget in August, the Coordinator of Religious Exploration staff position will shift to a Coordinator of Lifespan Faith Formation. The newly formed Personnel Work Group will make recommendations to the Board of Trustees regarding transitional job responsibilities and a finalized job description. In the meantime, we offer a generally accepted description of the new staff position. ***Lifespan Faith Formation offers opportunity for spiritual exploration and growth for the span of generations, including children, youth, young adults, families, and elders***

Hello Everyone,

As the attendance of children and youth in our Religious Exploration Sunday morning program has declined, Rev Carie, the RE Committee and I worked last year to discern how to meet with the changing needs of our church community. This church year I am shifting from RE Coordinator to a new position as Coordinator of Lifespan Faith Formation – approaching Religious Exploration as a lifelong process. Our Whole Lives programming, Coming of Age and Peace Jam will fall under Lifespan Faith Formation but this position will expand my role in our community to connect with the needs of all age groups in our religious exploration journey.

Over the coming months I will be reaching out to our many Committees, SGM, and socially active groups to learn more about you and how my new role can support you and your work. With the help of the UUCC Personnel Work Group and all of you - how and what those needs and connecting programming will be is evolving and still being discerned. So, let's get energized with our brainstorming caps on!

Together as a religious community we search for the truth with an open mind, we learn love of one another and ourselves and to work to make the world a better place.

Feel free to contact me at my NEW email address: LifespanFF@augustauu.org.

Harvest Blessings,
Monique

Role of the Personnel Work Group

This Personnel Work Group is charged with addressing three discrete tasks; two specifically in regard to the position of Coordinator of Lifespan Faith Formation, and one regarding UUCC's Personnel Manual. The three tasks are to:

1. Develop a list of transitional job responsibilities for the Coordinator of Lifespan Faith Formation for the immediate future;
2. Develop a more permanent job description for this position for the longer term; and
3. Update the UUCC Personnel Handbook using the new model UUA personnel policy as a guide.

The group includes Monique McAuliffe, Liza Gottlieb, Reverend Carie, and me, Cheryl Ring. Michaela Loisel, chair of the UUCC Personnel committee, serves as the group's advisor.

The Work Group will submit our recommendations for these three items to the full Board, for the Board's further discussion and final decision-making. The Work Group had its first meeting in mid-October and will present our recommendation for the first of these three tasks to the Board at its November meeting.

As we work on our second task to develop a job description for the Coordinator of Lifespan Faith Formation, we intend to engage with the congregation for input on how best to deploy the skills of this position to meet the needs of the congregation.

As convener of our group, feel free to contact me at any time with any questions, thoughts, or input you may have, at cherylringmaine@gmail.com.

Cheryl Ring

COVID-19 Advisory Group Message

On October 10, 2020 the Covid Advisory Group discussed feasibility of any increased group meetings in the church. At this time, we have not recommended increased usage of the church for more than 2-3 people for very specific things and those that were already approved. There are some requests still being discussed but we are waiting for additional information.

Although Maine's Covid numbers are lower than the rest of the nation, ventilation and the need for good air exchange is extremely important. Events held at indoor venues are much higher risk than events held outdoors. Vocalization (such as a lot of talking) is another consideration. Our building is not modern and air exchange is poor. The ad hoc group does want people to understand that recommendations to the board may change as time goes on and we monitor Covid presence in Kennebec county. It is anticipated there will be another wave of coronavirus. Maintaining safety is of the utmost importance.

COVID-19 Advisory Group members:

Betty Cairn, Terry Lee Cairn, Harry Grimmnitz, Don Naber, Cathie Nielsen, Marty Soule

Communications Work Group

The major regular publication of life at UUCC is the Weekly E-Blast that is distributed electronically on Wednesday afternoons. It includes information about upcoming Sunday services, and events and activities in the upcoming week and the near future. The E-Blast also includes reports to the congregation from the Board of Trustees and other leaders, notices of forums and ways to participate in congregational structure, and other special information. Some weeks there are additional pieces that are not IN the E-blast but distributed with the E-Blast.

The work of the Covid-19 Advisory Group is an integral part of the E-Blast as their work contemplates balancing activities on our church campus with safety in mind and in a constantly changing environment. A new and informative article entitled "Dr. Don on Covid-19" is written by Don Naber. This feature started in August to provide ongoing practical information on the virus, and debunk myths around the virus and how we protect ourselves. He will also respond to specific questions raised by our community members around the virus and how we are living through it. If you have a question for Don, send him an email with your question: naber@qwi.net or call (207)887-1104. The latest COVID-19 update can be found on the UUCC website at <http://www.augustauu.org/>.

Since the E-blast is the primary source of information during this pandemic – we don't want YOU to miss anything. In an effort to make accessibility to the E-blasts easier for some, we have added the weekly E-Blasts and some of the additional pieces sent with the E-blast on the UUCC Website (www.augustauu.org) under Communications.

Additionally, if you are not able to receive the E-Blast electronically or find it on the website, please contact Lynn Smith, Administrator to arrange for a copy to be mailed. She can be reached at email: admin@augustauu.org or by phone (207)622-3232.

Communications Work Group members: Lynn Smith, Administrator, Kathy Kellison and Helen Zidowecki

History Committee

It's not every day that History moves as rapidly as the UCC History Room moved from the Drew House to new space at the Summer St. end of what has been the Nursery -- one day, and involving a number of people.

This space gives us room to organize our material and to make our treasures more accessible. In addition to the historic files, we have a space for our collections: Scrapbooks, Wayside Pulpit sayings, collection of hymnals, some material from the Exchange, English China cups, Oral Histories, RE Artifacts. We will be discussing ways to make items visible, including having a display case and wall space.

Several things still need to be done to complete the move and secure our historic items.

- The early records from the Winthrop Street and All Souls congregations were moved from the Drew House basement fire-proof file and need a secure container.
- Present Nursery is to be divided into two rooms with a separate door for the History Room.
- We still have several boxes of pictures and donated items that need to be sorted.

Surprises occurred as part of the move.

- The painting by a relative and donated by Dan Sorensen that we will plan to hang.
- The move of the bronze plaque of Sylvester Judd appropriately to the Judd House.
- And let me tell you about the Ballard Window.....

The Ballard Memorial or "Rose" Window, a reproduction of The Last Supper, was given in memory of George Steven Mellen Ballard. Erected 1910 AD, the stained glass window was above the altar in the previous Winthrop Street Universalist church building that was demolished forty years ago. At that time, the window was connected with a trust fund. The window has been in the church basement since and the condition deteriorated. In the process of the move the Drew House, the window was dissembled by Hal Booth. There are two outer panels that are intact and may be displayed. Other parts may become artistic items. We will have more information on windows in our history.

The History Committee would like to have more people involved in making our history more accessible. Contact Helen Zidowecki (582-5308 or hzmre@hzmre.com)

Small Group Ministry Updates



Small Group Ministry is, at its heart, an intimate personal and spiritual community. Lifelong friendships are formed, joys and sorrows shared, and lively discussions on topics, large and small, animate this shared space.

Once a year, the bonds that all these groups share are reinforced when the SGM annual service is set in the church calendar. Once the focus has been decided upon, the call goes out to all the groups for their particular slant. And the results are always fascinating and invigorating.

This year's theme was 'Deep Listening in a Noisy World', which was taken up by the groups with imagination and deep involvement. The topic, inspired by the month's Soul Matters packet, was especially pertinent during the cacophony of this extreme election year and the social dislocation resulting from the pandemic. The service featured more than a dozen primary participants, plus the input of dozens more. A lively hour of SGM sharing and celebration, plus some valuable insights, was the result. A copy of the "Deep Listening in a Noisy World" SGM service is available on the UCC website at the following link:

<https://www.augustauu.org/assets/Uploads/Deep-Listening-in-a-Noisy-World.-SGM-service-10.2020.pdf>

Small Group ministry is one of the signal activities in our always lively church community. There is, of course, room for more members and groups. If you are inspired to participate in this exciting program, please give Michael Conley a call at 207-248-7941 or email him at estherpearl67@gmail.com for more information.

Holiday Fair 2020

Come One, Come All to the 2020 Reimagined Winter Wonderland Fair!

The fair planning group brainstormed ways to have a fair, add income for UUCG, AND how to include as many church folks as possible as we have done in the past. So we are planning an outdoor “tail gate” style fair outdoors from 10 am to 1 pm on Dec. 5.

- Yes, you will be able to have holiday cookies, homemade soups and baked beans.
- Yes, you will be able to buy small gift baskets for friends, family and work colleagues.
- Yes, you can get your holiday wreath or swag.
- Yes, you can get home made gift items such as placemats, table runners, microwave bowls, and dish cloths.
- Yes, there will be tree decorations as well.

So how can you be involved? Starting on Oct. 25 we will be at coffee fellowship on ZOOM to sign you up for donations of cookies, soups, baked beans, handmade crafts, and handmade holiday decorations for home or trees. We will be having a couple wreath decorating times to be announced. Watch the e-blast for more information.

If you have questions, please contact Nancy Fritz at 213-3047 or nfritz@roadrunner.com or Martha Naber 887-1104 or naber@qwi.net.

FAIR FACT FROM 2019

Over 75, yes 75, people contributed in some way to make the 2019 fair so successful! Thank you all for baking, selling, contributing handmade items, cooking soup or beans, setting up, taking down, making wreaths and swags, jewelry makers, advertising, tending the cafe, and on and on. What an event for great community building, and great monetary success! Thank you all, Thank you all.

Read, Learn, Share Book Group

Read. learn Share has monthly meetings between October and June. We meet from 1:00 until 2:30 on the first Thursday of the month. We have a regular group and welcome anyone who is intrigued by one title one time. We begin by listing ideas from everyone for the discussion and then we dive in.

We have explored themes, character development, writing styles and any other elements that interest us. We also share personal reactions and have gotten to know one another in some depth. We choose titles by rank choice voting in June from a list of suggestions from attendees. It is not uncommon to hear someone remark: “I’m really glad we read this and I don’t think I would have if not for this group.”

Following are the choices for the rest of this year:

November 5	<u>The Warmth of Other Suns</u> by Isabel Wilkerson
December 3	<u>The Bookwoman of Troublesome Creek</u> Kim Richardson
January 7	<u>American Prophets: The Religious Roots of Progressive Politics</u> Jack Jenkins
February 4	<u>A Burning</u> Megha Majumdar
March 4	<u>Long Live the Tribe of Fatherless Girls</u> T Kira Madden
April 1	<u>The Overstory</u> Richard Powers
May 6	<u>Braiding Sweetgrass</u> Robin Kimmerer
June 3	<u>Homegoing</u> Yaa Gyasi

If you would like to know more, reach out to June Zellers at jzellers@roadrunner.com or Kathy Kellison at kell6787@gmail.com.

GODDESS/EARTH CIRCLES

The meetings of Goddess/Earth Circles have been by UUCC Zoom on Sundays at 1pm.

In May we addressed the concept of thresholds as boundaries, holding things in place, something that needed to be crossed to get to another space or time, and meeting the “Dweller on the Threshold” that wants things to stay the same. We likened solstices and the equinoxes, to thresholds in the cycles of the seasons,

June and July focused on Summer connections, including the gifts of the Summer Solstice in June and the fruits of the first harvest at Lammas in July.

August was “A Hundred Years Hence: Status, Impact and Opportunity of the Women’s Right to Vote” called us to look at the road to obtaining a vote for women, and the fragility of the opportunity to vote. In voting, may we remember those who cannot vote.

September was “From Goddess to God”, based on Cakes for the Queen of Heaven session on movement from the female to the male deity and its impact on women’s spirituality. We grappled with empowerment and disempowerment; assumptions of class, talents and strengths; and expediency and survival.

November 1, Goddess/Earth Circles Women of Wisdom, 1-3pm on UUCC Zoom The celebration comes from croning, recognition of the wisdom of women gained through life experience and is especially meaningful at Samhain (Halloween).

Wear a witch’s hat and have Halloween decorations with you in your zoom space!

Share from the Women of Wisdom Reader: selections written or selected by participants

Share in breakout session of Gifts of Chaos.

Upcoming:

The November 29 gathering will focus on planning the Winter Solstice.

Join us on December 27 Sunday morning for mythology and practicality of moving through darkness into returning light.

Material from the gatherings is available. Contact Helen Zidowecki (582-5308, hzmre@hzmre.com).
Also see the material on the UUCC website (Church Life, Goddess)

Finance Committee Update

The Finance Committee, which provides financial guidance for the UUCC, meets once or twice a month on Zoom, and reports monthly to the Board of Trustees. We accomplished important matters this season. We accelerated the annual Budget development process to complete the work before the Stewardship campaign, transitioned to a newly-elected Treasurer, safeguarded the 2020-21 Annual Budget -- with the help of a federal SBA “Payroll Protection Plan” grant and Nancy Fritz’s competency -- moved all Invested Funds for better management, offered “Finance 101” to the Congregation, rented the Drew House and sent to the Board an updated Financial Policies and Procedures, which was approved.

Committee Members: The Finance Committee provides oversight for its constituency subgroups including Fundraising, Stewardship and Invested Funds. The makeup of the Committee this year includes Carie Johnsen, Minister; Catherine Palmer, Chair; Martha Naber, Treasurer; Nancy Fritz, Invested Funds; Harry Grimmnitz, Member-at-Large; and Wick Johnson, Planned Giving Advisor. The Stewardship Committee chair position is vacant.

Pledges: We recorded nearly 98% of the pledges made for our prior fiscal year! Thank you all for your generosity. This fiscal year (‘20-21) we have fewer pledge units, but the budget approved at the annual meeting was balanced! Another positive trend. As the year progresses, pledge income adds to the fulfilling of all the budgetary needs for the church year. Thank you for sharing your resources with UUCC.

Fundraising: Although not a true committee, without a chair, the Hannaford card program continued to grow strong and Stefanie Barley stepped up to be understudy for Catherine Palmer. More than \$5,000 is generated annually from UUCC's Hannaford grocery card use, at no cost to our members. An upcoming tailgate December Holiday Fair and a March online silent auction are in the planning stages. The only other fundraising activity continuing during the Pandemic is the CLYNK bag program. Lastly, an online donation link directly to the UUCC bank account was set up to facilitate Sunday Morning offerings.

Invested Funds: The Unitarian Universalist Association Common Endowment Fund now provides long-term, high quality, socially responsible management of a portion of our funds, approximately **\$318,000**. Distribution of these funds is established annually, based on growth. In addition, the Finance Committee continues to perform Trustee services for the former Ballard Trust funds, now managed by the Maine Community Foundation (MCF), approximately **\$207,949**. Our church will receive a higher annual distribution and a better opportunity for growth in these new accounts.

Drew House - Reimagined

Have you seen the Drew House lately? No? Well, let us tell you a story.

In June 2020, the Finance Committee asked then Treasurer Nancy Fritz and the Covid 19 advisory group to approve a walk through at the Drew House for the purpose of conducting an Augusta Housing Authority "Housing Quality Standards (HQS)" inspection. That would show us whether the Drew House met minimum health and safety standards for a rental property.

Nancy reported all Housing Authority recommendations to the Finance Committee and to the Building and Grounds Committee. Both committees anticipated congregational approval of our 2020-'21 Fiscal Year Budget, which included renting the Drew House to Capital Area New Mainers Project (CANMP).

On Aug. 16, 2020, you approved the budget and agreed to an October 1st rental date to CANMP. Your vote left only six weeks to get the building ready!

Becky Harvey agreed to serve as Facilities Chair and created a task list. Marilyn Dunn and Bill Allen agreed to orchestrate the repairs. The work recommended included scraping and painting the two porches, repairing plumbing, adding locks to windows, a handrail to cellar stairway, getting windows unstuck, etc. [For a full three-page list of work accomplished, please send a request to Catherine Palmer or Becky Harvey].

It took two weeks to schedule volunteers, buy supplies and begin the work. The first workday was Friday, September 9, as indicated on the Covid-19 Advisory Group "sign in" sheet that is required for anyone entering church property during the pandemic. We ALL agreed to wear masks while we worked.

Marilyn Dunn and Bill Allen, from the Building and Grounds (B&G) Committee were joined by these 23 volunteers: Karina Escajeda, Abby Stratton and Tori Markewicz from CANMP, Matt Foust, Tom Waddell, Catherine Palmer, Kevin and Mary Kane, Michaela Loisel, Heidi Munro, Kathy Ann Shaw, Hal Booth, Rev. Carie, Carolyn Ladd, Jim Caldwell, Monique & Liam McAulliffe, Diane Pratt-Rossman, Helen Zidewicki, Lynn Smith, Naomi Konesky and Jenny McKendry.

The first week nearly took a few of us out! The heavy file cabinets and desk in the history room took five women to move to new quarters in the church nursery. However, during the three weeks of work, volunteers only suffered minor scrapes (did we say we finished in three weeks??)

Marilyn Dunn remembered every detail at the Drew House and made sure everyone had a task. Much appreciation to all volunteers who left the safety of their homes to help this project.

On Oct. 2, CANMP signed a lease with UCC and the Najar family moved in. By the way, there are two sets of twins among those eight (8) children!

See “the way the porch was” photo and two showing finished work.



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***Unitarian Universalist Community Church
P.O. Box 8
Augusta, Maine 04332-0008***

Newsletter Submissions

Submission Deadline for WINTER newsletter is December 19th
Submissions received after this date may not be able to be published.

Please submit all articles as an attachment in a Word document using Arial font size 11. Don't forget to give your article a title and sign it. Send an email to newsletter@augustauu.org with the article as a word attachment! ***Photos of church activities are welcomed! *** You will receive a confirmation e-mail of receipt of your submission.

Minister: Reverend Carie Johnsen

Board President: Kathy Ann Shaw

Coord of Lifespan Faith Formation: Monique McAuliffe

Choir Director: Bridget Convey

Contact information for Committee chairs and other leaders can be found in the UUCC directory or obtained by contacting the Church Administrator.

Church Administrator: Lynn Smith

Phone: (207)622-3232 or email: admin@augustauu.org

Office hours: 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. (Tues, Wed & Thurs)

No office hours: Monday or Friday

Rev. Carie **VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS**

To schedule a visit, appointment, or meeting, please call **(508) 221-5295** or use her local # **623-3663** (both lines will reach her!) or email her at RevCarieJohnsen@gmail.com

Emergencies please call her cell phone (508) 221-5295. She will return your call as soon as possible.