Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church Wednesday, February 21, 2024



If there was a theme for our ministry together, my choice would be Joy! Joy, Joy!

Ministry with UUCC is joyful! Congregational life is full and vibrant. And what an honor it is to be called as the next settled minister with this beloved community. Each week we have programming for both the UUCC community and the greater Augusta community. What we have to offer draws new people to our congregation! We are showing up for each other and Augusta as we open our doors for breakfast on Saturday morning for our unhoused neighbors, as we arrive at the state house to give voice to legislative justice and so much more. Together, we will imagine our way forward!

I hope you'll join one of the conversations about how we might imagine our way forward with families with youth and children. Or perhaps, you'll join in one of the upcoming [not yet scheduled] caucus discussions for those who are 40 years old and under. Together we will continue to live our Unitarian Universalist faith together, designing and redesigning as we go...

Saturday, March 2nd is another opportunity to show up for legislative justice! Join us at 10am for the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival will march and rally in state capitals across the country, bringing the demands of poor and low-wealth people for living wages, healthcare, housing, education, environmental justice, and voting rights directly to our lawmakers. From Texas to Maine and California to the

Carolinas, thousands of poor and impacted people, clergy and advocates will call for an end to poverty in the richest nation on earth. Won't you join me? #TogetherWeMakeADifference!

Love and Light, Rev. Donna, she, her

Upcoming Services

Sunday	Living into the 8 th Principle:
February 25, 2024	A Call to Beloved Community
	Social Justice Committee
Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m.	We will share Rev. Verdis LeVar Robinson's sermon: "Building a Be- loved Community in the Red Hills of Georgia".
	A special thank you to our worship arts team. Sara Hodgkins will be our worship associate and Lindsey Wiehl will manage technology. Stefanie Barley will be our pianist. We will present a special wisdom story: Su- san Shaw & Janet Caldwell will read "Change Sings" by Amanda Gor- man, accompanied by Allison Foust, drums. We have no volunteer to do Fellowship Hour. If you can take up this task, please let Susan Claska Burnett know – she will be our greeter.
Sunday	Stewardship Sunday
March 3, 2024	Reverend Donna Dolham
Ingathering music to begin at 9:55 a.m.	In the Words of Will Cather, "Where there is great love there are always miracles." Where do we witness and when do we offer the miracles of life?
	A special thank you to our worship arts team. John Seksay will be our worship associate and Angie Blevins will manage technology. The UUCC Choir & Occasional Orchestra will present "Finlandia" by Sibe- lius, arranged by Michael Atkinson, lyrics from #318 We Would Be One with Morgan Lee on piano. Service will be followed by a Stewardship Kickoff Event/Coffee Fellowship hosted by the Finance Committee. Cheryl Ring will be our greeter.

<u>Sunday worship service</u> 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.

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

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.

Special Events / Opportunities

Social Activities Chinese Cooking Class

Thursday, February 22nd - 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Samee Quong, of Augusta, will share 2 or 3 of her Chinese recipes. Registration has ended for this event as it had a limit of 10 participants.

Registered participants, we will see you tomorrow. Cheryl C.



Lifespan Spiritual Development Conversations

<u>February 28th @ 6pm – 7:30pm</u>, online only at the UUCC Zoom Room. Link found in the E-blast.

<u>February 29th @ 1:30 – 3:00pm</u>, In Person only in the Fellowship Hall.

UUCC has space to imagine a way forward meeting the

lifespan spiritual development needs in our UUCC community and the surrounding Augusta area. Please come join one of these two beginning conversation as we imagine together new ways to do "Church." More information to come regarding other opportunities to participate in the conversation.

I hope you'll join in! ~ Rev. Donna

SOCIAL ACTIVITY

PANORAMA SUGAR EGGS Monday, March 4th, 11:00 a.m.

Beth Clark, a friend of mine and a UU, agreed to share a craft with us she enjoys, Panoramic Sugar Eggs. The sugar shells will be made in advance then will be decorated with a variety of decorations and frosting, inside and out, to create your own scene. All materials will be provided, however she will also provide "fancier"

decorations that can be purchased for \$5.

Come use your creative juices and have fun.

In order to provide enough supplies I need to have a number of participants that will attend. Please email me your name if you are interested. VERY SOON, please!

Cheryl C Cherylclukey5@yahoo.com



Save The Date!! Matt Meyer March 10th!

Worship & Community Workshop to Follow!

Matt has led music and worship for hundreds of services in congregations all over the U.S. and Canada. Matt is an active community organizer and educator.



Songleading for Justice -- March 10th following Sunday Service!

A fully participatory workshop designed to build skills and confidence for leading music in worship or in the streets. We'll share best practices for invitational leadership and gentle encouragement to singing. We'll also expand your repertoire for singing without accompaniment.

Join us for an experience of leading and following, rhythm and words, and the sound of a community in harmony together.

A goodwill offering to help defray the cost of the workshop will be accepted. A \$10.00 donation recommended for workshop.

Pre-registration recommended: https://forms.gle/3nEgZPVrcdJp4T758



Minns Lecture Coming Up! April 18, 21, & 25 and May 9th

The 2024 Minns Lecture will be offered by the Rev. Jason Lydon and the title is: Abolition Theologies, Praying for Liberation. It will be offered in person and online. Registration required and can be found on this link: <u>http://www.minnslectures.org/index.php</u>

"The Minns Lectures are an annual series of lectures on religious topics conducted under the auspices of the Minns Lectures Committee, whose membership is composed of ministers and members of First Church Boston and King's Chapel in Boston. With the first lecture, given in 1942 by Walton E. Cole, this series established itself as an innovative force in Unitarian Universalist thought, and the lectures continue today as a source of creative theological and religious advancement.

The lectureship was established by a bequest of Susan Minns of Boston to honor her brother, Thomas Minns. As she stated in her will, Miss Minns wished for six lectures to be given annually by a Unitarian Universalist minister in good standing on a topic of general religious interest. The title of Walton E. Cole's inaugural series was "Realistic Courage;" former lecturers have included A. Powell Davies, Harry Meserve, Arthur Foote, James Luther Adams, Dana MacLean Greeley, Dorothy Spoerl, Harry Hoehler, Doris Hunter, Rhys Williams, Homer Jack, Victor Carpenter, Carl Scovel, David Keyes, and Richard Henry." [http://www.minnslectures.org/about.php, accessed 2/21/2024]

Link to the Minns lectures 2024:

An opportunity for reflection...



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

"Let the dream and hope lead you to action." ~Rev. Verdis LaVar Robinson

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

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. <u>https://www.augustauu.org/calendar-and-communications/</u>

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

Monday	Peaceful Heart Sangha	+
Each week	BY Private ZOOM – EVERY Monday. You may join us at 6:15 to settle in.	(1)
<u>6:30 - 8:00</u>	Please contact Marty Soule for updated Zoom login information at:	
<u>p.m.</u>	email: martysoule@gmail.com.	The second second second
Private Zoom	FMI: <u>peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com</u> 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.		
Next Meeting is Feb 26	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 at 887-1104 or 313-5859, or Nancy at 213-3047. All are welcome. Bring a friend, if you like.		
Tuesday	Lectio Divina		
<u>10:30 a.m.</u> <u>UUCC</u> Virtual	Lectio Divina will be a weekly group facilitated by the Rev. Donna Dolham and Lori Milner, Pastoral Ministry Associate. The group will be held on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 on the UUCC zoom account.		
<u>Virtual</u> Zoom	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.		
Tuesday	LIMITED TIME COURSE – Registration deadline has passed.		
4:00 pm	Introduction to Sustainable Health: Feb. 6 – April 9		
Feb. 6 –	10 Week Course at UUCC Augusta on Tuesdays from 4 to 5pm, starting February 6, 2024 and running through to April 9, 2024. Registration deadline has expired.		
Apr. 9	Have you started the new year with health concerns? Come explore how changing some simple low-cost/no-cost habits can help you heal and thrive. This 10 week class includes learning a five element (wuming) qigong practice called Energy, Everybody, Everyday. Emphasis on learning to listen to our bodies and tapping into our natural ability to heal and enjoy life.		
	Taught by Susan Roberts, author of SustainableHealth: Simple Habits to Transform Your Life, and 14 year student of wuming qigongwith Dr. Nan Lu, OMD. FMI: Susan at SLROTR1@gmail.com or (718)517-0807.		
<u>Wednes-</u> day	UUCC Choir Rehearsal		
<u>6:00</u> -	Choir rehearsals are held every Wednesday from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.		
7:30 p.m.	Questions? Please reach out to Bridget Convey at: <u>musicdirector@augustauu.org</u> .		
	All are welcome!		

Wednes-	Gentle YOGA
<u>days</u>	Hosted by Debbie Mattson UU Yoga is now offered as a hybrid gathering. People can choose to
Each Week <u>5:00 – 6:00</u> <u>p.m.</u>	UU Yoga is now 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: <u>https://maine.zoom.us/j/95825651125?pwd=UWJpOVFjVFJGb3dMWmZoOTRXa3VoUT09</u> Password: 174192 Please join us a few minutes before 5:00 to settle in so we can begin class right at 5:00 p.m. FMI: <u>DebbieMattson@hotmail.com</u>
2 1 0 4th	Seasoned Souls
2nd & 4 th Wednesday 1:00-2:30pm 2 nd Wed C-FH 4 th Wed Zoom	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. On the 2 nd Wednesday monthly we will meet in the Fellowship Hall and on the 4 th Wednesday, we will meet in the UUCC Zoom room. FMI: please contact John Seksay (<u>netmote1@gmail.com</u> or 317-690-3636).
Thursdays 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
<u>a.m.</u>	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 <u>martysoule@gmail.com</u> . FMI: <u>peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com</u>
	Sangha gatherings are free and open to all.
2nd & 4 th Thursday In the <u>UUCC</u> Virtual Zoom room 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.	Writing to Wake the SoulThis 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. Come and try it out; there is no obligation to come each time we gather. This group will be meeting in the UUCC Virtual Zoom Room.FMI: please contact Debbie at (207)557-2697 or debbiemattson@hotmail.com

<u>1st</u>	Read Learn Share Book Group		
Thursday Noon-1:30 p.m.	READ LEARN SHARE is a group for booklovers. Once a month between October and June we meet to discuss a book chosen by the group in our summer ballot. Our multiplatform meetings occur on the first Thursday of the month from noon until 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall and in the church zoom room. Anyone is welcome to join for one discussion or all nine.		
Next Meeting is March 7 th	We will meet on March 7 to discuss		

<u>4th</u>	<u>Goddess / Earth Circles</u>		
Sunday	February 25. 2024 1:00-2:30pm by UUCC Zoom		
<u>1-2:30</u> p.m.	Pagan and Earth-Centered Voices in Unitarian Universalism, Skinner House Explore religious foundation for earth-centered and UUism: feminine aspect of the divine, cycles of nature, honoring our ancestors, and the inherent divine and creative potential in all people.		
<u>Zoom only</u> <u>Feb &</u> <u>Mar</u>	You are welcome to attend, even if you have not participated before. For more information see <u>https://augustauu.org/minister-staff-and-church-life/goddess-continuing/</u> If you would like to purchase or borrow a book, contact Helen Zidowecki 207-582-5308 or hzmre@hzmre.com. The book is published by Skinner House.		
Next Meeting is Feb 25 th	We will meet by Zoom ONLY for February and March meetings.		

Notices / Updates / News

-- Member Connection --

Our dear long term UUCC member, Lorna Doone, moved into Gardiner's Alzheimer's Care Center Feb. 20th. She visited there with her daughter, Lorinda, and liked it a lot - especially their black kitty (who was immediately her friend) & their yummy warm food. Also the woman who used to live in her Arch Beta apartment lives there now and they are friends.

Of course feelings are mixed because she also loves where she lives. And she is welcome to visit Arch Beta for activities & to do other community activities when people can bring her.

An Invitation from the Worship Committee

Are you interested in the process of worship? Would you like to learn how to be more meaningfully present in a worship service? The Worship Committee invites UUCC's Worship Associates and others interested in worship to a workshop led by Rev. Donna on Saturday, February 24, from 10 to 1. If you have ever considered joining the Worship Committee, this workshop would be a good place to begin. If you are simply interested in learning to worship more mindfully, you are welcome as well. For questions, please contact Rev. Donna at <u>minister@augustauu.org</u>.

Karen Allen, Worship Committee Chair

<u>The Stewardship Campaign is about to</u> <u>begin!</u>

In the upcoming weeks you can look forward to:

- testimonials from your fellow congregants
- a packed Stewardship service March 3rd which will include music from the orchestra and the choir
- a Stewardship kick off with pizza and a "Fun with money" game in the Fellowship hall following the March 3rd service.

Leading up to all of this, we have created an information video about the proposed new budget.

Here is the link: <u>https://youtu.be/MnOFlRUfuwM</u> We look forward to sharing the upcoming year with all of you!

Your stewardship co-chairs, Betty and Terry Cairn

Service project from Thursday SGM: <u>Medicine Bottles for Kennebec Valley Hu-</u> <u>mane Society (KVHS)</u>

Empty brown prescription medicine bottles can be used for medications for animals are being collected by Thursday Morning Small Group Ministry. If you can donate, please 1) Wipe out the empty bottles; 2) Remove the labels. (Try peeling from a corner of the label. Some labels will need to be soaked and scrubbed.) 3.) Bring bottles to the collection basket in the Library (Committee Room) on a shelf under the Free Book Section.

We will take what has been collected to KVHS and visit the facility on Wednesday, February 28. Thank you for your contribution.

Are you interested in offering programming

or scheduling an event for the UUCC community?

Please use this **program request online form** to help guide the process. UUCC is growing and administratively, we are growing with it. Events that used to be scheduled by casually mentioning it to someone no longer work for a congregation that has a membership of 170 people plus approximately another 50 to 75 active friends. Thanks for your help in making growth and programming sustainable.

Rev. Donna Dolham and Lynn Smith, Church Admin.

UU Connections ----Recently received!

Amplifying the Charge, a four-week, small group ministry discussion series equips Congregations to explore Article II Changes to the UUA Bylaws in anticipation of the upcoming vote on the bylaws at General Assembly. Adoption of the revised UUA Bylaws is a major consideration for our delegates who attend General Assembly virtually in June.

See Amplifying the Charge (PDF, 33 pages)* <u>https://www.uua.org/files/2024-01/amplifying_charge_resource_kit.pdf</u> There will be more information about offering this series at UUCC in next E-Blast and newsletter. Helen Zidowecki

Social Justice Updates

POOR PEOPLES CAMPAIGN Upcoming Event March 2nd at 10am At the Maine State Capital Building

We will gather for the Maine State House Assembly at Capitol Park in Augusta at 10 AM – Rally starts at 11AM. You can learn more about and register for the Maine Assembly <u>here</u>. You can join in making an important statement to our legislatures with the Poor People's Campaign.

And folks who want to know more about the Poor People's Campaign can find it here.

Mass Poor People's and Low-Wage Workers' State House Assembly | <u>RSVP HERE</u> Start: Saturday, March 02, 2024•10:00 AM Location: Capitol Park•33 Union St, Augusta, ME 04330 US

Forward together, Not One Step Back!

Maine Gun Safety Coalition's Campaign: Learn more about the 4 Life-Saving Bills

- Assault weapons ban
- Extreme Risk Protection Order (Red flag law)
- <u>72 hour waiting period to buy a gun</u>
- Background checks on all gun sales

<u>List</u> of Judiciary Committee members, where gun safety bills are likely to be heard.

Did you miss this inspiring Network Meeting: Advocating for New Gun Safety Laws for Maine? Click here to watch the recording!

The next Gun Safety Action Team Meeting is Thursday, Feb 22, 4:30-5:30pm at <u>this</u> Zoom link. Climate Action Team Updates:

- Climate Action Team Priority Bill for 2024 LD 2077: An Act Regarding Customer Costs and the Environmental and Health Effects of Natural Gas Link to Fact Sheet for LD 2077 ACTION: Please ask your state legislators to support LD 2077
- Fund 4 environmental bills still stuck in Appropriations (they passed in 2023)
 ACTION: Take easy action by <u>signing petition</u> on MCVoters website

Housing and Homelessness Action Team:

Priority Bill: <u>LD 1710</u> "An Act to Establish the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program and Amend the Laws Regarding Tenants and the Municipal General Assistance Program, (also referred to as **the HOME Act**)

Please show your support of rental assistance for those renters most in need:

- 1. Write (email is fine) or call your legislator –**especially** if they are on <u>the Housing Committee</u>! Make clear that you want to see a strong rental assistance program as close as possible to that proposed in LD 1710. <u>To find your legislator</u>.
- 2. Write or call the <u>Governor's office</u>.
- 3. Send a Letter to the Editor of your local paper.

The HOME Act support: Do you have a story about rent or housing challenges you could share in a Letter to the Editor? Click <u>here</u> to share your story!

Next Housing & Homelessness Action Team Meeting: Thursday, February 22 at 5 pm at <u>this Zoom link</u>. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Democracy in Action Team

Priority bill: LD 1578 National Popular Vote Action: Please contact your legislators asking for support: <u>NPV Talking Points</u>. MUUSAN's <u>Tips and Tools</u>.

Board of Trustees

** BOARD HIGHLIGHTS **

At the February 8 meeting, the Board:

- Discussed providing financial support to people interested in attending General Assembly
- Voted to pledge \$5000 to the United Community Living Center (Green St. Church project)
- Acknowledged new members of the congregation
- Discussed the vision for maintaining our buildings

Click here to access the full minutes: Feb. 8, 2024 Minutes

The next board meeting is Thursday, March 14, 2024. All are welcome to attend but please see the <u>UUCC Policy for Board Meeting Visitors</u>.

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:

 Join from your internet browser by clicking this link or typing this into your browser: <u>https://zoom.us/j/8238070673</u>, launch Zoom, then enter passcode: 6971
 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.

<u>UUCC Pastoral Ministry Team</u>

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.

<u>UUCC Small Group Ministry</u>



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, <u>linda.findlay@gmail.com</u>) or Helen Zidowecki (207-582-5308. <u>hzmre@hzmre.com</u>)

The UUCC Website

The Website has two primary functions:

--Inviting people who are searching for information about Unitarian Universalism and/or a connection to come and see what we have to offer.

---Providing a communication network and prominent resource for people who are already involved with UUCC.

-Go to www.augustauu.org

----Send comments, updates and suggestions to website@augustauu.org----

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 (2/21)
- NO E-Blast (2/28)
- E-Blast (3/6)
- \circ No E-Blast (3/13)

UUCC Office Hours NEXT WEEK

Church Administrator - Open office hours:

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

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.

Rev. Donna Dolham

Minister's study – (207) 623-3663 Pastoral Emergencies only – (207) 701-1581 Email: <u>minister@augustauu.org</u> Visit <u>Calendly Scheduling Link</u> to schedule an appointment with Rev. Dolham.

Staff Contact information: Church Administrator, Lynn M. Smith, <u>admin@augustauu.org</u>, Phone 622-3232 Music Director, Bridget Convey, <u>musicdirector@augustauu.org</u>