

Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church
Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Upcoming Services

Worship Theme for April is **BECOMING.**

Join us this Sunday for the 2nd Sunday in the virtual road trip with the [UU Church of Delaware County](#) in Media, PA.



The Link to join the service is as follows:

<https://zoom.us/j/3550891509?pwd=Z3NpU3A3bnREZnNOWmV4bUd4dTRBQT09>

Meeting ID: 355 089 1509 -- Passcode: 888777

Join by phone: dial 1 646 558 8656 (**NOTE:** toll charge may apply)

At first prompt (meeting id: 355 089 1509 followed by #)

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.

THIS Sunday

April 25, 2021
10:00 a.m. via Zoom

****See Special Zoom
Link Above****

**Virtual road trip with Augusta visiting
UU Church of Delaware County in Media, PA**

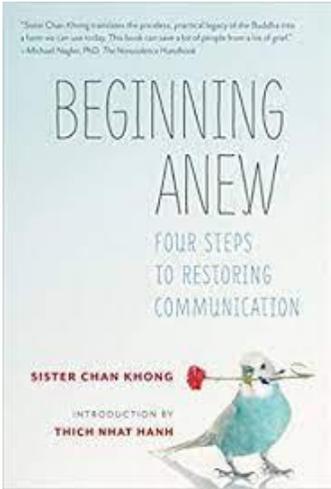
Of Seeds and Soil - Rev. Peter Friedrichs,
former intern minister at UCC

As we celebrate Earth Day and we welcome members of the UU Community Church of Augusta, Maine, this Sunday Rev. Peter, DRE Chrissy Bushyager and Music Director Bob Rowland, with the talented support of the UUCDC Virtual Choir, will reflect on how we can be good stewards not just of our planet, but of our spirits as well.

Worship begins at 10 am; virtual doors open at 9:45 (see Zoom link above).

Upcoming Services - Continued

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| <p>NEXT Sunday</p> <p>May 2, 2021 10:00 a.m. via UCC Zoom room</p> | <p>Transitions R Us – Rev. Carie Johnsen and Monique McAuliffe, Lifespan Faith Formation Coordinator</p> <p>Sara Hodgkins and Susan Burnett will serve as worship associates. Special music will include David Morris "Breakaway" by Kelly Clarkson</p> |
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Beginning Anew Workshop

This workshop is being rescheduled from Sat. April 17 to a new date (to be determined).

Please stay tuned for more information.

Do NOT use this link for Sunday service on 4/25
Please see page 1 for a special link.

All virtual events (unless noted) are held in the UCC ZOOM ROOM

Other ways to join Zoom:

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

UCC Meeting ID: 823 807 0673 – then enter **passcode: 6971**

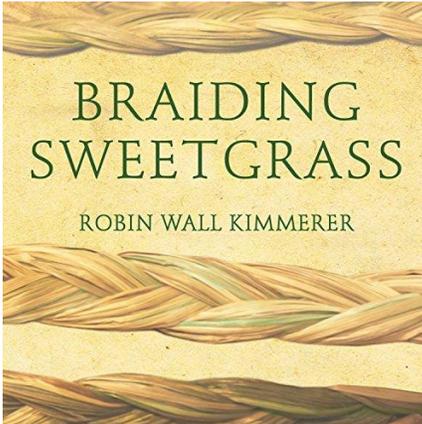
- 3. Join by phone:** dial 1 646 558 8656 (NOTE: toll charge may apply)
At first prompt (meeting id: 823 807 0673#)

At second prompt: press # (no personal id needed) <No passcode needed when joining by phone>

NOTE---*6 is mute AND un-mute on your phone. The host cannot mute or un-mute people who phone-in.

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

Connections



Read, Learn, Share meets Thursday May 6 at noon in the UUCC Zoom Room.

Anyone who interested in discussing our book for month is welcome to join us. We will end at 1:30. For more information, contact Kathy Kellison at kell6787@gmail.com or June Zellers at jzellers@roadrunner.com

‘ For only when we can hear the languages of other beings are we capable of understanding the generosity of the earth, and learning to give our own gifts in return.’ Goodreads

****SAVE THE DATE**:**

Saturday May 15, 2021- 9:30 A.M.

Join a 12 Year Walk of Ministry as Rev. Carie shares with us memories at significant locations in the Capital area.

The walk will begin and end at the Church. In between we will see the downtown and riverfront and of course stop at Capitol Park, The State House and Blaine House to remember the many actions/activities that happened there.

The walk may take up to two hours with stops along the way. The route will be mapped out so that you may join by car at the stops as well. (Stay tuned for details)

Saturday May 15, 2021....meet on the church at 9:30 A.M.

FMI: Contact Jim Caldwell or Deb Mattson

Weekly Events

Monday

Each week

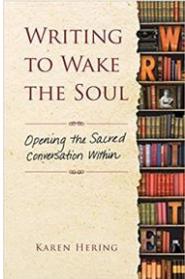
2:00 – 3:30

p.m.

Read Aloud & Discussion

The Monday afternoon reading and discussion group has changed our process. We have chosen to have each person who joins us, and who wishes to, bring a poem, an article, a book excerpt with something in it to spark a discussion. What has grabbed your attention or what is something you are wondering about? Our discussions are always lively and interesting. Join in! FMI: admin@augustauu.org

UUCC ZOOM ROOM (← **click this link OR see above for other ways to join**)

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| <p><u>Monday</u> <u>Each week</u> <u>6:30 – 8:00</u> <u>p.m.</u></p> | <p align="center"><u>Peaceful Heart Sangha</u> <i>You may join us at 6:15 to settle in.</i></p>  <p><i>The login and password information has changed. Please contact Marty Soule for updated login information at email martysoule@gmail.com. FMI: peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com</i></p> |
| <p><u>Wednesdays</u> <u>Each Week</u> <u>5:00 – 6:00</u> <u>p.m.</u></p> | <p align="center">Gentle YOGA <i>Hosted by Debbie Mattson</i></p>  <p><i>Please join us a few minutes before 5:00 to settle in so we can begin our class right at 5:00 p.m. Zoom Login: Click link below to join.</i></p> <p>https://maine.zoom.us/j/95825651125?pwd=UWJpOVFjVFJGb3dMWmZoOTRXa3VoUT09 <i>Password 174192 - FMI: DebbieMattson@hotmail.com</i></p> |
| <p><u>Thursdays</u> <u>Each Week</u> <u>8:00 – 9:30</u> <u>a.m.</u></p> | <p align="center"><u>Peaceful Heart Sangha</u></p>  <p><i>You may join us at 7:45 a.m. to settle in. Meet from 8-9:30</i></p> <p><i>The login and password information has changed. Please contact Marty Soule for updated login information at martysoule@gmail.com. FMI: peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com</i></p> |
| <p><u>2nd & 4th</u> <u>Thursday</u> <u>9:00 – 10:30</u> <u>a.m.</u></p> | <p><i>Writing to Wake the Soul</i></p> <p><u>PLEASE NOTE the following schedule change (Eff 4/1)</u> We meet the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month - 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.</p>  <p>This is an open group and if you would like to participate in this event, please contact Debbie Mattson (debbiemattson@hotmail.com) for the login/passcode information. Hosting of this event is shared and zoom link changes week to week.</p> <p>We gather and write 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.</p> |

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/>

Notices



Monday April 26th is the **DEADLINE**
for submissions to the
SPRING Newsletter.

Please send your submissions to newsletter@augustauu.org. Questions, please call the church administrator at (207) 622-3232 or admin@augustauu.org



We are planning to get rid of some of the pews which need repair. If anyone would like one of these pews, they are available for free. Contact Bill Allen (699-6567) or Wick Johnson CLJ@kennebec.com if you are interested.

EMBODY OUR PRINCIPLES WITH MUUSAN

We covenant to affirm and promote respect for the interconnected web of all existence of which we are a part with our Seventh Principle. This certainly refers to the world around us and all of the life supported upon it. We have an opportunity to support this principle in the Maine legislature with support for LD 983, the LAND for MAINE'S FUTURE BOND.

This bill proposes to borrow money at today's low interest rates to secure public access to special places in all 16 counties of Maine. The land will be used to support public access as well as traditional industries such as farming, working forests and waterfronts. Maine continues to have pride in our way of life. The Land for Maine's Future program is an important investment in ensuring the continuation of what makes Maine special.

All requests to issue bonds require a two thirds vote in both houses to pass, so it is important to let our legislators know that we support this bill. The program has historically had broad bipartisan support and we expect the same this time.

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE: call your legislators and urge them to support LD 983. Write a letter to the editor explaining why you think this LD 983 is important to you and to Maine.

You can find more information about the bond issue and writing letters to the editor at MUUSAN.org or contact Kathy Kellison kell6787@gmail.com or Michaela Loisel at michaelatloisel@gmail.com

2021-2022 Pledge Campaign UPDATE

Thank you to all who have sent a pledge form in to the church office.

Our goal is \$165,000. We are now at 69% of our goal!!!

As of Today **43 pledges** have been received, raising **\$114,500** for the work of UCC in the next fiscal year.

All pledges are important. Please return your pledge as soon as you can.

Thank you, thank you all!

Board of Trustees

Questions and Answers from Zoom Meeting **“What’s On Your Mind” held on April 11, 2021**

Q: Did the board consider the possibility of NOT having a full-time minister?

A: The interim minister will be hired on a full-time basis. If our fiscal year ended today, we might have \$15,000 left over funds from last year, in part from PPP grant income. We cut snow removal costs this year by switching providers and we no longer pay heating or electricity costs at the Drew House. We receive rental income from the Drew House monthly. The Finance Committee is vigilant at looking how we can keep our expenses in line. People have been good at paying pledges. Although 75% of the year has transpired, 83% of pledges have been paid for this year. Our first draft of next year’s budget will come to the board in May. The budget concerns are justified, but it feels this way every spring. We need to get our numbers up. The church is in a stronger position than it has ever been, but that does not mean we don’t have to be careful. The Endowment and Ballard Trust are generating more income than in the past. We are committed to hiring a full-time minister.

Q: Carie had a paid Sabbatical coming. Is she entitled to that payment?

A: No, because she resigned, she is not eligible for a Sabbatical.

Q: Is the church leadership focusing on the need to continue healing?

A: Yes. Both the Board and the Committee on Ministry continues to focus on the health of the church community.

Q: Who is the Summer Minister?

A: Bettina Lehovec, who has been an intern with Ellsworth, Castine and Belfast will work as the UUCC contract minister this summer from May 17 – Aug. 1.

Q: Will there be any lay led services this summer?

A: The technology is so complex, the Worship Committee did not want to take on that responsibility.

Q. Are services being recorded?

A: Yes, inquire of our Church Administrator, Lynn Smith. Carie reviews each video and edits it before posting. You should know how much our Minister does outside of Service on Sunday.

Q: Are we aware of why we're losing membership, if we are?

A: A few members left the church since the last conflict. It's difficult to gauge membership while we're doing church on zoom. We don't know how many people will return when we have in-person service. It is encouraging that those who pledged last year are keeping up with their pledges. I don't always say to others, "Why not join us?" which more of us need to do. Churches in general are getting smaller. Families aren't joining as much. Times have changed. The good news is that with all these unknown factors, a year from now, we'll have a more accurate idea of how it's going. It's not likely that we will put ourselves at risk, financially speaking. We will do what is responsible.

Q: What is happening next Friday, April 16th?

A: The Committee on Ministry will create an experience of shared ministry of 12 years (not all about Rev. Carie, but about all of us with Rev. Carie). How can we have people's stories exist in something lasting that Carie and we could keep? Someone will draw images in art as we share.

Q: Have we invited anyone outside our church to Carie's farewell service?

A: We could have a "walkabout" so Carie can participate in stories of the past. Interfaith people will be included in our farewells. The church has been fiscal agent for MUUSAN, they might want to be included.



Join us for the final What's On Your Mind session?

May 2nd at 11:30-12:30 on the ZOOM church site.

The UUCC Board wants to hear what you are thinking, your ideas, your concerns, your suggestions about how UUCC is doing. Do you have questions about how UUCC operates? Do you wonder "Why?" about something? Are there things you would like to learn more about? Bring all this and what you want to discuss with board members. We hope to see you there!

Message / Invitation from the Board of Trustees – General Assembly

For those who might be interested, it is time to start thinking of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)'s General Assembly, June 23-27, 2021. Organically to be held in Milwaukee WI, the event will be held virtually again this year. The UUA states "General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. That remains true even when we cannot gather physically. Last year, GA had more than 4,900 registered attendees participate from remote locations around the world. Although we give up the face-to-face interaction and hugs that are prevalent when we meet in-person, we retain our dedication to community and make our experience more accessible and more environmentally sustainable."

Registration is **\$200 per person**. Financial support for registration as well as a payment plan are available from the UUA. General Assembly registrants receive access to the 2021 Online Participation Portal, including live, simulive, and on-demand video content, the virtual exhibit hall, chat features, support, and a (new!) GA mobile app. To register please visit: [General Assembly Registration | General Assembly | UUA.org](#)

If you are interested in serving as a UUCC Delegate and representing the church in voting on UUA business matters, please contact Kathy Ann Shaw, Board President, at kathyanshaw@roadrunner.com.

Dr. Don on Covid-19

Dr. Don on COVID-19 The new COVID "Surge" and Michigan

Maine's daily new COVID cases has been rising and the seven day average is now equal to what it was last January. This new surge is widespread across the nation and by watching what is going on elsewhere we may pick up valuable lessons.

Michigan leads the nation in new COVID-19 cases with 10% of all new daily cases in the U.S. Last Friday's Michigan update showed the second highest single-day case total in the state since the start of the pandemic. Hospitalizations have increased over the last several weeks and are now at the highest point of the pandemic. The state's 7-day moving average for daily cases was near the highest since November and the state's fatality rate stands at 2.2%. Monday and Tuesday's death tolls led the nation.

According to local sources, the likeliest explanation for the Michigan surge is a mix of several factors:

- * the very transmissible B.1.1.7 UK variant is spreading in those younger,
- * a premature, partial return to normal life,
- * vaccine hesitancy,
- * and unfortunately politics has reared its ugliest head.

Michigan was called out repeatedly by former President Donald Trump last spring as a state that needed to be liberated from Covid-19 restrictions, as if the Democratic governor, not the pandemic, was the enemy. This may have contributed to the armed April 30th insurrection on the capitol building in Lansing when some protestors were found by the FBI to have planned to kidnap Governor Gretchen Whitmer.

The governor is faced with a crisis similar to the one from last spring when, despite the threats on her life and her family she stood her ground. Now she is not demanding a return to the unpopular but effective Covid-19 restrictions, knowing the personal risk it might invite, a decision questioned by the head of the CDC and other medical scientists. The rioters of last spring may have succeeded in encumbering Michigan with the dangers of a runaway pandemic.

Michigan state Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey, and state House Speaker Jason Wentworth, who were highly critical of Whitmer's early attempts to control the virus, have both praised the governor's decision to hold off on new restrictions during the surge.

Send your questions, comments or suggestions to naber@zwi.net

Ad-hoc Covid-19 Advisory Group

This group has generously volunteered to be available to support members with personal safety, health or travel questions, concerns, or anxieties. Feel free to reach out to one of them directly.

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|---------------------------------|---|--------------|
| Betty Cairn, RN | mailto:StonehengeMaine@yahoo.com | 207-215-6394 |
| Terry Lee Cairn, ND, MSOM, Lac. | mailto:tlcnaturalhealth@yahoo.com | 207-557-2557 |
| Harry Grimmnitz, MD | mailto:hgrimmnitz@gmail.com | 207-685-9270 |
| Don Naber, Ed.D | naber@zwi.net | 207-887-1104 |
| Cathie Nielsen, MD | cathieenielsen@gmail.com | 207-441-0248 |
| Marty Soule, PA-C | mailto:martysoule@gmail.com | 207-685-9270 |

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.

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| Rev. Carie Johnsen, Minister | 508-221-5295 (c) | revcariejohnsen@gmail.com |
| Martha Pelletier, Chair | 207-685-9592 (H) | Mjpell14@roadrunner.com |
| Helen Zidowecki | 207-582-5308 (h) | hzmre@hzmre.com |
| Tracy McNaughton | 207-623-3110 (h) | tracy.mcnaughton@yahoo.com |
| Peggy Lamb | 207 622-5174 (h) | plambflowers@outlook.com |

Caring Cooperative support includes rides, meals, errands, get well and condolence cards as well as companion visits.

If you would like to request or suggest meal support: contact Martha Pelletier 685-9592.

If you would like to request or suggest cards: Contact Angie Blevins, 592-5655

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 Michael Conley at 207-248-7948 or at estherpearl67@gmail.com.



UUC Office Hours – NEXT WEEK

UUC Administrator Hours

Tues, Wed & Thurs. 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

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

Rev. Carie

VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS

If you would like to schedule a visit, appointment or meeting with Rev. Carie, please call (508) 221-5295 or use her local # (207) 623-3663 (both lines will reach her!) or email her at RevCarieJohnsen@gmail.com.

She is happy to meet outdoors, by phone, or zoom.

Staff Contact information:

Church Administrator, Lynn M. Smith, <mailto:admin@augustauu.org>, Phone 622-3232

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

Music Director, Bridget Convey, musicdirector@augustauu.org