

# Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church  
Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Worship Theme for June is **PLAY**.  
*Join us as we explore what it means to be a people of PLAY.*

## Upcoming Services

<p><b>THIS Sunday</b></p> <p>June 20, 2021 10:00 a.m. via Zoom</p> <p><b>UUCS Zoom room</b></p>	<p><b><u>Remembering Our Fathers</u></b> UUCS Summer Minister, Bettina Lehovc</p> <p>We all have father figures who have impacted our lives. What are the legacies they leave in us? How do we pass that onward to our own children and friends? This service will explore fatherhood in many forms and voices.</p> <p>“I believe that what we become depends on what our fathers teach us at odd moments, when they aren’t trying to teach us. We are formed by little scraps of wisdom.” — Umberto Eco</p> <p>Marilyn Gordon and Susan Burnett will serve as our worship associates with Marty Peters managing technology. Special music: David Morris "Cat's in the Cradle" by Harry Chapin / Karen Allen, Pianist</p>
<p><b>NEXT Sunday</b></p> <p>June 27, 2021 10:00 a.m. via Zoom</p> <p><b>UUCS Zoom room</b></p>	<p><b><u>Circle 'Round for Justice / Healing / Courage</u></b> Bettina Lehovc, UUCS Summer Minister</p> <p>Join us for Sunday morning worship streamed from the UUA Virtual General Assembly. The theme this year is Circle ‘Round. We circle ‘round in care and healing; for liberation and justice; and for love and courage. The stream will start promptly at 10:00 a.m. please plan to join us a few minutes early for a UUCS welcome. Optional breakout rooms following the service will allow us to share our responses.</p> <p>John Seksay and Sara Hodgkins will serve as our worship associates with Marty Peters managing technology. Stefanie Barley will be our pianist.</p>

### *Did you join last week's Flower Communion Service?*

The UUCS music video of 'Tis a Gift to Be Simple, which premiered on Flower Communion Sunday, is available on YouTube using the link that follows. It is unlisted so you do need to use the link; you can't find it by searching. UUCS musicians thank all of you for your enthusiasm and appreciation!

Check out the video at: <https://youtu.be/LdmXJWAtgn8>

**All worship services AND virtual events (unless noted) are held in the  
UCC ZOOM ROOM**

**Other ways to UCC Zoom Room Zoom:**

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

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**



**June 20: Reminder**

**SMALL GROUP MINISTRY LEADERSHIP MEETING** was re-scheduled to this Sunday, SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 2021, 11:45 AM – 1:15PM ZOOM CONNECTIONS. Participants in Small Group Ministry are welcome.

**June 27: Goddess/Earth Circles** 1-2:30 Zoom. Summer Connections, with time for sharing. Topic: Four Phases of Womanhood and the Divine Feminine: New phases? New Names? New meaning? Material will be sent to ongoing participants this week, and you can contact Helen Zidowecki (582-5308 or [hzmre@hzmre.com](mailto:hzmre@hzmre.com)) for an electronic or paper copy.

**Weekly Events**

**Monday**

**Each week**

**6:30 – 8:00**

**p.m.**

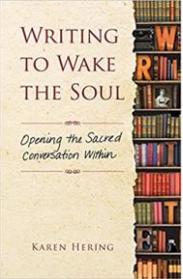


**Peaceful Heart Sangha**

You may join us at 6:15 to settle in.

The login and password information has changed. Please contact Marty Soule for updated login information at email [martysoule@gmail.com](mailto:martysoule@gmail.com).

FMI: [peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com](mailto:peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com)

<p><b>Wednesdays</b>  <u>Each Week</u>  <b>5:00 – 6:00</b>  <u>p.m.</u></p> <p><b><u>NO YOGA</u></b>  <b><u>on June 23</u></b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Gentle YOGA</b>  Hosted by Debbie Mattson</p> <p align="center"><b><u>PLEASE NOTE: YOGA class on June 23 is CANCELLED</u></b></p>  <p>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.  <a href="https://maine.zoom.us/j/95825651125?pwd=UWJpOVFjVFJGbz3dMWmZoOTRxa3VoUT09">https://maine.zoom.us/j/95825651125?pwd=UWJpOVFjVFJGbz3dMWmZoOTRxa3VoUT09</a>  Password <b>174192</b> - FMI: <a href="mailto:DebbieMattson@hotmail.com">DebbieMattson@hotmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>Thursdays</b>  <u>Each Week</u>  <b>8:00 – 9:30</b>  <u>a.m.</u></p>	<p align="center"><b><u>Peaceful Heart Sangha</u></b></p>  <p>You may join us at 7:45 a.m. to settle in. Meet from 8-9:30</p> <p>The login and password information has changed. Please contact Marty Soule for updated login information at <a href="mailto:martysoule@gmail.com">martysoule@gmail.com</a>.  FMI: <a href="mailto:peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com">peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>2nd &amp; 4<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>Thursday</b></p> <p><b>9:00 – 10:30</b>  <u>a.m.</u></p> <p><b><u>Will NOT</u></b>  <b><u>meet on June</u></b>  <b><u>24</u></b></p>	<p><i>Writing to Wake the Soul</i>  We meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month - 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.  <b><u>PLEASE NOTE: We will not meet on June 24</u></b></p>  <p>This is an open group and if you would like to participate in this event, please contact Debbie Mattson (<a href="mailto:debbiemattson@hotmail.com">debbiemattson@hotmail.com</a>) 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

### Has YOUR Contact Information Changed?

A new Church Directory is being prepared with updated UUCG leadership information AND contact information for church members and friends.

**Has any of YOUR contact information changed?** (e-mail, phone, physical or mailing address?)

If so, please report any changes to the Church Administrator by Monday, June 28<sup>th</sup>  
Admin phone (207) 622-3232 or email [admin@augustauu.org](mailto:admin@augustauu.org)

[HELP US](#) keep in touch with you and keep you informed.

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**The Social Justice Committee** (Michaela Loisel and Debbie Mattson as co-chairs, Hilary Nickels and Pam Lombard as members) is promoting the adoption of the 8<sup>th</sup> principle by UUCG, Augusta. This is part of a grassroots movement promoted by Black Lives UUs.

The 8<sup>th</sup> principle is: *“We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”*

The Unitarian Universalist Association adopted the existing Seven Principles in 1985.

The development and promotion of the 8<sup>th</sup> principle is in response to issues of hiring within the UUA; the recognition that most UU congregations are primarily European-American in membership, culture and leadership, even when located near diverse communities; and the urgency to dismantle white supremacy/racism within ourselves, our congregations, and communities.

Beacon Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Summit, New Jersey adopted the 8<sup>th</sup> principal. Rev. Dr. Robin Tanner, one of the church’s minister, said that “by joining with other leading UU congregations across the country, we hope to convince our denomination to add these 8th Principle pledges to our core set of practices. This Principle goes to the heart of our mission—to be radically inclusive, to feed the human spirit and heal the world.”

The Social Justice Committee of the UUCG is developing a plan to engage our congregation in conversation about the need for the 8<sup>th</sup> principle. We will ask for a special congregational meeting within a year to vote on its adoption. If we adopt the 8<sup>th</sup> principle we will join a growing number of UU congregations with an 8<sup>th</sup> principle. We will continue to advocate the need for the UUA adopt it as well.

Please email [debbiemattson@hotmail.com](mailto:debbiemattson@hotmail.com) if you are interested in joining the Social Justice Committee of UUCG, Augusta.

## Welcome to our Interim Minister, Chloë Briedé

The UUCC Board, in concert with the Interim Minister Search Committee are excited to announce that we have reached an agreement with our new Interim Minister! She will begin her duties starting August 2, 2021.

The role of the Interim Minister is to help us review our past and help guide us to our future. We believe we have found the perfect person for this role. She will serve the congregation for two years and lead us into the process of calling our new settled minister.

It is with pleasure and excitement that we introduce Chloë Briedé. Chloë brings to us a wide range of knowledge and experience. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Conflict Analysis and Resolution with a minor in Islamic studies, and describes herself as a UU Buddhist agnostic, a constant explorer of her faith and spirituality. She has worked with AmeriCorps, is an experienced disaster responder with the Red Cross, and is currently working as an Interim Director of Religious Exploration and Interim Parish Assistant. She has been active in the Right Relationship Team at General Assembly. She is a leader in addressing social issues including LGBTQ issues, classism and racism.

Chloë takes a coaching approach to leadership, listening deeply to help solve problems and not hesitating to face a challenge and name the difficult emotions. She brings to UUCCA a freshness coupled with a respect for institutions that we believe will help to guide us successfully through this transition.



Chloë shares this thought as we prepare to enter this new relationship:

"I am excited to serve as your interim minister for the next two years. We will work together as your community transitions from one settled minister to another and as the community emerges from the pandemic. I look forward to connecting with each of you on our shared journey."

*UUCC Board – and -- UUCC Interim Minister Search Committee*

## Covid-19 Advisory Group UPDATE

At their June 10, 2021 meeting, the UUCB Board of Trustees approved the policy on the next page allowing groups of twelve (12) or fewer people, wearing masks, to meet indoors, in-person in UUCB facilities.

The COVID-19 Advisory Group and the Board are working on a policy that will allow us to resume in-person church services this coming autumn. We are not resuming in-person services this summer because that was not a part of our contract with our summer minister. Due to recent significant upgrades to the technology systems in our sanctuary and fellowship hall, we will be offering both in-person and live streamed Sunday morning services when we reopen.

A sub-committee of the Board and the COVID-19 Advisory Group studied the issue of creating separate guidelines for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals, but ultimately decided against such a proposal for the following reasons:

- It was not in alignment with our UU principles focusing upon the equal inclusion of all members
- It would be intrusive and violate each individual's right to privacy about their medical decisions
- It would result in an unenforceable policy.

We are requiring all attendees to in-person, indoor gatherings to wear facial coverings and maintain physical distancing for the following reasons:

- While they are incredibly effective, no COVID-19 vaccine can prevent 100% of COVID infections
- There are members of our congregation who are unable to be vaccinated for a variety of reasons
- Many members of our congregation are at higher risk of incomplete protection from the vaccines due to underlying medical conditions, medications and age
- Our primary goal is to ensure the safety of everyone who enters our facilities. We take care of each other because we care about each other.

## Use of spaces Policy

Beginning in February, 2020 SARS Cov-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 has been present in Maine. It is a microscopic particle that is spread from person to person attached to tiny respiratory droplets or saliva. Some of these droplets are so small that they can remain suspended in the air as an aerosol for prolonged periods of time. These droplets are released when an infected person coughs, sneezes, sings or talks. Since early 2021, three (3) remarkably safe and effective vaccines have been available and Maine has one of the best rates of vaccination in the country. These vaccines are between 75-94% effective in preventing any COVID-19 infections in fully vaccinated individuals. More importantly, all three (3) are 99.96% effective in preventing serious COVID infection (the need for: hospitalization, ICU care, ventilator support or death). Currently, all people twelve (12) years of age and older are eligible for COVID vaccination.

Despite the overwhelming success of the vaccination programs, it is important to recognize that there are members of our community who are immunosuppressed due to medications for underlying medical conditions. There is strong evidence that some of these individuals will not receive protection from being vaccinated. There are others who are unable to be vaccinated (for a variety of reasons). We are a community that cares about each other and strives to take care of each other. Therefore, we must all continue to take simple precautions to protect our friends and the valued members of our community.

Following a prolonged winter/spring spike in COVID-19 infections, Maine is seeing a dramatic reduction in infections, hospitalizations and deaths. This is primarily the result of widespread vaccination across the state.

As a result of the effectiveness of the vaccines and reduced number of COVID cases in Maine, the UUCC COVID-19 Advisory Group recommends that groups of twelve (12) or fewer people can meet indoors in UUCC facilities following these guidelines:

- If you have any cold or flu-like symptoms, DO NOT attend in-person gatherings
- Appropriate facial coverings (covering both mouth and nose) must be worn at all times and in all areas of the facility
- Maintain six (6) feet of physical distancing between individuals who are not household members
- No eating or drinking while indoors (requires removal of facial covering)
- No singing or wind instruments
- Weather permitting, please open all windows and doors to improve ventilation
- Please remember to close the windows at the end of the gathering
- Please do not run the ceiling fans as they may increase the risk of aerosol spread
- All meetings are to be scheduled through the church administrator
- Only one meeting may take place during any time slot
- Group leaders are responsible for filling out a *Checklist for Groups Using UUCC Facilities* and leaving it in the drop box in the Committee Room. This checklist includes a listing of all participants and contact information in case contact tracing becomes necessary.

The COVID-19 Advisory Group will continue to monitor Maine CDC COVID metrics and these guidelines are subject to review and may be changed or rescinded as necessary to ensure the safety of all members of the UUCC community.

Approved by the UUCC Board of Trustees, June 10, 2021

# Board of Trustees

## June 2021 Board Highlights

At its June 10 meeting, the Board:

- Acknowledged the surplus in the budget presented at the Annual Meeting that was created by the response to a generous anonymous challenge grant.
- Voted to add back \$1,000 to our contribution to the UUA to meet our Fair Share and restored \$3,500 back to the rainy day fund.
- Voted to accept the gift of an air conditioner from Hal Booth to be used in the administrator's office. Heard an update on the tasks remaining relevant to building renovations.
- Voted to approve the policy recommendations from the COVID Advisory Team (which included Board representation) related to small groups meeting once again in the church building.

## Dr. Don on Covid-19

Dr. Don on COVID-19      Employer Required Vaccines

The New York Times reported last week that a federal judge has tossed out a lawsuit from over 100 hospital employees who sued Houston Methodist over its policy requiring all staff to be vaccinated against COVID-19. Houston Methodist comprises seven community hospitals, a continuing care hospital, several emergency centers and other clinics in greater Houston. The hospital has consistently ranked as "One of America's Best Hospitals" according to U.S. News and World Report.

The workers lawsuit alleges the hospital was "forcing its employees to be human 'guinea pigs' as a condition for continued employment." They accused the hospital of violating the Nuremberg Code of 1947, likening the vaccine mandate to Nazi medical experimentation on concentration camp prisoners. The hospital has already suspended 178 workers who have missed the vaccine deadline.

US District Judge Lynn Hughes was not sympathetic to either argument, writing in his order of dismissal Saturday that none of the employees were forced or coerced to take the vaccine. He also noted that the hospital cannot violate the Nuremberg Code because it is a private employer, not a government.

"Equating the injection requirement to medical experimentation in concentration camps is reprehensible," Hughes wrote. "Nazi doctors conducted medical experiments on victims that caused pain, mutilation, permanent disability, and in many cases, death. If a worker refuses an assignment, changed office, earlier start time, or other directive, he may be properly fired. Every employment includes limits on the worker's behavior in exchange for his remuneration," Hughes wrote. "That is all part of the bargain."

The lawyer representing the hospital staff, Jared Woodfill, said in a statement he intends to appeal the ruling to a federal appeals court and to the US Supreme Court if necessary. "This is just one battle in a larger war to protect the rights of employees to be free from being forced to participate in a vaccine trial as a condition for employment," Woodfill said. "Employment should not be conditioned upon whether you will agree to serve as a human guinea pig."

Houston Methodist made national headlines earlier this year when it announced it would require its 26,000 employees to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by June 7. "Those who are not vaccinated by that date face suspension and eventual termination," the hospital said in a FAQ page published in April. The hospital's policy also contained exemptions for workers with sincerely held religious beliefs and certain medical conditions, including pregnancy. The 178 suspended workers who didn't meet the vaccination deadline will be fired if they aren't vaccinated by June 21.

Houston Methodist's president and CEO, Dr. Marc Boom, praised the hospital system's 26,000 employees who received the vaccine. "Our employees and physicians made their decisions for our patients, who are always at the center of everything we do," he said. "We can now put this behind us and continue our focus on unparalleled safety, quality, service and innovation."

Send your questions, comments or suggestions to [naber@zwi.net](mailto:naber@zwi.net)

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### **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.

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

### **UUC Pastoral Ministry Team**

We are here for you. Feel free to reach out in times of need for compassionate listening, for casual conversation, to share some good news, to share your struggle or just to say hello.

Martha Pelletier, Chair	207-685-9592 (H)	<a href="mailto:Mjpell14@roadrunner.com">Mjpell14@roadrunner.com</a>
Helen Zidowecki	207-582-5308 (h)	<a href="mailto:hzmre@hzmre.com">hzmre@hzmre.com</a>
Tracy McNaughton	207-623-3110 (h)	<a href="mailto:tracy.mcnaughton@yahoo.com">tracy.mcnaughton@yahoo.com</a>
Peggy Lamb	207 622-5174 (h)	<a href="mailto:plambflowers@outlook.com">plambflowers@outlook.com</a>

### Pastoral Ministry Team Summer On-Call Schedule

1. May 17 – May 23	Helen	7. June 28 – July 4	Tracy
2. May 24 – May 30	Peggy	8. July 5 – July 11	Martha
3. May 31 – June 6	Tracy	9. July 12 – July 18	Helen
4. June 7 -- June 13	Martha	10. July 19 – July 25	Tracy
5. June 14 – June 20	Helen	11. July 26 – August 1	Martha
6. June 21 – June 27	Peggy		

**For special services and celebrations, contact Rev. Helen Zidowecki.**

**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



### UCC 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](mailto:estherpearl67@gmail.com).

## **UCC Office Hours – NEXT WEEK**

### UCC Office Hours

Tues, Wed, Thurs and Friday

8:00 am to 1:00 pm.

### TEMPORARY HOURS

<plus 7 flex / work at home hours>

### Staff Contact information:

Church Administrator, Lynn M. Smith, [admin@augustauu.org](mailto:admin@augustauu.org), Phone 622-3232

Coordinator of Lifespan Faith Formation, Monique McAuliffe, [LifespanFF@augustauu.org](mailto:LifespanFF@augustauu.org)

Music Director, Bridget Convey, [musicdirector@augustauu.org](mailto:musicdirector@augustauu.org)