

# Weekly E-Blast

Unitarian Universalist Community Church  
Wednesday, March 2, 2022

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[www.augustauu.org](http://www.augustauu.org)

## A Message from the Minister

I hope many of you enjoyed hearing Ambassador Maulian Dana speak on Sunday. I found her words inspiring, educational, and hopeful. She spoke about how heartened she was by the outpouring of support for LD 626. Ambassador Dana also talked about her own story and her work as a teenager against the use of Native American images as mascots. I am so thankful that she was able to take the time to visit the UUCC.

Like many of you, I have been emotional this week as I hear about Ukraine. It's horrifying to watch a country suffer at the hands of a tyrant. If you are wondering how to give financial support, this is a good list- <https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/ways-to-help-ukraine-conflict/>. You can also show support in other ways like showing up to a vigil for Ukraine or flying a Ukrainian flag or even just wearing Ukrainian colors. We can show our solidarity.

I wanted to share this prayer with you from Bishop Karen Oliveto. She is the first openly lesbian bishop elected in the United Methodist Church. "Tonight, I pray for the mother in Ukraine who is wrapping her arms around her children, humming them a lullaby to drown out the sound of sirens. Tonight I pray for anyone, anywhere, whose sleep is interrupted by dreams of real-life nightmares they have had to endure. Tonight, I pray for courage, strength, and resilience in the face of war, hatred, and injustice. Tonight, I pray for love. I pray for compassion. I pray for peace."

As always, you are invited to reach out to me for any reason. I am available for a conversation by appointment. As an interim, I am especially interested in getting to know individual members and hearing your thoughts. Additionally, I am available for pastoral care conversations on a range of topics. I continue to offer weekly **"Coffee with Chloe" sessions on Tuesdays from 10-11 am** on the church zoom.

Sending love,

Chloe Briede, Interim Minister  
[chloeucc@gmail.com](mailto:chloeucc@gmail.com)  
207-623-3663

## Upcoming Services

Worship Theme: March      Renewing Faith

Let us explore the challenges and adventures of Renewing our Faith.

<p>THIS Sunday March 6, 2022</p> <p>10:00 a.m. via Zoom</p>	<p><b>"Stewardship Sunday: Aspire for UUC"</b> Chloë Briedé, UUC Interim Minister</p> <p>Join us as we kick off our stewardship campaign. The theme this year is "Aspire for UUC." What does our community aspire to? Let us strive for more love, more hope, more generosity, and more faith. After our service, we will hold a "Finance 101" session.</p> <p>Special thanks to Wick Johnson and Karen Foust for offering testimonials. Our worship associate is Susan Burnett and our pianist, Karen Foust. Monique Bergere will offer a reading.</p>
<p>NEXT Sunday March 13, 2022</p> <p>10:00 a.m. via Zoom</p>	<p><b>"Invitations to Faith"</b> Visiting Minister, Rev. Meg Mathieson*</p> <p>Whether we realize it or not, we are each invited to a faith that reflects our own uniqueness. When we bring our spectrum of individual faiths together, this diversity creates a sacred community that we cannot achieve alone. Come, bring your faith, your lack of faith, your broken heart. Add to the colors of our rainbow!</p> <p>Special thanks to our worship associate John Seksay and our pianist, Stefanie Barley. Bridget Convey, our music director, will offer a meditative piece.</p> <p><b>*Bio:</b> Rev. Meg Mathieson is the minister of SouthWest UU Church in North Royalton Ohio. She also works as a Worship Consultant for East Shore UU Church in Kirtland, OH. Meg is currently working toward a Doctor of Ministry, writing a dissertation titled, "Unitarian Mindfulness" about the place of Mindfulness Meditation in the future of the UU denomination. Meg and her wife Nicky live in Parma Heights OH with their elderly border collie, Cricket.</p>

*All services and events are held in the UUC Zoom Room unless noted.*

[Click here to join:](#)

For other ways to join Zoom, see [General Information](#)



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## **Did you miss the following services?**

**Sunday 2/20/22 –“Centering Empathy”**- with Chloë Briedé, UUCU Interim Minister

Watch the complete service by clicking the following link: [Link to 2/20 "Centering Empathy" service](#)

**Sunday 2/27/22 –"Guest Speaker: Tribal Ambassador Maulian Dana"**

Watch the complete service by clicking the following link: [Link to 2/27 "Maulian Dana" service](#)

## **Upcoming Special Events**

### *"Coffee with Chloë **CONTINUES**"*



Minister Chloe will continue (through March) the informal church zoom room on **Tuesdays from 10-11 am** to chat and check in with UUCU-ers.

No RSVP required; drop in when the spirit moves. Chloe is calling this event “**Coffee with Chloë**,” but feel free to bring a beverage of your choice.

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### *Join us for **Finance 101 – March 6<sup>th</sup>***

(after Sunday service in the “What’s on Your Mind” Zoom session)

Each year, the Finance Committee offers an educational, question and answer session on the church budgeting process; we call it Finance 101. This year’s presentation will happen on Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup> (Stewardship Sunday) and will be combined with the monthly What’s on Your Mind session held by the Board of Trustees. It will begin at 11:00 am, directly after the morning worship service and is scheduled to last one hour.

This year’s budget is largely influenced by four major items:

1. A 3.3% salary increase for our staff
2. The costs of a settled minister search
3. Hiring a bookkeeping firm
4. Decreased fund raising potential for the coming year.

We will discuss each of these items in the weekly e-blasts over the next few weeks. Last week we talked about the costs of a settled minister search, today we’ll cover hiring a bookkeeping firm.

Being good stewards of resources is important to Unitarian Universalists and arises from our seventh principle. The UUCU Finance Committee and Board of Trustees have worked diligently over many years to strengthen our stewardship of the church’s financial resources. We have increased the accuracy, security and transparency of our finances by instituting a number of policies and procedures:

- Annual criminal & financial background checks on all individuals who have access to church funds.
- All financial activity is posted to an electronic accounting program, currently QuickBooks.

- Requiring that the church administrator enter checks into the system and a different person (Treasurer, Board President or Finance Committee Chair) sign the checks.
- Requiring two different signatures on high value checks.
- Having quarterly bank statement reconciliation reviews by members of the Finance Committee.
- Only the Treasurer has direct electronic access to church financial accounts.

UUCC has always relied upon an elected, volunteer Treasurer to oversee our church finances. Over the years, this job has become increasingly complicated and time consuming, to the point where it now constitutes a significant part time job for our volunteer Treasurer. The job also entails a lengthy learning curve to master the numerous tasks and technical components required of the Treasurer. We have reached a point where the job has become untenable and it is exceedingly difficult to find someone with the necessary skills and a willingness to invest the many hours required of this job.

Based upon the experiences of our current Treasurer (who is leaving the position at the end of this fiscal year) and our last Treasurer, the Finance Committee searched for ways to unburden the position of volunteer Treasurer. After significant discussion over the course of several months, the Committee recommended the following tasks be removed from the Treasurer and assigned to a professional bookkeeping firm:

- Manage all aspects of QuickBooks (includes entering and printing checks, setting up approved annual budget, entering automatic payments, entering bank deposits, preparing reports as requested, entering payroll information, and other related tasks).
- Fill out paperwork for UUA regarding employment changes, insurance, etc.
- Work with Bangor Savings Bank regarding payroll issues.
- Provide budget projections and analysis of the financial picture at UUCC on request.

Predicated upon the responses from local bookkeeping firms, the Finance Committee estimates the annual cost of this action to be about \$6,000. We believe that this is a necessary long term change needed as both a fairness issue and to attract individuals to this vital church leadership position.

**Wabanaki Alliance Legislative Lobby Day** planned for  
**Wednesday March 9, 2022**

To join with UU's and others: meet at the Cross Café on the ground floor of the Cross Office Building at 8:30a.m. Michaela Loisel will be there with MUUSAN buttons and (some) tee-shirts. Please join us in support of Tribal Sovereignty. FMI: Kathy Kellison: [Kell6787@gmail.com](mailto:Kell6787@gmail.com) or Michaela Loisel [Michaelatloisel@gmail.com](mailto:Michaelatloisel@gmail.com)

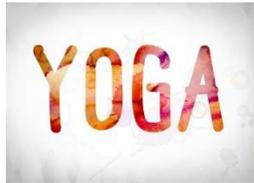
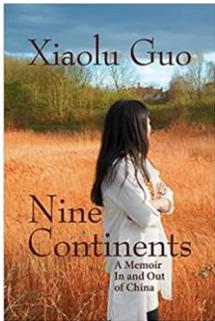
**Interested in protecting our Democracy?  
 Wondering what we might do to strengthen voting access and elections?**

**MUUSAN March 12th Network Meeting**  
 10 am - 12:30 pm on Zoom  
**Protecting Democracy's Guardrails**

Democracy's survival depends on protecting and strengthening the guardrails that protected the 2020 election. But what are those guardrails, and how can we protect and defend them? The [March network meeting](#) will feature Former Maine Secretary of State, Matt Dunlap, Representative Nicole Grohoski and other speakers discussing how we, as Maine UUs, can best protect democracy in this challenging time. **Register [HERE](#)**

## Connections by Day of the Week

ALL church events and meetings are reflected on the UUCC calendar  
Click below to view ALL events, including any group meetings or other business meetings.  
<https://www.augustauu.org/calendar-and-communications/>

<p><b><u>Monday</u></b> Each week</p> <p><b><u>6:30 – 8:00</u></b> <b><u>p.m.</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Peaceful Heart Sangha</u></b></p> <p>You may join us at 6:15 to settle in.</p> <p>Please contact Marty Soule for updated login information at email <a href="mailto:martysoule@gmail.com">martysoule@gmail.com</a>. FMI: <a href="mailto:peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com">peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com</a></p>	
<p><b><u>Wednesdays</u></b> Each Week</p> <p><b><u>5:00 – 6:00</u></b> <b><u>p.m.</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Gentle YOGA</u></b></p> <p>Hosted by Debbie Mattson</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. Click the 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><u>2nd &amp; 4<sup>th</sup></u></b> <b><u>Wednesday</u></b></p> <p><b><u>10:30 a.m. -</u></b> <b><u>Noon</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Seasoned Souls</u></b></p> <p>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. We will meet in the UUCC Zoom Room.</p> <p>FMI: please contact Diane (<a href="mailto:dmoongrove@gmail.com">dmoongrove@gmail.com</a> or 446-6162) or Stefanie (<a href="mailto:stefbarley@gmail.com">stefbarley@gmail.com</a> or 629-8890)</p>	
<p><b><u>Thursdays</u></b> Each Week</p> <p><b><u>8:00 – 9:30</u></b> <b><u>a.m.</u></b></p>	<p><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>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><u>1<sup>st</sup></u></b> <b><u>Thursday</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Noon-1:30</u></b> <b><u>p.m.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Next Meeting</u></b> <b><u>is: March 3</u></b></p>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;">  <div style="flex-grow: 1;"> <p>Our next meeting will be March 3, 2022. We will meet in the UUCC zoom room from Noon – 1:30 p.m. to discuss <u>Nine Continents A Memoir in and Out of China</u> by Xiaolu Guo. Anyone interested in this book is welcome to join us whether or not you have attended before. FMI about this or any meeting of the group, contact June Zellers at <a href="mailto:jzellers@roadrunner.com">jzellers@roadrunner.com</a> or Kathy Kellison at <a href="mailto:kell6787@gmail.com">kell6787@gmail.com</a> We would love to have you join us.</p> <p><i>A gripping memoir about growing up in—and leaving—China, from one of Britain's most acclaimed young novelists. ~Kirkus Reviews</i></p> </div> </div>	

**- More Connections by Day of the Week -**

	<b>- More Connections by Day of the Week -</b>
<b><u>2nd &amp; 4<sup>th</sup></u> <u>Thursday</u></b>  <b><u>9:00 – 10:30</u></b> <b><u>a.m.</u></b>	<b><u>Writing Group</u></b>  This 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. We meet in the UUCC Zoom Room.
<b><u>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday</u></b>  <b><u>1-2:30 p.m.</u></b>	<b><u>Goddess / Earth Circles</u></b>  Goddess/Earth Circles focuses on Goddess and women's lives, earth-based spirituality, role of women today. All ages and genders welcome. More information on UUCC website. Contact Helen Zidowecki (207-582-5308), <a href="mailto:hzmre@hzmre.com">hzmre@hzmre.com</a> )

**Notices / Updates / News**

Dear UUCC Community,

It is with sadness that I share the news that Caelan Lapointe died at his home in Boulder, Colorado, on Sunday, February 13. Caelan grew up in the UUCC community and his parents, Hilary and George, are beloved members of our church. We will miss his gentle nature.

You can find Caelan's obituary here:

<https://murphyfuneraldirectors.com/tribute/details/826/Caelan-Lapointe/obituary.html#content-start>

**From Hilary Neckles:**

We know it's a long way, and there are no expectations, but if anyone is able to join us at a Celebration of Life for Caelan, the details are as follows:

Saturday, June 25th, 11 AM - 3 PM  
at The Riverside, 1724 Broadway, Boulder, CO

A memorial service will be followed immediately by a luncheon reception featuring Caelan's favorite foods and beverages. Weather permitting -- and remember, Boulder boasts over 300 days of sunshine per year -- the celebration will take place outside on the [River-side's beautiful patio](#) alongside Boulder Creek.

Cards and emails of condolence are welcome to

[hneckles@gmail.com](mailto:hneckles@gmail.com)

[georgelapointe@gmail.com](mailto:georgelapointe@gmail.com)

40 Middle Street

Hallowell, ME 04347

Sending love and blessings, -- Chloë

## **David Rand fell & broke his ankle.**

He would appreciate receiving cards. He is currently at Augusta Rehab, 188 Eastern Ave., Augusta, ME 04330.

We wish him a speedy recovery!

### **Financial information from UCC Treasurer**

At the recent What's on Your Mind? session, a request was made that information about the finances at UCC be put into the e-blast. SO....Here it is!

As the treasurer, I present a draft of the monthly report to the finance committee on the first Thursday of the month meeting. Edits, corrections, questions are shared, and a final report is done for the Board for the meeting on the third Thursday of the month. Each report is for the previous month's income and expenses. This changes as new expenses are paid and new income is deposited into the bank accounts.

The figures below are from the Feb. Board meeting report. They represent all activity through Jan. 31, 2022. This is 58% of the fiscal year.

Pledges paid to date: \$116,615 which is 80% of the goal of \$145,500.

Annual appeal: Donations of \$6,030 without the match added yet.

Offering received during services: \$65.00

Total income from all sources: \$180,937 which is 72% of budget goal of \$241,880

Total expenses to Jan. 31, 2022: \$119,299 leaving a positive balance of \$61,638

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Martha Naber, Treasurer, at [marthanaber73@gmail.com](mailto:marthanaber73@gmail.com).

## **Board of Trustees**

### **BOARD HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **At the February 10 Board Meeting:**

- The Treasurer reported that we continue to be in good financial shape for this fiscal year. The Annual Appeal and the Holiday Fair are still generating revenue and our invested funds are doing well.
- The Finance Committee reported that the Service Auction will likely consist of two work crews as there is no one to coordinate the event. Lynn has been researching book keeping services to assist with the duties of the treasurer. There was an update on the status of the Judd House tenant.
- The Covid19 Advisory Group reported that meetings have been held with two contractors regarding improving the ventilation system in the church building.

- There was discussion of the need for someone to oversee reopening plans.
- A group was designated to look into restorative practices related to our recent conflicts.
- There was discussion of the Stewardship Campaign.
- The Committee on Ministry asked for approval to create a process for crafting a congregational covenant.
- There was discussion of the updated projected budget for next fiscal year.

TO SEE COMPLETE MINUTES OF THE MEETING, PLEASE REQUEST A COPY FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE: [admin@augustauu.org](mailto:admin@augustauu.org).

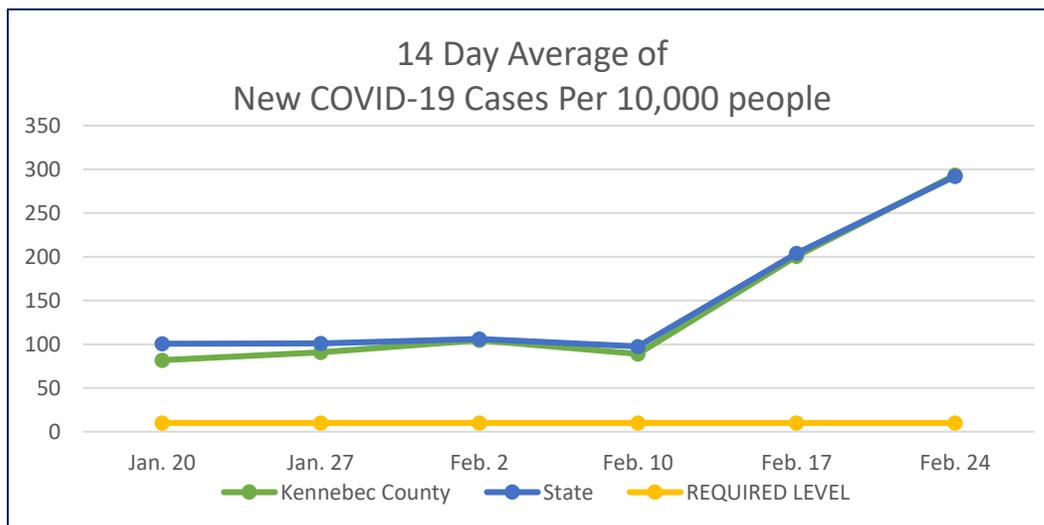
Board meetings are open to ALL. If you have an item that you would like the Board to consider, please contact Kathy Ann Shaw at [kathyannshaw@roadrunner.com](mailto:kathyannshaw@roadrunner.com).

Next Board meeting: March 10, 2022

## COVID-19 Updates / News

### Update from COVID-19 Advisory Group

The plan for reopening UUCG for in-person, indoor gatherings approved by the Board on August 12, 2021 depends on the COVID-19 pandemic being under control in our state and county. The Board adopted a Maine CDC metric that measures “community (person to person) transmission” of the virus. **The necessary CDC metric for us to reopen is no more than 10 new cases per 10,000 people in Kennebec County or the State of Maine.**



**The present CDC metric data indicates that it is still unsafe for us to safely reopen.**

Discussions continue around reassessing the re-opening plan approved by the Board in August. The discussions may lead to a changing of the metrics OR to reopening the church. Discussions are continuing at the COVID-19 Advisory group meeting and Board meetings. More information will come. Stay tuned...

## **Dr. Don on Covid-19**

Dr. Don on COVID-19      BA.2 - More Infectious / Less Dangerous? COVID in Decline

The Portland Press Herald reported Monday that two cases of the Omicron BA.2 variant were detected by Jackson Laboratory researchers monitoring virus mutations in Maine. Dr. Nirav Shah, director of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, stated in a Twitter post Monday “It is one of the ‘sub-lineages’ of the Omicron family of COVID19 viruses. Early data suggests that BA.2 is more contagious than the current Omicron BA.1 in the US,” Shah posted. However, based on experience in other parts of the world, the new version of the virus is not expected to drive another surge of cases in Maine.

Scientists are still studying the new variant, but immunity, whether through previous infection or vaccination, still appears to protect against the virus, based on preliminary data. Even though the new version is spreading in many parts of the world, Shah posted, “there is a reported decline in overall cases globally.”

Wastewater testing data released Monday shows levels of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 continue to show a dramatic decline in most cities and towns participating in the testing, according to data published by the state. Some cities are showing a steep drop off in virus prevalence since the omicron wave hit in December. At Portland Water District’s Westbrook plant, for instance, virus levels have plummeted by more than 98 percent since late December and early January, and at the East End plant in Portland levels have declined by 97 percent. Bangor, Augusta and Lewiston-Auburn have also experienced sharp declines since early February, when those cities and several others in Maine began wastewater testing for the virus. Wastewater testing gives real-time, accurate data, scientists say, and is not subject to issues that arise in counting cases, such as the proliferation of at-home tests.

“What does this mean for you? First, getting vaccinated and boosted remains among the best strategies to stay safe,” Dr. Shah wrote. And speaking about home testing he added “If you test positive, the same guidance applies: stay home, and reach out to a health care provider about possible treatments.”

Send your questions, comments or suggestions to [donnaber1364@gmail.com](mailto:donnaber1364@gmail.com)

## **General Information**

**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.**

**Press [Ctrl-Home] to return to Pg. 1**

## 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:donnaber1364@gmail.com">donnaber1364@gmail.com</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

## UCC 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>

**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 or Peggy Lamb 622-5174.

## 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 [es-therpearl67@gmail.com](mailto:es-therpearl67@gmail.com).

## **UCC Office Hours – NEXT WEEK**

### UCC Office Hours

Tues, Wed, Thurs and Friday

8:00 am to 1:00 pm. <plus 7 flex hrs >

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

**Interim Minister,** Chloë Briedé

Email: [chloeuucc@gmail.com](mailto:chloeuucc@gmail.com)

Office: (207) 623-3663

For pastoral emergencies please call her cell phone (757) 234-1303. She will return your call as soon as possible.

### Minister Briede's office hours:

Monday No office hours - Sabbath

Tuesday Noon – 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday Noon – 4:00 p.m.

Thursday Noon – 4:00 p.m.

Friday No office hours – Writing day

<Other hours available by appointment>

### 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)