



KUUC Messenger April 2024

April Meetings and Events

Christian Scriptures Study	Tues Apr 2 at 4:30 pm	Alliance Room
MIP Genocide Awareness Talk	Wed Apr 3 at 5:30 pm	KSC Mabel Brown Rm
MIP Empathy at Auschwitz Talk	Wed Apr 10 at 5:30 pm	KSC Alumni Hall
Executive Committee	Wed Apr 10 at 6 pm	Alliance Room
KUUC Games Night	Fri Apr 12 at 5:30 pm	Parish Hall
Membership Committee	Sun Apr 14 at 11:30 am	KUUC Library
Interfaith Climate Cafe	Sun Apr 14 at 3 pm	UCC (213 Central Square)
Shining the Light on UU Potluck	Sun Apr 14 at 5 pm	Parish Hall
MIP Interfaith Passover Seder	Wed Apr 17 at 5 pm	KSC Alumni Hall
Board of Trustees Meeting	Wed Apr 17 at 6:30 pm	Alliance Room
GreenUp Keene	Sat Apr 20 at 10 am	Meet on Church Lawn
KUUC Book Club Sun	Apr 21 at 11:15 am	Alliance Room
KUUC Outdoors Meeting	Sun Apr 28 at 11:15 am	Alliance Room
Choir	Every Thurs at 6:30 pm	Parish Hall
Kindness Crafting	Every Wednesday at noon	KUUC Library

April 2024 Worship Calendar

Our Soul Matters theme of the month is “Interdependence.” Ask yourself: How often do I feel a sense of interdependence? Do I have a way to visualize and articulate how interdependence works? How intertwined is my life to all lives, my life to all things under, (and beyond), the sun?

April 7th “Practically Poetry”

Rev. Michael

There are several ways to envision interdependence, and see it for the saving grace that it is. All of nature, and the infinite field of stars above, suggest possibilities for unity, harmony, creativity and wonder. Today we celebrate Joys & Concerns and more.

April 14th “Climate Justice and all that Jazz”

Rev. Michael

How can we hope to reverse the direction in which climate deprivation, corporate chicanery and economic injustice are leading us? Perhaps we need to change our ways and play a new tune. The Choir joins us today and we will take Time for All Ages.

April 21st “Mother Earth”

Worship Committee

Mothering ourselves and mothering the planet can be interconnected sides of the same coin. What small and big changes can we make to be part of the healing of our planet, while caring for ourselves at the same time?

Please send any thoughts, readings, music etc that you would like to see woven into the service. This is shared ministry after all. Please e-mail your ideas to Lindsay Bartlett (actmavith@gmail.com)

April 28th “What Happens Next?”

Rev. Michael

Stories connect and divide us. They help us to understand, (or undermine), what is, explain or invent what was, and cast a hopeful light, or a dark shadow, upon what will be. Stories, fables, scriptures and tall tales are how we try to understand what the experience of living means, and whether it has any significance. The KUUC Choir joins us today.

Reverend Michael's Moment

“You are where you are because that's where you need to be... and if you need to move on, you will move on. — Jim Henson

Well, this is different.

It won't be long before the snow is finally gone and the earth softens up. Before you know it, all the heavy clothes will be put away and people will be in their shorts once again. Soon the bikes will be out and folks will need a little sunscreen before rooting about in the garden. This is all as it should be.

As the sun brightens, the canoe beckons, the birds sing a merry tune in the trees---a thought comes to mind. It's in these changing seasons that New Englanders know what they'll miss, and what they can look forward to.

Yours in Faith and Friendship,
Rev. Michael

Study Day: Monday **Day Off:** Tuesday **Writing Day:** Thursday

Visitation & Meetings: Wednesday & Friday (afternoons)

Office Hours: Fridays 8:30 AM-12:30 PM

Odds & Ends: Saturday 1/2 Day (as needed)

Also: I will be away from Keene for Northern New England Minister's Retreat and Meetings Tuesday, April 16-Friday, April 19th.

Call with any questions or to schedule a visit at 508.821.6092

Board President Report

My beloved community:

Our Board has been busy this month! After the February 11th workshop with UUA support person Evin Carvill-Ziemer we spent a good amount of time collating all the wonderful suggestions and input from all of you. Evin really made the congregation think about our priorities, and had us thinking outside the box! After reading, sifting, thinking, collating, analyzing all that, and looking at it all from 30,000 feet, the Board sees a few trends:

- 1) Overwhelmingly people want to keep our building
- 2) People are willing to see a reduction in our Minister's position
- 3) An increase in RE staff, and office staff

We want to thank all of you for your input, as it really helps the Board work in a direction we all can agree on. Evin will continue to help us with navigating our upcoming changes, and with the UUA support we feel confident that although the road before us is a hard one, we will meet and grow beyond our challenges.

We have also agreed on an evaluation format for conducting a Congregational Assessment. A team is being put together by Susie Ericson-West and that team will meet and complete the evaluation by the April board meeting! We are excited to work on our future!

We are still looking for people interested in being on a Property Committee, not that they need to actually fix the toilets, or the alarm, or a leaky roof, but rather create a team to do some identification of needs and services and develop a plan on how things will be managed to help us keep the building in its best condition.

We are grateful to Carl Jacobs and Eloise Clark for their continued work on funding opportunities for larger projects needing attention.

Ongoing items are putting together a Personnel Committee, a Communications Committee, and putting an Ombudsman Team together.

Happy Spring,
Caroline Stave Viemeister

Music

This month the choir will sing during the services on 4/14 and 4/28. The theme for April is "Interdependence". Thank you to Dan Bartlett who accompanied us on drums for a few pieces in March and to Kim Clark for sharing your talents; I'm blessed to work with such great musicians in our music ministry.

The choir rehearses on Thursday nights from 6:30-8:00 in the parish hall. All are welcome to come try it out! The music committee always welcomes new members! Please see me if you would like to be part of this group.

Peace,
Donna

Greetings from RE:

We've had steady lessons and Blocks offerings going, and it's almost time to get our hands in the Children's Garden. Monthly game nights are underway, please come and play! Bring your families and friends, the dates are spread through email, facebook events, and our Order of Service Inserts, the next one is Fri April 12 at 5:30. I want to thank everyone who donated to the RE food/toiletry drive. We will continue to accept offerings for a couple more weeks, and then will deliver them to the Community Kitchen and boxes around town.

As always if you've got a hankering to get involved please reach out, this program doesn't work without your participation. We're always looking for seconds/assistants. We also welcome anyone interested in delivering Time For All Ages during the service! This can be anything! Maybe you've got ideas for one, or maybe you want to read or perform. However you want to be involved, we welcome it.

RE Offerings this month

4/7 Toolbox of Faith Lesson 4: Flexibility

4/14 Blocks

4/21 RE offering will be a craft

4/28 - We will be listening to a podcast and doing an activity

As always, thank you for your support and encouragement!
Mallory



Monadnock Interfaith Project

Building An Interfaith Coalition for Community Understanding and Social Justice

WWW.MIPNH.ORG

MonadnockInterfaith@gmail.com

Upcoming Interfaith Events

- **April 3**, Genocide Awareness Lecture featuring Loung Ung, KSC Mabel Brown Room or Livestream • 5:30pm • For details visit: www.keene.edu/news/events/detail/17869/
- **April 10**, Special Event - "The Light Inside the Dark: Witnessing in Empathy at Auschwitz" featuring Dr. Len Fleischer, KSC Alumni Center - Norma Walker Hall • 5:30pm • For details visit: www.keene.edu/news/events/detail/18470/
- **April 14**, Interfaith Climate Café, The United Church of Christ, 213 Central Square, Keene • 3-6pm • RSVP by email to jwhite@ucckeene.org or by phone 603-352-4135
- **April 17**, MIP Interfaith Passover Seder, KSC Alumni Center - Norma Walker Hall • 5pm [Click here to RSVP](#) by April 8 or see invite in the MIP eNewsletter. Seating is limited.

Interested in interfaith efforts?

Sign up for the MIP eNewsletter by emailing: monadnockinterfaith@gmail.com
Visit our website MIPNH.org Follow us on [Facebook @MIPNH](#)

Slice of Fellowship

There is no Slice dinner this month. We will meet again on Friday, May 3 at 5:30 pm in the Parish Hall.

Shining the Light on UU Volunteer Recognition Potluck Sun April 14 from 5-7 pm

Don't miss this once-a-year celebration of all our amazing volunteers! Put your thinking caps on and tell us which volunteers you want recognized for all their hard work. Then bring a tasty dish to share and come along for an evening of fun!

Switching it up a bit from last year, if your last name begins with:

A-G, please bring a side dish

H-M, please bring a main dish

N-Z, please bring a dessert

Of course, if you have a favorite dish that you make, please do so! See you there!



KUUC Outdoors



Upcoming Trips	Lead	Date
Green Up Keene	Erica Kempf	April 20
Ashuelot River Paddle	Susan Spencer	April/May TBD
Mt Monadnock, Marlborough Trail	Marcus McCarroll	May 13, 14, or 15
Kilburn Pond Loop, Pisgah State Forest	Deb McLay	June 9
Silver Lake, Harrisville, Moonlight Paddle	Susan Spencer	July 19
Gilsum Bears Den	Lindsay Bartlett	TBD
Nature & Spirit Walk	Tom Julius	TBD
Ashuelot Pond Kayak	Deb McLay	Sept 21
Partridge Berry Picking	Suzanne Butcher	Oct 26

Green Up Keene

Sat Apr 20th at 10 am. Meet outside, in front of KUUC

This annual event, held on Earth Day, is where the Keene community comes together to help beautify Keene. Typically, several hundred people turn out during Green Up Keene weekend and the days surrounding it to help clean up Keene's streets, trails and parks. The difference it makes is very noticeable and it is a great community-building effort!

KUUC has signed up to pick up trash along Washington St, from Central Square to George St, which includes the road right in front of our church. Please join the cleanup crew if you can. We will have trash bags and some glove options for anyone who comes along, and a big pot of vegetarian chili for everyone afterwards to celebrate our hard work. Please let us know via email if you can attend and how many people from your household plan on coming, so we can have the right supplies ready.

UU Christian Scriptures Fellowship Group

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 2, at 5:00, in the Alliance Room or via Zoom

Our topic will be "Discernment." Discernment is a process for making personal or group decisions that requires us to slow down, open ourselves to inspiration, gain clarity and find our path forward. Our meeting provides a small group experience and opportunity to share and be heard on universal themes from the Bible and other sources in a supportive, non-judgmental setting. All are welcome to attend any meeting. This group follows the 4th UU principle (free and responsible search for truth and meaning) and is free of the dogma associated with traditional religion.

Meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at 5:00. For information contact Carol at CStamatakis@outlook.com or 603-398-5389.

Coffee Hour Helpers

Our coffee hour each week is such a great time for our community to connect, and we love having it! We need people to sign up to help with setup/cleanup and bringing snacks. Please have a look at the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall and add your name to a week that works for you.

If you're on or run a committee, consider signing up as a committee. If one group signed up once a month, that would be a great way to share this very important task! Shared Ministry means sharing these tasks, and the same few people have been doing this work for many months. Thanks in advance!

KUUC Game Night

Games aren't just for kids! Boardgames, card games, grownups and kiddos are all welcome! Stay for an hour or the whole time, whatever works for you.

We will have a big selection of games available, but feel free to bring your own if you have a favorite. There will be a group of 5-12 year old kiddos, and the more the merrier, all ages welcome! There will also be plenty of adults who enjoy playing games without kids, and we'll have at least 1 table set up as a kid-free game. We'll have a build-your-own-burrito dinner station set up, feel free to bring snacks or soft drinks to share if you'd like. Please no alcoholic beverages.

Food and Toiletries Drive

Please help the KUUC RE kids collect pantry items and toiletries to be gifted to the community kitchen and food boxes around town. Box in the Parish Hall for your donations.

Some great options you could bring include: peanut butter, jelly, diapers, wipes, drinks, cleaning supplies, feminine hygiene products, band aids, crackers, soap, lotion, toothpaste/toothbrush, canned food, cookies, sweet treats, produce, toilet paper, laundry detergent, spices, coffee.

Historic Highlights of KUUC by Eloise Clark

Many of us UUs' have a deep connection with nature. We love being outdoors and feel nourished from the experience. In honor of Earth Day this month, let's take a look at some Keene Unitarians whose love of the outdoors has benefitted the entire city for many generations and even in current times. In 1886, our indomitable Miss Mary B. Dinsmoor along with four others "drew up the by-laws and articles of association for the Rural Improvement Society." She and fellow church members George A. Wheelock and Caroline Ingersoll were the Society's most enthusiastic members according to Jim Smart's *The Keene Unitarian Universalist Church: its building and its people*. George Wheelock had been a long time member of the earlier Forest Tree Society. Their mission was to plant trees along Keene's byways and in Central Square.

When one looks at our wooded hillsides, it's difficult to imagine a landscape devoid of trees. But for over 150 years, trees had been used for construction, fuel, potash and cooking. The Great Sheep Boom from 1810-40 had cleared much of the land for agriculture. Founding members of the Rural Improvement Society saw the results and realized the need for protecting forestland. "The impending sale of sizable lots of good timberland prompted some concerned people to take action."

George Wheelock bought 25 acres of land in 1866 in West Keene, creating a park that bears his name. In 1896 and 1897, he bought two tracts totaling 100 acres above the reservoir on Beech Hill, our Robin Hood Park. Caroline Ingersoll bought a 17-acre tract of land across Park Avenue from Wheelock Park in 1887. She christened it Ladies Wildwood Park. And Dinsmoor Woods on Maple Avenue was created on 13 acres purchased by Miss Mary B. in 1923.

Interest in land conservation has continued through the 20th century and into the 21st with the creation and expansion of City owned lands. Many current congregation members have served on the Keene Conservation Commission through the years. They have helped ensure that proper stewardship of natural resources continues in Keene.

Currently, if you've enjoyed hiking the improved trail around Goose Pond with its new walkways and signs, thank Tom Haynes, our head usher. As Chair of the Goose Pond Forest Stewardship Committee and Conservation Commission member, he has helped "usher" those changes for the betterment of both the environment and the public. The spirit of service pulses strongly in many of us UU's. Happy Earth Day!