



KUUC February Messenger 2024

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Slice of Fellowship	Fri Feb 2 at 5:30 pm	Parish Hall
Christian Scriptures Study	Tues Feb 6 at 4:30 pm	Alliance Room
Fundraising Committee	Sun Feb 11 at 11 am	Alliance Room
Membership Committee	Sun Feb 11 at 11 am	KUUC Library
Executive Committee	Wed Feb 14 at 6 pm	Alliance Room
Book Club	Sun Feb 18 at 11 am	KUUC Library
Board of Trustees Mtg	Wed Feb 21 at 11 am	Alliance Room
Property Committee	Sun Feb 28 at 11 am	Alliance Room
Choir	Each Thursday at 6:30 pm	Parish Hall
Kindness Crafting	Each Wednesday at noon	KUUC Library

Worship Calendar February 2024

Our Soul Matters theme of the month for February is “Justice & Equity.” What do you feel called to do to help create a more just system? How can individuals and communities see beyond their own comfort and privilege to ensure the equitable treatment of all? Where do we go from here in order to make a more perfect union?

February 4th: “Montgomery” (Rev. Michael)

On the 94th anniversary of her birth, we will think about Rosa Parks, MLK and the bus strike that led to the Civil Rights Movement. How far have we come in the struggle for racial justice? How short of the mark have we fallen when it comes to equity for all people since 1955? Joys & Concerns for all ages.

February 11th: “Freedom Finally” (Rev. Michael)

On February 12th, the birthday of Abraham Lincoln seems a fitting day for the celebration of “Freedom to Marry Day” an unofficial holiday which honors the successful struggle for same-sex marriage in this country. The KUUC Choir will join us.

February 18th: “TBA - Minister Out of Pulpit Service” (The Worship Team)

Adults will share their Joys and Concerns and today’s offering will be given to the Community Kitchen.

February 25th: “Hoodie” (Rev. Michael)

It has been 12 years since Trayvon Martin was gunned down by an armed neighborhood watch volunteer. It wasn’t an isolated incident but part of a 400-year-old American tradition of white men taking the law into their own hands to kill black and brown men and boys. When will we ever learn?

Reverend Michael’s Moment:

“Awareness itself is what mindfulness is all about.”

— Jon Kabat-Zinn

“Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!” is what I say, just as you hear in that cheerful seasonal song. But it is nearly February, and it isn’t just a “snow day” that I want, but a good old-fashioned winter.

There are many things that one may dislike about this season: the school cancellations and the driving delays, the shoveling, slippery walkways and the cold. Yet winter also brings a blanket of downy white for the body of the Earth, lending to it a sparse and frosted beauty and an added sense of clarity and quiet.

Beyond what the accelerated threat of climate change might mean for the planet, I think that we would miss the stark difference of winter compared with the other seasons. Winter lures us into its mysteries, (something summer needn’t do), and also beckons us to go inward, to deepen our awareness of ourselves, to consider our own roots and core. Still the earth is still with us, it still lives under the snow and ice; it never stops bringing forth objects of necessity, loveliness and wonder.

Take it all in; breathe into your depths, welcome the chill and see that nature still attends to life, still offers possibility. Breathe out, and see the contours of your breath, feel the joy of winter living, let go of all the preoccupations that hinder you: the cravings and fears that hinder you, and the possessions you no longer need as they spoil your view of the world.

Yours in Faith and Service,

Rev. Michael

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

Visitation & Meetings: Wednesdays & Friday (afternoons)

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

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

Call with any questions or to schedule a visit at 508.821.6092

Music

In February the choir will sing during the services on 2/11 and 2/25. We will be singing some spirituals and work songs this month.

The choir rehearses on Thursday nights from 6:30-8:00 pm 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 to all,

Donna

Greetings from RE:

What a month that was! BIG things happening in RE in 2024, to say we're up and running would be an understatement. I don't know if I've taken the time to extend the welcome our new kids and families deserve. WELCOME! Welcome welcome welcome.

What a joy it is to be able to serve this congregation. With open minds, open hearts, and hands ready to serve. may we as a congregation see and fulfill the needs of this program as we grow in a time we didn't anticipate. We are now loading our weeks with offerings.

- The first Sunday of each month the families will be in sanctuary as we share our Joys and Concerns with one another, this will be a multigenerational service each month.
- Deborah has been and will continue to offer a Blocks class each month.
- We will have one lesson provided by Kim and Rich Clark each month, these and blocks will rotate weeks to what makes the most sense each month.
- We will be joining up with KUUC outdoors, as well as having our own outdoor adventures as they come up. It's really getting exciting over here.

Do you know we have quiet activities offered in the back of the sanctuary? And you don't have to be a child to enjoy them. Many of our adults bring yarn work, and having something to do with our hands can actually help your brain pay attention! We've got coloring, word activities, fidget toys, etc. available to you. Seek me out if you have questions!

February Dates to mark down on your calendar!

- 2/4 - In sanctuary for Joys and Concerns
- 2/11 - Blocks with Deborah
- 2/18 - RE lesson offering for anyone who can make it (this and the following Sunday are Winter Break for the surrounding schools)
- 2/25 - No RE offering

If you've got a hankerin' to get involved, lead a class or would like to donate your time however sparingly, or if you'd like to be involved in our TFAA please reach out to me, we can work together to get you set up!

-Mallory



Slice of

**Get ready for
adventure with
KUUC Outdoors!**



Schedule of 2024 events coming soon.

For general KUUC Outdoors information contact:
Tom Julius (603) 757-2366 or tjulius54@gmail.com



Fellowship

Next Dinner: My Funny Valentine, Feb 2, Wine and Cheese 5:30, Dinner at 6 pm

Slice of Fellowship is a monthly potluck dinner open to all members and friends of KUUC and is held on the first Friday of the month during the church year in the parish hall. Wine (BYOB) and cheese are at 5:30 pm followed by dinner at 6:00.

This month is hosted by Betty & Mike Forrest and Caroline & Jane Stave-Viemeister. You are asked to bring a veggie/salad, main dish or dessert to share. Please sign up for what you plan to bring using the Signup Genius link below, to ensure we have a variety of main dishes, sides, and desserts.

Please bring your own dishes, flatware and napkins. (Wine glasses and coffee mugs are supplied.) Call Betty Forrest 603- 357-1534 or email mandbforrest@myfairpoint.net with any questions.

UU Christian Scriptures Fellowship Group

Tuesday, Feb 6 at 5:00 PM in the Alliance Room or via Zoom

Our topic will be “Loving when it’s Hard.” In recognition of Valentine’s Day and the upcoming presidential primaries, we will reflect on whether and how we love those who are hard to love – whether it be at times our own friends and families, others in our lives or public figures. 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.

Membership Committee News

Save the Date!

We are busy planning for our 6th annual Shining the Light on UU Volunteer Recognition potluck which will be held on Sunday April 14th from 5 to 7 pm. If you would like to nominate someone who goes above and beyond, or who works quietly behind the scenes, you may email debmclay529@gmail.com or the KUUC office (office@kuuc.org) with subject line 'volunteer nomination'. This is a fun way to honor the many volunteers who help KUUC run smoothly. Mark your calendars!

Circle of Caring Update

One of the things I like best about KUUC is its sense of community. It demonstrates a caring and compassionate community that shares in times of joy, growth and difficulty. I am happy to be a part of KUUC’s Circle of Caring which consists of a designated group of individuals who desire to help out in these times of celebration and need. We send cards to offer encouragement or congratulations, make phone calls to church members and friends in need, visit members and friends who have been hospitalized, are in rehabilitation units or at home, provide meals when requested or in need, and assist with short term transportation needs.

As co-coordinators, Betty Forrest and I welcome any new members that feel this calling to serve. Additionally, one of the goals this year is to secure a new co-coordinator to work with me, which will allow Betty to retire after so many years of dedicated service.

Feel free to reach out if you would like more information. 928 607 5834

Warmly, Janet

Ferry Beach Get-A-Way Weekend

Save The Dates: May 10-12, 2024

Ferry Beach Park Association is located on Baco Bay in Saco, Maine. It is an independent, nonprofit, retreat and conference center with deep Universalist roots. The conference center rents space to UU Churches during the spring and fall seasons. We are pleased to share the space with the Bedford MA UU Church.

Our weekend is a wonderful intergenerational gathering. Imagine long walks on the beach, conversations in rocking chairs on the porch, playing board games, singing, joining various activities or just solitary time. The accommodations are rustic, but the setting is majestic.

Ferry Beach has changed their registration process. You will need to register directly with them for your room, meals, (notify them of food allergies), and your contribution towards the KUUC weekend annual membership. They will take your reservation with a credit card. You can call 207-282-4489 x1.

COSTS:

Lodging Options (total for the 2-nights).

- \$170/room - Underwood Dorm Room (Sleeps 3. Bring own bedding, 1 set of bunk beds and single bed)
- \$250/room - Cross Cabin (queen bed, linens provided, private bath)
- \$290/cabin-Metz Cabins (linens, private bath, living room with pullout couch, bedroom full bed)

Food (4 meals: Sat breakfast, lunch, dinner & Sun breakfast)

- \$64 - Adult, ages 13 years +
- \$52 - Children, ages 6-12 years
- Children under 6 eat free

Annual Dues \$10/person: KUUC FBPA Weekend Annual Dues

For further information contact Jim Peale or Carol McIntyre-Peale 357-7875, pealefamily@gmail.com, or 67 Old Homestead Hwy N. Swanzey, NH 03431

Historic Snippets of KUUC

In honor of the 130th birthday of our church building and the 200th anniversary of the founding the Keene Congregation Unitarian, Eloise Clark is re-sharing some “historic snippets” written several years ago when the New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources announced the inclusion of our venerable church building to the N. H. State Register of Historic Places.

The building was recognized for its unique architectural styles. The original 1894 Tudor Revival sanctuary and parish hall was designed by Edwin James Lewis and the Modernist 1959 Religious Education wing by Arthur M. Doyle.

The Roxbury Granite Company under the supervision of Myron T. Cass built the sanctuary and parish hall over the summer of 1894. The church's Tudor Revival style is identified by the rough-cut granite walls and bell tower, the steep pitched slate roof and unusual dormers, inset with diamond-paned leaded glass windows. These harmonize with the stucco and half-timbered gable ends, The RE wing, designed in a 1960 Modernist style, incorporates Skywall, a prefabricated exterior material of fiberglass and aluminum, an innovation of the time.

Lewis favored using local materials in his designs; hence the granite was quarried in Roxbury for the foundation and exterior walls. The green slate roof came from a Vermont quarry. However, the beams, trusses and interior woodwork are of Southern yellow pine. The bell tower houses the 1500-pound Revere bell that followed the congregation from its original church (1830) on the corner of Church and Main Streets. Mr. Lewis chose the golden cock for our weathervane.

Edwin James Lewis was a prominent Boston architect of his day. He was also a dedicated Unitarian who designed two-dozen other Unitarian churches. Six of the buildings he designed are on the National Register of Historic Places. Four are churches, one a school and one apartment building. Will KUUC be next?

I have just submitted an application for the building to be on the National Register of Historic Places. Stay tuned!

Thanks to the Jim Smart's, *The Keene Unitarian Universalist Church: the building and its people*, which he published in 1996. It's been invaluable to this effort. The book is a fascinating narrative of congregational history and its buildings. UU's have been woven into the fabric of life in Keene through charitable work, aka community outreach, since 1824.