



# KUUC January Messenger 2024

## Upcoming Meetings and Events

|                              |                                  |               |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Leadership Gathering for All | Sat Jan 6 at 9 am                | Parish Hall   |
| Committee and Group Fair     | Sun Jan 7 at 11 am               | Sanctuary     |
| Executive Committee          | Wed Jan 10 at 6 pm               | Alliance Room |
| Slice of Fellowship          | Fri Jan 12 at 5:30 pm            | Parish Hall   |
| Membership Committee         | Sun Jan 14 at 11 am              | KUUC Library  |
| Religious Exploration        | Sun Jan 14 at 4 pm               | on Zoom       |
| Book Club                    | Sun Jan 21 at 11 am              | KUUC Library  |
| KUUC Outdoors                | Sun Jan 28 at 11 am              | Alliance Room |
| Choir                        | Thurs Jan 4, 11, & 25 at 6:30 pm | Parish Hall   |
| Kindness Crafting            | Each Wednesday at noon           | KUUC Library  |

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## Worship Calendar January 2024

Our Soul Matters theme of the month for January is “Liberating Love.” Ask yourself: What about Love is most liberating? Do I believe that Love is both liberating and restrictive? Can Love be both individual and collective experience? Are Liberation and freedom the same thing? Is Love one thing or many?

**January 7th:**

**“Loving Ways”**

**Rev. Michael**

Humans need many things just to survive: food, water oxygen and shelter just to keep our bodies. But as we are more than simply bodies, we need more to thrive as human beings: acceptance, inclusion, experiences that challenge us to grow, and love among them. Today we will think about the ways through which learn and grow in love. We will share our joys and concerns as community today and more.

**January 14th:**

**“Liberating Love“**

**Rev. Michael**

There are times when we feel shackled to someone or something, and consider that to be love. It may be a lesser form of love, or a habit of affection or a love that never fully blossomed. How do we know what love is and what it isn't? How do we cultivate Love that liberates and sustains us? The KUUC Choir shares its talents with us today.

**January 21st:**

**“I’m Just Going to Do Me Today”**

**Rev. Michael**

There are plenty of times when we work hard, play fair, give of our time, support important causes, help our neighbors and wait patiently for our number to be called. Would it be so wrong to put ourselves first for a change? Might it even be a form of self-care or even a spiritual practice? Let’s talk about it. Adults share their joys & concerns while children have a Lunar New Year Blocks lesson with Deborah today.

**January 28th:**

**“TBA---Michael Out Of Pulpit”**

**The Worship Team**

Right now it’s a mystery, but more will be revealed!

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## Reverend Michael’s Moment:

“Learning how to love is the goal and the purpose of spiritual life — not learning how to develop psychic powers, not learning how to bow, chant, do yoga, or even meditate, but learning to love. Love is the truth. Love is the light.”

— Lama SuryaDas, Awakening to the Sacred

As I am writing this, I am taking in the news of a friend’s death. He was far older than I am, the husband and father of several former co-workers. He was kind, intelligent and devoted to his wife, whom he married right out high school and was still married to when he buried her 59 years later. I am sure he worked hard at whatever it was that he did for a living. He seemed to have made enough to live contentedly, but probably not quite enough to spoil his accomplishing his life’s purpose: to make sure that his wife, children and grandchildren knew every minute that someone loved them entirely and was there for them in any way, was always front and center, always at the ready.

I believe that the reason why so many people struggle with spirituality and religion is because either they don’t ask the right things from either, or they dabble with them because they are afraid that spirituality, and especially religion, will ask too much from them. Perhaps this is so if you seek wisdom, ask perfection and practice like you don’t need it.

I’m beginning to believe that the goal is not to be Loved, but to be Love. That Love is what we make of our lives, not simply something we seek to have in our lives. The practice of Love in all its forms is how get there; even if we falter or fail from time to time; even if we are late to this realization. Love really is what it’s about. “Love, Love, Love”

My friend made it look so easy---but then again, he got the point early on and practiced with all he had, every day. Perhaps we’ll all get there too.

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 ½ Day (as needed)

Call with any questions or to schedule a visit at 508.821.6092

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# Leadership Gathering for Everyone

Saturday Jan 6th from 9-Noon

Want to have a say in what's happening at KUUC this year? Or just want to hear everyone's ideas? Please come along to our Leadership Gathering. Everyone is welcome, the more input and ideas we have, the stronger our community becomes!

This 3-hour workshop will be led by Evin Carvill Ziemer, the Developmental Lead of the New England UUA. We will focus on practices of how to balance leadership responsibilities and working together as a team. Breakfast nibbles and lunch will be provided.

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## Music

Happy New Year! This month the choir will sing during the services on 1/14 and 1/28.

The choir rehearses on Thursday nights from 6:30-8:00 in the parish hall. Please note that there will be no rehearsal on 1/18.

Many thanks to everyone who participated in the services in December- KUUC choir, Carl Jacobs, Jane Stave-Viemeister, Jack in the Green, Laura Grier, Jim Butterfield, and Jim Peale. I am blessed to be able to work with you all!

The 1st annual Holiday Sing-a-Long was a great success and we collected 2 huge bags full of hats, gloves, mittens, scarves and hand warmers for the 100 Nights Shelter.

Thank you to all who joined us!

Peace to all,

Donna

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## Greetings from RE:

January is such a weird month for me. On one hand our society tells us it's THE NEW YEAR! It's another time to be in action, geared up for a shift, when in reality it's the height of the calm. Sure the days are starting to get longer again, but our surroundings are still cold and calm and that's exactly where my heart longs to stay just a bit longer.

I'm still drinking tea (I drink tea in the winter and rarely coffee) I'm curling up with books, I'm taking walks in the woods with the dogs bundled up in my puffiest jacket and hand warmers. So I am excited to ring in the New Year and to cheers what is to come, but I will continue the slow and calm in my heart.

RE is a different story entirely! We are very much up and running! I'm so so excited to announce that we are going to start offering in classroom lessons regularly. Our own Kim and Richard Clark will be giving once monthly lessons from the Toolbox of Faith to our hungry RE kids. We've got a full January and I can't wait!

## RE HAPPENINGS

- Committee Fair during coffee hour (come learn about RE committee!!) 1/7
- RE offering in classroom upstairs 1/14
- Blocks 1/21
- Lunar New Years class 1/28

As usual our first Sunday of the month will be Joys and Concerns and we will stay in sanctuary for the remainder of the service. Followed by the committee fair in PH.

-Mallory

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## News From the Block Program:

Our RE Block Program is in full swing, and we have a wonderful group of builders, ages four through 12. After initially exploring the nature and possibilities of the unit block collection through open-ended play, by December our builders were ready to dig into more focused and structured work. Many of them were already familiar with the story of Hanukkah, and on the 10th the children built menorahs in a variety of designs, and collaborated to recreate several versions of Solomon's Temple.

In our next Block class on January 21st, the class will learn about Lunar New Year, also known as Chinese New Year. After hearing the story of a sea monster called Nian, we will explore some elements of ancient Chinese architecture, including the traditional courtyard house, special doorsills, Kang beds, and Buddhist Temples. (On January 28th they will make individual Lunar New Year cards, but not out of blocks!)

What are the children learning in our Block Program? So many things, on a number of different levels, all at once. On one level they are learning about different world religions and cultures. On another level they are learning math and physics through the inherent qualities of the modular unit block system. At the same time, they are learning how to cooperate, collaborate, negotiate, and compromise. Perhaps most importantly they are confirming what they already knew: that KUUC is a really fun place to be. - Deborah Dunnell

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## Slice of Fellowship

Next Dinner: Italian themed, January 12, 2023, 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 usually on the first Friday of the month during the church year in the parish hall. (This Jan we are moving the date to the second Friday to allow folks time to recover from holiday activities.) hosted by Betty and Mike Forrest. You are asked to bring a veggie, main dish or dessert to share. Please bring your own dishes, flatware and napkins. (Wine glasses and coffee mugs are supplied.)

Questions? Slice of Fellowship hosts are Betty and Mike Forrest. Feel free to call Betty at 603- 357-1534 or email with any questions.

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# Greens and Gifts Fundraiser Final Report

A huge thanks to everyone who helped with the fair this year, together we surpassed our fundraising goal! The final net profit was \$3,218.09, exceeding our \$2,500 goal for the event. Onward and upward!

-Debra Z and Barbara M

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## Good News for Good Neighbors!

Thank you to everyone who attended our Christmas Eve services, we loved to see so many of our community members and friends. Your generous donations to our special collection raised \$856 in funds for our neighbors in the 100 Nights Organization between the two Christmas Eve collections! These funds will be very well used to help protect our vulnerable neighbors facing homelessness during the coldest months of the years.

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**Monadnock Interfaith Project**

*Building An Interfaith Coalition for Community Understanding and Social Justice*

WWW.MIPNH.ORG

MonadnockInterfaith@gmail.com

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### SAVE THE DATES

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Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

**Father Greg Boyle**

***Cherished Belonging: Love in Divided Times***

Monday, January 15, 6pm  
Heberton Hall  
Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St

Founder of Homeboy Industries, the nation's largest gang intervention program, providing hope, training, and support to formerly gang-involved and previously incarcerated persons.



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**MIP Lay People Gathering**

Wednesday, January 24

5:30-7:30pm

Location TBD

Creating meaningful relationships across differences and putting faith into action. For details email: [monadnockinterfaith@gmail.com](mailto:monadnockinterfaith@gmail.com)

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# UU Christian Scriptures Fellowship Group

Tuesday, January 2 at 5:00 PM in the Alliance Room or via Zoom

Our topic will be “Letting Go of the Past.” We will welcome the new year by reflecting on how we can let go of what no longer serves us. Our meeting provides a small group experience and opportunity to share 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 603-398-5389 or via email.

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## Save The Dates

Ferry Beach Get-A-Way Weekend

Fri. 5/10/24, Sat. 5/11/24, Sun. 5/12/24

More information to follow in January 2024. For further questions contact Jim Peale or Carol McIntyre-Peale

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## Name Tag Reminder

It's fantastic that our congregation keeps growing and new members and friends are joining us often! It's so much easier for people joining us to feel welcome and get to know our existing community if we all wear our name tags as much as possible. Please remember to grab your name tag before services or at other church events you are attending here. You deserve to be known!

If you need a name tag, put in a request in the book on the welcome table in the parish hall.