

The Messenger

October 2020 Volume 28 Issue 9



Keene Unitarian Universalist Church, 69 Washington Street, Keene, NH 03431 <http://www.kuuc.org/> office@kuuc.org 603-352-1719

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Sunday Services are virtual for the time being. A link to each new service and an invitation to the "Zoom Virtual Coffee Hour" will be sent out by Saturday @noon.

Worship Calendar

[Our Soul Matters theme for September is "Deep Listening". Ask yourself: Are we a people who practice & value deep listening? How has, (or does, or will), deep listening impact(ed) my life? Career? Marriage? Etc.]

October 4th:

"Make It Work"

(Rev. Michael)

This morning's service is part of our collective effort to see, as President-Elect Carl Jacobs often says, "work as worship," within our congregational life. Your time is valuable, and using a portion of it to help clean, repair and maintain our buildings and grounds is not just a money-saving measure, or way to get to know folks, or "to give to the church," (though it is all those things), but an important way to embody your values.

October 11th:

"Coming Out as Ourselves"

(Rev. Michael)

Today is a special day. "National Coming Out Day," a yearly commemoration begun in 1988, is grounded in the experience of members of the LGBT+ community "coming out," to family and friends. Coming out is the beginning of a personal, public and spiritual journey: because living joyfully, courageously and fully into their truth is still not without peril. Today we will celebrate our Joys and Concerns with each other.

October 18th:

"The Power of Saying Yes: My Journey to Teotihuacan"

(Rachael Walter)

Teotihuacan is an ancient Mesoamerican city in Mexico, that was home to a group of people called the Toltecs. They were scholars, scientists, artists and healers. The moment Rachael said "YES!" to traveling to Teotihuacan, her life started to change. Spirit is an amazing force! Join Rachael as she revisits her summer service, adds some new information, and ponders this October's Soul Matters Theme - Deep Listening.

October 25th:

"Listening to the Tradition Unfolding"

(Rev. Michael)

As in past years, today we will toll the church bell to remember the lives of those dearly departed members, friends and heroes of the congregation. We will also examine and celebrate our "living tradition," of religious sources and spiritual ancestors, which, like a river, continues to take in new sources of inspiration and strength as it rises to meet this new day.

KUUC Mission Statement

The people of KUUC are committed to actively creating compassionate community and working for a fair and peaceful world.

THE SEVEN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST PRINCIPLES

The Principles are not dogma or doctrine, but rather a covenant made between our Unitarian Universalist congregations. Many of our members use “the Principles” as a guide for how they choose to live their faith at home and in the world.

- 1st Principle:** The inherent worth and dignity of every person
- 2nd Principle:** Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
- 3rd Principle:** Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
- 4th Principle:** A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- 5th Principle:** The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
- 6th Principle:** The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
- 7th Principle:** Respect for the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part

THE SIX SOURCES OF OUR LIVING TRADITION

As religious pluralists we draw upon multiple sources of inspiration in worship and daily life including:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces that create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic people, which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions, which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings, which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings, which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions, which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.



Sharing Ministry: October 2020

“It is perhaps not a language of reverence that is needed, so much as a practice of reverence.” --Rev. David Pyle

Virtual worship is not the easiest thing to create nor is it the most comfortable way to gain what it is hoped that we will gain in worship. Yet, I am so appreciative of the small troop of people who, of necessity and under the threat of the pandemic, took the jump from live services to filmed ones with me. So too, the slightly smaller, though no less plucky, band that took the larger leap from the taped worship of the Spring and early Summer to the Zoom services of the last two months or more.

What I am most grateful for is the dedication we all share to creating the best possible worship, the humility that comes with acknowledging limitations while learning new ways of working together and unfamiliar tools with which to become proficient as we produced each service. All along the way we have tried to challenge ourselves with new and different goals each and every week.

Donna, Jill, Susie, David, Carl and the many others who have sat in, or set up, written new worship material, or lent their voices in song--to create a new thing--did so just for you! We know that everyone wants to be together, that there are sometimes glitches with the platform, the WIFI connection, quality differences between individual computers, and we have worked hard to eliminate them one by one. We continue to work, to improve and to set higher and higher standards because that is what we demand of ourselves and want for you.

We have even begun to reimagine life beyond our current restraints--without strict social distancing and the masks, including hymns that we can sing together and with multi-generation groupings--even though we know that it will be some time yet. However, when talking about those distant we have thought it important to continue recording some portions of those services for people who are unable to attend, and including some of the technology--things like films clips, slideshows and even projected hymn lyrics--that would make our worship more multisensory, inclusive and interesting.

I hope that we all challenge ourselves to embrace different worship styles and the use technology in ways that inspires greater reverence, enhances our collective experience and expands our reach.

Yours in Faith & Fellowship,

Rev. Michael

Rev. Michael's Schedule & Office Hours for October:

General Information: Rev. Michael will be taking one a 4-day weekend from October 15th-18th. For those who are new to the congregation, these are part of his benefits package, considering that he only has one scheduled day of a week, when he is able to take it. **Also**, should it still be a live event, our minister will attend the New England Region Minister's retreat from October 26-29th. He will only check his emails once or twice during that event and will not be answering emails until he returns. So, if there is an emergency, contact Board President Jim Peale (pealefamily@gmail.com, 357-7875) who will decide if it is something Rev. Michael needs to handle right away. Otherwise, your emails will await his return.

Office Hours: In October, Rev. Michael will be at the office and available to meet on the following Tuesdays from 10 AM to 2 PM: October 6 & 13. He will also have office hours on Thursday, October 1st, and Thursday, October 8th from 9 AM to noon. Please call to make an appointment which may be held in his office or out in the Deane Starr Memorial Garden. Of course, he will be in the office on other days but may not be available to meet on those other days.

Visits: Rev. Michael will be available for home visits—or their equivalent—on the following Monday mornings from 9 AM to 2 PM: October 5, 12 & 19. Also, he will make visits on Tuesday the 6th and 13th from 3-6 PM. He may be able to schedule visits on other days subject to his availability. Please call if you would like him to visit, especially if the visits need to be held on days or hours other than those listed here.

A Message from your Board President September 2020 By Jim Peale

October is soon upon us, and with it an opportunity to come together as a congregation. Our annual Work Weekend will be Saturday, October 3rd and Sunday, October 4th. Along with our usual cleaning projects, we have maintenance to accomplish on our ramp at the Taylor Street entrance. The Property Committee also has some tasks in mind that will need more than one person to accomplish. We hope to have a good turnout and our fingers are crossed for fair weather.

In addition to the Work Weekend, we still have committee slots and projects available for volunteers. We are particularly in need of a chair and members for our Fundraising Committee. Ideas for fundraising in these times will be warmly welcomed.

We also have ongoing opportunities for volunteer participation and support in our community for Project Home (projecthomenh.org, or Sue Hay at sue@launchingu.com, assisting in finding support for refugee immigrants) and with our community breakfast project that serves breakfasts for homeless and low income people and families.

We have ways to be the community we seek, even though we cannot meet as a community! **P.4**

Please stay in touch with us, and with each other

Jim

Committee Opportunities:

The structure of church operations stands on volunteer committees. We currently lack members and chairs for the Fundraising, Social Action, and Welcoming Congregation Committees. Anyone interested in working in any of those areas should contact Jim Peale (pealefamily@gmail.com) about getting involved.

Elevator Update

The elevator in the Church is not currently operating. Repair costs appear to be considerable and we are looking at options for funding them. As the building is beginning to be used more, making the elevator usable, becomes a higher priority.

DRE Update: Religious Exploration News

Religious Exploration News

The Soul Matters theme for October is *Deep Listening*. We'll turn our attention to listening to our instincts, our conscience, the still small voice that is sometimes wordless, sometimes a feeling, sometimes an unexplainable knowing. From Teresa Honey Youngblood, Family Ministry Coordinator for Soul Matters Sharing Circle:

With deep listening's power in mind, this month we will hone our skills at using intuition, listening to hunches, feelings, and our guts. We will explore ways that people use their faces, bodies, and tones to say more (and sometimes different) than their words. We'll listen for assumptions about others that are vestiges of our cultural conditioning, no longer serving us or the greater good. And we will practice listening for the numinous, the profoundly spiritual presence that some people say is the divine.

- If you are on Facebook, "like" the page for Keene Unitarian Universalist Church. From there I can send you an invitation to a private group for KUUC's RE families. It's easy to post Soul Matters links, gifs, videos, etc, in that group, and it saves me sending you too many emails.
- Look for a packet of information, ideas and activities to arrive during the first full week of the month.
- **Sunday, October 4 at 8:00pm**, please join me for a 30-45 minute **live Zoom for parents** and other adults. We'll check in with each other, talk about the theme and activities for the month, and whatever else is coming up for you right now. I'll send the Zoom link via email and will put it in the RE Facebook group and group message.
- Every Wednesday, I'll post one of those Soul Matters links in the Facebook group.

- **Sunday, October 11** during the live Zoom worship (which begins at 10am) we'll have a breakout group for the elementary RE kids, either during the service itself or during coffee hour which immediately follows the service.
- Also **Sunday, October 11**, the RE Committee meets at 4pm via live Zoom. Please contact Jill if you'd like to attend that meeting; all are welcome and I'll gladly send you a link.
- **Wednesday, October 21 8:00pm**, live Zoom meeting for parents, a conversation about the first episode of the *Seeing White* podcast. (*This is actually the first episode of the second season of Scene on Radio, so S2 E1, *Turning the Lens*, original airdate 2/15/17.) Please listen to the episode, which is available online (also a transcript), on Stitcher and Spotify, among others, before we meet.
- During the week of 10/19, I will send materials for the 10/25 Neighboring Faiths group meeting. I'll email them and post them to the Facebook group and message. These are to be viewed before our meeting.
- **Sunday, October 25**, during worship or coffee hour, breakout room for elementary RE kids and families.
- **Sunday, October 25, 4pm**, live Zoom for middle and high school Neighboring Faiths group, on the topic of Unitarian Universalist.

If the days/times for the parent groups don't work for you, and you'd like to attend, please let me know and I'll find a better day/time.

I've been holding you all in my heart during this time of weird changes, awkward transitions, and non-gathering. I hope you are well, I hope you are safe, I hope you are finding ways to enjoy the season. I also hope to see you soon.

Jill

Jill M. Hall kuucdre@gmail.com

MUSIC MESSAGE

A few weeks ago, someone asked how I chose the music I play at KUUC. I've thought about it quite a bit since posed with the question, and I would say that it has to be music that resonates with my heart and touches my soul.

I love the song "The River Flows in You" by Yiruma and have played it several times over the past year and a half that I've been at KUUC. I first heard the piece when a 12-year-old piano student of mine played it for me, having learned it by ear. As he played it for me, I remember a feeling of peace wash over me and I was blown away that he had learned it just by listening. The next time I

heard it was several years later when I was the Music Director at the Federated Church in Marlborough. One of the choir members played it during a summer service. After the service I saw the music for the first time and absolutely had to learn it.

George Winston is another favorite pianist of mine. I've seen him many times in concert and his music touches my soul in a very deep way.

I've loved jazz since I began playing the sax in 4th grade and participated in jazz bands throughout high school and college. I love playing jazz with Carl and have been jamming with him for many years.

It's been challenging lately to play songs that are in the public domain and avoid anything that is copyrighted. I will be so grateful when we are live again!

Enjoy the crisp Fall-

Peace,

Donna

HOW ABOUT A HYMNAL?

Would you like a copy of the grey and/or teal hymnal to live at your house during the time of continued social distancing? The grey hymnal also has many readings that could be used for daily meditation or devotion, for family chalice lighting, for reflection, for sharing. If you'd like to adopt a hymnal until we can meet in person again, get in touch with Jill: by email - kuucdre@gmail.com subject "hymnal"; or by voicemail or text - 508-821-8935. We'll arrange a time for hymnal pick-ups outside KUUC, or if necessary, we'll arrange a special delivery. The hymnals would rather be used than sitting lonely in the sanctuary.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS, MEETINGS, EVENTS, OPPORTUNITIES, ETC

"The Chat" To Continue on October 13th

Rev. Michael will continue to host the biweekly online gathering called "The Chat" although he will only be able to host it once in October: October 13th from 9 AM-10AM. "The Chat" is an opportunity hear about and discuss what is going on at the church. Also, this is a place to share your ideas for new programs, to discuss what is going on in your lives with each other, and arrange in person meets with Rev. Michael if they are needed. The goal is to make us all feel more connected, heard and well informed. You will receive a link to the meeting a few days prior to the 13th.

Rummage Sale Leaders Needed

Would you be interested in working on or even leading the yard sale/rummage? Although this was most recently Hazel's baby, and she did a fantastic job, others have led it in the past. If you are willing to lead the Rummage Sale you can organize it however you wish, (obviously with current precautions with regard to the Covid-19 epidemic apply).

For the time being, we ask that no further rummage donations be brought to the church.

LIBERAL CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURES FELLOWSHIP GROUP

MEETS FIRST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 5:00 PM

UPCOMING MEETING: October 6

Our fellowship group plans to meet via Zoom (until further notice) the first Tuesday of every month from 5:00 to 6:30. We usually have a topic we focus on each month. This group is for anyone inspired by the teachings of Jesus or who identifies with aspects of Christianity and would like to share their experiences, feelings and insights in a supportive environment, and support one another's spiritual growth and understanding. This group is guided by our fourth Unitarian Universalist principle (a free and responsible search for truth and meaning") and free of the doctrine or dogma that has often characterized traditional institutional Christianity.

For information and Zoom meeting details, contact Carol at 603-863-4920 or 603-398-5389 or cstamatakis@outlook.com.

RESERVE YOUR FAMILY BLOCKS SESSION:

Would you and your children like to come to KUUC to do some open-ended block-building? We are introducing a new program called "Family Blocks." Beginning on August 23rd, Deborah Dunnell is inviting one RE family at a time to come to the Block Room to build for an hour or so, by appointment, at a mutually convenient time. Families with "older" children are welcome as well! All will observe strict health and safety protocols, including temperature checks, handwashing/sanitizing, masks, and social distancing. Accommodations will be made for children with special needs. During the building session parents and children will stay in the room and Deborah will remain outside in the hallway. She will be responsible for disinfecting the surfaces before and after; families will be responsible for block-take-down. A limited selection of accessories will be available as well. There will be a minimum of one week between sessions, to allow time for the blocks themselves to naturally disinfect. For more information, Deborah can be reached at ddunnell52@gmail.com or (603) 903-9398.

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KUUC FERRY BEACH WEEKEND CANCELLED WILL BE RESCHEDULED IN 2021

We have had to cancel the KUUC Ferry Beach Get-away weekend for October 16-18, 2020. We hope that we will be able to reschedule it in 2021. If you would like to have more information, please contact Carol McIntyre-Peale and Jim Peale at pealefamily@gmail.com or 357-7875.

DONT LEAVE ANY MORE RUMMAGE STUFF

Please, PLEASE do not leave any more rummage stuff in the hallway by the ladies room or downstairs in the Undercroft until further notice. We hope to find a coordinator for the rummage soon, and get that show on the road, but there is no room for any more of your treasures and nobody at present to process them.

GENERAL INFORMATION

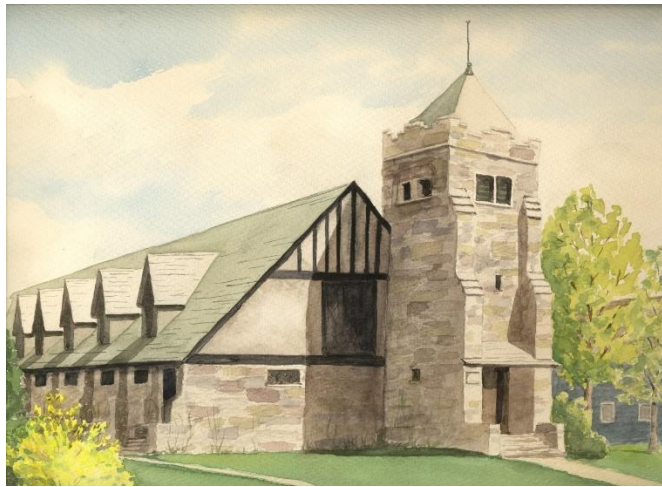
NEXT MESSENGER DEADLINE:

The deadline for the November *Messenger* is 5 P.M. on Friday, October 23rd. The due date for *Messenger* submissions will be on the 23rd of the month prior to their issue (the only exceptions will be for the January issue--deadline December 15th--and the fact that there is no July *Messenger*). Send all your articles and notices to Rev. Michael at rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com.



COMMITTEE CONTACTS:

Circle of Caring:	Betsy Zimmerli & Betty Forrest
Covenant Groups:	Carolyn Antrim
Investment:	John Bordenet
Membership:	Melinda Hildreth-Honkala
Music:	Carin Torp
Personnel:	Ruth Shepard
Religious Exploration:	Barbara Bryce
Senior Lunch Bunch:	Betty Forrest
Shawls of Love:	Darcy Doyle
Slice of Fellowship:	Betty Forrest
Social Action/Green Sanctuary:	Open
Stewardship:	Carol Stamatakis
Ushers:	Tom Haynes
Wayside Pulpit:	Vicki Keller
Worship:	Susie Ericson-West & Gwyn Powers
Property:	Carl Jacobs
Fundraising:	Open
Greens Sale:	Open
Welcoming Congregation:	Open



KUUC CONTACT LIST 2019-2020

WORSHIP SERVICES

STAFF

Sunday Services: 10:00 A.M. Minister: Rev. Michael Hall
 Religious Exploration: 10:00 A.M. rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com
 September-June (508) 821-6092
 Summer Services 10:00 A.M. Director, Religious Exploration: Jill M. Hall
 Address: 69 Washington Street kuucdre@gmail.com
 Keene, NH 03431
 Phone: (603) 352-1719 Music Director: Donna Dearth
rdearth@hotmail.com
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