

The Messenger

JUNE & JULY 2021 Volume 29 Issue 6



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

JUNE 2021 WORSHIP CALENDAR:

[Our Soul Matters theme for June is "Play" yours, mine and ours. What are the first things that come to mind when I think about play? Is church a place you feel comfortable playing? How about at Worship? Work? Are you really "all work and no play"? What kind of activities do engage in when at play? Have those activities changed over the years?]

June 6th: "Playing Human" (Rev. Michael)

What role does "play", our Soul Matters theme for June, have to do with all our searching for truth and working for justice? Is play something to be left behind once one is considered an adult, altogether avoided as merely a distraction? Or is play the model, means or even the secret ingredient needed to find our way to individual meaning and collective liberation?

June 13th: "What's With the Flag, Anyway?" (Rev. Michael)

Have you ever been asked to explain all the rainbow flags at KUUC? What do you say? Perhaps you no longer give it much thought and just say, "We support our LGBT members and neighbors." In the service prior to our Annual Meeting, we will explore the evolution of both the LGBTQAI+ movements and think about what it means to be welcoming and supportive allies.

June 20th: "Where Are the Flowers?" (Rev. Michael)

It is difficult to think about having to do another virtual Flower Communion knowing that we are getting closer and closer to having in-person worship (with a live stream for folks who are unable to join us). However, we will figure out the details and make Flower Communion, traditionally part of our last service of the "church year" special--no matter what the format.

June 27th: "Worship From General Assembly" (Our UUA)

One of the most inspiring aspects of General Assembly is the Sunday morning service, when thousands of Unitarian Universalists pack a huge auditorium--the place just shakes and the people make a joyful noise. Once again, however, General Assembly is not an in-person gathering but a virtual one. But I predict that the Sunday worship is going to rock! Today, KUUC will attend the Sunday worship at GA, and afterward meet for our usual Zoom coffee hour.

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 June & July 2021

“Play builds the kind of free-and-easy, try-it-out, do-it-yourself character that our future needs.”

~James L. Hymes Jr., 20th century teacher of teachers

What was the first word that came to my mind when I saw that the Soul Matters theme for this month was “Play”? Well, I can tell you that it wasn’t boardgames, nor sports not even that magical “two hours traffic” that happens on a stage? The word that came to my mind was “freedom.”

Now don’t get me wrong, I have enjoyed many a marathon game of Monopoly with my cousins when it was too stormy a day to go to the beach, and years later with family here in Keene. I loved playing sports with the gang in my neighborhood long before I was ever assigned a number and given a uniform to wear on fancy chalk lined fields, under banks of light. I have so many fond memories of each play I ever did; from my singing version of George Washington at the third-grade assembly, right up to playing the Tramp who walked off with Nora Burke in the middle of our dinner theatre a few years back, promising her nothing more than her freedom.

What could be better than a life of freedom?

When I think of play, I think of freedom! I think of the free-ranging play I knew as a child and try to keep alive as an adult. We can all probably remember imagining, inventing and improvising off of what life was revealing to us with each new day. Did you speak new languages that you created with a playmate out of whole cloth? Did you travel to the distant lands you saw in dreams? I believe that children don’t horde up everything at play time, (except perhaps a special stuffed animal), they are usually more willing to share the time and collaborate with their playmates than adults often are. They are always paying attention, even when we are not, to what the stirring restlessness of the moment is trying to teach.

When I think of play, I think of ordinary moments being transformed to whatever we fancy, or can create; whatever we imagine that time, place and we could be, they can become, if only for one afternoon in a lifetime of them.

Yours in Faith, Hope and Loving Service

Rev. Michael

Rev. Michael's Schedule & Office Hours for June & July:

OFF DAYS: Saturday

STUDY & PLANNING DAY: Tuesdays

WRITING DAY: Fridays

P. 3

VACATION: Monday, June 28th-Friday, July 9th

STUDY TIME: Sunday, July 12th- Friday July 23rd

ATTENDING UUMA MINISTRY DAYS & VIRTUAL GA: June 21st-27th

OFFICE HOURS: The First Three Tuesdays in June from 10:30 A.M.~2 P.M.; July (By Appt.)

I have decided to have regular Office Hours on the first three Tuesdays in June from 10:30-2PM. I am one of those people who continue to be careful indoors wearing a mask when out in hallways and common areas, in close proximity or for other people's comfort. I have had both vaccination shots and would be willing to talk without masks with ample spacing or outdoors. I will be at the church regularly to study, look to administrative tasks and lead worship services. I am also available to meet with/call/or schedule in -person or Zoom meets with folks by appointment. To set a day and time, contact me by telephone (508)821-6092 or email rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com.

President's Message June 2021

This message is going to be succinct.

We need your attendance at the Zoom Annual Meeting, to be held after the service on June 13. We cannot conduct business without a Quorum. Your presence as a member is important. Looking back, this has been a year that has tested our resolve but we have come through in good fashion. Let's finish it up successfully!

Please stay in touch with us, and with each other.

~Jim Peale

RE (Religious Exploration) News

Thursday, June 3 6:30 RE Family Check-in **On The Lawn!** I'll have a chair and some knitting on the church lawn for about an hour. Bring a chair, a snack or some knitting if you want and we'll chat outdoors! *Weather Permitting*. If the weather does not permit, I'll get us a Google Meet.

Sunday, June 6 10:00 Zoom worship and coffee hour

Sunday, June 13 10:00 Zoom worship and coffee hour followed by Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 17 6:30 RE Family Check-in if the lawn meet-up on 6/3 goes well, we can repeat.

Check your email and the Facebook group message for details.

Sunday, June 20 10:00 Zoom worship and coffee hour *Flower Communion* our last “winter” service. Summer services begin in July.

There will not be an RE Committee meeting this month.

The **Religious Exploration Committee** needs you. Two members are transitioning off the RE committee at the end of this church year. Now, as the pandemic is hopefully waning, is a good time to reimagine the what, when, who, and where of RE at KUUC. Do you have some ideas or energy around the topics of spiritual exploration, lifelong learning, community building through social justice or spiritual practice? Join us! Traditionally the RE Committee meets on the second Sunday of the month, but adjustments are possible. Please get in touch with any member of the committee to learn more.

Sexuality Education class for grades 7-9 begins in the fall! With many thanks to John Walter, who has agreed to do most of the planning and logistical work, and to Bridge Noone, who has come out of “retirement” to make this class happen for the 3 KUUC kids who will soon age out of this segment of the curriculum. We are putting together a small cohort of 7th-9th graders for an O.W.L.-informed class. (There are Reasons we can’t call it O.W.L. officially; the content is substantially the same, we are just making Pandemic-aware Adjustments).

This class will begin in mid-late fall, days and times TBD. Stay tuned!

Jill can be reached via email at kuucdre@gmail.com or by voice or text at 508-821-8935

I hope to see you, in person or via video, and I hope you are both enjoying the warming season and that summer brings you everything you best like about living in the Monadnock region.

Jill

Music Message for May

Hello friends!

I love playing for the KUUC! I’m so grateful to have found you- in person and online!

As Covid restrictions are lifting, I look ahead to more time spent with family, friends, and people that I haven’t seen in a long time. My nephew and his wife had a baby at the beginning of the pandemic named Carley who I have never met. She’s 14 months. I am hoping to see her when things settle down a bit more and watch her walk in person!

The theme for this month is “Play”. Oh boy, that opens a can of worms for a musician! I am so grateful to work with our musicians who enhance the services each week. If you would like to play or sing some music during our services, please be in touch with me. I would love to support you in any music endeavors alone or with me and/or others. Peace, Donna

KUUC Added to the NH State Register of Historic Places!!

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 on May 3rd. The building was recognized for its unique architectural styles: the original 1894 sanctuary and parish hall, designed by Edwin James Lewis and the 1959 Religious Education wing designed 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 Gothic Revival exterior walls and bell tower harmonize with the Tudor-style stucco gable ends and diamond-paned leaded glass windows. The RE wing, designed in a 1960 contemporary style, incorporates Kalwall, a prefabricated exterior material still made in Manchester, NH.

Edwin James Lewis was a prominent Boston architect of his day. He was also a dedicated Unitarian who designed two-dozen other Unitarian churches. Two of the buildings he designed are on the National Register of Historic Places: a shingle style church in Houlton, Maine and the Dearborn School in Roxbury, MA.

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 (1829) on the corner of Church and Main Streets. Mr. Lewis chose the golden cock for our weathervane.

Our church received the NH State recognition for its exterior elements alone. We always knew we had a gem! The committee also deemed the building eligible for consideration for the National Register of Historic Places given its interior design. The National Register is a different and lengthier process I will pursue at a later date. In addition to signifying historical importance, inclusion on this register can qualify us for state assistance for preservation work on the building.

I could not have succeeded in this labor of love without the invaluable help of Jim Smart's The Keene Unitarian Universalist Church: the building and its people, which he published in 1996. It 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. Watch for more historic snippets in the months ahead.

---Eloise Clark

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS, MEETINGS, EVENTS, OPPORTUNITIES, ETC

Liberal Christian Scriptures Fellowship Group (ZOOM Meeting)

Tuesday, June 1st 5:00 PM “The Spirit of Pentecost”

Our fellowship group meets via Zoom (until further notice) the first Tuesday of every month from 5:00 – 6:30. We focus on a theme each month. For this month we will focus on the spirit of Pentecost. 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. Anyone is welcome to join us any time.

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

Thanks!

Remembering Don Gillis

Don Gillis, who was a longtime friend of KUUC and served as our treasurer, died in February 2020. A long-delayed "Remembering Don Gillis" event will be held at 1:00 on Sunday, June 6, 2021 at the Keene State College Camp on Wilson Pond at 19 Page Court, North Swanzey (take Safford Drive off Route 32). Don is fondly remembered for his big beard and constant smile, his gentle humor, and his passion for history and learning. Don was a popular KSC CALL program instructor. Should friends desire, contributions honoring Don may be sent to Keene State College for the CALL Wonderment Scholarship, 229 Main Street, Keene, NH 03435-2701, or on line at <https://giving.keene.edu/call-program/>.

ANNUAL MEETING 2021: Sunday, June 13th After the Service on ZOOM

Come one, come all to our Annual Meeting! Take part in the democratic process. The meeting will be held shortly after the service on June 13th (usually after a half-break so you can get some coffee and register to attend the meeting). You will soon receive an email which will contain all that you need to prepare for Annual Meeting, included the warrant for the meeting, a copy of the budget you will voting on, as well as the Annual Report for 2020-2021.

ON HOLIDAY AFTER JUNE 15th WILL RETURN AFTER LABOR DAY

Join us at "The Weekly Chat" with Rev. Michael. We meet by Zoom on Tuesday afternoons from Noon-1PM. Each week the show has a different theme, but sometimes we get carried away elsewhere as conversations among friends sometimes do.

"The Chat" is also an opportunity to hear about and discuss what is going on at the church. It's a forum to share your ideas for new programs, to discuss what is going on in your lives with each other, and arrange private or in-person meets with Rev. Michael if they are needed. The goal is to make all of us feel more connected, heard and well informed. Here is the link, which will work on any Tuesday you decide to join "The Chat"

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88505220221>

COVENANT DUOS THEME FOR JUNE IS "THIS I BELIEVE"

This month's covenant duo script was chosen from Small Group Ministry program of the UU Church at Washington Crossing, Titusville, NJ. It was created in December 2007.

"This I Believe"

Opening Words

"I don't know whether I believe in a future life. I believe that all that you go through here must have some value, therefore there must be some reason. And there must be some "going on." How exactly that happens I've never been able to decide. There is a future—that I'm sure of. But how, that I don't know. And I came to feel that it didn't really matter very much because whatever the future held you'd have to face it when you came to it, just as whatever life holds you have to face it exactly the same way."

(Eleanor Roosevelt)

Check-in / Sharing

Topic / Activity

"This I Believe" is based on a 1950s radio program of the same name, hosted by acclaimed journalist Edward R. Murrow. In creating This I Believe, Murrow said the program sought "to point to the common meeting grounds of beliefs, which is the essence of brotherhood and the floor of our civilization." Each day, millions of Americans gathered by their radios to hear

compelling essays from the likes of Eleanor Roosevelt, Jackie Robinson, Helen Keller, and Harry Truman as well as corporate leaders, cab drivers, scientists, and secretaries— anyone able to distill into a few minutes the guiding principles by which they lived. Their words brought comfort and inspiration to a country worried about the Cold War, McCarthyism, and racial division.

- What are your core guiding principles and beliefs?
- Do your beliefs have a “common meeting ground” with others as Murrow
- Do you value traditional church practices such as prayer, meditation, sacrifice?
- Do you have positions on the “mysteries of life” – “G” or other supreme being? After life? The origins of life?
- Why church?
- Where (or do you) find “the sacred”, the holy or spiritual

Likes & Wishes

What worked well, less well tonight?

Overall comments

Checkout

Closing Words

“And the important thing was that you never let down doing the best that you were able to do—it might be poor because you might not have very much within you to give, or to help other people with, or to live your life with. But as long as you did the very best that you were able to do, then that was what you were put here to do and that was what you were accomplishing by being here. And so I have tried to follow that out—and not to worry about the future or what was going to happen. I think I am pretty much of a fatalist. You have to accept whatever comes and the only important thing is that you meet it with courage and with the best that you have to give.”
(Eleanor Roosevelt)

JULY SERVICES DATES ARE ALREADY TAKEN:

HERE'S WHAT YOU HAVE TO LOOK FORWARD TO:

Date	Presenter(s)	Theme
July 4 th	Jim Smart	"Theodor Herzl & Political Zionism"
July 11 th	Tom Julius and Angela Pape	The Monadnock Interfaith Project
July 18 th	Sam Lake & Todd Schillinger	About the Keene Serenity Center
July 25 th	Bethann Clauss, Exec Dir. MAPS	About MAPS and/or Bethann's work on the "Moving Upstream" Project

"THE WEEKLY CHAT" WITH REV. MICHAEL

(TUESDAYS NOON-1 PM)

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GENERAL INFORMATION

NEXT MESSENGER DEADLINE NOTICE

The deadline for the August *Messenger* is 5 P.M. on Friday, July 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
Middle East Study Group:	Jim Smart
Membership:	Deb McLay
Music:	Open
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:	John Walter
Ushers:	Tom Haynes
Wayside Pulpit:	Vicki Keller
Worship:	Gwyn Powers
Property:	Carl Jacobs
Fundraising:	Open
Greens Sale:	Open
Welcoming Congregation:	Open



KUUC CONTACT LIST 2020-2021

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
Keene, NH 03431

kuucdre@gmail.com

Phone: (603) 352-1719

Music Director: Donna Dearth

E-mail: office@kuuc.org

rdearth@hotmail.com

Website: www.kuuc.org

Facebook: [Keene Unitarian Universalist
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