

The Messenger

AUGUST 2021 Volume 29 Issue 7

Keene Unitarian Universalist Church, 69 Washington Street, Keene, NH 03431

<http://www.kuuc.org/> office@kuuc.org 603-352-1719



Contents

- 1 Worship Calendar
- 2 KUUC Mission & UU Beliefs
- 3-4 Sharing Ministry & Ministers Schedule
- 4 President's Message
- 4-5 Religious Exploration
- 5 Music Notes
- 6 Other News, Events & Updates
- 6-8 General Info, KUUC Contacts, etc.

Sunday Services are in-person with a live-stream option who for who cannot join us. For now there is no in-person Coffee Hour indoors. More options for Coffee Hour will be forthcoming.

AUGUST 2021 WORSHIP CALENDAR

August 1st: "4-3-2-1..." (Rev. Michael F. Hall)

Today many of us are coming together for live worship for the first time since March 08, 2020. It has been a long time coming and, given the intensity of the new COVID variations we cannot say how long it will last. But today we will celebrate, sing hymns together and perhaps sit in the silences wondering what this new "normal" actually is? Is it a reunion or a rededication? Is it launching pad or are we trying to stick the landing? Is it an experiment or a return to normalcy?

August 8th: "I am a New UU" (Jill M. Hall Dir. of Religious Exploration)

Our Unitarian Universalist faith tradition is built on questioning, learning, searching and growing. In a sense, we are ALL New UUs, whether we were born to this religion or chose it from elsewhere or nowhere. This morning I'll share some of my thoughts on this subject, and invite you to consider your own UU identity.

August 15th: "TBA" ()

August 22nd: "Room With a View" (Mary Frost)

August 29th: "A sense of place, a sense of purpose: Local Climate Action." (Ann Shedd)



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

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

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;

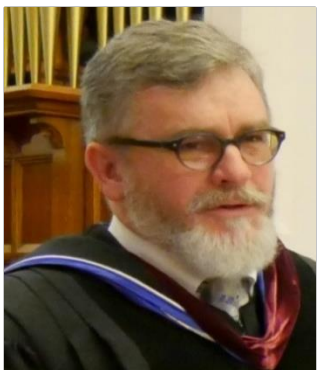
Words and deeds of prophetic people, which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;

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 AUGUST 2021

“One swallow does not make a summer, neither does one fine day; similarly, one day or brief time of happiness does not make a person entirely happy.”

--- Aristotle, The Nicomachean Ethics

As I write this my mind is as much on tomorrow as it is on today. I cannot wait for our return to in-person worship on August 1st, for a “new normal” for worship delivery---in-person worship live-streamed---and, of course the picnic over at Wheelock Park that will follow that service. I hope that everything goes well.

Who am I kidding? I hope that everything is extraordinary. I hope that this long-deferred in-person reunion speaks to each individual in a way that meets their expectations. I hope that it lives up to the mix of nostalgia and need that each of us is holding on to. After such a long, long time away from our Sanctuary, I hope that YOU feel that you are finally home and returned to your people.

But in one sense I want this Sunday to be like any other Sunday: a celebration of our principles and a call for each of us, *all of us*, to go beyond them. I believe that there is an emancipating and beneficial truth underlying this faith that is meant for all people. I think that we owe it to ourselves to reach for and grasp that truth, and to pass it on to the world beyond our beautiful historic building. We also owe it to those we love and live alongside, as well as the Earth and all our creature kin to learn, live and teach that communicate that message in our words, deeds and dreams for tomorrow.

Yet one service does not make a congregation come alive, neither do the best intentions always mean the greatest success. A beautiful building is nothing when compared to a vibrant community dedicated themselves to a necessary mission. We do not need to carry a heap of expectations on our shoulders, nor will an assortment of “musts, should haves and ought tos” allow us to take flight.

All we need is to live today with integrity among friends, remembering that we are connected to each other, committed to living ethically, justly, honestly and lovingly.

Yours in Faith, Hope and Loving Service

Rev. Michael

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

OFF DAY: Saturdays

STUDY & PLANNING DAY: Tuesdays

WRITING DAY: Fridays

VACATION: Wednesday August 11th; Sunday August 15th; Monday, August 23rd- Wednesday, August 25th.

STUDY TIME: Monday, August 16th- Friday, August 20th; Sunday, August 29th – Friday, September 3rd.

OFFICE HOURS: By Appointment until September

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Since first stepping inside KUUC I have been moved by the spirit of the place. The beauty of the buildings and the range of activities taking place there provide a foundation upon which to promote our UU Principles. I am here because I realized I needed to be part of a spiritual community in order to grow in my sobriety. I am grateful I found KUUC. It is my spiritual home base. The 7 Principles challenge me to work toward a world that embodies those Principles.

This year we look forward to returning to worshipping together in our Sanctuary along with the return of other in person activities. During this past year our financial status has become clear. Our buildings are now on the NH Registry of Historic Places, a designation that encourages community support for maintaining our wonderful property. The Committee on Ministry Annual Report has provided us with a view of our Congregation's aspirations.

As President I am committed to work with the Trustees and congregation in support of our programs and our property. We are a talented and hard-working group. It has been a blessing so far. Together we will move forward.

Carl Jacobs

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION (RE) NEWS

Our Whole Lives

I have no new news to share on this front. We are in the planning stages for a 7th-9th grade O.W.L.-informed, pandemic-conscious class to happen during the 2021-22 church year. What does this mean? Mostly, it means that unlike every previous time I've

announced an Our Whole Lives class I'm going to ask you NOT to share widely. We're keeping the group on the small side (because pandemic) and we've filled it with members of the congregation, so we're not seeking as many kids from the community as possible. I hate it too, I want EVERY kid to have the chance to experience this curriculum, but just not this year. Thanks. As always, if you have any concerns or questions or comments, please contact me.

What is Religious Exploration going to look like this year?

Excellent question. Do you have some ideas? Do you want to be part of the conversation, planning and execution? Do you just want to hang out with some very cool, interesting, and creative people? The RE Committee has room for another member or two. Get in touch with Barbara Bryce, current Chairperson (contact info at the end of this Messenger), or Jill at kuucdre@gmail.com for info about the mission and meetings of the committee.

AUGUST MESSENGER-MUSIC

Hi friends,

Wow, is the summer flying by!

I am looking forward to seeing some of you in the sanctuary on August 1st for our first day back in person. It has been a long time!

At our last worship meeting, we talked about how this new livestream/ in person transition will affect our services moving forward. I am reaching out to everyone who sings, dances, or plays an instrument to join me in the music ministry. I want you to feel safe and comfortable anytime we're making music together. I encourage you all to reach out to me so that you can share your talent with others.

Some of my ideas for making music include:

Getting a jazz combo together (3-5 musicians)

Bell choir

Bringing in more musicians from the KUUC and the community

Peace,

Donna

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS, MEETINGS, EVENTS, OPPORTUNITIES, ETC.

MIDDLE EAST STUDY GROUP

Update on our letter to the NH commission on Holocaust and Genocide studies. After sending our letter to this commission, Rabbi Jon Spira-Savett of Nashua replied to me and Rev. Michael suggesting that we meet and talk things over. Both Rev. Michael and Rabbi Spira-Savett have pretty full schedules, despite the summertime, and it has been hard to find a suitable meeting time. Finally, we will meet Friday, July 30, two day after the deadline for the messenger. I will keep you informed. –Jim Smart

UU CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURES FELLOWSHIP GROUP

“HUMILITY” August 3rd 5:00

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 August we will focus on humility. 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/ 603-398-5389 or cstamatakis@outlook.com.

GENERAL INFORMATION

NEXT MESSENGER DEADLINE NOTICE:

The deadline for the September *Messenger* is 5 P.M. on Monday, August 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.michaelkuuci824@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:	Open
Worship:	Gwyn Powers
Property:	Carl Jacobs
Fundraising:	Open
Greens Sale:	Open
Welcoming Congregation:	Open



KUUC CONTACT LIST 2021-22

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
E-mail: office@kuuc.org rdearth@hotmail.com
Website: www.kuuc.org **Office Manager:** Danielle Racine
Facebook: [Keene Unitarian Universalist Church@KeeneUU](https://www.facebook.com/KeeneUnitarianUniversalistChurch@KeeneUU) office@kuuc.org 352-1719

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2021-2022

Carl Jacobs, President	831-1409	Eloise Clark	352-9182
		clarktreat@myfairpoint.net	
Susie Ericson-West, President-Elect	313-9013	Tom Haynes	357-7645
		piperhistoricalservices@gmail.com	
Jim Peale, President-Past	357-7875	David Robinson	355-7812
		davide.1945@hotmail.com	
John Walter, Treasurer	358-3101	Tina Stevens	209-6268
		tinaleone127@gmail.com	
		Carol Hill, Clerk	903-4974
		hcbhill@ne.rr.com	