

# The Messenger

NOVEMBER 2021 Volume 29 Issue 10

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

<http://www.kuuc.org> [office@kuuc.org](mailto:office@kuuc.org) (603) 352-1719



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Sunday Services are presented in a dual-platform both in-person (for those providing proof of full vaccination) and via live-stream. Coffee Hours will be on Zoom for the time being.

## WORSHIP CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 2021

[Our theme for November is “Holding History” or simply “History.” You might ask yourself: How do we hold our history? Is History something that we share? Is it something that unites us all or something that divides people into categories based on race, gender and economic status? Is it simply what happened before this moment or is it a tool for putting a narrative to the otherwise chaotic passage of time?]

**November 7th:** “Relatable” (Rev. Michael F. Hall)

Interpersonal relations are hard enough between people who agree on most issues, even when they are face-to-face, with all the time in the world to sort out any disagreements that arise between them and find common ground. But how often do those ideal conditions exist?

**November 14th:** “There is Some History Here” (Rev. Michael)

It may be hard to believe, in this day and age, but there are many reasons why people on both sides of the political divide just don’t trust the government, the medical establishment, the liberals, the police and their employers. There’s a history there.

**November 21st:** “Harmful History” (Rev. Michael)

As we approach the fourth Thursday in November, we come to head on to one of the most persistent stories about America’s “origins” ---that of the “First Thanksgiving.” What do we do when the common narratives of our history are presented in misleading, exclusive or downright odious ways?

**November 28th:** “Playful Diversions” (Rev. Michael)

As we begin to swing toward the snow season, we also change the games we play and the ways we amuse ourselves. Today, we take a look at the playful diversions of life: sport, games, handicrafts and playful diversions that have kept us keeping on over the centuries.



## 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 NOVEMBER 2021

“This November there seems to be nothing to say.”

— Anne Sexton, Anne Sexton: A Self-Portrait in Letters

I seem to be caught in one of those rare times when I am at a loss for words. I hope you will excuse this wordlessness I feel as we pivot toward November. I don't believe that there is any cause to worry for even a moment that the condition is permanent; I am quite certain that it is not.

On the level, all is well. I expect that like many of us, I have both blessings and bothers, dreams still aplenty and challenges too: personally, publicly and professionally. My to-do list is full and my dance card is not empty. I am a touch pensive, pondering things that matter and mulling over some things that probably will be forgotten by All Souls Day.

I am looking forward to November. Although I find the Soul Matters theme of the month “Holding History” as something of a misnomer. My experience has been that, as a people, we seem more inclined to try to bury our history under fireworks and flags or take flight from it altogether.” I look forward to the study, the worship and especially being with the worshipping community, you. I look forward to more programming, get-togethers and congregational involvement in interfaith action as the old year wanes.

But mostly I try to live in the moment, staying warm, dry and healthy. I try keep up with my spiritual practices, laugh more often and longer and enjoy life, knowing that the time is not mine to command but rather to use and relish.

Yours in Faith, Hope and Loving Service

*Rev. Michael*

### Michael's Schedule & Office Hours for October:

OFF DAYS: Thursdays & Saturdays

VISITATION DAYS: Wednesdays

REGULAR STUDY & PLANNING DAYS: Tuesdays

WRITING DAY: Fridays

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment. Call (508) 821-6092 or (603) 352-1719 ext. 1

## RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION (RE) NEWS

*November RE Outdoors:* We'll meet on Saturday, November 6 at the Mt Monadnock Labyrinth on Airport Rd in Keene, at 5:15pm. I'll bring electric tea light candles for anyone who would like to use one. We can walk the labyrinth and welcome the gathering dark on the last night of daylight savings time for 2021. (sunset for Keene is 5:35pm on 11/6)

*Adult RE meetings:* We'll meet on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7ish to complete the "UU Identity" segment of Faith Like a River. If you're interested in joining a new segment, to begin either in person or on Zoom (or both!) after the New Year, get in touch with Jill at [kuucdre@gmail.com](mailto:kuucdre@gmail.com)

*Our Whole Lives* group meets on November 7 and 14 at 2:30 in the Alliance Room.

*RE Committee* meets on November 14 at 4pm via Zoom. All are welcome to attend the RE Committee meetings; contact Jill for a link. If you are interested in supporting the Religious Exploration program by serving on the Committee, please contact Barbara Bryce at [bbryce17@gmail.com](mailto:bbryce17@gmail.com) We have room for you!

This time of year – between Halloween and Thanksgiving – is when I feel myself being sucked into the Holiday Vortex. Remember to set aside some time for that, and to do what will refresh and renew you so these days don't become an inexorable whirlwind.

Jill

## NOVEMBER MUSIC MESSENGER

The Soul Matter's theme for this month is "Holding History".

We use two different hymn books at KUUC and they are both important to our history. Our books represent all genres, styles and traditions of music. The music in our hymn books include older music like the pieces by Martin Luther in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It also represents newer pieces which are included in "Singing the Journey"

The hymns are intertwined with so many messages. The words may be different from one church to another but the melodies have lasted for hundreds of years!

Peace,  
Donna

## HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS: NOVEMBER '21

Now that we have the opportunity to return to the sanctuary for our services, take a moment to look upward and admire the view. The rafters that support the roof measure 24 feet long, six inches thick and are set at 28-inch intervals. They are made of southern yellow pine. Spanning the sanctuary are immense horizontal trusses. They are 34 feet long, 18 inches high and six inches thick. All the roof pieces have chamfered edges to soften the angles. Painters spread a thin stain on the wood ceiling.

Notice the curved arch supports that hold the trusses on the sidewalls. One-inch-thick bolts hold the curved arch supports together. Three-inch square decorative washers and two-inch square nuts cap them. Seven were used in each of the twelve arches. Architect Edwin James Lewis insisted on precision to the point that every square washer holding the bolts of the roof trusses had to be perfectly aligned with one another. In the Parish Hall, the trusses were pitched at a lesser angle than the roof beams. Mr. Lewis felt this was a better design for smaller sanctuaries.

The exterior roof is visually stunning. The steep pitch is covered in green slate quarried in Vermont. Most unusual is the treatment of each dormer. Each is covered with slate, even the rounded arches framing the square diamond paned windows. Most remarkably, the work of building the foundation, the exterior walls and all the roof pieces was completed in just two months over the summer of 1894!

As you sit under this soaring roof, let your mind reflect on the many skilled sawyers and carpenters who cut and assembled the beams and trusses overhead. While they are gone, the roof has endured. Then imagine all the words, thoughts and prayers that have been uttered and the ceremonies witnessed under the sanctuary of this marvelous, soaring roof. ---Eloise Clark

*Thanks to Jim Smart's also marvelous book The Keene Unitarian Universalist Church: the building and its people for the information.*

## “HOLIDAY GREENS” GREENS SALE 2021

We are offering our second “By Order Greens Sale”. Due to an increase in cases of Covid-19 in Cheshire County, a typical Greens Sale still would not be safe, but Wreaths and Kissing balls will be for sale by order. We have found a new and local wreath source. They have balsam wreaths along with mixed greens wreaths. Unfortunately, the prices will be higher this year.

For the past 33 years, we have gotten our wreaths from Charlotte Woods in Winchester. She kept her prices low to accommodate local Churches. We thank Charlotte for all support.

On our on-line form, which will be coming soon, you will need to designate what type of wreath, decorated or plain wreath, and color of bows, as well as bow colors for Kissing Balls. Once the order is placed, you will be given a pick-up time. There will be a display of decorated wreaths, wreaths with bows, plain wreaths and Kissing Balls to choose from when you come at your pick-up time.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Carol McIntyre-Peale at [pealefamily@gmail.com](mailto:pealefamily@gmail.com) or 603-357-7875.

[The Greens Sale Order Form will be sent as a separate attachment along with this issue of the *Messenger*]



## OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS, MEETINGS, EVENTS, OPPORTUNITIES, ETC.

### LEAF RAKING & YARD CLEANUP NOVEMBER 6<sup>th</sup>

It's time for our annual autumn yard cleanup. Leaves need to be raked to the curbside for the city to pick up. Gardens also need to be tidied for winter.

Please join us at 9:00 AM with rakes and tarps to make the big sweep. Depending upon the size of the crew, we should finish well before noon. Thank you!

### SHARE YOUR LOVE:

#### WRITE A TESTIMONIAL ABOUT YOUR TIME AT KUUC

Any member or friend of KUUC is invited to write a TESTIMONIAL about the time they have spent within our congregation, the programs and committee work that they have enjoyed, and what these connections have added to their life experience. These will be

shared on our public FB page, and within our congregation. Two to four paragraphs, preferably with a photo included, may be e-mailed to Rev. Michael at

[rev.michaelkuuci824@gmail.com](mailto:rev.michaelkuuci824@gmail.com).

We would also invite parents to ask their children who participated in our RE program, or perhaps our OWL program, if they (the children/ young adults) would write their own testimonial about their experiences with RE. If we can collect a number of these, they may potentially be posted on the RE bulletin board near the Growing Minds Preschool entrance.

Testimonials are a great way to advertise who we are as a congregation. You don't have to consider yourself a 'writer', just speak from your heart. That's where our power comes from!

## **WEBINAR ON MILITARY INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX NOV. 8 at 7PM**

Joan Roelofs will be presenting a webinar on Nov. 8 at 7 pm ET for CodePink. The topic is "The Military Industrial Complex at Ground Level." Some New Hampshire examples will be included. Please sign up and suggest others to so too. Joan likes to have challenges.

Here is the link for signing up: <https://www.codepink.org/110821>

## **UU CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURES FELLOWSHIP GROUP**

**November 2<sup>nd</sup>: 5-6:30 PM**

**Topic: Scary Religious Images**

Our fellowship group meets the first Tuesday of every month from 5:00 – 6:30. We are now meeting in-person in the Alliance Room with the option to participate via ZOOM. 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](mailto:cstamatakis@outlook.com).

## **THE WEEKLY CHAT WITH REV. MICHAEL**

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## RETURNS ON MONDAYS BEGINNING NOVEMBER 8TH

“The Weekly Chat with Rev. Michael,” a weekly discussion program with our minister, returns on November 8<sup>th</sup> from 9-10 AM. The program is in an open discussion form although it usually has a theme that serves as a conversation starter. We will start the year on Zoom and plan to eventually to move to an in person or dual-platform (live and Zoom) before too long. Hope that you can join us!

## JOIN US FOR WORSHIP: IN-PERSON OR ON YOUTUBE

On October 10<sup>th</sup> we returned once again to the full use of our dual-platform presentation of worship: some people are coming to worship in the Sanctuary and others are enjoying the live stream of the services on YouTube.

Do you hope to join us in the Sanctuary on an upcoming Sunday? All you have to do to be put on our attendance list is send a photo of your vaccination card to Rev. Michael at [rev.michaelkuuci824@gmail.com](mailto:rev.michaelkuuci824@gmail.com). The photo must clearly show your name and the dates on which you received your shots. There are some other limitations that need to be observed:

- Masks must be worn by attendees at all times during the service except for the Worship Team when they are speaking, singing or playing music.
- There will 6' spacing between individuals unless they are part of a family or pod.
- Some rows will be taped off to ensure that appropriate spacing exists forward to back as well as side-by-side.
- For the foreseeable future there will be no congregational singing, though hymns will be played and sung by soloists with attendees humming along to these cherished songs.
- We cannot allow people to remain in the Sanctuary after the service to gather together and talk.

Hopefully reason and the common good will prevail in our country once again and public safety will be a priority for all. When that day comes, and the rates of infection drop, we will be able to worship just as we did prior to when the COVID pandemic began.



## GENERAL INFORMATION

### NEXT MESSENGER DEADLINE NOTICE:

The deadline for the DECEMBER *Messenger* is 5 P.M. on Tuesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. The due date for *Messenger* submissions will be on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of the month prior to their issue (the only exceptions will be for the January issue---deadline December 15<sup>th</sup>---and the fact that there is no July *Messenger*). Send all your articles and notices to Rev. Michael at [rev.michaelkuuci824@gmail.com](mailto:rev.michaelkuuci824@gmail.com) and Danielle at [office@kuuc.org](mailto:office@kuuc.org).

### COMMITTEE CONTACTS:

Circle of Caring:	Betsy Zimmerli & Betty Forrest
Covenant Duos:	Deb McLay
Covenant Groups:	Carolyn Antrim
Investment:	John Bordenet
Middle East Study Group:	Jim Smart
Membership:	Deb McLay
Music:	Open
Personnel:	Open
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:	Lindsay Bartlett
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](mailto: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](mailto:kuucdre@gmail.com)  
 Keene, NH 03431  
**Music Director:** Donna Dearth  
**Phone:** (603) 352-1719 [rdearth@hotmail.com](mailto:rdearth@hotmail.com)  
**E-mail:** [office@kuuc.org](mailto:office@kuuc.org)  
**Office Manager:** [OPEN]  
**Website:** [www.kuuc.org](http://www.kuuc.org) [office@kuuc.org](mailto:office@kuuc.org) 352-1719  
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## BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2021-2022

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