

The Messenger

January 2022 Volume 31 Issue 1

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 presented in a dual-platform both in-person (for those providing proof of full vaccination) and via live-stream.

WORSHIP CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 2022

[Our Soul Matters theme for January is "Living with Intention." You might ask yourself: How much of my time is spent doing things that are meaningful to me? How many things do I do that are simply habits, no longer connected to something that is important? What would I do differently if I actually believed that every moment was precious and that change wasn't something to fear, but to embrace?]

January 2nd: "Waking Up Intentionally" (Rev. Michael F. Hall)

"Life is short," we hear it all the time. What do you want to do with that information in 2022? As we enter this time so often identified with making resolutions and big changes are there any changes that you want to make with your one true life? Perhaps we can answer that together.

January 9th: "Pretension or Intention" (Rev. Michael)

Some people deceive themselves, and others, with false or unreachable claims. Other people speak their truth not so much as a way to stand out or be heard, but to make known that they are going to commit themselves fully to a meaningful and generous way of being in the world.

January 16th: "Following Tuckerman's Footsteps" (Rev. Michael)

Rev. Joseph Tuckerman was a 19th century minister who found a unique way to live out his understanding of Unitarian Christianity. In many ways we are still doing Tuckerman's work today, right here in Keene, NH. Let us remember the man and celebrate his work.

January 23rd: "Building Blocks" (Rev. Michael)

As we approach the anniversary of the dedication of our beloved building, Rev. Michael will use the occasion to speak about the building blocks on which we might dedicate ourselves to as move forward.

January 30th: "TBA" (TBA)

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 JANUARY 2022

“Life isn’t a matter of milestones, but of moments.”
– Rose Kennedy

“Living with Intention,” seems like a darn good idea. In fact, I think I will give it a try.

This isn’t to say I have never been clear about my purposes, genuine in my motives, focused on the things I could do to make my life happier, to be of service and lead a meaningful life. I cannot think of a time that I was more “on the beam,” as some of my friends are wont to say, than when I first came to Keene in 2012.

But humans wear down, we face challenges, have troubles with their health, finances, family or...you fill in that last one yourself. Up until recently, I was afraid that I might come out of 2021 thinking that my best option was to continue to live the way that *I went into 2020*: tired, regretful and worried that my life would perpetually be about playing catch up or trying to prove my worth to others. I am not worried about it now.

Why? Because I have faced tough things before and made it through just fine. It isn’t the first time that I have forgotten that the phrase “meaning of life” is best lived out in reverse, that is by starting to do the things that matter to you, that mean something important. Soon enough, and one little well-chosen decision at a time, you find that there is a genuine smile back on your face; that you are fully present for those that you love (and every other human being too). In choosing the obligations you meet and the challenges you face, in choosing to be alive rather than reacting to some supposed “fate” happiness settles into your heart.

As the extraordinary human being and tennis champion Arthur Ashe once said: “**Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.**”

Let me know if I can help.

Rev. Michael

[Michael’s Schedule & Office Hours for January:](#)

OFF DAYS: Saturdays

VISITATION DAYS: Wednesdays

REGULAR STUDY & PLANNING DAYS: Tuesdays

WRITING DAY: Fridays

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment. Call (508) 821-6092



Through the efforts of Eloise Clark and many others, KUUC has been awarded a grant from the Land and Community Heritage program. Like our church, the program is known by its initials, LCHIP. Our building is already designated as an Historic property. The grant will support an assessment of our buildings to determine what may be needed to enable our buildings to continue serving the congregation and the community.

LCHIP grants must be matched by local dollars. Since our buildings are used and loved by many folks beyond our congregation, we are planning to seek community wide support for the assessment and any needed repairs. There will be more to come on all this.

This is our moment to be stewards of our wonderful properties and pass them forward to generations to come.

---Carl

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION (RE) NEWS

Our Whole Lives group has been on pause since December 5, due to the high rate of Covid transmission in our community. The group is set to begin meeting again on January 9, and the schedule of remaining sessions will be evaluated and updated at that time. All these plans are, of course, contingent on pandemic conditions. If all is well in January, this group will meet **Sundays, January 9, 16, 23, and 30, from 2:30 – 4:30 pm in the Alliance Room.**

RE Outdoors I'm hoping for a skating/sledding outing at Robinhood Park for January's outdoor gathering. Right now (mid-December) I'm looking at Saturday afternoon, January 22nd or 29th. This activity is heavily weather dependent, of course, so I'll send updates as we get closer. If it's not cold/snowy enough for this, I'll think of something else and let you know.

****I had been hoping to announce that we would be reinstating indoor RE groups in January, but given the current state of pandemic, it seems premature to make plans at this point.**

Adult RE – Faith Like a River: Themes in Unitarian Universalist History: A small group met four times in the fall (**Wednesdays 5:30 – 7pm**) and enjoyed this curriculum so much we'd like to meet again starting on **January 12***. *And we'd like you to join us!* Each session is a stand-alone topic, so no worries that you'll be missing essential information by joining in at this point. We have the choice of meeting in person (pandemic permitting) or via Zoom. We also have these choices of topic:

Institutionalism: Unitarians, Universalists, Consolidation (3 sessions)

Freedom of Belief: Orthodoxy & Heresy; Reformation; Martyrs & Sacrifice; Religious Tolerance (4 sessions)

Prophets & Social Justice: Freedom, Idealism & Utopianism, Globalization, Evangelists (4 sessions)

I'm happy to change the venue (Alliance Room or Zoom) and the meeting day & time based on the preferences of the group. The group will choose the topic as well, so if you're interested, send me an email at kuucdre@gmail.com

JANUARY 2022 MUSIC MESSAGE

When I retired from my career as a music educator in June of 2018, I had big plans for my retirement. I enviously looked at my friends who were already retired and they seemed to have time to do whatever THEY wanted to do. They took classes at local colleges, volunteered, traveled and grabbed coffee or lunch with a friend. I wanted to do all of that too! During this time of COVID, I have not been able to do some of the things I had planned on doing. I have however found that the simplicity of my life has given me time for reflection. When we have the freedom to choose how we spend our time, we can really begin to live purposefully and intentionally. This month's Soul Matter's theme is "Living with Intention".

Since the choir is not together at this point, I would welcome anyone who would like to be a soloist or a hymn leader. This is open to everyone- please be in touch with me if you'd like to share in the music ministry. As always, many thanks to everyone who sang us through the Holidays!

The KUUC has recently purchased 10 singing masks to be used by singers during the service.

Peace to all in the New Year,

Donna

HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS: JANUARY 2022

January 24, 1895 marked the opening and dedication of our current church building. The new organ was not yet finished and in place for the event. Fortunately, the “celebrated French pews” had arrived by mid-month so there was seating for all. They were numbered 1 to 104 beginning at the bell tower entrance of the church. Since that time a number of pews have been removed to make way for wheelchair seating and easier passage midway in the sanctuary.

After the dedication, pews were “free” for the first two weeks to welcome the many visitors who came to marvel at the new church in town. Otherwise, pews were “sold” to church members to raise funds for operations. The Pew Owners Association was the governing force of the church from 1847 to 1893. Their important influence is explained in Chapter 4 of Jim Smart’s history of The Keene Unitarian Universalist Church: the building and its people from which information for this column is drawn.

Theodore Peart, who had a furniture store in town, supplied the chancel table. Lecretia Tilton donated the large ceremonial chancel chairs and the pulpit in memory of her mother, Lucretia Perry Wood, one of the founders of the church.

Her husband, Lucien Tilton had been chief engineer overseeing the construction of the Cheshire Railroad that arrived in Keene in 1847.

The Ladies Sewing Society provided the first carpet for the church, an olive green shade. They also provided cushions for the new pews. The cushions were of a terra cotta shade. Both cushions and carpet had tracery designs in them.

Gaslights from the five large central chandeliers illuminated the church at night. Take a moment the next time you are in the sanctuary to admire these hammered iron beauties as well as the wall sconces in the chancel area.

Three furnaces heated the church through large hot air registers and still another one the parish hall. The furnaces burned either wood or coal. They required a cord and a half of wood or 1500 pounds of coal to make the church comfortable for Sunday service. One wonders who shoveled all that coal and loaded all that wood?!

---Eloise Clark

P.7 **OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS, MEETINGS, EVENTS, OPPORTUNITIES, ETC.**

Greens Sale Holiday Greens 2021

Our 2021 on-line Holiday Greens Sale is completed. Thank you to Eloise Clark, Gerry Frederikson and Carol McIntyre-Peale for decorating the wreaths, crafting the bows and the Kissing Balls. Thank you to Cheshire Floral Farms for making the wreaths. Eighteen families participated in this year's fund raiser. We netted \$569.00 for the Fundraising line item in the Operating budget. Hoping the greens make your Holidays a little brighter!

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

What to do with your finished Holiday decorations after the Holidays? The Greens Sale will reuse ribbon, wreath decorations and pine cones. Please remove them from your display and bring them to the KUUC. There will be a collection box near the Church Office. Thank You!

UU Christian Scriptures Fellowship Group January 4, 2022

“EPIPHANY!”

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. For January our theme will be “Epiphany!” 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.

Save the Dates KUUC Ferry Beach Get-A-Way Weekend

May 6, 7 & 8, 2022!!

Save the dates for the KUUC Ferry Beach weekend. We will again be sharing Ferry Beach with the Bedford, MA UU Church. We know that it is Mother's Day Weekend. Bring Mom and help her celebrate with a relaxing weekend. If you need to return to Keene for Mother's Day, leave after breakfast Sunday and be back in Keene by noon. More information to come or contact Jim Peale & Carol McIntyre-Peale
pealefamily@gmail.com

GENERAL INFORMATION

NEXT MESSENGER DEADLINE IS EARLY!!

The **deadline** for the February *Messenger* will be 5 P.M. on Sunday, January 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 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:

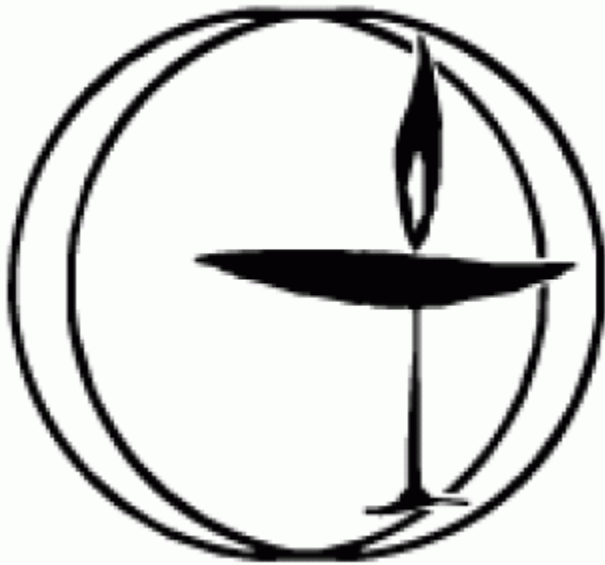
Open

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
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:** Robin Secore
Facebook: office@kuuc.org 352-1719
[Keene Unitarian Universalist Church@KeeneUU](https://www.facebook.com/KeeneUnitarianUniversalistChurch@KeeneUU)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2021-2022

Carl Jacobs, President	831-1409	Eloise Clark	352-9182
carljac21@gmail.com		clarktreat@myfairpoint.net	
Susie Ericson-West, President-Elect	313-9013	Tom Haynes	357-7645
swest.keene@gmail.com		piperhistoricalservices@gmail.com	
Jim Peale, President-Past	357-7875	David Robinson	355-7812
pealefamily@gmail.com		davide.1945@hotmail.com	
John Walter, Treasurer	358-3101	Tina Stevens	209-6268
jnwalterjr@gmail.com		tinaleone127@gmail.com	
		Carol Hill, Clerk	903-4974
		hcbhill@ne.rr.com	