

# The Messenger

February 2022 Volume 30 Issue 2

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

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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 on our YouTube channel.

## WORSHIP CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 2022

[The Soul Matters monthly theme is "Widening the Circle." Ask yourself: How can we widen the circle of members at KUUC? How can we become a more diverse congregation with respect to LGBTQ orientation, age, economic, ethnic & cultural background? What about the spectrum of religiosity: spiritualities, theological or non-theist beliefs? Ask yourself: How open am I to embracing difference? How willing am I to welcome change?]

**February 6<sup>th</sup>:** "How Many is Too Many? How Much Too Much?"

(Rev. Michael F. Hall)

As we consider "Widening the Circle," we should also take some time to look at some of the stressors that are threatening our planet and the circle of life as we know it now.

**February 13<sup>th</sup>:** "Fight it Out for Yourselves" (Rev. Michael)

One of the great issues that liberal religion and politics have struggled with is the idea of inclusion and exclusion. What happens when our clear and just ideals meet with the rough and tumble of the "real world"?

**February 20<sup>th</sup>:** "Widening the Circle" (Rev. Michael)

What does it mean to make our covenant open to everyone? What would it look like to live up to the expansiveness of our name? What changes would happen if we lived out beyond the boundaries of our current principles and sources and into our truth? If the church is ours, why would we want to offer it up? If the congregation is universalist, why would we keep it to ourselves?

**February 27<sup>th</sup>:** "Monadnock Family Services" (Phil Wyzik)

## 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 FEBRUARY 2022

“The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking.”

— Albert Einstein

I am trying to get my spring cleaning done early.

It is not easy, spring cleaning, and the cleaning itself is the easy part, at least for me. I really enjoy jobs like mopping and vacuuming where, unlike so many things in life, you can actually see a finished project in a relatively short span of time. No, what is hard for me is the sorting out, the deciding what's to be kept, what can be given away and what just needs to be chucked out. Quite often my forays into spring-cleaning end when I paw over a couple of boxes or scan a row of books and say to myself, “I will keep everything *but* the unmatched socks; *and* Syl can have the tee shirts that don't fit me anymore!”

I often say that I hold on to “my stuff” because it has sentimental value, or because, you never know, I might actually become a French chef, a graphic artist or a guitar god someday. But the truth is it still had some value to me.

Do you know what I mean? Have you ever found yourself holding on to something or someone---maybe it's a bad idea or toxic relationship, maybe it is just something that you've outgrown or a reminder of the road not taken---because you didn't know what to do with it or how to get rid of it?

Lately, I have been thinking that I might finally might let a lot of “my stuff” go. I am who I am---I don't want to be a guitar god. In the end, the trinkets I have picked up along the way are incidentals, the distractions I allow myself are harmless.

But always the best decisions that I have made involved some kind of letting go, giving up or giving away; all of them, led to riches I didn't ask for or revealed reserves I didn't know that I had. This is as true about those choices that first brought me pain, as well as those that brought peace. Our choices make us; but fear not, they can remake us too.

Or as George Kimmich Beach said a thousand times better: “...liberation begins with ourselves, for it means freeing ourselves from whatever stands between us and the divine image---the creative good will---in which we are made.”

Yours in Faithful Service,

*Rev. Michael*

**VISITATION DAYS:** Wednesday mornings & Thursday afternoons

**REGULAR STUDY & PLANNING DAYS:** Tuesdays

**OFFICE HOURS:** Monday & Thursday 9 AM-12PM, or by appt. Call (508) 821-6092

**OFF DAYS:** Saturdays

**WRITING DAY:** Fridays

## RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION (RE) NEWS

**Sunday, February 6:** 2:30 – 4:30 Our Whole Lives group meets, Alliance Room

**Saturday, February 12** 1pm – 3pm (more or less) RE Outdoors at Robinhood Park for sledding and skating if conditions cooperate.

**Sunday, February 13** 2:30 – 4:30 Our Whole Lives group meets, Alliance Room

### RE Outdoors

We had a hiatus in January. The post-holiday-vortex exhaustion, the dangerously cold weather and/or lack of ice and snow all contributed to our not having an official event in January. We're very hopeful that on Saturday February 12, there will be enough ice and snow and not-dangerous cold for some fun sledding, skating (or sliding) at Robinhood Park. If you're around town the first weekend of the month, check out the Keene Ice Sculpture event on Saturday, February 5, from 10 – late afternoon or as long as the ice lasts, in downtown Keene.

### Our Whole Lives

Our Whole Lives is back, also after a hiatus, this one pandemic-related. This group will meet January 30, February 6 & 13, and March 6, 13, 20 & 27. This is really our last opportunity to wrap up this curriculum, as once we get into April there are too many scheduling conflicts to permit extending. Our fingers are crossed for no extreme weather events for these dates! And of course, as always we are hoping for good health for everyone. Thanks are due again to our dedicated facilitators, John Walter and Bridg Noone, for their superior flexibility and good humor in the face of many obstacles.

That's it. In the face of continuing uncertainty I'm not even going to speculate on what else we might do or when. I hope you'll join the worship, either in the sanctuary or on our YouTube channel, and I will be so very glad to see you in person whenever that is possible.

Send me an email at [kuucdre@gmail.com](mailto:kuucdre@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

Jill

## FEBRUARY 2022 MUSIC MESSAGE

I have been reflecting over the past 2 years and how COVID has changed so much for us at church. I miss seeing so many of you in person- there are some of you that I haven't seen in almost 2 years. I miss leading the beloved choir in song every week. This time has also been challenging with the changes of singing hymns or not, having soloists or not, oh and did I mention the week that was 39 degrees in the Sanctuary?

There are certainly positive things happening during this time. The worship team meets weekly and discusses the week ahead as well as the month ahead. A big thank you to all the people who have been hymn leaders and/or soloists during this time.

During our February services I'll be playing African-American songs in celebration of Black History Month. If you have a favorite spiritual, work song, or gospel piece, let me know so I can play it!

Peace,

Donna

## HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS: FEBRUARY 2022

The story of every church and every congregation is people. People who persevere, people who are dedicated, people who believe in the mission of their church. One such person in our church history was Mary Boyd Dinsmoor. She was "active in church and civic affairs during the decades surrounding the building of the church," according to Jim Smart's account, The Keene Unitarian Universalist Church: the building and its people. Chapter sixteen is devoted to "Miss Mary B."

She was born in 1839 to William Dinsmoor and Julia Ann Fiske. Her grandmother was one of the first group of twelve members who founded the church. Her grandfather, Samuel Dinsmoor was a three-term governor of the state as was her uncle, also named Samuel. Upon the death of her mother, Mary assumed responsibility of the family household and younger siblings at the age of fifteen.

She published two volumes of *The May Flower*, the first in 1870 and the second in 1905. It contained poems, hymns and light pieces as well as historical accounts of the church and charities. The sale of both publications was to benefit the Ladies' Sewing Society and the Invalids Home. These and the Ladies Charitable Society, were Keene's leading organizations involved in social work. Mary served as vice president and president of the latter between 1898-1917.

Have you heard of Dinsmoor Woods? You have probably driven through it along Maple Avenue. It's between the roundabout on upper Court Street and the current Keene Middle School. Mary bought these eighteen acres and gifted them to the city in 1922. She lived for many years at 45 Washington Street, on the corner of Spring Street. She sold the property to the city for \$1. The city used it and a neighboring property to build a high school. Mary moved to Chesham with her sister-in-law and died there in 1928 at age eight-nine.

Mary and several others were the driving force behind the installation of the Truth Window on the east wall of the sanctuary as well as the Founder's Plaque. This project was the culmination of her twenty-five-year tenure on the Board of Trustees.

Mary served as a Trustee until 1905.

## HERE'S AN IDEA

Reading Eloise's "Historic Highlights" gave me an idea: let's create our own version of the "May Flower." Wouldn't it be fun to gather together a little book of poems, short reflections and pictures drawn by the talented adults and children of KUUC? We could then sell it as a fundraiser for a local service organization, or a ministry that we would like to support. Here are the parameters. Submit, or have your child submit, no more than one entry from one or more of the abovementioned categories to Rev. Michael [rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com](mailto:rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com) and if we get enough entries sent in by April 1<sup>st</sup> (no fooling) we will produce the long delayed "May Flower" by May Day! We can do this!





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

### UU Christian Scriptures Fellowship Group

Rules to Live By  
February 1, 2022

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 February our theme will be “Rules to Live By.” 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).

### Joys And Concerns

Do you have a joy or concern you would like to share with KUUC members and friends? You may now email or call Deb McLay; [debmcclay529@gmail.com](mailto:debmcclay529@gmail.com), or 603-499-6043, who will gather them roughly every two weeks. They will be sent out as an eblast near the first and third Sundays of the month. Please be sure that when writing about a third person, that they are willing to have the Joy or Concern shared. Let’s stay connected!

### Creating Worship Workshop w/Rev. Michael Starting in Mid-February

Have you ever thought about leading a service at KUUC? Have you already led or co-led a service and really want to take a deeper dive into how to create a cohesive and inspiring service from scratch? Or perhaps you would like to learn how to write your own sermon, meditation or Time for all Ages? Work on your presentation or even workshop something you have already written. Join Rev. Michael who will be leading a multi-part workshop on called “Creative Worship Making” beginning in mid-February. If

you are interested, send an email to Rev. Michael [rev.michaelkuuci824@gmail.com](mailto:rev.michaelkuuci824@gmail.com) with the two or three best 90-minute blocks of time in your week---don't worry, we will choose the best day and time for the most people---and what you most hope to get from the experience. We hope to decide in time to start on the second or third week of February.

## Covenant Duos Coming Again!

Have you experienced a Covenant Group at KUUC? If you have, you can appreciate the deeper connections you have made with your small group members. If you have not, we hope to give you a sense of what goes on in a small group by matching pairs of KUUC members/friends for a monthly phone call with a topic for discussion. Topics will come from the UUA Soul Matters curriculum or may be suggested by Rev. Michael or KUUC members. Interested? Read on!

Just like last year, Duos will start in March and last until June, one phone call per month. Participants will receive an email with the monthly discussion topic and some quotes and/ or readings. (Those without internet will be snail mailed).

### GROUND RULES for Covenant Duos:

Active Listening is key. No cross talk during check-in or initial response to the topic. After both have had a chance to speak on the topic, cross talk/discussion may occur. Always speak from your own experience. Respond respectfully. Please do not attempt to "fix" something for your duo partner or offer advice (unless specifically requested to do so). Confidentiality is expected. There will be a 45 minute time limit. Please feel free to write up/agree with your "match" on elements of your own covenant and how you want to experience this time, i.e. you may want to set a time limit for initial topic discussion, etc.

### Here is what you need to do:

Answer the questions below. You may copy and paste your answers to the questions and email your responses to Deb McLay; [debmclay529@gmail.com](mailto:debmclay529@gmail.com)

1. Your Name
2. Gender Preference of your match?
3. Morning, Afternoon or Evening phone call? You may choose one or two



4. Day(s) of the week (more than one day will be easier to match, if possible) **P.9**
5. Phone number you would like to use for this monthly call?

That all there is to it! PLEASE NOTE! You will have ONE WEEK to respond to these questions. As soon as we (The Membership Committee) gather responses and do the matching, you will get an e-mail with your match's name and phone number, and the first topic. You may decide with your match what day to set for your call; i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month, etc.

Get ready to deepen your relationship with a member/friend (and possibly yourself)!

### Interest In Small Covenant Groups

The Membership Committee has been focusing on ways to keep us connected during these socially distanced times. We would like to gauge interest in small (4-6 person) Covenant Groups that would meet via Zoom and/or in-person once a month for 60-90 minutes depending on group size and interest. Wendy Byrn suggested the idea that we could focus on the topics of "hope in times of crisis and change." Like Covenant Duos; if there is enough interest, there would be one meeting per month for the last four-months of the church year" i.e., March through June.

Email Deb McLay [debmcclay529@gmail.com](mailto:debmcclay529@gmail.com) or 603-499-6043 to express your interest. Meeting days and times will be worked out subsequently.

### 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](mailto:pealefamily@gmail.com)



## GENERAL INFORMATION

### NEXT MESSENGER DEADLINE IS EARLY!!

The **deadline** for the **MARCH *Messenger*** will be **5 P.M. on Wednesday, February 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 15<sup>th</sup>---and the fact that there is no July *Messenger*). Send all your articles and notices to Rev. Michael at [rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com](mailto: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](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  
**Phone:** (603) 352-1719 **Music Director:** Donna Dearth  
**E-mail:** [office@kuuc.org](mailto:office@kuuc.org) [rdearth@hotmail.com](mailto:rdearth@hotmail.com)  
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