

The Messenger

April 2022 Volume 30 Issue 4

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 APRIL 2022

[The Soul Matters monthly theme is "Awakening." Ask yourself: When have I realized something true about myself, and yet so seemingly hidden, that awakening to it changed the trajectory of my life? Has anything I have done, or even tried for the first time, appealed to me in such a way that it became foundational to who I was? Have I been so moved by events in the world, or the story of someone else's kindness, decency, courage or determination that I have been moved to change my own way of being?]

April 3rd: "Pure Poetry" (Rev. Michael F. Hall)

We begin the month with a look at those rare experiences when all things seem to blend into one beautiful, fluid and inspiring whole. As it is Poetry Month, there is sure to be some of that in this service too.

April 10th: "Jazz Too, America" (Rev. Michael)

There is perhaps no better way to see America better than through the lens of Jazz. The intermingling of genres and styles, the creative exchange, the truth-telling and the resolution to find joy despite heartbreak make jazz always relevant and reverent---as religion should be?

April 17th: "Opening Up " (Rev. Michael)

Easter has come again and with it a call to open up to our (original) beauty and goodness. Awakening to possibility is the order of this day: as individuals, as a congregation and world community where love, truth, justice and compassion embrace and transform the hardest hearts. Why not?

April 24th: "The Monadnock Conservancy" (MOOP Sunday)

It's a MOOP Sunday, which means Rev. Michael is Out Of the Pulpit. However, that is no reason not to join us in our beautiful Sanctuary or via our YouTube livestream. Today, Ryan Owens from the Monadnock Conservancy joins us to talk about his extraordinary organization.



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;

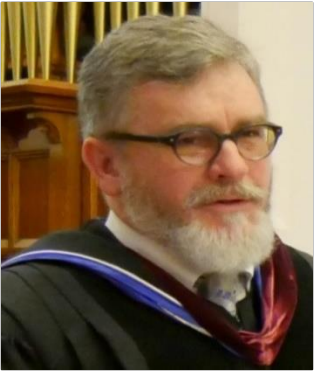
Words and deeds of prophetic people, which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;

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 APRIL 2022

“The thief left it behind:
the moon
at my window.”

— Ryokan

I love to think of this poem by the Zen poet Ryokan as it is both playful and profoundly wise. Written after an actual occurrence, when the poet came home to find his domicile being burgled, as you might expect, the brief poem has its symbolism. Yet I like to take it at face value.

So many are caught up in the world of possessions. They think only of attaining riches, or protecting them from loss or theft. Yet the awakened know that the best things are not for sale, nor can they be stolen. They are free to all, lost upon many.

Let April come with its simple gifts, and may we see them for what they are, enough.

Yours in Faithful Service,

Rev. Michael

Rev. Michael's Schedule & Office Hours for April 2022:

VISITATION DAYS: Wednesday mornings 9AM-noon & Thursday afternoons 1-5PM

REGULAR STUDY & PLANNING DAYS: Mondays

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays & Thursdays 10 AM-1 PM, or by appt. Call (508) 821-6092

OFF DAYS: Saturdays

WRITING DAY: Fridays

PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE: APRIL 2022

The Trustees have been discussing ways to increase the visibility and outreach of KUUC. One initiative is to celebrate our history and our journey in a way that informs the community of who we are and what we are doing. The celebration could be through events that welcome the larger community. It could also be sharing stories of our activities, past and present.

What we now know as Keene Unitarian Universalist Church began almost 200 years ago. Much has happened during those years. Much is happening today. We want to positively share our story and invite others to be part of us. There is a lot to celebrate.

To facilitate this celebration, your Minister and Trustees are seeking a volunteer to coordinate the effort; to collect stories and coordinate media thereby increasing our visibility. Some of the stories could be about upcoming events. Some stories could be about our history or herstory. The stories could be in church or public media. In short, we are hoping someone will come forward to help publicize KUUC in the community.

We have a story well worth sharing. Please contact me or Rev. Michael if you are interested in this opportunity to celebrate KUUC; 200 years, today, and tomorrow.

Carl Jacobs

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION (RE) NEWS

RE Indoors! Saturday, April 9, 1pm:

Blocks room open for 6 children kindergarten – 5th grade for an introductory (or re-introductory) open build experience. There will be conversation for parents/caregivers in the Alliance Room. Please note that due to pandemic considerations we are requiring RSVP, proof of vaccination, and masks. Contact Jill (kuucdre@gmail.com) or Deborah Dunnell to RSVP or for more information.

RE Outdoors Saturday, April 30, 10:30am:

Let's meet at Stonewall Farm and see what we'd like to do! Stonewall, 242 Chesterfield Rd in Keene has farm animals and trails. Our gathering is weather dependent, as always.

Our Whole Lives

OWL has ended. Six tween-teens have completed a pandemic-influenced course of the Our Whole Lives curriculum. Congratulations to the youth and thanks and appreciation to facilitators Bridge Noone and John Walter. We are planning an acknowledgement of their achievement later this spring.

Send me an email at kuucdre@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Jill



Welcome Spring! Welcome new opportunities to grow!

I had a wonderful vacation with my family and feel refreshed and renewed. Thank you to Betty Forrest, David Teubner and Carl Jacobs for the inspirational music you provided during the time I was gone.

Please be in touch with me if you would like to be a hymn leader, instrumentalist, or vocalist during one of our services.

Peace,
Donna

HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL 2022

Many of us UUs' have a deep connection with nature. We love being outdoors and feel nourished from the experience. In honor of Earth Day this month, let's take a look at some Keene Unitarians whose love of the outdoors has benefitted the entire city for many generations.

In 1886, our indomitable Mary Dinsmoor along with four others "drew up the by-laws and articles of association for the Rural Improvement Society." She and fellow church members George A. Wheelock and Caroline Ingersoll were the Society's most enthusiastic members according to Jim Smart's *The Keene Unitarian Universalist Church: its building and its people*. George Wheelock had been a long time member of the earlier Forest Tree Society. Their mission was to plant trees along Keene's byways and in Central Square.

When one looks at our wooded hillsides, it's difficult to imagine a landscape devoid of trees. But for over 150 years, trees had been used for construction, fuel, potash and cooking. The Great Sheep Boom from 1820-40 had cleared much of the land for agriculture. Founding members of the Rural Improvement Society saw the results and realized the need for protecting forestland. "The impending sale of sizable lots of good timberland prompted some concerned people to take action."

George Wheelock bought 25 acres of land in 1866 that bears his name. In 1896 and 1897, he bought two tracts totaling 100 acres above the reservoir on Beech Hill, our Robin Hood Park. Caroline Ingersoll bought a 17-acre tract of land across Park Avenue from Wheelock Park in 1887. She christened it Ladies Wildwood Park. And Dinsmoor Woods on Maple Avenue was created on 13 acres purchased by Miss Mary B. in 1923.

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Interest in land conservation has continued through the 20th century and into the 21st with the creation and expansion of City owned lands. Many current congregation members have served on the Keene Conservation Commission. They have help ensure that proper stewardship of natural resources continues in Keene.

---Eloise Clark



OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS, MEETINGS, EVENTS, OPPORTUNITIES, ETC.

CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE STUDY GROUP: APRIL 5th

Film Discussion

April 5, 2022 5:00 (In-person and remote)

“Parable” (Rolf Forsberg, 1964)

This month the UU Christian Scriptures Fellowship Group will be viewing and discussing the 1964 short film “Parable,” which premiered at the 1964 World’s Fair. All members and friends of KUUC are welcome to attend. Controversial at the time, depicting a clown character in a circus setting, it was denounced by Billy Graham and other conservative Christians, but was influential and an inspiration for the Jesus character in the musical Godspell that came later. The film was selected for preservation in the National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant." We are 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 open and inclusive, 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.

Our fellowship group meets the first Tuesday of every month from 5:00 – 6:30.

For information and Zoom meeting details,

contact Carol at 603-863-4920/ 603-398-5389 or cstamatakis@outlook.com.

RETURN OF THE RE BLOCK PROGRAM APRIL 9th

The Religious Exploration Committee is very excited to be able to announce that our popular Block Program is about to return. New families have joined us in the two years since our last class in the Block Room, so it's a good time for a re-introduction.

Ten years ago, with the encouragement and support of Rev. Michael, I combined my Unitarian roots with my training in progressive early childhood and elementary education to devise our Block Program. It integrates unit block-building with Religious Exploration. Currently this program is unique to KUUC; my hope is to bring it to the wider UU community in the near future.

You are probably familiar with unit blocks, the classic wooden blocks that have been around for more than 100 years and are usually found in pre-school and kindergarten classrooms. At KUUC, RE Block classes extend beyond the usual age of block-building; our children have enjoyed working with them up through the fourth and fifth grades. In the KUUC Block Program, children use blocks to explore a range of typical RE topics, such as making temples while they learn about Lunar New Year, or building the cities of Mecca, Medina, and Jerusalem as they learn about the lives of Mohammed and Jesus.

While they build, the children are experimenting with the basic math and science concepts that are inherent in the material itself. At the same time, and perhaps most importantly, our children put UU principles into action whenever they work with blocks. They are practicing everything we most want them to learn: to respect the work of others, and to collaborate, cooperate, negotiate, compromise, take turns, solve problems, and exercise their creativity. Lastly, the children love to build, and are filled with joy whenever they work in our Block Room.

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Our first Block session is on the schedule for April 9th, with some limitations because of Covid restrictions.

---Deborah Dunnell



“GREENING OUR FAITH COMMUNITIES” APRIL 9TH

Event Sponsored by NH Interfaith Power and Light:

"Greening our Faith Communities - Nut and Bolts" on April 9 will provide hands-on advice from experts and other congregations' experiences to help faith communities "walk the walk" about climate change by lowering the carbon footprint of our buildings and households.

Diverse faith communities from around New Hampshire will share their greening success stories (including financing, project management tips, solar projects and more). We will also have experts speaking on these topics:

- **Energy Audits and Carbon Footprints:** What are they, how to get them, and how to use their results.
- **Solar power:** Is it right for your building? What are the options? How to pay for it?
- **Energy Efficiency** through lighting upgrades, insulation, stopping infiltration, etc
- **Beyond Greening Our Buildings:** How to engage your faith community in greening our households.

Join us in person or on Zoom for this affordable conference!

For more info and to register, click [here](#).

KUUC Team Introductory Meet Up

Wednesday, April 20, 5 - 630pm

RSVP to Tom Julius, tjulius54@gmail.com for the Zoom link

Putting our Faith into Local Action

You may have heard about the Monadnock Interfaith Project (MIP) at a KUUC service or read about MIP in a newspaper article, or perhaps attended an MIP sponsored public event. Right now, MIP is leading a campaign for affordable housing in the Monadnock region that is moving the public conversation in positive, productive, and promising directions.

With People of Many Faith Traditions

MIP is a non-profit coalition of congregations, organizations, and individuals working together to foster interfaith community, understanding, and systemic change, making more good things happen in the Monadnock region. Coming together, we learn about other perspectives, build relationships across congregations, and create more unity throughout the community.

We are More Powerful Together

MIP is organizing congregational teams throughout the Monadnock Region. Drawing on our deep well of faith that calls us to justice, healing and loving our neighbor. Each team will coordinate their congregation's participation in MIP community organizing activities, trainings, and living out the faith call for justice.

Every Journey Begins with a Single Step

Let's meet and talk about putting our Unitarian Universalist faith into action.

Join us via Zoom for an introductory MIP/KUUC meet up, Wednesday, April 20, 5 - 630pm.

RSVP to Tom Julius, tjulius54@gmail.com for the Zoom link.



WILL THERE BE A NEW “MAY FLOWER”?

Deadline for New Fundraiser Booklet is April 17th

The “May Flower,” was a KUUC annual publication in our past that was often used to raise funds for worthy projects. 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 that could use our support, or a part of our own shared ministry that needs some love.

But the truth is, there will be no “May Flower” revival without many more submissions---thus far we have only three. **The deadline is now extended to Easter Sunday, April 17th.** Is there a better day for a revival?

Here are the parameters:

Submit, or have your child submit, no more than three entries from one or more of the abovementioned categories to Rev. Michael rev.michaelkuuci824@gmail.com and if we get enough entries sent in by Easter we will produce the long delayed “May Flower” in May! We can do this! You know we can.



GENERAL INFORMATION

MAY MESSENGER DEADLINE

The deadline for the MAY *Messenger* will be 5 P.M. on Saturday, April 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 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:** Vacant
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