

# The Messenger

May 2022 Volume 30 Issue 5

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 MAY 2022

[The Soul Matters monthly theme is "Nurturing Beauty." Ask Yourself: How do I cultivate beauty in my life? How does beauty enhance my spirituality and positively affect my life? Have I ever been hurt or misled by beauty in another that ran only skin deep? What beautiful places have I been to (or have always wanted to see)?]

**May 1<sup>st</sup>** "Beauty Before Me..." (The Worship Team)  
Let's celebrate beauty and make some of our own. Rev. Michael will talk about the connection between the impulse to create beauty, religious arts and spirituality. Perhaps some other artists will join us, you never know!

**May 8<sup>th</sup>** "Beauty and Awe" (Caro Barschow)  
In her poetry, Mary Oliver evokes the beauty and awe of the natural world without being sentimental. This service explores how her writing invites us into practices and perspectives to connect spiritually to the cycles of life.

**May 15<sup>th</sup>** "Dealing With the Shadows" (The Worship Team)  
May is Mental Health Awareness Month and though many of us, those we love, our friends and co-workers are dealing with mental health issues, often they are still doing so in the shadows. Today we will delve into the struggles and successes of people dealing with mental illness.

**May 22<sup>nd</sup>** "Some of my Best Friends Are...Beautiful" (The Worship Team)  
We are shaped by our experiences. The path we take in life brings us into places of woe and wonder, opens us up to turning points and tests of character and, best of all, hooks us up with people whose difference from us makes us stretch and grow. Today we celebrate our friends of different ethnicities, cultures, orientations and abilities.

**May 29<sup>th</sup>** "Meeting---with Our Quaker Friends"  
(Allison Randall & Bill Walker)  
Bill and Allison, members of the Keene Friends Meeting, visit to share with us, something about their faith and practices.



## 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: MAY 2022

“Time is too slow for those who wait, too swift for those who fear, too long for those who grieve, too short for those who rejoice, but for those who love, time is eternity.” ---Henry Van Dyke

The other day I was with my long-time love interest in a genuine diner on a blue highway in Vermont. We had gotten up at some ungodly hour so I could be on time for a test at Dartmouth Hitchcock, so by the time we found this diner, I was hungry and ready to break my fast. Now this place didn't look like much from the road. It was more like a cinder block ice cream stand than some gleaming, stainless steel, railroad car diner from the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, or a garishly lit, plate glass New York eatery. But really, all anyone in the know would have needed to see from the road was the combination of trucks from local businesses parked in the lot and the steady trickle of old folks walking into this place to know it was the real deal. But I'd been there before, and I knew, as unassuming as it looked, that Jill would like it just as much as I had.

The waitress greeted us like old friends and didn't make us wait for coffee. The food was just plain old ordinary---perfectly made and filling. We smiled at each other between forkfuls, laughed with the waitress and chatted up a boy who was being taken out for breakfast by his older sister. For a moment the waitress started to apologize that the bill was taking too long to process.

I said: “Don't worry. What's worth hurrying for?”

That question only makes sense when you have found something worth the wait.

Yours in Faithful Service,

*Rev. Michael*

### Rev. Michael's Schedule & Office Hours for May 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

## RE Calendar:

**RE Outdoors Saturday, May 21, 10am:** meet in the KUUC Sanctuary, then walk to Franklin School playground, just a few blocks up Washington Street. It's been a while since most of KUUC's kids have been in the Sanctuary, so we'll have a quick look around before spending some time in the sunshine (hopefully) at the newly refurbished Franklin School playground. Contact Jill with questions.

**Sunday, May 15, 4pm:** RE Committee meets via Zoom. All are welcome, please contact Jill for the link.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

My tenure as KUUC's DRE will end with this church & fiscal year on June 30. The Board and RE Committee are doing the necessary work to prepare for filling this role in the future. I am doing the necessary work to prepare the spaces and materials for others to easily pick up the work. But many have questions about what my role will be going forward

Professional standards for Religious Educator do not demand the same level of detachment required of ministers when ending congregational service. The code of conduct DOES require that every opportunity for success is afforded a new Religious Educator. What does that mean? It means that I will have no involvement in the Religious Education program for at least a year. I will not be sharing stories during worship, volunteering on the committee or to lead activities, offering my unsolicited opinion at coffee hour or on social media, or in any other way interfering with the new person and program. I will of course share my 'institutional memory' when asked, but only if asked, and only if asked by the new staff person. I won't offer even solicited opinions or advice to the Committee or Board.

I realize this may sound draconian, but when one thinks through all the pitfalls of a long-term (eight years is a long time) RE professional continuing to participate in the congregation they served AND add the complication of that former RE professional also being married to the congregation's minister, well, you can see why it is necessary to be strict about boundaries.

What WILL I do? I will attend worship. I will attend coffee hour. I will happily talk about tweens (I am a paraprofessional at Keene Middle School now, did you know?) and teens

(Sylvie can start DRIVING in August!) and knitting. I'll be an active friend of KUUC, just like I was for the two years before I was your DRE.

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

Jill



## MAY MUSIC MESSAGE 2022

This Spring feels different than other years. It might be because I moved into a new house and have much less outdoor yardwork than I've ever had!

I had many perennials gardens at my old house in which I spent many hours.

I was mourning the impending loss of these plantings, these cherished beauties, which represented special milestones and occasions throughout the 20+ years I lived there. There were plantings from my childhood home, my friends' gardens and gifts of shrubs and plants honoring people or as birthday gifts.

What I'm discovering is that my new house has beautiful plantings too! When I bought my new house, I didn't know about the flowers and plantings. To my surprise, my new house is full of beautiful gardens.

There is so much beauty in these Spring months- azalea, forsythia, tulips, hyacinth- I feel blessed to witness their beauty each year. This is what came to mind when thinking about the theme, "Nurturing Beauty" which we will explore this month. So many of our hymns throughout the years have been nurtured by our congregation and yet, it is always beautiful to find new music to share as well.

Peace,

Donna

Caroline Ingersoll was one of a trio of Unitarians who helped establish parks in Keene in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Caroline enlisted the financial help of seventy women and twenty-seven men to purchase land on Park Avenue that became Ladies Wildwood Park. Perhaps you've discovered the engraved boulders marking the park entrances? The ladies who donated supervised the park for the next twenty-five years, until it was turned over to the city.

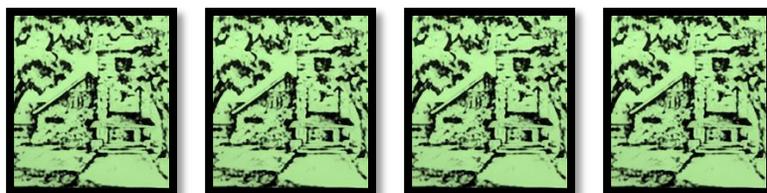
Born in 1827 in Burlington, Vermont, Caroline moved to her mother's hometown of Keene with her parents at age 22. She devoted much of her adult life to the church and good works in the community. In 1876 she very ably organized the festivities for the nation's Centennial Celebration in Keene. She was also one of the incorporators of the Ladies Charitable Society when it formed in 1882. Its major outreach was the Invalid's Home. Working with others, she devoted her time and treasure to this institution.

Caroline inherited a sizable estate from her parents when they died. At her death in 1893, she donated funds for the erection of a fountain in Central Square in memory of her brother Allen. She also donated the family's collectibles to the city. The city rotates them in its display cases on the ground floor entryway of City Hall. These include porcelain, pottery, silver, old coins, books, photographs, and elaborate fabrics.

Caroline left funds to the church, providing the seeds of the endowment. She also left \$500 for the erection of the Ingersoll plaque, located just inside the bell tower doors on the west wall of the sanctuary. A dark Celtic cross contrasts with the light-colored slab of polished Italian marble. Take a moment to study the intricate patterns embroidering the cross. A second slab is inscribed with words of dedication to her family. Caroline and her family are buried in the Washington Street cemetery, not far from the home of her beloved congregation.

Many more details of Caroline's life and her family can be found in Chapter 20, "Caroline Ingersoll and the Ingersoll Plaque" in Jim Smart's *The Keene Unitarian Universalist Church: the building and its people*

---Eloise Clark



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

### CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE STUDY GROUP: May 3<sup>rd</sup> Discussion

May 3, 2022 5:00 (In-person and remote)

Topic: “Son of Man”

This month the UU Christian Scriptures Fellowship Group will explore the Bible’s use of the term “son of man”. We’ll explore how the term was used in the Old Testament as compared with the New Testament. We’ll also explore whether Jesus used this term to describe himself as an “ordinary man” or in another way. 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](mailto:cstamatakis@outlook.com).

### MEET OUR WORSHIP LEADER:

Nashua Intern Caro Barschow to lead service entitled “Beauty & Awe” on May 8<sup>th</sup>

Caro Barschow (she/they pronouns) is the Ministerial Intern at UU Church of Nashua and a candidate for ordination with the Unitarian Universalist Association. Caro’s spiritual influences are broad, woven by the thread of a belief that awakened hearts bring forth healing and transformation to people, planet and systems. Caro finds belonging in the LGBTQ+ community, meaning in Buddhist meditation practice. Caro is a recent graduate of Boston University School of Theology. They love to cook, bicycle and dance.

## CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING:

### AFTER THE SERVICE ON MAY 15<sup>th</sup>:

On Sunday, May 15th we will hold our Annual Budget discussion shortly after the service. John Walter, our KUUC Treasurer will be on hand to present the budget, field any questions from members and friends and hear your reactions and input. We hope that you will be able to join us.

## THE MIDDLE EAST STUDY GROUP:

The Middle East Study Group will soon present to the Board of Trustees a request to hold a congregational meeting for KUUC members to vote on two statements:

- 1.) Do you agree that the UU 7 Principles apply to Palestine?
- 2.) Do you think that the Keene UU Church should say so in a letter to the Keene Sentinel?

What do you think about this issue and these questions?

Contact Jim Smart at [ejsmart@ne.rr.com](mailto:ejsmart@ne.rr.com).

## HIGHER GROUND WOMEN'S SUMMER WRITING GROUP:

What are your summer plans?

Writing Program offered at KUUC w/ Marie Dintino

Wednesday Evenings June 15-July 20<sup>th</sup> 6 PM - 8PM, Alliance Room

Climb to greater heights by joining this Women's Writing Group starting in June!

In this 6-week, in-person writing group, participants will examine and develop a practice of writing, get a lot of writing done, and connect with other creatives. Each week we'll discuss an approach to establishing a practice, those endorsed by writing teachers such as Julia Cameron, Natalie Goldberg, Anne Lamott, and Brenda Ueland. We'll also write for a good chunk of time, and share our writing. Participants will leave inspired and motivated, but most importantly: a writer who writes and will continue writing!

For pricing and more information, go to [highergrounddiscoveryours.com](http://highergrounddiscoveryours.com)

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### SUMMER (JUNE-JULY) MESSENGER DEADLINE

The **deadline** for the Summer (June -July) *Messenger* will be 5 P.M. on Monday, May 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 to Rev. Michael at [rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com](mailto:rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com) and Carina 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

<b>Sunday Services:</b>	10:00 A.M.	<b>Minister:</b>	Rev. Michael Hall
<b>Religious Exploration:</b>	10:00 A.M.		<a href="mailto:rev.michaelkuuci824@gmail.com">rev.michaelkuuci824@gmail.com</a>
September-June			(508) 821-6092
<b>Summer Services</b>	10:00 A.M.	<b>Director, Religious Exploration:</b>	Jill M. Hall
<b>Address:</b> 69 Washington Street Keene, NH 03431			<a href="mailto:kuucdre@gmail.com">kuucdre@gmail.com</a>
<b>Phone:</b> (603) 352-1719		<b>Music Director:</b>	Donna Dearth
<b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:office@kuuc.org">office@kuuc.org</a>			<a href="mailto:rdearth@hotmail.com">rdearth@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.kuuc.org">www.kuuc.org</a>		<b>Office Manager:</b>	Vacant
<b>Facebook:</b> Keene Unitarian Universalist Church@KeeneUU			<a href="mailto:office@kuuc.org">mailto:office@kuuc.org</a> 352-1719

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