

The Messenger

June-July 2022 Volume 30 Issue 6

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 JUNE 2022

[The Soul Matters monthly theme is "Celebrating Blessings." Ask yourself: What do I count as blessings in my life? Is the idea of being blessed something that resonates with me? If not, what do I use instead of blessedness: fortune? providence? Synchronicity? What do you do to celebrate the blessings of/in your life?]

June 5th "You Are Talking my Language" (The Worship Team)
The Pentecost story is one that is central to the faith lives of many of our Christian neighbors, and yet it may not be as widely known to those UUs that don't come from a Christian background. Today we will explore this miracle story and see how it might speak to us.

June 12th "Is the Problem Democracy?" (The Worship Team)
What happened to our democratic processes and institutions to make them appear so stagnant, sick and weak of late? Can it really as bad as it seems, when democracy has so often seemed such a blessing in the world?

Join us after the service for Annual Meeting

June 19th "Flowers, Funerals & Farewells" (The Worship Team)
It is our tradition at KUUC to end the so-called "church year" services by taking part in the Flower Communion ritual, which we certainly will do---so bring along a flower or two. We will also celebrate the blessing that is our community even while we mourn the lives lost and hopes dashed to gun violence and militarism in our world.

Join us after the service for Sundae Sunday

June 26th "Let's Start a New Conversation" (Rev. Michael)
As we begin the summer season, get ready for vacation and time away, it is also a great time to reflect upon where we are hoping to go as a church in the new year. Join Reverend Michael as we reflect on the year now coming to an end and discuss our hopes, dreams and aspirations for the year before us.

See full schedule of Summer Services elsewhere in this Messenger



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: June-July 2022

“A good completion takes a long time; a bad completion cannot be changed later.”

— Zhuangzi, The Complete Works of Chuang Tzu

I want to celebrate with you the passing of this church year; the programs and offerings that we have created together, were each a portal to a closer connection, a pathway to a better understanding of who we are, what we believe and where we hope to go next.

I want to celebrate with you the new friends that we have made, the interfaith partnerships that we have strengthened, the dear ones that we have lost, those who have served us well and those stepping up to greater service.

I want to celebrate with you the blessing of our people and our perseverance, our commitments, creativity and the deep regard that we have for both our history and continuity.

This is not the end of our common business. For some, the summer means rest and time away: at the beach, in the garden on road, but the mission of this congregation never stops. However, you invest in summer, whether attending summer service and in service to the world, or tending to your spirit, studying, traveling and nourishing relationships beyond the Elm City, be certain---we all will be better for it.

So, whether it is at a summer service, or at a committee retreat, on the patio at Piazza's or in grandstand at a Swamp Bats game, I'll see you around.

(But let's not stand on ceremony---I'm there if you need me. Just give me a call.)

Yours in Faithful Service,

Rev. Michael

Rev. Michael's Schedule & Office Hours through June 26, 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

JUNE 27th - JULY 1st: Study Time

JULY 3rd - JULY 8th: Vacation

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION (RE) NEWS

Most of RE this month will be me sorting, cleaning, inventorying, and otherwise leaving the program as shipshape as I can manage.

The Annual Meeting of KUUC will be held after worship on June 12. Please make plans to attend. The democratic process is a venerated part of Unitarian Universalist church polity, and the use of it is even codified in the UU 7 Principles. Come participate in the process or, if you are not (or not yet) a voting member of the congregation, observe. The act of participation strengthens the institution, and, bless it, democracy could use some strengthening right now.

Sunday, June 19: Flower Communion, another venerated UU tradition, will be part of the service. (Never been to a Flower Communion? Bring a flower to church with you, if you are coming in person. If you are watching from home, have one nearby if you can.)

After the service, it's **Sundae Sunday!** Yet *another* beloved tradition at KUUC, which has been on hiatus for a few years. Yes, it means ice cream. With toppings! This will be my last Sunday as your DRE, although I'll keep cleaning and organizing through the end of June.

I hope to see you at one or more of these events, but whether we meet in person or not, I wish you the very best of what summer in New England has to offer.

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

Jill

SUMMER MUSIC MESSAGE 2022

“Celebrating Blessings”

This month's theme, “Celebrating Blessings” is really resonating with me. My oldest daughter Amy is getting married on Memorial Day weekend to the love of her life, Steve. We have relatives coming from California, Virginia, Texas, and Florida as well local friends and relatives for their 3-day celebration. There will be so many blessed moments spent with loved ones that we haven't seen in years.

I hope you all have a restful, relaxing summer!

Peace,

Donna

The Edwards plaque is the only plaque located on the south wall of the sanctuary.

It commemorates Thomas McKey Edwards and his wife Mary Hart Fiske. According to Jim Smart's *The Keene Unitarian Universalist Church: the building and its people*, the couple contributed to the community with "great public spirit."

Thomas Edwards had quite a distinguished career. After graduating from Dartmouth he practiced law in Keene for about thirty years. He also served as Keene's postmaster for another dozen. He was elected to the New Hampshire legislature for eight years and served four year in the U. S. Congress (1859-63).

In 1840, Edwards married Mary Hart Fiske. Mary was one of the charter members of the Ladies Charitable Society which had "for its object and purposes the relieving of the wants of the poor of the city." (Page 146) She served as vice president of the Society from 1877 to 1887. She also banded together with others to form the Rural Improvement Society, whose aim was to protect Keene's forested land. Mary also bore seven children, five daughters and two sons.

Their fifth child, Mary Fiske Elliot petitioned the church to have a memorial tablet placed in the church in honor of her parents and deceased siblings. She and her sister Isabel Sherwin knew of a young Keene native by the name of Barry Faulkner through church connections. His Harvard roommate Homer was the son of Augustus Saint-Gaudens, renowned sculptor. Barry spent the summer of 1900 at the Cornish estate of the Saint-Gaudens family. Presumably he tried his hand at sculpting for he accepted the commission to create the Edwards bas-relief plaque from white Danbury (VT) marble in 1906.

Apparently sculpting didn't suit him. The Edwards plaque may be the only public display of a sculpture by Barry Faulkner. In 1907 he received a fellowship to study at the American Academy in Rome. In 1910 he returned from Italy and began his career as a muralist.

Barry Faulkner went on to become the most noted American muralist of the Twentieth Century. His murals decorate homes and public buildings in Europe, Canada and the U.S. They include the Bushnell Auditorium in Hartford, CT (1931), RCA Building Rockefeller Center, NYC (1932), the National Archives Building (1934-36), the Oregon State capitol (1937-38), the Senate Chamber at the Statehouse in Concord (1942), the John Hancock Building (1949) and many more.

Several murals are visible here in Keene. *Central Square* (1938-48) is in the entry of the old Elliot Community Hospital building on the Keene State Campus. The mural *Men of*

Monadnock (1950) is in the current Bank of America building on Central Square. Two are at the Historical Society Cheshire County, including his last mural *Advent of the Railroad* (1955). And of course, there's the Wall Dogs mural commemorating Barry Faulkner on the corner of Church and Main Streets, the site of the original Unitarian Church.

Thanks to *Barry Faulkner and the Art of the Muralist* by Alan Rumrill and our own Carl B. Jacobs for pertinent information.

---Eloise Clark



OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS, MEETINGS, EVENTS, OPPORTUNITIES, ETC.

SUMMER 2022 WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

June 26 th	"Let's Start a New Conversation"	(Rev. Michael)
July 3 rd	"Socrates and That Stuff"	(Jim Smart)
July 10 th	"Monadnock Peer Support"	(Melissa Callendar)
July 17 th	"Housing and Connection to Transportation"	(J.B. Mack, SW Comm. Servs.)
July 24 th	"RISE"	(Alicia Deavor)
July 31 st	"MoCo"	(Danielle Fitzpatrick)
August 7 th	"The Mindfulness Center"	(Ginnie Girvin)
August 14 th	"Something Dynamite From Our Own..."	(David Teubner)
August 21 st	"About Islam"	(Mohammad Saleh)
August 28 th	"To Be Determined"	(Someone Really Good)
September 4 th	"Perhaps a Pot Luck Communion"	(Carl Jacobs)

UU CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE FELLOWSHIP GROUP:

“Anointed by a Woman”

June 7, 2022 5:00 PM

(July 5th – topic to be announced)

In-Person and ZOOM Meeting Options

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 June our theme will be “Anointed by a Woman.” All four gospels present an account of Jesus being “anointed” by a woman with a costly jar of perfume, yet the stories take place at different points in time and differ in many details. We will compare and contrast the stories and the messages they convey.

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 principle that affirms “a free and responsible search for truth and meaning” and is 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.

ANNUAL MEETING: Shortly After the Service on June 12th

More information about the KUUC Annual Meeting will be heading your way on June 2nd. Any questions should be answered in the packet that will include the Annual Report, the proposed Budget for FY ’23 and the warrant.

FLOWER COMMUNION: Sunday, June 19th

Don’t forget to bring a flower or two with you on June 19th when we will celebrate the “Flower Communion” ceremony in person, for the first time in three years. For those who have never taken part in the ritual before, prior to the service, each of us brings a flower (or more) to put into the water vases on the chancel table. Later on, during the service you will be called up to the table, row by row, to choose a different flower to take back home with you. The flower that you bring needn’t be from a florist, though it certainly can be, but it could just as well be from your garden, a flower bush or woodland trail. That is part of the fun and much of the ceremony’s beauty. See ya then!

SUNDAE SUNDAY IS BACK!!!: After the Service on June 19th

Come one and all to Sundae Sunday on Sunday June 19th!! After the service we will have ice cream to scoop and some of the toppings---but why not bring your favorite Sundae toppings to share. This once annual ritual will happen rain or shine---if it is sunny warm we can eat them outside. If its raining or cooler then I am assured that the building is large enough to spread out in and have ample distance between us as we to eat ice cream and chat among friends.

HIGHER GROUND WOMEN'S SUMMER WRITING GROUP:

Group will now be meeting Online only.

Due to Covid concerns raised by all those wishing to participate, this group will meet only online. For pricing and more information, go to highergrounddiscoveryours.com

GENERAL INFORMATION

AUGUST MESSENGER DEADLINE

The deadline for the August *Messenger* will be 5 P.M. on Saturday, July 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 to Rev. Michael at rev.michaelkuuci824@gmail.com and Carina at office@kuuc.org.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Take a look at the next page, which lists our committee and other program groups. Notice how many committees are without chair people which really means that they aren't operating at all. I can tell you that several committees don't have enough folks to properly function and a couple handfuls of people are doing all the work needed to make the church go. But that's not really fair, is it? It is not fair to them because they may feel stuck, like if they don't do it, no one will and another important area in of our mission, programs or facilities might start to falter. It is also not fair to you. Perhaps you want to get involved but aren't sure how to get started, or don't want to seem pushy or just

haven't been asked. You've got talent. You've got ideas. You can help! So don't wait to be asked. We'll make room for you. Be certain of it.

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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

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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
Music Director: Donna Dearth
Phone: (603) 352-1719 rdearth@hotmail.com
E-mail: office@kuuc.org
Office Manager: Carina Guillermo
Website: www.kuuc.org mailto:office@kuuc.org 352-1719
Facebook: Keene Unitarian Universalist Church@KeeneUU

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2021-2022

Carl Jacobs, President	831-1409	Eloise Clark	352-9182
carljac21@gmail.com		clarktreat@myfairpoint.net	
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Jim Peale, President-Past	357-7875	David Robinson	355-7812
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