

The Messenger



September 2022 Volume 30 Issue 8

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.

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WORSHIP CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 2022

[Our Souls Matters Theme of the month is "Belonging." Rather than five questions this year I will ask you just one: What did COVID teach you about belonging? Use this or come up with others to discuss with your family, friends or work partners.]

September 4th "Thinking About Labor" (Carl Jacobs)
The morning after what will undoubtedly be a very successful Outdoor Work Day (see below), Carl Jacobs returns to church---this time to the Sanctuary---to lead our Labor Day Sunday worship. The service will celebrate the spiritual practice of work; Carl will also have an old friend on hand to help out with the music---I wonder who!

September 11th "Home Again" (Rev. Michael)
It is Ingathering Sunday and you know what that means? Well, a lot, especially this year when more people are coming back to this spiritual home or are looking around to find one. This multi-generational service will include the beloved Water "Communion" ritual so bring water from a special source, bring a dish for the picnic after service and bring a friend you want to celebrate with---whether old or new! [more on Water Communion & the Picnic below] **Time for All Ages, Choir**

September 18th "What's Wrong With Me?" (Rev. Michael)
Sometimes we feel alone and left out in the middle of a crowd, and sometimes we are deliberately being left out. Is there a difference, and what difference does that difference make. **Time for All Ages, Joys & Concerns**

September 25th "All for One and One For All" (Rev. Michael)
Summer is over and so begins the slide toward the new year. If you think the warm months flew by just watch; we are not good with time. Today Rev. Michael will talk about Universalism, biodiversity and the end of days (don't worry, he's got this). **Time for All Ages, Choir**

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: September 2022



“The secret of living well is not having all the answers but in pursuing unanswerable questions in good company.”

---Rachel Naomi Remen

So here we are, another September, with another summer, however closely it lived up to our expectations: for surprise, adventure or just time to rest, or putter around in the garage or garden---soon to be put behind us. Summer is always passing by too fast, but hopefully it gave us all our fair share of shells and shakes friends, fresh air and solitude.

The most important aspect to summer enjoyment is usually the company we have kept and the rituals we shared with people that we care about. Were we able to help a buddy ready their boat for the new season? Did we barbeque at the cottage by the lake with both our parents and kids? Did we watch the fireworks at the Esplanade with our college buddies, or walk along Ferry Beach with our besties? Summer for me is partly about dusting my family on the mini-golf course---something we somehow never got to last summer---and time is running out for it to happen again this year.

I have had a great summer, as I hope you have had as well.

But I am also looking forward to a fantastic beginning of the new “church year,” as I hope that you are. September at KUUC has rituals too, some planned, such as Ingathering and the annual Water “Communion,” and others unplanned, such as the joyous return of those who were away during the summer---or perhaps even longer---and the remembrances of people who live on only in our memories of them. As I said last Sunday:

“Church is many things: a haven, a consolation, a community, a gathering of like-hearted (why do we always say like-minded anyway?) friends; it is a learning center and source of wisdom. A congregation such as ours is a place where we might reacquaint ourselves with who we are and what we want, where we might grow and change. Unitarian Universalist communities such as ours, help us to sharpen our focus, to remember what is most important to us right now, to surprise us with a new sense of purpose, to something that we feel called to do.”

I hope that you all know you that you belong at KUUC, that, as much as anywhere else your people are here. As you an imagine, there is much to be done---great works and small tasks too. KUUC is a place where you can feel at ease, be who you are and yet be challenged to acknowledge and, (to paraphrase Rachel Naomi Remen), explore “the unanswerable questions in good company.”

As that wonderful hymn reminds us: “You can change the world with your Love.” But I think you know that changing the world is also best done in good company.

Yours in Faithful Service,

Rev. Michael

Rev. Michael's Schedule & Office Hours September 2022:

OFF DAY: Saturday

WRITING DAY: Fridays

STUDY & PLANNING DAY: Mondays (I am not always at the office during study and planning time, so call for an appointment if you need to meet on a Monday).

VACATION: As my plan for the week of August 21st -27th didn't work out I will be rescheduling them over the coming months

OFFICE HOURS: Thursdays 9AM-1 PM & by appointment. Though I am in the office at some point most days.

VISITATION: Thursdays 1-5 PM and on other days as time allows or need arises.

[Call me at (508)821-6092 to schedule a meeting, visit or office appointment]

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – September

As the summer is coming all too quickly to an end, I am excited (and perhaps a little daunted) by the many things that are coming with September. Schools (including mine) will be starting up and soon students will be bustling in buildings, playgrounds and campuses. The seasons will start to change and soon we will be bundling in jackets and sweaters. Things at KUUC are starting to bustle too. For those of you who are available, please join us for one of our several annual church clean-up days on Saturday, September 3rd. These clean-up days are always a fun gathering of people and it makes such a difference to the beauty of our church. The KUUC Choir is (AT

LAST!) regrouping after 2 long years, and I can't wait to hear live choral music again in our sanctuary. We are getting ready for our first service of the new church year on September 11th and I am looking forward to seeing more friends and members in the church as to new year starts. We have so much catching up to do!

With many thanks -
Susie Ericson-West

MUSIC MESSENGER

September 2022

Great news!! The choir will be returning this Fall!

We will begin rehearsals on 9/8 and will meet every week thereafter on Thursday nights. The choir will usually sing on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. All are welcome to join in- please see me with any questions.

I want to thank Jane Stave Viemeister for playing some of the summer services. It was wonderful to hear your compositions and listen to your many styles of piano music. Thanks Jane!

Peace,
Donna

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION (RE) NEWS

RE OUTDOORS TO RETURN SEPTEMBER 24 at the KEENE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL!

One of the best ideas from COVID times, (that Jill began but I hope will continue), is RE Outdoors. As one KUUC mom recently put it, "that was how my family first got to learn about the church, and get to know people when my kids were too young to attend services [due to the lack of approved vaccinations for young children].

So, why don't we make a plan to meet at the church at 11 A.M. on Saturday, September 24th and walk up together to Fuller Park and enjoy the Keene International Festival as a group. The fest itself lasts from 11 A.M.-3 P.M. so let's plan to attend as group from 11-1 and individual families can choose to stay longer if they wish. Contact Rev. Michael rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

DRE SEARCH:

Our plans for the DRE search have needed to be adjusted due to summer and other unforeseen things. As reported last month, Rev. Michael is now placing ads in various publications, Facebook groups and e-lists to prepare for interviews that will be held in September & October [or last until we find the right candidate for the position, given what we have to offer]. It is our hope to have a candidate in place and ready to begin training by mid-October, so that they can begin taken on their full responsibilities in November. If you know of anyone that would make a good DRE, or if you were interested in the position itself, (the DRE is the only staff position that is open to current church members), please contact Rev. Michael (508) 821-6092 or rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com.



OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS, MEETINGS, EVENTS, OPPORTUNITIES, ETC.

OUTDOOR WORK DAY: SATURDAY, SEPT. 3 @ 9:00 A.M.

On Saturday, September 3rd of the Labor Day weekend beginning at 9:00am, we will have an outdoor work day at KUUC. We intend to make the water diversion at the Parish Hall permanent, hang the rainbow flag, and clear weeds from our foundation plantings. This important activity will also celebrate the dignity and spirituality of manual labor in our community. There will also be pizza later in the morning.

UUU CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE FELLOWSHIP GROUP

To Meet on Sept. 6 @ 5 P.M. Topic: "The Right Time"

This group, which offers the opportunity to explore spirituality in a small group setting, is open to any member or friend of KUUC or member of the community who is respectful of diverse views. We usually meet the first Tuesday of every month, and explore a different theme each month, focusing on Bible passages and other inspirational readings.

Our next meeting is this Tuesday, September 6 at 5:00 PM and the topic will be “The Right Time.”

We are meeting in person in the Alliance Room with the option to participate via ZOOM. For more information contact Carol at 603-398-5389 or cstamatakis@outlook.com.

OFFICE MANAGER OPENING

As you probably know, we also have an opening for a new Office Manager, which we will be trying to fill early in September and hope will start no later than end of the month. Look for our ad in the Monadnock Shopper and on our Facebook and website.

Please spread the word. The Office manager is a part job (10 hours/week) with a competitive hourly rate; it's perfect for someone with database and calendaring experience as a second job or way to ease into retirement. If you know of a candidate, have them contact Rev. Michael (508)821-6092 or rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com.

KUUC INGATHERING PICNIC: AFTER THE SEPT. 11th SERVICE

Please join us on the lawn after our Ingathering Service for a KUUC community picnic! Bring a favorite potluck dish or dessert and we will provide the (cold) drinks. What a joy it will be to be together on lawn again enjoying a meal, breaking bread and swapping stories about our respective summers. Of course: 1.) It isn't any old summer so please use own discretion about masking, spacing and sharing food---its OK to bring your own packed lunch if you prefer. 2.) As the weather doesn't always bend to our every whim, if there is rain, we will simply spread out in the parish hall and other public spaces and simply picnic indoors. Any one who feels the spirit can volunteer to coordinate things, help set-up or even provide music. Otherwise, it will be as it should be even if it isn't perfect---how many times these past few years have you wanted to share a meal with friends and have a laugh? That time is now!

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A HUGE THANK YOU

Hasn't it been an amazing season for summer worship this year? I want to express my awe and deep gratitude to all the people who helped make summer worship at KUUC a “can't miss” series of events in 2022.

First, to those who helped me with brainstorming ideas for the presenters we might invite to speak to us: including Gwyn Powers, Deb McLay, Lindsay Bartlett, David Teubner and Tina Stevens---it made planning the lineup so much easier---thank you!

To our amazing presenters from outside groups: Angela Pape & our own Tom Julius from MIP, Melissa Calendar from Monadnock Peer Support, J.B. Mack from the Southwest Region Planning Commission, Alicia Deavor from Rise for Baby and Family, Danielle Fitzpatrick from MoCo, Aylene Wozmak from the Monadnock Mindfulness Practice Center---all I can say is wow! Thank you for reminding me (us) about all the great organizations that are out there in this region helping people reach their full potential, supporting them as they regain their true identity and reconcile with those that they love, that fight for the basic needs of people in the margins---that make embracing humanity their very business.

To our good neighbor and great friend Muhammad Selah who shared with us his understanding of his own religion: Islam, and told us how he practices and tries to live it. Thank you, Muhammad for sharing your faithful journey with us, as we share ours with you.

A huge thank you to three of our own KUUCers who led (or in the case of Carl will lead) amazing services this summer: Carl Jacobs who will close out summer services this Sunday with his service "Thinking About Labor," David Teubner who shared his evolving spiritual journey in the wonderful and aptly named service "Religion *a la carte*," and Jim Smart who, despite his academic credentials and decades-long service to KUUC, was willing to take what he must have known was likely to be a sparsely attended early summer slot (July 3rd) to help out. He did it as so many of you do, because sometimes that's just what you have to do to help out your congregation. I know that all who were at the service, and those who watched the stream of it, learned a lot more about "Socrates and That Stuff," than they probably knew before the service. So, thank you Dr. Smart.

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I imagine that everyone who led a service, especially those who did so for the very first time, learned something that I have long known, because I see it every Sunday: It takes a slew of people to make great worship happen. It takes people like David T. running the stream, and others such as Tina & Lindsay filling in to allow David to have a summer break or two. It takes people to read, liaise, welcome newcomers, (from the pulpit, yes, but even more so from the pews) ---and no one does that like Deb McLay.

It takes people to open the doors, ring the bell and hand out orders of service (thank you Tom Haynes, John Walter & Matt Aversa) and to light that chalice.

Then someone, out of the blue, and out of their love for what we have going on KUUC steps up and says: “you know I play piano...and would be willing to fill in during the summer if you would like.” Say what? OK!! What a joy and blessing Jane Stave Viemeister has been, adding so much passion to her obvious talent at the keys, often on her own delightful compositions.

I know that I haven't thanked each person who helped make the summer services what they were, but I hope that you heard and accepted my thanks at the service in which you participated. Thank you all!

---Rev. Michael

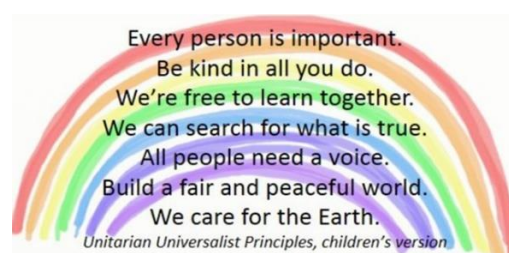
SLICE OF FELLOWSHIP: TO RETURN FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7TH

Slice of fellowship is a monthly potluck dinner open to all members and friends of KUUC and is held on the first Friday of the month during the church year in the parish hall---this year “Slice” will begin on Friday, October 7th. Wine and cheese are at 5:30 followed by dinner at 6:00. The host will suggest a theme for the meal. You are asked to bring a veggie, main dish or dessert. Please bring your own dishes, flatware and napkins.

Call Betty Forrest 357-1534 or email mandbforrest@myfairpoint.net with any questions.

SENIOR LUNCH BUNCH TO RETURN IN OCTOBER

Senior Lunch Bunch is a monthly potluck luncheon open to all senior members and friends of KUUC, an opportunity to meet and socialize with peers. **We meet on the 3rd Wednesday at Noon, October through May in the parish hall.** Please bring your own dishes, flatware and napkins. Call Betty Forrest at 357-1534, or email mandbforrest@myfairpoint.net with questions.



GENERAL INFORMATION

OCTOBER MESSENGER DEADLINE

The deadline for the October Messenger will be 5 P.M. on Friday, September 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.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com.

COMMITTEE CONTACTS:

Circle of Caring:	Betsy Zimmerli & Betty Forrest
Covenant Groups:	Open
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:	Lindsay Bartlett & Deb McLay
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:** Open
Address: 69 Washington Street kuucdre@gmail.com
Keene, NH 03431
Phone: (603) 352-1719 **Music Director:** Donna Dearth
rdearth@hotmail.com
E-mail: office@kuuc.org **Office Manager:** Open Position
Website: www.kuuc.org office@kuuc.org 352-1719
Facebook: Keene Unitarian Universalist
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