

The Messenger



November 2022 Volume 30 Issue 10

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 and via live-stream on our YouTube channel.

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WORSHIP CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 2022

[Although the Soul Matters theme of the month is "Change," I have decided to focus on another adjacent word instead: Resilience. You are invited to explore either in your daily meditations, in conversation with friends, at the checkout line at the supermarket. Goodness knows both are necessary and are more effectively employed in partnership with others.]

November 6th: "Happy Resilience" (Rev. Michael)

These are fearful times marked by division, political violence and the looming threat that our democracy institutions may not be able to withstand the pressure they are under. In order to right the ship we will need resilience, courage, real change and good humor. Say what? Join us and see. **Today we will share Joys & Concerns with each other.**

November 13th: "You Want to Know About Resilience? Just Ask Me." (Rev. Michael)

Each generation of children and teenagers faces challenges due to shifting ideas about parenting, general societal changes, sexuality---even musical choices and fashion fads. Today, our minister makes the case for his generation's capacity for resilience. **Today the KUUC Choir joins us.**

November 20th: "Lost & Found" (Rev. Michael)

We have been through an awful lot in the past 4-5 years---and plenty of it has been *just* awful. What do we do with it? How do we process it? Perhaps throw it in the attic? We'll just have to figure it out together. **The KUUC joins us once again**

November 27th: "TBA" (MOOP)

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;

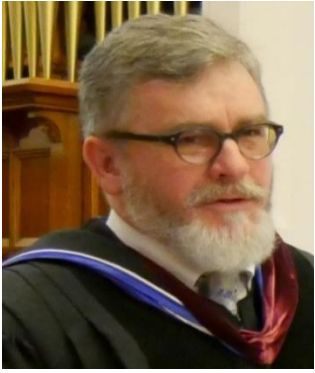
Wisdom from the world's religions, which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;

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: November 2022



“Be grateful in your own hearts. That suffices. Thanksgiving has wings, and flies to its right destination.”

— Victor Hugo.”

I’ll be short and sweet. Thank you! Thanks to every one of you who sent me cards and emails, wishing me every success in my treatment and recovery from this cancer. It means so much. You will never know how much (I hope), all these kind words of advice and encouragement have meant. Sometimes how strong you have said that I am has reminded me that I have any strength at all.

Thank you as well, those who have offered prayers, lit candles, send positive energy and “good ju-ju” to me. I am especially grateful to those for whom I may not be their cup of tea---yet they were clear that they’d prefer I get to steep a little longer nonetheless.

I talked about this diagnosis in the first place because I didn’t want to hide from it or hide it from you. I mentioned it because I think church is a place where we should be able to talk about things that matter (if we wish). I did it because I try to be honest and because I don’t want to be afraid. I want to walk through all of it, knowing many good people (and providers) have my back. I want to stay thankful for many more years to come.

Yours in Faithful Service,

Rev. Michael

REV. MICHAEL’S SCHEDULE & OFFICE HOURS NOVEMBER 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).

TIME OFF: Thursday, November 24-Sunday, November 27th

OFFICE HOURS: Thursdays 9AM-1 PM & by appointment.

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 appointment]

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE — November

The Soul Matters theme for November is Change, and it seems particularly appropriate for this time of year. The seasons are changing, our wardrobes are changing, and I've even changed jobs!

The Board of Trustees are working with many church committees to make sure that KUUC is strong, vibrant, and ready to celebrate our 200th anniversary in 2024. Some of this work will rely on your input and participation and I encourage you to share your thoughts and ideas as requests are made in the coming months.

As one of our principles is "The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregation and in society at large", I hope you will make the time to do both (this is my not-so-subtle way of asking you all to VOTE on November 8th!).

When we work together, we can make change happen!

With many thanks –

Susie Ericson-West

MUSIC MESSENGER

NOVEMBER 2022

Happy Fall!

This month, the choir will be singing on 11/13 and 11/20 for our Thanksgiving service. Continued thanks go to Jane Stave-Viemeister for playing some preludes in October and also playing for one of our choral pieces.

It's been so wonderful working with the choir and we always welcome new members. Please let me know if you would like to join in the fun!

Peace,

Donna

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION (RE) NEWS

Hello from RE

Welcome to November! These past weeks have flown by, and it only gets crazier from here. I want to let you all know that we're working hard on opening RE. We have plans to begin offering monthly in person gatherings during Sunday service as well as continuing our outdoor meetups. I'm filled with gratitude and excitement as we get closer and closer to welcoming your children back into the classroom and cultivating the connection we've all been missing so much. I'll be reaching out by email to [P. 4](#)

families whose contact information we have, if you need to update that information or just want to say hi :) please email me at KUUCREC@gmail.com.



Mallory

UUA ANNUAL PROGRAM FUND DRIVE UPDATE

Thanks to everyone who has already contributed to this year's UUA annual program fund drive. The total amount of money raised by KUUC as of Oct 26 is \$4400, still well short of the \$6618 that was raised last year, although donations are still coming in. Based on our annual budget, we are supposed to be contributing \$12,734 (approximately \$95 per member) to the UUA. If you have not already done so, and have the means to do so, please contribute as generously as you can, be it by mail, the collection basket at worship services, or by the Donate button at KUUC.org. Please be sure to put UUA APF (for annual program fund) in the memo or in the special directions prompt.

MESSSENGER NOVEMBER 2022 – COMMITTEE OF MINISTRY

Greetings from the Committee of Ministry!

Our role is to support KUUC's values of Community, Commitment and Compassion. The committee meets monthly providing counsel through an honest and mutual exchange on topics of relevance to the ministry.

One of the committee's responsibilities is to gather insights from the congregation about KUUC's shared ministry. Shared Ministry can be described as the many changing ways by which our congregation, minister, friends, and staff support one another as we carry out the church's mission.

In January, the Committee of the Ministry will be scheduling focus groups and distributing surveys to hear your thoughts about how we all minister to one another as members of the KUUC community. Stay tuned for coming announcements!

Committee of Ministry Members

Mickey Cronin

Rev. Michael Hall

Tom Julius

Carol Stamatakis

MISSING: PLEASE HELP US FIND THIS EQUIPMENT

Digital recording thermometers were purchased three or four years ago to evaluate the heating system in an effort to minimize fuel consumption. One was placed on the thermostat in the sanctuary and one was placed outdoors on the West side of the parish hall in the right corner of the first or second windowsill. A picture of the front and back of the instrument is attached. now for the second time, the outside instrument has gone missing. A digital recording thermometer as shown below is missing from the outside of the parish hall. Anyone seeing or having information please call Jim Butterfield at 603-903-0000. Thank you.



OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS, MEETINGS, EVENTS, OPPORTUNITIES, ETC.

UU CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE FELLOWSHIP GROUP

“Remembering the Dead”

Tuesday, November 1, 2022 5:00 PM

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. **P. 6**

This group is for anyone who would like to explore timeless themes in the Bible and share their experiences, feelings and insights in a supportive small group 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.

SLICE OF FELLOWSHIP – November 4th

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. Wine and cheese are at 5:30 pm followed by dinner at 6:00. This month's theme is "Italian Festa" hosted by Carolyn Allen and Suzanne Morin. You are asked to bring a veggie, main dish or dessert to share. Please bring your own dishes, flatware and napkins. (Wine glasses and coffee mugs are supplied.) Call Betty Forrest 603- 357-1534 or email mandbforrest@myfairpoint.net with any questions.

CHURCH LEAF RAKING PARTY

P. 7 Join us November 5 at 9:00am to rake leaves to the curb.

They will be collected by the City the following week. This is done to keep the leaves out of storm drains.

We will also tidy up gardens for winter.

Bring appropriate outdoor work clothes, rakes, and tarps. Pizza will be provided.

LUNCH BUNCH – November 16

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. (Coffee Mugs and glasses provided.) Call Betty Forrest at 357-1534, or email mandbforrest@myfairpoint.net with questions.

“GREENS” GREENS SALE 2022

In the past, The Greens Sale was our Church's Holiday/ Christmas Church Fair. This year we are offering an On-line ordering "Greens" Greens Sale. For sale we will have Berry Bowls, plain and decorated Wreaths and Kissing Balls. We are looking for Volunteers, no experience is necessary, to help:

- Assemble Berry Bowls, Nov. 5, 10:00 am-1pm
- cover Berry Bowls, Nov.27, 11:30-1:30 -
- Decorate wreaths = Mon., Nov.28, 6-9 pm, Tues, Nov.29 10-12 Wed. Nov 30 3-5pm

Ordering Wreaths, Kissing Balls and Berry Bowls:

We ask that people place their order on-line by e-mailing Elizabeth Williams at elizabeth48@earthlink.net designating your choice of:

Decorated Wreath with red bow = \$30

Decorated Wreath with plaid bow = \$30

Plain Wreath with red bow = \$25

Plain wreath = \$20

Kissing Balls = \$30

Large Berry Bowl = \$20

Medium Berry Bowl = \$15

Small Berry Bowl = \$10

(Due to increased costs for the wreaths and materials we have had to raise the prices)

You may come to pick up your order any time between 4:00-6:00pm on Friday, December 2, 2022 or on Saturday, December 3rd from 9:00am - noon There will be a display of Wreaths, Kissing Balls and Berry Bowls when you come to pick up your order. You will be able to choose your order Wreath, Kissing Ball and/or Berry Bowl from the display. Come early for a wider selection.

MAKING BERRY BOWLS---A KUUC TRADITION

The Keene Unitarian Church has a long tradition of making Berry Bowls for sale at the Green Sale. It is a fun activity to take part in as we gather together to celebrate the season and enjoy the seasonal transition.

A sequence of steps is involved in making the Berry Bowls and these happen over a few weeks. You and your family are invited to take part in one or two or all of the steps and enjoy the fun and be helpful in creating the holiday Berry Bowls.

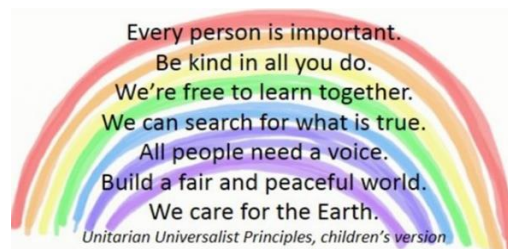
Step #1 Sunday, Oct. 30th from 1-3. Gather berries and moss at Larry and Suzanne Butcher's home at 44 Felt Rd., Keene.

Step #2 Saturday, Nov. 5th from 10-Noon. Gather at the church to make the berry bowls as a group. Bowls will be lightly covered and stored for three weeks in a cool environment and misted weekly.

Step #3 Sunday, Nov. 27th after church. Gather to seal the bowls, add bows and price the bowls. They are put in the church kitchen windows to 'perk up' until the green sale.

Step #4 Friday and Saturday, Dec. 2nd and 3rd Set up a table at the Green Sale and help sell the Berry Bowls.

If you have questions about participating in the making of Berry Bowls, call Wendy Byrn at 603 499 0694. If you have bowls from past seasons, please bring them to the church to be reused for this activity. Place them across from the ladies room in the labeled box.



DECEMBER MESSENGER DEADLINE

The deadline for the November *Messenger* will be 5 P.M. on Wednesday, November 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
Religious Exploration:	Barbara Bryce
Senior Lunch Bunch:	Betty Forrest
Shawls of Love:	Darcy Doyle
Slice of Fellowship:	Betty Forrest
Stewardship:	John Walter
Ushers:	Tom Haynes
Wayside Pulpit:	Lindsay Bartlett
Worship:	Lindsay Bartlett & Deb McLay
Property:	Carl Jacobs



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
E-mail: office@kuuc.org rdearth@hotmail.com
Website: www.kuuc.org **Office Manager:** Open Position
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