

# 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 DECEMBER 2022

[It is December and our theme this month is "Wonder." Wonder is a word which reaches everywhere, often finding unexpected paths to new ways of being fully human. Wonder beckons to us: suggesting possibilities, imagining new horizons, opening the world to greater love, kindness and community. Where will wonder lead you this month?]

December 4<sup>th</sup>: "Mixing It Up" (Rev. Michael)

For some people the Christmas season, with all its symbol and carols and traditions is sublime---for others forever a dull moment, the same old, same old. Yet, isn't that true of so much of life---it becomes worn out or dull if we don't find ways to mix it up, or try new things. **Today we will share Joys & Concerns with each other, "Time for All Ages."** [Join us at 11:15, after a little coffee hour, to **dedicate our new Rainbow Flag.**]

December 11<sup>th</sup>: "Righting Human Wrongs" (Rev. Michael)

December 10<sup>th</sup> is Human Rights Day, with this year's theme being "Dignity, Freedom and Justice for All." What is Human Rights Day? Why is it only one day? When will we actually achieve worldwide dignity, freedom and justice for all? Worthy questions all. **Today the KUUC Choir joins us.**

December 18<sup>th</sup>: "TBA" (MOOP)

Join us for a special service with a solstice twist and perhaps and special guests.

December 24<sup>th</sup> @ 7 P.M.: "A Night of Christmas Love" (Worship Team)

Let us gather altogether and share in the spirit of Christmas Love. There will be a be lots of music, a Christmas message and prayer and making its return--the No Rehearsal Christmas Pageant. **Join us for the pre-service Wassail from 5:45-6:55 featuring music by Rebecca Baldini**

December 25<sup>th</sup> 10 AM: "No-Ho-Ho-Ho?" (Worship Team)

It isn't often that we have the pleasure of putting on a Sunday service on Christmas Day---especially after the typically spectacular Christmas Eve service. So, let's give all that we have and all that we need. Some of us wake up like grumpy as Scrooge on Christmas morning, others are "holly jolly." For some it is a Blue Christmas, but you needn't be alone. Everyone, come as you are...you will be welcome and loved nonetheless.

## 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.**



“The pursuit of truth and beauty is a sphere of activity in which we are permitted to remain children all our lives.”  
— Albert Einstein

Children of this Season of Wonder,

I need your help. It seems that I have misplaced my sense of wonder, which I depend on quite a lot not just in my work among you: creating stories and prayers and messages, being the person who tries to keep an eye on what we could become (the forest) and not simply what we have always been or need to do (the trees).

If we cannot live in body without a beating heart or functioning brain, then I would add that we cannot live in a world such as ours with all its problems and possibilities without a full and active sense of wonder. Wonder is a punch, the kind like you drink at a gathering, not the one that foolish people think will solve disputes, (yet usually make them worse). Wonder is a punch made of the best things: curiosity, love, playfulness and imagination.

We all have it, wonder, and though it is often associated with children for whom even the most ordinary things become incomparable: a stick a butter becomes a sculpture, a cat washing herself an incredible feat or a spoon, (oh my goodness a spoon!). A spoon in a toddler’s hands is a shovel, pike, telescope and a magic wand, etc!

I would have you know that all of us are children of wonder---no matter our age. It is easier perhaps for youngsters but often as they grow older and learn “facts” and the “(newest) new math. Then they gain more experiences and give themselves over screens and technologies that aren’t as often used to inspire as to sell or create a agreed upon “groupthink.” So, the sense of wonder needs to be cultivated throughout our lives, exercised daily, expanded, pushed and pulled, used to create better lives, technologies and ways of being human.

Fun thing. I found my sense of wonder as I was writing this message. Don’t forget to keep yours right in front you; wonder is essential for both dreamers and doers.

Yours in the Faith and Service,

REV. MICHAEL'S SCHEDULE & OFFICE HOURS DECEMBER 2022:

OFF DAY: Saturday

WRITING DAY: Fridays

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

TIME OFF:

OFFICE HOURS: Monday 12 PM-5 PM & Thursday 8:30-1:30 PM or by appointment.

VISITATION: Thursdays 2-5 PM and on other days as time allows or need arises.

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE— December

The Choir recently singing "In Gratitude We Come" has reminded me of the many things that I am grateful for. One of my many blessings is the community of our church. At KUUC I have found a community of friends who believe in making the world a better place, each in our own way. Our church is one of service, and this is demonstrated every day as our members and friends share their talents with our church and the greater Keene community. Whether it is cooking for the Community Breakfast program, serving on committees that support our shared leadership, taking time to care for and support our property and facilities, or simply saying "Hi!" with a welcoming smile to new friends visiting our church - the dedication and love that this church shares with others is always evident.

This community has celebrated my family's achievements and has held us close in times of sorrow. It is truly an extension of my family, and for that I am truly grateful and proud. As the holidays come closer, and our lives become even more hectic with holiday shopping and events, I want to share my gratitude for all that each of you do to make KUUC the strong, vibrant community that it is, and wish you all the happiest of holiday seasons with your family and friends.

With many thanks -  
Susie

## MUSIC MESSENGER- DECEMBER

This month the choir will be singing in church on 12/11 and Christmas Eve. A celebration of the Winter Solstice will be held on 12/18. There will also be soloists throughout the month.

I'm so grateful to serve in the music ministry at this church and am blessed to work with such wonderful people. I wish you all peace in the New Year.

Donna

## RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION (RE) NEWS



### DECEMBER GREETINGS FROM RE!

How does December always sneak up on me? October comes, and I promise myself I'm going to go through the winter clothes, find the hats, gloves, and make sure the hand-me-down boots fit the next kid in line. Then BAM it's December, the snow has already shown its face, the cold has set in. ...and the stores are running low on snowsuits... Luckily this year when I couldn't find the hats I had yarn on hand and I was able to make us all new hats, and that sparked something in my kids to get out their beginner looms and make the dogs hats. We're all set. Whew! ...Anyone interested in learning to crochet a simple beanie style winter hat? I've got the knowhow if others have the want to learn!

Sign-up sheets will be placed on the RE bulletin board for anyone interested in collaborating or volunteering in any way. Please make sure to take a look!

will have the door open and air filter on. Our goal is to make it safe and fun for everyone.

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Saturday, December 10th 5:30-8:00 Board games and potluck style dinner at the KUUC. Bring something yummy to share, a favorite game, and wear your comfiest clothes. All ages welcome, we can set up as many tables for games as we need. Let's be together.

Monday, December 19th Zoom check in. How is everyone doing? I want to offer a time when those who aren't able or ready to come back in person. You matter. All are welcome at this zoom, as with in person meetups. Let's be together in whatever way works for all of us.

I'll attach the Zoom link to the facebook RE message group as time gets closer, as well as send out an email and post in the private facebook group. Please feel free to contact me if you haven't been added to these groups.

You can email me at [kuucrec@gmail.com](mailto:kuucrec@gmail.com) or call/text (540)849-7550  
Mallory



OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS, MEETINGS, EVENTS,  
OPPORTUNITIES, ETC.

“GREENS” GREENS SALE December 2 & 3 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:

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.

## NEW RAINBOW FLAG DEDICATION: DECEMBER 4<sup>th</sup>, 11:15

On Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 we will hold a brief dedication of our new Rainbow flag, honoring the values it stands for and remembering our congregation forbears who first did the work necessary to be sanctioned as a Welcoming Congregation many years ago!

Grab a cup of coffee after the service and head out to the front steps at 11:15.



## UUU CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE FELLOWSHIP GROUP

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.

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](mailto:cstamatakis@outlook.com).

## HOLIDAY SLICE GATHERING: FRIDAY DECEMBER 9<sup>th</sup>

### Holiday Slice Gathering

Get to know that person that sits next to you on Sunday Morning! Enjoy

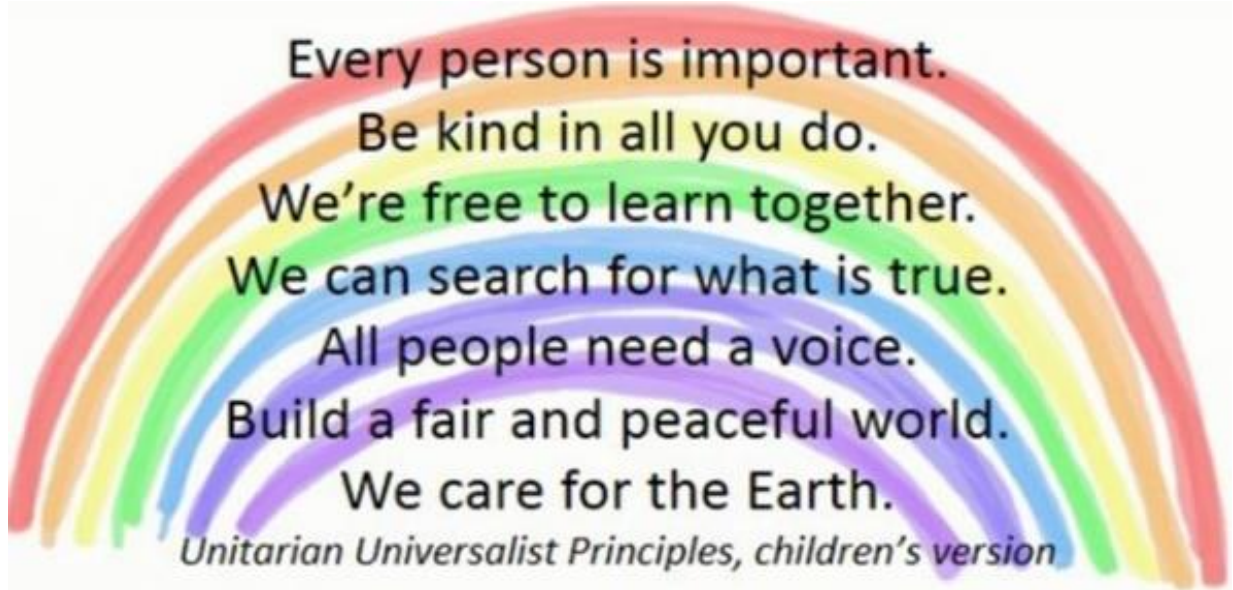
**P.7** talking to people from another generation!

**Join us Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> 5:30 PM upstairs in the Alliance Room for a festive holiday gathering.**

Bring your favorite finger food to share along with your preferred beverage. Tableware will be provided.

### NO LUNCH BUNCH IN DECEMBER

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 November and January-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](mailto:mandbforrest@myfairpoint.net) with questions.



### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### **JANUARY MESSENGER DEADLINE**

**The deadline for the January *Messenger* will be 5 P.M. on Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.** 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).



## COMMITTEE CONTACTS:

<b>Circle of Caring:</b>	Betsy Zimmerli & Betty Forrest
<b>Investment:</b>	John Bordenet
<b>Middle East Study Group:</b>	Jim Smart
<b>Membership:</b>	Deb McLay
<b>Religious Exploration:</b>	Barbara Bryce
<b>Senior Lunch Bunch:</b>	Betty Forrest
<b>Shawls of Love:</b>	Darcy Doyle
<b>Slice of Fellowship:</b>	Betty Forrest
<b>Stewardship:</b>	John Walter
<b>Ushers:</b>	Tom Haynes
<b>Wayside Pulpit:</b>	Lindsay Bartlett
<b>Worship:</b>	Lindsay Bartlett & Deb McLay
<b>Property:</b>	Carl Jacobs



**KUUC CONTACT LIST 2022-23**

**WORSHIP SERVICES**

**STAFF**

**Sunday Services:** 10:00 A.M. **Minister:** Rev. Michael Hall

**Religious Exploration:** 10:00 A.M. [rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:kuucdre@gmail.com)  
Keene, NH 03431

**Phone:** (603) 352-1719 **Music Director:** Donna Dearth

**E-mail:** [office@kuuc.org](mailto:office@kuuc.org) [rdearth@hotmail.com](mailto:rdearth@hotmail.com)

**Website:** [www.kuuc.org](http://www.kuuc.org) **Office Manager:** Open Position

**Facebook:** Keene Unitarian Universalist Church@KeeneUU [office@kuuc.org](mailto:office@kuuc.org) 352-1719

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2022-2023**

Susie Ericson-West, President	313-9013	Eloise Clark	352-9182
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Carl Jacobs, Past President	831-1409	Tom Haynes	357-7645
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