

# The Messenger

January 2023 Volume 31 Issue 1

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## WORSHIP CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 2023

[The Soul Matters theme for January 2023 is "Finding our Center." There are several ways of thinking about this theme as individuals or as families. Have you ever found yourself doing something and feeling that you were exactly where you are meant to be doing just what you were called to do? Conversely, have you ever felt really lost and confused and fearing you didn't know how to find your way out?]

January 1<sup>st</sup>: "We Havin' A Party!" (Rev. Michael)

On this day, having ushered in the new year, we sometimes find ourselves struggling with the full spectrum of "shoulds" --- from "I *should* have gotten this done last year, "to "I really *should* do this in the new year"? In this service Rev. Michael and the Worship Team just want you to relax, enjoy the day and begin to discover what you need from this year, this community and yourself.

### Full Joys & Concerns

January 8<sup>th</sup>: "Morning Sun Mindfulness" (MOOP SUNDAY)

Join us in this special day when we will be joined by Michael from the Morning Sun Mindfulness Center and Community. **The KUUC Choir is with us today.**

January 15<sup>th</sup>: "Interfaith Interdependence" (Rev. Michael)

As we are meeting on the actual anniversary of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's birth, today we will think about one of the great legacies of Dr. King's movement and message: Interfaith connection, collaboration, and action.

January 22<sup>nd</sup>: "The Challenge of Centering" (Rev. Michael)

It's not always easy to find your center on the best of days, but it is absolutely essential in difficult and/or changing times. What part do fear and anxiety play in disguising or even entirely hiding reality from us, and forcing us into bad decisions? **The KUUC Choir will sing today!**

January 29<sup>th</sup>: "Weigh Anchors" (Rev. Michael)

In this multi-generational service, we will have a festive and fully inclusive entry into Rev. Michael's sabbatical, which will be a big adventure for all of us.

## 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

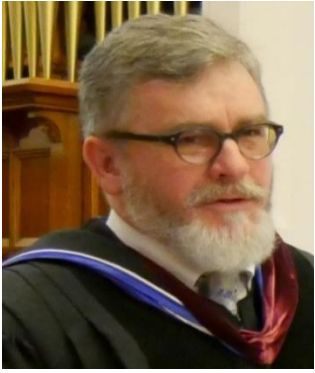
Our Seven UU Principles are not dogma or doctrine, but rather a covenant made between our Unitarian Universalist congregations around the world. Many of our members use “The Principles” as a guide for how they choose to live their faith at home and in their communities.

- 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 purpose of a pilgrimage is about setting aside a long period of time in which the only focus is to be the matters of the soul. Many believe a pilgrimage is about going away but it isn’t; it is about coming home.”

—L.M. Browning

Most of you know, (though perhaps some hadn’t heard), that I am going on sabbatical in the 4 months that straddle winter and spring. I begin on February 1<sup>st</sup> and will return on June 1<sup>st</sup>. I am very much looking forward to it as I need the rest, contemplative time, reading, writing, exercise, and travel that I hope to do; particularly the first two as I am tired from the long COVID period and its endless improvisations and am still recovering from an injury and illness.

On the other hand, I am really jazzed about what is going on at KUUC right now, and what we have been able to do together. I am so happy to finally have assembled a full staff, for the first time in maybe 5 five years. I so appreciate the creative energy, ideas and talent that Donna, Mallory and Sue bring to our professional cohort, but most of all to you, our community.

A couple of things I will say now, as there will be more to read about and digest in this *Messenger* and as we get closer to our leave-taking. The first is that you got this, we’ve been through one in recent memory, and learned from that experience. The second, is that we are putting together a worship schedule, with the ministerial support elements we think that we will need and lay-leaders that are willing and able to make sure that all goes well. Third, although I plan to do a little traveling, I don’t have the budget nor the inclination to be away from my family very long. So undoubtedly, we will bump into each other at Hannaford’s, the Transfer Station or some hillside trail. I will be glad to see you, so don’t feel like you can’t say “hello.”

I really hope to accomplish in those four months what L.M. Harding speaks about above: not to run away but to come back home: centered, soulful and enthusiastic; and, having learned things and lived apart, prepared and ready to return home and continue sharing ministry with you.

Yours in Faithful Service,

## REV. MICHAEL'S SCHEDULE & OFFICE HOURS January 2023:

OFF DAY: Saturdays    WRITING DAY: Fridays

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).

OFFICE HOURS: Monday 12 PM-5 PM & Thursday 8:30-1:30 PM or 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]

TIME OFF: Sabbatical February 1<sup>st</sup>-May 31<sup>st</sup>.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE— January Messenger

At our recent Solstice service, I was struck by the meditation/activity that Debra had us do with the stones. This simple metaphor of how we carry and share in our community ended with a powerful thought:

We help one another to carry the stones in our lives, and as we help each other these  
heavy burdens lighten. It is this simple joyful truth that allows us to move the  
stones  
in our life and allow in the light.

I was again reminded of why I love this church so much and how important it is to me in my day-to-day life.

There is so much to be excited about as the new year begins! We have welcomed new friends and members to the church, and with them comes energy and new perspectives. Our church staff is fully staffed, and our Board of Directors will soon welcome new members to fill several vacancies. After a challenging few years, it feels like we are coming back and coming back strong. None of this could have been possible without each one of you – as each of you have found ways to share your time, talent and treasure with KUUC. It really has allowed our light to shine, and for that I am eternally grateful.

I wish you all a happy, healthy and peaceful 2023. We have so much to look forward to!

With many thanks –

Susie

## MUSIC MESSENGER- JANUARY

Happy New Year!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the music ministry over the holidays. Special thanks to the KUUC choir, Carl Jacobs, Jane Stave-Viemeister, Amy Dearth Chickering, Jack in the Green, and all of our beautiful soloists.

This month the choir will be singing in church on the 1/8/23 and 1/22/23.

Throughout the next 2 months we will be singing and playing some African American spirituals. Please let me know if there is something you want to hear or sing!

The choir rehearses every Thursday from 6:30-8:00. New members are always welcome to join us

Peace in the new year,

Donna



HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM RE!

January, 2023. Somehow, we made it. WHEW!

As a family we've talked about setting up resolutions, not something we've done in the past. Not successfully anyway. So this year we switched it up, we're compiling a list of things that bring us joy, and things that bring others joy. We're going to be consulting the list all year. I encourage each of you to think for a time on what brings you joy, and how you can bring joy to others. We're all in need of it.

### RE HAPPINGS

**Sunday 1st** - In Sanctuary no RE offerings.

**Sunday 8th** - BLOCKS SUNDAY! YAY!

We will have a Saturday Sledding Day (weather permitting). We will just have to wait until we see a better forecast for snow. I'm hoping for the 21st, so put your spoons under those pillows, wear your pajamas inside out, do whatever you must!

**Sunday 29th** - We will all be in the Sanctuary for a very special service.

I am going to hold off on board game night for January but look for it again next month.

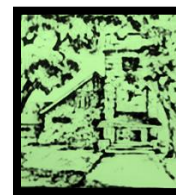
You can email me at [kuucrec@gmail.com](mailto:kuucrec@gmail.com) or call/text (540)849-7550

Mallory

## KUUC UUA ANNUAL PROGRAM FUND REPORT

Thank you to everyone who donated money to KUUC's contribution to the UUA Annual Program Fund! KUUC raised \$6397 for this purpose, slightly more than last year, but well short of the \$12,734 that we were supposed to contribute. This has been an ongoing challenge for us at KUUC, and the board of trustees will discuss how to do better next year, possibly by including this in our budget rather than as a separate donation campaign.

John Walter, Treasurer.



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

### REV. MICHAEL'S SABBATICAL: THE 5 W's AND 1 H

#### Sabbatical Who?

Rev. Michael, KUUC's settled minister since 2012, is preparing to take his second sabbatical. (His first one was in 2018. Before that, the last time KUUC sent a minister on a sabbatical was the Rev. Nina Grey in the 1980's.)



## Sabbatical What?

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Sabbatical in ministry is a set period of time for the minister and the congregation to set aside the minister's regular duties.

## Sabbatical When?

February 1 – May 31, 2023

## Sabbatical Where?

While Rev. Michael's plans are still evolving, he will sometimes be in Keene, sometimes traveling around New England, and sometimes traveling further afield. Should you bump into him around town, feel free to say hi but don't be surprised if he'd rather not talk about church matters.

## Sabbatical Why?

A sabbatical, or suspension of regular duties, enables the minister to focus on reflection, rest, and a renewal of energy and enthusiasm to bring back to the congregation. The congregation will have a chance to stretch leadership skills and more deeply understand the flow of ministerial work at KUUC.

## Sabbatical How?

Rev. Michael and lay leaders from the Board of Trustees, Worship Committee, and a specially gathered Sabbatical Committee are planning for guest worship leaders, as-needed pastoral care, and staff support during these months. The staff is preparing to keep doing their awesome work of Music, Religious Exploration, and Administration AND coordinate with and support the guest worship leaders. Previous KUUC Boards had the foresight and discipline to set aside money over the past few years to pay for the guest worship leaders and other professional support during this sabbatical time. More information will be forthcoming, including a list of who to call about what during the time when we won't be calling Rev. Michael.

In the meantime, please feel free to reach out to members of the Sabbatical Committee – Mickey Cronin, Tom Julius, Gwen Goodman, Lindsay Bartlett (co-chair of the Worship Committee), Betsy Stacey (also a member of the Religious Exploration Committee), or Jill Hall.

## Lunch Bunch – January 18

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 3<sup>rd</sup>

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](mailto:mandbforrest@myfairpoint.net) with questions.

Note: If local schools are cancelled due to inclement weather, Lunch Bunch will also be cancelled.

Slice of Fellowship---We will not meet in January and plan to resume in February.



## Greetings UUs!

Much appreciation to everyone at KUUC who has participated in and supported the Monadnock Interfaith Project (MIP) in the past year.

Inspired by UU principles, MIP grew out of activities such as the Month of Sundays social action sessions, the Interfaith Breakfast program, and the Keene Interfaith Clergy Association.

MIP taps into the deep well of faith and hope that connects all spiritual traditions to make more good things happen in our community.

Over the last several years, you may have been a part of MIP's Downtown Restroom campaign, Listening Session training, Make a Difference Leadership seminar, or one of many Interfaith services.

Recently, MIP's efforts have focused on:

**Leading a regional campaign for the creation of a Housing Development Fund** with partners from government, business, and non-profit sectors to increase housing access for low-moderate income households.

**Influencing the City of Keene to pass zoning revisions that expand housing options** and to make policy changes supporting people experiencing homelessness.



**Connecting clergy and lay people from diverse faith congregations** to come together on a regular basis, putting their faith into action through Clergy and Housing Teams.

**Standing up for love and against hate by speaking out** in response to local racist, antisemitic and homophobic vandalism.

To receive the monthly MIP eNewsletter, participate in MIP activities, or join a KUUC/MIP social action team contact Tom Julius at [tjulius54@gmail.com](mailto:tjulius54@gmail.com).

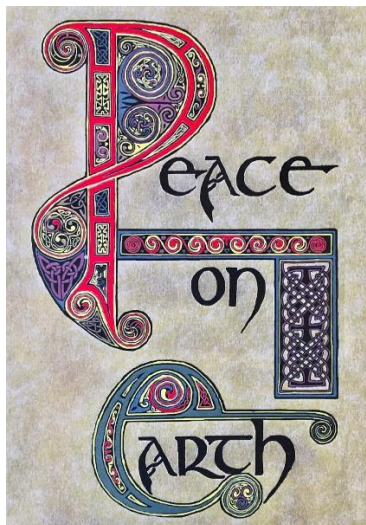
Meanwhile, you can find out more about MIP and its work on the website: [mipnh.org](http://mipnh.org) or via Facebook: [www.facebook.com/MIPNH](https://www.facebook.com/MIPNH).

### 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).



## GENERAL INFORMATION:

### FEBRUARY MESSENGER DEADLINE

The deadline for the February *Messenger* will be 5 P.M. on Thursday, January 19th. The due date for *Messenger* submissions will be on the 19th 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 Sue Walthour [office@kuuc.org](mailto:office@kuuc.org).

### COMMITTEE CONTACTS:

Circle of Caring:	Betsy Zimmerli & Betty Forrest
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



## KUUUC CONTACT LIST 2022-23

### WORSHIP SERVICES

### STAFF

<p><b>Sunday Services:</b>            10:00 A.M.</p> <p><b>Religious Exploration:</b> 10:00 A.M.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">September-June</p> <p><b>Summer Services</b>            10:00 A.M.</p> <p><b>Address:</b> 69 Washington Street Keene, NH 03431</p> <p><b>Phone:</b>        (603) 352-1719</p> <p><b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:office@kuuc.org">office@kuuc.org</a></p> <p><b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.kuuc.org">www.kuuc.org</a></p> <p><b>Facebook:</b> Keene Unitarian Universalist Church@KeeneUU</p>	<p><b>Minister:</b>                            <b>Rev. Michael Hall</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><a href="mailto:rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com">rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com</a></p> <p style="text-align: right;">(508) 821-6092</p> <p><b>Religious Exploration Coordinator:</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Mallory Hicks</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><a href="mailto:kuucdre@gmail.com">kuucdre@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Music Director:</b>                            <b>Donna Dearth</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><a href="mailto:rdearth@hotmail.com">rdearth@hotmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Office Manager:</b>                            <b>Sue Walthour</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><a href="mailto:office@kuuc.org">office@kuuc.org</a>                            (603) 352-1719</p>
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### BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2022-2023

<p>Susie Ericson-West, President    603-313-9013</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><a href="mailto:swest.keene@gmail.com">swest.keene@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Carl Jacobs, Past President        603-831-1409</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><a href="mailto:carljac21@gmail.com">carljac21@gmail.com</a></p> <p>John Walter, Treasurer            603-358-3101</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><a href="mailto:jnwalterjr@gmail.com">jnwalterjr@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Carol Hill, Clerk                    603-903-4974</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><a href="mailto:hcbhill@ne.rr.com">hcbhill@ne.rr.com</a></p> <p>Rev. Michael F. Hall (<i>ex-officio</i>) 508-821-6092</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><a href="mailto:rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com">rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com</a></p>	<p>Eloise Clark                            603-352-9182</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><a href="mailto:clarktreat@myfairpoint.net">clarktreat@myfairpoint.net</a></p> <p>Tom Haynes                            603-357-7645</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><a href="mailto:piperhistoricalservices@gmail.com">piperhistoricalservices@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Tina Stevens                            603-209-6268</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><a href="mailto:tinaleone127@gmail.com">tinaleone127@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Matt Aversa                            603-464-9046</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><a href="mailto:matthewmsw99@gmail.com">matthewmsw99@gmail.com</a></p>
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