

# The Messenger

February 2023 Volume 31 Issue 2

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- Sunday Services are presented in a dual-platform both in-person and via live-stream on our YouTube channel.

P.1

[As our guest the next four months the sabbatical Worship Leaders are not being asked to use the Soul Matters theme of the month unless they use it in their home congregations. But even if they have something else in mind, that shouldn't stop you from thinking and talking about this month's theme of "Love" and being more loving in your own lives. ---Rev. Michael]

### February 5, 2023 "Moving Gracefully Through Change"

(Rev. Patience Stoddard)

While most of us may recognize (and some even celebrate) that life is change, often change can seem overwhelming, leaving many of us unsure of how to respond or plan for the future. For the next few months life as usual at Keene UU with feel different with Rev. Michael on sabbatical. This sermon will explore how we feel about change and change some ideas as to what the study of transitions has to teach us about moving gracefully through change.

### February 12, 2023 "Getting Better" (Rev. Patrick McLaughlin)

Charles Darwin was born Feb 12, 1809 – 204 years ago. His careful investigation of the evidence of that world around him led to his theory of evolution. That theory asserts that change – mutation – leads to adaptation and evolution, an idea that became the basis of most of modern biology, with impacts on much of the rest of science and the rest of our world. Come hear how being wrong is ok, and how change can help us adapt and evolve, and how we might get *more* right.

### February 19, 2023 (Rabbi Dan Aronson)

#### "The Day the Walls Leaned In: An Argument for the Sake of Heaven"

There are many things in today's world over which reasonable people might disagree, but what disagreements would the rabbinic sages of the early 1st millennium deem worthy of the title "an argument for the sake of heaven," and what are the rules of engagement? Rabbi Dan will share the tale of one such debate in the Talmud that made even God laugh and that nearly brought the house down.

### February 26, 2023 Cheshire Co. Treatment Court (Alison Welsh & Peers)

Often referred to as "The Drug Court" the Cheshire Co. Treatment Court is a great deal more than that name might suggest. Join us today when we learn more about the work done on the programs and work done by this remarkable institution.

## 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;**

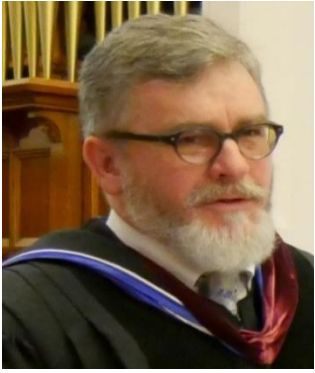
**Wisdom from the world's religions, which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;**

**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: February 2023



"Faith is not the clinging to a shrine but an endless pilgrimage of the heart. Audacious longing, burning songs, daring thoughts, an impulse overwhelming the heart, usurping the mind—these are all a drive towards serving Him who rings our hearts like a bell. It is as if He were waiting to enter our empty, perishing lives."

~ Abraham Joshua Heschel

I would like to say that I know perfectly well what is going to happen to me on sabbatical. But whatever good would knowing that do for me. If it were so pre-packaged, so safe, how would that benefit you? If I knew what to expect at every place I stopped, if every street was paved brand new before me, and each crossroad held out no choice, challenge nor question, no gain nor loss, what kind of pilgrimage would that be?

And it is a pilgrimage I want from the time that I am away---something that I would never have expected, never have bargained for, in short, something that transforms me. I don't need to be swept away by a gang of pirates, meet the Dalai Lama or walk on hot coals; it isn't that. I will mostly be reading in libraries, visiting historical places, creating things for the joy of it, writing new things for worship, planning adventures and spending some real time with my family. I also want to write forms of writing that I have put aside, and be prepared for our 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

What I need most is to just open my heart wide to the world: so I can see what of importance is still hiding in there, and find room for who and what needs my time, love and shelter.

I hope your sabbatical is good too, and that when we meet each other on June 1<sup>st</sup> it is with arms open joyfully, all handshakes and hugs, and no doubt many stories--- some that are almost too hard to believe.

Yours in Faithful Service,

*Rev. Michael*

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



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE— February Messenger

While we are still in the depths of winter, I am looking forward to spring coming (as soon as possible)! The Board of Trustees has been actively engaged in work to move us forward on a number of different levels. We have worked closely with Rev. Michael and many others to finalize a plan for both services and day-to-day operations of the church during Rev. Michael's sabbatical. Several members of the Board have been working diligently to care for the physical structure that is our church – assessments are being done and a plan is being developed for how to prioritize and fund the many needs of our buildings for both now and in the future. The Committee on Ministry has reached out to the congregation for input and information on our Shared Ministry, to further strengthen our commitment to the values of community, commitment and compassion. As I've said many times before there is much to do for the life and success of our church, and I am grateful for those who have shared their "time, talents and treasure" to support our church community.

Susie Ericson-West

Board of Trustees President

## MUSIC MESSENGER- FEBRUARY 2023

This month the choir will be singing in church on 2/12/23 and 2/26/23. Throughout this month you will hear some African American spirituals and songs.

The music committee has begun meeting again. If you are interested in joining us please see Jane Stave-Viemeister or me.

The choir rehearses every Thursday from 6:30-8:00. New members are always welcome to join us. Please see me or anyone in the choir for details!

Peace,

Donna





## GREETINGS FROM RE!

The shortest and sweetest month is upon us! That buffer month between winter and spring.

Our theme for February is love. How fitting, ours is a faith based in love. Don't forget as we get closer to the shift of seasons to keep that center we spent January finding. Don't lose it!

The Jewish New Year Tu Bishvat is on the 5<sup>th</sup> I'll be putting together a packet craft for all the kids to take home and do. Come to service to grab your bag or get ahold of me to set up a time for pick up.

With our Rev. Michael on sabbatical, we will all need to be fluid and flexible, the RE happenings are our goals for the month and if things need to shift or change I will give you as much notice as possible. Thank you so much for your support and understanding

### RE Happenings & News

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> – In Sanctuary \*Come to pick up your craft bags for Tu Bishvat!

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> – Outdoor meetup at church making bird feeders

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> – BLOCKS Sunday! Come build, everyone will need to wear a mask, window and door open. Block Sunday will begin in the block room upstairs at 10:00.

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> – In Sanctuary for service

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> – We will have RE offerings today in the RE classroom.

Take a look at our bulletin board, we have a signup sheet if you'd like to collaborate, teach, be involved in the stories for services, join the committee etc.





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

**Overall Objectives:** My overall objectives are to rest, deepen into my spiritual practices, learn from my experiences and the reading I do, and write; hopefully I will write other things besides sermons and other liturgical pieces, things such as poetry, memoir and theatrical pieces. I also want study more about how to modernize an older church without ruining what already makes it special & create articles and social media posts around KUUC's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Theme:** Generally, my theme is "journeys" which is deliberately broad to allow for the spirit to call and move me. I may go on at least one actual pilgrimage---so much depends on what the budget and my health allow---but there are other types of journeys too: revisiting something from the past, going somewhere I've always wanted to be, see something I've longed to see. Maybe I'll learn how to cook or play an instrument. I have thought of 100 things that would address my spirit, improve my health and stories I would like to write, etc. But journeys are the stuff of life too: finding joy despite the stress of life, balancing what you need, want and have, bringing out the best in yourself and others, dealing with pain (past, present and future).

**Things for me to remember and you to know:**

I won't leave you unprepared, (though you may feel that you are) or in the lurch (in certain situations I can be called back or consulted with).

I know that a sabbatical is a very special opportunity for growth in all the ways that you or I may define it.

I know that many people don't have this opportunity in their profession; although I believe everyone should get one.

I know that I learned so much in my first sabbatical and created many things, (such as sermons and other writings), that I would consider to be products of the study and experiences I had while I was away. Other things I began during the last sabbatical, such as the time I spent learning and deepening into contemplative practices have regularly influenced our shared ministry.

Yours in Faith & Friendship,

*Rev. Michael*





**Rev. Patrick McLaughlin (February 12):** is Unitarian Universalist, and a former Trustee and Secretary of the UUA. He and his wife live in Chester, NH, with two cats, and two dogs. Patrick has a B.A. in History (focusing on Medieval Europe) from the University of California at San Diego, and received his MDiv from Meadville Lombard Theological School in 2013, before serving the UU Church of Manchester for nine years. He helped create the Unitarian Universalist Action Network of New Hampshire. Patrick grew up moving around the western United States as a child and spent his pre-teen and teen years living in Woomera and Adelaide, South Australia, and in Brussels Belgium. He is interested in science, history, art, political science, theology, gardening, home renovation (and more), and avidly follows only one sport — politics. In his spare time, he reads, plays computer games, cruises the internet, and is teaching himself Spanish, French, Italian, and Ukrainian.

**Bio for Rabbi Daniel Aronson (February 19<sup>th</sup>):**

Rabbi Dan is the rabbi of Congregation Ahavas Achim, where he is working to build a spiritual home for the congregation with enough rooms for every expression of Jewish identity, every kind of Jewish family, and every stage of Jewish development. In his vision, CAA will be a community that nourishes the souls of each of its members and empowers each person to do their part individually and with others to heal the world. Rabbi Dan models engagement with the world through his participation on the City of Keene Human Rights Committee, the board of Maps Counseling Services, the ethics committee of the Dartmouth Health Cheshire Medical Center, and the clergy team of the Monadnock Interfaith Project

Before coming to Keene in July 2020, Rabbi Dan was in Houston, TX, working in a



wide range of institutions including synagogues, a university, a community center, and a medical center, and speaking out on behalf of workers' rights. He has also served communities in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Salem, Oregon, and Providence, Rhode Island.

Rabbi Dan holds degrees from Brown University, Brandeis University, and the Jewish Theological Seminary and earned his rabbinic ordination from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in suburban Philadelphia with a specialization in chaplaincy to the aged and aging.

Born and raised in Portland, ME, Rabbi Dan lives in Keene with his wife, Beth, their teenager, Kro, two cats, two geckos, and a dog. Out of sight but not out of mind is Rabbi Dan's son Jacob, who is an engineer living in Denver.



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

### SLICE OF FELLOWSHIP – FEBRUARY 3<sup>rd</sup>

**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 “**Comfort Cuisine**” hosted by Betty and Mike Forrest. 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](mailto:mandbforrest@myfairpoint.net) with any questions.

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

Note: If local schools are canceled due to inclement weather, Lunch Bunch is also canceled.

### KUUC GET-A-WAY WEEKEND AT FERRY BEACH:

May 12, 13 & 14, 2023.

We first started our KUUC Ferry Beach Get-A-Way weekend in 2006 and have only missed 2020 and 2021 due to Covid concerns. Ferry Beach Park Association is located on Saco Bay in Saco, Maine. It is an independent nonprofit retreat and conference center with deep Universalist roots. It was founded in 1899 by Quillen Shinn, a Universalist Minister. The conference center continues to rent weekend space to UU Churches during the spring and fall season. After a three-year hiatus, we are pleased to once again share the space with the Bedford, MA UU Church. Our weekend is a wonderful intergenerational gathering. Imagine long walks on the beach, conversations in rocking chairs on the porch, playing board games, singing, joining various activities or just solitary time. The accommodations are rustic, but the setting is majestic. COSTS: •Lodging Options:(total for the 2-night weekend) -Underwood Dorm = \$160/room (Bring own linens, each room has a set of bunk beds and a single bed, (one room has a queen bed) Cross Cabin = \$240/room (queen bed, linens, private bath) Metz Cabins = \$280/cabin (comes with linens, living room with pullout couch, bedroom, full bed with twin bunk, bathroom,) •• Food 4 meals: Sat breakfast, lunch, dinner & Sun breakfast Adult = \$60 (ages 13 years +) Children = \$40 (8-12yr., children under 8 = free)

••• Annual Dues \$5 towards KUUC FBPA Weekend Annual Dues \$100 deposit due March 1,2023, Full payment due April 1, 2023 For further information contact Jim Peale or Carol McIntyre-Peale 357-7875 or at [pealefamily@gmail.com](mailto:pealefamily@gmail.com).

### REGISTRATION FORM AND EMERGENCY INFORMATION

KUUC Ferry Beach Weekend,

May 12, 13, & 14, 2023

Registration information:( This info will be kept confidential, and is for your protection, should an emergency arise.)

Please fill in the information for each person in your party:

Full Name, E-mail, Cell Phone#, Age & Medical Info

1\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact: Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

COSTS:

•Lodging Options:(total for the 2-night weekend)

-Underwood Dorm = \$160/room (Sleeps 3, Bring own linens, each room has a set of bunk beds and a single bed, (one room has a queen bed)

- Cross Cabin = \$240/room (sleeps 2, queen bed, linens, private bath)

- Metz Cabins = \$280/cabin (sleeps 3- 4, linens provided,  
living room with pullout couch, bedrm, full  
bed with twin bunk, bathroom,)

•• Food 4 meals: Sat breakfast, lunch, dinner & Sun breakfast

Adult = \$60 (ages 13 years +)

Children = \$40 (8-12yr., children under 8 = free)

••• Annual Dues

\$5 towards KUUC FBPA Weekend Annual Dues

Payments:

\$100 deposit due March 1,2023,

Full payment due April 1, 2023

Optional donation to KUUC Ferry Beach  
Weekend Scholarship

fund Scholarship Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENTS:

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Lodging: \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Balance \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Lodging Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Date paid in full \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to KUUC  
with Ferry Beach weekend in memo line

Food: # adults \_\_\_\_ x \$60 = \$\_\_\_\_\_

# child \_\_\_\_ x \$40 = \$\_\_\_\_\_

**mail to: Carol McIntyre-Peale**

**67 Old Homestead Hwy.**

**N. Swanzey, NH 03431**

Food Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues: \$5 x person Dues Total \$

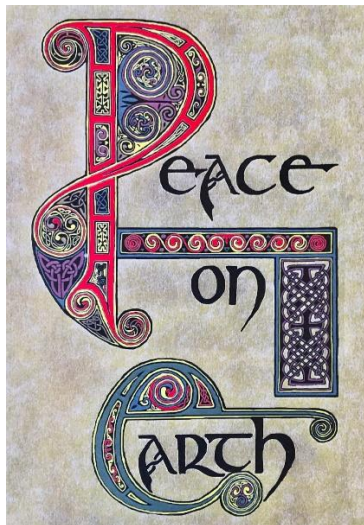
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## UUU CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE FELLOWSHIP GROUP

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:

### MARCH MESSENGER DEADLINE

The **deadline** for the *March Messenger* will be 5 P.M. on Sunday, February 19. 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





# 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. **Religious Exploration Coordinator:**  
**Address:** 69 Washington Street **Mallory Hicks**  
Keene, NH 03431 [kuucdre@gmail.com](mailto:kuucdre@gmail.com)  
**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:** Sue Walthour  
**Facebook:** Keene Unitarian Universalist [office@kuuc.org](mailto:office@kuuc.org) (603) 352-1719  
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