

# The Messenger

March 2023 Volume 31 Issue 3

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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 March 2023

March 5th: "Pastoral Care: Healing and the Soul" (Rev. Dr. Patience Stoddard)

Over the past 4 decades I have served as a Parish Minister, a Chaplain and a Licensed Pastoral Therapist. While each role is distinct, they all have much in common regarding the understanding of spiritual and mental health and of healing. The service will explore what makes pastoral care different from psychotherapy or other approaches to healing, and how it relates to ministry in a congregation.

March 12<sup>th</sup> "To be a Tree In Winter" (Rev. Abigail Stockman)

In northern Vermont I am surrounded by stands of bare maples. I look out my window, from my warm house, and wonder what it would be like to stand bare naked in winter? What would it feel like to be vulnerable with other human beings as the bare maples are vulnerable to the weather?

Rev. Abigail Stockman (she/her/elle) came out of semi-retirement to serve as half-time Interim Minister with First Parish in Northborough, MA. She has served UU congregations in Rhode Island, NY, Maryland, NH, and Vermont, in a variety of transitional ministries. In addition to her work with congregations, Rev. Stockman's ministries have included hospice, prison, multi-faith, and restorative justice settings.

Rev. Stockman lives in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. She is building a house on a small hollow of historic Abenaki pathway land that now sits between several working farms. Rev. Stockman is also a harpist with the Vermont Philharmonic, a community orchestra.

March 19th: "Living in Mysterious Times" (Rev Hank Pierce)

Rev. Hank Peirce reflects on a sailing trip out of New Bedford more than 40 years ago that can be seen as a beacon of hope today.

The Rev. Hank Peirce comes from old Swamp Yankee stock, with roots in the Bay State churches that reach back centuries. He has served a number of Unitarian Universalist churches both as an interim and as a settled minister. Hank lives in Medford, MA with his wonderful wife Rebecca and their two teenage daughters.

March 26th: "Recovering Black History" (Jenna Carroll, Historical Society of Cheshire County)

## 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.**

## REV. MICHAEL'S SCHEDULE

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE— March 2023

With the long months of winter coming closer to an end, I look forward to March and the eventual warmth and sunshine that will come. As Reverend Michael pursues his sabbatical renewal, we all have an opportunity to renew our relationship with KUUC. The Stewardship campaign has started and asks each of us to pledge support so that our church can continue the work of honoring tradition, continuing the transformation and creating the changes for tomorrow and beyond. I hope that you will want to be a part of this work and will pledge whatever you can towards this effort.

There are so many ways for each of us to contribute to the success of our church – Do you have an interest in serving on a committee? Please speak with any member of the Board of Trustees and we can connect you with the right person! Do you sing or play an instrument? Talk with Donna Dearth – she would love to have you sing or play at an upcoming service! Our congregation is so incredibly blessed with people whose time, talent and treasure make us the wonderful church that we are. Please don't "hide your light under a bushel". Share your gifts with all of us!

With many thanks –

Susie Ericson-West  
KUUC Board of Trustees President

## MUSIC MESSENGER- MARCH 2023

This month the choir will be singing in church on 3/12/23 and 3/26/23. Thank you to our February soloists - Jenn Wyman, David Teubner, and Jim Peale. Thanks also to the choir for their commitment to provide music ministry every month!

The music committee is planning on having an arts sharing night in May. This fundraiser will include music, poetry, and any other talent you may have. More details to follow.

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!

Vulnerability. That would be our Soul Matters theme word for the month. I love it. It's something we tend to admire and appreciate in others yet something so many of us struggle to show. I know I do.

March is one of my favorite months, not just because it's my birthday month but because I love the promise that Spring brings. As I watch the snow melt in our front yard, uncovering the leaves we left to protect the little critters, I'm filled with hope. Those little critters were vulnerable to the elements, other critters, and us all winter, but their strength got them through (or it will because we could totally get another blast of snow before real spring) There is strength in vulnerability. Remember that. Embrace your vulnerability and embrace your strength.

REligious Exploration. We need explorer guides! This year we're really trying to focus on building community. If you feel the call to get involved, I invite you to sign up, show up, and bring your ideas, listening ears, and excitement to RE. Do you want to be a second in lessons? Blocks? Bring ideas for TFAA? Present a TFAA? (in a group or alone) Join the committee? You need not have a child in the program, just a want to be a part of the children's growth within our community and world at large. Sign up on the sheet on our Bulletin Board by the benches leading to the offices and preschool, send me an email, text, or phone call.

One goal I have for this coming spring is to get kids outside in the dirt, in the Children's Garden working with the lovely Carol Hill to grow our minds and flowers on the church grounds. So expect some meetups to garden, plan, and learn what we can do to help the earth as well as how she helps us.

## **RE HAPPENINGS**

**March 5th - RE Lesson -Mallory (need second)**

**March 12<sup>th</sup> - Clay session with Deborah**

**March 19<sup>th</sup> - Blocks with Deborah**

**March 26<sup>th</sup> - Sanctuary**

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

Mallory

## **2023-2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN**

KUUC's annual Stewardship Campaign, in which members and friends are asked to pledge contributions for our upcoming church fiscal year, beginning on July 1, is about to commence. One of the definitions of stewardship is "the responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving." Generations at KUUC have felt that way -amazingly, our congregation will celebrate its 200<sup>th</sup> birthday

in 2024! Our goal for pledges this year is \$145,000, \$24,000 more than last year - an ambitious goal but one that should permit us to balance our budget without relying on our endowment.

KUUC needs your financial support to fund our staff, property, and programs. What we can accomplish together will depend largely on our budget, which in turn largely depends on Stewardship pledges. Although not all of us are able to make a large pledge, smaller pledges add up, and give us all an opportunity to show how much KUUC and Unitarian Universalism matter.

During March worship services we will hear from some KUUC members what KUUC means to them and why they pledge.

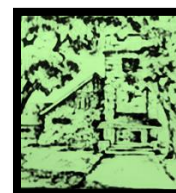
If you have pledged or made regular donations before, you should soon receive a brochure and pledge slip. The slip asks how much money you wish to pledge to donate to KUUC between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024 (our next church fiscal year). Please make as generous a pledge as you can by the end of March, when our campaign ends.

Our congregation has a long, proud history. We (and the community at large) have been the beneficiaries of generations of idealists and reformers who gave generously of their time, talent, and treasure. Let's pass it on to future generations.

With gratitude,

The Stewardship Committee

John Walter, Treasurer



OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS, MEETINGS, EVENTS,  
OPPORTUNITIES, ETC.

## Slice of Fellowship – March 3

**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 month's Slice will be held on Friday, March 3. Wine and cheese are at 5:30 pm followed by dinner at 6:00. This month's theme is "A Taste of Ireland" or your choice 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.

## Lunch Bunch – March 15

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.

## UUU CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE FELLOWSHIP GROUP

"Communion"

Tuesday, March 7, 2023 5:00 PM

In-Person and ZOOM Meeting Options

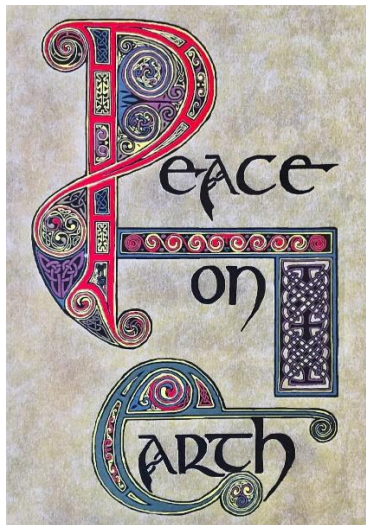
Our fellowship group meets the first Tuesday of every month from 5:00 – 6:30. We are now meeting in-person in the Alliance Room, with the option to participate via ZOOM. For our March meeting, we will be focusing on "communion" and the different ways that people have understood and found meaning in it.

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 the 4<sup>th</sup> UU 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).



## ICON MAKING WORKSHOPS IN HONOR OF EARTH DAY 2023

March 19<sup>th</sup> & April 26 (following worship)

*Let's begin by explaining what the word "iconography" literally means. It comes from two Greek words, eikon (meaning "image") and graphe (meaning "writing"). Together we get "image-writing" so the word "iconography" conveys the idea that an image can tell a story.*



In our Unitarian Universalist faith tradition we are called by our seventh principle to “*Respect our interdependent web of existence*”. In this environmental era, one in which our natural world is especially fragile, I believe that we are called to re-connect and to establish a new conversation with all of the Earth and its beings, to tell their stories.

I will be leading Icon making workshops on: March 19th & April 2. We will meet upstairs in the Alliance Room following worship on these two dates. You may attend one or both workshops.

In the workshops we will honor our sacred natural world through the creation of “Species Icons” -images of various animals, birds, insects, plants...We will display these Icons during the Earth Day Worship Service on April 16<sup>th</sup>. (If you have any images of a particular species that you would like to honor please bring an image with you that can be cut, glued, etc). (If you have poetry, song, verse that you may like to include, please bring a copy as well.)

ALL materials will be provided. All abilities and ages are welcome. No artistic ability is needed; this is an inclusive art form. It will be a bit messy so wear clothing accordingly. Bring a light snack for yourself if you cannot wait for lunch.

**NOTE - Seeking magazines with images of animals, birds, plants!**

Donations of used magazines with images of the natural world would be greatly appreciated. You can leave your magazine donation in the box marked magazine donations in the Alliance room, or give them to Debra Zagaeski during coffee hour.

If you have questions please email Debra Zagaeski - [dzagaeski@gmail.com](mailto:dzagaeski@gmail.com)

POTLUCK FUN RETURNING IN APRIL! At long last your Membership Committee will be launching a combination potluck dinner on Sunday evening April 16th from 5 - 7:30 pm in the Parish Hall. Our annual Thanks for Giving potluck (which in past years has been held in the fall) to thank folks for pledging and donating to KUUC, will be combined with our 5th annual Shining The Light On UU , which is a humorous honoring of our many volunteers, who have been nominated by our KUUC members and friends. Save The Date! More info to follow in the April Messenger.

## GENERAL INFORMATION:

### APRIL MESSENGER DEADLINE

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



## KUUC CONTACT LIST 2022-23

### WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday Services: 10:00 A.M.

Religious Exploration: 10:00 A.M.

September-June

Summer Services 10:00 A.M.

Address: 69 Washington Street  
Keene, NH 03431

Phone: (603) 352-1719

E-mail: [office@kuuc.org](mailto:office@kuuc.org)

Website: [www.kuuc.org](http://www.kuuc.org)

Facebook: Keene Unitarian Universalist  
Church@KeeneUU

### STAFF

Minister: Rev. Michael Hall

[rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com](mailto:rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com)

(508) 821-6092

Religious Exploration Coordinator:

Mallory Hicks

[kuucrec@gmail.com](mailto:kuucrec@gmail.com)

Music Director:

Donna Dearth

[rdearth@hotmail.com](mailto:rdearth@hotmail.com)

Office Manager:

Sue Walthour

[office@kuuc.org](mailto:office@kuuc.org)

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### BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2022-2023

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Tom Haynes 603-357-7645  
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Tina Stevens 603-209-6268  
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[matthewmsw99@gmail.com](mailto:matthewmsw99@gmail.com)

Rev. Michael F. Hall (*ex-officio*) 508-821-6092  
[rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com](mailto:rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com)

