



KUUC Messenger May 2024

May Meetings and Events

Slice of Fellowship Potluck	Fri May 3 at 5:30 pm	Parish Hall
KUUC Outdoors River Paddle	Sat May 4 at 1 pm	Ashuelot River Park
KUUC Clothes Swap	Sun May 5 at 11:15 am	Sanctuary
Worship Committee Meeting	Sun May 5 at 11:30 am	Alliance Room
RE Committee Meeting	Sun May 5 at 11:30 am	KUUC Library
MIP Housing for All Talk	Mon May 6 at 4:30 pm	Keene Public Library
Christian Scriptures Study	Tues May 7 at 5:00 pm	Alliance Room
Executive Committee	Wed May 8 at 6 pm	Alliance Room
Floating Lantern for Mental Health	Sat May 11 at 5:30 pm	Alyson's Orchard
Membership Committee	Sun May 12 at 11:30 am	KUUC Library
New UU Class	Sun May 12&26 at 11:30am	KUUC Library
Board of Trustees Meeting	Wed May 15 at 6:30 pm	Alliance Room
KUUC Games Night	Sat May 18 at 5:30 pm	Parish Hall
KUUC Book Club	Sun May 19 at 11:15 am	Alliance Room
KUUC Budget Meeting	Sun May 19 at 11:15 am	Sanctuary
Choir	Every Thurs at 6:30 pm	Parish Hall

May 2024 Worship Calendar

Our Soul Matters theme of the month is “Pluralism.” Ask yourself: How often do I feel a sense that I am living in a pluralistic society? How important is it for me to know, care about and interact with people from different countries, cultures and religious traditions? How much do I feel and need my worship, lived spirituality and faith to be multi-sourced? How important is it that my religious community, welcomes, interacts with and include people from religious backgrounds other than mine? Rev. Michael is interested in your answers to these questions: let him know what you think rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com

May 5th: “In Praise of Pluralism” Rev. Michael

We often hear our country, (and religious tradition), referred to as pluralistic. What does that even mean? Why is it so important? Where do our principles, sources, values and mission intersect, include and embody the idea and practice of pluralism? Today we celebrate Joys & Concerns and more.

May 12th: “Founding, Grounding and Growing Together” Rev. Michael

On this day in 1961 the Unitarians and Universalists joined together to form one free faith. What was gained by the creation of the UUA, what was lost and how have we grown since that occasion? More than 50 years later what can we do locally to move forward, promote and grow our faith? We will take Time for All Ages.

May 19th “Building Longer Tables” Worship Committee

Today, we celebrate the building of longer tables in Keene, to celebrate multiculturalism and how we're helping people integrate into our larger community, through 2 guest speakers, some poetry, prayer and hymns. This Sunday is our Third Sunday Plate Offering, going to the new Multicultural Center in Keene. The KUUC Choir joins us today.

May 26th: “Relax & Remember” Rev. Michael

On this Sunday we will focus on the two themes that are associated it: relaxation and remembrance. What are the people and events in our lives that we hope never to forget, and how do we relax in these frantic and fraught times?

Reverend Michael’s Moment

“A great source of calamity lies in regret and anticipation; therefore, a person is wise who thinks of the present alone, regardless of the past or future” --- Oliver Goldsmith

Hello There,

The so-called “church year” is winding down---I think that we should let it.

There are ample things to be done today---I think we should do them.

Let’s just do what needs doing today, (which may include planning), without losing ourselves on yesterdays completed or tomorrows beckoning

Today, I am going to try to avoid interrupting my breathing or postponing sleep. Also, I will strive to stay centered, minding the moment.

I am going to fully inhabit this ordinary and astonishing day.

Care to join me?

Rev. Michael

Study Day: Monday **Day Off:** Tuesday **Writing Day:** Thursday
Visitation & Meetings: Wednesday & Friday (afternoons)
Office Hours: Fridays 8:30 AM-12:30 PM
Odds & Ends: Saturday ½ Day (as needed)

Call with any questions or to schedule a visit at 508.821.6092

Board President Report

Happy Spring Everyone!

There is so much happening these days. The board is busy with planning all the transitions that are upcoming. We are finding new board members to join our incredible team. And some team members are stepping back after completing a three year term. We appreciate all the work Susie, Tom and Tina have done, and hope to keep you engaged in other activities of the church. Can't totally give it up, right?

Work on our 24-25 budget is underway, and we hope to have a good idea of our future by the May board meeting. Thank you to those that are working on that.

There is also progress being made on the search for a new minister. Here is how that works: We have a chair for the search committee in place. Tom Julius will be that chair, and he is putting together a team that will work closely with the UUA to find a new part time minister. The board has identified qualities that we feel are important to our congregation, and to the growth of our membership. All this information goes to the UUA and they "upload" it to their employment page. Then the waiting begins. The UUA will be in close contact with Tom and the search committee, and keep them apprised of any interest. Then there are interviews and meetings. The hope is to find a contract minister to start in August. Let's all send positive energy their way. If no minister is found, the UUA will help us with an interim minister until we find just the right person! So although we do not have services this summer, there will be much activity to keep many of us busy.

As a final note, I am taking up the duties of property chair. I want to meet with those folks who are interested in participating, either as mentors, visionaries, or actual, "I know how to do that" folks. It takes a team! So if you are interested, please email me, and I will add you to my list. In the very near future we will have a meeting to discuss projects that can be handled by us to help keep our building strong and beautiful.

Meanwhile, Happy May!

Caroline Stave Viemeister

Greetings from RE:

We've been really working on bonds this past month or so with game nights, great lessons both in our 'classroom' and in blocks that help us focus on helping those around us in our community and outside.

As we move into May we will be creating days to meet up and tend to our garden out front. If you've got seeds you'd like to see sprout feel free to bring them along. Know that our portion of the grounds is not high sun.

May Offerings:

5/5 Lesson upstairs about flexibility

5/12 BLOCKS

5/19 Nature walk with Betsy

5/26 If it is a nice day we will attempt to be outside. As a backup we will head upstairs to enjoy a podcast that aligns with our UU values and have some creative offerings to go along with it.

Mallory

Music

This month the choir will sing during the service on 5/19/24. The theme for May is “Pluralism”.

“Music Sunday” is scheduled for 6/2/24 and will feature choir selections and soloists.

The choir rehearses on Thursday nights from 6:30-8:00 in the parish hall. All are welcome to come try it out! The music committee always welcomes new members! Please see Jane Stave-Viemeister or me if you would like to be part of this group. Peace, Donna



Monadnock Interfaith Project

Building An Interfaith Coalition for Community Understanding and Social Justice

WWW.MIPNH.ORG

MonadnockInterfaith@gmail.com

[Click here to view this eNews in your web browser.](#)

CHANGE OF DATES / TIMES, now...
Housing Is for All of Us - May 6, 4:30pm
Faith Festival - June 1, 4pm
See below for more info.



Housing is for All of Us
with Angela Pape & Tom Julius
Now... May 6, 4:30pm
Huntress Auditorium, Keene Public Library

Featuring personal stories about housing challenges in the Monadnock region coupled with regional data, Angela and Tom will share a slide show illustrating how expanding housing options benefits us all. The presentation will be followed by audience discussion.

This program is free and open to the public. Your [RSVP here](#) helps anticipate how many will be participating. The presentation is supported by a grant from NH Housing and in collaboration with Southwest Regional Planning Commission.

To schedule an in-person or online session about housing tailored to fit your audience's schedule and needs contact Angela Pape, MIP Community Organizer: angelapape.mip@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE
MIP Faith Festival Coming Soon!
Now... June 1, 4pm
Wheelock Park, Horseshoe Pavilion, Keene



Know someone interested in interfaith efforts? Forward this email.

Visit our website MIPNH.org

Follow us on [Facebook @MIPNH](#)

Contact MIP anytime at monadnockinterfaith@gmail.com

To unsubscribe from future MIP emails click here: [UNSUBSCRIBE](#)

In faith, hope, and love,
Monadnock Interfaith Project, PO Box 161 Keene, NH 03431

Slice of Fellowship

Next Potluck Dinner: Fri May 3 at 5:30 pm Theme: Cindo de Mayo

Slice of Fellowship is a monthly potluck dinner open to all members and friends of KUUC and usually held on the first Friday of the month in the Parish Hall. Wine (BYOB) and appetizers are at 5:30 pm followed by dinner at 6:00. (This will be our final gathering until fall.) This month's theme, hosted by Betty and Mike Forrest, is Cinco de Mayo. You are asked to bring a veggie/salad, main dish or dessert to share. Water, juice and decaf coffee supplied.

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.



KUUC Outdoors



Ashuelot River Paddle

May 4, 1pm

The Ashuelot River Park in Keene, NH is an idyllic 157-acre public park and wetlands preserve. We will meet at the park entrance off West Street, and portage boats to the put in.

Please arrange for your watercraft, paddle, life vest, snacks and water. We will go upstream as far as navigable and then let the current carry us back. Plan on about two hours. Everyone will take personal responsibility for their level of comfort and safety.

Contact Susan Spencer for info about this excursion: laurel919@gmail.com



Upcoming Trips	Lead	Date
Gear Library Event, Robinhood Park, Keene	Keene Public Library	May 11, 9am-12pm
Mt Monadnock, Marlborough Trail	Marcus McCarroll	May 14
Kilburn Pond Loop, Pisgah State Forest	Deb McLay	June 8* Date change
Silver Lake, Harrisville, Moonlight Paddle	Susan Spencer	July 19
Gilsum Bears Den	Lindsay Bartlett	TBD
Nature & Spirit Walk	Tom Julius	TBD
Ashuelot Pond Kayak	Deb McLay	Sept 21
Partridge Berry Picking	Suzanne Butcher	Oct 26

Annual Church Budget Meeting

There will be a congregation-wide budget meeting after worship service on May 19, at about 11:15. The preliminary budget for 2024-25 will be presented and discussed.

This is the opportune time to ask budget questions and to make budget suggestions. Please make every effort to attend. Based on the congregation's feedback from this meeting, an updated budget will be presented for approval at the annual meeting on June 9.

UU Christian Scriptures Fellowship Group

Next Meeting: Tues, May 7 at 5:00 PM in Alliance Room or via Zoom Topic: Peace

Peace is mentioned often in the Bible. We will explore ways that “peace” was used in the Hebrew scriptures and by Jesus and his followers. What does peace mean to us today, and how can we have “inner peace” in a world where peace eludes us?

Our meeting provides a small group experience and opportunity to share and be heard on universal themes from the Bible and other sources in a supportive, non-judgmental setting. All are welcome to attend any meeting. This group follows the 4th UU principle (free and responsible search for truth and meaning) and is free of the dogma associated with traditional religion.

Meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at 5:00. For information contact Carol at CStamatakis@outlook.com or 603-398-5389.

KUUC Games Night

Saturday May 18, 5:30-8 pm in the Parish Hall

Join us for good games and good company! Grownups and kiddos welcome, the more the merrier! There's a group of 5-12 year old kids who attend regularly, as well as adults who like to play games without children too.

We have a wide selection of games but feel free to bring your favorite if you would like. Dinner will be provided, please bring a snack or soft drink to share if you choose.

KUUC Clothes Swap

Sunday May 5th at 11:15

So What Exactly is a Clothes Swap?

Clothes swaps are a great way to be more sustainable and environmentally friendly with your wardrobe, while connecting with your community. They're also fun!! If you've ever enjoyed going shopping with friends, getting second opinions on a new look and chatting while you do it, then you'll like a clothes swap too.

Fast fashion is a huge contributor to environmental harm, as well as harming the workers making the garments and the local environments where these factories are based. Embracing second-hand fashion through clothes swaps helps reduce this harm, while still being able to embrace your personal style and clothing preferences.

How Will It Work?

On swap day, please bring your one or several gently used and freshly laundered clothes or accessories to KUUC by 11:15 am. We will have tables set up labeled with clothes types (shirts, pants, dresses, kids' clothes, etc) and arranged with sizes from smallest to largest on each table. Please place the items you brought in the labeled spot where it goes. We will open the swap for 'shopping' at 11:30. Everyone is welcome to bring and take home as many or as few pieces as they would like, our only request is that you not take more than you will use. The bathrooms will be available for trying on items, and these swaps are the most fun if people chat and help each other choose pieces they will enjoy.

What Should I Bring?

Any clothes you aren't going to use anymore but that are still in good shape! Please do not bring items that have holes, stains, or haven't been washed since they were last worn. We hope this swap will include people of all sizes and ages, so please do not hesitate to bring your items regardless of size or style. You never know what items might be the most treasured by someone else. Clothing accessories like hats, scarves, belts, shoes, purses, and jewelry are all welcome, but please keep it outfit related (no home goods or linens).

Historic Highlights of KUUC

by Eloise Clark

Next time you are sitting in the Sanctuary and Parish Hall, look up. There is much to admire. Six immense horizontal timber trusses span the sanctuary. They have what the architects call, a “bottom chord” across the width of the sanctuary. Compare that to the scissor trusses in the Parish Hall that are without this bottom beam. Here, the scissor trusses were pitched at a lesser angle than the roof beams. Architect Edwin James Lewis, Jr. felt this was a better design for the smaller space.

The sturdy trusses support the roof and rafters. In the sanctuary, these measure 24 feet long, are six inches thick and set at 28-inch intervals. They are made of southern yellow pine. All the roof pieces have chamfered edges to soften the angles. They were coated with a thin stain.

Notice the curved arch supports that hold the trusses on the sidewalls of the sanctuary. One-inch thick bolts hold the curved arch supports together. Three-inch square decorative washers are capped with two inch square nuts. Architect Lewis insisted on precision to the point that every one of the 84 washers holding the bolts of the roof trusses had to be perfectly aligned with one another.

The exterior roof is visually stunning. The steep pitch is covered in slate quarried in Vermont. Most unusual is the treatment of each dormer. Each is covered with green slate, even the rounded Gothic arches framing the square diamond paned windows. Most remarkably, the work of building the foundation, the exterior walls and all the roof pieces was completed in just two months over the summer of 1894!

As you sit under this soaring roof, let your mind reflect on the many skilled sawyers and carpenters who cut and assembled the beams and trusses overhead. While they are gone, the roof has endured. Then imagine all the words, thoughts and prayers that have been uttered and the ceremonies witnessed under the sanctuary of this marvelous, soaring roof.

Thanks to Jim Smart’s also marvelous book *The Keene Unitarian Universalist Church: the building and its people* for the information.

I would be happy to send an electronic copy of the Historic Building Assessment of the Keene Unitarian Universalist Church to anyone interested. It was completed in 2023 by Scully Architects. It was partially funded by a grant from the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP), State of NH Division of Cultural and Natural Resources.