



KUUC Messenger June 2024

June Meeting and Events

MIP Faith Festival	Sat June 1 from 4-6 pm	Wheelock Park
Music Sunday Service	Sun June 2 at 10 am	Sanctuary
Worship Committee Meeting	Sun June 2 at 11:30 am	Alliance Room
Ministerial Search Committee	Sun June 2 at 1:30 pm	Alliance Room
Kilborn Pond Hike	Sat June 8 at 9:30 am	Meet at KUUC
Annual Meeting	Sun June 9 at 11 am	Sanctuary
Executive Committee	Wed June 12 at 6 pm	Alliance Room
Get Out the Vote Postcard Writing	Fri June 14 at 1:30 pm	Monadnock Food Co-Op
KUUC Games Night	Sat June 15 at 5:30 pm	Parish Hall
Flower Communion -	Sun June 16 at 10 am	Sanctuary
Last Sun Service of the Church Year		
Michael's Going Away Potluck	Sun June 16 at 11 am - 1 pm	Lawn/Parish Hall
KUUC Board of Trustees Meeting	Wed June 19 at 6:30 pm	Alliance Room
Gilsum Bear's Den Hike	Thurs June 20 at 4 pm	TBA
World Refugee Day Celebration	Thurs June 20 at 5 pm	Labyrinth on Airport Rd

June 2024 Worship Calendar

Our Soul Matters theme of the month is "Renewal." Ask yourself: What is it that renews me when I am worn out or overwhelmed? What ways can foster renewal in my family, neighborhood, or city?

June 2nd: "Not Your Average Sunday" Rev. Michael

Sunday Services at KUUC are always special, but today's service is just full of special! Besides extra music from Donna, the KUUC Choir and other musicians, we will celebrate and take part in the first in-service child dedication in many years. Rev. Michael will offer a message on what makes worship central to spiritual communities, especially in a rapidly changing world. Also be ready for special coffee hour treats this Sunday, (or should I say Sundae?), as we celebrate another fabulous year of Religious Exploration.

June 9th: "Return Again" Rev. Michael

The democratic process is not only important to Unitarian Universalists, but it is a collective spiritual practice for us as well. With our Annual Meeting following shortly after the service this Sunday morning, we will talk about how preparing and participating in Democracy is a process of

congregational renewal. Today we will also celebrate Joys & Concerns for the final time this “church year.”

June 16th: “It All Comes Down to This” Rev. Michael

This final service until September will feature the annual Flower Communion ceremony, the KUUC choir and the last time that Rev. Michael F. Hall, the 23rd settled minister in the 200-year history of KUUC, will lead worship. Bring a flower or two for the flower ceremony and plan to stay for the festivities after the service concludes.

June 23rd: No Summer Services but Here’s an Alternative!!

Although there are no summer services at KUUC this year, here is something fun that you might do on June 23rd: watch the Worship from the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly!

Follow this link for more information: <https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2024/sunday-worship>. The service will be livestreamed at 1 PM EST.

Reverend Michael’s Moment:

“Farewell has a sweet sound of reluctance. Good-bye is short and final, a word with teeth sharp to bite through the string that ties past to the future.”

— John Steinbeck, *The Winter of Our Discontent*

Just about twelve years ago, I sat down and wrote my first Messenger article to you, and now I write my last.

I won’t say that “it seems like only yesterday.” I think if it did, then I would feel cheated. A long ministry, like that we have shared, should feel substantial and not without complexity: a mixture of cheerful times and challenging times, great accomplishments and missed opportunities. Through the years since 2012 we have both overcome daunting trials and also learned new things about who we are. In a long association like ours has been, precious people are lost, or up and move away; fast friendships are made, spats happen and all-important things are left unsaid. Grudges form and hopefully are resolved with time and care. When folks are committed to justice, community and love, sometimes they have to take time to laugh at themselves and with gusto share the stories of just how they got where they got to, and speak in all solemnity about how they will get where they want to go.

What I have said may be confusing, and may have taken too long for some of you. But to me it was well worth the effort nonetheless.

All of it was well worth the effort nonetheless.

For now, I say good-bye; but, in the days to come, I will no doubt also say farewell.

Rev. Michael

Rev. Michael’s Schedule and Office Hours (June 2024):

Ministry Days & UUA Virtual GA: Third week of June

Day Off: Tuesday **Writing Day:** Thursday

Visitation & Meetings: By Appointment

Office Hours: First Two Fridays 8:30 AM-12:30 PM

Odds & Ends: Saturdays Last Day: June 30, 2024
Call with any questions or to schedule a visit at 508.821.6092

Board President Report

Hello Beloved Community,

As we enter into our final month of the church calendar, we find ourselves immersed in times of change and transition. The board is busy working out all the details for a smooth transition, as well as the potential for much change coming in the new year.

There will be no services for July and August, but our KUUC Outdoors group is hoping for some hikes, kayaking etc. So stay tuned.

The board is looking to create a Communications team to work with Facebook, media, and other outlets that can connect us with our larger community. If this interests you, please let me know! I know on everyone's mind is the search for our new Minister. We have a search committee created. Tom Julius is the lead, and Jane Stave Viemeister, Deb Mclay, Mickey Cronin, and Rich Clark are his team mates. They are currently working on completing the UUA Congregational record so that a complete employment profile can be uploaded to their hiring portal. Then the search begins. We are searching for a half time contract minister. This is different from a settled ministerial position. This is a position for one year. At the end of that year we can make a decision as to renewing the contract, or making changes based on where we are in our shared ministry. It gives us choices as to how we move forward. Maybe we stay at half time. Maybe we want a full time, who knows?

Meanwhile plans are coming together for our last month of services as well as some celebrations. Watch for announcements, and come join us in service as well as in community.

Best,

Caroline Stave Viemeister

Music

This month the choir will sing during the services on 6/2 and 6/16. Music Sunday will be on 6/2/24 and will feature choir selections and soloists.

I want to take a moment to thank all the musicians and singers who participated in the music ministry this year. There are too many of you to name. I feel proud and honored to make beautiful music with you all. The choir continues to grow and I hope to see some new faces when we resume rehearsals in September.

The music committee always welcomes new members! Please see Jane Stave-Viemeister or me if you would like to be part of this group.

Have a relaxing, enjoyable summer- "See You in September"

Peace,

Donna

Greetings from RE:

I found myself, more than in years past, looking around and wondering 'where did the year go? How did that happen so fast?!' The growth RE has experienced is incredible.

This was a placeholder year, and this just goes to show that when you hold space for others incredible things happen, just being there is sometimes all that is needed. It's been an honor to sit in this position, and I cannot wait to see what we can do with next year.More on that later, go enjoy your summer!!

As for June, we have ONE RE left. June 2nd will be our last offering for the year, and I hope you all join us. We will start off our morning in sanctuary as usual and then head to Parish Hall to get ready for our Sundae Sunday where the children of RE will begin prepping to serve those in attendance.
Mallory

Invitation to all KUUC Members and Friends

Potluck/Party/Celebration

Sunday, June 16th from 11-1 pm (after the service)

Sunday, June 16th is KUUC's last Sunday service until Sunday services restart again in the Fall. It is also Rev. Michael's last day as the minister of our Keene Unitarian Universalist Church. Please come and join us in celebrating Rev. Michael and appreciating all he has given to our KUUC community.

Pot Luck Info:

- If your last name starts with A-I, please bring a veggie dish or salad to share.
- If your last name begins with J-S, please bring a main dish to share.
- If your last name begins with T-Z, please bring a dessert to share.
- If you have a special dish you particularly enjoy making for pot lucks, feel free to bring that dish in place of the suggestions above.
- It is helpful if you can write out the ingredients of you dish so folks with particular sensitivities can make appropriate choices.
- Also, to help share the work load and be mindful of our green sanctuary designation, please bring your family's plates, cups and utensils
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We look forward to celebrating Rev. Michael with you on this last day of our church year!!

A gift from the congregation will be given to Rev. Michael at this celebration. Individual cards of appreciation or celebration are welcome.

If you have questions, please contact office@kuuc.org or call 603 352-1719 or Wendy at 603-847 9621.

UU Christian Scriptures Fellowship Group

Next Meeting: Tues, June 4 at 4:30 PM (New Time!) in Alliance Room or via Zoom

Topic: The Holy Spirit (or Spirit of the Divine)

Many people associate the term "Holy Spirit" with the experience of Jesus' followers at Pentecost and/or as part of the trinity as understood in traditional Christian doctrine, but the concept can also be understood as a transcendent universal human experience. According to one commentator, "Christianity uses ruach (in the Old Testament) and pneuma as Spirit. Both of these words have the same meaning as Chi in Asia. Spirit, like Chi, means energy, wind, breath, life-giving spirit. It is the Spirit of God which hovers over the Earth and all of creation and breathes life into everything."

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 4:30. For information contact Carol at CStamatakis@outlook.com or 603-398-5389.



KUUC Outdoors

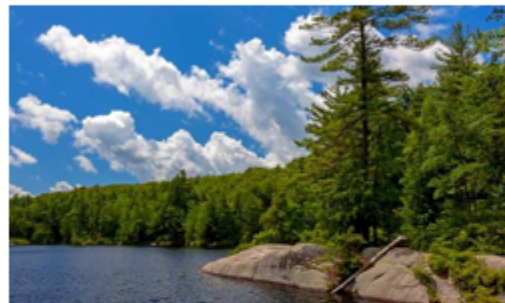


Kilburn Pond Hike, Pisgah State Park Saturday, June 8, 9:30am at KUUC

This is a beautiful 4-mile loop. It is an easy, approximately 2-hour hike with opportunities for dipping in the pond along the way.

The trail begins on a logging road followed by mild ascents and descents with roots along the path. Bring layers to dress for the weather, bug repellent, water, and snacks. Wear sturdy walking shoes.

Meet at KUUC at 9:30am to carpool or 10:00am at the trailhead on Rte. 63 in Chesterfield, 4.5 miles south of Rte. 9. Everyone will take personal responsibility for their level of exertion, comfort, and safety.



Contact Deb Mclay for info about this excursion:
debmclay529@gmail.com
or 603-499-6043

Details of Gilsum Bears Den Hike coming Soon!!

Upcoming Trips	Lead	Date
Gilsum Bears Den	Lindsay Bartlett	June 20, 4pm
Silver Lake, Harrisville, Moonlight Paddle	Susan Spencer	July 19
Birding Walks	Tom Julius	TBD
Ashuelot Pond Kayak	Deb McLay	Sept 21
Partridge Berry Picking	Suzanne Butcher	Oct 26

KUUC Games Night

Saturday June 15, 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 Summer Office Hours

Our office manager, Erica, will have limited office hours during the summer, when KUUC doesn't have regular Sunday Services.

Starting the week of June 17th, office hours will be Wednesdays 9:30-12:30.

The office email will still be checked several times a week, so if you need anything, that is the preferred method of communication. She will also be travelling and not in the office Wed July 17, 24, and 31.

We do plan to send out a joint July and August Messenger during the first week of July, so please submit any information you would like included by July 1. A reminder email will be sent a few days before.

KUUC, Article II, and the Wider UU Community

by Deborah Dunnell

What is KUUC's relationship to the wider UU community and how do we maintain that relationship? This question came to me when I learned that some of us only recently became aware of the proposed changes to Article II of the UUA Bylaws and Rules. These changes were first offered in 2022, were discussed at the 2023 General Assembly, and will be voted on at the 2024 GA in June. They are important because Article II is where our Seven Principles and Six Sources are articulated, and both are most likely going to change significantly. In fact, the Seven Principles will be replaced by "Shared Unitarian Universalist Values" and the Sources will become "Inspirations." Both sections have very different wording from the current version.

The proposed Values are Justice, Equity, Transformation, Plurality, Interdependence and Generosity, all surrounding the most important value, Love. Some UU congregations have already embraced these Values using the acronym JETPIG. This link will lead you to additional information about the values in the new proposed Article II: <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission/final-proposed-revision-article-ii>

KUUC has had two years to discuss and vote on these changes but somehow that never came to pass. I personally follow a number of UU Facebook pages, both general and RE-oriented, so I frequently see posts about the changes to Article II, but I fully understand that many people don't use social media that way. In any event, although KUUC has missed the opportunity to weigh in officially at

GA, we still can and should discuss these changes as a congregation (unless, of course they are voted down at GA, which seems unlikely.)

KUUC is a part of the wider UU community. Let us work together to foster and maintain that relationship as we enter this new phase of our shared history.

Postcard Writing Party

Fri June 14 at 1:30 pm at the Monadnock Food Co-Op

Hosted by Beth Caldwell and Wendy Byrn, Third Act NH members from the Monadnock Region
Here is a great opportunity to help Get Out the Vote in key elections between now and November 5th.

On Friday, June 14th at 1:30pm at the Monadnock Food Co-op in Keene, Third Act NH will host a Postcard Party in the air-conditioned conference room. We will provide postcards, stamps, addresses and the script to write on the postcards. You can have lunch in the Co-op Cafe, then join a motivated team of folks who are concerned about Protecting our Climate and Safeguarding our Democracy. Postcards are an effective way to increase voter turnout, and win in tight races. Third Act's goal nationally is to send 50,000 postcards to targeted voters by Election Day 2024. Feel free to contact me if you have questions, or if you'd like to make a donation toward postage and postcard costs. Our per postcard expense will be \$.65. Over the next five months the Monadnock Region Postcard Team plans to host six more Postcard Parties, mailing hundreds of postcards to voters, targeted by Activate America.

We hope you can join us. Please RSVP to bcaldwell@rgbcassociates.com only if you plan to attend. Also, feel free to pass along this invitation to friends who share our climate and democracy concerns.

Touchstones To Stepping Stones: Being With The Unfolding Of Your Life

Thursday, June 20, 2024 from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Chase's Mill in Alstead, NH With: Patience Stoddard, Ann Acheson

Register on line at <https://chasesmill.org/events-and-classes-at-the-mill-2024>

Class Fee: \$75 (includes material). Scholarships are available.

Class Size: 6-12 / Adults only

In this time together we will reflect upon the core values that have shaped the path of our lives. Through writing, sharing, art, and ritual, we will engage with what is challenging us and open to what is beckoning us onward. Please bring a lunch, some food to share and a touchstone for the altar. Patience Stoddard lives in Alstead with her husband, Jim Gruber. She is a retired Unitarian Universalist minister, pastoral therapist, and chaplain. She enjoys creating opportunities for people to share their stories, inspire and support one another.

Ann Acheson has a keen interest in process, presence, wellness and Spirit. As a healing arts practitioner for twenty-five years, she has been continually inspired by her clients' courage to meet themselves and by the inherent wisdom of life that flows through each of us. She is currently stewarding the land where she and her husband live, and stewarding Chase's Mill by serving on the Board of Trustees.

Any questions feel free to call Patience Stoddard at 603-313-1169.

Historic Highlights of KUUC

by Eloise Clark

January 24, 1895 marked the opening and dedication of our current church building. The new organ was not yet finished and in place for the event. Fortunately the “celebrated French pews” had arrived by mid-month so there was seating for all. They were numbered 1 to 104 beginning at the bell tower entrance of the church. Since that time a number of pews have been removed to make way for wheelchair seating and easier passage midway in the sanctuary.

After the dedication, pews were “free” for the first two weeks to welcome the many visitors who came to marvel at the new church in town. Otherwise, pews were “sold” to church members to raise funds for operations. The Pew Owners Association was the governing force of the church from 1847 to 1893. Their important influence is explained in Chapter 4 of Jim Smart’s history of The Keene Unitarian Universalist Church: the building and its people from which information for this column is drawn.

Theodore Peart, who had a furniture store in town, supplied the chancel table. Lecretia Tilton donated the large ceremonial chancel chairs and the pulpit in memory of her mother, Lucretia Perry Wood, one of the founders of the church. Her husband, Lucien Tilton had been chief engineer overseeing the construction of the Cheshire Railroad that arrived in Keene in 1847. The Ladies Sewing Society provided the first carpet for the church, an olive green shade. They also provided cushions for the new pews. The cushions were of a terra cotta shade. Both cushions and carpet had tracery designs in them.

Gaslights from the five large central chandeliers illuminated the church. Take a moment the next time you are in the sanctuary to admire these hammered iron beauties as well as the wall sconces in the chancel area. The chandeliers were electrified in 1921.

Three furnaces heated the church through large hot air registers and still another one the parish hall. The furnaces burned either wood or coal. They required a cord and a half of wood or 1500 pounds of coal to make the church comfortable for Sunday service. One wonders who shoveled all that coal and loaded all that wood?!