

# The Messenger

March 2020 Volume 28 Issue 3

Keene Unitarian Universalist Church, 69 Washington Street, Keene, NH 03431  
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## Worship Calendar: April 2020

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Sunday Services  
are virtual for the  
time being. A  
link to each new  
service and an  
invitation to the  
"Zoom Virtual  
Coffee Hour" on  
Saturday. The  
Zoom Coffee  
Hour is live  
10:30-11:30 A.M.  
on Sunday

Our theme for the month of April is "Liberation." You might ask yourself, during this time of shuttered schools and social distancing, what is freeing you from worry. Do you already see that you are finding in this mandated separation an alternative way of being in the world?

**April 5, 2020 "Is Freedom Just Another Word?" (Rev. Michael)**

We begin our first full month of "virtual" worship services, which corresponds with National Poetry Month with a celebration of this month's theme of liberation through the lens of poetry.

**April 12, 2020 "Unburdening Easter" (Rev. Michael)**

Perhaps the opportunity to celebrate the timeless Easter themes of rebirth, resurrection and the possibility of true freedom, will be easier to do without the hectic pace that is often associated with this holiday. Let's make it so.

**April 19, 2020 "What the Earth Needs" (Rev. Michael)**

As it is "Climate Justice Month" with Earth Day just around the corner, Rev. Michael asks what the Earth needs from us now and what we can do to liberate ourselves along with her.

**April 26, 2020 "The New Story" (Rev. Michael)**

As we go on biding our time in sequester, we continue to think, to dream, to connect and reconnect with others and to tell our stories. Rev. Michael asks for stories from this strange and risky time to be alive. **Please send him your stories, small and large, and let him know what if and thing can and cannot be shared—or can be shared without attribution.**

**[You will receive an email with a YouTube link to the service on Friday or Saturday and it can be viewed whenever you wish. Also, with that link will be an invitation to join in the "Zoom Virtual Coffee Hour," which runs from 10:30-11:30 each Sunday morning.]**

## 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

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

- 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/ Rev. Michael's Moment: April 2020

“Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish.”

—John Quincy Adams

**What a sad and strange interlude in this world:** so many sick, so many scared, more than 33,000 confirmed dead worldwide as of this writing. The Covid-19 has shown us what other pandemics before have shown: that we are never adequately prepared for such disasters, that supplies of necessary equipment are insufficient, that a large proportion of the population are slow to change their embedded habits—and a smaller percentage refuse to be guided any advice that limits what they see as their liberty. The grandstanding, rancor, unwillingness to cooperate, and limited vision of our own political establishment has only made matters worse, and in this moment, delay is death.

**Yet there are hopeful signs among the people.** I have heard and read about so many small acts of kindness, of folks reaching out and doing good deeds to help out neighbors and strangers alike. People are frustrated, and regrettably that frustration sometimes leaches out. Yet, huge numbers of ordinary people are also working to change those behaviors, because they know that if there is to be a bright future than it will be up to them; as much as anyone standing at podiums and make speeches, *they* will ensure that future. One kind act at a time is what is needed: 20 seconds of soap and water without skimping, one creative idea that improves a unhealthy situation, a factory rearranged to make critical, higher priority goods, (like facemasks and other medical supplies)—that is all it takes to make meaningful change. Just call one elderly church member, and say, “How’re ya doin’?” Remind a child that “it will get better, little by little, if we keep doing what we need to do to be safe.”

So, reach out to an old friend or sober buddy, let your loneliness be a signal that others might need a call, email or postcard, too. Sure, keep your physical distance, but be effusive in all the other appropriate ways of showing others that you care about them. *All of us are on the front lines now; each of has to fire up our network and keep their morale high.* You and I are tasked with modelling life-saving behavior, which includes staying patient, practicing good hygiene and embracing life as it needs to be lived **now, for now.**

*Rev. Michael*

## A Message from your Board President

Thanks are long overdue to Andrea Ansevin-Allen, who has now been filling in as “temporary” Treasurer of KUUC for almost 3 years—despite having a full-time job and a busy family life. We owe thanks to her family as well. It is long past time for someone else to take on the role of Treasurer. If you think you may be up to the job, whose primary requirements are being comfortable with numbers and details, having some degree of comfort using computers, and dedication to KUUC, please contact Andrea or me.

The COVID-9 epidemic is affecting us all deeply, and things are in great flux. Times such as these can bring the worst out of people – greed, distrust, xenophobia, fear, panic, but also the best out of people—generosity, cooperation, love, altruism—heroism as well. It is unclear when we will next all be able to meet together again. Many of us are feeling physically and emotionally isolated, and at least a little worried. Now is a good time to email and/or call others within our church community to let them know that we miss seeing them and to ask if they need help. Let’s reach out beyond our KUUC community as well!

Many of us are deemed at high risk for severe COVID-19 infection simply by virtue of our age. Please be diligent about hand-washing, avoiding touching one’s face (admittedly a difficult habit to avoid), and avoiding crowds. There is much that can be done to hasten the end of this pandemic and to protect one’s self and others. The CDC COVID-19 site <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html> is an excellent source of updated information.

Now is a great time to reflect on our UU principles and on KUUC’s mission statement: **The people of KUUC are committed to actively creating compassionate community and working for a fair and peaceful world.**

Take care, of yourselves and others,

John Walter

## FROM THE DRE:

### Our Whole Lives

KUUC will once again be offering the grade 7-9 component of the [Our Whole Lives](#) values\*-based lifespan sexuality education curriculum. While this program was jointly developed by the UUA and the UCC, the course as presented at KUUC contains no dogma or religious doctrine, only “accurate, developmentally appropriate information about a range of topics, including

relationships, gender identity, sexual orientation, sexual health, and cultural influences on sexuality.” ([uua.org/re/owl](http://uua.org/re/owl))

If you’re curious about this program, please check out the link and talk with someone who has taught or taken the course, or a parent/guardian of someone who has.

If you have or know of a young person who will be in grade 7, 8, or 9 (or home school equivalent) in September of 2020, please share this information with them and with their parent or guardian, and encourage them to contact Jill at [kuucdre@gmail.com](mailto:kuucdre@gmail.com) to get on the mailing list for updates.\*\* Space in this class is limited, and KUUC is the only place in the Monadnock region where it is being offered.

**\*The core values that underpin every aspect of Our Whole Lives are sexual health, responsibility, self-worth, justice and inclusivity.**

**\*\* Due to the pandemic, training for Our Whole Lives leaders has been put off for the immediate future. We will make every effort to get our people trained at the earliest sessions when the resume, although it could delay the start of the program at KUUC.**

**Staffing and Scheduling Note:** Since March 11, I have been on leave from my duties as KUUC’s Director of Religious Exploration. The members of the Religious Exploration committee – Barbara Bryce, Deborah Dunnell, Betsy Stacey and Tina Stevens ~ as well as Susan Lowry and Andrea Ansevin-Allen, are covering most of my responsibilities. I very much appreciate all of them for volunteering to teach or assist in classes for the Sunday morning elementary-age children and the Sunday afternoon middle-school group, to help plan and participate in Easter’s multigenerational service, and to welcome and connect with newcomers. I’m also grateful to Rev. Michael for picking up some of my other duties, and to him and the board for supporting my use of my allowed days off to cover this leave.

**Questions? Concerns? Until April 25,** please contact Barbara Bryce, chair of the RE Committee, any of the other RE Committee members (contact info can be found in the KUUC directory) or Rev. Michael. I will not check or respond to email during my leave. For emergencies, please contact Barbara or Rev. Michael. **After April 25,** please contact me at [kuucdre@gmail.com](mailto:kuucdre@gmail.com) or call/text 508-821-8935 as usual.

**Jill M. Hall, DRE**

## MUSIC NOTES

Happy Spring!

The theme for this month is “Liberation,” and I’m excited to explore this through music. Max Leader, a student from KSC, will play trumpet throughout the service on the 12th.

Peace, *Donna*

Donna Dearth, Music Director

## CIRCLE OF CARING: THERE WHEN YOU NEED THEM:

This is just a little reminder that the KUUC Circle of Caring is a network that does many things to help church members and friends in need: They check in on people who are sick or have been absent from church, sometimes providing rides to the market or medical appointments, or sometimes providing meals on a short-term basis when someone is back from the hospital. These folks are invaluable to the life of our congregation in making sure that the minister is aware of developing pastoral needs, and supporting his work to that end.

Please let co-chairs Betty Forrest [mandbforrest@myfairpoint.net](mailto:mandbforrest@myfairpoint.net) and/or Betsy Zimmerli [betsyzim4@ne.rr.com](mailto:betsyzim4@ne.rr.com) know if you or a loved one needs to be contacted or helped in some way.

**Notes on Special Meeting, Sunday Feb. 16** in the Sanctuary. Attendees: 49 members (quorum is 20 % of 145 or 29 members)

The meeting had two items of business:

(1) Approving the Nominating Committee's choice of Jim Peale to replace Matt Aversa as president elect. Carol White spoke on behalf of the Nominating Committee and nominated Jim Peale for President-Elect. The nomination was seconded by Scott Ansevin-Allen. There was no discussion. The motion passed, with all voting to approve except for one abstention.

(2) A presentation from the board of trustees regarding KUUC property ownership and management challenges and options- seeking guidance from the congregation.

John Walter briefly introduced the topic #2. For more background, refer to email 2/4/2020 sent by John Walter titled, “Why Are There Concerns Regarding Church Property?” For informational purposes, Taylor St. has \$37K mortgage remaining. Zillow estimates \$170K market value. Currently, typical attendance at weekly worship service is 50-70 people. Right now, there is no one pursuing the potential for historical grants or funding. There may be a city resource or contact for this. Tom Haynes spoke with a range of ideas:

- Selling the Taylor Street property and building a maintenance fund from the proceeds.
- Liquidating items of potential value: “Truth” window, Revere bell, organ, etc. Proceeds could

be placed into the endowment or into a “maintenance” fund.

- Remodeling the sanctuary for offices and renting the back wing entirely. Sanctuary, parish hall and undercroft could be the new footprint of the church. The remaining space could be used for rental income.

Regarding Taylor St. property, Carol McIntyre-Peale suggested, as part of a sale, we negotiate an easement with the property to retain the driveway. Tom Haynes is meeting with a realtor to discuss valuations and could consider this. Carol did not favor selling our main church property. D’Vorah Kelley suggested creating a false/lowered sanctuary ceiling to save heat.

## EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, UPDATES & Other News

[PLEASE NOTE: MOST OF THE EVENTS BELOW WILL NOT BE HELD DUE TO THE WISE RESTRICTIONS AGAINST CHURCH MEETINGS AND PROGRAMMING AT THE CHURCH DURING THE ONGOING COVID-19 VIRUS. WE LEAVE THESE ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR TWO REASONS: FIRST, BECAUSE, LIKE OUR WORSHIP AND COFFEE HOUR, SOME MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS MAY BE CHANGING OVER TO AN ONLINE VENUE TO BE SURE CONTACT THAT GROUP’S LEADER DIRECTLY. SECOND, SO YOU WILL REMEMBER THE MANY KUUC PROGRAMS THAT YOU LOVE AND SEE WHICH OF THE SAME YOU WANT TO TRY WHEN WE RETURN TO FULLY FUNCTIONING ONCE AGAIN.]



**KUUC Outdoors**





## Greetings outdoors enthusiasts!

As we engage in social distancing,  
let's remember that a healthy  
practice is to be outdoors, soak in the  
sun, wind, rain, and snow.  
You just might see some springtime  
sign of the web of life.

We will stay in touch about  
upcoming events. Meanwhile...  
Go Take a Hike!

For KUUC Outdoors information contact:  
Tom Julius (603) 357-4521 [tjulius54@gmail.com](mailto:tjulius54@gmail.com)



Hope Blossoms!



Drummer Hill hike pre-distancing

## KUUC Outdoors 2020 Schedule

Sun, Apr 5	Wall Dog Murals Walk, Keene
Sun, May 24	Birding & Blooms, Surry
Sun, Jun	Stonewall Farm Bike/Walk, Keene
Sat, Jul 25	Gap Mtn Hike & Berryin', Troy (rain date, 8/1)
Sat, Aug 15	Willard Pond Paddle/Swim/Hike, Hancock (rain date, 8/16)
TBD	St. Gaudens National Historical Park, Cornish, NH
Sat, Sep 19	Hogback Mtn Hike & Southern VT Natural History Museum, Marlboro, VT
TBD	Source to Sea Cleanup, Swanzey & Keene
Sun, Oct 4	Horatio Colony Preserve Hike, Keene
Sun, Oct 24/25	Partridge Berry Picking, Keene
Sun, Nov 8	Bear Den Natural Area, Gilsum (rain date, 11/15)

**Spoken Word Tea House** enjoyed a well-attended and successful premier last month. Thanks to all who provided food or attended—you are appreciated. This event will happen on the first



Sunday of every month. Sign-ups begin at 6:30; the show starts at 7 and ends at 9. Consider marking your calendars for future events. You may want to share your own poetry or crafted stories with us—or just come to get to know others. Hope to see you there.

## **Upcoming Spring Rummage and Plant Sale May 23**

It's time again to bring your unwanted items to the church for our next sale. Please, only clean ready-to-sell spring and summer clothing. Hold onto your books for the fall events, and please, no old electronics. If you have questions or need help getting things here, contact Hazel: 306-6502.

Gardeners, it's time to think about what plants you may need to divide and contribute to this important fund raiser. Melinda has containers available for your use and will assist in finding help should you need it. Thank you.

**The quilting group** will meet on Tuesdays in the Parish Hall from 10 till noon.

**The rummage sorting group** will meet in the Undercroft on Thursdays from 10 till noon.

**Poetry Group** will meet the fourth Monday of the month, April 27. The group welcomes everyone to share their favorites and original poems.

## **Dance Connection**

Come dance and move together with others in safe, welcoming space. No experience necessary. Free, but donations for use of space gratefully accepted. Every Wednesday in April except for April 22, 2-3 P.M. in Parish Hall at KUUC. Carin Torp is leader, a board-certified dance movement therapist and group fitness instructor. For more information, contact her at 357-7645 or [carintorp@yahoo.com](mailto:carintorp@yahoo.com).

**KUUC Book Club.** Our next meeting is on April 19. We'll discuss *Flight Behavior* by Barbara Kingsolver. Be sure to bring back your copies of the book on that date so Carol can return all copies to the library. You will also be able to pick up copies of our next book. If you would like to get on our member email list, contact Ruth Shepard at [ruthshep47@gmail.com](mailto:ruthshep47@gmail.com).

## **Slice of Fellowship and Senior Lunch Bunch are both cancelled for April.**

**Slice of fellowship** is a monthly potluck dinner open to all members and friends of KUUC and is usually held on the first Friday of every month during the church year in the parish hall. Wine and cheese are at 5:30 followed by dinner at 6:00 PM. You are asked to bring a veggie, main dish or dessert. Please bring your own dishes, flatware and napkins. Call Betty Forrest 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 usually meet on the third

Wednesday at 12 noon, October through May, in the parish hall. **For information**, call Betty Forrest at 357-1534 or email her at [mandbforrest@myfairpoint.net](mailto:mandbforrest@myfairpoint.net).

**Note:** If local schools are cancelled due to weather conditions, Lunch Bunch is also cancelled.

## Ferry Beach Get-Away Weekend

Friday, 5/8/20, Saturday, 5/9/20, Sunday, 5/10/20

The KUUC Ferry Beach Committee is excited that our annual Ferry Beach Get-Away weekend is in May. Ferry Beach is a Conference Center on Saco Bay in Maine. During the Spring and Fall weekends, the facilities are rented by UU Church groups. For the third year, we will be sharing Ferry Beach with the Bedford, Mass. 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 solitude. The accommodations are rustic, but the setting is majestic.

**Lodging:** Options for the weekend (price is for the two nights). Rowland = \$160/room (sleeps 1-4 people, 2 sets of bunk beds, new two rooms with one queen bed). Cross Cabin = \$240/room (sleeps 1-2, private room with full/queen bed, private bath). Metz Cabin = \$270/cabin (living space full pull-out couch, second room with full bed, private bathroom). **Camping** = \$56/tent, \$64/trailer site, \$70/ **RV Meals:** 4 meals: Sat. breakfast, lunch, dinner & Sun. breakfast. Adult = \$50 (13 yr. +) Child = \$40 (8-12 years) **Weekend Membership** = \$5/person Registration and \$100 deposit are due February 23, 2020. **Full payment is due March 29, 2020.** For further information contact Jim Peale or Carol McIntyre-Peale at 357-7875 or at [pealefamily@gmail.com](mailto:pealefamily@gmail.com)

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Office Hours/Check the Calendar/ Schedule Meetings

Please contact Susan at [office@kuuc.org](mailto:office@kuuc.org) to inquire about scheduling a meeting. If possible, do so in advance. Please call or email in advance if you have any in-person business to conduct with her. During March, we will have a new staff person starting. Please stay tuned for who that person will be and what her schedule will be.

### Rev. Michael's Office Hours for April:

During the month of April, Rev. Michael's office hours will be on Wednesdays from 9 A.M. to 12 P.M. Contact him directly to make an appointment during office hours or to meet on another day, time or place. [rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com](mailto:rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com).

## MAY MESSENGER DEADLINE:

The deadline for the May *Messenger* is 5 P.M. on Wednesday, April 15. Going forward, the due date for Messenger submissions will be the 15<sup>th</sup> of the prior month (the only exception is June 15, as there is no July Messenger). Send all your articles and notices directly to Rev. Michael at [rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com](mailto:rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com).



## COMMITTEE CONTACTS:

Circle of Caring:	Betsy Zimmerli
Covenant Groups:	Carolyn Antrim
Investment:	John Bordenet
Membership:	Melinda Hildreth-Honkala
Music:	Carin Torp
Personnel:	Ruth Shepard
Religious Exploration:	Barbara Bryce
Senior Lunch Bunch:	Betty Forrest
Shawls of Love:	Darcy Doyle
Slice of Fellowship:	Betty Forrest
Social Action/Green Sanctuary:	Ann Shedd
Stewardship:	Carol Stamatakis
Ushers:	Jenn Wyman
Wayside Pulpit:	Vicki Keller
Worship:	Jenn Wyman

Property:	Bob Hill
Fundraising:	David Robinson
Greens Sale:	Open
Welcoming Congregation:	Open

## KUUC CONTACT LIST 2019-2020

### WORSHIP SERVICES

### STAFF

Sunday Services:	10:00 A.M.	Minister:	Rev. Michael Hall
Religious Exploration:	10:00 A.M.		<a href="mailto:rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com">rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com</a>
September-June			(508) 821-6092
Summer Services	10:00 A.M.	Director, Religious Exploration:	Jill M. Hall
Address:	69 Washington Street Keene, NH 03431		<a href="mailto:kuucdre@gmail.com">kuucdre@gmail.com</a>
Phone:	(603) 352-1719	Music Director:	Donna Dearth
E-mail:	<a href="mailto:office@kuuc.org">office@kuuc.org</a>		<a href="mailto:rdearth@hotmail.com">rdearth@hotmail.com</a>
Website:	<a href="http://www.kuuc.org">www.kuuc.org</a>		
Facebook:	Keene Unitarian Universalist <a href="https://www.facebook.com/Church@KeeneUU">Church@KeeneUU</a>		

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2019-2020

John Walter, President	358-3101	Hazel Erdoben	306-6502
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Carol White, Past President	(617) 229-9463	Tom Haynes	357-7645
	<a href="mailto:carolwhite11@comcast.net">carolwhite11@comcast.net</a>		<a href="mailto:piperhistoricalservices@gmail.com">piperhistoricalservices@gmail.com</a>
Jim Peale, President-Elect	357-7875	Ruth Shepard	477-5694
	<a href="mailto:pealefamily@gmail.com">pealefamily@gmail.com</a>		<a href="mailto:ruthshep47@gmail.com">ruthshep47@gmail.com</a>
Andrea Ansevin-Allen, Treasurer	358-3701	Jenn Wyman	439-0303
	<a href="mailto:aansevin@yahoo.com">aansevin@yahoo.com</a>		<a href="mailto:jenniferwyman@gmail.com">jenniferwyman@gmail.com</a>
John Lowry, Clerk	355-2958	David Robinson	355-7812
	<a href="mailto:lowry63@ne.rr.com">lowry63@ne.rr.com</a>		<a href="mailto:davide.1945@hotmail.com">davide.1945@hotmail.com</a>