

The Messenger

November 2019 Volume 27 Issue 10

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CONTENTS

- 1-2 Worship
Calendar
- 2 Community
Photos
- 3 KUUC
Mission &
UU Beliefs
- 4 Sharing
Ministry
- 5 President's
Corner
- 5-7 Religious
Exploration
- 7 Music
- 7-8 Activist's
Corner
- 8-10 Events,
Updates, etc.
- 11 KUUC
Committee
Contacts
- 12 General
Info.
- 13 KUUC
Contacts

Sunday Services
begin at 10 A.M.
in the Sanctuary
followed by
Coffee Hour in
our Parish Hall.

Worship Calendar December 2019:

Our worship theme for December is "Awe". What does it mean to be a people of awe? (Or should that be what does it mean to be awesome people?)

December 1: "Waking Up to AIDS" (Rev. Michael)

It has been a long time since those frightening early days of the disease that we now know as AIDS. Over the years since the outbreak, so much has happened, so many lives lost, many people due as much to bigotry and ignorance as anything else. But there has also been much progress, so much that some think AIDS is something we have put in the rear-view mirror. Today, on World AIDS Day we will honor the truth that AIDS is still active; at home and around the globe. We will share our Joys & Concerns together.

December 8: "Ordinary Awesome" (Rev. Michael)

Perhaps it would be easier to be people of awe if we could take the time to see and celebrate the ordinary blessings of our lives. Today we will look at spiritual simplicity. There will be a special Buddhist Story for All Ages and the Choir will share their musical ministry with us.

December 15: "Rumi: Poet for Our Times" (Rev. Dr. Mellen Kennedy)

In preparation for Rumi's Urs on Dec. 17th, we'll gather to hear his poetry, sing or chant and listen to stories about his inspiring and challenging life. Rumi was a 13th century Sufi poet and mystic. He grew up and lived in a time of turmoil and his insights speak so clearly to our time. Join us for a celebration of Rumi. You're invited to bring your favorite Rumi poem to share if you'd like.

December 22: “Solstice Here and Now” (Worship Team)

It has been a few years since we brought Solstice to our Sanctuary, and we hope to celebrate this remarkable time in the turning wheel of the Earth in fine style: with movement, music, stories and singing. Who knows what this little day will bring to our hallowed hall? Perhaps some old friends; a band of singers and Morris Dancers?

December 24th @ 7 P.M.: “Peace and Goodwill” (Rev. Michael)

Tonight, we gather in way we don’t always do: dressed up, happy to see old friends, looking to show off our church to the grandchildren, to sing old carols as if for the first time. On Christmas Eve we will see the child born once again in his little stall, surrounded by his poor and humble parents, and animals and singing angels. Eventually the wisest of people will follow the great star to him and bow. The service will feature “The No Rehearsal Christmas Pageant,” the KUUC Choir and much more. Rev. Michael will offer a message of peace and goodwill. **Don’t forget to come the Wassail, sponsored by the Board of Trustees. That begins at 6 P.M.**

December 29: “What if I Knew I Would Never See it Again?” (Rev. Michael)

On this last Sunday of the year, we celebrate the beauty of the earth, the goodness always emerging from the unspeakable and heartbreaking, the breathtaking hold of Love has on us, the power of youth to remake the world and maybe even save it.

COMMUNITY PICTURES: (Thanks to David Teubner)



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



"Sing of joy while hammering each nail.

Sing of hope while pulling every weed,

So shall we sing together and prevail;

May every Alleluia bear a seed."

--Elizabeth Alexander, last verse, Hymn #1060

"As We Sing of Hope and Joy"

Here we are once again! The summer is long gone, the fall fleeting and readying to give itself, and all of us in the Northern Hemisphere, over to winter. I wish to every one of you the joy of this season, and hope that whichever of the many celebrations of gratitude, giving and light that you hold most dear, fills you with happiness, awe, song, and hope. I pray that you all have ample time to rest, think, pray and play, to consider the depth of meaning in your lives, to hear just how much you mean to you have helped and those you love. I hope that you will find time to be with your community here at KUUC, or return to a loving welcome if it has been awhile.

This is also a difficult time for many of us who feel alone, who are sad for losses recent or from long ago. It can be a hard time to those who haven't great means or struggle with illnesses that make for "Blue" Christmases; or just feel tired, fearful or disappointed with their lives. Perhaps it is good to remember that those trials come unbidden, and that depression is not exclusive to this season, though for some this hardest time of year.

I often talk about Love as "all-conquering," as somehow connecting us, each to all. I think of it as the truest path to a higher sense of purpose, as what drives us, body, mind and spirit. Love humbles us, inspires us and holds up for every person (and every living thing) a greater purpose, exposing our strengths and allowing for our limitations. But I should qualify: Love is all of those things AND it is absolutely ours to use: to share, to gift to others and to grow into. Love is at the root of creation, it emboldens us to help others, protect the planet and bring light where it is most needed.

With Heart and in Hope,

Rev. Michael

A Message from Your President

It's winter holiday season, and the annual KUUC Greens Sale is December 6 and 7. Thanks to Carol McIntyre-Peale and Carol White for all their work coordinating this event, and to the many volunteers (too many to name) who have played and will play a role in this congregation-wide event. It's not too late to contact Carol McIntyre-Peale to ask how you can help. Purchasing some of the many items at the sale is helpful as well!

Thanks to Ruth Shepard for her recent work interfacing with and negotiating with KUUC's renters, and for her leadership role in KUUC's new book club. Thanks also to Adelle Saunders for helping out on our October energy conservation worship/workday and to Sylvie Hall for her help with worship, baking for Senior Lunch Bunch, and making berry bowls.

The board of trustees will be hosting the Wassail party at 6 PM on Dec 24 in the Parish Hall, just prior to the Christmas Eve service, which starts at 7PM. There will be snacks, beverages, and holiday cheer. Come join in the fun!

Waning daylight, barren trees, and increasingly cold weather can put a damper on anyone's spirits. I can't imagine getting through this time of year without the numerous holidays and traditions that are celebrated from late November to early January. Yet, for some of us, these same holidays and traditions can accentuate rather than dispel loneliness and sadness. Let us all make an effort to renew and strengthen ties to family and friends and also to reach out beyond our usual social circles.

Let us all make the effort to contemplate **and act** on KUUC's Mission:

**The people of KUUC are committed to actively creating compassionate community
and working for a fair and peaceful world.**

John Walter

From the DRE

Jill M. Hall, DRE

RE Calendar

The Soul Matters theme for this month is Awe. In the Sunday morning RE classes, we will be talking about goose bumps, and what inspires us to experience them. In the Neighboring Faiths afternoon group for middle school age youth we will look at Islam and Humanism. **Adult helpers are always needed. For details, please contact Jill at kuucdre@gmail.com**

Sunday, December 1: Children begin in the sanctuary and are sung out to class for grK-5 with Jill, where we will explore the goosebumps we get from Love in Action, via the story of the Montgomery, Alabama bus boycott. On December 1, 1955 Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat for a white passenger. 381 days later, the busses in Montgomery were desegregated. We will have a sharing circle, a story, and make doves of peace.

2:30-4:30pm, Neighboring Faiths group meets in the Alliance Room. Today we will explore the origins and beliefs of Islam.

Sunday, December 8: Children will begin in the sanctuary and are sung out to class for grK-5 with Betsy Stacey. We will explore the goosebumps we get from looking at the night sky and contemplating the universe. Please send your child(ren) with outerwear, in case we want to spend some time in nature.

11:30 A.M. to 1 P.M., Religious Exploration Committee meets, Alliance Room. All are welcome.

Sunday, December 15: Children begin in the sanctuary. Children of all ages and their adults are invited to a drop-in Blocks session with Deborah Dunnell. Drop-in Blocks are an informal chance to experience Unitarian Universalist principles while building with unit blocks. (Please note adult participation may be limited by the available space; children's participation is prioritized.)

2:30-4:30pm Neighboring Faiths group meets, Alliance Room. Today's topic is Humanism.

Sunday, December 22: Children will remain in the sanctuary this morning for our Multigenerational Solstice Celebration.

Tuesday, December 24: 7 P.M. Our Christmas Eve service will include the No Rehearsal Christmas Pageant, a beloved KUUC tradition. Come early for the Wassail, hosted by the Board of Trustees, which begins at 6 P.M.

Sunday, December 29: Children remain in the sanctuary. There is No RE. Jill will be off today.

"Elevator Speech."

In November, the Neighboring Faiths group spent most of our time learning about the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints (often called Mormons), the Jehovah's Witnesses, and Evangelical Christianity. For all these faiths, evangelism, or spreading the

Christian gospel publicly and personally, is a central practice. We spent some time considering how we could respond to Christian evangelism with a statement of our own truth. What might be our own brief, honest, and personal description of the deep, wide, multi-faceted religion that is Unitarian Universalism? Some call this an “elevator speech” because it could be delivered in the time of an elevator ride. It takes many of us a lifetime to come up with an answer with which we feel comfortable. In this season of drawing inward, of contemplating what is important, what is meaningful, what is worthy, I invite you to spend some time considering how you might answer the questions, “What is Unitarian Universalism? What do UUs believe?”

Jill

Music Notes

Donna Dearth, Music Director

December is always one of my favorite months for music! There are so many performances throughout the Keene area during the month and many include our wonderful singers from the choir. Please support all of our local musicians by attending their concerts.

The choir will be sing on December 15 and December 22. They will also sing at the Christmas Eve service on December 24. “Jack in the Green” will be with us on December 22nd during the service focused on the solstice.

I have met so many talented musicians in the KUUC and love accompanying soloists and playing with instrumentalists. Please let me know if you would like to perform alone or with me during any Sunday service. I love to collaborate with musicians in all different genres.

Peace,

Donna

ACTIVIST'S CORNER

Community + Interfaith Energy Conversation at KUUC, November 25th

On Sunday November 24 at KUUC, at 11:30 A.M. there will be facilitated small-group discussions around visions and strategies for moving to an equitable clean energy future. Members of either congregation may sign up for either date; we do, after all, share many of the

same values. Please contact Ann Shedd at Ladyleafy@gmail.com or 352-0720 if you would like to participate.

EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, UPDATES & Other News:

Greens Sale 2019

Friday, December 6, 2019

5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

Saturday, December 7, 2019

9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

Baked Goods (Melinda Hildreth Honkala) Making cookies.

Berry Bowls (Carol White) Sunday, Nov. 24, 2019, 11:30 A.M.

Covering Berry Bowls, KUUC Kitchen

Book Nook—if bringing books, leave in Undercroft.

Sorting on Thursday, Dec. 5 & Fri. Dec. 6

Christmas Theme White Elephant (Hazel Erdoben)

Gently used Christmas items Craft Table (Hazel)

Knitted items, decorations, hats, bags, etc.

Greens table (Carol McIntyre-Peale)

Decorating wreaths, swags and kissing ball

Work sessions (no experience required) in Parish Hall:

Monday, December 2, 2019 6 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.

Tuesday, December 3, 2019 1 P.M. to 3 P.M.

Wednesday, December 4, 2019 10 A.M. to noon

Wednesday, December 4, 2019 6 to 8:30 P.M.

Luncheon (Betsy Zimmerli)

Donate a pot of soup, chill, a salad or bread.

Working the luncheon. For further information contact:
Carol White (carolwhite11@comcast.net, 617-229-9463)
Carol McIntyre-Peale, pealefamily@gmail.com or 357-787

Slice of Fellowship-December 13

HOLIDAY FELLOWSHIP GATHERING (in place of Slice)

Get to know that person that sits next to you on Sunday morning! Enjoy talking to people from another generation!

Join us December 13th at 5:30 PM upstairs in the Alliance Room for a festive holiday gathering.

Bring your favorite finger food to share along with your preferred beverage. Tableware will be provided.



DECEMBER POETRY CHANGE OF DATE: Monday December 16th @7 P.M.

Please Note:

December Poetry will meet on Monday, Dec. 16, at 7 P.M. in the church library. This is the Third Monday and hopefully will help avoid our Christmas plans. We read, write and discuss. First time poetry lovers are most welcome. Use the Taylor Street entrance. Questions can be directed to Dave Wilbur: K1ZS@amsat.org or 446-7312.

Lunch Bunch—December 18

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 3rd Wednesday at Noon, October through May, in the parish hall. **Please bring your own dishes, flatware and napkins.** Call Betty Forrest at 357-1534, or email mandbforrest@myfairpoint.net with questions.

Note: During the winter months, if Keene schools are canceled due to inclement weather, the same goes for Lunch Bunch.

BOOK CLUB

KUUC Book Club reminder. Our next meeting is on Dec 15 to discuss *The End Of Your Life Book Club*. 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, *Hillbilly Elegy*. If you would like to get on our member email list, contact Ruth Shepard ruthshep47@gmail.com.

Save The Date: It Never Too Soon to Dream About Ferry Beach

Save the Date for the
KUUC Ferry Beach Get-a-Way Weekend
May 8, 9, & 10, 2020.
More information to follow in January.



COMMITTEE CONTACTS:

Circle of Caring:	Betsy Zimmerli
Covenant Groups:	Carolyn Antrim
Investment:	John Bordenet
Membership:	Melinda Hildreth-Honkala
Music:	Carin Torp
Personnel:	Open
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:	Open (contact Mickey Cronin)
Greens Sale:	Open
Welcoming Congregation:	Open

GENERAL INFORMATION

Office Hours/Check the Calendar/ Schedule Meetings

Please contact Susan at 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.

Rev. Michael's Office Hours, December 2019:

Rev. Michael will have office hours on December 3, 10, 17 from 3 P.M.-7P.M. You may also contact him rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com or (508) 821-6092 to schedule an appointment or home visit during a more convenient time.

JANUARY MESSENGER DEADLINE:

The deadline for the January *Messenger* is 5 P.M. on Sunday, December 15. Going forward, the due date for Messenger submissions will be the 15th of the prior month (the only exception being June 15, as there is no July Messenger). Send all your articles and notices directly to Rev. Michael at rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com.

KUUC CONTACT LIST 2019-2020

WORSHIP SERVICES

STAFF

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

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