

The Messenger

February 2020 Volume 28 Issue 2

Keene Unitarian Universalist Church, 69 Washington Street, Keene, NH 03431

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

Worship Calendar: February 2020

Our worship theme for February is "Resilience." We might ask ourselves, "How are we a people of resilience?"

February 2: "A Good Day to Move Ahead" (Rev. Michael)

There is something about the Groundhog Day "holiday" that does point toward something significant; it asks how we would proceed if we were given a clue about the circumstances before us? The movie "Groundhog Day" touches on something equally interesting: given endless opportunities, could we even get one day right? As usual, we will share our Joys and Concerns as a community and there will be a "Time for All Ages" based on animal wisdom.

February 9: "Patience is More Than a Virtue" (Nancy Baker)*

We often think of patience as a passive quality, the deliberate stifling of impulse for the sake of maintaining temper or balance. This service will explore the active potential of patience both as a discipline to strengthen personal and congregational resilience and as a change agent in the world.

*Nancy Baker has been a member of the Milford, NH UU congregation for nearly 30 years. Nancy taught classical languages and the history of ideas for many years, and in retirement is a frequent speaker and presenter of adult education programs at area libraries, the Currier Museum of Art, senior living centers and Rivier University.

February 16: "KUUC Hymn Service" (Betty Forrest)

All are invited to join Betty, Donna Dearth, members from our choir and instrumentalists as we explore our UU Hymnody through readings and by listening to and singing our UU hymns. There will be a "Time for All Ages" and the adults will share their Joys and Concerns. Hymn Service request forms are available in the Sanctuary and Parish Hall, or you may email hymn choices to mandbforrest@myfairpoint.net by February 2.

February 23rd: “What Would we Gain Be Keeping Lent”

(Rev. Michael)

For much of the Christian community Lent, the solemn 40-day period of preparation for Easter will begin this coming Wednesday February 26th. What is Lent? What is one obliged to do to keep this time “holy”? What about this self-denial, giving something up? Do you think that we have or should have such a season in our tradition? There will be plenty more going on today as well.

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.

COMMUNITY PICTURES: (Thanks to David Teubner)



Sharing Ministry: Rev. Michael's Moment_February 2020

February goes,
so, let me be brief. Enjoy
the snowscapes, cocoa!

Frost-covered windows,
children building snow people,
laughing, rosy-cheeked.

Reading, relaxing
shoveling too. Enjoy it
cause February goes.

Knowing that nothing is certain in this life, (surely not New England weather), nonetheless, I ask that you enjoy each February day with gusto. There is so much good to uphold, even in these turbulent times. You contribute to that good: not only by what you do, but who you are and how you model joy, love life and create the safe spaces needed for everyone to thrive.

Yours in Faith and Fellowship,

Rev. Michael

A Message from Your President

Many thanks to Jim Butterfield for determining that the recent shut-down of one of our two furnaces was the result of an error that occurred when our furnaces received their annual pre-heating season servicing. At that point our oil company promptly took responsibility and fixed the problem. Both furnaces currently function but are getting old and may still need replacing (we hope later rather than sooner).

Thanks also to everyone involved in our enjoyable Christmas Eve service and Wassail party, including the choir, musicians, actors, stagehands, ushers, and everyone else involved. Thanks to Rev. Michael, Jill Hall, and Jenn Wyman. Andrea Ansevin-Allen and Susan Lowry were behind the scenes of the "No Rehearsal Christmas Pageant."

Speaking of ushers, Tom Haynes deserves thanks for serving as head usher week in and week out. He also does a great job of helping visitors and newcomers feel welcome as they enter the sanctuary.

The board of trustees is about to begin a serious discussion of KUUC's future, with particular attention to addressing property management and maintenance issues. There will be ample opportunity for the congregation at large to weigh in, as we strive to live up to the UU 5th principle regarding use of the democratic process within our congregation.

With gratitude,

John Walter

From the DRE

Jill M. Hall, DRE

RE Calendar

The Soul Matters theme for January is *Resilience*.

Sunday, February 2: The children will begin in the sanctuary, then join Jill for class.

2-4 PM: Neighboring Faiths group meets on the topic of Atheism & Agnosticism.

Sunday, February 9: The children begin in the sanctuary, then join Betsy Stacey for class.

11:30-1 PM Religious Exploration Committee meets in the Alliance Room. All are welcome.

Sunday, February 16: Children begin in the sanctuary then join Deborah Dunnell for an informal "drop-in" Blocks class.

2-4 PM Neighboring Faiths group meeting TBD. Contact Jill for details.

Sunday, February 23: Children begin in the sanctuary and are welcome to join Jill for a craft or games, or to stay in the sanctuary for the Hymn Sing service.

Appreciation

On behalf of the children and youth of the RE program, as well as the RE Committee, I wish to express our gratitude to all those who make our programs happen: Betsy Stacey and Deborah Dunnell, our Sunday morning class leaders; Susan Lowry and Andrea Ansevin-Allen, who help with all aspects of the Neighboring Faiths group; the many caring adults who are willing to leave worship to take turns joining the Sunday morning class as helpers; and the parents and other adults who bring their beloved young people to KUUC classes and activities. Thank you

Music Notes

Donna Dearth, Music Director

February is Black History Month and we will celebrate with a variety of music genres.

Jen Wyman will offer her musical gifts with us on Feb.2 where she will sing a solo.

The choir will sing on February 9 and 23.

Our annual hymn sing will be on Feb.16 and we'll enjoy a solo by Susie Ericson-West.

Carl Jacobs and I will play some jazz tunes for you between hymns!

I want to thank David Robinson for his beautiful rendition of "The Water is Wide" in January and also Carl Jacobs for sharing his musical gifts with us during our services. I am so blessed to be working alongside so many talented people!

Peace,

Donna

EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, UPDATES & Other News:

Spoken Word Monthly Tea House will premier this winter. It will be the first Sunday night of the month in the Parish Hall. This is a public forum for our greater community to share our talents.

Do you have an interest in helping to create this exciting new venue? Do you have questions, ideas, enthusiasm? Time for art, collaboration, expression? Let's talk.

Hazel

Dance Connection will be February 5, 12, &19, (no class 2/26), and March 4, 11, 18, & 25. Peace, Carin

Slice of Fellowship – February 7

Slice of fellowship is a monthly potluck dinner open to all members and friends of KUUC and is 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. This month we celebrate **Valentine's Day** hosted by Betty and Mike Forrest. 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 with any questions.

KUUC Outdoors

Sat, Feb 8, Identifying Trees & Tracks in Winter, Goose Pond, Keene

Sun, Feb 3 16, Mile... Mile and a Half, film, KUUC

Poetry Group will meet the fourth Monday of the month, February 24. The group welcomes everyone to share their favorites and original poems.

KUUC Book Club. Our next meeting is on Feb. 16 to discuss *Flight of Remembrance*. 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 ruthshep47@gmail.com.

Lunch Bunch – February 19

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 12 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 local schools are cancelled due to weather conditions, Lunch Bunch will also be cancelled.

Contemplative Communion Service: February 4:30-5:30

You are invited to be part of a Contemplative Communion service on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 4:30-5:30 P.M. in the Alliance Room. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Rev. Michael at (508)821-6092 or email him at rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com.

Save The Date: 3rd Annual “Shining the Light” Recognition Dinner-April 26th

The Membership Committee has booked the Parish Hall on April 26th for our 3rd Annual Shining the Light on UU Volunteer Recognition Dinner!

The Membership Committee has chosen people to honor in the past, but this year we'd like more input from the congregation. So, if you would like to nominate someone who gives their time and talent to KUUC, please contact Melinda Hildreth Honkala melindahildrethhonkala@gmail.com or Deb McLay debmclay529@gmail.com.

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 2 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.

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 for February:

Rev. Michael's office hours for February will be on Tuesdays, 3-6 P. M. Contact him directly to make an appointment during office hours or to meet at another day, time or place.

rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com.

MARCH MESSENGER DEADLINE:

The deadline for the March *Messenger* is 5 P.M. on Saturday, February 15. Going forward, the due date for Messenger submissions will be the 15th 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.



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. 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
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BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2019-2020

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