

The Messenger

January 2020 Volume 27 Issue 11

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.

Our worship theme for January is "Integrity." What does it mean to be a people of integrity?

January 5: "Let Me Bottom Line It For You" (Rev. Michael)

It is quite possible, with the holidays now over, that you might be done with avoiding topics that might lead to trouble with relatives, or letting it go when someone tries to lecture you because you had the nerve to wish them "happy holidays." It can be very difficult to keep the peace with authenticity. Whatever shall we do with the strong opinions mixed emotions we spend so much energy keeping in check? On this first Sunday of the month, we will celebrate our Joys and Concerns as a community and the KUUC Choir will join us.

January 12: "Witch Hunts Are Not Trifles" (Rev. Michael)

It isn't unusual for the term "witch hunt" to be used lightly when someone feels they are being unjustly accused of wrongdoing. Historically, the term has meant a good deal more: unspeakable violence, mass killings and religious hatred. Today we will look at that history and its impact on contemporary religion and culture. There will be a thematic "Time for All Ages" before we sing the children out to class and we will hear a little about the "Thirty Days of Love" campaign.

January 19: TBA (MOOP)

Rev. Michael will be out of the pulpit today, but we have a great plan for this morning. There will be a Time for All Ages and the adults will share their Joys and Concerns in community.

January 26: "Our Spiritual Home" (Rev. Michael)

On this day, we celebrate the 125th anniversary of our beloved church. This building, with its stunning sanctuary, is the third building in our congregational history, and was first used for worship on January 24, 1895. Let us take some time today by looking back in wonder and ahead with hope—and maybe having some cake! The KUUC Choir will sing songs of love, gratitude, and good cheer.

KUUC Mission Statement

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

THESEVEN 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



"We are of different opinions at different hours, but we always may be said to be, at heart, on the side of truth."

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

The holidays bring families together, often with hugs and singing and home cooking and rejoicing. They also hold up to the twinkling tree lights and the candles on the window sill—or the menorah—our frailties: who is missing, what divides us, the distances between broken hearts that we cannot bridge. Some of you will travel far from home to visit loved ones. Others will be hosting Christmas parties or New Year's Eve get-togethers or just holding out for all the hoopla and bell-ringing to end.

As we head into the new year, there will be much for our KUUC community to discuss, much to decide. New issues will arise, lingering problems will be remedied, or put to bed as no longer urgent. We will welcome new people into our congregation; some will fall in love with the open-heartedness, the open-mindedness of our way of understanding and expressing our faith and become members. Some folks will come back from winter getaways, or long hiatuses that were undertaken for reasons we might never learn—and they will be welcomed, embraced, and integrated back into this incredibly durable institution, where we, as a beloved member once said, "have been arguing amicably since 1824."

I am available to you: to minister, to serve, to lead, to be there, to *pastor*, or to provide someone with whom you can argue (amicably of course).

Safe Holidays and a Brilliant New Year!

With Heart and in Hope,

Rev. Michael

CONTEMPLATIVE COMMUNION SERVICE Tuesday, January, 21st, 4:30-5:30

You are invited to our first Contemplative Communion Service on Tuesday, January 21st from 4:30-5:30 P.M. What makes it a contemplative service is the emphasis is on creating space for silent reflection, with an opportunity to share in a ritual of communion and some for sharing on the theme of "Integrity." Perhaps this is something you have wanted more of? Or it could be something you never thought you would appreciate until after you have tried it.

A Message from Your President

Thanks to everyone (too many to name) involved in putting on our annual Greens Sale. It takes so very many hands as well as lots of preparation to pull off. As always, the parish hall was abuzz with tasty food, beautiful items for sale, and fellowship.

Thanks as well to all who contributed to KUUC's portion of the Unitarian Universalist Association's Annual Program Fund. Although we were not able to make the goal recommended by the UUA, we managed to raise \$5638, significantly more than we have raised for this purpose in recent years.

A task force is addressing options regarding ongoing problems with one of our two boilers (furnaces), which has been out of commission since a serious malfunction a few weeks ago that resulted in carbon monoxide and other fumes being released into our sanctuary and parish hall and the need for assistance from the Keene Fire department. A task force is working on whether the malfunctioning boiler is salvageable or whether a new boiler needs to be purchased. The latter would have major budget implications and would require a congregational vote.

Another winter challenge is keeping the Taylor St entrance (ramp entrance) safe despite snowfalls, icing, and mini-avalanches from the sanctuary's slate roof. Although it is not handicapped accessible, the entrance that faces Washington St. is a safer option in the winter.

I hope to see everyone at the Christmas Eve service and the Wassail party that precedes it (at 6 PM.) Bring family and friends!

Wishing you a new year with many joys,

John Walter

From the DRE

RE Calendar

The Soul Matters theme for January is *Integrity*.

Sunday, January 5: Children begin in the sanctuary and are sung out to class.

2:30-4:30 Neighboring Faiths group meets in the Alliance Room. Today's topic is the origins of Judaism.

Sunday, January 12: Children begin in the sanctuary and are sung out to class in the Blocks room with Deborah Dunnell.

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

Sunday, January 19: Children begin in the sanctuary and are sung out to a group activity.

2:30-4:30 Neighboring Faiths group meets in the Alliance Room. The topic is Judaism, the People of the Law.

Sunday, January 26: There is no RE this morning.

Jill M. Hall, DRE *Jill*

Music Notes

The winter season is upon us and the daylight hours are beginning to be longer! Happy solstice!

It's been so exciting to have people perform during our services over the past few months.

I'd like to thank Susie Ericson-West, Gus Lowry, Carin Torp, Betty Forrest, Lindsay Bartlett, Jim Peale, David Robinson and Carl Jacobs for sharing their talents with us.

Sunday, January 5 will feature the choir and a string ensemble performing "Christmas Canon" by the Trans-Siberian Orchestra. The choir will also sing on January 26.

Peace,

Donna

Donna Dearth, Music Director

HELP WANTED Could Sunday, January 26th be an Happy Anniversary Open House?

At the last Board of Trustees meeting, Rev. Michael spoke about the service on January 26th, and how it would be a celebration of the 125th anniversary of worship at our beautiful Washington St. Sanctuary. He suggested that we should make it more of a day, invite the public to worship and have an Open House! Of course, one person can't pull that off alone. If you are interested in this idea, and can think of ways that we can show off our beautiful worship space, this wonderful congregation, its programs and activities to newcomers--and hear what they are looking for in a spiritual community--get in touch with Rev. Michael. If there is no interest, then we will let it go.

What is General Assembly (GA) & Why Would you Want to Go?

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. Please join us Wednesday, June 24 through Sunday, June 28, 2020 in Providence, Rhode Island, for this 5-day immersive experience where we participate in

inspirational worship services and informative workshops, reconvene with friends and colleagues, and explore our bustling exhibit hall. GA is an unforgettable experience for the thousands of UUs who attend. Meet us in Providence and you'll leave with renewed energy and innovative ideas to share with your congregation and community at large!

The theme for General Assembly in June 2020 is ***Rooted, Inspired, & Ready!*** We are in touch with our theological roots, we are engaged in transforming our faith, and we are fired up to take action in the wider world.

If ever there was a year to attend General Assembly, this is it! No air travel needed, suites of rooms available at Rhode Island School of Design to keep housing inexpensive (housing registration opens in March), AND an early-bird discount with a payment plan if you register now and pay in full by February 29! There are financial aid and volunteer opportunities available as well. This is definitely the year to participate in the largest gathering of UUs! More info at <https://www.uua.org/ga>.

Quilters' Group: New Year, New Initiatives

KUUC Quilters Group is looking forward to creating next year's Greens Sale raffle quilt. If you'd like to join in on this contact Hazel or keep your eyes out for a recruitment table during coffee hours in January. Let's join our hearts & hands once again.

ONGOING collection for future rummage/greens sale events have now been approved for a permanent collection spot. It's the usual spot by the women's rest room. It is offered in the hopes of being a regular area for redistribution of resources to benefit our beloved church. You bring it, we'll handle it from there.

Good, clean rummage sale items welcome. Holiday items, books and lovingly made crafts for our annual Green Sale will also be received there. New signage will be posted, and security cameras are in place, so let's continue to grow our successes together.

SPOKEN WORD monthly tea house will premier this winter. It will be held the first Sunday night of the month in the Parrish Hall. This is a public forum for our greater community to share their 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

Information Concerning the NNED Board Proposal to Dissolve the District November 2019:

Taken from a document compiled by NNED board member Rev. Paul Sawyer as an effort to provide some basic information for congregations prior to meeting with board members. More information is available for congregants to read.

The NNED [or Northern New England District] board will provide additional and more formal information as the process becomes clear and more settled in the coming months. After extensive consideration, your Northern New England District Board is recommending that delegates from our NNED congregations vote to dissolve the District at the 2020 annual meeting, which will take place April 24-25 in Nashua, New Hampshire. It is the board's express desire to have as many delegates present as possible, from as many congregations in the District as possible, for this historic vote. The board is also committed to ensuring that the boards, delegates, and other interested members of the congregations have as much information as possible concerning the proposal prior to the meeting, so that all those who are interested have ample time to consider the relevant information, and have been able to ask questions and share their thoughts with the board and others before we come to the time to take the vote.

EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, UPDATES & Other News:

Let's Start the New Year Early. After the service on December 29th:

During the past few years, we have had a little New Year's Eve party on the last Sunday of December! Let's continue this new tradition after the service on December 29th. Bring some snacks or other holiday food and we will provide the party hats and sparkling juice for the "Happy New Year!!" toast at 12 (noon). There is no reason that Sunday cannot be a fun day too.

Dance Connection

The Dance Connection will be held on Jan. 8, 15, 22, & 29; February 5, 12, & 19, (no class 2/26), and March 4, 11, 18, & 25. Peace, Carin

Slice of Fellowship January 3

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 P.M. **Ring in the New Year with an old or new food favorite.** Gerry and Jim Frederiksen will be our hosts for the evening. 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.

Lunch Bunch January 15

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

BOOK CLUB

KUUC Book Club reminder. Our next meeting is on Jan. 19 to discuss *Memory of Running*. 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.

COMMUNITY PICTURES: (Thanks to David Teubner)



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, January 2020

In January, Rev. Michael's office hours will be on Tuesdays from 2 to 6 P.M. If these days/hours don't work for you, or you would prefer a home visit, or to meet out in the community, call Rev. Michael to arrange an appointment at (508) 821-6092.

FEBRUARY MESSENGER DEADLINE:

The deadline for the February *Messenger* is 5 P.M. on Wednesday, January 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.

Save the Date: It's 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.



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:	Open (contact Mickey Cronin)
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
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