

The Messenger

January 2021 Volume 29 Issue 1



Keene Unitarian Universalist Church, 69 Washington Street, Keene, NH 03431 <http://www.kuuc.org/> office@kuuc.org 603-352-1719

Contents

- 1 Worship Calendar
- 2 KUUC Mission & UU Beliefs
- 3 Sharing Ministry & Ministers Schedule
- 3-4 President's Message
- 4-5 Religious Exploration
- 5 Music Notes
- 6-8 Events & Updates etc.
- 9-11 General Info, KUUC Contacts, etc.

Sunday Services are virtual for the time being. A link to each new service and an invitation to the "Zoom Virtual Coffee Hour" will be sent out by Saturday @noon.

JANUARY 2021 WORSHIP CALENDAR:

[Our Soul Matters theme for December is "Imagination". Ask yourself how are we a people of Imagination (Or are we such a people)? How has, (or does, or will), the use of Imagination worked in my life? Career? Marriage? Etc.]

January 3rd: "Imagining Together" (Rev. Michael)

This service is about creativity, courage and teamwork. Today we will begin the joyful work of reimagining the way we do things. We will all participate in breakout groups and we will share our New Year's Joys and Concerns with each other.

January 10th: "Imagine Nation" (Rev. Michael)

Let's face it, the new president has got his hands full. Obviously, he is going to need some help. Let's put our heads together and see what we can do to lighten the load.

January 17th: "The Clown Car" (Rev. Michael)

Within a reverential community it is so easy to become humorless and judgey. See, you know what I mean but in your mind are calling a penalty on me for using a word that isn't a "real" word. Today, we will try to have some fun while also getting our sacred on. Why don't we also share our Joys and Concerns too.

January 24th: "More Presence, More Presents" (Rev. Michael)

We could probably use a little more exposure, not just getting good publicity and name recognition, but by KUUC stepping into the public square and all of us being more involved as citizens. Also, we will work on our "Giving Tree".

January 31st: "Just Another Day In Paradise" (Rev. Michael)

We live in a beautiful place but each of us also has a "happy place," a hobby, a vacation getaway or a particular state mind that makes feel something akin to bliss. What is your vision of paradise? Where do you find the greatest fulfillment?

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: January 2021

P. 3

"Imagination is the only weapon in the war against reality."

—Lewis Carroll

Good People,

I know it has been an extraordinary holiday season for many of us because we didn't let the cold stare and harsh words of reality steal our imagination—instead we let our collective imagination create a different reality. To be sure, some of us are sick, some of us are just holding on, isolated and afraid. It the work for the rest of us to help, heal and inspire them to come back into our circle of love, into the real sanctuary, which is our community not our building.

I write to assure you that we will also be back in that lovely Sanctuary of sturdy beams, granite and Tiffany glass. One day, in 2021, we will have a party there, filling the pews and raising the roof.

Yours in Faith, Hope and all-encompassing Love,

Rev. Michael

Rev. Michael's Schedule & Office Hours for January:

Vacation: Rev. Michael will take the Christmas holiday off, and will be on vacation from December 27-January 2, 2021

Office Hours: In January, Rev. Michael will be at the office from Noon-5PM on Tuesdays, and will be available to meet with/call/or have Zoom meets with folks on Mondays & Thursdays by appointment. To set a day and time, contact him by telephone (508)821-6092 or email rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com. Meeting in-person will require a strict observance of safe practices, including mask-wearing and social distancing. Of course, he will be in the office on other days but may not be available to meet on those other days.

President's Message January 2021

By Jim Peale

There have been some particularly pointed memes on Facebook recently about 2020. One asserted that, twenty years from now, a PhD candidate in History will be able to write their thesis based on any particular minute of the year. A little more humorously, one says that more people

than usual will be waiting up on New Year's Eve just to make SURE that the old year leaves. This has been a horrible year for too many people on this planet, though some hope is engendered in the development of vaccines for COVID and the return to stable leadership (fingers crossed!) in the American Executive Branch.

We now have more realistic hope that, by late Spring, we may be at a point where we can reopen the Church for services. Even if we can't, we are certainly headed for a reopening well before we would be without a vaccine, let alone multiple vaccines. Until the threat passes, let's be careful and vigilant. We want to see all of our community when next we meet. Stay in touch with us, and with each other!

~Jim

[DRE Update: Religious Exploration News](#)

RE Calendar:

The January Soulful Home theme is *Imagination*, but I am having some trouble imagining what January should look like in terms of RE offerings.

In the spirit of the creativity, responsiveness and flexibility with which we have been bobbing and weaving through this most unusual year, I'll change up the RE offerings for children, youth, and families for January. Let's try this:

Most Thursdays, 6:30pm – 8pm: Family check-in via Zoom

On the second and fourth Thursdays I'll be available via Zoom to check-in and have a general chat about whatever is coming up, with adults, with or without their children/youth. On the third Thursday I'll be prepared to talk about the Seeing White podcast, starting this month with the second episode. Please listen to the podcast episodes (available online and wherever you get podcasts) before the meeting. And, if what we really need is another check-in, we'll do that.

On the last Sunday afternoon of the month, 2:00-3:00pm, I'll be available via Zoom for a Neighboring Faiths meet with middle and high school youth and their interested parents. January's topic is TBD as of this writing.

Watch your email and the group Facebook messenger thread for links to the above Zooms. If you're not getting emails from Jill and would like to, please get in touch.

Second Sunday, 4pm, RE Committee meeting, viz Zoom, all are welcome. Please contact Jill for a link.

I'm at most KUUC Sunday worships and coffee hours. I hope to see you, here or there, as often as you like. Stay warm, stay well, and rest up. Even if we can't see it yet, 2021 is going to be exciting.

Jill

Reach me via email at kuucdre@gmail.com; via voicemail or text at 508-821-8935; and on Facebook Messenger Jill Marie Hall.

January Music Notes "Imagination":

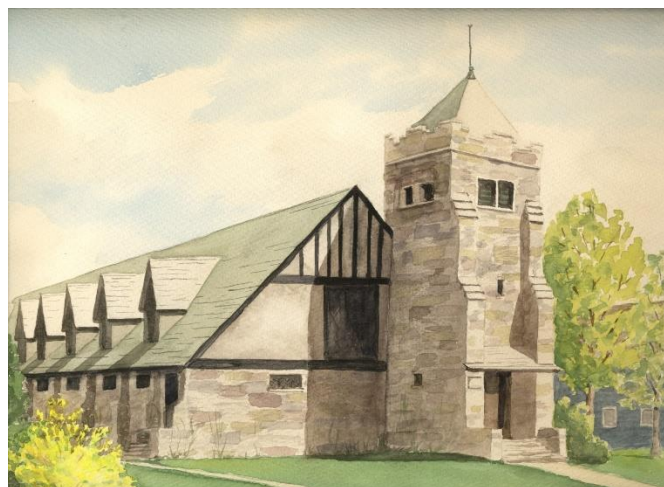
January is a month where I think of new beginnings and increasing light. This month's theme is "Imagination" which will be fun to explore through my music ministry. You can expect to hear a wide variety of genres during this time played by my accomplice Carl and me. I also like to include Afro-American spirituals and civil rights songs during the months of January and February.

I love working with the talented musicians in our newly formed bell choir. Many thanks to Carl Jacobs, Susie Ericson-West and Betty Forrest for making this beautiful music. We've decided to continue playing together so you'll be hearing from us in the coming months. If anyone would like to join the bell choir, please let me know. It's a wonderful way to make music together while keeping socially distant from each another.

Here's to a happy and healthy New Year!

Peace,

Donna



OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS, MEETINGS, EVENTS, OPPORTUNITIES, ETC

WE'RE AT BAT!

By now, most of us may have heard that we had a bat flitting about in our main hallway during the last couple of weeks. Rev. Michael was the first to see and report it. Later it was caught and it has been re-homed with a member who wanted a potential bug catcher in their attic.

I met this morning (December 15) with a wildlife expert from our pest control service. We did a quick walk through of the common areas of the church. The good news is that we didn't find any more bats. The less good news is that he characterized the building as very, very bat hospitable, primarily because of our slate roof. He said that there are almost certainly more sheltering from the Winter cold as there are a huge number of places where they can gain entry, between the construction of the building and the ability of bats to squeeze through very small cracks.

The expert suggested that people be vigilant for the appearance of any piles of excrement, as bats usually leave that kind of evidence near the places through which they come and go. We have likely had a few bats in occasional residence over the years. The only real remedy would be a comprehensive closing up of the building, which would be quite costly and probably involve an entire rehab of the roof. Bats can't legally be "evicted" during the Winter months as they are a protected species.

Yours in the interdependent web,
Jim Peale

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS:

The Membership Committee has come up with the idea of 'Covenant Group Duos', a once-a-month phone call between two members/friends with a Soul Matters curriculum topic for each month. It will be another way to connect and help us get through these cold (and possibly more isolated) winter months. Look for an upcoming Doodle Poll and fill it out if you would like to participate!

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST NEWS

Since its inception in 2012, the Community Breakfast Program has undergone many "makeovers". In the Fall of 2020, it was decided that the Community Kitchen could not be used for food preparation because of COVID-19 restrictions.

I wrote to the "Crew Leaders" from the 5 involved Church groups. I thought the response might be "well, maybe we should forget it this year". BUT.....NO....These leaders were committed to this Program and feeding the unsheltered and vulnerable Meetings were organized, plans were discussed, a Base Kitchen was established (thanks to Rev. Michael) , supplies were purchased And we were on the way.

Now, every day of the week- Mon thru Fri- a devoted masked crew from a local Church arrives at our kitchen at 6 AM. They wash hands, don gloves, wipe down surfaces, They prepare a variety of breakfast foods: scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausage, French toast, Home fries, ham.

The food is placed into warm serving pans and delivered to the Shelter Resource Center (the Old St James Thrift Shop) in an insulated transporter. There, the staff of the Shelter takes over. They carry the food into the new space and serve it and clean up the pans for return the next day

At the church kitchen, all surfaces are once again wiped with sanitizer solution . The volunteers are usually on their way by 7:30AM.

These acts of kindness are beneficial to all involved .

Thank you to:

> Trinity Lutheran Church, United Church of Christ, Knights of Columbus #5414, Keene
Unitarian Universalist Church, Knights of Columbus #819

Submitted by Carol Hill, Coordinator

FOR YOUR OPTIMAL VIEWING PLEASURE: How to Update your Zoom

Zoom frequently, and randomly, publishes updates. Unlike many other apps and programs, your device might not automatically update to the latest version. However, you must be using the latest version in order to see the worship with all the features, like having two speakers appear side-by-side on your screen for responsive readings, or to see the chalice lighting at the same time the words are being said. Even better, the latest update included the possibility of having real-time captioning.

https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362233-Upgrade-update-to-the-latest-version?mobile_site=true

Follow the link and then find the link for directions on how to update your Zoom program.

If you use Zoom on a laptop or desktop computer, you want "Zoom desktop client" update. On a smartphone or tablet (like an iPad) choose "Zoom Mobile app" update.

THE MIDDLE EAST STUDY GROUP WANTS YOU!

The Middle East Study Group (MESG) welcomes new members. Our group focuses on the Middle East but particularly on Palestine, one of the most contentious issues of World politics. We stay in touch with UUJME (UUs for Justice in the Middle East), which has members from all over the country, and which often has meaningful resolutions adopted by the GA. We usually have an event (sometimes two) of some kind each year which focuses on Palestine or the Middle East. For questions or more information contact Jim Smart 352 0438 or Jim Butterfield 903 0000.

"THE WEEKLY CHAT" WITH REV. MICHAEL

(NOW ON TUESDAYS NOON-1 PM)

It seems the new weekly "The Chat" on Zoom has become a success, though we are hoping to attract more people. Beginning on January 5th, we will meet on Tuesday afternoons from Noon-1PM. Each week the show has a different theme, but sometimes we get carried away elsewhere as conversations among friends sometimes do.

"The Chat" is also an opportunity to hear about and discuss what is going on at the church. It's a forum to share your ideas for new programs, to discuss what is going on in your lives with each other, and arrange private or in-person meets with Rev. Michael if they are needed. The goal is to make us all of us feel more connected, heard and well informed.

LIBERAL CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURES FELLOWSHIP GROUP

USUALLY MEETS FIRST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 5:00 PM.

Our fellowship group is planning to meet via Zoom (until further notice) the first Tuesday of every month from 5:00 – 6:30. We usually have a topic we focus on each month. This group is for anyone inspired by the teachings of Jesus or who identifies with aspects of Christianity and would like to share their experiences, feelings and insights in a supportive environment, and support one another's spiritual growth and understanding. This group is guided by our fourth Unitarian Universalist principle (a free and responsible search for truth and meaning") and free of the doctrine or dogma that has often characterized traditional institutional Christianity.

For information and Zoom meeting details, contact Carol at 603-863-4920/ 603-398-5389 or cstamatakis@outlook.com.

GENERAL INFORMATION

NEXT MESSENGER DEADLINE NOTICE: EARLY DUE TO THE HOLIDAYS

The deadline for the February *Messenger* is 5 P.M. on Saturday, January 23rd. The due date for Messenger submissions will be on the 23rd of the month prior to their issue (the only exceptions will be for the January issue—deadline December 15th—and the fact that there is no July Messenger). Send all your articles and notices to Rev. Michael at rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com.



COMMITTEE CONTACTS:

Circle of Caring:	Betsy Zimmerli & Betty Forrest
Covenant Groups:	Carolyn Antrim
Investment:	John Bordenet
Middle East Study Group:	Jim Smart
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:	Open
Stewardship:	Carol Stamatakis
Ushers:	Tom Haynes
Wayside Pulpit:	Vicki Keller
Worship:	Susie Ericson-West & Gwyn Powers
Property:	Carl Jacobs
Fundraising:	Open
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 rdearth@hotmail.com
 Website: www.kuuc.org
 Facebook: [Keene Unitarian Universalist Church@KeeneUU](https://www.facebook.com/KeeneUnitarianUniversalistChurch@KeeneUU)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2019-2020

Jim Peale, President-Elect	357-7875	Eloise Clark	352-9182
pealefamily@gmail.com		clarktreat@myfairpoint.net	
John Walter, Treasurer/Past President	358-3101	Tom Haynes	357-7645
jnwalterjr@gmail.com		piperhistoricalservices@gmail.com	
Carl Jacobs, President-Elect	831-1409	Ruth Shepard	477-5694
cjacobs@ne.rr.com		ruthshep47@gmail.com	
Carol Hill, Clerk	903-4974	David Robinson	355-7812
hcbhill@ne.rr.com		davide.1945@hotmail.com	
		Lindsay Bartlett	762-1946
		actimavith@gmail.com	