

The Messenger

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

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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" will be
sent out by

Worship Calendar: June 2020

[The folks at Soul Matters have changed the original theme of the month, which was to be "Play," to the theme of "Compassion." We may use one, the other, or both, because June is a different month from all the rest: it's a time of transitions and traditions, as much as anything else. This June is bound to be like no other with the continued changes in social patterns and ongoing threat to public health brought on by the pandemic. At least we will explore it together.]

June 7: "Let It Be a Dance" (Rev. Michael)

This service is something of a wild card. It may be a new kind of Music Sunday for the Covid-19 Era, or it may be a celebration of the ways we move and are moved by the music of life. You'll just have to wait and see.

June 14: "No Participation, No (Good) Government" (Rev. Michael)

Ours is a voluntary association with a congregational (member-led) form of polity (or governing structure). Today is Annual Meeting, and our service touches on how this yearly event brings together and blends our theology, polity and traditions with the people who comprise this congregation now. How should the time, treasure and talent our membership--and non-member friends--gives to the congregation be used to preserve what is important, let go what isn't? What new ideas should we explore and support to live our mission and expand our influence as a *free* religion in the Monadnock region.

June 21: "Flowers to a Fare Thee Well" (Rev. Michael)

The last service of what is often referred to as the "church year," the more formal 10-month journey from late summer to the beginning of summer, today's service is as much a new beginning as it is an end. We will celebrate our annual Flower Communion ceremony in a very different way and celebrate some of the people who have made 2019-2020 a memorable and important year in the life of our congregation; even amid some very harsh times in the world around us.

[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-----except on June 14th when Coffee Hour will be shortened so that we can hold our first Virtual Annual Meeting starting at 11:15.]

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:

1. 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;
2. 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;
3. Wisdom from the world's religions, which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
4. Jewish and Christian teachings, which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;

5. 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;
6. 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 only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided.”

— J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*

What a strange and unexpected time for a revival!

I need to be careful in saying this, considering that these past few months have also been times of sickness and death, social distancing, donning face masks and near constant hand-washing and not a little hand-wringing. We haven't been able to meet in person for more than two months now, our “coffee hour” is virtual, and our worship services are broadcast on YouTube.

Committees meet on Zoom or Google Meets; hugs or handshakes are out for the present—though sometimes we touch the screen at the end of our virtual gatherings or do a “Namaste”-type bow at a safe distance.

Yet it feels as though we are *more connected* today than we were a few months ago. A lot of people are working hard to make that sense of connection happen, to assure that people feel they are in good company and have the support they need. Others are developing a budget *that will be balanced* even as it takes into account the COVID-based impacts upon our rental property and programs.

I know that there is more to do, and get done, and I believe that we can do this together. You are just what is needed: to fill a vacancy on our Board of Trustees, to help keep the facilities clean while we save money on a cleaning crew, to make your pledge if you haven't, or to call a member who lives alone or in a nursing facility. And don't forget to engage in the programs of the church: take in the worship services, join us at the weekly Zoom Coffee Hour, and try some of the new (virtual) programs and social gatherings that will soon debut. Keep in touch; send your “this

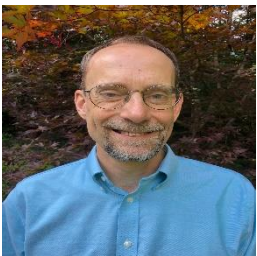
could help” ideas to John Walter or to me.

Some people say the churches are in decline. I say the churches need to remember **how to connect**. We need to learn how to deal with conflict when it occurs, how to thrive in the settings where we are. The churches need to go beyond having a mission to make that mission irresistible because it is important. If our core statement isn’t central to the lives of our own people, how will we make it attractive to fellow seekers among our friends and neighbors?

More than anything else, in a world that markets individuality and isolation and discourages free associations like ours, we are needed. In a country that ignores the people’s plea for good jobs, decent wages, fair treatment, quality schools and clean air for all, how can we help? In an age that has branded the very idea of liberalism of any kind as a by-word for laziness, daintiness, and profligate spending, *we couldn’t more needed than we are now*.

Yours in the love of Truth and the truth of Love,

Rev. Michael



A Message from your Board President

Good news! KUUC did indeed receive a loan from the federal government through the Payroll Protection Plan program that I mentioned in my last message. It covers eight weeks of our payroll plus utilities and certain other expenses and is “forgiven” (does not need to be paid back) if we follow the program’s criteria, which we plan to do. Thanks to Suzanne Butcher for having promptly brought this program to my attention and to Andrea Ansevin-Allen’s help in getting our application processed. The loan offsets the income (rental, fundraising, and collection plate) that KUUC is losing as a result of the COVID-19 epidemic. A year ago, the board of trustees asked and received the congregation’s approval, if needed, to withdraw up to \$27,000 from our endowment to pay church expenses and maintain cash flow from our nearly depleted bank accounts. I am happy to report that, thanks to the generous gifts of treasure, time, and talent, and to the board of trustees’ management, we were able to avoid any such drawdown.

We remain in history-making terrain as we hold our congregation-wide budget meeting (May 24) and annual meeting (June 14) remotely, via Zoom. It is imperative that we have a quorum of 30

people for the annual meeting, and, given the potential for technical glitches and the difficulty of managing a large meeting via Zoom, it is especially important that everyone be prepared for the meeting by being well-acquainted with the proposed budget and all other warrant articles. Everyone's good humor and patience will be much appreciated as well.

I want to publicly thank and recognize the members of our board of trustees for working so well both individually and as a group, despite challenging times. In particular, I would like to thank and recognize our outgoing board members: Our past president, Carol White, who likes to avoid the limelight, but has served us quietly, cheerfully and reliably. Our treasurer, Andrea Ansevin-Allen, whose "temporary" stint as treasurer has lasted three years, despite a full-time job and a busy family life. Our clerk, John Lowry, who has served in a leadership role on the board for six years (three years as treasurer, three years as clerk), despite a job with lots of business travel and also a busy family life. Thanks also to Jenn Wyman, who, in addition to serving on the board, has led the Worship Committee.

Our church fiscal/governance year comes to a close at the end of June, so this is my last monthly Messenger article. Happily, the congregation will be in good hands when Jim Peale steps forward as president of the board of trustees on July 1. It has been a privilege to serve the fine people of this congregation as president this past year. I have gotten to know just how many excellent, dedicated volunteers there are at KUUC. I wish I had the space to thank all of you. In the past we have held annual services acknowledging all the different ways members and friends have contributed to KUUC. This can't be easily done during the epidemic. However, if you have contributed to the life of our church in anyway, please stand up and "take a bow." If you have led or worked on a church committee, please take a bow. If it's hard to tally all the time you have given on behalf of the congregation here at KUUC, take a bow. Many thanks!

It has been a pleasure getting to know many of you better.

John Walter

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION NEWS

While we are sharing pre-recorded services and virtual coffee hours, KUUC's RE committee has shifted to providing offline support and resources for families to create a worship space at home. "Soul Matters," the subscription service that has been supplying our monthly worship and RE themes this church year, responded to the current situation by creating a short *Chalice Home* "curriculum." The five packets include information, ideas, suggestions, and links to online resources to help families create a worship space and routine at home, together. An at-home

chalice ritual can't replace the richness and reward of worshipping in community, of course, but it is one way of supporting faith development during what I've started thinking of as The Weird Time.

Responding to feedback that indicates families are overloaded with online everything, I will be sending—in the actual mail—an abbreviated form of the packet, one page only, with a separate and very simple activity page (no special supplies! no adult supervision required!). Look for these weekly(ish).

Those who (this means anybody or everybody, not just families with children in the Sunday morning program) are interested in receiving the full packet via email, with embedded links, a “script” for an at-home worship ritual and post-worship “sabbath activities” should please send me an email at kuucdre@gmail.com

I will use the Religious Exploration page of the KUUC website to post links that may be useful or interesting. They will be updated irregularly, so stop in and see what's new.

What About the Summer?

Conversations are ongoing, both here at KUUC and in the wider world of UU RE, about what the summer will look like. So far, it is looking like more of the same Weird Time. Many overnight camps have canceled in-person programs for the whole summer. Day camps are developing new policies and procedures that, while necessary and prudent, are going to severely diminish the camp experience.

Would you be interested in some kind of online UU program or experience this summer? For your kids? For you? Thoughts, ideas, suggestions and opinions are welcome; please send them to me at kuucdre@gmail.com by text or voicemail to 508-821-8935, or by Facebook Messenger.

HEY! What About O.W.L.!?

Next Year, 2020-2021, was shaping up to be one of KUUC's best-planned and most ahead-of-the-game O.W.L. years yet. Lindsay Bartlett was all set and ready to attend training at the end of April, so that she could co-facilitate with John Walter. I had a promising list of interested families ready for an email about a parent meeting.

Sadly—oh, so sadly—that is no longer the case. But we're not alone. All Our Whole Lives trainings have been canceled through the end of the year, and we can't go forward without a second facilitator. When the UUA begins scheduling in-person trainings, we'll be ready to re-start our program.

All Our Whole Lives facilitator trainings, as well as Our Whole Lives classes, must happen in person. There's no wiggle room or compromise on that, so we'll ... wait.

One more thing:

If you are on Instagram, check out Ellery Churchmouse He is a small felted mouse who lives with Jen Anderson Shattuck, director of family ministry at First Parish Church, Kingston, MA. Jen has been posting thoughtful comments, conversations, and peaceful pictures of Ellery since March 31. If you're not on Instagram, this account is one worthy reason to join.

Jill

Music Update

I can't believe it's been ten weeks since we've seen each other on Sunday mornings. The virtual services have been a wonderful way to gather and I've thoroughly enjoyed recording with our small group on Friday mornings. I hope you have liked the variety of music that we have played.

I want to thank Carl Jacobs for all the collaboration we do together and for his enthusiasm in playing each week. I am blessed to be able to work with you, Carl. Thank you also to Susie Ericson-West, Lindsay Bartlett, and David Teubner for providing solo singing during the services.

Music Sunday will be June 7 this year, and I'm looking for singers, dancers, and instrumentalists to provide worship music. If you have any desire to play, dance, or sing, please email me. I'm looking forward to all the possibilities this congregation can provide for this beautiful sharing time.

I'm especially looking forward to the time when we can all be together again.

Be well and peaceful,

Donna Dearth,
Music Director

Summer Services 2020!!

Ours is a year-round church with worship every Sunday in all four seasons. However, although minister usually pitches in with a service or two of his own, Summer is a time when our immensely talent members create and lead the majority of the services between Father's Day and Labor Day! So here is your summer slate of worship services for 2020.

June 28 th :	"Theodore Parker: the Trials of a Reformer"	(Jim Smart)
July 5 th :	"Worship from General Assembly 2020"	(A link will be sent)
July 12 th :	"Serving Others"	(Bob & Carol Hill)
July 19 th :	"TBA"	(Carin Torp)
July 26 th :	"Celtic Spirituality"	(Rev. Michael)
August 2 nd :	"TBA"	(Rachael Walter)
August 9 th :	"UU History"	(Jill M. Hall, DRE)
August 16 th :	"Zen-Inspired Therapy"	(Joan Roelofs)
August 23 rd :	"Summer Places"	(Rev. Michael)
August 30 th :	"Ambassadorship"	(Membership Comm.)
September 6 th :	"Breakfast Communion"	(Carl Jacobs)

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS, EVENTS, ETC

HELP STILL NEEDED FOR CLEANUP CREW

While the Growing Minds is still operational, we are planning a limited cleaning of the used hallways and bathrooms. If you are available to help Friday or Saturday morning, please contact Bob Hill. Thank you.

BOOK CLUB CONTINUES TO MEET

The Book Club continues to meet on the third Sunday of each month. To add your name to the member list and to be included in the Zoom invitation email, contact Ruth Shepard at ruthshep47@gmail.com

KUUC Ferry Beach Weekend Now in October

We have rescheduled the KUUC Ferry Beach Get-away weekend for October 16 -18, 2020. We hope that people who were unable to attend in April will sign-up for the October weekend. Ferry Beach has paired us up with the UU Church of Marblehead. The Marblehead coordinators have been organizing their weekend for over thirty years. When we thought about starting a KUUC Ferry Beach weekend fifteen years ago, we contacted them for their advice and suggestions. The Marblehead group would be a nice fit with us. If you would like to have more information, please contact Carol McIntyre-Peale and Jim Peale at pealefamily@gmail.com or 357-7875.



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



Hope Blossoms!



Drummer Hill hike pre-distancing

KUUC Outdoors 2020 Schedule

Sun, Apr 5	WallDog 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)

About the Monadnock Time Exchange

Do you know about the **Monadnock Time Exchange**? It's a service exchange or **time bank**—a network of individual members who provide services, track and bank their hours, and then spend those hours to get their own needs met. No cash is involved. A service exchange is NOT a barter network, as nothing is exchanged. One member provides a friendly, neighborly favor to another and records the time he or she spent doing so. Below is the link to their website, where you can join.

<https://www.hourworld.org/bank/?hw=1115>

GENERAL INFORMATION

Rev. Michael's Availability for June:

With the Covid-19 virus still a huge health concern, Rev. Michael will not holding office hours until it is safe, though he is frequently at the church for worship and other one-on-one or small-group meetings. He is available to talk by email at rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com or by telephone at (508) 821-6092. We suggest that you email first to schedule a telephone call.

AUGUST MESSENGER DEADLINE:

The deadline for the next *Messenger* is 5 P.M. on Wednesday, July 15. The due date for Messenger submissions is the 15th of the prior month (the 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 & Betty Forrest

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:

Slice of Fellowship:

Social Action/Green Sanctuary:

Stewardship:

Ushers:

Wayside Pulpit:

Worship:

Property:

Fundraising:

Greens Sale:

Welcoming Congregation:

Darcy Doyle

Betty Forrest

Ann Shedd

Carol Stamatakis

Jenn Wyman

Vicki Keller

Jenn Wyman

Bob Hill

David Robinson

Open

Open



KUUC CONTACT LIST 2019-2020

WORSHIP SERVICES

STAFF

Sunday Services: 10:00 A.M.

Religious Exploration: 10:00 A.M.

September-June

Summer Services 10:00 A.M.

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Director, Religious Exploration: Jill M. Hall

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Music Director: Donna Dearth

rdearth@hotmail.com

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