

# The Messenger

September 2020 Volume 28 Issue 8



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

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- 11-14 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.

## Worship Calendar

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

**September 6<sup>th</sup>:** "Breakfast Communion" (Carl Jacobs)

**September 13<sup>th</sup>:** "Bring it On" (Rev. Michael)

At Ingathering we remember and celebrate the renewal of our covenant, the importance of our mission, the hard work of our leadership and the loving community that we are and aspire to be. Despite the complexities and concerns that we all are dealing with in 2020, we are not alone--our building might be closed but the congregation is moving ahead. [More details to come as we get closer].

**September 20<sup>th</sup>:** "Autumn and Other Changes" (Rev. Michael)

Summer is fleeting fast and soon we will settle into the season that New England seems to have been made for--Autumn. Although it seems that climate change has changed it somewhat, this time of last harvests, turning leaves and cool evenings is one brings with it fresh perspective and the intimation of things to come.

**September 27<sup>th</sup>:** "Banned or Burned" (Rev. Michael)

Today is the first day of Banned Books Week, and as America has quite a history of censorship, we will take a look how it has worked and what drives it in the land of the free. How do our gathering principles speak to freedom of conscience, and is there a redefinition and/or erosion afoot among us as some do claim?

## 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: September 2020

“We have a good time together, even when we are not together.”

—Yogi Berra

It is in times like these, when there are too many things happening that we cannot control, and it seems as though the Earth might spin off its axis—or be knocked off—for all the violence and changes it has endured at our hands, that we need community such as we find at KUUC. Yet even that has been challenged by the ongoing menace and potential for a rapid uptick in Covid-19 cases with schools about to start up and the increased mobility of people visiting with family and taking late summer vacations.

For this reason, some of us have begun to pine for more time together as a congregation, to worship, work and connect in person. It is understandable and an important acknowledgement of what the church building and congregational life means to you, me, to us. Yet, public safety and our collective health requires us to forego in-person gatherings for now, and at least as concerns large-scale gatherings, for the foreseeable future.

And yet, and yet, *we still have each other*. So far, the pandemic has not touched our membership, as far as I know, despite the fact that many of us are at risk due to our age or ongoing condition—even though a recent report showed that the highest number of cases by age group in New Hampshire are among those in their 20s, followed by those in their 50s.

I mention these things not to increase our collective anxiety but to reinforce our collective resolve, to do all that we can to stay healthy while not giving in to feelings of loneliness, worry, anger and depression.

Acceptance is needed to move forward together into this new normal so long as it lasts. This is not the end of times, but they sure are curious times, and so we need to remain curious ourselves, and maintain our sense of humor while keeping in touch with each other. Making connections in ways that are comfortable for us: by telephone, handwritten notes, through Zoom meetings and instant messaging, and in-person chats outside, (even though it might mean wearing a mask and keeping at a safe distance) is critical; so that our people remember that we are ever connected and that we care for each other. You are never alone, and as the Hall of Fame baseballer and accidental philosopher, Lawrence P. “Yogi” Berra said about his wife: “We have a good time together, even when we are not together.”

To that end, I hope to begin some new ways for us to get together, [see below]. I also want to learn from you what kind of complementary worship, congregational programs and learning opportunities you are interested in and would be willing to do. This time could be transformational if we make the best of it.

We can do this. “We” can do what “I” never can do alone.

Yours in Faith & Fellowship,

*Rev. Michael*

## **Rev. Michael's Schedule & Office Hours for the End of August and September:**

**Study Time:** Rev. Michael will be taking a week of Study Time from August 23 to August 29.

For those who are new to the congregation, one month of dedicated Study Time is given to the minister each year to use throughout the year. Although the minister has a day each week for study and writing, this is different. It is time dedicated to study alone, and it is expected that the minister will be out of touch, even out of state. As he will only check his emails once or twice during the week but will not be answering emails until he returns. So, if there is an emergency, contact Board President Jim Peale ([pealefamily@gmail.com](mailto:pealefamily@gmail.com), 357-7875) who will decide if it is something Rev. Michael needs to handle right away, even if it means returning to Keene.

Otherwise, your emails will await his return.

**Office Hours:** In September, Rev. Michael will be at the office and available to meet on Tuesdays from 10 AM to 2 PM and Thursday from 9 to noon. Please call to make an appointment which may be held in his office or out in the Deane Starr Memorial Garden. Of course, he will be in the office on other days but may not be available to meet on those other days.

**Visits:** Rev. Michael will be available for home visits—or their equivalent—on Monday mornings from 9 AM to 2 PM starting September 14. Also, beginning on Tuesday, September 1, he will have a second period for “home visits” on Tuesday afternoons from 3 to 6 PM. He may be able to schedule visits on other days subject to his availability. Please call if you would like him to visit, especially if the visits need to be held on days or hours other than those listed here.

## **A Message from your Board President September 2020      By Jim Peale**

Now we are moving into our first (and, hopefully, last) Autumn of the pandemic. We are lucky to live in an area that has not suffered heavily, though we have suffered. Cases continue to arise in NH and in the Monadnock region. Experts tell us we are still in the “first wave” and neither a vaccine nor an end is in sight, though the next flu season is.

We continue to talk about possibilities for a return to live services but I am not optimistic about this happening before 2021. Anything we do at this point would be severely limited, of necessity and caution, with widely spaced seating, no singing, no coffee hour, and truncated access to facilities. In addition, any services we undertake would have to continue to be available on line in order to be available to as many members as possible.

Our challenge is to remain a spiritual community while we can't be together in the fashion for which we long. There should be opportunities for small groups, through both electronic and live events. Some of these may be educational. Some will be more in the nature of community volunteering. We hope to have a work day or work weekend to do some basic maintenance in the church building. We'd like to have an on line Committee Fair. Please "stay tuned" for notices on those.

Please keep connections you have made in the past alive. A phone call to an acquaintance, a Zoom, a FaceTime, an e-mail, even a letter or postcard (remember those?) are all ways to maintain our relationships when personal meetings aren't possible.

Please stay in touch with us, and with each other!

Jim

### Committee Opportunities:

The structure of church operations stands on volunteer committees. We currently lack members and chairs for the Fundraising, Social Action, and Welcoming Congregation Committees. Anyone interested in working in any of those areas should contact Jim Peale ([pealefamily@gmail.com](mailto:pealefamily@gmail.com)) about getting involved.

### Elevator Update

The elevator in the Church is not currently operating. Repair costs appear to be considerable and we are looking at options for funding them. During this period while use of the Church is limited, making the elevator usable is a lesser priority.

### DRE Update: Religious Exploration News

The motto for Religious Exploration 2020-21 is *flexible support*. We are all living with the great weight of current events, in the world, the nation, and locally. Our daily lives have been disrupted for longer than we probably imagined, back in March, when we took extraordinary measures to protect ourselves, our loved ones, friends and strangers from the spread of a not-yet-understood new virus and the health ravages it causes. We none of us wanted to be here, socially distanced, at the start of a new church year, a new school year, a new season, the eve of a national election—and yet here we are.

With all that in mind, our Religious Exploration offerings will be virtual, and they will be varied.

We will offer a variety of ways to access the support, inspiration, comfort, and community our programs provide. If our modes and methods are working, we'll keep doing them. If not, we'll change. If something doesn't work for you, times, days, recordings, mail, email, whatever, please reach out. If there is something you want to have, please reach out. If you need something, please, reach out. We, your Religious Exploration team, your congregation, your faith community, we are here, and we will respond to your need.

## RE Ages and Stages

The Soul Matters theme for September is *Renewal*. From Teresa Honey Youngblood, Family Ministry Coordinator for Soul Matters Sharing Circle:

*When we embrace renewal, we accept that what worked in the past may not work in the future, and we trade the confidence of experience and mastery for the release, excitement, and opportunity of beginner's mind. That kind of renewal is a gift to our kids and ourselves.*

Soul Matters themes will inform KUUC's family RE this year.

- Packets of information, ideas and activities will go out (in the mail or special delivery) to families in the first week of each month.
- On the first Sunday of each month, parents and adult caregivers are invited to a short Zoom meeting with Jill to talk about the theme, the activities and whatever else comes up for us. (let's try 4pm and 30 minutes for the first one. Not a good time? Not a good day? Too short? Let's talk about alternatives!)
- Once per month I will send out a recorded Zoom message for kids and families. Watch whenever it works for you. This message will include some elements from the theme packet, perhaps a story, perhaps a craft, perhaps I'll share some news. Surprise! (for all of us—I'm also just figuring this stuff out as I go.)
- Twice per month we'll have a special "Zoom room" for elementary-age kids (1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades) at the Sunday morning coffee hour. Each will be about 20-30 minutes, one just for sharing news and chatting with church friends. The other will include an element or two from the monthly theme as well as time for sharing news.

Once per month we'll have a live Zoom for middle-school age youth, an extension and expansion of last year's in-person *Neighboring Faiths* curriculum, adapted for online. Again, I'm still working this out but I hope there will be a video or documentary that can be viewed at home with family, then online group time to explore themes and connections to Unitarian Universalism. We will be exploring different faiths than last year, so the material will be new for those continuing, and for the new members we will recap past explorations as needed to make connections and extend understanding.

- Beginning *next month*, in October, RE will be offering a once-per-month live Zoom for adults on a similar model. A book, movie, or podcast one can experience at home, then come “together” (via the magic of Wi-Fi) to discuss.

## RE Calendar

So many options! Pick what you like, do what works, let me know what you think.

During the **first week of September**, watch your mailbox for a packet on the theme, and watch your email for a link to the recorded Zoom episode for the month.

**Sunday, September 6, 6pm:** Parent/caregiver live Zoom meeting, on the *Renewal* theme. (Note that 9/6 is the last “summer worship” of the year. Carl Jacobs is leading, theme is Breakfast Communion.)

**Sunday, September 13:** Ingathering, live Zoom worship

During coffee hour we’ll have a **breakout room** for kids to chat.

**Sunday September 20:** Live Zoom worship, coffee hour.

**4pm:** RE Committee meeting, live Zoom, all are welcome. Email Jill at [kuucdre@gmail.com](mailto:kuucdre@gmail.com) for a link.

**Sunday, September 27:** Live Zoom worship. During coffee hour we’ll have a breakout room for kids, both for chatting and for talking about the *Renewal* theme.

**4pm:** Live Zoom *Neighboring Faiths* for middle school youth and interested parents.

Yours in the wonder and the mystery,

Jill

Jill M. Hall [kuucdre@gmail.com](mailto:kuucdre@gmail.com)

508-821-8935

## Music

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

Be well and peaceful,

Donna Dearth, Music Director

## Soul Matters Themes For 2020-21:

After hearing positive feedback from members, staff and folks in committees about the Soul Matters Sharing Circle, and the worship, music, small group and other congregational support materials it provides, we have decided to subscribe once again this year. We will be using their worship support packets and membership program that they offer, as well as a program called “Soulful Home.” “Soulful Home” is a resource that helps us support families



in their lived faith journey. “Soulful Home” offers many ways to introduce spiritual reflection and practices to children and help parents to assume their role as a child’s primary spiritual, and ethical guides.

Jill, Donna, and I are excited to be using this program again because it not only suggests material we material we might *choose* for worship or other programs, but as a sharing circle each of us has access to online group of other worship professionals off whom we can bounce ideas, ask for help, and share our own writings, music ideas and writing from our own creative ministries.

In 2020-2021 our Soul Matters monthly themes are:

**September:** Renewal

**February:** Beloved Community

**October:** Deep Listening

**March:** Commitment

**November:** Healing

**April:** Becoming

**December:** Stillness

**May:** Story

**January:** Imagination

**June:** Play

Look for more information and suggestions of how we might use these themes as part of our communal and family life, as a catalyst for individual spiritual practice, and to deepen our Unitarian Universalist faith.

---Rev. Michael

## **OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS, MEETINGS, EVENTS, OPPORTUNITIES, ETC**

### **“The Chat” a Biweekly Online Gathering, To Begin on September 1**

Rev. Michael will host a biweekly online gathering called “The Chat” beginning on Tuesday, September 1 from 9 to 10 A.M. This is an opportunity to share, hear and discuss what is going on at the church. Also, this is a place to share your ideas for new programs, to discuss what is going on in your lives with each other and arrange in person meets with Rev. Michael if they are needed. He hopes this will make us all feel more connected, heard and well informed. You will receive a link to the meeting in the coming days.

### **Rummage Sale Leaders Needed**

Would you be interested in working on or even leading the yard sale/rummage? Although this was most recently Hazel's baby, and she did a fantastic job, others have led it in the past. If you are willing to lead the Rummage Sale you can organize it however you wish, (obviously with current precautions with regard to the Covid-19 epidemic apply).

**For the time being, we ask that no further rummage donations be brought to the church.**



## Rev. Michael to Launch Wednesday “KUUC Blast Ministry” messages on Spirituality

It is so easy to lose track of our spiritual lives amid the hectic pace and many appointments of life during *ordinary* times, and yet we know that there is little that is ordinary these days. To that end, Rev. Michael will prepare and send a weekly eblast on spiritual themes and practices by

Wednesday of each week beginning on Wednesday, September 2. He will likely tailor these brief weekly messages on the monthly Soul Matters Theme, which for September is “Renewal.”

## LIBERAL CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURES FELLOWSHIP GROUP

MEETS FIRST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 5:00 PM

UPCOMING MEETINGS: September 1 and October 6

Our fellowship group plans to meet via Zoom (until further notice) the first Tuesday of every month from 5:00 to 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 or 603-398-5389 or [cstamatakis@outlook.com](mailto:cstamatakis@outlook.com).

## RESERVE YOUR FAMILY BLOCKS SESSION:

Would you and your children like to come to KUUC to do some open-ended block-building? We are introducing a new program called “Family Blocks.” Beginning on August 23rd, Deborah Dunnell is inviting one RE family at a time to come to the Block Room to build for an hour or so, by appointment, at a mutually convenient time. Families with “older” children are welcome as well! All will observe strict health and safety protocols, including temperature checks, handwashing/sanitizing, masks, and social distancing. Accommodations will be made for children with special needs. During the building session parents and children will stay in the room and Deborah will remain outside in the hallway. She will be responsible for disinfecting the surfaces before and after; families will be responsible for block-take-down. A limited selection of accessories will be available as well. There will be a minimum of one week between sessions, to allow time for the blocks themselves to naturally disinfect. For more information, Deborah can be reached at [ddunnell52@gmail.com](mailto:ddunnell52@gmail.com) or (603) 903-9398.

## MONADNOCK INTERFAITH PROJECT (MIP) SEEKS PART-TIME PAID ORGANIZER:

The Monadnock Interfaith Project (MIP) is looking for a paid, part-time Community Organizer. The Job Description for this 15 hour/week position is on the link below. Perhaps this is the perfect part-time position for you, a family member or friend that has some of the experience that MIP is looking for? If you have trouble opening the link contact Tom Julius [tjulius54@gmail.com](mailto:tjulius54@gmail.com).  
[MIP Community Organizer Job Description 07/20/20](#)

## OBITUARY OF FORMER KUUC MEMBER NANCY "NAN" BIGELOW



**Nancy "Nan" Bigelow**, 83, of Keene, passed away on July 29, 2020, from a brief illness, including the COVID-19 virus. She was born the daughter of the late Nathaniel and Dorothy Bigelow and grew up in Goffstown. An accomplished equestrienne, she and her parents were actively engaged with Morgan horse shows and its history, including the well-known 100-mile-ride experience in Woodstock, Vermont.

Nan earned her Bachelor of Arts at Charter Oak College in Hartford, Conn. After completing college, she became an accomplished programmer, bookkeeper and tax consultant for H&R Block in Keene. Nan also practiced massage therapy, specializing in reiki. Among her many interests, she was a volunteer with Therapeutic Riding of Tucson (TROT) in Arizona, and instrumental in the development of a therapeutic riding program in Keene.

Nan is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Sandra J. (Scofield) and Peter S. Corrieri; her grandchildren, Sara and Steven; and her brother and sister-in-law, William and Janis Bigelow.

In keeping with Nan's wishes, there will be no services. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations in her memory may be made to: Upreach Therapeutic Equestrian Center, P.O. Box 355, 153 Paige Hill Road, Goffstown NH 03045. All services are under the care of Cheshire Family Funeral Chapel and Crematories, 44 Maple Ave., Keene NH 03431 ([www.cheshirefamilyfh.com](http://www.cheshirefamilyfh.com)).

## KUUC FERRY BEACH WEEKEND WILL BE 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 more than 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](mailto:pealefamily@gmail.com) or 357-7875.

## HUGE THANKS FOR THE WORK DONE IN OUR MEMORIAL GARDEN!!

Thanks to John Bordenet, Wendy Byrn, Charlie Wagar and Bob and Carol Hill.

The Memorial Garden looks lovely!

Bob has taken the broken bench home for repair.



## GENERAL INFORMATION

### NEXT MESSENGER DEADLINE:

The deadline for the October *Messenger* is 5 P.M. on Tuesday, September 15. The due date for Messenger submissions is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the prior month (the only exception is June 15, as there is no July Messenger). Send all your articles and notices to Rev. Michael at

[rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com](mailto:rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com).



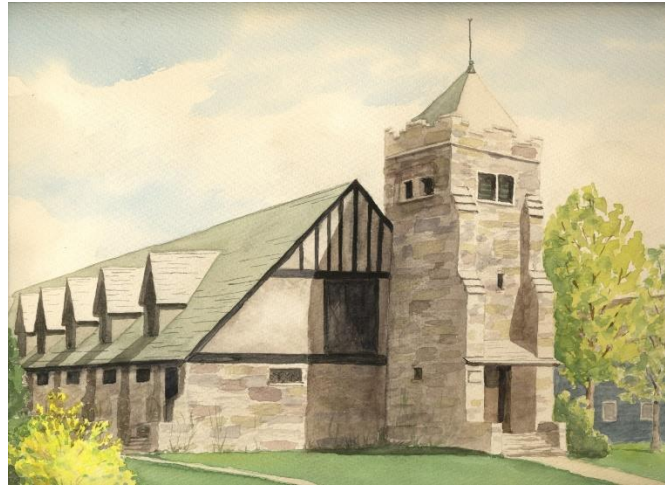
## **COMMITTEE CONTACTS:**

<b>Circle of Caring:</b>	Betsy Zimmerli & Betty Forrest
<b>Covenant Groups:</b>	Carolyn Antrim
<b>Investment:</b>	John Bordenet
<b>Membership:</b>	Melinda Hildreth-Honkala
<b>Music:</b>	Carin Torp
<b>Personnel:</b>	Ruth Shepard
<b>Religious Exploration:</b>	Barbara Bryce
<b>Senior Lunch Bunch:</b>	Betty Forrest
<b>Shawls of Love:</b>	Darcy Doyle
<b>Slice of Fellowship:</b>	Betty Forrest
<b>Social Action/Green Sanctuary:</b>	Open
<b>Stewardship:</b>	Carol Stamatakis
<b>Ushers:</b>	Tom Haynes
<b>Wayside Pulpit:</b>	Vicki Keller
<b>Worship:</b>	Susie Ericson-West & Gwyn Powers
<b>Property:</b>	Carl Jacobs
<b>Fundraising:</b>	Open
<b>Greens Sale:</b>	Open
<b>Welcoming Congregation:</b>	Open





REST ASSURED WE WILL STILL HAVE A WATER COMMUNION ON SEPTEMBER 13th,  
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER!! (Details Forthcoming)



**SAVE THIS DATE KLUC WORK DAY: Saturday October 3rd**

# 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](mailto: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](mailto:kuucdre@gmail.com)  
 Keene, NH 03431  
 Phone: (603) 352-1719 Music Director: Donna Dearth  
 E-mail: [office@kuuc.org](mailto:office@kuuc.org) [rdearth@hotmail.com](mailto:rdearth@hotmail.com)  
 Website: [www.kuuc.org](http://www.kuuc.org)  
 Facebook: [Keene Unitarian Universalist Church@KeeneUU](https://www.facebook.com/KeeneUnitarianUniversalistChurch@KeeneUU)

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2019-2020

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