

The Messenger

March 2020 Volume 28 Issue 3

Keene Unitarian Universalist Church, 69 Washington Street, Keene, NH 03431
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Worship Calendar: March 2020

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

[Our Soul Matters theme for March is “Wisdom.” Ask yourself, “What does it mean to be a people of Wisdom?”]

March 1: “Simple Wisdom” (Rev. Michael)

It often seems that Knowledge complicates our lives while Wisdom simplifies it. Can this be true? Are the two things opposites or complements? Today we will look at the way we acquire knowledge and gain wisdom—as individually and as a group. We will also share our Joys and Concerns in community.

March 8: “Gather the Spirit: Finding the Divine in Community” (Antonia Andreoli)

“Gather the Spirit” recognizes the power of being together in community. When we are together the Holy Spirit is present. Walpole Unitarian Church lay leader Antonia Andreoli leads our service today.

March 15: “The Power of Saying Yes! My Journey to Teotihuacan” (Rachael Walter)

Teotihuacan is an ancient Mesoamerican city in Mexico, that was home to a group of people named the Toltecs. They were scholars, scientists, artists and healers. The moment I said “YES!” to traveling to Teotihuacan, my life started to change. Spirit is an amazing force!

March 22: “Faith and Works” (Rev. Emily Burr)

We covenant to affirm and promote our seven Principles. If we truly want to promote our values, we must reach outward beyond ourselves with action.

Emily was ordained as a UU minister in 2004. She lives in a house built in 1790 in Canterbury, NH with her husband. She is currently a Community Minister of Social Justice affiliated with the Starr King UU Fellowship in Plymouth, NH. This service is yet another free gift provided by the Downing Trust—the same trust that has brought to our pulpit M’ellen Kennedy, Shayna Appel, and Jeanne Nieuwjaar.

March 29:

“Between Wisdom and Love”

(Rev. Michael)

Buddhist author Jack Kornfield claims that, “Wisdom says we are nothing. Love says we are everything. Between these two our life flows.” Today we will think together about the wisdom of the heart and the heart of wisdom and share from our experience about each.

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/ Rev. Michael's Moment: March 2020

“It is unwise to be too sure of one's own wisdom. It is healthy to be reminded that the strongest might weaken and the wisest might err.”

— Mahatma Gandhi

Wisdom. What is it? Some might say it is the distillation of many years study, curiosity and lived experience. Others point to wisdom that comes from the mouths of children, from whom it sometimes springs forth so naturally, like spring water, without a host of grown-up qualifications: no “well of courses,” “perhapses” and “maybes.” Some search scriptures for wisdom, some seek it through travelling the world or pushing the limits of their body, mind and spirit. Not all people find wisdom in a 100 years. Some gain wisdom through pain—some seem to lose it for the very same reason.

What is the way to wisdom? Who knows?

Each month the good folks from the Soul Matters Sharing Circle, of which we are a part, choose a theme and ask us all to consider: “What does it mean to be a people of_____?” This month the theme is Wisdom. With all that is going on at KUUC, we might do well to ask it of Wisdom. For the people of KUUC, what does it mean to be a people of Wisdom? How would wisdom, (not just numbers or knowledge, comfort or tradition) guide us in our going forth together as a congregation, as a shared ministry?

But Soul Matters also has another approach, which is to look at the monthly theme as if it were a spiritual practice. As individuals, families or households you may wish to think about and try to live into the spiritual practice of Wisdom. Soul Matters suggest the spiritual practice of Wisdom might involve either:

1. The practice of untangling yourself from what you've been taught OR.
2. The practice of wedding cleverness with compassion

I think there may be other ways to make wisdom a spiritual practice, how about you? I would love to hear your thoughts on Wisdom. What wisdom have you learned and from whom? What wisdom have you learned from Life, (or discovered along your path)? Please send me your thoughts.

Yours in Faith and Service,

Rev. Michael

A Message from Your President

Thanks to everyone who participated in the special meeting on February 16, in which Jim Peale was confirmed as our current president elect (thank you Jim!) and in which a healthy, wide-ranging discussion of KUUC's property and other challenges ensued. It is important that we, as a congregation, try to steer our future course, rather than just react to immediate problems. Not surprisingly, a wide variety of opinions were expressed, some of them conflicting with others, but the discussion was insightful and respectful. Minutes of the discussion will be released to the congregation in the near future.

Most of those who spoke to the question whether we should consider selling all of our property and renting space elsewhere were opposed to doing so. I am grateful to Carl Jacobs for offering to coordinate the extensive work involved in maintaining our property and serving as landlords, both to our abutting Taylor Street rental property and to Growing Minds Daycare and the many other groups who utilize our church building. This is work that has sapped a great deal of the board of trustees' energy and attention over the years. If KUUC is to "stay in place," property management/landlord work has to depend on more than a few volunteers, and a workable plan for addressing deferred building maintenance has to be created and carried out. Extensive money for repairs will also need to be set aside.

As I mentioned at the special meeting, much can be accomplished without a great deal of money if there are enough volunteers. We don't always agree, however, on what actions should be taken. Please let me know if you have one or two priorities that you think KUUC should work on. If there are enough others who feel the same way, and enough of them are ready to help, we should be able to create a plan of action together. The oh-so-easy trap that we need to avoid is an endless discussion of problems without any feasible plan to prioritize and address any of them.

I want to thank John Lowry for serving the board of trustees and our congregation at large so ably as our clerk. This marks John's sixth year of service to us in a leadership role, initially as treasurer and subsequently as clerk. He will step off the board when his term ends in July. We offer him our sincere gratitude.

Our annual Stewardship Campaign, in which we ask ourselves to financially support the good work of this church, will begin in late March. Please let me know if you might be interested in helping plan the campaign, which is essential to our mission.

John Walter

HELP WANTED:

Are you comfortable with numbers, budgets, and computers? Are you reliable and committed to KUUC's well being?

Andrea Ansevin-Allen very graciously stepped into KUUC's position of Treasurer 2 and 1/2 years ago, when the Treasurer at the time resigned. Her term ends in July. The Board of Trustees is seeking good candidates for this important position. Although welcome, neither expertise in budgets nor in computers is a requirement--only comfort with them and an ability and willingness to learn.

FROM THE DRE:

RE Calendar

The March Soul Matters theme for Sunday morning Religious Exploration is WISDOM.

Sunday, March 1: Children begin in the sanctuary and are sung out to class with Jill. *A caring adult helper is needed this morning.*

2-4 PM: Neighboring Faiths group meets to explore Taoism.

Sunday, March 8: Children begin in the sanctuary and are sung out to class in the Blocks room with Deborah Dunnell.

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

Sunday, March 15: Children begin in the sanctuary and are sung out to class with Betsy Stacey. *A caring adult helper is needed this morning.*

2-4 PM: Neighboring Faiths group meets to explore Hinduism.

Sunday, March 22: Children begin in the sanctuary and are sung out to class with Rachael Walter. Tina Stevens is helper today.

Sunday, March 29: No RE this morning. Children are welcome to remain in the sanctuary.

2-4 PM: Neighboring Faiths group meets to consider what defines a cult.

Staffing and Scheduling Note: Beginning March 11, I will be taking a medical leave from my duties as KUUC's Director of Religious Exploration. The members of the Religious Exploration committee—Barbara Bryce, Deborah Dunnell, Betsy Stacey and Tina Stevens—as well as Susan Lowry and Andrea Ansevin-Allen, are stepping in to cover most of my responsibilities during my absence. I very much appreciate all of them for volunteering to teach or assist in classes for the Sunday morning elementary-age children and the Sunday afternoon middle-school group, to help

plan and participate in Easter's multigenerational service, and to welcome and connect with newcomers. I'm also grateful to Rev. Michael for picking up some of my other duties, and to him and the Board for supporting my use of my allowed days off to cover this leave.

Questions? Concerns? Before March 10, please contact me at kuucdre@gmail.com or 508-821-8935 (text or call) as usual.

After March 10, please contact Barbara Bryce, chair of the RE Committee (bbryce17@gmail.com or 603-357-4521), or Rev. Michael (rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com or 508-821-6092). I will not be checking or responding to email during my leave. For emergencies, please contact Barbara or Rev. Michael. I expect to be back, and back to normal, during the week of April 19.

Our Whole Lives

Our Whole Lives (O.W.L.) is the values-based lifespan sexuality education curricula developed jointly by the UUA and UCC (United Church of Christ)*. KUUC offers the segment designed for youth in grades 7-9 (or homeschool equivalent) in alternate years and – next year is the year! Right now, we are searching for at least two adults willing to attend a weekend of training and able to commit to facilitating this course during the 2020-2021 church year. Meetings are traditionally held on Sunday afternoons; the actual schedule is flexible and will be determined with input from the facilitators.

Description from the UUA website: “Honest, accurate information about sexuality changes lives. It dismantles stereotypes and assumptions, builds self-acceptance and self-esteem, fosters healthy relationships, improves decision making, and has the potential to save lives.”

(www.uua.org/re/owl) If you feel called to serve your community by facilitating this program, please contact Jill, Rev Michael, or Barbara Bryce (RE Committee chair). If you'd like more information before deciding, please check out the UUA O.W.L. info page, or talk with John Walter (who has facilitated this class more than once).

Please contact Jill (kuucdre@gmail.com) with questions, concerns or for more information. Enrollment will begin after we have leaders in place.

*while the program was developed by two religious denominations, the curriculum is secular – no doctrine or dogma is included, just honest, factual information and the core values of self-worth, sexual health, responsibility and justice and inclusivity.

Neighboring Faiths

This group will be wrapping up their meetings on April 5. Since our first meeting on September 29, KUUC's middle-school students have explored several different religions or faith traditions,

found in many of them points of connection with Unitarian Universalism, and explored, refined and developed their own faiths and beliefs. In March we will explore two more religions and discover what defines a cult. On April 5th the group will have a closing celebration of our time together. I have greatly enjoyed meeting with these UUs. Their spirit of inquiry, willingness to engage with those different from themselves, and ability to question, search for meaning, and define their own beliefs gives me great hope, which is no small gift indeed.

Jill M. Hall, DRE

MUSIC NOTES

In March the choir will be singing on March 8 and 29. You will see some new faces in the choir as we have added two new members.

I'd like to thank our soloists in February—Jenn Wyman, Susie Ericson-West, and Jim Peale. Special thanks to Carl Jacobs for sharing his music offerings with us during Sunday services. I am so blessed to be able to work with all of you.

Peace, *Donna*

Donna Dearth, Music Director

FROM THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTRY

SAVE THE DATE – JOIN US FOR ONE OF THESE SHARED MINISTRY FORUMS

Sunday, March 15th: 11:30am, Alliance Room

Wednesday, March 18th: 11am, before Lunch Bunch

You are invited to share your thoughts on shared ministry in a forum facilitated by the KUUC Committee of the Ministry (COM). “Shared ministry” is the effort we all make to live our faith with each other and throughout our world community.

This church year the COM has focused on updating the COM’s purpose and providing more opportunities for all members of the congregation to share perspectives on KUUC’s shared ministry. As a part of our plan, the COM members will be hosting forums to hear your thoughts on shared ministry at KUUC. These forums will be facilitated events lasting about an hour. Summary results from the forums will be shared with the Board of Trustees and the congregation.

Committee on the Ministry members are: Susan Lowry (chair), Mickey Cronin, Rev. Michael Hall, Tom Julius, Jim Smart, and Jeff Staples.

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE REPORT:

The Investment Committee decided to move all our assets to an SRI (social sustainable investments) wealth management company. Our investments have been doing well but as we liquidate shares to continue supporting the operating budget, our diversity has continued to diminish. We picked Cambridge Trust to use. They have a history of this type of investing with a good return rate. The service fee is the same as the UUA's fund with a better return rate.

Below are their criteria for this type of investing:

Sustainable & Responsible Investing Strategy (SRI) - Equities

INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

Our objective is to invest in undervalued, high-quality companies that provide long-term competitive financial returns as well as a positive impact in the communities and environments in which they operate. We rigorously research environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) factors to supplement our proprietary investment analysis of the companies and funds selected for inclusion in our Sustainable and Responsible Investing (SRI) portfolios.

Our equity strategy prioritizes companies with the potential for long-term capital appreciation that also demonstrate positive and impactful ESG standards. We focus on high-quality companies committed to developing policies and programs to improve their environmental impact, that treat their employees and the community well, and that have strong and diverse leadership, an independent board of directors, and transparent practices.

In addition to our thorough ESG review, overall portfolio risk is managed by limiting exposure concentration to any individual sector or position through rebalancing and a rigorous sell discipline.

The investments are both stocks and funds: 70% equities, 20% fixed income, and 5% money market. These investments cover all of trusts; all trusts share the same returns and are tracked using virtual accounting as recommended by a previous BOT. Look for details in the annual report.

Investment Committee

EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, UPDATES & Other News

SPOKEN WORD Monthly Tea House will premiere on Sunday, March 1st with speaker sign-ups at 6:30 P.M. and the performances beginning @7 P.M. The Spoken Word Tea House will be held on the first Sunday night of each 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

Poetry Group will meet the fourth Monday of the month, March 23. The group welcomes everyone to share their favorites and original poems.

Dance Connection

Come dance and move together with others in safe, welcoming space. No experience necessary. Free, but donations for use of space gratefully accepted. Every Wednesday in March and April except for April 22, 2-3 PM in Parish Hall at KUUC. Carin Torp, board-certified dance movement therapist and group fitness instructor is leader. For more information contact her at 357-7645 or carintorp@yahoo.com.

KUUC Book Club. If you would like to get on our member email list, contact Ruth Shepard ruthshep47@gmail.com.

Slice of Fellowship – March 6

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.

Lunch Bunch – March 18

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 third 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.

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

GREEN IDEAS:

You, Too, Can Have Wind and Solar Power

I have been glad to hear discussions and questions lately at coffee hour and lunch bunch about renewable energy, reflecting KUUC's values as a Green Sanctuary and Keene's target of 100% renewable electricity by 2030. Here's one step we can take: electricity customers can switch to a competitive renewable energy supplier or offset their electricity with wind and solar power.

To choose an alternative supplier, go to <https://www.puc.nh.gov/Consumer/Choosing an Energy Supplier.html> and explore the various suppliers, their energy mix and contract terms. Or go to <https://www.arcadiapower.com/suzanne7798> to sign up for wind power.

Arcadia's basic program provides 50% wind/solar power with no additional charge, 100% for an additional \$.015/kwh. Arcadia itself is not a supplier: you pay Arcadia, they pay your Eversource bill and buy Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) for your power used. In addition, you can choose their "Smart Power" program, which continually monitors prices and switches your supplier if they find a lower rate, with no contract or cancellation fees.

We used other suppliers for five years and have used Arcadia for about three years, recently adding the "Smart Power" program. I would be glad to try to answer any questions you may have.

Arcadia offers rebates for referrals—\$1,000 if ten people sign up! If you think you might be interested, email me. I'll refer you, and I'll donate the referral money to KUUC.

Suzanne Butcher
ssbutcher@aol.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

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. During the month of March, we will begin the transition to a new staff position so please stay tuned for who that person will be and what schedule they will be working.

Rev. Michael's Office Hours for March:

During the month of March, Rev. Michael's Office Hours will be on Wednesdays from 9 A.M.-12 P.M.

Contact him directly to make an appointment during office hours or to meet on another day, time or place. rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com.

APRIL MESSENGER DEADLINE:

The deadline for the April *Messenger* is 5 P.M. on Sunday, March 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.

KUUC CONTACT LIST 2019-2020

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday Services: 10:00 A.M.

Religious Exploration: 10:00 A.M.

September-June

Summer Services 10:00 A.M.

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(508) 821-6092

Director, Religious Exploration: Jill M. Hall

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Music Director: Donna Dearth

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