

# The Messenger

May 2020 Volume 28 Issue 5



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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 Saturday @noon.

## Worship Calendar: May 2020

Our theme for the month of May is "Thresholds." It seems strange that May's theme should be about thresholds as it seems 2020 has been full of them. Together let us think about the times we have crossed over boundaries, made courageous decisions, jumped into new and unexpected adventures. Sounds like fun! (?)

**May 3, 2020 "The Press" (Rev. Michael)**

The free press is supposed to be an instrument of accountability in a democracy, yet it is also can be a nuisance, and rarely is it free from bias. On World Press Freedom Day, we take a look at the fourth estate in the post-truth age.

**May 10, 2020 "Mothers United" (Rev. Michael)**

Mother's Day is certainly a popular holiday in this, and many other countries, with differing points of emphasis. Besides, its usual celebration of motherhood, we will look at other ways this holiday was envisioned--which might provide us with new models to choose from.

**May 17, 2020 "Plessy & Brown" (Rev. Michael)**

With the possible exception of the Dred Scott ruling, no court decisions have impacted race relations in America more than Plessy vs Ferguson and Brown vs. the Board of Education. Where are we now in the struggle for racial equality?

**May 24, 2020 "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 might be a celebration of the ways we move through life. You'll just have to wait and see.

**May 31, 2020 "Break on Through" (Rev. Michael)**

Sometimes people get stuck in the mire, sometimes larger systems, (like cities and churches), can't seem to break through to a new way of being themselves.

What is the big secret to finding success while not losing yourself in the effort?

**[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.]**

## 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: May 2020

“Your assumptions are your windows on the world. Scrub them off every once in a while, or the light won't come in.” — Isaac Asimov

It isn't a regular occurrence when I am caught looking the fool because of my assumptions, but it does happen. Usually, when they are off it is either because my assumptions about something—a threshold I should cross, a strategy the Board of Trustees should take, what my children need to do next—are either built on stale ideas, swaddled in the egoic thinking of “the Great I AM”, or simply out-of-line with what or where I, or the group I am part of, am prepared to go. Perhaps you have found yourself similarly out-of-step, due to a lack of rigorous questioning of your assumptions, or the fear of being wrong, or the inflexibility of one who is overconfident?

We are in a time when the collective fear, confusion and division in our world is a thick fog that makes it hard to see ones' way clearly. But, I think, as people of this UU tradition of ours, that we have many ways of moving forward, though they are sometimes underutilized. By leaning into our 7 gathering principles, working on the structures and relationships that make us one fine congregation, and by creatively embracing our deceptively simple congregational mission we can move forward boldly.

These tangible things, plus the unsolicited yet perfect opportunity we have been given to adopt, or double down on our spiritual practices (from sitting in meditation and prayer to singing songs we love to practicing our viola) are the things that we can do individually and collectively to scrub the windows of our spirit. It is the work we need to do now—when so much is on hold—so that we may see without distraction, bolster up our congregation, staff and church properties, all for the purpose of personal and societal transformation in the name of Love.

Yours in Faith, Hope and Love,

*Rev. Michael*

## A Message from your Board President

By John Walter

Hello everyone. I miss seeing you at church, although I have enjoyed seeing many of you at “virtual coffee hour.” I am grateful for our virtual services—thanks, Reverend Michael, Donna, David, Carl, Barbara, Susie and Lindsay—but I am looking forward to that day, however distant, when we can meet again in our sanctuary and parish hall rather than in cyberspace. Despite the myriad negative effects of the pandemic, we are fortunate to live in an area of natural beauty, with ample space for “social distancing’ in our great outdoors. We are also fortunate to have our **P.3**

church community. I suspect that, like me, you may be reaching out to friends and relatives whom you may not have been in contact with much in recent years. Reaching out personally to church members whom you miss seeing is a great thing to do as well.

The board of trustees just held its first ever virtual meeting. It was somewhat awkward, and not without the usual share of glitches, but we got through the meeting. Not surprisingly, the covid-19 pandemic is posing some financial challenges for KUUC. We are taking in significantly less rental money than budgeted, and our planned Spring yard sale/plant sale cannot be held. Nobody is present at services to offer the collection plate to, and some of us may no longer be able to meet their full pledge for the 2019-2020 church year. The board decided to submit an application for a federal small business Payroll Protection Plan "loan" of approximately \$21,000 -8 weeks' worth of KUUC's payroll and utility expenses. When used for the purpose of maintaining employees' work hours, payment of the loan is forgiven, making this a grant rather than a loan. We barely missed the deadline for the initial plan, but it appears that there will be a successor plan that we are in the pipeline for. About a year ago there was a special meeting in which the congregation gave approval to the board to use up to \$27,000 money from the endowment if needed to pay essential bills. Due to a subsequent successful stewardship drive and due to good rental income and careful budgeting, no such money was needed. However, given the unforeseeable financial repercussions of the covid-19 pandemic, a withdrawal of money from the endowment may be necessary after all.

There are so many people at KUUC doing so many wonderful things that I feel remiss for not thanking them all. Members of the Circle of Caring, co-chaired by Betsy Zimmerli and Betty Forrest, have been doing a wonderful job of reaching out to congregants who have been experiencing hardship, loss, and/or loneliness, Please contact one or both of them if you can help with that essential work. Isn't that what we are here for?

## **RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION NEWS**

Hello, KUUC. I'm glad to be "back" from my leave, but I really wish I were coming back to something more like what I left. I've been watching the online services, and I even came to the zoom coffee hour on Sunday. It was so good to see familiar faces, especially when nothing else is very familiar.

What I'd really like is to know how you are doing and if there is anything I can offer to you at this time. Please feel free to email me at [kuucdre@gmail.com](mailto:kuucdre@gmail.com), or reach out through KUUC's facebook page. I look forward to reconnecting with you, and hope you are and continue to be well, in all your ways of being.



## 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.

Please contact Andrea ([aansevin@yahoo.com](mailto:aansevin@yahoo.com) 358-3701) or John Walter ([jnwalterjr@gmail.com](mailto:jnwalterjr@gmail.com) 358-3101) if you would like to know more about this opportunity to serve the congregation.

## CIRCLE OF CARING THERE WHEN YOU NEED THEM

This is just a little reminder that the KUUC Circle of Caring is a network that does many things to help church members and friends in need: They check in on people who are sick or have been absent from church, sometimes providing rides to the market or medical appointments, or sometimes providing meals on a short-term basis when someone is back from the hospital. These folks are invaluable to the life of our congregation in making sure that the minister is aware of developing pastoral needs, and supporting his work to that end.

Please let co-chairs Betty Forrest [mandbforrest@myfairpoint.net](mailto:mandbforrest@myfairpoint.net) and/or Betsy Zimmerli [betsyzim4@ne.rr.com](mailto:betsyzim4@ne.rr.com) know if you or a loved one needs to be contacted or helped in some way.

## OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS, EVENTS, ETC.

### HELP 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 Am, please contact Bob Hill.

Thank you

## COMMUNITY BREAKFAST UPDATE

A few volunteers of the Monadnock Interfaith Project are still providing a modified breakfast to the Homeless Resource Room three times a week. The Resource Room is now relocated at 64 Main Street. This provides a much larger space to allow for better social distancing.

Dennis Kelleher, Knights of Columbus from St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church and Kevin Gordon, from St. Bernard's Catholic Church have stepped up to help Bob and Carol Hill with the shopping and delivery of supplies.

My sister, Nancy Browning, who is in Florida has sent money to cover the costs of this project.

The message we hear repeatedly in this new and different normal is that we are all in this together.

We have not figured out the end date of this but we are in close contact with Mindy Cambiar and the 100 Nights Shelter staff to determine need.

Thank you.

Carol Hill

## TUESDAY, MAY 5TH **\*\*ZOOM MEETING\*\*** Liberal Christian Scriptures Fellowship Group:

### Topic: Non-Violent Resistance

Our fellowship group will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, May 5th at 5pm. Our theme will be “Non-Violent Resistance.” 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. The group usually meets at 5PM on the first Tuesday of every month.

For information and Zoom meeting details, contact Carol at 603-863-4920/ 603-398-5389 or [cstamatakis@outlook.com](mailto:cstamatakis@outlook.com)

### The Book Club to Meet on May 17th

The Book Club will meet via zoom on May 17 at noon to discuss Michelle Obama's book Becoming. Members will receive an email invitation and Zoom link. If you wish to be on our mail list, please contact Ruth Shepard at [ruthshep47@gmail.com](mailto:ruthshep47@gmail.com).

**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.**



**Hope Blossoms!**

**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](mailto:tjulius54@gmail.com)



**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)                    |

**KUUC Ferry Beach Weekend 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](mailto:pealefamily@gmail.com) or 357-7875.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Rev. Michael's Availability for May:**

With the Covid-19 virus still a huge health concern, Rev. Michael will not be holding Office Hours though is sometimes at the church for worship and other things, He is available to talk by email or telephone (508) 821-6092 [rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com](mailto:rev.michaelkuuc1824@gmail.com). You may wish to email first to schedule a telephone call.

## **JUNE MESSENGER DEADLINE:**

The deadline for the June *Messenger* is 5 P.M. on Friday, April 15. Going forward, the due date for *Messenger* submissions will be 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 directly 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> | Ann Shedd                      |
| <b>Stewardship:</b>                   | Carol Stamatakis               |
| <b>Ushers:</b>                        | Jenn Wyman                     |
| <b>Wayside Pulpit:</b>                | Vicki Keller                   |
| <b>Worship:</b>                       | Jenn Wyman                     |
| <b>Property:</b>                      | Bob Hill                       |
| <b>Fundraising:</b>                   | David Robinson                 |
| <b>Greens Sale:</b>                   | Open                           |
| <b>Welcoming Congregation:</b>        | Open                           |

# 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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Phone: (603) 352-1719

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Website: [www.kuuc.org](http://www.kuuc.org)

Facebook: [Keene Unitarian Universalist  
Church@KeeneUU](https://www.facebook.com/KeeneUnitarianUniversalistChurch@KeeneUU)

## STAFF

Minister: Rev. Michael Hall

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

(508) 821-6092

Director, Religious Exploration: Jill M. Hall

[kuucdre@gmail.com](mailto:kuucdre@gmail.com)

Music Director: Donna Dearth

[rdearth@hotmail.com](mailto:rdearth@hotmail.com)

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2019-2020

John Walter, President 358-3101

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