



Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

P.O. Box 1578

New London, NH 03257

(603) 526-8213

www.kuufnh.org

May 2020

Assisting Ministers: Rev. Dick Dutton & Guests

President: Jim Vashro

Music Director: Martha Woodward

Pastoral Care Team: Rev. Lee Page 603-759-8064

Kathryn Vashro 208 440 1855

Adult RE Coordinator: Marion Allen and Susan Nellen

Children's RE Coordinator: Susan Nellen

Unitarian Universalists affirm the worth and dignity of all human beings and advocate freedom of belief and an open search for truth.

*The Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
meets weekly on Sundays at 11:00 a.m.
(September through June)
in the Stone Chapel of Proctor Academy in Andover*

President's Message

May 2020

The state of things today is certainly different than I have experienced before. Who would have thought that becoming a "Zoom Meeting" expert would have been on my to-do list? It is great to have assisting technologies at our fingertips and they help, but it is a meager replacement for real "one-on-one" connections. As we gather in the Zoom meeting room waiting for our Sunday Service to start, I am always amazed at the joy and excitement "seeing" past friends brings, even if it is virtual. Again, it is not a complete substitute for the real face-to-face contact that we as humans long for, but it does provide some relief from our isolation. A takeaway from this is that we all need connections. So take the time, call someone (a good social distancing technique), say "Hi", see how they are doing, let them know how you are doing, see if they need help, ... just connect (most everyone is accessible now).

While I am not sure how long our Virtual Sunday Services are going to be held, the Sunday Services Committee and I are committed to making sure we do what we can to offer a meaningful and worthwhile Sunday Service. If you have not already joined one to the Zoom Services, please do so. We regularly have about 32-35 attendees (25 connections, several of which are couples). If you are not computer literate, or the idea of trying a zoom meeting is too frightening, there is the telephone "call in" option that is mentioned in the weekly email that announces the zoom meeting. I, as well as others, will be happy to help get you going on your computer, iPad, cell phone, or tablet if you would like.

This reminds me that there are some that do not get or read emails – if you know of members in that situation, please reach out to them and help them get connected!

KUUF has started our Annual Fund drive and you all should have received your pledge package, if you have not already done so, please fill it out and send it in. This is a necessary part of our Board's preparation for our Annual meeting, scheduled for June 14th. Your help is needed. Thank You!

It is said that the weather will warm up and stay that way someday... I can see my neighbors readying their soil for gardens, something that I think fits well within the social distancing guidelines. Let's all take advantage of this time of isolation and renew our relationship with Nature.

Jim Vashro

May KUUF Calendar

| | | |
|--------|------|---------------------|
| May 3 | 11am | Lou Botta |
| May 10 | 11am | Yvonne Howard |
| May 10 | | Mother's Day |
| May 17 | 11am | Nancy Stone |
| May 24 | 11am | Rev. Dick Dutton |
| May 25 | | Memorial Day |
| May 31 | 11am | Rev. Mellen Kennedy |

May 3, 2020 Lou Botta

Spiritual Resiliency in a Time of Crisis

We live in a world turned upside down. As social animals, our 20,000-year paradigms of strong family contacts, friends and community participation have abruptly come to a halt. And not for the short term. Add to that the unexpected drop in markets, accumulated wealth, jobs, and public services. How do we deal with the paradigms in a new order of constant anxiety?

May 10, 2020 Yvonne Howard

Places of the Heart

Readings from *All the Places to Love* and discussion about all the sights, sounds, smells, what touches you and what you touch, and what you feel within about your home.

May 17, 2020 Nancy Stone

The Light of Community

May 24, 2020 Rev. Dick Dutton

Tikkun Olam

To repair the world.

May 31, 2020 Rev Mellen Kennedy

Rumi: A Poet for Our Times

Rumi was a 13th century Sufi poet and mystic who grew up and lived in a time of turmoil and his insights speak so clearly to our time. He exemplified an open-heartedness and interfaith harmony in his extraordinary life. We'll gather to hear his poetry, sing or chant and listen to stories from his inspiring sojourn. Join us for a celebration of Rumi. You're invited to bring your favorite Rumi poem to share if you'd like.

We've Gone Digital!

Even though we cannot gather in person, we believe it is important for our community to still hold space together. We will be hosting our weekly service online, via Zoom. Emails are sent weekly for accessing the service each Sunday.



Membership

Do you want voting rights and help make decisions for KUUF's future? Or do you want to support and continue KUUF's wonderful services, projects, and ideals? Ask about MEMBERSHIP.

MEMBERSHIP CEREMONY – DURING ANNUAL MEETING IN JUNE

The congregation commits to supporting you with in the KUUF community and you commit to supporting the KUUF community .

(The commitment words are scripted)

If you are interested in becoming a member
Please contact Kathy Vashro 735-5642 or 208 440 1855

*"Do what you can with all you have, wherever you are." -
Theodore Roosevelt*



ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

THE AMERICAN MIND:

The Intellectual Geography of America

A Great Courses Series exploring the history of American ideas—the thinking and institutions that have mattered most to Americans. This series is built around six basic themes in American thinking.

- The fundamental struggles... is it more important to Think or to Act?
 - The persistence of Religious Ideas and Control
 - The formation of two souls in our thinking ... Puritanism and Enlightenment
 - The struggle between Liberty and Power
 - The shift in the Post-Civil War decades toward Pragmatism and Secularism
 - Dilemmas posed by becoming a World Power
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This is a list of topics that will be presented once KUUF resumes our regular Sunday Services.

- **Whigs and Democrats**
- **American Romanticism**
- **Faith and Reason at Princeton**
- **Romanticism in Mercersburg**
- **Slaveholders and Abolitionists**
- **Lincoln and Liberal Democracy**
- **The Failure of the Genteel Elite**
- **Darwin in America**

COORDINATORS: Susan Nellen and Marion Allen

QUESTIONS: 526-6776

KUUF Children's Sunday School

Sunday School activities will be based on children's skill level and seasonal appropriateness.

I will draw from a diverse array of UU readings, games and art projects, as well as my own 40 years of teaching to make the children's experience at Sunday school worthwhile and fun.

Possible topics:

-Comic characters and pagan Gods and Goddesses

Possible and confirmed Famous UU's

Beatrice Potter - author

Maria Mitchell – astronomer

Louisa May Alcott - author

Helen Keller – author, speaker, motivator

Contact Susan Nellen 735-4242



FOOD PANTRY

Due to COVID-19, the food pantry's preference is currently monetary donations via mail.

Monetary donations can be made to: KLS Community Food Pantry, P.O. Box 536, New London, NH 03257

REMEMBER, FOOD IS NEEDED YEAR ROUND

Future Book Discussions – Spring 2020

The Third Reconstruction: How a Moral Movement is Overcoming The Politics of Division and Fear, Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, 2016

Since the summer of 2013, Rev. Barber has led the protests against North Carolina's restrictions to voting access. The story of how ordinary people built the blueprint for movement building and call to action that unites black and white, rich and poor, gay and straight.

An Indigenous People's History of the United States, Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, 2014

Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz grew up in Oklahoma, the daughter of a tenant farmer and part-Native American mother. She has been active in the International Indigenous Movement for more than four decades, known for her lifelong commitment to social justice.

Please join us for discussion even if you have not read the book. Available at your Public Library or on InterLibrary Loan. Questions: Marion Allen 526-6776

Good Reads...

Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind, Yuval Noah Harari, 2018

Blueprint: The Evolutionary Origins of a Good Society, Nicholas A. Christakis, 2019

The exploration of the ancient roots of goodness in human civilization.

A Line Becomes a River: Dispatches from the Border, Francisco Cantu, 2018

A former US Border Patrol Agent in Texas, Arizona, & New Mexico.

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness, Michelle Alexander, 2010, 2012.

Pledge Reminder – Year Ends June 30th

Is your Pledge up to date? The 2019-2020 pledge year ends **June 30th**. If you are unsure please contact Ken Preston, Treasurer, at kepreston1931@gmail.com for assistance.

Thank you to all who have completed this commitment! The board uses the pledges to determine the proposed budget for next year.



MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARYS

May 2 **Barbara Heggie**
May 24 **Donn Klingler**

Missing Live Events?

There are many venues and performers offering streaming concerts, plays, and performances. Here are just a few:

NPR's List of Live Virtual Concerts -

<https://www.npr.org/2020/03/17/816504058/a-list-of-live-virtual-concerts-to-watch-during-the-coronavirus-shutdown>

Book-themed events -

https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=sau21.org_590a8plh1oh4mvnblgqsrbeqg@group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/New_York&fbclid=IwAR0f6MUi1ww5Ta--idd1sBs-FFv1SVI8S7wmaBYZ1mwYvQJCT0G69OL4UDo

Lincoln Center - <http://lincolncenter.org/lincoln-center-at-home>

First Sign of Civilization

Years ago, anthropologist Margaret Mead was asked by a student what she considered to be the first sign of civilization in a culture. The student expected Mead to talk about fishhooks or clay pots or grinding stones. But no. Mead said that the first sign of civilization in an ancient culture was a femur (thighbone) that had been broken and then healed. Mead explained that in the animal kingdom, if you break your leg, you die. You cannot run from danger, get to the river for a drink or hunt for food. You are meat for prowling beasts. No animal survives a broken leg long enough for the bone to heal.

A broken femur that has healed is evidence that someone has taken time to stay with the one who fell, has bound up the wound, has carried the person to safety and has tended the person through recovery. Helping someone else through difficulty is where civilization starts, Mead said. "We are at our best when we serve others." Be civilized.

- Ira Byock.



Health Experts Urge FDA to Stop Outdated Gay Blood Donor Restrictions

The coronavirus pandemic has led to a severe blood shortage. This prompted the FDA to revise its blood donation guidelines to shorten the required sexual abstinence period for men who have sex with men from twelve months to three months. The FDA has said this change will remain in effect even after the crisis is over.

An open letter, signed by infections disease specialists, public health professionals, clinicians, and others called for the eliminations of “the scientifically outdated ban” to be responsibly lifted. They acknowledged the FDA’s recent decision as “a step in the right direction, [but] it does not go far enough in reversing the unscientific ban.”

They instead call for “a more scientifically rigorous” screening approach of blood donors that is more in line with modern HIV-testing technology.



**PASTORAL CARE TEAM
CONTACT US FOR YOURSELF OR SOMEONE YOU
KNOW WHOM MAY ENJOY HEARING FROM ONE OF
US**

**Thank you to those whom have kept us informed of people's
life changes, joys and concerns.**

**Please continue informing us, as you are our hears and eyes for
the congregation.**

Thank you

Rev. Lee Page 603-759-8064 Kathryn Vashro 208 440 1855

We are now a team of two and need more to be our eyes and ears and hands and feet. Please pass on information to us about those you know who are 'shut ins', in the hospital, sick at home or would enjoy some company. If you can spare time to help, please contact Lee Page or Kathy Vashro.

KUUF Directory Update

To keep the directory updated, please send the KUUF Administrator your current mailing/physical address, your email address and your phone numbers.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Email: admin@kuufnh.org



Several of the KUUF committees need help. It was thought that this is a good way to ask for help. Because we are a smaller congregation we have a limited number of people doing several jobs and some of the committees need more members. Here are the some that needs more members.

1. **The Caring Committee** (Parish Care Committee)
These members are contact points for our congregation members expressing needs. These members work with the Pastoral care team to help keep them informed of the needs of the congregation.
2. **Sunday Services Committee.** These members help plan the services through the year. Because of our "no permanent Minister" status, this role is especially needed
3. **Membership Committee.** Members work to welcome new and interested members to our congregation. They work to help our congregation grow
4. **Photo Committee.** Not a real committee but KUUF has a need for people that can capture those precious moments at services, outings and activities

There are other committees that do great work, these listed above are of particular need.



KUUF Endowment FUND

**Provides a lasting legacy for Unitarian Universalism
in our Kearsarge Sunapee region.**

Making a bequest to the KUUF Endowment Fund is a simple way to protect your values and help our congregation remain a voice for liberal faith throughout the Kearsarge Sunapee region.

You can name KUUF as a beneficiary in your will, trust, retirement plan, life insurance policy or financial accounts. Anyone can make a bequest and no amount is too small.



For further information, contact a member of our Finance Committee, currently serving 2019-2020 are Tom Maloof, Sandy Wells, Henry Howell, or Ken Preston.

What does everyone listen to but no one believes?

The weather report