



## **Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**

P.O. Box 1578

New London, NH 03257

(603) 526-8213

[www.kuufnh.org](http://www.kuufnh.org)

### **December 2021**

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 and via Zoom*

## **President's Message December 2021**

Welcome to the holiday season. I trust everyone had a good Thanksgiving and, in some way, looking forward to this coming season.

The holidays are a time to enjoy family and friends, relax, take some time away from the normal routines, reflect on what we're thankful for, and an opportunity to share with those less fortunate. This year, as last, we are met with the challenge of doing this while staying safe. COVID is surging and we all need to make sure we are still acting in safe ways. In addition to being vaccinated, wearing masks, and limiting our exposure to others, we can look for ways to reach out to others in safe ways; phone calls instead of visits, virtual visits (zoom, facetime), donations instead of in-person volunteering, and jotting a quick note to those you love and care for. It is hard to replace a handshake, a hug, and the joy of physical presence, just do so safely.

The Sunday Service Committee continues work hard to bring us meaningful and engaging speakers. KUUF's efforts in developing a "Hybrid" service capability has paid off and now speakers/ministers can either join us in -person or remotely using ZOOM. In addition to Zoom services, we are continuing to meet in person at the Stone Chapel with a few restrictions. If you choose to come to the Chapel on Sunday, please be vaccinated, wear a mask inside, dress warmly since we open the windows, sit in chairs distant from others, and visit with others at a distance (we have suspended providing Coffee and Snacks after the service). While Martha provides wonderful music, we ask that you hum along with the tunes instead of singing (unfortunately no choir). For me, this "no singing" will be difficult in the next few weeks since I truly enjoy the season's music.

As Hanukkah has just started and we think about the coming week's festivities, work to rise above the commercialism and enjoy the true spirit of the Season.

Jim Vashro – President, KUUF Board of Trustees

## December KUUF Calendar

<b>December 5</b>	11am	<b>Tom Farmen</b>
<b>December 12</b>	11am	<b>Traditional Christmas</b>
<b>December 19</b>	11am	<b>Martha Woodward</b>
<b>December 21</b>		<b>Winter Solstice</b>
<b>December 25</b>		<b>Christmas</b>
<b>December 26</b>	11am	<b>Rev. Dick Dutton</b>
<b>December 26</b>		<b>Kwanzaa</b>

### **December 5, 2021 Tom Farmen**

#### **When You're Going Through Hell, Keep Going**

Bessie, our twelve-and-a-half-year-old blind dog, has inspired us with her spirit and adaptability while losing her hearing. Spreading joy to others when going through bitterly challenging life events requires a level of courage and resilience that can only come from deep within the soul. I will attempt to apply Bessie's example to human circumstances.

### **December 12, 2021**

#### **Traditional Christmas**

Traditional Holiday service.

### **December 19, 2021 Martha Woodward**

#### **The Most Wonderful Time of Year? The Lure of Christmas Music**

The imagery, customs and music of Christmas are joyful for many UUs but have emotional baggage for others. Why do we still celebrate or contend with ancient traditions and enjoy singing together, at least at a holiday party?

### **December 26, 2021 Rev. Dick Dutton**

#### **The Whole Armor of God**

Shield of Faith

## **Back in the Stone Chapel!**

KUUF is back to meeting in person on Sunday at 11AM. We are supporting the UUA guidelines by requiring masks, being fully vaccinated, proper distancing, and no singing (humming along allowed). We are also suspending the traditional coffee hour for the time being. KUUF will still be offering services via ZOOM in what we are calling a "Hybrid" service.



## **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.

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

## **ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION THE AMERICAN MIND: The Intellectual Geography of America**

This Great Courses Series exploring the history of American ideas will not be given again until we are sure it is safe to have discussions in the small downstairs room at the Proctor Stone Chapel. Perhaps we can consider starting it again in 2022.

Thank you to all who participated until Covid-19 forced us to suspend our discussions.

COORDINATORS: Susan Nellen and Marion Allen  
QUESTIONS: 526-6776

## **Directory Update**

If you have any changes to your information, please let Liz Maloof or Rose Jansen, Administrator for KUUF, know and they will make sure these changes are made to the Directory.



### **December BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

**December 7** Earl Abbe  
**December 15** Lois Magenau  
**December 24** Yvonne and Hal Shukovski



## Guest at Your Table

*Guest at Your Table* is a 46-year-old UU charity which supports awareness of human rights issues around the world and acts through partnership with grassroots organizations.

This year, Guest will support women leaders helping people displaced by climate change in the Pacific, women organizers seeking to overcome violence to women in Honduras, women promoting the rights of women in Myanmar, and a program which brings arts to migrants' centers in the US.

You can read more about these programs here:

<https://www.uusc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/GAYT-2020-21-Stories-of-Hope.pdf>

Members of our congregation have contributed generously in past years. We usually have a presentation (and some reminders) in our in-service worship and collection boxes.

**To contribute** this year, you can download the form at the end of the site listed above and mail it to the address indicated. I'll also have some forms available at the chapel.

**Please indicate** that you are members of the KUUF, so Guest can tally our donations for us. If you would like to contribute cash, or wish to give me your check in church, I can send in your donation.

A donation of \$40 or more earns you and your loved ones annual UUSC membership benefits. Also, all individual and family *unrestricted contributions of \$150 or more are eligible to be **matched dollar for dollar*** by the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, N.Y. — doubling the impact of your gift!

Thank you again for considering giving to this UU charity,

Martha Woodward

## **Reminder**

As we come to the end of 2021, we are 6 months into KUUF's current fiscal year July 2021 – June 2022.

In order to take a 2021 tax deduction for a Charitable Contribution on this year's taxes, you may want to consider making a payment toward your 2021-2022 pledge before the end of the year.

Please call Ken Preston (526-9823) if you are unsure of your pledge

amount or balance still open.

## **Holiday Thank You!**

Many Thanks to all who Supported KUUF's Holiday Giving Program. You contributed and KUUF forwarded \$325.00 to LSVNA in support of their 2021 Christmas Project.

Your continued generosity acknowledging those in need is a gift that is be very much appreciated.

KUUF Social Concerns Committee,

Lou Botta, Donna Peirce & Liz Maloof

*To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake it is necessary to stand out in the cold. – Aristotle*

## **An Opportunity to Help Resettle Afghan Refugee Families**

A group of Andover residents whom many of you may know (Dan Mori, Erik Cole-Johnson, Molly Leith, Gregor and Amy Makechnie and Alex Estin) have started a GoFundMe page to raise the necessary funds to apply to the State Department to bring several families of Afghan refugees to Andover or a nearby community. You can read more about their project below -- and here's the link to the GoFundMe page if you'd like to support it --

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/helping-afghan-refugees-resettle-in-us>

"We are a small group of New Hampshire Lakes Region residents who have joined together to welcome two families of Afghan refugees that need to be resettled from U.S. Military bases into our community. These refugees fled the chaos and danger of Kabul when the Taliban took over in August 2021 leaving all their possessions and extended family behind.

The U.S. State Department has started a program encouraging local U.S. residents to welcome Afghan families into their communities. These families have come to the United States "following the historic airlift and evacuation effort, Operation Allies Welcome has introduced tens of thousands of our Afghan partners to the United States."



Funds raised through this page will go towards a required fund that when complete, allows us to assist two families to resettle in our community by providing the necessities of life including housing, school supplies, household items, clothing, and fees associated with obtaining employment, drivers' licenses and utilities etc. All funds will be used within the State of New Hampshire.

Additional information about this U.S. State Department program is available at <https://www.state.gov/launch-of-the-sponsor-circle-program-for-afghans/>.

All funds raised will go to assist Afghan refugees that have been evacuated from Kabul by the U.S. Military.

We thank you for your support.

Please note, this is a community sponsor circle program and as such donations are NOT tax deductible."

## Thoughts from Food Bank Patrons

Patrons of a food bank were asked what foods would be most helpful or desired and below is the answers received. I hope these answers help you find excellent food for our fellow humans in need this season, and all year round.

1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac and Cheese in the box. They can rarely use it because it needs milk and butter which is hard to get from regular food banks.
2. Boxed milk is a treasure, as kids need it for cereal which they also get a lot of.
3. Everyone donates pasta sauce and spaghetti noodles.
4. They cannot eat all the awesome canned veggies and soup unless you put a can opener in too or buy pop tops.
5. Oil is a luxury but needed for Rice a-Roni which they also get a lot of.
6. Spices or salt and pepper would be a real Christmas gift.
7. Tea bags and coffee make them feel like you care.
8. Sugar and flour are treats.
9. They fawn over fresh produce donated by farmers and grocery stores.
10. Seeds are cool in Spring and Summer because growing can be easy for some.
11. They rarely get fresh meat.
12. Tuna and crackers make a good lunch.
13. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but usually not sandwich bread.
15. Butter or margarine is nice too.
16. Eggs are a real commodity.
17. Cake mix and frosting makes it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
18. Dishwashing detergent is very expensive and is always appreciated.
19. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury and women will cry over that.
20. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.



## **12 LGBTQ Milestones We're Thankful for This Year**

1. JoJo Siw on "Dancing With the Stars"
2. A record number of LGBTQ Olympians
3. The adorable "Old Gays" on TikTok
4. Heartwarming stories of queer love
5. Celebrities who came out in 2021
6. First-time gay parents
7. Newly out queer superheroes
8. A transgender winner on "RuPaul's Drag Race"
9. Lil Nas X's cover of Dolly Parton's "Jolene"
10. Historic queer cover models
11. Pulse nightclub designated a national memorial
12. Queer Grammy and Emmy nominees

And a bonus – [Santa Claus gets a boyfriend](#) in ad produced to mark 50 years since the decriminalization of homosexuality in Norway.

Read the full article [here](#).



**PASTORAL CARE TEAM**  
**CONTACT US IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW WOULD  
ENJOY HEARING FROM US.**

**Thank you to those who have kept us informed of people's  
life changes, joys, and concerns.  
Please continue informing us - you are our ears 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 but need more people 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.

Thank you to those who are connecting with our congregation by driving, cooking, and making phone calls.



## 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.**

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**For further information, contact a member of our Finance Committee. Currently serving 2020-2021 are Tom Maloof, Sandy Wells, Henry Howell, and Ken Preston.**

What did the gingerbread man put under his blankets?

A cookie sheet.