



The Flaming Chalice

The newsletter of The Unitarian Universalist Community Church
69 Winthrop Street ~ PO Box 8 ~ Augusta, ME 04332-0008

February 2015



February 1st

Stewards, Bakers, Movers and Shakers

When we put love, justice, and good intention in a great mixing bowl and stir, we create rising dough that fills our hearts like it were in an oven. What happens when we season the dough with our dough? This morning we will explore why we give our well-earned resources to this nourishing bread we call the UUCC. Annie Nessen Voorhees, Dan Sorensen, and our splendid Stewardship Committee will lead a well-seasoned and well-reasoned morning of aspirational thought and energy toward giving!

February 8th

Unkissing Judas!

Rev. Kate Braestrup

February 15th

A Joyful Collage

The Small Group Ministry Committee invites you to join us for a service that will lift your spirits and remind you of the presence of joy in your life.

February 22nd

Laughter

Rev. Christina Sillari

This service explores the benefits of laughing, the history of jokes, and the spirituality of humor. Rev. Sillari is the minister of First Parish on Congress Street in Portland.

News from RE....

Building Bridges - Making Connections with our Congregation, our Faith, our Community, and our World

Happy New Year! RE lessons in December and January brought our children closer to their community and helped strengthen the connections to the world in which they live. In December, Chalice Children learned about similarities and differences of the cultural and religious holidays of Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Christmas through books, songs, games, and art. Our combined Navigators and Seekers groups spent several sessions exploring a photoessay that depicts everything that an average family consumes in a given week (and what it costs), laid out in thought-provoking detail, from families all around the world. It was an eye-opening experience for all of us to see the discrepancy of food distribution around the world and it sparked excellent conversations within our group. After we *thought globally*, we *acted locally* and ended our unit by spending a morning volunteering our services at the Augusta Food Bank. We left feeling grateful for what we are all blessed with, appreciative of what we all had just learned, and empowered that we can help make change in our community.

In January, children from all the groups had the chance to participate in an activity to help them gain a sense of appreciation of the challenges some people face with physical impairments (such as hearing, mobility, or visual). Children were randomly given a physical challenge (1 arm missing, no hands, blind, etc.) and we then simulated that challenge to the best we could with bandanas, medical tape, etc. Next, the children were asked to make themselves a snack, eat, and clean up their own mess with that physical challenge. It was quite a different experience for the kids and during reflection many of them remarked how it made them appreciate in a clearer and more meaningful way the physical challenges that some people face on a daily basis. It is through these meaningful experiences like the Food Bank and the Physical Challenge Exercise that our young UU's truly learn and strengthen their understanding of the principles of our faith; and when it is their turn to lead our world as adults, they will lead with a stronger sense of conviction, appreciation, respect for others, and love in their hearts.

Nicole Danielson, Sunday RE Coordinator

Presenting...."The Way of the Moon and Stars"

Sunday, February 15, 2015

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Probably at the church – to be confirmed



Either indoors, with John Meader's Inflatable Indoor Planetarium (Director of Northern Stars Planetarium in Fairfield) and/or Star-gazing outside.

The night sky • constellations • the solar system • comets • planetary motions

Space is Limited. All Ages are welcome.

Please register with Lynn Smith at 622-3232 or admin@augustauu.org



Peaceful Heart Sangha

In 1967 Dr. King nominated him for a Nobel Peace Prize. In nominating him, Dr. King said: "Thich Nhat Hanh's ideas for peace, if applied, would build a monument to ecumenism, to world brotherhood, to humanity." As Joanne Friday has said "The practice of Engaged Buddhism is very similar to Dr. King's practice of non-violence. Thich Nhat Hanh teaches us that compassion is a verb. Compassion without action is not very meaningful. We practice love in action. What Dr. King was practicing was also love in action, as a spiritual path to liberation. "

The Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Augusta, Maine also practices Compassion as a verb. I remember my husband's mother, Eleanor Grimmnitz, who joined our church with me around 1993, saying "I've been in lots of churches before. This is the first church that doesn't just talk about doing good. They do good."

As I write this newsletter article on MLK Day, I feel grateful for Dr. King, Thich Nhat Hanh, UUCC, and so many others. I find it is so easy to get so caught up in all the terrible things that are happening in our world that I can forget to pause and feel gratitude for all that is going well, all the good works that are being done, all the positive transformations that are happening in this moment. That is one of the reasons that I was so happy to spend a morning with Lynn Deeves offering Mindfulness Meditation practices to the Coming of Age youth in our church on January 18. What a great group! What fun! I feel more hope for our world after spending time with such positive young energy.



Thich Nhat Hanh was a close friend of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Our Peaceful Heart Sangha meets weekly to reinforce this positive energy and to help us constantly readjust our focus. We learn to do our best to calm and center, and then show up for a difficult situation and respond as skillfully as we can. We work to grow up, take care of ourselves, and get out of our own way, so that we can really be of help.

We recognize that whatever we give our attention to, whatever seeds we water, will manifest.

We gather at UUCC Mondays 6:30 – 8 PM and at River Studio, 332 River St, Hallowell Thursdays 8 – 9:30 AM. Please join us any time – just drop by to see if our practices resonate for you. Beginners always welcome. We will have another Introduction to Meditation in March. If you are interested, please contact Marty Soule – martysoule@gmail.com or 685-9270.

Thich Nhat Hanh's current physical challenges

Many of you probably know that 86 year old Thich Nhat Hanh had a brain hemorrhage this fall and has not been able to speak, though he is getting physical therapy and is now awake, moving around more, and still occasionally offers his beautiful smile. He is recuperating in a hospital and will be in a stroke rehab center soon. Peaceful Heart Sangha is donating \$200 to assist with Thich Nhat Hanh's hospital expenses and to help support the monastics who are staying with him and supporting him during his recovery. We would like to invite anyone who wishes to offer financial support to mail their own check to: Thich Nhat Hanh Foundation (with the subject line "donation to Thay's hospital expenses"):

2499 Melru Lane | Escondido, CA 92026 | [760-291-1003](tel:760-291-1003) ext 104

or use the online link for personal donations... <http://www.thichnathanhfoundation.org/#!/donate/c1iaq>

Augusta's Warming Center Meets the Needs!

Our church is well represented on the Advisory Committee of Augusta's Warming Center, and we have been generous in supporting this seasonal community service. I'm constantly amazed by how important the Warming Center is, and am impressed that the staff and trained volunteers have cared for an average of 40 adults and children each day they have been open. On especially cold days, more than 60 people show up for the safe shelter they offer. In January the Warming Center was the recipient of our Share the Plate collection, and we donated **\$209.96** to their operating expenses. Our church has already provided some clothing of all sizes, but they are still in particular need of adult winter clothes, boots, jackets, etc. The staff reports that they are seeing an increased number of people who are homeless using their services this year, and that the Augusta police have been very cooperative in helping the Center find safe shelter in many unusual cases.

They also need the sort of contributions that this church was so generous with last year: **Coffee, creamer, sugar, hot chocolate, tea, healthy snacks.** There are children at the Warming Center every day, so think of the kind of snacks kids would like (peanut butter crackers, fruit wraps, etc). The staff could also use donations of **cleaning supplies** because a great effort is being made to keep the space clean and tidy by the volunteers who visit daily.

There is a container in the coat room marked "Warming Center" where donations can be deposited. They are also in need of a portable clothing rack where they can hang their donations, as well as hangers. If you have any extras, those can be bundled and put in the container.

For more information, contact Roberta Record or Nancee Campbell .

UUCC/St. Mark's Suppers...

January's supper went off quite well, thanks to head cook, Liz Johnson, and a crew of cooks Janet S., Nancee C., Tracey M., Cheryl A., Ida G-W., and the many "on-site" volunteers-Sophia O., and Dennis. (I apologize if I've forgotten names.) With a donation of meat and 25 lbs. of potatoes from Gay Patterson (St. Mark's suppers leader from St. Barnabas Episcopal Church), and bread from Abbie Perry (Augusta Food Bank director), we served Shepard's Pie with a fairly small investment.

In February, Gay will lead (and we'll support) and serve a pasta meal that's been frozen since December when the meal was cancelled due to slippery weather. More on March date soon. Thank you so much for your contributions of hours and funds to provide hot meals for our neighbors. FYI: Pam Lombard now serves as a board member for Augusta Food Bank, Thank you Pam.

Jenny Mckendry, Chair of Neighbor to Neighbor Program/ St. Mark's Public Suppers and Ministries(Adie's Attic, Essentials Pantry, donations to Aug. Food Bank)

WHO TO CALL FOR CHURCH BUSINESS OR WITH GENERAL QUESTIONS:

Day-to-day operations: Lynn Smith 622-3232
admin@augustauu.org
Issue of governance: Gary Chapin, Board
President 458-1726 accordeonaire@aol.com
Worship: Kathy Shaw 626-5744
kathyannshaW@roadrunner.com
Professional Staff Team: Michaela Loisel,
Personnel Chair (207) 592-5655
michaelatloisel@gmail.com
Religious Exploration: Diane Smith, RE
Committee Chair (207) 522-2871
smith.diane.ch@gmail.com
Pastoral Care: Nancee Campbell,
Pastoral Ministry Chair
pastoralministers@augustauu.com

If you don't know whom to call, try the Sabbatical Committee. They are prepared to field any calls or inquires and find the right person to respond.

Co-Chairs are Rita Cherubini (781) 856-2335
cherub1@rocketmail.com and Nancee Campbell
at (207) 621-7727 nancee1944@gmail.com

UUCU AUCTION & CAFÉ

Friday evening, May 15, 2015 beginning at 5 p.m.

The goal is 100 donations. Everyone can donate SOMETHING!

Some ideas for Auction donations

AN EXPERIENCE: Host a musical evening or play reading, a trip to a State Park, a play, a concert, a museum, a film or a whale watch on the ocean. Donate time at your camp, lead a bird walk, plan a picnic, a kayak outing, or organize a birthday party. Invite some children to your farm. Keep in mind that what is a common event for you may be a rare treat for someone else. Some people, for example, cannot or do not drive, especially at night.

A SERVICE: An offer to help in some way: Join a work crew, prepare a meal, help paint a room, wash a car, wash some windows, repair a bicycle, rake leaves, groom a dog, mow a lawn, photograph a family or pet, help clean a house, plant a garden, stack a wood pile, offer child care or elder care, provide transportation to Maine Medical Center or other destination.

AN ITEM: Something homemade from your kitchen or that you have otherwise grown or created: A promise of vegetables, fruits, fresh eggs, pies, bread, cakes, pickles, casseroles, jams and cheese. Your own photography, paintings, jewelry, note cards, quilt, braided rug, or other hand crafted items.

Please fill out and give this form to Hannah Faulkner or Terry Cookson Cairn, or place it in the envelope on the Fundraising Bulletin Board in the Fellowship

MY DONATION TO THE UUCU AUCTION, FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2015

Name: _____

E-mail and Phone _____

Donation: _____

Estimated Value _____

I will bring sandwiches _____ or baked goods _____ for the Café.

Be the Change

Kick off Stewardship on Saturday, January 31st, 6:30 pm

at a Dessert-Theater Featuring:



Martin Luther King Jr.



Thich Nhat Hanh



Rumi



Maya Angelou



Jesus



and You

Brought to you by our very own UCCPP* in their premier performance

Where: UCC Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall

What: A theatrical experience followed by dessert and conversation

How you can help: Offer to bring a dessert

Contact Hilary Neckles to help or if you need child care: hneckles@usgs.gov; 626-7967

***Unitarian Universalist Community Church Periodic Players:**
*Christine Little, Dale McCormick, Rita Moran, Mel Morrison, Lucy Poland,
& Marty Soule, Directed by Nancee Campbell*

Prepare to Be Inspired

How This Church Works and the Sabbatical Handbook...

Having grown up in a tradition where church was never called off, there was always a little guilt (alright, a lot of guilt) associated with missing the Sunday morning service when, of course, everyone was there but my family! Well, we've come to realize here at UUCC that there is more to getting to church in this century than in the past where everyone lived close by in the town where they attended church, cities had connected public transportation and weather was even more predictable.

At UUCC, many of our members live outside the limits of Augusta, several driving 15 to 45 minutes to get to services. The roads are icy, the visibility poor and not everyone has studded snow tires to keep them safe. When a storm is brewing, there is a set procedure on how we determine if services and activities will be cancelled on a Sunday. Whether it's a 4" or 12" storm, our procedure goes into effect.

The Sabbatical Handbook was prepared by Rev. Carie and members of the Sabbatical Committee, and its full content is on the church website. It outlines what procedures we agreed upon due to inclement weather, ministry in Carie's absence, Share The Plate Collections and even who writes the Soul Matters Packet.

In case of inclement weather, here's what happens: Kathy Shaw, Chair of the Worship Committee, consults with Gary Chapin, President, or in his absence, Martha Naber, Vice President. The President or Vice President may call the State Police (sometime between 5:00 and 6:00 a.m.) for direction on their view of driving conditions beyond the borders of Augusta and take their advice on whether or not it is a prudent decision to cancel Sunday activities and keep people safely off the roads. Notification of service changes, postponements or cancellations will be posted on the church website at www.augustauu.org.

If Sunday activities are cancelled, Kathy Shaw will notify all worship participants: including worship leader, worship associate, pianist and website manager. Gary or Martha will notify all church staff (Monique McAuliffe, Nicole Danielson, Bridget Convey, Lynn Smith) and the local television stations, WCHS, Channel 6; WGME, Channel 13; and WMTW, Channel 8 will be notified. Lynn Smith will then send out an All Church Email and change the church voicemail to reflect the extent of the cancellations for that day. This decision will hopefully be made by 7:00 a.m.

It's not easy to make changes to Sunday activities. However, we took the safety of our members and guests seriously as we determined the procedures listed in the Sabbatical Handbook. So, if one of those Sundays should again occur this winter.....be safe, be warm and enjoy the beauty of Maine.....without guilt....and come back safely next week.

Rita Cherubini
Sabbatical Committee Co-Chair

*French Dance Bal Folk**



Join us and dance to music provided by the band Nouveau Chapeau, including our very own accordionist Gary Chapin and singer Joelle Morris with the fabulous caller Marie Wendt!

When:

Saturday February 21, 2015

6-8 pm

Supper Buffet 5-6 pm

Where:

Maple Tree Community School

12 Church Street

Readfield, Maine

Bring finger food for the buffet table if you wish!
For more information, call 293-9377

*This event is PAY WHAT YOU CAN, but suggested donations are Adults \$15
Children 10-18 \$8, Children under 10 free.*

*Proceeds Benefit UU Community Church of Augusta and
its Work in the Community*

Social Activities...

Rev. Kate Braestrup, author of "Here If You Need Me" and minister to the Maine Warden's Service Search and Rescue will be our guest minister on Sunday, Feb. 8th. She will also be available at 1:00 p.m. for discussion and a question and answer session following our Sunday Elder Lunch.

If you have not read her book, I highly recommend you do so. She shares terrific Maine wood stories: some poignant, some sad.

She is an inspiring speaker as well, so I hope you will invite some friends to hear her speak. For more information contact Cheryl Clukey at: cherylclukey5@yahoo.com or 441-0337.

There's Music in the Air!

Please join us for an open meeting on **Wednesday, February 18, at 5:15** (immediately preceding choir rehearsal).

Those people who have the interest and inclination to participate in a discussion led by Annie Voorhees about the status of the Music Committee, and the possible merger with the Worship Committee are invited to come talk about it. Members of the Worship Committee will also be in attendance to participate and answer questions!

Let's have a conversation about deepening our worship through collaboration with musical leadership.

Come, come, whoever you are!



Summary of January 2014 Board of Directors Meeting

DRAFT

UCC Board of Trustees
Jan. 12, 2015 6:00-8:00 PM
Fellowship Hall

Present: Gary Chapin, President, Martha Naber, Vice President, Doug Rooks, past president, Mary Simpson, Treasurer, Liza Gottlieb, Member at Large, and Anna Hodgkin, Youth Representative.

6:00 PM Chalice Lighting and Check in

Reports:

Clerk's report reviewed. Martha moved acceptance, Doug 2nd, accepted with one revision.

Treasurer's report: Church is financially stable with people paying their pledges. Mary put the \$3,000 natural gas rebate and the \$5,000 from the trust fund into the savings account. We will use it to pay down the energy loan at the end of the fiscal year. The annual appeal has brought in about \$2,000 so far. We have a full staff now so there are greater expense. Doug moved acceptance of report. Anna 2nd. Voted and approved.

Website update: Helen will present at the Feb. meeting as she was unable to attend due to the weather.

Finance Comm. Suggested a change of dates for the Finance 101: rescheduled for Feb. 15. Pizza will be served to those attending.

Ask The Board rescheduled due to service cancellation on Jan. 4 for Feb. 8 between services. Gary will notify Lynn and Nancee.

Leadership Council: Martha reported that the session will be Jan. 25 from 12:30-2:30. The agenda is updates on committee work, distribution of Who's IN Charge, and pledge packets for church leaders, and making connections with other committee's work.

Sabbatical Committee: Things are going smoothly. Noah Gottlieb has agreed to contact the visiting morning service leader clergy the week of the upcoming service. We now have the correct code for announcing snow cancellations on TV and radio. The service that was to be held Jan. 4 will be rescheduled later in the spring.

Acceptance of the clergy housing expense was moved by Liza, 2nd by Martha, voted acceptance.

As there was no more business the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Martha Naber

Goddess Continuing/ Earth Circles...

Goddess/Earth Circles meets the fourth Sunday of the month from 12:15 - 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We are offering two sessions on Witchcraft.

January 25th - *Witchcraft: Reclaiming Our Identity* focuses on violence toward women related to perceptions of evil and restoring the sense expressed by Starhawk that "The Goddess does not rule the world; she *is* the world." Background information for the session is available, even after the session.

February 15th - *Witchcraft: The Healing Practice* focuses on the symbolism of the pentacle, herbology, and magic. What part do we have in healing ourselves and being present in the healing of others? Handouts will be available on Jan. 25. Leaders for these sessions are Mary Shifman, Beth Nasberg and Helen Zidowecki

March 22nd will focus on Spring Solstice, and balance in our lives.

April 26th will focus on Women of Wisdom, with consideration of wisdom through our lives in preparation for possibility holding a Croning Ceremony. Please contact Helen Zidowecki if you are interested in joining the fourteen women in UCC who have already been croned.

Seasoned Souls to Meet...

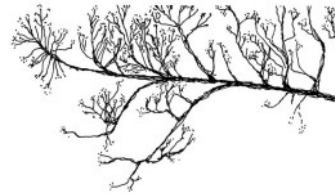
Seasoned Souls is a group that is open to any congregant over 65 who interested in openly and honestly discussing the issues related to aging. The group meets every first and third Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. – noon in Fellowship Hall. Our meetings in December are on the 3rd and the 17th.

Nonviolent Communications...

The **Nonviolent Communications (Also known as Compassionate Communications) Practice Group** meets on the First and Third Fridays of the month from 1:15 - 3:15 pm, in the Robbins Room. The First Friday will be a more informal meeting, with extended check-in and/or an Empathy Session. The Third Friday will be a specific topic related to NVC.

The sessions for February will be on February 6 (Informal) and February 20, continuing the topic of Judging and Evaluating Language in our conversations.

Contact Helen Wing at 685-3804, hcranewing@roadrunner.com The basic reference is *Nonviolent Communication: A Language of Life*, by Marshall Rosenberg.



Membership...

"UCC Meet & Greet"
Sunday, February 22, 2015
Immediately after 2nd service (~noontime)
in small living room in back of Sanctuary
(Robbins Room)

The UCC Membership Committee invites all visitors, newcomers, and any others to a very informal gathering to meet and talk with members of the Membership Committee and other UCC leaders. Our goal is to provide an opportunity for anyone new, visiting, or long-standing to learn more about our church, feel connected, get questions answered, and meet a few more people in the church. Please commune with us for ½ hour or so with refreshments, community, and convivial conversation!

"All the World's a Stage..."

...And the stage is coming to UUCC in February! The Stewardship Committee will be creating a theatrical production to kick off this year's pledge campaign. This venture



promises to be fun, both from the audience and stage vantage point. If you're interested in being a part of this uniquely UU production – actor, backstage, costumes, technical, etc. please contact Dale McCormick at [dmccor-](mailto:dmccor-mick11@aol.com)

mick11@aol.com or Nancee Campbell at 621-7727 or nancee1944@gmail.com.

This will be an enjoyable way to spend these dark winter months!

Want to Make a Difference in the Life of a Senior?

The SEARCH Program recently opened an office in Kennebec County and is looking for volunteers. They establish a long-term support system with vulnerable, isolated seniors to enable them to remain independent. SEARCH needs caring volunteers to offer services such as telephone reassurance, companionship, socialization opportunities and transportation to appointments and on errands. Training of volunteers will be provided.

Also, if you know a homebound senior that could use this free service, let us know. See posters in Fellowship Hall.

**To make a difference, contact Lynn Kidd
at
SEARCH: (207) 551-6997**

New UU Class...

The New UU Class is an opportunity to get together with those who are new to this faith, or those who are familiar with Unitarian Universalism and wish to re-focus with this congregation. The beginnings of the Unitarian and Universalist religions, their merger, and how these principles guide our work in the wider world and local community will be discussed. Participants will share their religious journeys in a safe and supportive environment. If you wish to attend this class, please call the office to sign up: 622-3232.

Dates: *March 3rd, 17th, and 31st*

Time: 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. **Location:** *Fellowship Hall*

Leaders: *Rev. Carie Johnsen and Nancee Campbell*

Elder Lunch...

Elder Lunch February 8th
Noon, Fellowship Hall

Plan to relax and socialize with your friends after the second service. Menu always includes breads, salad, entree and dessert. Church elder lunch is not exclusive to Senior Citizens – we have regular attendees in their 40s and 50s too, so please self-select and join us.

Plan to stay to hear Kate Braestrup, author of "Hear If You Need Me" at 1 pm.



For more info contact Marilyn Dunn, Phone: 512-5382 or e-mail: maine2007@hotmail.com

***Unitarian Universalist Community Church
P. O. Box 8
Augusta, Maine 04332-0008***

Newsletter Submissions

Please submit all articles as an attachment in a Word document using Arial, font size 11. Don't forget to give it a title and sign it, and send it as an email newsletter@augustauu.org with the article as an attachment. Photos of church activities welcome!

Deadline: February 16.

Minister: Rev. Carie Johnsen

President: Gary Chapin

Sunday Morning RE Coordinator: Nicole Danielson
Youth Advisor: Monique McAuliffe

Administrator: Lynn Smith
admin@augustauu.org

UU Office hours: Monday and Tuesday 8a.m.-4p.m.
Thursday-noon-8pm

Choir Director: Bridget Convey
Office Hours

Small Group Ministry Coordinator: Kathy Kellison
Office: (207) 622-3232

