



The Flaming Chalice

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

*Theme: What does it mean to be
a community of **Identity**?*

February 2017

Sunday Services

February 5th

"Imagine"

Rev. Carie Johnsen

Creating a community that cares for each other, cares for all of creation, and cares for Mother Earth - our Creator. Rooted in Love and guided by Unitarian Universalist values we envision a local, state and global community where justice, equity and compassion are at the center of human relations. We envision a future where our participation in the interdependent web of all existence strengthens and sustains all life.

February 12th

"Multiple Identities"

Rev. Carie Johnsen

Living with multiple identities: what identities shape and form your interactions at home, at work, with family, with friends and at church?

February 19th

"Walk into the Mystery"

Rev. Carie Johnsen

"God is not a Christian, God is not a Jew, or a Muslim, or a Hindu, or a Buddhist. All of those are human systems which human beings have created to try to help us walk into the mystery of God. I honor my tradition, I walk through my tradition, but I don't think my tradition defines God; I think it only points me to God." ~ John Shelby Spong

February 26th

"Infinite Possibility"

Rev. Al Boyce

Living in the moment; owning our past but not being stuck; and believing on a hopeful future will be the focus of the theme today.

A Faith Journey...

As we bring to close an historic month on the national landscape, we usher in an extraordinary time with ample opportunity to reflect on who we want to be and who we are called to be in this particular time and place in the human story, the earth story, the Great Story.

For faith communities to be relevant and responsive to the rapidly changing religious, social and political landscape, they will need to be agile, quick on their feet and grounded in a deep sense of knowing who God/Spirit/Humanity calls them to be –individually and collectively— in the future unfolding. These times will require of us a personal identity rooted in deeply ingrained values. These times will require faith communities to build theological foundations to sustain and companion the people into what Joanna Macy calls the Great Turning – *the shift from the industrial growth society to a life-sustaining civilization*.

In the past three months I have had the distinct pleasure of bearing witness to the fruits of these community justice ministries. Every week Lynn Smith and I respond to multiple emails, phones calls, Facebook messages, and texts wherein people are inquiring about ways to become more engaged. Many calls begin with something like this: “I was told to call UUCC to get support regarding our justice initiatives.” Some people are looking to use our space. Others are seeking to engage our community. Still others are seeking to find mentorship or like-minded activists to guide their emerging passions and convictions. The wider Augusta community understands UUCC to be a safe haven in a sea of uncertainty.

Equally, the multiple efforts seeded by the local interfaith groups are budding. At one time Unitarian Universalist churches engaged in a variety of social justice initiatives in isolation from the wider community. Committee meetings, work groups and justice leaders worked primarily inside their UU congregation. UUCC was no different.

Today, here at UUCC all of our justice initiatives involve partnership with community non-profits, emerging programs, and grassroots efforts. We partner with St. Marks and the Angel Food Network to provide free public suppers. We have more than a dozen people engaged in the Capital Area New Mainers project with leaders at UUCC taking up the call to build a youth-to-youth program connecting children and youth across cultures. The clergy are actively working with city officials to try to imagine a future of social services and related ministries in Augusta. We have members representing UUCC at the Augusta Food Bank and Kennebec Valley Organizing. We have 20 or so members engaged in the Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network that we also support as fiscal agent.

Faith in action has changed dramatically. The question I ponder most days is how will our church structure adjust to support this new reality. How does this new reality shape our identity, our relationships, our internal structures, our financial sustainability, and our shared interfaith ministry?

On a similar note, religious exploration with children and youth continues its already-underway seismic shifting. Churches are thrust into new realities where traditional models for supporting the spiritual development of our youngest members increasingly fails to attract and meet the spiritual needs of twenty-first century families. Churches across the nation have had to rapidly shift their visions, their traditions, and their programs to thrive and survive. This work has often been left to ministers, religious exploration staff and families. Yet in a model of shared ministry we recognize that the success of any program is dependent upon the efforts of an entire community invested in an outcome. To that end, I hope you will join the religious exploration retreat scheduled for March 11th. (See “save the date” notice).

Churches are rooted in tradition and churches of today stand in a time and place that require rapid readjustments. My experience as your spiritual leader often feels like being lost in a car with a GPS that is in a constant mode of recalibrating.

The Great Turning requires of us a revolutionary spirit centered on the positive, on light, on love. Staying rooted in our deeply engrained values and grounded theologically in our Unitarian Universalist principles offers us insight, stability and guidance as we find our way.

May this holy community of seekers and believers hold us and guide us as we celebrate a new reality. May this holy community imagine and live into new possibilities in the unfolding future.

In Faith,
Rev. Carie Johnsen

From the President....

For me February is full of Valentine's Day activities and decorations. Some have called our home the Valentine Palace! I have collected items for many years to display. I have hosted a women's valentine making gathering for over 20 years.

So why do I tell you this? I believe that showing our love for others cannot happen too frequently. So February can be a great reminder to us to do this, over and over and over. And all other months of the year as well.

So how do you show your love for the presence of UUC in your life?

Do you help make coffee for fellowship time?

Do you greet others gathering for worship?

Do you offer to fold the bulletins?

Do you sit with someone alone?

Do you sing in the choir or join the orchestra?

Do you spread salt so others do not slip as they enter?

Do you run dishes through after coffee fellowship?

Are you a member of a committee or work group?

Do you help care for the youngest of our community in the nursery?

Are you involved with Religious Exploration?

Have you thought about your pledge of money for the next fiscal year?

Are you one who cuts the lawn in the summer?

Do you rake, take out trash, help with a fundraiser?

Attend a class, give a ride, offer to do special music?

Write a letter to the newspaper? Attend a public hearing?



I remembered this short reading found in the hymnal (number 473 by James Vila Blake) which reads:

"Love is the spirit of this church, and service is its law.
This is our great covenant:
To dwell together in peace,
To seek the truth in love,
And to help one another."

For me this expresses my experience in UUC. I hope it reflects yours as well. I am so grateful for the presence of UUC in my life! I hope you are as well.

Show some love to UUC in February and through the year!!!

Martha Naber
Board of Trustees



Bingo Night

Sunday, March 5th

4:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Pizza, popcorn and dessert will be served at 5:30 p.m.

\$5 donation per person or \$20 per family

**Hosted by Rev. Carie Johnsen, Brigid Chapin and
Monique McAuliffe**

Back by popular demand!!! Join us for an evening of food, fellowship and fun!! Bingo is a great way to connect and get to know the newest members, friends and children in our community. We decided the best way for ALL OF US to greet each other and make new friends was with pizza and BINGO.

**Please bring 2-3 gently used items from your home for
bingo prizes appropriate for children, youth and adults.**

Feel free to make a prize donation early by dropping items off in the collection basket in the church vestibule or at the church office in the Judd House. This is a perfect opportunity for re-gifting those much-appreciated items you just don't know what to do with.

RSVP with Lynn Smith at admin@augustauu.org or at (207)622-3232

Save the Date

Religious Exploration Retreat

**Saturday, March 11, 2017
4:00-7:00pm**

**This multigenerational evening of
engagement, discovery and fun
will include a shared meal.**

Our shared ministry is calling upon all of us to bring together our passions, intentions, and shared experiences to explore and imagine the future religious exploration at UUCC.

The entire congregation is invited to join Rev. Carie, our religious educators, the Board of Trustees, and the Religious Exploration committee in a daylong retreat to imagine a future where UUCC delivers relevant, engaged, and dynamic spiritual development for children, youth and families.

Who are we called to be?

What story will we live into?

**What does a relevant religious
exploration look like
in the twenty-first century?**

**What do families need from religious
communities at this time and place in
history?**

**What is our niche on the
religious landscape in the
greater Augusta area?**

UUCC Library...

Sorting, rearranging, removing and adding books on the shelves in the Committee Room.....

Please join us in a **Library Open House on Sunday, February 12th**, during Fellowship Hour and around Elder Lunch. Come and see where we are in the process. Comments are welcome.

The Library is organized into the following sections:

Left shelves: Goddess/Wiccan/Pagan /Women's Spirituality/Men's Spirituality; Earth Circles/Native Spirituality/Nature

Center shelves: General UU History items (with selected items in the History Room) UU meditation materials, UUism; Items by and about UU personalities (Channing, Ballou, Emerson, etc.); Items written by UUCC members; congregational materials.

Right shelves:

Faith traditions (Buddhism, Christianity, Judaism, Transcendentalists, etc.); Issues (LGBTQ, racism, immigration); other materials from Beacon Press and Skinner House

Thanks to Building and Grounds, specifically Tom Waddell and Matt Foust, for securing and adding to the shelf space.

We want to make material available for borrowing, even as we continue to organize. Please see the Sign-out/in sheet in the folder on the shelves. This is an honor system, but we are suggesting borrowing time of a month. Enjoy the books – and return them for others to enjoy. We will have a complete inventory of the Library in a couple of months.

Sponsored by Thursday AM Small Group Ministry
Contact: Jean Sizelove (623-5096,
mesizelove@roadrunner.com)

Goddess/Earth Circles...

The Goddess/Earth Circles gathers on January 29th 12:15-1:45 pm in the Fellowship Hall. How can Kwan Yin help us understand and deepen compassion, mercy and kindness in our lives?

This introduces a way of reflecting on Goddesses throughout a month. We will be planning the sessions through June, involving various Goddesses and earth-centered celebrations.

The topic of the February 26 gathering will be in the announcements.

All genders and ages are welcome!



Uniting Our Human Family ~ Using Mindfulness to Embrace Our Blind Spots ~

Please join us for a Day of Mindfulness, Saturday, March 4th, from 9am - 3pm
At the Unitarian Universalist Community Church, 69 Winthrop St, Augusta

With open hearts we will:

- Look at ways our society has conditioned us to be blind to others**
- Begin to embrace the fears that may lay underneath this conditioning**
- Explore ways to undo our conditioning**
- Expand our ways of bringing unseen privilege into view**
- Discern right action**

For those who are interested & able – reading the book Waking Up White, by Debby Irving before our gathering could be helpful. Maybe even journaling a bit about what comes up as you read...

**Please bring a bag lunch. Registration ahead of time would be helpful –
Registration fee \$20 – No one will be turned away for lack of funds.
To register email peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com or call Greg at 242-4708
Please wear comfortable, warm clothes. Bring cushions/pads if desired.**

Peggy Smith, Maine Dharma Teacher in Thich Nhat Hanh's tradition and
certified instructor in Nonviolent Communication, will facilitate (opencommunication.org)

Sponsored by the Peaceful Heart Sangha -
a free mindfulness meditation group in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh.
We meet every Monday 6:30 – 8 pm at UUC in Augusta and
every Thursday from 8 – 9:30 am at River Studio, 332 Water St in Hallowell

Communications Corner...

Welcome to Kathy Kellison, who has joined the Communications Work Group. She has the ability to look at many facets of communications and to see opportunities.

We have been working to develop consistent identification of spaces in our three buildings. Don Naber, Facilities; Cheryl Ring, Membership; Martha Naber, Board; and Lynn and Helen from the Work Group met to consider consistent names and abbreviations of the spaces in the church calendar on the website, Sunday announcements and other communications regarding location of events.

Each of the buildings has a letter code that precedes the abbreviation for a specific space. Look for the following identifications to appear:

Church C: Sanctuary C-Sanct; Fellowship Hall C-FH; Committee Room C-Comm; Robbins Room C-Rbsn; Nursery C-Nurs; Vestibule (front hall area outside the Sanctuary) C-Vsb.

Judd House J: The space that is used for activities is the Second Floor Room J-2nd that is used for Spirit Play.

Drew House D: Parlor D-Prl; Olsen Room D-Olsn; History Room D-Hty; Second Floor Front D-2ndF; Second Floor Back D-2ndB

Membership Committee is developing a layout of facilities, thanks to Bruce Bierce. A listing of the abbreviations will be included on the website Calendar section and with announcements.

Communications Work Group contact:
Lynn Smith, Administrator

Mid-Maine YoUUtH Fundraiser Luncheon...

The Mid-Maine youth, who are going to Safe Passage in Guatemala in July, will be providing the lunch at the Buker Center for the "Earth's Future is in Our Hands Event" on Feb 5th. This will be a fundraiser for their trip.

Please contact Sue Caldwell at:
jscaldwell@roadrunner.com 446-0079 if you would like to donate money or desserts for this cause.

Social Activities...

DIY Home Products

On Saturday Feb. 11th from 1:00-3:00p.m. Karen Foust and Cheryl Clukey will offer a workshop on how to make your natural home products. Stop paying a lot for lip balm, hand soap and laundry detergent, etc. Come join us to learn how to make your own...It's easy! Materials will be provided for a small fee. Those interested will need to sign up so we will have enough materials. For more information call Cheryl Clukey at 441-0337 or cherylclukey5@yahoo.com

Maine Suffragettes:

Sunday, Feb. 19th at 1:00 p.m., Augusta historian Phyllis von Herlich will offer a talk on Maine's Suffragettes. She has much knowledge on this historical subject and Maine's contribution to this movement, some of which comes from a relative directly involved as a rural Maine suffragette. Come, listen and learn how Maine made a significant contribution to woman getting the vote in 1920.



Earth's Future is in Our Hands

Sunday, February 5, 2017

12:00 - 4:00 PM

Buker Community Center

22 Armory St, Augusta

Public Welcome! Free Admission!

Café serving light lunch

Calling earth stewards of all ages to an afternoon of education, advocacy and action! Cultivating connection and deepening our shared reverence for Mother Earth! Building capacity and inspiring an environmental justice community.

Learn what you can do to protect our planet!

- *Children's Reusable Craft Program*
- *Solar Power and other Renewables*
- *Nature Up Close and Personal*
(macro photography)
- *The Importance of Bees*
- *How to Save Energy at Home; Programs you Can Use*

Our individual actions are important to protect our planet. Come and learn – and share your experiences.

For more information

Contact the church office at (207) 622-3232 or email to: info@augustauu.org

Poster designed by Bruce Bierce bbierce@myfairpoint.net

Donations Needed for April 7 Auction...

Please begin submitting auction items for our spring fundraiser. Our fundraising goal is \$5,000 from bids on April 7. Have you asked friends and family members to donate time, treasures or gift cards?

Here are a few early donations:

\$300 Charlie's Auto Gift Certificate for labor and parts

Eight **\$25** Gift cards to Applebees and Texas Roadhouse Restaurants

\$500 Kennebec Savings Bank financial gift Basket

Two **\$75** professionally-framed inspirational posters

\$75 like-new, oak china cabinet (with lock and key to glass door)

\$830 brand new Raleigh bicycle with car carrier



1. Four-position headlight
2. Digital speedometer/odometer
3. Mirror
4. Avenir Comfort Plus Seat
5. Four-position taillight

6. Luggage rack
7. Caliper brakes
8. Klean Kanteen water bottle
9. 26 x 1.95 tires
10. Nexus 8-speed hub w/Coaster Brake

Help Needed for Fellowship Hour...

Thank you Debbie & Dennis Maddi for organizing fellowship hour last week. We need the following dates, including this coming Sunday, to be covered:

Feb 5
March 19
April 30
May 7
May 21

Please sign up on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. For the month of February, thank you Martha Naber for doing 2/12; the Worship Committee for doing 2/19 & the Chapins for doing 2/26.

Thank you to everyone for helping make Fellowship Hour a blessing to all of us. If you have any questions, please contact Jill Watson @ 458-4437 or jillwatson223@gmail.com.

Book for Serious Readers..

This group meets on the second Thursday of the month during the church year. All are welcome at one or all of our meetings!

On THURSDAY FEBRUARY 9 from 12:30pm until 2:30pm we will be discussing TRIBE, by Sebastian Junger which explores the concepts of community and belonging as they relate to soldiers returning from war. The book has important ideas about the state of our society.

In March we will be looking at The Rope by Kanan Makiya. He writes a powerful novel about the U.S. invasion of Iraq and its impact on that country and its people. Our book for April is Knocking on Heaven's Door by Katie Butler. Books are available from Amazon, Barnes and Noble or interlibrary loan.

For more information, contact Kathy Kellison kell6787@gmail.com or 445-4415 or June Zellers at jzellers@roadrunner.com or 582-5862.

The History Committee....

The History Committee meets the third Thursday of the month from 1:00pm-2:30pm in the History Committee and Olsen Rooms in Drew House. A focus of the January 19th meeting was on oral histories at UUCC. Watch for how you can participate by sharing your history or gathering histories.

In thinking about our experience with a church, we often think of the surroundings. What are on the walls? What are the pictures and images? These are part of our experience. For example, Carolyn Ladd recalls a quilt hanging that her sister Mary Sturtevant made for the Winthrop Street building, probably involving the Sunday School children, and containing names. She recalls the color as old-fashioned red. There is a comfort in these remembrances, connections to a place of faith.

We have hangings in our sanctuary today. The History Committee would like to document their origin. If you have information or stories about Mary's quilt or the ones currently hanging in the sanctuary, please contact Helen Zidowecki (582-5308, hzmre@hzmre) or put a note in the History Committee mail slot in the Committee Room.

The History Committee relies on all of you to contribute items by placing them in the History Committee mail slot in the Committee Room. We add items to our Members Book each time that we meet to capture our history as we make it!

How Can I Help the Food Bank?

MOST NEEDED ITEMS FOR THE FOOD PANTRY & KIDS PROGRAMS:

Thank you for your continued donations! We love being able to keep our shelves full and appealing! Here is a list of the most-needed items:

Canned Pasta (pantry and kids programs)
Peanut Butter (pantry and kids programs)
Baked Beans (pantry and kids programs)
Canned Soup (pantry and kids programs)
Granola Bars (kids programs)
Canned Chicken (pantry & kids programs)
Quart-sized storage bags

Hannaford Card Update...

We have four \$50 dollar Hannaford cards ready for your use. You may buy one or more. Please make your checks payable to UUCC at Fellowship Hour. The Hannaford card program is a critical fundraiser to feed our church's annual budget. Please buy your groceries and Hannaford card gifts through us.

If you have questions or want to use your credit card to buy or reload two \$500 cards, contact Martin Spahn at martinlewisspahn@gmail.com, **Tel. 207.629.8277** or Catherine Palmer at palmercatherinemaine@gmail.com, **Tel. 207.458.7384**.

Coming this Spring!

The New UU class. Come, have fun, learn more about Unitarian Universalism, meet new folks, eat chocolate. Hear about the beginnings of Unitarianism and Universalism and their merger as well as about the UUCC.

Come learn how we see our work in the local community and in the wider world, as we are guided by our Seven Principles. Participants will be invited to share their own spiritual journeys.

When: March 27th, April 10th and April 24th
Time: 5:30-7:30pm
Where: Drew House

For more information, contact Ellie Duhamel at 603-856-5013 or duhamellie@gmail.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, please! Photos of church activities welcome!
Deadline: March 20

Minister: Rev. Carie Johnsen

President: Martha Naber

Sunday Morning RE Coordinator: Brigid Chapin
Youth Advisor: Monique McAuliffe

Administrator: Lynn Smith
admin@augustauu.org

UU Office hours:
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am-4pm
No office hours: Monday and Friday

Choir Director: Bridget Convey
Choir Practice Wednesday 6-8pm
Small Group Ministry Coordinator: Luke Curtis
Office: (207) 622-3232
Committee chairs and others can also be reached
Throught the church office at 622-3232 or church email.

Rev. Carie's office hours:

Tuesday 1:00 - 5:00pm
Wednesday 2:00-6:00pm and by appointment
Friday is Rev. Carie's Sabbath. She does not attend to emails, phone calls or meetings. For Pastoral Emergencies please call her cell phone **(508) 221-5295** and she will return your call at soon as possible.

Social Media links: Professional Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/revcarie.johnsen>

Please note: Rev. Carie also keeps a personal/private Facebook page. If you have requested to be her friend, please do not feel slighted by her decline or unresponsiveness. Instead, take a minute to friend her at RevCarie Johnsen.

Website: www.everydayordinarytheologies.com

Rev. Carie's new website was launched as part of a sabbatical project. When you get a minute visit the site and subscribe to future posts.