



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
Transformation

April 2017

Services at 9:15 am and 11:00 am

April 2nd

Help and Thank You!

Rev. Carie Johnsen

Being vulnerable, open, receptive and grateful: How might we be transformed by relationships of interdependence? The choir will amplify our voices in song and deepen our service experience.

April 9th

Radical Hospitality

To be radically hospitable is to do more than be generous and provide sustenance (though that's cool, too). It is to deny the despair that threatens our times. It is to invite the joy. It is a subversive kind of communion that soothes us and grows our humanity.

Note: Rev. Carie is leading service at the First Universalist Church in Rockland. This is part of the long-standing Maine tradition in which congregations support each other during a minister's sabbatical.

April 16th

Resurrecting Jesus

Rev. Carie Johnsen

The story of the life of Jesus has profound relevance in the twenty-first century. How might Unitarian Universalists resurrect the man who has inspired billions of people for over two thousand years? The choir and orchestra will amplify our singing and deepening our Easter service experience.

Easter Morning at UUC

10:00 a.m. Easter Brunch will be served by PeaceJam Youth

10:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt for children will be sponsored by middle schoolers

April 23rd

Healthcare for All Requires Faith

Rosemary Winslow

Rosemary Winslow is the co-chair of the *Healthcare for All* issue group with Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network. She is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Waterville.

April 30th

A Catalyst for Change

Rev. Carie Johnsen

The word *change* normally refers to new beginnings. But transformation, the mystery we're examining, more often happens "*not when something new begins but when something old falls apart.*" ~ Richard Rohr

A Faith Journey...

*Faith plants the seed.
Love makes it grow.
Cultivating Gardens of Hope.*

By all accounts the all-congregation religious exploration retreat on March 11th was a huge success!



Fellowship hall was filled to capacity with people of all ages engaged in celebration and affirmation of our spiritually rich and inspiring program while imagining the future. We began the evening with small groups sharing spontaneous and creative skits to express the strength, vitality and gifts of our religious exploration program. The gathered community offered up themes they witnessed in the skits.

Themes included: multigenerational, religious exploration, sustaining traditions, access to social justice, closer relationships, new ideas/change, fun, music & art, reaching out, creating groups outside of UUCC beyond Sunday, friendship, love and respect, and act our aspirations.

With great enthusiasm, a long list of **words we believe to be reflective of the future of religious exploration filled the wall**. When added to themes and feelings, we get this beautiful word cloud.



The evening centered on fast moving tabletop conversations focused on nine questions. Groups of six Multi-age participants had 3 minutes to write their answers on poster paper. The conversations were informative, revealing and enlightening. The results of those conversations can be found on the wall in the Church building. I encourage everyone to take the time to read the results.

(contd. on page 3)

A Faith Journey...contd. from page 2

On Sunday a smaller group gathered in the sanctuary to debrief and consider the next steps. Keeping in mind the table conversations, the skits, the themes, this group of 16 people from a cross section of the congregation generated a list of areas of interest for further exploration. From there a group of ten volunteered to move forward the wisdom gathered. These *Wisdom Weavers* will explore a vision for the future of religious exploration, engage in strategic planning, and set goals for 2017/18.

Here is a modified list of the areas of interest:

- More youth/young adult opportunities
- Alternative “worship/fellowship/classroom” nights over a meal - “Pizza and Principles” or Wednesday/Friday night suppers
- What is the role of religion?
- Expand our social media platforms (YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)
- 9:15am religious exploration classrooms for all ages – gather for short worship to center, then sing everyone out of the sanctuary to a class
- Evaluation of our traditions – past, present and new
- Youth led and inspired advocacy, action and service
- Parenting small group ministry
- Future protocols
- Workshops – how to say difficult things politely

And finally we were all reminded, “*People aren’t afraid of change, they are afraid of loss*”. May we keep this in mind as we imagine a future, rooted in Unitarian Universalism, inspired by the past, and relevant to the present.

In faith,

Rev. Carie

Small Group Ministry...

The stories shared at the November 27 church service brought awareness of the impact that Small Group Ministry has had as well as what participants bring to each other and congregational life. These stories illustrated the shared ministry that occurs in this congregation. UUCC has been actively involved with Small Group Ministry since its introduction into the denomination. These highlights of the Small Group Ministry Timeline were inserted in the Order of Service on November 27.

- 1997-1999: Two years of careful planning took place during the study period. The Advisory Group included Cheryl Ring, Stephanie Barley, Galbraith, Jane Gilbert, Glenn Hodgkins, and Nancy Niven.
- 1999: Six groups of 6-10 participants started with facilitators from the Advisory Group. Since

then we have had 8-12 active groups each year. Those who have participated over the years were recognized at the service.

- From 2000 to the present, UUCC has contributed to the UU Small Group Ministry Network since it began in 2005. Cheryl Ring and others have made presentations about SGM to the General Assembly in 2000 and 2001. Cheryl and Dan Sorenson presented at churches in Norway/West Paris, Pittsfield, Castine, North Andover, MA, San Jose, Palatine Ill and Fredericton, New Brunswick; as well as district events. In addition we have also submitted articles for publication and session plans for the website.

A more complete history of the UUCC Small Group Ministry is available from the Committee. Contact Beth (Nasberg) Olsen at 207-557-1775 or bethellennasberg@gmail.com for more information.

From the President....

How can it be April already? Where have the first 3 months of 2017 gone? Is it really spring? As I write this our yard still has at least one foot of snow on the flat, and deep piles at the end of the drive. It doesn't look like spring yet!

As I was driving to Westbrook yesterday afternoon I thought of a hymn I learned several years ago at a hospice service. It is entitled Hymn of Promise and comes from the Methodist tradition. (I recognize the word God is in the verses but hope you can convert it to a word that better matches your theology.)

The first verse goes, "In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see." (Natalie Sleeth, 1986) So now we wait for spring to be revealed and all it means to each person.

For many it might seem that with all the political turmoil, anger and division in our country winter is still in full force. When will we feel like spring? Have you noticed that our church services frequently have new faces in the pews? Have you spoken to someone who is "checking out" UUCC? One person told me they needed to find a like-minded community as they were feeling so stressed by the news. I hope you can see and experience UUCC as a resource for spring for you. Lawn signs stating the values of UUCC are available which can bring spring to your yard. Check in with the church office to get yours!

Unlike the seasons, we can do something to bring spring-like experiences to ourselves and to others. Our Religious Exploration retreat, named the Garden of Hope, brought about 70 people together who donated their time to thinking about the past and future of RE for UUCC. Kim Sweeney from the UUA brought her skills and her brand of hope to the gathering and with the smaller group on Sunday, who will now work on concrete planning. This can bring spring to the future of the church.

Our Social Justice work groups have initiated new efforts with new Central Mainers and the Peace Jam group has planned a game time with youth in the area. This can bring spring to them and to UUCC. MUUSAN has many people participating in the monthly meetings at our church. A Social Justice Summit is planned for late April to explore how UUCC will move forward with the many efforts it has now and how to best structure these initiatives. Verse two of the Hymn of Promise says, "There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody; there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me. From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see."

Think spring! Do spring! Spread spring! Participate in spring! I hope you find spring for yourself as April comes and moves along.

Sincerely,

Martha Naber,
President UUCC Board of Trustees

Capitol Area New Mainers Project...

The Capital Area New Mainers' Project was born the summer of 2016 from the Augusta Warming Center's response to the needs of new Mainers. After a couple of meetings convened by Deidrah Stanchfield, the director of the Warming Center, Sarah Shed and Chris Myers Asch of Temple Beth-El took on the responsibility of the leadership of the group which was called the Iraqi Committee at that time. With Sarah's and Chris's efforts, the group was convened and organized to serve all New Mainers in the Capital Area and re-named Capital Area New Mainers Project (CANMP). The group has grown to more than 300 members, with some 60 dedicated volunteers among them. Our mission statement is: "The CANMP is an all-volunteer organization that welcomes immigrants and refugees and helps them thrive in central Maine."

The Steering Committee for CANMP is comprised of: Sarah Shed, Chris Myers Asch, Susan Parks, Hasan Anlkhfaji, Ahmed Al-Abbas, Judy Feinstein, Liz Burgess, Kate McLinn, Deidrah Stanchfield, Jean McWilliams, Kristin White, and Deb Mattson. Jacqui Clark is the facilitator for all CANMP Steering Committee and large group meetings. Debbie Mattson serves as the chair of the CANMP Housing Subcommittee.

Recently, six CANMP Family Mentor Teams (FMT) were organized and mobilized to serve the six new Mainer families in Augusta. On the Family Mentor Team that Susan Parks leads, Augusta UCC members Pam Lombard, Jenny Mckendry, and Hilary Neckles serve a female-led Afghani family. Along with them, Jane Manson of Monmouth is a FMT member.

Monetary donations to CANMP may be sent to United Way of Kennebec Valley, 121 Commercial St., Augusta, ME 04330 with the notation for CANMP.

Questions about CANMP may be directed to:
Susan Parks: parsusan@gmail.com
Sarah Shed: skshed@gmail.com
Chris Myers Asch: chrismyersasch@gmail.com

Communications...

A concern has been raised regarding whether people who do not have electronic access (internet/e-mail) were getting communications from UCC. *For those who have given an e-mail address to the church office*, newsletter and e-mail communications are sent electronically. *For those who do not have an electronic connection*, the Newsletter is mailed, and the Announcements are available Sunday morning. However, they miss the ongoing and urgent church e-mails. Communications Work Group, in conjunction with Pastoral Care and the Administrator, have designed a Phone Tree to address this specific 'missing communication link.' People without electronic capability were asked if they wanted to be included on the tree. This opportunity will be presented to members, friends, and visitors as they connect with UCC.

The phone tree is under the Caring Community, with Cheryl Abruzzese as coordinator. When the need arises, she will notify designated callers, for them to each call specific people. Situations that might activate the phone tree include change in time or activities that need to be communicated immediately, or urgent concern about a UCC member/friend. There have been phone trees at various times in our history.

The Communications Work Group generally meets the first and third Thursdays, 12:30-2:00pm. Please leave comments and questions for the Work Group in the Communications Mail Box in the Committee Room or contact Lynn Smith, Administrator (admin@augustauu.org or 207-622-3232).

Goddess/Earth Circles...

Join Goddess/Earth Circles on **April 30, 12:15-2pm**, Fellowship Hall. The theme of Environment and Spirituality features Gaia as Mother Earth and Spider Woman as a creator. This will open the opportunity for personal meditation and reflections on our Earth Spirituality for the upcoming month. The session will be led by Mary Perkins and Darlene Bassett.

The Supper Times...

First Saturday, Public Supper at St. Mark's/
Outreach Center

Fine chili on a chillly night, hit the spot at this 10 degree site. Brrrrrrrr! We also served cole slaw, bread, coffee, iced tea, water and baked goods. Including first serving, seconds and take-home meals, we served about 200 meals.

We've changed our hours to coincide with the other Augusta Angel Food Network public suppers. We'll now begin prep at 12:30pm and serve at 4:30pm.

Thank you to Carlene Kaler, chief organizer and chicken cook, Gene Kaler— co-chicken cook, Keith Priest, CCCC-chief chef of chicken chili, Dan Stevens — chief all-knowing detailer, time and key keeper. Judy C.- coffee maker. Seasoned volunteers and bakers, who made it all happen included Ida Gammon, Liam Walp, Susan Parks, Heidi Chadbourne, Becky Harvey and Catherine Palmer! Thank you Sarah Miller, for your partnership and for providing many pounds of chicken and beans for the chili!

Next month's fare: Ham and baked beans.

The Augusta Warming Center, Addie's Attic and the Essentials Pantry and the Augusta Food Bank are all housed in the same building and have provided many Augusta area families, with much needed clothing and toiletries. I met an Iraqi-American family who've been here for just four months, as they left the Attic. In Iraq, both parents were engineers. They're looking for an apartment that's big enough for their family, which doesn't have a leaky ceiling. I gave them information to contact CANMP. If you're interested in helping new Mainers, look up the Facebook page of this new organization, CANMP- Capital Area New Mainers Project. Leader, Chris Asch, has gained membership for the group in the United Way, and Susan Parks of UUCC is part of their board. Susan will lead a family mentor team, which is paired with an Afghani family.

Jenny Mckendry
Chief Non-cook and Bottleswasher

Social Activities...



Dinner and Movie
Night
Friday, April 21st,
2017
5:30 PM

Once again, Cheryl Clukey and Judy McCown are organizing "Dinner and Movie Night." This year's movie will be Michael Moore's *"WHERE TO INVADE NEXT"*.

Michael Moore visits 12 countries, with USA flag in hand, to see what the US can learn from other nations. He humorously "invades" countries in Africa and Europe to discuss what they have to offer. From Tunisia's strongly progressive women's policy, Italy's required extensive vacations, Norway's prison systems to Iceland's high percentage of women in government, Michael Moore learns there is much America should aspire to and emulate, and he has a blast showing us how we are messing things up that once made our country great.

Come join us for this serious yet humorous film.

The evening will include a delicious candlelight dinner prepared and served by Cheryl, Judy and Bruce in the Fellowship Hall, followed by the film to be shown in the Sanctuary. The cost will be \$12 per person. Proceeds will be divided between the Social Activities and Fundraising Committees.

Reservations are necessary. Please respond to Cheryl at 441-0337 cherylclukey5@yahoo.com or Judy and Bruce at 897-3683 bbierce@myfairpoint.net

Fundraising News...

Can we count on your support for our
Upcoming Fundraising Events?

Friday, April 7th
Pizza Dinner followed by
Annual Silent & Live Auction,
4-7pm
Guest Auctioneer, Dick Crosman

Saturday, April 15th
Bake Sale and Easter Bunny
Fun for Kids!
1-4 pm

Saturday, April 29th, 4 pm
Concert with Mary Sullivan, soprano,
and Bridget Convey, piano.
Suggested donation \$10 per person
or \$25 per family.

Sunday, May 7th, 4 pm
UUCS Spring Concert

Saturday, June 10th
8:30am –1:30pm
Indoor/Outdoor Yard Sale

Building and Grounds...

Annual Spring Leaf Raking
April 8th 9:00 am to noon

Let's get the grounds in shape in time
for Easter! Bring gloves and rakes if
you have them. If you don't we do.
We rake onto tarps and dump into
compost bin so it will go quickly if we
have a good turn out.

Contact is Marilyn Dunn 201-512-
5382 or maine 2007@hotmail.com

Children's Mindfulness Group...

Would you be interested in a
Children's Mindfulness Practice Group?

Recognizing that there are many new families at
UUCS, the Peaceful Heart Sangha is exploring the
possibility of creating a monthly Children's
Mindfulness Practice Group (like one that we had for
many years) on Monday evenings at UUCS. Our
pattern in the past was to meet from 5:30 – 6:15pm
and then to offer child-care from 6:15 – 8:15pm so
that the parents could be part of the mindfulness
meditation group during that time.

If you or a family member or friend might be
interested in this, please contact Marty Soule
(martysoule@gmail.com). Thank you.

The History Committee....

The ten participants of the Oral History Orientation
on March 19th experienced many reasons for doing
oral histories: to connect with this community, past
and present; to understand and appreciate the
contributions that we make to and receive from the
community; and to deepen our understanding of
our community now because of the people who
have gone before. We listened briefly to an excerpt
from an oral history from 2005, and planned to do
seven between April 1st and mid-September. We
will be meeting again to share our experiences and
plan further.

Thanks to Doug Rooks, who is assisting the History
Committee with this endeavor. While we are
focusing on the historical perspective of Unitarian
Universalism in Augusta, we are establishing an
ongoing oral history process so that we can
"capture history as we make it." It is timely that we
should do this, in this year of our 25th anniversary
as UUCS!

NOTE: The History Committee has changed the
date of its meetings to the First Thursday of the
month, 1-2:30pm. This will allow us to get
information into the Flaming Chalice in a more
timely manner. Contact: Helen Zidowecki
(hzmre@hzmre.com, 582-5308)

PLEASE JOIN US IN WELCOMING OUR FINAL GUEST ARTIST
for 2016-2017 SEASON:
CONCERTS AT THE UCC OF AUGUSTA!

SUNDAY, APRIL 29th 4:00 PM

Mary Sullivan, soprano with
Bridget Convey, piano

*Favorites from the Opera and Musical Theater
Stage: music of Puccini, Gershwin, Floyd,
Bernstein, and others.*

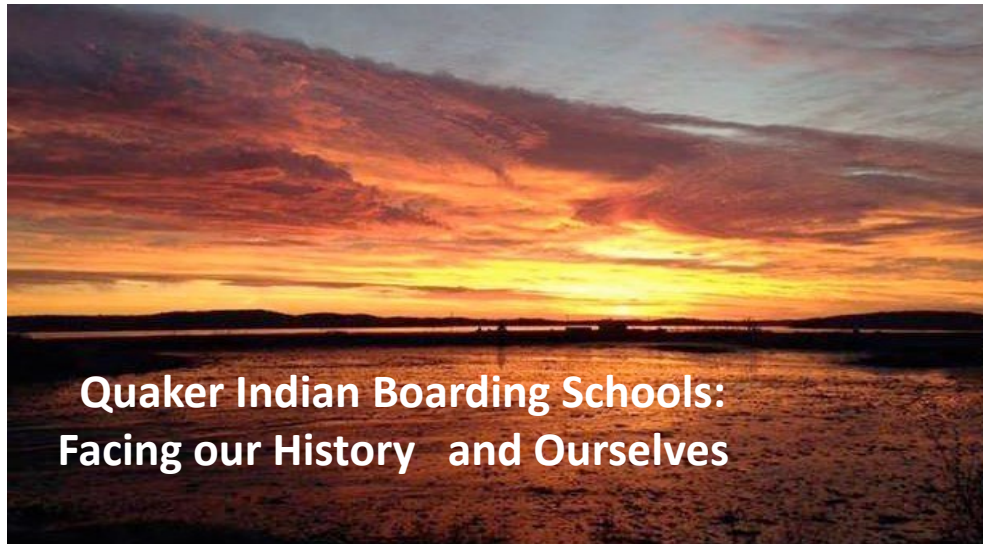
Concerts at the UCC of Augusta welcomes guest artists from the New England area into our beautiful Sanctuary. Serving the greater Augusta area with fabulous music, in a welcoming space. Concerts will be one hour in length, followed by a light reception in the Fellowship Hall. Here is a bit about our guest artist, Mary Sullivan:



Soprano Mary Sullivan has appeared as a soloist with numerous ensembles in New England, including the Oratorio Chorale, Sheepscot Valley Chorus and the St. Cecilia Chamber Choir, Cantemus, the Concord Women's Chorus, Sweetest in the Gale, and the Lincoln Festival Chorus. Other recent appearances include the Messiah sing hosted by the Downeast Singers under Artistic Director Anthony Antolini, the King's Chapel concert series in Boston, and the Taylor House Friday recital series. She returned to the Taylor House in Jamaica Plain, Boston, for a solo recital of Spanish and Russian song in October 2016, with pianist Scott Nicholas. She has been presented as a recitalist at Bowdoin College's Studzinski Recital Hall with pianist and Artist

in Residence George Lopez, and was a featured soloist at the PORT opera gala fundraising dinner in 2014. Ms. Sullivan is the Artist in Residence with the Oratorio Chorale, where she teaches vocal technique and coaches section sound and musicianship in collaboration with Artistic Director Emily Isaacson. She worked with maestro Rohan Smith as vocal coach and choral consultant for the Midcoast Symphony Orchestra's spring 2016 performance of the Verdi Messa da Requiem. Ms. Sullivan is the resident soloist at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Portland, with organist Herbert Taylor, and she was once again the guest artist with the Maine Friends of Music Chamber Ensemble for the summer 2016 season. She is featured on composer Steven Finch's CD *An Apple Gathering*, and has sung world premieres of works by Mr. Finch and also by Boston-area composer Ruth Lomon.





**Presenter: Paula Palmer,
Director of Toward Right
Relations, a project of the
Indigenous Peoples
Concerns Committee of the
Boulder Friends (Quaker)**

**Tuesday, April 18, 2017
7:00–9:00 pm
Jewett Hall,
University of Maine
Augusta**

This presentation on the Quaker Boarding Schools is intended to increase understanding of what it means to be a student of decolonization in the context of a people of faith. In 2015 Paula Palmer began researching the Quaker Indian Boarding schools to learn about the role that her faith tradition played. She visited sites of the Quaker boarding schools and delved into history collections to learn more. In this slide presentation and ensuing discussion, Paula will talk about what she learned and how she is sharing this with Friends' meetings. Her presentation will provide learning about faith leaders who are committed to and actively engaged in the process of decolonizing.

Supporting organizations:
Maine Council of Churches,
Maine Wabanaki REACH,
Maine Holocaust and Human Rights Center

This event is funded in part by the BTS Center.
For more information contact Rev. Carie Johnsen at 508-221-5295

Our Library Collection...

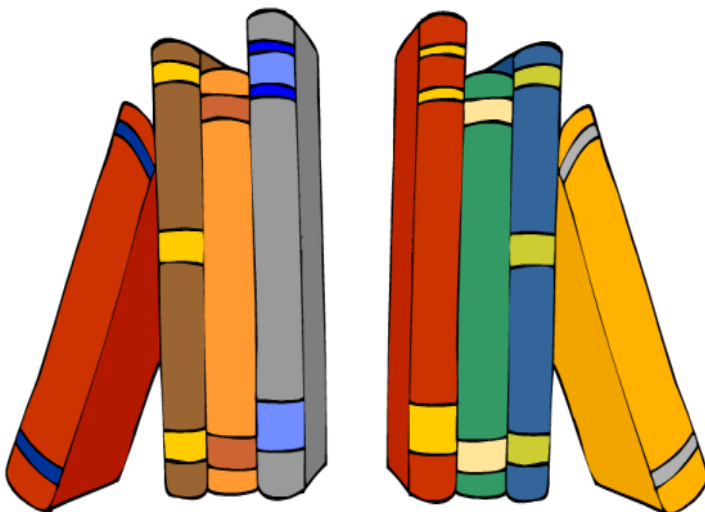
Over the next few months, we would like to introduce you to various parts of the UUCC Library Collection in the Committee Room. A timely place to start is with meditation manuals, as we are in Lent, which has long been a time for increased meditation. Kathy Kellison has donated a number of Lent meditation manuals from the 1940's and 1950's from the Universalist perspective. These will be kept in the History Room, but certainly may be seen on request. These manuals will fit in a pocket, literally.

We have a collection of larger contemporary meditation manuals by Unitarian Universalists in the Library (Center shelves). These are great resources for worship, small group ministry, and personal spiritual practice.

To borrow items, please sign out on the sheet in the red folder on the shelf behind the Committee Room door. You are invited to borrow items, even as we continue to arrange the collection.

Sponsored by Thursday AM Small Group
Ministry

Contact: Jean Sizelove (623-5096,
mesizelove@roadrunner.com)



Help Needed for Fellowship Hour...

Thank you for all of you who have volunteered your time and resources to help us enjoy Fellowship Hour. Your efforts are a blessing to all of us.

We are in need of volunteers to sign up for the following dates:

April 30
May 7 (maybe a small group)
May 14
May 21 (maybe a committee)
May 28
June 4 (annual meeting day)
June 11
June 18
June 25

Sign up on the calendar in the Fellowship Hall. If you have questions contact Jill Watson at 458-4437 or jillwatson223@gmail.com

Books for Serious Readers..

BOOKS FOR SERIOUS READERS will meet from 12:30 until 2:30pm on April 13th in Fellowship Hall. We will be discussing Knocking on Heaven's Door by award winning author Katy Butler.

"Knocking on Heaven's Door is a thoroughly researched and compelling mix of personal narrative and hard-nosed reporting that captures just how flawed care at the end of life has become." (Abraham Verghese New York Times Book Review). Anyone interested in a compelling discussion of end of life issues is invited to read the book and join us, even if you have not attended our group previously.

If you would like more information, please contact June Zellers 582-5248/
jzellers@roadrunner.com or Kathy Kellison 445-4415 kell6787@gmail.com.

We hope you join us!

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 word attachment, please!
Photos of church activities welcome!

Deadline: April 17. Anything received after this date may not be able to be published.

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.