



# The Flaming Chalice

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

**December 2017**

## **Sunday Worship Services at 9:15 & 11:00 a.m.**

December Theme  
**Unitarian Universalist Sources**  
(See full list on page 2.)

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Music Sunday**

Rev. Carie Johnsen  
Bridget Convey, Music Director  
and Daniel Gilbert, Orchestra Director

This traditional December service has become a favorite among members and friends. Bring your family, friends and neighbors for this holiday treat. This service brings us together to sing and enjoy a morning of music highlighting the Unitarian Universalist Community Church Choir and Occasional Orchestra.

**December 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Light as a Feather**

Noah Gottlieb

How much heavier is the page once you have written on it? If your eyes see a mountain range are they heavier than if you are looking at the clouds. How many songs can you fit in your head before the weight of them slows you down? Please join me. There may or may not be a pop quiz.

**December 17<sup>th</sup>**

**What's in a Name?**

Rev. Carie Johnsen

Let's explore the Unitarian Universalist Sources together. What name do you give to that which cannot be fully known? To what source(s) do you turn to guide, restore, and sustain your living? This interactive service will make room for the sciences and poetry, the mystics and the seekers, the cynics and the faithful.

**December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Winter Solstice: Return of the Light**

Goddess/Earth Circles  
Rev. Carie Johnsen

This ancient celebration of Light and Dark sets the stage for other celebrations of the season. Explore together the richness of the longest night and the expectation of rebirth of the sun. Take the essence of this celebration with you as you experience the many variations in the Season of Light.

### **A Christmas Eve Tradition: Carols, Light, and Readings**

**December 24, 2017 - 5:00 p.m.**

Our annual Christmas Eve Service offers people of all ages the opportunity to center their spirit around the many gifts of the holiday season: peace and joy, light and love.

**December 31<sup>st</sup>**

**Celebrate and Sing in the New Year**

Heather Lyon

Celebrate the close of the year with international stories and songs! We will explore the various ways people celebrate the New Year around the world and talk about where some of our traditions started. Come prepared to share your family's favorite stories!

## A NOTE ABOUT THE HOLIDAY PAGEANT

After much discussion we have decided to forgo the annual Holiday Pageant in favor of enlivened and engaged wisdom stories each week. Each week a family or group of children will present a story of faith representing one of the Unitarian Universalist Sources. Most of these stories will be gleaned from the pageant presented in years past. A full line-up of pageant stories to be presented along with the list of Unitarian Universalist Sources may be found below:

If you or your children wish to participate in telling a story, lighting a candle, or acting out a part, please let us know. You can send an email to [revcariejohansen@gmail.com](mailto:revcariejohansen@gmail.com) or call her at 508-221-5295.

## Unitarian Universalist Sources

Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote seven Principles, which we hold as strong values and moral guides. We live out these Principles within a “living tradition” of wisdom and spirituality, drawn from sources as diverse as science, poetry, scripture, and personal experience. These are the six sources our congregations affirm and promote:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

### December Wisdom Stories – Stories of Faith

Dec. 3	Unitarian Universalism	The Christmas tree comes to America
Dec. 10	Buddhism	Bodhi Day–Enlightenment of Siddhartha Gautama
Dec. 17	Judaism	A story of perseverance. The Maccabees
Dec. 24	Solstice	Returning of the Sun
Christmas Eve	Christianity	Why not a Star
Dec.31	Hinduism	Diwali

Special Worship

Thursday, December 17, 2017 -- 6:00 – 7:00 p.m

### A Quiet Refuge: Cultivating healing and wholeness in a complicated world

Are you exhausted? Lonely? Afraid? Anxious? Depressed?

Are you tired of just coping with one thing after another?

Are you grieving the absence of a loved one?

Are you Unemployed? Navigating crisis?

Are you overwhelmed by life circumstance or world events?

Is this season of lights and merriment simply more than you can bear?

If you answered yes to any one or more of the above questions  
then this time of healing and restoration is for you.

Please join us for a time of quiet facilitated reflection.

## A Faith Journey...

I write this newsletter article while riding down the road with my two adult sons for Thanksgiving weekend. Both boys are now 27, young adults finding their way in the world. Our conversations naturally fall to stories of their childhood. With December's theme (Unitarian Universalist Sources) on my mind, I am reminded of the days my children eagerly attended religious exploration classes to explore Unitarian Universalism amid the landscape of world religions. Having adopted both my children when they were older, our conversations naturally leaned toward the religions of their birth families. Justin tried to embrace Christianity while honoring his interest in Wicca. Mohammed sought to understand what it meant to be the son of a Muslim in a post 911 world. Over the years Unitarian Universalism has offered our interfaith family a safe place to listen to each other and better understand the multiple religions that have shaped our lives.

In Unitarian Universalists our "living tradition" of wisdom and spirituality, draws from sources as diverse as science, poetry, scripture, and personal experience. This tradition encourages us, calls us, no requires of us, a willingness to suspend knowing long enough to make room for the multiple ways of understanding and experiencing the Mysterious beyond our comprehension. Unitarian Universalism heartens us to listen curiously that we might learn the ways in which others perceive unknowable truths. We are encouraged to discover for ourselves what source(s) affirm and sustain our way of walking in a complicated and joyful universe.

Unitarian Universalism celebrates the diversity of our worldviews and religious stories while acknowledging the contradictory ways in which our individual truths interact with each other. We believe these seemly competing manners of being do not have to be at odds with each other; rather, they expand our capacity to genuinely, authentically, and passionately reach beyond ourselves. The vast expanse of varied cultural perspectives need not threaten our own way of being but rather broaden and enrich our ways of knowing.

Our task as Unitarian Universalists is to explore the sources of knowing with spaciousness rather than rigidity; to discern what is right and good from our observations and reflections; and then to hold it lightly in the palm of our hand that it might be refined and shaped by our unfolding experiences and our interactions with an infinite universe.

This month brings to close a year that has been painful and heartbreaking for so many. We have watched our relationships with our dearest friends, families and communities become strained and divided. We have been drawn out of indifference, taken our anger to the streets, and advocated passionately for one issue after another. We have been baffled by a world we no longer understand. We watch racial hate and violence, sexual harassment and abuse made more visible every day. We bear witness to regressive policies that impact rights of our LGBT siblings. We have watched the continued and heightened suffering of the most vulnerable. We have struggled with the exploitation of our environment. Our hearts break over and over again. Our anger calls us to action over and over again. Our commitment to justice, compassion, and love mobilizes us while the relentlessness of the call brings us to our knees.

I must confess this fall I have struggled with endless barrage of disturbing and devastating national events. The weekly need to process one matter of concern after another then show up on Sunday with something worthy of your time, something to inspire and bring restorative hope, has at times felt daunting and overwhelming. All of this has impelled me back to Source and required of me a disciplined return to my spiritual practices. Grateful for pastoral wisdom that compels me to fill my spiritual well and drink from it often, I am creating more spaciousness in my days to sit with and walk with God: Life, Love, and the Holy.

During this season of holiday merriment and this national time of unrest, I invite you to slow down and consider the Unitarian Universalist Sources. Attend weekly services to deepen your understanding of the multitude of possibilities. Pick up the monthly Soul Matters Packet to explore and discern that which sustains you in times of joy and times of heartache. Consider developing a spiritual practice to center and guide your living.

At the end of the day, when you fall exhausted and overwhelmed into the comfort of your home, your animal beings, your family, your community, what mysterious source connects you to all that is, was, and ever will be? What is it that sustains you? What do you find at the well to restore hope?

In faith, Rev. Carie Johnsen

## Message from UUCC Board President

Another year is soon coming to a close. As you reflect on 2017 what comes to mind for you? What stands out as significant moments or events? What do you want to leave behind? What do you hope 2018 has in store for you?

I frequently think of hymns which have touched me at some point in my life. As I end 2017, I find the words of hymn 345 in *Singing the Living Tradition* meaningful. I offer them to you to consider.

### With Joy We Claim the Growing Light

With joy we claim the growing light, advancing thought, and widening view,  
the larger freedom, clearer sight, which from the old unfold the new.

With wider view, come loftier goal; with fuller light, more good to see;  
With freedom, truer self-control; with knowledge deeper reverence be.

These words describe what UUCC means to me. It is a place which provides community in which I can grow, learn new ways of thinking, and become a better me. I am accepted for who I am. I hope you find fulfillment and growth at UUCC also.

I wish for you all the best of the rest of 2017 and a peaceful coming into 2018.

Martha Naber  
UUCC Board President



### Peaceful Heart Sangha

**We gather every Monday evening 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.**

**~ including Christmas and New Years~**

**For Mindfulness Meditation in the sanctuary at UUCC**

Newcomers and beginners are always welcome!

If you have questions or would like a brief introduction to mindfulness meditation, please contact Marty Soule.

**Winter weather reminder - if you ever feel unsafe driving to a sangha event due to weather conditions (or other reasons), please stay home.**

**On days when school is canceled in Augusta due to weather, we will not have sangha.**

**Special Event: Peaceful Heart Sangha January Intensive is open to one and all:**

- **On Saturday, January 6, we will begin with a 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Day of Mindfulness at UUCC.** This will include a mindful vegetarian Pot Luck meal. We are each invited to look at the January Intensive form (included in this newsletter or contact Marty) and to decide what we think will be most beneficial for our own growth during the month of January.
- On January 6 we will have meditation and readings along with an opportunity to share our choices for our January practice, if we choose to do so. If you intend to join us on January 6, please contact Marty Soule at 685-9270 or [martysoule@gmail.com](mailto:martysoule@gmail.com) This will help us set up our space. Spur of the moment - just showing up is also fine!
- **We will wrap up our practice on February 3 with another Day of Mindfulness, 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** As a participant, you are welcome to join us for one, both, or none of these days. Your practice could be entirely within your own home – up to you.



### **Children/Youth Mindfulness Practice**

**Fourth Mondays each month (except December)**

**5:30 – 6:15 at the Drew House (next door to UUC, 6 Summer St)**

In November we explored Mindful Eating – exploring where our food comes from and the many senses that can be stimulated by eating food – if we pause and allow ourselves to be aware that it is happening. We will not meet in December but will return to our practice on Jan. 22, 2018.

### **Goddess/Earth Circles Winter Solstice: Celebration of Light and Dark**

To the ancients, the increase of darkness with the resulting loss of light toward the Winter Solstice (December 21) brought anxiety. What would happen if the light completely disappeared? Conversely, the increase in light with the resulting loss of darkness toward Summer Solstice (June 21) does not carry the anxiety of too much light! Either way, the Solstice celebrations in the earth cycles include the maximums and minimums of lightness and darkness – and the gifts of each to our lives.

Winter Solstice is the basic celebration in many cultures the world over. At its root is an ancient fear that the failing light would never return unless humans intervened with vigils or celebration. Conversely then, light holds the sense of rescue or salvation. And, perhaps, our impulse to hold onto certain traditions today -- candles, evergreens, feasting and generosity -- are echoes of a past that extends many thousands of years further than we ever before imagined. The younger religious traditions, including Christianity, build on the imagery of Winter Solstice to enhance their own legacy, such as of Jesus as the Light of the World.

Join us Sunday morning, December 24 for Winter Solstice, the oldest celebration of Light and Dark. Take the essence of this celebration with you as you experience the many variations of the Season of Light.

Goddess/Earth Circles meets monthly 12:15-2pm, usually in the Fellowship Hall. The next meeting will be Jan. 28 12:15-2pm Lakshmi, A Hindu Goddess, led by Heide Munro.

For more information about Goddess/Earth Circles, contact Helen Zidowecki, [hzmre@hzmre.com](mailto:hzmre@hzmre.com) or 582-5308.

### **LIBRARY NOTES**

As we continue to work on the Library, located in the Committee Room, we are setting aside specific collections. For example, *the UU World*, the magazine of the UUA, is sent to members. We have space for issues on the lower right hand shelf. Consider the Library before discarding your copies. These can be placed in a box on the lower right shelf.

Jean Sizelove, Thursday morning Small Group Ministry  
[mesizelove@roadrunner.com](mailto:mesizelove@roadrunner.com) or 623-5096



## BOOKS FOR SERIOUS READERS

BOOKS FOR SERIOUS READERS will not meet in December. Enjoy the holidays! On January 4, 2018 we will meet to discuss The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead. According to the New York Times Review, "He has told a story essential to our understanding of the American past and the American present." Please join us in Fellowship Hall from 12:30 until 2:30 to explore this powerful and revealing book. FMI contact Kathy Kellison 445-4415 or [kell6787@gmail.com](mailto:kell6787@gmail.com) or June Zellers at 582-5862 or [jzellers@roadrunner.com](mailto:jzellers@roadrunner.com).

## SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

Thanks for the contributions of groups to the Small Group Ministry Service on October 29. These visuals and testimonials gave an idea what the groups are doing and the importance of the groups to the participants.

Information about meetings of groups is on the Calendar on the UUCC website and in the Sunday announcements: We list meetings to give visibility to Small Group Ministry, and to indicate usage of space on the premises as well as other locations. We have started using "Small Group Ministry" rather than "SGM" for clarity for visitors and newcomers. Contact Michael Conley (see below) if you are interested in becoming a member of a group.

**Save the Date** for the Small Group Ministry Leaders meeting on Saturday, January 27, 2018, 9am-Noon at the church. Group participants are invited as well as Leaders.

### Other Small Group Ministry news:

--Session plans "Waking Up White" and "Jesus" are available to group Leaders to supplement the current courses at UUCC. Session plans can be available for individual study, also. The Session Plan Notebooks are available in the Committee Room (by mail slots) and Drew House kitchen.

--The *SGM Journal* Fall 2017 from the UU Small Group Ministry Network has been sent to group Leaders and can be available to anyone who is interested, as UUCC is a Network member. See [www.smallgroupministry.net](http://www.smallgroupministry.net) for more information.

Small Group Ministry Contact for information and to become a member of a group: Michael Conley, Chair, [estherpearl67@gmail.com](mailto:estherpearl67@gmail.com) or 446-4788, or leave a message in the Small Group Ministry mail slot in the Committee Room.

## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES



### DIY SLIME -- Saturday, Dec.9th 12 noon to 2:00

Allison Foust will offer a workshop for KIDS OF ALL AGES on how to make perfect slime of all colors. Come and have fun with us making and playing with the slime you make....its ADDICTING. SLIME is the perfect Xmas gift for your KID's friends. ---- JOIN US in the Drew House! ----

\*\*\* Bring a container for your slime \*\*\*

## FAITH CAFÉ

### UUCS CAROLERS AND MUSICIANS



Please mark your calendars for Faith Café #4 from 2:30 – 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 17. We are inviting everyone who likes to sing to join our groups of carolers spreading out like traveling minstrels from the church into local neighborhoods. Among our destinations for singing carols are the homes of Nancee Campbell and Maggie Ricker. After caroling, everyone returns to the church for refreshments and games. More details will follow soon. With questions, contact Hannah Faulker at 293-9377 or [hannahu3@fairpoint.net](mailto:hannahu3@fairpoint.net).

## Hospitality

### What it is and why is it so important to our church life?

According to the wikipedia definition, “hospitality refers to the relationship between a guest and a host, wherein the host receives the guest with goodwill, including the reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers”. Louis, chevalier de Jaucourt describes hospitality in the Encyclopedia as the virtue of a great soul that cares for the whole universe through the ties of humanity.

I like the vision of a great soul that cares for the whole. This vision is what I think of when one takes on the responsibility of hospitality during fellowship hour. It is a time when a member(s) prepares an environment conducive to fellowship through serving snacks and Fair Trade Coffee. Our fellowship hour is an important time to connect with our church family and open our lives to new experiences and opportunities. It is a time we can share our joys & sorrows with caring, loving individuals and a time to strengthen our friendships with our church family. It's not difficult to do.

Please consider signing up to be a host for fellowship hour. We are in great need of volunteers to host hospitality. The sign up calendar is in the fellowship hall. We have many slots available through May. If you have never hosted, please contact Jill Watson, [jillwatson223@gmail.com](mailto:jillwatson223@gmail.com) or 458-4437 so that she can answer any questions you have. Thank you for your service to our church family and community

## LEADERSHIP RETREAT

Calling all church leaders and committee members. Mark your calendars for the annual Leadership Retreat on January 20, 2018!



We will be discussing ways we can “do” church better.

What do we want our church to look like in the future? How can we make that happen?  
What do we keep? What do we change?

Your thoughtful reflections and conversations will be vital in helping to move us into our next 25 years. Please email Jill Watson @ [jillwatson223@gmail.com](mailto:jillwatson223@gmail.com) or call her at 458-4437 so that she can plan to make sure there is enough materials and food for all. Thank you for all you do! Our church is blessed by your service.

## NEWSLETTER: COMMUNICATIONS CORNER

A lot of attention is being given to communications within the congregation. We thank Bill Byrne and Roxanne Reed for their preparation of *The Flaming Chalice*, since they became editors last summer. They work closely with the Office Administrator (Lynn) in content, layout and general production.

We also want you to be aware of the revision of *How Our Church Works*. This is publication of policies and procedures involved in the work of the congregation. The focus of policies when the congregations consolidated in 1992 was on safe congregations. The original version of *How Our Church Works* was published in 2011 to address cultural changes of technology, personal identity, and safety guidelines for various situations. Policies and procedures from becoming members to reserving and renting space, and from committee and program descriptions to congregational staffing were added as a way to be more transparent. It is a great manual for understanding how we can work together.

The 2017 revision is available for review at the following locations:

Committee Room by the Mail Slots

Drew House by phone (Kitchen area)

Judd House—Carie, Lynn, and RE office and a copy in the copy room.

The 2017 revision is also available on the website (Church Life, Church Governance).

Committee and program leaders, please review this publication. Send additional items for inclusion to Lynn.

The Communications Work Group usually meets the third Wednesday morning of the month.

Contact Lynn Smith, Office Administrator ([admin@augustauu.org](mailto:admin@augustauu.org) or 207-622-3232) if you have comments or things to come to our attention.

### Book Discussion Group<sup>1</sup>

**Christ for Unitarian Universalists by Scotty McLennan**  
**Facilitators: Rev. Carie Johnsen & Peter Mendall, Sr.**

**TUESDAYS: Afternoons 2:00 – 4:00 OR Evenings 6:00 – 8:00**

November 28<sup>th</sup> December 19<sup>th</sup> January 9<sup>th</sup> January 22<sup>nd</sup>

February 21<sup>st</sup> March 13<sup>th</sup> April 3<sup>rd</sup>

#### **Overview:**

**Christ for Unitarian Universalists** is a clarion call for UUs—the vast majority of whom don't identify as Christian—to engage in dialogue with the more than seventy percent of Americans who do so identify. Our tradition has significant continuity with this great historical religion, although that's often overlooked these days. We also have some ideas about how to enhance the practice and experience of Christianity that traditional Christians today might find compelling.

Sign up for discussion group at [admin@augustauu.org](mailto:admin@augustauu.org) or 207-622-3232. Please state your availability or preference for Tuesday afternoon or evening class. Let us know if childcare is needed.

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<sup>1</sup> This is a discussion guide for Scotty McLennan's 2016 Skinner House book, *Christ for Unitarian Universalists: A New Dialogue with Traditional Christianity*



## On Leaving: A Reflection

Here is the thing about burnout: even though you know it's coming -- everyone warns you about it from the beginning -- you don't do anything about it until one day it slams into your body and knocks you flat. Despite the forewarning, you feel shocked, winded, weakened. You feel like it's all in your head and you should just pack it away and get back to work, because that's what real adults do. That's certainly what real religious professionals do.

And here is the thing about being a religious professional: fostering the growth of a community of any size means diverting your own spiritual energy away from your spiritual center. And while you feed the religious needs of a community, your own needs are easily overlooked. For a while you even think that feeding others feeds you in some paradox of theological return. You think that you don't even have spiritual needs; you're here to serve, and you love it.

My friends, I must tell you that theological multiplicity is a myth, but burnout is very real. As I finally yield to this thing (doing all I can to ignore the voice in my head that whispers 'failure, lazy, it's only been two years') I move in a direction of feeding my own spirit so that I may better serve the communities of which I am a part; the reality is that sustainable leadership lies in the ability to feed the community with one hand, and oneself with the other. This is not a skill that I have mastered, and the result is that I'm no longer feeding anyone.

In the last year, especially, of feeding and not being fed, my spirit has been quietly but insistently calling me to explore my ancestral Judaism. I'm sure some of you have noticed that I often wear a silver Star of David, so a little history: Emma and I are both Jewish from our mother, whose family came from an Ashkenazi Jewish community in Poland which no longer exists. After our parents separated, we attended Hebrew school at Temple Beth-El until our shared Bat Mitzvah, and promptly stopped practicing.

I have always struggled with my identity as a Jewish person because I know at one time that I am Jewish, and I feel at the same time that I'm not Jewish enough, because of my atheism. But Judaism, especially reform Judaism, shares a lot with Unitarian Universalism in some key ways: it's a scholarly religion, constantly questioning and looking for answers, in communication with God in a two-way dialogue (imagine Tevye yelling at God in *Fiddler on the Roof*); and it holds as one of its central tenants *tikkun olam*, the repair of the world. Social activism as religious practice.

Please, do not take this news as a rebuff of Unitarian Universalism; I love this church and my place in it. And, it is important to me to explore my heritage and understand my Jewish self. The person I am now, who is curious and seeking, grew in a Unitarian Universalist church. I am grateful for the leaders and the parents who have trusted me in this role, who have supported me when I was questioning, who gave me the room to grow. One's future is shaped by the past, and I'm sure that no matter how distantly I wander, Unitarian Universalism will always feel like home.

In sincerest love,  
Brigid

**The Supper Times**  
1st Saturday Community Supper News

Jenny Mckendry, Chief Non-Cook and bottle washer

On Saturday, Nov. 4, 2017 ,we served a supper for the first time, from So. Parish Congregational church fellowship hall. So. Parish is at 9 Church St., off of State St. in Augusta. All went well, save for a few things forgotten and some rushing around as we learn about a new place. We were warmly welcomed by Cindy Sloma and Sue Gayne of So. Parish, who both came to help us get started. Their kitchen and church are lovely! Thank you very much to Cindy, Sue, Rev. Smith and the So. Parish Church. Four to five free community suppers are served each month in Augusta churches on Saturdays. Our congregations fund the suppers, in various ways.

Co-leader Carlene Kaler planned, shopped, moved materials and pre-cooked at home, with help from Gene Kaler. Keith Priest, our indefatigable cook put together a tasty chicken casserole meal with one arm in a sling, as he's done for quite some time now. Karen Neilsen, Liam Walp, Sophia Oliveri, Tracy McNaughton, Jenny Mckendry, Heidi Chadbourne, Cheryl Clukey and Lucas, David Thornton, Marty Thornton, Susan Parks and Rev. Carie Johnsen all volunteered their services. Thank you Carie, for you leadership.

Thank you for the funding you generously give, to help us provide guests with a hot meal and social hour.

We served chicken casserole, coleslaw, bread and desserts. All enjoyed as much as they chose; first serving, second serving and take-home servings too.

We plan chili for a chilly December and look forward to the fun we have together. Happy November.

# ***Sacred Sexuality: A Journey of a Lifetime!***

## ***The Spirituality of Human Sexuality.***



**Unitarian Universalist Community Church**  
**69 Winthrop Street, Augusta, ME**  
**Sundays from 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.**

Brown bag lunch encouraged. We will provide desserts, tea, and coffee.  
Adults of all ages welcome. Attend one or more sessions.  
The series is free and open to the public.

**January 7, 2018**

### **That's the Story of Love?**

Finding Loving Kindness in Any Place,  
Any Time, and Many Forms.

Is there any tale more prevalent in our time than The Love Story? But how many of us does THE Love Story work for? What is our love story – yours, theirs, mine? How does that story bring us to love? What kind of love? And what happens when it goes off the rails? Particularly recommended for anyone who has ever felt that their heart has been replaced by a scar at some point.

**February 4, 2018**

### **Dialogues with a New generation**

A panel of LGBTQIAP+ youth and young adults will share their stories, wisdom, and experiences. We will discuss language, labels, what it means to be young and queer in a rural state, how our faiths and/or lack of faiths impact our queer experience, and how attendees can be better allies to the youth in their lives.

The acronym stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, asexual, pansexual, and anyone else in the queer spectrum of identities.

**March 4, 2018**

### **Body as Temple**

*The poet Jane Kenyon once wrote of "the long struggle to be at home in the body, this difficult friendship." Who of us does not have intimate knowledge of how difficult this friendship can be?*

Using the book Honoring the Body by Stephanie Paulsell, we will explore how to *celebrate the body's pleasures, protect the body's vulnerabilities, and develop the practices that will ultimately transform our troubled relationship with our bodies to one of honor and joy.*

**March 18, 2018**

### **SEXcessful Aging**

Sexual expression is an essential part of our human journey. While sexuality evolves and changes as we age, it is present from birth to death. Our desire for closeness, intimacy and touch is an essential part of our very being.

In this session we will explore sexual health and well being in later life. Guest speakers will join the conversation by bringing specialized knowledge and training to enrich our lives and deepen our sexual experiences throughout the aging process.

**Sponsored by the Pastoral Ministry Team at Unitarian Universalist Community Church.**  
**Please register for this event at [ADMIN@AUGUSTAUU.ORG](mailto:ADMIN@AUGUSTAUU.ORG)**

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

### **Newsletter Submissions**

#### **Submission Deadline for January newsletter December 18th**

Submissions received after this date may not be able to be published.

Please submit all articles as an attachment in a Word document using Arial font size 11. Don't forget to give your article a title and sign it. Send an email to [newsletter@augustauu.org](mailto:newsletter@augustauu.org) with the article as a word attachment! \*\*\*Photos of church activities welcome! \*\*\* You will receive a confirmation e-mail of receipt of your submission.

**Minister:** Reverend Carie Johnsen

**Board President:** Martha Naber

**Sunday Morning RE Coordinator:** Brigid Chapin

**Youth Advisor:** Monique McAuliffe

**Choir Director:** Bridget Convey

Contact information for Committee chairs and other leaders can be found in the UUCS directory or obtained by contacting the Office Administrator.

**Office Administrator:** Lynn Smith

Phone: (207)622-3232 or email: [admin@augustauu.org](mailto:admin@augustauu.org)

Office hours: 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. (Tues, Wed & Thurs)

No office hours: Monday or Friday

#### **Rev. Carie's NEW Office Hours:**

Monday off  
Tuesday 1:00 – 6:00  
Wednesday 2:00 – 6:00  
Thursday Writing Day  
Other times and days available by appointment.

Monday 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. She will return your call as soon as possible