



# The Flaming Chalice

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

**July 2018**

## **Sunday Worship Service at 10:00 A.M.**

**July 1: "Come Sing a Song with Me" Martha Naber**

What hymn do you like to sing? We come to church each Sunday bringing our voices as an instrument. This service will give you an opportunity to choose what hymn you would like to have the congregation sing. If you are willing, please share with us why you chose this hymn. We will get to know a bit about you this way!

**July 8: "Where would we be without gravity?" Peter Mendall Sr.**

More information to come.

**July 15: "Singing around the Old World" Hal Booth**

A hymn-heavy trip around Europe featuring the mostly 'politically incorrect' verses from old hymn-books - things like 'The Italian Hymn', 'The Hungarian Hymn', etc. The words might offend our UU-sensibilities, but it's lovely music.

**July 22: "Poetry Service" The Worship Committee**

Join the Worship Committee for a fun hour of poetry sharing! Please bring a favorite poem to share. We welcome your old favorites and your new originals! I think that I shall never see a community so lovely as UUC!

**July 29: "Art as Spiritual Practice" Karen Allen**

While creative expression and spiritual practice have always been important in my life, I never imagined I would find both in a visual art form. I invite you to hear my story, ponder the complicated relationship of art and religion, and meditate on some visual loveliness.

Announcing  
**October Ministerial Exchange**  
with

The Rev. Alun Dafis  
Brondeifi Community  
A Unitarian Chapel  
Lampeter, Wales



I am so excited to share this opportunity for international connection and relationship with our Welsh Unitarian brothers and sisters. This past winter I sent a note to my colleagues in Wales inquiring about an extended pulpit exchange. One colleague replied, "I'm not sure I can get my six congregations on board for this rich learning experience. Yes, he serves six congregations in roughly a 30 miles radius. Rev. Dafis, on the other hand, thought his Welsh speaking congregation was in a perfect place to explore this ministerial and congregational adventure. And he loves traveling in the States. Fortunately for us, Rev. Dafis is also fluent in English. I, on the other hand, will be stretched to brush up and improve upon my very basic Welsh.

He started his ministry at Brondeifi Chapel in 2016. In just a couple years, has revived the youth program with a Wednesday youth club where the children come straight from school for activity and learning models. They now have a group of about 20 youth with various levels of engagement. He writes:



*Since beginning my ministry at Lampeter, one of my goals has been trying to create a community... I have tried to drop the usual tag of Chapel and even Church and talk about 'Brondeifi Community' instead. And importantly as well, that this community should reach out into the wider community and not look in at itself all the time. We live in a world, unfortunately, where people do not trust or even fear and hate other members of society who speak a different language, look,*

*sound, think or believe differently to themselves. I believe as Unitarians and Universalists we have important work to do in this respect - bringing people together to learn from each other and respect each other. Finding common things and not divisions.*

*I have a deep passion for creating music and that is something I have found very useful in my ministry along the years. Also I have a passion for cooking having run a Thai restaurant for many years, and we regularly have Thai nights at Brondeifi when people from the town are welcome to join us, and have proved to be very popular. I have found that both of these are things which people of any age can have a go at and have fun at the same time! The point is; the more people the church can reach out to in ministry and friendship, the more skills and interests the church will have.*

Here are a few of the logistics:

- Rev. Dafis and I will exchange our homes, vehicles, and pulpits for a period of four weeks. We will serve each other's congregation for 3 weeks and use one week for study or travel.
- Service to the congregation will include preaching three Sundays, creating opportunities for learning and connection between the members and friends of all ages within our host communities as well as across congregations.

- When invited, as time allows, we will participate in the congregational life including attending governance, committee and program meetings as well as group events or conversations.
- We will attend clergy and district events in our host communities.



To learn more about Unitarianism in the UK and Brondeifi Chapel:  
 Brondeifi Chapel <http://ukunitarians.org.uk/swda/brondeifi.htm>  
 South Wales Unitarians <http://www.ukunitarians.org.uk/swda/>  
 Unitarians of Wales <http://www.ukunitarians.org.uk/wales/links.htm>  
 Unitarians of United Kingdom <https://www.unitarian.org.uk>

A group of individuals have agreed to serve on the very-time-limited host committee. This committee will offer Rev. Alun and his wife hospitality in our church and local community, help schedule and coordinate events as well as attend and support events as needed. We will get started with planning in early August. We will plan with Rev. Dafis via email and videoconference. Thank you to all of you that have volunteered for the host committee. For more information, please send me an email at [minister@augustauu.org](mailto:minister@augustauu.org) or call me at 508-221-5295 or 207-623-3663.

In faith,

Rev. Carie

**Save The Date**

***The 2018 fall Leadership Retreat***  
 will be held on: **Saturday September 15th from 9 am to 3 pm.**

**Please join us for a thoughtful day of discussion on how we "do church": the discernment of our shared ministry and sustainability. We welcome all members for this retreat!**

## UUCC Presidents Message

### Welcome to Summer!

As we begin a new season, one full of warmer weather, family outings and enjoyment of what our great state of Maine provides for us, we are reminded of the many changes that are happening just before our eyes. We have just finished a long, dark winter and cooler spring and have witnessed the greening of the trees and blooming of the flowers, along with all of nature waking up. Our church family has also had many changes, one of them being me as the new board president.

For those of you who may not have had the opportunity to meet me or know me well, I want to introduce myself. My name is Jill Watson. My day job is a special education teacher at Maranacook Community High School, where I've been for the past 16 years. I have two very interesting cats, Bella & Annie, who I adopted from the shelter and who are very shy, so if you visit, you probably will not see them. I have been a part of our church community for the past ten years, serving on the board of trustees several times, most recently as your vice-president the past two years. I look forward to serving you as your president.

One of the tasks of our congregation will be to explore how we are going to do church in the future and where we are headed. We are looking for individuals to serve on a discernment team who can commit to meeting 1-2x a month, along with a retreat date this summer to start this challenging and vital work to move our church forward. If you would like to know more about this team or would like to be on it, please send me an email or call me at [jillwatson223@gmail.com](mailto:jillwatson223@gmail.com) or 623-4537.

Mark your calendars! We will also be having our annual leadership retreat on Saturday, Sept 15 from 9am-3pm in Fellowship Hall. Please join us for a thoughtful day of discussion on how we "do church": the discernment of our shared ministry and sustainability. We welcome all members for this retreat!

I hope you enjoy the summer and thank you for your dedication and support of our church. If the summer finds you away from home, we look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Peace

Jill

## Charge to congregation

**25th Anniversary of UUCC -- June 10, 2018**     *Joe Sullivan, New England Region UUA*

Before getting to my charge I offer you in greetings, gratitude, and congratulations the love of our Unitarian Universalist Association and your sister congregations of our UUA.

What an honor present to a rich faith heritage that you claim and that claims you.

On our UUA New England Region staff team we say that the purpose of a UU congregation is to call it is to bring the charge to you on this glorious occasion! This special service celebrates your living legacy of Unitarianism, Universalism, and Unitarian Universalism here in Augusta. My charge is to equip people to apply their unique gifts in service of a loving and just world -- in other words, to call and equip spiritual leadership. We see spiritual leadership not as a role or position, but as an orientation and practice to which *everyone* is called.

Central to this sense of purpose is the universal truth that each and every person is a gift and gifted; that every person's soul yearns for their gifts to be affirmed, received, and celebrated; for their gifts to be honed and delivered in service of collective liberation and wellbeing.

Which brings me to my first and foremost charge for you -- Attend to People over Programs. Pay attention to people. Sharpen a practice of curiosity about people -- who they are, how they are, where they are, what they yearn for. Rather than attach your loyalties to a program and seek to enroll others in it, attach your loyalties to people, where they are, and bend your programs to meet them. See that every ministry and every aspect of this congregation's life offers opportunities to affirm, receive, send forth, and celebrate the spiritual gifts of the people you touch.

Programs will and should come and go. Eternal are the yearnings of gifted souls.

My 2nd charge to you is to make Discernment and its product Faithful Risking the collective spiritual practice of this community. Rev. Cary has clearly named how norms of congregational life that most of us were raised with seem no longer relevant. People are no longer interested in the traditional ways of membership. We don't know the answers. What we do know is that gifted souls yearn for wholeness, connection, and liberation.

Discernment is the vital community practice that allows us to sit with unknowing, and to apply values and mission to circumstances and choices; to allow heart and spirit, not just head, to inform action.

Discernment produces Faithful risking -- reasoned and spirit-inspired "*leaps of faith*" whereby we take steps grounded in core values and mission with no guarantee of success, but fully committed to observe, learn, and adapt. I offer this 2nd charge aware that this service is celebrating a congregation with a legacy of faithful risking. In fact I use this congregation as an example of one that takes faithful risks.

My 3rd and final charge for you is don't go it alone. I offer this charge as a representative of your wider connections in this faith; as an embodiment of our faith's covenant that bespeaks a promise of mutual trust and support among the congregations of our UUA. The mutuality that brought together All Souls Church and Winthrop Street Church into Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Augusta was born of the same covenant that links you in faithful enterprise to your sister congregations throughout Maine and beyond.

You exist also in a city rich in potential interfaith and community partners. As you discern mission-directed action and practice faithful risking invite others to bear witness, offer counsel, and claim their solidarity with you. In turn offer your counsel, support, and solidarity to them.

So, upon this milestone celebration, my 3-part charge for you: Attend to People not Programs make Discernment and its product Faithful Risking the ongoing collective spiritual practice of this community don't go it alone

Congratulations and blessings on your shared ministry.

*Joe Sullivan, New England Region UUA*

## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

**ASKING OUR UU COMMUNITY FOR ANY AND ALL SUGGESTIONS FOR SOCIAL ACTIVITIES NEXT YEAR.**

Music,  
An author, book, talk,  
An old movie or a new movie,  
Circle Suppers,  
Anything else????

Please email [cherylclukey5@yahoo.com](mailto:cherylclukey5@yahoo.com) with your suggestions

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Cheryl Clukey

## GODDESS/EARTH CIRCLES—

Join us for Summer Connections on July 22 and August 26, 11:30am until about 1pm. This time is for sharing, along with readings for goddess and earth circles reflections.

In September we will return to 12:15 – 2:00 p.m. as dual worship services return. Looking ahead, the gathering on **September 23** will be “Women Claiming Wisdom” from life experiences, and an invitation to participate in the ancient ritual of croning. **October 28** will be the Wisdom Luncheon in recognition of Samhain. This includes croning and sharing wisdom. Look for more information in the next newsletters.

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





## **2018-19 - Soul Matters Themes**

**What does it mean to be a people of...**

### **September**

**Vision:** The practice of intentional imagination

### **October**

**Sanctuary:** The practice of finding sacred space within & ensuring welcoming space for all

### **November**

**Memory:** The practice of honest remembrance & honoring the shoulders on which we stand

### **December**

**Mystery:** The practice of embracing life with humility and awe

### **January**

**Possibility:** The practice of personal unfolding and prophetic vision

### **February**

**Trust:** The practice of commitment and faith in a love that won't let us go

### **March**

**Journey:** The practice of pilgrimage, courageous growth and patient change

### **April**

**Wholeness:** The practice of repairing what is broken and knowing we are enough

### **May**

**Curiosity:** The practice of moving from fear to open-heartedness

### **June**

**Beauty:** The practice of savoring life's gifts

## Winter Wonderland Church Fair 2018 Update and Requests

Thank you to all of you who are knitting, crocheting, crafting, and collecting items for the church fair Dec. 1, 2018. The monthly craft group has collected items, cleaned and organized much donated jewelry, and looked ahead to the fair.

In August the fair work group/craft group will be working on holiday decorations and tree ornaments. Join us at the Craft Circle on August 22 in Fellowship Hall from 2-4 PM to have fun and create fair items.

The Winter Wonderland Fair co-chairs, Nancy Fritz, Nan Bell, and Martha Naber are looking for volunteers to work with them to organize the following fair tables:

- Candy and sweet treats
- Cookie Walk
- Fresh greens and wreaths
- Knitted and crocheted hats, mittens, other items
- Cards and paper gift items
- Homemade soups to go
- The Café

We are excited about the fair and hope it becomes a great success!

Contact Nancy at [nfritz@roadrunner.com](mailto:nfritz@roadrunner.com) or Martha at [naber@gwi.net](mailto:naber@gwi.net) to volunteer! Thank you.

## Craft time at UUCC

The craft group will not meet in July, but will reconvene on August 22 from 2-4 in Fellowship Hall to work on holiday decorations and tree ornaments for the church fair. All are welcome to come chat together as we work on our projects. Bring your knitting, crocheting, sewing, whatever you are interested in doing! See you there.

For more information, contact Martha Naber [naber@gwi.net](mailto:naber@gwi.net) or 887-1104 or Jean Sizelove at [mesizelove@roadrunner.com](mailto:mesizelove@roadrunner.com) or 623-5096.

## Landscape Photos for Sale

Our dear friend, Craig Wratten, was a professional photographer in his retirement years. He taught himself how to mat the photos and to build the frames as well. He died from ALS in October 2017 leaving many photos ready for sale. His widow, Ardeene, has generously donated ten of these to our church to sell to support fundraising for UUCC. Ardeene will be present on Sunday July 22 to have conversations with anyone about Craig's work. At the coffee fellowship on July 22, we will bring the photos for you to view, and on July 29 we will accept bids for their purchase. 100% of the sales will go to UUCC. If you would like to know more about Craig, his obituary can be found at Legacy.com (Skowhegan). If you have questions, please contact Martha and Don Naber at [naber@gwi.net](mailto:naber@gwi.net) or 207-887-1104.



1st Saturday Community Supper of Augusta June 2018

Jenny Mckendry

One June 2nd Carlene Kaler and Keith Priest led the community supper with a hard working crew. Keith and Earl grilled outdoors in the fresh air. Thank you to volunteers from Emmanuel, Episcopal and Lutheran church, the Unitarian-Universalist Community Church and unaffiliated people. They included Carlene Kaler, Gene Kaler, Keith Priest, Tracy McNaughton, Susan Parks, Ida Gammon and the Jorgenson family.

Thanks to Carlene and Keith I was able to get away to attend my niece's graduation.

The menu was grilled chicken, pasta salad with veggies and baked goods donated by Panera bread. The main dish was grilled on a big grill that was donated about 10 years ago, by the former leaders of the St. Mark's supper.

Next month, in anticipation of hot weather, we plan to make bag lunches.

Happy Spring....almost Summer!

**Note regarding: UU singer, composer, musician emeritus Ysaye M. Barnwell, Phd**

by Jenny Mckendry

On Saturday June 16th, I attended and very much enjoyed Ysaye Barnwell and her workshop (see below). Her musicality, knowledge, leadership, patience and humor made **"Building a Vocal Community"** something that I'll return to ASAP. My mother, Helen Mckendry bought and played Ysaye's records back in the '70's, when she burst on the music scene as leader of the band **Sweet Honey in the Rock**.

Next time she comes (A good bet, since she's led this program in Brunswick 3 times in the last 4-5 yrs.) I would highly encourage our choir and all music loving UU's and others to attend; it might be the last opportunity. A young teacher in the group began a good discussion about cultural appropriation of music, especially this music, which was helpful for me.

**Building a vocal community: Singing in the African American tradition**

Sat (June 16<sup>th</sup>), 10am – 4pm, From the UUChurch of Brunswick newsletter:

"One of the most energetic and beloved workshop leaders ever to come to Brunswick, Dr. Ysaye Barnwell will envelop you in the joy of community through the music of the African-American vocal tradition, including calls and chants, spirituals, ring shouts, hymns, gospels, songs of the Civil Rights Movement, and songs of contemporary struggle. Mostly you will sing, but Ysaye also will bring her deep knowledge of the African-American tradition to discussions about the songs' historical, social, and political contexts. She will introduce you to the values embedded in the music, the role of cultural and spiritual traditions and rituals, ways in which leadership emerges and can be shared, and the nature of cultural response to political struggle."

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Augusta, Maine 04332-0008***

### **Newsletter Submissions**

#### **Submission Deadline for August newsletter July 16th**

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:** Jill Watson

**RE Coordinator:** Monique McAuliffe

**Choir Director:** Bridget Convey

Contact information for Committee chairs and other leaders can be found in the UUCC 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 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.