



The Flaming Chalice

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

April 2010

Worship Services

Sundays at 9:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

April 4th

Easter Sunday

Rev. Carie Johnsen

Rebirth is in the air. Spring has sprung. The peepers are peeping. And, Christ has risen. May this Unitarian Universalist Easter Service feed your spirit.

April 11th

Creating Worship... above and beyond the pulpit.

Rev. Carie Johnsen
& Rev. Judith Campbell

This service will be developed during the Saturday workshop. Members of the workshop will bring their vision of liberal religious worship that celebrates being UU outside the box and deep within the heart.

April 18th

Earth Day Celebration

Rev. Carie Johnsen

The 40th Anniversary of Earth day is April 22nd. This multimedia worship will celebrate earth and our seventh principle—*The interdependent web of all existence*.

April 25th

*Defending Poor People Charged with Crimes
A Universalist Journey.*

John Pelletier

John Pelletier will explore the role of faith and Universalist principles in the work of a criminal defense lawyer.

Minister: Rev. Carie Johnsen

President: Debbie Mattson

Director of Religious Exploration: Karen Fisk

Administrator: Julie Pelletier

Choir Director: Douglas Barley

Small Group Ministry coordinator: Kathy Kellison

Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday, 8 am-4 pm

Saturday 8 am-12 pm

Office: (207)622-3232, admin@augustauu.org

Minister's Study: (207)623-3663(office), (508)221-5296(Cell) and
(207)395-8051(home - effective 2/24/10)
revcariejohansen@gmail.com

<http://www.augustauu.org>

Minister's Hours: Monday 11 am - 4pm

Tuesday 1pm - 6pm

2nd & 4th Wednesdays 11am - 4pm

(Call to confirm availability)

Next newsletter deadline is **April 19th**. Please submit newsletter articles by email to
Julie Pelletier, UUCC Church Administrator at admin@augustauu.org

A Faith Journey...

Unitarian Universalist Community Church is about to enter into a historic moment. On April 25, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. at the South Parish Congregation Church (our sanctuary is too small) this congregation will install their first minister. The installation committee has chosen the theme *Joy Rising*. This theme aptly portrays what I see happening in this community.

Just as a congregation freely calls it minister, an installation naturally follows. This tradition of installing a minister into the church is a long held custom that celebrates a congregation's right to call a minister of their own choosing and the right of a minister to accept a call to a congregation of their own choosing. The installation service recognizes that a minister is settled into a new church. On this day the congregation and the minister exchange promises that express a spiritual contract which highlights the bonds between a minister and a society.

The act of installation is performed by members of the congregation. This event is ceremonial and celebratory. The connection between the church and minister to the wider community is observed as members of the diverse religious groups bring greetings to the congregation and minister. This service will skillfully blend exuberance with long held traditions and ceremony to create a celebration worthy of this moment.

As the minister I covenant to be the religious leader but I am not the religious life for this community. That requires a "we". Therefore, this service is also a rejoicing and blessing of a new ministry. A ministry we all share and hold together. Our covenant is based on trust and caring for one another and it is based on our commitment to share the responsibility of bringing a healthy, vital, dynamic and engaged ministry to the members and friends of UUCC, the greater Augusta neighborhood and the global community. During the service a blessing of our shared ministry will highlight the relationship between the minister and staff and spread out into the congregation.

This service of installation celebrates who we are, where we have come from and where we are going together. It is an installation of a Minister in a vision of shared ministry.

This service of installation will celebrate the joy of our ministry together. I hope you come and experience the Joy Rising.

Minister and Membership Tea Sunday April 18th 12:15 p.m.

Are you thinking about signing the Membership Book? Here is your opportunity to visit with your minister, meet members of the membership committee, ask questions and enjoy the company of others in search of or questioning a commitment to a religious community. Please RSVP to Julie Pelletier, Administrator at 622-3232 or admin@augustauu.org



Into the Lengthening Light

As sunlight grows and days lengthen, as the earth seems to stir and come alive, we too may feel a stirring within. Come explore whether, where and how light may be emerging in your life. What is your heart's deepest desire and how might the lengthening light illumine your way for you? In what ways might this movement of the natural world invite us into deeper relationship with the sacred?

Led by Rev. Karen Lewis Foley

Unitarian Universalist minister, spiritual director, retreat leader, writer. Karen has completed the Shalem's Institute's programs in Spiritual Guidance and in Retreat and Group Leadership

April 30-May 1, 2010 Friday 7:00 pm – Saturday 4:00 pm
Living Water Spiritual Center, Winslow, Maine

info@retreatinmaine.com 207-872-2370

\$85 fee includes breakfast and lunch on Saturday.

Reservations accepted through April 16.

The Board of Trustees is considering whether or not to designate the grounds of our church as no smoking. We will discuss and decide this at the April 12 Board Meeting. If you have strong feelings one or the other, please email your comments to Juile at admin@augustauu.org or speak to a Board member. Thank you in advance for your considerate contribution to this discussion.

Board Highlights – March 2010

- Approved Committee on Ministry recommendation for a task force to develop a comprehensive Safe Congregations Policy.
- Acknowledged 18 new members.
- Approved funds for treating sanctuary windows with 3M window film or other sun shielding material
- Started discussion of budgetary needs for 2010-2011.
- Heard continuing plans for installation of the ministry of Rev. Carie Johnsen.
- Program Council composed of Committee Chairs is continuing to meet and exchange ideas and information.

Spring Conference & Annual Meeting of the Northern New England District

Friday, April 30, 2010, and
Saturday, May 1, 2010

Red Jacket Inn, North Conway, NH
Getting Unstuck:
Nurturing Relational Curiosity

This is a great opportunity to meet other UU's in the District. If you would like to attend, please contact Helen Zidowecki or Carie Johnsen. Look for more information on the bulletin boards or on the district website <http://nued.uua.org/>

Sacred Space

Thank you to all who responded loud and clear to our 'NOTICE' regarding the arrangement of pews in our sacred space. This is what we heard:

- There is a need to create a more versatile space in our sanctuary.
- The red chairs obstruct the view because they are higher than the pews.
- The pews are more comfortable than the red chairs.

We appreciate your willingness to share your thoughts and feelings regarding our sacred space. We realize more discussion needs to take place around this issue before any physical changes are made. We plan to review this at a later date.

Share the Plate The generosity of this congregation is remarkable. May our giving be contagious!

Oct	Unitarian Universalist Association	\$ 651.00	
Nov	Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (\$617)		
	Guest at your Table Boxes (\$625)	\$1,242.00	
Dec	Family Violence Project	\$ 551.00	plus numerous gifts for two families
	Bread of Life	\$ 520.00	
Jan	UUSC – UUA Haiti Relief Fund	\$1,921.09	
Feb	Angel Food Network	\$1,358.22	
Mar	UUSC – UUA Haiti Relief Fund	\$1,044.25	

Total Giving: \$6,242.31

From the Director of Religious Exploration

When traveling from village to village, the Maasai elders of East Africa have a greeting that translates to, "How are the children?" The greeting suggests that with the welfare of the children goes the welfare of the entire community.

I believe this is true also of our church community. We give our children a place in which they can be themselves, explore their personal spirituality, and hone their understanding of what it means to live in a cooperative community. This is no less true for our youth, who have a variety of opportunities to connect with a better understanding of themselves, each other, and the mystery.

The UUCC is consistently there for our children and youth with funding for their Sunday morning and evening programming. And I very much appreciate that support. This year as always, when you are making your pledge consider "How are the children?" And celebrate with me the statement: "They are doing very well. They are thriving, they are growing in understanding, they are a vital part of a thriving community. Thanks to you and all of us."

This church community is a gift to each and every one of us. Thank you for your generosity in making it so.

Yours in faith, Karen



What's New with the Youth

Preparing for their weekend Peace Jam with Nobel Peace Prize winner Adolpho Perez Esquivel, the youth discussed how they came to decide on their faith-in-action project, which is addressing issues of hunger and poverty. "Haphazardly," one person quipped. "Speak up," I urged. "Haphazardly?" she repeated more loudly.

"Yes," another person said, "and think of what we could do if we really planned! I mean, we could do so much!"

This statement was met by a chorus of "Yeah! We could." So I asked if we should keep meeting after our Peace Jam event, and prepare for making a big difference next year. And the group unanimously, enthusiastically agreed.

Over the course of this year, our faith-in-action youth group called Peace Jam (for senior youth ages 14-18) has focused on issues of hunger and poverty. After some initial research into hunger in Maine, we have prepared dessert every first Saturday for the public supper, served at the Bread of Life Soup Kitchen, and helped with organizing items at the Bread of Life Distribution Center, where newly sheltered formerly homeless folks can go to get essential items like dishes and beds.

The work has been so rewarding, and the folks receiving it so grateful. When we worked at the Soup Kitchen, we were particularly impressed by how well the folks knew each other and cared for each other. There was much warm conversation and checking in by clients. Everyone was so appreciative. The gifts we received that day far outweighed our own time spent.

The Distribution Center also captured our sense of doing right. The items there are donated to those who are moving back into permanent shelter after a period of homelessness. It took one of our youth by surprise that homeless folks wouldn't still have their things. We talked all together about what might happen when someone needs to leave their former home, and the fact that not having stuff is often a necessity. It was a concept that required you to wrap your imagination around in order to begin to understand.

The Peace Jam Youth would like to travel to New Orleans next year and help the recovery efforts there through a Unitarian Universalist Service Committee program. They would also like to explore working on hunger and poverty issues in Maine through legislative efforts, in hopes of some long-term, systemic changes. We plan to invite community activists to help us focus and plan. The energy is powerful. It will be good to see what results from these motivated and caring young people

On Mother's Day, a traditional day of peace, Peace Jam will provide a multi-generational service for our church. Please join us and hear the energy and power of faith in action.

Yours in faith, Karen

ADULT RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



GODDESS CONTINUING 12:15-2:15pm, Annex

April 4 Easter We will be celebrating the Rebirth of the season with a focus on Oestera. Bring the symbols of the season.

April 18 Beltane. We will be considering the meaning of Beltane and how to celebrate it in this the church community on May 2.

DIALOGUES: Unitarian Christianity

April 15 6:30-8:00pm This historic sermon by William Ellery Channing provided a base for our Unitarian Universalist focus today. The first session was in February, and this second part was moved to after the end of BYOT. Please join us to consider Moral Perfection of God (including original sin and selective salvation), Mediation of Christ and the purpose of his mission, and the Christian virtue or true holiness. *We will have an overview of the first session for those who were not there.* Copies of the sermon are available on the bulletin board in the hallway.

CONTINUING THE WELCOME has been focusing on Ageism. The first program was Looking at Later Life with Elders in February, continued in the discussion of Elders and Carie in March. The Monday Evening session on Ageism on March 15 was focused on all ages: the unique gifts and challenges and needs to be considered in enhancing the welcome to each of the various age groups in our lifespan congregation. Because it was mostly older adults and elders who attended, we continued the discussion and compiling some specific considerations, such as:

- Opportunity for older adults and elders *and their families* to discuss and plan for later and end of life issues. This includes group activities (such as Small Group Ministry) as well as time with the minister.
- Transportation to events, and timing of events.
- Ways to keep connected with the church community as ability to participate as fully declines. This includes visiting and contacts.
- Awareness of inclusion of older adults and elders is ongoing.

More ideas and suggestions will be coming.

During the month of April, Marty Soule will be taking photos of new members who have not yet had their photos taken, adding them to our new members posters. If you would like to have your photo taken, please let Marty know. We ask that you write a small statement to be included with your photo on what you would say when meeting someone for the first time. Thank you!



Every UUC member & friend is invited to attend:

"Creating Worship...Above and Beyond the Pulpit"

Exploring ways to create liberal religious worship services and celebrate being ourselves as UUs...outside the box and deep within your heart.

Workshop led by Rev. Dr. Judith Campbell
Saturday, April 10, 2010
9:30-4:00 p.m.

The Worship Committee is currently forming the summer lay-led worship schedule. We would like to walk the path together with you, supporting each other in creating rich, meaningful services. Together, we will:

- look deeply at what makes worship, "worship".
- consider what passions/interests might lend themselves to exploration in worship.
- learn how to weave a service together.

This workshop is designed to help lay leaders find their worship voice and prepare for summer service. If you have led summer worship, if you want to lead a summer service, if you have participated in summer service, if you have ever imagined being part of a summer service, if you just want to have fun and explore your creative writing skills alongside creative worship then this workshop is for you!

We want to create worship with you! Please RSVP to Julie at admin@augustauu.org

COMMUNITY NEWS



Installation of Rev. Carie J. Johnsen

What's that sound? It's the sound of JOY RISING!-- from the Fellowship Hall, the Sanctuary, the RE space, even in our yard-it is everywhere you find our church community. It is the sound of celebration of a new ministry--a shared ministry-- which has come to Augusta UUCC. Please join us and lift your voices and your hearts as we install the Reverend Carie Johnsen on Sunday, April 25th at 3:00 pm. Please note that due to the expected size of this event, we are holding it at South Parish Congregational Church in Augusta. This joyful occasion will be followed by a Reception with light refreshments (please see Jan House's request elsewhere in this newsletter). Childcare will be available for children 6 and under, but you must contact the church ahead of time if you need to take advantage of this offer so that we may make appropriate arrangements. (Childcare will be at South Parish) This promises to be quite an event, one that UUCC has never done before, so don't miss it! Questions? Contact Installation Committee Chair Linda Findlay at 377-8028.



Bring the world to your home!!



Like UUs AFS has a goal to make the world more accepting and peaceful. AFS promotes its goal by bringing exchange students from all over the world to stay with families like yours. You and your new son or daughter learn about a new culture and work on accepting the differences giving all of you a personal experience celebrating diversity. AFS students are generally 16-18 years old, attend local high schools and stay from August to June. Good host families need only be loving, accepting and flexible. Many host families find that hosting tremendously enriches their lives. If you are interested in hosting or want more information on this opportunity, contact Larry or Stephanie Ralph at 626-0779 or LarryR.AFS@gmail.com

Social Activities Committee Invites you to "Games Night" Friday, March 27th ~ 7-9pm

Move away from your computer and video games and come play some board and card games with us!

Scrabble, Cribbage and Backgammon will be ready for willing players. Do you have another game in mind? Bring it along!! Come play with us and create fellowship by playing games!

Beverages and cookies will be served!

Call or email Stef Barley(623-2824 or stefbarley@myfairpoint.net) or Cheryl Clukey(441-0337 or cheryl-clukey@myfairpoint.net)

Quotes from the WAYSIDE

The Place whereon thou standest is holy ground. Exodus 3:5

Grass is the forgiveness of nature – her constant benediction.
John Ingalls

Spring has returned. The earth is like a child that knows poems. Rainer Maria Rilke



LGBT Civil Rights March May 30th, 2010

Parades, pickets, demonstrations, marches, rallies, protests. No matter what they are called, perhaps the single most powerful, peaceful way to bring about social change is for people to stand together publicly on behalf of an important cause. Maine is going to get its own chance to make history and to stand for equality. **Sunday, May 30th, in Augusta, there will be an LGBT Civil Rights March and Rally.** This march is a show of support in the painful aftermath of the loss of marriage equality last November.

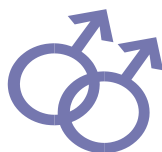


The upcoming primary in June and the November election are critical times to support equality minded legislators. This march might just be the turning point to elect pro LGBT candidates and to encourage previously tentative legislators to take a stand for equality, knowing they have the support of thousands of Maine citizens.

Various cities throughout Maine will be holding local events. For instance there will be a memorial service at the Charlie Howard Memorial Bridge in Bangor and bicycle 'convoys' from Bangor and Portland. There are two marches that will take place in Augusta; one starting from Hallowell and one from the grounds of Riverside Psychiatric Center. They will meet in Capital Park.

Our nation prides itself on 'liberty and justice for all' and 'equal treatment under the law'. Historically, many groups (blacks, women, Native Americans and now gay people) have to endure pain and prejudice in their struggle for equality and acceptance in the community before they are finally granted the rights guaranteed to them under the Constitution.

Tom Waddell brought to my attention a quote:



"All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident." Arthur Schopenhauer, German philosopher (1788 – 1860).

Equality for the LGBT community is now in the second stage of being violently opposed. As UU's we need to take a stand upholding our belief of dignity and worth for all people.

This week we are setting up an Augusta-based *Host and Planning Committee*. Tom and I will be heading up the UUCC activities related to the March and Rally. If you would like to be part of this, please speak to one of us. We are planning on having a pot luck dinner on Saturday night for the out-of-towners.

And speaking of the folks from 'away', they will need places to stay. If you are willing to host someone in your home that weekend, please let either Tom or me know. From what the national organizers are saying, there will be a sizeable influx of youth who would have no problems sleeping in a sleeping bag on someone's floor. Please stay tuned for further information. And please plan to join us for the march in May.

In Faith, Maggie Ricker

Peaceful Heart Sangha

Practicing meditation in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh at UUC
Every Monday & Wednesday 6:30 – 8 PM

ALL INVITED

Chairs available. Bring a cushion if you prefer to sit on the floor.

First Mondays 5:30 – 6:15 ~ Meditation practices for children & adults
6:15 – 8:15 ~ Childcare available
Third Mondays 5:30 – 6:15 ~ Introduction to meditation
Fourth Mondays 5:30 – 6:15 ~ 14 Mindfulness Trainings

“The ocean of suffering is immense, but if you turn around you can see the shore. The seed of suffering in you may be strong, but don’t wait until you have no more suffering before you allow yourself to be happy. When one tree in the garden is sick, you have to care for it. But don’t overlook all the healthy trees. Even while you have pain in your heart, you can enjoy the many wonders of life - the beautiful sunset, the smile of a child, the many flowers and trees.”
“Please don’t be imprisoned by your suffering.”

Thich Nhat Hanh
The Heart of the Buddha’s Teaching



A Day of Mindfulness led by the Monks, Nuns, Monastic Dharma Teachers of Thich Nhat Hanh Their first visit to Maine this century

Saturday, March 27, 9:00 – 4:30

Where: Unitarian Universalist Community Church, 69 Winthrop St. Augusta, Maine. Directions: <http://www.augustauu.org/visitors-welcome/> or call 207-622-3232

Our Day: will include a Dharma Talk, Sitting and Walking Meditation, Deep Relaxation, Dharma Sharing, & a Vegetarian Pot Luck Lunch.

Children: are welcome, if supervised by adults. Children 6 and older will have special activities planned for 1½ hours in the morning and in the afternoon.

Cost: \$25 Registration fee - checks made payable to UBC (United Buddhist Church) to cover Monastic travel costs. You will also have an opportunity to contribute support to the community at Blue Cliff Monastery.

Registration: Greg Fahy gregory.fahy@maine.edu, (207) 622-7012.

No one will be turned away for lack of funds.

Please bring:

- a room temperature vegetarian contribution such as fruit, salad, crackers, bread, spreads. (Soup will be provided.)
- a cushion/bench if you prefer to sit on the floor. Chairs/pews provided.
- Blanket/warm shawl for deep relaxation.

Outer wear for outdoor walking meditation - regardless of weather

Beginners/Everyone is Welcome.

Sponsored by the Peaceful Heart Sangha which meets every Monday & Wednesday 6:30 - 8 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Community Church, 69 Winthrop St., Augusta, Maine

Questions: Marty Soule martysoule@gmail.com, (207) 685-9270

Don't have enough time to join us for the Day of Mindfulness?

**Mindful Pot Luck Dessert and Monastic Conversation
Friday, March 26th—6:30—8:30pm**

HISTORY COMMITTEE OPENS THE NEW HISTORY ROOM

Sunday, **March 28**, after the first service, Annex (white house next to church on Summer Street)

*Light refreshments, with our china cups and music by Bill Goldberg. Come and see our Projects

*Congregational timelines: Beginnings, converging, going forward

*Bringing things that you might have from the Unitarian and Universalist congregations in Augusta to show us and/or contribute to our history collections.

*The History Committee looks forward to greeting you! (John and Ruth Butts, Helen McKendry, Heide Munro, Helen and Krista Zidowecki)

Elders Lunches

April 11, Noon-1pm, Fellowship Hall

Dan Sorenson (685-3681, sokarldan@roadrunner.com)

*Informal conversation and connections.

***"Elder" is self-defined. *Lunches are delicious!

Looking at Later Life - Gifts, Challenges, Celebrations in the Wisdom Years

After Elder Lunch

April 11, 1-2pm, Sanctuary

April 11 Legalities and Legacies, Sally W. Wagley, Esq. Sally has been a lawyer for 25 years, has worked in the field of law and aging since 1987 (for nonprofits and the government), and has been in private practice in Winthrop for the last 12 years. Consider things that help assure that our wishes are followed, such as wills and directives, and current laws and practices.

NOTE: These programs are for all ages, including families.

NON-VIOLENT COMMUNICATION

OPEN GROUP ~ 1st & 3rd FRIDAYS

10am-noon, Fellowship Hall, starting April 2, 2010

If you have participated in NVC practice groups previously, have taken NVC training, or are interested in learning about NVC, consider participating. If you are interested, or to discuss availability of the books, contact Anne Lunt (all@zwi.net, 623-0427) or Helen Zidowecki (hzmre@hzmre.com, 582-5308).

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

Small Group Ministry has a particular shape at our church. If a group of people meets regularly for a specified amount of time to have a discussion using a prepared format, it is Small Group Ministry. It is pretty clear.

I thought about this recently as I was encouraged to start a Family Ministry Group. When I asked myself what it would look like, I realized once again that 'family' is a complex term as it is used in our church community. I like that about us! I see this Group being composed of adults and children from different households who meet as described above. This Group will offer a different kind of connection from what we find in our current program offerings. Meetings will be structured to include adults and children with the younger ones invited either to join the circle of discussion or enjoy one another's company in a different way. Scheduling the Group would take everyone's degree of being busy into account. It might meet less frequently than other Groups do.

We have had family groups in the past. Even with a span of ten years between the youngest and the oldest, connections among the younger set worked well. I picture a kind of family reunion with cousins coming together! These Groups also offered an opportunity for adults and children from different families to become better acquainted. If this idea appeals to you, I hope you will speak with me.

I also want to celebrate our two newest Groups. We have a new Group on two Tuesdays a month which is off and running despite challenges from the weather in recent weeks, and a Men's Group which had its first meeting on March 1. Both Groups are available for new members. Again, let me know if you are interested.

Small Group Ministry flourishes because of the interest of members of the congregation who want to participate and because so many people come forward to take on support roles for this Ministry. All of us are the richer for the connections nurtured in SGM. I invite you to consider whether there is a place for Small Group Ministry in your life. There certainly is a place for you with us.

Kathy Kellison
Small Group Ministry Coordinator



NOTE for Planning: If you are interested in a program that is being offered but are not able to attend at the planned time, please let Helen know. The program suggestions arise from interest expressed within the congregation and we want to make them accessible.

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

***Our Administrative Office is open:
Mondays and Tuesdays 8 am-4 pm and Saturdays 8 am-12 pm
71 Winthrop Street, Augusta, ME 04330
(207)622-3232***

From the Desk of Rev. Carie Johnsen

New Phone Number at home

Home Study 207-395-8051(effective 2/24/10)

UUCC Ministers Study 207-623-3663

Cell phone 508-221-5295

Revised Office Hours:

Monday 11:00 – 4:00

Tuesday 1:00 – 6:00

2nd & 4th Wednesdays 11:00 – 4:00

Call to confirm availability

"There are no great things, only small things with great love." ~ Mother Teresa