



The Flaming Chalice

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

July 2011

Summer Worship Services

ONE SUNDAY SERVICE AT 10:00 a.m.

(June ~ September)

July 3: *Thanking the Huddled Masses* Dr. Joseph E. Laferriere

Dr. Joseph E. Laferriere seeks to dispel some misinformation about immigrants and immigration.

July 10: *Music and Memories* Dan Sorensen & Annie Nessen Voorhees

July 17: *Spirituality of Emotional Literacy* Terry Lee Cookson

July 24: *Maine: more green and less noise* Annie Reiter

One family's quest for balance.

July 31: *The Grandeur of the Lowly Sentence* Jim McKenna

We'll discuss Milton (and legal) scholar Stanley Fish's new book: *How To Write a Sentence (and How To Read One)*. Fish believes the lowly sentence is crucial to our greatest works of art and endorses John Donne's belief that a sentence is "a little world made cunningly." Attendees can bring their favorite sentences from poems, novels, essays, plays, and even sermons (Donne's greatest writing).

Summer Children's Program

Present to Sept. 4th

Nursery care is available during services for children 4 and under. Please bring children directly to the nursery care room. **Spirit Play** will be available during services for children age 5-12. Children will meet in fellowship hall and go over to the spirit play room on the second floor of 71 Winthrop.

Minister: Rev. Carie Johnsen
President: Sheila Comerford
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
Friday 8 am-12 pm (Summer hours)
Office: (207)622-3232, admin@augustauu.org
Minister's Study: (207)623-3663(office), (508)221-5295(cell) and
(207)395-8051(home)
revcariejohansen@gmail.com
www.augustauu.org

Next newsletter deadline is **July 18th**. Please submit newsletter articles by email to Julie Pelletier, UUCC Church Administrator at admin@augustauu.org

A Faith Journey by Rev. Carie Johnsen...

As a faith community already deep in the joys and bounty of a summer schedule, I offer this reminder: worship happens wherever you are present and aware of the awesomeness of life. It is up to each of us to call forth all that is sacred in each moment in time.

May each of us pause along the way this summer to thoughtfully and mindfully experience the grace of the season. May we be aware of the mystery surrounding us. May we surrender to the moments with wonder, amazement and gratitude. May we surrender over and over again.

And, so without further ado, I say,

Climb up on the ladder,
paint the world a rainbow of colors,
wiggle your toes deep into the warm summer sand.
Get down on your knees
and tend to the garden of your soul.
Yes, indeed, linger over the morning paper
brew a jar of sun tea.
Open up your calendars
already filled with dates
of special times with special people
And new adventures and awaiting discoveries.

The earth is ready for you
to sing and dance upon its shoulder,
to delight and laugh and love in its company.
This world is ready for you to make community,
to create bounty, to bend it toward justice,
to serve its ideals.

This human family is ready for you to be here,
honoring the past,
invigorating our present,
and dreaming our future.

Your journey is your church
here you are home
here you are whole
let the summer begin. ^[1]

In gratitude and faith of all that is UUC, *Rev. Carie Johnsen*

^[1] This poem is generously adapted from a "Call to Worship" by David S. Blanchard, in *Temporary State of Grace*. Skinner House Books: Boston. 1997.

Summer Pastoral Care

June 27th to July 24th

Rev. Carie Johnsen will be away for summer vacation from June 27th to July 24th returning back to the office on Monday, July 25th. The Rev. Helen Zidowecki will be available for Pastoral Care Services during her absence. All pastoral services will be coordinated through Rev. Zidowecki. She can be contacted at 582-5308 or hzmre@hzmre.com. Please contact Helen directly to inform her of a member's illness and/or hospitalization, extended pastoral care needs of a member and the death of a member or friend of the congregation.

Rev. Carie Johnsen Summer Hours:

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| June 27th to July 24th | Rev. Carie will be away on vacation. All pastoral calls will be directed to Rev. Helen Zidowecki. See above note. |
| July 25th to September 4th | Rev. Carie will keep regular office hours on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday. She will be working from her home study on Thursday & Friday. |

Administration Summer Hours:

Monday 8:00 a.m. ~ 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday 8:00 a.m. ~ 4:00 p.m.

Friday 8:00 a.m. ~ 12:00 p.m.

Sunday service information and announcements for the weekly order of service need to be emailed to admin@augustauu.org by 8:00 a.m. on Friday mornings.

From the Director of Religious Exploration ...

Once again my cup overflows. How fortunate am I surrounded by kind, caring, proactive people! How fortunate are we all as part of this dynamic, strong, resilient faith community. Filled with gratitude once more I want to convey my thanks.

When you read this, my family and I will have moved into our new home in western Massachusetts. Hanging on the wall greeting us every day is the astounding quilt you created, which will remind us always of the support and celebration our church extends. Over the fireplace hangs the remarkable photograph of Mt. Katahdin, a reminder not only of the sublime nature of Maine, but also of the many trips up and down that mountain with dear friends and especially the first coming of age youth, many years ago. There will be many other reminders for all of us of your importance in our lives. Those reminders may be memories of past conversations, recall of a specific service that made us smile or cry all within the safe embrace of our community. Mostly, I will think of the children and the youth and wish them well, wish them positive growth, ever-expanding horizons, spiritual sustenance and safety in all forms. When we use the coupons you gave us to explore the eateries of our new town, we will remember you and feel surrounded by the same love we felt when we were there among you — well almost, because the truth is we will very actively miss you. So thank you again for being the congregation you are—and may you always be so.

From this overflowing cup of gratitude, I also want to thank the staff of the UUC. Under our minister's guidance and with equal enthusiasm Julie, Doug, Kathy and I embraced our role as team members, eager to do the very best we all could for the UUC. We have each given our all to our tasks because we care about doing good work for and with good people. Most of all, I think when we met monthly as staff, we felt a part of something powerful, friendly, and united.

Carie led us in this united effort, and exemplified leadership that inspires. She followed through with tasks and represented the whole of the staff with support and respect for our individual talents and collective energy. Carie has proven herself a wonderful, multifaceted leader as ready to meet spiritual-guidance needs as she is administrative and polity-oriented needs. No task seemed unimportant to Carie, especially if it was raised by someone who really wanted (and needed) an answer. She would find the right words, find the system that would make it so, or explain with respect and concern why something could not be so. All of this she has done embracing the entire church while still supporting the individuals who comprise the whole. I am so grateful for Carie.

And so, as you all open your arms to a new DRE, I want to celebrate once again the fact that you exemplify Unitarian Universalism at its very best. For me, you will forever be the root metaphor of our faith, the representation of what it means to be a group of people who love and support one another. You are the embodiment of Beloved Community. Thank you.

Yours in faith always,
Karen



DRE Search Committee ...

The Unitarian Universalist Community Church (UUC) of Augusta Maine is seeking a part-time acting Director of Religious Exploration (DRE) to lead our RE Program for one year. The UUC has 220 members with a vibrant Religious Exploration (RE) program with 100 active participants and many dedicated teachers. The position is 20-24 hours per week with a salary range of \$17,000 - \$20,000; commensurate with experience. Benefits include pension and health care contributions and compensation for professional development expenses. This is a one year position in which the term of employment is for 40 weeks, from the third week in August 2011 through the second Sunday in June 2012. Religious Exploration Credentialing with the Unitarian Universalist Association and (or) experience is highly desirable. The Religious Exploration Director is supervised by the Minister.

Applicants should send a resume and names and contact information of 3 references to the DRE Search Committee listed below by July 11 to admin@augustauu.org . For more information about the UUC of Augusta Maine and our Religious Exploration program, see <http://www.augustauu.org/> or contact Sue Caldwell, member of the UUC at [\(207\) 582-8658](tel:(207)582-8658).

DRE Search Committee
69 Winthrop Street
Augusta, ME 04330-5505

From the Board President ...

Dear Friends:

We have just finished another church year filled with inspiring services, wonderful social events, and successful fundraisers. The Board, staff and church leaders worked diligently to provide responsible stewardship of the churches, finances, building and grounds, children and worshipers-we even ended the year with a budget surplus! Many thanks to all of those who make the church hum with life and give their time, energy and monetary resources. Many thanks as well to our dedicated staff who consistently go well beyond the call of duty each and every day.

Now it is time to take a short summer break from many of our church duties and responsibilities and enjoy the fleeting Maine summer, (although lay lead services are held each week at 10AM and all are more than welcome!) Take care and we'll see you at In-gathering Sunday!

My best,

Sheila Comerford
President, Board of Trustees



Upcoming Events ...

Help Build Homes in Peru ~ Brenda Sawyer and Kit Perry will be leading a team to build houses in Peru with the Fuller Center for Building on Higher Ground. The Fuller Center was founded by the same person who founded Habitat for Humanity and is based on the same principle of "A hand up, not a handout". This is accomplished through no interest, no profit loans to the homeowner who must also volunteer a set number of hours building their own, and others', homes. For more information, go to www.fullercenter.org

The trip will take place Nov 5-16 followed by an optional trip to Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley.

The building site will be in a dry arid climate at a low altitude. The cost of the trip is \$1100 plus airfare and does not include the optional trip to Machu Picchu. No building experience is required and there is always something to do regardless of skill or energy levels. We have friends that are in their 80s and still building in a new location each year!

For more information, please contact Brenda or Kit at 582-5816 or nicaphile@hotmail.com

Welcoming the Migrant Farmworkers to Augusta! The UCC Immigration Work Group will be welcoming 100 ~ 125 migrant farmworkers expected to arrive the last week of August. These workers are primarily Haitian. They will be working in the local blueberry fields for 4 ~ 6 weeks harvesting the blueberries.

We will be joining Maine Migrant Health Program at their first clinic to deliver welcome bags and invite them to an evening meal at the church sometime during the third week of August.

We need the following culturally appropriate items: River white rice, dried black or kidney beans, chamomile tea, Goya Maria cookies, Granola Bars (simple, not fancy)

Additional items requested for welcome bags include: Toothbrush, toothpaste, soap and wash cloths

Donations can be dropped off in the blue bin located in the coat room during the month of July.

Peaceful Heart Sangha ...

Peaceful Heart Sangha ~ Mindfulness Meditation in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh

Summer 2011 ~ Come join us Mondays at UCC from 6:30 – 8 PM. Beginners welcome anytime.

During the summer we will not have Children's meditation, though we will still offer childcare during meditation on the first Monday of August.

If you are interested in an **introduction to meditation**, please contact Marty, as it will be scheduled depending on interest.

If you are interested in other activities of the sangha, please let us know and you can be added to the sangha mailing list. If you were on the list and no longer receive the mailings, please contact us, as there was a computer issue last year that messed up our records. Thank you.

For more information contact :
peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com or
Martysoule@gmail.com, 685-9270

Faith in Action ...

St. Mark's Essentials Pantry ~ The Augusta UCC will provide free suppers @ St. Mark's Episcopal Church on the 3rd Saturdays in July and August.

This year the meals will be led by:

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| July ~ | Maggie Ricker and her daughter |
| August ~ | Annie Reiter, Mike Conley, Tonia and Ruslan |

St. Mark's and an Episcopal church on the East side of the Kennebec take turns serving at St. Mark's, on the 1st Saturday of each month through the church or school year. St. Mark's is part of Augusta Angel Food Network, a group of churches that provide free meals at churches around the city. If you are interested in helping or for more information contact Jenny McKendry @ 622-4501. Thank you for your continued support and donations of food, diapers etc which our congregation has generously given. We are in need of diapers once more.

Website Committee ...

THE WEBSITE COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU! The Website Committee has started to work on a new UUCC website. As we do this, we invite your comments and suggestions. We will be setting up a separate website e-mail address, but please send comments to Julie until this is done, at admin@augustauu.org . You are also welcome to send or bring your comments to the church office.

If you are part of the UUCC community:

1. Please list 5 things that you would like to have on the site, in order of priority, with 1 being highest priority. (Note: We may already have some of your items on the current site. That is fine. We want to see what your priorities are as we plan our work.)
2. How might you use the website?

If you are not currently part of the UUCC community, what are you looking for when you search a church website?

We look forward to hearing from you

Website Committee: Helen Zidowecki, Liz Libby, Lauren Mier (webmaster)

History Committee ...

The History Committee will meet the last week of June, with specific times to be scheduled for packing the room for moving temporarily. Buildings and Grounds Committee is planning moving time on the evening of July 6. We look forward to your assistance. We will also need assistance later in July to move items back to the History Room. Contact: Helen Zidowecki (582-5308, hzmre@hzmre.com)

We have had a donation from Don Bell of a framed picture of Hosea Ballou, a prominent early Universalist minister. We have some pictures from the Unitarian side of our heritage, and this is welcome from the Universalist side. Thanks Don!

Church Display Case ...

DISPLAY CASE ~ The current display, Summer Services, is provided by the Summer Worship Committee. Please stop by to view the wonderful display!

We have been delighted by the displays this year and look forward to your exhibits next year. Please contact Helen Zidowecki at: (582-5308, hzmre@hzmre.com) to schedule your display.

Buildings and Grounds ...

Tom and Marilyn are in need of your help to complete the Annex interior before the floors are sanded on July 11th! There is more work than we can do on our own.

There is work for all skill levels, including scraping the window panes, painting trim, skim coating the upstairs hall, removing the downstairs hall rug scraping glue off the kitchen floor and emptying the building for the sander.

Work dates are: 6/28, 6/29, 6/30, 7/5 and 7/6.

We also need help July 6th at 6 pm, to empty out the building for the sanding crew. Please email Marilyn Dunn at maine2007@hotmail.com or call 512-5382 if you can help on any of these dates. Any amount of time will be greatly appreciated!

Fundraising

Are you Clyinking? Money for the church continues to increase in the CLYNK account, and on June 21st the rising total was 98.85.

Watch the church bulletin board this summer for updates. Thank you for contributing your bottles and cans to help the church.

Hannah Faulkner for Terry Cookson's SGM

For more information on fundraising, contact Judy McCown and Bruce Bierce at jsmbierce@myfairpoint.net. Thank you!

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

IMPORTANT... PLEASE READ



The office will be closed on Monday, July 4th in observance of the Fourth of July holiday. We will resume regular office hours on Tuesday, July 5th. Thank you!