



The Flaming Chalice

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

November 2011

Worship Services

Nov 6th

Liberating your Inner Minister

Rev. Carie Johnsen
Small Group Ministry

The theory of shared ministry recognizes that all members of the congregation bring a ministry to each other. The practice of shared ministry is manifest in many ways at UUCC and most especially within small groups of 8 to 10 people who agree to be together in community. This service will celebrate the Small Group Ministry program at UUCC through the sharing of stories—how intimacy and ultimacy emerges in groups. The service will also include a commissioning of group leaders.

Nov 13th

Transgender Justice

Rev. Carie Johnsen
Phyllis Cudmore

November 20th is Transgender Day of Remembrance. We will gather to honor and name those who have died in the past year due to anti-transgender hate and prejudice.

Nov. 20th

Harvest Communion

Rev. Carie Johnsen
Pat Hunter Gardiner

This traditional multigenerational service is a favorite among members and friends at UUCC. Let us gather in joy with beloved community.

Nov 27th

To Be Determined

To Be Determined

Minister: Rev. Carie Johnsen
President: Sheila Comerford
Interim Director of Religious Exploration: Pat Gardiner
Administrator: Julie Pelletier
Choir Director: Douglas Barley
Small Group Ministry Coordinator: Kathy Kellison

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Next newsletter deadline is **November 21st**. Please submit newsletter articles by email, no later than 9:00 a.m. to Julie Pelletier, UUCC Church Administrator at admin@augustauu.org. Thank you!

A Faith Journey by Rev. Carie Johnsen...

On Saturday, October 15th, I joined the growing Occupy Augusta movement at the bottom of the State House stairs to engage in the democratic tradition of bringing the voice of the people (in this case the 99%) to the elected leaders. This growing, nationwide movement fully aligns with our fifth principle *the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large*.

On Monday, I joined over 1500 UU's in signing the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee open Letter of Support for the Occupy Movement.

I stand with people around the country and the world who are calling for economic justice.

My values affirm that each person has inherent worth and dignity; that justice, equity, and compassion should be the guiding principles for human relationships; and that all people deserve access to the democratic process.

My recognition of the inherent worth of every person compels me to speak out against policies that privilege the demands of corporations over the human rights of people. I support the Occupy movement in its affirmation that protecting workers' rights and ensuring that basic human needs are met must take precedence. All people have a fundamental right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of themselves and their families.

I also join the Occupy movement in decrying the wealth disparity that leaves millions struggling for economic security. Policies and legislation that promote economic marginalization are morally unacceptable. Everyone is entitled to a government that recognizes and promotes basic economic rights. Justice, equity, and compassion should be foremost in our government's decision making.

Economic oppression is not only a violation of fundamental human rights, it is also a blow to democracy. When economic power is concentrated in the hands of a few and when corporations are awarded the same status as actual human beings, the democratic process is fundamentally compromised. Basic fairness requires that all people have equal opportunity to participate in political debate and to be represented in government.

I envision a powerful and radically inclusive movement for economic justice. I recognize economic justice as a right that is due to all people, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, language, religion, political or other opinion, immigration status, national or social origin, property, birth, or other status or distinction.

I sign this letter as an expression of gratitude to all who are working for economic justice in the United States and around the world, as an affirmation of my hope for fair and compassionate economic reforms, and as a renewal of my commitment to help make it so.

You too can sign the letter at <http://actnow.uusc.org/site/PageNavigator/occupyopenletter.html>

You too can join the movement at Capital Park in Augusta.

In faith, *Rev Carie*



From the desk of Rev. Carie Johnsen ...

UUA Common Read ~ *The Death of Josseline* Sunday, October 30th 1:00 ~ 2:30 & Monday, January 30th, 6:00 ~ 7:30 *Acts of Faith*, Sunday, November 6th 1:00 ~ 2:30 & Monday, February 6th, 6:00 ~ 7:30
Loaner books are available in the Committee room. Please just check them out by putting your name on the card and placing the card in the basket. Sign up on the Adult Religious Exploration bulletin board in the hall indicating which discussion you would like to attend.

From The Board ...

Hello all!

We have moved smoothly into the church year without too many of the speed bumps and glitches that usually occur in any organization of our size and mission. True, we have a vacancy or two in leadership positions, but who can bat 1000% all the time...(but let's not dwell on the Red Sox record this season, shall we?)

I have some news that I am sure will warm the cockles of many a volunteer's heart at the UUC. Rev. Carie, staff and some of the Board have been working on an Operations Manual to act as the go-to resource when questions about protocol or policy come up, and for all to reference (especially leadership) on the operating guidelines for the UUC. Would you like to know what our policy is on gifts to the church? No problem-just look it up. How about how you get an article into the newsletter? It will all be there! Are you a new chair? Soon you won't have to just rely on the outgoing chair's bulging file of assorted random pieces of paper to show you the ropes of your new volunteer position. I tell you, it's positively enlightened!

The new Manual is indicative of a new era in our church's existence. We are slowly but surely moving from a small organization where there was a heavy reliance on the pastor and a few volunteers to determine the church's policy and direction to a "Program Church" where the governing system becomes more complex and involves more of the church's members. One more step in our spiritual journey together...

Have any ideas that you are burning to share? Let me know!

Sincerely,

Sheila Comerford

Live, Laugh, Love

Interim Director of Religious Exploration ...

Happy Fall, everyone!

Driving to Augusta from Lewiston is a pleasure this time of year. While the trees haven't been quite as spectacular as some years I am reminded that every year is unique unto itself and therefore beautiful in its own way.

Don't forget that Sat. Nov. 5 is when we "fall back" and reset our clocks. If you forget, you'll be an hour early for church on Sunday! Don't miss out on that extra hour of sleep.

The RE Committee meets Nov. 6 at 12:30 upstairs at #71 Winthrop.

A reminder while the weather is still nice that during fellowship hour from 10:30 when RE classes end until 11:00 many of the children enjoy playing outside either in the play space behind 71 Winthrop or in the "climbing tree" in front of the Winthrop St. door. We urge you to keep our children safe by keeping track of their whereabouts and activities during this time. Other options are the "game room" beside the coat room, where board games and cards are available, and the low round table at the far end of Fellowship Hall. Parents are responsible for their children during fellowship time.

In our second service, Spirit Play, we have been reading and responding to books (usually picture books) with a message. The Big Orange Splot by Daniel Pinkwater, and The Little Band by James Sage were our first two. One speaks to the value of making your dreams real, celebrating diversity, and standing up for your vision, while the other reminds us that beauty sometimes comes unexpectedly into our lives and we are never the same again. Although the books chosen are usually children's picture books, the messages are universal and for all ages from 5 to 105. On first and third Sundays, Christine Little offers movement and music as an additional option for responding to the story.

For new folks - Most Sundays Religious Exploration begins in Fellowship Hall at 9:15 with Young UU worship; parents are always welcome! Classes follow. Once a month we begin in the sanctuary for Faith in Action before going to our classes. If you are coming to the 11:00 service, we start out in the sanctuary and then depart for Spirit Play (ages 5 and up). Children are always welcome to bring a friend to either of our RE sessions. Be sure to fill out a registration form and get a copy of our RE prospectus, too. There are some in the entry to the annex and in the Chalice Children room.

Movie Nights for Junior and Senior High are back! The rule of thumb is that they'll usually be on the fourth Sunday of the month from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. with pizza and discussion. (Makes me almost wish I was a teenager again!) The October discussion topic was "the choices we make".

Do take time / make time to stop and savor the beauty of this amazing time of year. Walk in the leaves with a child. Sit in the sun and smell the unmistakable aroma of Autumn. Pick up a leaf and marvel at its uniqueness and beauty, and then remember that *you* are unique and beautiful, too!

Namaste,

DRE Pat

***Peace Jam is Coming!!!!!!!!!!
Sunday, November 13th, 3-5 p.m.
Annex Building***

Peace Jam sessions will be held the 2nd Sunday of each month from 3-5 p.m. in the Annex.

Small Group Ministry ...

In my last column I said that Small Group Ministry is a unique aspect of church life. It is. Small Group Ministry is comprised of intentional, lay led groups meeting regularly to deepen and expand connection in our congregation. We speak of the promises of Small Group Ministry. They are Intimacy, Ultimacy and Growth.

Intimacy is the increasing depth of relationship fostered by the groups. It comes from meeting over a significant length of time, through the practice of listening without comment or advice to what others say and to share deeply from your own experience in a setting where you will be heard without judgment or challenge. The purpose of the group is sharing and learning from one another, not debate or discussion. This process results in your knowing both yourself and others better.

Ultimacy refers to the focus of the group discussion on matters of meaning and significance rather than information. What is important is what members of the group think about the big questions of life, not what a philosopher or theologian has said. What matters is the support members of the group give one another as you encounter life experiences. You can talk about them as you come to understand what these events mean to you individually and how you will grow from them. You will change and you will share in the changes of others.

Growth refers both to an internal process and an external one. Reflection will help you clarify your values so you will grow your soul. Listening will help you grow in your understanding of others. Offering support to others will provide the opportunity for you to grow in generosity. As group members grow in generosity it becomes easier to welcome the stranger to the church from the impulse to be generous with the gifts which have been given to you. Over time, the church will grow in many ways from the presence of Small Group Ministry. Certainly it will be easier to assimilate new members, leading to numerical growth. As members grow individually in generosity, the church will find it easier to reach beyond our walls and become more generous with the community and wider world. And will all of this will come a greater sense of well being.

UUCU has become the embodiment of these promises over the years that we have practiced Small Group Ministry. I invite you to consider joining in this wonderful endeavor. Please speak with me if you want to know more.

Kathy Kellison, Small Group Ministry Coordinator

Faith in Action ...

The shelves are bare and the need is growing! Recently, St. Mark's had 140 individuals visit the Everyday Basics Program. Within 15 minutes they were totally out of size 4, 5 and 6 diapers and had to apologize and say we hoped we would have these sizes next time.

You will find a sign-up sheet on our bulletin Board on the left as you enter the Fellowship Hall. Include contact information if you would like a reminder call or e-mail. As stated above, we need sizes 4, 5, and 6. Pull-ups are always appreciated too.

Additional items of immediate need:

toilet paper, bar soap, shampoo, powdered laundry detergent, diaper wipes, feminine hygiene products

Items may be dropped in the coat closet here at UUCU or at St. Mark's. Thank you for your past and future donations!!

Community News

Elder Lunch ~ Won't you join us on Sunday, November 13th (after second service) for our monthly Elder Lunch? We don't check your birth certificate....."elder" is self-defined!

Mark your Calendar! Next elder lunch will be held on Sunday, December 11th. Hope to see you there!

Fundraising ...

The UUCU Third Annual Pie Sale will be held at Longfellow's Greenhouses in Manchester on Saturday, November 19th beginning at 8:30 AM. Our goal is 50 pies to sell. If you can bake one or more pies, please sign the sheet on the Fundraising Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall. We will be collecting and boxing the pies on Friday, November 18th, at the Harvest Feast.

Hannah's Holiday Boutique will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, November 12th from 9AM to 1PM. Donations of re-giftable treasures are welcome. Also, sandwiches and other snacks are needed to sell in the Cafe. Crafters are invited to sell their wares in exchange for a donation to the church. Please make arrangements with Hannah Faulkner.

Harvest Supper ...

Annual Harvest Supper ~ 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Friday, November 18th ~ Fellowship Hall

Come join us for our annual Harvest Supper. Bring your favorite dish to share with friends and loved ones. Great food, great company!

Volunteers are needed for set up and clean up! Contact Cheryl Clukey at 441-0337 for more information or to sign up to volunteer!

Annual Harvest Communion ~ November 20th
Sunday Services ~ 9:15 and 11:00 a.m.

Church Display Case ...

The Display Case in the hallway next to the Sanctuary offers opportunity for Committees and groups within the church to share their programs and activities with the Congregation and Larger Community. An increasing number of people are in the church building throughout the week. *Let them know about your passion for Unitarian Universalism at UUCU!*

The Thursday morning Small Group Ministry has offered to continue coordinating the Displays. Sign up for exhibits of 2 weeks to a month. Contact Helen Zidowecki (582-5308, hzmre@hzmre.com) to schedule your display.

Website Committee ...

Weaving the Web at UUCU! Have you visited www.augustauu.org? The initial stages of the new website was launched on October 1. There are still a number of items that we have ready and are being added gradually. Visit the site now; visit the site often. We appreciate feedback. Contact Website Committee at: website@augustauu.org

Buildings and Grounds ...

Save the date.! The B&G committee will be hosting a luncheon and slide show on Sunday afternoon, Dec 4th, right after second service. All are welcome. Come enjoy a free lunch and watch a short slide show on some of the work that has been done at the church over the past year.



Day Light Savings Time
Sunday, November 6th

Don't forget to change your
clocks

Adult RE ...

Goddess Continuing ~ Join us on Sunday, October 30, 12:15-1:15pm, Fellowship Hall
Celebrating Samhain: Masks for Hiding and Honoring ~ Masks are prevalent in the celebration of Halloween, or the evening before the sacred celebration of life and death. Masks are used to honor the spirits and to hide from them. You are invited to bring masks that you have made, or that have meaning for you.

This is our first Celebration of Holy Days of the Earth Cycle Calendar. Everyone is welcome, including all ages, all genders. Join us for the honoring of the seasons.

Women of Wisdom ~ Goddess Continuing will also be continuing Women of Wisdom, with a focus on Croning. We will hold an open session about celebrating Women of Wisdom, followed by a Croning ceremony. Women of all ages are invited to participate, to be croned themselves and/or to witness the acknowledgement of older women in the congregation.

Engaging the Goddesses through reflection, activities, and rituals. We are considering using Small Group Ministry format as we go deeper in engaging the Goddess on our spiritual journeys. This group is open to older youth, men and women. For more information contact Lorna Doone at: 685-1061 or ldoone@roadrunner.com or Helen Zidowecki at: 582-5308 or hzmre@hzmre.com



Nonviolent Communication ...

Nonviolent Communication seeks to teach us how to:

- ♦ Change patterns of thinking that lead to depression, arguments, anger and violence
- ♦ Resolve conflicts peacefully, whether personal or public, domestic or international
- ♦ Speak in ways more likely to be heard and understood by others
- ♦ Set healthy boundaries and say "No" with strength and compassion
- ♦ Express anger fully, safely and respectfully
- ♦ Translate criticism, judgment, blame and other hard-to-hear messages into feelings and needs

Some basic premises:

- ♦ All actions are attempts to meet needs
- ♦ Human needs are universal - we all have the same needs
- ♦ Feelings result from needs being either met or unmet – when *needs* are met we feel *happy, _pleased*, etc. – when needs are *unmet* we feel *sad, hurt, anxious, scared, angry*, etc.

We are offering two **Practice Groups**.

- ♦ *Introduction to Nonviolent Communication* for those without experience with NVC, but open to anyone, will meet the *second* and *fourth* Wednesdays, 10:30am to 12:30pm.
- ♦ Group that meets on the *first* and *third* Fridays, 10:15 a.m-12:15 p.m is for those who have taken at least Level I training and/or been in a practice group. We encourage people who wish to join the Practice Group to take a training as soon as possible.

For more information contact Helen Wing at: hcra-

*Unitarian Universalist Community Church
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From the Administrator



Reserving a meeting room ~ When in need of a meeting space please be sure to contact the administration office in advance to ensure that space is available. We have many outside groups as well as church groups that meet on a weekly basis. You may request meeting space by contacting the office administrator during regular business hours at 622-3232 or admin@augustauu.org

Pledge Payments ~ When making a pledge payment by check, please write “**pledge**” on the memo section of the check. This will insure that your pledge payment is applied correctly to your yearly contributions.

