



The Flaming Chalice

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

November 2015



Theme;

Ancestry

November 1st Calling our Ancestors Home **Rev. Carie Johnsen**

Rev. Carie Johnsen

All Souls Day, Samhain, Dia de los Muertos... are just a few of the names given by various cultures and religions to honor the dead at this time of the year. This multigenerational service will include rituals to remember and honor loved ones (including our beloved pets) who have died. Please bring mementos and/or pictures of your loved ones to the service.

Unitarian Universalism has deep roots in the Protestant Christian tradition, a history that many contemporary UUs find uncomfortable. Though today we draw from a wide diversity of sources and traditions, including humanism and many alternative spiritualties, we often avoid acknowledging our institutional relationship to the church. What's a twenty-first century heretic to do?

November 15th **Rooted for Justice** **Rev. Carie Johnsen**

Exploring our ancestral story to strengthen our justice ministry and bring home the Parliament of World's Religions.

November 22nd Earth: Teacher, Mother, Divine Rev. Carie Johnsen

This year our annual Harvest Communion will honor the Mother Earth. We will explore together Mother Earth as guide, teacher, muse and divine. Please look for questionnaire in this newsletter to contribute your experiences and thoughts.

November 29th Vocal Justice: A UU Voice Lesson

Annie Nessen Voorhees

How does music do what it does to us? Why do we feel so strongly about the music that touches us? How can we use music to touch others? Join us on a journey of sound and spirit. Let's make some noise together!

A Faith Journey...

by Rev. Carie Johnsen

We can't make religion a scapegoat for the secular sins of the 21st century.
~ Dr. Karen Armstrong

It is time churches put as much time, energy and resources into reconstructing the indigenous culture as they have/do trying to destroy it.
~ Steven Newcomb

*If you have an ego on your heart, you can't love.
If you don't have compassion in your heart, you've done nothing.*
~ Gurbax Singh Gulshan

It doesn't matter who hurts you, surround them in love.
~ Dr. Rangimarie Turuki Rose Pare

*Find the least respectable black person you know, and become their friend.
Then ask them what you should do about racism in America.*
~ Rev. Michael McBride

We need more than allies. We need accomplices.
~ Rev. Jim Wallis

*Where are your wounds? If you have none,
I must ask was there nothing worth fighting for?*
~ Allan Boesak

If you want to turn the world around, you need to turn it upside down. We all got to unify.
~ Ta'Kaiy Blaney

Mass incarceration in US isn't an indictment on one group but an indictment on all.
~ Dr. Rami Nashashibi

Sexism is the first original sin and we've had enough of it.
~ Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb

Let this be the year the Parliament/Women of Faith put corporate dominance on notice.
~ Dr. Vandana Shiva

What you see above are a few of my favorite quotes tweeted from the Parliament of World's Religions: the Global Interfaith Movement. For five days this past month, I walked among 10,000 people of faith from 70 countries representing 50 religions. I traveled with two colleagues from New England. I am told 500 Unitarian Universalists attended this gathering.

Every day, as I entered the convention center, I walked by the sacred fire being tended by the local Ute Nation, the sand mandala being created before our very eyes by Tibetan Buddhist Monks, and the construction of the Derasar (temple) of the Jains; ate Langar (lunch) with the Sikhs; prayed with the indigenous Grandmothers, Pagan Priestesses, Buddhist Monks, Swamis, Rabbis, Pastors, Imams, Chiefs; and listened to global religious leaders inspire the faithful. With a spotlight on women, emerging leaders, economic inequality, climate change and indigenous people, it was hard to pause from a multitude of provocative options to let the body, mind and spirit rest.

I arrived home heartbroken, grieving, and overwhelmed. I arrived home inspired, joyful, and hopeful. I arrived home exhausted!

Parliament was one of those game changers, a watershed moment. I am not the same person, the same minister who walked onto the Great Salt Lake Desert on October 14th. No doubt the magic, mystery and wonder of transformation will reveal itself in the days and months ahead. No doubt my ministry will be guided by those five days I spent quenching my thirst with spiritual sustenance to sustain a ministry that helps and heals and holds the ache and inspires the people to live generously, compassionately and lovingly. May it be so.

In Faith, Rev. Carie

Fundraising News...

EARLY BIRD HOLIDAY FAIR

FLY IN TO OUR EARLY BIRD ALL-CHURCH HOLIDAY FAIR

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2015

8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

CAFE, CHURCH

CRAFT

TABLES WITH

BRAND NEW GIFT ITEMS, OUTSIDE VENDORS, HANNAH'S BOUTIQUE, BOOKS, AND MUCH MORE!!!

**EVERYONE INVITED AND DONATIONS WELCOME! WHAT WILL YOU PROVIDE FOR
OUR FAIR?**



VOLUNTEERS WANTED. SEE THE SIGN-UP SHEETS ON THE FELLOWSHIP HALL BULLETIN BOARD FOR NOVEMBER 13 SET-UP AND NOVEMBER 14 SALE DAY.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact HANNAH AT (207) 293-9377 or hannahuu3@fairpoint.net.

**REMEMBER TO SHOP
EARLY THIS YEAR --GIVE YOUR-
SELF TIME !**

Meet the New Religious Exploration Coordinator...

Questions for the new Religious Exploration Coordinator, Brigid Chapin

Q. Who are you?

I am Brigid Chapin. I'm a student, a sister, a daughter, a reader, a vegan, and a lifelong Unitarian Universalist.

Q. Why are you the RE Coordinator?

When I found myself coming home from Puerto Rico a semester early, I knew that in order to make up for it I would have to find something meaningful to dedicate myself to. I knew I wanted to do something for the church, because Unitarian Universalism was such a comforting thing for me when I was so low. As a lifelong UU, I remember participating in RE when I was younger. My father has spoken openly about how much support he has found in the church, and I know it's had an impact on my sisters as well. There is no better community to be a part of, and I am very grateful that I am able to serve the church and our children in this position!

Q. What are your hopes for UUCC Religious Exploration?

RE should be a safe, inclusive, spiritual place where children and teachers feel like they have the freedom and support to explore their own spirituality and to build a spiritual community. I believe that RE has done a good job of inviting children to learn and discover, and my strongest hope is that it continues to act as this cornerstone of strength and positivity—and that maybe we can put a little of that magic back into our larger communities as well.

If you would like to help RE be the space of growth and discovery that it can be, please consider volunteering as a teacher! We are always looking for interested adults and youth to help in our classrooms, nursery, Spirit Play, and Peace Jam!

Congregational Questions for November 22nd Harvest Communion

It is your turn to help shape the content of Sunday Service. Rev. Carie will weave your thoughts, experiences and inspirations into the Harvest Communion service. Please submit your answers to one or more of the questions by mail, email or drop your response in the offering on Sunday morning.

What do you love about the earth?

How does Mother Earth serve you as guide and teacher?

Share an experience when you were most inspired by this amazing planet.

Capture a time you found yourself humbled and in awe of this astonishing living system.

What earth-centered miracle imparts wisdom in your interdependent relationship?

UNITING FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

As Unitarian Universalists we are called by our principles and history to close the gap between our values and our actions. This call to stay engage in racial justice requires of us a willingness to stay tuned in and informed; ready to take risks and make mistakes; and to be called out on our white privilege that we might do better. Rev. Carie invites you to join her for one or all of the following events:

TURNING TOWARD TRUTH Forging a New Understanding of Thanksgiving

Sunday, November 22, 2015 from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
First Church Christ Science, 6 Williams Street, Augusta
(Behind Fort Western along the Kennebec River)
Sponsored by the Capital Area Multi-faith Association.

Moving beyond turkey, potatoes, cranberries, pie, and pilgrims toward right relationship with the Wabanaki people. Join the religious leaders of Augusta with the retelling of the story of the First Nations and the first immigrants. Awaken the spirit of truth and love as we prepare our hearts and minds for new rituals to recreate the American traditions of thanksgiving. Be a part of a community committed to cultivating hope and taking action toward a new cultural narrative.



Thinking ahead... December racial justice opportunity will be a book discussion group. [Between the World and Me](#) by Ta-Nehisi Coates. #1 New York times Bestseller • National Book Award Finalist • Hailed by Toni Morrison as “required reading,” a bold and personal literary exploration of America’s racial history by “the single best writer on the subject of race in the United States” (*The New York Observer*)

President's Column....

Consider this a call to action.

I've talked frequently about the value of service in any person's life. It's a mainstay of our pillars and principals, central to all of our work with youth, and, generally, good for what ails you. At the end of a night at the St. Marks Supper, my kids come home feeling great. Doing a lay service over the summer – exhausting and harrowing – but extraordinarily fulfilling. Working with buildings and grounds? Working in leadership? Singing in the choir? Greeting on Sunday mornings? Offering help as a pastoral associate? Driving someone to church on Sunday? All are ways for you to be in the community and to serve.

So there's the argument from utility: doing service feels good, and there's no way to deny it. But there's also an argument from necessity: these are services that our community needs to function.

There is any number of opportunities for this sort of thing. Many work though our committees. Others – like the St. Mark's Suppers – have separate leadership. Two that I very specifically want to mention are our Religious Education program, and our Hospitality and Greeting program.

Our Religious Education program runs on volunteer sweat , either from the RE Committee or from the church members who volunteer to teach, drive, host an event or what have you. Our cast of volunteers is small (but mighty!). I would urge any member of the congregation (not just parents) to consider taking a volunteer role with our children or youth. Their capacity to surprise is infinite, and any time spent with our youth engenders respect, and even affection. They are extraordinary. If you are interested in working with our RE Program, I invite you to contact either our RE Coordinator, Brigid Chapin, or Youth Coordinator, Monique McAuliffe. Their information is in the directory.

On another topic, have you noticed how welcoming our church has been this autumn? This is for any number of reasons, of course, but chief among them has been the work of our greeters and hospitality volunteers. Because this service is required every week – two greeters, and at least two for hospitality – the need for help is intense. Some folks have said they'd like to help, but don't know the procedures. We understand, and will offer all the help we can ... including partnering up a veteran volunteer with the neophyte. It's honest work, but not really complicated, and it is appreciated more than you can know. If you are interested in volunteering for Hospitality or Greeting, please contact Hospitality and Greeting Coordinator, Emma Chapin. Her information is also in the directory.

As I say, my friends, **a call to action**. We need you. We need each other. I look forward to doing service alongside you.

Gary Chapin

President

Two Movie Screenings...

"The Penobscot: Ancestral River, Contested Territory"

Sunday, November 8, 2015 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.
PeaceJam Youth will engage dialogue and discussion following the movie.

A Documentary on the "Battle Over Contested Penobscot River Territory". This film chronicles the Penobscot's struggle to maintain their Centuries-long stewardship to ensure a healthy ecosystem for all of Maine, a struggle exemplified by these contemporary legal battles. According to Chief Kirk Francis, the *Penobscot v. Mills* case "is really not about controlling the river system, or controlling individuals within the system. It's really about our ability to manage a subsistence resource that we have a responsibility for, for multiple generations."

"Doctrine of Discovery: Unmasking the Domination Code"

Sunday, November 29, 2015 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.
PeaceJam Youth will engage dialogue and discussion following the movie.

A story of historical truth, spirituality, and resistance, told on behalf of the original nations and peoples of Great Turtle Island, and elsewhere on Mother Earth. We are still here, and still rightfully free.

UU's Praying Class...

UU's Praying Class

Starting in December, the "**UU's Praying**" class will be meeting the **first Sunday of the month**. We will gather on the first floor of Drew House immediately after the second service.

Elder Lunch...

Elder Lunch in November is second Sunday, the 10th, at noon. Plan to relax and socialize with your friends after the second service. Menu always includes breads, salad, entree and dessert. Church elder lunch is not exclusive to Senior Citizens--we have regular attendees in the 40s and 50s too, so please self-select and join us.

Help Wanted! Elder lunch is the second Sunday at noon through May. If you are able to help set up, serve or clean up, it is appreciated. We also are looking for cooks. If you can make an entree (quiche, soup, chili, or casserole) for 8-10 people, cookies, brownies or bars, or contribute the green salad for the meal please contact Marilyn Dunn maine2007@hotmail.com or 512-5382.

Buildings and Grounds...

Building and Grounds Annual Leaf Raking November 14th, 9-noon.

This is a "many hands make light work" event. We rake onto drop cloths and dump into compost bin so there is no bagging! Please bring a rake and gloves if you have them; if you don't, we will provide.

Please mark your calendar and plan to help.



Goddess Continuing/ Earth Circles...

The Women of Wisdom celebration on October 25 honored 15 women who had been “crowned” over the years, as well as 5 women who were recognized as moving into the Women of Wisdom phase of their lives.

The November 29th (noon - 1:30 p.m.) meeting of Goddess/Earth Circles will be an opportunity to view books and information about Goddess and pagan traditions. People are welcome to bring in items for display, and some items are looking for new homes. Join us on this exploration.

November 29th from 1:30 - 2:00 p.m. we will be planning the Winter Solstice Service for the congregation on December 20th. Come with your ideas on how to recognize and celebrate the richness of this time of year.

For more information, contact Helen Zidowecki
(582-5308, hzmre@hzmre.com)

BOOK DISCUSSION

Thursday, November 5 12:30-2:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

If you are ready 'to trade in anger for understanding', this is the book for you. All are welcome to join a discussion of The Righteous Mind by Jonathan Haidt. The subtitle is '*Why Good People Are Divided by Religion and Politics*'. It provides interesting and provocative answers to the question "How can they possibly think that?", whether asked by liberals or conservatives. It is a thought provoking work which will challenge us in many ways.

This is the first of five book discussions to be offered this year. You are welcome to come to any or all of the sessions and there is no need to sign up. June Zellars and Kathy Kellison are hosting the meetings and are hoping for lively conversation. The other books are A Tale for the Time Being by Ruth Ozeki on **January 7th**, Being Mortal by Atul Gawande, on **March 17th**, The Dinner by Herman Koch in April and Buddha's Brain by Rick Hanson, Ph.D. in May.

Small Group Ministry...

The Small Group Ministry Committee is pleased to introduce **Luke Curtis** as the new Small Group Ministry Coordinator. He became a member of UUCC last Spring, and is currently in a SGM group. See the website (Staff) for more information.

Participants in Small Group Ministry are invited to a Pot Luck Dessert on Thursday, November 12th from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. This will be an opportunity to meet and talk with Luke about group activities and SGM vision for the year. For more information, contact Beth Nasberq, UU SGM Committee Chair.



History Committee...

The History Committee meets to the third Thursday of the month, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. in the History Committee and Olsen Room at Drew House.

Do you read the **Wayside Pulpit**? That is the sign on our lawn on the corner of Winthrop and Summer Streets. This was started in 1919 by a Unitarian minister in Massachusetts to bring a liberal message to the wider community. The movement is said to have reached 500 cities on 4 continents. We have a listing of almost 900 sayings that have been used. We have 73 of these panels at UUCC and rotate them periodically.

We are looking for people to help with the selection and posting of the Wayside Pulpit sayings at least monthly.

The History Committee is actively involved in the theme for November: **Ancestry**. There will be items in the Display Case and on the altar for worship relating to the theme.

Please contact Heide Munro at 622-7395, heide.munro@gmail.com if you:

Would like to help with the Wayside Pulpit, or
Have things to include in the display related
Unitarian Universalism ancestry.

The History Committee relies on all of you to contribute items by placing them in the History Committee tray in the Committee Room. We add items to our Members Book each time that we meet to capture our history as we make it!

Seasoned Souls...

Seasoned Souls is a group intended specifically for church members and friends aged 65 and older. For November, we will be meeting on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month in Fellowship Hall to address the various issues associated with aging. On November 4th we will meet at our usual time of 10:30 – noon for our facilitated discussion. However, on Wednesday, **November 18th** we will meet at **10:00 a.m.** to watch the film **"The Book Thief"** together. Both meetings will be in Fellowship Hall.

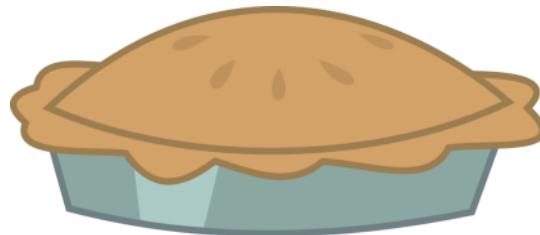
Social Activities...

DIY Storm Window Workshop will take place on Monday, November 9th, At 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

AUTHOR AND STATE REP. GAY GRANT will be with us on Sunday, November 8th, following Elder Lunch, to discuss her book, *"Destination Unknown : An Evacuee's Story"*. The subject of this memoir, Patricia Phillips North, will take part in the program with Grant to discuss her childhood in Great Britain and her evacuation during World War II to escape the Nazi bombs in her hometown of Portsmouth. Please join us for what promises to be an inspiring hour.

HARVEST SUPPER: This annual event will take place on Friday, November 20th, at 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please bring your favorite dish to share.

Unitarian Universalist 7th Annual Harvest Blessing PIE SALE



Saturday, November 21, 2015, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: Longfellow's Greenhouses, 81 Puddledock Road, Manchester, Maine 04351

Pies and Tarts Wanted — Sign up on the Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall

Deliver Pies and Tarts to the Church November 20 during the Harvest Dinner 5-6:30 p.m.

For information call Cheryl A. at 293-2123.

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

Newsletter Submissions

Please submit all articles as an attachment in a Word document using Arial font size 11. Don't forget to give it a title and sign it, and send it as an email newsletter@augustauu.org with the article as an attachment.
Photos of church activities welcome!

Deadline: November 9.

Minister: Rev. Carie Johnsen

President: Gary Chapin

Sunday Morning RE Coordinator: Nicole Danielson
Youth Advisor: Monique McAuliffe

Administrator: Lynn Smith
admin@augustauu.org

UU Office hours:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9am-3pm
Wednesday noon-6pm

Choir Director: Bridget Convey
Choir Practice Wednesday 6-8pm
Small Group Ministry Coordinator: Luke Curtis
Office: (207) 622-3232

Rev. Carie's office hours:

Tuesday 1:00 - 5:00pm
Wednesday 2:00-600pm and by appointment
Friday 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** and she will return your call at soon as possible.
Social Media links: Professional Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/revcarie.johnsen>

Please note: Rev. Carie also keeps a personal/private Facebook page. If you have requested to be her friend, please do not feel slighted by her decline or unresponsiveness. Instead, take a minute to friend her at RevCarie Johnsen.

Website: www.everydayordinarytheologies.com

Rev. Carie's new website was launched in July as part of a sabbatical project. When you get a minute visit the site and subscribe to future posts.