



The Flaming Chalice

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

March 2016

Theme:

**What Does It Mean To Be
A People of Liberation?**

SUNDAY SERVICES

March 6th *Fall from Grace or Freedom*

Rev. Carie Johnsen
Rev. Sharon Piantedosi

In recognition of Women's History Month we will be re-storying Eve and original sin. With a special guest appearance from Lilith.

March 13th *Precious*

Rev. Carie Johnsen

In J.R.R. Tolkien's classic, The Lord of the Rings we watch a creature named Gollum give his life and soul over to his precious. Has your precious become your prison? Is the thing you do to feel better actually making you feel worse?

March 20th *TBA*

Rev. Margaret Beckham

March 27th ***EASTER SUNDAY***

Easter Sunday is a full and busy day at UUCC. The PeaceJam youth serve up Easter brunch between services. The junior youth lead an Easter egg hunt for the youngest children between services. Two different services offer something for most everyone with earth-centered themes at 9:15 and liberal Christian theology at 11:00.

9:15 *Earth Rising*

Rev. Carie Johnsen & Brigid Chapin

The 9:15 Easter Sunday service is a multigenerational service celebrating the awakening, rebirth and resurrection of Mother Earth through story, myth and folklore.

11:00 *A Nobody Rises*

Rev. Carie Johnsen

The 11:00 Easter Service offers lessons on how "A Nobody" from Nazareth rose to liberated the people, over and over again.

A Faith Journey...

Unitarian Universalism is a living tradition where:

*what we do and how we do it,
how we connect and care,
how we walk with all of creation
how we engage and celebrate diversity,
how we speak up for the oppressed and speak out against injustice
how we embody faith, hope and love
matters deeply.*

I had the privilege of gathering for a lunchtime reflection with *The Power of One* team where organizing members of Family Violence Project and Unitarian Universalist Community Church gathered to celebrate the great success of the 'out-of-the-box' stewardship event. Partnering with FVP to raise awareness around issues of bully, domestic violence and elder abuse was such a natural fit. Co-creating of this event was an organic and dynamic process that unfolded and blossomed before our eyes. Partnering to facilitate conversations on healthy relationships, compassionate communication and elder care was empowering.

As we checked in each of us shared a moment in the day that inspired or affirmed our efforts. This is what I heard:

- ~ appreciation of the multigenerational discussion
- ~ appreciation of the opportunity to attend a conversation with my son
- ~ the presence of the youth in the café and their wider participation
- ~ bearing witness to the children designing some amazing t-shirts
- ~ the rich community dialogue and sharing around elder abuse
- ~ a room full of teens talking about dating and dating violence
- ~ not enough time for a full room to dig deep about compassionate communication
- ~ the number of people who turned out eager to engage the topic: creating more peaceful healthy families and communities
- ~ the conversations we started with people who didn't attend the event
 - ~ seeing an expansive circle of people at closing
 - ~ creating a world cloud (see below)



Last year we kicked off our stewardship campaign with a play titled "Be the Change." This year we engaged that call by bringing our Unitarian Universalist values and principles to the community. This year we embodied that call by addressing issues of violence through community learning

This year our Stewardship event – *The Power of One* – was all about community engagement and individual empowerment.

Your pledges sustain Unitarian Universalist Community Church its values and principles, its congregational life, its compassionate embrace, and its place in the wider Augusta and world community. Our living tradition is about what we carry in our hearts and minds and body and spirit. May we all walk a bit lighter knowing our contributions change lives! Thank you for keeping this liberal religious faith alive in all that you do!
In faith, Rev. Carie

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 engaged 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 the following events:

What is Whiteness? Workshop

Tuesday, March 22nd 6:00 – 8:00
Fellowship Hall

Grounding anti-racism, anti-oppression, multicultural ministries in understanding one's own race story is both liberating and necessary. Whether we engage the Black Lives Matter Movement or ally work with Maine-Wabanaki R.E.A.C.H or simply desire to be part of the change, the task of unpacking white experience and exploring relationship to culture is where the waking up process begins. Individual experiences shape our cultural experiences and perspectives. We (Americans) live within the context of one dominant culture, the one brought to this country by white Anglo settlers.

This workshop is geared towards white people, participants of all races and ethnicities are welcome. Sign up with Lynn Smith, admin@augustauu.org

Recommended reading:

Waking Up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Racism, by Debbie Irving

SAVE THE DATE!

In Their Shoes

Saturday, April 23rd
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

In Their Shoes is a dynamic workshop that will help you understand the path of a refugee and invites you to walk a moment in their shoes. Why are refugees in Maine? What sort of help do they get? What would you do if you were faced with the same decisions? How can you welcome refugees to their new Maine communities? *In Their Shoes* will engage you with staff from Catholic Charities Maine Refugee Program to learn about the refugee process, the population currently settled in Maine and the challenges faced by the state's newest arrivals.



Small Group Ministry...

UUCC has been and continues to contribute to Small Group Ministry as a movement, in and beyond our congregation, on to the denominational level. As mentioned in the last Newsletter, we were one of the initial UU congregations to embrace the concept, starting in 1998 with planning, and first groups in 1999. We provided consultation to other churches, workshops at the General Assembly (annual gathering of UU congregations), and were/still are active in the UU Small Group Ministry Network that formed in 2005. We sold two books with the earliest basic information on small group ministry and session plans. A number of our sessions are shared with other congregations on the Network website. Want more information on who has been involved within our congregation and beyond? Look for a more complete history of Small Group Ministry to honor our own program and our influence as a congregation beyond our own walls. What we do MATTERS!

Join Small Group Ministry today!

Contact Luke Curtis (sgmcoordinator@augustauu.org) or 622-

Bold Relevance Adventurer Team

The primary goal of the relevance pilot experience with the Northern New England District of the Unitarian Universalist Association has been to get a team of UUCC members started exploring what it means to be a relevant congregation in the twenty-first century. Empowered to take up the commitment area most meaningful to the team, UUCC team chose to explore relevance through the contemporary lens. After a few breakfast conversations, the team is prepared to bring three questions forward to the congregation.

The Team would like to hear from you.

What do you expect of your church in this time and place to do for you? What do you expect to do for your church community?

How does our societal landscape (capital city, seasonal state, economic demographic, cultural diversity) inspire, inform and/or effect our shared ministry?

Did you experience "the Power of One" as a meaningful partnership and outreach opportunity? How? Please share a meaningful moment or story from your experience.

Please submit your responses to a member of the team no later than February 29th. Please email a member below or send response to Rev. Carie Johnsen, UUCC, P O Box 8, Augusta, ME 04332-0008

Your Bold Relevance Adventurer team,
Linda Findley, linda.findlay@gmail.com
Emma Chapin, emma.c.chapin@gmail.com
Richard Fisher, phoenixbehr@gmail.com
Rev. Carie Johnsen, revcariejohnsen@gmail.com



Non-Violent Communication
offered in the context of Mindfulness
Meditation by
Peaceful Heart Sangha

**"Cultivating Loving-Kindness for Ourselves
and Others"**

Saturday April 9, 2016

9:30 am - 3 pm

(bring a bag lunch for a mindful meal)

**at the Unitarian Universalist
Community Church, 69 Winthrop St.,
Augusta, Maine**

**Led by Peggy Smith, certified trainer in Non-
Violent Communication and
Dharma Teacher in the tradition of Zen master,
Thich Nhat Hahn**

<http://www.opencommunication.org>

\$20 suggested donation

**Register by contacting Greg Fahy at peace-
fulheartsangha@gmail.com or call #
(207) 622-7012**

**~No one will be turned away for lack of funds
and beginners are welcome~**

Social Justice Committee...

VOTER REGISTRATION: To participate in the upcoming Maine caucuses, you must be a registered voter and have declared a party. The Republican Caucuses are Sat. March 5 and the Democratic Caucuses are Sunday March 6.

The Social Justice Committee and the Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network (MUUSAN) will be registering voters at Coffee Hour on Sunday. If you have moved, are a new voter, or are unenrolled and want to enroll as a Democrat or Republican so you can attend a caucus, this is an easy way to register to vote. You must bring proof of address such as a valid Maine Driver's license or a utility bill with your correct address on it.

--The Social Justice Committee.

Earth Month UCC AUCTION & CAFÉ
Friday evening, April 8, 2016
Silent Auction from 4:00 TO 7:00 P.M.
Live Auction at 7:00 p.m.



The goal is 100 donations. What will you donate?

Some ideas for Auction donations:

AN EXPERIENCE: Host a musical evening or play reading, a trip to a State Park, a play, a concert, a museum, a film or a whale watch on the ocean. Donate time at your camp, lead a bird walk, plan a picnic, a kayak outing, or organize a birthday party. Invite some children to your farm. Keep in mind that what is a common event for you may be a rare treat for someone else. Some people, for example, cannot or do not drive, especially at night.

A SERVICE: An offer to help in some way: Join a work crew, prepare a meal, help paint a room, wash a car, wash some windows, repair a bicycle, rake leaves, groom a dog, mow a lawn, photograph a family or pet, help clean a house, plant a garden, offer child care or elder care, provide transportation to Maine Medical Center or other destination.

AN ITEM: Something homemade from your kitchen or that you have otherwise grown or created: A promise of vegetables, fruits, fresh eggs, pies, bread, cakes, pickles, casseroles, jams and cheese. Your own photography, paintings, jewelry, note cards, quilt, braided rug, or other hand crafted items. You may also donate a beautiful new gift for which you have no personal use, or a valuable antique.

A donation from a Maine business or restaurant of food, gasoline, oil, wood pellets, meals or other items. As of January 31, receipt letters are available on the Fundraising Bulletin Board to give to the donor. Please obtain the address of the business or restaurant so that we can send them a nice thank you letter from the church.

Please fill out and give this form to Hannah Faulkner or Terry Cookson Cairn, or place it in the envelope on the Fundraising Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall



MY DONATION TO THE UCC FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2016 AUCTION

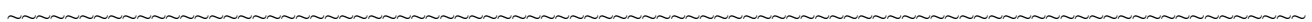
Name: _____ E-mail and

Phone _____

Donation: _____

Estimated Value _____

If checked, I will bring sandwiches _____ or baked goods _____ for the Café.



Photos for UUCU Photo Directory to be taken

March 18 and 19, 2016

The UUCU Membership Committee has arranged for a professional photographer to take photos of all members and friends to be included in a **new** UUCU Church Directory. We did a photo directory about 5 years ago and people found having names with photos helpful and interesting.

Each family who signs up receives a complimentary 8x10 photo, plus a free directory for participating. If you like, you have the option of purchasing additional portraits for yourself, family, or friends.

Stay tuned for how to sign up for a portrait session. Each session takes about an hour, and will be held here at the church.

You can make your portrait as creative and interesting as you wish. For instance:

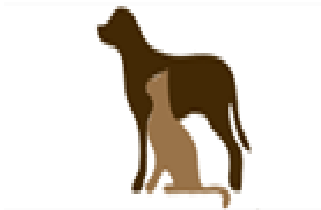
- Bring meaningful items that express your individuality. Popular choices are: sports equipment, musical instruments, hobby items, special toys or books.



(I intend to include my binoculars in my photo. Stef may bring her violin!).



- Invite grandparents or other family members or loved ones to join your portrait sitting -- even if they are not church members.
- Wear your special jewelry, hats, scarves, etc. You can mention to the photographer if you would like to have your jewelry or other accessories featured in your portrait.
- Bring your pet! (always photogenic!)



Friday, March 18, 2016
2:00 pm to 9:00 pm
UUCU Fellowship Hall

Saturday, March 19, 2016
10:00 to 5:00 pm
UUCU Fellowship Hall

Goddess Continuing/

Join Goddess/Earth Circles on ***Sun Mar 20, 2016* in the Fellowship Hall**, for Spring Equinox: Yin and Yang –the Balance of Life. What difference does the earth cycle balance between dark and light make in our own living and our own spiritual journey?

We will also explore the connection between Spring Solstice and Oestare and Easter.

All genders, youth and adults are welcome. For more information, contact Helen Zidowec-ki (582-5308, hzmre@hzmre.com)

Open Book Discussion

You are cordially invited to join a discussion of Atul Gawande's book BEING MORTAL. This powerful and moving book is about living to the end of your life with dignity and joy.

We will meet on Thursday, March 17th from 12:30 until 2:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. This is one of several scheduled book discussions. Anyone is welcome to attend any or all of the sessions. There is no need to register. We are hoping for a good turnout, so feel free to come!

FMI contact Kathy Kellison at kell6787@gmail.com (445-4415) or June Zellers at jjzellers@roadrunner.com (582-5862).

The remaining books in our series are The Dinner by Herman Koch on April 28th and Buddha's Brain by Rick Hanson on May 26th.

Social Activities...

Sunday March 13, 2016
J. P. Devine Book Discussion

Columnist J.P. Devine will join us to discuss his new book, "Will Write for Food". Mr. Devine is a Waterville writer who does movie reviews and interesting and humorous essays in his weekly Kennebec Journal column. He will present at 1pm in the Fellowship Hall after the Elder Luncheon. Please join us for an hour of humor and entertainment.

Public Supper News...

As you know, each first Saturday of the month the UUCC and the 209 Church (a combination of 3 Episcopal congregations, including St. Mark's) help serve a free Public Supper. Future dates include March 5, April 2nd and May 7th.

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who helped at the recent Public Suppers. UUCC helped lead and fund the February 7th dinner. We now have \$ 624.76 in our budget to help fund upcoming dinners. We also had the assistance of a generous donor from the former St. Mark's congregation who helped fund the last few dinners.

Recently a meeting was held by the churches which provide the public suppers in Augusta. The group, formerly known as the Augusta Angel Food Network is making plans to better serve the community. In attendance were the supper volunteer leaders, Pastor Erik Karas of the 209 Church, Rev. Carie, Rabbi Erica Asch of Temple Beth El, and Father Frank Morin of the Catholic Churches. The Temple and St. Mary's will begin serving supper in the months when 5th Saturdays occur and will help restart the Green St. suppers. Thank you to Carie for her support. Our church is becoming better known through her leadership and our activism!

Jenny McKendry
Chief Email sender and bottlenasher

Partnering with the Augusta Food Bank...

Please continue to help UCC support the **Augusta Food Bank** (AFB) by donating non-perishable food items to the wagon in the coat room.

The AFB especially needs boxes of mac and cheese, canned fruit and vegetables, granola bars, peanut butter and canned tuna. They can always use volunteers to help check in clients, stock shelves, and assist with retail store pickups.

For more information on how you can donate or get involved, please contact AFB board member Pam Lombard at 458-4409 or the new Executive Director of the Augusta Food Bank, Sarah Miller at 622-5225.

REflections....

Our goal in RE is to nurture and inspire our youth, provide them with a moral education, and grow lifelong UUs. In order to successfully achieve these goals, it is vital that we all, as religious educators, uphold and sustain a unified philosophy of RE- what is religious exploration? What should it be for our community?

In February, I had the opportunity to attend a two-day Renaissance Module training (led by our own Karen Fisk!) all about the philosophy of RE. The training endeavored to address the simple questions in a profound way—we thought about the who, what, where, when, why, and how of religious exploration. We talked about the broad definition of religious education, and agreed that it can and does occur everywhere. It certainly takes place both within and outside of the classroom on Sunday morning. I feel that it is vital for RE to be larger than the classroom; it must be relevant and functional in the world, and most of all help our children navigate their movement through the world.

The last month has been very exciting for UUCCA RE. OWL has brought in a wealth of new families because it is an important curriculum that responds to societal problems with typical sexual education. The question that we hold as we go forward is, what other problems do our youth care about? What else should we address? How can we hold the interest and relevance that currently pervades RE?

Do you feel the potential in the air?

Brigid Chapin
RE Coordinator



Fellowship Refreshments Needed.

The kitchen corner cupboard is full of crackers and rice cakes but we need some cookies. Dollar Tree is a very reasonable source for goodies- their fudge stripe cookies are a big hit with the kids and the ginger snaps are great as well. Dollar Tree often has shelf stable milk which is very handy to have in the cupboard. Of course, home baked goods, fruit, or baby carrots brought on any Sunday are always a welcome addition. Individually wrapped/labeled teas for the wooden tea caddy are needed as well.

Coffee Hour Volunteers Needed. Everyone enjoys coffee hour so please help. Take a turn making it happen by signing up on the bulletin board in the fellowship.

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: March 14

Minister: Rev. Carie Johnsen

President: Gary Chapin

Sunday Morning RE Coordinator: Brigid Chapin
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 2:00-6:00pm 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.