



The Flaming Chalice

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

August 2016

Services 10:00am

August 7

Desire and Destiny

James Appleby

James Appleby will share some thoughts on the links between our desires and our souls. Could it be that our deepest longings are signposts to our ultimate destination or are they perilous distractions along clear paths that lead us out of our way?

August 14 What Flavor Is Your Morality? Kathy Kellison and June Zellers

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for an exploration of Jonathan Haidt's book:
The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion

August 21

This Moves Me

Jenny Mckendry and Mel Morrison

This service will be about finding spiritual experience in music, poetry and perhaps other modes of expression. Several members of the congregation will read, play, sing and share other sources of inspiration.

Join us to hear, see and feel what moves us.

August 28

The Meaning and Purpose of Poetry Worship Associates

The transcendent use of language; The Punctuation falls by the wayside;
The birds fall silent in admiration; Bread becomes another word and smells
as sweet.

From the President....

As I thought about what to write this month, the image of a tree came to mind. I have been appreciating the lush growth this summer of the plants and trees in our yard. There is a line of thick maple trees along the property line of our home. They provide much shade and privacy to our in town lot, as well as a wealth of leaves for composting for creating future soil.

So what does this have to do with UUCC? How is the church like these trees? Trees are held in the earth by their extensive root system. UUCC can provide roots for people of all personal and religious backgrounds. The roots can be in the form of your history with UUCC, people who you have met at church, and/or the worship service. They help you stay grounded, held together sometimes. They give us stability in challenging times.

The trunk is created by all of us who support UUCC and each other. The trunk is the staff and all those who are connected to UUCC. The trunk provides us strength together to do things we could not do on our own. The growth rings evident in a trunk can represent the many years that the Unitarian and Universalist individual and joint churches have been in Augusta. The trunk connects the roots to the air and space around the tree.

From the trunk the branches reach forth. The branches expand the possibilities for the tree to catch sunlight. The branches hold the leaves which catch the sunlight and thus nourishment for the whole tree. Each leaf can represent a person connected in some way to UUCC. Some are young, some old. Some have wrinkles, or bumps, may be healthy or sickly. However, we all are valuable in keeping the tree alive and strong. We are all needed. New growth is created from all the leaves.

So how do you see yourself connected to UUCC? How are you contributing to the growth of the UUCC "tree"? Do you pledge? Do you help with work projects or fundraising? Do you contribute to music? What about hospitality? Are you on a committee or help with a social activity? Do you help with the meals at St. Marks? Do you help with religious education for children or adults? Do you attend worship or help with a worship service? Do you chat with someone you don't know yet at coffee fellowship? Or do you contribute in another way?

Our tree can stay strong and continue its growth with each of us contributing in some way. You are a valuable leaf as part of this wonderful "tree". Have a great month of August 2016.

Martha Naber

President of the Board

Peaceful Heart Sangha

A message from our Dharma Teacher, Joanne Friday



image from Martin Whelan, a friend in Ireland

Let's make every day Interdependence Day!

“The nitrogen in our DNA, the calcium in our teeth, the iron in our blood, the carbon in our apple pies were made in the interiors of collapsing stars. We are made of starstuff.”

— **Carl Sagan, Cosmos**

“Finally, from what we now know about the cosmos, to think that all this was created for just one species among the tens of millions of species who live on one planet circling one of a couple of hundred billion stars that are located in one galaxy among hundreds of billions of galaxies, all of which are in one universe among perhaps an infinite number of universes all nestled within a grand cosmic multiverse, is provincially insular and anthropocentrically blinkered. Which is more likely? That the universe was designed just for us, or that we see the universe as having been designed just for us?”

— **Michael Shermer**

“Look again at that dot. That's here. That's home. That's us. On it everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you ever heard of, every human being who ever was, lived out their lives. The aggregate of our joy and suffering, thousands of confident religions, ideologies, and economic doctrines, every hunter and forager, every hero and coward, every creator and destroyer of civilization, every king and peasant, every young couple in love, every mother and father, hopeful child, inventor and explorer, every teacher of morals, every corrupt politician, every "superstar," every "supreme leader," every saint and sinner in the history of our species lived there-on a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam.

The Earth is a very small stage in a vast cosmic arena. Think of the endless cruelties visited by the inhabitants of one corner of this pixel on the scarcely distinguishable inhabitants of some other corner, how frequent their misunderstandings, how eager they are to kill one another, how fervent their hatreds. Think of the rivers of blood spilled by all those generals and emperors so that, in glory and triumph, they could become the momentary masters of a fraction of a dot.

continued on page 4

Peaceful Heart...continued from page 3

Our posturings, our imagined self-importance, the delusion that we have some privileged position in the Universe, are challenged by this point of pale light. Our planet is a lonely speck in the great

enveloping cosmic dark. In our obscurity, in all this vastness, there is no hint that help will come from elsewhere to save us from ourselves.

The Earth is the only world known so far to harbor life. There is nowhere else, at least in the near future, to which our species could migrate. Visit, yes. Settle, not yet. Like it or not, for the moment the Earth is where we make our stand.

It has been said that astronomy is a humbling and character-building experience. There is perhaps no better demonstration of the folly of human conceits than this distant image of our tiny world. To me, it underscores our responsibility to deal more kindly with one another, and to preserve and cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we've ever known."

— **Carl Sagan**, from "Pale Blue Dot"

Dear Friends,

I hope you are all well and taking very good care of yourselves, each other and our planet!

In light of the string of terrorist attacks, and racial violence that we have witnessed, it is clear that more than ever, the world needs people who can transform and heal our own suffering, so that we can see clearly and respond skillfully to those who are caught in misperceptions and have had their seeds of hatred, anger and violence well watered. We need to diligently practice what Thich Nhat Hanh has taught us. We need to address the roots of the suffering, not fall into dualistic thinking and allow our seeds of hatred, fear and anger to grow stronger. We need to practice love in action and address injustice and inequities in our world. The Sutra on the Eight Realizations of Great Beings says that "The Sixth Realization is that poverty creates hatred and anger, which creates a vicious cycle of negative thoughts and actions. When practicing generosity, bodhisattvas consider everyone - friends and enemies alike - to be equal. " We must address the inequality and inequities. Thich Nhat Hanh has taught us that fear is the soil in which anger grows...that is very evident in the actions we have witnessed and the public discourse which we have been hearing. We all need to be very diligent, deepen our practice and our understanding and take action using skillful means.

In the midst of the the chaos and confusion in our world, one of the ways we do that is to gather with others who are doing their best to wake up and be of some help to each other and to be the change we want to see in this world.

Marty Soule

Peaceful Heart Sangha meets every Monday evening 6:30 – 8 and Thursday morning 8 - 9:30. We support each other, share, look deeply, and enjoy indoor sitting and outdoor walking meditation. Our gatherings are open to anyone who would like to join us. If you have questions, please contact peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com or call Marty Soule at 685-9270.

UUCC Web:

www.augustauu.org

We welcome the inquiries about how to include information about the work of a committee/groups or congregational activities on the website. There are many places where these can be accommodated. For example, the Announcements that appear in the Sunday Service are posted on the website under "Communications" weekly. Committee pages have a section for posting notices of schedules and items of interest. We are setting up a section and process related to worship services, sermons and other presentations, such as the presentation by Doug Rooks on "UU in Strenuous Times" on July 10. Keep posted.

Anyone who is involved with a group or committee, a congregational activity is encouraged to review their sections of the website. Also look at the website to get a sense of UUCC overall.

Consider adding notes about your activities onto the website. Contact website@augustauu.org or talk with Helen Zidowecki, Website Chair.

UUCC Choir...

The UUCC Choir is always welcoming new members. Please join us! We will have a choir retreat and welcoming meeting on Wednesday, August 24th from 6pm to 8pm in the Sanctuary. Our first rehearsal of the season will be Wednesday, August 31st from 6pm to 8pm in the Sanctuary.

Please contact Bridget Convey at: musicdirector@augustauucc.org



Tribute to a Gentle Lady...

I want to recognize a woman in this church who quietly and behind the scenes carries on much important work for UUCC. Her name is Carolyn Ladd. Many of you have noticed the lovely flowers around the church buildings — crocuses & daffodils in the spring and marigolds & little purple flowers in the summertime, as well as baskets of hanging flowers. Carolyn is one of the people who create beauty around our buildings through hours of gardening work.

It is apparent to me, a recent Fundraising Co-Chair, that Carolyn and her sister Mary Sturtevant continually work very hard for the success of our church sales. They have often provided outstanding figurines, china, crystal and clocks for the Hannah's Boutique table at our Yard Sales and Holiday Fairs. Mary knits colorful scarves, and Carolyn regularly helps with the heavy set up and cleanup work. In June she spent many hours lugging heavy boxes of goods from the garage and the cloak room to set up the Yard Sale in the Fellowship Hall, before contributing more hours to fold huge amounts of donated clothing into neat attractive piles in the Nursery.

Carolyn shows her love for people in our church by frequently sending 'thinking-of-you' cards on behalf of the Caring Committee. People who receive these cards from Carolyn treasure her friendship and concern. She can be counted on to lend a helping hand to people who might need a little extra help during a difficult time. Like many of our church members, she enhances the life of our church through her own talents, generous spirit and tender heart. Thank you, Carolyn, for what you do and all that you are...

Hannah Faulkner



**PLEASE JOIN US IN WELCOMING for OUR
FIRST GUEST ARTIST
CONCERTS AT THE UCC OF AUGUSTA!**



SUNDAY, AUGUST 28th AT 4:00 PM:

Kryisia Tripp, flute with Bridget Convey, piano



***Fabulous Flute Repertoire of the 20th Century: featuring the music of
Gieseking, Glanville-Hicks, He and Debussy***

Concerts at the UCC of Augusta welcomes guest artists from the New England area into our beautiful Sanctuary, serving the greater Augusta area with fabulous music in a welcoming space. Concerts will be one hour in length, followed by a light reception in the Fellowship Hall.

Here is a bit about our guest artist, Kryisia Tripp:

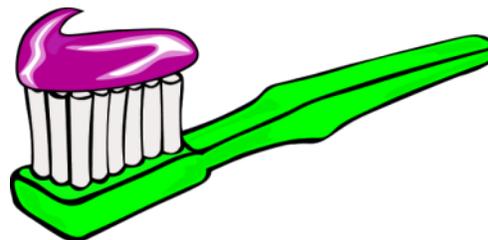
Kryisia has concertized throughout the U.S. and Europe; and has collaborated with musicians such as Pavarotti, Peter, Paul and Mary, the Brubeck Brothers and Andrea Bocelli. While maintaining an active performing career, Kryisia also serves on the faculties of USM, Bates and Bowdoin Colleges, the Portland Conservatory, and the InterHarmony International Music Festival in Germany.

Admission: Suggested donation of \$10

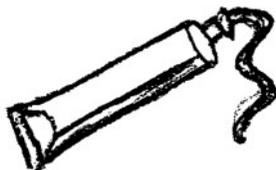
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Essentials Pantry Needs Toothbrushes and Toothpaste...

The Prince of Peace/St. Mark's/The Church @209 **Essentials Pantry** is serving 225-300 people twice a month and it is becoming a challenge financially. To facilitate doing a **monthly inventory** of needed items, the Capital Area Multi-faith Association has agreed to help with basic essentials. Each faith organization, church and/or synagogue has agreed to help with supplies. UCC of Augusta has been assigned toothpaste and toothbrushes.



You can drop off a supply of toothpaste and toothbrushes at the church office or in the red wagon in the coat room at the church. All supplies will be delivered to St. Mark's Essential Pantry.



The good people of Augusta are grateful for your generosity.



Attend in Gardiner OR Augusta

You are Needed

Opiates, Other Drugs, Alcohol – We all hear about the problems!

Be part of the solution!

Help Build Connections & Support Our Neighborhoods

Gardiner

Where: Gardiner Boys and Girls Club

Date: Monday - August 29, 2016

Time: 5:30 Light Supper

6:00-8:00 Learn-Provide Input



Augusta

Where: Buker Community Center

Date: Tuesday - August 30, 2016

Time: 5:00 Light Supper

5:30-7:30 Learn-Provide Input

Hosted by :



& TIME Planning Team

RSVP: Joanne Joy: 588-5011 or j.joy@hccame.org

Notes from the 2016 Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly in Columbus, Ohio



Last month, Unitarian Universalists from around the world came together in Columbus, Ohio to worship, celebrate, vote on key issues, and learn together. The tradition of gathering annually originated with our Universalist ancestors and that continues to be a vital part of the liturgical year for many Unitarian Universalists. This was my first General Assembly, and I was both excited and overwhelmed by all the possibilities these five days had to offer.

Despite the drabness of the convention center in which General Assembly took place (our worship space looked a bit like an airplane hangar), the powerful words shared in worship, general sessions, and workshops transformed the space into something capable of holding the sacred. It was five full and fast days! I attended the public witness event in support of Black Lives Matter, where Rev. William Barber, one of the leaders of the Moral Monday movement in Raleigh, North Carolina, spoke truth to power with such intensity that I left with my palms aching from clapping and my mind racing with inspiration. I attended workshops on the future of women in Unitarian Universalism, UU responses to crisis and trauma, and the spirituality of hip-hop. I celebrated with my friends when we heard that UUs in general session (the time when congregational delegates gather to vote on polity-related issues) committed funds and faith to the Black Lives Matter Movement. Each day I went home tired, but gratefully more awake to the realities of injustice, oppression, and violence that so desperately need faithful attention.

While General Assembly is a time of sincere fellowship, it also reminds us that within our tradition there are controversies, conflicts, and places of deep pain and suffering. The delegates were passionately split on a vote to divest funds from corporations involved in the occupation of Palestine, leaving little changed and many feeling discouraged about the ways in which difficult conversations are handled at General Assembly. Among clergy and worship-leaders, there were (and continue to be) challenging discussions about the usage of hymns and metaphors in worship that exclude or dismiss the experiences of people living with disabilities.

Although it may be one of the last elements of the liturgical year, General Assembly serves as more of an introduction to a new year full of possibilities than a conclusion of the year past. It is a reminder that even when we are tired, we have more work to do and we have many individuals and congregations eager to do it.

To learn more about this year's UUA General Assembly, go to: www.uua.org/ga

Erica Rose Long

Annual Leadership Retreat Save the Date!

Who? All committee chairs, Board members, interested persons

What? Our annual leadership retreat is an opportunity to “charge your batteries” as a leader at UUCC. There is time set aside to think, learn, talk, and plan together for the coming year at UUCC. We will be working on being relevant as a church in Augusta in 2016-2017 and beyond. How do we meet the challenges on being a vibrant church within the community of today and the future?

Where? At Fellowship Hall at UUCC

When? Saturday September 17 from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Questions? Call Martha Naber at 872-0913 or email her at naber@midmaine.com.

Great food provided!! See you there!

Book Group for Serious Readers...

We will meet from 12:30 until 2:30 in Fellowship Hall on the second Thursday of the month, beginning in October and skipping December. Anyone who is interested in the book for that month is invited to attend. No commitment or sign up is needed.

Come join us.

In October we will explore [The Mists of Avalon](#) by Marion Zimmer Bradley. The book for November is [Strange Gods](#) by Susan Jacoby.

For more information, contact June Zellers at jzellers@roadrunner.com or Kathy Kellison at kell6787@gmail.com.

Hospitality Update...

Thank you to the many who have already provided coffee fellowship throughout June and July! The monthly sign up calendars for the 2016-2017 church year are now hung up in Fellowship Hall. The Sundays in the months of August and September are already filled. **YEAH!**

Some Sundays in future months are also reserved, but there are plenty of free spaces to add your name.

If you have questions please see Martha Naber or Jill Watson. Remember there are people willing to mentor you if this is new to you. And the coffee maker and dish washer are really easy to learn how to use!

Thank you.

Small Group Ministry...

The Small Group Ministry leadership meeting is scheduled for September 18th from noon till 1:30pm. This brown bag lunch will be our kickoff meeting for the upcoming year. If you are unable to attend please assign a member of your group to come in your place.

Beth Nasberg
Small group Ministry Chair
bethellennasberg@gmail.com



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, please!
Photos of church activities welcome!
Deadline: August 15

Minister: Rev. Carie Johnsen

President: Martha Naber

Sunday Morning RE Coordinator: Brigid Chapin
Youth Advisor: Monique McAuliffe

Administrator: Lynn Smith
admin@augustauu.org

UU Office hours:
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am-4pm
No office hours: Monday and Friday

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.