

# The Flaming Chalice

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

March 2017

## Theme: Risk

TAKE A RISK THIS MONTH:  
INVITE A FRIEND TO CHURCH

### Services at 9:15am and 11:00am

March 5<sup>th</sup>                      It's Not Over                      Rev. Carie Johnsen

Standing Rock-where a group of youth from the Sioux Nation took a risk and changed a nation. Changed by a movement. What is our work in this keeping this movement alive?

March 12<sup>th</sup>                      Bless the Suffering                      Rev. Carie Johnsen

The truth is, everyone is going to hurt you. You just got to find the ones worth suffering for. ~ Bob Marley

March 19<sup>th</sup>                      Risk Sitting Down                      Rev. Carie Johnsen

"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen." ~ Winston Churchill

March 26<sup>th</sup>                      TBA                      Karen Neilsen

## A Faith Journey...

*We worship, learn, and minister together, embracing diversity and religious freedom.*  
~ UUCS Mission ~

There has been a lot of talk lately about shared ministry. What does that mean? How do we manifest this spirit in all that we do? How do you take up the mantle and live it in your days?

Shared ministry is the idea that all people are called to share their gifts and talents, resources and time to serve together in the spirit of mutuality and partnership. In Unitarian Universalist communities we celebrate our interdependence with a cooperative model of leading and living the grace of love in action. In Unitarian Universalism we understand our call to serve the community to be expansive; stretching beyond our walls, our beliefs, our borders, our nations, our politics, and beyond a myriad of identities –race, class, sexual orientation, gender, ability and age.

We believe ministry is not the solo act of an ordained minister but rather the work of the whole community. As such, ministry happens wherever and whenever members and friends engage in ways that serve the mission and vision of their congregation. In shared ministry our call to grow souls and serve the good in the world is a collective manifestation and celebration of Life, Love and the Holy.

With shared ministry no single person holds responsibility for our ministry. As Brigid said one Sunday, (I'm paraphrasing here) "No one person is responsible for the success of our religious exploration program. Not the minister. Not the staff. Not the Religious Exploration Committee. We all hold responsibility for the success and failure of our ministries." Our governance structure charges individuals (minister, staff and membership), working groups, committees and governing bodies with specific work to be completed within the community. Implicit in this charge is the expectation that ministry is always carried out in conversation with the membership, and for the well being of the organization and society at large.

My week as minister-in-residence with the Bismarck-Mandan Unitarian Universalist Congregation is a fine example of how our shared ministry serves a sister congregation, the wider Unitarian Universalist movement and the vision of the water protectors at Standing Rock, ND.

Our upcoming religious exploration retreat is a poignant call for the membership to engage in the future of our children and youth. It will take all of us to imagine a religious exploration program that meets the needs of twenty-first century families. Raising a family today is vastly different than it was 25 years ago or even 10 years ago. This retreat will celebrate the strengths of our program as we creatively explore the spiritual development needs of children youth and their families. And we will do this with our children and youth deeply engaged in the process. For they are a part of our shared ministry and know best what will draw them into a dynamic engagement of moral and spiritual development.

There is a multitude of ways this community embodies shared ministry. As you move through this month I invite you to take a risk and engage in a piece of our shared ministry that stretches you out of your comfort zone and shares your gifts and talents in new and bold ways.

In faith,  
Rev. Carie

## From the President....

March is the month in which spring comes! ! So has your mind turned to planning for a garden? Have you been getting seed catalogs in your mailbox? Have you planned for a new raised bed or how to create more compost or how to establish a worm farm?

Well, UUCC is planning a Garden of Hope and I hope you will be one of the gardeners. On March 11<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 - 7:00 P.M. we will be gathering to plan the garden of Religious Exploration for the future at UUCC. We need your input and your suggestions for what the garden will look like and what we will be growing. We know that the activities and habits of families have changed, so how can we continue to engage them, offer them programming that will appeal, and offer learning for spiritual growth? We are fortunate to have the leadership of Kim Sweeney from the UUA to guide us in looking back, and looking ahead. She has worked with many congregations who have also grappled with this challenge.

**Please consider attending this retreat to add your hopes and plans for the future of UUCC Religious Education.** Call/email Lynn at the office to let her know you are coming so we will have enough dinner for you!

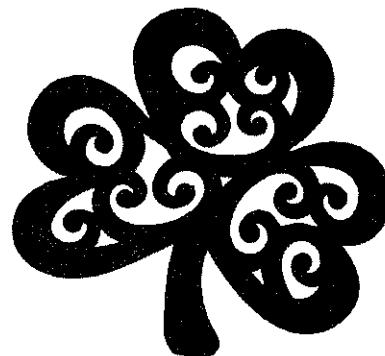
Spring also brings UUCC into the budget proposal process for operating our church. I hope you had a chance to attend the Finance 101 to learn more about how we develop the budget which you will vote on at the annual meeting in June. If you have questions please speak to someone on the board or the finance committee. And have you remembered to complete your pledge for supporting UUCC over the next fiscal year? Please do this soon if you have not done so yet. And thank you to all who make this commitment.

With the depth of the snow right now, it seems difficult to imagine spring, but we know it really is coming! The renewal of the earth, the sprouting up of bulbs, and the beginning of greening of the trees are such positive signs that life will continue and is renewed after the resting of winter. As you look toward the first day of spring do you have a spiritual practice you are thinking of establishing, something new or different to begin with the new season? In the Journey's End class on Feb. 19 we talked about this and explored many possibilities. (There are two more sessions if you want to join this exploration of death and dying and living.) Try it!

Happy first day of spring to you.

Sincerely,

Martha Naber



# Hannaford Card Update...

This is the form for once a month automatic deductions from your checking account to buy Hannaford cards through the UUCC.

This is the easiest method for buying groceries through the UUCC to increase our fundraising dollars, without being present to buy pre-loaded cards. You may change the amount you want reloaded at any time before the second Friday of each month. If 100 members each bought \$100 worth of groceries with Hannaford cards purchased from UUCC, this would generate \$500 in fundraising money for the church. Please consider completing this form, attaching a voided check, and delivering both to Catherine Palmer, Fundraising chair, or call her at (207) 458-7384. Thank you.

## Unitarian Universalist Community Church Hannaford Cash Card Fundraising Program Direct Debit Authorization

I (we) ("Participant") hereby authorize the Unitarian Universalist Community Church ("Church") to initiate debit entries to my (our) account indicated below and the financial institution named below, hereinafter called FINANCIAL INSTITUTION, to debit the same to such account solely for the purposes of participating in the Church's Hannaford Cash Card Fundraising Program. I (we) acknowledge that origination of ACH (Automated Clearing House) transactions to my (our) account must comply with U.S. law.

### Participant's Bank Account Information:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Financial Institution Name) (Branch)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address) (City/State) (Zip)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Routing Number)(Account Number) Type of Acct.: \_\_\_\_\_\*Checking \_\_\_\_\_Savings  
**\* PLEASE ATTACH COPY OF A VOIDED CHECK!**

This authority is to remain in full force and effect until the Church has received written notification from me (or either of us) of its termination in such time and manner as to afford the Church and FINANCIAL INSTITUTION a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Individual Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

**Amount to be Debited:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Starting date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Frequency of Debit:** \_\_\_ Monthly (3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month. Orders will be placed the following Monday)

Notes:

*This debit authorization may be revoked by notifying the Church in writing, or email at [admin@augustauu.org](mailto:admin@augustauu.org)*  
Amounts and timing of debits may be changed or terminated by notifying the Church in writing, or email at [admin@augustauu.org](mailto:admin@augustauu.org).

- The Church is not responsible for banking charges applied to the account of the Participant, if any
- Amounts debited via this authorization will be posted at the next opportunity to Program issued Hannaford Cash Card(s) as I (we) may reasonably designate.

## **Save the Date**

# **Religious Exploration Retreat**

**Saturday, March 11, 2017  
4:00-7:00pm**

**This multigenerational evening of  
engagement, discovery and fun  
will include a shared meal.**

Our shared ministry is calling upon all of us to bring together our passions, intentions, and shared experiences to explore and imagine the future religious exploration at UUCC.

The entire congregation is invited to join Rev. Carie, our religious educators, the Board of Trustees, and the Religious Exploration committee in a retreat to imagine a future where UUCC delivers relevant, engaged, and dynamic spiritual development for children, youth and families.

**Who are we called to be?**

**What story will we live into?**

**What does a relevant religious  
exploration look like  
in the twenty-first century?**

**What do families need from religious  
communities at this time and place in  
history?**

**What is our niche on the  
religious landscape in the  
greater Augusta area?**

## **Communications...**

The Communications Work Group generally meets the first and third Thursdays from 12:30 - 1:30 pm. Please leave comments and questions for the Work Group in the Communications Mail Box in the Committee Room or contact Lynn Smith, Administrator ([admin@augustauu.org](mailto:admin@augustauu.org) or 207-622-3232).

The Communications Work Group considered the request for a Suggestion Box in the communications survey last fall. We support open and direct communication, and think that a Suggestion Box may work against that. We encourage you to contact the person, committee, or group directly involved with your suggestion. The listing of contacts for Board and Committees is found in the UUCC Directory and in the Program Book on the clipboards found in the pews. Additional clarification may be available from Lynn Smith.

In the last few weeks, there has been some confusion about space when events have been planned but not communicated to the Administrator and not on the church calendar. With the increasing number of event and space requests, it is imperative that we:

- 1) Check the calendar on line (<http://www.augustauu.org/calendar-and-communications/>) and
- 2) Communicate with the Administrator **BEFORE** an event is publicized, and with any changes.

Space is available on a first request basis. Sometimes adjustments can be made, but sometimes the time and space is not available. It is so nice to see all of the activity occurring at UUCC. Thank you for your attention to timing and communication.

## **Goddess/Earth Circles...**

Join Goddess/Earth Circles on **March 26<sup>th</sup>** from **12:15 – 2 pm** in Fellowship Hall to celebrate Spring Equinox and Oya, also known as Changing Woman. The theme is "Standing Up For Who We Are". Participants are invited to bring light refreshments to share.

The Goddess/Earth Circles sessions are focusing on goddesses, along with earth-based celebrations. For example, the **April 30<sup>th</sup>** session focuses on Gaia and "Environment and Spirituality" in honor of Earth Day.

## Spectacular Birds in Winter

Glenn Hodgkins and Cheryl Ring will lead a birding trip to coastal locations in the Cape Elizabeth area on Saturday, March 18, 2017.

Winter birds are well-worth seeing and include harlequin duck, common eider, long-tailed duck, black guillemot, common goldeneye, bufflehead, purple sandpiper, and any number of passerines. If there is a snowy owl around at that time, we'll try to go see that as well.

We will carpool and caravan from the church. **Leave at 9:00 am** - return by mid to late afternoon.

## UU 101 Class...

You are invited to join this class, using the **New UU curriculum**, where you will have an opportunity to make connections with new members of our church and learn some history about Unitarian Universalism and our own UUC.

Participants will be invited to share their own spiritual journeys and will consider how we are guided by our UUA Principles as we work in the local community and in the larger world. We will have chocolate!

Dates: March 27, April 10 and April 24  
Time: 5:30 -- 7:30 p.m.  
Where: Drew House

For more information, contact Ellie

## Craft Club Reconvenes...

March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1 - 3 P.M.

We will have our first spring meeting on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Watch the weekly notices for the location. Come knit, crochet, sew, make jewelry, cards, or whatever you enjoy doing. Hope to see you there. For more information, speak to Martha Naber (872-0913) or Jean Sizelove (623-5096) for more details.

## Social Activities...

### **MAINE SUFFRAGETTES**

Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.  
UUC Church, Augusta, ME

Join us for a talk on Maine Suffragettes provided by Augusta historian *Phyllis Von Herlich*. She has much knowledge of Maine's contribution to this historical movement. Maine's approach to women's suffrage was long and complicated. Women protested having to pay taxes without being able to choose who would represent them. The Maine Suffrage Association organized in AUGUSTA in 1873.

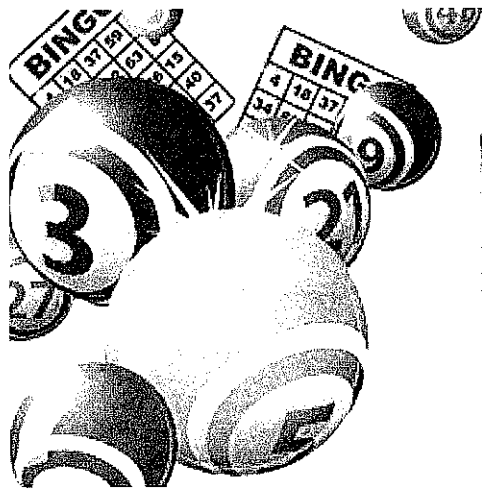
Come, listen and learn how Maine made a significant contribution to women getting the right to vote. She will explore some of the women who ardently supported a woman's right to vote, one of which was her great great aunt Haddasah Herrick from Harmony, Maine.  
FMI: Cheryl Clukey 441-0337



### **New address for Ruth Butts**

Cards and phone calls are very much appreciated

Ms. Ruth Butts  
The Village at Buckland Court  
432 Buckland Rd  
South Windsor, CT. 06074  
860-432-9446



# Bingo Night

**Sunday, March 5th  
4:00 – 6:30 p.m.**

**Pizza, popcorn and dessert will be served at 5:30 p.m.  
\$5 donation per person or \$20 per family**

**Hosted by Rev. Carie Johnsen,  
Brigid Chapin and Monique McAullife**

**Back by popular demand!!! Join us for an evening of food, fellowship and fun!! Bingo is a great way to connect and get to know the newest members, friends and children in our community. We decided the best way for ALL OF US to greet each other and make new friends was with pizza and BINGO.**

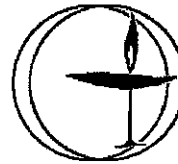
**Please bring 2-3 gently used items from your home for bingo prizes appropriate for children, youth and adults.**

**Feel free to make a prize donation early by dropping items off in the collection basket in the church vestibule or at the church office in the Judd House. This is a perfect opportunity for re-gifting those much-appreciated items you just don't know what to do with.**

**RSVP with Lynn Smith [admin@augustauu.org](mailto:admin@augustauu.org)**



# **UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST COMMUNITY CHURCH**



February 14, 2016

Dear UUCC members and friends,

*In eight years serving UUCC as the minister, I have had the pleasure of watching our children and youth explore, discover, claim and celebrate their deepest convictions and beliefs. I watch with great pride and joy as the young people of this congregation find their voices, articulate their passions, and express their Unitarian Universalist principles and values in our church, in their local community, and in the global arena. To watch them rise as leaders- wise, bold, and brave- is inspiring. ~ Rev. Carie Johnsen*

We stand at a time when we know what we have to offer is valued- while at the same time going to church has become sidelined for a variety of reasons. The decline we have witnessed at UUCC in the past five years is being experienced broadly across Protestant and UU congregations. We are not alone!

We invite you to join us on **Saturday, March 11, 2017, from 4:00 – 7:00 for a religious exploration retreat**. Kim Sweeney, New England Regional Staff of our UUA, will lead us in a fun and interactive evening. Together we will explore:

- what we value most about Religious Exploration at UUCC
- the ways in which it impacts our children, youth, and families
- what we envision for ourselves in the future.
- How our Religious Exploration program could meet the unique needs of our wider community here in Augusta.

**Children, youth, adults, and families of all configurations are enthusiastically welcome to attend!**

Our work together in these few hours will be fast, meaningful, and informative as we continue to imagine what we want our Religious Exploration opportunities to look like and become.

On **Sunday, March 12, 2017, from 12:30 – 3:00 p.m.** a smaller group of interested people will unpack the learning from Saturday night, continue the conversation, and take the lead in building the future. If you are interested in being part of this exciting opportunity, please let Rev. Carie know. You can reach her at 508-221-5295 or [revcariejohansen@gmail.com](mailto:revcariejohansen@gmail.com). We are asking all participants to register so we will know how many pizzas, salads, and desserts to prepare. If you have any specific dietary restrictions, please let Lynn know when you register at [admin@augustauu.org](mailto:admin@augustauu.org).

We believe what we have to offer is of deep value and importance during the rapidly changing times!! And here at UUCC, we believe it is time for us, and I mean all of us, the entire congregation to live into a new vision of shared religious exploration ministry. Alone we are overwhelmed, but together we can imagine a future for religious exploration. Now is the time for us to break down the silo of families with children leading religious exploration. Now is the time for minister and staff, board of trustees and religious exploration committee, members and friends of all ages, families of all sizes and shapes to join to imagine our future. Please join us!

Rev. Carie Johnsen, Minister  
Brigid Chapin, Religious Exploration Coordinator  
Monique McAuliffe, Youth Advisor  
Nicole Benoit and Christine Little, Co-chairs, Religious Exploration Committee  
Martha Naber, President, Board of Trustees





# Uniting Our Human Family ~ Using Mindfulness to Embrace Our Blind Spots ~

Please join us for a Day of Mindfulness,  
Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, from 9am - 3pm  
At the Unitarian Universalist Community Church,  
69 Winthrop St, Augusta

With open hearts we will:

- Look at ways our society has conditioned us to be blind to others
- Begin to embrace the fears that may lay underneath this conditioning
- Explore ways to undo our conditioning
- Expand our ways of bringing unseen privilege into view
- Discern right action

For those who are interested & able - reading the book Waking Up White, by Debby Irving before our gathering could be helpful. Maybe even journaling a bit about what comes up as you read...

Please bring a bag lunch. Registration ahead of time would be helpful -  
Registration fee \$20 - No one will be turned away for lack of funds.  
To register email [peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com](mailto:peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com) or call Greg at 242-4708  
Please wear comfortable, warm clothes. Bring cushions/pads if desired.

Peggy Smith, Maine Dharma Teacher in Thich Nhat Hanh's tradition and certified instructor in Nonviolent Communication, will facilitate ([opencommunication.org](http://opencommunication.org))

## Display Case...

Photos and mementos of the January 21<sup>st</sup> Women's Solidarity Rally in Augusta celebrate involvement, action and social justice concern. This display will continue through March, which is Women's History Month. Please contact Hannah Faulkner (293-9377 or [hannahuu3@fairpoint.net](mailto:hannahuu3@fairpoint.net)) with items that you would like to have included. In addition to Hannah's, contributions have been received so far from Jani Clark, Hilary Neckles, Catherine Palmer, Sunshine Perlis, and Helen & Joe Pare.

## The History Committee....

How and when did you "arrive" at this church? What have been your experiences here? Why have you stayed? What would you like others to know about being part of UUCC? Your experience and views can be part of the ongoing oral history of UUCC. *Thanks to those of you who have contacted us to participate.* We are looking for: Interviewers and Interviewees, transcribers and photographers.

The History Committee invites you to an Orientation to the *ORAL HISTORY PROJECT* on **March 19<sup>th</sup>, Noon – 1pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Come to the orientation, regardless of whether or how you want to participate.

Doug Rooks is assisting the History Committee with this endeavor. While we are focusing on the historical perspective of Unitarian Universalism in Augusta, we are establishing an ongoing oral history process so that we can "capture history as we make it."

**NOTE:** The History Committee has changed the date of its meetings to the first Thursday of the month, 1:00- 2:30 pm. This will allow us to get information into the Flaming Chalice in a more timely manner.

## Menu Contributions Needed for March Elder Lunch...

Can you bake a casserole, quiche or make a soup for one of these upcoming luncheons (8-10 servings)? Or, are you willing to make a finger food desserts such as cookies, brownies or bars? If you aren't a cook you could provide the fixings for a green salad which we arrange on small plates. Please contact Marilyn Dunn (512-5382) or [maine2007@hotmail.com](mailto:maine2007@hotmail.com) to schedule your contribution. Please put the luncheons on your calendar and remember to join us.

## Religious Exploration...

Dear Families,

You've been hearing a lot of talk about what an exciting period we're entering for Religious Exploration: a period of revisioning, of reimagining and redefining, of hope. RE has been and done so many things this year already. As of the end of February, we have learned about how to handle bullying, how to fight hunger by collecting food and donations, how to fight poverty by providing necessary items to shelters, how to fight slavery by making conscious decisions about our lifestyles, and how to fight sickness by supporting great non-profits like Make-A-Wish Maine. It's been an astonishing year!

Think shooting stars and rocket ships and bold flowers growing from deeply immersed roots. If RE is a garden, and our children are the flowers, vegetables, fruits, and leafy green wees, then the church is the fertile soil in which the seeds take root. This is what we mean when we speak of shared ministry: plants will grow everywhere if we give them the sun and the water, if we "warm them from below." And with time, and care, the flowers, vegetables, fruits, will grow strong to contribute to the beauty and nourishment of this world.

Planting a garden is an act of love, and faith, and hope. We love our children, and this is why we help them in their spiritual journey, why we bring them to church, and teach them our values. We have faith that our work will be worth it, we have faith in our children's abilities, we have faith that the seeds we plant will take root and become plants. And here is what I always remember when I see our children and their eagerness to repair the world: children are our hope for the future. This is so important in the world we belong to now- we hold our children now, and they will turn around one day and hold us, and the world, in their compassionate arms, in the garden of hope.

In peace,

Brigid



## Donations Needed for April 7 Auction...

Please begin submitting auction items for our spring fundraiser. Our fundraising goal is \$5,000 from bids on April 7. Have you asked friends and family members to donate time, treasures or gift cards?

### Here are a few early donations:

**\$300** Charlie's Auto Gift Certificate for labor and parts

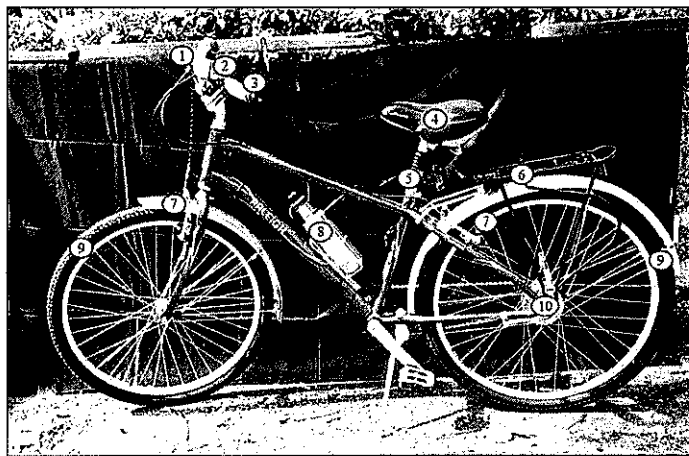
Eight **\$25** Gift cards to Applebees and Texas Roadhouse Restaurants

**\$500** Kennebec Savings Bank financial gift Basket

Two **\$75** professionally-framed inspirational posters

**\$75** like-new, oak china cabinet (with lock and key to glass door)

**\$830** brand new Raleigh bicycle with car carrier



1. Four-position headlight
2. Digital speedometer/odometer
3. Mirror
4. Avenir Comfort Plus Seat
5. Four-position taillight

6. Luggage rack
7. Caliper brakes
8. Klean Kanteen water bottle
9. 26 x 1.95 tires
10. Nexus 8-speed hub w/Coaster Brake

## Help Needed for Fellowship Hour...

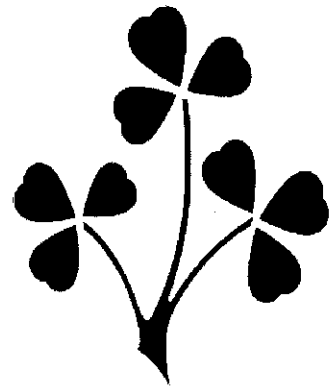
Thank you for all of you who have volunteered your time and resources to help us to enjoy Fellowship Hour. Your efforts are a blessing to all of us. We are in need of volunteers to sign up for the following dates:

March 12 (maybe a small group)  
 March 19 (maybe a committee)  
 April 30  
 May 7 (maybe a small group)  
 May 14  
 May 21 (maybe a committee)  
 May 28  
 June 4 (annual meeting day)  
 June 11  
 June 18  
 June 25

Sign up on the calendar in the Fellowship Hall. If you have questions contact Jill Watson at 458-4437 or [jillwatson223@gmail.com](mailto:jillwatson223@gmail.com)

## Book for Serious Readers..

**BOOKS FOR SERIOUS READERS** meets on March 9<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 until 2:30. We will be discussing The Rope by Kanan Makiya. This is a novel about the American occupation of Iraq from the Shi'ite point of view. It has been called 'simultaneously informative, scary, worrying, and deeply engaging.' We welcome those who have joined us before and any interested newcomers. In April we will discuss Knocking on Heaven's Door by Katie Butler, looking at end of life decisions from a daughter's perspective. For more information, contact June Zellers at 582-5862 or



**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](mailto:newsletter@augustauu.org) with the article as an word attachment, please! Photos of church activities welcome!  
Deadline: March 20

**Minister:** Rev. Carie Johnsen

**President:** Martha Naber

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

**Administrator:** Lynn Smith  
[admin@augustauu.org](mailto: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  
Committee chairs and others can also be reached through the church office at 622-3232 or church email.

### **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](http://www.everydayordinarytheologies.com)

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