



The Flaming Chalice

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

Theme:

What does it mean to be a
community of
EMBODIMENT?

May 2017

Services at 9:15am and 11:00am May 7, 14 and 21

May 7th

Our Work This Year

PeaceJam Youth

Please join us at our *Peace Jam Youth Service*. Our UUCC Peace Jam Youth have spent their year together bringing awareness to the plight of the Honey Bee and starting a YoUth to YoUth Initiative to welcome our local immigrant families.

May 14th

Coming of Age Service

Coming-of-age Youth

Come join us and be inspired by our UUCC Coming of Age Youth who will be sharing their Credo's during this special celebration

May 21st

9:15am

RE Recognition

Brigid Chapin/Monique McAuliffe

Join our children as we honor the work, learning, and growth that they've accomplished this year in Religious Exploration.

11:00am

Let It Be a Dance We Do

Rev. Carie Johnsen

How might we be changed by the arrival of new visitors and guests in our community? What is required of us to stay open to the possibilities that arrive with new members? Rather than return to homeostasis, how shall we be transformed by their way of walking spiritually, religiously, and morally in a rapidly changing world?

With the arrival of Memorial Day Weekend we shift to

one service only at 10:00am

throughout the summer and through Labor Day Weekend.

May 28th

Finding the Needle in the Haystack

Peter J. Mendall, Sr.

How often do you have those "Ah-Ha" moments in life, and how do you respond to them? When the universe offers you a profound new lesson, what encourages you to take it and run with it?

A Faith Journey...

I begin this month's article with these two paragraphs from a Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Leadership Council letter on April 6th to congregational leaders:

The past few weeks have been difficult for many of us in the Unitarian Universalist community. The pain resulting from patterns of institutional racism and the impact of white supremacy within our Association has been shared openly and urgently. This pain reflects generations of injustice and unfulfilled commitments to dismantle racism — not just a few weeks of conversation. We offer our apologies and prayers for those who have been harmed. We thank those Unitarian Universalists of Color whose courageous voices have led the way in this conversation and renewed commitment.

For those who may not be fully aware of this situation, a recent hiring decision at the UUA opened an urgent conversation about institutional racism within the UUA. President Peter Morales acknowledged that his response to the concerns deepened the hurt and created more alienation and division. On March 30, 2017, Rev. Morales announced his resignation. The UUA Leadership Council offered [an apology](#) for the ways the UUA has failed to live into our highest values of equity and inclusion. You can learn more in this UU World [online article](#). We also encourage you to read what other Unitarian Universalists and UU groups are saying about this situation. [This UU World article](#) has a partial compilation of other voices and opinions.

We have watched additional resignations from UUA leadership followed by the appointments of three interim co-presidents: Rev. Sofia Betancourt, the Rev. William G. Sinkford, and Leon Spencer. Again an [UU World](#) article shares the news.

In the meanwhile courageous young adult leaders from Black Lives Unitarian Universalist (BLUU) have called upon all Unitarian Universalist congregations to teach about white supremacy on April 30th or May 7th. At last count 544 congregations (including UUCC of Augusta) have committed to participate in this large-scale historic action.

Our Standing on the Side of Love Campaign Manager, Nora Rasman points out “wherever we are – geographically and politically – our congregations are navigating the waters of white supremacy.” BLUU explains, “Whether your UU community has dozens of members and children of color, or just about everyone is white, the commitment to combat white supremacy must be strong and urgent. Battling racism in its many forms is not easy. Everyone has to start somewhere and it takes a commitment to disrupt business as usual.”

Guided by BLUU our April 30th service will disrupt business as usual to dig deep and engage the topic of white supremacy. We will unpack this loaded term and engage in critical self-examination. We will do this imperfectly but with best intentions.

(continued on page 3)

My Faith Journey...continued from page 2

I close with this short reflection form the #UUWhiteSupremacyTeachin leadership team:

*To tackle white supremacy *within* us is scary. Us? White supremacy? Surely not. We Unitarian Universalists think of ourselves as people with open hearts and minds. And we are. Part of having an open mind is realizing that, try as we might to be part of the world's solutions, we may also be unwittingly contributing to its problems.*

This does not make us bad people. Our faith tells us that our goodness has already been established. Our task, then, is to live up to that inherent goodness. But goodness does not mean we are perfect. Our prayer, then, is that, good as we are, we strive to be ever-better, to listen to voices that have been marginalized, and to center those who have been, however unintentionally, pushed to the margins of our faith. May we do this work with courage and in community.

I invite you to show up for this work open and willing to audaciously engage this powerful and essential conversation. I invite you to bring your curiosity and your anxiety, your excitement and your hesitation and, most of all, bring your imperfect selves; for we will stumble and fall and offend and rise up humbly ready to continue the work that needs to be done. For we are Unitarian Universalists and we are called to be a part of building a more just and equitable world one mistake at a time, one step at a time, one action at a time, one conversation at a time, one success at a time.

May our intentions to do no more harm and our desire to bring our best selves to the teach-in engender in us bold and courageous conversations of love, compassion and truth forever widening.

In faith,
Rev. Carie Johnsen



From the President....

Greetings to all at UUCC! How can it be May already? It seems we just had the annual meeting, (last June) and now we are getting ready for this opportunity for us to gather and make decisions for another church year beginning July 1. As members you will be able to vote on the nominations of committee chairs and board members. (If you are asked, please consider serving UUCC as a committee chair.) There will be some proposed by-laws changes to consider, and as always the budget for our operations. The Board is working on the proposed budget to bring to you. I really urge you to **put June 4th on your calendars** to attend the meeting. Your presence, your questions, and your votes are important for UUCC for 2017-2018.

So....May will be a busy month. Each week when I read the Wednesday email of activities and announcements at UUCC I am so impressed at all that goes on at UUCC during the week. When the RE Wisdom Weavers met in mid-April there were 4 other groups meeting at the same time! I hope you find something that will give you an opportunity for social action, for growth, for community, for learning, for fun in the calendar. May 7 will be the annual choir/orchestra concert at 4:00 PM. Come enjoy the music shared over this church year, and some new pieces, too.

During the month, and every month, I hope you will step out and greet someone new in our congregation. They may be a first time visitor and appreciate having someone to sit with them. I have seen and spoken to several new people at each service lately. I experience welcome at UUCC, let's make sure they do as well. Would you be a greeter for a service to welcome all to the service? Contact Noah Gottlieb if you are willing to do this. Thank you in advance for demonstrating your welcome at the door to all who enter.

And with all this business of the year end time of the church year, please be sure to take care of your needs, too. There are typically conflicts vying for our time. I hope you see UUCC as a place, as a people, as an organization which nurtures, challenges, and supports you. Do you need to sit quietly in the sanctuary, do you need a hug or quiet conversation with someone, do you need time with the minister? UUCC can provide this to you.

Blessed May to you all.

Sincerely,

Martha Naber,
Board President

Small Group Ministry...

Spring greetings from your Small Group Committee! In our quest to provide thought provoking subject matter for our Small Groups, we have uncovered two session plans from "Beyond the Partisan Divide" gleaned from the uua.org website. The first Small Group Session plan is called "*Will it Matter? Considering Partisan Bias in Congregational Life.*" It looks at how we consider the inherent worth and dignity of every person as it relates to our political views and how a partisan atmosphere can carve division in our lives.

The second plan examines "*Ecclesiology: The Purpose of the Church.*" Ecclesiology is, more or less, a rather fancy word for "the purpose of the church." One of the questions in this plan is, "This is a time of high stakes advocacy in both environmental and anti-racism efforts. How might you imagine showing up for racial and environmental justice in a way that makes room for honest difference of political perspective?" Just this single question could lead to very thoughtful discussion!

These, in addition to a new UUCC session plan, "*Small Group Ministry for Times Such as These*," have been sent to SGM Leaders. How we are with each other in Small Group Ministry prepares us for welcoming interactions with a people with broader range of positions and ideas. Our UU Principles provide a base for our interactions, especially the inherent worth of each person, the use of the democratic process, and the interdependent web of existence.

We hope that you will find this information helpful when planning your upcoming meetings. Have a great month.

Contact: Beth Olsen, 557-1775
Chair of the Small Group Ministry Committee

Making Spare Time Count

MaineGeneral's Spiritual Care Department is looking for individuals who would be willing to serve as volunteer Chaplains at the hospital in Augusta. These volunteers offer a caring presence to our patients, and will receive specialized training for the position. You will be able to choose your own hours and days to work and we will accommodate your schedule. If you are interested in this rewarding volunteer position, please contact Rev. Chris Thornton at

The Future of Religious

Dear Families,

The sun comes out. The birds and flowers return. Conversations spontaneously turn to topics of renewal and hope. The air is fresh and clean as the church year rolls to a close. In May, we in the RE community look back at the year in its successes and shortcomings, and visioning and excitement for the next year turn our thoughts forward.

At the RE Retreat in March, the congregation faced the future of RE together. We spent the evening talking values, principles, and connections, and we thought together about how to bring our visions of RE into the coming year. Following this discussion, we're planning a whole year of church and RE focused on the theme of the UU Principles. Here are our goals: age-appropriate engagement for Sunday mornings; extra-church events and activities for the weekdays; more music in our worship and in our days; and more interpersonal, multi-generational connections to feed our spirits, within and beyond our church.

We hope you will engage with us as we enter into a year of questions, pilots, and trying new things. We are guided by the wishes of you, our community, and our children.

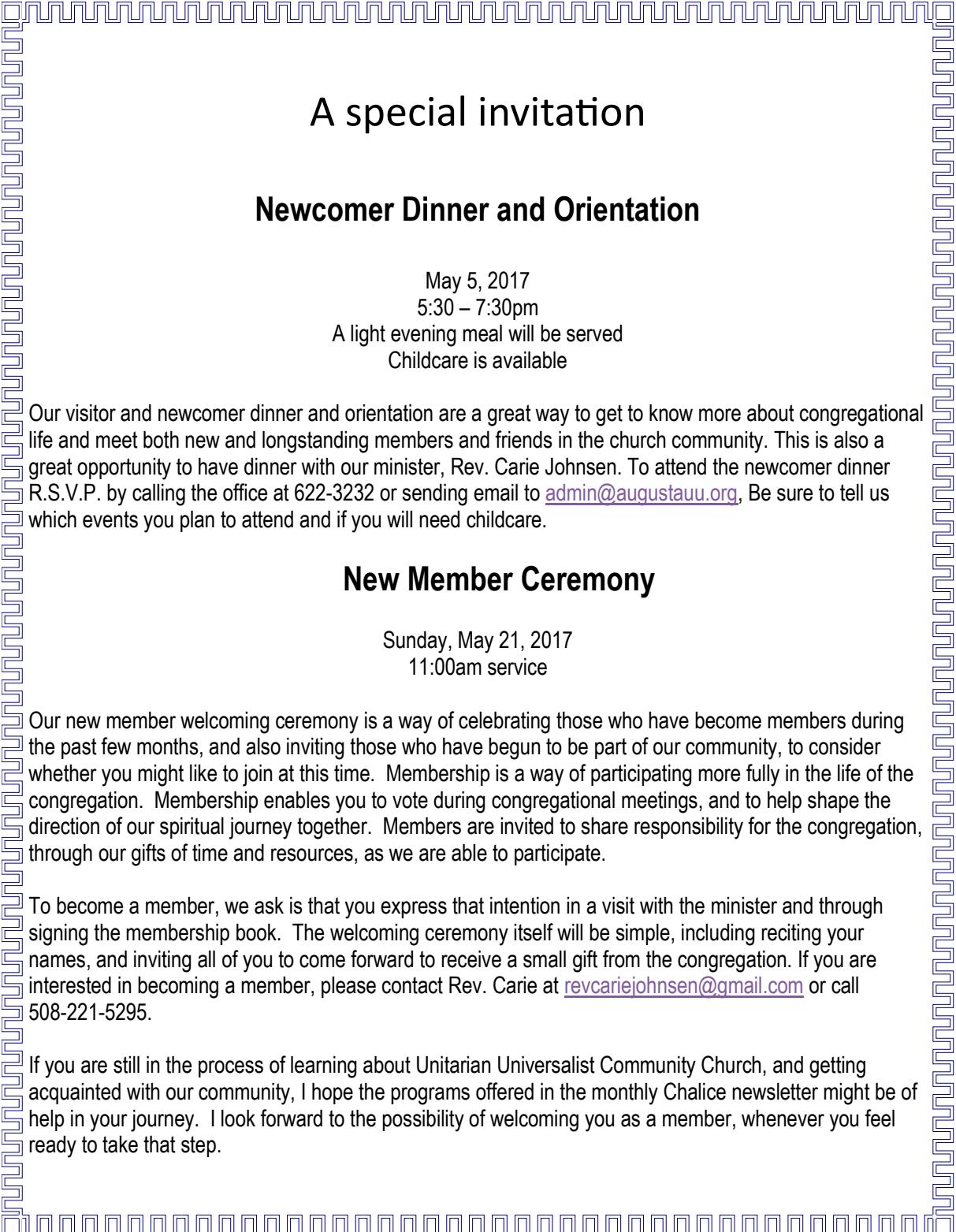
In peace,

Brigid Chapin
Religious Exploration Coordinator

Goddess/Earth Circles...

Join us as we continue to explore the stories of goddesses for our lives. Everyone is welcome.

May 21, **12:15-2pm**, Fellowship Hall. Motherhood and Family focuses on the stories of Ceres and erserpina, and Hestia, with the celebration of Mother's Day. This will be led by Beth Olsen and Jean Sizelove, and provide opportunity for reflections on spirituality in family relationships.



A special invitation

Newcomer Dinner and Orientation

May 5, 2017

5:30 – 7:30pm

A light evening meal will be served

Childcare is available

Our visitor and newcomer dinner and orientation are a great way to get to know more about congregational life and meet both new and longstanding members and friends in the church community. This is also a great opportunity to have dinner with our minister, Rev. Carie Johnsen. To attend the newcomer dinner R.S.V.P. by calling the office at 622-3232 or sending email to admin@augustauu.org. Be sure to tell us which events you plan to attend and if you will need childcare.

New Member Ceremony

Sunday, May 21, 2017

11:00am service

Our new member welcoming ceremony is a way of celebrating those who have become members during the past few months, and also inviting those who have begun to be part of our community, to consider whether you might like to join at this time. Membership is a way of participating more fully in the life of the congregation. Membership enables you to vote during congregational meetings, and to help shape the direction of our spiritual journey together. Members are invited to share responsibility for the congregation, through our gifts of time and resources, as we are able to participate.

To become a member, we ask is that you express that intention in a visit with the minister and through signing the membership book. The welcoming ceremony itself will be simple, including reciting your names, and inviting all of you to come forward to receive a small gift from the congregation. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Rev. Carie at revcariejohnsen@gmail.com or call 508-221-5295.

If you are still in the process of learning about Unitarian Universalist Community Church, and getting acquainted with our community, I hope the programs offered in the monthly Chalice newsletter might be of help in your journey. I look forward to the possibility of welcoming you as a member, whenever you feel ready to take that step.

Announcing the 2017/18 Worship and Soul Matters Theme

What does it mean to be a Unitarian Universalist?

We the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, covenant to affirm and promote:

September : The inherent worth and dignity of every person;

October: Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;

November: Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;

December: Unitarian Universalist Sources (see below)

January: A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;

February: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;

March: The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;

April: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

May: Unitarian Universalist Sources (see below)

June: Unitarian Universalist Sources (see below)

The living tradition which we share draws from many sources:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.

Afghan Family Supported by UUCC Family Mentor Team

The Capital Area New Mainers Project (CANMP) is an all-volunteer organization that welcomes immigrants and refugees and helps them thrive in Central Maine. Through CANMP, Family Mentor Teams have formed to help the new Mainers adjust to life in the capital area. Recently a UUCC-based Family Mentor Team has begun serving an Afghan refugee family of six who was settled in Augusta in fall 2016. Our team, composed of Susan Parks (lead), Pam Lombard, Jenny McKendry, Hilary Neckles, and Mary Simpson, has been helping this Afghan family with transportation, medical appointments, English-language tutoring, job searches, navigating social services, and finding sources of food and clothing. And as we help the family with their most

fundamental needs for daily living, we are striving also to help them enjoy their lives in our collective community.



With the arrival of spring, the family is excited to begin some new activities. Seven-year old Muhib is signed up for Augusta Recreation youth soccer and he will need some basic equipment to begin practice and games. The family has received a generous scholarship from the Kennebec Valley YMCA that reduces their

facilities and program costs by 75%. No one in the family knows how to swim, and 17-year old Sodaba and 16-year old Daniela are ecstatic to begin swim lessons at the end of April. And 19-year old Sameera is eager to receive pro bono piano lessons from Bridget Convey this summer, and she will need piano books.

We are seeking donations from UUCC to assist the family with their

outstanding costs for these activities: we estimate the total cost of the necessary soccer gear, remaining YMCA fees, used clothing suitable as Islamic swimwear, and piano books will be \$300.



Donations can be sent to the church office with "UUCC Family Mentor Team" in the memo line. We thank you very much for any donation you are able to make to help these young people take lessons and play soccer, and most importantly, become more and more integrated into the Augusta community.

For more information please call Susan Parks: 207-441-4942

To get involved with CANMP see <https://www.newmainersproject.org/>, email newmainersproject@gmail.com, or call 207-441-4942

Fundraising News...

**Sunday, May 7th, 4 pm
UUCC Spring Concert**

**Saturday, June 10th
8:30am –1:30pm
Indoor/Outdoor Yard Sale**

A Letter Home...

Winter has suddenly turned into spring all at once and where did the time go? I haven't visited UUCC since Christmas, though I follow the weekly and monthly newsletters.

I am nearing the end of my first year of a two-year internship, and enjoying my placement at the UU Church of Brunswick. As some of you know, I am also doing a second unit of clinical pastoral education (student chaplaincy) at Maine Med this spring, to deepen my discernment around whether to serve as a parish minister or pursue professional chaplaincy after my (expected) graduation next spring. Hospital chaplaincy is the last thing in the world I ever thought I would fall in love with. But I also love our institutions and want to see them sustained into the future. These are strange, complicated, fast-moving times, and I am grateful to be called to serve in them.

Five years ago I hadn't even thought of seminary yet. Now I'm preparing in earnest to interview with the Ministerial Fellowship Committee this coming winter. This is the next major step in our credentialing process; a minister who is admitted to preliminary fellowship is eligible to seek a congregational placement or to receive associational endorsement as a professional chaplain (or chaplain-in-training.) Sometimes the MFC determines a candidate isn't ready yet, and requests further work, or a subsequent interview. So if I am admitted to fellowship this December, then we will be able to talk about what happens after that.

I miss you all and hope to see some of you at some point this summer.

Yours in faith,
Claire Curole
Candidate for UU Ministry

News and Thanks

April 16, 2017

Thank you to so many UUCC friends and neighbors, who have asked about my Mom, Helen Mckendry. She just had a hip joint replaced and will now(good news) receive a pacemaker on Tuesday April 18, at Maine Medical in Portland.

Currently there is no surgeon in Augusta who implants them, but she's received high quality care and had begun rehabilitation for her hip at Maine General, when the need for a pacemaker became crystal clear. It'll be a while yet, before she's home. Tune-in soon for the next exciting adventure of Helen/ the Bionic Maine Woman.

Happy Spring.

Jenny Mckendry and Jim Mckendry

SPRING COMMUNITY CONCERT FEATURING THE UUCC CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA

**SUNDAY, MAY 7TH at 4:00pm
UUCC Sanctuary**

Our Annual *Spring Community Concert* will take place on Sunday, May 7th at 4pm in the UUCC Sanctuary. Come and enjoy a wonderful program featuring music from around the world and spanning 500 years!

Music by J.S. Bach, Solomone Rossi, Frank Ticheli, Billy Joel, Ysaye Barnwell, and many others; will be performed by our wonderful UUCC musicians. This event is a 100% fundraiser for the UUCC and a free will offering will be accepted at intermission.

Come and join us!

This will be a fabulous musical event, followed by a light reception in the Fellowship Hall.

UUCC Library...

We are highlighting two sections this month. There are two sections of note this month.

First, we invite you to note Items By and About Unitarian Universalists, the middle section just under the Meditation Manuals. Items are sorted alphabetically by the person, and includes Historic figures as well as contemporary writers: Channing and Ballou, Emerson and Thoreau, Murray and Peabody, Scott and Fulghum, and many more. There are several collections of writings, like essays, collection of UU women biographies and writings.

Second, is Issues, in the right section. This includes materials from UU sources and resources used within the church community on such topics as Sexuality and Gender, Mental Health, Racial and Class concerns, Immigration and Native concerns.

Items may be borrowed. Sign out sheets are in a pink folder on the left side, behind the door.

Sponsored by Thursday AM
Small Group Ministry
Contact: Jean Sizelove 623-5096
mesizelove@roadrunner.com

Display Case...

The Library display will run through May 7. This will continue to feature parts of the Library, located in the Committee Room.

May 14 we are looking forward to an art display by Liza Gottlieb.

June 11 will be the Summer display.

Do you have ideas?

Contact Helen Zidowecki 582-5308
hzmre@hzmre.com

Journey to the End Session....

Sunday, May 7th from 12:30 - 2:30pm

FINAL CHOICES:

Compassionate Choices and Hospice Care

While modern medicine has been enormously beneficial in many ways, it has also introduced what seems like a bewildering array of possibilities when close to death, adding to our normal fears at this time of life. Even with an advance directive in place, last minute changes of mind can happen. Such choices should be very individual. The goal of this session is to compassionately explore our options for easing this passage.

Three distinguished speakers will facilitate our exploration: the **Rev David Gant**, Manager of Spiritual Care and Social Work for MaineGeneral Home Care and Hospice, **Val Lovelace**, holistic practitioner and long time Maine leader in claiming our own deaths, and Maine **Senator Roger Katz**, who is the Sponsor of the Death with Dignity Bill, LD 347, currently being considered in the legislature. Diane Moongrove will moderate.

2nd Thursday Book Group...

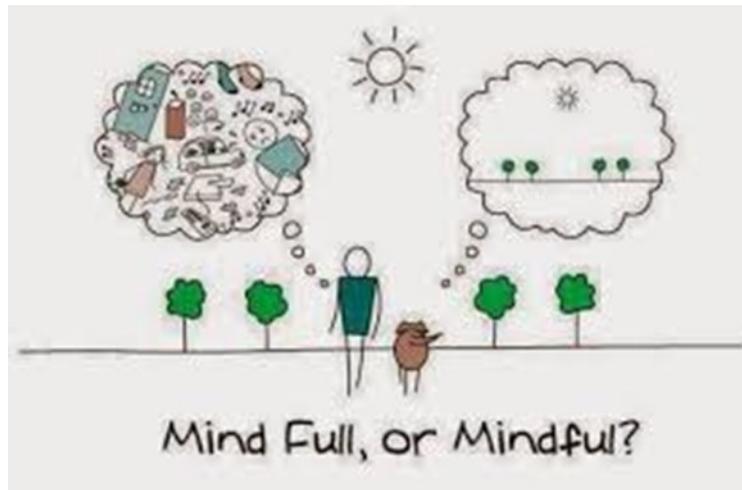
May 11th from 12:30 to 2:30pm in Fellowship Hall.
Join us for a discussion of "The Mandibles" by Lionel Shriver, a novel (set in the future) about money and its effect on one extended family. We hope this fictional story will also give us a foundation for our June gathering.

June 8th from 12:30 to 2:30 in Fellowship Hall.
In June we'll talk about Nancy Isenberg's "White Trash: The 400-Year Untold History of Class in America." Also join us if you've read (or are reading) "Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis" by J.D. Vance, which we understand covers similar material.

Join us for just one book if you like – no need to commit to multiple meetings. Also, it is not too early to think about what we might want to read and discuss next year!

For questions and feedback, contact either: Kathy Kellison at 445-4415 kell6787@gmail.com OR June Zellers at 582-5862 izellers@roadrunner.com

Peaceful Heart Sangha



If you are interested in inviting your child, teen, grandchild, or friend's child to join us for a Children's Mindfulness Meditation group (ages 4 - teens) Fourth Mondays, 5:30 – 6:15pm, starting in the fall – We are exploring this possibility!
Please let Marty Soule know (martysoule@gmail.com, 685-9270)

We hope to arrange childcare (6:15 – 8:15pm) through UUCC connections so that the adults can then join us for sangha, 6:30 – 8pm

Peaceful Heart Sangha
(a mindfulness meditation group in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh)
meets every Monday 6:30 – 8pm in the sanctuary at UUCC and every Thursday morning from 8 – 9:30am at River Studio, 332 Water St, Hallowell.

Please join us any time!

Only exception: Monday, June 12th we will drive together to the Nevola Symposium Movie Night at Railroad Square Cinema in Waterville.

**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 word attachment, please!

Photos of church activities welcome!

Deadline: May 15 . Anything received after this date may not be able to be published.

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
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

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.