



The Flaming Chalice

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

September 2014

September



INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

*** With the arrival of September we return to two services at 9:15 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. ****

September 7th

In Our Own Backyards

Rev. Carie Johnsen

IN-GATHERING SUNDAY

UUCC has a long-standing tradition in which members and friends return from their summer sojourns with a vessel of water from their travels. The water communion ritual is an annual event in which our individual water is collected in one large vessel to symbolize our unity amid our diversity.

This year we are asking members and friends of the congregation to **bring in water from local sources**. Waters gathered while partaking in the age-old ritual of community building with nature, friends, family, committees, and small groups. In addition to bringing the water, we are also asking members and friends to **bring in a photo from one summer adventure**. The picture may or may not be the adventure wherein you gathered your water. The only requirement is that it is taken in a community that inspires or transforms, celebrates or memorializes or brings a sense of peace or stirs up anticipation and excitement.

September 14th

Not for Ourselves Alone

Rev. Carie Johnsen

In the book "Not for Ourselves Alone," Burton D. Carley and Laurel Hallman move beyond "Who are we?" to "Whose are we?", thus suggesting we are part of something that both includes us and transcends us. In this service we will expand upon this conversation with a curious inquiry around relevance; not so much "How will I be relevant?" but "How shall we as a people of faith be relevant in the lives of others and the ever changing world?"

September 21st

And What About that WEB?

Rev. Carie Johnsen

On this Sunday members of UUCC and the Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network are on a bus to New York City, clean air and water, and healthy communities.

September 28th

To Be Announced

Membership Committee

A Faith Journey by Rev. Carie Johnsen...

Here I sit in the comforts of middle class white America in the middle of a very white state pondering my return to beloved community. I have much to be grateful for - I am well, my children and grandchildren are well. I am employed, paid a living wage and respected in my ministry. I have food to keep me nourished, friends and colleagues to sustain me in my journey and my summer sojourn has offered a time to rest, connection with family and deep spiritual renewal.

Yet all around me, if I chose to listen and bear witness, is a world torn apart, countries with people wounded, afraid, and angry, people retaliating with reciprocal violence, people raising an angry voice, civilians dying by the thousands, nations of people polarized and unable to find peaceful resolution. There is unrest in Missouri and Israel/Palestine and Iraq and Ukraine. Across the globe racial tensions, ethnic tensions and religious tensions mount with greater cost to humanity and our earthly home bears the scars. Our children are terrified, dying in the streets, in the desert and in their homes, bused to detention centers, recruited into gangs and sold into slavery.

It is overwhelming and I fight the impulse to flee, to bury my head in the sand and pretend all is well. I know deep in my soul somewhere behind my jaded heart is a well of tears. My challenge as a minister and a woman who seeks to be fully engaged with all of life is to let myself look into the eyes of evil and scream an angry cry. My personal journey of enculturation has conveniently woven for me a fine veil of apathy should I chose to hide blindly and quietly. Still I cry silent tears, still I speak up to injustice, still I do what I can from my location in a hurting, fighting world.

As I sat to write this month's article, I struggled with my choice: Do I write an article celebrating the loving embrace of a faith community returning from their summer sojourns? Or do I write an article that speaks to the truth of what is unfolding across the globe?

It is the very fact that I have this choice that compelled me to choose the latter. I recognize in all this - my privilege as a white, middle class woman - I live with choice to stand up to the injustice or don the veil. Choice, assumed in my world of privilege, yet not so easily available in a world held up by institutional and systemic racism, sexism, ableism...; not so easily employed in the harsh reality of injustice and inequality, terrorism and war; not so easily engaged and retained in the rhetoric of power, politics and corporation.

It is because we stand in power and choice that we chose to return back to this faith community, year after year, month after month, week after week. It is because we see in our Unitarian Universalist values a way to be true to all that is our life, to lift the veil, confront evil, stand against injustice, speak truth to power and to find comfort in the pews, to sustain the journey in companionship with others, seek inspiration to guide our days and soothe our weary souls.

Our theme for September, *Inclusive Community*, offers us a springboard to deep conversation and reflection on what our faith asks of us. We begin our month with our annual water communion, then explore the rich theme by asking the questions, 'to whom do we belong?' In a world gone mad, in a world where love reaches out, how shall we be relevant in a way that draws our circle of inclusion ever wider every day?

In faith, Rev. Carie

An Evening of Alexander Technique...

with Ruth Lund, LMT and
Rev. Carie Johnsen

Wednesday, September 3rd from
6:00 - 7:30

Wednesday, September 10th from
6:00 - 7:00

Drew House Meeting Room

Come to this class and learn more about free and efficient physical movement. Alexander's Technique of Observation helps us decrease the tension and stress of everyday activities and improve overall coordination and body use. This two session introduction to the Alexander Technique will begin with a light dinner on the first evening.

This evening was offered as an auction item with a value of \$40. We have seats open for the September events. If you would like to attend, please contact Rev. Carie at revcariejohnsen@gmail.com.

SGM Meetings...

As we begin the new Church year and switch to an electronic Google calendar, Steve in the Office needs updated info on all SGM Meetings to enter beginning July 1st. The current calendar is blank after June 30th. SGM Leaders: please let him know your group schedules so they can be added to the calendar for the upcoming year! Email Steve at: admin@augustauu.org

Also, any other regular groups and meetings, etc. please email Steve with information as we move to a new calendar.

KVO Candidates Night...

Kennebec Valley Organization (KVO) Candidates Night

6:30 - 8:30 pm

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Le Club Calumet

334 West River Road

Augusta, Maine

Join us in this event to learn where candidates for State Legislature stand on these critical social and economic issues:

Elder Transportation - Improvements in transportation to medical appointments for the growing number of Valley elders;

Head Start - Increased funding for Head Start to allow more children to benefit from early education and free more parents to participate in the workforce, and

Pocketbook Issues - Other issues that

can help Valley residents on the margin live healthy, productive lives.



For more information, please contact: Helen Hanson, KVO President, or Charlie Conley, KVO Secretary at [\(207\) 873-5533](tel:(207)873-5533).

Kennebec Valley Organization (KVO) is made up of congregations and labor union locals that work together to build community, develop leadership skills, and work to bring about a better valley community through issue-oriented community campaigns.

www.kennebecvalleyorganization.org

Goddess Continuing/ Earth Circles...

Save the date!

Join us on **Sunday, September 28, 2014, 12:30 – 2 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall** for the opening session of Goddess Continuing / Earth Circles. We will have Food for the Fall, an overview of the Earth Circle Celebrations for the year, discussion of honoring women of wisdom (also known as Croning), and Adult Enrichment offerings.

All ages and genders are welcome. Explore the offerings for the year.

Please look for the ongoing announcements for more information.

Contact: Helen Zidowecki (582-5308, hzmre@hzmre.com)

Religious Education Committee...

Spirit Play and Nursery have continued throughout the summer.

The RE Committee has been busy this summer planning for the new year, and the search committee interviewing candidates for the position of Director of Family Ministry. We hope to have a new director in place for the fall.



Looking forward to seeing you all!"

Diane Smith Howard, Chair, Religious Exploration Committee

Buildings and Grounds...

Building and Grounds Committee Seeking Members

We guarantee your time will not be taken up in meetings. We meet annually to prioritize big projects and the rest of the year we communicate by email. You would need to attend the monthly 2nd -Saturday work days when possible and take responsibility for occasional minor repairs and maintenance that come up during the month if Tom is unavailable. Please call 512-5382 or email maine2007@hotmail.com if you are willing to become a committee member.

Monthly 2nd Saturday Workdays Resume
September 14th, from 9 a.m. -- noon will be a work day. Planned tasks are exterior painting, emptying the compost bin into a trailer, cleaning basements, general maintenance and cleaning.

Nonviolent Communications...

September 5, 2014, 10:15-12:15 in the Robbins Room

The **Nonviolent Communications (Also known as Compassionate Communications) Practice Group** will start meeting for the church year. Explore how NVC is part of our lives, and gain tips and tools to enhancing its use.

The group is open to people who have taken Nonviolent Communication Training programs, or who are/have been in a practice group. Others may attend, but are encouraged to attend a training when one becomes available.

Contact Helen Wing at 685-3804, hcranewing@roadrunner.com

Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Augusta, Maine
Adult Enrichment Opportunities 2014/15

It is exciting to begin the year with the calendar for adult enrichment set with a variety of opportunities for connection, community and spiritual formation. The diversity of programs are open to UUCC members and friends and members of the greater Augusta community. Please note some programs are designed to encourage participation and support of specific groups. We hope you will be inspired to sign up for one or more option. To do so please contact Steve Moore, UUCC Office Administrator at 622-3232 or admin@augustauu.org.

YEAR LONG PROGRAMS

Seasoned Souls is a group of older church members who began gathering as an Adult Education class to study a particular book on aging. They enjoyed being together so much they decided to name the group and continued meeting as a study/support group. *Seasoned Souls* is open to any church member who has a Medicare card and wishes to talk openly about topics related to the aging process.

Date: every 2nd and 4th Wednesday Time: 10:30 a.m. until noon Location: Fellowship Hall.

The Way of the Naturalist

As Unitarian Universalist we strive to respect the interdependent web all existence of which we are a part. This program offers five stand-alone sessions that offer an experience and an opportunity to discuss how we are all interdependent with each other and the natural world. These sessions offer participants an opportunity to feel connected to the earth and to each other, to share about their own personal experience, and to deepen their understanding about the natural world.

This program is part of our *Congregations and Beyond* ministry whereby we bring our values and principles out into the greater Augusta community. Members and friends of UUCC are very welcome to sign up for these events. Participants are not required to attend all session. Each session designed as a "stand-alone", so that participants may attend one, a few or all. These sessions will be designed for adults over 18.

<u>The Way of the Forest</u>	October 5, 2014, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Chine School Forest
<u>The Way of the Owl</u>	November 16, 2014, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Hidden Valley Nature Center
<u>The Way of the Moon & Stars</u>	February 15, 2015	To Be Determined
<u>The Way of the Birds</u>	May 23 rd , 2015, 7:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Viles Arboretum
<u>The Way of the Flowers</u>	June ?, 2015	Rail Trail

Leaders: Melanie Lanctot and Cheryl Ring
Contact Information: 629-8889 or cherylringmaine@gmail.com

Matters of Faith: Yours, Mine, Theirs

Matters of Faith is a book study group for the spiritual seeker who is looking to explore their personal spiritual journey with other curious and open minded individuals. Participants will examine the religious impulse through the spiritual writings and memoirs of authors from a variety of faith traditions. Participants will explore and share their faith journey, bear witness to the journey of those gathered and glean wisdom from the diversity of beliefs that span the globe. We will begin in September by getting to know each other and exploring a variety of book options from diverse religious traditions. The group will select eight books.

This program is part of our *Congregations and Beyond* ministry whereby we bring our values and principles out into the greater Augusta community. Members and friends of UUCC are also very welcome to sign up for these events. Sign-up for this class will be limited and preference will be given to new friends who sign up via meetup.com.

Dates: Fourth Monday of the Month, beginning September 22nd and ending in May
Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Location: Cause 4 Paws

(continued on next page)

Co-Leaders: Rev. Carie Johnsen
Michael Conley

Contact Information: Revcariejohnsen@gmail.com 623-3663
Contact Information: eastherpearl67@gmail.com 446-4788

Writing Your Sacred Journey

Writing as spiritual practice can be a rich, active form of paying attention to the self and the world. Writing as contemplation can focus us, center us, slow us down and allow us to simply observe, be present, open, aware and appreciative of what we have, here, right now. We are excited to have a different leader facilitating each session of this series. The diversity of leadership will allow for varied styles of leadership, structure, facilitation, activities and creative writing assignments. This program will be offered in three distinct sessions. Participants may sign up for one session, two sessions or all three. Class is limited to 10 participants.

Fall Session (5 gatherings)
Leader: Rev. Carie Johnsen

Winter Session (6 gatherings)
Leader: Roberta Record
623-3663 or revcariejohnsen@gmail.com
623-2848 or rrecord2002@yahoo.com
781-856-2335 or cherub1@rocketmail.com

Spring Session (6 gatherings)
Leader: Rita Cherubini

Tuesday evenings, 5:30 – 7:30pm September 23, October 7th, 21st, November 4th, 18th
Sunday afternoons, 12:00 – 2:00 pm January 4th, 18th, February 1st, 15th, March 1st, 15th
Wednesday mornings, 10:00 am – noon April 15th, 29th, May 13th, 27th, June 3rd, 17th

Location for all session: Drew House

FALL 2014 PROGRAMS

Unitarian Universalists Praying

We will have a six-session long exploration and conversation about prayer – its role in our lives, our relationship with it, our hopes for it – and we will pray. Prayer is complicated for Unitarian Universalists, being private, public, universal, personal, and intimate – and also so traditional. Let me sort this out on Sunday afternoons this fall. Participants will read Anne Lamott's, *Help. Thanks. Wow: The Three Essential Prayers* and *Simply Pray* by Eric Walker Wikstrom. This program is designed for members and friends of UJCC with a distinct Unitarian Universalist identity or curiosity about prayer in our faith.

Dates: Sundays, Oct. 5th, 19th, Nov. 2nd, 16th, Dec. 7th, 21st Time: 12:30 – 2:30 pm Location: Drew House
Leader: Gary Chapin Contact Information: 458-1726 or garyparkerchapin@aol.com

On the Threshold

In this continuation of the course, *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven (Volume II)*, we will continue our journey into the past to reclaim the stories of powerful women to be found in ancient Judaism and in early Christianity. We will look at the global silencing and brutalization of women that accompanied the rise of patriarchal religion and society. Finally we will celebrate a new world-view and theology that has emerged in our time, and explore the personal and social changes that may be suggested by that new world-view and theology. We will continue the complex process of telling a new story.

Dates: Tuesdays, October 14th & 28th, November 11th, December 2nd Times: 5:30 – 7:30 pm
Location: Fellowship Hall
Leader: Helen Zidowecki Contact Information: 582-5308 or hzmre@hzmre.com

Ethical Wills: What are They and Should I have One?

We will all leave remnants of our lives behind when we depart this life. We will leave possessions, be they many or few, we will leave sums of money, be it large or small, and we will leave memories that will be unique to the person who will be remembering us. But what do YOU want people to remember you best by? What values have you cherished most that you hope to have passed on? Has your life exemplified what you had hoped to teach the world? If you want to be very clear, why not write an ethical will? Ethical Wills have a long history in the Hebrew religious tradition, and Rabbi Erica Ash will be here to guide us as we learn to write our own ethical wills. We will be inviting members of our neighborhood churches in an effort to expand our adult education beyond our own walls. We'll also have a pot luck lunch together as we meet from 10 a.m. until 2 pm, so plan on bringing something to share with others. Registration is a must (with Steve at 622-3232).

Date: Saturday, October 18, 2014 Time: 10 a.m. -- 2 p.m. Location: Fellowship Hall
Leaders: Nancee Campbell and Rabbi Erica Asch (continued on next page)

Contact Information: nancee1944@gmail.com or 621-7727

WINTER 2015 PROGRAMS

The New Unitarian Universalist Class

The New UU Class is an opportunity to get together with those who are new to this Faith or those who are familiar with UU'ism and wish to re-focus. The beginnings of the Unitarian and Universalist religions, their merger and how we see our churches work in the local community and wider world will be discussed and how our principles guide us. Participants will share their religious journeys in a safe and supportive environment.

Dates: Tuesdays, March 3rd, 17th and 15th Time: 5:30 – 7:30 pm Location: Fellowship Hall
Leader: Membership Committee with Rev. Carie Johnsen
Contact Information: Rita Cherubini 781-856-2335 or cherub1@rocketmail.com

The Four Agreements

The book *The Four Agreements* by Don Miguel Ruiz offers an opportunity for the participants to explore how their thought process is developed by influences and symbols. The Four Agreements offers the participants an avenue to open up to awareness through four teachings: be impeccable with your word, don't take things personally, don't make assumptions, and always do your best. Participants will explore how to use these practices to free themselves by their teaching, and allow themselves to be open to the possibility of what fits best for their lives, as opposed to what is expected or ingrained in a belief system that is no longer healthy.

January 2015 Day, time and location to be determined
Leader: Helen O. Paré Contact Information: 623-1925 or helenjoepare@aol.com

Living My Faith

We will use the book *Not For Ourselves Alone* edited by Laurel Hallman and Burton D. Carley and the SGM format to move more deeply into the spiritual practice of Unitarian Universalism. Each session will be preceded by reading a section of the book. Group discussion will focus on our personal reactions to that section and how it applies in our lives. Participants will discover spiritual depth through the exploration of our relationships with others and with that which is larger than all of us (The Holy). A primary goal is for participants to find their own answers to questions such as: to whom or what am I committed, and how am I accountable. Participants will also gain an appreciation of the diversity of theological orientation that exists within Unitarian Universalism as members share their reflections.

Identity as a Unitarian Universalist and a willingness to read the appropriate chapters of the book are necessary. This time limited Small Group Ministry circle will be offered in six sessions in the late winter and spring of 2015

Leader: Kathy Kellison Contact information: 622-4774 or kell6787@gmail.com

SPRING 2015 PROGRAMS

***Steps on the Pagan Path* - Introductory Session**

While there are as many different versions of Paganism as there are Pagans (or perhaps more) there is a lot of common ground between them as well. This would be a basic introduction to earth based spirituality, its diversity and its beauty, from the Unitarian Universalist perspective. If there is further interest, this course would provide a stepping stone to a second course offering a more didactic and experiential approach to walking the Pagan Path. A second course would be from the text *Paganism, An Introduction to Earth Centered Religions*, by Joyce and River Higginbotham.

This program will be offered in the spring 2015
Leader: Rita Moran Contact information: 446-9994 or kennebecblue@gmail.com

Technology Enthusiasts and Grant Writers Wanted...

A group is being convened to explore improved technology in our sanctuary for worship and in all three buildings to support our active church life.

If you are interested in helping and/or have grant writing experience, please contact Rev. Carie at revcariejohnsen@gmail.com.

Seasoned Souls to Meet...

Seasoned Souls is open to any church member who has a Medicare card and wishes to talk openly about topics related to the aging process.

Seasoned Souls will be meeting Wednesdays, September 10th and 24th from 10:30 a.m. until noon in Fellowship Hall.

Ethical Wills:

What are They and Should I Have One?

**An informational workshop
with Nancee Campbell
and Rabbi Erica Ash**

**Saturday, October 18, 2014
10 a.m. -- 2 p.m.
Pot luck lunch served**

Register at church office

Join the NYC March... Seats Still Available!

In September, world leaders are coming to New York City for a historic United Nations summit on climate change. With the whole world watching, concerned people from all over the country will be going to N.Y.C. on September 21 to show their support for global policies that limit climate change.

The **Maine UU State Advocacy Network (MUUSAN)** has chartered a bus to help make The Peoples Climate March the largest-ever demonstration demanding action on climate change. For more information on the climate rally, go to: <http://peoplesclimatemarch.org>.

There are still seats available. The bus leaves from the parking lot on Marginal Way (near highway & bus company) at 3:30 a.m. September 21. Arrive NYC around 11:30 a.m. Leave NYC around 8 p.m. Arrive Portland 2:30 a.m. September 22. **Full price seats will cost \$40 and student/reduced seats will cost \$30. Seats can be reserved two ways, either by going to www.muusan-bus.Eventbrite.com and paying with a credit card, or by sending a check made out to MUUSAN to: Trudy Ferland, 279 Somerset Ave., Pittsfield, ME 04967.** More details about the march can be seen on the People's Climate March website:

<http://peoplesclimate.org/march/>.

Because we'll be leaving so early on the 21st, we are looking into places to stay the night before. First Parish Church in Portland has generously offered floor space for us to crash on when we get back on the 22nd; if interested, contact anne.hemingway@gmail.com.

Melanie Lanctot

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

Newsletter Submissions

Please submit all articles 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 to newsletter@augustauu.org with the article as an attachment. Photos of church activities welcome!

Next edition submissions due September 15.

Minister: Rev. Carie Johnsen
President: Gary Chapin
Director of Religious Exploration:
Administrator: Steve Moore
admin@augustauu.org
UU Office hours: Monday and Tuesday 8a.m.-4p.m.
Thursday-noon-8pm
Choir Director: Joelle Morris
Office Hours Tuesday and Thursday-10:30a.m.-3:30p.m.
or by appointment
Small Group Ministry Coordinator: Kathy Kellison
Office: (207) 622-3232

Minister's Fall Office Hours

Rev. Carie Johnsen

Monday: 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday: Writing Day

Wednesday & Thursday: 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.
and by appointment

Friday is my Sabbath. I do not attend to emails, phone calls or meetings. For Pastoral Emergencies please call my cell phone and I will return your call as soon as possible.

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