



The Flaming Chalice

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

Summer Worship Services

June 2013

One Sunday Service at 10:00 am ONLY

June 2nd

“Annual Meeting as Spiritual Practice”

Rev. Carie Johnsen
The UCC Board
UCC Members and Friends

The business of the church is as much a spiritual practice as anything we do on Sunday morning, or Tuesday night or Wednesday at noon. In this service the spiritual practice of church governance is a tangible expression of our faith.

June 9th

“Flower Communion”

Rev. Carie Johnsen

In this annual multigenerational service the symbolism of flowers highlights the includes the tradition of bringing a flower to service.

June 16th

“Lessons We Learned From Our Fathers” Rev. Carie Johnsen

The title says it all. Join us as we mark this day with stories and lessons.

June 23rd

“From Promise to Commitment”

Rev . Carie Johnsen

****** Please note time change for this service only 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.******

Plan to join with Unitarian Universalists across the globe for Sunday Morning Worship live from Louisville, Kentucky the site of the General Assembly of Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. We will live stream this event to worship with thousands.

June 30th

“Filling Little Pitcher”

Annie Nessen Voorhees

The words we hear as children reverberate through our lives. The hard and the soft things we are told are carried with us into adulthood. Let us celebrate and forgive the child within.

A Faith Journey by Rev. Carie Johnsen...

An update on Theme-Based Ministry The selection of themes for 2013/14

The planning to shift to theme-based ministry next year is now well under way. A large group gathered this past month to bring forward a variety of monthly and random themes. The congregation then selected their favorites. Rev. Carie then reviewed the information with the staff team for input prior to making final selections. In a day long meeting to review of the year and begin planning for 2013/14, Rev. Carie and Rev. Carol made the final selection of themes. They are as follows:

September	Fluidity-Forgiveness	February	Heritage and Legacy
October	Connecting with our Universe	March	Losses
November	Radical Hospitality	April	Power of Myth
December	UU Sources	May	Peace
January	Beginning Anew	June	Community

Building a Resource Team

The next step is to build a large and diverse resource team to generate ideas, stories, images, myths and shared experiences. Engaging and eliciting the collective wisdom of the congregation is a vital element in the success of this model of ministry in a mid-sized congregation. Bringing forward what is on the hearts and minds of the people in the pews is an important part of creating relevant and meaningful worship, small group ministry packets and religious exploration curriculum.

Members of the resource team will be asked to respond once a month to an email invitation to share their wisdom, stories, music, books, videos, poetry, spiritual practices and experiences as they relate to the theme for the next month.

Here is how it will work.

On the first Monday of the month, Rev. Carie will send an email to the resource team asking them to share with her their ideas and thoughts on the upcoming theme. So the first week of August, they will be invited to share their wisdom on the theme of fluidity and forgiveness.

The second week Rev. Carie will gather up all the resources and select resources to be included in the small group ministry packet and resources to be set aside for a month of worship.

The third week members of the worship committee will meet to review the services of the previous month and to engage the resources gleaned and imagine services for the upcoming month.

One item of change for the congregation will be the first page of the monthly newsletter where the worship services are listed by weeks. Beginning with the September 2013 newsletter, only the monthly theme will appear. The congregation can expect to find the weekly service titles in the weekly insert of the Order of Service. This change is necessary to accommodate an more organic process of crafting weekly worship.

Who will be on the resource team?

- ◆ Anyone willing to share their accumulated wisdom with the wider congregation.
- ◆ The bottom line is more people = more resources = greater depth and breadth of resources.
- ◆ The more people responding to the monthly theme email = more knowledge and awareness about what is on the hearts and minds of the people in the pews.

If you are interested in being part of this team, please send an email to revcariejohansen@gmail.com

The worship and staff team are excited about exploring this model of ministry for the next year. We are eager to listen and hear what is important to the congregation. We believe this model is one more means to the this end.

As always, we invite you to offer us your thoughts as the year unfolds.

In faith, Rev. Carie

Come to Our Town Meeting...

Doug Rooks, President

The UCC Annual Meeting – coming right up on June 2 – is our equivalent of the New England town meeting. It's time to meet fellow members, ask questions, discuss important church business, approve the budget, and keep church leadership on track for another year. This is my first annual meeting as your congregational president, and I look forward to it. While it would be misleading to expect a grilling from the congregation – inquiry would be a more appropriate UU word – the board does expect to account for its activities over the past year, and to make sure we're meeting the congregation's needs.

In preparing for the meeting, I took a look at some of the annual reports filed by my predecessors, and they paint a clear and unvarnished picture of where we've been over the past decade and a half. I'm taking the liberty of quoting some excerpts because they illustrate so vividly the challenges of church life – our collective existence as a community of liberal religious people.

In the 2001-02 annual report, Marty Soule wrote, "Just as the life of a garden goes through many stages, there have been many transitions within our UCC community this year. In many ways, we have begun to blossom like a flower." Though later in the report, chronicling our often-leaky roofs, she said, "As a lotus flower grows up from the mud, we've had our difficult and unpleasant times, too." Four years later, June Zellars succinctly summed up the beginning of one of our more difficult episodes under the title, "The Unexpected." She wrote: "As part of the usual transition after a time of sabbatical, representatives from the Board and the Committee on Ministry began the process of negotiating a new covenant with our minister. As part of this process, Calvin [Dame] began his own process of visioning ... As a result of this discernment process, Calvin announced that he will conclude his ministry with us on his 20th anniversary next year."

And in 2008-09, Debbie Mattson had an entirely different message in reporting the results of the Ministerial Search Committee: "The Search Committee presented Carie Johnsen, a ministerial candidate, for our consideration. She spent a week with us and at the end of the week we joyously

called her as our next minister and she accepted!"

My immediate predecessor, Sheila Comerford, called attention to our burgeoning Social Justice outreach in the 2010-11 report: "We assumed a much higher visibility in the community and state, with our minister and members taking part in rallies, Pride marches, and reaching out to unions to help with their struggles."

My favorite passage in this recent reading comes from George Lapointe, writing in the 2006-07 report: "There is much to do in the life and business of our church community. It is easy to become overwhelmed with the issues and amount of work that it takes to resolve each issue. Yet on Sunday mornings, the love, spirituality, and community of our church provides a beacon for our busy lives ... The committees, boards and meetings are but a means to the end of a spiritual community and life. It takes time but it's worth it."

Come join us June 2 for worship and engagement in the life of our faith community. It is worth the time – and, yes, we need a quorum.

Administration News...

Deliveries - Please make note that all deliveries being sent to UCC should have an address of 71 Winthrop Street, Augusta, ME 04330. We have had a few occasions where packages have been left outside of the church because the wrong address (69 Winthrop Street) was used. Thank you!

Administration Summer Hours as of June 17th.

Monday 8:00 a.m. ~ 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday 8:00 a.m. ~ 4:00 p.m.

Thursday 4:30 p.m. ~ 8:30 p.m.

Friday 8:00 a.m. ~ 12:00 p.m.

Director of Religious Exploration ...

Rev. Carol Strecker

Summons

by Robert Francis

Keep me from going to bed too soon
Or if I go to sleep too soon
Come wake me up. Come any hour
Of night. Come whistling up the road.
Stomp on the porch. Bang on the door.
Make me get out of bed and come
And let you in and light a light.
Tell me the northern lights are on
And make me look. Or tell me clouds
Are doing something to the moon
They never did before, and show me.
See that I see. Talk to me till
I'm half as wide awake as you
And start to dress wondering why
I ever went to bed at all.
Tell me the walking is superb.
Not only tell me but persuade me.
You know I'm not too hard persuaded.

This is one of my favorite poems. It reminds me of sultry summer nights in St. Louis when we used to play kick the can and catch fireflies. It reminds me of walking the beach by the light of moon on the shores of Lake Michigan at summer camp. It reminds me of all the opportunities summer brings to let ourselves be summoned out into the wonders of the natural world; to see --- really see, and hear and feel the mystery!

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote; "Standing on bare ground -- my head bathed in the blithe air, and uplifted into infinite space -- all mean egotism vanishes. I become a transparent eyeball; I am nothing; I see all; the currents of the Universal Being circulate through me; I am part and particle of God."

This is Religious Exploration at its finest! These experiences of truly seeing that we are part of something filled with wonder and mystery -- something larger than ourselves. The Transcendentalists believed that each of us has the capacity to experience the infinite when we immerse ourselves in the natural world.

My wish for you this summer is that you can take some time to "become a transparent eyeball" seeing and feeling all that is your part in the great mystery.

Have a great summer!

Carol

Muusan Lobby Day...

On May 15th, Trudy Ferland, Margaret Beckman and Jan Pratt from the Pittsfield UU church, Margaret Knight from the Belfast congregation, and Dale McCormick, PJ Jenkins and Melanie Lancot from the UUC, Augusta, descended on the Maine Legislature to seek support for MUUSAN's key issues: Health Care (LD 1066, which expands Medicaid coverage for low-income residents), Global Warming and Environment (Bi-partisan Energy Bill, a composite of several bills submitted to the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee), and Legislative Reform. Margaret also gave the opening prayer for the Senate.

Among legislators contacted were David Johnson (R-Hancock), Edward Youngblood (R-Penobscot), Roger Katz (R-Augusta), Patrick Flood (R-Winthrop), Matthew Pouliot (R-Augusta), Tom Saviello (R-Franklin and parts of Kennebec), Colleen Lachowicz (D-Waterville) and Ann Dorney (D-Norridgewock) both members of the Health and Human Services Committee; primarily we sought to enlist their support for expanding health care. As might be expected, several legislators expressed concerns about the costs to the State after federal monies expired; our argument was that health care for a few years for those people without it, would be better than none at all.

In the afternoon, we attended the work session for LD 1066 which was combined with the Governor's hospital reimbursement bill and then referred to the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee (which has subsequently voted, "ought to pass"). Dale and Melanie discussed the Bipartisan Energy bill with Senator John Cleveland, Chair of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee. Of primary importance, the bill provides weatherization and consultation funds through Efficiency Maine and the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI); it is, however, disappointing that reinstating rebates for solar energy will probably not be included. The committee will most likely be voting on the bill on Monday, May 20th. Melanie will follow-up with details before the full legislature votes.

PJ spoke to Nate Libby (D-Lewiston), Brian Jones (D-Freedom), Craig Hickman (D-Winthrop), our own Karen Kusiak (D-Fairfield),
(Continued on page 7)



Margaret Beckman and Dale McCormick speak with a legislator .



Margaret Beckham delivers the invocation.



Muusan Lobby Day participants.

Peaceful Heart Sangha...



~ May you find time to pause and appreciate the beauty of this moment. ~

We meet year round – **Mondays, 6:30 – 8**. Drop in sometime and see if our practice fits your style. Children/Family Meditation continues on the first Mondays of the month 5:30 – 6:15 with childcare from 6:15 – 8:15 (allowing parents to join us for meditation).

June 10 – Movie Night, No Sangha at church – car pooling to 7:15 movie at RR Square on end of life care. Contact us if you have questions about our practice or if you would like to join us for our Movie Night (peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com or martysoule@gmail.com or 685-9270)

We just had our first **Peaceful Heart Sangha Retreat** “Nourishing Ourselves, Our Sangha, Our Society” at Nurture Through Nature in Denmark, ME. What a gift! It was a wonderful weekend with gentle spiritual practices and lots of time in the woods. We expressed our gratitude by stacking wood and cleaning. We even shared a sauna, cooling off in a nearby mountain stream!

In the fall we are anticipating a possible visit from the “Wake Up” crew of young lay and monastic friends – sharing our practice in a way that is more inviting to young people. We would like to offer our practice to young adults & teens (& tweens?) – in late fall. More details to follow.

In September, Thich Nhat Hanh will visit Boston to offer several events – a conference on meditation and psychotherapy (11-12), a public talk (14), a peace walk (15). You may want to set one of these times aside. This may be his last visit to the US as he is now 87 years old. For more information visit: www.tnhtour.org

Peace,
Marty Soule

Membership Committee...

Welcome to our new UCC Members: Brigid Chapin, Rita Cherubini, Jennifer Johnson, Grace Thomas and Ronnie Williams. Please introduce yourself and welcome them! They will likely be wearing their new name tags.

The Membership Committee will be having Sign-up Sundays on June 9 and June 16 during the coffee hour in Fellowship Hall. We need volunteers to greet at the door on Sunday mornings and we also need volunteers to set up the coffee hour each Sunday. Training and encouragement provided. Our hope is that we have volunteers signed up for every Sunday throughout the summer months. Please come talk with us!

You have likely heard of the Leap of Faith that UCC is engaging in this coming year. This is a growth opportunity and the Membership Committee wants to take advantage by encouraging more volunteer leadership. We hope individuals will step up to lead the coordination of greeting and hospitality. If you are interested in helping this church community provide hospitality and a welcoming atmosphere, we would love to talk with you more! Please contact Jim Caldwell at 582-8658 or jscaldwell@roadrunner.com or Rita Cherubini cherub1@rocketmail.com or 781-856-2335).

History Committee...

On May 9 we worked on the cataloging and preservation of artifacts that were gathered at All Soul's Church in the 1960's as part of study of World Religions.

We appreciate the contributions of items that help us in our continuing work of gathering and making our history accessible

The History Committee is meeting on **Thursday, June 6, 1pm** in Drew House to plan summer projects.

For more information or to attend the meeting, contact Krista Zidowecki at 582-5308 or kaz@hzmre.com

Where We Live...

About twenty people were involved in at least one of the three "Where We Live" Small Group Ministry sessions facilitated by Stephanie Ralph and Helen Zidowecki. We are planning several ways of keeping the process of changing our living situation to meet our needs as we grow older.

Look for the notebook in the Committee Room for people to enter suggestions, from how to organize and disperse things to resources for making changes. Suggestions from one of the participants and from the discussions will be entered into the notebook to start the process. You can write directly into the notebook or bring written material that will be put into sleeves. Please include your name so that you may be contacted for more information. You do not have to have been a participant in the series to add to or use this notebook.

We may also have a pot luck or bring your own lunch early fall to see where we are in our transition processes.

If and when there is interest, the series may be repeated. The session plans are on the UJCC website. (Staff, Ministries & RE: Small Group Ministry: Session Plans)

MUUSAN *(continued from page 5)*

Bobbi Beavers (D-Berwick), and Chris Johnson (D-Somerville). Trudy spoke with representatives of the ACLU about early voting, and in the course of the day distributed MUUSAN brochures with the offer of support for policies in keeping with our liberal faith. AND she gave spontaneous testimony for a bill before the Health and Human Services Committee that would put tobacco settlement money back into prevention (where it belongs), based on her experience with losing her school's Health Coordinator.

As you see it was a productive day, and we novices felt a growth-spurt from this experience! Our thanks to Dale and PJ for sharing with us their knowledge of the legislative process.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melanie Lanctot

Goddess Continuing....

Krista Zidowecki reports that she, Nance Caldwell and Ida Gammon-Wilson went to Popham Beech on May 5 to experience the Beltane Celebration. It was an adventure to get there, and, once there, it was so worth the trip. To experience the May poles (yes, plural), the calling of directions, acknowledgement of the old and welcoming of the new were very powerful. (Note: All ages were there, from the very young – 6 weeks—to the older—at least 85 years old.). We plan to offer this trip as part of our Goddess schedule each year. Join us! It is so beyond worth it. Nance described it as one of the most powerful experiences she had as a pagan to date.

All ages and genders are invited to join us. We are having a picnic at church on **Sunday, June 9**, after the service and Fellowship Hour. We continue to work on gathering and sharing our resources. We are working on an inventory of resources that we have found helpful and to develop a way of making resources available.

We will reconvene our meeting in the Fall. Please pick up the Goddess Continuing brochure on the table across from the sanctuary. Contact Mary Shifman, shifman-mary@aol.com, 549-7719 for more info.

Nonviolent Communications..

The **Nonviolent Communications (Also known as Compassionate Communications) Practice Group** has been meeting the First and Third Fridays, 10:15am-12:15pm, in the Robbins Room. 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 there is an expectation that they will attend a training when one becomes available. Some of the resources that we use may be available through the group. The sessions will vary in content and format. The sessions for **June are June 7 and 21.**

A Note to the Community from Claire Curole...

It has been generally known this year that I am stepping down this spring after four years as chair of the Music Committee. While I will greatly miss doing the work of this church, it is time for me to step back from active leadership here. After intense personal reflection it has become clear to me that my work lies elsewhere. I'm going to seminary. I will begin classes at Meadville-Lombard Theological School this fall. The nature of my degree program is such that I will be present here, at least for the coming year, but I must let go of major leadership responsibilities in this congregation in order to give proper attention to my studies. I look forward to sharing this part of the journey with you; this is an amazing community to belong to, and when the time comes, it will be an amazing community to be from.

Thank you all. -- Claire

UCC Web... www.augustauu.org

We have made the following updates on the UCC website:

- Under *Staff, Ministries and RE*,
A new **Pastoral Care section**
Small Group Ministry Session Plans (previously distributed to Group Leaders

- Under *Worship, Celebrations and Traditions*,
new material on **Child Dedication**

- On the *Home Page*, **new link on getting involved** that goes to Church Life, and revisions of the Board, Committees and Church Groups

- Social Justice*, addition of **Immigration Work Group** and **MUUSAN**

- Under *Church Life*, **Bylaws 2012**
Please take time to check out the site. Comments are welcome.

For questions or comments contact: Helen Zidowecki at: website@augustauu.org

Buildings and Grounds ...

Next Second Saturday Work Day is June 8th, 9-12. We need help inside and out with many minor jobs - weeding, painting, bush trimming, mulching. Contact Marilyn at maine2007@hotmail.com or call 512-5382.

Wish List:

Fellowship garden could use a bench and some more wooden chairs. Please don't buy anything as the last bench found legs. Just keep an eye out at your local take it our leave it.

If you come across a wheelchair in good shape, that would be appreciated as well and will be kept in the coat room.

Small desk needed for the office of the Student Minister. If you have one please contact, Julie at info@augustauu.org.

Can You Help?

Fellowship Refreshments Needed.

Building and Grounds cleared and labeled a kitchen corner cupboard for contributions. Non-perishable goodies (chips, pretzels, cookies) can left there. Dollartree fudge stripe cookies are a big hit with the kids. Of course, home baked good brought on any Sunday are always welcome. We also need individually wrapped, labeled teas for the wooden tea caddy.

Everyone enjoys coffee hour; help make it happen by volunteering.

We have had very few people sign up this year to serve coffee. I do the second Sunday each month so I thought I'd share my routine. I come in a bit early and make four pots of coffee, heat the kettle, set out the mugs. The refreshments should be in the cupboard and fridge and I set them on plates in the kitchen. I slip into the service and leave right after the sermon to set out refreshments, cream, sugar and spoons. During coffee hour I continue to make coffee. You can do this!
Please sign up.

UUA General Assembly, Louisville, Kentucky

We will be there via live streaming!!

Come experience the depth and breadth of what Unitarian Universalism has to offer!!

The theme for the 2013 General Assembly (GA) in Louisville, Kentucky is "From Promise to Commitment." Building on the experience of Justice GA, we will gather in Louisville to examine and renew our covenant to our faith, one another, our congregations and the larger world.

You are invited to join Rev. Carie Johnsen in the sanctuary for one or more of the following events.

Opening Celebration

Wednesday, June 19, 2013 ~ 8:00 p- 10:00 p.m.

Opening Celebration is a powerful gathering with our traditional banner parade, lively music, the official welcoming of new congregations and our first plenary session. This year, in the hospitality of Louisville, KY, we meet to ask "what do we promise one another?"

Ware Lecture

Standing on Sacred Ground, Eboo Patel

Friday, June 21, 2013 ~ 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

There is no better time to stand up for your values than when they are under attack.



Eboo Patel

In the decade following the attacks of 9/11, suspicion and animosity toward American Muslims and alarmist, hateful rhetoric invoking the specter of Islam as a menacing, deeply anti-American force have become commonplace rather than being relegated to the fringes of political discourse. This prejudice is a challenge to the ideals of American life. This evening, renowned interfaith leader Eboo Patel will discuss the art and science of interfaith work, showing us that Americans from George Washington to Martin Luther King Jr. have been "interfaith leaders." Sharing stories from the frontlines of interfaith activism, he'll bring to life the growing body of research on how faith can be a bridge of cooperation rather than a barrier.

Dr. Patel is founder and President of the Interfaith Youth Core, an international nonprofit building the interfaith youth movement. He was appointed by President Obama to the Advisory Council of the White House Office of Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships and serves on the Religious Advisory Committee of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Synergy - All GA Bridging Ceremony

Building a Bridge to the Future

Friday, June 21, 2013 ~ 8:30 - 10:00 p.m.

This inspiring service is led by the Youth Caucus and Young Adult Caucus

Join with us in a sacred community of all ages to celebrate and affirm "bridging," the transition from youth to young adulthood. We will hear from diverse voices in this upbeat and inspiring service, open to all attendees, as we embrace our commitment to the future of our faith.

Service of the Living Tradition

Saturday, June 22, 2013 ~ 8:30 - 10:00 p.m.

The Ministries and Faith Development Staff Group invites you to join us at this service where we honor fellowshiped and credentialed religious leaders, remember those who have died, recognize those who have completed active service, and welcome those who have received fellowship or credentialed status in the past year. Rev. Carie Johnsen having received final fellowship will be participating in this service via the technology of the twenty-first century. Come cheer for her as she is recognized.



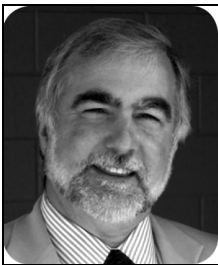
Rev. Vanessa
Rush
Southern

The sermon will be delivered by the Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Parish Minister to The Unitarian Church in Summit, NJ since 2001. Vanessa has seen the church through the building of a new extension and a reinvigorated focus on programming and outreach. In 2010 the Summit congregation was named a “Breakthrough Congregation” by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), was awarded the first ever Congregational Social Justice Award by the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Vanessa graduated from Stanford University in 1990, with a degree in philosophy and religious studies, and from Harvard Divinity School in 1995. Her book, *This Piece of Eden*, was published by Skinner House Books in 2001. Vanessa and her husband, Rohit Menezes, and their daughter and dog live in Maplewood, NJ.

Our Music Directors are Rick Fortner and David B. Smith. Serving at All Souls Unitarian Church, Tulsa, OK, Rick is the Director of Music and David is the Associate Director of Music.

Sunday Morning Worship

Sunday, June 23, 2013 ~ 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.



Rev. Dr. William
F. Schulz

Sunday worship service will take us to the farthest reaches of the cosmos and into the deepest places of our own hearts as the Rev. Dr. William F. Schulz, president of the UU Service Committee and former UUA president, preaches on “Tasting the Wine of Astonishment” and the GA Choir sings.

Closing Celebration, Sunday, June 23, 2013 ~ 7:30-9:00 p.m.

We will install the newly-elected Moderator; welcome and charge all the other (re-)elected leaders; and express our gratitude to those leaving service (including Gini Courter). All that, plus the magnificent GA Choir and a few words on taking home our work on “covenant.”

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

Newsletter articles are due the third Monday of each month. The next newsletter deadline is July 15. Please submit newsletter articles by email, to Sheila Comerford at: newsletter@augustauu.org. Thank you!

Minister: Rev. Carie Johnsen
President: Doug Rooks
Director of Religious Exploration: Rev. Carol Strecker
Administrator: Julie Pelletier
Choir Director: Joelle Morris
Small Group Ministry Coordinator: Kathy Kellison

Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday, 8:00 am- 4:00 pm
Thursday, 4:30 pm- 8:30 pm
Saturday, 8:00 am.– Noon

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Minister's Office Hours:

Monday 1:00-5:00 pm

Tuesday 12:00-4:00 pm

Wednesday Writing Day

Thursday 4:00-7:00 pm or by appointment

To schedule an appointment please contact Rev. Carie at: 623-3663 or revcariejohnsen@gmail.com

Friday

Friday is my Sabbath. I do not schedule meetings, attend to emails or respond to messages. If there is a pastoral emergency, leave a message on my home or cell phone and I will return your call promptly.