



The Flaming Chalice

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

March, 2012

Worship Services Sundays at 9:15 and 11:00 a.m.

March 4th

Immigration as a Moral Issue

Rev. Carie Johnsen

This service will skim the surface of Immigration and only begin to unpack the complexity of this issue in a globalized world. Come hear about the work of the UCC Immigration Work Group and their plans to launch the "Who is our Neighbor?" project with the Maine Council of Churches.

March 11th

Watering the Seeds of Compassion

Marty Soule
Peaceful Heart Sangha

Members of the Peaceful Heart Sangha (our Monday UCC meditation group) will share ways that mindfulness meditation practice has helped them lead a more positive and compassionate life, benefitting themselves and others. We will share readings from Thich Nhat Hanh's book, *The Heart of the Buddha's Teachings*, and from Rick Hanson's book, *Buddha's Brain, the practical neuroscience of happiness, love, and wisdom*.

March 18th

Service is Our Prayer

Rev. Carie Johnsen

In caring for one another we find "kin"-ship and "kind"-ness, we experience unity, and we catch a glimpse of ourselves in the suffering of another person. This service will serve to launch the new Pastoral Ministry Team and includes a Commissioning of the Lay Pastoral Ministers.

March 25th

Sexuality and Faith

Rev. Carie Johnsen

As our pre-k-1 and grade 6-8 children begin the Our Whole Lives: Sexuality and Faith curriculum let us consider what healthy sexuality looks like in a hypersexualized society. This service will include the New Membership Ceremony.

Minister's New 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:
revcariejohansen@gmail.com or 623-3663

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

A Faith Journey by Rev. Carie Johnsen...

For over two and half years now we have engaged in a model of contemporary worship where the more traditional elements of worship intermingle with modern practices to offer relevant, meaningful, purposeful and engaging worship to the congregation 52 weeks a year.

During this time the Worship Arts Team— pianists, worship associates, sacred dance coordinator, director of religious exploration, choir director and minister—has worked collaboratively to offer traditional services where the sermon is the center and contemporary services where a message is woven together through various liturgical elements – music, dance, word, ritual.

Stepping outside the box of a three hymn sandwich can be unsettling for the congregation at the same time it can bring a new energy and vitality. Equally it can be anxiety provoking for many. It has been a creative joy to engage in a spiritual pilgrimage to offer theme based worship in this talented and open community.

I have appreciated the congregation's willingness to adventure and experiment with a variety of worship elements including ritual, sacred dance, guest reflections, visual arts, multigenerational worship and music. I have been incredibly grateful for the committed and talented pianists, worship leaders and associates who have entered the process with curiosity and creativity, fully ready to explore the possibilities that emerge from the theme. I also recognize the choir's journey toward music that serves to deepen the worship experience has been both a welcomed experiment and an uncomfortable stretch for both the members of the choir and the congregation.

And now it is time to pause and hear from all of you.

I have asked the worship arts team to lead a process of appreciative inquiry to discern what elements of this new style of worship are working well for the community. What about Sunday morning worship inspires, comforts, and transforms? How are you changed by Sunday morning worship? What parts of worship do you talk about with your children or others on the ride home or during the week? What elements of the service touch or speak to you most: sermons, reflections, dance, visual arts, multimedia, music, poetry, music? What about Sunday morning worship stimulates you spiritually, intellectually, and emotionally? Does worship at UUCC give your life meaning, purpose and direction? What would you like to encourage more of?

The Worship Arts Team will lead three focus groups where groups of eight people will meet for an hour and a half to share their thoughts. The intention is to have the groups be representative of the larger congregation, thus once the team has a list of people willing to participate they will select a well-rounded group that represents the congregation. The intention is to have new and long standing members/friends, active and not so active members/friends, children and youth, adult and wise elders, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer and straight, all genders, etc.

If you would like to have your name added to the potential list of members and friends ready, willing and able share your experiences with the worship arts team, please contact Michael Conley, chairperson of the worship associates committee at estherpearl@gmail.com

I look forward to the unfolding conversation about worship.

In faith, Rev. Carie



From the Board President ...

Dear Friends,

I love this time of year, don't you? It's still winter so skiing, snowshoeing and sledding are still part of the fun, but the days are longer and the sun seems just a bit warmer, teasing us to think "spring". This portion of the year is also a very important part of our church year, "The Stewardship Campaign". If you've been too immersed in "Downton Abbey" or Jeremy Lin these days to know what the Stewardship Campaign is, let me quickly refresh your memory. Each year our congregation is called upon to support the Unitarian Universalist Community Church with a financial pledge of support. As you know, supporting the church is a requirement of membership. And historically members and friends of the UUCC have been generous. Our average pledge is over \$1,200. I hope you have already made your pledge, but if you haven't yet, please reflect on what the Unitarian Universalist Community Church does for you, your family and your community.

This year our goal is to realize a bold new staffing initiative. The UUCC leadership proposes hiring a full-time Director of Religious Exploration (DRE) and expanding the Office Administrator role to 32 hours per week. A full-time DRE will be able to sustain rich, vibrant, and varied programming for children and youth, and multi-generational worship. With more hours, our Office Administrator will be able to provide greater support to our UUCC Board, committees, and congregation. We will be able to expand our business hours as well as increase the rental opportunities in our beautifully renovated buildings.

Whether your family participates in Religious Exploration, Small Group Ministry, Sang'ha, the choir, outreach programs, pastoral counseling, or simply attends Sunday services, we all share the blessings of this church, so please pledge. We count on your support to "Live Our Greatness"!

My Best,
Sheila Comerford

Save the Date! ...

Muslim and Unitarian Universalist Dialogue, Thursday April 5, 2012 at University of Southern Maine. The evening will include Middle Eastern food and dance followed by a Muslim panel discussing the faith in America. All are welcome. All those attending are encouraged to read "Acts of Faith" by Eboo Patel. Loaner books are available on the Adult Religious Exploration bulletin board.

NNED Spring Conference

April 13-14, 2012

Justice Making Together

Red Jacket Resort, North Conway, NH

Keynote: "Creating the World We All Want to Live In" by Linda Stout

Congregations in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont join for the Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony of the Northern New England District — bring your church banner, network with UUs from other congregations, share in worship and discussions, and celebrate a vibrant Unitarian Universalism in the NNED! This is a family event and the accommodations have a great indoor water park. The conference includes children and youth programming. See flyer in fellowship hall. For more information: <http://nned.uua.org/index.php>



General Assembly 2012
June 20-24, Phoenix, Arizona

This is an historic moment.
Be part of the story.

General Assembly 2012 will be a gathering with multiple ways of engaging in justice work for people of all ages. Joining with the people of Arizona, we will worship, witness, learn and work together. We will leave General Assembly grounded in our faith, energized for justice and with resources to bring this work home to our congregations. For more information <http://www.uua.org/ga/index.shtml>

Interim Director of Religious Exploration ...

Coming up...

March 3 - Peace Jam dance-a-thon and supper!

March 4 - Our Whole Lives (OWL) for grades K-1 begins during first service. This group begins at 9:15 in the Chalice Children room.

Did you miss the parent/child orientation? Parent forms must be signed in order for K-1's to take part. See DRE Pat or call 622-3232 or dre@augustauu.org.

Nursery parents take note: Beginning this month we will have a new sign-in system when you arrive with your child/ren at the nursery. Look for the parent/caregiver sign-in sheet on the clipboard; it also requests that you sign out at the end of the morning. Thanks for helping us to implement this new procedure!

March 11 - Peace Jam meets 3:00-6:00 (no morning Sr. High group)

March 23-25 Peace Jam NE Conference in Storrs, CT.

Our 4th/5th grade Navigators have been invited to correspond this month with a group of the same age at the Brunswick UU Church! What an exciting opportunity to get to know some other UU kids outside our community!

When was the last time you wrote a letter or sent an actual card to someone? (Not an email, but a real letter, on paper, with a pen.)

The cost of stamps keeps going up... but maybe that's to remind us that this kind of communication is valuable. When we write on paper, our personalities can be seen more clearly in our handwriting. Our style shows through when we write.

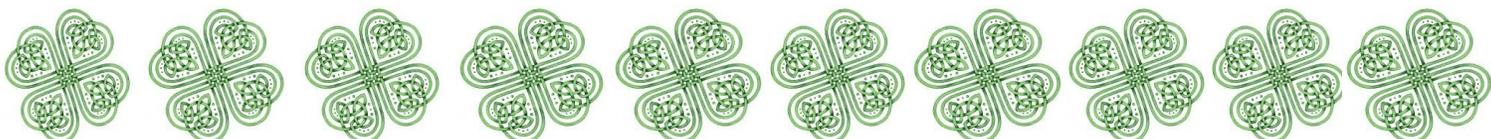
When we receive a handwritten message from someone, doesn't it seem more special somehow? Our writing style is a unique part of who we are.

WE are unique and unrepeatable. (There's a song about that.) And just as our handwriting is unique... our style of dressing... our voice... our walk... our approach to the world... our being is, too!

No two of us are alike. So isn't it remarkable that so many very different and differing individuals have found a spiritual home here at UUC. Isn't it wonderful! Isn't it amazing! Aren't we and our children blessed!

*** Consider lending your own unique style to our roster of teachers for next year! See me or Pam Lombard or a member of the RE Committee. ***

Namaste,
DRE Pat



Stewardship Committee ...

Cottage Meeting Haiku

*The world needs out church
Greatness means helping others
Don't just talk, but act!*

*A call to action
The world needs UUCC!
What can we become*

Win the Prize Drawing

The Stewardship Committee is offering a prize drawing for all folks who turn in their pledge forms by the February 29th deadline! In the name of community and stewardship, Stewardship Committee members will provide the lucky winner with a dinner for eight people. We will come to your home or serve you and your guests in the Fellowship Hall. Get your pledges in on time and then keep your fingers crossed!

We invite everyone who is a part of this community to contribute financially in support of our congregation's ministry and programs.

Your Stewardship Committee: Karen Foust, Noah Gottlieb, Hillary Neckles, Annie Reiter, and Mildred Stengel

Membership Committee ...

New Members Welcome Dinner and Recognition ~ The New Members Welcome Dinner is scheduled for Thursday, March 22nd in Fellowship Hall. The New Members Recognition is scheduled for Sunday, March 25th during the 9:15 and 11:00 services. For more information contact Jim Caldwell at 582-8658.

History Committee ...

The next History Committee meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 8, 10 am** in the Olsen Room (Annex). For more information, contact Helen Zidowecki at 582-5308, hzmre@hzmre.com

Display Case ...

The **February** display has been the Unitarian and Universalist Women's Heritage (UUWHS), which consolidated with the Unitarian Universalist Historical Society to form the UU History and Heritage Society.

For 20 years, the UUWHS had calendars that featured historic Unitarian and Universalist women with pictures and biographic sketches. This material has been published in a book, Unitarian Universalist Women: Liberating History, which will be on sale during Fellowship Hour through March 4, or from Helen Zidowecki. The book is \$20, and \$5 will go to UUCC. Limited edition – get them while they last!

The March Display is from the Immigration Work Group. Please view the display of pictures of Maine immigrants and migrant farmers. There are resources for studying about immigration and learning about our new neighbors. The display is arranged by Stephanie Ralph and Marilyn Karasopoulos.

Buildings and Grounds ...

Cabinets needed ~ Buildings and Grounds could make use of free, used but serviceable, kitchen cabinets for a work bench in the garage. We are looking for both base and wall cabinets. The cabinets we are currently using came from the dump but have no drawers in them and are proving to not fill our needs.

If you or someone you know is planning to remodel their kitchen this year, please let us know. We will gladly get rid of the old cabinets for free.

Call Tom or Marilyn at 512-5382 or email Tom at us1863@gmail.com

Building and Grounds initiates 'Second Saturday' and "Tuesday Morning" work days ~ To make it easy for everyone to plan, the second Saturday of every month will be a Building and Grounds group project from 9:00 am-3:00 pm. Additionally we are working the first three Saturdays in March (3rd, 10th, 17th). Please help us meet our goal of finishing the painting of the annex by spring. Please don't feel that you need to spend the whole day. Even if you can only drop by for an hour or two it would greatly appreciated. Tasks are painting trim, ceilings and walls - your choice! For more information contact Marilyn Dunn at: maine2007@hotmail.com. Thank you!

Upcoming Events ...

Croning Ceremony ~ You are invited to the Croning Ceremony for Maggie Ricker. This ritual celebrating Maggie as a Woman of Wisdom will be held on **March 4th, 12:30 -1:30 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.

Women celebrate the phases of their lives, the early years of the Maiden, the reproductive and nurturing years of the Mother, and the wisdom years of the Crone or Wise Woman. People of all ages and genders are invited to participate in this ritual of croning. Several women in the congregation have been croned in ceremonies involving other women. This is the first croning open to the congregation. We look forward to others, and to similar ceremonies for rites of passage for men.

This is a very special occasion for Maggie.

"This croning is as important to me as a wedding or the birth of a child. After 45 years of parenting, either first hand with my own children, or second hand with my grandchildren, all of whom I love more than life itself, it's time to look at what I, alone, want. Time to redefine who I am, what I stand for, what path I want to take.

On a very deep, personal level, it signals I've reached the final stage of my life on earth. There is a certain peace that comes with that, surprisingly. It allows me to prepare, at a deeper level of recognition, the types of things I might encounter.

It also is a message to my family that it's time to keep in mind Mom/Gigi, isn't a spring chicken anymore and certain events that happen to me, will undoubtedly make an impact on their lives. It's a wake up call but in a very positive way.

It feels so right to acknowledge and embrace whatever the future might bring, with the full knowledge that it won't all be fun."

It's saying, once again, "OK world, bring it on. I'm ready!"

Join us as we honor Maggie. You are welcome to bring a plate of finger foods to share after the ceremony. If you would like more information about croning, please contact Maggie Ricker or Lorna Doone, contact for Goddess Continuing.

Social Activities ...

Social Activities Presents ***A Drumming Circle***
Friday, March 9th @ 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall

Bring a drum, (if you have one) and your favorite finger food/snack to share. No prior experience necessary.

** If you have a drum to loan for the evening, please contact Christine Little or Annie Nessen Voorhees.*

Elder Luncheon ...

Elder Lunch ~ Won't you join us on Sunday, March 11th (after second service) for our monthly Elder lunch? We don't check your birth certificate..."elder" is self-defined! All are welcome!

Goddess Continuing ...

March 18, 2012 12:15-1:15pm Spring Equinox Celebration of Balance, sponsored by the Goddess Continuing/Earth Circle group. Everyone is welcome to join us for singing, movement, reflection. Hopefully, at least part of the celebration will be outside.

Nonviolent Communication ...

The Practice Group meets on the *first* and *third* Fridays for those who have taken at least Level I training and/or been in a practice group. We encourage people who wish to join the Practice Group to take a training as soon as possible. In addition to using *Nonviolent Communication* by Marshall Rosenberg, we are also using *Connection* by Bonnie Fraser. We have periodic Small Group Ministry Sessions on specific topics, such as Connection and Attitude. These plans are then available to other SGM groups.

Meeting dates and times this month are:
March 2nd and 16th, 10:15 am-12:00 pm
Robbins Room (church)

**Introduction to Nonviolent Communication* for those without experience with NVC, but open to anyone, will meet the *second* and *fourth* Wednesdays, 10:30am to 12:30pm when there is interest.

Immigration Group ...

Why has the UUA called us to view immigration not only as a legal issue, but a moral one?

You are invited and encouraged to join a study and open discussion about the struggle for immigrant and refugee rights, beginning on Tuesday evening, March 13th. We plan on 6 study sessions, followed by a guest panel to focus on our Hispanic neighbors. Reading material will be provided for each week. This is also a pilot project (Who Are My Neighbors?) for the Maine Council of Churches; ours is one of five groups chosen from across the state. The MCC has provided us with invaluable resources to use in conjunction with the study guide by the UUA. Facilitators for the discussions will be members of the Immigration Working Group.

Mark your calendar now for:

March 4th ~ sign up table at Fellowship Hall during coffee hour and pick up reading material for Week 1, or register with Julie in the office at augustauu.org or 622-3232

Week 1, Tuesday, **March 13th**, 5:30 pm optional brown bag supper, 6-8 Study discussion in Fellowship Hall, Understanding the Causes of Migration

Week 2, Tuesday, **March 27th**, 5:30 optional brown bag, 6-8 Study discussion, History of (Im)migration

Week 3, Tuesday April 10th

Week 4, Tuesday April 24th

Week 5, Tuesday May 8th

Week 6, Tuesday, May 22nd.

The Migrant Committee, in conjunction with the Maine Migrant Health Program, would like to invite you on behalf of the migrant farm workers to join us in a winter project. We are collecting "Sleep Kits", which consists of the following: rice bags, eye covers, chamomile tea & ear plugs. The MMHP also suggests that the workers would like fiction or non-fiction books. If in English, the reading level should be 4th-5th grade; if in Creole any reading level is appropriate. In addition, MMHP reminds us that music is a big part of the migrant farm workers' lives; however they usually do not bring large items such as guitars with them. If we could obtain 2-3 guitars, we are sure that the migrants would be most appreciative. We want to thank everyone for all the help you gave last year. It was because of your encouragement that the committee is once again working on this project.

Small Group Ministry ...

Furry Friends need love too ! The Thursday Morning Small Group Ministry is assisting the "Meals on Wheels" program with their effort to provide their clients who have pets with food and grooming accessories. They have requested specific help in providing "Wellness Bags" for the furry friends on their routes.

We are soliciting help from the congregation to assist with this effort. These "Wellness Bags" will contain items for cats and dogs, such as:

Nail clippers, collars (for cats and small to medium dogs), leashes for dogs, brushes/combs for furry coats, flea and tick shampoo, toys, gift certificates to pet supply stores

We will be collecting donated items during the coffee hour on **Sunday, March 18th**. The Small Group Ministry will be assembling the bags and delivering them to "Meals on Wheels" for distribution. If you have a donation but are unable to give your contribution that Sunday, please call Nancee Campbell at 621-7727.

"Meals on Wheels" already provides two 30 lb. bags of dry food for cats and one large bag for dogs per week through their "Animeals" program. This service helps low income seniors keep their beloved pets at home instead of relinquishing them because of limited finances. The Small Group Ministry needs all the help we can get from this generous congregation to assist this valuable program.

RCAD Save the Date ...

Title of event - "A Rabbi, A Priest, and A Minister...." An interactive dialogue and conversation about equality marriage in Maine. ~ **Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 7:00 p.m.** at Congregation Bet Ha'am

Religious Coalition Against Discrimination ~
Second Annual Educational Conference
Make a Joyful Noise: Claiming our Faith Voices for Marriage Equality

Monday, April 23, 2012
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Hammond Street Congregational Church UCC
Bangor, Maine

Tuesday, April 24, 2012
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
First Parish Congregational Church
Saco, Maine

For more information: Contact info@rcadmaine.org or check our website: www.rcadmaine.org

Faith in Action ...

A Faith in Action Committee Meeting ~

Sunday, March 18 in the Committee Room (small room off the coat room). The meeting will be held between services. All are welcome. We hope you can join us!

Help Needed ~ Are you interested in Faith in Action? Would you like to be involved somehow? Maybe you'd like to help this summer with St. Mark's Angel Food suppers, or maybe you have another idea. Plans have begun for our churches sponsorship of the Angel Food suppers held at St. Mark's on the third Saturdays of June, July and August. Some people have already signed up to volunteer, others are checking their calendars or will be called soon. If you'd like to help please give Jenny McKendry a call at 622-4501. Thank you!

Thank you ~ A hard working group of youth have been invaluable at the St. Mark's Augusta Angel Food Network Suppers during the last several months. Faith in Action would like to thank and recognize the following Senior youth and members of Peace Jam who have volunteered for Suppers: J'rae Mendall, John Hutton, James McAuliffe, Calen Mendall, Antonia Reiter, George Spahn, Josh Caldwell, Isabella Ucci, Kathryn Wright, Sahja Mendall, Shannon McAuliffe, Anna Hodgkins, Louise Nielson, Liam Walp, Aidan Watson (Liam's friend) and Leader Monique McAuliffe as well as other volunteers, Cheryl Clukey, Ida Gammon Wilson, Jenny McKendry

For more information on volunteering please contact Jenny McKendry at 622-4501

Fundraising ...

Yard Sale Donations Accepted in May - We want to thank everyone for their generous donations to the annual yard sale and to Hannah's Boutique over the years. We have raised thousands of much needed dollars to continue the church's work. Please hold any donations you may have until May 1st as donations have exceeded storage space and work needs be done in the garage. As always, please limit your donations to serviceable items that you would want to purchase at a yard sale.

From the Administrator ...

Facebook ~ UCC now has a Facebook page! Please visit often! Be sure to "like" our page!

Rev. Carie Johnsen also has a Facebook page. Visit RevCarie Johnsen and be sure to "friend"

Website Calendar ~ Our new website calendar is now available! Need to rent space for a meeting? Take a look at the calendar to see what is available! Need to know what time an event is taking place? Visit the web calendar! If you have any questions regarding the calendar please contact Julie at 622-3232. Thank you!

Administration Hours:

Monday	8:00 am-4:00 pm
Tuesday	8:00 am-4:00 pm
Thursday	4:30 pm-8:30 pm *
Saturday	8:00 am-12:00 pm

Please note the addition of Thursday evening

Directory Information ~ Please be sure to let the Administration Office know if you have any changes in address, phone number or email so that we may keep our directory information up to date. Thank you!

From the Treasurer ...

A friendly reminder that when making pledge payments, please be sure to make a notation in the memo portion of your check. This will help to better ensure that your pledges are recorded accurately.

"Leave the beaten track occasionally and
dive into the woods. Every time you do so,
you will be certain to find something you
have never seen before"

~ Alexander Graham Bell, Unitarian inventor

Unitarian Universalist Community Church (UUC) Photo Consent Form
Family Information

Name(s) of adults: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Children including their ages: _____

Permission to use image(s) of adults on the UUC website

I grant permission for my image(s) to be used on the UUC website, literature or displayed in church building. I understand that per policy for electronic media and our church, my name will not be printed or represented on the website without my express permission.

Please note: A signature is required for each adult giving consent

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Permission to use image(s) of child, children and (or) youth on the UUC website

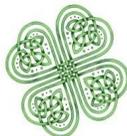
I, _____, represent that I am the parent/guardian of the following children:

_____.

I grant permission for my child's, children's, and/or youth's image to be used on the UUC church website, literature or displayed in church building. I understand that per policy for electronic media and our church, his or her name will not be printed or represented on the website without my express permission.

Signature _____ Date _____

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 March 19th. Please submit newsletter articles by email, no later than 9:00 a.m. to Julie Pelletier, UUCC Church Administrator at admin@augustauu.org. Thank you!

Minister: Rev. Carie Johnsen
President: Sheila Comerford
Interim Director of Religious Exploration: Pat Gardiner
Administrator: Julie Pelletier
Choir Director: Douglas Barley
Small Group Ministry Coordinator: Kathy Kellison

Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday, 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.
Thursday, 4:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, 8:00 a.m.- noon
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