



# The Flaming Chalice

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

## Worship Services May 2013 Sundays at 9:15 and 11:00 a.m.

**May 5th**      Peace Jam Sunday (9:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.)      Peace Jammers  
UUC Senior High Group

Our Peace Jam youth with their advisors have created a special service to reflect on their year together, what they have learned, and what they hope for the future. Come and share in their enthusiasm and their dreams for a better world.

**May 12**      Coming of Age Sunday (9:15 a.m.)      Coming of Age Group  
It Matters What We Believe

It matters what we believe. In our tradition it's up to each one of us to figure out what that means. This service is the culmination of a year-old process of spiritual exploration for youth in our Coming of Age program. This morning they will share their credos; statements of belief about what's true for them here and now.

Rachel Sabbath (11:00 a.m.)      Rev. Carie Johnsen

Drawing on the stories of the matriarch Rachel in Hebrew Scriptures, we will celebrate the gift of motherhood as we bear witness to the persistent real world need for maternal health care

**May 19th**      RE Recognition (9:15 a.m.)      Rev. Carol Strecker  
Rev. Carie Johnsen

Join us as we celebrate the coming transitions of our 5th graders into Jr. Youth, our 8th graders as they become Sr. Youth, our newly licensed drivers, and our graduating seniors as they move forward into new phases of their lives. This is truly a celebration for all of us as we recognize the value of community in the growth and development of our young people as they mature as Unitarian Universalists and citizens of the world.

Perfectly Imperfect (11:00 a.m.)      Rev. Carie Johnsen

To be human is to be beautifully flawed. Let us gather together to encounter, engage and celebrate the grace of being perfectly imperfect.

## Summer Worship Services Beginning of One Sunday Service at 10:00 am ONLY

**May 26th**      TBA      Jim McKendry

## A Faith Journey by Rev. Carie Johnsen...

Congratulations, we are a Leap of Faith Congregation!!

The New England Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association has identified Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Augusta as a healthy and vital faith community. We have been identified as a congregation who “demonstrates health in shared ministry and robust congregational life” and is “poised for growth.”

What is Leap of Faith?

“Leap of Faith is a 1-year experience that pairs healthy congregations *aspiring* to grow with mentoring congregations that *are* growing. Together they tap into their collective wisdom and commit to helping the aspiring congregations break through their growth barriers. Leap of Faith is real-world collaboration aimed at bringing hope to strangers, healing broken lives, and making love more real in the world--in other words, aimed at faith-filled ‘growth’.”

As an aspiring congregation, we have been asked to bring the following gifts to the learning partnership:

A belief that wisdom, hope and grace are abundant in both congregations and that there is value in UU congregations being involved with one another

The capacity to affirm the health present in each other’s congregation

The ability to not only appreciate technical, short-term solutions but, more importantly, to focus on the longer-term, core challenges facing a congregation

Curiosity and great listening skills as well as an openness to receive, from their partner, observations and assessments of their congregational life

The time needed to attend the August 16-18 launch conference and attend the 2-3 day learning journey

During my candidating week in 2009, I witnessed a vital and dynamic congregation. I saw in you enormous potential to become a flagship congregation. The first two years of my ministry, I spoke often about the different ways in which a congregational grows, most specifically about growth in the area of health systems. In the fall of 2009, we embarked on a shared ministry with an intention to create healthy systems and structures, clarity in roles and responsibilities and levels of accountability. This important work will always be a fluid part of healthy congregation life and church governance. And now, it is time for this flagship congregation to engage more intentionally in the area of growing souls.

Now is the time for faith-filled growth. Now is the time for UUCC of Augusta to engage more intentionally in a vision of bringing hope to strangers, healing broken lives, and making love more real in the world. In saying “Yes” to this opportunity, the UUCC Board of Trustees has committed this congregation to a vision of numerical growth, bringing the good news of Unitarian Universalism to the people in greater Augusta area.

There are many exciting ways to be engaged with this unique and unprecedented growth opportunity. As an aspiring congregation we will build a travel team of 5 people to attend the launch conference and participate in a learning journey site visit to First Parish Milton, our mentoring congregation in Massachusetts. We will also be building a much larger home team whose primary purpose will be to engage congregational leaders in exploring and addressing the growth challenges unique to UUCC of Augusta. Together we will answer the question, “how will we amplify the learnings of our travel team and engage enough leaders within the congregation to shift how we view and address our growth challenges?”

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Rev. Carie Johnsen at [revcariejohansen@gmail.com](mailto:revcariejohansen@gmail.com) or Doug Rooks, Board President at [president@augustauu.org](mailto:president@augustauu.org).

To learn more about our mentor congregation, First Parish Milton, visit <http://fpmilton.org>

In faith, Rev. Carie

## Strength in Our Numbers...

Doug Rooks, President

Attending a Northern New England District meeting is always an experience. The 5<sup>th</sup> annual meeting just held in Portsmouth, N.H., featured a workshop from the Bedford, Mass. church, which varies its worship in unusual ways. A remote-controlled clownfish balloon flew over our heads; a disco ball is sometimes found on the ceiling of their historic 1816 sanctuary. For them, it works. Bedford is a UUA "Breakthrough Congregation," featured in the Winter 2012 issue of *UU World*. There were also workshops on Beloved Community, the latest in on-line communication, and the "Genderbread Person" -- transgender identity and inclusion.

But for me the highlight was the presentation of the District Leadership Award to one of our long-time members, Rev. Bill DeWolfe. Bill first attended Ferry Beach in 1942, and was ordained in 1952. Through a long career as a minister and district executive, he held posts all over the country. But it was when he retired to Maine that he did some of his most significant work.

Reviewing records of the UUA's old Northeast District (Maine), he discovered that membership had been declining for a century – to the point it was difficult to maintain the district. Then president of the Northeast District board, Bill launched a study and served on a four-year transition team that produced the Northern New England District, partnering us with New Hampshire and Vermont. Bill continued to manage endowment investments for smaller Maine congregations until he officially retired in 2012. As President Sue Buckholz said in presenting the award, "When Bill's name came up, that was the end of the discussion."

Other members of UUCC contribute to the district in significant ways. Linda Findlay, our former Religious Exploration director, was elected to a three-year term on the board. Kathy Kellison, Small Group Ministry coordinator, joined the Chalice Lighter Committee, which makes grants for new congregational projects – including, recently, support for our

full-time RE director. And I'm proud to serve on the Leadership Vision Team, which seeks ways to strengthen lay leadership throughout the district.

The annual meeting was also a showcase for the Maine UU State Advocacy Network (MUUSAN), working to inform our elected leaders about health care, climate change, and democracy issues. Dale McCormick, steering committee co-chair, signed up new members, and UUCC acts as host church for the fledgling network.

Unitarian Universalists are a small religious denomination, but we can have an impact well beyond our numbers. The NNED annual meeting showed us how.

## History Committee...

At the **April** meeting, we cataloged our collection of Wayside Pulpit sayings. There have been over 800 sayings available for posting outside of churches since the program started in 1919 for Unitarian, Universalist, and other denominations. We have a sizable collection, and the listing of our holdings will be available to view from the History Committee.

The **May 9** meeting, 10am-Noon in Drew, will focus on the Religious Education Artifacts that were collected for study of world religions in the early 1960s.

For more information or to attend the meeting, contact Krista Zidowecki at 582-5308 or [kaz@hzmre.com](mailto:kaz@hzmre.com)

## Elder Lunch...

Elder Lunch ~ Won't you join us on Sunday, May 12th (after second service) for our monthly Elder lunch? We don't check your birth certificate..."elder" is self-defined! All are welcome!

## Director of Religious Exploration ...

Rev. Carol Strecker

The first weekend in April I had the privilege of accompanying 10 of our Sr. Youth to the New England Peace Jam Conference at the University of Connecticut. I'd never heard of Peace Jam when I came to UUCC. I had no idea there was an international movement of young people who work together in groups like ours to address the most pressing social issues of our time - big, global issues like; ending racism and hate, eliminating extreme poverty, women and children's rights and restoring the Earth's environment.

In the spring, Peace Jam groups gather at regional conferences to gather inspiration and ideas. They meet with a Nobel Peace Prize laureate; this year it was Jody Williams, a woman who started an international movement to ban the use of anti-personnel landmines. I found Jody particularly inspiring because she was just a regular person, like you and me, who was moved by her anger (what she called righteous indignation) to do something positive to create change.

Our youth also meet in family groups; groups of youth from different cities and towns and a college aged mentor to learn from and support one another. This year, a group of youth from Newtown, Connecticut was invited to join the conference. These youth have been instrumental in forming the Newtown Action Alliance; a volunteer organization working to reduce gun violence. They've done a lot of legislative advocacy which I'm sure had an impact on the recent gun control legislation that was passed in Connecticut. I think meeting and hearing from the Newtown youth was probably one of the most inspiring things about this year's conference for our youth and for me. They're still really reeling emotionally from what happened at Sandy Hook Elementary School. It was moving to watch the

youth at the conference rally around the Newtown youth, providing them with a safe place to tell their stories -some of them for the first time. But our youth were also inspired to want to act - to do something to help.

On Saturday afternoon all of us participated in something called the 1 million bones project. We made bones out of newspaper and masking tape and together, in a special ceremony, we placed the bones in a the shape of a peace sign on the lawn outside the student union on the UConn. campus. The bones symbolize all the violent deaths perpetrated here and around the world.

Specifically related to gun violence in the US, the Brady Commission reports:

- 100,000 people a year are shot by guns
- Over a million people have been killed with guns in the US since '68
- US homicide rates are 6.9 times higher than rates in 22 other populous high-income counties combined
- The firearm homicide rate is 19.5 times higher
- Nearly 3,000 kids die every year from gun murder, suicide, accidental death or police intervention

The 1 Million Bones project intends to lay a million bones out on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. from June 8th-10th. This installation will serve as a site of conscience to remember victims and survivors and do something to reduce the incidence of violent death by guns here and abroad. Our youth won't be making the trip to Washington so they're hoping to create their own bones project right here in Augusta. It's a way to ally themselves with the Newtown youth while calling

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## Religious Education Committee...

May is a busy time in the Religious Exploration community at the UUCU. The children and youth have a chance to celebrate milestones and accomplishments and share stories with the rest of the church community about what they have been learning relevant to the UU principles as well as what they have been doing together to put those principles into action.

I hope you can join the children and youth in the first services for the month of May as the Peace Jam youth inspire you with their call to action, the Coming of Age youth touch you by sharing their beliefs and faith development, and the younger children share the joy they feel in being together at church asking important questions about our world. Carol will have her hands full so offer a calm word on these busy mornings.

Thank you to the entire church community for the support you each provide toward UUCU's religious exploration programs which are available to young and old on our ongoing faith journey. Yes, it makes a difference to have a safe, encouraging place to ponder life's big questions in such good company!

Susan Caldwell, Chair

## Social Activities...

### Social Activities Presents

UUCU Art Class for Kids - Saturday, April 27th -10am -1pm"!!!

Come create a fish/sea sculpture out of scrap wood, drift wood, paint, glitter & odds and ends. Come have fun & express yourself! Children of all ages welcome (and yes, that includes adults too!!)

Samples of wooden fish sculptures in the Fellowship Hall will be arriving soon! You can also view fish sculptures by visiting the Kennebec River Artisans store located in Hallowell. Cost of supplies will be \$5.00.

Steel Band and Spaghetti Supper It will be held the first week in June Lithgow Library.

## Our Generous Members...

Perhaps you wonder about our Share the Plate Sundays. This is what we've collected & shared so far this church year:

**August, 2012** Angel Suppers \$239.00

**October, 2012** Penobscot Nation \$446.60

**November, 2012** UUService Committee \$313.27

**December, 2012** Family Violence Project : Adopt a Family \$698.95

**Bread of Life** \$445.73

**January, 2013** Keep ME Warm \$462.31

**March, 2013** Angel Food Network \$597.19

**April, 2013** Maine Migrant Health (figures should be available Monday 4/8)

Our children and youth have donated \$39.75 to U.S. for UNICEF and \$220.00 from the Cookie Walk to J/P Haitian Relief Organization.

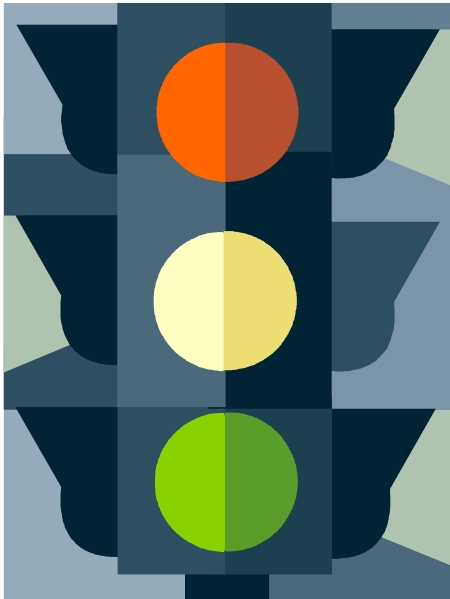
## Fundraising...

The six weeks since March 1st have been a busy and profitable fundraising period. The Southern Dinner combined with the film "The Help" was held on March 15th (\$305). This was followed on April 5th by the Silent/Live Auction .(+\$6,000) and on April 13th The Felted Silk Workshop (\$180) During this same time period \$92.50 was earned from the sale of Hannaford Gift Cards and \$100 from the CLYNK program. The sum of these Fundraising activities total \$6,677. Our thanks to Cheryl Clukey, Hannah Faulkner, and Marty & David Thornton for their involvement in these Fundraising events.

Two more Fundraisers are planned for this fiscal year: The Annual Inside/Outside Yard Sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 11th, with set up and pricing on Friday, May 10th. Many volunteers will be needed and there is a sign up sheet on the Fundraising Bulletin Board.

The last Fundraiser promises to be a fun time for all ages. It will be a Steel Band and Spaghetti Supper hosted jointly by Fundraising, Social Activities at the Lithgow Library. It will be held the first week in June.

## Peaceful Heart Sangha...



### Redlight Meditation

On second and third Mondays, Peaceful Heart Sangha is reading *Work: How to Find Joy and Meaning in Each Hour of the Day*.

Right now we are exploring how we begin our work day. Setting our intention each day can help us find more peace and joy in our everyday life. If we set our intention to be calm, relaxed and mindful during our work day, it is possible (though quite different from our usual way of doing things) to see a stop sign or a stop light as an invitation to take a breath and relax for a moment. Though many of us see a red light as an enemy, it is possible to adjust our point of view and see it as a friend reminding us not to rush.

Join us any Monday for meditation 6:30 - 8.

Children/Family Meditation first Mondays 5:30 - 6:15.

Questions?

Contact [peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com](mailto:peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com) or [martysoule@gmail.com](mailto:martysoule@gmail.com) or call 685-9270.

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## Congratulations

Rev. William DeWolfe

The 2013 recipient of the Northern New England District Unitarian Universalist Association Leadership Award.

This award is given each year to the person who has contributed the most to the well-being and health of the District.

Rev. Bill DeWolfe is a member of UUCU of Augusta. Bill is retired now after a long career of ministry and District work all over the country. During his time here, he served as president of the Northeast District (before the consolidation) and served for four years on the consolidation committee (the Joint Task Force.) Working with old records, Bill discovered in 2000 that the NE District had been losing membership for over 100 years. That inspired the effort to restructure the District's leadership and resulted in the consolidation. Bill also served for many years as a member of the Northeast District Endowment Trustees. In that role, he was the keeper of the equation that distributed earnings to the churches which had money invested with the NED. After the consolidation, Bill joined the NNED Trustees and performed the same services for the Maine churches until he retired in 2012.

## Mark Your Calendar....

### -WHERE WE LIVE

A series of three Small Group Ministry Session Plans about where we live as life situations change.

Sundays, after Second Service, 12:15-2pm.

15 people participated in the March 24 session on "To Move or Not to Move." The second session "Living Into the Decision," will be held April 28. The last session, "What Now?" will occur on May 5.

Light refreshments will be available, and you are welcome to bring a lunch.

Explore the possibilities and challenges, share your experiences, and engage with the complexities for individuals and loved ones. Sessions are applicable for all of us, individually and as we plan with family members.

*\*Even if you were not able to join the first session, you are welcome to come to the others. Copies of the session plans are available. However, you must register prior to a session with Helen Zidowecki 582-5308, [hzmre@hzmre.com](mailto:hzmre@hzmre.com)) to see if there is room. The size of the groups is limited.*

-The **Nonviolent Communications (Also known as Compassionate Communications) Practice Group** meets 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 May are **May 3** and **May 17**.

For more information on NVC, the topics, or to attend, contact Helen Wing at 685-3804 or [hcranewing@roadrunner.com](mailto:hcranewing@roadrunner.com)

## Goddess Continuing....

**Goddess Continuing** invites all ages and genders to join us, usually following the Second Service, 12:15-2pm with light refreshments. We have the focused topic or celebration for part of the meeting, followed by time to look at resources we have brought to share.

**May 5** is a special opportunity to celebrate **Beltane/Mayday**. Please see the Beltane folder on the table outside of the Sanctuary. In place of our usual meeting time, some of us may be going to Beltane on the Beach, a widely acclaimed event. This includes a Druidic Gorsedd with sharing through music, song, story and poetry, in addition to Potluck Lunch (or bring your own), races, rituals and may-poles. See the notice on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for sign up.

**May 19** Join us at our usual time and meet **Danu**, the Nile River Goddess, presented by Mary Shifman. This will be followed by our continuing review of resources.

Please pick up the Goddess Continuing brochure on the table across from the sanctuary. Contact Mary Shifman, [shifmanmary@aol.com](mailto:shifmanmary@aol.com), 549-7719

## Display Case...

The **April** display was sponsored by the **Immigration Task Force**. Thank you for the informative and colorful presentation of issues and concerns.

The **May** display will be sponsored by Religious Exploration.

For information on scheduling a display, contact Helen Zidowecki, the Thursday AM Small Group Ministry at (582-5308 or [hzmre@hzmre.com](mailto:hzmre@hzmre.com))

## Director of RE...

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our state government to act to pass legislation that will help reduce gun violence in Maine.

You'll hear more about this at the Peace Jam worship service May 5th. I hope you'll come and hear about their experience from them. They went to the conference having accomplished a lot this year already. They've strengthened the web of "human security" by serving "Peace Meals" at St. Marks public suppers, Spring Rock Sr. Housing in Leeds, and at our own Elder Lunch. They're helping to provide access to water by helping a village in Guatemala build a pumping station and educating themselves and others about the hazards of bottled drinking water by selling reusable bottles. And they'll be attending a camp with Wabinaki youth this summer, building bridges between cultures and learning what it means to be an ally to people who have been oppressed. Their focus will expand and shift based on their experience at the conference - as it should. I'm so proud of our Sr. Youth for their passion for justice and their compassion.

In closing, I want to remind you that you'll have an opportunity to hear from our Coming of Agers on May 12th, first service. They will be sharing the fruits of a year-long process of spiritual discovery. And on May 19th, you'll have a chance to learn something about what all our children and youth have experienced this year as we recognize the milestones that accompany the transition from one year to the next in our Religious Exploration program during first service.

It's been quite a year --- and it's not over yet!!! Our adult volunteers, our children and our youth have taught me a lot. They have a lot to teach all of us. For that I am so grateful.

Faithfully Yours,  
Carol

## Buildings and Grounds ...

There is no Second Saturday scheduled in May. Instead, please assist Fund Raising with the annual yard sale.

**June 8th, 9-12 is the next work day.** We will be weeding, spreading mulch, and interior painting. If anyone is willing to help Tom and Marilyn with maintenance on Tuesdays please call 512-5382 or email [maine2007@hotmail.com](mailto:maine2007@hotmail.com).

**Three work crews** were purchased at the auction for very generous bids of \$700 each. Please help us fulfill this commitment. Work days will run 8:30 to 3:30 with lunch break.

If you are able to work one of these Saturdays July 13, August 10, August 17, or August 24, please email Brenda Sawyer at [nicaphile@hotmail.com](mailto:nicaphile@hotmail.com). If you are retired and available work a weekday, please email Marilyn Dunn at maine [2007@hotmail.com](mailto:2007@hotmail.com).

**Have you seen the two wheel truck?** - If anyone borrowed the two wheel truck from the garage or knows where it is, please call Tom 512-8352.

**Can you help weed during the week?** If you can work with Marilyn doing weeding and trimming please call 512-5382 to arrange a time to meet.

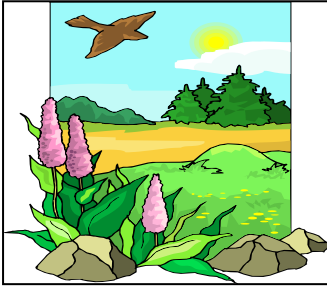
### Coffee Hour Information from Marilyn Dunn

**Fellowship Refreshments Needed.** Building and Grounds cleared and labeled a kitchen corner cupboard for contributions. Non-perishable goodies (chips, pretzels, cookies) can be 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.





## **Support the Church, and Yourself or the Augusta Food Bank, by Purchasing Hannaford Cash Cards at Face Value without any Fees...**

Hannah Faulkner and her team of Terry Cookson, Betty Armstrong, Jill Watson, Sunshine Perlis and Libby Weeks will sell you, at face value, a Hannaford Cash Card that you can use in any Hannaford store to pay for purchases. They will also sell you Hannaford Cash Cards for donation to the Augusta Food Bank.

The church receives a 5% bonus from Hannaford for a card purchase coordinated through the church totaling \$1,000 or more at one time. Since July 2012 the church has received more than \$1,600 in bonuses through this fundraising program.

Cash Cards in varying amounts are available following the church service most Sundays. For routine shopping, presents, support of another person or donation to the Augusta Food Bank, please plan to use a Cash Card from Church. Payment may be made via check. To purchase your card or cards, to reload a card, or to initiate an ACH (automatic debit) please see Hannah Faulkner.

The cards we have available are in the following denominations:

Ten Dollars

Fifteen Dollars

Twenty-five Dollars

Fifty Dollars

One Hundred Dollars

Two Hundred Dollars

Specially Requested Amounts

Look for Libby Weeks at the bunny table selling \$10 cash cards that will be donated to the Augusta Food Bank or another worthy organization.

Cards may be "reloaded" on most Tuesdays with additional amounts up to a balance of \$500, or via Sunday payment coordinated by Hannah Faulkner and Church Treasurer Mary Simpson, who will combine your request into a \$1,000 order so that our church can receive 5%.

See you on Sundays!



**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 June 17. Please submit newsletter articles by email, no later than 9:00 a.m. to Sheila Comerford at: [newsletter@augustauu.org](mailto: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

**Office:** (207) 622-3232  
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[www.augustauu.org](http://www.augustauu.org)

**Minister's Office Hours:**

Tuesday 12:00-5:00 pm

Thursday 1:00-6:00 pm

Additional times available by appointment. To set up a meeting or appointment, please contact Rev. Carie at: 623-3663 or [revcariejohansen@gmail.com](mailto:revcariejohansen@gmail.com)

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.