



The Flaming Chalice

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

October 2013

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

Children's Religious Exploration classes 9:15 a.m. & Spirit Play 11:00 a.m.

Nursery Care available at both services

Theme Based Ministry

In September of 2013, UUC of Augusta will begin transitioning to a model of theme-based ministry in worship and programs. This new model is intended to provide members and friends with an opportunity for deeper interaction with worship themes. Instead of moving along from seemingly random topics each week, we will engage the following themes each month:

| | | | |
|-----------|---|----------|-------------------|
| September | Fluidity & Forgiveness | February | Heritage & Legacy |
| October | Honor Our Connections With The Universe | March | Los |
| November | Radical Hospitality | April | Power of Myth |
| December | Unitarian Universalist Sources | May | Peace |
| January | New Beginnings | June | Community |

Soul Matters: An invitation

A monthly Soul Matters packet will be developed as a tool for members, friends and small groups to use as they explore how the theme is intricately woven into the tapestry of our days.

A Soul Matters packet is your invitation:

- To explore theme-based spiritual practices.
- To encounter the complexity of living a moral life.
- To wrestle with life's many contradictions.
- To practice intentional and guided spiritual and theological reflection.
- To mine the moments of your life for wisdom, courage, hope and love.
- To cultivate conversations that opens the heart and soul to our common humanity.
- To swim beneath the surface of daily life and engage in conversations that matter.
- To meet human longing by cultivating connections and a sense of belonging.

As you explore this month's theme, *Forgiveness and Fluidity*, I invite you to go as the way opens. Be curious. Allow yourself to be surprised by what you find. Share it with someone you meet along the way. Have fun and keep your spirit dancing with life and all that you encounter along the way.

To request a copy of the Soul Matter's Packet, please contact Mary T. Simpson at 622-3232 or admin@augustauu.org

A Faith Journey by Rev. Carie Johnsen...

Honoring Our Connections With The Universe may well be one of the broadest themes possible for a month of Sundays and conversations in between.

As I begin to walk with this theme, my mind meanders to infinity experienced on the ocean shores. From there I'm off to ponder the ever expanding space between me and the edge of the universe. Before long I am reversing directions and encountering the question of what is the smallest bit of matter known to humanity? (Google says: quarks) Between a quark and the edge of the universe is a vast expanse to ponder, connect with and honor.

In a community where theologies on Ultimate Mystery multiply daily, can this theme be a resting place for a diverse community to talk about something greater than self, something beyond me and my little corner of the universe?

I thought climbing a mountain would connect me with a grander plan and a vast cosmos. Of course a climb is an exhilarating adventure and the views are breathtaking, and my physical self loves the accomplishment of a challenge but in truth, the water's edge grounds me in a deeper connection and relationship with something beyond myself.

At the ocean shore I look out upon a vast expanse of blue and white. Here I am in awe of all that is, all that I don't know and all that is yet to come. Here I am humbled by my minuscule place in an amazing unfinished epic of grand proportion. Here at the shore life comes into perspective and I am at one with all that is and will be.

As October begins to form in my mind, I am imagining the many opportunities and many ways to nurture a connection that names for you what matters most. If this were a congregational talk back, I suspect I would hear things like nature, God, deep space, the bird call, Love, the quiet in deep woods, the night sky, the story of Jesus, the beauty of the Earth, Yahweh, Science, poetry, Spirit of Life, the laughter of a child, the wisdom of the ages, compassion, Sacred Divine, Goddess, Mohammed, The Way...

The privilege of creating Sunday worship will draw me deeper into my spiritual practice of paying attention, listening and being present to life forever unfolding around me and the opportunity to be connected with the people, the community and the Creativity that emerges in our midst.

What does *Honoring Your Connection With The Universe* look like and feel like? What would a practice of paying attention to that which matters most to you look and feel like? Where and how do you feel connected? As you walk though your days listen and bear witness to the ways in which your life is connected to something beyond. Is there something greater guiding your life? How will you pay homage?

In Faith,

Rev. Carie

Being in Right Relationship with our Children and Youth...

By Rev. Carol Strecker, Director of Religious Exploration

Things are gearing up for another great year in Religious Exploration. We have lots of adult volunteers that have been trained to work with our children and youth. And we have youth trained and ready to be in the nursery to provide a safe and nurturing presence for our youngest children. You may not be aware that adult and youth volunteering in the Religious Exploration program attend a training/orientation every year, regardless of whether it's their first or 10th year of volunteering in the program.

A lot of the material we go over is related to safety and the quality of our relationships with our young people. An important part of our RE philosophy is that how we do things is just as important, if not more so, than what we do during our time together. We talk about "right relationships"; being kind, honest, direct and thoughtful - to think of the group first, and yourself second.

Whether you volunteer in the RE program or not, you have a role to play in helping to create a safe and caring environment for our children. To that end, we have some basic rules and guidelines that everyone can follow:

1) Parents should pick up their children at their RE classroom, (ages 10 and under) immediately after worship (as close to 10:30 as possible for 1st service and as close to noon for 2nd service) at their RE classroom. If, for some reason you're not going to be able to pick up your child(ren) in a timely manner, please make arrangements with the teacher or Director of Religious Education (DRE) before hand.

2) Parents are responsible for supervising their children any time they are not under the direct supervision of an adult/youth volunteer in the RE program, i.e. coffee hour. We all want the children to enjoy being at church but parents should not assume that someone else is watching their child(ren). Children should never be left in the care of other children, inside or out.

3) No one should be in the nursery except young children ages 4 and under, trained nursery care providers, the DRE and the parents of children in the nursery. Older children can play in the game room (Committee Room) adjacent to the coat room.

4) There are always two adults present with our children and youth during RE programs. All of us can engage our children. Pay attention to them, listen to them, share your experience but no adult should ever be alone with a child/youth unless he/she has permission from a parent.

5) Pay attention and encourage children and youth to engage in appropriate, respectful behavior; walking, using indoor voices, being courteous when helping themselves to food at coffee hour. In short, encourage them to practice being in "right relationship" with all of us by being in "right relationship" with them.

Faithfully Yours,

Carol

Questions Before Solutions...

By Doug Rooks, President

Your leadership team for our Leap of Faith year has begun making some decisions about where we are headed. There have been several meetings of the travel team – which will visit with our partner church in Milton, Mass. in November – and the home team, which will prepare the way for a return visit from members of the Milton congregation.

We've decided to give over our annual leadership retreat on Oct. 19 to a Leap of Faith for Church Leaders. Rather than the traditional session of training and exploring how lay leaders can be more effective, we will open ourselves up to the process of questioning our basic assumptions about who we are as a congregation and a community.

This can be scary stuff. The premise behind Leap of Faith is that we can and should grow as a congregation, but it's already clear that before that can happen, we must be willing to sit amid a bit of doubt and darkness. We must find out more about our basic identity and our aspirations before we can enter the path toward growth.

An initial exercise was to ask a large group from the home and travel teams about their basic assumptions about who we are and what we do. The lists, as it may not surprise you to learn, were highly diverse and, occasionally, even contradictory. One of the goals of our next several sessions will be to focus on these assumptions, and test which ones are most representative of where we are now. In the process, we will find valuable clues about who we are and what we want to be.

This will cause a certain amount of discomfort, to be sure, but growth always requires a period of doubt and uncertainty. We have good mentors, in the form of our Northern New England District and regional staff, and at the Milton church, where they are already accomplishing what we have set out to do.

We do know that stories and storytelling are a vital tool toward understanding. Asking the right questions can be almost as important as finding the right answers. Over the next six weeks, we hope to frame the “adaptive challenges” that go behind traditional decision-making by boards and committees and commit our church to three “learning goals” which will shape the rest of our Leap of Faith year.

If we sometimes sound unsure of ourselves in conversation, don't worry. It's part of the process. Have faith in the journey.

Doug Rooks,
President

Mark Your Calendar....

Earth Days: The Seeds of a Revolution Friday, September 27th ~ 7 to 9 p.m.

Hosted by Beth Fitzgerald

Earth Days is a documentary film directed by Robert Stone, about the start of the environmental movement in the U.S. This will be a particularly appropriate background film as A2U2 begins a 3 year environment/sustainability focus. Minimum 6 participants. To register, go online to <http://www.a2u2.org/adult-education-programs.aspx>

Beth Fitzgerald has been a member of A2U2 for more than 10 years, offering programs in the past about the beauty and diversity created by the cosmos. She is painfully aware that the survival of that creation is now in jeopardy, and pleased with A2U2's focus on the environment.

Spaghetti Supper and Stratton Elementary School Steel Drum Band

On **Friday evening, October 4th**, don't miss the **5:30 p.m.** Spaghetti Supper in our Fellowship Hall followed by the Stratton Elementary School Steel Drum Band Concert at 6:30 p.m. These skillful and very entertaining young musicians are traveling all the way from Northwestern Maine to play their instruments for us. Bring your family and friends for a happy time. This is a joint event of the Social Activities and Fundraising Committees. Cheryl Clukey (441-0337) & Hannah Faulkner (293-9377) are urging all members, friends and families to attend. A donation for the supper is requested. This event offers a satisfying meal and rewarding way to begin the weekend!

Foray: Walking Tour of the Presumpscot River with History Saturday, October 5th ~ 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Led by Michael Shaughnessy.

Join together for an historic tour of the Presumpscot River. Meeting at the Covered Bridge in Windham (details will be shared), walking the path and culminating in a picnic lunch at the lovely falls. We will drive to several locations, ending in Portland at the mouth of the river. Bring a lunch. Registration required by October 1. To register, go online to <http://www.a2u2.org/adult-education-programs.aspx>.

Michael is an artist, and professor at USM. He has worked for 30 years in hay and has shown across the country. Most recently he has engaged in a work consisting of driving around with a large sphere of hay atop his car. He has been active in environmental and political causes for years. He is a founding member of the Friends of the Presumpscot

River (FOPR) and is its current President. For 20 years FOPR has led in the battle to restore the water quality and fisheries of the Presumpscot.

Pre-holiday Sale of Decorations, Re-giftables and Books Saturday, November 2, 2013, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

On Friday, November 1st between 2 and 6 p.m. we will attractively arrange and price the holiday decorations and re-giftables on the tables for the Saturday sale. If you can help, please sign up on the sheet soon to be posted on the fundraising bulletin board.

Please bring your holiday decorations and re-giftables to the church on or shortly before November 1st. The definition of a re-giftable is an item that either is new, or looks new enough to give someone else as a gift, especially for Thanksgiving or Christmas.

Before he moved to Rhode Island, Joe Laferriere donated a generous supply of books for the church to sell. Some of Joe's books will be available for sale November 2nd. If you have books the church can sell, please bring them in during the afternoon of November 1st.

As soon as you can, please contact Hannah Faulkner at [\(207\) 293-9377](tel:2072939377) or hannahuu3@fairpoint.net to let her know what you will be bringing.

Gaslight Theatre and Luncheon

Sunday, November 17 after church Judy and Bruce are hosting a luncheon in the Fellowship Hall prior to the matinee, "Promises, Promises" at the Gaslight Theatre.

Please contact Judy and Bruce at jsmbierce@myfairpoint.net or 897-3683 to reserve your tickets for the play.

Annual Pie Sale at Longfellow's Greenhouse Saturday, November 23

Bruce and Judy will present our annual Pie Sale at Longfellow's. Please contact them as soon as you can to tell them what pies you will make for the sale. As usual, this promises to be a highly successful event.

Unitarian Universalist Staff Hours...

Rev. Carie Johnsen:

Tuesday and Thursday – 11:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
or by appointment

Friday: Off

Intern Minister – Sharon Piantedosi

Tuesday and Thursday – 10:30 A.M. to 3:30
P.M., and by appointment

Friday: Off

Director of Religious Exploration – Rev. Carol Strecker

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday – 10:00
A.M. to 4:00 P.M., and by appointment

Monday: Off

Mary T. Simpson – Office Administrator:

Monday and Tuesday – 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Thursday – 12:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

Wednesday and Friday: Off

Drop-ins are always welcome, however at times
we may be in a meeting or not in the office. Call-
ing ahead for availability is the best way to con-
firm that we are here and available.

Rev. Carie, Rev. Carol, and Sharon practice a
Sabbath on their day off. They do not attend to
emails, phone calls, or meetings.

For pastoral emergencies call Rev. Carie at 508-
221-5295. Leave a message, and she will return
calls as soon as possible.

Buildings and Grounds...

Next Building and Grounds Workday is Saturday, October 12

Second Saturday of the month is custom-
ary work day for building and grounds.

We only had three volunteers in July and
none in August. Now that summer is over
we hope to see more of you on second
Saturdays. Contact Marilyn or Tom 512-
5382.

Rev. Carie Travels to Israel...

Rev. Carie will participate in a multi-faith
tour of Israel October 7-October 17 spon-
sored by the Wellspring Center: Maine
Center for Spiritual Practice and Social Ac-
tion. This tour of the holy lands will be led
by three religious leaders from
Maine: Rev. Scott Dow, Rabbi Hillel Katzir
and Reza Jalali.

Rev. Carie will have limited email access
during her travels. She will acquire an
emergency phone in Israel and the number
will be given to the contacts listed below.

In her absence (Oct. 7-Oct. 17) please use
the following contacts:

For pastoral care contact Sharon Pi-
antedosi, Intern Minister at 978-319-0132

For church business contact Mary T. Simp-
son, Office Administrator at 622-3232

For church emergency's contact Doug
Rooks, UUCU President 458-8241

Display Case...

New Church Year – New Displays!

Contribute items for the "Theme of the Month" Display! For October, the theme is ***Honoring our Connections with the Universe***. Share photographs, personal artwork, including three dimensional pieces of art. Submit a piece yourself, as a family or as a small group.

The Display will be assembled the Saturday before the first Sunday of the month. Please drop items for the Display at Judd House during office hours. Please put your name with the items.

Elder Lunch...

Could you cook or serve just once for Elder Lunch this year? Elder lunch is the second Sunday of each month October through May. This event has grown in popularity and 35-40 of our elders enjoy lunch and conversation each gathering.

Each lunchtime requires two large salads, 4 entrees choices, and plates of finger deserts.

Could you cook a casserole, quiche or soup for the Elder Lunch just once this year?

Or are you willing to cook a finger food desert like cookies, brownies or bars?

Or would you be willing to bring a large green salad or coleslaw?

If you aren't a cook, would you be willing to help setup, serve or clear?

Marilyn Dunn is the menu/staff organizer this year.

Please call 512-5382 to help.

UUCC Web...

New on the website: Theme-Based Ministry

See the explanation on the Home Page, with links to more details about the Theme-Based approach and the Soul Matters packets.

Comments on the website are welcome. To participate on the Website Committee regularly or on special projects, contact Helen Zidowecki, Website Committee Chair (582-5308, or web-site@augustauu.org) We look forward to your joining us.

Goddess Continuing....

We are changing the time of our gatherings to the **Fourth Sunday of the month**, following the second service, **12:30 – 2:00 pm**. The dates and potential topics for the year are in the revised brochure in the front hallway.

Join us on **October 27, with the celebration of Samhain** (connected with Halloween).

Throughout the year, Goddess Continuing will:

Have brochures available for special celebrations. For October, see the brochure on Samhain.

Have special celebrations, as well as introduction to goddesses/gods with special meaning to participants.

Share resources about the Goddess and Earth-Based Spirituality.

Contact: Helen Zidowecki for more information, 207-582-5308, hzmre@hzmre.com



**UUCC of Augusta
Ongoing
Fundraising
Program...**

HANNAFORD CASH CARDS

**Sold or reloaded SUNDAY during
coffee hour**

NO FEES

**EVERY PURCHASE HELPS THE
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
COMMUNITY CHURCH**

***BUY CARDS FOR YOUR OWN
GROCERY SHOPPING OR
DONATE A CARD TO
AUGUSTA FOOD BANK***

***RELOAD YOUR GROCERY CARD
THIS WEEK***

For more information, contact Hannah Faulkner at 293-9377 or
hannahuu3@fairpoint.net

Membership Committee...

Membership Matters

Isn't it lovely to spend time together at Fellowship Hour, enjoying a snack, coffee and conversation with old and new friends in our community? The Membership Committee would appreciate more volunteers to help provide this hospitality service to the congregation. The committee is leading by example and will take care of the first Sunday each month. Can you help on another Sunday? This task includes making coffee, setting up snacks and cleaning up. Training is gladly provided if you are new to the job.

Greeters are also needed. Can you offer a friendly welcome at the door on Sunday mornings? Please sign up for hospitality and/or greeting by contacting Jim Caldwell at jscaldwell@roadrunner.com or Rita Cherubini cherub1@rocketmail.com or by signing up on the sheet on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

In an effort to promote this hospitality time for our congregation, we request donated non-perishable foods to serve during Fellowship Hour -- such as cookies, crackers and/or chips. There is a cupboard in the kitchen designated for this purpose and donations are greatly appreciated!

THANK YOU to all of you who helped over the summer with either Greeting or Hospitality -- you all are appreciated: Martha & Don Nabor, Brenda Sawyer & Kit Perry, Annie Lunt, Krista Zidowecki, Kathy Kellison, Marilyn Gordon, Janine Bonk & Doug Rooks, Dan Sorensen, Mary Simpson, Nancee Campbell, Grace Thomas, Cheryl Ring & Stef Barley, Melanie Lanctot, Jane Gilbert, the Chapin family, Helen Zidowecki, Christine Little, Hannah Faulkner, Liza & Noah Gottlieb and the Clark family. And a special thank you to Tom Waddell and Marilyn Dunn who offered hospitality every second Sunday for a very long time!

This year, the Membership Committee is introducing a new process for generating nametags. Starting on Sunday, September 29, we will have a printer and laptop at the church -- as well as every second and fourth Sunday of the month thereafter. In this way, we will be able to generate nametags instantly upon-request, rather than our old process of repeating a nametag request several times to several people, often resulting

In a frustrating delay. On the alternate Sundays when we're not there with a printer, Membership will leave blank, but formatted, nametags in the coatroom, upon which people may write their name as a temporary tag until a permanent one can be printed on the 2nd or 4th Sundays. So, if you are in need of a new nametag, a replacement for one worn out, or even a duplicate, please come to the Membership station on 9/29, or any subsequent 2nd and 4th Sunday, to receive one in a jiffy.

Cheryl Ring,
Membership Committee member, [629-8889](tel:629-8889), cherylringmaine@gmail.com.

Thanks,
Jim Caldwell, Co-chair of the Membership Committee

Religious Education Committee...

We're off to a great start in the Religious Exploration program this year! Carol offered two teacher trainings and the congregation honored adult volunteers at the September 15 Sunday morning service.

The Sunday morning classes and Peace Jam programs are underway. It does take a village to raise a child and we are very appreciative of the many adults who have offered to help! And, it's NOT TOO LATE if you would still like to volunteer. It's so rewarding getting to know the young people in this community. We are especially in need of volunteers who can help Carol with Spirit Play during the 11:00 am Sunday service and we could also use another person or two who can help teach or assist in the younger classrooms. Please talk to me or Carol if you can join us.

Thank you.

Susan Caldwell,
RE Committee Chair

Small Group Ministry...

October will bring a new opportunity for you to explore our theme of the month in a Small Group Ministry process. On October 20 after the second service, I will be leading a group for anyone who wishes to discuss the theme of Honoring Our Connection to the Universe.

One of the joys of the packets that we get each month is that they lend themselves very well to the outline that our church uses in our Small Group Ministry sessions. I look forward to seeing the packet and choosing elements to use in the open group. We will have opening words, a chance to learn a bit about each other, a focused discussion on the topic and closing words followed by a chance to comment on what we liked about the session and what we wished had been different. You will be amazed at how much your vision can open in a two hour group session! You may also discover a kindred spirit or two among those who attend. This opportunity will be offered on the third Sunday of every month throughout the church year.

Everyone is welcome! This includes new and long term members and friends of the church, those in and those not in a Small Group currently. You can plan to come every month, or just when you have particular interest in the theme of a particular month. I look forward to exciting and enlightening discussions.

Please let me know if you have questions about any aspect of Small Group Ministry.

Kathy Kellison SGM Coordinator



Administration News...

I want to thank all of you at Unitarian Universalist Community Church for the gracious and kind welcome into my new role as the Office Administrator. I have met many of you, and I am looking forward to meeting many more of you. While transitioning into the position of office administrator the staff and I have been discussing how we can communicate the needs of the congregation and the community in a more efficient way. At this week's staff meeting we discussed communication practices concerning the weekly ALL Church Email, Order of Service, Calendar, and the Newsletter. We feel that if we can come together and follow the procedures listed below it will help to produce more accurate and error free documents.

- All information or announcements for the "All Church Email" are to be sent to me no later than 1:00pm every Tuesday.
- Information for the Order of Service should be sent to me by 1:00pm every Thursday.
- All information for the Monthly Newsletter should be sent directly to the newsletter@augustauu.org email, In the subject line of the email, please clearly state where you want this information included. For example: If you want the information in both the "All Church Email", and inserted into the Order of Service announcement, put that in the subject line.
- Do not use acronyms – until I become familiar with each acronym this will help me to know what group, etc... you are speaking of.
- If you have reserved a room for a meeting or event, and you have decided to cancel it, please notify me of the cancellation so I can free up that space for others.
- Small Group Meetings that change the days or times that you meet, please notify me so that I can change it in the calendar.

Thank you all for your understanding and patience while I transition into the role of Office Administrator. I'm excited about my role with the UUC Staff and Congregation, and look forward to working with all of you.

Mary T. Simpson
Office Administrator

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 October 21.** Please submit newsletter
: **articles by email, to Sheila Comerford at: newsletter@augustauu.org.**
:

Minister: Rev. Carie Johnsen

President: Doug Rooks

Director of Religious Exploration: Rev. Carol Strecker

Administrator: Mary T. Simpson

Choir Director: Joelle Morris

Small Group Ministry Coordinator: Kathy Kellison

Office: (207) 622-3232,
admin@augustauu.org

Minister's Office Hours:

Tuesday 11:00 - 5:00

Thursday 11:00 - 5:00

or by appointment

Friday is my Sabbath. I do not attend to emails, phone calls or meetings. For pastoral emergencies please call my cell phone (508-221-5295) and I will return your call at soon as possible.

Minister's Study:(207) 623-3663 (Office)
(207) 395-8051(Home)
(508) 221-5295 (Cell)
revcariejohansen@gmail.com