



The Flaming Chalice

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

September 2015



September Theme:

INVITATION

September 6th

More than Words Can Say

Rev. Carie Johnsen

One Service Only

10:00 a.m.

In the spirit of Labor Day, we invite you to wear your favorite rally t-shirt to church or bring your bumper sticker messages into the sanctuary. The meaning behind the messages are always more personal than words will ever reveal. This fun interactive service will be an opportunity to share the meaning behind the powerful messages that adorn our lives and reveal our values.

Return to TWO SERVICES

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

September 13th

In-Gathering Sunday

Rev. Carie Johnsen

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

This service will be a time of celebrating our return to a new church year and exploring what each of us brings to this vital and dynamic congregation. Collection of the water will be a time for each of us to recommit to beloved faith community.

September 20th

To See or Not to See

Rev. Carie Johnsen

An invitation to open our hearts and minds and actions to the complicated nature of white privilege in a climate of racism.

September 27th

George Mitchell

Doug Rooks and Janine Bonk

A Life in Politics, Law, Business and Faith

From the Sabbatical Committee...

The Sabbatical Committee is wrapping up its work now that Rev. Carie is almost back!! A few things to bring to your attention:

September 6 is when Rev. Carie will first be back in the pulpit for Labor Day Weekend. This service is still a single service Sunday, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The Sabbatical Committee will be welcoming Carie back with a special coffee hour. A delicious cake will be served and anything else you would like to bring in celebration would be greatly appreciated.

September 13 is the Ingathering Service and will begin the two Sunday service schedule for the new church year at 9:15 and 11:00. If you remembered to keep the little "bubble bottles" we handed out when we sent Carie on her way, fill them with your water from the places you have visited this summer and bring them on the 13th.

Summer services had another banner year for speakers, church attendees and many visitors to the area. We wish to thank all of the volunteers for keeping up with the Sunday obligations of Greeting, Hosting, Spirit Play, Music and Worship Leaders and Assistants. Average attendance through the summer was between 40 and 75 with over 100 at the Flower Communion on June 14.

We would like to thank all the members of the congregation for your understanding, concerns and celebrations that you have shared with our Committee during this Sabbatical year. We would also like to thank committee members Debbie Mattson, Denis Thoet, Noah Gottlieb and Gary Chapin for good discussion and decision making during this year....our work is almost done!

Nancee Campbell and Rita Cherubini,
Co-chairs

Indigenous People's Day Programs....

An Invitation from Rev. Carie to join her in celebrating **Indigenous People's Day/Weekend the Maine-Wabanaki REACH**. She will be attending the following two programs in Bangor and Indian Island. Your presence is requested at one or both of the events.

ALLY WORKSHOP

Monday, October 12, 2015 from 9:30 am - 4:00 pm ~ Bangor Maine

These workshops, designed specifically for Non-Native people, introduces what it means to act as an Ally with Maine-Wabanaki REACH. Learn about our shared history with Wabanaki People, the impact of that history and how we can make a difference today. For Registration, location and more Information contact [Barbara Kates](mailto:Barbara.Kates@barbarakatesconsulting@gmail.com) at barbarakatesconsulting@gmail.com

INDIAN RADIO DAYS

Monday, October 12, 2015 at 7:00 pm ~ Sockalexis Arena, Indian Island

Wabanaki Intertribal Actors will perform a staged reading of the satirical play Indian Radio Days: An Evolving Bingo Experience. REACH is offering the performance as a fundraiser to benefit tribal food pantries, and "Admission" is a contribution of non-perishable food items or a monetary donation. **Indian Radio Days:** An Evolving Bingo Experience, written by Cree playwrights Leanne Howe and Roxy Gordon, takes the audience on a journey through history, beginning with "the First American Indian" and ending sometime in the future with Harvey Little Green Man on Mars.

Peaceful Heart Sangha Save the Date

Friday, October 2

Vegan Pot Luck Supper followed by "Cowspiracy" – a movie on how our food choices affect climate change

Saturday, November 7

Day of Mindfulness – "Climate Change as a Door of Awakening"

With Dharma Teacher, John Bell

Weekly meditation

Mondays 6:30 – 8 PM at UCC

Thursdays 8 – 9:30 AM at River Studio, 332

River St, Hallowell

Beginners always welcome!

President's Column....

Folks may be aware that the past two years have presented some challenges for me and my family. I won't go into detail, but there was divorce, a period of unemployment, and family illness. It came in a wave and seemed to drown out whatever good I had or would have. It was in the middle of this that Doug Rooks and Rev. Carie asked if I would take on the Vice-Presidency and (therefore) the Presidency for the following year.

They had thought about it. "Are you sure we should do this? He has a lot on his mind." I imagine them asking. "Yes, but he should probably have something *good* on his mind." I imagine them answering. (I don't presume to speak for Rev. Carie or Doug Rooks; you can ask them for their side of the story.)

And they were right. Doing the work of the church, becoming enmeshed in it, was the perfect palliative for what was ailing me. Sometimes it was just a distraction. Conversations about heating systems. Other times it was genuinely fulfilling, hard and honest work that made a difference. Supporting the work with migrant workers, or, dare I say it, putting together a budget that drives the mission and vision of UUCC. It felt good.

A good number of years ago, I was going through another of these waves of bad events. One of my daughters had been hospitalized and I was on the far end of distraught. This was just around the time when I was returning to the church after a hiatus of some years. I remember talking with Rev. Carie – who had visited my daughter – about Unitarian Universalists and pastoral care. When my mother was dying of cancer, she took comfort in her Christian church and her Bible and her prayer. "Where," I asked Rev. Carie, "Is the comfort to be found in the UU church?" This was a vitally important question for me. What is a church if not a place of comfort, refuge, or sanctuary?

There is no easy answer to that question ("It's in the kitchen."), except to say that *comfort is to be found, dependably, at our church*. Some people find it in the services, some in choir, some in one committee or another – all acts of collaboration and fellowship – some find it in the deep, life-long relationships, some in the new vibrant friendships. For some it's in small groups, for some in the nature walks, for some in RE.

These "everyday" relationships – and our church is thick with them – support an abundant system of comfort that is offered systemically – e.g., the Caring Committee, Pastoral Associates – or independently from congregant to friend to congregant.

Three times during my fifteen years at this church, I've had to walk through our doors and say, "I need help. I am in despair." Each time I found the help and the comfort I needed.

It's hard for many of us to ask for help. "Everyone has problems ..." or "I just need to get over myself ..." we say to ourselves. Asking for help can bring to mind Blanche DuBois, blithely depending on the kindness of strangers.

There come times in all our lives when we do depend on the kindness of strangers. Or the kindness of friends. Or the kindness of us. Three times I've required comfort and three times I've found it. If you are in despair, depend on us. Come to us. Talk with us. There is comfort to be found at UUCC.

Gary Chapin

A Faith Journey... by Rev. Carie Johnsen

Rev. Carie's Office Schedule.

Monday 1:00 - 5:00
Wednesday 1:00 - 6:00 & by appt.

Friday is Rev. Carie's Sabbath. She does not attend to emails, phone calls or meetings. For Pastoral Emergencies please call her cell phone (508) 221-5295 and she will return your call as soon as possible.

Social Media links:

Professional Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/revcarie.johnsen>

Please note: Rev. Carie also keeps a personal/private Facebook page. If you have requested to be her friend, please do not feel slighted by her decline or unresponsiveness, instead take a minute to friend her at RevCarie Johnsen.

Website: www.everydayordinarytheologies.com

Rev. Carie's new website was launched in July as part of a sabbatical project. When you get a minute, visit the site and subscribe to future posts.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! NEW UCC CRAFT CIRCLE PREPARING FOR DIFFERENT KIND OF CHURCH FAIR TO BE HELD DECEMBER 5

On December 5th at the church, our new UCC *Monthly Craft Circle* will sell aprons, wall hangings, placements, napkins, table runners, table decorations, baby bibs, jewelry and much more that we are creating especially for the church. If you have your own craft items to donate to the church for the sale, please contact Betty Cairn or Martha Naber. You are also welcome to join our Craft Circle, which meets at the church on the **4th Tuesday of every month**. The craft circle will meet in Fellowship Hall at 5:30 pm on July 28th and on August 25th. Please contact Betty Cairn at 445-2942 or StonehengeMaine@yahoo.com or Martha Naber at 872-0913 or naber@midmaine.com for more information. Sincerely, Terry Cairn and Hannah Faulkner, Fundraising Co-Chairs

Theme Based Ministry

In 2013, UCC of Augusta joined congregations across the nation by engaging theme-based ministry in worship and programs. This 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 a new theme each month. This year's big news is we have joined with congregations across the nation to engage in common themes. Our resources, including Soul Matters packet, will be gathered, developed and distributed by the Soul Matters Sharing Circle. To learn more about theme-based ministry and the national network of congregations participating visit: <http://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com/about.html>

2015-16 Themes: *What Does It Mean to Be a People of...*

September: *Invitation*

October: *Letting Go*

November: *Ancestry*

December: *Expectation*

January: *Resistance*

February: *Desire*

March: *Liberation*

April: *Creation*

May: *Blessing*

June: *Simplicity*

Don't Forget Your WATER!!!

September 13th
In-Gathering Sunday Two services at
9:15 and 11:00 a.m.

The Sabbatical Committee passed out little vials of bubbles at a spring worship service so you could return that vial with water from your summer sojourn to add to our communal bowl. Your water is intended to signify a moment that was spiritually significant for you over the summer. The waters blessed by this community will be used to bless the grounds we walk on and the moments along the way.

UUCC/St. Mark's Suppers...

St. Mark's Suppers/Neighbor to Neighbor Committee

On August 1st, a free supper was served at St. Mark's dining room. Thank you to Dan Stevens (of St. Mark's Prince of Peace), Liz Johnson, Mike Johnson, Corrina Johnson, Cheryl Abruzzese, members of Prince of Peace Lutheran church and a few others. Thank you to bakers, Liz and Corrina, as well as Jim and Helen McKendry.

We served a Mexican chili with garden salad (lettuce from Liz and Mike's garden), bread and desserts. The chili had lots of beans, veggies, spices, Liz's fine sausage and a little beef (thanks to Jim and Helen McKendry).

In the past our church has been responsible for just 3 meals in the summer. This year we agreed to produce and pay for 6 meals. However, because the St. Mark's congregation moved to the Prince of Peace church, 3 of the 4 people from the former St. Mark's congregation are no longer involved. Money is tight, changes have occurred and our church has been involved in all of the meals. Prince of Peace has given money and volunteers and so has UUCC.

Our part in the success of these meals is essential at this point. In the coming months we'll be needed as well, as more transitions develop. Liz is starting a new job and Dan Stevens has obligations. A couple of volunteers from Prince of Peace are willing to learn, but additional new cooks, leaders and volunteers are needed.

Our church needs to discuss and evaluate how much money we want to spend and how many volunteers we have to support this activity on a monthly basis. What exactly is our role going to be? Tune in next month for the latest episode of Free Public Supper, and remember -- Helping's an upper!

Jenny McKendry,
Chief Bottle Washer

Social Activities...

Sunday, September 20, 2015

"NATURE: UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL"

On Sunday, September 20th at 2pm in Fellowship Hall, Melanie Lanctot will offer a presentation of her photography and essays, a project she completed for her Master Naturalist Class.

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

"Kitchen Scraps, Worms and Dirt": a Do-It-Yourself (DIY) workshop to be held on Wed. Oct. 7th, 6:30 p.m. in the Drew House. Don Naber will conduct the workshop. There will be a drawing for a door prize of a complete "WORMS start-up kit. So, come join us, you worm lovers, you!

Oct-2015 - Additional DIY Workshop

"Inside Storm Windows": This DIY workshop will also be held in Oct, but we haven't settled on a definite date yet. Tom Waddell will lead us in constructing our inside storm windows.

DAY and TIME: For those who expressed interest, would you prefer an early week night or a weekend day for the workshop? Tom is not available on Oct 6th or Oct 17th. Please let Cheryl Clukey know cherylclukey5@yahoo.com. In order to participate in this workshop, each participant will need to **accurately** measure the length and width of your window(s) then we will order window kits. Please measure standard windows only.

October 25, 2015

The **Planetarium** will be back on Sunday, October 25th. We will use the attendee list from last Feb as a starting point. If you wish to be taken off the attendee list, please contact Lynn, Church Admin at 622-3232 or ad-min@augustauu.org.

Thanks.

Cheryl Clukey cherylclukey5@yahoo.com

Seasoned Souls...

Seasoned Souls is a group intended specifically for church members and friends aged 65 and older. For the month of September only, we gather on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 10:30 a.m. – noon to address the various issues associated with aging. We will be meeting on **September 9th and 23rd** in Fellowship Hall.

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P. O. Box 8
Augusta, Maine 04332-0008

Newsletter Submissions

Please submit all articles as an attachment in a Word document using Arial font size 11. Don't forget to give it a title and sign it, and send it as an email newsletter@augustauu.org with the article as an attachment. Photos of church activities welcome!

Deadline: September 15.

Minister: Rev. Carie Johnsen

President: Gary Chapin

Sunday Morning RE Coordinator: Nicole Danielson
Youth Advisor: Monique McAuliffe

Administrator: Lynn Smith
admin@augustauu.org

UU Office hours:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9am-3pm
Wednesday noon-6pm

Choir Director: Bridget Convey
Choir Practice Wednesday 6-8pm
Small Group Ministry Coordinator:
Office: (207) 622-3232

Rev. Carie's office hours:

Monday 1:00 - 5:00
Wednesday 1:00 - 6:00
and by appointment

Friday is Rev. Carie's Sabbath. She does not attend to emails, phone calls or meetings.

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