



The Flaming Chalice

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

October 2015



Theme:

Letting Go

October 4th

Liberating God

Rev. Carie Johnsen

How are your belief systems of God hijacking your relationships with others? Do you judge or celebrate those who have let go of God? Has your letting go of God led you to honor or look down upon those who hang on to God? And likewise, do you judge or celebrate those who walk with God? Has your embrace of God led you to honor or look down on those who have let go of God?

October 11th

Mistakes: An Invariable Goldmine

Rev. Carie Johnsen

Mistakes are a goldmine of opportunities for discovery, learning, growing, and letting go. All of these assume practices of humility, accountability and responsibility along with a willingness to admit fault, and when necessary, say I'm sorry. Some might say mistakes are landmines in interpersonal relationships; I believe otherwise.

October 18th

Reknitting the Body

Rev. Leela Sinha

Knitting is not the kind of thing I'm usually good at. It involves math and repetition and precision. Inexplicably, I've been knitting since I was 10. Last December, I injured my back. I didn't think I'd be good at that, either. Turns out repairing holes is pretty much the same in both cases.

October 25th

Sandcastles in the Wind

Rev. Carie Johnsen

Let go of your need to know more and bring the curiosity of a child to this Sunday service.

A Faith Journey...

by Rev. Carie Johnsen

UNITING FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

Making Our Way Together To Conscious Engagement.

Racism is pervasive and rising racial tensions are the reality across this nation. We might choose to disengage but we cannot escape. People of color living across the nation need us to stand in solidarity as comrades in the work to dismantle racism in all its insidious, nefarious and sundry forms.

As Unitarian Universalist we are called by our principles and history to close the gap between our values and our actions. This call to stay engaged in racial justice requires of us a willingness to stay tuned in and informed; ready to take risks and make mistakes; and to be called out on our white privilege that we might do better.

I invite you to join me throughout the year as we humbly show up and boldly engage with acts of love for a more just society. As I said in my September 20th sermon, I don't care if you take baby steps or ginormous steps, I ask only that you join me in *Staying Woke* and staying engaged. I ask only that we join together in the journey of showing up alongside the people of color and their leaders to be ally's in this work for racial equality. Where, when and how you choose to stay informed and be engaged is both personal and individual.

As your minister, I will commit to supporting your personal engagement by ensuring two opportunities are presented each month. First, I will write a monthly column in *The Flaming Chalice*. This column titled **Uniting for Racial Justice** will announce a monthly opportunity to *stay woke and stay engaged*. Second, the monthly Soul Matters Packet will include theme related spiritual exercises, readings or questions for your small group ministry sessions or for you to reflect on privately at your own pace. If you choose to engage in private reflection, I encourage you to find one trusted person to share your stories, experiences and awakenings in the journey toward being a racial justice ally. Here is your first opportunity to consider.

An Invitation from Rev. Carie to join her in celebrating **Indigenous People's Day with the Maine-Wabanaki REACH.**

Ally Training Workshops

Monday, October 12, 2015 9:30 am - 4:00 pm in Bangor, Maine
Friday, October 24, 2015 9:30 am – 4:00 pm at UUCC of Augusta

Maine-Wabanaki REACH is hosting an Ally Training Session for in-depth learning about how to support the work of truth, healing and change. This training is designed for non-Native people. It provides an opportunity to reflect on our shared history and future with Native peoples. It includes a very brief history of U.S. government relationships with Native peoples; awareness of white privilege; ally responsibilities; and support to share this information in our own communities.

Visit the Maine-Wabanaki REACH <http://mainewabanakireach.org> for more information or to sign-up for the newsletters and emails. For Registration, location and more Information contact [Barbara Kates](mailto:BarbaraKates@barbarakatesconsulting@gmail.com) at barbarakatesconsulting@gmail.com

Suggested racial justice readings from the UUA Bookstore:

Reimagining Equality: Stories of Gender, Race, and Finding Home, by Anita Hill

An Indigenous People's History of the United States, by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

Are We Born Racist? New Insights from Neuroscience and Positive Psychology, Edited by Jason Marsh, Rodolfo Mendoza-Denton, and Jeremy Adam Smith

Call out racial justice leaders:

If you have suggestions or are interested in co-leading a monthly racial justice event (book discussion, movie, dialogue, etc) at UUCC, please be in touch with me to explore dates, times and interest. You can contact me at 508-221-5295 or revcariejohnsen@gmail.com

In faith, Rev. Carie Johnsen

From Seminarian Claire Curole....

To my church family:

I have been promising an update for a long while now and as I sit down to write this, it is surprisingly difficult to know where to begin. As many of you know, my journey toward ministry took a wide detour last year when I deferred internship and dropped to part-time study to tend to some unexpected personal issues that came up. I am now halfway through my MDiv coursework, with at least three years until I graduate. I am taking the last of my academic intensive classes this year and hope to begin my two-year half-time internship next fall, but that could change again.

Perhaps I have avoided writing because so many things are uncertain. I would very much like to tell you exactly how this story is going to go, but I don't know yet. This growth business is messy and complicated with a lot of pieces that are not entirely in - or are entirely out of - my control. I am beginning to realize that this is how most of our stories are: complex, interconnected, with a lot of loose ends and unexpected turns.

I definitely did not expect this year's sudden restructuring of the UUA's ministerial credentialing requirements. This spring the UUA Board of Trustees passed a budget which removed funding for the Regional Sub-Committees on Candidacy (RSCC), eliminating the interviews by which students aspiring to ministry had been granted Candidate status - institutional recognition as ministers-in-formation. This would have been my next step; I had been scheduled for an interview later this year. The credentialing office has since issued revised candi-

dacy requirements for those of us currently in process.

There has long been a requirement that those seeking ministerial fellowship have the sponsorship of a UU congregation. To quote from the UUA website, "At the most basic level, congregational sponsorship indicates confidence in the candidate's potential and suitability for UU ministry. The MFC regards sponsorship as evidence that the candidate is actively committed to the Purposes and Principles of the UUA and the institutions which uphold them." This year's revisions have moved this requirement from the end of the process to the beginning, and those of us in mid-stream were asked to seek sponsorship, among other requirements, in order to proceed.

I want to thank this church community for sponsoring me, by vote of the Board of Trustees, as a candidate for ministry. I am pleased - and a bit awed - to announce that I have been granted Candidate status by the Ministerial Credentialing Office of the UUA. This is a milestone, one of many. I am nowhere near finished, and I am grateful to have you all with me on the journey. Thank you.

- *Claire*

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!



Day of Mindfulness
“Climate Change as a Door to Awakening”
With Dharma Teacher John Bell, from the tradition of Thich Nhat Hahn

Saturday, November 7, 9:30 – 3:30
Unitarian Universalist Community Church, 69 Winthrop St, Augusta,

We have three goals for the day:

- To touch our love for the earth,**
- To feel some of our feelings about her suffering,**
- To consider some things we might do to offer help and healing.**

There will be guided meditations, interactive exercises, videos and small group work. We hope you leave this day feeling inspired, renewed and more empowered over the issue of climate change

Doors open at 9:00. Pre-register at Peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com
(Please put “DOM registration“ in subject line of email) or call [207-622-7012](tel:207-622-7012).

\$20 at the door (cash or check) – *no one will be turned away for lack of funds.*

Dana (gratitude) bowl will be available for donations for the teachings.

Bring your own bag lunch and drink. Wear comfortable modest clothing for sitting meditation, and be prepared for outdoor walking meditation regardless of weather. Bring cushion or bench, if desired. Chairs/pews will be available.

Offered by Peaceful Heart Sangha (free weekly mindfulness meditation group at UUCC)

President's Column....

On Saturday, September 12, the leadership team of the church got together for the annual Leadership Retreat. We revisited the congregational goals that the congregation adopted two springs ago, and that were the focus of our work all last year. The four goals were stated as aspirations:

(Sustainability) *"We are a congregation where the sustainability of the congregations' time, talent, and treasure are intentionally balanced within the spectrum of church activities, faith formation, worship, and governance."*

(Inspiring and Engaging) *"We are a People of Faith who intentionally, courageously, and creatively engage our membership and our community. We seek to inspire and be inspired."*

(Interconnectedness) *"We are an interconnected community committed to age diversity and family ministry."*

(Communication) *"We are a congregation that is transparent in its decisions and actions. We strive for communication that is abundant, clear, compassionate, and inclusive."*

All four of these are important, but as a group we decided to prioritize the fourth of these goals: being transparent in decisions and actions, and striving for communication that is abundant, clear, compassionate, and inclusive. The leadership had been working on communication last year, also, but there's more work to do.

The idea isn't *adequate communication*, but *radical engagement* with the church, which sounds big. But it also involves *assuming best intentions*, being willing to be vulnerable, and tending to the vulnerability of each other.

This can be hard. On the one hand we, as a church, have a representative governance structure. In a way, the membership committee volunteers to handle membership stuff so that we – as a whole congregation – don't have to. The board is charged with putting together the budget, but the whole congregation needs to be a part of that conversation. On the other hand, the nature of our work and our community is that we all share in the work and responsibility of each.

We are many *and* we are one. It's tricky, for sure. I stumbled a few times last year. All the more reason to try harder – or try smarter, more intentionally. Community happens one conversation at a time. Come join the conversation.

Gary



Fundraising...

EARLY BIRD HOLIDAY FAIR

FLY IN TO OUR EARLY BIRD ALL-CHURCH HOLIDAY FAIR

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2015

8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

CAFE, CHURCH CRAFT TABLES WITH BRAND NEW GIFT ITEMS, OUTSIDE VENDORS, HANNAH'S BOUTIQUE, BOOKS, AND MUCH MORE!!!



EVERYONE INVITED AND DONATIONS WELCOME! WHAT WILL YOU PROVIDE FOR OUR FAIR?



VOLUNTEERS WANTED. SEE THE SIGN-UP SHEETS ON THE FELLOWSHIP HALL BULLETIN BOARD FOR NOVEMBER 13 SET-UP AND NOVEMBER 14 SALE DAY.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact HANNAH AT (207) 293-9377 or hannahu3@fairpoint.net.

REMEMBER TO SHOP EARLY THIS YEAR --GIVE YOURSELF TIME TO ENJOY DECEMBER FESTIVITIES!



Elder Lunch...

Elder Lunches Begin October 11, 2015 – Please Sign up to Help

Our 1st Elder Lunch will be held on October 11, 2015 and continues the second Sunday of each month through May. This event has grown in popularity and 35-40 of our elders enjoy lunch and conversation. Each event requires two large salads, 4 entrees choices, and plates of finger desserts.

Could you cook or serve JUST ONCE for Elder Lunch this year? Could you cook a casserole, quiche or soup for the Elder Lunch? 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 cole slaw? If you aren't a cook, would you be willing to help setup, serve or clear?

Please call Marilyn Dunn to schedule your contribution 512-5382.

Rev. Carie's Office Schedule

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. For Pastoral Emergencies please call her cell phone (508-221-5295) and she will return your call at 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.

Goddess Continuing/ Earth Circles...

Moving from our September 27 gathering on *Wisdom of Women* Small Group Ministry Session, we invite you to join the **October 25** *Women of Wisdom* Celebration at 12:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This comes from the tradition of honoring wise women, also called croning. Our last ceremony was held in October 2012. Thirteen women in UUCC have participated in this croning recognition.

We invite the older women in the congregation to reflect on:

how do you acknowledge your own wisdom, and

how do you share your wisdom?

Then join the celebration yourself and/or talk with women about participating.

The ceremony is open to the congregation and will last for an hour, followed by celebratory refreshments.

Note: Copies of the Session Plan *Wisdom of Women* is available and will be on the UUCC website.

For more information, contact Helen Zidowecki (582-5308, hzmre@hzmre.com)

Dear Church Friends and Family,

Doug and I would like to thank you for the visits, cards, texts, calls and emails and all the healing thoughts and wishes that have been sent our way all summer. While his two surgeries for severe spinal stenosis were successful, he has a long road ahead of him with much physical and occupational therapies to get him walking on his own again and to have sensation return to his hands. He is still experiencing some muscular pain but is getting through this ordeal with the good humor he has always shown. When he is no longer house-bound for safety, we are hoping to get back to church to thank you all personally. In the meantime please do not hesitate to call us!

Thanks again,

Linda and Doug Findlay

Unitarian Universalist 7th Annual Harvest Blessing PIE SALE



Saturday, November 21, 2015, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: Longfellow's Greenhouses, 81
Puddledock Road, Manchester, Maine 04351

Pies and Tarts Wanted — Sign up on the Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall

Deliver Pies and Tarts to the Church November 20 during the Harvest Dinner 5-6:30 p.m.

For information call Cheryl A. at 293-2123.

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

On December 5th at the church, our new UUCC *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

History Committee...

The History Committee has changed its meeting to the 3rd Thursday of the month, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the History Committee and Olsen Room at Drew House.

During the summer, artifacts from the Religious Exploration collection of world religions has been in the hall Display Case. Those artifacts were collected in the 1960's for Religious Education at All Souls Church. We will be including other items from the collection throughout the year.

We will be working on a display related to the November theme of "Ancestry" at our **October 15th** meeting. You are invited to include items from your connection with UUCU and its previous congregations, All Souls (Unitarian) and Winthrop Street (Universalist) to the display. Please contact Heide Munro at 622-7395 or heide.munro@gmail.com if you have things to include in the display. Please include your name so that the items can be returned.

The History Committee relies on all of you to contribute items by placing them in the History Committee tray in the Committee Room. We add items to our Members Book each time that we meet to capture our history as we make it!

Donations Wanted for Parlor At Drew House...

We are seeking donations of nice living room furniture to create an inviting and aesthetically appealing meeting space at Drew House.

The goal is to offer a gathering space for children, youth and adults that welcomes people into a casual, relaxed space for small group ministry, Sunday classrooms, adult enrichment opportunities and pastoral care meetings with members, friends and families.

We are looking for gently used furniture, preferably neutral colors. Coffee and side tables as well as floor lamps are also needed. If you have any possible donations, please contact the office at 622-3232 or admin@augustauu.org.

Social Activities...

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!

October 25, 2015

UUCU will host "Northern Stars Planetarium", who will offer a "cosmic" show for all ages to be held at the Buker Community Center, Augusta. John Meader has been displaying his "planetarium" to schools and organizations for over 40 years. He is not only an expert, but has an interesting way of presenting his knowledge to kids and adults. You will find this program fascinating. Space is limited, so if you signed up last year, please contact the UUCU Office Administrator, Lynn Smith, at 622-3232 or admin@augustauu.org to re-reserve your place. Questions? Contact Cheryl Clukey at cherylclukey5@yahoo.com.

Wednesday, November 5, 2015

"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.

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 October, we gather on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month from 10:30 a.m. – noon to address the various issues associated with aging. We will be meeting on **October 7th and 21st** in Fellowship Hall.

Unitarian Universalist Community Church
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: October 12.

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:

Tuesday 1:00 - 5:00pm
Wednesday 2:00-6:00pm and by appointment
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 at soon as possible.

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