



The Flaming Chalice

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

July 2016

Services 10:00am

July 3 Come Sing a Song with Me Martha Naber

Singing together can bring a community together. This worship service will celebrate the music we love. You will have an opportunity to choose hymns you love and share why it is significant to you. Come prepared to enjoy being together in song.

July 10 UUs in Perilous Times Doug Rooks

Amid the turmoil of an extraordinary presidential election year, how should a “people of faith” view, and participate in, public life at a moment of great significance for our nation, state and community? We will look at some of the collective wisdom both of UU and non-UU thinkers, and consider how to chart a course amid what appears to be a sea of dangers.

July 17 Sharing a Name or What it Means to be “A Chapin” The Chapins

The Chapins explore the myth metamyth, merriment and melancholy that suffuse their genomic and spiritual family. What suffuses your family?

July 24 Childhood Wisdom Erica Rose Long

Storybooks and fables teach us that the face of wisdom belongs to an old man with a long white beard. Let’s shift that paradigm by exploring how the path to wisdom changes when we acknowledge the profound wisdom of children.

July 31 Lammas: Harmony and Hope in First HarvestGoddess Group

Celebrate the First Harvest of the year, a time of harmony between the male and female energies and deities, and share luminaries of hope for the world today.

A Faith Journey...



*Love is the doctrine of this church. The quest for truth is its sacrament. And service is our prayer.
To the end that all souls shall grow in harmony with the divine.*

Various iterations of this affirmation or covenant are read every Sunday in Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations across this nation. Along with our seven principles, these words guide this living tradition and shape our relationships with each other, our churches, our local communities and the wider world.

Throughout my twenty-five years as a UU, this affirmation has been a surefooted compass for my spiritual journey. It is poetic to the listening ear. It rings true to my heart. It is a noble aspiration. And, much like our principles, it is hard to live. The task of constantly unpacking and understanding and abiding by the breadth and depth of this multifaceted call to faithful living is a formidable undertaking.

We live in challenging and trying times where our call to right living becomes more perplexing, complicated and demanding every day. The past few months have brought us face-to-face with violent realities that threaten the safety of LGBTQ people, our Muslim neighbors, immigrants seeking opportunity, and people of color. Exacerbated by an imbalance in media attention along with leaders goading deeper division and inciting violence the tension, anxiety and fear seems ever present.

For my ordination in June of 2009, I chose the theme *Ministry is my Prayer*. This theme centered me back on the above affirmation and set a compass for my unfolding call to serve Love and share the grace of Unitarian Universalism. Whether it be *service is our prayer* or *ministry is my prayer*, the call is an optimistic and earnest beacon lighting our way to faith in action. Service as prayer is Unitarian Universalists' call to deeds over creeds. I for one like that our call to prayer is active. I like that our call to action is neither a solitary act nor a personal act.

We have all watched a shocked nation respond in horrific ways and heroic ways to the recent shooting in Orlando. We ourselves responded with vigils and Facebook posts and petitions among other things. Still, questions linger: "What else needs to be done?" "How shall we be more effective activists in this work for justice?" "What action is right action?" "What action perpetuates our privilege and unknowingly or unintentionally perpetuates the oppression we so desperately seek to dismantle?" The answers are elusive and complicated and multilayered. The solutions are bigger than any one of us but still require all of us. There is much to do and each of us has the power to do something.

A friend of mine who is transgendered said he spent 48 hours secluded and crying following the shootings in Orlando. He felt defeated and terrified to go out in public. And like so many others, he knew he could not let the killer win. He joined the people of Maine in affirmation and celebration of diversity. He got up, dusted off the despair, at least for that moment, and showed up at the Portland Pride March to celebrate Love.

By my estimation over 125 Unitarian Universalists from eight or more congregations showed up to participate in the celebration, to *Stand on the Side of Love*, to march in solidarity, to engage in Unitarian Universalist prayer. It may well have been one of the largest multi-congregational gatherings of Unitarian Universalists in Maine.

Love is our doctrine, service is our prayer, and together we gathered, and will continue to gather, to bring Love out of the closet and into the streets. The answers may be complicated and elusive but Love is not. With an abiding belief in the power of Love to overcome, we will lead the people into prayerful action wherein Love holds court to an aching and joyful universe.

So may it be, may it be so, Rev. Carie

From the President....

As I sit and write this first message as President of the Board at UUCC, I am thinking of all the thank you messages I want to send. First, I want to thank UUCC for being the church community it is, and was, when four years ago Don and I were church shopping. I can remember the first service we attended and thinking, "This feels like a church home already." Thank you all for creating this welcoming community for newcomers and a place for continued growth and activity.

Thank you for having enough confidence in a relative newcomer to elect me to be your Board President at the annual meeting. I look forward to this work as I am moving forward in my retirement from employment! With the help of Gary Chapin, past president, I had a successful first board meeting. Thank you Gary. And thank you to all those who serve UUCC on the Board, making decisions to advance the work and life together at UUCC. I urge you to be in touch with us with any feedback you want to share.

Thank you.

Thank you to all who support UUCC in some manner: RE, youth work, financially, labor, fundraising, committee work, clean-up crews, office work, social activities, coffee fellowship, greeting, musicians, worship activities, and many more I have not named. Without us all the church would not be what it is to us, to visitors, to the community, to Maine. The individual elements all add up to UUCC. If you are new to the church are you looking for a manner in which to be involved? There are always possibilities waiting for action. The adult learning survey Carie just compiled showed many varied interests. Any board member can suggest possibilities to be involved or direct you in the right direction or can connect you with someone who will! Lynn Smith, the office administrator is a wealth of information. She can help direct you as well.

THANK YOU LYNN!

And last, but not least, thank you to Rev. Carie Johnsen, our minister, for bringing her leadership, her talents, her enthusiasm, her ideas, her nurturing, her challenges to stretch us, her actions and her connections to us and to the greater community that UUCC inhabits.

I am moving forward with so much gratitude for UUCC in my life. I urge you to think of how UUCC impacts your life, too.

Thank you.

Martha Naber, Board President



CONCERTS AT THE UUCC IN AUGUSTA!

UUCC will be introducing a concert series this season! We will be welcoming professional musicians and ensembles from the New England area, as well as celebrating and performing fabulous music from our members at the UUCC in Augusta. Please see the planned series below.

August 28, 2016 at 4:00pm: **Krysia Tripp, flute and Bridget Convey, piano**

Fabulous Flute Repertoire of the 20th Century: featuring the music of Barber, Gieseking, Glanville-Hicks and Hue

Krysia has concertized throughout the U.S. and Europe; and has collaborated with musicians such as Pavarotti, Peter, Paul and Mary, the Brubeck Brothers and Andrea Bocelli. While maintaining an active performing career, Krysia also serves on the faculties of USM, Bates and Bowdoin Colleges, the Portland Conservatory, and the InterHarmony International Music Festival in Germany.

November 5th, 2016 at 4:00pm: **Resinosa Ensemble: Joëlle Morris, mezzo-soprano; Eliza Meyer, cello; Bridget Convey, piano**

Music by Women Composers, Through the Ages

Ensemble Resinosa will perform a varied program of music written by women composers, such as: Hildegard von Bingen, Barbara Strozzi, Gabriella Ortiz, Libby Larsen, Marti Epstein, Florence Price and Amy Beach.

Joëlle Morris has sung as a recitalist, jazz singer, and in the French cabaret style, throughout the U.S., France and Switzerland. She serves on the faculties of Colby College, UMF, Snow Pond Community School and L'Ecole Francaise du Maine.

Eliza Meyer performs regularly with the Portland and Bangor Symphonies, as well as other music ensembles throughout New England. She serves on the faculties of the Pineland Suzuki School, Snow Pond Community School and also maintains a private studio.

Bridget Convey has performed throughout U.S. as a soloist, chamber musician and orchestral musician. She serves on the faculty of Bates College and maintains a private studio.

January 22, 2017 at 2:30pm: **Bill Goldberg and Don Stratton Memorial Concert**

The event will be a fundraiser for the UUCC. In addition to honoring the memory of two remarkable and beloved musicians, we will celebrate our newly repaired Steinway piano. The idea for the concert began with Karen's realization that the 100th anniversary of Bill's birth was approaching (he was born on January 24, 1917) and quickly expanded to embrace Don as well and to celebrate the piano, which is itself just over 100 years old, having a manufacture date of July 14, 1913. The concert will, of course, showcase the works of Bill and Don, but also include other music written within the "lifetime" of the piano, i.e. 1913 or later. We anticipate about 80 minutes of music, with an intermission in the middle and refreshments afterward. Snow date: January 29th.

April 29, 2017 at 4:00pm: **Mary Sullivan, soprano and Bridget Convey, piano**

Favorites from the Opera and Musical Theater Stage: music of Puccini, Gershwin, Floyd, Bernstein, and others.

Mary has performed as a soloist and ensemble musician throughout New England. She is *Artist in Residence with the Oratorio Chorale, and resident soloist at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Portland.* "...crystal clear and perfectly pitched interpretation...simply ravishing" (*Portland Press Herald, March 2014*).

Appreciation to June Yard Sale Donors and Workers...

Many thanks to all of you who contributed food for our Café and huge amounts of interesting, useful and beautiful items for our June 11, 2016 UCC Inside/Outside Yard Sale. We also appreciated the donations of garden plants nurtured for months by Cheryl Abruzzese, Dale McCormick, June Zellers, and a donor from the Episcopal Church in Hallowell, as well as the advance moving of furniture by Betty & Terry Cairn, Sunshine Perlis, Annie Lunt, Brenda Sawyer and Kit Perry.

We are grateful for the constant stream of visitors to our sale generated with the publicity work performed by Hannah Faulkner, Judy McCown and Lynn Smith, together with wide-spread distribution of posters created by Bruce Bierce. Our group brought in \$1,354.29 for the church on Saturday, June 11 followed by \$93.90 during coffee hours on June 12 and June 18, for a grand total of \$1,448.19.

Special recognition goes to the following 27 workers whose hours of sorting, setting up, pricing, selling, moving heavy items or cleaning up June 9-11 made our yard sale possible: Cheryl Abruzzese, Bill Allen, Richard Bridges, Betty Cairn, Terry Cairn, Nancee Campbell, Charlene Cleven, Cheryl Clukey, Marilyn Dunn, Norman Emanuel, Hannah Faulkner, Ida Gammon, Becky Harvey, Faith Madore, Judy McCown, Helen McKendry, Jim McKendry, Don Naber, Martha Naber, Beth Nasberg, Catherine Palmer, Mary Perkins, Kit Perry, Brenda Sawyer, Mary Schifman, Denis Thoet, and Tom Waddell.

UCC Choir...

The UCC Choir is always welcoming new members. Please join us! We will have a choir retreat and welcoming meeting on Wednesday, August 24th from 6pm to 8pm in the Sanctuary. Our first rehearsal of the season will be Wednesday, August 31st from 6pm to 8pm in the Sanctuary. Please contact Bridget Convey at:

musicdirector@augustaucc.org



Rev. Carie Recipient of Grant...

The BTS Center of Maine proudly announces the recipients of their Incubator grants. Congratulations Rev. Carie and Penthea Burns, co-director of Maine Wabanaki REACH.

“Decolonizing Faith”– Penthea Burns and Carie Johnsen have long questioned the roles that faith leaders and faith communities can play in remedying historical wrongs. Their collaborative “Decolonizing Faith” project is rooted in the following question: “What is required of faith communities to understand and repair the harms done by the colonization of this nation, the domination of its indigenous peoples, and those processes’ lasting impacts on native people today?”

With support from The BTS Center’s Innovation Incubator, Burns and Johnsen will plan and lead a retreat, and also create educational materials, for faith leaders and communities seeking deeper understanding of their faith traditions’ roles in the colonization of this country and its continued present day impact upon Wabanaki people.

Guided by their own traditions, participants in “Decolonizing Faith” activities will explore reconciliation through acknowledgement, accountability and action. The project promises to offer insight into how we can use faith-based practices and resources to address and acknowledge historical traumas, including those caused by religious and cultural difference.

Funding awarded: \$5000.

For more information and a full listing of awards please visit [The BTS Center](http://www.thebtscenter.org/2016_projects/) website http://www.thebtscenter.org/2016_projects/.



Adult Enrichment Classes

Below you will find the results of the 2016/17 Adult Enrichment Survey from 29 completed surveys. Please stay tuned in the fall for class offerings. If you are interested in co-facilitating one of the options listed below, please be in touch with Rev. Carie at revcariejohansen@gmail.com or 508-221-5295. If you indicated your interest on your completed survey, Rev. Carie has made a note and will be in touch with you soon.

- 11 **The Way of the Naturalist** – Do you find peace and serenity in the Maine wood and shores? Would you like to spend time deepening your experience of the woods, the flower and fauna, the birds and critters with other naturalists?
- 10 **I'm a Unitarian Universalist** – UU Identity and Formation. Discussions and exploration of what it means to be a UU.
- 9 **Exploring Shame, Vulnerability, and Resilience**– Using the work of Brené Brown, Daring Greatly, The Gift of Imperfection, Rising Strong, and Kevin Mannix and Linda Rose, Weathering Shame.
- 9 **Waking Up White - Black Lives Matters** – A group for Unitarian Universalists committed to the waking up to recognize privilege and working for racial justice.
- 8 **Multigenerational opportunities:** Movie night _____ Community Activities _____ Bingo _____ Social Justice Engagement _____ Other _____
- 7 **Spiritual renewal in times of grief, stress and loss.** This could be offered as a drop in circle once a month or as a closed group.
- 7 **End-of-Life Series:** Advanced Directives _____ Living Wills _____ Ethical Wills _____ SGM circle _____ Writing your own obituary _____ Planning your own Celebration of Live _____ Other _____
- 6 **Theological discussion group** using the book “A People So Bold: Theology and Ministry for Unitarian Universalists” edited by John Millspaugh.
- 6 **“Healing the Heart of Democracy”** - Examining ways to engage American Politics through the wisdom of Parker Palmer, celebrated Quaker and prolific author.
- 6 **Ethical Eating** – Demonstrating our Values through Eating (DOVE) A six week food education curriculum developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association. DOVE uses video, discussion, and supplementary materials to explore issues that affect us all: Why do some foods seem almost addictive? How can we fight global warming with our fork? What really happens to the workers and animals who produce our food, and what can we do to help? <http://dovecurriculum.blogspot.com>
- 6 **Maine – Wabanaki REACH Ally group** – A gathering of allies committed to education, engagement, advocacy, change and healing between Wabanaki and Maine citizens and communities.
- 4 **Addressing Addiction** – How shall we respond to the growing opiate and addiction crisis in Augusta and Kennebec county?
- 4 **“the Four Agreements: A Practical Guide to Personal Freedom by Manuel Miguel Ruiz** – Exploring limiting beliefs that rob us of joy and create needless suffering.
- 2 **QUUilter** – Are you interested in making quilts to help keep Augusta warm? Quilts will be donated to local programs and people without homes.

Affinity Groups: Are you interested in joining one of our open affinity groups or starting a new one?

Options might include: UU Christians _____ Atheism and Humanism 2 Goddess _____
Earth Centered 1 Peaceful Heart Sangha 2 Other _____

To Put on Your Calendar...

1. The crafting group will meet on July 27 in Fellowship Hall from 5:30-8:30 pm. Come bringing what you like to work on and join the group. There are people attending who can help you if you have questions about knitting, crocheting, sewing, paper crafts, etc. Come have FUN!
2. The Church Board does not have a meeting in July, but will meet again on August 8 from 6-8 PM. Feel free to join us. Photos of Board members and other information are posted on the bulletin board near the sanctuary entrance. Please stay in touch with any of the board members with questions, suggestions, worries, feedback. We really want to hear from you.
3. NOTICE...ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRS Early Sept. (Date TBA) from 9am to 2pm is the annual Leadership Retreat to be held in Fellowship Hall. We will be exploring the idea of Church Relevance and using a webinar to prompt our thinking about the work we do as UUCC. Lunch is provided. An orientation for new committee chairs will be included. The Board urges you to get this on your calendar and looks forward to working with you this church year. SEE YOU THERE!
4. The hospitality schedule for the new church year is continuing to be developed. We have had several families/households choose times they particularly want to host. Others will be receiving notices of when you are assigned to provide this service to UUCC. The calendars will be posted in Fellowship Hall.

ATTENTION READERS!

June Zellers and Kathy Kellison plan to continue the book discussion group beginning again in October. You are encouraged to join us if you like reading and talking about books. We do not have the schedule yet so there is more to come. We do know that the first book we will discuss is The Mists of Avalon by Marion Zimmer Bradley. It is a good sized book and a great summer read so we are giving you this heads up.

Watch for more information as the summer unfolds. For more information contact June at zellers@roadrunner.com or Kathy at kell6787@gmail.com.

Pastoral Ministry Team...

Rev. Carie Johnsen will be on vacation July 18th to August 14th.

Our Pastoral Ministry Team is still here to provide confidential, caring and compassionate presence during times of grief, loss, life changes and stress. To request support or share pastoral concerns, please contact Annie Voorhees at (207) 620-2011 or Annabelle.voo@gmail.com.

Caring Cooperative support includes rides, meals, errands, get well and condolence cards as well as companion visits. If you need Caring Cooperative support or know someone that needs support,

Contact Cheryl Abruzzese at cam1nik2@gmail.com. If you do not have email you may reach Cheryl at (207) 858-5340.

Goddess/Earth Circles...

Join us on July 31, 2016 for the Sunday Service for Lammas: Harmony and Hope in First Harvest

Celebrate the First Harvest of the year, a time of harmony between the male and female energies and deities, and share luminaries of hope for the world today.

First Harvest: "Hungry Month of July" occurred when things that had been planted are not ready to eat, and stores from previous season are depleted, hence the celebration when the new crops are ready for harvest. Bread baked from the first crop of wheat was blessed. **Harmony:** Celebrate how differing elements and energies compliment rather than compete. The focus is also on harmony within ourselves. **Hope:** From the harvest and the harmony, luminaries will help us focus on hope of the human spirit in a troubled time.

July 24 is the next Summer Connection of Goddess/Earth Circles. You are welcome to join us at 11:30 am -1:00pm for Check-in and to complete the planning for the service on July 31.

We create composites of readings, songs, and reflections for the celebrations. Our Summer Solstice Composite is on the UUCC website at www.augustauu.org and click on Church Life/Goddess/Archives. The dates for the Goddess/Earth Circle gatherings are noted under Meetings.

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, please!
Photos of church activities welcome!
Deadline: July 17

Minister: Rev. Carie Johnsen

President: Gary Chapin

Sunday Morning RE Coordinator: Brigid Chapin
Youth Advisor: Monique McAuliffe

Administrator: Lynn Smith
admin@augustauu.org

UU Office hours:
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am-4pm
No office hours: Monday and Friday

Choir Director: Bridget Convey
Choir Practice Wednesday 6-8pm
Small Group Ministry Coordinator: Luke Curtis
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.

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.