



The Flaming Chalice

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

Theme: Covenant

September 2016

September 4 **UUA General Assembly Teachings** **David Rand**

Join David to hear what he learned attending workshops at the UUA General Assembly in Columbus Ohio in June 2016.

September 11 **More than a Drop** **Rev. Carie Johnsen**

RETURN TO TWO SERVICES, 9:15am & 11:00am

Celebrating our interconnectedness with the tradition of In-gathering Sunday* brings a recommitment of spirit to our beloved covenantal community. As our summer sojourns come to an end, we pause to bring forth life itself: water.

*In-gathering Sunday is a long-standing Unitarian Universalist tradition wherein members and friends return from their summer travels with a small vial of water from the summer adventures. The water is gathered in a communal bowl and blessed. This ritual symbolizes the diversity and unity of our gathered community.

September 18 **Constitution and Covenant** **Rev. Carie Johnsen
and John Pelletier**

Khizr Khan, the father of a Muslim American war hero, skillfully turned the attention of a nation toward the U.S. Constitution; within a couple a weeks the much sought after pocket Constitution at ACLU was sold out. In his book "Approaching the U.S. Constitution: Sacred Covenant or Plaything for Lawyers and Judges", Kerry L. Hunter reflects on the American judicial system's growing reliance on the letter of the law and New Zealand's move toward a democracy with a robust and living moral Conscience, where the spirit of the law gives life.

Rev. Carie and John Pelletier, UUCC Member and Executive Director of Maine's Commission on Indigent Legal Services will each offer a reflection.

September 25 **Whose Am I?** **Rev. Carie Johnsen**

The ancient question, "Who am I?" inevitably leads to a deeper one: "Whose am I?" – because there is not identity outside of relationship. You cannot be a person by yourself. To ask "Whose am I" is to extend the question far beyond the little self-absorbed self, and wonder: Who needs you? Who loves you? To whom are you accountable? To whom do you answer? Whose life is altered by your choices? With whose life, whose lives is your own all bound up, inextricably, in obvious or invisible ways?

~ **Douglas Steer, Quaker teacher**

A Faith Journey...

In the August newsletter UUCC Board President, Martha Naber, uses the tree as metaphor to describe the layers of interconnectedness in our church community. The tree's growth rings represent the years in which this community has gathered to bring the grace of Love into the hearts and minds of the people of Maine's capital city and surrounding communities.

Martha's second wise act was distributing to the UUCC Board of Trustees the article "Bound in Covenant: Congregational Covenants are Declarations of Interdependence" where author Rev. Victoria Safford informs the reader of our Unitarian Universalist tradition, *to walk together in faith... to walk together across disagreements, dissent, and difficult discernment, cherishing the way we walk as dearly as any outcome. This is no easy aspiration.*

Little did she know her article opened the door to our monthly theme (Covenant) and provided a springboard into the eternal human *aspiration to go deeper in relation to ourselves, to our best intention, to our God, and to each other...* [to all of creation].

And Martha is not alone. Last year the Board of Trustees charged the newly formed Right Relations Work Group with the task of reviewing the current practices (and barriers) by which minister, leadership and members commit to being in right relationship with each other. That is to say, how do we, the members and friends of UUCC, covenant to walk together in faith?

This month the Soul Matters packet opens with these wise words from Rev. Gretchen Haley:

Covenant holds a whole vision for how to live in this complicated, beautiful and broken world. It is a vision that says we are most human when we bind ourselves in relationship. But not just any relationship – relationships of trust, mutual accountability and continual return. ...we become human through our promising, but also when we break those promises, and yet somehow find ways to reconnect and begin again – when we repair the relationship because we know we need each other, even when we think the other isn't doing enough, even when the other is annoying us, or isn't listening well, or isn't doing things the way we want them done – even then. When we realize right then, that we are still connected, and we can't give up – and so we return, and begin again. This beginning again, says our faith, is when the holy and the human meet.

Let me tell you right now, sometime in the next year, maybe in the next few minutes, the people you most believe in and care about are going to disappoint you. Your church is going to disappoint you. This world is surely going to disappoint you. Like, all the time. We all are walking wounded and weary from the way this world can – and does – break our hearts. And what our faith asks of us, what our faith imagines for us, is that somehow, right at that moment when our hearts break, we will find our way to see through that heartbreak. We will stay put – not close off, not run away, not hurt back – but keep on being in relationship, doing what we can to repair the world and each other, keep on opening our hearts with greater love. And, right then, our covenantal faith says – we will feel not only most human, but also most whole and most at home.

On September 11th we enter our sanctuary for the annual In-gathering ceremony with water from our summer sojourn. It is a time of recommitting ourselves to our Unitarian Universalist traditions and the shared ministry of this beloved congregation. I encourage you use this month's Soul Matters packet as way to reflect upon how you covenant to this faith and this community in a relationship of trust, mutual accountability and continual renewal.

In faith, Rev. Carie

From the President....

Ready, Set, GO!

Summer is drawing to a close. Some of you have had free time from work, some go away to another home, some go on vacation, and some have little seasonal change of life. From where ever you are at now, are you **READY** for the changes that fall and a new church year bring?

Getting **ready** is your pondering time. Our church worship schedule will change back to two services. Which one works better for you? How does the weekly in-gathering of church family, friends, and acquaintances feed you? With the choir and orchestra starting to practice again, there may be a place you want to join in. With the religious education sessions beginning again, this may be where you see yourself contributing your talents and efforts. There will be adult education opportunities, committee meetings, and social events: something for everyone! Maybe the quiet of the services is what you need each week to nurture yourself.

Getting **SET** is your decision making/trying out time. So are you set, yet, for the changes? Your daily schedule may need to be adjusted to fit in meetings, potluck suppers, rehearsals, worship services, and more. It may be multiple schedules you work with each week. How does UUCC fit into all of them? Be sure to get this on your calendar:

In-gathering Sunday is Sept. 11, so do join us in the way that fits you!

GO is the action time!

Welcome each other to worship on Sept. 11. Take time to reconnect with those you have not seen over the summer. Raise your voice with the other choir members.

For all church leaders, the annual retreat is Sept. 17 from 9 AM-3 PM. We look forward to grappling with relevance of church, and UUCC in particular, in the world of today. There will be an orientation for committee chairs after lunch. Bring your questions with you!

I am excited about the energy I feel about and within UUCC. It has been a great summer with large groups at worship services, and many conversations at coffee fellowship.

So GET READY, GET SET, and GO (COME) to UUCC this fall!

Sincerely,

Martha Naber,
Board President

Goddess/Earth Circles... Earth Circles...

Join Goddess/Earth Circles on September 25 from 12:15-2:00pm for Reflections on the Fall Equinox, in Fellowship Hall.

How does this time of balance of light and darkness prepare us for the call to go deeper spiritually? What do we take with us in our spiritual exploration?

The new composite of readings and activities from Lammas (July 31 Summer Service) will be posted on the Goddess section of the UCC website at www.augustauu.org Church Life/Goddess/Archives.

The dates for the Goddess/Earth Circle gatherings are noted under Meetings.

UCC Choir...

The UCC Choir is always welcoming new members. Please join us!

Please contact Bridget Convey at: musicdirector@augustaucc.org
For more information.



New Hannaford Gift Card System Explained....

The new Hannaford card system may be confusing.

Hannaford has changed its policy so that members who want to use a credit card must buy a minimum of \$1,000 in order for the church to be eligible for a \$50 bonus.

However, Hannaford no longer sends the church a \$50 value card to sell in order to receive our bonus. Hannaford now charges members only \$950 on their credit card, but they receive \$1,000 in value loaded onto their gift cards. The remaining \$50 is payable to the UCC in check or cash. You may also ask me to sell half of these cards for you, if all you want is \$500.



There is no minimum order if you write a check or pay cash for your Hannaford cards. I will combine your order with others to reach the \$1,000 Hannaford minimum.

All \$500 reloads still need your card to be emptied. This is the maximum dollar amount Hannaford can reload on any one card. (Members who buy \$1,000 worth, receive two \$500 cards).

If you would like to join the group of members who use the monthly automatic reloads, please contact me. **This is the easiest of all.** We process these reloads on the third Friday of each month and there is no minimum amount.

Thank you for supporting our program. Please buy Hannaford cards as gifts for your family and friends. New designs are now available.

I welcome calls if you still have questions.

Catherine Palmer, [207.458.7384](tel:207.458.7384) (cell).

The Communications Work Group, established by the UUCC Board in May 2016, has met several times to review church communications practices and policies. We have identified a myriad of ways we communicate with each other. We would like to determine which ways members find most useful. We invite you to complete a short survey on church communications methods. We will analyze the results to get a clearer picture of how UUCC members/friends get information, and ultimately how to tailor communications to fit your needs. The survey is available on SurveyMonkey [<https://surveymonkey.com/r/GB2LVCM>] and in the church lobby from August 18-September 18. You can return them there. We look forward to receiving your input.

A more complete description of the work of the Communications Work Group will be on the UUCC under Church Life. We may also have periodic surveys on various facets of communication. Your comments and questions are welcome. Contact Lynn at admin@augustauu.org. The Communications Work Group: Helen Zidowecki, Lynn Smith, Sheila Comerford

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST COMMUNITY CHURCH: COMMUNICATIONS SURVEY

If possible, please use Survey Monkey, <https://surveymonkey.com/r/GB2LVCM>

1. How likely are you to get church information from each of the following? Please Check box that is most appropriate.

	Least Likely	Less Likely	More Likely	Most Likely	
Announcements in the Sunday Order of Service					
Call the church office					
Church emails					
Bulletin board postings					
The website calendar					
Directory					
Facebook					
<i>How Our Church Works</i> publication					
Informal conversations					
Leadership Orientation					
The monthly Flaming Chalice newsletter					
Soul Matters packet					
Website					
Sign board by church entrance					
Other: Please specify					

2. How can we improve communications?

3. Additional comments?

Social Activities...

On Sunday September 18 at 1:00pm GEORGE SMITH will present a discussion of his book "A Life Lived Outdoors".

George Smith is the former Director of Maine's Sportsman's Alliance and does a weekly KJ newspaper column, "George's Outdoor News". He is fun and very interesting to listen to.

I had originally scheduled him for our first "Elder Lunch" but he had to change the date to Sept. when there is no Elder Luncheon. We will still do lunch for he and his wife.

If anyone would like to help me put together a simple potluck lunch, I would appreciate it. Also come and eat with us. You will enjoy talking with him. Thank you.

Cheryl Clukey
441-0337

Our Condolences

Long time member Mildred Stengel died at her home Thursday evening, August 4, 2016, in the loving company of her daughters Marcia and Michelle.

Her Memorial Service will be held Saturday, August 27 at 3:00pm. Mildred had selected the following three service organizations to be recipients of any contributions people would like to make in her name:

UUCU of Augusta
69 Winthrop Street
Augusta, Maine 04330

Good Shephard Food Bank
3121 Hotel Road, P.O. Box 1807
Auburn, Maine 04211

MaineGeneral Home Care and Hospice
The Comfort Care Fund
10 Water Street, # 307
Waterville, Maine 04901

Menu Contributions Needed for October...

Monthly Elder Luncheon begins again in October and we need to schedule food contributions. The luncheons are always held on the second Sunday of the month beginning in October and continuing through May. They are very well attended.

The luncheons are open to any and all elders (self-determined) and provide a wonderful opportunity for members of the congregation to sit together and enjoy conversation over a light meal served restaurant style. Each luncheon usually involves 7 contributors consisting of 4 entrees (8-10 servings), 1 large green salad, and a couple of people providing desserts.

Can you bake a casserole, quiche or make a soup for just one of these luncheons (for 8-10)? Or finger food desserts such as cookies, brownies or bars? If you aren't a cook you could provide the fixings for a green salad which we arrange on small plates. Perhaps your Small Group would be willing to be the food contributors for one of the months.

Please contact Marilyn Dunn (512-5382) or maine2007@hotmail.com to schedule and please put the luncheons on your calendar and remember to join us.

Small Group Ministry...

The Small Group Ministry leadership meeting has been scheduled for September 18th from 12 to 1:30pm. This brown bag lunch will be our kickoff meeting for the upcoming year.

If you are unable to attend please assign a member of your group to come in your place. Thank you.

Beth Ellen Nasberg

Peaceful Heart Sangha

Offering Mindfulness Meditation every Monday 6:30 – 8 PM at UCC and every Thursday 8 – 9:30 am at River Studio, 332 Water St, Hallowell.

We are just beginning the book: *Together We Are One, Honoring our Diversity, Celebrating our Connection* by Thich Nhat Hanh – which we will gradually explore with readings every 2nd & 3rd Monday. If you would like to read along with us, we have a schedule we can share via email or on paper.

Special events coming up:

September 11 – Day of Mindfulness at Nurture Through Nature in Denmark, ME based on tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh, 10 am – 2 pm FMI - <http://www.ntnretreats.com>

October 1 – An incredible opportunity to practice with one of our tradition's most skilled Dharma Teachers, Joanne Friday, in Orono. See below:

A DAY OF MINDFULNESS
IN THE TRADITION OF THICH NHAT HANH

**PEACE IS EVERY STEP:
A LOVINGKINDNESS APPROACH
TO CHALLENGING TIMES**



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2016
9 A.M. – 3 P.M.
WITH DHARMA TEACHER JOANNE FRIDAY
CHURCH OF UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP
82 MAIN STREET ♦ ORONO, MAINE

PLEASE REGISTER IN ADVANCE (IF POSSIBLE) VIA EMAIL: JANETHAMEL@AOL.COM
SUGGESTED REGISTRATION – \$20 (BRING THAT DAY)
DANA / DONATIONS FOR TEACHING WELCOME THAT DAY
LIGHT VEGAN LUNCH PROVIDED WITH GLUTEN-FREE OPTIONS

www.stillwatersangha.org 207-299-0469

October 20 – 23 - The annual Northern New England retreat in our tradition will be offered for the first time in Maine - in **Eliot, Maine** at Green Acre Conference Center with the very skilled and insightful Dharma Teachers: Michael Ciborski and Richard Brady

November 12 – Peaceful Harbor Sangha in Portland will offer a Day of Mindfulness focused on the Five Mindfulness Trainings with Maine's first Dharma Teacher in our tradition, Peggy Smith

Questions – 685-9270 or martysoule@gmail.com or peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com

Beginning The Next Chapter...

It is Sunday morning and I am writing to you from Maine Medical Center where I am on-call today and tonight. Since finishing the unit of Clinical Pastoral Education I was enrolled in this spring, I've continued working here, occasional nights and weekends, as a community on-call chaplain. It is challenging and rewarding work and I love being able to do it, even if it's just once or twice a month.

It is hard to believe the summer is already coming to an end. Soon our community will be gathering for the start of the church year, but this year will be different for me: I will not be in Augusta. Instead I will be beginning student ministry at the UU Church of Brunswick.

It seems sudden, for something that has been so long in coming. I have one academic class left to complete my M.Div. degree, and four semesters of internship; I am on track to graduate in May 2018, and beginning to prepare for my eventual interview with the Ministerial Fellowship Committee. I still have a long way to go on this journey toward professional ministry. But now the end finally seems a little closer than the beginning.

When I first walked through our doors, that summer Sunday in 2007 when I arrived at 9:15 for a service that was happening at 10:00 and was recruited into the choir by regulars who had also missed the time change memo, I could not have imagined ending up where I am today. The spirit that is holy in the world moves in strange and mysterious ways. Singing in the choir, volunteering for renovation teams and rummage sales led me to serve here as a committee chair and worship associate, which in turn awakened my call to professional ministry: to serve wholeheartedly this thing which is larger than just us, right here and right now.

And so the time has come when you, my church family, are more likely to see me out in the world than within our walls. I may be volunteering for the spiritual care department here at the Augusta hospital, or on-call at Maine Med; showing up for justice at a vigil or rally, a MUUSAN meeting or Wabanaki REACH event; and of course I will be in all my usual places on the internet. Where I will not be, for the most part, is among you in church on Sunday morning.

In our Unitarian Universalist tradition a minister's authority is grounded in the congregation: a congregation calls or contracts with a minister to serve them, and only a congregation has the authority to ordain. But long before that, those who prepare for the ministry begin their journey in relationship with the congregation they call home. It has been a privilege to learn from and belong to the UUC of Augusta; as I go out into the world, to serve our sister congregation in Brunswick as intern and wherever else I go, I carry you with me. Thank you for everything.

Until we meet again,

Claire Curole
Candidate for Unitarian Universalist Ministry

Annual Leadership Retreat

Save the Date!

Who? All committee chairs, Board members, and interested persons

What? Our annual leadership retreat is an opportunity to "charge your batteries" as a leader at UUCC. There is time set aside to think, learn, talk, and plan together for the coming year at UUCC. We will be working on being relevant as a church in Augusta in 2016-2017 and beyond. How do we meet the challenges on being a vibrant church within the community of today and the future?

Where? At Fellowship Hall at UUCC

When? Saturday September 17 from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Questions? Call Martha Naber at 872-0913 or email her at naber@midmaine.com.

Great food provided!! See you there!

Book Group for Serious Readers...

We will meet from 12:30 until 2:30pm in Fellowship Hall on the second Thursday of the month, beginning in October and skipping December. Anyone who is interested in the book for that month is invited to attend. No commitment or sign up is needed.

Come join us.

In October we will explore [The Mists of Avalon](#) by Marion Zimmer Bradley.

The book for November is [Strange Gods](#) by Susan Jacoby.

For more information, contact June Zellers at jzellers@roadrunner.com or Kathy Kellison at kell6787@gmail.com.

Kathy 445-4415
June 582-5862

Hospitality Thanks...

The summer has been going very smoothly for fellowship hours at UUCC!!

Thank you to the following people who have worked to provide labor and snacks to us all:
June: The Chapin Family, the Social Activities Committee, Nancy Fritz and Jane Gilbert, Martha and Don Naber
July: Jim and Helen McKendry and Friends, Sunshine Perlis, Phyllis Cudmore, David Rand, and Catherine Palmer and Becky Harvey
August: The Clark Family, Heather and Matt Lyon, Ida Gammon and Dale McCormick, and Cheryl Abruzzese.

Jill Watson, Vice President of the Board, will be taking on the role of organizing the rest of the year's hospitality. The month of September is already full. You will hear from Jill for an assigned date if you are not already on the calendar which hangs up in Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

Neighbor to Neighbor Project

First Saturday Public Suppers

On Saturday, August 6th, a group of us gathered to serve a meal to the community. We had plenty of volunteers!

Thank you to Carlene Kaler – organizer/leader #1 buyer & worker, Keith -- Chief chef and grill master, Dan Stevens -- leader and seasoned pot scrubber, Emmy Swanton -- Primo dishwasher, Michele -- supplier and prep, Johnson -- cook and gardener, Karen Nielsen, Phyllis Clark and her friend Callie -- set-up experts, Cheryl A. -- head tour guide, and her brave volunteer friend Darlene, Cheryl C. and her lay minister, Sue Carey -- cake baker extraordinaire, Becky Harvey -- positive outlook leader and always working worker, Liam Walp -- head large pot lifter and server, Cindy -- co-large pot lifter & scraper and last but certainly not least, Sarah Miller, food bank director (such a fitting name, she mills gold from straw) who gave us 40 lbs. of chicken, plenty of zucchini, broccoli, summer squash, cukes, bread and more!!!
Our grilled chicken, zucchini, summer squash, broccoli, potato salad, cole slaw and dessert supper went off without too many hitches, thanks to a great cooperative crew. Darlene, who was new on the scene, liked what she saw. :-)
Thanks to the Music man, I think of "110 bread loaves led the big parade!"

Jenny Mckendry, Head Non-Cook and bottle washer
Next up: the Saturday, September 3rd supper

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: September 12

Minister: Rev. Carie Johnsen

President: Martha Naber

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.