



The Flaming Chalice

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

Theme: *Prophecy* Sunday Services

January 2017

Prophets are known for their condemnation. Images of an angry bearded man shouting and predicting God's judgment come to mind. But for Unitarian Universalists, the prophetic voice has always been less about shouting "You're evil!" and more about pointing out "We're all asleep!" The prophetic message, for us, is not so much "Repent!" but "Wake up!"

January 1st 10:00 (only service) "New Year Traditions" Noah Gottlieb & Heather Lyon

New Year's is a time of looking at the past and embracing the new. Is it time to create some new traditions that embrace multiculturalism and social justice? Join us as we discuss past and future rituals and traditions surrounding the New Year and how we can create new rituals that could help bring focused change to our lives as well as our community.

January 8th 9:15 "The Magic of the Holidays" Brigid Chapin

This multigenerational service will celebrate the magic of the holidays with unity, creativity, and chocolate. Together we will stand in strength and joy this holiday season, rising on the power we all have to change the world. (This service was canceled on December 18th due to weather.)

11:00 "Unitarian Universalist Prophets" Rev. Carie Johnsen

So many to choose from, so little time. For two decades now Unitarian Universalist visionaries have been calling us to new ways of being human, to speaking truth to power, to resistance and hope.

January 15th "Creative Maladjustment" Rev. Carie Johnsen

In a 1963 speech at Western Michigan University, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King addresses modern psychology and introduces the idea of creative maladjustment. Called to *Just Acts* in a *Season of Resistance*, we will rise up!

January 23rd "We Were There Then, We'll Be There Now" Rev. Carie Johnsen

Saturday, January 22nd is the anniversary of *Rowe Vs. Wade*. With a deep reverence for life in its complexity and diversity, Unitarian Universalists do not agree on the precise moment in which life begins, or continues. They are, however, united in their affirmation for the well-being of women and others, and their interest in requiring public policy to be concerned with the same. With our commitment to reproductive justice, we will continue the struggle to make abortion access and reproductive justice a reality for every person and community.

January 30th TBA Annie Voorhees

Worship Committee member and member of the fellowship of pianists, Annie Nessen Voorhees will lead a service filled with music and inspiration.

A Faith Journey...

This month's introductory words from the Soul Matters Resource Circle say it best:

What Does It Mean To Be A Community of Prophecy?

Our times ask us to exercise our capacity for prophetic witness, by prophetic witness I mean our capacity to see what is happening, to say what is happening and to act in accordance with what we know.... Prophetic witness ...is the ability to name those places where we resist knowing what needs to be known.
-Rebecca Parker, UU theologian and minister

"I am not crushed. I am awake."
- A liberal activist interviewed about the presidential election

Prophets are known for their condemnation. Images of an angry bearded man shouting and predicting God's judgment come to mind. But for Unitarian Universalists, the prophetic voice has always been less about shouting "You're evil!" and more about pointing out "We're all asleep!" The prophetic message, for us, is not so much "Repent!" but "Wake up!"

Recent political events are relevant here. On election day, many of us realized we had been living in a bubble. We existed in an echo chamber but told ourselves we had a clear picture of the world. Whether it was class, condescension or comfort, something distorted many people's view.

And so if election day was about realizing we were asleep in a bubble, the question on Inauguration Day becomes, Are we ready to wake up? And let's be clear: this is not a politically partisan thing; liberals and conservatives both have a ton of waking up to do. One unemployed Michigan factory worker was quoted after the election saying, "I vote Republican because I won't vote for anyone who doesn't see and respect me." On the other side of the political fence, black, Latino, Muslim and LGBT families are struggling with real fear about what's been unleashed and what may be unleashed against them. And they are wondering if this country will wake up to and take their fear seriously.

Bottom line: we need prophetic communities now more than ever. As Rebecca Parker says, we need circles of brave and bold people who are willing "to see what is happening, to say what is happening and to act in accordance with what they know." Which means that being a community of prophecy is not just about helping people wake up to each other's realities and fears; there is also the matter of waking up and being wide-eyed about the need for resistance. Most of the time, holy work is about finding common ground among differing world views. But sometimes, holy work is about prophetic judgment and knowing when some views need to be opposed. As that activist said, "I am not crushed. I am awake."

So many ways to wake up. So many people who need us to do so. Sleep is no longer a luxury. In the end, maybe that is the most prophetic message of all.

In faith,

Rev. Carie

From the President....

Many times we think of New Year's as the time we "have to" make resolutions todo better, stop this...start that. Then too often we remember them for a bit, work on them for a bit, then slide away from them, and THEN we feel guilty for not keeping or doing whatever we thought was a good idea.

We can change our way of starting a new year! I think of the words Mary Martin as Maria sang in Sound of Music: "Let's start at the very beginning, A very good place to start..."

So let's think of 2017 and some possible new beginnings:

- A whole year of new days to live
- A new government to "deal with"
- New chances to start over
- Maybe new relationships
- Maybe new work or retirement
- Maybe new activities
- Maybe the loss of a loved one
- Maybe reestablishing relationships

Through all these and so many more life experiences, UUCC is here for you offering:

- A liberal religious presence in central Maine
- Worship services to offer comfort, challenging ideas, support, and community times
- Fabulous music as part of worship, and special events
- Opportunities to engage in social service activities to support fragile, disregarded, disenfranchised, underserved members, friends, and others in the community
- Financial and intellectual challenges to children, youth and adults
- A safe nurturing location for social activities for church and community groups to meet

As you begin 2017, I urge you to consider what role UUCC plays in your life and what you offer and contribute to UUCC. Let's have a wonderful growing, nurturing year together. See you at worship, at a social activity, a fundraiser, a work day, sometime!

Best wishes for a wonderful 2017.

Sincerely,

Martha Naber, UUCC Board President



Rally of Unity at the State House

On Jan. 4th, on the opening day of the legislative session, we will be holding our 5th annual Rally of Unity at the Statehouse Hall of Flags. The hall has been reserved from 9:00am till 1:00pm with 15 tables reserved for group displays, posters, handouts etc. The podium speaker system will be in place with 100 chairs for the audience. Please make plans to get there early enough to get through statehouse security.

The following speakers will be addressing the Alliance starting at 10:00.

Lew Kingsbury - MC the event...brief opening remarks

Larry Dansinger - Alliance for the Common Good founding principals

Alyssa Thompson - Pine Tree Youth Organizing -The importance of amplifying youth voices in an age of uncertainty

Sen. Dale McCormick - Ranked Choice Voting campaign

Sherri Mitchell - Indigenous Rights Attorney, Penobscot Tribal member

Hendrik Gideonse - Update efforts to defeat, for the third time, Maine's metallic mining rules

Chloe Maxmin- writer, The Nation magazine, Environmental activist

Cynthia Phinney - Maine Fair Trade campaign - "Is TPP Dead?"

Betsy Garrold - Efforts to codify community food sovereignty

Jim Freeman - Albany, New York, Bakken crude oil "bomb train" action update

Ronald Flannery - "Health Care is a Human Right " campaign.

Peter Crockett - State's expansion efforts regarding Maine's landfills

Andy Burt - With youth group from King Middle School With a new legislature being elected with razor thin majorities in the house (D) and senate (R), we will have a lot of work to do in bringing the new members up to speed on our issues.

Book Event: Sunday, January 8th 1:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Join us at a Book Event with **Maureen Milliken**, Maine author of the ***Bernie O'Dea Mystery Series***. "Bernie O'Dea" is a crime solver who thinks and acts like a journalist. Her latest book is titled "No News is Bad News".

Milliken is a former journalist and reporter who was recently city editor of the Waterville Sentinel. She grew up in Augusta and when she was a teenager, she babysat for our UU minister in the 70's.

For more information contact Cheryl Clukey at 441-0337.

Goddess/Earth Circles...

Weather cancelled the Yule Celebration of Goddess/Earth Circles on December 18. However, Yule is considered to continue through the Twelfth Day of Christmas (Jan. 6) and the packet that was prepared for the celebration is available.

The Goddess/Earth Circles meet on January 29th from 12:15 -- 1:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will be focusing on Kwan Yin, the Goddess of Compassion and Mercy from a new resource, *Learning from the Ancient Goddesses of Indigenous Cultures from Around the World* by Connie Dunn. We will be planning the sessions through June, involving various Goddesses and earth-centered celebrations.

All genders and ages are welcome. Contact: Helen Zidowecki (582-5308, hzmre@hzmre.com)



LGBTQ Dance



Saturday, January 14th, 2017 from 7 to 10 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

**Unitarian Universalist
Community Church of Augusta**
69 Winthrop Street (at the corner of Summer Street)

**DJ DAN FLOURD OF BANGOR
WILL PROVIDE MUSIC**

Refreshments and non-alcoholic beverages available

All boogie lovers and friends are welcome

Suggested donation \$10 per person

Poster Design by Roxie Bierce - hbierce@nyfairpoint.net

Communications Corner...

The Communications Work Group is focused on updating the website. The following sections have been updated:

Worship: The Worship Arts section per se has been integrated into the general Worship description and the new section on 'Music at UCC'.

Minister, Staff and Church Life: Calendar and Communications has added 'Other Communications', namely Bulletin Boards, Mailboxes and Directory. The sections Goddess/Earth Circles and Meditation: Peaceful Sangha have been updated.

Please also consider the 'Inclement Weather Policy' under Communications. Information about the status of services can be found:

On TV stations WCSH 6, WGME 13, and WMTW 8 for weather-related cancellations

All Church E-mail

The Answering Machine at the church office (207-622-3232)

UCC Facebook

Please also connect with others who you know might not have these items available.

We thank Sheila Comerford for her participation on the Work Group. She has stepped back from the Work Group, but may be involved in selected activities. Thanks, Sheila.

The Communications Work Group is addressing items that are brought to our attention. You may leave items in the Communications Work Group Mail Slot in the Committee meeting room off the foyer or contact Lynn Smith at 622-3232.



Menu Contributions Needed for January 11th Elder Lunch...

The Elder Luncheons are always held on the second Sunday of the month, beginning in October and continuing through May, and 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.

We still need two more entrees (8-10 servings) and a couple of desserts. Can you bake a casserole, quiche or make a soup (8-10 servings)? Or, are you willing to make a finger food dessert such as cookies, brownies or bars? Please contact Marilyn Dunn (512-5382) or at maine2007@hotmail.com to schedule your contribution.

Please put the luncheons on your calendar and so you'll remember to join us.

Books, Bake Goods, and Volunteers needed for Fund Raiser Saturday, January 28th...

A 'Cabin Fever Book Café' is planned for January 28th. Hardback books will be \$1 and paperbacks 50 cents. Coffee or tea – 50 cents and bakery treats are \$1.

Please set aside quality books (no magazines, old text books, or encyclopedias). Ask your neighbors, friends and relatives for books. If you can store them until Sunday, January 22nd or bring them in on Friday the 27th, that would be helpful. If you need to bring them in earlier, we can store your contribution in the sanctuary basement which is very dry. Please don't make the boxes heavy, we'd rather carry two.

Volunteers may sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Friday from 4 to 7 p.m. is sort and setup time. The Saturday sale is from noon to 3 p.m.; we need **Volunteers** to be book cashier and to help in kitchen/café. Saturday cleanup and transporting leftover books to Goodwill will be from 3 – 4 p.m.

Bakery good contributions needed for café – small cookies, brownies, and bars (3 for a dollar) and cakes (dollar per slice).

Organizer: contact Marilyn Dunn at maine2007@hotmail.com or 512-5382

Donations Needed for April 7 Auction...

Please begin submitting auction items for our spring fundraiser. Our fundraising goal is \$5,000 from bids on April 7. Have you asked friends and family members to donate time, treasures or gift cards?

Here are a few early donations:

\$300 Charlie's Auto Gift Certificate for labor and parts

Eight **\$25** Gift cards to Applebees and Texas Roadhouse Restaurants

\$500 Kennebec Savings Bank financial gift Basket

Two **\$75** professionally-framed inspirational posters

\$75 like-new, oak china cabinet (with lock and key to glass door)

\$830 brand new Raleigh bicycle with car carrier



1. Four-position headlight
2. Digital speedometer/odometer
3. Mirror
4. Avenir Comfort Plus Seat
5. Four-position taillight

6. Luggage rack
7. Caliper brakes
8. Klean Kanteen water bottle
9. 26 x 1.95 tires
10. Nexus 8-speed hub w/Coaster Brake

Goldberg and Stratton Memorial Concert: Sunday January 22 at 2:30pm...

Mark your calendars for the **Bill Goldberg and Don Stratton Memorial Concert** on Sunday, January 22nd at 2:30 p.m. in the UUCS sanctuary. This event will honor the memory of two beloved musicians as well as celebrate our newly repaired centenarian Steinway piano.

We have a wonderful lineup of talented UUCS musicians who will be performing works by Don and Bill as well as other (mostly) twentieth-century composers. As this is a fundraiser for the church, donations of \$10/person or \$25/family are suggested.

Refreshments will follow the music-making. For more information contact Karen Allen (kwallen@gwi.net or 622-3868) or Stefanie Barley (stefbarley@gmail.com or 623-2824).

Concert Hospitality Help Needed...

The music program for the **Bill Goldberg and Don Stratton Memorial Concert** on Sunday, January 22nd at 2:30 p.m. is well under way, but we need people to help with the reception afterward.

If you can assist with set-up, clean up, or providing refreshments, please contact Cheryl Clukey (cherylclukey5@yahoo.com or 441-0337).

Many hands make light work as well as much merry music!



How Can I Help the Food Bank?

MOST NEEDED ITEMS FOR THE FOOD PANTRY & KIDS PROGRAMS:

Thank you for your continued donations! We love being able to keep our shelves full and appealing! Here is a list of the most-needed items:

- Canned Pasta (pantry and kids programs)
- Peanut Butter (pantry and kids programs)
- Baked Beans (pantry and kids programs)
- Canned Soup (pantry and kids programs)
- Granola Bars (kids programs)
- Canned Chicken (pantry & kids programs)
- Quart-sized storage bags

Hannaford Card Program Seeks an Apprentice...

The UUCC Hannaford card fundraising program needs an apprentice to learn the ropes and help us generate more than \$4,000 dollars annually for our church budget. Hannaford provides a five (5%) percent dollar incentive if we buy Hannaford cards through the company. You still get the full value of your grocery purchase. A mentor is available to show you how it all works!

Contact: Catherine Palmer at (207) 458-7384 or email PalmerCatherineMaine@gmail.com.

The History Committee....

The History Committee meets on the third Thursday of the month from 1 -- 2:30 p.m. in the History Committee and Olsen Rooms at the Drew House. A focus of the January 19th meeting will be Oral Histories at UUCC. We have done several of these in the past, and are hoping to re-start the practice. If you would like to be part of sharing your history with UUCC, or of interviewing or transcribing, please contact Helen Zidowecki (582-5308, hzmre@hzmre) or put a note in the History Committee Mail Slot in the Committee Room off the foyer.

Thanks to Becky Harvey and Catherine Palmer, who have been changing the Wayside Pulpit for the last year. We try to change the sign in front of the church about monthly. When possible, the message will reflect the Worship theme of the month. Becky and Catherine have stepped down. Please contact us if you are interested in this project.

UU Choir...

THE UU CHOIR IS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS!

The UUCC choir is looking for new members, the more the merrier! **All levels welcome, reading music is NOT required.** Come and share your voice with your UUCC community. We have some wonderful music planned for the remainder of our 2016-2017 season, including several collaborations with our orchestra. Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 6 to 8 p.m. in the sanctuary. Rehearsals will begin on January 4th, 2017 and continue until the middle of June 2017. All are welcome, join us!

Please contact Bridget Convey at: musicdirector@augustauu.org

A Note from Nancee: I did some musical theater in college, but that's the extent of my musical training. I wasn't sure the choir would accept me with no experience, but they did and I'm the one that's grown from the involvement. Bridget is a



remarkable, patient teacher/conductor, the other singers are helpful and generous and the chance to learn something completely new is a great gift. If you're considering joining our choir, the one thing I can promise you is that you'll never be bored and you'll find yourself part of a small congregation within our congregation, a very treasured place to be these days.



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: January 16

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
 Committee chairs and others can also be reached
 Through the church office at 622-3232 or church email.

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.