



The Flaming Chalice

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

July 2017

Worship Services

Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

July 2nd

The Service Begins...

Erica Rose Long

A wise person once said, "The service begins when the service ends." Service is faithful action that brings deep meaning and connection. But how do we know when we are serving and when we are merely helping?

July 9th

Is It Possible to Leave the "If Then" Culture Behind?

Heather Lyon

In media and popular culture there are many examples of people who believe that If you believe in A then you must not believe in B. Often this type of mindset also invades our personal life and opinions. Is it possible to control this type of thinking? Are there ways we can overcome this impulse?

July 16th

Come Sing a Song With Me

Martha Naber

What hymn do you like to sing? We come to church each Sunday bringing our voices as instruments. This service will give you an opportunity to choose what hymn you would like to have the congregation sing. If you are willing, please share with us why you chose this hymn. We will get to know a bit about you this way!

July 23rd

The Human Journey

Catherine Palmer

How do we respond when we're stuck in a box, alone? What does it take to get free from the comfort of our confinement? What do we do with our feelings when we are determined "not to play the game?" Let's talk about how our ability to love another is influenced by our choice to be comfortable.

July 30th

Let's Come Together

A Loving Collaborative

Come enjoy a collaborative service led by Annie Nessen Voorhees, Gary Chapin and several of our beloved youth! We welcome you to come have fun with us.

A Faith Journey...

I so appreciate the shifting rhythms and patterns of ministry that arrive with the greening of the trees and blooming buds. Though countless details occupy my time, I find this time of bringing the year to a close, preparing for summer services and looking ahead to a new church year in the fall rewarding and reinvigorating. As I look back on this year, I am not at all surprised by my eager anticipation for time away from the office of ministry.

This year has been a time for searching our deepest longings and exploring possibilities for religious exploration. We heard a multigenerational congregation ask for extended time to be together in faith formation, specifically Unitarian Universalist identity. We heard people celebrate music and ask for more music, different types of music and musical opportunities for all ages. We heard the community say they want to break bread together and be in relationship across the ages. A team, we call the Wisdom Weavers, are very excited to be launching **Faith Cafés** in the fall. See the flyer in this newsletter and mark your calendar.

This year has also been a time of creating a community that cares for each other. In hosting the series *Our Journey's End* the pastoral ministry team held space for deep and meaningful conversations about death and dying. Once a month people shared their personal stories as skilled leaders held courageous and holy space for this delicate and often taboo topic. Recognizing the congregations desire to be together in real and authentic space, the pastoral ministry team will host a new series next year. Faith and sexuality is a topic our children approach every other year, all the while young adults, middle agers and elders move through the various life stages of sexuality untethered. Not so next year! We are delighted to announce next year's series will encourage adults of all ages – young and old- to share the journey of sexuality through the adulthood.

This year has also been more relentless than ever in the call to show up in the public square. Over the past year I have bore witness to a community and a minister living into a new ministry together. In bringing our Unitarian Universalist principles and values to the State House and the nation's capital, we have shaped local and national politics. We have been steadfast in claiming the inherent worth and dignity of all people. We have shown up for climate change and Mother Earth, health care and reproductive rights, education and democracy. Over and over again, Unitarian Universalists have shown up. The legislative year is almost over. Schools are closing their doors and summer vacations are sure to follow.

For now, it is time to breathe in and breathe out, bask in the summer sun and be blessed in the waters of life. Now is the time to rest and restore the weary soul and the tired mind. Be still my friends, be still.

In faith,
Rev. Carie Johnsen





WE ARE ANTICIPATING YOUR ATTENDANCE AT SEPTEMBER'S

Faith Café

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST COMMUNITY CHURCH OF AUGUSTA
Friday, September 8, 2017
5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

POTTERY NIGHT MAKE YOUR OWN CHALICE

THIS MULTIGENERATIONAL EVENING OF FAITH FORMATION AND FELLOWSHIP WILL INCLUDE FRUIT, CHIPS, BEVERAGES, AND DESSERT. WE ENCOURAGE EACH HOUSEHOLD TO BRING SANDWICHES AND A PICNIC BLANKET.

From the President....

Over the last week I have been the witness to an amazing process: the successful execution of another UUCC yard sale! As I reflected about what I had seen, heard, and experienced I was so impressed by the energy, the generosity, the labor offered, the number of people involved, and the results for the financial health of UUCC. I see the yard sale as similar in many ways to all the work and programs of UUCC.

The planning began way before June 17th with the sign-up sheets, the advertising, and the posters made. Thank you, Catherine Palmer, for doing this planning. It would not have happened without you. Like any big effort that UUCC undertakes there are the planners who come forward to start things moving. Thank you to you who are planners.

The day of the yard sale came closer and many came forward with donations of “stuff” and food to fuel the sale. It was amazing to see the variety and amount that was donated. In the children’s area there was enough to set up a small shop (according to Hannah Faulkner). The food fueled both the shoppers and the workers. Thank you to you who fueled this sale. Both food and stuff is often asked for at a UUCC event. Thank you to those of you who are fuelers.

The day arrived and the workers arrived with aprons for collecting proceeds and lots of extra bags for the shoppers to use. Things had been sorted and displays had been made. And then the shoppers arrived! We need the shoppers to purchase and move along all the “stuff”. Greetings were heard, and deals made as people checked out the offerings. And then all the left over items were packed to go to Goodwill or to the Historical Society’s book sale. Clean up happened and the tired crew left the building.

So another UUCC fundraiser came to closure. All the efforts observed go into the many projects and programs at UUCC. Have you found a way to contribute to some UUCC program or effort? It takes many to make our church a success. Thank you to all the workers at UUCC.

It took a community to complete this fund raiser. It takes a community to support a church. UUCC is a valuable beloved community for individuals, for our city, for our state. We hope you find this at UUCC and offer your part to support this church.

Thus has ended the fundraising calendar for the 2016-2017 church year. Congratulations to all who have contributed to these efforts to help fund all the work of UUCC. July 1st begins a new year for UUCC. Our budget was approved at the annual meeting which will fuel all the activities, staff, and “keep the lights on” for 2017-2018.

I hope you consider how you will contribute to UUCC for 2017-2018. Are you a planner, a fueler, a worker, a donor, a consumer? We need all of us to make the year successful. Thank you in advance for all you do and will contribute.

Sincerely,

Martha Naber
President of the Board



The Supper Times...

Hi Volunteers,

It's mid-June and I'm thinking about July and August's 1st Saturday Public suppers. In the summer, many volunteers are away and it's harder to gather volunteers. Would you look at your calendar to see if you can help out on **July 1st and August 5th?**

As of today there is no change in our venue, but the Augusta Food Bank broke ground this week on their future site. Stay tuned for the latest news.

I've been looking at old photos of volunteers. Let's take some new pictures to show our friends, family and potential volunteers them what fun we're having in that steaming kitchen :-)

Thank you and here's to finding moments of summer sun to bask in.

Jenny Mckendry
(c) 480-0980 jdrawmck@gwi.net

SAVE THE DATE!

Worship Arts Retreat

You're Invited!

August 26th
9:00am – 3:00pm (tentative)
Fellowship Hall

Members and friends of the congregation are invited to join the Worship and Music Committee, along with the choir, pianists and UUCC program staff in the exploration of what makes worship meaningful, inspiring and transformative. This retreat will explore the elements of worship, the role of the leaders and the congregation. We will actively engage the questions of integrity, authenticity, and quality in worship. This is your opportunity to bring your voice and vision to the conversation on crafting and leading worship. More details to follow in the August newsletter.

Coming this Fall... Faith Cafés

What is a Faith Café? This is the name of a monthly community event for all ages that will begin in the Fall at UUCC. **Faith Café** is a pilot program developed by the Wisdom Weavers group in response to information gathered at the Religious Exploration Retreat attended by about 70 people in March.

The first **Faith Café** will be Friday, September 8th. Wisdom Weavers will host this event that will include food, music, and activities developed around the first UU Principle the inherent worth and dignity of each person. All ages, from infants and toddlers through our oldest community members, are encouraged to participate.

There are seven principles which UU congregations hold as strong values and moral guides. Each month, from September through April (excluding December), there will be a **Faith Café** that focuses on one of the principles. Members of the Wisdom Weavers group will recruit and mentor team members to organize and host each month.

While the first **Faith Café** will be a Friday, dates for future Cafes will be determined by the results of a congregational poll. Watch for more details as plans for the **Faith Café** continue to develop.

A Note of Thanks

After 5 years and 60 newsletters, I am hanging up my publishing software and retiring as the UU newsletter volunteer. Many, many thanks to Nancee Campbell and Janet Sawyer, who have acted as proofreaders extraordinaire and to all who have contributed to make the newsletter the reliable and readable source of UUCC news that it is!

Next month, Roxanne Reed and Bill Byrne will take over the duties of putting together the *The Flaming Chalice*. I hope they find the job as rewarding as I did.

Sheila Comerford
comeandgo@roadrunner.com

Small Group Ministry...

We were delighted that all of Small Groups were represented at the Appreciation Breakfast on June 11! We shared activities of the groups this last year: Each group provided Sunday Fellowship Hour and 2 groups assisted with Elder Lunch. Several groups have specific projects, such as the UCC Library, Book Sale, assisted with Leaf Raking, assisted with lawn and Holiday sales, Clynk program and providing resources for Migrant Workers. ***We recognized the importance of the groups as the building blocks to a strong Small Group Ministry presence at UCC.***

Summer plans for groups include continuing meetings as usual, meeting once versus twice in the summer months, having special outings (museums, gardens, cottages of participants, plays, etc.), having special meals.

Thanks to Beth Olsen, who has been the Chair of the Small Group Ministry Committee for 3 years, and Luke Curtis, who has served as the Small Group Ministry Coordinator. The status of these positions will evolve from review of Small Group Ministry at UCC over the next few months.

We are planning a Small Group Ministry Leaders meeting on September 30, 9:30 a.m. – noon. The focus is on Small Group visibility, as well as the role of Small Group Ministry within the congregation.

Please contact Linda Findlay or Helen Zidowecki with your comments or to request a copy of the draft of Small Group Ministry goals for 2017-2018. Ask us about being involved on the Small Group Ministry Committee.

Linda Findlay (linda.findlay@gmail.com),
207-377-8028

Helen Zidowecki (hzmre@hzmre.com)
207-582-5308

More Thanks Are Due...

At the annual meeting thanks were offered to some who have contributed a particular skill or effort to UCC over the years. There were omissions to these thanks. We continue those thanks here. To Doug Rooks, thank you for the many roles you have taken at UCC. You have been instrumental in updating the bylaws, being a board member, being the board president for 2 years, establishing the finance committee, and being the chair for the Leadership Development Committee. For all these efforts we thank you.

To Janine Bonk, thank you for your contributions to UCC. Janine was a member on the long range planning committee which looked at the future of UCC and needed physical structure issues for the church and additional spaces. Then for the last two years Janine has been the treasurer of UCC. During her tenure she moved to reestablish accrual book keeping, provide detailed monthly reports and work as an active member of the finance committee. Thank you Janine.

And thank you to Sheila Comerford for the many years of service as the newsletter formatter. Each month Sheila has prepared this form of communication for all the members and friends of UCC. This current edition is to be Sheila's last. Say thank you to her if you see her.

Along with Sheila thanks go to several who have been proofreaders for the newsletter: Nancee Campbell, Janet Sawyer, and Becky Harvey. Without them, our reading pleasure would have been diminished. Thank you all for the time and focus you have spent to improve our reading experience!

Martha Naber



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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 a word attachment, please! Photos of church activities welcome!

Deadline: July 17. Anything received after this date may not be able to be published.

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 as part of a sabbatical project. When you get a minute visit the site and subscribe to future posts.