



The Flaming Chalice

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

September 2017

Monthly Theme

The First Principle of Unitarian Universalism

*We covenant to affirm and promote
The Inherent worth and dignity of every human being.*

Sunday Worship

September 3rd

LAST Service at 10:00 a.m.

Consilience: Science & Mystery

Dylan Voorhees

Explore how a scientific view of the universe and nature does not conflict with, but indeed can deepen our spiritual appreciation of the world and life around us. Science is *about* having a sense of wonder, and we can use this become more compassionate too.

September 10th

RETURN TO TWO SERVICES AT 9:15 & 11:00

In Gathering Sunday

Rev. Carie Johnsen

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

In-gathering Sunday is a long-standing Unitarian Universalism tradition wherein members and friends bring a small vial of water from the places of their lives. The water is gathered in a communal bowl and blessed. This ritual symbolizes the diversity and unity of our gathered community.

September 17th

Trees and Other Beings

Rev. Carie Johnsen

The First Principle Project asks: What if our first principle was the inherent worth and dignity of *every being*. How might the recognition that worth and dignity extend beyond our human boundary change your perspective of yourself, others, and your actions? How could we nourish our spirits and heal our world with this change?

September 24th

Self, Self, Self

Rev. Carie Johnsen

Sometimes it is all about self: self-discovery, self-care, self-worth, self-dignity. Living true to one's self in a sea of expectations requires a bit of self-centeredness and whole lot of self-love.

A faith journey....

Ever so grateful for the summer worship teams, hospitality coordinators and congregants who keep the spiritual life of our community nourished during the summer, we will once again arrive in the sanctuary for In Gathering Sunday with UUCS spirit flourishing.

I have returned from my summer vacation, travels with the mid-Maine yoUth and a weeklong workshop on storytelling. The staff has begun returning to the rhythms of church life. Bridget has choir music selected; the choir is practicing for the annual water communion. Brigid is developing curriculum for our children. Monique is beginning to think about youth programming including OWL (Our Whole Lives – A Faith and Sexuality Curriculum). And of course, Lynn has been here all summer long keeping the gears of church life moving smoothly and expanding her hours to include financial administrative responsibilities. It is an exciting time on the corner of Winthrop and Summer.

I am so excited to be launching into our new theme: Unitarian Universalist Identity/Principles on **Friday, September 8th with our first Faith Café**. We anticipate a large multigenerational gathering of members and friends joining together to explore the meaning of this faith through food, fellowship, and FUN. This month we will celebrate our Flaming Chalice, the symbol of Unitarian Universalism, through story, dramatic presentations, chalice craft, and creative writing.

On **Saturday, September 9th our annual leadership retreat** makes real the covenant of shared ministry as the board, committee chairs, lay leaders and minister come together to imagine a future where our faith values are animated by a vibrant and thriving congregational life.

Sunday, September 10th is In Gathering Sunday. Our annual water communion celebrates the diversity and unity of our beloved community. With this ritual we will kick-off our 2017-18 worship year with the first principle: *the inherent worth and dignity of every person*.

Our first principle is by my estimation one of the hardest principles to adopt, affirm, and promote on a daily basis. This principle calls upon us to recognize every single person as worthy of respect and dignity. Yes, this includes those who by all appearances and evidence seem to have evil and hate in their heart. This doesn't mean we accept unjust values, hate and intolerance. Our first principle, does however, ask us to consider the person worthy even when their actions might incite us to do otherwise. Not all Unitarian Universalists find their way to affirming and promoting this core principle. Some in fact, see evil as alive and real; and rather than adopt the first principle they push back on the idea of inherent worth and dignity.

As we move through the month, I invite you to walk with this principle and bear witness to the tensions that emerge for you. Dive deep beneath the surface. Examine what is being stirred within you. Reject the quick impulse to write someone off as bad or evil. Take the time to reflect quietly, in writing, through the arts. Hold up a mirror and humbly examine where your humanity (good and bad) meets theirs. Lean in curiously. Find a fellow Unitarian Universalist or like-minded friend to share your struggle and your revelations.

I close with this practice of *metta* to center your days.

May all beings be peaceful.

May all beings be happy.

May all beings be safe.

May all beings awaken to the light of their true nature.

May all beings be free.

In faith, Rev. Carie

From the President

As I was composing this message I had a list of items I wanted to share with you all. Some were Thank Yous, Some of them were Pleases. A rhyme I remember from my kindergarten days came to mind: Thank you and please, thank you and please, there are no nicer words than these. They open doors and bring surprises....(that is all I remember!). So this message is about Thank you and Please.

Thank you.....

- **To all the members and friends of UUCC, thank you for sharing your financial resources with the church. During the church year 2016-2017 we achieved a 99% pledge payment!** Thank you to the stewardship committee members for the follow up phone calling they did to help remind people about their pledge balances.
- **We ended the 2016-2017 year with a balance in the black for the budget!** At the board meeting on August 17 we voted to take \$2500.00 of this positive balance and send this to the UU Association to pay toward our outstanding balance of \$5000.00+ for dues.
- **To all who have the financial resources, we offer you an opportunity to pay all or a portion of the \$79.00 per person dues UUCC pays to the UUA on your behalf.** UUCC will process this for you and add it to the church revenues to pay toward our dues for 2017-2018. We hope to raise over \$7,000 in this manner to be able to pay our dues in full for this church year. All board members have pledged to pay their dues toward this balance. These dues pay for district UU functions and brings services to our church for programming, training and consultation at no cost to UUCC.

NOW Please...

- **Come to the first Faith Café to be held on Sept. 8 from 5-8 PM.** We are exploring the chalice as a symbol of the UU church. We will be singing, eating, creating, and mingling with all ages. These were activities desired by many at the RE retreat last Feb.
- **Come to the Leadership Retreat on Sat. Sept. 9 from 2-8 PM** if you are a committee chair, a board member, or someone who would like to be part of a conversation about how we organize ourselves to do the work of UUCC.
- **Come to the ingathering church worship service at 9:15 or 11:00 am on Sunday Sept. 10.**
- **Greet each other warmly as we gather ourselves together.** There have been many new faces join us over the summer. Extend that UUCC welcome to them as you meet them in Sept.!

Please and thank you to you all! I look forward to seeing you all on Sept. 8, 9, and 10! Or any time in the coming church year.

Martha Naber, UUCC Board President

BOOKS FOR SERIOUS READERS is coming back!

You are invited to join us anytime we are reading something that you would like to discuss. We meet in Fellowship Hall on the first Thursday of the month from 12:30 until 2:30 between October and June. (We do take December off.)

Our first selection for October 5th is **A Book of American Martyrs** by Joyce Carol Oates. We will be diving into a fictional exploration of the culture wars that occupy so much of our public discourse. On November 2nd we will explore Homo Deus by Yuval Noah Harari. He sounds a warning about the implications of technology for humanity and humanness. More information about this group will be available in the Adult Enrichment Guide coming soon.

FMI: June Zellers at zellers@roadrunner.com 582-5862 or
Kathy Kellison kell6787@gmail.com or 445-4415.

GODDESS/EARTH CIRCLES September 2017

From the First Harvest service on Sunday, August 20,
May the seeds of potential and possibilities, and
the patience and discernment that comes with tending and caring
be with us as we harvest things at various ages and stages of our lives.
The next Harvest celebration comes at Samhain (Halloween), and the third at Thanksgiving.

Please join us on **Sunday, September 24**, 12:15pm-2pm in the Fellowship Hall to explore the concept of *Women and Wisdom*. How do we acknowledge our own wisdom? What is or can be the role of wisdom of women in this time? For adults and older youth, all genders are welcome. Session will be facilitated by Judy Galland, Kay Fritz, Susan Shaw, and Mary Shifman.

We will also be planning for the **Women of Wisdom Luncheon on Sunday, October 29**. The Women of Wisdom celebration comes from "crowning". The word crone is derived from the word cronus (time) and it means the wisdom gained through life experiences. Twenty-one women have been 'crowned' or recognized over the years at UUCC, by their own choice. We invite older women in the congregation to reflect on how you acknowledge your own wisdom and how you share your wisdom. For more information about Goddess/Earth Circles and about becoming a Woman of Wisdom, and join us on September 24!

Cakes for the Queen of Heaven, a UU feminist theaology curriculum, is being offered through Maranacook Adult Education, Thursdays, 6:30-8pm, October 6 through November 2. Explores cultures to address questions: Did our ancestors once revere a Divine Female? Did women once share power and respect equally with men? Were some early civilizations peaceful? What difference does the gender of a deity have on empowerment of women? Sessions include readings, ritual, singing, stories. If you have taken the course and are interested in co-leading one of more of the five sessions, contact Helen Zidowecki. course
Questions? Contact adulted@maranacook.org or 207-685-4923 x1065.

-----Helen Zidowecki

Small Group Ministry

Small Group Ministry has taken a different pace during the summer, with some groups continuing their usual schedule, some decreasing meetings or having different types of activities together. As we move into the fall routine, we invite you to be actively involved with Small Group Ministry this year.

At the Appreciation Breakfast of SGM leaders in June, we considered the theme of Moving Forward. Small Group Ministry is in a time of transition and visioning, along with the congregation as a whole. SGM group leaders are invited to a retreat on Saturday, September 30, 9:00-Noon in the Fellowship Hall. We invite others who are interested in becoming more involved with SGM to attend.

More information about the Retreat will be sent to SGM Group leaders, to congregational leadership, and to others who express interest.

Please contact Linda Findlay or Helen Zidowecki with your comments or to request a copy of the draft 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

Rev. Carie's NEW Office Hours:

Monday off
Tuesday 1:00 – 6:00
Wednesday 2:00 – 6:00
Thursday Writing Day
Other times and days available by appointment.

Monday 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.

She will return your call as soon as possible.



UCC CHOIR IS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS!

The UCC choir is looking for new members, the more the merrier! **All levels welcome, reading music is NOT required.** Come and share your voice with our UCC community. We have some wonderful music planned for the 2017-2018 season, including several collaborations with our orchestra.

Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 6pm to 8pm, in the sanctuary.

All are welcome, join us!

Please contact Bridget Convey at: musicdirector@augustauu.org

“Music gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything” --Plato

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 (See notice on next page). 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 held on 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 Cafés** continue to develop.



WE ARE ANTICIPATING YOUR ATTENDANCE AT OUR MONTHLY

Faith Café

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST COMMUNITY CHURCH OF AUGUSTA

Friday, September 8, 2017

5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

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.

RSVP at admin@augustauu.org or 207-622-3232

Faith Café #1 Update

The first Faith Café at UUCC is planned for Sept. 8 from 5:00-8:00 PM.

The Wisdom Weavers have met this summer to work on the details of this pilot program at UUCC.

All ages are encouraged to join the group!

Due to several factors the chalice creation projects have needed to be changed due to finances and time. We will not be using clay at this first Café, but a variety of other art forms. We are excited about the options we will be offering to all.

SO

1. Please put this fun community event on your calendars
2. Plan the picnic supper you will bring for yourself and your family and/or friends
3. Call the office (622-3232 to RSVP so we will have enough desserts and beverages!
4. Arrive at UUCC by 5:00 to gather in community to explore the chalice as the symbol of the UU faith, its history and its meaning today.

See you there!

COMMUNICATIONS CORNER

As the new church year starts, we note changes in the church calendar on the website (On Home Page, see Calendar and Communications).

The location code for the event listed is given on this page and used in the calendar notations themselves, in the Weekly Bulletin and in the Sunday Announcements. We include both events held in the church buildings and those related to the church but held in other locations, designated by OP for "Off Premises". This gives a broader picture of church-related activities.

We have also changed the format of the calendar. The formats available for viewing and printing the calendar are noted at the upper right of the calendar (Week, Month, Agenda). You can select the click on the one that you prefer. Previously the default, or format that appeared when the calendar came up, was by Week. By Week and by Month are crowded formats. The default has been changed and the format that now appears is "Agenda," or a listing by date, with a line for each event. The Agenda format quickly provides information of where events are being held using the location codes, and a picture of other events in the church buildings at the same time.

On any of these formats (Month, Week, Agenda), more information is available by clicking on the specific event. The more information that is given to the Administrator, the more is available to the church community for planning, publicity and outreach. Your comments on the change in default are welcome.

Please leave comments and questions for the Work Group in the Communications Mail Box in the Committee Room or contact Lynn Smith, Administrator (admin@augustauu.org or 207-622-3232).

NEW PARKING ARRANGEMENTS

In general, parking for UUCC events is on the street. Arrangements with neighboring businesses for after business hours HAS CHANGED. Please note new parking arrangements are in place for areas that we have been using for several years.

Parking is NO LONGER available AT ANY TIME:

66 Winthrop Street, directly across from the church, is now a residential rather than business facility. No parking at any time.

Parking IS available after 5pm Monday-Friday and on Saturdays and Sundays at:

73 Winthrop Street, (Primary Care Association), next to Judd House

61 Winthrop Street (Bingham Program and ME Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, across Summer St. from church)

We appreciate the arrangements that we have had with these businesses over the years. Thank you for your attention to these changes.

INTRODUCING... our NEW newsletter editors

Roxanne Reed and Bill Byrne have accepted the role of newsletter editors of monthly "The Flaming Chalice. Bill and Roxanne were married on January 1, 2011 and formerly resided in Pinellas County, Florida. After retirement, they moved back to this area to be closer to family members in May of 2016. Having varied work experiences and spiritual leanings, Bill and Roxanne found the UUCC to be a wonderful place to learn and practice living. .Roxanne and Bill became UUCC members in June 2017. Welcome!

Update from the Naber Household

Martha and Don Naber have finally moved to Westbrook for their retirement living! We would welcome you to our guest room if anyone needs an overnight before traveling out of Portland. Yes, we will continue to attend and participate in UUCC, the church community to which we feel very connected. See you there.

New address: 73 Pennell St. Westbrook 04092

Mailing address: P.O. Box 124 Westbrook 04098

New landline: (207)887-1104

New email: naber@gwi.net

***Unitarian Universalist Community Church
P.O. Box 8
Augusta, Maine 04332-0008***

Newsletter Submissions

Submission Deadline for OCTOBER newsletter: September 18th.
Submissions received after this date may not be able to be published.

Please submit all articles as an attachment in a Word document using Arial font size 11. Don't forget to give your article a title and sign it. Send an email to newsletter@augustauu.org with the article as a word attachment! ***Photos of church activities welcome! *** You will receive a confirmation e-mail of receipt of your submission.

Minister: Reverend Carie Johnsen

Board President: Martha Naber

Sunday Morning RE Coordinator: Brigid Chapin

Youth Advisor: Monique McAuliffe

Choir Director: Bridget Convey

Contact information for Committee chairs and other leaders can be found in the UUCC directory or obtained by contacting the Office Administrator.

Office Administrator: Lynn Smith
Phone: (207)622-3232 or email: admin@augustauu.org

Office hours: 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. (Tues, Wed & Thurs)
No office hours: Monday or Friday

Reverend Carie's office hours:

Tuesday 1-6 pm and Wed 2-6 pm and by appointment

Monday is Rev, Carie's Sabbath. She does not attend to e-mails, phone calls or meetings.

For Pastoral Emergencies please call Rev. Carie on her cell phone (508) 221-5295 and she will return your call as soon as possible.

Social Media links: Professional Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/revcarie.johnsen>

** 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