



The Flaming Chalice

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

November 2017

Sunday Worship Services at 9:15 & 11:00

November Theme

*We, the member congregations of the
Unitarian Universalist Association,
covenant to affirm and promote:*

***Acceptance of one another and encouragement
to spiritual growth in our congregations.***

November Services

November 5th

Acceptance

Rev. Carie Johnsen

In this service we will explore ways in which we live out and achieve the call to *acceptance of one another*. Not to worry, we will also examine what to do when we can't quite find our way.

November 12th

Christ for Unitarian Universalists

Rev. Carie Johnsen
Peter Mendall, Sr.

Christ for Unitarian Universalists by Scotty McLennan "is a clarion call for UUs—the vast majority of whom don't identify as Christian—to engage in dialogue with the more than seventy percent of Americans who do so identify." Please join Rev. Carie and Peter as they explore their relationship with Jesus and Christianity.

November 19th

"Harvesting Souls"

Our annual Harvest Communion service is a time to pause in gratitude for all that is our life. With the symbolism of cider and pumpkin bread, we partake in the story of community, abundance, and interdependence.

November 26th

Priming the Pump, Encouraging Growth, Building Community

Peter Mendall, Sr.

It takes faith to prime a pump. To get a water pump to start working, you first have to sacrifice water to "prime the pump." Encouraging growth in oneself as well as in the community, requires first 'giving up' something, relinquishing something; investing something; committing something to the cause. Even if it's the last ounce of water you've got to sacrifice and pour it into the pump to get the reservoir of water back out.

A Faith Journey...

We are a welcoming faith. Unitarian Universalism doesn't just open its doors to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities—we value diversity of sexuality and gender and see this diversity as a profound spiritual gift.

We affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Sexual orientation and gender expression is a central part of who we are—being true to ourselves and honoring each other's truth is a spiritual imperative.

It has come to my attention the September service titled “Self, Self, Self” left more than a few people confused. If you attended the service you will recall we offered, among other things, a reflection on sexual orientation and gender identity. We closed our time together with an invitation for members and friends to add a pronoun tag to their nametags.

In our zeal to cultivate an awareness of gender inclusive language, it seems we skipped a few steps. We left out some foundational information. To begin with we failed to name why we would ask a congregation to identify their preferred pronouns.



Being a welcoming and inclusive community means consciously working to find ways to name, honor, and value experiences and identities that are usually minimized or devalued. It means uncovering our unconscious assumptions about what's “normal” and who is present in our community, and opening ourselves to the possibility of greater diversity. In order for us each to feel welcome and included in faith communities, we need to see ourselves reflected and present in some way.

Increasing the inclusiveness of our language means striving to understand the ways that language often unconsciously makes assumptions about people and unintentionally reinforces dominant norms around gender, sexual orientation, race, class, ability/disability, age, and other identities ...

We are no longer living in a gender binary (male/female) world. In truth we never really have. As we strive to become a community where all gender expressions are valued, respected, and honored, the shift to inclusive language is just one small step. For some it is an awkward step. For others it is a familiar and welcome. For still others it is long overdue. Wherever you are at in this transition to use gender inclusive language, I offer you these insights from the UUA to guide your transition.

- **Understand the difference between sexual orientation (the pattern of a person's sexual attraction) and gender identity (the internal sense of being a man, a woman, neither of these or both).**
- **Avoid making assumptions about another person's gender identity or sexual orientation.**
- **Use words that encompass all genders rather than only two.** For example, “people of all genders” instead of “women and men”; “children” instead of “boys and girls”; “siblings” or “kindred” instead of “brothers and sisters.”
- **Use language that reflects what people call themselves.** Respect a person's identities, chosen name and pronouns. A practice of mindfulness (slowing down your speech and thinking before engaging) is helpful in the transition to new more inclusive language.

- **Identify you pronouns.** Add them to your nametags. Be part of a wider cultural shift. When checking in at meetings ask people to identify their pronouns. Practice offering your own pronouns when you meet new people.

For additional information and educational resources, check out <https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/identity/transgender> and <https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming/ways/200008.shtml>.

In faith, Rev. Carie Johnsen
Pronouns: she, her, hers

Book Discussion Group

Christ for Unitarian Universalists by Scotty McLennan

Facilitators: Rev. Carie Johnsen and Peter Mendall, Sr.

Discussion Group will meet on TUESDAYS:

TWO OPTIONS: Afternoons 2:00 – 4:00 OR Evenings 6:00 – 8:00

November 28th December 19th, January 9th, January 23rd, February 20th, March 13th, April 3rd

Overview

Christ for Unitarian Universalists is a clarion call for UUs—the vast majority of whom don't identify as Christian—to engage in dialogue with the more than seventy percent of Americans who do so identify. Our tradition has significant continuity with this great historical religion, although that's often overlooked these days. We also have some ideas about how to enhance the practice and experience of Christianity that traditional Christians today might find compelling.

An adult religious education series on *Christ for Unitarian Universalists* might have any of these goals: 1) to increase religious literacy about Christianity to help us participate fully in the social, political, and economic life of a nation and world where this religion matters; 2) to understand where Christianity fits within Unitarian Universalism; 3) to elucidate ways that Unitarian Universalist interpretations of the Bible and of Christian history and practice might enrich modern Christianity; 4) to help us talk intelligently with our Christian friends; 5) to envision new ways to engage effectively with Christians in social justice work; 6) to deepen our own personal spiritual lives.

Sign up for discussion group at admin@augustauu.org or 207-622-3232. Please state your availability or preference for Tuesday afternoon or evening class. Let us know if childcare is needed.

UUC Common Book Read

Waking Up White by Debra Irving

In *Waking Up White*, Irving tells her often cringe-worthy story with such openness that readers will turn every page rooting for her – and ultimately for all of us. We plan to meet Nov 2017 – April 2018.

Two Options: Mondays (beginning Nov. 13th) from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. OR Sundays (beginning Nov. 19th) from 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. Brown bag lunch welcome. For more information and to sign up email Michaela Loisel at Michaelatloisel@gmail.com

UUC Board President's Message November 2017

Have you noticed any gaps at UUC this fall? Have you heard several announcements about unmet needs? Have you thought about what you can add to UUC to keep it operating smoothly? I want to review some of the possibilities for you to consider..... If you are interested, please contact the person listed with each opportunity, or me and I will steer you in the correct direction to become involved. And thank you.

GREETING

This task is how you could welcome all who enter the church doors. A smiling face, and open hand for a handshake, and a bulletin can reduce the anxiety of a newcomer about coming to UUC. A few words of introduction can help them feel more comfortable. Once the service starts you count how many are present and then at the end of the service you count the offering and tidy up the sanctuary for the next service or the week coming up. With the two services you have a choice of which one to be a greeter and how often you wish to do this service. **Contact Noah Gottlieb.**

NURSERY CARE

This means playing with the youngest of our church people for an hour during the service. You can volunteer for first or second service during which you will read books, build towers to be knocked down, have imaginary tea parties, toss balls to each other, and have great conversations. Just last week a young one learned to catch a ball tossed to her. What a smile of accomplishment I was a witness to. You will not be alone as there are always two in the nursery, one who is youth in the church. This is an opportunity to get to know him/her/they better. **Contact Brigid Chapin.**

HOSPITALITY FOR COFFEE HOUR

Coffee hour is a time of developing community with others at UUC. It is a time to welcome and get to know new people. Maybe you will sit and chat with someone you have never had a conversation with. Do you have a special person/day in your life you would like to honor? Maybe it is an anniversary, a birthday, a retirement. The yearlong calendar allows you to sign up months in advance to set up and offer snacks for coffee hour. If you are a member of a small group or of a committee there are Sundays indicated on the calendar for these groups to provide hospitality. Be sure to contribute to your group's task. There are people who can teach you how to use the coffee maker and the dishwasher, so please don't feel shy about asking for help. **Contact Jill Watson.**

BUILDING AND GROUNDS- MAINTENANCE OF THE CHURCH CAMPUS

UUC is committed to having safe, well maintained to offer for worship, study, social and community events, and for all ages. The three properties, the church, Judd House, and Drew House, needs lots of loving care to be used by all of us at UUC. The buildings and grounds committee can always use more hands to clean, mow, shovel, rake, repair, and build. A new member came forward to repair the toilet in Drew House so the history room would not be flooded and toilet facilities would be available. Nov. 4 is the next raking day, so you could join the group then! **Contact Bill Allen or Marilyn Dunn.**

Increase your involvement at UUC and help fill in some of these gaps. You will help the church and may meet new friends, build community and make an invaluable contribution to UUC.

**With gratitude,
Martha Naber, President UUC Board of Trustees**

UUCC Movie Screening

“Africa’s Great Civilizations” (Part One)

November 3, 2017 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall

PBS Documentary hosted by Henry Lois Gates, Jr. takes a look at the history of Africa, from the birth of humankind to the dawn of the 20th century.

Bring a brown bag meal. Beverages & dessert provided.

For more information please contact Annie Nessen Voorhees annabelle.voo@gmail.com.

Books for Serious Readers

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.) We will meet on November 2nd to discuss Homo Deus by Yuval Noah Harari. This is a book about moral values, what it means to be human and the impact our relationship with technology could have on humanity. It should give us all pause to think about what we want for our future. . **We will not meet in December.**

Our book for January is The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead which won the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for literature. The New York Times says of this book: “In recounting Cora’s story, Mr. Whitehead communicates the horrors of slavery and its toxic legacy rumbling on down the years. At the same time, he memorializes the yearning for freedom that spurs one generation after another to persevere in the search for justice — despite threats and intimidation, despite reversals and efforts to turn back the clock. He has told a story essential to our understanding of the American past and the American present.”

More information, contact June Zellers at jzellers@roadrunner.com 582-5862 or Kathy Kellison kell6787@gmail.com or 445-4415.

Hannaford card reminder:

It's easy to buy smaller denomination Hannaford cards to give to family and friends for birthdays or holidays. Before the third week of October, or before the third week of November, give me, or Heather Lyon, your check to the UUCC and tell us your order (how many cards you want and at what amounts).

After your check clears, on the fourth week of each month, I will reload your new cards when I submit our regular monthly reload order. It takes pre-planning, but there is no minimum dollar amount per card, or per order. **Please help us reach our fundraising goal.**

Catherine Palmer, Cell: 207.458.7384

****Please mark your calendars Saturday November 4th**

LEAF Raking will begin***

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

Where do you find out about Small Group Ministry (at SGM) at UUCC?

One of the goals of Small Group Ministry for this year is increasing visibility and inviting more of the congregation to be involved in numerous ways.

Hope that you have noticed these and other ways of making SGM more visible within UUCC.

1. Participated in or attended the service on October 29, 2017.
2. Read SGM articles in the Newsletter. These articles, written by group members, SGM Committee, and others who are involved with SGM in any way, will cover a number of aspects of Small Group Ministry, from group activities, service projects, to specific topics that groups have used.
3. Noticed the SGM group meeting in the Announcements and calendar. This shows the variety of arrangements for the groups that meet regularly. Consider joining a group at a time that is convenient for you – or maybe joining a new group.
4. Visited a SGM table during Fellowship Hour. This will be available about monthly.
5. Saw the card on the table announcing that Fellowship Hour is sponsored by SGM. Ask any of the servers about their group.
6. Noticed the SGM display in the case in the hallway
7. Talked with a person who has a SGM sticker on a name tag.
8. Read the 25th Anniversary insert in the Order of Service on October 15
9. Read about SGM in the Program Book in the pews.
10. Visited the SGM section of the UUCC website.
11. Read the SGM Handbook. (Look especially for the 2017 revision)
12. Participated in service projects from groups.

Other ways that you have seen SGM at UUCC?

Keep looking! And ask how you can be involved.

Please contact Michael Conley for information about Small Group Ministry at estherpearl67@gmail.com, or 446-4788, or leave a message in the Small Group Ministry mail tray in the Committee Room.



UUCC 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 our UUCC 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

Ministerial Fellowship Committee

As we enter into this season of harvest and thanksgiving, I have much to be thankful for. This past September I completed a year-long chaplain residency at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH). On September 1st, my peer group of five and I graduated from the program with all the necessary clinical training needed to be board certified as chaplains. Over the course of the year we saw thousands of patients, created thoughtful services for staff, and supported one another. The theme of our service was, "The Good Goodbye," focusing on the importance of forgiveness, gratitude, and love. At the service, I shared this short reflection on love:

"This year I have been transformed by the love I have witnessed, the love I have received, and the love I have discovered within myself.

One day, I stood with a woman after she had learned that her husband would die in the ICU. "Tell me about your husband?" I asked. She began to cry, walked to the corner of the room, and gestured to her brother. He began to tell stories about her husband. Sooner than I had expected, the patient's wife returned to his bedside. She told me the story of how they fell in love, their travels around the world, and their children. She told me he had a beautiful Scottish accent and that he loved to play pranks on their nieces and nephews. Before long, we were all laughing. "Isn't it amazing," I said, "that even now he is making you laugh." Isn't it amazing that love (mine for her and her's for her husband) could transform a moment of unbearable despair into a moment of sincere gratitude and connection?

This year, I have felt love for the MGH community that has surprised me and leaves me filled with gratitude. This is a place where love is necessary and where love is unavoidable."

Saying goodbye to my peers, my colleagues, my clinical teams, and my patients was hard. Saying goodbye to the work I have come to love was even harder. It made me realize how much my experience as a chaplain resident has confirmed my call to this particular form of ministry. Was it really over? Did I really have to leave?

No! To my great joy, soon after graduation I received a full-time job offer at MGH. As of October 2nd, I am the new staff chaplain serving the inpatient psychiatry service and the respiratory acute care unit. I am so grateful to be able to continue my career as a hospital chaplain and I am so grateful for the ways that all of you at UUCCA have supported me on this journey!

Erica Rose Long attended Children's Religious Education at UUCCA and is sponsored for ministerial fellowship by this congregation. She will go before the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Association to present herself as a candidate for fellowshipped Unitarian Universalist ministry the first weekend of December.

The Supper Times

October 7, 2017

Jenny Mckendry, reporter and Chief non-cook and bottle washer

from the U-U Community Church

On Saturday, Oct 7th we served the last public supper from the former St. Mark's Parish hall, the site we've been using for years. We are seeking an alternate site for upcoming suppers and will send out notice of the change when the time comes; we're contacting other local churches that serve public suppers. The St. Mark's Episcopal church served suppers for around 15-20 years. The Unitarian-Universalist Community church joined them in recent years.

Thank you to all of the dedicated volunteers who came out, including both regulars and new people, who give hours of their time to help. Thank you to co-leader Carlene Kaler for arrangements made to support the supper. The crew was made up of Keith Priest (tireless Head cook) and Heather Priest, Catherine Palmer, Becky Harvey, Liz, Corrina and Mike Johnson, Jenny McKendry, Phyllis Clark, Karen Neilson, Cheryl Clukey, Cyndy Gyorgy, two of the three member Jorgenson dish washing team, Ida Gammon, Tom and a group of young students earning high school community service hours including Patricia Slaughter. Thanks to many bakers who contributed: Cyndy George, Deb Sewall, Ida Gammon, Liz Johnson and more. Forgive me for losing track. I'd forgotten to ask for baked goods, but they came in by the dozens! Thank you Catherine P. for the grocery run. Thank you Bill Allen for bringing tasty apples and willing hands! Thanks Mike J. for the ice run. We come from a variety of churches, the UU community church, Emmanuel (Prince of Peace/ St. Mark's Episcopal) other churches and some are not affiliated with any church. I apologize if I've forgotten anyone.

We served at least 125-135 meals including, first, second servings and take-home meals. Why do we do this? We see a need in the community to help counter loneliness and food insecurity, build community and health. Why else, so we can solve the noise of a disposal that won't turn off, the myriad cans of tuna that turn out to be mostly chicken (we were making tuna casserole), help the people with mobility, health, emotional challenges, support each other through surgeries, lack of sleep, neuroses and so important.....laugh with each other about it all.

Tune-in soon for the next installment of *The Supper Times*.

**Peaceful Heart Sangha
Every Monday 6:30 – 8 at UUC
in the sanctuary
Newcomers are always welcome!**

Please contact us if you have questions:

Peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com or martysoule@gmail.com or 685-9270

An introduction to meditation can be arranged at your request.

NEWSLETTER: GODDESS/EARTH CIRCLES November 2017

Goddess/Earth Circles will meet on November 26, 12:15-2pm. The focus will be on moving toward the impact of winter and planning a Winter Solstice service for December 24.



In addition, we will be looking at the programs for the New Year. Sessions around several goddesses will be scheduled, specifically Laksmi, Yemaya (and dreams), Lilith, Hekate
There may be some other ideas for Spring, such as Cakes for the Queen of Heaven.

Contact: Helen Zidowecki (hzmre@hzmre.com. 582-5308)

Elder Lunch at Noon November 12

Elder lunch is the second Sunday of each month October through May. This event has grown in popularity and 35-40 of our elders enjoy lunch and conversation. Plan to relax and socialize with your friends after the second service. Menu always includes breads, salad, entree and dessert. Church elder lunch is not exclusive to Senior Citizens – we have regular attendees in their 40s and 50s too so please self-select and join us.

Each event requires two large salads, 4 entrees choices, and plates of finger desserts. Could you cook an eight portion casserole, quiche or soup for the Elder Lunch just once this year? Or are you willing to cook a finger food desert like cookies, brownies or bars? Or would you be willing to bring a large green salad or cole slaw? If you aren't a cook, would you be willing to help setup,serve or clear? Please call Marilyn Dunn to schedule your contribution 512-5382

Project (CANMP)

The Capital Area New Mainers Project (CANMP) is a cross-cultural organization that welcomes immigrants and works to create a thriving, integrated, multicultural community in central Maine. UUCC was a founding member of CANMP and supports a Mentor Team to help a primary refugee family adjust to their new life in Augusta.

CANMP needs more volunteers to drive, tutor, plan events and join family mentor teams. It is exciting to get to know and learn from Maine's newest members. And there are many different small and large ways to help. FMI contact: Mary Simpson, leader of UUCC mentor team (mary.simpson753@gmail.com); Chris Myers Asch, CANMP Director (newmainersproject@gmail.com); or Reverend Carie Johnsen (minister@augustauu.org). See CANMP website at: <https://www.newmainersproject.org/>

We make friends. And we also make strangers.

I have never been a stranger
Because of stranger danger
And privilege
means never having to be a stranger

Everywhere I've lived, I have lived as if I
belonged
Everywhere I've lived, I had a role, good or bad,
-- I've been the father, and the son, and the
other
The bully and the bullied, the learner and the
ignorant,
The hero and villain, the brave and the craven
The minister, the congregant, the heretic –
I've always had a place
Where ever I've been, I've always had a place
in the story.

And with privilege, even if you play the stranger
in the story, you are not a stranger

Tolstoy said there are only two stories, either
one of us goes on a journey,
Or a stranger comes to town.
So to you, I may have been a stranger, at
some point, but to me, no
I am never new to a place. I carry my place
with me.
I've carried it in New Jersey, Arkansas,
Minnesota, and Maine ...

If you carry your place with you, if you carry
your home on your back
There are no new places
If you always bring with you your role in the
story
There are no new stories
Or if there are

They are catastrophes
Because any new story – any story in which
you were a stranger
Would be a story of lost privilege

My uncle used to say about our family,
“A Chapin doesn't stand in the doorway. A
Chapin walks in the room!”

No strangers, the Chapins. We are a fortunate,
privileged crew.

Here's the problem:
If you carry your place with you
If you carry your home on your back
If you carry your shelter
If you are sheltered
You don't avoid just being the stranger
You don't avoid estrangement
You avoid knowing the stranger
You are making strangers

If you are someone who just walks in the room
If you are someone who has that permission
You take that permission as a virtue
As a virtue that is both inherent
And somehow deserved.
You wonder about people who don't have that
permission
Are they shy, timorous, weak, frightened
Suspect
Do they lack virtue?
Yeah. That must be it.

So we close the door on them
And continue to point out that Chapins don't
stand in the doorway
We walk in the room
And what is wrong with those people?
What is wrong with those strangers?

On Sunday, October 15th, many of us attended a presentation on the history of *Malaga Island* given by Kate McBrien and organized by Cheryl Clukey. It was extremely interesting and very powerful. Some of you may be interested in a play at the Theater Project in Brunswick based on this theme. It is called *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy* and will be held from November 9th through November 12th. All performances are at 7:30 except for the Sunday matinee which is at 2:00. Ticket prices range from \$12 to \$25 and can be purchased over the internet thetheaterproject@mac.com. The Theater Project is located at [14 School Street](#) in Brunswick. The phone number is 729-8584.

Fourth Monday Children/Youth Mindfulness Practice Group
November 27th

Still Water Reflecting

Dear Friends,

On Monday evening, November 27, from 5:30 – 6:15 PM children, teens and adults interested in the Children/Youth Mindfulness Practice Group will meet in the Drew House at 6 Summer St, next door to UUC.

After our time together, childcare will be available in the nursery from 6:15 – 8:15 so that adults, older children & youth can take part in our mindfulness meditation group (6:30 - 8), if they want to do so.

Please let me know if you think you might be able to join us – to help with planning. Spur of the moment joining is fine too. Questions: contact me at martysoule@gmail.com or at 685-9270.

Be well,
Marty



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

Newsletter Submissions

Submission Deadline for December newsletter November 19th
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.–3:00 p.m. (Tues, Wed & Thurs)
No office hours: Monday or Friday

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.