

A faith journey...Leaders Abound!
An update on religious exploration

A few weeks ago I met with a small group of members, who also happen to be mothers committed to the religious education of the children in this community. We gathered to explore ways to keep our program vital and meaningful during this time of searching for a new religious exploration coordinator. We sat on the nursery floor and little people chairs as two children played around us. In less than two hours a brilliant plan emerged!

I am so grateful for everyone who steps up to be an integral part of our shared ministry! In community where everyone holds a little, a whole lot happens. As each person among us takes up a small task to hold, there emerges a generous joyful giving back to our faith community. It is, as we sing every Sunday, *from you I receive, to you I give.*

This update is to clearly delineate the various roles and responsibilities to which each of us has said, "Yes!" This update also includes an opportunity for each of you to be part of the religious exploration program at UCC by sharing your gifts and passions.

SUNDAY MORNING CLASSROOM Monique will staff the classroom most Sundays. She will recruit a volunteer to assist. Cathie Nielsen has volunteered to be in the classroom most Sundays. Together the two will provide valuable consistency for our families. We will work to plan a couple Sundays for Monique and Cathie to be off.

SUNDAY MORNING ACTIVITY Classroom activity is planned through March 25th. Sabrina Apczynski and Aimee O'Connor will coordinate the additional dates: April 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd (Earth Day), 29th, May 15th, 29th, and June 3rd. **UPDATE: This is your opportunity to step up and share your passions with our children. To get a date on the calendar contact Aimee aimay.oconnor@gmail.com and Sabrina theapczynskis@gmail.com**

Grade 8-9 OWL Classroom will be facilitated by Gary Chapin and Jani Clark with staff support and oversight from Monique McAuliffe, youth advisor. They will meet on Sunday's for 8 weeks in the minister's study from 9:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

NURSERY Christine Little will coordinate the nursery volunteers and teens. She will work with Lynn Smith to ensure the teens are paid monthly.

RE REGISTRATIONS Aimee and Sabrina will also ask families to complete their registrations. Completed forms can be mailed to the office P O Box 8, Augusta, ME 04332-0008, dropped by the office, given to Rev. Carie or Monique, or put in one of the safe deposit boxes (committee room or side door).

NEW FAMILY WELCOME Annie Voorhees and Christine Little will pay extra attention to new families arriving. They will welcome them on Sundays, invite them to sign the yellow guest card or the guest book, then follow-up with a phone call, text or email to offer a second welcome. They will help families to orient as needed upon return visits. They will ask families to register their children in the RE program on or around the third visit. Extra registration forms will be kept in classrooms as well as the RE box in the committee room.

WISDOM STORY Monique will continue to lead the wisdom story the first Sunday of the month. Rev. Carie will take up the work of coordinating the wisdom story with worship associates the remaining Sundays. Annie Voorhees has volunteered to lead wisdom story where others cannot.

LEADERSHIP Rev. Carie will take up the spiritual leadership and oversight of the RE program helping to keep conversations about the future of RE at UCC and the search for a new staff person moving forward.

Thank you to each and all for the many ways in which you create a beautiful, safe, and supportive environment for the youngest in our community to discover for themselves what matters most.

In faith, Rev. Carie Johnsen

UUCC President's Message

The March 2018 issue of *Down East* magazine arrived the other day. As I was still recovering from a horrid cold, I read much of it in one sitting.

There are several short articles with the overall heading of How We Live Here (Maine). The one that grabbed my thinking and UUCC at the same time is entitled: "How to Get Real About Money".

Here I quote from this article:

"I was starting to glimpse another, realer version of Maine, one I'd heard about in every conversation I'd had with a Mainer, the subject of money seemed to come up. At first, I was Victorian-horrified: "My dear, we do not speak of such matters." Money-not having enough of it, the struggle to reconcile the cost of living with actual wages, the various strategies to stretch it—was a regular topic of conversation with even the most casual acquaintances."

(Jillian Bedell, Page 61, Down East, March 2018)

February has been about our financial campaign. As we enter March, the door prizes will be drawn on the 4th and follow up activities will begin to increase the number of pledging units and total amount pledged toward the 2018-19 budget. Will we reach our goal of 110 pledge units and \$160,000? How will we craft a budget with less revenue from pledges if we do not reach these goals? How can we continue to offer the ministry you like and want at UUCC? Do we need to be more real about money at UUCC?

The author of the article goes on to say:

"Being real about Maine means acknowledging it can be hard to live here.

It is a choice we make actively every day.....Life here is a careful balance, one sustained through honesty, cooperation, and community.You will learn what it's like to be loved and you will learn what it means to be real."

(Jillian Bedell, Page 61, Down East, March 2018)

She was not talking about UUCC, but could this have been a better description of what we are about? Thank you, Jillian, for reminding us that WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT MONEY, AND THIS IS OK!! It is a Maine thing, and it can be a UUCC thing as well.

Sincerely,
Martha Naber, President
Board of Trustees, UUCC

P.S. Have you sent in your pledge for 2018-1019? Thank you for doing so.

MAINE INTERFAITH ADVOCACY DAYS

Lift Every Voice!

A two-day event designed to bring people of all faiths together in our state capital to worship, learn, and advocate effectively with Maine's legislators on the issues of immigration, poverty, health care, and climate justice.

Monday, March 19 - 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

South Parish Congregational Church

9 Church Street, Augusta

• Keynote by the Rev. Jim Gertmenian • Five (repeated) workshops with policy experts and faith leaders: Expanding Access to Health care - Child Poverty - the Opioid Crisis - Race and Immigration -Caring for the Environment • Panel Discussion: "Mobilizing Faith Voices and Faith Votes," will cover ways local congregations can support our democracy through voter registration and non-partisan voter education.

Tuesday, March 20 - 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Cross Office Building 11 Sewall Street, Augusta

Equipped with information and inspiration, participants will spend time at the State House in Augusta speaking directly with their Representatives and Senators about pending legislation. Grounded in our shared traditions of justice, peace, and the integrity of creation, we will strengthen our voices of faith and mobilize for action.

For more information and Registration visit www.tinyurl.com/AdvocacyDays2018

**\$20 registration includes buffet lunch (Monday),
lunch voucher for the Cross Cafe (Tuesday),
morning refreshments, and materials**

Sponsored by: Maine Council of Churches, Maine Episcopal Network for Justice, Preble Street Faith Action Network, and Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network (MUUSAN). Questions? John Hennessy at jhennessy@episcopalmaine.org or Jane Field at jfield@mainecouncilofchurches.org

ATTENTION NEWCOMERS AND VISITORS!

March Meet and Greet

You are invited to meet with the minister and some members of our community. We want to get to know you and we want you to get to know us and how our church works.

March 4 at 10:15 (*following the first service*) we will meet in Drew House at 6 Summer St.

March 18 at noon (*following the second service*) we will meet in Drew House at 6 Summer St.

We will introduce ourselves and answer questions you have about our church and Unitarian Universalism. We are an active congregation with many opportunities for connection, ministry and service. We want to help you find your place with us. Please join us for either one or both of these informal gatherings!

Conversations with Newcomers and Friends CONNECTION AND ENGAGEMENT

Tuesday, March 27th 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall
Unitarian Universalist Identity

Sacred Sexuality: A Journey of a Lifetime!
The Spirituality of Human Sexuality



Brown bag lunch encouraged. We will provide desserts, tea, and coffee.
Adults of all ages welcome. Attend one or more sessions.
The series is free and open to the public.

March 4, 2018
12:30 – 2:30
Body as Temple

The poet Jane Kenyon once wrote of “the long struggle to be at home in the body, this difficult friendship.” Who of us does not have intimate knowledge of how difficult this friendship can be?

Using the book Honoring the Body by Stephanie Paulsell, we will explore how *to celebrate the body’s pleasures, protect the body’s vulnerabilities, and develop the practices that will ultimately transform our troubled relationship with our bodies to one of honor and joy.*

March 18, 2018
12:30 – 2:30
SEXcessful Aging

Sexual expression is an essential part of our human journey. While sexuality evolves and changes as we age, it is present from birth to death. Our desire for closeness, intimacy and touch is an essential part of our very being.

In this session we will explore sexual health and well-being in later life. Guest speakers will join the conversation by bringing specialized knowledge and training to enrich our lives and deepen our sexual experiences throughout the aging

Sponsored by the Pastoral Ministry Team at Unitarian Universalist Community Church.
Please register for this event at ADMIN@AUGUSTAUU.ORG

BOOKS FOR SERIOUS READERS

BOOKS FOR SERIOUS READERS meets on March 1 from 1 until 2:30 in Fellowship Hall. Anyone who is interested is welcome to join our discussion of ELEANOR OLIPHANT IS COMPLETELY FINE, by Gail Honeyman. This novel has been described as an ‘original literary creation: funny, touching and unpredictable’ by bestselling author Jojo Moyes. The book for April 5th is The Eye of the Albatross: Vision of Hope and Survival by Carl Sefina. ‘An awestruck yet intelligent study of the great sea bird and its environs’, says Kirkus review. Feel free to join us for any discussion on the first Thursday of the month. FMI: Kathy Kellison 445-4415 kell6787@gmail.com or June Zellers at 582-5862 or jzellers@roadrunner.com

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Come join us for a *Brazilian cultural and food Experience*

Tuesday, March 6th, 5:30 p.m. with Jorgeanne Barley

The influence of Brazil's indigenous people and immigrants from Angola, Mozambique, Italy Germany, and Japan created a diverse and rich country. Plan a "visit" to BRAZIL through its culture and Brazilian cooking with Jorgeanne Barley,

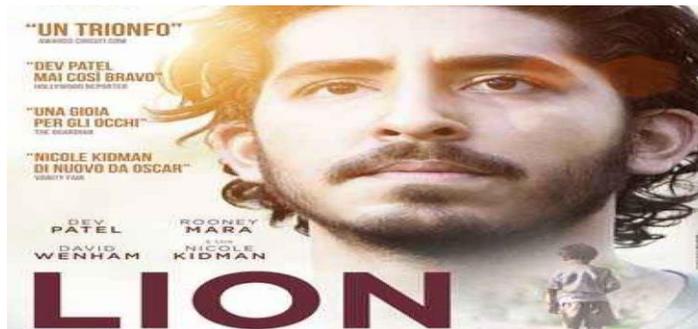
AND WE WILL EAT!

There will be a small fee to offer her an honorarium. Participants must RSVP *soon* or by March 1st in order to have time to purchase ingredients.

It's that time of year again for Judy and Cheryl's *"Dinner and a Movie"*

On Friday, MARCH 30TH, 7:00 P.M. the movie LION will be shown with dinner being served prior to the movie at 5:30 p.m.

Reservations for dinner will be taken up until March 23. Please join us as it is always a good time to share food, fellowship and a movie. For more information or to make reservations, please call Cheryl Clukey at 441-0337.



Fundraising Updates:

Spring Bake Sale is coming up on March 31, at 1 p.m., the Saturday before Easter, in the Fellowship Hall. If you can contribute a delightful desert, bread or specialty, please contact Catherine Palmer, **207.458.7384**



Annual Silent & Live Auction

Friday, April 6 beginning at 4 p.m.

If your committee or small group could donate a gift basket, please give the items to Catherine by March 1st. If you have individual auction items to donate, please call Catherine at 207.458.7384. If you can volunteer to be a "runner"(one who takes items to the highest bidder during the live auction, or who collects items for buyers after payment). Please let Heather Lyon or Catherine know.

The Fundraising Committee will be offering a light supper for all bidders. Credit cards, cash and checks will be accepted at the auction.

OUR NEXT GUEST ARTIST CONCERT AT THE UCC

JOIN US FOR A WONDERFUL AFTERNOON OF MUSIC ON SATURDAY, MARCH 10th at 4PM!

(Inclement weather date: March 17th)

James Johnson, composer and percussionist
With Bridget Convey and the Erskine Academy Jazz Combo

James Johnson and Friends: Original Compositions and Jazz



This program is sure to stimulate the senses!
Featuring world premiere performances and Jazz, in our fabulous Sanctuary.

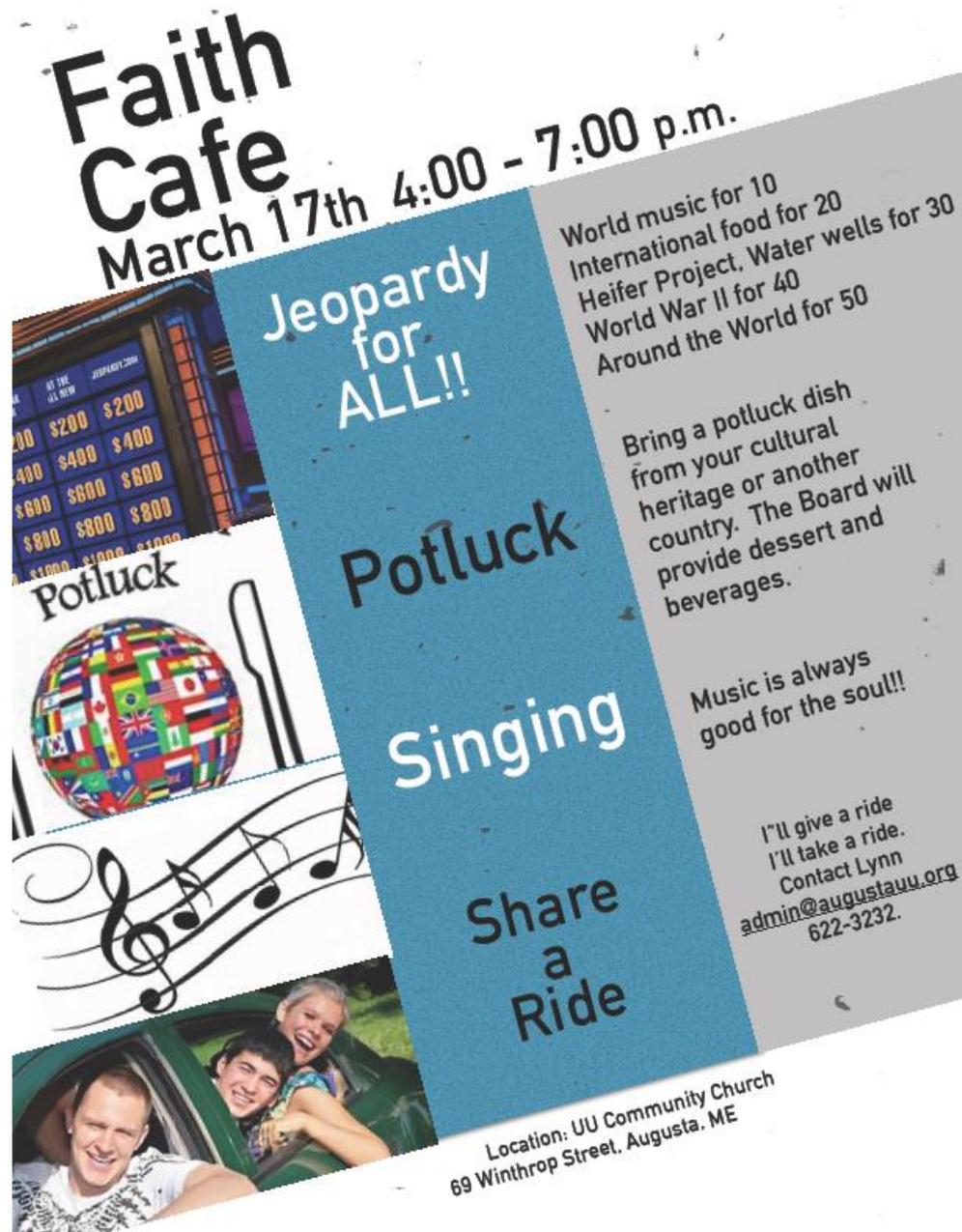


James Johnson is a musician who has had the opportunity to explore many styles of music. James received his MFA at the California Institute of the Arts and had the pleasure of studying and performing chamber, jazz, and world music. After studying and performing all styles of music, improvisation and new music are styles that he has always desired to get to know on a more intimate level. From there, James has been led towards composition.

James has studied under many great artists, such as: Alexander LePak, Richie LePore, John Bergamo, Ed Saindon, David Johnson, Dave Samuels, Bobbie Bradford, Tony Miceli and a master class with Gary Burton.

James received his BA in Music Education from Westfield State University (MA) in 1994 and his MFA in Multi-focused Percussion Performance from California Institute of the Arts in 1996. Since relocating to Maine, James has enjoyed cycle racing throughout the northeast, dog agility, cooking, spending as much time as possible with his son, Myles and wife, Bridget. Currently James resides in Hallowell with his wife, son and their two dogs: Pepper and Frankie.

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All concerts are one hour in length, followed by a light reception in the Fellowship Hall.
\$10 admission. Proceeds will be split between the UCC and the guest artists.
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Faith Café – Jeopardy for ALL

**Join the Board of Trustees on Saturday March 17
4:00-7:00 PM for the next Faith Café!!!**

World Music for 10....What is fun to sing and listen to?

Great international foods for 20.....What is a delicious potluck supper?

Heifer Project, Finca, water wells for 30.....What are some of many projects that spread peace, liberty and justice?

The end of World War II for 40.....When was the first cow taken to Italy for milk for children?

Many places around the world for 50.....Where are peace, justice and liberty spreading?

Bring a potluck dish from your cultural heritage or another country. The Board will provide beverages and desserts.

Come ready to sing, play and eat together as we explore our 6th UU Principle.
The goal of world community with peace, liberty and Justice for all.

Supper Times

1st Saturday Community Supper
Jenny Mckendry, Chief Non-Cook and bottle-washer

On February 3rd, another 1st Saturday supper was rolled out, (pun intended). It was a chilly night, but the fine meal served by the hard working kitchen crew, made for warm and well fed guests. The menu was American chopped suey, coleslaw, pickles and something new, Carlene Kaler and Catherine Palmer whipped out bread pudding. Well, the oven went a little slower than whipped speed. Carlene goes to Panera, to retrieve donated bread, which we were able to share with the Warming Center. Thank you to Carlene for organizing, buying, baking and planning.

Volunteers included: Carlene Kaler, Gene Kaler, Becky Harvey, Catherine Palmer, Ida Gammon, Tracy McNaughton, Susan Parks, Cheryl Clukey, two members of the Jorgenson family- dishwasher- extraordinaire, Heather Priest(minus Head cook/ ice fishing husband Keith) and Jenny McKendry. Some of us are unaffiliated with a church, some come from UUCC-Unitarian Universalist Community Church and some from the Emmanuel Lutheran- Episcopal Church. We now serve meals at The South Parish Congregational Church.

Carlene also organized a mandatory cooking safety training for us. It's called Cooking for Crowds and was taught by a State of Maine Cooperative Extension service staff person. Five of us took the training, a great number; and we'll share our ideas and learning together and with other volunteers. We will plan a training for you the additional volunteers, in order to help us all keep in serving the supper. We will show them our food and cooking practices safe. In March, Monique McAuliffe will lead the UUCC Peace Jam group around, but just as they did at the Elder Lunch, they'll do the work.

Our supper is part of the Augusta Angel Food Network, which serves suppers each Saturday. The 1st Saturday supper is served by us, members of Emmanuel Episcopal, Lutheran Church and UUCC at So. Parish Congregational. The 2nd Saturday Supper is served by South Parish, also served at So. Parish. The third Saturday supper is served by and at Green Street Methodist, 4th Saturday supper is served by and at Penney Memorial Baptist Church and the 5th Saturday suppers are served by Temple Beth El and the Catholic Churches at South Parish.

GODDESS/EARTH CIRCLES—March 2018

Join us in the Goddess/Earth Circles monthly gatherings, 12:15-2pm, usually in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome. We share light refreshments, share briefly, and have a topic.

Join us March 25th as we meet Lilith, A Hebrew Goddess, introduced by Nance Caldwell. Lilith was the first wife of Adam. Discussion will include two creation stories, equality, and relationship of Eve and Lilith.

For more information about Goddess/Earth Circles, contact Helen Zidowecki, hzmre@hzmre.com or 582-5308.

Winter Wonderland Dec. 1, 2018 Church Fair

Planning has begun already for the church fair scheduled for Dec. 1, 2018.

AND there are many things you can do throughout 2018 to support this fundraising effort.....

The fair committee (so far) is Nancy Fritz, Martha Naber and Nan Bell. Do you want to help??? We would welcome you when you are able to join in.

The Fellowship Hall will be transformed into a Winter Wonderland with seasonal decorations and tables throughout the hall. We are planning on the following tables (booths):

Hannah's Boutique, Holiday themed items, Cookie Walk, Candy, Themed baskets, Kitchen Kreations, Wreaths, swags and greens, Mittens, Hats and Scarves, Ornaments for trees, Cards and other paper gifts. A Café will serve treats and sell homemade soups in pints and quart containers.

Limited spaces will be available for other vendors in the nursery room.

We will be having work sessions to get ready for different tables (booths) at the fair.

The sessions will be scheduled with the existing craft times-the fourth Wed. of the month in Fellowship Hall from 2-4 PM.

What we will be doing at the coming craft times are listed below. If you have items to donate or want to work together to make, clean, arrange, package items, please come and join us. It is always more fun to do this work together.

- March 28 Cards made, gift tags, paper items
- April 25 Tree ornaments
- May 23 Jewelry cleaned and packaged
- June 27 Knitted items, crocheted items, sewing
- NO JULY Session
- August 22 Holiday ornaments assembled
- September 26 Jewelry cleaned and packaged
- October 24 Gift baskets organized
- November 28 Packaging items, making fair decorations

As you look at this list of work sessions, what do you have to share? As you sort out your "stuff" at home, what do you think would aid in this fundraiser?

Thank you in advance for helping with this project. As the time gets closer we will contact you to help with baked goods, or other foods. Again, thank you.



~ Planting Healthy Seeds Inside Ourselves and Caring for Them ~

Our Children/Youth Mindfulness Practice Group will meet on March 26 from 5:30 – 6:15. We will meet in the Drew House, 6 Summer St (next door to UCC), as we do every fourth Monday.

As we move into spring, we explore caring for ourselves in the same way that we care for a garden... Watering our positive seeds. Not watering our negative seeds.

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. This will simplify preparations.

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 April newsletter March 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.–4:00 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.