



The Flaming Chalice

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

April 2012

Worship Services

Sundays at 9:15 and 11:00 a.m.

April 1st *The Pleasure of Being Foolish* Rev. Carie Johnsen

This service is sure to be fun. With April Fool's Day landing on a Sunday, we can't miss the opportunity to explore the sacred and the foolish.

April 8th *9:15 The World Renewed* Pat Hunter Gardiner

A joyful multi-generational service celebrating the return of Spring and the blessings of the Earth in song, in poetry, and more! No RE classes this morning. Easter bonnets and dressing-up in your Spring finery and/or festive attire are encouraged, but optional. Service led by DRE Pat, with music by the choir and by our own UUCO orchestra.

11:00 Salvation x 4 or more Rev. Carie Johnsen

Throughout time the evaluation of theology has been a pushback or reaction to that which came before. This Easter service will explore the many options to salvation that have emerged in the hearts and minds of men and women since Calvin in the 16th century.

April 15th *The End of the Rainbow* Nancee Campbell

From the very beginning to the very end, our existence is an arc bending across the timespan we are given on earth. Our families, along with the values we learn and the events we experience, provide various colors to the character and quality of our lives. This service will glance into the multi-hued discoveries we can find at the end of the rainbow.

April 22nd *The Great Groan of Creation* Rev. Carie Johnsen

This Earth Day service will explore issues of sustainability and stewardship with the earth.

April 29th *Worry Carefully* Rev. David Chandler

Worrying – in some way, shape or manner – is a central preoccupation of everyday life. There are good reasons why we should spend our energy on the authentic – all those eternal human challenges – and let the rest pass by. Who has any time for small stuff?

Rev. David W. Chandler was called in 2006 to the UU Church of Saco and Biddeford, Saco, ME. He is a 2004 graduate of Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, PA, and was ordained in 2005 by the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg, Harrisburg, PA. David and his wife Sally live in Saco. Their son works for HP; their daughter is in art school.

A Faith Journey by Rev. Carie Johnsen...

As you read this newsletter the search committee for the Director of Religious Exploration (DRE) will be deep in the process of reviewing applications for a permanent full time DRE.

This is an exciting time for Unitarian Universalist Community Church. It is remarkable to be growing as a vital and dynamic liberal religious institution at a time when the religious landscape is changing across the state and nation. Individuals and families are less likely to go to church than just a decade ago. Yet, UUCC has welcomed 9 new families this year and the young adults choosing to gather with us on Sunday morning continues to be steady.

When the Board of Trustees, the Stewardship Committee and the Religious Exploration Committee set their goal for a full time DRE, they were quite aware that to be a thriving congregation we needed a religious exploration program that would be relevant to today's society. We needed a program that would give our youth a reason to get up on Sunday morning and join us as active participants in the life of the congregation. We needed the energy and wisdom of the children to engage us in the future of the church. We needed young adults informing and shaping who we will be in the future.

What we haven't talked much about is how moving to a full time DRE will help us move into right relationship with staff while building a sustainable RE program – a foundation of a thriving community.

During the past two years the Board of Trustees has made several commitments to being leaders in the community by ensuring economic justice practices were being established in this community. Recognizing economic justice begins at home – to be justice leaders we must practice what we 'preach'. To this end fair compensation for staff has included offering salaries within the UUA guidelines, adequate professional expenses to remain informed and fresh in ministry, and benefit packages including time off, health insurance and retirement.

A full time position will move us toward right relationship with our DRE. In the past we have paid our staff for a number of hours all the while knowing the hours of work necessary to fulfill the expectations exceeded the hours compensated. The program you see each week in our community was not built with a volunteer RE team and a 25 hour staff position. Truth is, this program was built by generous RE families and previous DRE staff who committed generously to its success.

This step toward a full time position provides the professional resources to build a program that is sustainable. During the past year, we have asked our Interim DRE to keep her work hours within the 25 hour limit we have compensated her for. Several RE families have stepped up to the plate to volunteer significant hours to maintain the quality of programming we have come to expect. This has included increased programming with our senior high youth who requested a Sunday morning class to further explore issues of peace and justice. This model is simply not sustainable.

And last but not least, over the past three years I have observed a significant number of young adults coming and going from our community. Adding a young adult ministry to the fabric of this congregation will enrich all of us. Asking a full time DRE to coordinate and lead implementation of a new young adult program will help this group to find roots and wings in the UUCC community.

Vital, dynamic thriving communities are age diverse and offer multigenerational as well as age-specific opportunities for worship, community, education and spiritual growth. We are one of the fortunate faith communities to be attracting people of all ages. We are attracting people of all ages because we have something to offer.

May ours be a community that remains a strong leader in the religious landscape of Maine.

In faith, Rev. Carie



Interim Director of Religious Exploration ...

The crocuses hiding under the fallen leaves in front of the church were uncovered by several of our young people on March 11! Someone grabbed my hand and said, "Come see! Come see!" Bright spots of yellow and purple smiled up at me. Bright, beaming faces did, too. Leave it to our children to discover what we hadn't (yet) expected! And to find joy in that discovery.

I know that I (too often of late) get caught up in the minutiae of my job and forget to stop and smell - or look for - the flowers. I am grateful to those who pull me out of my super-focused state to see what's right in front of me!

I've been thinking a lot about my time here at UUCC and how special it is. I'm only here through June, though. In the Fall there will be someone new in the DRE post, so I'm also thinking about transitions. And I have been pondering on the nature of being a DRE.

In many churches DREs tend to work far beyond the time for which they are paid. I did that at my first church. But at my second church, and here, too, I said, "I will work very hard for the hours in my contract... but to work longer than that does a disservice to both the profession and to the expectations of the congregation.

I know of a church where the out-going DRE often worked twice the hours in her contract. The incoming DRE had a very hard time trying to live up to the unrealistic expectations that had evolved because of this. I have tried hard to stay within the limits of my contract hours so this won't happen here.

Having been here for the better part of the RE year now, I can say without any doubt that this is a full-time position! UUCC seems to me to be in a wonderful place of growth and discovery. You deserve someone who can devote her or himself to facilitating that process with the number of hours that can do it justice.

Coming up...

April 8 is Easter! First service will be multi-generational; no RE classes. Spirit Play as usual at 11:00

On **April 29** in Young UU Worship we will be talking about transitions. The children will have had two DREs depart in two years and we want to be able to think about how we feel about this. We'll also focus on the continuity of many aspects of church and RE.

Hint... If someone asks you to consider helping out next year as part of an RE teaching team... Say Yes!

Hint... Stop and admire the crocuses! And if some grabs your hand and says, "Come see! Come see!", do it! It is a sacred gift you are being offered!

Namaste!
DRE Pat

From the Board President ...

Dear Friends:

I recently was with some members of our church (all women) and the topic of the women's reproductive rights came up. Not surprising-this has been a very hot topic of late with 92 pieces of legislation pending around the country rolling back women's control over their own bodies. And how about the appalling lack of civil discourse and objectification of women on the part of some on talk radio? "What's happening?" the women bemoaned. "Why are all our hard-fought rights being eroded and who thinks that it's okay?" Our indignation was raw.

Flash forward after this meeting to a non-church social gathering with several men and women. Again the topic of reproductive rights surfaced and I am sad to report that the men's response was muted. While they shook their heads appropriately at the hurtful, unwarranted verbal abuse against women; the outrage at the bigger picture of offenses wasn't there. Unfortunately, the younger generation of women aren't paying close attention either to the rollbacks to their privacy and healthcare decision-making. I asked my daughter (a sophomore in college) last week what was happening on her college campus-were women organizing protests, writing letters, or educating their fellow students? "Nothing", she replied, "but my friends believe that voting is important." Voting is always good, but is it enough?

So why you may ask am I writing this in the UUCC newsletter? As members of this religious faith we acknowledge the inherent worth and dignity of every individual. We assist groups seeking empowerment and equal rights such as new immigrants to Maine and Equality Maine for same sex marriage. Important initiatives all. These groups can benefit from our extra voices. But, interestingly enough, I haven't heard much indignation yet from our community to what is occurring right before our very eyes to a huge chunk of the population! What do you think? What can we do as Unitarian Universalists? Let me know what you think.

My best,
Sheila

Save the Date! ...

Muslim in Maine: A Community Conversation, Friday April 6, 2012 at University of Southern Maine. Dinner at 5:30 p.m. Conversation at 6:00 p.m. The evening will include Middle Eastern food and dance followed by a Muslim panel discussing the faith in America. All are welcome. We will carpool from the church. Please RSVP with Julie at admin@augustauu.org or on the adult RE bulletin board indicating if you intend to carpool and if you plan to be a driver.

NNED Spring Conference

Justice Making Together ~ April 13-14, 2012

Red Jacket Resort, North Conway, NH
Keynote: "Creating the World We All Want to Live In" by Linda Stout

Congregations in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont join for the Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony of the Northern New England District — bring your church banner, network with UUs from other congregations, share in worship and discussions, and celebrate a vibrant Unitarian Universalism in the NNED! This is a family event and the accommodations have a great indoor water park. The conference includes children and youth programming. See flyer in fellowship hall. For more information: <http://nned.uua.org/index.php>

General Assembly 2012 June 20-24, Phoenix, Arizona



**This is an historic moment.
Be part of the story.**

General Assembly 2012 will be a gathering with multiple ways of engaging in justice work for people of all ages. Joining with the people of Arizona, we will worship, witness, learn and work together. We will leave General Assembly grounded in our faith, for justice and with resources to bring this work

home to our congregations. For more information: <http://www.uua.org/ga/index.shtml>

Social Justice Summit ...

In cooperation with the UUA's Northern New England District, UUCC will host a Social Justice Summit on Saturday, May 12, from 10-3 p.m. at the church. UU congregations from throughout the state will join us in seeking to strengthen and grow our social justice concerns and commitments.

Interim District Executive Karen Brammer is helping us organize the program, drawing on talent from around the district. In the recent past, UUCC has expanded its community outreach to partner with other Augusta churches, and participated in the Equality Maine coalition that is again engaged in a statewide campaign. Our Immigration Workgroup, now chaired by Stephanie Ralph, responds to one of the UUA's leading social justice concerns, as reflected in the General Assembly to be held in June in Phoenix, Ariz.

We will hear from other Maine congregations and have the opportunity to reflect on our own goals and priorities. Any member of UUCC is welcome and encouraged to attend. We will have details about the program for the May newsletter.

Peaceful Heart Sangha ...

Join us any time for our weekly sittings, every Monday 6:30 – 8PM. Everyone is welcome come by any time and see whether this practice appeals to you.

April 2: Children/family practice from 5:30 – 6:15PM followed by childcare so that parents can participate in meditation.

April 9 & 16: We will discuss *The Heart of the Buddha's Teachings*. Copies are available for those who would like to join our twice per month readings and discussion.

April 23: We will be practicing Touching the Earth – a practice to help us let go of our ego and more deeply connect with the reality of the interconnection, the interbeing, of all life.

April 30: Special practices (to be announced)

Starting Thursday, April 5 & 19 we will also have a NEW bimonthly meditation from 8 – 9:30 AM at the River Studio in Hallowell. For more information or if you would like to arrange an introduction to meditation contact Peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com, 685-9270 or martysoule@gmail.com

**Save the Date ~ Saturday, April 21
Day of Mindfulness at UCC ~ Cultivating Joy
With guest Dharma Teacher, John Bell**

Peeper Celebration ...

It is time to listen for the true sound of Spring – the sound of *peepers*.

Peepers are small woodland frogs that are said to be a sure sign of Spring. In the 1970's Rev. Larry Hamby of All Souls UU Church, introduced recognition of Peepers and Spring in place of an Easter focus. Originally, the scheduled Sunday service would give way to a Peeper Sunday celebration on the first Sunday after the peepers were heard. With the number of activities occurring on Sundays, this degree of flexibility gave way to having a definite recognition of peepers in the service, via a song and awarding the care of a small brass frog until the next Peeper Sunday.

The first to hear the peepers this year was Priscilla Jenkins! She heard them on Sunday, March 18th. Early for sure, but with this weather of late, not a surprise! The peepers were also heard later in the week by Mary Perkins, Mary Shifman and Lorna Doone.

Meals on Wheels ...

Furry Friends STILL need your help! The Thursday Morning Small Group Ministry is continuing to solicit assistance for the "Meals on Wheels" program. They provide support to clients who have pets, and help by providing pet food and "Wellness Bags" for the furry friends on their routes.

We will be collecting donations during the coffee hour on **Sunday, March 25th and April 1st**. You can provide cash or checks (made payable to 'Meals on Wheels Animeals') as well as items for cats and dogs, such as: Nail clippers, collars, Leashes for dogs, brushes and combs for furry coats, flea and tick shampoo, toys and gift certificates to pet supply stores.

If you have a donation but are unable to give your contribution on Sunday, please call Nancee Campbell at 621-7727.

Volunteers Needed! ~ The Bread of Life Soup Kitchen is in need of volunteers one day per week from 10:00 am-1:00 pm. Available days are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. For more information contact please contact Patsy at 621-2541

Buildings and Grounds ...

- Thank you to the volunteers who helped finish the annex renovation over the winter. The kitchen and bath are now as cheery as the rest of the house and the downstairs trim work is finally painted, even the china cabinet.

- Second Saturdays of each month are still reserved for projects. The focus April through September will be exterior building maintenance and yard projects. The garage roof is scheduled for June 10th. April and May projects TBD.

- We are looking for a fourth volunteer to mow the lawn in rotation. Four volunteers means one week a month each. We are getting a new self-propelled electric start mower to make the job easier.

- Shady perennials and woodland flowers are needed for the fellowship garden off the fellowship hall - contact Marilyn maine2007@hotmail.com. Likewise, anyone willing to help plan, plant and weed landscape, contact Marilyn.

- Wish list for fellowship garden: bird feeder, birdbath, and benches that can't be easily removed.

DRE Search Committee ...

The search committee for a new full-time Director of Religious Exploration (DRE) has been working hard to get the word out about our DRE opening at the UUC. We have advertised at National UUA websites, list serves for liberal religious educators and Craig's List. We have also gotten the word out to nearby congregations in Maine and within our own community. Our hope is that we will have an exciting list of qualified applicants to choose from by the closing date of March 30 and you can help! We invite all of you to shape the future of RE at UUC by encouraging people you would like to have lead the spiritual development of children in central Maine to apply. The job announcement can be found at <http://www.augustauu.org/>

The search committee plans to start interviews by the second week in April and have a recommendation for the board by May. We will, however, keep the position open until we find the right person to work with our children, youth, young adults and entire community. Please feel free to contact myself or any other member of the search committee if you have questions about our process.

-Pam Lombard, Peter Mendall, David Rand, Diane Howard, Faith Madore, Cathie Nielsen, Isabella Ucci



Worship Committee ...

The Worship Committee will be hosting a couple of Focus Group meetings during the next two months to help answer some key questions. As we look forward to the next crucial period in the growth of our UUCC congregation and worship services, we also need to look into the past and assess our present.

As a liberal faith, our community brings a wide variety of experiences and perspectives to church every Sunday. One of the critical questions that these Focus Groups will delve into will be what is it that makes someone come to church and, equally importantly, what it is that makes one return.

To answer those questions and a couple of others, a list of members was drawn up to contact. The idea was not simply to invite the usual suspects, those stalwart members who can be depended upon to staff committees, greet, and offer hospitality. We also wanted a demographic that reflected the various generations, plus those who might also be infrequent attendees.

An email invitation was sent out and the response was uniformly enthusiastically accepted.

As each group will be limited to 10, filling these groups should not be a problem. However, if anyone else is interested in participating in these important Focus Groups, please contact either myself or Annie Nessen Voorhees as soon as possible.

Michael Conley, Co-chair, Worship Committee

Music Committee ...

UUCC Wants vocal and instrumental musicians! The church seeks additional choir members of any voice range, as well as people who can sing solos or play instruments in our Sunday services. If you can sing in the shower, you can sing in the choir. Rehearsals are most Thursdays from 6-8 p.m. We have fun! Contact Hannah at 293-9377 or hanna-huu3@fairpoint.net, or Doug at [## Display Case ...](mailto:choirdirec-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

The **March** display is provided by the Immigration Work Group. Thanks for the focus on Maine Migrants.

As a follow-up of the Sunday service on hymnology, the **April** display will be hymnals from our Unitarian and Universalist.

History Committee ...

Thanks to the Buildings & Grounds Committee for helping us “rescue Sylvester”! A large bronze tablet (3x4 ft.) of one of the early Unitarian ministers has been stored since consolidation of the two congregations in 1992 –facing the wall in the back of the garage. It is now in the History Room, and you will be hearing more about Rev. Judd and the tablet in the next few months.

The next History Committee meeting will be held on **Thursday, April 12, 10:30-Noon** in the Olsen Room (Annex). For more information, contact Helen Zidowecki (582-5308, hzmre@hzmre.com)

Goddess Continuing ...

The Spring Equinox Celebration on March 18 encouraged us to include composting as part of our daily lives and spiritual practice. If you have suspended composting during the colder months, now is the time to start it again, part of the balance of our connections with the universe.

Join us on **April 1** and **April 22** 12:15-2pm in the Annex –Our Evolving Presence

Nonviolent Communication ...

The Practice Group meets on the *first* and *third* Fridays for those who have taken at least Level I training and/or been in a practice group. We are primarily using *Connection* by Bonnie Fraser, and have periodic Small Group Ministry Sessions on specific topics. Meetings are held in the Robbins Room (Church). This month's meetings are scheduled for April 6th and April 20th.

Introduction to Nonviolent Communication will meet the *second* and *fourth* Wednesdays, 10:30am to 12:30pm when there is interest. Contact: Helen Wing: hcranewing@localnet.com, 685-3804 for either of these groups.



Fundraising ...

Three Fundraising Events are planned for April and May. For additional information, please contact Fundraising Co-Chairs Judy McCown (jmbierce@myfairpoint.net) or Bruce Bierce (bbierce@myfairpoint.net). You may also reach them at 897-3683.

April 23rd ~ Marty and David Thornton will host a Dinner and Travelogue on Monday, April 23rd, at 6:00 in Fellowship Hall. The menu will include quiche, salad, dessert and beverage and will cost \$12.50 per person. The travelogue will feature the Thornton's 5,000 mile adventurous camping trip through the West and Southwest. Reservations are limited to 20 and are required by April 20th. They can be made by contacting Marty at marty.thornton@ymail.com. or by signing the sheet on the Fundraising Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall.

May 19th ~The Annual Inside-Outside Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, May 19th. Set-up will take place on Friday, the 18th. Many volunteers will be needed on both days and there is a sign up sheet on the Fundraising Bulletin Board. Donations for the Sale may be placed in the garage.

May 25th ~ A Dessert Theater will be held on Friday, May 25th. Dessert will be served at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall and will be followed at 7:30 by the classic mystery "The 39 Steps" at the Gaslight Theater in Hallowell. The cost is \$16 for Adults and \$14 for Seniors. There is a sign up sheet on the Fundraising Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall. Reservations are required by Sunday, May 20th.

Social Activities ...

"Our UUCC Working Trip to Peru" ~ Saturday, April 13th, 5:30-8:30p.m. Our own UUCC's will have a travelogue and slide show of their "Habitat for Humanity" trip to Peru. There will be a "Pot Luck" supper preceding the Travelogue on Peru. Come learn how our fellow UU's contributed and what they learned about Peru. FMI call Cheryl Cluey at 441-0337..

Elder Luncheon ...

Due to Easter being on April 8th, we will be holding our monthly Elder Lunch on Sunday, April 15th. Please join us! We don't check your birth certificate... as "elder" is self-defined! All are welcome!

Upcoming Events ...

Lynn Deeves & Trina Hamlin

In concert together

Unitarian Universalist Community Church
69 Winthrop Street, Augusta, ME
Saturday April 7, 2012 (7:30 pm)

Tickets: \$12 for individual or \$30 for family
(partial proceeds benefit UUCC and
Peaceful Heart Sangha)



Portland Press Herald says "... five star stage presence... this gal's got a set of pipes..." Former rocker, Maine Singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Lynn Deeves has performed with Cheryl Wheeler, Janis Ian, America and Ellis Paul



Graduate of Berklee School of Music. Trina has opened for Taj Mahal, John Hiatt and Ricki Lee Jones Her soulful vocals, harmonica chops and gentle wit have endeared her to audiences nationally for over a decade.

*The first step in the acquisition of
wisdom is silence,
the second listening,
the third memory,
the fourth practice,
the fifth teaching others.*

~ Solomon Ibn Gabriol

Unitarian Universalist Community Church
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Newsletter articles are due the *third Monday* of each month. The next newsletter deadline is *April 16th*. Please submit newsletter articles by email, no later than 9:00 a.m. to Julie Pelletier, UUCC Church Administrator at admin@augustauu.org. Thank you!

Minister: Rev. Carie Johnsen
President: Sheila Comerford
Interim Director of Religious Exploration: Pat Gardiner
Administrator: Julie Pelletier
Choir Director: Douglas Barley
Small Group Ministry Coordinator: Kathy Kellison

Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday, 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.
Thursday, 4:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.

Office: Saturday, 8:00 a.m.– Noon
(207) 622-3232, admin@augustauu.org

Minister's Study: (207) 623-3663 (Office)

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Minister's New Office Hours:

Monday 1:00-5:00 pm

Tuesday 12:00-4:00 pm

Wednesday Writing Day

Thursday 4:00-7:00 pm or by appointment

Friday

To schedule an appointment please contact Rev. Carie at: 623-3663 or revcariejohnsen@gmail.com
Friday is my Sabbath. I do not schedule meetings, attend to emails or respond to messages. If there is a pastoral emergency, leave a message on my home or cell phone and I will return your call promptly.