



The Flaming Chalice

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

June 2010

Summer Worship Services

ONLY ONE SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10:00 a.m.

(June 6th ~ Sept 5th)

June 6th

Annual Meeting as Spiritual Practice

Rev. Carie Johnsen
Board of Trustees & Congregation

This year UUCC will try a new format for the Annual Meeting. Following the idea that anything we do here at UUCC is spiritual, we will intertwine the Sunday morning service with the Annual Meeting. This is a practice I bring to you from my home congregation—First Parish Brewster.

June 13th

Flower Communion

Christine Little

This service is a tradition steeped in UU history. Come and celebrate the uniqueness of each individual and honor our beautiful differences. Our choir will lift voices in song and the Spirit dancers will dance.. Bring a flower, take a flower!

June 20th

Now Let Us Sing

Rev. Carie Johnsen

This summer service will be fun and a light mixing of the poetry, silence and songs. *Now Let Us Sing* in celebration of Fathers Day.

June 27th

Summer Solstice

Annie Voorhees & Christine Little

Considering and celebrating the Summer Solstice. We will use poetry, prose, and of course song to honor all that comes with the longest day of the year.

Minister: Rev. Carie Johnsen

President: Debbie Mattson

Director of Religious Exploration: Karen Fisk

Administrator: Julie Pelletier

Choir Director: Douglas Barley

Small Group Ministry coordinator: Kathy Kellison

Office Hours:

Monday & Tuesday, 8 am-4 pm

Saturday 8 am-12 pm

Office:

(207)622-3232, admin@augustauu.org

Minister's Study:

(207)623-3663(office), (508)221-5296(Cell) and

(207)395-8051(home - effective 2/24/10)

revcariejohnsen@gmail.com

<http://www.augustauu.org>

Minister's Hours:

Monday 11 am - 4pm

Tuesday 1pm - 6pm

2nd & 4th Wednesdays 11am - 4pm

(Call to confirm availability)

Next newsletter deadline is **June 21st**. Please submit newsletter articles by email to Julie Pelletier, UUCC Church Administrator at admin@augustauu.org



A Faith Journey...

Thank You!!! Thank You !! Thank You! I would like to thank everyone who brought the spirit of shared ministry to the Installation Service. The number of people who shared in making this day a success is difficult to count. The gifts of time, talent, resources, spirit and love were abundantly shared by so many. To my Unitarian Universalist and interfaith colleagues who drove great distances, welcomed me into the religious landscape of central Maine and shared their own ministerial wisdom, I say thank you. To the group who bravely moved the pulpit so that the spirit dancers could move freely and the choir could be taken in fully, I give thanks. From the many that baked the goodies, served the food, parked the cars, cared for the children, rehearsed their pieces, sang with joy, and decorated with flare, I give thanks.

For all those on the planning committee who gathered their ideas, shared their vision, prepared for the day and carried out their tasks, I give thanks. To Linda Findlay, who chaired the committee and attended to all the details of the event, I am grateful.

As your newly installed minister, I give thanks.

Joy is Rising. May it always rise... in our times of celebrations, in our times of growing, in our times of misfortune, in our times of distress, in our times of just being, in our times of conflict and strife, in our times of transformation and witness, in our times of knowing and not knowing, in times of joy and laughter, in our times of grief and sorrow.

May Joy Rise from all that we covenant to do together.
May Joy Rise in all that we covenant to be together.
May Joy Rise.

In gratitude and faith of all that is UUCC, Rev. Carie Johnsen

Summer Pastoral Care

Rev. Carie Johnsen will be away for summer vacation from June 28th to July 25th returning back to the office on Monday, July 26th. The Board of Trustees has contracted with the Rev. Helen Zidowecki to be available for Pastoral Care Services during her absence. All pastoral services will be coordinated through Rev. Zidowecki. She can be contacted at 582-5308 or hzmre@hzmre.com. Please contact Helen directly to inform her of a member's illness and/or hospitalization, extended pastoral care needs of a member or the death of a member or friend of the congregation.



From the Director of Religious Exploration

As I was preparing for the last Young UU Worship of the year, greeting children and youth as they arrived, I mentioned to one young person how I was a little nervous because I was trying two things that morning that I was unsure would work.

“Don’t worry,” she said, “We’re Unitarian Universalists.”

“What do you mean?” I asked, because my intention was to offer stories that help us define what it means to be Unitarian Universalist.

“We’ll love you no matter what, and besides, it will all work out in the end.”

What do you know! She knew exactly what my message was before I even began! In Young UU Worship a few minutes later, I suggested that many Unitarian Universalists were optimists, filled with hope, filled with the belief that all will be good if it isn’t already. And that most UUs are also pragmatists: they know you need to work toward your goal. I told two stories. One from a collection of Chinese stories called *Harmony* by Sarah Conover and Chen Hui. “Quenching Thirst by Hoping for Plums” tells of a general who motivates his tired, thirsty men by describing a plum forest just over the horizon. The second is the Aesop’s fable “The Crow and the Pitcher,” about a clever, resourceful crow who does not give up when it finds the water too far to reach, but uses pebbles to bring the water level high enough to drink. (That was one of the experiments I was not sure would work, despite my understanding of water displacement.)

I asked the kids to offer morals to the Aesop’s fable. They offered, “Never give up.” “You have to work for your goal.” “Try and you will succeed.” Great offerings! The one Aesop had chosen was “Where there is a will, there is a way.”

Our children and youth are learning what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist, they are living being Unitarian Universalists.

That morning also our world bank was full, so it was time to hold a circle council to decide where to give the money. Young people spoke up to suggest—with reasons why—where the money would go. The suggestions were awesome: The Goodwill, because you can get quality clothes for a good price and the money goes to help others in need; the Human Society, because it works to protect animals and people; the Smile Train, because it helps fix cleft palates; Peta and the ASPCA (founded by Unitarian Henry Bergh) because they work to prevent cruelty to animals; environmental cleanup of the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. What won the morning though began with a plea from one of our youngest children: “I want to help feed hungry people.” Another young person said she too wanted to feed hungry people. Then another said, “I want to help the people in Haiti.” Then another said, “We could help hungry and homeless people by giving money to Haiti.” Another chimed in, “We could give that money to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.”

After some debate about how to vote (they really are UUs!), we voted overwhelmingly to help Haiti with all our money. I was so impressed by their respectful listening, their clarifying of points, their decision to consolidate the wish to help hungry and homeless with the needs of Haiti, and their desire to do this help through the UUSC. Wow.

Our final celebration of RE for the year is a service presented by the children and youth of our church. I hope all of our congregation comes to experience this worship. We will also recognize the milestones of our program: children stepping up into the youth program, junior youth crossing over to the senior youth program, and senior youth bridging into young adulthood. It is a moving set of rituals that speaks to how quickly life flows forward.

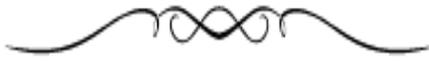
RE will resume September 19th. Already the next year is brimming with great stuff, including Coming of Age for 7th and 8th graders, new curriculums for all, intergenerational worships and events. Service to others and, as always, the comfort, solace and support of our faith community. Thank you all for an awesome year.

Yours in faith,

Karen

Religious Exploration Retreat

Please mark your calendars now for the Religious Exploration Retreat, Sunday, August 29, 4 to 7 p.m.. Join us for an exploration of Curriculum Mapping for our Children and Youth followed by a dinner to celebrate our commitment to our religious exploration program.



ADULT RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

INDEPENDENT FILM SERIES: CHANGE OF DATE

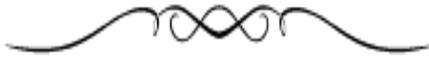
“Knee Deep” has been moved from May 23 to June 6, 12:15-3pm in the Fellowship Hall, following a light lunch. This is a film about a Farmington, Maine, family tragedy, social justice, parental obligations, broken promises and expectations. It is a movie about a complex domestic and social situation that will make us question our beliefs on family and social justice.

GODDESS CONTINUING

Join us for two Celebrations over the summer.

June 20 Summer Solstice, following the morning service, in the Fellowship Hall. This is when the sun exerts its maximum power upon our part of the earth as its rays strikes us head-on. The time of full outward physical manifestation is here. The solstice was the ancient time of celebration, of outward joy in the fullness of life. The high point of energy is only for a moment. The cycle is moving, and the days gradually shorten. Share things that are part of your summer, consider the spirituality of summer, explore the Sun Goddesses.

August 1 Teltane or Lammas is a recognition that the light and darkness is moving toward a balance, with the hope that the sun will retain its power until the harvest is complete. The luminaries that are part of this celebration coax the sun to stay strong. *You are invited to a summer pot luck picnic after the morning service, and a celebration that will include luminaries.*



HISTORY COMMITTEE

The Display for May is Religious Education/Exploration. One part is the artifacts that were collected by a several women in the early 1960's for the study of world religions – before we had a specific curriculum related to that theme. The other part of the display is some of the books and curricula that have been used by Unitarians and Universalists in the last hundred years. Also see the pins that were given for good attendance at Sunday School. This display is only a small part of the historic religious education material that we have. Contact the History Committee for more information.

The History Committee meets on Friday, June 11 to plan summer projects.

FROM THE WAYSIDE

In the midst of Winter I discovered that there was in me an invincible Summer. *Albert Camus (1913-1960) French novelist*

Somewhere something incredible is waiting to happen. *Carl Sagan (1934-1996) American astronomer*

Perhaps we never appreciate the here and now until it is challenged. *Anne Morrow Lindbergh (1906-2001) author and aviator*



What is so rare as a day in June? Then, if ever, come perfect days!'

June is traditionally a month of celebrations; graduations, weddings, family reunions. In the past decade or so, another tradition has begun; gay pride marches and festivals. This year members of UUCC are being invited to participate in both the *Southern Maine Pride Parade* and the *Bangor Diversity Festival*.

The banner that we plan to purchase will be used at both these events and many other similar events in the future. The Southern Maine Pride Parade, in **Portland, will be June 19th**. At least a dozen UU Churches participate in this event yearly and march together as a unit. It's very well attended; over 1000 people are expected to march this year. This will be the first time UUCC has participated as a group. [FYI, they have a 900 foot long rainbow flag!]

The **Bangor Diversity Festival** will be on the following **Saturday, June 26th**. I will have more information on that for the next newsletter.

As with any parade or festival, these two events are high energy, day long events, filled with music, silliness, entertainment and food. *Please* plan to join us for one [or both!] of these fun events created to celebrate the diversity of life, love and religion for which UU's are so very famous. **And**, please buy a t-shirt to wear that day and many more!

We want to travel as a caravan to extend the fun and to help with parking, so if you plan to attend, please talk to Carie Johnsen, Helen Zidowicki or Maggie Ricker . We'll set up car pooling and will keep everyone updated as information unfolds.

To ORDER rainbow chalice or Standing on the Side of Love T-SHIRTS AND SWEAT SHIRTS for the event, please visit Maggie in the fellowship hall on Sunday morning or send an email to Maggiesway@aol.com.



COMMUNITY NEWS



The **Annual Inside/Outside Yard Sale** will be held on Saturday, June 12th, from 8am to 1pm. Set up and pricing will be June 11th from 1pm until 6pm. The yard sale is very labor intensive and **two or three hours of help from many people will be needed.** If you can lend a hand, please sign up on the sheet on the Fundraising Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall. Donations can be put in the garage or brought to the church on Friday, June 11th, during set-up. If you are a gardener you might plan on donating small plants for the plant table.

Bicycle Safety Clinic

Fellowship Hall

Saturday, June 5th ~ 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

For more information Contact

Tom Waddell

or Harry Grimmnitz



Peaceful Heart Sangha

All are welcome Mondays & Wednesdays from 6:30 - 8 for sitting & walking meditation, readings, and sharing in the sanctuary at UUC. We have childcare on the first Monday, but have **stopped having children's meditation for a while.** If you are interested in the Introduction to Meditation on second Mondays, **please write or call Marty.**

There are several opportunities for meditation practice in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh coming up:

- May 23 Day of Mindfulness in Orono - contact Theodate Lawlor 866-3244; theodate52@gmail.com
- June 26 Day of Mindfulness in Brunswick, children invited - contact Tania Hathaway -taniajo@maine.rr.com (207) 846-0484
- Blue Cliff Monastery Retreat, families, adults, children, teens - August 4 - 8
- Days of Mindfulness & special activities for families & children, teens at Morning Sun Mindfulness Community in NH - contact Wendy Germain to make your reservations 603 357-2011 or via email w.germain@yahoo.com



Individuals or groups are encouraged to host a **Small Fundraising Dinner** such as the Julie & Julia French Dinner and Film that was held for 12 people in April. Each person paid \$15 which resulted in a donation to the church of \$165. The time, place, menu, theme, activity, number of guests, and price are totally up to the hosts. Please contact us if you are interested in doing this. We will give you a form to fill out and will help publicize your dinner

Angel Food Public Supper

Saturday, June 19th ~ 5pm

St. Marks Church

For more information contact Janet House or Michaela Loisel



Having a summer event?

Need projector equipment or supplies? Contact Julie during regular business hours at 622-3232. Equipment needs to be signed out prior to event.

Thank you!



Administration News!

Office Hours for Memorial Day weekend:

Friday May 28th - 4:30 - 8:30pm
Saturday, May 29th - Closed
Monday May 31st - Closed

May Board Highlights

At its meeting May 10th the Board:

- Planned to hold worship service and Annual Meeting together at 10 am on June 6th.
- Decided that 10 am summer services will begin on June 6th,
- Received proposal for amendment to Committee on Ministry section of the By-Laws to be voted on June 6th,
- Postponed budget decisions to a special Board meeting on May 26th in order to learn how much additional pledge income will be generated by appeal letter,
- Received proposal for sustainable structure for Adult Religious Exploration programs, and
- Agreed that Karen Fisk can verify high school students' completion of volunteer hours as community service for graduation requirements; requested more specific guidelines for other types of volunteers.

News from the Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee has a few unexpected, last-minute openings for church leadership next year.

Please contact Annie Reiter - 622-2945 or estherpearl67@gmail.com - for more information about these opportunities. Thanks!



SACRED DANCE @ UUCC

Dance is a language of personal expression and creates community when done with conscious intention. "Sacred Dance" is a means of spiritual expression and growth, integrates the mind, the body and the spirit, provides a sense of connection to the Divine, and can be a form of prayer. The body, as it dances, expresses the soul in a way that words cannot.

Sacred Dance is becoming a part of the fabric of worship here at UUCC. We have danced in celebration of Spring and renewal. in commemoration of the "dance" between minister and congregation, in times of darkness and wonder, and as a way to join together in the spirit of worship as a community. As I talk with church leadership, members and friends, there is a shared vision for expanding our exploration of how dance can be a vehicle for our spiritual experience.

I would like to share my vision with you and to hear what your vision is!

I envision two core groups of sacred dancers gathering @ UUCC. One group composed of UU kids, exploring their faith through creative movement and creating their own dances to express and to share their experience. This group may meet during Spirit Play @ our 11:00 service. The second group will be composed of youth and adults, also meeting regularly to explore their spiritual experience through movement and to create dances to share in worship. The exact schedule is yet to be determined. I hope that each group would have participants who share a commitment to regular attendance, but would also be open to the ebb and flow of participation from those who might come and go, as the need &/or call arises.

I envision dancers collaborating with individual musicians and with the choir; creating dance to accompany music; creating music to accompany the dance; weaving music and dance together to create worship!

Sacred Dance is open to all who are interested in exploring their spiritual nature through the medium of movement. No need for formal dance training is necessary.

Are you intrigued? Do you have a vision? Please talk with me!

*Let it be a dance we do,
Christine Little*

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

Notice of Annual Meeting

From the Board of Trustees
May 23, 2010

The Annual Meeting of the
Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Augusta
will be on Sunday, June 6, 2010
at 10:00 am
69 Winthrop Street, Augusta, Maine

Our business will include

- ◆ Acknowledgement and honoring of congregational leaders and volunteers
- ◆ Vote on Leadership for 2010-2011
Slate presented by the Nominating Committee
- ◆ Vote on the budget for the 2010-2011 fiscal year
- ◆ Vote on By-Laws Amendment to Article XIII, The Committee on Ministry
- ◆ Presentation of Five Year Plan Update