



The Flaming Chalice

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

Worship Services

May 2012

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

May 6th

Peace Jam Sunday (9:15 am)

Peace Jammers
UCC Senior High Group

Our Peace Jam youth with their advisors have created a special service to reflect on their year together, what they have learned, and what they hope for the future. Come and share in their enthusiasm and their dreams for a better world.

"In the Arms of Beloved Community" (11:00 am) Rev. Carie Johnsen

How shall we choose to live? One option includes the dominant justice paradigm, another is the beloved community paradigm. In this service I will reflect upon this shifting paradigm already in motion in many places. It may be in your life and you didn't even know it.

May 13th

"For the Love of Gaia"

Rev. Carie Johnsen

The Work That Reconnects is something we can come back to again and again as a source of strength and fresh insights. It reminds us that we are larger, stronger, deeper and more creative than we ever imagined we could be. This service will continue to explore the Great Turning.

May 20th

RE Recognition (9:15 am)

Pat Hunter- Gardener
Rev. Carie Johnsen

Join us as we celebrate the coming transitions of our 5th graders into Jr. Youth, our 8th graders as they become Sr. Youth, our newly licensed drivers, and our graduating seniors as they move forward into new phases of their lives. This is truly a celebration for all of us as we recognize the value of community in the growth and development of our young people as they mature as Unitarian Universalists and citizens of the world.

Class Matters (11:00 am)

Rev. Carie Johnsen

How might we apply the paradigm of beloved community in building cross-class alliances? How will we move beyond a dominant justice paradigm to restoring the humanity of all of us?

Summer Worship Services

Beginning of One Sunday Service at 10:00 am ONLY

May 27th

To Be Determined

To be Determined

A Faith Journey by Rev. Carie Johnsen...

During the past week I attended the fall Ministers retreat for programming, collegiality and rest in Bretton Woods, NH then drove down the mountain to North Conway for the Annual Conference of Unitarian Universalists in the Northern New England District. Those four days could not have been more full, more restorative or more provocative.

The theme of each event aligned with the other and spoke to a shifting consciousness that may or may not save the world from a destructive path already set in motion, but it offered responses to consider, practices to adopt and paradigms to promote.

Barbara Ford arrived from the other Portland on the west coast to lead a Gaia worship on Despair and Empowerment in Challenging Times. In exploring the human responses to what is going on in the world, I was stretched beyond my comfort zone of hope, optimism and options. I was encouraged to not move too quickly through despair so as not to lose the powerful emotions necessary to motivate and empower action. If you attended the April 22nd service you had an opportunity to catch a glimpse of her work which is grounded in the groundbreaking work of eco-philosopher, Johanna Macy. If not, I encourage you to read the book *Active Hope* by Johanna Macy and Chris Johnstone.

Rev. Deborah Holder arrived from the Mountain Desert District in the middle of the country to offer the keynote on Justice Making Together at our district conference. As the Minister of Beloved Community Formation, she described a shifting paradigm from dominant culture to beloved community. A shift from the limits of a political way of seeing the world, perceiving the world through the us/them model to being rooted in a spiritual view that recognizes the political realities while engaging life in a model of reciprocity and mutuality. Rather than changing the world 'out there' we are called to be in right relationship with self, others, God, world. Rather than seeing issues as problems to be solved, we are encouraged to see issues as a way of life with opportunities for transformation. In this paradigm of beloved community, we accompany each other in a circle of love and change recognizes our liberation is tied up together. Inspired by possibility of this paradigm, I will lead two services this month exploring what life might look like when adopting a model of Beloved Community.

I left the mountains, inspired by my time being comforted and being afflicted, walking by the lake and experiencing the beauty of human connection, conversing and listening, singing and worshipping. I look forward to the days ahead, of bringing back the wisdom of others to share with the wisdom of you, me and us.

May we continue to be blessed and awakened.

In faith, Rev. Carie

UUCC Pastoral Ministry Team...

As many of you now know the new lay Pastoral Ministry Team at UUCC has been launched. This group of seven commissioned and trained pastoral ministers serve this congregation as an extension of our Minister, Rev. Carie Johnsen. In addition to one-to-one pastoral roles with members of the congregation, the pastoral ministers are developing specialized ministries in the community.

Working to expand upon the current elder's ministry with Rev. Carie will be Susan Burnett, Nancee Campbell and Helen Zidowecki. During the last year Nancee has been working with the Kennebec Valley Organizing (KVO) to identify need areas of the elder population in Kennebec County. To support this important work of identifying strategize to combat elder isolation, we have agreed to host an Elder's Conversation from 1:00—2:00 pm following the May 13th luncheon. A KVO leader will join us to hear people's stories and concerns for the purpose of shaping future proposals. We imagine the conversation will also profoundly shape the elder's ministry at UUCC in the next year. We hope you will come for service, stay for lunch and join us for conversations.

Interim Director of Religious Exploration ...

It is difficult for me to believe that we are coming up on May 20 - RE Recognition Sunday already! I will be here until the end of June at which time my interim position ends. What a wonderful year! I have made so many good friends (of all ages) and will always look back with deep affection to my time at UUCC.

On Apr. 29 our Young UU Worship dealt with the issue of people departing from our lives. The children said good-bye to long-time DRE Karen Fisk last year at this time; this year I will be leaving. How do we cope with departures and changes? How shall we celebrate the new? But there is yet much to do to get ready for Summer and to prepare for the coming of your new DRE!

Here's the rundown for May:

May 6 - Peace Jam service led by our Youth at the 9:15 service only. Children 4th grade and up attend the service. K-1 OWL and Explorers meet for classes. 11:00 Spirit Play.

May 13 - 9:15 Young UU Worship and RE classes. Classes prepare for their part in the May 20 service. 11:00 Spirit Play.

May 20 - 9:15 service celebrates our RE year together! Come and be part of this joyful event! 11:00 TBA. Following the 9:15 May 20 service we will be registering families for next year's RE program!

May 27 we will switch to one 10:00 service with Spirit Play available for all children not in nursery. RE classes resume in the Fall.

Summer Children's Program: June 3 to Sept. 2
Nursery care will be available during services for children 4 and under. Please bring them directly to the nursery room and be sure to sign in (and out when leaving after the service). Spirit Play for children 5 to 12. Children meet in fellowship hall and go to the Spirit Play room upstairs at 71 Winthrop.

Youth Camp Weeks at Ferry Beach, Saco

There is a lovely UU conference center on the beach in Saco. They offer a wide range of camps for adults and youth.

4th-6th grade *Kids for the Earth* June 23-30 or June 30-July 7

7th-9th grade *Different Drummers* (same dates as above)

10th-12th grade *FUUTURE* (same dates as above)

Go to www.ferrybeach.org for more information and details about adult camps.

From the Board President ...

Hello All!

I was recently at a gathering where family members were bemoaning the fact that their mainstream church is "graying". These days, they said, it seems that all they do is attend the funerals of elderly friends from church. To make matters worse, they say, fewer and fewer young families are joining. Their Sunday School is down to a handful of young people and they have been forced to cut back on the minister's hours.

According to the National Council of Churches (2011 data) several mainline churches have reported declines in membership: the United Church of Christ, down 2.83 percent to 1,080,199 members; the Presbyterian Church (USA), down 2.61 percent to 2,770,730 members; the Episcopal Church, down 2.48 percent to 2,006,343 members; the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, down 1.96 percent to 4,542,868 members; the American Baptist Churches USA, down 1.55 percent to 1,310,505; the Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod), down 1.08 percent to 2,312,111 members; and the United Methodist Church, down 1.01 percent to 7,774,931 members.

Unfortunately, membership trends for the UUA appear to be flat or declining very slightly as well. The UUA website reports that some congregations are increasing while others are decreasing. Church leaders believe that some of the decline can be attributed to the rough fiscal times, where churches have been winnowing their roles in order to save dues money that go to the UUA.

Here at the UUCC of Augusta, we have seen uneven but steady growth. Considering the rocky road we have travelled as a congregation in the past several years, it is a testament to our vibrant committed congregation that we remain on an even keel. The Board is committed to being a healthy, growing congregation. Let us work together to continue to this goal.

Sincerely,

Sheila Comerford,
Board President

Church News....



Names and Spaces of our Buildings ~ Pause, take a mental walk through the space that comprises our church campus. Note what each space is called and how it is used – all of the space, in the church building itself and in the Annex and at 71 Winthrop

Street, and the garage. In this walk consider how we identify or name our church spaces? Have you been in all of the spaces? What do the names of spaces mean? What are the stories behind uses and names of the spaces? What difference (if any) do the names of our spaces make?

Naming the buildings will be part of the Annual Meeting on June 3rd. Look for the more specific information that will be available ten days before the meeting.

History Committee ...

On April 1, we were reconnected with our history around the memorial service and reception for Beatrice Robbins, wife of Rev. Douglas Robbins, minister here 1943-1973, in a couple of ways. First, the reception was in the Annex, which was originally the parsonage where the family had resided. English China cups/saucers from our collection were used. This collection of over 80 cups and saucers was developed in 1935 to furnish a room in the old Winthrop Street Universalist Church that was named for two boys who drowned in Cobbossee Lake. *Thanks to those who assisted with the reception, brought food and washed the cups and saucers. It was nice to be able to have the History Room open for the occasion.*

Second, the memorial service brought the return of the cross. Both the Universalists and Unitarians came from liberal Christian roots, part of our living tradition. This cross was originally donated to the congregation by Rev. Douglas Robbins in memory of his parents. His father was a Universalist minister, also. The cross had been returned to his family, but was reconnected with the congregation during Bea's memorial service. *The History Committee would like to suggest the exploration of the influence of liberal Christianity on where we are today.*

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 10th at 10:30 am in the Annex.

Display Case ...

The April display, "Singing Through Our Unitarian and Universalist History", arose from the service by Rev. Carie Johnsen and Choir Director Douglas Barley on February 26. Several themes and trends will be added throughout the month:

- ♦ *Sources.* The Listing of Hymnals and similar publications extends from the late 1700's to present. Historically, the Universalists and Unitarians organized as denominations in the early 1800's. The publishers of early works were individuals, the Sunday School Society (Unitarian), and State Conventions (Universalist), individual congregations (Portsmouth, NH; Los Angeles). Later hymnals are published by the denominations and the UU Musicians Network, with some individual publication still occurring.
- ♦ *Formats.* Some of the early books have words and notations of the tunes to be used. In some, the music was included, with the words written separately; in others the words were included with the music format (in our current hymnals). In addition, some hymnals had services for use. Others included readings for various occasions, as we have now. One included background notes about hymns and readings, and our present hymnal has these notations a separate publication.
- ♦ *Theological threads and cultural changes.* Jewish and Christian heritage is the primary source for hymns and readings, with early and increasing inclusion of material from other traditions. Gender sensitivity caused the creation of two smaller collections with modifications from the 1964 publication of Hymns for the Celebration of Life, one for some of the hymns and one for readings. *Singing the Living Tradition* (current gray hymnal) focused on the UU sources. But even there, the last source, "Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions," was added after this hymnal was printed. And *Singing the Journey*, from the UU Musicians Network, continues the diversity of our theology and spiritual paths!
- ♦ *Lasting hymns.* UU writers have written hymns used far beyond Unitarian and Universalist churches, such as "Nearer, My God, to Thee". Others will be noted, and the last display of April will note hymns that we still use from long ago.

If you have hymnals that you would like to add to the display or contribute to the History Committee's collection, contact Helen Zidowecki.

The Display on May 6, 13, and 20 will be on Religious Education.

Peaceful Heart Sangha ...

~ Flower Fresh ~



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

May 7: Children/family practice from 5:30 – 6:15 followed by childcare so that parents can participate in meditation.

May 14 & 21: We will discuss *The Heart of the Buddha's Teachings*. A few copies are available for those who would like to join our twice per month readings and discussion.

May 28: 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: We will add Deep Relaxation to our meditation practice, bring a blanket to lie on if you would like.

Thursday, May 3 & 17 (1st & 3rd Thursdays) we will have our NEW bimonthly meditation from **8 – 9:30 AM at the River Studio in Hallowell.**

After their lively fun UUCS Concert on April 7, Lynne Deeves & Trina Hamlin donated \$80 to UUCS and \$80 to Peaceful Heart Sangha. Thank you!

For more information or if you would like to arrange an introduction to meditation call 685-9270 or send email to: Peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com or martysoule@gmail.com

Goddess Continuing ...

As a follow-up to the Croning service with Maggie Ricker, we would like to have intergenerational programs in the early fall related to the stages of women's lives, culminating in a croning ceremony.

Goddess Continuing usually meets 12:15-2:00pm on the first and third Sundays.

On **May 6**, some members of the group may be attending the May Day celebration at Popham Beach, probably leaving the church at 9am. If you are interested in participating in this adventure, contact Helen Zidowecki.

The **May 20** will be in the Annex, with a Small Group Ministry session on "Composting and Spiritual Nurturing", with the possibility of composting as a community project.

Holiday Basket FUNdraiser in honor of May Day

Three Summer Fun baskets will be raffled off during Fellowship Hour on May 20th.

- (1) basket for children
- (2) baskets for adults (and can be shared with children).

The baskets are filled with items for summer fun. The tickets are being sold Sundays, up to the time of drawing on May 20.

Raffle tickets are **1 for \$1** or **5 for \$3**.

Proceeds go to UUCS. See Grace MacDonald or Helen Zidowecki for tickets.

Nonviolent Communication ...

The Practice Group is 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): May 4 and 18, 10:15am-12:15pm, Robbins Room

**Introduction to Nonviolent Communication* for those without experience with NVC, but open to anyone, 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.

Worship Committee ...

Your Worship Committee strongly believes that the most important word in our UUCC identity is 'community'. It is the main reason that the many people of diverse backgrounds and interests have bonded together on the corner of Winthrop and Summer Streets here in Augusta. Whether a member is a regular or a casual worship attendee, gregarious or shy, one of the best ways that we all have to communicate our common humanity is during the time we call "Joys and Sorrows". That part of the service is the safe and sacred time for all us to share in the out-of-the ordinary moments, both happy and sad, that define our lives.

The Worship Committee is extremely sensitive to the special nature of this ritual and wants to continue to honor its place in our worship services. "Joys and Sorrows" will remain a consistent part of our Sundays together, appearing at least twice a month during our services. There will be times, of course, when either time or a special service format will not allow for its observance, but please be assured that your worship leaders understand the value and importance of having a place and time to share those intimate moments that cement the emotional bonds with each other.

Mark Your Calendars ...

Religious Coalition Against Discrimination Speaker event and book singing with Robert V. Taylor author of *A New Way to Be Human*. Instead of accepting modern cynicism and jadedness, there is *A New Way to Be Human*. THURSDAY, MAY 3rd, 5:30 - 7:30 pm, Cathedral of St. Luke. Portland.

With the help of his mentor Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Robert left his native South Africa to avoid imprisonment for anti-apartheid work. Nineteen years after moving to the US, he became the first openly gay dean in the Episcopal Church. His new book is part memoir and part spiritual guidebook.

PRIDE 2012. Saturday, June 16th., 11:00 AM. RCAD will be organizing space in the parade for all faith traditions to march together, with their banners, to show the force of faith communities united for marriage equality. Details to follow.



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 the resources to bring this work home to

our congregations. For more information visit the following site: <http://www.uua.org/ga/index.shtml>

Social Justice Summit ...

It's time to register for the Social Justice Summit, to be held Saturday, May 12, 10-3 at UUCC. We are hosting this multi-congregational event in cooperation with the UUA's Northern New England District. UU congregations from throughout the state will join us in seeking to strengthen and grow our social justice efforts.

There are some exciting stories to tell. UUCC has launched an effort to assist Maine's immigrant community and work with the Maine Council of Churches to tell their story. Rockland has expanded a project originally intended to create a "green sanctuary" to install more than 1,000 energy-efficient windows in houses and mobile homes throughout the community. Pittsfield has created an innovative networking system to aid those incarcerated in Maine's prison and jails. And Belfast has launched a congregation-wide effort to create a new social justice program.

We will hear all these stories, and then meet in small groups to see how UUs from throughout Maine can help each other to widen and broaden these efforts.

Susan Lesile of the UUA's Witness Staff, who works on social justice issues with congregations all over the U.S., will provide the keynote address. Trudy Ferland of the Pittsfield UU church will explain how networking can turn out volunteers and provide forums for discussion for congregations across Maine. And Karen Brammer, the NNED's Social Justice specialist, will also be with us.

Any member of UUCC is welcome and encouraged to attend. There will be a small registration fee, which the church will pay. To register, go to:

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs001/1102801309558/archive/1109788874059.html>

For more information, contact Doug Rooks at 724-2759 or drooks@tds.net

Buildings and Grounds ...

There will not be a Saturday work day in May.

Tuesday Work Days ~ We have Tuesday work days scheduled for April 24th and May 1st. Any amount of help is appreciated.

Saturday, June 9th ~ Reroofing the garage begins! Volunteers are needed in the morning to load old shingles into trailers. This is all ground work. Volunteers are also needed in the morning and the afternoon to carry shingles up ladders and set shingles on the edge of the roof. You will not need to go onto the roof, but the shingles are heavy.

Shifts are 8-1pm and 12-5pm. Lunch is available for both shifts from 12-1pm. Please contact Tom Waddell at 512-5382 or us1863@gmail.com for more information or to sign up!

If you are dividing hostas, the fellowship garden could use some variegated hosta or hosta with large roundish leaves. We have enough of the plain hosta, thank you. Other shady perennials are appreciated. Call Marilyn 512-5382 or email maine2007@hotmail.com.

Fundraising ...

Have you noticed how spiffy the garage interior looks? Tom Waddell, Bruce Bierce, Judy McCown, and Hannah Faulkner swept, removed damaged items, sorted winter donations and assigned organized space for your incoming household treasures. Now *Hannah's Boutique* and *Joe's Book Table* are seeking elegant gift items, all types of books and new-looking clothing to bring in money for the church at the Annual Inside/Outside Yard Sale to be held on May 19th. We welcome glassware, ceramics, dishes, candles, and holders, sculptures, fabrics, clocks, books, paintings, toys, photographs, jewelry, accessories, etc. Please notify Hannah Faulkner at hannahuu3@fairpoint.net or 293-9377 when you are ready to deliver something so that we can assist in carefully placing your contributions into the garage and labeling general contents on each container in preparation for our exciting spring sale!

Volunteers needed for the Annual Inside/Outside Yard Sale! There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Set up and pricing will be Friday, May 18th!

Friday, May 25th ~ **Dessert Theater** "The 39 Steps" \$16 for Adults; \$14 for Seniors. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Don't delay, sign up today!

Elder Luncheon ...

Elder Lunch ~ Please join us Sunday, May 13th, Noon-1pm in Fellowship Hall for our monthly Elder Lunch. All are welcome! Elder is self-defined and lunches are delicious!

Please plan to stay for Conversations on Elder Isolation in Kennebec County. (See note from Pastoral Ministry Team on Page 2 for details.)

From the Treasurer ...

A friendly reminder that when making pledge payments, please be sure to make a notation in the memo portion of your check. This will help to better ensure that your pledges are recorded accurately.

Administration News ...

Directory Information ~ Please be sure to let the Administration Office know if you have any changes in address, phone number or email so that we may keep our directory information up to date. We will be putting a new one together soon! Thank you!

Website Calendar ~ Our new website calendar is now available! Need to rent space for a meeting? Take a look at the calendar to see what is available! Need to know what time an event is taking place? Visit the web calendar! If you have any questions regarding the calendar please contact Julie at 622-3232. Thank you!

Administration Hours:

Monday	8:00 am-4:00 pm
Tuesday	8:00 am-4:00 pm
Thursday	4:30 pm-8:30 pm *
Saturday	8:00 am-12:00 pm

Please note the addition of Thursday evening hours.

Facebook ~ UUCG now has a Facebook page! Please visit often! Be sure to "like" our page!

Rev. Carie Johnsen also has a Facebook page. Visit RevCarie Johnsen and be sure to "friend" request!

"I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do. What I can do, I should do."
- Edward Everett Hale

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



Newsletter articles are due the third Monday of each month. The next newsletter deadline is May 21st. 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 am- 4:00 pm
Thursday, 4:30 pm- 8:30 pm
Saturday, 8:00 am.– Noon

Office: (207) 622-3232, admin@augustauu.org
Minister's Study: (207) 623-3663 (Office)
(207) 395-8051(Home)
(508) 221-5295 (Cell)
revcariejohnsen@gmail.com
www.augustauu.org

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 To schedule an appointment please contact Rev. Carie at: 623-3663 or revcariejohnsen@gmail.com
Friday	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.