



The Flaming Chalice

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

November 2010

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

Nov. 7th *Peace in the House* Rev. Carie Johnsen
Joanne Friday

Rev. Johnsen will share the pulpit with Joanne Friday, a Dharma Teacher in the Tiep Hien Order of the Venerable Thich Nhat Hanh. They will explore the work of peace and justice as they highlight the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). The Faith-in-Action chairs, Rebecca Dorr and Jenny McKendry will lead the time for all ages during both services and distribute the UUSC Guest at Your table Boxes.

Nov. 14th *Church Life as Spiritual Practice* Rev. Carie Johnsen

Membership is a journey of becoming and belonging. This service will consider engagement with congregational life as a spiritual practice. This service will include the New Member Ceremony. Please come to meet our newest members as we celebrate their journey into membership.

Nov. 21st Harvest Communion Rev. Carie Johnsen
Multigenerational Team

As we enter the season of Thanksgiving, we gather as a community to share a common meal of thanks on Friday evening. During the Sunday morning service members and friends will participate in a UUSC tradition—the harvest communion of apple cider and pumpkin.

Nov. 28th *Grace Matters* Rev. Marcel Duhamel

Minister: Rev. Carie Johnsen
President: Sheila Comerford
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)
revcariejohansen@gmail.com
www.augustauu.org

Next newsletter deadline is **November 15th**. Please submit newsletter articles by email to Julie Pelletier, UUSC Church Administrator at admin@augustauu.org

A Faith Journey...

On Saturday, Oct. 16th, I facilitated the annual Worship Arts Retreat. Members of the worship committee, music committee and our five pianists were invited to attend this four hour exploration of Sunday Service. Two staff members, Doug Barley, Choir Director and Karen Fisk, Director of Religious Exploration also attended.

Together we reflected upon the Sunday services offered during the previous church year and shared personal insights into the question: Why do I/we worship?

As one might expect in a Unitarian Universalist congregation, the very question of the language we chose to use entered into the conversation around noon time. We closed our time together by the writing of a worship arts covenant.

Karen Fisk asked the very important question, “As the religious leader of this congregation, what is your philosophy of worship?” I responded by giving the worship arts team a brief answer; and then said, I would need further time to articulate a more thoughtful answer. I believe we talked about this only briefly at that very busy candidating week back in March of 2009. I decided to bring my articulated philosophy to all of you in the form of a mission and vision statement.

My worship vision is to co-create relevant, diverse, prophetic, visceral, healing, informative, stimulating, multigenerational, and multicultural transformative worship.

I enter into this **process of co-creating** with divine mystery, serendipitous creativity and the members and friends of this congregation. In the end the *mystery of the hour* has the final word. What happens between the pulpit and the pew is ineffable—indescribable, beyond words. You bring who you are, I bring you the best of what I have to offer each week, and then what happens at 9:15 and 11:00 unfolds.

As the worship leader at UUCC, I strive to

create opportunity for encounters with the big questions, ultimate or spiritual reality
hold a space for people to bring their whole self – joys, sorrows, frustrations, laughter
hold the broken hearted in compassion and care
explore what it means to be human – help people to grow into and be their best selves
respond to the suffering in us and in the world
inspire people to take action to free the world from injustice and oppression
stimulate and educate an inquiring mind
nurture connections with others and spirit
build and deepen connections within the community

This articulation of my worship vision and mission lives in conversation with your individual and collective hopes and dreams for our time together on Sunday morning. Therefore it is incomplete, evolving and growing. It is a living philosophy that is open to dialogue, shaped by experience and adjusted in light of new understandings and information.

Please let me know what you think so that your vision may shape our worship future.

In Faith, *Carie*



Director of Religious Exploration.....

Ritual is a way to remove the barriers of everyday life and enter quickly into a sacred space. A song, for instance, or a prayer, can take you immediately to a place of worship, of safe, comforting feeling, an enduring memory.

It takes time and repetition for ritual to become integral to anyone's recollection of worship. And, in a practice of faith like Unitarian Universalism, we think hard about what is worthy of ritual, what is worthy of repetition, what is worthy as a symbol we would hold onto over time and space.

The props of worship are no less powerful. I remember a fellow DRE talking about being homesick while in the Peace Corps, then spotting something on a table in a crowded marketplace. She said with some drama, it was like a beacon light illuminated this homemade, unique but unmistakable chalice! She found a symbol of her faith far from home and it brought her comfort and joy.

The chalice was not adopted as a symbol for Unitarian Universalism until after World War II, when Unitarian aid workers there required a symbol to help refugees know their truck was safe to approach for food and medical supplies. The Unitarian Service Committee asked Hans Deutsch, an Austrian artist, to create a symbol for them. To Deutsch, the chalice image had connotations of sacrifice and love. At our church we talk about the chalice being the vessel of our church, holding the fuel of our collective energy as the candle and the mystery of our spirituality as the flame. That is a worthy symbol for its historic and contemporary images.

Deciding on ritual, repeated prayers or phrases, hymns, ways of worship is an organic process in some ways and fully intentional in others. When the RE Committee meets together with interested congregants for our RE Retreat, we focus on what we want our children and youth to know by the time they bridge out of our children and youth RE program. Not least on our list is that we want them to know the comfort and solace of a faith home. There are a number of ways to create that place of comfort and solace, among them the use of ritual, the familiar, the expected, the known.

We always light our chalice the same way in Young UU Worship, we always sing the Old Hundredth, we always take time to pray and be grateful for all that is good within us, among us and between us. We refer to the Seven Promises and Six Sources of Unitarian Universalism. That is our foundation, a place of security, from there we can explore with a diversity and variety that opens our minds.

Our church year also offers opportunity for some sameness as well as some variety. As we enter into the fall and winter holiday season, our Minister, the RE Committee, the Worship Arts Team and I contemplate our Thanksgiving and Winter Holiday offerings with a mind toward honoring tradition and stretching our collective minds. What we have "always done" is not necessarily what we will do, but no change will be entered into without careful thought and sensitivity toward our goals of offering our congregation a place of solace and safety, and a place of growth and call to action.

For all that is good within us, among us and between us, I am grateful for the opportunity this church community offers our children, youth, young adults, adults, and elders to explore what it means to worship and create sacred space, and enduring memories, together.

Yours in faith,

Karen

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST COMMUNITY CHURCH: ADULT RE

See the Adult Religious Exploration Bulletin Board by Sanctuary.

Contact: Helen Zidowecki 582-5308, hzmre@hzmre.com

Nonviolent Communication Practice Groups:

The Wednesday group is not meeting, and some of the members have joined the Friday Open Group. If you are interested in Nonviolent Communication, contact Helen Wing (685-3804, hcranewing@localnet.com) about workshops in the area, and Helen Zidowecki (582-5308, hzmre@hzmre.com) regarding participating in the Friday (10am-noon) group. Description of the group is on the Bulletin Board.



PEACEFUL HEART SANGHA:

Mindfulness Meditation in the tradition of
Thich Nhat Hanh

Monday 6:30-8:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Marty Soule at 685-9270, martysoule@gmail.com
Sitting & Walking meditation - Readings & Sharing
No prior experience is necessary

First Mondays

5:30-6:15 p.m. Meditation practices for children & adults.

6:15-8:15 p.m. Childcare available

If you would like an Introduction to Meditation,
please contact Marty.

Wednesday 6:30-8:00 p.m., Augusta

Wednesdays now being held in a private home in Augusta.

More information about Peaceful Heart Sangha is now
available by going to our blog:

<http://peacefulheartsangha.blogspot.com/> or by writing to
peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com

Small Group Ministry:

Various times, days and evenings. *Kathy Kellison*
(445-4415, dehaana@fairpoint.net)

Opportunity for discussion of spiritual topics,
personal sharing and shared ministry to the church
and wider community.

***Ongoing Groups** of 8-10 people meet at times
and locations decided by the groups.

See other articles in this newsletter.

GODDESS CONTINUING

1st & 3rd Sundays, 12:15-2:15pm The Annex

Becoming Women of Wisdom

And Special Celebrations

Helen Zidowecki (582-5308, hzmre@hzmre.com)

Lorna Doone, and others

Focuses on "Marking the Passage into the Crone Years," and is
pertinent for women of all ages. Year will be interspersed with special
celebrations.

Detailed listing of session titles is on the Bulletin Board, along with
Sign Up Sheet.

On October 17, we discussed the concept of becoming wise women
and of croning, and Principles for Wise Women. We were introduced
to the Triple Spiral Labyrinth.

October 30 Please join the Celebration of Sanhaim and Halloween
during the morning service.

November 7 Beginning the Descent, with the Principle of "Have the
courage to speak the truth as you see it."

November 21 Remembering Your Childhood, with the Principle of
"Live in the present moment and don't feel sorry for yourself".

Elders Lunches

2nd Sunday, Noon-1pm ~ Fellowship Hall

People self-defined as "Elders" are welcome to join the festivities!
Delicious meals are served at no charge to participants.
Opportunities abound for informal conversations and connections.

November 14, 2010

December 12, 2010

March 13, 2011

January 9, 2011

April 10, 2011

February 13, 2011

May 8, 2011

Marty Thornton (512-2587, marty.thornton@gmail.com) or
Stefanie Barley (623-2824, stefbarley@myfairpoint.net)

**A Small Group Ministry for Elders will be held following the
Elder's Lunch, facilitated by Rev. Carie Johnsen and the
Pastoral Care Associates, from 1-2pm.**

HISTORY COMMITTEE

The History Committee will be having a work day on Friday, November 26, and the next meeting is on **Friday, December 10, 10am to Noon, in the History and Olsen Rooms located in the Annex.** If you are interested in participating on the History Committee, please contact Helen Zidowecki (582-5308, hzmre@hzmre.com) Also, we welcome your items of congregational history. They may be left in the History Committee tray in the Committee Room.



UU Connections

Helen Zidowecki was a facilitator and represented UUC at a Small Group Ministry Conference in Saco on October 2. There were 6 congregations represented, and the basic reference for the workshop was the newly revised Implementing Small Group Ministry from the UU Small Group Ministry Network.

Harvest The Power

UUC Board Members Terry Cookson and Doug Rooks continue to facilitate the Harvest The Power District workshop in Bangor. This is a 12 part program covering a variety of leadership topics, providing an opportunity to learn lay leadership skills.

Three UUC Members are attending this three day leadership training: Thalia Ravlin, Jill Watson and Tom Waddell.



FAITH IN ACTION: BE BOLD, UUs TAKE ACTION

Thank you all for your wonderful ideas for community Faith in Action projects. Check our bulletin board for the complete list and join us Sunday, November 7 at 10:30 in Fellowship Hall to participate in our monthly Faith in Action table. We will be highlighting the global work of the UUSC.

Also, join us on Sunday, Nov. 21 at 10:30 in the Committee Room to plan future Faith in Action activities. We ask people of all ages to help us move forward creating social justice and charity projects. We'll help you direct your passion into action!

Questions? Contact Jenny McKendry or Rebecca Dorr, Faith in Action Co-Chairs

Diaper Drive

Thank you to all who have recently donated diapers for the Every Day Basics Pantry. We now are well supplied with adult diapers and really only need boys and girls pull-ups at this time.

A Special Invitation:

Visitor and Newcomer Conversations with Rev. Carie Johnsen and Karen Fisk, Director of Religious Exploration

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

A light evening meal will be served
Childcare is available

New Member Welcoming Ceremony

Sunday, November 14th, 2010

9:15 a.m. & 11 a.m. services

These two newcomer and new member events are a way of celebrating those who have become members during the past few months, and also inviting those who have begun to be part of our community, to consider whether you might like to join at this time.

Membership is a way of participating more fully in the life of the congregation. Membership enables you to vote during congregational meetings, and to help shape the direction of our spiritual journey together. Members are invited to share responsibility for the congregation, through gifts of time and resources, as we participate in congregational life.

The evening of conversations with Rev. Carie Johnsen will include an opportunity to sign the membership book. The welcoming ceremony itself will be simple, including reciting your names, and inviting all of you to come forward to receive a small gift from the congregation.

Please R.S.V.P., if you would like to attend conversations with Rev. Carie Johnsen, become a member and/or be part of the service, by calling the office at 622-3232 or sending email to admin@augustauu.org, by Sunday, November 7th. Be sure to tell us which events you plan to attend, number of people attending and if you will need childcare the ages of your children.





FUNDRAISING

FMI please contact Judy McCown and Bruce Bierce, Fundraising Co-Chairs at 897-3683 or jsmbierce@myfairpoint.net

Second Annual Pie Sale

Our Second Annual Pie Sale will be held on Saturday, November 20th, at Longfellow's Greenhouses on Puddledock Road in Manchester. Last year we sold a delicious variety of home made pies and earned \$642. We hope to do as well this year. If you would like to bake one or more pies for this sale, please sign the sheet on the Fundraising Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall. Pies can be brought to the Harvest Dinner at the church the evening before the Sale or they can be delivered to Longfellow's the morning of the Sale. Every pie helps and is greatly appreciated. Our goal is to have 50 to sell.

UJCC COOKBOOK - RECIPE DEADLINE NOVEMBER 15th

We hope that everyone in the church will submit a favorite recipe for the Cookbook. If you haven't done this yet, please consider writing one out today. Recipe forms are available on the Fundraising Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall or you may **email** your recipes to Roberta Record at: record@2002.yahoo.com. If you email your recipe, please include your information in the following manner:



Suggestion for Cookbook Title (optional) _____

Your name _____

Email address _____

Phone _____

Recipe title _____

Short personal comment telling something about your recipe _____

Ingredients _____

Method/Directions _____

Category: Vegetarian Appetizer Picnics/Pot Luck Kids' Section Sandwiches Salads Breads
 Desserts Beverages Soups/Chowders Entrees Recipes from Elder Luncheons Other

Small Fundraising Events

We know of two very special events that are being planned for 2011. We encourage more church members to consider hosting a meal combined with an activity to raise money for the church. The time, the place, the number of guests and the amount you charge are up to you. We will publicize your event for you. Please contact us for more information.

Service Auction

Please contact us (Judy and Bruce) if you would like to help organize a Service Auction. Does anyone know an auctioneer?

Hannah's Boutique ~ November 13

Don't miss the **Hannah's Boutique** gift sale of choice items on **Saturday, November 13 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** **Joe's Book Table** will present many interesting books. **The UU Snack Bar** will offer coffee, sandwiches and snacks to purchase. All proceeds go to our church.

We welcome bountiful donations of gift items, new or like new, including Christmas treasures, pottery, knitted garments, regifts and books. Contact Hannah Faulkner as shown below, or bring your items to the cloak room on Sunday in containers marked, "Hannah's Boutique" for her to sort and store.

We seek good cooks to provide delicious sandwiches and snacks. Sign up on the list in the Fellowship Hall to tell us what food items you will prepare.

Set-up will be from 2-6 p.m. on Friday, November 12. If you want to sell your own items that Saturday at a crafts or food table and make a donation to the church, please contact Hannah Faulkner (293-9377 or hannahu3@fairpoint.net) or Judith McCown Bierce (897-3683 or jsmbierce@myfairpoint.net) to reserve your space.





**Enjoy a Day of Mindfulness
In the Tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh
"Deepening Our Practice"
With Dharma Teacher, Joanne Friday**

Unitarian Universalist Community Church, 69 Winthrop St., Augusta, Maine

Saturday, November 6, 2010 from 9 - 4

Ordained as a Dharma Teacher by Thich Nhat Hanh in 2003, **Joanne Friday** is one of the founders of the Clear Heart Sangha in Rhode Island. Joanne shares that "the transmission of the Dharma {is} the most wonderful gift I have ever received and my greatest joy is passing it on". Her clarity & joy are palpable.

Our day of adult practice will be held in Noble Silence - allowing us opportunities to deepen our practice with sitting and walking meditation, dharma talks, and mindful eating.

Please bring:

- a **brown bag lunch** (cold), a mug, & cloth napkin- hot tea will be provided
- a cushion/bench, if desired - chairs and pews will be available
- a blanket, in case the space is cool
- appropriate outerwear for **outdoor** walking meditation (even in the rain)

Cost: \$25 Registration fee.

You will have an opportunity to contribute support to the teacher, if you so desire. **No one will be turned away for lack of funds.** An anonymous donation has been made to cover funds for those who have financial challenges.

Registration/questions: Greg Fahy peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com 622-7012.

Please make checks out to Lynn Deeves and mail with registration to:

Greg Fahy, 56 Middle St. Hallowell, ME 04347

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Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Address _____

City/ State _____ Do you practice with a Sangha? _____

Sangha Name/location _____

Sponsored by the Peaceful Heart Sangha

COMMUNITY NEWS

Second Annual Chowder Luncheon
Saturday, October 30th ~ 11:30 to 1:30
Fellowship Hall

The menu will consist of a variety of chowders, blueberry muffins and home-made pies. If you can help with food and/or serving, please sign the sheet on the Fundraising Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall or contact Judy McCown at:
jsmbierce@myfairpoint.net or 897-3683



Buildings and Grounds Fall Work Days
Saturday, October 30th and November 6th
9:00 a.m. – Noon

Please help rake the lawn and wash windows at 69 Winthrop Street. Participants may attend the noon chowder luncheon on the 30th for half price of \$3. An hour or two of your time on either of these days will be greatly appreciated and will free up some committee members who need to tackle the gutters and minor carpentry projects. Many hands make light work! Sign up sheets on our bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

For more information or to volunteer your time please contact Tom Waddell at:
us1863@roadrunner.com or 512-5382.



Free! There is a washer, dryer and air hockey table available for free. If you are interested in any of these items contact Tom Waddell at 512-5382 or us1863@roadrunner.com.

Board Meeting

November 8th
6:15 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Annual Harvest Supper

Friday, November 19th
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Come join us for our annual Harvest Supper. Bring your favorite dish to share with friends and loved ones. Great food, great company!

Volunteers are needed for set up and clean up! Contact Cheryl Clukey at 441-0337 for more information or to sign up to volunteer!

Annual Harvest Communion

November 21st
Sunday morning Services
9:15 and 11:00 a.m.

Thought for the day:

No act of kindness, no matter how small is ever wasted—Aesop

Happy Thanksgiving

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

From the Administration Office

Just a friendly reminder that should you need space at the church for meetings or gatherings of any kind, please contact the administration office at 622-3232 to reserve space. This will help to ensure space is available!

Submitting Newsletter Articles and Announcements

To ensure the accuracy of our newsletter articles and weekly announcements please send your submissions by email, indicating in the subject line, “Weekly Announcements” or “Newsletter Article”. We ask that you review your submissions carefully before sending them. Thank you for your help in this matter!