



The Flaming Chalice

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

December 2013

December Theme

Unitarian Universalist Sources



Sunday Morning Services at 9:15 and 11:00
Religious Exploration at 9:15
Spirit Play at 11:00
Nursery Care Provided



Sunday

December 8th
9:15 & 11:00 a.m.

Music Sunday

This traditional holiday service has become a favorite among members and friends. This service highlights the Unitarian Universalist Community Church Choir, led by Joelle Morris and the Unitarian Universalist Occasional Orchestra (JUCCOO), led by Dale McCormick.

Please join us as we ring in the holiday season with the friends and family.

Wednesday

December 14th
6:00 p.m.

Lighting the Way: Grief, Loss and the Holidays

This Wednesday evening vespers service is a time to remember the holiday season includes heartache, loneliness and loss.

This service creates a compassionate caring community to be present to the hurt and the grief. It is a time to hold our unfilled dreams of how we wish life to be in the tender care of beloved community.

Sunday

December 15th
9:15 a.m.

Religious Exploration Holiday Pageant

This traditional holiday pageant gathers members friends and family in celebration and love.

Please note: Children and youth who would like to participate should plan to arrive at the church at 9:10 on the 15th. There will not be a rehearsal, just a little preparation time before the service.

Tuesday, December 24th

4:00 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

This Christmas Eve tradition will include two services. The early service at 4:00 will be specifically designed for families with young children. The second service at 5:30 will include the traditional of carols, readings and candle lighting. All ages are welcome at both services.

A Faith Journey by Rev. Carie Johnsen...

The monthly theme for December is Unitarian Universalist Sources.

We talk frequently and refer often to the Unitarian Universalist Principles, but our sources often get overlooked in the conversation. And just what are our sources, you ask. Rev. Kathleen Rolenz said, "Throughout history, we have moved to the rhythms of mystery and wonder, prophecy, wisdom, teachings from ancient and modern sources, and nature herself." The UUA website reads "Worshipping in our congregations you may hear a reading or perspective shared from any one of these sources from which our living tradition is drawn:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature."

Unfortunately, a month of Sundays is inadequate time for a comprehensive exploration of how each source informs our faith individually and collectively. We will only have time to dip our toes into the stream of this living tradition. The Soul Matters packet will provide each of us the opportunity for a personal exploration in the comfort of our own home or with a Small Group Ministry. Remember there is an open session each month at 12:30 on the third Sunday of each month. This time provides guests, newcomers, friends and members a time for reflection in a small group setting.

Having just arrived home from the Leap of Faith travel weekend in Milton, MA with our mentor congregation, I would like to reflect briefly on the first source in the list. Direct experience... which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life.

First Parish Milton has adopted as their mission statement the following: We welcome all to grow deep faith and take bold action. As we gathered in their community on Friday night we felt the welcome and as the conversations unfolded over the weekend, we witnessed through their members the ways in which they are growing in faith and living this uncommon tradition through bold action. The weekend is aptly named, a learning journey. Throughout our three days together, the conversations among the UUCC travel team and First Parish Milton congregation were overflowing with reciprocal and mutual learning. In the UUCC travel team, I witnessed the renewal of spirit, wonder and possibility as they inquired curiously and remained open to the many possibilities swirling around the room.

The visionary leadership emerging in Leap of Faith is yet to be fully known and fully realized as we all endeavor onward in the ambiguity of the questions. May each of us accept the invitations along the way to join the journey and live into the answers.

In faith, Rev. Carie

Religious Exploration Report....

By Rev. Carol Strecker, Director of Religious Exploration

It is darker than dark these days! Until the shortest day, the Winter Solstice, the sun will go to bed earlier and wake up later each day. People throughout history have observed the changing signs that accompany the seasons of life, creating festivals, holy days, observances and rituals to celebrate light in the midst of darkness. What a great time to explore our Unitarian Universalist sources!

A couple of years ago a multigenerational worship team put together a winter holiday pageant they called "Light Gives Hope", that touches on several of the sources that inspire UU's.

Our first source is our own experience. The Rev. Edmond Sears, Unitarian minister, was moved to write "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear"; a song about hope for the light of peace in the midst of the darkness of war. His witness for peace also speaks to our second source, the words and deeds of women and men who challenge the dark forces in life. In the poem, "Why Not a Star" there are references to the star as super nova, the star for Jesus and the star for the Buddha and Zarathustra - all sources of understanding and light within our tradition. We also find inspiration in the simple story of the birth of a baby under a shining star - a baby that became a light for the world, as we believe all babies do when we affirm, "Each night a child is born is a holy night". Some of us may not believe in miracles but most of us can affirm the message of hope and tenacity in the story of a temple lamp that continued to burn for 8 days when there was only enough oil for one. These stories from our Jewish and Christian roots rekindle of the flame of inspiration within our souls during the dark times.

Then there's the story of the sun and the earth and our place in the midst of it all. We honor the cycles of seasons of the Earth. We watch and wait for the light to return and when it does it lightens our hearts and we know that light comes again to dark places. Is it any wonder that so many of these festivals of light are celebrated during the darkest time of the year?

This pageant, much like the holiday season itself, has become something of a ritual. As with all rituals, this one has many layers. This month, I hope to give our children and youth an opportunity to look a little more closely at these stories and the light in the world and in our hearts that they can inspire. May we all find ways to deepen our connection to the sources that bring light into the world during the dark times.

The pageant will be on December 15th during first service. There are roles large and small for all ages. If you'd like to participate let me know. Have a blessed holiday season.

Peace, Love and Light,

Carol

Partners in Our UU Faith...

By Doug Rooks, President

There's a tradition of "sister cities," where a city on one continent pairs up with another far away, often involving cultural and economic exchanges. These relationships rarely run deep, however, and often seem the product more of good intentions than true collaboration.

That isn't the case with UUCC's partnership with First Parish in Milton, Mass. As most of you know, Milton is our mentor congregation in the UUA Leap of Faith program that will see extensive interchanges between the two congregations during the current church year.

Our Leap of Faith travel team, which consists of Rev. Carie Johnsen, Rev. Carol Strecker, Nancy Fritz, Rita Cherubini, Gary Chapin and myself, spent a long weekend in Milton, a suburb of Boston, Nov. 15-17. We returned exhausted but exhilarated, confident that we are developing a partnership that is both spiritual and profound – forming connections that should benefit our two churches for years to come.

The Leap of Faith is based on the idea of "adaptive challenges," ingrained patterns in our culture and the way we do things that hold us back from achieving our full potential as a faith community. It is daunting to discuss and deal with these challenges – it's hard work, frankly, but I think all the members of the team have come to realize that this is necessary work for us as church leaders.

What we also hope to share in the weeks and months to come is how inspiring this process is. Milton has a rich history dating back to 1676, and it was the community's original "established" church, a center for town government as well as worship. The current meetinghouse dates to 1783 and is a beautiful, light-filled gathering place.

But the important thing about Milton for us is how their patterns as a congregation, their struggles and successes, bear a remarkably close relationship to our own. For instance, our aspiration to build a new church and move to a different site 10 years ago was not successful, but we did expand and substantially improve our campus on the site our predecessor Universalist Church occupied since the mid-19th century. Milton recently planned for an unusual, if not unique, partnership with a Jewish synagogue to build a joint project on their historic campus only to see the agreement fail to gain the necessary super-majority in a congregational vote.

Not all our ventures succeed, but all are part of our development and growth as congregations. We learn from failure as much as we do from success. While I'm hesitant to predict what will be the most important lessons the two congregations learn from each other, we were all impressed by the depth of their discussions and programs around membership, and what it truly means to be part of a liberal religious community. I also detected interest from the Milton team about our efforts to strengthen lay leadership at all levels.

Our mutual journey has just begun. In March or early April, the Milton team will come to Augusta and we will renew our learning, this time with the help of many members of our congregation, including the home team who will host the visit. We have a lot of good news to share. Don't hesitate to ask us about it.

Augusta Warming Center...

The Augusta Warming Center is getting ready to open for its 5th season in downtown Augusta, and our church is again standing ready to assist this effort. The Warming Center provides a cozy, safe place for people to gather who are in need of shelter, companionship and/or referral to social services. The staff and volunteers are currently preparing the space for their grand opening on Monday, December 16th. The Center will remain in operation until March 30th. The Warming Center is located at 44 Front Street, on the back side of the Odd Fellows Hall building, and is open 7 days/week from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For people with limited finances, they are welcome to have lunch at the Bread of Life soup kitchen just down the street every Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, various organizations and companies supply a noon meal for those who are utilizing the Warming Center. There are limited clothing and blanket supplies available to those in need, and the staff is always available to assist with community resources. The Warming Center is open every day, regardless of inclement weather, and serves individuals and families in need from throughout the greater Augusta area.

It costs \$15,000 to operate the Warming Center for those 3 ½ months, and the United Way has already contributed \$11,000. The Warming Center will continue fundraising in the community and at local churches, and are now accepting contributions of supplies. The City of Augusta and other organizations have furnished the Warming Center, but they are still in need of a bookcase for their children's room. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF ANYONE HAS A BOOKCASE TO DONATE.

In the past, our church has supported this important seasonal organization with donated commodities and Share the Plate contributions. They are currently in need of contributions of all types of coffee supplies (tea, hot chocolate, milk substitute, sweeteners, etc). This year they are making an effort to provide healthy snacks to their visitors, such as fresh fruit, peanut butter crackers and fruit cups.

There will be a plastic container marked "Warming Center" in the coat room of the church. You are encouraged to bring your donations, and I will be delivering them each Monday, to ensure the freshness of items brought in on Sunday. If you wish to volunteer at the Warming Center, have a special talent you'd like to offer, or have any questions, please contact me: Nancee Campbell (621-7727) or nancee1944@gmail.com.

Musings... from your Intern Minister

It is hard to believe that I have been your Intern Minister for almost three months! I would like you to know I have been enjoying my full immersion in parish ministry with you as my teaching congregation.

I find the monthly worship themes as spiritually deepening, and the upcoming December theme is our Unitarian Universalist sources.

Our principles and sources were written in the 1980's and approved by delegates at various UU General Assemblies. They continue to provide rich spiritual starting places, but possibly at some point in time they will undergo revisions and be either replaced or enhanced by other sources that may be more relevant as we become more diverse and multicultural.

Our UU principles may be easier to talk about since they are the principles we believe in. They guide us in how we are in covenant with each other and how we live in the world. On the other hand, our six sources of wisdom may be more difficult to discuss. The following is a very brief description of the sources: Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder; words and deeds of prophetic women and men; wisdom from the world's religions; the teachings of Judaism, Christianity, and others; humanist teachings; and spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions.

The month of December is a perfect season for it splendidly shows our diversity and connectedness as we honour some of our sources.

Sharon Piantedosi



Stewardship Committee...

Last year the Stewardship Committee became a year-round committee of UUCC. No longer just a five-week budget drive, the committee hopes to help foster continuous and open discussions about stewardship. In the words of Wayne Clark, the UUA Director of the Congregational Stewardship Network, stewardship is ministry: we believe that it is through stewardship that we will sustain UUCC as a spiritual home for all ages, a voice for justice in central Maine and beyond, and a place to celebrate diversity, religious freedom, and friendships. In our monthly newsletter space, the Stewardship Committee will be opening conversations on stewardship and its relation to our shared mission of worshiping, learning, and ministering together. Please join us in this discussion.

Have you started receiving in the mail requests from your favorite organizations for year-end gifts? It's that time of year and the Stewardship Committee wants to let you know that UUCC will once again be making a year-end appeal to its current and former members and friends.

After last year's appeal, we heard people ask – "why would I give UUCC an annual gift if I already pledge?" Here are some of the answers we heard from people who gave to the 2012 annual appeal:

- I am new and wanted to make a gift to show my support .
- I find I am able to give something extra since I've had a good year.
- I want to make a contribution to the endowment fund.
- Although I am not a member anymore, I still support the important social justice work done in the Community.
- I realized that if I have extra money to give to another nonprofit organization – I have extra money to give to UUCC.

Stewardship is how we support our minister, our staff, and each other; it is how we heat and

maintain our buildings; it is how we accomplish our good work within our congregation, our community, and our world. Thank you for considering how you are able to contribute financially to our shared vision for UUCC.

Annie Reiter and Hilary Neckles

Buildings and Grounds...

Guidelines for Contributing to Church Yard Sale

We will be having a yard sale next spring, probably in May. Because our garage houses snowblower and lawnmower equipment used for outdoor maintenance as well as Buildings & Grounds carpentry work space, we want to respect this work area by keeping it free of clutter.

1. Please wait until two weeks prior to the yard sale to place items in the garage. If you have an immediate need to remove an item from your home, please take it to Goodwill Industries rather than the church garage.
2. Items brought to the garage next May for the church yard sale should be placed on the side of the garage away from the door and next to the church.
3. Please limit donations to items you would purchase at a yard sale. We seem to have gotten away from this in the past several years, resulting in additional church expense to bring deteriorated and broken items to the transfer station at Hatch Hill. Most of you contribute fine, usable items, and that is the standard we want to maintain for our yard sales.

If you have any questions about these guidelines, please do not hesitate to contact Tom Waddell & Marilyn Dunn (512-5382), Terry Cookson (445-2942) or Hannah Faulkner (293-9377).

Display Case...

Theme-Based Displays

Contribute items for the Theme of the Month Display! The chart of the themes for the year is posted in the display case, so look ahead!

For December, the theme is **Unitarian Universalist Sources**. There will be space for items from the six sources:

- Transcending Mystery and Wonder
 - Words and Deeds of Prophetic Women and Men
 - Wisdom from the World's Religions
 - Jewish and Christian Teachings
 - Humanist Teachings
 - Earth-Centered Traditions
- as well as how these together inform our Principles.

Share photographs or personal artwork, including three dimensional pieces of art.

Submit a piece yourself, as a family or as a small group.

Drop items off at the Judd House during office hours, or leave with the Display Basket in the Committee Room, clearly identified with your name so that items can be returned.

The Display will be up assembled the Saturday before the first Sunday of the month. You may add to the display throughout the month. Contact Helen Zidowecki (582-5308, hzmre@hzmre.com) for more information.

Goddess Continuing....

Our next gathering is December 22, from 12:30-2 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Join Goddess Continuing for celebration of Yule and Solstice, with reflection, music, drumming, and food as we celebrate the uncertainty of the longest night and the stretching and hope for emerging light.

Please also see the Solstice brochure in the foyer. For more information, contact Helen Zidowecki (582-5308, hzmre@hzmre.com)

COOKIE WALK!

The Seekers (Jr. High) invite you to bring a batch of cookies to share. Donations will benefit tsunami victims in the Philippines.

Drop off cookies before 1st service.
Walk at 10:30!

DATE: Sunday, December 8, 2013

WHERE: Fellowship Hall



November Jumble Sale Brings in \$474...

UUC of Augusta gives thanks to everyone who contributed gifts and food to our church sale. We give special appreciation to the successive waves of workers who spent hours on Friday setting up the sale, selling to the incoming stream of people on Saturday and taking down and packing away the sale in the afternoon, including those who carefully evaluated and sorted books for future sales.

By the end of Saturday, \$412 had been taken in for the church. Two tables of gifts continued to provide sales through November 10. At the end of the Sunday, November 10 coffee hour, the grand total for the Jumble Sale came to \$477.74.

Watch for one limited Coffee Hour sale in December, when we hope to bring the grand total to over \$500.

Social Justice Committee Attends Mosque Hearing...

On Tuesday, November 12, the Augusta Planning Board had on its docket the proposed mosque by the Islamic Society of Greater Augusta. There had been an article in the KJ about it that mentioned a few people had expressed reservations to a city councilor. Approximately 7 members of the UUCC Immigration Work Group, other members of our congregation, Sharon Piantadosi and the Reverend Carie Johnsen attended the meeting. Carie and Sharon both wore their ministerial collars, which I was glad to see because at times like this it's important to use all tools to establish the moral high ground. We all knew that Carie was prepared to speak to counter any negative comments.

After waiting impatiently for two hours while the board dealt with other administratively dense proposals they finally took up the mosque. And it was worth waiting for. After the proposal was described by the Treasurer of the Islamic Society of Greater Augusta the chair asked if any one wanted to speak in favor. First to get up was the Togus chaplain who knew some of the 19 Muslim families living in Augusta. Next came Carie, who began by saying she represented the UUCC and could those of us in attendance please stand. We were very proud to stand. Here is what Carie said:

Hello, my name is Rev. Carie Johnsen. I am here to speak on behalf of Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Augusta. I also speak on behalf of Winthrop Area Ministers Association, an interfaith clergy group. I am here to speak up in support of Islamic Society's proposal to build a mosque off St. Andrews Street in Augusta.

Supporting the growth of the Islamic Society of Greater Augusta is good for the people of Kennebec County. Our communities are strengthened by the diversity of thought, ideas, beliefs and ways of being and living in the world. Reaching

across our differences to know each other and build relational communities is good for everyone.

The growth of the Islamic community in Augusta is an opportunity to build mutual understanding with respect, appreciation and love for people whose religious traditions, symbols, and beliefs may differ from our own.

The celebration of religious diversity fosters connections in our common humanity, encourages exploration of our shared values and goals, and invites us to stand on the side of love by reaching beyond ourselves into the world to confront fear, ignorance and hatred.

As you consider the Society's planning proposal, I ask you to support this opportunity to build bridges and support the growth of the Islamic community in Augusta.

When Carie had finished, Father Frank Morin of the Augusta area Roman Catholic churches was next to get up. Finally, David Offer, the President of Temple Beth El, speaking from prepared remarks, also voiced support of a mosque in Augusta.

The chair then asked if there was anyone who wanted to speak in opposition to the mosque. Not a soul got up. We all breathed a sign of relief. Delaine Nye, member of the Planning Board moved approval with "great pleasure". Our own Linda Conti, who is also a member of the Planning Board, stated for the record that although she is a member of the UUCC, she was not influenced by Reverend Carie's remarks. When the Planning Board voted unanimously to approve the mosque, the packed Council chamber erupted into applause.

During the recess that followed we all mingled with members of the Islamic Society of Greater Augusta. They were so happy and grateful for the support. One distinguished looking man said he had lived in the United

Immigration Work Group: Catching Up After a Busy Summer..

What do blueberries and apples have in common? Both crops are grown in central Maine and harvested primarily by migrant farm workers. UUCC reached out to a Haitian work crew picking midcoast blueberries who stayed for almost 4 weeks in Judd House and to Jamaican apple pickers at The Maine Apple Company in Monmouth.

Jean, the crew leader for the blueberry pickers, ran a tight ship. His white van left for Union about 6 am every morning unless it was raining. If you went into Judd House in the evening, you found people cooking dinner, often rice and beans, and eating in the Olsen Room. By 8 pm many were sleeping.

The space at Judd House was quickly transformed with the help of people who volunteered mattresses, sheets, and time to hang temporary curtains. It looked very nice and the workers had more space at a much lower cost than in the housing typically available to them. We delivered welcome bags in colorful cloth bags provided by Martha Naber and filled with your generous donations of food, toothbrushes and Hannaford cards. About 30 people enjoyed a wonderful dinner of Haitian chicken, rice and beans, and salads with recipes researched by Judy McCown and Kris Weeks-Oliveri. Immigration Work Group members offered two evenings of English practice and Cheryl Clukey baked blueberry desserts. We all gained respect for the hard work these men did and the care they took of church property.

After 3 ½ weeks officials inspected Judd House for safety standards because, unbeknownst to us, our accommodations constituted a boarding house. We relocated workers for another 3 days and then they left for points south and Florida. Thank you to Tom Waddell for breaking the news to the work crew and showing the men how much he cared. UUCC will not offer similar housing next year since a sprinkler system and other changes to meet the Life Safety Code are prohibitively expensive. If anyone has other ideas for providing housing, give me a call.

The UUCC visit to The Maine Apple Company

occurred on an evening in early October. We brought a number of donated items, but the soccer ball and the MMHP library books were the big hits. The highlight for us was our conversations. We learned more about how isolated the workers often feel and how Jamaicans get these jobs that pay so much more than work in Jamaica. One young man expressed the desire to meet a woman to marry so he could come and live in the U.S. We plan to return next season and word is that we should practice Dominoes before we go as this is a favorite pastime.

It is my pleasure to announce that we are giving this year's farm award in recognition of outstanding relations with migrant farm workers to a local farm, Lakeside Orchard in Manchester, owned by Steve and Marilyn Meyers. Thanks to Allan Watson for obtaining the plaque we hope will soon be hanging in the store.

We would be happy to have new membership for our committee or volunteers to help with specific projects. Just let Stephanie Ralph (stephralph@gmail.com) know of your interest.

History Committee...

The History Committee will be meeting on **Thursday, December 5, from 1:30-3:30pm** in the Olsen Room. The theme will be reviewing a notebook to increase visibility of our history as it relates to who we are today.

- What would you like to know about our history?
- What needs to be known related to our Leap of Faith activities?

Also a reminder: Check out the history on the website, under Church Life and Events.

Contact: Krista Zidowecki (582-5308, kaz@hzmre.com)

Committee on Ministry

The Committee on Ministry (COM) is pleased to report a high degree of satisfaction with Rev. Carie Johnsen's ministry with the UUC. The process for assessing Rev. Carie's ministry, mutually agreed upon between the minister and committee members, included several congregational focus groups, input from staff, and a self evaluation.

Several themes emerged from the process -- meaningful worship, forward motion and progress, connectedness and relationships, balance, and religious leadership beyond the walls of the UUC. This article is a very brief summary of some of the learning.

All participants were enthusiastic about Rev. Carie's new style of extemporaneous preaching and were particularly appreciative of a heightened sense of connectivity with the congregation as well as sermons that are more inspiring. Worshippers find sacred moments and grounding in services, and there is general appreciation for the emotional and spiritual nourishment provided by the various elements of worship.

Rev. Carie has consistently set an example for shared leadership as an important aspect of our church life. Many focus group participants commented on the expanded role of the UUC in social justice issues and attributed much of this to Carie's leadership.

Rev. Carie pays careful attention to professional and personal boundaries and has earned respect for her understanding and practice of how important it is to have a life outside of our church. By making herself vulnerable as she tries out a more extemporaneous style of worship, she is connecting more deeply with congregants. Focus group participants also shared many impressions and examples of her strengths in pastoral ministry.

Our minister is known in the wider community for her involvement in a wide variety of social justice issues, including marriage equality and migrant worker health.

The COM and Rev. Carie have established some goals for the coming year that include a focus on the sustainability of our church into the future and on increased knowledge of our financial structure and management.

Nancy Fritz, Chair

Membership Matters...

What's In A Name(tag)?

You may have noticed a bit of upheaval in the nametag storage area. Seems like most people like the newer around-the-neck nametags and they need different storage than cubby-holes. We're evaluating more peg storage for a neater look.

Please be patient as we make these changes...it will be worth the wait!

Your Membership Committee

Nonviolent Communications...

The **Nonviolent Communications Practice Group** (also known as **Compassionate Communications**) is meeting on the first and third Fridays of the month, 10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. in the Robbins Room. The December meetings will be:

December 6: Leader is Catherine Erdman
December 20: Leader to be announced.

The group is open to people who have taken Nonviolent Communication Training programs, or who are/have been in a practice group. Others may attend, but there is an expectation that they will attend a training when one becomes available. Some of the resources that we use may be available through the group. The sessions vary in content and format.

For more information on NVC, the topics, or to attend, contact Helen Wing at 685-3804, hcranew-ing@roadrunner.com

Are You Uninsured or Worried about losing MaineCare?

Your story can make a difference.

Maine Equal Justice Partners wants to talk to people who may be able to get or keep their MaineCare if Maine accepts the federal funds already set aside to improve access to health care in Maine. We need to hear from you today if you earn less than 138% of federal poverty guidelines (FPL). 138% of FPL means:

-up to \$15,856 for a single adult

-up to \$21,404 for a couple

-up to of \$26,952 for a family of three

You can help by sharing your story with us:

Call 1-866-626-7059, x 205

or visit **www.covermainenow.com**

*Your information and story will not be shared
without your permission.*

Maine Equal Justice is a member of Cover Maine Now!, a coalition of 85 Maine organizations advocating for accepting these funds to cover nearly 70,000 Maine people who can't afford health insurance. Learn more at covermainenow.com

For more information about Maine Equal Justice Partners visit
www.mejp.org.



Board Approves New Policy on Church Fundraising...

UCC POLICY ON CHURCH FUNDRAISING BOARD APPROVED: October 7, 2013

Members of the congregation are encouraged to initiate fundraising activities on behalf of the church within the following parameters:

1. The leader of the activity shall fill out the fundraising application form shown below.
2. A fundraising application for each fundraising activity shall be submitted to Fundraising Co-Chairs for approval, coordination with other events and record-keeping purposes.
3. If the fundraising activity is a one-time event held at the church, the room or rooms should be reserved in advance through the church office.
4. During the Sunday Coffee Hour a maximum of two separate fundraising activities may take place in the Fellowship Hall at one time.
5. Every fundraiser initiated by a child shall be led by a sponsoring adult who fills out and signs the application form and coordinates with the church office to get the event on the church calendar.
6. The person sponsoring the fundraiser is responsible for publicizing the event. The Fundraising Co-Chairs will assist by providing a listing of newspaper contact information when the application is approved.
7. For the purposes of keeping track of money raised for the church, the leader of each activity shall notify the Fundraising Co-Chairs in writing or by E-mail of the total amount of money an event raises.
8. The Fundraising Co-Chairs shall keep a running total of money raised and notify the Church Treasurer in writing each time fundraising money is given to the church office.

The church should receive some benefit from all fundraising, although it doesn't need to be financial. Except for children's school and scouting fundraisers, UCC should receive a minimum donation of 10% of all fundraising proceeds. A non-financial contribution (such as volunteering an hour) can be given. On the application form each fundraising activity will be clearly marked as to who is benefiting and how UCC will benefit from this activity.

Application Form to Hold Fundraiser on Behalf of UU Community Church

What is the fundraiser?

Who is leading the fundraiser?

Name of Person in Charge:

What is the date of the fundraiser?

Who will benefit from this fundraiser?

How will this fundraiser support UU values?

If the fundraiser is for another organization, such as the Augusta Food Bank or a school, how will the church benefit?

I will publicize this event. I will be responsible for cleaning up the room(s) at the end of this event, getting the funds safely to the Treasurer marked as fundraising proceeds, and giving the total numbers to the Fundraising Co-Chairs.

Signed _____

My e-mail address:

My telephone number:

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

Newsletter Submissions

Please submit all articles in a Word document using Arial, font size 11. Don't forget to give it a title and sign it, and send it as an email to newsletter@augustauu.org with the article as an attachment. Photos of church activities welcome!

This edition submissions due December 18.

Minister: Rev. Carie Johnsen
President: Doug Rooks
Director of Religious Exploration: Rev. Carol Strecker
Office hours-Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10am-4:00p.m. or by appointment
Administrator: Mary T. Simpson
admin@augustauu.org
UU Office hours: Monday and Tuesday 8a.m.-4p.m. Thursday-noon-8pm
Choir Director: Joelle Morris
Intern Minister: Sharon Piantedosi
Office Hours Tuesday and Thursday-10:30a.m.-3:30p.m. or by appointment
Small Group Ministry Coordinator: Kathy Kellison
Office: (207) 622-3232

Minister's Office Hours:

Tuesday 11:00 - 5:00
Thursday 11:00 - 5:00
or by appointment

Friday is my Sabbath. I do not attend to emails, phone calls or meetings. For pastoral emergencies please call my cell phone (508-221-5295) and I will return your call as soon as possible.

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