



The Flaming Chalice

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

August 2014

August

August Services

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|-------------|---|
| August 3rd | Worship leader: Annie Reiter
Topic: <i>Transgender Matters</i> |
| August 10th | Worship leaders: Kathy Shaw & David Greenham
Topic: <i>I Love My Family and.....</i>
<i>Please bring framed photos of your families--biological or other—to decorate the alter for the service.</i> |
| August 17th | Worship leader: Jim McKenna
Topic: <i>Poetry</i> |
| August 24th | Worship leader: Rita Cherubini
Topic: <i>"The Lie"</i> |
| August 31st | Worship leader: David Rand
Topic: <i>Young Adults and General Assembly</i> |

Monthly Themes for 2014/15

The worship committee set the monthly themes for 2014/15. Over 65 people participated in the process of bringing forward the themes either through attendance the spring meeting or through the voting process. Nine of the top 10 themes were chosen. The May and summer theme was within the top 14 themes options. Thank you to all who participated in bringing forward the themes. It is helpful to know what is on the hearts and minds of the people in the pews.

September Inclusive Community
October Aging
November Classism
December Mystery
January Transformation
February Loss-grief-acceptance
March Play & Laughter
April Sustaining Earth
May Arts and Spirituality
Summer Personal Spirituality

A Faith Journey by Rev. Carie Johnsen...

Love Reaches Out!

The theme for this year's UUA General Assembly (GA) in Providence, RI, ***Love Reaches Out!***, may well be the mantra that guides and inspires me for years to come. This message created for me an active vision of how we might do church differently; how we might live out our liberal faith beyond the bricks and mortar and beyond the corners of Winthrop and Summer Streets. *Love Reaches Out* captured my heart and soul and called me to seriously consider how I will bring the saving message (the good news) of Unitarian Universalism to a community of people hungry for connection and relationship with self, others and the earth.

Having arrived in Providence already focused on the call to congregations (the best of what we have and who we are) and beyond, I sought out opportunities to help me better understand how UUCC of Augusta might go forward living this reality. I quickly learned there are no clear instructions, no cookie-cutter one-size-fits-all models, no A+B=C formulas. The vision of *Love Reaches Out* requires of us a willingness to listen curiously, experiment boldly and learn from our successes as well as our failures. *Love Reaches Out* invites us to bravely go where no UU has gone before and have fun doing it. *Love Reaches Out* invites us to take risks.

Love Reaches Out calls us to exist beyond ourselves both individually and collectively for beloved community. *Love Reaches Out* calls us beyond ourselves to be relevant in a changing world. *Love Reaches Out* calls us to ask, "What does our faith need?" and "What does our world need?"

What I experienced in Providence, RI was a radical shift in our Unitarian Universalist movement. It was a shift from an institutionally internalized expression of righteousness to growing and living beyond us into a relationship with that which matters most. Here the mindset is transformed from how we will let others know how great we are, to a commitment to be in covenantal relationships of love and compassion beyond the walls that divide and separate. Rather than wait for the guest to find us by chance, we will take our living faith out into the community at large. It is about us bringing what we have to offer out into the larger community and sharing it generously and abundantly for the sake of Love, for the sake of humanity, for the sake of what matters most, for the sake of the Care that cares for all, for the sake of greater harmony, for the sake of creating an open, more inclusive and more diverse community, for the sake of building a more just and equitable global community where stewards of Love roam freely amid the messiness of life.

... where stewards of love roam freely amid the messiness of life!

How will you join the fray, the messiness with Love abundant? Where will your *Love Reach Out*?

What hunger will you serve?

A steward of Love, Rev. Carie Johnsen

Rev. Carie's Remaining Summer Schedule

July 25th - August 10th Rev. Carie will be on vacation

For pastoral emergencies, contact Nancee Campbell at 621-7727

For general UUCC business, contact Steve Moore, Office Administrator at 622-3232

For general church emergencies, contact Gary Chapin, Board President at 458-1726

August 11th - 17th Rev. Carie will be on a study leave. She is available by phone and email.

August 18th - September 5th Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 12:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Plan ahead for

IN-GATHERING SUNDAY

September 7, 2014

Return to two Sunday services at

9:15 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.

UUCC has a long-standing tradition in which members and friends return from their summer sojourns with a vessel of water from their travels. The water communion ritual is an annual event in which our individual water is collected in one large vessel to symbolize our unity amid our diversity.

This year we are asking members and friends of the congregation to bring in water from local sources. Waters gathered while partaking in the age-old ritual of community building with nature, friends, family, committees, or small groups.

In addition to bringing the water, we are also asking members and friends to bring in a photo from one summer adventure. The picture may or may not be the adventure where you gathered your water. The only requirement is that it be taken in a community that inspires or transforms, celebrates or memorializes, brings a sense of peace or stirs up anticipation and excitement.

Worship

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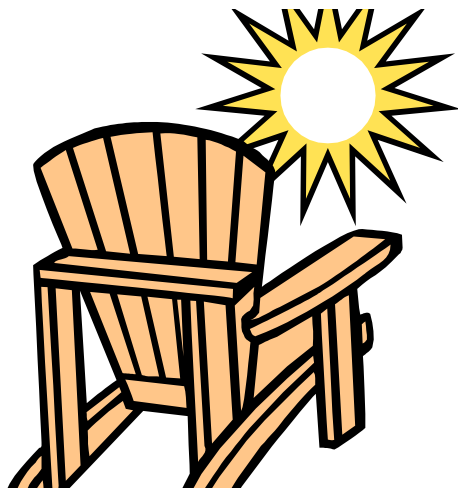
President's Corner...

By: Gary Chapin

Time Away

I'm in the middle of a four day vacation as I write this. I haven't gone anywhere. No plans. I'm home, which is just fine. Over the past fortnight I've done a sequence of workdays that have made me crave these four vacation days more than I have ever craved a vacation in my life. It wasn't because work was frustrating or diminishing or futile, the way modern work is sometimes described. The work was hard, but meaningful, productive, collaborative, helpful, and fascinating. And it wore me the heck out. I needed time away.

I've often had conflicting thoughts about the Unitarian Universalist tradition of the minister taking time away for the summer. It has a historical basis to it, this tradition of ours. Boston apparently became unlivable in the



summers, so the gentry (and their ministers?) fled to more temperate climes. At least that's the story. I wonder about the folks who couldn't afford to leave their homes for the summer. Folks who needed the assistance of the church – material or spiritual – only to find the doors locked and the clergy gone to their version of the Catskills. Perhaps I over dramatize.

I don't know of any Unitarian Universalist church that shuts down for the summer, as they did in the past, but almost all of them change their programming. It's a good solution!

Doing meaningful, productive, collaborative, helpful, and fascinating work – as we have done in our first Leap of Faith year – does wear you the heck out! I won't speak for Rev. Carie, but I can easily imagine her craving the time away allowed her. The work is good, but hard. She needed time away.

And so did we. We – the congregation – step up to make this possible, by creating lay-led worship experiences that are engaging and fulfilling. They are quieter, and there is less spectacle, I think, but they are intimate, and they are us, and they are wonderful.

Without the time away, I think, we would not know that.

Goddess Continuing/ Earth Circles...

Summer Connections

August 3rd for Lammas

Readings and reflections for the First Harvest. The days are still long and warm, the fields filled with grain, and the fruits of our gardens are ripening. We will meet after the morning service and Fellowship Hour from 11:30 am -1:00pm for celebration and summer connection. May the abundance of our gardens and the warmth of the season enhance our connections with the universe and with each other.

You are invited to bring readings and songs, fresh items from the garden, things to celebrate the summertime. We look forward to being together!

August 17th Connecting and Planning for the year.

In addition to connecting with each other, we will develop specific plans for the year. Goddess Continuing/Earth Circles is scheduled for the fourth Sunday of each month. Some of the suggestions/plans may be worked into that time, and others may be offered at different times.

- Continuing focus on goddesses and gods and earth-centered celebrations
- Have a session on Women of Wisdom and a Croning Ceremony (previous Croning Ceremony was in Fall of 2012.)
- *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven, Volume 2: Thresholds*. This considers ongoing religious influence in issues for women. (3-4 sessions, possibly a different time)
- *Walking the Pagan Path*, 8 -10 sessions on various pagan traditions, Adult Enrichment, Spring 2015, offered by Rita Moran (different time)

We hope to have a plan available for the September newsletter.

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

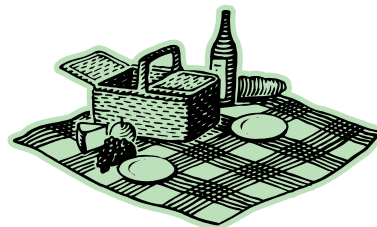
Buildings and Grounds...

Saturday, July 26th is a workday from 9 a.m. - noon.

Are weekdays better for you? Then let us add you to our short notice email list.

We are falling behind on maintenance and really need volunteers. We are still painting the garage. In addition to the routine maintenance, tasks such as weeding, straightening out the kitchens, and sorting out the basements still need to be done. We also go in on a weekday sometimes. If you are available to help during the week, let us know and we will add you to the 'short notice' list. I will email the night before that we will be working at the church on the off chance you are free. There is no scheduled work day in August.

Second Saturday's resume in September.



Seasoned Souls Lives On!

Seasoned Souls is a gathering of elders in our church that now meets twice a month to share literature, poetry and the stories of our lives. This group is open to all church members on Medicare, age 65 and older. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month from 10:30 a.m. – noon in Fellowship Hall.

Curious? Join us, or call Nancee at 621-7727.

Social Activities...

POND TOWN POETS

What better way to start the church year than with an afternoon featuring the POND TOWN POETS? Our own Alice Gifford and Susan Parks will be joining them to share their poetry. You're invited to come join our poets and bring your own poem to share, Sunday September 14th, 1:00p.m.
FMI: cherylclukey5@yahoo.com

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

We are soliciting new suggestions for Social Activities. We had many very interesting activities last year and are looking forward to offer you a new variety this year. Please offer your suggestions. cherylclukey5@yahoo.com

Maine Chapter of FFRF Meets in Brunswick...

Are you an Atheist, Agnostic, Humanist or Freethinker? The Maine chapter of the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) may be for you.

FFRF is a 20,000 member separation of Church and State watchdog organization based in Madison, Wisconsin. They have been working hard to keep Religion and Government separate and to secure equality for all non-believers on the national level since 1978. FFRF lawyers wrote a brief to the Supreme Court supporting the Affordable Care Act's position in the Hobby Lobby case.

FFRF Maine, a chapter of FFRF, an Atheist, Agnostic, Humanist and Freethinker social / activist chapter has been doing the same since May, 2014, with 20 members. We meet monthly in Brunswick on the 3rd Saturday of the month from 10 AM to Noon. There is no meeting in August.

If you would like a free copy of the FFRF Newsletter, "Freethought Today" please let Tom Waddell know. Contact us by email at: ffrfmaine@gmail.com, on our forum page at ffrfmaine.org, on Facebook at [facebook.com/ffrfmaine.org](https://www.facebook.com/ffrfmaine.org), on Meet Up at meetup.com/ffrfmaine/ or see our Craig's List ad under groups. You can also call Tom at 512-5382.

We have learned a lot from Equality Maine about ending discrimination. Hopefully non-believers will be the last group to be marginalized.

Join the NYC Climate March...

In September, world leaders are coming to New York City for a historic United Nations summit on climate change. With the whole world watching, concerned people from all over the country will be going to N.Y.C. on September 21 to show their support for global policies that limit climate change.

The **Maine UU State Advocacy Network (MUUSAN)** has chartered a bus to help make The Peoples Climate March the largest-ever demonstration demanding action on climate change. For more information on the climate rally, go to: <http://peoplesclimatemarch.org>.

The bus will leave from the park and ride lot on Marginal Way near the bus company in Portland at **5 a.m. on September 21st**, to arrive in N.Y.C. around 11:30 a.m.; returning to leave N.Y.C. at 8 p.m. to arrive back in Portland at 2:30 a.m. September 22. Full price seats will cost (round trip) \$40 and student/reduced seats will cost \$30.

Make reservations **now** because seats are going fast:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/muusan-trip-from-portland-me-to-nyc-for-the-peoples-climate-march-tickets-12187403853>. If people do not have access to the internet, they should send me their phone number in case any of the details change. Folks could reserve a seat by sending a check made out to MUUSAN to:

Trudy Ferland
279 Somerset Ave
Pittsfield, ME 04967

Hope you can join us for the biggest Climate Rally yet!

Melanie Lanctot

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!

Next edition submissions due August 18.

Minister: Rev. Carie Johnsen
President: Gary Chapin
Director of Religious Exploration:
Administrator: Steve Moore
admin@augustauu.org
UU Office hours: Monday and Tuesday 8a.m.-4p.m.
Thursday-noon-8pm
Choir Director: Joelle Morris
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:

Monday 12:00 - 5:00
Tuesday 12:00 - 6:00
Thursday 4:00 - 6:00

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 at soon as possible.

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