



The Flaming Chalice

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

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

April 2013

April Worship

The first three weeks in April the worship arts team and the religious exploration program will partner with the immigration work group on the themes of Immigration. Programs in the classrooms and young UU worship will parallel themes in the worship service as well as in the weekly community learning and service events.

April 7th Partnering with Maine Migrant Health Rev. Carie Johnsen

Focusing on issues of Immigration in our local community. Making a difference one farmworker at a time. Our program partner, Maine Migrant Healthcare, will join us for this service.

April 14th Compassionate Immigration Reform Rev. Carie Johnsen

Focusing on issues of immigration in our national community. Making a difference one bill at a time.

April 21st Immigration and Globalization Rev. Carie Johnsen

Focusing on issues of immigration in our global community. Making a difference as one human family.

April 28th Mindfulness at Work and and Home: Joyful Beginnings Peaceful Heart Sangha

The church service on April 28th will introduce the community to Thich Nhat Hanh's mindfulness practice. This service will include a taste of what a meeting of the Peaceful Heart Sangha is like. We will include meditation, mindful movement, readings from the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh, and dharma sharing (Sangha members share personal experiences of the practice). There will be a Time of All Ages for children as well. Please join us!

A Faith Journey by Rev. Carie Johnsen...

During the month of April the worship arts team, religious exploration programs and immigration work group are teaming up to explore issues of immigration in our local, national and global communities. The weekly worship themes will be explored by our children and youth in their classrooms and the wider congregation in weekly community events. Please take a look at the events page for a full listing of ways in which you can explore and engage the issues. The wide variety of opportunities include social events, educational forums and social action.

This work of creating a more just and compassionate global society is at the heart of who we are as Unitarian Universalists (UU). Standing firmly on the side of human rights for all people, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) of Congregations has called for just immigration policies since 1963. For the past fifty years, several resolutions have been adopted wherein the Association has affirmed that:

All people—without regard to immigration status—deserve access to fair wages, education, housing, healthcare, and other social services; and
Immigrants are at high risk for being denied basic rights and services and thus warrant our special support.

With the adoption of the 2007 Study Action Issue, "Immigration as a Moral Issue", UU's across the nation are engaging in educational forums and become leading advocates in their local communities. The UUA has joined 60 other religious groups in signing the Interfaith Statement of Support on Comprehensive Immigration Reform and is an active member of the Interfaith Immigration Coalition. The current draft Statement of Conscience - Immigration as a Moral Issues - to be voted on at the June 2013 General Assembly of Congregations in Louisville, Kentucky begins:

A belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every person is core to Unitarian Universalism. Every person, no exceptions. As religious people, our Principles call us to support the struggle of the immigrant and to affirm and promote the flourishing of the human family. To the suffering of immigrants, Unitarian Universalists respond, "No mas muertas!" "No more deaths!"

Our Sources teach us to honor the other and the stranger. For example, Hebrew scripture teaches love for the foreigner because "you were foreigners in the land of Egypt" (Leviticus 19:33-34). Christian scripture reports that Jesus and his disciples were itinerants. When asked "who is my neighbor?" Jesus responded with the parable of the Good Samaritan, a foreigner who treated a badly beaten man as the foreigner would have wished to be treated (Luke 10:25-37). The Hadith reports that Mohammed urged his followers to "give glad tidings to the strangers" (2:389). Those who respect the worth and dignity of every person could do no less.

Unitarian Universalist Principles and Sources call us to alleviate the suffering caused by misdirected individual and political actions that harm human beings who immigrate. The moral ambiguity stems from the tension between "us" and "them". (the full statement is available at <http://www.uua.org/immigration/re/moral/152647.shtml>)

We together hold the power and the authority to create beloved community where love is as love does and where justice is the link connecting everything that stands against love. (Rev. D. Holder)

I invite you to take the steps this month to be informed, to get engaged and to take action.

In faith, Rev. Carie

A Smorgasbord of Immigration Offerings...

Join in on one or more of the immigration events in April. Sunday Worship will kick off the theme for the week. We invite you to deepen your understanding, engage in conversation, take community action or all of the above.

WEEK ONE ~ LOCAL ~ PARTNERING WITH MAINE MIGRANT HEALTH CARE

Religious Exploration The children will explore the book "Amelia's Road" by Linda Jacob Altman. They will be making treasure boxes as they explore the meaning of place through the lens of a young girl who moves frequently with her parents who are migrant farmworkers.

The junior and senior high youth will explore the local agricultural community. Staff from Maine Migrant Health Care Program will lead this discussion.

Community Event Film Screening "After I Pick the Fruit" Tuesday, April 9th, 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

The film follows the lives of five immigrant farmworker women over a ten-year period as they labor in the apple orchards and fields of rural western New York, migrate seasonally to Florida, raise their families, and try to hide from the immigration raids. The film illuminates a community that is nearly invisible to most Americans. After the film learn more about local farmworkers in conversation with Steve Meyerhans of Lakeside Orchard and staff from the Maine Migrant Health Project.

WEEK TWO ~ NATIONAL ~ COMPASSIONATE IMMIGRATION REFORM

Religious Exploration Classrooms The children and youth will explore themes of loving kindness meditation to expand their circle of justice and compassion for all people. This week will focus on "neutral persons"

Community Event Conversations with Congress, Tues, April 16th, 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Speakers from one or more Congressional offices will offer a presentation on national immigration reform followed by a discussion.

WEEK THREE ~ GLOBAL ~ IMMIGRATION AND GLOBALIZATION

Religious Exploration The children and youth will continue to explore themes of loving kindness meditation. This week the focus will expand to include "all people/beings."

Community Event Community Potluck to celebrate our rich ethnic diversity, Friday, April 26th at 5:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall. Join us on Friday, April 26 at 5:30 p.m. for a delectable tour of the world (or at least parts of it!) Our congregation is blessed with youth who came from various countries to live in the United States and become citizens here. Several of them have happily agreed to prepare a dish from their country's cuisine and share these with some information about the food and their birth country. If you have a favorite dish from your birth country or from your family background, please bring it to share. Everyone needs to eat! Please be sure to list the country of origin and the main ingredients in your food to be shared. This won't be a Carnival Cruise but at least we won't be stranded in the Gulf of Mexico!

SOCIAL ACTION

Welcome 'Baskets' for the Augusta Haitian blueberry pickers who are part of the migrant workforce that harvests our food. List of items will appear on an insert in the orders of service throughout April. Please drop off items in the coat room at the church.

Speak Up and Speak Out - Sign and send postcards to Maine's members of Congress asking them to vote for compassionate immigration reform that provides: an inclusive path to citizenship, protection of all workers regardless of status, end to deportations and harsh enforcement, and a system for future flow of immigrants.

Join in on a **Neighbor to Neighbor visit** to a local Congressional Office to deliver our messages personally and advocate for compassionate immigration reform.

Director of Religious Exploration ...

Rev. Carol Strecker

It'll officially be spring tomorrow - according to the calendar - but today it still looks very much like winter! The snow is coming down and isn't supposed to stop until early tomorrow morning. Hopefully, by the time you read this winter will really be on its way out! But then again -- this is Maine so who knows.

One thing I do know is that our children and youth have found a great way to bring on spring. They've been busy putting their faith into action; finding all kinds of ways to give of themselves to those in need.

Thanks to your generosity, our Jr. Youth (the Seekers) organized a very successful coat drive for the warming center in town. They packed up all the warm clothes you donated and delivered what they'd collected on a Sunday morning. (Actually, they collected more than they could carry and needed the assistance of a couple of parents with cars.) While they were there they learned something about who uses the center and then any programs and services they provide.

Our Navigators, (3rd, 4th and 5th graders) have been involved with a couple of different projects. They spent a couple of Sunday mornings helping out at the food bank over at St. Marks. Abby, the director, was amazed by how focused they were and how much they were able to accomplish in an hour. They've been invited to come back on a regular basis.

They also wanted to do something to help animals. With the help of Helen Zidowecki, who walks dogs at the local Humane Society as a spiritual practice, they organized a project for people who receive Meals on Wheels who have pets. The animal companions of people who can't get out need meals too! So on a Sunday morning during February vacation all the kids bagged up treats for dogs and made toys for cats.

The Chalice Children (K, 1st and 2nd graders) took it from there. They bagged up dog and cat food to go with the treats and toys and made "gift packs" with personalized drawing that I'm sure pets and their people with all

enjoy. A special thanks to Helen for helping the kids with this project.

Our Sr. Youth organized an Easter Brunch to help raise money for a town in Guatemala that needs a well so the people there will have access to safe drinking water. Last year they were able to raise money for H.O.M.E. (Homeworkers Organized for More Employment); an organization that addresses systematic poverty by providing those in need with education and training as well as meeting their basic needs. Comalapa is H.O.M.E.'s sister community in Guatemala. This is part of their Peace Jam program. Working with H.O.M.E. both in Maine and in Guatemala is giving our youth the opportunity to build peace by bridging economic, ethnic and religious differences in a common effort to create a more just and sustainable world.

Our Peace Jammers will be attending a conference the first weekend in April at the University of Connecticut with youth from all over New England. One of the main goals of the conference, in addition to being inspired by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Jody Williams is to inspire each other by sharing their projects. You can be sure that our youth will not only be inspired but what they learn. They will also be an inspiration to others. You'll hear more about what they're learning and doing at the Peace Jam worship service on May 5th.

We can be very proud of our children and youth. It may be cold outside but have found plenty ways to warm things up - with loving hearts and helping hands.

Having Fun with Work

Doug Rooks, President

We have a very creative congregation. I say that not only because of the extraordinary number of dinners, workshops, study groups, concerts, fundraisers and, of course, worship services that take place at UUCC, but because of the style with which we approach seemingly mundane tasks.

This year's stewardship campaign is a fine example. When I attend UU conferences elsewhere, I frequently hear other church leaders bemoaning the "pledge drive" that's necessary to fund staff salaries, programs and outreach. The prevailing theme is that it's essential, but no fun at all.

That's not the way it is in Augusta. This year's campaign kicked off with a talent show that was extraordinary in every way. On many amateur talent nights, there's an act or two which makes the audience cringe or look at their shoes. Not this one. Not only was every performance – musical, dramatic or literary – worth watching and applauding, but the age range of the performers was extraordinary, from elementary school through what we used to, but no longer, call "retirement age." It was great fun, and I hope we try it again.

The Stewardship Committee itself also found ways to be creative, including the "Steward Ship" that adorned the sanctuary wall for several Sunday, subtly reminding us that, yes, it was time to get our pledges in. During Stewardship Sundays I was invited to, metaphorically "walk the plank," illustrating the dangers church leaders sometimes face when their congregations aren't behind them.

I really don't worry much about that. The enthusiasm the talent show performers and the Stewardship Committee obviously feel about their work is shared broadly among this congregation. We have set ambitious goals for ourselves, and, so far, we have managed to attain them.

This year's campaign is off to a successful start, and although it's too soon to report results it's not too soon to provide one more reminder: If you haven't sent in your pledge yet, now is the time.

And come join us for the fun, and the work, that's to be had not only on Sunday, but throughout the week at UUCC.

Stewardship Committee...

Pink Pledge Forms –

Due April 1, 2013

This is no joke! The Stewardship Committee is busy gathering the pink pledge forms for the next church year and we need everyone's by April 1, 2013. Here are some easy ways to get the information to us.

1. You can mail the pink pledge form in the return envelope or place it in the offering plate on Sunday.
2. You can email your pledge to the church office. Send an email to admin@augustauu.org, put your last name and the word "pledge" in the subject line, and write your pledge details in the body of the email.
3. Call Annie Reiter at 622-2945 and place your pledge over the phone.

Have you sent in your pink pledge form? Please help out and return it ASAP. At Unitarian Universalist Community Church, our spiritual practice of fiscal generosity celebrates a commitment to what matters most to us. By pledging our money, we become stewards of hope, stewards of the liberal vision, and stewards of Life - sacred and holy. Please think deeply about what this faith means to you, then give until it helps - helps you feel financially committed to UUCC and helps the community to live our values in the world.



Peaceful Heart Sangha

~ Welcome to Spring in Maine ~

Waking up this morning, I smile,
Twenty-four brand-new hours are before me.
I vow to live fully each moment
And to look at all beings with eyes of compassion.

~ Thich Nhat Hanh

Peaceful Heart Sangha

Weekly Mindfulness Meditation – stopping, calming, resting, healing – Mondays 6:30 – 8 at UUC. Also first & third Thursdays, 8 – 9:30 AM, at River Studio, 332 Water St, Hallowell.

UUC First Mondays – Children/Family Meditation 5:30 – 6:15 with child care available 6:15 – 8:15.

You may borrow books and magazines from our library on Mondays also.

Questions?

Contact peacefulheartsangha@gmail.com or marty-soule@gmail.com or 685-9270



Display Case...

Thanks to the History Committee for the March display on Unitarian Universalist Women. The answers for the UU Women Match will be in the display case on March 31, along with additional information about these women.

The **April** display is sponsored by the **Immigration Task Force**.

For information on scheduling a display, contact Helen Zidowecki, the Thursday AM Small Group Ministry (582-5308, hzmre@hzmre.com)

Goddess Continuing....

Goddess Continuing invites all ages and genders to join us following the Second Service, 12:15-2pm with light refreshments. We will have the focused topic for part of the meeting, followed by time to look at resources we have brought to share.

Thanks to Lorna Doone for the focus on Persephone on **March 17**.

April 7 Amaterasu, Japanese Sun Goddess, with a focus on our gifts. Helen Zidowecki

April 21 Earth Day: Honoring Mother Earth. We will create the celebration from music, readings, songs, stories and other rituals brought by the participants.

Please pick up the Goddess Continuing brochure on the table across from the sanctuary. Also see the brochure on Ostara, Vernal Equinox. Coming mid-April: brochure on Beltane (May 1). We are considering attending the celebration at Popham Beach (<http://beltaneonthebeach.org/>)

Contact Mary Shifman at 549-7719 or shifmanmary@aol.com

Mark Your Calendar....

Conversations with the Minister

Thursday, April 25

6:00 - 8:00, In the Olsen Room of the Drew House at 6 Summer Street

This evening of informal conversation open to all newcomers and new members. Are you looking for time to get to know our minister, Rev. Carie Johnsen, then join this circle for a time of getting acquainted. If you are new to the community and curious about Unitarian Universalism or just want to know more about Unitarian Universalist Community Church, then join us for this evening of casual conversation.

Imagining Theme-Based Ministry

Wednesday, April 3rd at 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Sunday, April 7th at 12:00 p.m., Sanctuary

In last months newsletter I wrote about an emerging model of ministry in Unitarian Universalist churches. A growing number of congregations are turning to theme-based ministry to respond to the desire for spiritual depth, meaning and connection. This model of ministry has the potential of nurturing congregational conversations across generations and interest groups. When an entire community - children, youth and adults - are engaged in the same theme connections and conversations on matters of the heart and mind are sparked.

Nonviolent Communications

I have set two dates for open door conversations. I hope you will come to learn more and engage in curious conversations as we explore the unique way that UUSC might use them-based ministry.

The **Nonviolent Communications (Also known as Compassionate Communications) Practice Group** meets the First and Third Fridays, 10:15am-12:15pm, in the Robbins Room. 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 will vary in content and format. The sessions for April are:

April 5 Lorna Doone, Facilitating

April 19 Sally Brotherton, Facilitating

For more information or to attend, contact Helen Wing at 685-3804, hcranewing@roadrunner.com

Small Group Ministry...

Are you looking to go deeper? Would you like to know what other Unitarian Universalists think about prayer, or the Bible or courage or hope? These are some of the topics discussed during sessions of Small Group Ministry. The two hour meetings offer an opportunity to hear what others think and to clarify your own beliefs.

Are you interested in serving the church community and the wider world? The service component of Small Group Ministry offers the opportunity to work with others from your group on projects of your choice, increasing group cohesion and making a real difference in our community. You might help with a church fundraiser, volunteer a day with Buildings and Grounds, collect food for the local food pantry or volunteer as a group for a shift at the soup kitchen. The possibilities are endless.

In our Small Group Ministry, members meet on a regular basis, once or twice a month for connection and exploration. You are invited to join a group and experience the rewards of knowing and being known, speaking and being heard, listening and learning.

Deep listening occurs few places in our lives; Small Group Ministry is all about deep listening. These are not discussion groups. There are no right or wrong answers. There is the opportunity to grow and change as you enable others to grow as well.

Currently we have two groups meeting in the evening which have room for new members. There is chair waiting for you if your schedule permits.

If you are curious about Small Group Ministry, look for a pamphlet in the entry at church, or speak to me, the Small Group Ministry coordinator. Now is the time.

Kathy Kellison

History Committee...

A highlight of the March 10 service on UU Women was the poem by Alice Gifford, presented here.

“Spring Pantoum”
Let me remember spring again
How birds will stitch the air,
Those sudden flights that end
Deep in the sheltering evergreens.

How birds will stitch the air,
Air that is sweet and soft at last.
Deep in the sheltering evergreens
The shade maintains its hold.

Air that is sweet and soft at last
Denying all the frost that’s past,
But shade maintains its hold,
The memory of winter’s cold.

Denying all the frost that’s past
These sudden flights that end
The memory of winter’s cold.
Let me remember spring again.

Following are the the answers to the UU Women Match. More details will be in the Display Case on March 31.

Abigail Adams 1744-1818 ,
#7 Wife and Mother of a President

Louisa May Alcott 1832-1888,
#17 Children’s stories, Army nurse under Dix

Susan B. Anthony 1820-1906, #12 Women’s right to vote

Clara Barton 1821-1912, #5 American Red Cross

Olympia Brown 1835-1926, #20 First woman ordained by a denomination

Rachel Carson 1907-1964, #16 Naturalist, writer

Laurel Clark 1961-2003, #2 Astronaut on Columbia

Dorothea Dix 1802-1887, #10 Mental Health Reformer, born in ME

Eleanor Forbes 1860-1955, #13 Minister in Maine, Ferry Beach

Sophia Lyons Fahs 1876-1978, #18 Religious Educator

Margaret Fuller 1810-1850, #9 Literary and Social Critic, Transcendentalist

Julia Ward Howe 1819-1910, #4 Mothers Peace Day

Helen Hunt Jackson 1830-1885, #15 Treatment of Native peoples

Maria Mitchell 1818-1889, #1 Astronomer

Judith Sargent Murray 1751-1820, #14 Feminist, early Universalist

Mary White Ovington 1865-1951, #3 Co-founder of NAACP

Elizabeth Palmer Peabody 1804-1894, #19 Transcendentalist, Kindergartens

Beatrix Potter 1866-1943, #6 Writer, children’s stories about animals

Malvina Reynolds 1900-1978,
#8 Singer

May Sarton 1912-1995, #20 Writer, born in Belgium, died in York, ME

Harriet Beecher Stowe 1787-1860, #21 Writer, supported Underground Railroad

The next History Committee meeting is **April 11, 10am-noon, Drew House**. We will be cataloging the Wayside Pulpit collection. Contact Krista Zidowecki (582-5308) to participate in the work of the Committee.

CELEBRATING
The Unitarian-Universalist Community Church
2013-2014 Member and Friend Pledge Form

Each year, we members and friends of the UUCC renew our commitment to our church and each other by promising a generous level of financial support during the Annual Pledge Drive. Our church requires almost \$240,000 to pay its bills, support its employees, and provide the programming, outreach, and services we all desire, deserve, and celebrate.

Did you know:

- ◆ That the Office Administrator position has increased from 20 to 24 hours per week and the Director of Religious Exploration position has increased from 24 to 40 hours per week and this is partially funded from our modest savings? These ongoing expenses need to be paid for by annual income to be sustainable.
- ◆ That the UUA does not financially support our church, although it does provide wonderful support through materials and advisors in return for the \$73 per member fee we pay the UUA each year? We alone are responsible for the financial health of this community.
- ◆ That we are the ones we have been waiting for? Be a part of the growing financial health of our community. It is up to us to build and maintain the church community we all celebrate.

On the back of this form is the UUA Giving Guide, with suggestions for pledging from 2% to 10% of your adjusted annual income. Please use it to guide your pledge commitment this year. To complete your pledge, detach the form below and return it to the church office by March 3, 2013. If you have questions please call Mildred Stengel of the Stewardship Committee at 621-0740

It is understood that financial situations sometimes change. If you need to revise your financial commitment during the church year, please contact our church treasurer Mary Simpson 620-6664 or mary.simpson753@gmail.com.

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Unitarian Universalist Community Church

Be a part of the change - a part of our fiscal health - a part of growing our faith.

Member/Friend Name _____ 2nd Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone _____ Email (s) _____

I / We commit a total pledge of \$ _____ toward the July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 UUCC church year.

To be paid as follows: \$ _____ Weekly \$ _____ Monthly \$ _____ Quarterly \$ _____ Lump sum

Signature (two signatures for couples)

___ Please send me information about planned giving opportunities.

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 April 15. Please submit newsletter articles by email, no later than 9:00 a.m. to Sheila Comerford at: newsletter@augustauu.org. Thank you!

Minister: Rev. Carie Johnsen
President: Doug Rooks
Director of Religious Exploration: Rev. Carol Strecker
Administrator: Julie Pelletier
Choir Director: Joelle Morris
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 Office Hours:

Tuesday 12:00-5:00 pm

Thursday 1:00-6:00 pm

Additional times available by appointment. To set up a meeting or appointment, please contact Rev. Carie at: 623-3663 or revcariejohnsen@gmail.com

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.