



The Flaming Chalice

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

Fall 2019

Sunday Worship Services at 9:15 & 11:00 A.M.

September

What does it mean to be a people of *EXPECTATION*?

- 1st Our last lay lead service at 10:00 a.m. with Peter Mendall, Sr.
- 8th Saturated: Make Room for More! with Rev. Carie, Monique McAuliffe, and choir
- 15th Imperfect Paths with Rev. Carie
- 22nd From the Old, We Travel to the New with Rev. Carie and the choir
- 29th Lessons from Hawaii with Gary Chapin

October

What does it mean to be a people of *BELONGING*?

- 6TH A Matter of Space with Rev. Carie and choir
- 13TH Indigenous People's Day with Sherri Mitchell, Native American Attorney
- 20TH Turn the World Inside Out with Rev. Carie and the orchestra
- 27th Small Group Ministry with the choir

November

What does it mean to be a people of *ATTENTION*?

- 3rd Feeding Fear with Rev. Carie and the choir
- 10th Take What You Need with Rev. Carie and children's pop-up choir
- 17th Harvest Communion: A Sunday of Service
- 24th Robert Frost's New England, Our New England with Doug Rooks and orchestral ensemble

December

What does it mean to be a people *LIVING IN THE GRACE OF LOVE*?

- 1ST This is What Grace Looks Like with Rev. Carie
- 8TH Music Sunday with Rev. Carie, Bridget Convey, Daniel C. Gilbert, choir and orchestra
- 15TH This is What Love Looks Like with Rev. Carie
- 22ND Playing with Grace and Love with the Worship Committee
- 29TH Transitions in Time with Goddess/Earth Circles

Please look to the Sunday insert and Wednesday email blast for more information about weekly service topics and leaders.

**** SPECIAL SERVICES ****

IN GATHERING SUNDAY

September 8, 2019 (9:15 & 11:00)

In-gathering Sunday is a long-standing Unitarian Universalism tradition wherein members and friends bring a small vial of water from the places of their lives. The water is gathered in a communal bowl and blessed. This ritual symbolizes the diversity and unity of our gathered community.

GRIEF, LOSS, AND THE HOLIDAYS

A Quiet Refuge: Cultivating Healing and Wholeness
Wednesday, December 19th (6:00 p.m.)

Are you exhausted? Lonely? Afraid? Anxious? Depressed? Overwhelmed? Barely coping? Are you grieving the loss or absence of a loved one? Are you Unemployed? Navigating crisis? Is this season of lights and merriment not so merry? Please join us for a time of quiet facilitated reflection.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Carols, Lights and Readings
Tuesday, December 24th (5:00 p.m.)

Our annual Christmas Eve Service offers people of all ages the opportunity to center their spirit on the gifts of the holiday season: peace and joy, light and love.

~~NEW YEAR'S EVE LABYRINTH~~

~~Tuesday, December 31st
(6:00 p.m. — 10:00 p.m.)~~

~~Back by popular demand! Mark your calendar now!! This time of multifaith fellowship and prayer focused around the ancient practice of walking the labyrinth. People of all ages and all faiths or no faith are invited to engage the ageless New Year's custom of releasing the old and welcoming in the new.~~

<This event is on hold for now - pending confirmation of interfaith community>

COMMUNITY SERVICE SUNDAY

Harvest Communion

Sunday, November 17, 2019

One Service at 10:00 a.m.

Community Service Project 11:30 – 1:00 p.m. - Various locations in greater Augusta
Community Potluck 1:00 p.m. in fellowship hall

Following the spirit of a community experimenting with LIVING THE GRACE OF LOVE, the worship committee, religious exploration community, and PeaceJam youth invite you to gather as one community for one Sunday service at 10:00 a.m. Following our annual Harvest Communion members and friends of UUCG will be encouraged to select among a few options for community service project. We are still working out the details, but we imagine some folks will gather in the church for projects while others venture out into various corners of Augusta to serve the greater community. We are exploring community partnerships to both serve and participate. We will close our day with a community potluck. Come be a part of this multigenerational service community gathering! Be sure to invite the curious and eager to come along with you.

Think of it as *Living the Grace of Love* at the intersection of Faith Café and Sunday Worship.

A Faith Journey...

I sit in my office on the cusp of the eleventh year of shared ministry contemplating the collective wisdom of our years in service to Grace of Love and Power of Justice. Above my desk in the arched doorway hangs a sign, Simplify. If only it were that easy.

Every year I return from summer vacation and August planning with a vision of sustaining my spiritual practice, staying mindfully present to life and relationships unfolding, and offering religious leadership that inspires and guides the people in the pews. And then the real work of ministry begins as the push and pull of competing promises, passions and commitments slowly creep into the spaciousness of deep reflection and thoughtful planning. In no time at all my calendar is full (with things I love) and my spirit is begging for quiet spaces to replenish the well. I am after all an introvert hanging out at the fence with extroverts.

And then, I arrive back in the sanctuary on Sunday morning only to be reminded of why I love parish ministry.

I love what happens on Sunday morning as people arrive one-by-one carrying with them the joy of life and love, the weight of worry and grief. People who bring all that is their life into the center of community. Vulnerable and real. Authentic and hiding. Together we assemble to bow before that which matters most. Here, the spirit of Life and Love and all that is Holy connects us to one another. Here, we journey as seekers toward that which is never truly known. And here, like a whisper in the wind, magic happens.

Magic that comforts and heals, transforms and inspires; calls us to return again and again to the best of who we aspire to be. Here, we find goodness and foibles, understanding and offenses, integrity and failings. (We are after all a human enterprise.) Still, we arrive in search for healing and wholeness. Replenishment and restoration. In each other's stories, tears and laughter, humility, and outrage, we catch glimpses of our self. And we know we are home. Home in a faith that calls us back to the best in ourselves and the best of humanity.

Unitarian Universalism is a covenantal, not a creedal or sacramental community. Rather than adherence to specific beliefs, we join together ... around solemn promises. In covenant, we claim our tradition and one another, and in turn we are claimed. It is our practice of mutual accountability that is ever loving, ever trusting, ever forgiving, an ever inviting renewal and an expanding circle of seekers. ~The Practice of Spiritual Leadership, New England Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association

As the late Jewish philosopher Martin Buber said, we are "promise making, promise-keeping, promise-breaking, promise renewing" creatures. This faith community, at its best, guides us, models for us, teaches us how to navigate the world as a people of covenant.

The door is open. The lights are on. Our hearts eager. Our intentions good. Our humanity flawed. Our reach inadequate. Our humility growing. Our promises grounded in faith and Love.

I look forward to another year around the sun, growing souls through faithful risking.

In faith,
Rev. Carie

LAST CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

ROOTS AND WINGS

Affirming, supporting, equipping, and sustaining Unitarian Universalist justice leaders in congregations and community organizations.

Roots and wings is a new two-year lay justice ministry program that supports, trains, and equips Unitarian Universalists to engage their deepest passions and convictions in the call to creating a more just and equitable world community. This multi-congregational and organizational program offers emerging and long-standing Unitarian Universalist justice advocates the opportunity to transform their gifts and commitments into spiritual leadership. In a supportive peer learning environment participants better understand the source of their call and ground their vision in Unitarian Universalist principles and values.

Following the small group ministry model of intimacy, ultimacy, and service, Roots and Wings facilitates a guided and intentional process of spiritual reflection by 1) connecting justice leaders together to reflect upon and identify their gifts, grow in spirit, and engage their call to justice making (intimacy); 2) fostering in participants a relationship with what/who calls them and sustains them in the long haul journey of justice making (ultimacy); and leadership development by 3) equipping passionate leaders through training and education to serve and inspire others to engage in advocacy, action, and witness (service).

At the close of the year, Unitarian Universalist Community Church will commission participants to be lay Justice Ministers. In the Act of Commission, Roots and Wings recognizes justice ministry is more than working on a cause, it is a call - an inherent gift of passion, conviction, and leadership. In the Act of Commission we affirm a person's specific call of a justice minister, commit to support their vision of justice making, and charge the justice minister to go forth to engage, inspire, and lead.

This program will launch in September 2019. To learn more about Roots and Wings: pick up program prospectus in the entryway at the church or contact Rev. Carie at 207-623-3663 or revcariejohansen@gmail.com.

Message from the President, UUCB Board of Trustees

Welcome Back!!! I hope you all have had a wonderful summer and had a chance to enjoy all that summer provided. As we look forward to the change in seasons and cooler weather, we have exciting opportunities for our new church year. We have a leadership retreat on Sept 28 and this year's theme is 'Claiming our Spiritual Leadership'. This will give us an opportunity to ground ourselves in the practice of Spiritual Leadership which can fortify us individually and collectively to meet the challenges that life presents. We will also have a selected committee working on the political activity policy. In addition, the finance committee and board will be working on the budget process earlier in the year so that when we have a stewardship campaign we will know what we need to have to meet the budgetary needs.

It's exciting to have the prospect of the new church year and I hope that this new year brings peace and many opportunities for growth.

Peace

Jill Watson, Board President

Message from the Music Director, Bridget Convey

UCC CHOR IS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS!



The UCC choir is looking for new members, the more the merrier! **All levels welcome, reading music is NOT required.** Come and share your voice with our UCC community. We have some wonderful music planned for the 2019-2020 season, including several collaborations with our orchestra. Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 6pm to 8pm, in the sanctuary. Rehearsals began on August 28th, 2019 but it is not too late to join us. All are welcome!

Please contact Bridget Convey at: musicdirector@augustauu.org



FALL 2019 GUEST ARTIST CONCERT SERIES



Saturday, September 28th at 4:00 p.m.

Gulimina Mahamuti, pianist: Internationally acclaimed Chinese-American pianist, Dr. Gulimina Mahamuti, will share a solo recital of piano transcriptions of J.S. Bach-Egon Petri, D. Scarlatti-Enrique Granados, and Schubert-Liszt, and feature music by Maine composer, Lucas Richman, maestro of the Bangor Symphony Orchestra, with his *Reflections* for solo piano.

Saturday, November 2nd at 4:00 p.m.



Saheli, an a cappella quartet from Southern Maine, draws from an eclectic mix of folk, gospel, indie and world music to share songs of hope, strength and positivity. The name Saheli comes from the Hindi word for “female friend”. As friends and musical collaborators we value our connection to one another, and believe in the power of music to reach out and bring people together. Saheli features four-part vocal harmonies with the occasional guitar, ukulele, and/or percussion. Saheli is: Emily Bell-Hoerth, Sue West, Amy Rogers and Catherine Eliot. We are all teachers and we live in various towns in Southern Maine.

One-hour concerts: \$10.00 suggested donation, to be shared between the guest musician and the church.

Unitarian Universalist Community Church
69 Winthrop Street
Augusta, ME 04330
207-622-3232/admin@augustauu.org
www.augustauu.org

Religious Exploration News
from the Religious Exploration Coordinator, Monique McAuliffe

September 15th begins a new Religious Exploration Year!

We will have Sunday morning RE class during our 9:15 a.m. service. Our youth will begin their morning with their families in the Sanctuary for the opening of the service and then head to their classroom following the Offering (9:30ish).

RE Classes K - 7th grade take place next door in the upstairs of Drew House until 10:45am.

Our RE classes are interactive, thoughtfully engaging and fun! A healthy snack is provided. We will be offering some field trips during our year that may extend our morning time together. Parents will be informed in advance so you can plan accordingly.

Nursery Care is available during both services.

Parents are welcome to visit, participate, or to volunteer in the classroom and on field trips.

We have an active Social Justice Youth Group, *Peace Jam*, open to grades 7-12. We meet in Fellowship Hall the first Sunday of every month from 3:00 - 5:00. Each year our youth create and implement a Global and/or Local Community Action project. **Our first meeting will be an Ice Cream Social on September 29th, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.**

We invite youth of all ages to participate in our Sunday service.

This RE year we will also be offering *Our Whole Lives (OWL)* program for grades K-2, 4-6 and 7-9. More information on this program and its scheduling will be available in the coming months.

Last spring we began forming a RE Committee with Martha Naber as our Chairwoman. This committee will allow us to extend our RE youth, family and multi-generational program opportunities! We are already organizing another **Apple Pressing Potluck** at the Foust Family Farm in October and an Apple Picking Field Trip prior to this event. Stay tuned to our Weekly Email Blast for confirmed dates and more information!

I am eager to see you all!

Sowing the seeds,
Monique

SAVE THE DATE

Please join the Board and Leadership Council for the **2019 Leadership Retreat**

Saturday, September 28th
9 a.m. – 3:00 pm - Fellowship Hall

We are pleased to have representatives of the New England Region UUA presenting the day long workshop, ***Practices of SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP***. We are also inviting members of regional congregations to join the workshop. This will be a very full and rewarding day. More details of the workshop will be provided under separate cover.

Please also be prepared to stay for a half hour following the workshop to do housekeeping business such as: 1) discussion of how we cover hospitality hours; 2) Leadership Council meetings in October, April and September; and 3) other topics as needed by the group. (**OR**, if we decide it is doable and preferable we can conduct this business through email. Please let me know which you prefer...well, by email, before our September meeting.)

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for your leadership,

Kathy Ann Shaw
Vice-President, Board of Trustees

P.S. I can use 3 volunteers if anyone wants to help out starting around 8:30!

Death Talk - Augusta



The following represents the personal reflections of the three of us who are pleased to offer Death Talk - Augusta beginning on September 19, 2019 (see church announcements for further information).

*“The death-positive movement came into my awareness seemingly randomly – a book I read, a church session on end of life I attended, etc. As I opened my heart and my mind to thinking about death, talking about death, learning about death, and preparing for my own end of life, it quickly became clear that working in this movement is my calling. I cannot think of a greater honor than to be of help and support to people who are dying and their loved ones. I’m also extremely interested in being part of the education aspect of this movement. On a very painful and personal level, I am seeing the effect of **not** talking about death and planning for it with my brother who is dying of a very rare degenerative brain disease. When he was diagnosed, he was already suffering cognitive impairment. The precious window to make known to his loved ones his wishes for the end of his life had already closed”.*

by Kay Fritz

“Our views of what death means to us can evolve, triggered by our own illness or being close to someone dying or simply in the process of mindful aging. My attendance at the Death Cafe in Damariscotta over a period of several years has contributed to my own ability to let go of previous rigid stories I told myself and become more open to a lightness about this aspect of my understanding of life. I hope our Death Talk gatherings here in Augusta can provide an opportunity for myself and others to continue such explorations.”

by Diane Moongrove

“For as long as I can remember I have been appalled at the amount of money spent on death and dying in the United States. From the huge sums incurred prolonging the existence of those who are in the final stages of their life to the inflated, and often outrageous, costs associated with a typical funeral, death can be extremely expensive. My hope is that Death Talk allows individuals to become aware of, and possibly consider, options and alternatives that allow a death with dignity and without debt.”

by **Susan Shaw**

GODDESS/EARTH CIRCLES

This is the season for harvest, for looking at the past and planning what to take into the future. We celebrate harvest in phases. The **Lammas Ritual**, the blessing of the first harvest will occur on Saturday September 7th, hosted by Evergreen Grove and the UUCU Worship Committee at 4 pm in Fellowship Hall. This is the first Sabbat of the new church year. Look for notices of others throughout the year. All are welcome to attend.



September 22 Fall/Autumn Equinox (also called Mabon) celebrates the second harvest. The time of day and night are balanced and will soon tip toward darkness, a time of rich contemplation. Goddess/Earth Circles Theme will be the Labyrinth of Our Lives, using a triple labyrinth to engage with the Maiden, Mother/Nurturer, and Elder/Crone of our lives, in reflecting on wisdom that we have or are searching for. These reflections may become part of our Wisdom Book 2019.

October 27 Samhain Wisdom Celebration Lunch marks the passing of the Sun God to the land of the young. The veil between the worlds is the thinnest. This Wisdom Ceremony is for women to be recognized as crones, or wise women. This celebration is also in honor of those who have gone before. We decorate, including wearing witch's hats of wisdom, distribute the Wisdom Book for 2019, and share thoughts for this time and community.

November 24 Pausing and Planning. In gratitude for our time together, we share our experiences in the last year and consider our hopes and events for the upcoming year.

December 22 Winter Solstice This will be part of the celebrations of traditions this time of year. We focus on the richness of the darkness that brings time for reflection and regeneration as we move to embrace the returning light.

December 29 Transitions in Time. Goddess/Earth Circles has been invited to offer the morning service Sunday. We will consider the enriching time of winter as we look ahead to a new year with reflection, singing, and walking. Hekate, Greek Goddess of crossroads, may join us.

The brochure for Circles and Sabbats is available in the vestibule, and on the UUCU website (www.augustauu.org, Church Life, Goddess/Earth Circles).
Contact: Helen Zidowecki, hzmre@hzmre.com, 582-5308

READ, LEARN, SHARE

READ, LEARN, SHARE - First Thursday of the month (starting in October) 1-2:30 p.m. Drew House First Floor

“I’m really glad I read this. I wouldn’t have if we hadn’t picked it for the group.” “Wow! You had a really different take on this book from me.”

(Frequently heard comments in the church book group.)

If you like to read and discuss books, this group may be for you. A core group of us meets monthly and we welcome those who drop in when a particular book catches their eye.

We have chosen our books for 2019-2020 as follows:

October 3, 2019 The Farm by Joanne Ramos

November 7, 2019 Wayfarer, A Memoir by James Rockefeller

December 5, 2019 I Am God by Giacomo Sartori

January 2, 2020 Mean Girl; Ayn Rand by Lisa Duggan

February 6, 2020 Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

March 5, 2020 The Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown

April 2, 2020 Mink River by Brian Doyle

May 7, 2020 Born a Crime by Trevor Noah

June 4, 2020 A Terrible Country by Keith Gessen

Winter Wonderland Church Fair 2019

Planning is underway for the 2nd annual Winter Wonderland Holiday Fair that will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on December 7. Many hands are needed to carry out this event. Last year, about 50 UUCC members and friends participated by staffing tables, setting up and cleaning up, making items for sale, collecting items for gift baskets and decorating the baskets, baking cookies, making candy, making homemade soups, decorating wreaths and swags, knitting and crocheting warm and toasty items, publicizing the event, and much, much more.

Now is the time to think about what you can do to make this year’s fair another success. Volunteers are needed to make items, cook, staff the tables, set up, participate in groups ahead of time that will make items for the fair (jewelry, wreaths and swags, cookie-making gift jars, and fabric wreaths). Here is a schedule of fair workshops (others may be added). Come one, come all – many hands are needed:

Sept. 11 and 25 from 1-3:30 in Fellowship Hall

Oct. 12 from 9 to noon in Drew House

Nov. 23 in Fellowship Hall

Dec. 2 in Fellowship Hall

Jewelry Making

Fabric Wreaths

Cookies, Cookie Mix Jars,

Energy Balls

Swags and Wreaths

Fair co-chairs are Nancy Fritz and Martha Naber. Committee members include Jean Sizelove, Nan Bell, Margaret Bean, Nicole Pickering, Mary Shifman, and Debbie Mattson.

If you would like to be part of the Fair Committee, or volunteer to help, please be in touch with Martha (naber@gwi.net) or Nancy (nfritz@roadrunner.com).

And don’t forget to put the Holiday Fair date of Dec 7th on your calendar. You’ll have a great time and support the UUCC budget at the same time.

Small Group Ministry Updates

I have been a member of Small Group Ministry since its origin in 1998. While members of my SGM have changed over two decades, the intimacy, the support, the love and the fun has not. Recently, as is our tradition, we enjoyed our annual summer field trip. This time we took a three hour cruise on the Casco Bay Line mail ferry boat to 6 islands. The weather was cloudy but not cold and we all enjoyed riding on the outside top deck to experience all the magic of the islands in Casco Bay. After our trip we met former member Barb Deserres (Kip was under the weather) for a wonderful luncheon at Boone's Seafood Restaurant before heading home. While I truly appreciate the seriousness and depth of our sessions, it is good to have fun together too! If you wish to be part of an intimate regular sharing experience, please contact Michael Conley, chairman of the SGM committee and he will help you find a home in this special program.

Linda Findlay



If you are interested in joining a small group, or starting a new group, please contact Michael Conley at 248-7941 or e-mail Reiter/Conley (estherpearl67@gmail.com). Other members of the Small Group Ministry Committee are Judy Gallant, Linda Findlay and Rev. Helen Zidowecki.

New groups and new members are welcomed with open arms.
You may find that a small group is an important addition to your life.

LIBRARY NOTES (The Library is a service project of the Thursday morning Small Group Ministry.)

It is delightful to see people using the library! We appreciate the generally rapid return of materials. Please put books that you removed from the shelves to peruse as well as those you are returning in the Return Basket on the shelf on the left section. We have added a Donation Basket for books to be considered for the library. Your note with your name and interest in the item being in the library is helpful.

We have an increasing collection of publications related to the person of Jesus and Christianity. Ten years ago we offered two sessions under Adult Programs on *Misquoting Jesus*, at the suggestion of Tom Waddell. On July 20, 2019, Karen Allen challenged us with "the real Jesus" – and there have been services and discussions and small group ministry sessions along the way. The Library collection enhances this exploration of our own heritage and liberal Christianity today. Thank you for your donations in this area. Thank you for sharing publications that are meaningful to you in this process.

The Book Adoption Center has been set up in the single section bookcase in the Library. Publications that do not meet the guidelines for inclusion in the Library (by or about UUs and UUism, used for study or are of particular interest within the congregation, or are additional copies), may be of interest to YOU. Please take them for your own pleasure and share with others. Items that have not been taken for a period of time may be moved to a different venue. *If you are interested in an item, take it when you see it!!!!*

As we set up the Book Adoption Center, we notice bags and boxes of books and other items that have not been part of the Library review on this bookcase, without identification of owner. Please put donations in the basket in the left-most section of the Library shelves or let us know that the items are intended as donations. Please honor this as an exchange area rather than a storage area. Thanks.

The complete brochure of the Library is on the table in the Vestibule.

Mary Shifman, Contact (549-7719, call/text 592-9011, shifmanmary@gmail.com)

Jean Sizelove, Cataloguer (623-5096, mesizelove@roadrunner.com)

History Committee

The History Committee is focusing on several specific areas.

We are renewing activity around the **Wayside Pulpit** in the front yard of the church. The Wayside Pulpit began in 1919 in the Unitarian Church in Brighton, MA, to draw community attention to the values that we hold. We have a listing of over 800 that were distributed to UU and other churches. We are planning to change the sign once or twice a month, using quotes from our collection of about a hundred sheets from All Souls Church. We are looking for suggestions for new quotes. Please give your comments and suggestions to the Wayside Pulpit Coordinator, Greg Brookbank at gmbrookbank2@gmail.com.

The History Committee has been asked to assist in providing information regarding **donations** in our history. Donations come in many forms. Examples are two hangings in the Sanctuary. The Virtue in Action hanging was the subject of the Sunday Service with Pat Halperin, a previous long-time member, on August 18. Pat mentioned the VIA (VIRTUE IN ACTION) Survey of Character Strengths, a simple free self-assessment that takes less than 15 minutes and provides a wealth of information to help understand core characteristics that is found at <http://www.viacharacter.org/www/Character-Strengths>

Pat reflected that the other hanging was created when we were considering "What our church home means to us." This was during a time when we had to consider whether to renovate, buy another building, or build a new building away from town. The images represent a "church home". We are looking for more information about that hanging: The name of the quilt, the year of creation, names of those involved, and meaning of the parts. If you have information, please send the information to Helen Zidowecki at hzmre@hzmre.com.

Descriptions of these hangings will be added to the website under Buildings & Rentals: Around the Church (<https://www.augustauu.org/buildings-and-rentals/around-the-church/>). This section includes information about other donations.

Oral Histories: We have been collecting oral histories over the last couple of years. These involve a number of people, both those being interviewed and the interviewers. This fall we will be discussing how to make these accessible to the church community.

The History Committee is planning on meeting the third Thursday of the month, 12:30-2:00pm in the History Committee and Olsen Room. The major topic for the October 17 meeting is planning to research the relationship of Unitarian Universalist churches in Augusta and treatment of **indigenous peoples** throughout our history. The History Committee meetings are open to all. Please join us.

Contact Helen Zidowecki with questions or to add information to our historical records (hzmre@hzmre.com, 582-5308). If you prefer you can also put a note in the History Committee mail slot in the Committee Room. Thank you.

Committee: Heide Munro, Helen McKendry, Richard Bridges, Greg Brookbank, Helen Zidowecki

Pastoral Ministry Team

Members of the **Pastoral Ministry Team**, under the leadership of Rev. Carie, recently met to discuss plans for the year to come. Do you know who these folks are and how they may benefit you, or how you can help others in our community?

Rev. Carie is available to meet with members and friends and there is a group of lay ministers who extend pastoral ministry of service and care for the growing community. The Pastoral Ministry Team is here to provide "*confidential, caring and compassionate presence...during times of grief, loss, life changes and stress...*" (UUCC website) See the *Pastoral Ministry and Caring Cooperative brochure in the Vestibule*).

Pastoral Ministry Team: Please see our pictures on the Pastoral Ministry Bulletin Board in the front hallway of the church. We also have Pastoral Ministry Team on our nametags.

Martha Pelletier was appointed Chair and facilitator.

Nancee Campbell will hold a time to assist people with Health Care Directives & Five Wishes.

Marcianne Rautenberg oversees the Caring Cooperative. She is asking for volunteers who may help by providing rides to church or medical appointments, meals during times of illness or loss, or other services. If you previously were able to serve, please sign up again with current information. The bright sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. If you need assistance in these areas, give Marcianne a phone call at 441-1218.

Marcianne will oversee the Phone Tree as part of the Caring Cooperative. The phone tree helps folks who don't email or text to be notified of significant immediate changes, such as major cancellations or deaths.

Tracy McNaughton and Marilyn Gordon will assist Rev. Carie with the Dec. 19th (6:00 p.m.) Grief Vespers held during the difficult holiday time on December 19 at 6 pm.

Nancee Campbell and Helen Zidowecki will connect with Elder Ministry components in the congregation, including Elder Lunch and Seasoned Souls. The special service honoring elders is held every 2 years, the next scheduled for 2021.

Lori Reed will coordinate communications about Pastoral Ministry Team activities.

How to request services:

If you would like to meet with our minister or would like to request support from a lay pastoral minister, please contact Rev. Carie Johnsen at (508) 221-5295 or (207) 623-3663 or via email at RevCarieJohnsen@gmail.com For services from the Caring Cooperative, contact Marcianne Rautenberg at 207-441-1218.

Nancee Campbell	207-621-7727
Helen Zidowecki	207-582-5308
Martha Pelletier	207-685-9592
Tracy McNaughton	207-623-3110
Marcianne Rautenberg	207-441-1218
Marilyn Gordon	207-809-3242
Lori A. Reed	207-312-8061

Discernment Committee Update

From the Discernment Team (Karen Foust, Annie Voorhees, Erin Ballew, Claire Curole, Gary Chapin, Debbie Mattson, Rev Carie)

The Discernment Team of our church has been meeting for something like a year and, though we've written newsletter articles and had many conversations there are still puzzled looks when we talk about what we are doing. The gist of it is that we were tasked by the board to discern (synonyms *perceive, recognize, distinguish, detect, make out*) the essence of our church community and express that in some way.

We were not tasked with "writing a mission and vision." Rather we were tasked with looking through the conversations our church has had over the past five years -- we looked through the notes and chart paper of all those times we got you together to answer questions and express your desires and fears for our church -- and *discerning* the expressed vision to be found there. We didn't write it. We found it. Now we're trying it on, playing with it, seeing what comes.

“Living the Grace of Love”

It was an extraordinary conversation that led to our encompassing the essence of our church in the five words: Living the grace of love. We'll be exploring and playing with those words for the next six months. The phrase captures all that we do, all we wish to do, and all we wish to be; and leaves open many pathways to all of those things. It's a metric by which we can measure success, and a North Star, whose reliability is amplified by all of the many relationships that hold our church together.

We came to this via our extraordinary conversation, and now we hope to lead you (the congregation) in your own conversation. For the next six months we will be curating opportunities to examine, question, converse, and conspire with these words. Our base prompt will be this question:

“What does it look like to live the grace of love?”

We will be participating in these conversations with you and are eager to see where you will take them between now and January. We are enthusiastic about being surprised by your own discernings.

So, expect to see and hear these words in the coming church year. Engage with them and each other and continue to be as open and vulnerable as you have been.

A Message from Claire Curole

The Boards of Trustees of
the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick
and
the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Augusta
request the honor of your presence at
the ordination of
Claire Curole
to the Unitarian Universalist ministry
Sunday, October 20th, 2019
4:00 pm
at UUCB * 1 Middle Street * Brunswick, ME
reception to follow

• Clergy and religious professionals wishing to participate in the procession are asked to arrive by 3:30 p.m. Vestments or regalia appropriate to your tradition are welcome but not required.

• Parking: UUCB has on street parking only. Please carpool as much as possible, and be prepared to park up to several blocks from the church. There is a drop off zone in front of the church. Detailed parking information will be available in October.

- Child care: We are assessing the need for child care for kids ages 4-12; please let us know by October 6th at latest if this would help your family participate. Children of any age are welcome in the sanctuary during the service; there is an unstaffed nursery area just off the UUCB sanctuary.
- Food: We are asking the congregation to contribute snacks / finger foods for the reception. There will be a sign up list on the bulletin board after the Ingathering service on September 8th.

If you would like to join the volunteer team coordinating the reception, please contact Claire (panacea@gwi.net).

Communications Work Group

“Communication: We are a congregation that is transparent in its decisions and actions. We strive for communication that is abundant, clear, compassionate, and inclusive.” <https://www.augustauu.org/minister-staff-and-church-life/church-governance/leap-of-faith/>, adopted at Annual Meeting June 2014.

As we tackle issues that are fundamental to the essence of our congregational life, I invite you to join me in reflecting on how we can be transparent.

Transparent can be defined as able to see all facets, with no hidden parts. I suggest that the application in the congregation includes:

- Presenting all sides of a topic that is being addressed, and
- In a variety of ways for people to access information (written, discussion, etc.) and
- In a timely manner related to making decisions and implementing action.

Creating transparency

Present items in a manner that invites engagement. Each person brings unique perspective and potential for enhancing or broadening the outcome of the project or task. How many parts of the congregation are included and who is missing?

Publicize the work as it progresses. The phrase “we’ve been working on this for a long time.....” is the expectation that everyone is on the same wave length, so to speak. Consider how and when the work of the group has been publicized, and the ways and frequency of updating, and who might have been left out or missed the update.

Pay attention to the many ways that things are communicated within the congregation: Written items (*The Flaming Chalice*, newsletter, E-Blast and Sunday announcements), discussions (forums, etc.), posters and displays, Facebook to name a few. Use communication resources to disperse information and to receive information about the many things going on.

Participate in a process. The degree of participation influences the degree of transparency. While not everything that I might suggest is included, the process of discussion raises possibilities and awareness, adding a depth to the process itself. If I do not participate, I cannot criticize if my view is not considered. Participation is a continuum from communicating with the group or project leader to taking on specific tasks.

Be proactive. People to people communication increases awareness and interest in the issue or topic or project at hand. This may include assisting with transportation and other resources for participation to occur.

Thank you for joining me in this brief reflection of this vital objective that enhances the quality of our community’s life, activity and influence as we move through this period of discernment.

Helen Zidowecki

Communication Work Group also includes Lynn Smith and Kathy Kellison.

Community Connections

UUCC offers a variety of opportunities for interested people to connect with other community members to learn, to grow, to serve.

CAPITAL AREA NEW MAINERS PROJECT (CANMP) is a cross-cultural organization that welcomes immigrants and works to create a thriving, integrated, multicultural community in central Maine. There are many ways to get involved and help support this group's mission. FMI: <https://www.newmainersproject.org/>

GODDESS/EARTH CIRCLES AND SABBATS celebrate earth-based and goddess traditions. Circles meet monthly, Sunday, Noon-2pm. Sabbats or earth festivals, occur at differing times.

ELDER LUNCH happens on the second Sunday of each month between October and June. Volunteers serve lunch to self selected 'elders' meaning all are welcome. A chance to enjoy a meal and good company and/or a chance to volunteer to offer food, help set-up, serve or clean up.

GENTLE YOGA is a physical practice that makes us stronger and more flexible by helping us to link our mind, body and breath. No experience needed; just curiosity. Classes are free and are taught by Debbie Mattson on Wednesdays from 5 PM to 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We have extra mats, blocks, and bolsters—everything needed for Wednesday Yoga.

MUUSAN is the Maine Unitarian Universalist Social Advocacy Network. The group brings the voice of UU churches across the state to the legislature. FMI: visit the website at www.MUUSAN.org.

PEACEFUL HEART SANGHA is a mindful meditation group that meets in the Sanctuary weekly on Monday's from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. All are welcome to join this group.

PEER RUN AFFINITY GROUP is a support group for those that struggle with mood disorders and their families and friends. The group meets **every Thursday from 1:30 to 3pm in Robbins Room at the Church**. Attend this confidential group to learn the useful **facts** and to dispel the harmful **myths** about mood disorders. Meets year round.

SEASONED SOULS is a group of older church members and friends (65+) that meet to talk openly about topics related to the aging process. The group meets the 2nd & 4th Wed. of each month in the Fellowship Hall as a study/support group.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY refers to groups of up to 10 people who commit to meeting regularly for spiritual exploration, ministry to one another and to the church and the wider community.

READ, LEARN, SHARE is for devoted readers who enjoy book discussions. We meet (Oct. – June) on the first Thursday of the month from 1:00-2:30 downstairs in the Drew House. Join us at one or all discussions.

Current information about any of these activities is available on our web site at www.augustauu.org. Information is also published in the weekly E-blast and the Announcements insert in the Sunday morning Order of Service.

If you would like to be added to our mailing list, contact the Church Administrator at 622-3232 or via email at admin@augustauu.org.

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

Newsletter Submissions

Submission Deadline for Winter newsletter is December 17th
Submissions received after this date may not be able to be published.

Please submit all articles as an attachment in a Word document using Arial font size 11. Don't forget to give your article a title and sign it. Send an email to newsletter@augustauu.org with the article as a word attachment! ***Photos of church activities are welcomed! *** You will receive a confirmation e-mail of receipt of your submission.

Minister: Reverend Carie Johnsen

Board President: Jill Watson

RE Coordinator: Monique McAuliffe

Choir Director: Bridget Convey

Contact information for Committee chairs and other leaders can be found in the UUCC directory or obtained by contacting the Church Administrator.

Church Administrator: Lynn Smith
Phone: (207)622-3232 or email: admin@augustauu.org

Office hours: 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. (Tues, Wed & Thurs)
No office hours: Monday or Friday

Rev. Carie's Office Hours:

Monday 2:00 – 5:00

Wednesday 2:00 – 5:00

Thursday 2:00 – 5:00

Other times and days available by appointment.

Tuesday Day of Silence: reading writing, reflection

Friday is Rev. Carie's Sabbath. She does not attend to emails, phone calls or meetings. For pastoral emergencies please call her cell phone (508) 221-5295. She will return your call as soon as possible.