

AN OFFICIAL WELCOMING CONGREGATION
ALL ARE WORTHY, ALL ARE WELCOME.

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*Rooted in the Sacred and strengthened by our diversity,
we equip ourselves to minister through the transformative power of Love.*

JODI'S CORNER: WORDS FROM OUR MINISTER

In her gorgeous poem, "A Theology Adequate for the Night," Nancy Shaffer writes, in part:

*Not God as unmoved mover;
One who set the earth in motion
and withdrew. Not the One to thank
when those cherished do not die-
for providence includes equally
power to harm. Not God of exactings,
as if life could be earned or subtracted.
But – this may work in the night:
something that breathes with us, as others
sleep; something that breathes also
those sleeping, so no one is alone...*

I am holding this beautiful image close as we move through these days of beauty and struggle: God as something that breathes with all of us, ensuring that no one is alone. And, remembering that the holy work of this world, including the holding, gets done by each of us.

May we reach out to one another, friend and stranger alike, holding and tending and loving, doing our part to ensure that no one is alone.

And may your days and nights be blessed.

– Jodi



Scenes from Flower Communion: June 12, 2016

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Auburn UU board of directors wrapped up the 2015-2016 church year with our June meeting. After choosing "commitment" as a year-long thematic focus, it has been wonderful to witness the many forms of commitment that have so strengthened our church in the past year. One happy measure of that commitment is that every board member with a remaining term of service has agreed to continue on, including Eben Miller (president), Peter Floyd (vice president), Ginny Starbird (clerk), and at large members Kerry Lathrop, Bill Phillips, and Paula Spruill. We are also fortunate to welcome Tom Wylie to the board for the upcoming church year.

Looking ahead, we anticipate a year of new endeavors that foster continued excitement for involvement in our church and congregation. As was discussed during the annual meeting, plans are afoot for an ongoing concert series as well as a committee focused on financial and human resources—each of which are intended to help sustain our beloved institution. It is the board's charge to keep our shared mission and vision front and center as new volunteer opportunities, policy needs, and congregational challenges arise.

We predict a busy and joyful year devoted to just such issues. The board will reconvene to take them up, in step with the new church year, on Monday, September 12, at 6:30 in the church office.

– Eben Miller

PLEASE NOTE: NO CHURCH PICNIC THIS YEAR

Bob and Esther are sorry to report that they are unable to host the annual picnic this year at the Thorpe family cottage and grounds. The cottage calendar is filled with vacationing families, leaving no weekend available for our event.

The litany of love, repentance, and affirmation offered by the congregation to the GLBTQ community following the attack in Orlando, June 19, 2016:

You are loved

You are sacred

You belong in this church

You belong in this world

We hold you in your grief

We hold you through our grief

We acknowledge our brokenness

We bow our heads before our failure

We will not remain silent

We will speak our grief

We will speak our rage

We will speak our righteousness

We will speak our love

You are loved

You are sacred

You belong in this church

You belong in this world

SAVE THE DATE: OCT. 9 FALL MEETING

For those of you who did not attend the annual meeting, please note that we will be holding a fall meeting on October 9 to vote on a finalized budget.

We asked the congregation to vote on a deficit budget at the annual meeting because we still lacked some data: the stewardship campaign was not yet complete and we were unclear how much money would roll over from this fiscal year into the next (a gift of a relatively warm winter). At the fall meeting we will vote on a balanced budget. Please plan to attend!

SOCIAL JUSTICE CORNER

SECOND COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Second Collection is taken on the first Sunday of each month.

- July 3 **New Beginnings**
- August 7 **Immigrant Resource Center of Maine,**
formerly United Somali Women of Maine.
Their recent name change reflects the support they give to many African refugee and immigrant communities. Their mission is to offer culturally and linguistically sensitive services to promote a healthy and equitable Maine.

TRAPPED Screening July 26



Social Justice will host a free screening of TRAPPED on Tuesday, July 26 at 6:00 p.m., followed by a panel

discussion about issues of access to women's health care our area.

TRAPPED, a critically-acclaimed documentary by Dawn Porter, follows the struggles of the clinic workers and lawyers who are on the front lines of a battle to keep abortion safe and legal for millions of American women.

After the film, women's health care advocates from Maine Family Planning and Planned Parenthood of Northern New England will participate in a panel discussion on the importance of access to safe and legal abortion.

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Our Social Justice banner is missing. Have you seen it? If so, please contact Toby. Thanks!

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Support Local Agriculture! This July, watch for NASAP farmer Habiba, who will once again sell produce at Auburn UU each Sunday.

— Toby Haber-Giasson and Jane Pentheny,
Social Justice co-chairs

Auburn UU at Pride

Our congregation was well represented at Pride Portland on June 17. Several members joined MUUSAN in the parade.

About seventy people, many of them from Auburn UU, marched with Outright L-A – its largest group ever!



INTERFAITH VIGIL FOR ORLANDO

On Monday, June 13, Auburn UU hosted an interfaith vigil to honor those lost in the senseless killings in Orlando, and to support the GLBTQ community in Lewiston-Auburn. As sun broke through the clouds on Spring Street, Rev. Jodi put words to the fears and rage of over 100 community members and members of the press who came to bear witness.

Leaders from three other local congregations also came out in support and in grieving: the Rev. Steve Carnahan of High Street Congregational Church, the Rev. Annie Baker-Streevy of Calvary United Methodist Church, and Rabbi Sruli Dresdner of Temple Shalom Synagogue Center.

Though shaken, Rev. Jodi stressed that we must stand firmly on the side of love.

“May we find the strength tonight to turn away from violence,” Hayashida said, “to trust that love is stronger than pain, and fear, and even death. I see all of us standing in solidarity – coming together in pain – yes, but in hope.”

NEWS COVERAGE OF THE VIGIL

<http://www.sunjournal.com/news/lewiston-auburn/2016/06/13/l-community-grieves-orlando-victims/1941986>

<http://fox23maine.com/news/local/hundreds-of-mainers-honor-orlando-shooting-victims> (see 1:30 into the story)

<http://www.wmtw.com/news/mainers-mourn-for-orlando-victims/40042140>



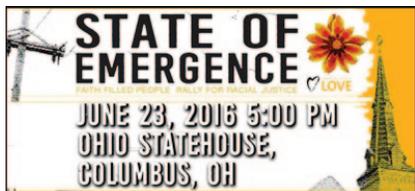
RE SUNDAY: JUNE 5, 2016



Thank you to our wonderful RE volunteers!



CHECKING IN: UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY



As we look on, the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Ohio transforms itself into our UUA

General Assembly (GA) 2016. This 5-day event is a learning community for the 4,000 of us participating from around the country and around the world.

It is an emotional experience to hear our musicians sing and play “Comfort Me” (to many tears) and then “Come, Come Whoever You Are” as UUs dance and parade throughout the hall with creative, colorful church banners representing our 1,000 UU congregations. We all hold the pain of loss from the Orlando shooting massacre, which we name over and over again so we can let hope and resilience seep into our broken places.

Mindful that UUs draw wisdom from the world’s religions, and words and deeds of prophetic women and men, this week we become the “Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect.” “We are better together,” we say to one another. With interfaith input we do justice work and business at GA. We discuss Racial Equality, Reproductive Rights, Climate Change, and Gun Violence. We choose Corruption of our Democracy as a denominational focus. We don’t all agree, but we keep talking.

Music, worship, workshops, and inspiring speakers uplift our struggles and sustain our souls. We hear from our three (women!) UUA presidential candidates: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, Rev. Alison Miller, and Rev. Jeanne Pupke.

Our GA Justice Demonstration is a multi-faith “Witness: a State of Emergence” rally. This June in Columbus, as in too many other places, police fatally shot a young black man walking along the street. We weep and rage, then pledge heart, soul and resources to this work.

Because of all this, as we leave behind this energizing, provocative community, we renew vows to “love the hell out of this world.” We’ll report more about GA in our September newsletter.

JUSTICE WORK AT G.A.



What brings thousands of UUs to our feet, clapping, cheering, and calling out in agreement?

At GA it is recognition of deep, fundamental truths that can move our hurting world from despair to hope. Rev. William J. Barber, II offered those to us at our UUA General Assembly. Barber is the architect of Moral Mondays and President of North Carolina NAACP. Your two Auburn UU delegates were profoundly moved and motivated by his talks.

At GA part of our work is to link our theology with our institutional structure and create policy. We grasp that we are “better together” and that “together” often means forging alliances beyond our denomination. Barber urged us to move beyond religion and politics to unite around an inclusive “Moral Agenda” centered on these five areas: **Pro Labor, Anti Poverty; Educational Equality; Health Care for All; Environmental Protection; and Fairness in the Criminal Justice System**

Sign the Higher Moral Ground Declaration:

<https://action.groundswell-mvmt.org/petitions/will-you-advance-a-moral-agenda>

These components are “intersectional,” stressed Rev. Barber. “You can’t have one without another.” Please join us, and **sign the Higher Moral Ground Declaration** at <https://action.groundswell-mvmt.org/petitions/will-you-advance-a-moral-agenda>. Then...what can we do...together?

– 2016 G.A. Delegates Jane Pentheny & Anne Kinney

ANNE KINNEY RECEIVES 2016 ROSE WINDOW AWARD

At the annual meeting, the congregation joyfully gave Anne Kinney the Rose Window Award “In recognition of outstanding service to the congregation in keeping with our Unitarian Universalist principles.” Anne has served the



congregation tirelessly since her arrival, and in ways too numerous to list. Some of the highlights include: serving on the board, including as Vice President and President;

serving as chair of the Welcoming Congregation and as chair of Denominational affairs; connecting with our sister church Allen Ave. UU in Portland and involving us in what has now become a shared annual all church retreat at Ferry Beach Center; organizing the annual Chili Cook-off to raise scholarship money for the retreat, and much more. Anne’s commitment to radical welcome, embracing diversity, and strengthening our congregation by deepening our connection to the larger movement has been a constant source of blessing. We are grateful!

SUMMER MUSIC

We are looking for church musicians who are excited to offer some special music during a summer worship service. With the exception of two Sundays, you’d be working with Phil, so you won’t need to accompany hymns, only offer an introit and an anthem. John Spruill is organizing the summer music, so please contact him if you are interested: jtsauburn@gmail.com or (207) 869-0892.

AUBURN UU IN THE NEWS



Photo: Andree Kehn/Sun Journal

Two Auburn UU members ministered to our community last month by candidly sharing their story. Peter Floyd and Casey Knight were prominently featured in the *Sun Journal* article “Transgender in Maine” on Sunday, June 12. Thank you, Peter and Casey!

OPEN MIC

Join us through the summer on the second Friday of each month, from 7:30–9:30 p.m. in our vestry. Sing/play/recite or just LISTEN. Refreshments for sale to benefit the Organ Fund. Free; all ages! This summer’s Open Mics are on **FRIDAY, JULY 8** and **FRIDAY, AUGUST 12**.



Open Mic friend Larry Daigle shares some country classics on a recent Friday night.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Summer is often a time when regular church attendees may be absent from Sunday services, but it's also a time when visitors and newcomers may seek us out. Please be generous with your welcome to newcomers. First impressions are so important, and we all remember how it felt to be here for the first time, and how much we appreciated the friendly smiles and greetings we received.



Please remember to wear your name tag if you have one! If you don't, or you would like a new one, Shelley

Reno and Paula Spruill will be offering name tag making on July 24 after the service. Blessings,

– Peggy Cox, Membership Chair

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Like networking? Represent Auburn UU at a Chamber event! **Chamber After Hours** is always the third Thursday of the month from 5:30–7:30. **Chamber breakfast** dates are August 11, September 8, October 13, November 10, and December 8. Contact Toby at news@auburnuu.org to learn more.



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Our church page is getting lots of new views on Facebook! Have you liked it? <http://www.auburnuu.org/facebook>

DRUMMING CIRCLE: 3RD THURSDAY

+ BRING OR BORROW +



This summer:

July 21 & August 18 6:30-8:00

For more info, contact Peter Floyd: floyd6of7@yahoo.com

ESTHER'S CENTERPIECE

This lovely floral-looking centerpiece is a creation of Esther Tucker for the June **Cakes Group** gathering that focused on Greek Goddess Aphrodite. Esther served as one of group's co-facilitators that evening. She designed this with battery votive candles in the center, and placed a small fan (off-camera) to lightly blow the tissue paper "flames" she had designed.

Other participants in our monthly women's spirituality group were delighted with it! Although not featured in the photo, the centerpiece was ringed with seashells and a lower altar area was strewn with flowers and numerous other symbols of this "transformative" Greek goddess of love and sensuality who graced our Full Moon Summer Solstice celebration.



We shared thoughts about Aphrodite's self-possessed, confident, self-reliant approach to life and honored the goddess in each other. Appreciation to Peggy Cox for the photo!

– Esther, Pixie, Anne, Peggy, Bonnie, Diane, Liz, Holly, Jane, Mary Kay, Shelley, and Wendy

1903 RETROSPECTIVE: EL GRADUATION AT “ELM STREET UNIVERSALIST”

A little over 113 years ago the graduating class of Edward Little High School held its commencement exercises in the “audience room” of our own church, then known as Elm Street Universalist Church. That Class of 1903 had some 70 graduates, according to an old newspaper account.

The Salutatorian’s address to his classmates and guests was delivered in Greek, according to the custom of the time. Girls were included in the speechmaking, including three who spoke on the topic of “College for the Girl Who Wants It,” an essay on the class flower, the lily of the valley, and a composition on Friendship.

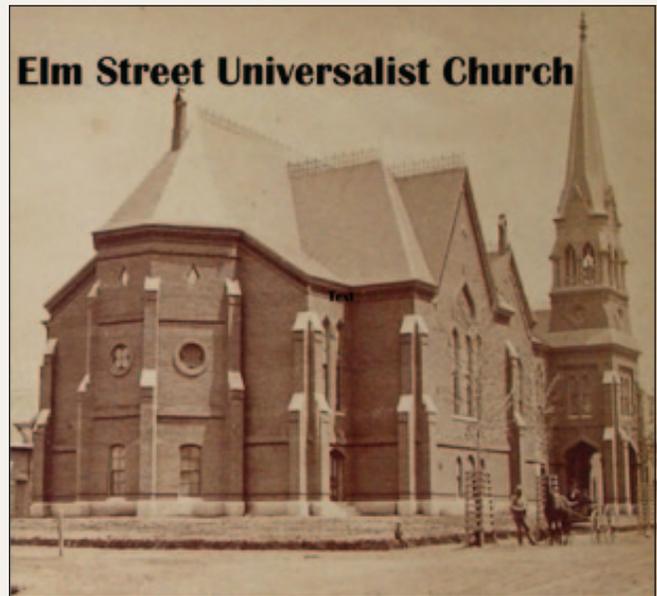
Whimsy and humor surfaced when George L. Foss presented the class history. It’s hard to tell now if his comments were tongue in cheek or sincere, when he said this was known as a “pious class” with “firm convictions.” His classmates, said Foss, self-identified as follows:

- 22 Congregationalists
- 11 Universalists
- 7 Methodists
- 4 Free Baptists
- 4 “hard shell close communion” Baptists
- 4 Catholics
- 2 Atheists
- 1 each: Buddhist, Adventist, Episcopalian, Christian Scientist, Hebrew, Sanfordite, Quaker, Agnostic, and Theosophist, and finally,
- 1 sinner

Political leanings of class members were equally creative:

- 34 Republicans
- 4 Prohibitionists
- 4 Socialists
- 3 Democrats
- 2 for the “best man”
- 1 each: Whig, Greenback, Independent, Tammany Hall, and
- 1 believer in “the Bangor Plan”

Thirteen 1903 classmates, he said, were politically “on the fence,” but since 13 was an unlucky number, one had “fallen off” and was currently “on the hog.”



Foss offered other class statistics: the average class height was 5 feet, 6 inches (ranging between 4 foot 11 inches and 6 feet); and the average weight was 128 pounds (with the lowest weight at 98 pounds); and the average age of the class was 18. Although Maine granted the right to vote in women in 1919, a year before the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, girl grads would not be able to vote for another 16 years. With a hopeful eye to that future Foss commented that one girl could vote as far as age was concerned.

The Class Prophecy offered by Mabel Hayes ascribed compelling futures equally to girls and boys in the class:

- Patent medicine purveyor in Moscow (girl)
- Magazine editor (boy)
- Political agitator (girl)
- Wife of the governor of New Mexico
- Sheriff of Androscoggin County (girl)
- Pool room owner (girl)
- Latin grammar teacher (girl)
- Wife of a Chinese laundryman
- Superintendent of schools in the Philippines (girl)

A member of that 1903 class penned the Edward Little Class Song used today. May all of **our** 2016 (and future) graduates have a rewarding summer and equally auspicious leanings and destinies!

– Anne Kinney, *Denominational Affairs Rep*

JULY-AUGUST EVENTS

www.auburnuu.org/news-events/calendar/

Sun, July 3	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service / Summer RE activity <i>Second Collection: New Beginnings</i>
Fri, July 8	7:30 p.m.	Open Mic / Poetry Slam
Sun, July 10	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service / Summer RE activity
Sun, July 17	10:00 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Worship Service / Summer RE activity Membership Committee meeting
Thurs, July 21	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) meeting Drumming Circle
Sun, July 24	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service / Summer RE activity
Mon, July 25	4:30 p.m.	SURJ Vigil / families night on Longley Bridge (near Gritty's)
Tues, July 26	6:00 p.m.	TRAPPED screening, followed by panel discussion on access to women's health care (<i>vestry</i>)
Sun, July 31	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service / Summer RE activity
Sun, Aug 7	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service / Summer RE activity <i>Second Collection: Immigrant Resource Center of Maine</i>
Fri, Aug 12	7:30 p.m.	Open Mic / Poetry Slam
Sun, Aug 14	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service / Summer RE activity
Thurs, Aug 18	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) meeting Drumming Circle
Sun, Aug 21	10:00 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Worship Service / Summer RE activity Membership Committee meeting
Mon, Aug 22	4:30 p.m.	SURJ Vigil for Racial Justice on Longley Bridge (near Gritty's)
Thurs, Aug 25		<i>Deadline for Sept. Open Door newsletter</i>
Sun, Aug 28	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service / Summer RE activity
Sun, Sept 11	10:00 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Water Communion / Ingathering Opportunity Fair

SEW WHAT?



Can you help us finish a sewing project? Mary Morin has cut and pinned material to make curtains for the vestry and the Discoverers classroom. After these are sewn, we already have the hardware to attach them to the rods. Please contact Karen at 783-0461 to volunteer!

If you have left an item behind in the building, it may have been picked up and placed in the **LOST AND FOUND** box located above the coat rack in the entry. We'd like to reunite you with your missing possessions!



The deadline for the SEPTEMBER Open Door newsletter is **THURS, AUGUST 25, 2016**

Submissions should be simple and reader-friendly (no longer than 275 words) and should pertain to church or denominational events, announcements, and activities. If graphics are desired, please send them with your submission or contact the editor for assistance. You will receive an acknowledgement by email when your submission is received. Send submissions to Tracey Miller at newsletter@auburnuu.org.