



Rev. Charlotte Lehmann, ordained at Auburn UU on Saturday, October 28, surrounded by ceremony participants



Rev. Charlotte led the Children's Focus and delivered the sermon on Sunday, October 29



FIRST UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH of AUBURN  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

An official Welcoming Congregation

All are worthy, all are welcome

169 Pleasant Street, Auburn, ME 04210  
(207) 783-0461 - office@auburnuu.org  
www.auburnuu.org

## JODI'S CORNER: WORDS FROM OUR MINISTER

Laurel Sheridan writes, "Take from life the coals, not the ashes," a compelling reminder as we enter this season of release and rebirth. The spiraling of life insists that we let go of what is no longer necessary to make room for new growth. All too often, we instead try to take the ashes—the burnt out remains of what was that sting our eyes and clog our lungs and sap our will to move on. As we enter into this year's spirit nourishing time of darkness, may we instead choose to take the coals—the lessons learned, the wisdom gained, the growth-inviting discomfort, the quiet, new found joy. May we carry them tenderly, blow on them gently, and allow them to kindle into the flames of new and deeper life.

May your days and nights be blessed.

— Jodi

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

## MOLLY'S MESSAGE



November is here, and the upcoming anniversary of last year's election—a very hard one for a lot of people, including me—is making me think this

week about persistence: the idea of a “long haul” that we endure in spite of disappointment and hurt. How do we remain in community when a huge segment of that community does something that hurts us, and when is it important to refuse to allow certain things to persist, and persistence becomes resistance?

For me, last year's election flew in the face of what I thought I knew and understood about America as a country that valued decency, character, and right relationship. This isn't about simple differences of political opinion which can be bridged by being in community. To me, this election was about a man who proudly displays and has admitted to many harmful and dangerous behaviors, including assaulting women and giving support to white supremacists, being elevated to one of the most powerful positions in the world.

How do we—how do I—persist in the face of constant threats and disrespect shown to me, to my friends of color, to my Latinx and Muslim and Jewish and disabled friends, to my LGBTQ and trans friends, from this country's highest office?

To persist, to be “in it for the long haul,” doesn't mean to lie down and accept oppressive treatment from a community, a person, or a country that we love and that also has hurt us. Our inherent worth as humans demands better. Persistence means to continue to raise our voices, use our bodies, live our lives as statements of radical, fierce love for ourselves and those around us, in

### A prayer, offered by intern minister Molly Brewer on October 22, 2017

Spirit of Life and of Love,

Holy One that reaches wide to encompass all beings,

Hold us to Yourself in this moment.

We come to this place carrying so much in our hearts.

Around us we hear the laments of a broken world,

Torn by fire, storm and strife,

Crying, “I too have suffered.

I too have been hurt and oppressed by power, by pain, by loss and by neglect.”

We open our ears and lift up the words of all who join in this sorrowful song:

“Me, too.”

Spirit, comfort us.

Descend around us as a cloud of peace and compassion,

Abide with us in our mourning.

Help us to gather ourselves,

To face each day with bravery, or equanimity, or even just to face it at all.

Help make each movement lighter, less leaden.

Give us the grace to once again give thanks,

And the strength to be kind to ourselves over and over.

One day, may our cries of shared sorrow give way to songs of joy.

May we sing, “I too am healing my broken heart.

I too see the faces of justice and mercy.

I too am filled with light, love, and compassion.

Me, too.”

Blessed be and amen.

spite of treatment that tells us we're less-than. Last Sunday, I was able to do and be all those things in community with you as I led worship for the first time here. It was a gift to share that time and space. Even with the sting of last year's election freshly stirred up in my mind, I feel such gratitude that going forward in my internship, I will have the opportunity to continue to persist—and resist—with you.

— Molly Brewer, Ministerial Intern

---

## GREETINGS FROM REV. SARAH

As we reflect on the theme of abundance this November, you may have noticed an abundance of new names on the cover your Order of Service. You may have also noticed when Rev. Jodi brought me up in front of the congregation in September and explained a little bit about community ministry. And now you might be wondering, who is this other minister in our midst? What does she do? I am glad to share with you more!



An affiliated community minister is an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister whose ministry is not in a church, but out in the community. Community ministers in preliminary fellowship, are required to affiliate with a local congregation to ground themselves in UUism and also receive support during the early years of ministry. Community ministers are not employed by or work for the church. I work full-time as a healthcare chaplain at St. Mary's and offer emotional and spiritual care to the patients at d'Youville Pavilion.

This does not change the structure of the staff. Rev. Jodi, your wonderful parish minister, is still the person to seek with any pastoral needs or church questions. Within the terms of my affiliation agreement I have committed to preach once during the year and offer one class or workshop within my area of practice. Any additional services, such as weddings for non-members or back-up pastoral care coverage, are determined by the parish minister.

In general, the duties of a community minister are out in the world, enacting our UU values and ethics in settings beyond our church doors. This is what our UU principles encourage us all to do, to bring our vision for fierce hope and radical love into action. It is my privilege to be able to serve in this way. And I am grateful to have found a home at First Universalist. Abundant blessings,

– Rev. Sarah

---

## GINGERBREAD FAIR IS NOVEMBER 18



Join us at the Gingerbread Fair: **Saturday, November 18 from 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

We are in the final countdown to the Fair and we are looking for everyone's help to make our goal of \$4,000. We are looking for your donations for the following tables:

silent auction, books, jewelry, baked goods and pies, crafts, and gift baskets. Cash donations are also welcome. You can leave your items on

the vestry stage starting now (labeled, please) for Friday p.m. set-up. If you are donating gift baskets, we need to have them ASAP so we can wrap them before Friday. We also need folks to help with set up/take down and to work during the Fair. Please stop at the Fair Display in the vestry on Sundays and watch the orders of service for more specific info on how you can help. Be sure invite your friends and relatives to join us for lunch and the festivities and all the great bargains. Together we can have fun-filled and profitable day!

– Mary Lou Hofmann, Chair  
777-1833 [even.sleeves@gmail.com](mailto:even.sleeves@gmail.com)

## NOVEMBER CONCERTS FOR A CAUSE: WOMEN IN HARMONY

CFAC presents Women in Harmony on **Friday, November 3, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.**

Women in Harmony (WIH) has been singing for social justice for over 25 years. This diverse group of women – gay and straight, musically sophisticated and untrained – occupies a unique niche among singing groups in Northern New England. WIH sings for unity among women, advocating social, political, and economic equality for all. Their music is culturally and stylistically varied, daring, and full of life. Songs convey the importance of connection and community, which WIH serves by providing learning opportunities for women of diverse musical backgrounds, partnering with local organizations, and promoting the work of women composers and musicians.

The program will include Holly Near's "Fired Up," "Common Woman" by The Righteous Mothers, "Arlington" and "One Voice" by the Wailin' Jennys, "Bound for Freedom," "Swimming to the Other Side" by Emma's Revolution, and more.

Concerts for a Cause brings special concerts to the L/A community while raising money for area charities. This show will benefit the church, as well as Trinity Jubilee Center.

CFAC shows are produced by choir director Dave Rowe and a dedicated group of church members.

"As the choir director here at Auburn UU," says Rowe, "nothing excites me more than being able to bring one of Maine's finest choral groups to

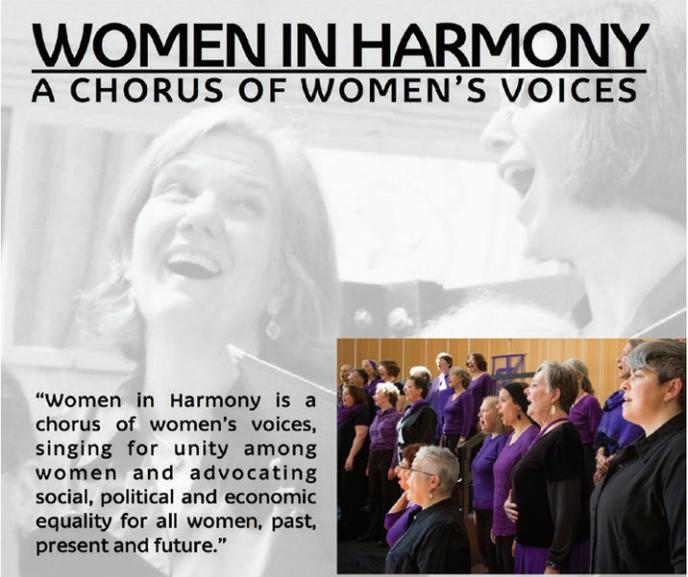


# CFAC

CONCERTS FOR A CAUSE

## WOMEN IN HARMONY

A CHORUS OF WOMEN'S VOICES



"Women in Harmony is a chorus of women's voices, singing for unity among women and advocating social, political and economic equality for all women, past, present and future."

to benefit **TRINITY JUBILEE CENTER**

### FRI • 11/3 • 7:30 PM

 **FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF AUBURN**  
169 PLEASANT STREET • AUBURN, MAINE

[WWW.UUCONCERTS.ORG](http://WWW.UUCONCERTS.ORG) • 207-783-0461

### NEXT UP FOR CFAC 2017

- Fri., Dec. 1: **Heather Pierson Trio**  
music from "A Charlie Brown Christmas" \$15
- Sat., Dec. 16: **Annual Holiday Concert**  
with Dave Rowe/Denny Breau/Phil House \$18

our stage. No music touches my heart like choral music. The sound of so many voices, so many hearts, blending together is nothing short of mesmerizing!"

Tickets are \$15 at the door (cash or credit). Discounted tix available in advance at coffee hour! For more information, visit [www.uuconcerts.org](http://www.uuconcerts.org) or call 783-0461.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE CORNER

### SECOND COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Nov..... New Beginnings  
Dec ..... Immigrant Resource Center of Maine  
Jan..... Greater Androscoggin Humane Soc.

*In December, we will accept nominations for  
2018 Second Collection recipients.*

### Social Actions

#### RESIST CENTRAL MAINE

*Meetings* Nov. 12 & Nov. 26 at 4:30

*Rallies* Tuesdays at 11:30:  
Dufresne Plaza,  
Lisbon Street, Lewiston  
Fridays at 4:30:  
Longley Bridge

\* \* \* \* \*

#### CENTRAL MAINE SURJ (SHOWING UP FOR RACIAL JUSTICE)

*Meeting* Tuesday, Nov. 14, 6-8 p.m.,  
vestry at Auburn UU

*Rally* Monday, Nov. 27 4:30-5:30 p.m.,  
Longley Bridge, Auburn

\* \* \* \* \*

#### Exercise your right to vote on Tues., Nov. 7

Early voting is open Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-  
4:00 p.m. at both Lewiston and Auburn City  
Halls. For more information: [www.maine.gov](http://www.maine.gov)

\* \* \* \* \*

#### MUUSAN endorses referendum question 2

FMI visit <https://tinyurl.com/y8eshgsx>

\* \* \* \* \*

Feeling the call to racial justice leadership? Be our representative to MUUSAN, our statewide UU advocacy group. Contact Jane Pentheny [janepentheny@verizon.net](mailto:janepentheny@verizon.net)

### ARE YOU PLUGGED INTO LOCAL SOCIAL ACTIONS?

We need someone to compile our list of weekly "Actions of Fierce Hope and Radical Love" to share with the congregation.

Contact Toby at [news@auburnuu.org](mailto:news@auburnuu.org).



### Kudos...

...to John Spruill for his October 25 opinion piece in the *Sun Journal* entitled "There is a reason why they take a knee." Read it here: <http://www.sunjournal.com/there-is-a-reason-why-they-take-a-knee/>

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

### REV. JODI AT 11/7 ROUNDTABLE



This month's multi-faith roundtable is **Tuesday, November 7 from 12:30-1:30 p.m.** at the Auburn Public Library. During these monthly discussions, local clergy share their faith's take on various religious interpretations and application to modern times. Participating clergy include Rabbi Sruli Dresdner of Temple Shalom, Pastor Roger Cousineau of East Auburn Baptist Church, Pastor Richard Waller of the Auburn Church of the Nazarene, and Rev. Jodi.

## UU THEATER

SAVE THE DATE for the **6th Annual Ho Ho Holiday Drag show**, which benefits Auburn UU: *Saturday, December 16* at the Elks Lodge in Lewiston.



\* \* \* \* \*

Did you know that UU Theater raises \$3,000 each year for the church budget? Can you help us meet that obligation?

**Sell playbill ads!** Call or visit local businesses: they love to support our church.

**Buy a playbill ad!** Promote your business or just wish us luck.

### 2017 UU THEATER PLAYBILL AD RATES

Biz card size	\$25/show	\$75/season
Half page size	\$45	\$120
Full page size	\$55	\$150

Contact Toby at [news@auburnuu.org](mailto:news@auburnuu.org) to find out more.

\* \* \* \* \*

## V-Day Auditions Coming Up in January



Is this the year you do "The Vagina Monologues?" Start thinking about it now!

**V-Day auditions** Sun. Jan. 7, noon-2:00 p.m.  
Mon. Jan. 8, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

**Dress rehearsal** Fri. Feb. 23, 6:00 p.m.

**Performance** Sat. Feb. 24, 7:00 p.m.

For more information, see Toby or Dawn.

## REV. JODI MODERATES "THINK & DRINK" PANEL ON NOVEMBER 8

Think & Drink's debut event at Guthrie's in Lewiston on **Wednesday, November 8, from 6:00-7:30**, will be a mix of storytelling, panel discussion, and small-group conversation, focused on our experiences with traffic stops. This is part of a larger theme—"Policing, Protection, Community, and Trust"—explored in Think & Drinks across the state in 2017.

This event is sponsored by the Maine Humanities Council. It is FREE and open to the public.

Panelists/storytellers:

- **Lt. Tim Cotton**, Criminal Investigation Division Commander, Bangor Police Dept.
- **Michael Sargent**, Associate Professor, Psychology, Bates College; founder and former MC of The Corner live storytelling series in Lewiston

Learn more at:

- <https://mainehumanities.org/event/lewiston-think-drink/>
- <https://tinyurl.com/yau6woer>

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS NEWS

### Chamber Connection

We're looking for active members and friends to be the "face" of the church to the LA Metro Chamber of Commerce. Will you represent Auburn UU at these upcoming events? Contact [news@auburnuu.org](mailto:news@auburnuu.org).



- **Chamber Breakfast:** Thursday, November 9, 6:45-9:00 a.m. at Martindale Country Club (\$20).
- **Business After Hours:** Thursday, Nov. 17, 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the FEZtival of Trees, Kora Temple, Lewiston (Free)

---

## RE CORNER

Our Annual Halloween Party and Sleepover was lots of fun for lots of people. There was constant movement, so it was hard to get a real headcount, but it was somewhere around 60-65 people! Thanks to all who participated, donated items, led activities, set up, and cleaned up to make it happen. Special thanks to our Junior and Senior Youth Groups for putting on a fantastic and terrifying haunted house!

The morning after the sleepover, we held our first Children's Chapel. This is a shorter version of the regular worship service for our young people. It was lovely! We're hoping to make this a regular event and move into the actual chapel for our services. To do that, we'll need to add some soundproofing to the door of the chapel. If you'd like to help with funding or building the soundproofing panels, please see Cynthia or Jodi.



RE is experiencing our usual struggle with volunteers for Sunday mornings. This is an especially great struggle in the fall when fall sports keep many of our families away. If you are able to volunteer one or more times, we would love to have you! Please see Cynthia for more information.

RE's next big project will be crafting for the Gingerbread Fair, then we'll be moving into Pageant rehearsals!

– Cythia Grimm, DRE

---

## MAY DATES SET FOR FERRY BEACH RETREAT

Your Ferry Beach Retreat team asks you to Save the Dates! Our **All-Church Weekend Ferry Beach Retreat** will be **May 4, 5, and 6, 2018** at the oceanfront Ferry Beach Camp and Conference Center in Saco.

Scholarships will be available to aid those in need of financial assistance, thanks to the success of our annual Chili and Chowder Cook-Off, slated for March 11, 2018 after worship.

Campus dorm rooms will be available on a first come-first served basis, so plan to register early this spring. You can spend the weekend, or commute for a day or two, whatever best suits your needs and your schedule.

Questions? See Anne Kinney coordinator, or Jan Vachon, Ron Spofford, or John Spruill.



## FOCUS ON THE DIVINE FEMALE AT NOVEMBER "CAKES GROUP"



In the Name of the Mother and the Daughter is the topic of the November 21 "Cakes" circle, our women's spirituality group.

In particular, we'll look at our own mother-daughter relationships in light of the Demeter-Persephone goddess myth.

A mystery religion developed around the story of Demeter and Persephone, and those rites were celebrated for more than 2000 years. We'll try to grasp the immensity of the fact that the chief divine actors in this drama were a mother and her daughter...not a father and son.

The Cakes group meets from 6 to 8 p.m. in the church vestry. November's program facilitators are Holly Cooney and Peggy Cox.

Newcomers are welcome to attend through December, but are asked to contact Anne Kinney in advance at [akinneyuu@gmail.com](mailto:akinneyuu@gmail.com) for information about altar items to bring, and additional program information.

The group "closes" in December until the following fall, in accordance with the group covenant to preserve group integrity.



**DRUMMING CIRCLE**  
ALWAYS ON THE 3RD THURSDAY  
OPEN TO ALL BRING OR BORROW  
**NOVEMBER 16 - 6:30-8:00**  
For more info, contact Peter Floyd: [floyd6of7@yahoo.com](mailto:floyd6of7@yahoo.com)

## OPEN MIC

Join us on the second Friday of every month at 7:30 p.m. to sing, play, recite or just LISTEN.

*Next open mic:* Friday, November 10.



*Open Mic broke out into a spontaneous jam in October – be there next time!*

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

One of the important responsibilities of the Membership Committee is recruiting **Downstairs Greeters**. We would be thrilled to have you join us in welcoming people into our beautiful church. If you are interested, please let me know and I will schedule you to greet alongside a greeter from the Membership Committee. We even have a new and improved page of Greeter Guidelines to share with anyone greeting with us.

*– Paula Spruill, Membership Chair*

### TRANSCRIPTION HELP WANTED

Are you enjoying reading Jodi's sermons on Facebook? Want to help transcribe some?

Contact Toby at [news@auburnuu.org](mailto:news@auburnuu.org).



### LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

Read sermons and prayers in the Notes section.

Visit [www.auburnuu.org/facebook](http://www.auburnuu.org/facebook)

# Christmas Day

# Pot Luck Brunch

11:00 AM, Monday, December 25  
in the vestry

Join your UU family for a time of  
festive celebration and feasting!

Please bring a pot luck dish to share.  
Beverages will be provided.

For more information or to sign up,  
email Lorelei at [firebornspirit@yahoo.com](mailto:firebornspirit@yahoo.com)  
or call the church office.



All are welcome!  
Bring your friends  
and family!

**NOVEMBER EVENTS** [www.auburnuu.org/news-events/calendar/](http://www.auburnuu.org/news-events/calendar/)

<b>Wed, Nov 1</b>	5:30 p.m.	Central Maine SURJ logistics meeting
<b>Fri, Nov 3</b>	7:30 p.m.	Concerts for a Cause: Women in Harmony
<b>Sun, Nov 5</b>	<i>Don't forget! Daylight Savings Time ends at 2 a.m. on Sun. Nov. 5. Turn your clocks back one hour.</i>	
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service / Religious Exploration classes
	11:30 a.m.	Second Collection for New Beginnings Council of Committees Meeting (Outright Room)
<b>Tues, Nov 7</b>		VOTING DAY
	12:30 p.m.	Rev Jodi at Multi-faith Roundtable (APL)
<b>Fri, Nov 10</b>	7:30 p.m.	Open Mic / Poetry Slam
<b>Sun, Nov 12</b>	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service / Religious Exploration classes
	4:30 p.m.	RESIST Central Maine meeting (vestry)
<b>Tues, Nov 14</b>	6:00 p.m.	Central Maine SURJ meeting
<b>Thurs, Nov 16</b>	6:30 p.m.	Drumming Circle
<b>Fri, Nov 17</b>	4:00 p.m.	Gingerbread Fair SET-UP
<b>Sat, Nov 18</b>	8:30 a.m.	Gingerbread Fair
<b>Sun, Nov 19</b>	10:00 a.m.	Harvest Communion / Multi-Gen Service
<b>Tues, Nov 21</b>	6:30 p.m.	CAKES meeting - open to new attendees
<b>Sun, Nov 26</b>	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service / Religious Exploration classes
	4:00 p.m.	Song Circle (Discoverers' Rm)
	4:30 p.m.	RESIST Central Maine meeting (vestry)



**Christmas Eve Help Needed**

This year's Christmas Eve evening service will be followed by a social hour in the vestry. We're looking for volunteers to bring light snacks and beverages (there will not be coffee). If you can help, please contact Karen at the church office.

**December Open Door newsletter deadline:**

**SUNDAY, 11-26-2017**

Please send submissions to [newsletter@auburnuu.org](mailto:newsletter@auburnuu.org).

Submissions should be simple and reader-friendly (no longer than 275 words) and should pertain to church or denominational events, announcements, reports and activities. If photos or graphics are desired, please send them along with your submission or contact the editor for assistance. You will receive an acknowledgement from the editor when your submission is received. (If you DO NOT receive a response via email, please get in touch!)

**Annual "Blessing of the Animals"**  
October 8, 2017

