

### SCENES FROM SUMMER SERVICES



On August 6, Donna Dolham led the service with Lorelei as her worship associate. Brian (not pictured) and Phil provided music.



On August 20, Tiffany, Steph and Phil provided music.



Cynthia Grimm sang for us on August 27, accompanied by Phil, assisted by Kaia.



**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

### Welcome, Molly Brewer!

In the midst of so much soul challenging news of late, it is an extra joy to share some wonderful news with you: this fall we welcome a ministerial intern who will work with us for 20 hours per week for the next two years.

Molly Brewer is a second year student at my alma mater, Meadville/Lombard Theological School, on track for ordination into the Unitarian Universalist ministry. She lives in Portland with her husband and has been an active member of the Allen Ave UU church. So, Molly comes to us not only with some seminary training under her belt but also experience as a lay leader.

During Molly's time with us she will practice all areas of ministry – everything from worship and pastoral care to administration and finance. She will work with an internship committee, have regular office hours, and participate in the life of the church on a regular basis.

Internship is a critical element of ministerial formation and it is an honor to be trusted enough to serve as an internship site. It is our work to embrace, challenge, teach, and nurture Molly, even as she does the same for us.

Molly will write a monthly column in the newsletter, and this month she introduces herself, so look for her piece, and 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.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After spending much of the last few months in Ukraine, it's as if summer never happened. This may be because our family's joy of a successful adoption is in juxtaposition to hateful political rhetoric against our larger family. I sat for hours on end reading and watching protests unfold, holding great sadness and uncertainty for our children's future.

How do we instill our values in our children when, unknowingly for the most part, they already benefit from the systemic racism and sexism embedded in our society? And now we have a daughter who will likely feel the sting of being treated "less than" simply because she speaks with an accent.

I long for a Church community, our beloved community, to rise up from our oppression and fuel the flame of light and love as one. Individual lights we have many. It is time for us to work together—connected by our diversity of thoughts, beliefs, lifestyles—and take action as the unified force we believe ourselves to be.

I am asking all of us to rise and be counted as members of a community Living With Fierce Hope and Radical Love. Confront hate wherever you can do so safely; show love and compassion for all, even where and when hate abounds.

Show up!

- ...with time
- ...with money
- ...with ideas
- ...with expertise
- ...with creativity
- ...with patience
- ...with compassion
- ...with love
- ...with hope

— Peter Floyd, Board President

### Sermon excerpt from "We Keep Rising," preached by Jodi on August 20th, 2017

"...We are here in this church because we want to be good people. We are here every Sunday committing ourselves to fierce hope and radical love, to serving as a beacon for such a community, to the practice and ministry and power of transformative love. So it is hard to accept the fact that still we are complicit in these systems[of white supremacy] that exist at the very foundation of our nation...and yet we must.

White supremacy, and the destruction and the terror it spews out constantly, is the great sin that began at our founding and that we carry still, no matter how good-willed and well-intentioned and hope-filled we are. Still, and even now, we carry that sin deep within ourselves.

And we cannot afford to be silent."

### SAVE THE DATE

#### Ingathering, Water Communion & Opportunity Fair Sunday, September 10, 2017

Please bring with you a small vial of water from a place that is meaningful to you!

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## COME COME WHOEVER YOU ARE!

The Auburn UU Choir is back in the choir pews on **Sunday, September 10**. New singers are welcome! Come for practice at 8:45 a.m. on Sunday. We can't wait to sing with you.

Questions? Ask the Music Chairs:

Tiffany Manson: [tiffany@thecanvasoflife.com](mailto:tiffany@thecanvasoflife.com) &  
Ellen O'Brien: [ekobrien@fairpoint.net](mailto:ekobrien@fairpoint.net)



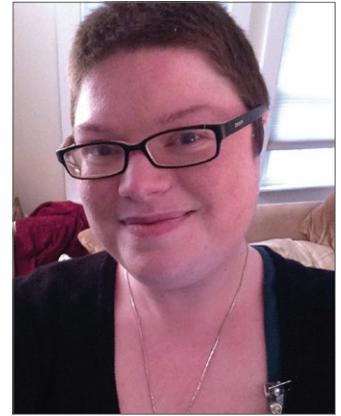
## GREETINGS TO THE FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF AUBURN!

I write this surrounded by warmth, light, and the bounty of high summer. My second year at Meadville Lombard Theological School will begin soon, and with the new term comes the start of my parish internship. I couldn't be more excited to become part of the First U Auburn community as your intern minister. A couple of weeks ago, I was privileged to finish a unit of chaplaincy education across the river at Central Maine Medical Center. This experience was a beautiful and touching way to become familiar with Lewiston-Auburn as I accompanied patients and families in moments of sorrow and deep joy. As I take a breather before the start of the school year, I look back on this summer's lessons which taught me so much about how to embody thoughtful compassion, and rejoice at sharing my journey of ministerial formation with this community. I'd also like to share a little about myself.

I'm a lifelong Mainer, born and raised in Portland. My journey to Unitarian Universalism began when my solitary Pagan faith called me to engage with the work of the world and seek a community rooted in the quest for truth, equality, and justice. As a member of the Allen Avenue UU Church in Portland, I've been involved in the music ministry as a chorister; led services as part of the worship committee; prepared meals at the Preble Street soup kitchen and shelter; and served on the church's Board of Trustees. The community at Allen Ave recognized and called forth many of my gifts which I didn't know I had, and my work in the church led me to realize a call to UU ministry.

With Rev. Jodi's mentorship as part of my formational journey and theological education, I've learned to engage critically with our shared Unitarian Universalist faith tradition, my own spiritual practice as a theocentric Pagan, and the

ideals of justice, fierce hope, and radical love which inspire our faith community to take action during a time of political and social tumult. I hold deep gratitude for the community at First U and look forward to



our shared ministry together as I continue my formation, and as we join to uphold the spiritual values that are dear to our souls. It's my hope that our path together will be one of learning, compassion, and humility as we honor each other's journeys.

— Molly Brewer, Ministerial Intern

*To Note: If anyone has a spare window air conditioner, we'd like one for Molly's office nook in the board room. Please be in touch with Jodi!*

**"We open ourselves to the brokenness of this world. We lift up our transgender siblings who have received the message from the highest office in the land that they are less than worthy, that they are a burden. We stand in fierce rejection of that message. We affirm the beauty and power of our transgender siblings. We link arms in solidarity of our shared humanity."**



—from Rev. Jodi's prayer on 8/27/17

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## SUNDAY SERVICES ONLINE

We have great assets in our pastor, the Rev Dr Jodi Hayashida, and our musicians Dave Rowe and Phil House. It is time we share these assets with our community and the world by getting our Sunday worship services online. Getting our services online can increase both membership and revenue!

To do this, we need to get permission for all the copyrighted material we use during worship. As a start, we need the information from our hymnals and music library and we need volunteers to help collect this information.

Please volunteer to take a series of hymn numbers and record the information in an Excel spreadsheet that I will provide you. You can do as little or many as you like! Each hymn should only take a minute to do!

Many hands can make short work of this! If you are willing to help, please send me an email at [jtsauburn@gmail.com](mailto:jtsauburn@gmail.com) with the number of hymns you are willing to do. Thank you!

– John Spruill

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## REV. JODI REJOINS MULTI-FAITH ROUNDTABLE

Local clergy will share their faith's take on various



religious interpretations and application to modern times. The 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 Reverend Jodi.

Discussions take place on Tuesdays Sept. 5, Oct. 3, Nov. 7, and Dec. 5 from 12:30-1:30 p.m. at Auburn Public Library.

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## COFFEE HELP NEEDED

Do you enjoy Coffee Hour after church? Have you wondered how all those delightfully delicious treats appear? Wonder no more!



Join the Coffee Hour Team!

We're seeking new members who can commit to bringing treats with their Team members on the scheduled Sunday, starting in the fall.

Interested? Please call Lorelei at 207-577-5946, email her at [firebornspirit@yahoo.com](mailto:firebornspirit@yahoo.com), or call the church office at 783-0461.

*Coffee hour resumes September 10!*

## CONCERTS FOR A CAUSE 2017 Schedule

- Fri., Oct. 6: **Ameranouche**  
gypsy jazz ensemble
- Fri., Nov. 3: **Women in Harmony**  
women's chorus
- Fri., Dec. 1: **Heather Pierson Trio**  
music from "A Charlie Brown Christmas"
- Sat., Dec. 16: **Annual Holiday Concert**  
with Dave Rowe/Denny Breaux/Phil House

Stay tuned for more details!



Ameranouche

## SOCIAL JUSTICE CORNER

### SECOND COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Sept 3 .....	Special Collection for Hurricane Harvey Recovery Fund (administered by the UUA & UUSC)
Sept 10 .....	Rescheduled collection for Greater Androscoggin Humane Soc.
Oct.....	Minister's Discretionary Fund
Nov.....	New Beginnings
Dec .....	Immigrant Resource Center of Maine
Jan.....	Greater Androscoggin Humane Soc.

### Green Dot Violence Prevention Training

Kitsie Claxton and Karen Lane recently completed the 4-day Green Dot bystander violence prevention training held in Lewiston. They are now part of a large team of certified trainers who will share information with local groups about potential ways to act if you witness an incident of threat, harassment, or violence in our community. Feeling confident that you have the skills and empowerment to act directly (or to get help or provide a distraction) is particularly important since the frequency of such acts—particularly toward our immigrant neighbors—has grown in Lewiston/Auburn since last year.

Faith-based communities such as ours will be offered training at some time in the future, but in the meantime, be sure to ask Karen or Kitsie about the violence prevention program...like what does Green Dot mean, anyway? They will gladly fill you in, and likely ask you to take a “green dot” action in your own way. More to come!

### RESIST Central Maine

Join RESIST to defend equality, human rights, and democracy.

Meetings: 9/3 and 9/17 at 4:30 at our Church.

Rallies: Every Tuesday 11:30 on Lisbon St. and Fridays at 4:30 on the Longley Bridge (opposite from Gritty's)

### 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).



### Arlene Sieckowski Microloan Fund update

From a generous bequest to the First Universalist Church in the will of Arlene Sieckowski, the congregation allocated \$5,000 which the Social Justice (SJ) Committee would invest in support of our greater L-A community through micro loans.

SJ leadership has chosen the **Genesis Community Loan Fund**, which benefits worthy organizations in Maine, and provides us a return on our investment.

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

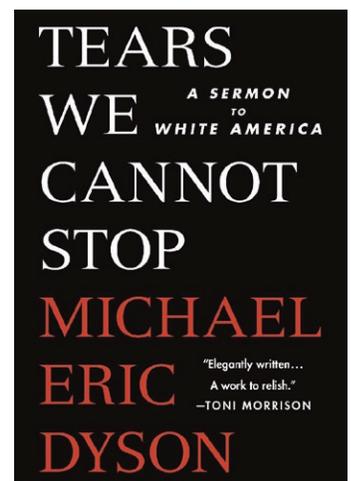
## FALL BOOK GROUP

As we continue our discussion of race and white supremacy, Rev. Michael Eric Dyson's book *Tears We Cannot Stop* will move the discussion forward.

All are welcome:  
Sundays at 11:30 a.m.  
from September 24

through October 15 in the Outright Room. Please read sections 1-4 before the first meeting.

For more info please contact John Spruill: [jtsauburn@gmail.com](mailto:jtsauburn@gmail.com)



## RE CORNER

It has been a wonderful, warm summer, but I always look forward to Fall when many of our families return. I would like to send a special

### RE TASK FORCE:

A brief information session will be held on Sunday, September 17 at 11:30 am.

Regular RE classes resume on **Sunday, September 17.**

thank you to **Karen Lane** who volunteered for RE classes for the full summer. Thanks also to **Becca Lynch** for assisting and substituting where needed. We have had fun with writing and

acting exercises, hula hoop games, and more, and also had serious discussions about current events.

Our regular classes will resume on Sunday, September 17. Registration forms are being sent to all families who have provided me with contact information (hint, hint). Registration packets will also be available on the RE table in the vestry after Labor Day. All children who attend RE classes or events, even sporadically, must be registered!

In addition to our usual plea for volunteers to lead and assist with classes, we are looking for volunteers to participate in a RE Task Force this year. Due to current trends in family ministry and participation in RE programs, UU churches across the nation are looking at a new era in faith formation and development. A brief information session will be held on Sunday, September 17 at 11:30 am. If you are interested in participating in the task force or want to learn more, please attend or contact me for more information. These are exciting times, and we need participation from church members and friends whether you have children in RE or not. You can help build the future of faith formation in our church!

– Cynthia Grimm, DRE

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We hope all of our members and friends had a marvelous summer. We are eager to see everyone filling the pews this September.

### New Member Classes

Sun., Oct. 8: 11:30 a.m.  
Wed., Oct. 11: 5:30 p.m.  
Sun., Oct. 15: 11:30 a.m.  
Sun. Oct. 22: 11:30 a.m.

The Membership Committee will be holding New Member classes with Reverend Jodi on Sunday, Oct. 8 at 11:30 a.m.; Wednesday, Oct. 11 at 5:30 p.m.; Sunday, Oct. 15 at 11:30 a.m. and Sunday Oct. 22 at 11:30 a.m. We invite all friends who attend church regularly to participate, as well as interested newcomers. These classes are structured to give interested participants opportunities to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and about our own congregation.

Attendance is not a commitment to join but is required if you do wish to sign the Membership Book. If interested, please contact me at [pbsauburn@gmail.com](mailto:pbsauburn@gmail.com). Sign up sheets are located on the table in the back of the sanctuary and on the Membership table in the vestry.

Please look for us at the Opportunity Fair on September 10 and see if joining our committee might be right for you.

– Paula Spruill, Membership Chair

I condemn in the strongest terms President Trump's immoral directive banning **transgender people** from entering the military and revoking health care support for those currently serving.

I particularly urge my fellow cisgender Unitarian Universalists to join me in affirming, supporting and celebrating all of our transgender and gender non-conforming siblings.

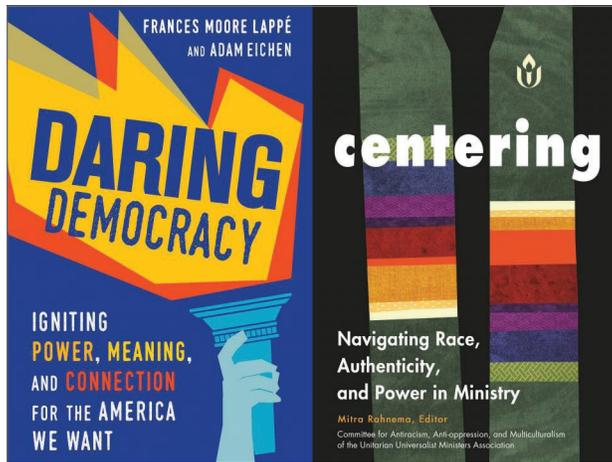
**WE ARE WITH YOU.  
WE REMAIN WITH YOU  
UNTIL WE ARE ALL FREE.**

– Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray  
President, Unitarian Universalist  
Association



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## UUA COMMON READ: FOCUS ON DISMANTLING WHITE SUPREMACY



Two books have been selected for our 2017-2018 UUA Common Read.

With these books we look both within our denomination and outwards to lift up UU values in the political and civic challenges that we face in dismantling white supremacy culture.

*Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity, and Power in Ministry* explores how racial identity is made both visible and invisible in UU communities. It is edited by Mitra Rahnema (Skinner House, 2017).

*Daring Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning, and Connection for the America We Want* provides a vision and guidance for some of our work in the public square as it examines the anti-democracy movement that led to the Trump presidency. It is written by Frances Moore Lappé and Adam Eichen (Beacon Press, 2017)

Both books are available at inSpirit: The UU Book and Gift Shop, at <http://www.uuabookstore.org>.

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) invites us to read both and to organize discussion groups. Discussion guides will be available October 13th from the UUA; each will include a single session and three more in-depth sessions.

– Denominational Affairs Committee

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## CAKES GROUP EXPLORING WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY

The 2017-18 "Cakes Group" begins its next cycle with signups at the Opportunity Fair in the church vestry September 10.

This is a women's spirituality group formed to learn more about ancient goddesses and female-honoring beliefs that have generally been omitted from history and religious studies.

We think that learning more about these lost traditions connects us to our past and helps us move into spiritual wholeness. The group's full name, "Cakes for the Queen of Heaven," is taken from a phrase in the book of Jeremiah in the Hebrew bible that was



meant to demean the old goddess religions. (See Jeremiah 7: 17-18).

In the past we have met one Tuesday evening a month, and participants share in facilitating the monthly programs and providing light refreshments. Prior gatherings have included a focus on goddess archetypes, rituals, altars we create, celebrations of the solstices and seasonal earth-based festivals, witches, goddesses around the world, art, song, and, always, great food.

Look for our table on September 10 and sign up there for more information; or, contact Anne Kinney or Pixie Frayer.

## DISTRICT CHALICE LIGHTER GRANTS FUND CHURCH PROJECTS

The Northern New England District (NNED) Chalice Lighter grant program helps UU churches in Maine, NH and VT meet congregational needs. That could be us.

A high priority is placed on congregations that are expanding programming and ministry, or making critical renovations for accessibility and sustainability. What are our needs and dreams?

We ask church members to sign up to donate as Chalice Lighters, and our congregation can consider applying for a grant. Only a few Auburn UU members contribute at present.

This past year the NNED Chalice Lighter program distributed grants totaling about \$10,000, a modest outlay, with funds dependent on contributions from people like us—individuals in UU congregations in our three states.

Grant “calls” go out three times a year, and participants send in small pledged amounts (average \$15 each) in response. If there were 200 new Chalice Lighter donors the grant capacity would double.



This year Chalice Lighter donors funded four important and compelling projects:

- Strafford, VT, Universalist Church: \$5,000 towards cost of an access ramp.
- The First Universalist Parish of Derby Line, VT: \$1,685 towards installation of keyless locks on the exterior church doors.
- The Unitarian Universalist Church of Belfast, ME: \$2,000 towards the cost of a collaborative project for an intern serving Belfast, Ellsworth & Castine congregations.
- The First Universalist Church of Yarmouth, ME: \$1,384 funding more hours for a program associate for membership, community collaboration, and programs.

Please consider signing up to be a “Chalice Lighter!”

### CHALICE LIGHTER PROGRAM

Northern New England District-UUA  
P.O. Box 333  
New Ipswich, NH. 03071  
603-732-7795

– Anne Kinney, NNED Board Member

#### GOT RETURNABLES?

Bring yours to our neighbor, RC Redemption, at 120 Spring Street, open Monday-Saturday 9-5. Just say it's for First Universalist: they give us 6 cents for every bottle you bring them.



#### DRUMMING CIRCLE

ALWAYS ON THE 3RD THURSDAY

OPEN TO ALL BRING OR BORROW

SEPTEMBER 21 - 6:30-8:00

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



On August 27, Rev. Jodi offered a blessing to the children returning to school.

# RADICAL LISTENING FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

NONVIOLENT COMMUNICATION SKILLS FOR PERSONAL AND PUBLIC ACTIVISM

LEAH BOYD, CERTIFIED NVC TRAINER

SEPT 29 & 30, 2017

Defining "activism" broadly to include working for social change on all levels, from personal conversations to large-scale public action, this training asks some provocative questions:

Is it possible to disagree in a way that actually brings me into closer connection?

What is my intention - to listen, to be heard or to be right?

How can I speak and listen, without judgments and assumptions, and still show up powerfully and honestly?

Can I hear beneath strong words to discover shared needs and values?

## Friday, 6-9pm

Introduction to Nonviolent Communication (NVC).

Prerequisite for Saturday session.

\$25 as a stand-alone, pay at door.

## Saturday, 9am-4pm

Instruction and exercises in NVC to promote social change and communication across differences.

Registration required.

-- \$85 early registration fee

-- \$105 registration fee after 8/15

-- Fee includes Friday evening

Location: Allen Ave. UU Church

524 Allen Ave. in Portland

FMI and scholarship inquiries:

out2cthec@hotmail.com or call

207-370-0381

Register at: [www.peacefulpurpose.us](http://www.peacefulpurpose.us)

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## VIGIL IN SOLIDARITY WITH CHARLOTTESVILLE

On Monday, August 14, a group of Auburn UU members and friends participated in a vigil on the Longley Bridge in Auburn: a demonstration of solidarity with the anti-racist activists in Charlottesville and nationwide in opposition to white supremacy. Thank you all for living with fierce hope and radical love in our community.



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## UUS HONOR WOMEN'S MARCH LEADER AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

This summer at the UUA General Assembly in New Orleans, the UU Service Committee (UUSC) presented the Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Human Rights Leadership to Linda Sarsour, a Palestinian-American political activist and co-chair of the Women's March on Washington.

Sarsour thanked UUs with moving words about the strength of intersectional movements and centering the voices of the most marginalized. She shared her reflections on the success of the Women's March, noting how those who participated "showed the whole world that we are able to create a movement where we can bring all our voices to the table...and show the true diversity of our nation."



The UUSC also aims to celebrate and work across intersectional movements. Despite the Supreme Court's decision to partially revive the "Muslim Ban," the UUSC, its partners, and communities across the United States continue to welcome refugees and migrants. The UUSC partners with an ally group, No More Deaths, that calls upon U.S. Border Patrol agents to stop interfering with humanitarian aid relief efforts that prevent deaths in remote border areas of Arizona, emphasizing that life-saving aid is a human right.

And in light of the administration's attempts to impede progress on global efforts to combat climate change, the UUSC and its partners in Alaska and the Pacific continue to address this issue, redefining how communities and local decision-makers think about displacement and relocation. They have now called on Congressional leadership to disavow the Trump administration's assault on the environment.

– Denominational Affairs Committee

## SEPTEMBER EVENTS

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

<b>Sun, Sept 3</b>	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service/Summer RE <i>Special Second Collection for Hurricane Harvey Recovery Fund</i>
	4:30 p.m.	RESIST Central Maine meeting (vestry)
<b>Fri, Sept 8</b>	7:30 p.m.	Open Mic / Poetry Slam
<b>Sun, Sept 10</b>	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service: Ingathering and Water Communion <i>Second Collection for Androscoggin Humane Society</i>
	11:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour returns!
	11:30 a.m.	Opportunity Fair
<b>Sun, Sept 17</b>	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service RE Classes begin/ registration forms due
	11:30 a.m.	RE Task Force Info Session
	4:30 p.m.	RESIST Central Maine meeting (vestry)
<b>Tues, Sept 19</b>	6:30 p.m.	CAKES meeting
<b>Thurs, Sept 21</b>	5:30 p.m.	Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) meeting
	6:30 p.m.	Drumming Circle
<b>Sun, Sept 24</b>	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service/RE Classes
	11:30 a.m.	Fall book group begins (Outright Room)
	4:00 p.m.	Song Circle (Discoverers' Rm)
	4:30 p.m.	RESIST Central Maine mtg (vestry)
<b>Mon, Sept 25</b>	4:30 p.m.	SURJ Vigil for Racial Justice on Longley Bridge (near Gritty's)
<b>SAVE THE DATE FOR:</b>		
<b>Oct 21</b>	<b>All-church Halloween party &amp; sleepover</b>	
<b>Oct 22</b>	<b>Fall multi-gen service</b>	
<b>Nov 18</b>	<b>Gingerbread Fair</b>	
<b>Nov 19</b>	<b>Harvest Communion (multi-gen service)</b>	



## OPEN MIC

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

*Next open mic:* FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8.

## 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, Sept. 14, 6:45-9:00 a.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn Auburn Riverwatch (\$20). Speaker: Tom Rainey, Executive Director, Maine Center for Entrepreneurial Development
- **Business After Hours:** Thursday, September 21, 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Maine Wedding Barn & Event Center (Free)

### DID YOU KNOW?

Our projector is available for your sermon, church event or presentation.

Contact Toby at [baywest@roadrunner.com](mailto:baywest@roadrunner.com)



October Open Door newsletter deadline:  
SUNDAY, 9-24-2017

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!)