

# MUUFLETTER for November 2017

## Newsletter from Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

### SUNDAY SERVICES SCHEDULE

*Always at 10:30 a.m.*

*Porter Meeting Hall, Skidompha Library  
Entrance on Elm St., Damariscotta*

### November's theme: FORGIVENESS

#### Nov. 5: "Listen, Can You Hear It?"

A musical service by Brunswick singer-songwriter Jud Caswell, featuring a sermon of songs. He is a fellow UU and runs the Frog Hollow recording studio. In season he can be found performing at the Seagull Shop at the Pemaquid Lighthouse.

There will be a Proposed Budget Review after the service. The Board will have hard copies of our proposed budget to hand out to all in attendance. There will be time to review, question and comment on our 2018 budget. We'll be voting on it next Sunday at our annual meeting.

*Daylight Savings ends — clocks back one hour!*

#### Nov. 12: "The Promise and the Practice"

Rev. Erika Hewitt

What would it be like if our worship service centered entirely around the voices and the experiences of black Unitarian Universalists? What truths might we hear, however difficult? What might we learn? How might these black UU leaders teach us to be better allies and better siblings in faith? Our **SHARE THE PLATE** offering will be given to support **Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU)**.

#### Nov. 19: "The Queen's Loaves"

Rev. Erika Hewitt & Worship Associates



Our lively, celebratory ALL-ages service will tell the story of how Queen Ambrosia and her Royal Baker tricked two innocent people — and then learned a lesson about forgiveness and gratitude. This service will include a bread communion as well as our dedication of Autumn Loria Vencile, daughter of Ken and Tiffany.

#### Nov. 26: "Gurus and Guides" led by Rev.

**Michael F. Hall**, guest minister from the Keene, NH UU Church

Unitarian Universalists appear hardwired for individualism. In fact, newcomers often choose our churches because they don't want to be told what to do. Our reputation is based on reason, diversity of religious opinion and our tradition of healthy skepticism, shared ministry and church government. When it comes to religion we aren't much for blindly following a leader. But today we will look at a different route to truth and meaning; surrendering the ego to follow a teacher and a particular, often exacting, spiritual path. Our service features a special Time for All Ages based on the theme of the service.

**Dec. 3:** By popular demand, our guest minister will be Aram Mitchell, from Renewal in the Wilderness, who last preached in January.

## FROM OUR MINISTER



As alert newsletter readers know, your Worship Associates and I have chosen a set of monthly themes for this congregational year: themes that invite us, month by month, to linger on questions and ideas. (As a re-cap, our September theme was “Our Whole Selves,” and October’s was “UU Roots.”)

We took this “theme-based” plunge because we hoped that doing so would fulfill our mission **to nurture spiritual growth**. I don’t know about you, but even your regular preacher (me!) is surprised by how enjoyable it is to connect the same idea across several Sundays. If the theme-related questions that I include in every newsletter are helpful to you, I’d love to hear about it!

In the coming months, I’m continuing to take this **spiritual growth** charge to heart. I’m leading a new group of sermon-writers in a covenant-based writing process (one spot still open! We meet on Monday the 13th at 2:00 p.m.); a community sing in early December; and a community-wide “Blue Christmas” service for those who feel like they’ve been forgotten during the holidays.

If you have idea or cravings about your own spiritual growth, and what might help it along, I hope you’ll let me know. That soul-deep work is, after all, why we’re here.

In faith,  
Rev. Erika Hewitt  
[erika@UUminister.com](mailto:erika@UUminister.com) // 207.650.5757  
*I usually take Tuesdays & Wednesdays off*

## “Forgiveness” questions to ponder during November:

- What’s the difference between asking for forgiveness and apologizing?
- What does it feel like to forgive?
- What does it feel like *not* to forgive?
- What (or whom) have you had the most trouble forgiving in your life?
- Have you ever thought you were forgiven and then learned otherwise?
- Should we forgive people who haven’t acknowledged their wrongdoing?
- Does forgiveness require us to separate a person’s character from their action?
- In *The Last Lecture*, Randy Pausch writes, “A bad apology is worse than no apology.” What makes an apology “bad”?
- Must someone seek your forgiveness in order for you to forgive them? What if they can’t or won’t ask for it?
- Does asking for forgiveness give away your power, leaving it to someone else to absolve you?
- Many wise teachers have said that forgiveness is a gift that we give ourselves. Has that been true for you?

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**Our Pot Luck/Service Auction is fast approaching!**  
**Sunday, November 5 at 5:30 pm**  
**Location: Mobius, Inc., 319 Main Street, Damariscotta**

It all begins at 5:30 pm with a pot luck supper. If you plan on attending, please bring a dish to share. Coffee and juices will be provided.

Then the fun really begins! Whether you’re interesting in bidding on a service, or not, please stay for our service auction at 6:30 pm. You should have received an email already listing the auction items up for bid. You may add a service of your own any time before the auction actually ends at 7:30 pm.

Please contact Jennifer Ober at [jennifer@baystatehost.com](mailto:jennifer@baystatehost.com) or call 978-479-2665 for more information.



## President's Message

Even though there are only a couple of months left of this year, they are the busiest two months for our fellowship as we attend to our annual business, fulfill our pledges for 2017 while determining our pledges for 2018 and voting on calling Rev. Erika to be our permanent half-time minister.

We ask that you review your pledge amount for 2017 and pay in full as soon as you're able.

We are mailing out the 2018 pledge forms this week to all those who have not had the opportunity to pick up the forms after the last two services (see Caity's article [below](#) on Stewardship). We ask that you return the pledge forms by Friday, November 10.

For us to have a successful Annual Meeting, we need to have as many members as possible there to vote on crucial items including our 2018 budget, 2018 board and 2018 nominating committee.

If you are not yet a member of our fellowship and would like to vote at our annual meeting, you still have time to sign our membership book. This action of committing to our fellowship allows you to vote at our Annual Meeting and, in the near future, vote to call Rev. Erika as our permanent half-time minister.

You will also want to be at the Annual Meeting to find out who will be the recipient of our coveted Founders' Award!

In faith,  
Carol

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## Stewardship Campaign

The Board has kicked off the stewardship campaign for 2018! The proposed budget this year requires an overall income of \$60,000, and this means to balance the budget we need to bring in \$48,500 in pledges.

This has been an exciting year for our Fellowship, as the religious education program blossoms, along with our continued commitment to excellent sermons from Reverend Erika and our guest ministers, our service music, and our community social justice work.

Stewardship is and always will be about value, and the Fellowship simply cannot continue to provide value to our lives without a financial commitment from each of us. The Board is leading the way in recognizing this value by already contributing the majority of our pledges. We hope that you see the same value, and will hand in the Stewardship form distributed at church, or by mail and e-mail, and help us to continue our work into 2018!

## Reminder! Finishing 2017 Pledges

Just a quick reminder that 2017 pledges need to be finished out by December of 2017. If you are unsure how much remains, reports will be sent out in November with that information. Thank you for your continued financial support!

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## Christmas Eve Worship



Since Christmas Eve (Dec. 24th) falls on a Sunday — and since attendance at our Christmas Eve service has increased greatly — Rev. Erika Hewitt and your Worship Associates have decided to hold **two different worship services on Sun. Dec. 24th.** (We're pleased to announce that Kevin Kiley will play at both.)

**At 10:30 a.m.,** Rev. Erika will lead an inter-faith "Blue Christmas" service, open and publicized to the entire community, for those who are struggling with loneliness, loss, or other difficulties around the holidays.

**At 4:00 p.m.** Rev. Erika will lead our traditional candlelight family service (and if volunteers come forward, that will be in the Atrium).



### **November RE Sundays (focusing on the theme of Forgiveness)**

November 5 – Stone Soup  
November 12 – The Legend of the Strawberry  
November 19 – Multi-generational Service  
November 26 – Old Joe and the Carpenter

### **Children's Offering**

In RE, the children started the process to determine where they would like the children's offering to be donated. The children did some brainstorming about issues and challenges that people, animals and our planet have. Some of the issues they were most passionate about included: war, food, animal homes being destroyed, animal neglect, deforestation, drought and natural disasters. Carney will work with them one more time in November to choose one challenge area, and then they can decide how to use the money to help alleviate that issue. Stay tuned.

### **Our Whole Lives (OWL) for K-2 starts in January**

Carney met with some parents to determine interest for doing the OWL program. We will be offering this program to children in grades K-2 (or 3) with orientation on Saturday, January 6 from 2 -5 p.m. The program will be held at either the Vencile's or Lomas' house, and will meet twice a month through the winter. There will be a program for parents while the children are doing OWL. Families who currently do not attend MUUF are welcome to participate. There will be a \$25.00 fee per family to help cover the expenses of this program. However, no one will be turned away because of finances. For more information, please contact Carney at [midcoastuure@gmail.com](mailto:midcoastuure@gmail.com).

### **Carney at Conference in Denver**

Carney will be away during the first part of November at the annual LREDA (Liberal Religious Educators Association) Fall Conference. She will be traveling with her peers from the UU Churches in Belfast, Bangor and Ellsworth. This year's theme is: *Building Brave Spaces*. We are all looking forward to being inspired, challenged and spiritually uplifted.

### **Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Annual Meeting Announcement**

October 29, 2017

Dear Fellowship Member(s) and friends,

I am writing to notify you that the Annual Meeting of the Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship will be held on Sunday, November 12, 2017, following the regularly scheduled Sunday morning worship service, in Porter Meeting Hall at Skidompha Library, Damariscotta, Maine. As per our by-laws, I am giving a ten (10) day written and emailed notice of our annual business meeting.

*Everyone is welcome to attend but only members have the right to vote. If you are a friend of our fellowship and would like to vote, there is still time to become a member; please contact me or another board member.*

The Annual Meeting is your opportunity to help guide the Fellowship into the new year.

You will hear short summaries of reports from the Board of Trustees, our minister, treasurer and committee representatives and you'll have the opportunity to ask questions and offer input. More importantly, your participation is crucial for adopting our new Covenant, voting on the budget for 2018 and on a new slate of Board members and officers and the Nominating Committee for next year.

Please note, we will serve refreshments and have a brief social time in the foyer prior to the meeting and child care will be provided.

I hope you will make every effort to join us on November 12th for this important event in the life of our Fellowship.

In faith,

Carol Robins  
Board President  
Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



Question 2 on Maine's November 7 ballot is a citizen-driven initiative to expand MaineCare eligibility to approximately 70,000 Mainers, most of them working adults. MaineCare is Maine's version of Medicaid, the federal-state partnership that provides healthcare coverage to low-income and disabled persons. The MaineCare expansion would bring more than \$500 million in federal funds into Maine each year, supporting about 3,000 new jobs spread across the entire state.

The state's share of this expansion would rise to a cap of 10% -- about \$54 million -- in two years. Reductions in state payments for uninsured care and reduced costs in the criminal justice system would offset about half of that cost. Increased revenue from new jobs would also contribute to the state's share.

Thirty-one states have already expanded their Medicaid programs and their citizens are reaping the benefits, including good health coverage, less financial stress, improved health, and access to treatment for opioid addiction which is at crisis levels in Maine and elsewhere. In those states, rural hospitals like Waldo County General Hospital have benefited from increased Medicaid payments. That reduces the amount of uninsured care that we all pay for through our own insurance plans.

The Maine legislature has passed bills to expand MaineCare FIVE times. Each time, Governor LePage has vetoed the bill and the legislature has been unable to override his veto.

At its most recent meeting in September, MUUSAN (the Maine UU State Advocacy Network) confirmed its commitment to make Question 2 a priority effort between now and election day on November 7. Question 2 is in complete conformity with our first two UU principles: promoting the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.

## **Restore Ranked Choice Voting - MUUSAN Network Meeting November 11th, 2017**

Join UUs from across Maine at the next statewide Maine UU State Advocacy Network on Saturday, November 11th, 10 am to noon at the UU Community Church, 69 Winthrop Street, Augusta for an urgent mobilization effort to launch a People's Veto Referendum to restore Ranked Choice Voting.

A year ago, Maine citizens voted to take back their democracy when they adopted Ranked Choice Voting by the second largest referendum vote of the people in Maine's history. Mainers wanted more voice and more choice in our democracy and they wanted Ranked Choice Voting implemented now, starting with the June 2018 elections.

But the Maine Legislature just voted to thwart the will of the voters by delaying and repealing the voter-approved Ranked Choice Voting law. But there is an immediate solution to restore the Ranked Choice Voting law by launching a People's Veto Referendum.

Maine's Constitution gives the people the right to reverse decisions of the Legislature through the power of the People's Veto. We only have 90 days to collect 61,123 valid signatures to put a People's Veto on the June 2018 ballot. The People's Veto will freeze Maine's Ranked Choice Voting law in place and require its implementation for the June 2018 primary election for state and federal offices.

Maine Unitarian Universalists have led the way and volunteered countless hours over the last several years to give voters the freedom to vote for the candidate they like best without worrying that they will help to elect the candidate they like least. We are being called once again to advocate for a vision of democracy that brings civil discourse back into campaigning and strengthens the inclusion of all into the democratic process. Julia Fitz-Randolph is attending the MUUSAN Network Meeting and welcomes others to carpool.

## Community Sing

Sunday, Dec. 3rd ★ 1:30 —3:30

★ Porter Auditorium

Join Rev. Erika Hewitt for this special event, open to all members of the wider community. Instead of relying on hymnals and piano, Erika will lead paperless singing, a cappella (no musical accompaniment). We'll sing sacred songs, rounds, and other simple chants that invite us into our bodies, into our voices, and into community. All adults & teens are welcome.

Bring a friend! Light refreshments will be served.

## November 29th final Community Supper in 2017

Our last Community Supper for 2017 will be on Wednesday, November 29th! Please volunteer! We always need folks to prepare food as well as serve the meal. Join us at the Second Congregational Church in Newcastle from 4:30-6:30 pm on November 29th. Set up begins at 4:30 pm, we serve promptly at 5, and finish around 6:30. This is a joyful opportunity to help others in our community. Let Tiffany Vencile know about your interest in helping with food, serving, or both at [willey-wonka@hotmail.com](mailto:willey-wonka@hotmail.com).

## Winter hours now in effect for weekly Anti-Racism Vigils

Beginning on November 6th, every Monday from 12:00 to 12:30 pm (just 30 minutes), members of our Fellowship join other Interfaith citizens at the Memorial Park adjacent to the Second Congregational Church to bear witness to the values of respect, acceptance, diversity and pluralism. Everyone welcome. (Signs provided.)

## Hospitality Schedule

- Nov. 5** - Bob Lightfoot (Red Pod)
- Nov. 12** - Rosie Davis/Tiffany Vencile (Blue Pod)
- Nov. 19** - Dick & Jennifer Ober (Purple Pod)
- Nov. 26** - (Indigo Pod)
- Dec. 3** - Kate Pennington (Green Pod)

