

MUUFLETTER for June 2018

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

June's theme: LGBTQ Pride

June 3: "Taming the Tongue, Unlocking the Heart" In our culture, sometimes we can become so absorbed in yelling our version of the truth or what is "right" that we fail to see or hear those who don't share our vantage point. Join **Rev Tamara Torres McGovern** and hear her preach about reaching across to connect with one another through our shared humanity.

June 10: HYMN SING at 10:00 a.m.

Join Rev. Erika and Kevin Kiley as we sing old favorites and learn new hymns. Drop in anytime between 10:00 and 10:25 a.m. worship at 10:30 a.m.:

How to Be Uncomfortable - Rev. Erika Hewitt

We all feel uncomfortable sometimes. How do we know when that discomfort invites us to speak up, intervene, or disrupt the situation... and when our discomfort is an invitation to observe, learn, and grow? This service will include an ***Ingathering of seven new members!***

All are invited to join Rev. Erika after worship for a Newcomers' Q&A. What do you want to know about Unitarian Universalism?

June 17: Gender Fluidity--Calvin Smith. Join guest speaker Calvin Smith and Worship Associate Bob Whitmire in an exploration of the concept of gender fluidity. Calvin is a military veteran and a Veterans Administration counselor working with LGBTQ vets. He will talk about his experiences in the context of individual identity and how that affects opportunities to build community. Most of the LGBTQ vets he talks with in rural Vermont and New Hampshire, he says, feel isolated in their uniqueness, and it is a loneliness that leads to suffering. Calvin also will talk about the shifting sands of language, gender, and sexual orientation, and the use of the word "Queer".

SHARE THE PLATE offering recipient: OUT Maine

June 24: "Ally-lujah! Why Being a Welcoming Congregation Matters" Our Fellowship's Welcom-

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Minister's Column

This spring, I felt Spirit whispering to me, "Pssst — Erika! It's time to lead a community book discussion, and to invite people to talk about race and white privilege."

I had several reactions to this figurative tap on my shoulder:

- Talking about race is uncomfortable. Do I have to do this? "Of course you don't have to," Spirit said. "But would turning away from uncomfortable conversation benefit the congregation and the community that you serve? Is avoiding uncomfortable conversations the faithful choice?" Fair points, I admitted.

- Is this the best way to focus my precious half-time hours in the congregation? For the past year, I've focused my parish ministry on you, the members of our congregation; my half-time status means that I don't do much relationship-building or outreach in the wider community. This book discussion is a way to make our Fellowship even more visible as a leader in the community; it furthers our mission of "engaging in justice" and "nurturing spiritual growth."

- How would I pick just one book to discuss? Over the past couple of years, I've read about six books on race/racism. When I picked up the new book by Seattle writer and activist Ijeoma Oluo, I knew I'd found the right book.

- What if nobody comes to the book discussion? Here's a variation of an old joke: How do you make God laugh? Tell her your fears. As soon as I announced the summer book discussion, strangers began emailing me, asking if they could come. I'm now wondering whether our meeting room at Second Congregational Church will be too small.

- Who am I, as a white person, to facilitate conversation about racism? Someone who, like every single person in this country, has been raised in a culture of white supremacy — it's the water we swim in. I'm someone who makes embarrassing mistakes, and is sometimes confronted about them by people of color. I'm someone who — thanks to many wise teachers in my life — is learning to decenter her whiteness, and to center the lived experience of people of color.

What about you? Whether you come to any of our formal book discussion meetings, are you willing to

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SUNDAY SERVICES, continued

ing Congregation Committee will present the worship service, led by Sally Sapienza.

July 1: guest minister **Rev. Alex Holt**

Hospitality Schedule

June 3 - Kate Pennington (Green Pod)
June 10 - Rosie Davis (Red Pod)
June 17 - Tiffany Vencile (Blue Pod)
June 24 - Dick & Jennifer Ober (Purple Pod)
July 1 - David Bailey (Indigo Pod)

Greeters

June 3 - Carol Robins
June 10 - Bill Child
June 17 - Sally Sapienza
June 24 - *Your name here*

MUUF RE news for June

Spirit Play Stories for June will reflect the theme of LGBTQ Pride.

June 3 – And Tango Makes Three
June 10 – Red: A Crayon’s Story
June 17 – My Princess Boy
June 24 – A Day in the Life of Marlon Bundo

Learn more about LGBTQ: Books available from the UURockland library. You may request a book and Carney will bring it to MUUF on Sunday, June 17 for you to borrow. When you are done, simply bring it back and give to the RE guide for that morning or place in the MUUF storage cabinet with Carney’s name on it.

Announcement from the New Website Managers.

As of May 21st, our website (uumidcoast.org) has a new look. The same information will be available with enhanced features for sharing information with our Fellowship and beyond. Same address, new look!

The Board wants to thank John Adams for his years of commitment as our previous website manager. The new managers are Dick Ober, Bob Whitmire and Carol Robins.

Minister’s column ... continued

be curious?

I hope you’ll join me this summer in reading *So You Want to Talk About Race*. Read on for more details.

Keeping the faith,
Rev. Erika

Second and fourth Mondays, 5:15 p.m.
Second Congregational Church, Newcastle

DISCUSSION OUTLINE:

June 11: Introduction; Chapters 1-3 (pp. 1-52)

Is it really about race?
What is racism?
What if I talk about race wrong?



June 25: Chapters 4-5 (pp. 53-82)

Why am I always being told to “check my privilege”?
What is intersectionality and why do I need it?

July 9: Chapters 6-8 (pp. 83-133)

Is police brutality really about race?
How can I talk about affirmative action?
What is the school-to-prison pipeline?

July 23: Chapters 9-11 (pp. 134-161)

Why can’t I say the “N” word?
What is cultural appropriation?
Why can’t I touch your hair?

August 13: Chapters 12-14 (PP. 162-200)

What are microaggressions?
Why are our students so angry?
What is the model minority myth?

August 27: Chapters 15-17 (pp. 212-238)

But what if I hate Al Sharpton?
I just got called racist, what do I do now?
Talking is great, but what else can I do?

MUUF past president Donna Dolham to be Ordained June 16 in Auburn



Donna Dolham will be ordained Saturday, June 16th, 2018 @1:00 at the First Universalist Church in Auburn, Maine and is inviting any Midcoast UU Fellowship members to attend.



Annual MUUF YAHD SALE / BAKE SALE
Saturday, June 23, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm
236 Academy Hill, Newcastle

Spring cleaning time is also a time to find new homes for unused or no longer needed items, a time to “de-clutter”. David & Sylvia Bailey have again volunteered to host the sale. Bring your gently used items directly to the Bailey’s pond house, any time before the sale, or call Jennifer at 978-479-2665 if you need assistance.

For more info contact Jennifer@baystatehost.com

Volunteers desperately needed to help set up Friday afternoon (June 22) and help with sales the day of (June 23).

Hospitality/Membership Corner

We have not had a formal welcoming ceremony for new members in many months. Several people have signed the Membership Book since our last membership ceremony, and they will be welcomed by MUUF members on June 10th. If you’ve been attending for awhile and would like to join the Fellowship, speak with Sandy Barth or Rev. Erika before the June 10th service. Also that day, after the service, Rev. Erika will have an informal Q & A session - anyone is welcome to attend, but it will be especially geared to newcomers and new members.

We’ve tried some different social activities this Winter/Spring, but they have not gone well for a variety of reasons. We had one Circle Supper, but others had to be cancelled due to weather. The Sunday afternoon walks are difficult because of the different paces that everyone walks - we don’t have quite enough people to divide into smaller groups to suit the fast and slow walkers. We did try a Snack & Chat at the Publick

House in May but the only ones attending were the organizers (Sandy and the Whitmires). Admittedly, it was probably not well enough advertised. There has been some talk of an adult RE program. Rev. Erika will be leading a summer book discussion on “So You Want to Talk About Race.” Perhaps there will be more interest in continuing an adult RE program in the Fall.

There will be an all Fellowship Picnic again at the Robins in Whitefield on Sept. 17th, but we’d like to do a family cookout/picnic during the summer. If your home would accommodate such an event speak to Sandy.

If Memorial Day Weekend Sunday was any indication, we could have a busy summer with lots of guests and newcomers. Be sure to remember to warmly welcome our guests and show the hospitality that we are known for.

Sandy Barth sbarth1942@gmail.com

March with MUUF in the Portland Pride Parade

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March with MUUF in the Portland Pride Parade

Members and friends of MUUF will be marching in the Portland Pride Parade on Saturday, June 16. MUUSAN has paid all registration fees to encourage all Maine UU churches to march together, so there is no charge to MUUF to participate. First Parish UU Church in Portland (425 Congress St.) will start the morning with a 10 AM Pride Interfaith Service. The church will be open for out-of-town UUs to use the bathrooms and rest, even if you can't get there in time for the Interfaith Service.

The front steps of the church will be a temporary staging area for UU congregations and their banners until we move to our assigned line-up spot near Monument Square sometime after 11. (That exact line-up location becomes available a couple of days before PRIDE.) At 11 AM marchers will begin lining up with banners at an assigned location near Monument Square.

At 12 noon the Pride Parade starts in Monument Square. It ends about 45 minutes later in Deering Oaks, where the Pride Festival runs from 1 to 5 PM.

Wear a YELLOW UU LOVE SHIRT if possible. Loving signs and rainbow flags are welcome.

Contact Julia Fitz-Randolph if you would like to car-pool to the Portland Pride service and parade. All MUUF

members and friends are welcome to participate. If you do not wish to attend the 10 AM service, you can meet the MUUF group at the church at 11 AM.

In addition to the Portland parade on June 16, there are several other Pride parades and events in the state. MUUSAN is also promoting statewide participation for churches that wish to march in the June 23 parade in Bangor. Line-up for Bangor starts at 9 AM at Sea Dog, 26 Front St., Bangor, on the river. The parade starts at 10 AM and is followed by a festival. It would be swell if someone from MUUF would agree to carry our banner in Bangor and march together with the MUUSAN contingent.

There is also a Pride festival on June 3 in Waterville, a Pride parade and festival on June 9 in Belfast, a Pride march and festival on June 30 in Lewiston-Auburn, and a Pride festival on June 30 in Bar Harbor. Although MUUF is not organizing a presence at any of these other events, if anyone would like to represent MUUF, contact Kate Pennington to coordinate borrowing the MUUF banner. You can find details of all the Pride events online (<https://equalitymaine.org/events>).

The Hard Working MUUF Volunteers who served the May Community Supper. Your next opportunity to participate will be August 29

