

# MUUFLETTER for November

## 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: Stories & Archetypes

#### November 4: Circle Round

Rev. Aisha Ansano, guest minister

We hear a lot about self-care, but we don't always talk about the ways self-care and community care are inextricably tied together. Together, we'll explore what it means to take care of each other and ourselves.

Rev. Aisha Ansano currently serves as the Youth Program Coordinator at First Parish UU of Arlington, MA. She is excited about the intersections of food, spirituality, and community, and dreams about starting a dinner church where all are welcome.

***Daylight Savings — set clocks back one hour.***

#### November 11: The Good News according to "Queer Eye"

Rev. Erika Hewitt

"Queer Eye" is an Emmy-winning reality show in which 5 "style experts" — all gay men — forget



relationships with people who often have different beliefs from them. What makes this show and the Fab 5 so moving, so inspiring, and so revolutionary? Join Rev. Erika as we watch clips and celebrate the Gospel of Queer Eye.

*This service will be followed by our annual congregational meeting (childcare provided) and a soup lunch. ALL are welcome (and encouraged) to attend!*

*(continued on page 2)*



*Rev. Erika Hewitt*

### Minister's Column

On a recent episode of Maine Calling, I heard writer Anne Lamott remind listeners that "eighty percent of life is showing up." I remembered my days in

seminary, when my first mentor told me the same thing: it matters how we use our time and energy; how we choose when and where to be present. Never underestimate the power of showing up.

A few hours after hearing this reminder from Ms. Lamott, I arrived at the Newcastle park for our regular Monday vigil. In addition to the regular suspects (there are usually between four and nine of us), I watched more than twenty people (and two handsome dogs) line up to hold signs, wave to passers-by, and signal our shared values of diversity, respect, inclusion, love, and unity.

Our numbers swelled that day because two days earlier, deadly gun violence ripped through a Jewish synagogue — and, by extension, through an entire faith. That violence was fueled by anti-Semitism and anti-immigrant fervor. Hatred that, perhaps, had been long covered and slowly simmering made its way — through mechanisms we can hardly begin to understand — into grotesque, disastrous violence.

I believe that the Tree of Life shooting — the worst anti-Semitic massacre in U.S. history — occurred as a direct result of the overtly racist rhetoric, and occasional mockery, that streams unceasingly from the White House. That rhetoric is directed at people who are hungry for a reason to fear the "other;" who are scared that they're losing their power and rights; who are desperate to believe the toxic hatred that's been given a free platform by Fox News.

*(continued on page 2)*

*(Services-continued from page 1)***November 18: Telling Truer Stories**

Rev. Erika Hewitt

Many of us have told family stories around our holiday dinner table. Are those stories always true? Does it matter? In this sermon, Rev. Erika will reflect on what it means to dig deeper into the narratives that appear in our families — and in our country. Should we demand more truthful tellings? *Our SHARE THE PLATE offering will benefit the Restorative Justice Project.*

**November 25th: When We Celebrate Thanksgiving**

Maryah Converse, guest minister

It's Maryah's very favorite day of the year. Friends, family, long walks, at least six kinds of pie. But the story of Thanksgiving is a complicated one, and Maryah will reflect on the history of the holiday, her own family's role in it, and what it means to be a white woman celebrating Thanksgiving in our world today.

Maryah Converse has been active in the congregational life of three UUA congregations, and the Southeastern UU Summer Institute (SUUSI). She teaches English as a Foreign Language and job readiness training by day, and Arabic by night, and writes at [bmaryah.wordpress.com](http://bmaryah.wordpress.com). This is her third sermon at our fellowship.

**December 2:**

10:30 a.m. — worship led by Rev. Erika Hewitt

1:00 p.m. — memorial service for Diane Jensen (childcare provided), led by Rev. Erika

**Mondays at Noon**

Beginning on Nov. 5th, our community anti-racism vigils will be held from noon to 12:30 p.m. Please bring a chair if that makes it easier for you to participate! Park at Second Congregational Church. All are welcome.

*(Minister's Column-continued from page 1)*

I'm not falling for these lies. Are you? I'm not falling for the fear or the division, or for the lie of "If they get more rights, you'll lose yours." I believe that we're too wise, and too experienced in the ways of community, to lock ourselves into silos and cloisters. We who value interdependence know that the antidote to fear isn't arming ourselves, but connecting with one another.

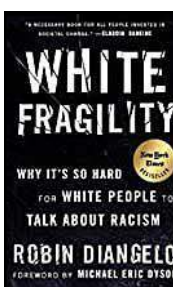
Connection begins when we show up. It sounds easy, some days. It can also feel like too much. But showing up is one of the most powerful currencies we have, in this economy of division. In showing up and being present, we remember that we're not alone. We belong to one another. And we won't stay silent anymore.

In faith,  
Rev. Erika

**"White Fragility" Book Discussion**

Mondays in November, 5:15 to 6:30 p.m.  
led by Rev. Erika Hewitt at Second Congregational Church, Newcastle.

In this book, Dr. Robin DiAngelo challenges readers — particularly those of us who identify as politically progressive — to reflect on how we've been socialized to understand racism as something only "bad" people intentionally participate in. The book helps white people confront the role they play in perpetuating racism (whether they're aware of it or not), address their own white fragility, and engage more constructively in conversations about racism.



November 12th — discussion of Chapters 6-8 (pp. 71-113)

November 26th — discussion of Chapters 9-12 (pp. 115-154)



Rosie Davis

## Presidents Corner



Greeting friends,

I Love the snow! And we are having our first flurries today as I write this.

Pledge season is upon us and your board is working at finalizing the Fellowship Budget for 2019 and appreciate the return of your pledge forms as soon as possible if you have not already done so. You can also email your pledge to Dick Ober, our Treasurer, at [treasurer@uumidcoast.org](mailto:treasurer@uumidcoast.org)

Our Annual Fellowship Meeting has been set for November 11th, 2018 after service and I ask you to please attend if you're able. All are welcome but only members can vote. If you have been considering becoming a member and wish to do so before the meeting, please see Sandy Barth.

Also, at our meeting we shall be announcing the recipient of the 2018 Founders Award!

In faith,  
Rosie

## VOTE your UU VALUES on November 6th!



## RE Stories & Activities for November

*Carney McRae Doucette*  
Director of Religious Exploration

**November 4** - Great Story Part 1 - Birth of the Universe

**November 11** - Great Story Part 2 - Death of a Star

**November 18** - Great Story Part 3 - Creation of Life on Earth

**November 25** - The Tree That Grows Hair - an African Tale about giving



Some of our RE families attended a potluck and campfire gathering, with stories to share and s'mores. Thank you Carol & Chris Robins for hosting this gathering. We hope to have other gatherings like this in the future.



Our play on humility, La Hormiguita, was well received on October 21 following worship. The children had a great time designing masks and playing the different roles. We have some theater people in this group for sure!

We have several families from the Fellowship participating in Our Whole Lives (OWL) for grades 4 & 5. Twice a month through March, they will head to Rockland to participate in the sessions from 12 noon to 1:15 p.m. As a group, we'll be able to arrange some carpooling, so that other members of the family can still attend worship at MUUF.

## Dawnland Movie in Damariscotta



The Lincoln Theater hosted two showings of the film Dawnland on October 10th. Dawnland tells the story of the Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare Truth and Reconciliation Commission—the nation’s first government-sanctioned TRC. Dawn Neptune Adams, a truth-teller featured in the film, as well as representatives of Maine-Wabanaki Reach, the organization behind the TRC, spoke and answered questions from the audience. 182 people saw the film in Damariscotta.

Midcoast UU’s partner, People United Against Racism, was a sponsor of the event and MUUF’s social justice committee also donated \$200 for a scholarship for high-school students to attend free. Thirteen young people took advantage of the offer. The social justice committee decided to donate the remaining \$122 to Maine-Wabanaki REACH. REACH also had information tables at the event and collected donations. To find out more about REACH and support their work, please visit [www.mainewabanakireach.org](http://www.mainewabanakireach.org)

The film and Dawn’s testimony, in particular, were both very “heavy” (Dawn’s word) and, at the same time, inspiring. The film is showing nation-wide and is being hailed as “ground-breaking” and a turning point in our troubled white settler/native relationship. If you were unable to make the Damariscotta showings there are others (some in Maine) listed at <http://dawnland.org/screenings/> and a shorter version is showing on PBS’s Independent Lens on Monday, November 5.

## Maine-Wabanaki REACH Workshop in Damariscotta

If you are looking for a way to engage with the work of Maine-Wabanaki REACH, as portrayed in the film Dawnland, there will be a daylong REACH workshop in Damariscotta, on Sat. Dec. 8 from 9:30 am to 4 pm (Snow date: Sat. Dec. 15). Space is limited and registration is required. Please register at the website [www.mainewabanakireach.org/](http://www.mainewabanakireach.org/) events. For questions contact Barbara Kates at [barbara@mainewabanakireach.org](mailto:barbara@mainewabanakireach.org) or 951-4874.



## MUUSAN Network meets Saturday, November 10, 2018

**10:00-12:00, UU Community Church of Augusta**

(69 Winthrop Street, Augusta 04330)

We will focus on immigrant justice and practical ways to follow up from the recent SanctUUary Summit. Several speakers from Maine UU churches will share current programs to spark ideas to take back to local congregations.

Democracy, Climate Justice, Health Care, and Racial Justice Issue Groups will also have time for break-out sessions.

## October Community Supper



Tiffany Vencile

Thank you all who helped with October Community Supper! I continue to be amazed at our fellowship and the number of folks who prepare a meal and volunteer their time to serve others.

We really have a special congregation filled with people who work well together and always get the job done. I am always so proud of our people! Thank you all who helped. My heart glows with appreciate and admiration.



## Hospitality / Membership Corner

With the days growing shorter and colder, we may find that we need the warmth of the Fellowship more now than at other times of the year. Also, the political climate may drive more people to seek us out.



Sandy Barth

So be sure to warmly welcome any new faces and make sure they know we would be happy to see them return. Chances are this

time of year they are not just passing through the area.

Our annual congregational meeting is coming up on November 11th. We encourage everyone to stay for the meeting to learn more about the business of the Fellowship. Since only members will be able to vote, we welcome you to sign the membership book if you have not already done that. We also understand that not everyone is ready to take that step. But member or not, we hope everyone will stay for a soup and bread lunch after the meeting.

The Sunday afternoon walks will be done on a very spontaneous basis depending on the weather which so far this Fall has not been very cooperative. Contact Sandy Barth if you are interested in being on the contact list for walks.

If you have any ideas for social activities for the winter months or for any questions on hospitality or membership don't hesitate to ask me or Rev. Erika.

**Sandy Barth**     [sbarth1942@gmail.com](mailto:sbarth1942@gmail.com)

## Hospitality Schedule

- Nov. 4 - (Blue Pod) Tiffany, Joelle & Kay**
- Nov. 11 - (Purple Pod) Jennifer & Dick, Robin, Bob & Joan Whitmire**
- Nov. 18 - (Indigo Pod) Lindy, Stephanie & Isaac**
- Nov. 25 - (Green Pod) Kate, Phyllis, Deb Arter, Tim & Karen**

## Community Open Mic Fundraiser - October 14th Mobius, Damariscotta



*Our featured Entertainer  
Singer/Songwriter Kathi Nordone*



*O'Doshie (Pop Vocalist)  
Toby (Future Olympian)*



*Singer/Songwriter John Schindler*



*Autumn Vencile (budding pianist)*



*Bill Child (pocket song writer)*

Submit all newsletter / order of service information to [news@uumidcoast.org](mailto:news@uumidcoast.org)