

MUUFLETTER for December 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

December's Theme: Sanctuary

December 2: "To Pivot or to Stay Present?"

Rev. Erika Hewitt

Advent is a period of expectation; of holding the hope. Like winter, Advent reminds us that good things demand our patience; good things take time. But we also know that life is short, and that we can make mistakes by waiting for things that never happen. How do we live in this tension?

1:00 p.m. — Diane Jensen's Memorial Service

Rev. Erika Hewitt will lead a memorial service for Diane Jensen, with Mariel Fluhr providing music. Childcare will be provided.

December 9: Comfort and Joy: Rev. Lara Campbell, the

minister of First Parish, Unitarian Universalist of Kennebunk, Maine. The service will feature a three part story with accompanying poems.

December 16: The Star of Bethlehem



Join Rev. Erika Hewitt & Carney Doucette for our annual holiday "pageant from the pews"! We'll tell a familiar story in a new way — with costumes, of course — asking the Spirit of Joy to move among us. Our SHARE THE PLATE offering will be given to DRUUMM, in honor of the Rev. Danielle DiBona. DRUUM is the Diverse Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries, a UU People of Color Ministry and anti-racist collective bringing lay and religious

professionals together to overcome racism through resistance and transform Unitarian Universalism.

You're invited to bring a dozen cookies to contribute to our annual Cookie Swap.



December 23: Rabbi Lisa Vinikoor, spiritual leader of Beth Israel Congregation in Bath and Hillel rabbi at Bowdoin College, will talk about Sanctuary in the Jewish Tradition. Rabbi Vinikoor came to the rabbinate after a fourteen year career as a teacher and social justice organizer in Boston and Lawrence MA.

Candlelight Christmas Eve service
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Minister's Column



If you're at church on December 2nd, you'll hear that I've been wrestling lately with the tension between two different approaches to life.

The first approach is the "life is short" lens: we have an unknown number of days to savor life and make an impact.

Since life is too precious to be bogged down by the small stuff, it's important to move through life without the weight of regret by cutting our losses and moving on.

A different way of looking at life is through the "things take time" lens: connection, growth, or solid relationships can't flourish overnight, so it's our job to cultivate the patience (and work) that yields satisfying results over time. You have to hang in there to reap those benefits.

These two approaches aren't in complete opposition, but they do present a tension that can be hard to navigate. When we come up against discomfort in our life, do we wrestle with it until it yields a blessing? Or do we let it go and move onto something easier? What do you know about holding these with grace?

Here in Maine, we're looking down the long corridor of winter that teaches us, with relentless cyclicity, that Things Take Time. "The holiday season is nothing," writes my colleague Rev. David Breeden, "if not waiting—to get done the chores; to find the right gift; to find time for quiet moments; to accept that our loved ones will not be as we wish them to be." I'm doing my best to take note of winter's subtle gifts: the first cardinal at the feeder, the invitation to sleep longer, the longing for my Advent wreath.

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Minister's column ... *continued*

Whether you're a "life is short" person, or whether you're able to dwell in the "it takes time" camp, may we have clarity about what we're each waiting for, or hoping for, as the wheel turns toward a new year.

In faith,
Rev. Erika

SAVE THE DATE!

Our community Martin Luther King, Jr. service



will be held on Monday, January 21st at 7:00 p.m. at Second Congregational Church in Newcastle.

The service will be led by Revs. Erika Hewitt and Char Corbett, and will feature speakers from our Fellowship! Childcare will be provided.

Please join us for this important event.

SUNDAY SERVICES, *continued*

Monday, December 24, 4:00 p.m. Skidompha Atrium "The Night of Heaven and Earth"

Rev. Erika Hewitt



It's our annual candlelight Christmas Eve service! "Heaven encompasses and inhabits earth," writes Jan Robinson, "spilling into this present life." Tonight we'll tell the traditional story from Luke's Gospel, sing carols, and create wonder on this holy night.

December 30: Letting Go and Setting Intentions, led by Worship Associates Courtney Belolan and Sally Sapienza. We will set intentions for the new year, and reflecting on what to let go of in order to live up to that intention.

January 6: Rev. Erika Hewitt, preaching



Snowy Sunday? Use Zoom!

During the winter, your Fellowship leaders may decide to cancel worship in the interest of safety. If that happens on a "Rev. Erika" Sunday, she will open her online Zoom room at 10:30 a.m. on that Sunday for a brief online gathering.

Those dates are:

Monday, Dec. 24th (4:00 p.m.)

January 6th, January 20th

(February and March dates TBA)

Zoom is a videoconferencing platform offering the option of using your computer to see Rev. Erika & others on video, or calling in to listen and talk by phone. Erika will lead a chalice lighting, joys and sorrows, a meditation, and group discussion. It'll be shorter and less formal than a worship service, but Zoom will allow us to connect before we go back to our shoveling/jigsaw puzzling/hot chocolate guzzling.

To join by computer:

1. Go to www.Zoom.us
2. Click the blue heading "Join a meeting"
3. Enter Erika's designated number: 749-979-5863

To join by telephone only:

1. Dial 646 558 8656 or 408 638 0968
2. Enter meeting ID: 749 979 5863

Hospitality Schedule

Dec. 2 - Blue Pod - Tiffany, Joelle & Kay

Dec. 9 - Purple Pod: Jennier & Dick, Robin, Bob & Joan

Dec. 16 - Indigo Pod - Lindy, Stephanie & Isaac

Dec. 23- Green Pod - Kate, Phyllis, Deb Arter, Tim & Karen

Dec. 30 - Red Pod - Rosie, Bob & Deb Lomas

The Holy Work of Showing Up

Our community anti-racism vigils continue every Monday at noon. Please join us for 30 minutes at Memorial Park in Newcastle.

Convenient parking at the Second Congregational Church. Make your own signs or choose among the many that are available; bring a chair if that is more comfortable for you.

All are welcome!

Message from the President



Greetings friends,
Wow! What a wonderful Annual Meeting. Thank you all for showing up and voting. From what I understand we had a record meeting time and you were happy with this!

Thank you for being prepared and ready to vote. I'm very pleased that the amended By-laws passed as did our Balanced Budget. I'd like to welcome our newest board members: JAYNE GORDON and DAVID BILSKI, they are an excellent addition to your already thoughtful and hardworking board. I'd like to again, congratulate Robin Hall, who deservedly received this years Founders Award. Thank you, Robin for what you have done and do for our Fellowship and for our community. A wonderful example of following our UU principles and our Fellowship's mission statement.

*In faith
Rosie*

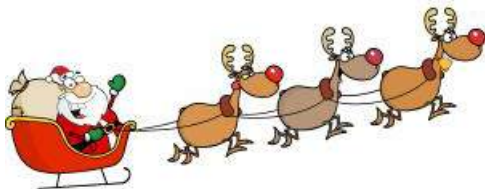


RE Stories & Activities for December



Carney McRae Doucette,
director of
Religious Exploration

- December 2 - Hanukkah – a story & activity
- December 9 – Faith in Action: Making Gingerbread houses for the Community Supper
- December 16 – Multigenerational service – our pageant
- December 23 – Pajama Party & Movie – Come in your pajamas, enjoy some popcorn and a cup of hot chocolate while you watch a holiday movie.
- December 30 – No RE today. Enjoy some family time at home! See you in the New Year!



Hospitality/Membership Corner

The Fellowship has had a great year so far and we look forward to this continuing in 2019.

- 1) We have a settled minister for the first time in our 35 year history.
- 2) We welcomed 10 new members at a June ceremony, one more since then and a couple of more waiting to sign the Membership Book.
- 3) We warmly welcomed many visitors over the summer and fall - vacationers, guests of members and friends, and local residents seeing what we're all about.
- 4) We have a vibrant Religious Explorations program for the youngsters with an average of five to ten attending on any given Sunday.
- 5) Moving our coffee hour to the Atrium has proved to be a vast improvement for conversations in small groups and helping to get to know each other better.

In short, we have much to be thankful for in this season for giving thanks.

The weather seemed to put a damper on non-Sunday morning activities during the past year - a long cold, snowy winter, a very hot summer, and a very rainy fall. Maybe we'll have better luck in the coming year with planned activities. We would like to try for some more circle suppers this winter. And if you have any other ideas for activities, please contact Sandy.

We do need some additional volunteers for greeting prior to the service on Sunday mornings. You will get a brief orientation, although a welcoming smile is the main qualification. And it is a good way to put names with faces as you help locate name tags or help them sign the Guest Book.

Please continue to greet and speak with the unfamiliar faces on Sunday morning. We want to continue to be known as a warm, welcoming community.

Sandy Barth sbarth1942@gmail.com

