

MUUFLETTER for NOVEMBER 2019

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: Thanks & Praise

November 3: "I Don't know everything" daylight savings—clocks go BACK one hour

Guest Minister: Rev. Alix Klingenberg

Worship associate: Courtney Belolan

"I don't know everything" in praise of admitting we might be wrong, exploring multiple stories, and the spiritual practice of humility. Rev. Alix is an entrepreneurial UU minister, writer and spiritual director. She lives in Medford, MA with her husband, son, and 2 black cats. She writes a blog called Highly Sensitive Extrovert and uses creativity & archetypes to connect to community and the divine.

November 10: "Search for Truth and Meaning: you're going to need four-wheel drive."

Worship associate Bob Whitmire talks about how spending four years in the US Army in his late teens and early 20s, including tours of duty in Vietnam and on the Horn of Africa set him on a search for truth and meaning that led him to our Fellowship 50 years later.

November 17: "Underground Prophets"

Rev. Erika Hewitt

Throughout our Unitarian and Universalist histories, ordinary people were finding ways to be justice-makers in bold and secret ways. This morning we'll celebrate some of the unknown stories of our underground prophets. Our SHARE THE PLATE offering will be given to MUUSAN: our Maine UU State Advocacy Network.

November 24: Join worship associates Tiffany Vencile and Patti Anderson as we reflect on what it means to Welcome everyone to the table. Join us in a Cornbread and Cider Communion where we'll reflect on our freedoms and be mindful of refugees who are not able to go home. We hope you will join us.

December 1:

guest speaker Maryah Converse;
led by Courtney Belolan



Minister's Column

On August 29, 2018, a man named Roger Cooper (@RogerC137) tweeted this sweet and slightly exasperated message:

Rev. Erika Hewitt "Could we, without relentlessly criticizing, let people have their pumpkin spice, and avocado toast, and their fandoms, and their D&D, and their too-early-Halloween-decorations, and whatever little harmless things in which they've manage to find a tiny shriveled flower of joy?"

(To date, more than 332,600 people have liked his tweet.)

It didn't take long for people to pile on Mr. Cooper for spelling "avocado" wrong. (That, friends, is irony. And yes, there's a second typo in his original tweet. Who cares?) Mr. Cooper's reply to that criticism was as follows: "Thank you for helping me to know that I've made a mistake. We humans are slowly collecting more and more evidence that we're not perfect. I think that can be a wonderful thing. Thanks for stopping by to chat!"

We aren't perfect. We're worthy of harmless joy. Both of these are shining truths.

Critique, criticism, and assessment are norms of our culture. We find flaws with others reflexively, without even meaning to. I feel sad every time I see, on my own social media feeds, people performing their boredom—or even their derision—for the small pleasures that warm other people's hearts.

"Oh, is there a sportsball thing happening?" asks one person, even though their friends are overjoyed by the World Series cliffhanger. "UGH, I hate Christmas decorations!"

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moans another, while others of us are already deciding where to hang lights.

I don't know Roger Cooper, but I'm with him: I'm in favor of allowing people their tiny shriveled flowers of joy. (His follow-up tweet read, plaintively, "We're all just trying to survive.") The world can be such a barbed place; why not practice aggressive non-judgment about how we each choose to survive?

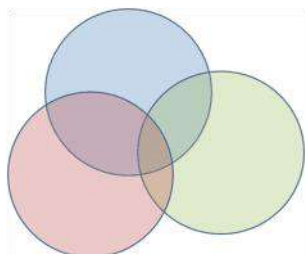
As we spend November exploring the theme of "Thanks & Praise," I encourage you to claim unapologetically the harmless things that make you happy. What's more challenging, I also encourage you to support *others* (that means not rolling your eyes or complaining about it) in their harmless pleasures.

Life is hard. We are imperfect — but we're also merciful, and know what brings us joy. Go find it this month, and help someone else find theirs.

In faith,
Rev. Erika Hewitt
minister@uumidcoast.org

Save the Date: Covenant Circle

Are you seeking greater connection and deeper friendships with your fellow congregation members? Join Rev. Erika and Jayne Gordon on **Monday, December 16th from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.** for a time of deep listening and sharing around a topic that the group will choose! **Questions? Interested in future Covenant Circles?** Please call Jayne: 508-577-4599.



President's Corner



Rosie Davis

Greetings friends,

Wow, what a fantastic month October has been for our fellowship. Two wonderful events with the amazing work from the Fundraising Team for the Sold out Gordon Bok concert and from the Social Justice Committee sponsoring, showing up and continuing our social justice work with the Toni Morrison film. Thank you so much to everyone involved.

Please remember our Annual Meeting on Sunday November 17th, after service and that only members can vote.

And on a personal note for me, I want to thank Susan for directing the choir. I really look forward to Thursday evenings at Susan and Dick's house for rehearsal and it is an absolute pleasure to meet and sing with my fellow choir members. I hope you all enjoy us performing for you.

Members In faith,
Rosie

Minister's Schedule

Rev. Erika will be joining the annual conference of UU religious educators from November 6th through the 11th. She'll be present and available for meetings with Fellowship members only between Nov. 12th and 22nd, as Erika will then be visiting her family from November 24th through December 4th. Please reach out to Erika at minister@uumidcoast.org or 650-5757 if you need her attention this month.



Religious Education

RE Sunday Mornings

Carney D. McRae

Sunday, November 3 – Toolbox of Faith –
Compass/Integrity Part II

Sunday, November 10 – Mindful Sunday –
Yoga

Sunday, November 17 – Toolbox of Faith –
Duct Tape/Flexibility

Sunday, November 24 – Toolbox of Faith –
Mirror/Reflection

**Mindful Sunday – November 10 – Yoga for
children and adults**

Courtney Belolan will be leading our young people in yoga and mindfulness on November 10 during our RE time. By using the breath and some common poses, as well as some partner yoga challenges, our young people will get an introduction to what yoga is all about. Courtney is certified to teach young people through ChildLight Yoga, and adults through Kripalu.

Courtney will offer a similar experience for adults at 11:45 a.m. in the Newspaper Room. She will offer ways to do this practice, even with mobility challenges.



Nature Hike at Great Salt Bay Farm



Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Annual Meeting Announcement



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 17, 2019, 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 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.

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 17th for this important event in the life of our Fellowship.

In faith,

Rosie Davis, Board President

Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network Meeting

**Take Action to do M.O.R.E.
(Mobilize.Organize.Register.Educate)**

Our guest speaker will be Rev. Dr. Jodi Cohen Hayashida, Minister of the First Universalist Church of Auburn and also a member of the Maine Poor People's Campaign Coordinating Committee

**Saturday, November 9th
10:00 am – noon, UUC in Augusta, 69 Winthrop Street**



MUUF Immigrant Justice Support

The Lincoln County Immigration Support group has been meeting since June periodically at the Second Congregational Church, Newcastle, with several of our members attending at various times. We have sponsored two very successful drives which many Fellowship members and friends contributed to. One was for clothing and toiletries in July and the other was for school supplies and household items in September. We anticipate there will be some kind of a Holiday drive that will be determined at the next regular meeting of the entire group on November 14th at 2 pm. All interested are welcome to attend.

On Monday eve, October 28th, Jayne Gordon and Sandy Barth heard Erin Reed, the Director of the Trinity Jubilee Center in Lewiston, give an interesting talk on the various programs that the Jubilee Center provides including many efforts for refugee integration in the Lewiston area. This Center was opened in 1991 and now serves many diverse needs - not only those of immigrants, but also serves those in the community who are homeless, addicted or low-income. All this is done on a \$300,000/year budget. The Somalis were the first immigrants they served - now it is mostly Angolans. We sent Erin home with \$325.

Sandy will be attending an upcoming MUUSAN (Maine UU State Advocacy Network) meeting in November and will report back next month on their Racial, Native and Immigration Issue group.

Sandy Barth

Our community anti-racism vigils

continue every Monday from 4:30 pm to 5:00 pm. 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!



Hospitality Schedule

Nov. 3 - (Indigo Pod) - Lindy, Rob & Molly

Nov. 10 - (Green Pod) - Kate, Phyllis, Deb Arter, Tim & Karen

Nov. 17 - (Red Pod) - Rosie, Bob, Deb Lomas

Nov. 24 - (Blue Pod) - Tiffany, Joelle and Kay

Dec. 1 - (Purple Pod) - Jennifer & Dick, Bob & Joan

Report on Our October Fundraising Concert

I am very happy to report that for M.U.U.F.'s fundraising concert with Gordon Bok we were able to sell out all 240 seats in Lincoln Theater. We had an audience comprised largely of people who have been fans of Gordon's music for many (40+) years – some of them traveling long distances to attend the event. We also met one of this year's fundraising goals – to raise money that drew from a much larger community than from just our own fellowship members.

After concert expenses were met, we netted a total of **\$3,153.31** from ticket sales.

Refreshment sales came to **\$182**. So a final total of **\$3,335.31** was raised from the event.

A big THANK YOU to all who helped with the event:

Dick Ober – as our Webmaster – was always prompt in getting information posted and organized on our website (including helping with Paypal set up for online ticket sales). Also helped set up and clean up.

David Bilski – our Treasurer – took on extra work tracking ticket sales and paying extra bills.

Carol Robins – helped get Gordon Bok's info. up on the theater website, put up posters, checked on some online arts calendars, and helped troubleshoot at the theater before the concert

Deb Lomas, Kay Miller, Bob Whitmire, and Noel Jost-Coq helped put up some of the posters

Koko and John Harris and David Bilski – helped handle Will Call tickets the night of the concert. Koko deserves special thanks for waiting for "stragglers" to show up for tickets, thereby missing some of the concert.

Nancy and Malcolm White and Rosie Davis – served as ticket takers at the concert

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to Jennifer Ober for coordinating the Refreshment Sales for the Concert. She and her team filled two tables with lots of wonderful baked goods and drinks to keep our audience members happy. Thanks to **Sandy Barth, Jennifer Ober, Kay Miller, Joan Whitmire, Sally Sapienza, Susan Borg & Dick Nessen, Deb Lomas, and Noel Jost-Coq.**



We owe another special thanks to **Lincoln Theater**, who were wonderful to work with. And also to **Sherman's Book Store**, who sold close to half of our tickets for us. Such incredible community resources and assets they are! We could NOT have pulled this off without their help. Next time you find yourself in either the book store or the theater, please thank them on behalf of our fellowship.

And finally, a big thank you to all of our M. U.U. Fellowship members who helped to support this event by purchasing tickets, encouraging your friends to come to the concert, and showing up to cheer everyone on!

Thank you SO MUCH everyone,

Jill Linzee

Submit all newsletter / order of service information to news@uumidcoast.org