

Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

“Ambiguity”
April 25, 2021



Rev. David Hutchinson

Life is rarely predictable or clean-cut. It's more likely to be a random assortment of uncertainty, messiness and nuance where you end up with more questions than you have answers. Ambiguity is creative space that can hold the chaos and tumult. In these uncertain times a little ambiguity could be a helpful option.

Here is the YouTube link to the 10:00 AM Sunday Service. Just click on the link and it should take you right to the YouTube channel. You can also click the link on the church's website home page. The link will be active at 10AM:

UUHoulton Website:

uuhoulton.org

UUHoulton Service YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBqT7LyWvxNQ2DbXvNKHvA>

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR:

UUHoulton welcomes the Midcoast UU Fellowship of Damariscotta to our zoom coffee hour for a casual chat and get to know each other session. Please join us and say "hello!"
(the meeting starts at 11AM)

The UUHoulton Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

<https://zoom.us/j/91338238312?pwd=V3Myb1F0UDZQTjhwa3NMTkI1QUxFUT09>

Meeting ID: 913 3823 8312

Passcode: 893932

Religious Exploration

This weekend is virtual RE time!

This weekend, April 24-25, we have our next sessions for virtual Religious Exploration for children and youth. ChUrchcraft World Religions is at 4 p.m. on Saturday, and we'll be checking the realm and planning our presentation; and Widen Your World Social Justice with youth is 4 p.m. on Sunday, checking in and making plans for our meet-ups outside in May. Carney will send reminder links to each session.

Stewardship

[Pledge 2021 Link](#)

[Anytime Donation Link](#)

Pastoral Care

A reminder that during this time without a minister, members of the fellowship in need of pastoral care can contact the co-chairs of the Care Committee, Sandy Barth (207-563-5565) or Joan Whitmire (207-350-6954). Either of them can establish contact with Rev. Charles Stephens.

Social Justice

Stand up for Tribal Sovereignty

Recognizing the Wabanaki tribe's inherent sovereignty is a first step to recognizing and beginning to heal the deep suffering that the European settlers and the State of Maine have inflicted on Tribal People. Several bills are coming out of committee soon and our legislators need to know that we are in support of the Wabanaki Sovereignty bills written by Representative Talbot Ross. For more talking points and more information on tribal sovereignty, see below. If you have not already written an email or letter to your state representative and

senator, perhaps calling them directly would be a better choice for you. Please let me know when you have done so. (maryefinn4@gmail.com)

There will be a virtual press conference and rally on Facebook on Wednesday April 28 at 10 am. To attend, visit www.muusan.org. Go to the Advocacy Calendar and click on to the Virtual Rally on April 28, and click on “More information here”. It will bring you to the Facebook Virtual Rally for Tribal Sovereignty. Numbers of attendees are important. Please attend and be counted!

RECOGNIZE TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY

The State of Maine should recognize the Wabanaki tribes' inherent sovereignty.

The Wabanaki tribes in Maine have a different, more restrictive status than all 574 other federally-recognized tribes in the United States.

- Federal legislation ensures tribes' inherent rights to govern themselves. Under Maine law, the Wabanaki tribes are excluded from that and other rights and protections guaranteed by Federal Indian Law.
- The Wabanaki tribes are not asking for special privileges. They are asking for fairness and equity to be treated like the other federally-recognized tribes across the country.
- Since the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act of 1980 was signed, 151 federal laws benefiting Indian Country have been passed that the tribes in Maine have not benefited from.

The Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act of 1980 has harmed the Wabanaki tribes.

- In the 1970s, Wabanaki tribes still had legal claim to more than one million acres of land that were then owned by private landowners and the State of Maine. Returning that land to the tribes would have likely led to extreme hostilities and neverending legal proceedings, so the U.S. brokered a deal with

the State of Maine on behalf of the tribes- the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act of 1980.

- This act was intended to provide funds and outline a process for the tribes to purchase land to replace the land they had unlawfully lost. In exchange, the tribes gave up their legal claim to those dispossessed lands. Due to many factors, the tribes have not been able to purchase nearly the amount of the land that was intended by the Act.
- In addition, the State of Maine has interpreted that act differently than the tribes. This has led to many conflicts-often legal-and has harmed the tribes and cost Maine taxpayers unnecessary legal costs for 40 years.
- Last year, a bipartisan task force recommended 22 changes to the Act to avoid and help settle future disputes between the State and tribes, to remove some of the barriers preventing the tribes from purchasing land, and to restore the tribes' inherent rights. Those include the tribes' rights to regulate hunting, fishing, natural resources, and land use on tribal lands, as allowed by federal law.

The Wabanaki tribes' sovereign rights should never have been revoked and urgently need to be restored.

- The Wabanki tribes-the Penobscot Nation, Passamaquoddy Tribe, Houlton Band of Maliseet, and Aroostook Band of Micmac-as well as the Abenaki and other tribal communities living in diaspora outside of Maine have lived in what is now Maine for up to 16,000 years. Throughout those millenia, the tribes have lived in relationship with the land and waters here - managing natural resources so that future generations could thrive.
- In just a few hundred years since the Wabanaki tribes welcomed European settlers to these shores, the Wabanaki have lost 98% of their population, access to most land and waters, their ability to sustain themselves in traditional ways, and so much more.

- Recognizing the Wabanaki tribes' inherent sovereignty is a first step to recognizing and beginning to heal the deep suffering that European settlers and the State of Maine have inflicted.
- At a time when climate change and environmental degradation are accelerating at terrifying rates due to Western ways of living, restoring the Wabanaki tribes' ability to manage tribal lands, waters, and resources will help protect all children and future generations.

SUPPORT FAIRNESS, EQUITY, AND SOVEREIGNTY FOR WABANAKI TRIBES.



Anti-racism Vigil: Every Monday noon to 12:30 pm at the Newcastle Veterans Memorial Park until further notice. Check [PUAR's Facebook page](#) for updates.