



Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Mini-Newsletter October 22, 2021



Upcoming Service

October 24: Imagining Our Future – Live at the Edgecomb Town Hall at 10:30 am

On Oct. 24 we'll meet in person at the Edgecomb Town Hall, where we met for 20 years before moving to the Skidompha Library. In small groups, we'll imagine our future as a Fellowship emerging from the trials and changes of the past many months. What are we evolving toward?

Bring your imagination, your ideas, your whimsy!

Due to Covid precautions, the Town Hall administration has asked us to wear masks when inside their facility unless a given speaker needs to temporarily remove theirs to be heard. Paper masks will be available for anyone who has forgotten their own. If you are experiencing Covid symptoms or if you have not yet received a Covid vaccine, please join us from home via Zoom.

The building is heated, there are bathroom facilities, plenty of socially distanced seats inside, and ample space for parking your car. And it's only an 11 minute drive from downtown Damariscotta!

We are so very excited about this opportunity to be together, and most grateful to the good people of Edgecomb for welcoming us back! Please come join us. It's a lovely place to gather.



SAVE THE DATE! - ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting will be held following the Sunday worship service on December 5, 2021. A detailed agenda will be shared with you in advance, but it will certainly include electing our next Board of Trustees and voting on our fellowship's budget for 2022. A substantial turnout is needed to achieve a quorum so that we can vote. Our fellowship is a democracy and your voice and vote matter. Please put the date on your calendar and make every effort to join us for the meeting which will include a Zoom component for those who are unable to participate in person.

As a final plug, our Nominating Committee is hard at work recruiting candidates for our 2022 Board, as well as candidates to serve on the next Nominating Committee. If you are potentially interested in serving on either of these teams, please reach out to Tiffany Vencile at willeywonka@hotmail.com.

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## **Board Q&A - Sunday, November 7, 2021**

Following the worship service on Sunday, November 7th, several members of our Board will be available to listen to any questions that you may have about our fellowship. If we do not know the answer on the spot, we will at least try to find the answer and get back to you,

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Social Justice



Pronouns 101

As a Welcoming Congregation, the Midcoast UU Fellowship has made a public commitment to ensure that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people are full members of our faith community. One way we can honor, respect, and welcome

people of all gender identities and expressions is to pay attention to our language, including our use of pronouns. Nowadays an increasing number of people do not wish to be labeled using gender-specific pronouns (he/him or she/her). Sometimes this means using the pronouns they/them/their/theirs to refer to a single person, and sometimes it means using different gender-neutral terms that have been invented in recent years, such as zie/hir/hirs or fae/faer/faers.

The third Thursday of every October is International Pronouns Day. In honor of that day, here is a link to "Pronouns 101," an article by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation (<https://www.thehrcfoundation.org/professional-resources/all-children-all-families-pronouns-101>). If you wonder why it's so important to use the right pronouns, you may find this article helpful. And if you still have questions, I'd be happy to talk with you after a service.

Kate Pennington (she/her), on behalf of the Welcoming Congregation Committee



Anti-racism Vigil: Every Monday 5:00-5:30 pm at the Newcastle Veterans Memorial Park. Check [PUAR's](#) Facebook page for updates.

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### **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.

## **NEWS FROM YOUR WORSHIP ASSOCIATES**

*We are delighted to report that, in the 2021 Fellowship survey, twelve people indicated an interest in learning more about the role of Worship Associate. That level of interest and engagement is truly wonderful. Thank you! We are looking for a few more people to help us out. So here it is - a description of what the job entails, and a list of ways in which you can be involved. Please note that **you do not need to be a computer whiz or a game show host!** We aim to work collaboratively to plan and produce Sunday services, and we even have fun in the process!*

*We hope that you will consider helping us in a variety of different capacities. You don't have to be involved in all the components of what it takes to develop a Sunday service, but if any of the following interest you, talk to us! We need an array of talents all coming together to make this team effort work.*

### **Research & Reaching Out**

- Picking readings, music or stories for the service
- Finding and inviting guest ministers or speakers
- Finding MUUF members to participate in a service
- Identifying and contacting other UU churches with services on Zoom

### **Coordination**

- Working with guest ministers or speakers to develop the service
- Coordinating the music with Kevin and Susan
- Developing services for all ages with Carney
- Organizing resources in Google Drive that can be incorporated into services
- Working as a committee to plan out the monthly calendar of services

### **Creation**

- Creating a service around a given theme using a template
- Writing an original piece for a reading, prayer, story or personal reflection
- Writing and delivering a sermon
- Creating artwork to accompany a service, or background slides for a zoom service
- Creating a service around a highly interactive format
- Writing out hymn or responsive reading words for the Order of Service

## **Service Preparation**

- Overseeing the physical set-up for a service
- Cleaning up after a service

## **Tech**

- Helping set up the technical aspects of a service
- Running the tech aspects of a service (Zoom and presentation of slides)
- Providing tech assistance to other WA folks

## **Presentation**

- Lighting and extinguishing the Chalice
- Reading the Readings
- Reading a story or leading an activity in Time for All Ages
- Leading a group exercise or break-out session

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Sugar and Spice food drive

This month and into November we are asking you as a fellowship to help us do our part to support our community with donations to The First!!! The First is holding a Sugar and Spice food drive where they are looking for specific items to be donated. You can either bring items directly to The First, or bring them to fellowship on each Sunday and we will collect them all together to make a large donation to The First from the MUUF. This Sugar and Spice food drive seems like a great way we can support our local communities. This food drive also seems like a sweet deal we can't pass up!

The First branches will be collecting sweet treats and seasonings for local food pantries October 18 through November 13, 2021.

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They are welcoming donations at their local branches. Valuable donations include: **Cake, cookie, brownie and muffin mix, cinnamon, salt, pepper, red pepper flakes, garlic powder, onion powder, chili powder and taco seasoning.**

“We knew we wanted our annual drive to make a meaningful impact,” said Sarah Dubai, Community Engagement Officer at First National Bank. “After visiting many of the local food pantries in the communities we serve – the most requested items were spices, an essential item often forgotten, and sweet treats to bring joy, especially during the holiday season.”

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\*\* Please email all mini-newsletter articles and website information to:

[news@uumidcoast.org](mailto:news@uumidcoast.org)