



Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Mini-Newsletter November 6, 2021



DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR!

Upcoming Service

November 7: Exploring Anger – Live at the Edgecomb Town Hall at 10:30 am (masks required)

This month the topic of our services involves an exploration of anger. Feeling and expressing anger are often difficult. Sharing our perceptions and beliefs about anger can lead us to be more compassionate toward ourselves and others when we're angry.

If you are unable to attend or are unvaccinated, please join us at **10:30 am** using the zoom link below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96686220659>

Meeting ID: 966 8622 0659

Telephone: Dial by your location
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

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



Following the worship service tomorrow, 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,

**Notice of Special Meeting – Sunday, November 14, 2021**  
**to Vote on Hiring Bettina Lehovec as a Contract Minister**

Article XII of our fellowship's bylaws specifies that a vote to hire or call a minister must be approved by four-fifths (4/5) majority of members present at any meeting called for that purpose. This requirement applies to contract ministers.



The Ministerial Search Committee and the Board of Trustees are calling a Special Meeting of the Fellowship to be held **immediately following the worship service on Sunday, November 14, 2021 at the Edgecomb Town Hall**. The objective of this meeting will be to hold a vote of the active members of our fellowship on a motion to hire Bettina for the position of Half-Time Contract Minister. We will need to meet quorum requirements, so please mark this date on your calendars and plan to attend. We will offer Zoom participation.

(*Bettina Lehovec*) Friends are welcome to attend the meeting, but only active members will be eligible for the formal vote.

Draft Motion: The membership of the Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship authorizes the Board of Trustees to hire Bettina Lehovec to the position of Half-Time Contract Minister to start as soon as reasonably possible and extend as late as September 1, 2022. In doing so, we waive the requirement in Article XII of the Bylaws that any candidate called for the position of minister be in fellowship with the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), and we will rely instead on the UUA Credentialing Director having given Bettina permission to apply for 1 year contract positions.

Bettina will report administratively to the President of the Board of Trustees. The Board is negotiating the contract with Bettina. The contract will not be signed until after the membership has authorized hiring her and after her references have been checked out.

This is an exciting time for our fellowship! We thank the Ministerial Search Committee for the work that they have done this fall and for recommending Bettina Lehovec for this contract position. We also look forward eagerly to the next phase where our fellowship will embark on the search for an Interim Minister.

Your Board of Trustees,

Caitlin Bogdan, Molly Davis, Phyllis Loney, Dick Ober, Mark Ziarnik

**Note: Here are links to both Zoom services Bettina led for us this summer.**

Sunday, August 22, 2021 (Zoom only; service starts at 4:09 into the recording)

Topic: Midcoast UU Fellowship Sunday Worship

Date: Aug 22, 2021 09:59 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Meeting Recording:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/tt0xJP1zWkKPIUc3HUkwzJ4znA9\\_lkpCYu6hymTwNxJ8JhUf3Ld2C1zSGpwFloHp.qpbn-iTrIWqSXowH](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/tt0xJP1zWkKPIUc3HUkwzJ4znA9_lkpCYu6hymTwNxJ8JhUf3Ld2C1zSGpwFloHp.qpbn-iTrIWqSXowH)

Access Passcode: kr^D&j43

Sunday, September 26, 2021 (under the tent; service starts 5:21 into the recording)

Topic: Midcoast UU Fellowship Sunday Worship

Date: Sep 26, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Meeting Recording:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/TIVYJriL-AhkzDNL6FQXw6l9OYZfZNZUjedR7ei2qrAGHBi-33h36EaWwdjCV55P.FxcR957XOwPZpdf8>

Access Passcode: J\$QQOfR8



**SAVE THE DATE! - ANNUAL MEETING, December 5, 2021**

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](mailto:willeywonka@hotmail.com).

## Covenant Circles Are Here ○○○○○○

Four new MUUF discussion groups will begin in November and December, and the original Circle will continue. We hope that you all will become a part of one of these Circles - a significant aspect of our shared, small-group ministry.

Covenant Circles allow us to share honest, open, deep and heartfelt conversations - the stories of our lives - in a community of respectful, willing, and supportive listeners.

It's time now to sign up for a Circle from choices A, B, C, and D below. Choose one group and **contact the host(s) directly by November 15** to reserve your space.

If all the spaces are filled in a particular Circle, we will find you another group. We want to keep the groups small, but everyone will have a place in this program! Those already in Circle E may select a second group if you have the time to commit to it - you are the "seeds" nourishing the new groups.

A huge thank you goes to Diane, Kay, Melissa, Mike, Penny and Zig for becoming our new Covenant Circle leaders. 😊😊😊😊😊😊

Jayne Gordon, Membership Chair

### THE CIRCLES

A. Co-hosted by Penny and Mark Ziarnik

Topics: open

First meeting at 2733 Bristol Road, New Harbor (their house) on **Wednesday, November 17 from 4:00-5:30**. Group will decide next times/venues.

Contact: [pziarnik@hotmail.com](mailto:pziarnik@hotmail.com) or [ziarnik58@gmail.com](mailto:ziarnik58@gmail.com)

○ 4 spaces, and all participants must be fully vaccinated.

B. Co-hosted by Diane Morrison and Kay Miller.

Topics: open

First meeting on Zoom: **Wednesday December 1 from 4:00-5:30**. Group will decide next times/venues.

Contact: [Dianemorrison58@gmail.com](mailto:Dianemorrison58@gmail.com) or [kayndick@gmail.com](mailto:kayndick@gmail.com)

○ 4-8 spaces

C. Hosted by Melissa Dearborn

Topics: around the general theme of “Transitions and Other Everyday Disturbances.” Here, we can discuss change, letting go, sitting in the space between what is gone and what will be.

First meeting on Zoom: **Thursday, December 2 from 4:30-6:00.** Group will decide next times/venues.

Contact: [Melissa.dearborn@comcast.net](mailto:Melissa.dearborn@comcast.net)



4-8 spaces

D. Hosted by Michael Dearborn

Topics: exploring men's issues

First meeting on Zoom: **Tuesday, December 7 from 6:00-7:30pm.** Group will decide next times/venues.

Contact: [Michael.dearborn@comcast.net](mailto:Michael.dearborn@comcast.net)



4-8 spaces, men only

E. Hosted by Jayne Gordon

Topics: open

First meeting on Zoom (as previously agreed by group): **Tuesday, November 30 from 4:00-5:30.**

Group will decide next times/venues.

Contact: [jaynegor@gmail.com](mailto:jaynegor@gmail.com)

This is a continuation for members of the original Covenant Circle only. (You know who you are!)



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
MINISTRY FOR EARTH

**EVENTS**

Dear Beloveds,

*All around us worlds are dying and new worlds are being born.” – Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman*

We hope you are safe and well as can be during these times. Our hope is you and those in your circles of care find moments of rest and support in a fast-moving world.

We write today with news of the 2021 United Nations global climate summit, [Conference of Parties 26 \(COP26\)](#). The conference is taking place in Glasgow, Scotland now through November 12. This conference offers a chance for high level collaboration among national leaders to respond to the climate crisis.

Over the next two weeks, thanks to dedicated volunteers, UU Ministry for Earth is able to offer several ways for you and your congregation to stay informed and involved in the proceedings.

### **What is the UN conference about? How does this UN conference relate to our ministry?**

COP26 is a critical gathering among world leaders to secure specific commitments to combat the climate crisis. The UUA is one of several faith organizations sending official observers to the gathering.

UU Ministry for Earth has a dedicated webpage- "[UUs Ground & Connect for the COP26 UN Climate Conference](#)" - with numerous resources about engagement with and updates regarding the climate conference proceedings. Special thanks to UUA-credentialed representative (and UU Ministry for Earth Board Member) Doris Marlin for accessible, ongoing resources and updates.

### **Curious about the UN climate conference, but not sure what to make of the proceedings?**

Join the "**The Daily Discussion**" with Dr. William McPherson, **daily** at 1pm PT/2pm MT/3pm CT/4pm ET on Zoom, **Nov 2-Nov 12th**.

"The Daily Discussion" is an informal, hour long, drop-in conversation with updates on the climate summit's proceedings, highlights, and potential trends in negotiations. UUA-credentialed representatives at COP26 will be present for some of the sessions to share about what they're observing. These daily sessions are hosted by Dr. William McPherson, UUMFE Board Member, UU@UN Envoy at University Unitarian Church in Seattle, WA, and retired environmental diplomat in the U.S. Foreign Service. [Register here](#).

Join **Wednesday, November 3** (5-6 pm PT / 6-7 pm MT / 7-8 pm CT / 8-9 pm ET), as the monthly [Strengthening Local Climate Commitments](#) Zoom convening will focus on COP 26 and importance of local action. [Register here](#).

### **What can individuals and congregations expect between now and the conference end?**

Enjoy and share this [special program](#) from the Unitarian Universalist Association Office at the United Nations and Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth to learn more about the proceedings of the 26th UN Climate Summit and how to be involved- even at a distance- over the next two weeks!

[In 2006](#), the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations declared, “We as Unitarian Universalists are called to join with others to halt practices that fuel global warming/climate change, to instigate sustainable alternatives, and to mitigate the impending effects of global warming/climate change with just and ethical responses.”

Our work to cultivate beloved community and environmental justice continues, in ways new and perhaps unimagined in 2006.

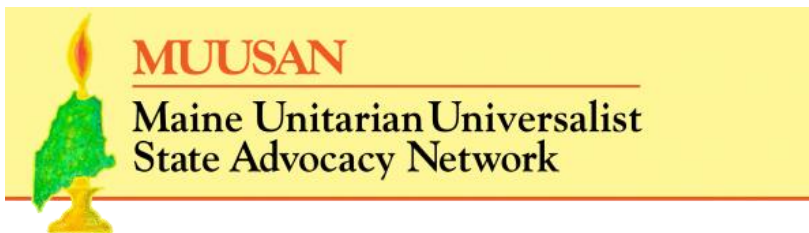
May we have the courage to meet this moment, and the moments to come.

Yours on the journey,



Aly Tharp (they/them or she/hers) and Daniel Lawlor (he/him), Co-Directors, Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth

**P.S.** Remember to check out [UUs Ground & Connect for the COP26 UN Climate Conference](#) for the latest updates and opportunities on UUs and the UN climate conference. As we work for the present and the future, enjoy this rendition of [Spirit of Life](#) from the Vibes, a co-ed a cappella group from George Washington University.



**MUUSAN will NOT be hosting a network meeting this November**

(which had earlier been scheduled for November 13th). While this might not qualify as exciting news, it's because we are instead devoting this time to other newsworthy activities, such as:

## **We Are Hosting Our First Online Auction November 15 – 30th!**

Fundraising has been a critical focus for MUUSAN this fall, and we've decided to host an online auction to help meet our goals. We are depending on all of you to help make our auction a success! The MUUSAN Auction will go live online on Monday, November 15 and will run through to November 30th.

For auction preview, go to <https://www.32auctions.com/muusan>. There is still time to make an auction donation if you have an item to donate. Send item info. to [jlinzee@comcast.net](mailto:jlinzee@comcast.net)

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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.

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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.](#)

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 Dubay, 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)