



Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Weekly Newsletter, December 4, 2021



December 5: Edgecomb Town Hall at 10:30 am (masks required) - Bettina Lehovec

"A Necessary Tension" Each week, we come together to share our joys and our sorrows. We hold a necessary tension between the two. It is our responsibility to hold this tension, acknowledging both the suffering of the world and the great gladness of being alive. How do we find hope amid the turmoil? How do we put that hope into action to create a better world?

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY OUR ANNUAL MEETING

A quorum of at least 30% of the members is required for the annual meeting, so please put this meeting on your calendar and plan to attend in person or via Zoom. Votes at the meeting will require a majority of those attending to pass. Friends are welcome to attend the meeting, but only active members will be eligible for the formal votes.

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)

Upcoming Service

December 12: Edgecomb Town Hall at 10:30 am - Rev. Charles J. Stephens

"Responsibility for This Shared Blessing" The concept of Responsibility holds within it a sense of responding to individuals and situations in a caring, accountable and I dare say in an adult like fashion. We as human beings have been given life, land upon which we live, companions; human, animal, plants, minerals and they combine in so many ways. These are all gifts we hold in common and gifts for which we are responsible.



2022 Stewardship Appeal

Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Celebrating 40 Years of Community

Nurture Spiritual Growth,

Engage in Justice,

Build Community with Respect and Compassion

Introduction

Collectively, we have made a lot of positive strides in 2021. It's truly wonderful to see so many of us coming back together, and we have lots of great opportunities ahead of us for 2022.

To build and maintain a healthy and thriving Fellowship, however, takes money. Thank you for your financial support in 2021! We would not be where we are without it. And we will not get to where we want to be in 2022 if we don't have adequate financial support to bring our dreams to reality. This is why we are now reaching out to all of our members and friends with this 2022 Stewardship Appeal. **Please respond by November 30th.**

You don't need to be a member of the Fellowship to submit a pledge, and we will gratefully welcome financial support from our many dear friends, but all of our members are strongly encouraged to submit a pledge for 2022. What's different in this year's pledge form? It's that we are asking for a two-part pledge: one baseline and an additional, contingent "stretch" goal.

Part 1: Support for our Baseline Budget

The currently proposed baseline budget for 2022 is \$68,013. This is the budget that will enable us to continue on our current path, including:

- Our half-time Minister, at UUA fair compensation
- Our Religious Education Director and program
- Our Music Director/Accompanist
- Rent for our worship venue
- Budgets for social justice, choir music, worship services, and flowers for caring
- Contributing our fair share to the UUA Annual Program Fund

2022 Stewardship Appeal

Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Our current membership of 54 people includes approximately 40 distinct households. Differences in household income naturally result in varying abilities to provide the Fellowship with financial support. Please take this into account when deciding upon your own pledge for 2022. Your pledge is essential!

Part 2: Making a Full-Time Interim Minister Possible

Our new half-time minister, Bettina Lehovec, will be joining us shortly and will be with us through the end of July. At that point, our Fellowship could either continue with a half-time traditional minister or we could hire a full-time Interim Minister.

A UUA Interim Minister has specialized skills for working with congregations that are in transition. An Interim Minister could help us prepare for our future by guiding us through a period of self-reflection on matters such as: reviewing our heritage and how that has shaped us; examining our mission and goals; considering the quality and aims of our spiritual life together; assessing our various programs; and evaluating our needs for leadership and how we organize and develop as a congregation. Due to the expansive scope of their job above and beyond leading worship and providing pastoral care, Interim Ministers are hired for full- or near-full-time positions. Interim Ministers are hired in 12-month increments, with a maximum of two terms.

In our 2021 Congregational Survey, 95% of the over 40 people who responded said that they would like to see our Fellowship hire an Interim Minister. Furthermore, 53% of respondents said that they would consider

increasing their annual pledges to make hiring a full-time Interim Minister possible.

Not surprisingly, moving from having a half-time minister to a full-time minister (and gaining all of the benefits that would ensue) costs money.

Specifically, our Board estimates that hiring a full-time Interim Minister will cost an extra \$33,000 per year above the cost of a half-time minister.

Making the decision to hire an Interim Minister will require a serious financial commitment on the part of the Fellowship, as well as a serious personal commitment to join our community in doing the hard work of self-examination that an Interim Minister can guide us through.

Page 2 of 4 2022 Stewardship Appeal

Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

This 2022 Stewardship Appeal is the time for us to make that financial commitment. Almost all Interim Ministers move from their current positions

like to see our Fellowship hire an Interim Minister. Furthermore, 53% of respondents said that they would consider increasing their annual pledges to make hiring a full-time Interim Minister possible.

Not surprisingly, moving from having a half-time minister to a full-time minister (and gaining all of the benefits that would ensue) costs money. Specifically, our Board estimates that hiring a full-time Interim Minister will cost an extra \$33,000 per year above the cost of a half-time minister. Making the decision to hire an Interim Minister will require a serious financial commitment on the part of the Fellowship, as well as a serious personal commitment to join our community in doing the hard work of self-examination that an Interim Minister can guide us through.

2022 Stewardship Appeal

Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

This 2022 Stewardship Appeal is the time for us to make that financial commitment. Almost all Interim Ministers move from their current positions to their next congregations on a cycle that runs from August to August each year. The annual UUA search process begins again early in 2022, with interested candidate ministers responding to our job posting in April. With a full-time position, possibly requiring relocation, we need to be able to assure any candidates that our Fellowship will be able to pay them throughout at least their first 12-month position with us. As a result, we are seeking substantial pledges that will enable us and a prospective Interim Minister to feel confident that we will have enough income to finance a full 12-month term running from August 2022 through August 2023. At the end of 2022 the Fellowship can decide whether or not to make the commitment for a second (recommended by the UUA) 12-month term that would run until August 2024.

Making the financial commitment to hire an Interim Minister is going to be a real challenge for us - one that will require everyone to seriously consider whether they can pledge to make a serious, generous gift that is well beyond what they would normally consider donating to our Fellowship in any single year. Please consider your Part 2 pledge as a special investment in our Fellowship's future - an investment that will pay off for many years to come. For those of us who have the financial means, please consider making a Part 2 pledge that is equivalent to a second full-year's contributions as a Special gift.

Schedule

We welcome pledges anytime, but would greatly appreciate responses by November 30th to help with preparations for the annual meeting.

We ask that our Part 1 “Baseline Budget” pledges be paid on a normal schedule to keep our Fellowship running.

Soliciting payment of our Part 2 “Interim Minister” pledges will be contingent on our success in gathering sufficient pledges to raise the extra funds needed, and on our Fellowship’s decision regarding whether or not to seek to hire an Interim Minister.

2022 Stewardship Appeal

Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Your Pledge Is Essential

Your Board members invite you to celebrate over 40 years of Community through a 2022 Stewardship Commitment. We need your help to ensure that the Fellowship continues our important work:

- Engaging professional religious leadership and sustaining our lay religious leadership and Director of Religious Exploration
- Providing meaningful music and guest speakers in worship
- Returning to physical in person worship at Skidompha or other locations
- Ensuring that our social justice projects are vital, visible and effective
- Being a proud member of our wider Unitarian Universalist community

2022 Stewardship Commitment

Name: _____

Address: _____

PART 1: In Support of our Baseline Budget, I/we pledge to pay a total of \$_____ for 2022 (January 1 through December 31).

PART 2: If the Members of the Fellowship decide to hire a Full-Time Interim Minister to start in August 2022, I/we pledge to donate an additional total of \$_____ to be applied toward the Minister’s salary.

I prefer to pay: Weekly Monthly Quarterly Annual Lump Sum Other

[Pledges May Be Fulfilled By Cash, Check, or use PayPal™ here:](#)

www.uumidcoast.org/donate/2022-pledge-form/

Thank you for your contribution to the life of our Fellowship!

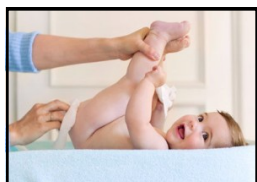
Use the link above, place this form in the offering basket, or mail to:

PO Box 1021, Damariscotta ME 04543 by **Tuesday, November 30th**

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.

December is another Diaper Drive month!



We collect diapers and menstrual supplies for our local families all month long. Please leave them in the tote on the Damariscotta Dental porch. (Size 5 and 6 are especially helpful.) *Thank you!*

"I'm happy to report that our system of having a volunteer take a month at a time to stock the diaper cart at the Newcastle Ecumenical Food Pantry has been working well for six months! We have adapted, during these pandemic months, to safely continue our mission to help with area diaper need. Thanks ever so much to you and your congregations.

We've given out 9,850 diapers during the first 10 months of this year, so I expect we will distribute 10,000 diapers this year. That's despite having a slight decrease in families coming to the Newcastle food pantry for diapers (and the food pantry had a decrease in number of patrons, too). Perhaps the combination of pandemic isolating and pandemic aid and stronger turnout at other local pantries helped influence the numbers, but they seem to be picking up again as the weather turns cold. We also started distributing diapers through the Jefferson Food Pantry and the Waldoboro Clothing Closet.

Despite not holding a formal "Mother's Day till Father's Day" diaper drive this year, individual donors and member churches stepped up. We've collected enough donations in diapers and finances to cover those 10,000 diapers we distributed, and a little bit more." - From Sue Rockwood at Midcoast Meeting of Friends

Immigrant Justice

During this month of giving, one of the most helpful things you can do for new Maine immigrants is to make a donation to ILAP (Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project). Their primary mission is to provide legal services to 3000+ people in the next year. Your gift will be doubled by a generous \$10,000 match opportunity from the George J. and Theresa L. Cotsirilos Family Foundation. You can send a check directly to **ILAP, P.O. Box 17917, Portland, ME 04112** or give a donation to **Sandy Barth at a Fellowship service** and she will submit it for you to ILAP.

Social Justice



Anti-racism Vigil: Every Monday 12:00 - 12:30 pm at the Newcastle Veterans Memorial Park. Check [PUAR's](#) Facebook page for updates.

** Please email all mini-newsletter articles and website information to:
news@uumidcoast.org