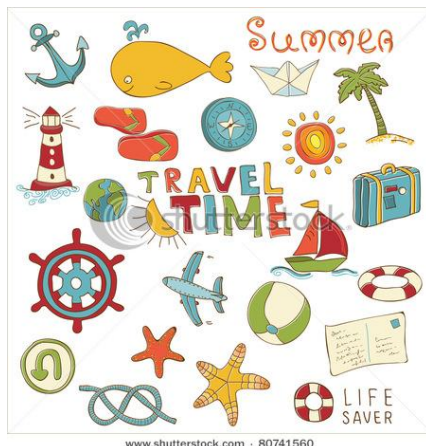


# MUUFLETTER for July 2017

## Newsletter from Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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### SUNDAY SERVICES SCHEDULE 10:30 am

#### July 2 . "Seeing" by Rev. Joanna Lubkin

In this week's service, we'll explore the incredible impact seeing and acknowledging each other can have on our spirits. Rev. Joanna Lubkin is the Unitarian Universalist Chaplain at Wellesley College and is an affiliated community minister at Arlington Street Church in Boston. She studied at Andover Newton Theological School and Hebrew College Rabbinical School. Joanna sings in the Arlington Street Church choir and at The Sanctuary Boston.

#### July 9 - 10:00 a.m. HYMN SING with Rev. Erika and Kevin Kiley

Join us to sing old favorites — and learn a few new songs!

#### 10:30 - Rev. Erika Hewitt, preaching

#### July 16 - "Meditations on Hope"

Our **Worship Associates** will lead us through an exploration of what hope is, how we experience it, and what it means to have it. Our **SHARE THE PLATE** offering will be given to the

the Pine Tree Society (see details page 6 )

#### July 23 . By Rosie Davis-

We all have hope in one way or another. Join our own Rosie Davis as she talks about Hope and how having hope played a big role in her family and the journey they took to find it.

#### July 30 . "Finding Truth in Story" by Rev. Susan Chorley, guest minister

**Rev. Erika Hewitt**, Worship Associate

Most of us grew up listening to stories: stories from our family, from books, from TV, from our teachers and friends. We learn through stories that we are told. Sometimes we are challenged or even transformed by stories. As Margaret Wheatley states in her poem *Turning to One Another*, "You don't fear people whose story you know." We will explore together the truths of our stories and our communal desire to know one another more deeply. Rev. Susan Chorley serves as the Associate Director and Minister of Programs at the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry in Roxbury, MA. Prior to coming to UUUM, Susan served as

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## SUNDAY SERVICES SCHEDULE continued

minister at an American Baptist church in Beverly, MA.

**August 6 - Rev. Erika Hewitt**

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*From our Minister:*



**“White people, your silence is violence.”**

**— Leslie Mac, activist**

About twice a month, I join Midcoast and Second Congregational Church members at Newcastle’s pocket park for our ongoing anti-racism vigils. (All are welcome to join us from 4:30 to 5:00 p.m.)

One Monday in early June, we received lots of honks, even more waves and thumbs up, and only a couple of mean-spirited shouts about our “Black Lives Matter” posters.

When our vigil was over, some of us from the Fellowship — along with Rev. Mark Hamilton, a retired UCC minister — formed an informal cluster on the lawn. We looked over to see a man around 70 who had pulled his car over and was purposefully walking over to us.

As soon as he opened his mouth, I understood that the stranger’s bigoted arrogance would be disguised as polite questions. What is racism? he asked — and interrupted to challenge our answers. What is privilege?, he asked — and again interrupted to tell us that we were “brainwashed.”

Then he let loose with a string of hateful

opinions (prepare yourself, or skip to the next paragraph). He was aghast when all of us vehemently rejected his racist assertions, among which that “Negroes” and “the Mongoloid race” have lower IQs than white people.

Our Fellowship members held the line, listening politely but disagreeing firmly with this stranger — whom I would call not just a racist person, but a white supremacist. You want a debate, I said to him at one point, but you’re using neither respectful language nor facts. That’s when he ignored me and began addressing the two men in the group.

He blustered on for what seemed like a long time (“I have a Master’s degree in science!”), which was terrible. It was also glorious: glorious to watch members of our congregation refute each thing he said, shake their heads sadly, and speak articulately about the culture of white supremacy that gives rise to innumerable racist institutions and systems. They gave him not one inch. But of course, we didn’t change his mind.

On our way back to the church parking lot, Koko Harris said to me, “The thing is, there are people who drove past us today who believe exactly what he was saying.” That, dear ones, is why we can’t stop making ourselves visible and heard: our silence is a form of violence.

As I write this, I’m still unpacking from a week at our largest UU faith gathering, General Assembly. I’m unpacking my suitcases, but I’m also unpacking the deep, demanding work that occurred in what was, many of us believe, a defining moment in the centuries-long history of Unitarian Universalism. I’m unpacking the conversations about confronting and decentering whiteness, about listening more carefully to the people of color in our movement, about our role in dismantling white supremacy.

This work — at home as well as in our national

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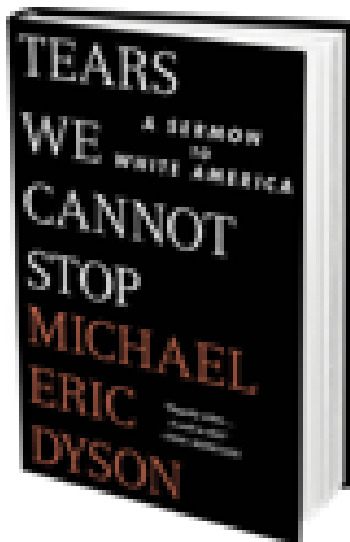
movement — has only just begun. I invite you, when and if you feel defensive or uncomfortable, to lean into that feeling and summon curiosity. (As one of my Black UU friends says, “I’m uncomfortable every time I walk into a UU congregation, because I know that well-intentioned people will say hurtful things to me. What’s the problem with white people feeling uncomfortable by talking about that? I agree wholeheartedly.)

If you’d like to add a book to your summer reading list, the one that’s most moved me this season is Michael Eric Dyson’s *Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America*. Let me know if you’d like to talk about it with me. Know, too, that the theme of building an anti-racist congregation and community will appear over and over in the coming months. It’s the work that’s calling to us, and the work that we as UUs are choosing to take up.

I’m so proud to serve you, my people. You stand up to bullies. You hold signs declaring that Black Lives Matter. You dance down streets with PRIDE signs to support the LGBTQ community. Your big hearts overflow with compassion for the poor and immigrants. You respond to the urgencies of our faith.

For all these reasons and more, I love you. It’s a privilege to serve you.

In faith, Rev. Erika



### Minister's Summer Schedule

Rev. Erika Hewitt will be observing an abbreviated schedule at our Fellowship during the coming two months. Between **July 13th and 25th**, Erika will be in North Carolina serving two congregations (Brevard and Asheville) and the 1,200-person national gathering known as SUUSI.

Rev. Erika will also take a brief vacation in August: between **August 7th and 20th**, she will be unavailable by phone and email (except for pastoral emergencies).

Erika's upcoming Sundays in our Midcoast pulpit are:

July 9

July 30 (worship associate only)

August 6

August 27

September 10

A final note: when Rev. Erika travels this much, she's less preoccupied with maintaining distinct days of rest. She'll return to that schedule in late August, but for now plans to respond to Fellowship matters (text, email, phone) as quickly as she can — while not on leave.

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## Message from the President June 2017

Hello Everyone,

Having just returned from the UUA's General Assembly in New Orleans, I am still processing all that I learned over the five day convention. It was a life-changing experience.

So many wonderful things happened during my five days at GA. From meeting new folks, singing with amazing voices, hearing Bryan Stevenson (author of Just Mercy) give the Key Note speech, learning more about the BLUU (Black Lives U.U.) movement and spending time with our own Rev. Erika and Julia Fitz-Randolph, it was quite a week.

But rather than try to encapsulate all that happened *within* the Convention Center, I thought I would share one particularly poignant experience that took place outside of the walls; in the New Orleans community.

My hotel was a bit of a distance from the convention center so I took a Lyft or taxi back and forth every day. It was a great opportunity to meet some locals who asked what convention I was attending and share with them my UU experiences.

One driver didn't ask about the convention, but he was living some of our UU principles. One night, I grab a taxi around 10 PM and as we head to my hotel, the driver slows down at an intersection, opens his window and hands some cash to a homeless man while asking how he's doing. Five minutes later, at a red light, the driver again opens his window and calls out to an elderly woman standing on the sidewalk. "Marge (he knows her name), you're

not going to be able to catch a cab here!" He turns to me and asks, "okay if I give her a ride?" Sure! His acts of kindness impressed me and lifted my heart, knowing that there are good folks watching out for others; UU member or not.

Principle One: The inherent worth and dignity of every person; Two: Justice, equity and compassion in human relations; and Seven: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

I smiled and gave him a big tip.

In faith,  
Carol

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## OUR FUNDRAISING EVENTS

### Yahd and Bake Sale

The hard work of our volunteers under the leadership of Rosie Davis, Caitlin Bogdan and Dick Ober made the YAHD & BAKE SALE a success. Our current net is \$1270.50 which is significantly more than was raised last year. The Bake Sake part of the total, with Sandy Barth the organizer, brought in over \$150 of the total. So many thanks to the bakers, the donors of "stuff" and to the lovely grounds of the Baileys.

### Book Sale

During two recent Sundays, Sandy Barth collected \$28 in donations from the sale of books (a combination of many books from the late Judith Hancock's personal library and some UU related books that the Fellowship no longer wished to keep). This was such an easy process that Sandy is suggesting that we continue this by encouraging MUUF members and friends to give their used books,

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CD's and tapes to the Fellowship for sale by donation on Sunday mornings. This would be much easier than trying to operate a library and could potentially be a modest money maker for the Fellowship. We would like to find a small storage space at Skidompha where we could keep the books, etc. from week to week. Speak to Sandy if you would be interested in helping out some weeks with this project.

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### **Hospitality Schedule**

#### **Refreshments**

**July 2** - Jennifer & Dick Ober (Purple Pod)  
**July 9** - Sandra Barth (Indigo Pod)  
**July 16** - Kate Pennington (Green Pod)  
**July 23** - Bob Lightfoot (Red Pod)  
**July 30** - Tiffany Vencile/Rosie Davis (Blue Pod)

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**Lacto Fermentation Class:** on Wednesday July 19, from 3-5 at the FARMS Kitchen. We will talk about what the process is, and reasons why these foods can be beneficial. Participants will get to taste a variety of lacto fermented foods and make their own! We will be preparing green beans, cabbage, and red peppers. Please bring your own clean mason jars. Contact Courtney Belolan for more information.

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### **Our New Covenant**

Below is a copy of the current draft of the covenant. I which our Committee on Ministry (Tim Goltz, John Adams, and Kate Pennington) have been working on. They would appreciate everyone reviewing it. At a meeting after fellowship on 7/30/17 they invite those interested to meet with the Committee to discuss any suggestions for revisions and how people hope that having a covenant could change relationships within the fellowship.

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## **Midcoast UU Fellowship Covenant**

(Draft as of June 4, 2017)

Building community is an ongoing spiritual practice of our Fellowship. We join together to celebrate life in all its beauty and wonder, lifting up each other's joys, and mourning each other's sorrows.

Strengthened by our common humanity, and inspired by the seven Unitarian Universalist Principles, we promise to:

- Be a brave and welcoming community.
- Bring compassion and kindness into our interactions and our search for justice.
- Share in the struggles of our spiritual journeys.
- Challenge each other to live our values.

We hold each other in loving community, even as we acknowledge our imperfections. Seeking to nurture healthy relationships with one another, we strive to:

- Communicate with honesty and respect.
- Speak when we are hurt, listen when we cause hurt.
- Invite healing through forgiveness and making amends.
- Grace one another with the spirit of love
- Let our connection to one another be a part of our connection to the world and the universe around us.

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## **Religious Exploration**



by Carney Doucette, DRE

**Summer in Religious Exploration** RE will still be happening throughout the summer, but will be more relaxed. We will still have our ritual story circle with a simple story or book to read. Then we will have play time. We might play in the library area or courtyard, or if it is nice, walk over to the river.

Please plan to attend the worship service on Sunday, August 6 as we bridge Emma Goltz (postponed from June). The Bridging Ceremony celebrates the transition of our youth from their high school experience into young adulthood. Our RE children will come back into worship to be a part of this Rite of Passage with the entire MUUF community.

### **All Fellowship Picnic – Save the Date** **September 10**

On Sunday, September 10, at Carol Robbin's home in Whitefield, we will have a picnic to celebrate returning after our summer adventures. The picnic will be after worship. Save this date and look for details in the August newsletter.

### **Guest at Your Table**

Thank you to all our families who participated in Guest at Your Table. We are sending over \$30 to the UU Service Committee to help in their justice work that they do around the world.

### **Thank you**

Thank you to all who helped in Religious Exploration this year – from helping as an

assistant on Sunday morning, leading a Spirit Play story circle, being a Mystery Friend and offering your special talent. The Religious Exploration Committee, Courtney Belolan, Lindy Gifford and Kate Pennington, and Carney Doucette, Director of Religious Exploration, are so grateful for your support of our RE Ministry. We hope that more of you will volunteer your time to be with our children on Sunday mornings, so you can get to know these incredible young people.

### **Learning about the origin of the Flaming Chalice and making mini-chalices to bring home on June 18th**



**Above, Caitlin Lomas working on her chalice**

### **Share the Plate recipient for July**

This month's "Share the Plate" recipient is the Pine Tree Society. Their mission is "Discovering Abilities Together." They focus

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on abilities and not disabilities. One of their major initiatives is a summer camp which has a lasting impact on the campers. The camp receives no state or federal funding. Our donations this month will help support the Camp which provides 99% of the campers with full or partial tuition assistance.

**Financial Notes** Pledge statements through June 30th will be distributed at the Fellowship mid- July.

Dick Ober has a Pay Pal machine and is able to take credit card payments for pledges or fund-raising events. This has worked very well at our Jud Caswell Concert and at the Yahd Sale.



**The MUUF contingent prior to the Portland Pride Parade June 17th on the steps of First Parish Church (photo courtesy of Andrew Twaddle)**

**The End**