

MUUFLETTER for July

Newsletter from Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

SUNDAY SERVICES SCHEDULE

Always at 10:30 a.m.

Porter Meeting Hall, Skidompha Library

Entrance on Elm St., Damariscotta

July's theme: The Spirit Through Our Senses

July 8: Promises That Matter

Rev. Erika Hewitt

What distinguishes Unitarian Universalists from other people of faith is our foundation in covenant: the promises we make, keep, break (!), and recommit to as we seek right relationship. What does that mean for our shared ministry (as we approach our August 19th Installation ceremony), and what does it mean in our spiritual journeys to ground ourselves in these promises?

July 15: Collective Liberation 19th Century Style: Rev. Joshua Young

- Rev. Karen Johnston was ordained to the Unitarian Universalist ministry in June 2016, after a first career as a clinical social worker. She serves on the Board of UU FaithAction of NJ as well as the Vice President Metro NY chapter of the UUMA. Her spiritual practices are rooted in Unitarian Universalist values and Insight Meditation, a Western form of Buddhism. **July's SHARE THE PLATE offering recipient: FARMS**

July 22 Gestures of Love

- We will celebrate love. Love of each other, our families, our friends, and the communities that hold us in love. MUUF is one such place. We will read our covenant together. and hear readings and poetry about the many gestures of love among people. Members of the Worship Committee, past and present: John Adams, Tiffany Vencile, Bob Whitmire, and Sally Sapienza will share personal favorites.

July 29: This Present Moment: Tea Ceremony for All Ages

Rev. Erika Hewitt and Katherine West

We all desire to be happy and to be connected to ourselves and others. Sharing tea allows us to remember what's most essential about being human, and teaches us the wisdom of receiving and relaxing.

(Continued on Page 2)



Rev. Erika Hewitt

Minister's Column

This summer I'm experiencing a dizzying clash between many of our Unitarian Universalist values — the assertion that all people have worth and dignity; that justice requires evidence of compassion; and that we're called to recognize and dismantle systems that dehumanize our fellow beings — and the sickening, near-fascist policies and statements coming from the occupant of the White House. The latter rhetoric is both dehumanizing ("infest"), and aimed squarely at people of color, which has emboldened white citizens across the United States to openly deride and threaten the people of color around them.

"This is not our country," is what I've heard some well-meaning white Americans insist. Ah, but it is. The US has been an unsafe place for people of color all along, and we (who are white) just didn't know, or see it, or listen closely enough to those experiencing its brutality. Our country's "discovery" arose from colonization and genocide; it was built from the brutal mechanism of slavery. The DNA of the United States is embedded with the supremacy of whiteness, and the devaluing of black and brown bodies.

But this should *not* be who we are, as a country, and it doesn't have to be. It's up to all of us to insist that the narrative change, and that our democratic republic (and its leaders, and its policies) reflect the value of all. No one is outside the circle of respect, or love, or concern. This is what it means to be a UU: not just to believe that, but to make it real in our lives and in our communities.

(Continued on page 2)



Rosie Davis

Presidents Corner

Greeting friends,

The flowers have blossomed, the sun is shining and school is out - summer is here at last.

Our Fellowship has had a busy month with Pride Events, Donna Dolham's Ordination, General Assembly and our Annual YAHD Sale. A huge "THANK YOU" to everyone who took part in these important events. July is slightly quieter but please remember our weekly Vigil's on Mondays at the Second Congregational Church in Newcastle. Please mark your calendars for our very important event on August 19th - Rev. Erika's Installation. A very special day for Erika and for us.

Although I may not be at Fellowship every week, I am always available for you to contact me if you need. My email is rosiesdavis@gmail.com and my cell number is 207-380-3011.

In faith,
Rosie

(Minister's Column, continued from page 1)

"This change won't come through optimistic hope or casual practice," preached our UUA President, Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, in late June. "It will take a greater commitment and generosity to communities that sustain courage, love, hope and resiliency. It will mean new ways of living our faith and reaching out more boldly, lovingly and faithfully with others for justice. And it will take each of us finding our work, our place—where our gifts help call something new—something life-giving—into this world."

As always, I give thanks that you are "my people" in this work: you, the members of our Fellowship; you, fellow Unitarian Universalists. Strong is what we make one another as we foster resilience, engage in justice, and love joyfully — without limits.

Keeping the faith,
Rev. Erika



Our new President – Rosie Davis



Our New Vice-president -
Bob Whitmire

(Present Moment continued from page 1)



From this space we can both hold the complexities of life, and relax in a trust of being taken care of by a good universe. Katherine West is the proprietor of Caravanserai, a traveling tea caravan. Katie grows and prepares her own tea, offering it in the service of community and spiritual exploration.



MUUF RE news for July

Summer RE

Carney Doucette

This summer we welcome Alex Murray who will be leading our Sunday morning Religious Exploration program until he heads to the University of Maine in Orono to begin school.



Alex Murray reads to the children



Bob Whitmire during Time for All Ages

Come to Summer RE



During July we will do art projects that reflect Spirit Play stories being presented.

- July 1:** Labyrinth Lesson - Learn to draw labyrinths
- July 8:** The Beast - Create your own animal with clay
- July 15:** Tibetan Prayer Flag Lesson – Make Prayer Flags
- July 22:** Elmer – Make God’s Eyes
- July 29:** Multigenerational Worship – Children attend worship

The MUUF Caring Team supports members and friends who might need occasional help such as a ride, a prepared and delivered meal or an errand. Contact Robin Hall, 207-380-7369, robin.hall518@gmail.com.

Social Justice

Fellowship members showing up for Social Justice. Several more MUUF members and families attended various rallies across Maine, but here's a sample of how we are living our faith in action:



Patti Anderson and Michael Mason carry our banner alongside a dozen Maine UU churches at Portland PRIDE June 16th.



Pam Cunningham and Marie Follayttar Smith (r), director of Mainers for Accountable Leadership, at Portland Families Belong Together rally June 30th.



Kate Pennington



Julia Fitz-Randolph and John Adams

Damariscotta Families Belong Together rally June 30th - over 350 adults and children crowded the Damariscotta/Newcastle Bridge to challenge the current Administration's immigration and refugee policies.

So You Want to Talk About Race

**a book discussion about Ijeoma Oluo's book,
facilitated by Rev. Erika Hewitt**

**Second and fourth Mondays, 5:15 p.m.
Second Congregational Church, Newcastle**

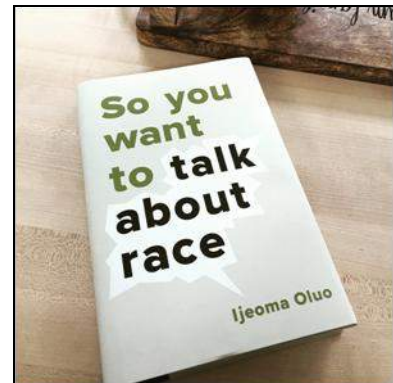
You're welcome to drop in for any of these meetings — no need to attend all sessions. If you haven't done the assigned reading, you may come as an observer to hear our lively and vulnerable conversation about race and racism.

July 9: Chapters 6-8 (pp. 83-133)
Is police brutality really about race?
How can I talk about affirmative action?
What is the school-to-prison pipeline?

July 23: Chapters 9-11 (pp. 134-161)
Why can't I say the "N" word?
What is cultural appropriation?
Why can't I touch your hair?

August 13: Chapters 12-14 (PP. 162-200)
What are microaggressions?
Why are our students so angry?
What is the model minority myth?

August 27: Chapters 15-17 (pp. 212-238)
But what if I hate Al Sharpton?
I just got called racist, what do I do now?
Talking is great, but what else can I do?



In this New York Times bestseller, Ijeoma Oluo explores the complex reality of today's racial landscape--from white privilege and police brutality to systemic discrimination and the Black Lives Matter movement--offering straightforward clarity that readers need to contribute to the dismantling of the racial divide.



Sandy Barth

Hospitality / Membership Corner

We joyfully formally welcomed 10 new members in a June 10th new member celebration.

These were people who had signed the Membership Book since last fall: Patti Anderson, Bill Child, Pam Cunningham, Molly Davis & Rob Brown (O'Doshie, Toby), Liz & Dustin Greenleaf (Finley, Maya, Arlo), Deb & Mike Lomas (Caitlin, Dylan), and Ken Vencile (Autumn) - a wonderfully diverse group representing many age groups and lifestyles.

As mentioned last month, if anyone is interested in hosting a summer family picnic/cookout, let Sandy know. As proved by our Community Suppers and Annual Bake Sale, we are also good cooks/bakers, and everyone is good at pitching in, so the work gets spread around.

And if you are interested in joining our membership ranks, we ask that you support our Principles and Sources, and that you contribute to us financially according to your means which can be a very modest amount if that's what you can afford. Your interest can be discussed further with Rev. Erika or Sandy.

And since it's summer and a usual time for additional guests, remember to warmly welcome our guests and show the hospitality that we are known for.

Sandy Barth sbarth1942@gmail.com

Ingathering of New Members June 10, 2018



Patti Anderson
Bill Child
Molly Davis & Rob
Brown
(O'Doshie, Toby)
Liz & Dustin
Greenleaf
(Finley, Maya, Arlo)
Deb & Mike Lomas
(Caitlin, Dylan)

"Let our connection to one another be a part of our connection to the world and the universe around us. Let us build together a community where we nurture spiritual growth, engage in justice, and love joyfully without limits — for ours is a great congregation and Unitarian Universalism is a great faith."

Summer hours in effect for weekly Anti-Racism Vigils

Every Monday from 12 to 12:30 pm (just 30 minutes), members of our Fellowship join other Interfaith citizens at the Memorial Park adjacent to the Second Congregational Church to bear witness to the values of respect, acceptance, diversity and pluralism. Everyone welcome. (Signs provided.)



Hospitality Schedule

July 1 - (Indigo Pod) Lindy, Stephanie & Isaac

July 8 - (Green Pod) Kate, Phyllis, Deb Arter, Tim & Karen

July 15 - (Red Pod) Rosie, Bob, Deb Lomas, Diane, Annie & Billie

July 22 - (Blue Pod) Tiffany, Joelle and Kay

July 29 - (Purple Pod) Jennifer & Dick, Robin, Bob & Joan



4th Annual Yahd Sale and Bake Sale on June 23

Even though pirates invaded downtown Damariscotta on the same day as our annual yahd sale and bake sale, we did very well raising \$969.50 for the Fellowship.



As they say, I couldn't have done it without you. Many thanks to those who stepped forward to help set-up, work the sale, and helped with clean-up. Items that did not sell were donated to the Miles Thrift Shop.

Fondly,
Jennifer Ober



Sandy Barth and Joan Whitmire
