

# MUUFLETTER for August 2018

Newsletter from Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



**The Installation is almost here! At 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 19, we'll gather at Second Congregational Church to celebrate a milestone:** not just five years of our shared ministry (I preached at the Fellowship for the first time on 8/11/13) but you as a congregation installing your first settled minister.

Long before you voted to call me, I chose you as my people. We're in this together — "this" being a journey of faith and leadership and transformation. On the 19th, before many witness, and with pomp & circumstance as well as joyful playfulness, we'll exchange our promises to hold each other in good faith; to be steadfast in our loving ways; to share in this rich, transforming partnership.



Since the installation ceremony is a chance for the wider Unitarian Universalist community to celebrate our shared ministry, we'll welcome many visitors, providing them with our hospitality. All of our guests will be bearing witness to, and blessing, this new phase of our relationship.

One of our guests is renowned musician Joe Jencks, who will begin our service with a mini-concert. Once the worship portion begins, there will be a chalice lighting and singing, and guest clergy — colleagues who are beloved to me, and some who are familiar to you — will provide a charge to you, the congregation, and also to me. One of my fiercest and most beloved mentors, Rev. Dr. Beth Johnson, will deliver a sermon. Our service will end with an exchange of gifts, more music, and a reception filled with treats and fellowship.

I couldn't be more excited about this day — but more than that, I'm grateful. My heart overflows with gratitude that I get to serve you, and that we've made this choice to move forward together in shared ministry. Thank you for being you, and for marking this new chapter with me at the Installation.

*In faith,  
Rev. Erika*

## President's Message



Greeting friends, I'm writing this on a rainy day here in Greenville, nevertheless it is still beautiful.

We are only a few weeks away from Rev.

Erika's installation and I am so excited for all of us. What a joyous occasion this is. We have had an amazing number of responses from guests all over the country who wish to come celebrate with us.

This celebration is a way for the Fellowship to come into itself as a mature, enduring congregation. It's a signaling to the community and to the entire UU movement that we're in a new chapter of vitality and growth. Installations are an opportunity to live our values of abundance and joy.

Our fundraising is going well, we are at 40% on Faithify. Let's get us to 100%. If you wish to donate you can go to Faithify.org and click on our project.

Thank you all for your donations no matter the amount. They are greatly appreciated.

*In faith,  
Rosie*



**Happy Hour  
with  
the Minister**

Join Rev. Erika Hewitt at the Newcastle Pub on Thursday, August 24th from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. Drop in for conversation anytime — Erika buys appetizers for the entire table!

**Please turn to page 2 for  
August Sunday Services**

## SUNDAY SERVICES SCHEDULE

Always at 10:30 a.m.

Porter Meeting Hall, Skidompha Library

Entrance on Elm St., Damariscotta

### August 5: Stopping to Taste the Blueberries

led by Courtney Belolan

This multigenerational, multimedia Blueberry Communion is a celebration of summertime contentment - and a recommitment to avoid the ways that, however inadvertently, we engage in joy-busting. We'll hear an unexpected story about our beloved St Henry (last name: Thoreau) and of course: eat blueberries!

### August 12: Living the Questions - Rev. Erika Hewitt

Do you have probing (or casual) questions about Unitarian Universalism, life and death, or everything in between? This service will invite your written inquiries, to which Rev. Erika will respond spontaneously in lieu of a sermon. (Note: "respond to" doesn't always mean "answer"!)

### August 19, 10:30 a.m.: Musing Magic

Becky Brooks, guest speaker; Rev. Erika Hewitt, worship associate. What if ideas have lives of their own? In her book *Big Magic*, Elizabeth Gilbert resurrects the ancient notion that creative people don't find their muse buried within, but outside themselves, on loan from the universe. What happens when we understand ourselves as in relationship with ideas? What radical, responsible hospitality can we offer these visiting ideas? What part of the work of creation is ours to do and what part is not?

Becky Brooks - who will also take a roll in our Installation ceremony - is a writer, whistler, and wrangler of twins. She spent fifteen years working as a religious educator, including service on the Board of the Liberal Religious Educators Association. These days she spends her time at home in Baltimore, Maryland writing books, homeschooling her kids, and being grateful for every blessing. **SHARE THE PLATE** will be given to the UU Service Committee, in recognition of their work on behalf of immigrants and their children.

### August 19, 4:00 p.m.: Installation Ceremony

Join us at Second Congregational Church for the ceremony, followed by a festive reception.

### August 26: Where Faith Meets Fieldwork

Charlotte Colvin, guest minister; Tiffany Vencile, worship associate. Charlotte Colvin, Ph.D., is a public health expert who does fieldwork in East and Southern Africa. She's also an active Episcopalian lay leader.

## SUNDAY SERVICES, continued

It's easy to get lost in numbers in the field of epidemiology. How many are sick? How many are at risk? How many died? How many people need to be treated to eliminate a disease? These are important issues to tackle professionally, but it's equally important to learn the personal stories and circumstances of the individuals behind the indicators. We need an understanding of the social, cultural and political contexts behind the numbers if we are to take action. This sermon will be an exploration of how faith has informed Charlotte's career over the past twenty years, talking her beyond the numbers to a deeper understanding of the people affected by infectious disease. (*Charlotte and Rev. Erika received their first Master's degrees together 22 years ago!*)

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## Hospitality Schedule

August 5 - Idigo Pod

August 12 - Green Pod

August 19 - Red Pod

August 26 - Blue Pod

September 2 - Purple Pod

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### So You Want to Talk About Race

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

You're welcome to drop in for any of these meet-

ings at Second Congregational Church, Newcastle. 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.

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?*

## MUUF RE news for August



Carney McRae Doucette,  
director of  
Religious Exploration

For August, we will be exploring some other cultures through stories and food.

August 5 – Blueberry Communion – A multigenerational service – all children attend worship.

August 12 – Ganesha’s Sweet Tooth – make mango lassis

August 19 – Burro’s Tortillas & Dragons Love Tacos – enjoy a taco!

August 26 – Everybody Cooks Rice – make sweet rice balls

*Thank you to Alex Murray for leading our RE summer program. We wish you well as you head off to University of Maine!*

### Let’s Talk Bylaws

With this Newsletter you will find a draft of the new Proposed Bylaws. The Board has undertaken a review in order to address some of the changes made by the Fellowship since becoming a Welcoming Congregation and adopting a Disruptive Behavior Policy.

Other changes are to codify current practices and reflect recommendations of the UUA.

Note that each article starts with the current language (as adopted in 2015) in normal typeface. Any proposed changes follow in bold typeface. Below each changed Paragraph in the Bylaws you will find in parenthesis a description of the change and the rationale for the same.

All members are welcome to join us after the service on August 12, to address any questions or changes.

The proposed revised bylaws will be voted on at the annual congregational meeting in November.

## Hospitality/Membership Corner

We had a reminder in July of just how well our hospitality has been working. First, Barbara Flewelling returned to her summer home in Pemaquid and to the Fellowship. She reported that after her experience with our Fellowship last summer, when she returned home, she sought out a UU church and joined. Second, a couple from the UU church in Annapolis, Maryland, visited the Fellowship last summer while in the area on vacation. On their way to Maine this summer, they heard the news on the radio of the shooting at the Capital Gazette Newspaper in Annapolis and subsequently the death of their friend and fellow UU member who worked at the paper. The following Sunday they came to the Fellowship from Orrs and Bailey Island for help in sharing their grief because they felt we had been the warmest and most welcoming of the UU churches they visited last summer. This is a reminder that seeking out our visitors and making sure they feel welcome does make a difference, sometimes in ways only the future will tell.

The few Sundays when we have had Coffee Hour in the Atrium has been beneficial in cutting down on the noise and “din” level and does allow us to spread out a bit more and engage in conversation. It is more work for the Pods to take everything into the Atrium and then clean up after, so on some Sundays when the Pod has been short-staffed, they have chosen to keep the Coffee Hour in the entryway. Also if River Company is meeting after the Fellowship, it may not be possible for us to use the Atrium.

Keep on with your warm welcoming and great hospitality! And enjoy the rest of the summer.

*Sandy Barth* [sbarth1942@gmail.com](mailto:sbarth1942@gmail.com)

Please go to page 4 for  
for important information on

**SanctUUary Summit  
Saturday, August 18**



**SanctUUary Summit**  
**Saturday, August 18**  
**10:00-2:00 pm (brown bag lunch)**  
**UU Community Church of Augusta**  
**[69 Winthrop Street, Augusta](#)**

*Sponsored by Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network's Racial Justice Issue Group*

**[PLEASE REGISTER HERE](#)**

***MUUSAN RESPONDS*** to our UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray's CALL TO ACTION, charging us to consider ways of meeting unmet needs for critical refugee and immigrant support. MUUSAN seeks to find ways to encourage all Maine UU congregations to engage, including small and rural congregations.

To learn more about needs in Maine and the variety of opportunities we may be able to identify to help regardless of our location, MUUSAN's Racial Justice Group offers a **[SanctUUary Summit](#)**, an educational and planning event to which we invite all Maine congregations to send representatives.

The Summit is FREE but **[registration](#)** is requested. Please bring a **[brown bag lunch](#)**.

To jumpstart our conversations, please **[complete this BRIEF SURVEY](#)** now to identify efforts your UU congregation may already be undertaking on behalf of immigrant and refugee communities. If your congregation is not yet engaged in such efforts, that is important information for us, so please complete the survey. Multiple responses from our Congregations are welcome.