

MUUFLETTER for September

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

September's theme: Relationships

Sept. 2: "You Could be Wrong"

Rev. Jordinn Nelson Long

Service led by Sally Sapienza

What does it mean to know that we might be wrong? How can we act decisively, say no to oppression and injustice wherever we find it, and stand on the side of love...in the knowledge that we will make mistakes, and that our best intentions will sometimes lead us astray? Join returning guest minister Rev. Jordinn Nelson Long as we consider the role of humility and repentance among our UU values.

September 9: 10:00 a.m. Hymn Sing

Drop in to join Rev. Erika and accompanist Kevin Kiley as we sing through your hymn requests and learn a few new hymns!

10:30 a.m. worship: "Dangerous Words"

Rev. Erika Hewitt

Language matters. The wrong words can communicate something we're unaware of, or even do great harm. In her sermon, Erika will examine 7 words (or brief phrases) that she considers "dangerous," each for a different reason. Come hear what they are — and the alternative, life-giving language we might use to strengthen respect and trust across our relationships. **This service includes**

a backpack blessing. Anyone of any age may bring a backpack, briefcase, or book bag to be blessed for the coming year.



September 16: Water Communion

Led by our Worship Associates

Water is a sacred part of our union to the earth, it's a symbol of life and empowerment. Join your fellow worship associates as we perform a water ritual.

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Minister's Column



Rev. Erika Hewitt

As I write this, I'm still floating on Cloud Nine from our August 19th installation service. Thanks to all of you — and to all of the UU clergy and leaders who traveled to celebrate with us — for creating a service that we'll remember for years to come.

When I reflect on my favorite moments of the day, it's hard to choose just one: Placing flowers in a vase to honor our congregation's past members and leaders? Watching Chalice Man, in his caped costume, run into the sanctuary with a chalice? Receiving the wondrously exquisite stole that Martha Bracy



created, and gifted to me, on behalf of the fellowship? (Or maybe the gelato and churros at the star-bedecked reception?)



All of these are sweet memories... but many of you have told me that one of the most moving parts of the installation was seeing UU clergy process in, and add their affirming presence to this new chapter of our shared ministry.

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Ministers Column (continued from page 1)

UU religious leaders traveled to our installation from California, Maryland, Delaware, and Illinois; from across New England (including the Unitarian Universalist Association); from nearby towns in Maine. All of them rose to voice their support of our congregation. Echoing the words of the 1648 Cambridge Platform (our religious ancestors), these 25+ clergy declared their commitment to support us — and asked us to support their communities in return.



As a people of relationship and a religion of interdependence, this is our rootstock and our forward-leaning promise: to be a beloved community, offering support and encouragement to one another. I am overjoyed to be committed to you in this way... and to the many UU congregations and communities represented at our Installation.

Thank you again for all who made it possible to celebrate as joyfully as we did.

In faith,
Rev. Erika

**(Services - continued from page 1)**

We will ask members to please bring in water (or pictures of a water source) from our lives, either from a special place that they believe is sacred or from a special travel. We will create a ritual where we join all our waters together to create connectedness to one another, life and to this planet.

Our SHARE THE PLATE offering will be given to the Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network (MUUSAN).

Following the service, all are invited to our congregational picnic at Carol & Chris Robins' house.

Sept. 23: "Animals Providing a Connection to our Spirituality: Do We Have a Responsibility to them?"

Jill Linzee, speaker;

service led by Courtney Belolan

Jill's sermon will consider human supremacy and its relationship to our fellow creatures. What do they teach us? What role have they played cross culturally in connecting us to spiritual practice and understanding? It is our responsibility to show them compassion, to protect and care for them?

Sept. 30: "It's Not Personal"

Guest Minister Lane Fisher

Lane Fisher is a ministerial candidate from Belfast. She will stretch our views with several individuals' perspectives on disability and ableism and will suggest some first-principle-worthy considerations for our congregational life. she received her M.Div. from Starr King School for the Ministry in May and is preparing to meet with the UUA's Ministerial Fellowship Committee. A "late bloomer" who has enjoyed decades-long careers as a writer and editor and as a professional dog trainer, Lane says that dogs taught her to be patient and loving with human beings.



Presidents Corner

Wow! Just Wow!

Rosie Davis

Thank you to everyone who participated in Rev. Erika's Installation and thank you to everyone who was able to attend in person and to you who were there in spirit. So much hard work, energy and love was put in to make the day unforgettable. What a fantastic day it was.

I felt so blessed to be with you all and with our guests from near and far. The energy of the day was electric.

"Thankful,

Grateful,

Blessed"

In Faith,
Rosie x



Carney Doucette

Our Fellowship Picnic is coming up soon!

Come one and all to our annual Fellowship Picnic. Rain or shine! We will have the opportunity to deepen our relationships through good food and play!

When: Sunday, September 16th, 12:30 p.m.

(come no earlier than 12 noon)

Your hosts: Carol & Chris Robins, 228 Heath Road in Whitefield (only a 25-minute drive from Damariscotta).

What to bring:

- Potluck item with a food label. The Robins' will provide coffee and tea. Carney will bring pink lemonade and seltzer. (make sure your dishes are labeled with your name)
- Your place setting to save on using plastic ware & paper plates. Napkins & cups provided.
- Lawn chairs
- Bathing suit & towel – there is a swimming pond and sauna – get ready to relax!
- Yard games (or your favorite board game if it is rainy) – lots of open playing areas for kick ball, badminton, whiffle ball, Frisbee.
- Plenty of parking



Photo: 2017 MUUF picnic at the Robins'

Gratitude for the Living Tradition Fund

In keeping with tradition, the offering at our Installation ceremony was designated for the Living Tradition Fund, which provides crucial financial assistance to seminarians, clergy, and retired ministers who are in crisis. (The Fund is administered by the Unitarian Universalist Association.) Thanks to your generosity, our Fellowship sent \$1,200 to the UUA for this Fund. Thank you!

Action: Please RSVP to Carney by Thursday, September 13, so we can plan more effectively. Simply email midcoastuure@gmail.com with "yes, we are coming" and the number of adults & children. If you have questions or special needs, like transportation, let Carney know as well. And even if you forget to RSVP and decide that you want to go, come along and join the fun!

Thank you to Summer RE Guide

Thank you to Alex Murray who provided leadership for our summer RE program. We offered some stories and activities related to the July theme and then did some cultural cooking with a related story in August. We wish Alex a great year at University of Maine.

September Sunday Morning RE

We will experience Relationships with cooking, worshipping together, and learning about our own UU Faith.

Sunday, Sept 2 – Strega Nona – making pasta salad

Sunday, September 9 - Hiromi's Hands – making sushi

Sunday, September 16 – Multigenerational service followed by our UU Fellowship Picnic!

Sunday, September 23 – UU Promises Story

Sunday, September 30 – Flaming Chalice Story



Peter Richardson offers two UU learning opportunities

Peter, a retired UU minister, is both an historian and author of several Unitarian Universalist history books. He will offer two courses at his home in Rockland in October. Registration required; space is limited. Email Carney Doucette, midcoastuure@gmail.com for more information and to register.

Saturday, October 13, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Our Liberal Lineage** – What is Unitarian Universalist religion – explore the 4 historic strands: classic liberal Christian Unitarian; liberal and radical free religion; classic Universalist heresy; and one world humanist naturalist.

Saturday, October 20, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Four Spiritualities** – Within all of the world's religions there are four distinct ways of being and practicing one's spirituality. These four spiritualities correlate with the function pairs of psychological type (the MBTI). Each participant will discern which type most encourages and sustains your life path.

Social Justice

Join the **Maine UU State Advocacy Network's (MUUSAN) meeting on Saturday, September 8th from 10 am to noon** at the UU Community Church, 69 Winthrop Street in Augusta. We will focus on how UUs can mobilize to **Get Out the Vote** for the mid-term elections. This is the only MUUSAN Network meeting before the November 6th election, so please contact Julia Fitz-Randolph at jfitzra@aol.com for more information or to carpool.



To Question Is an Answer

On August 12th, Rev. Erika's "sermon" was a spontaneous response to questions submitted, via index cards, earlier in that service.

While she managed to address about a dozen of the written questions, there were many questions left over when Rev. Erika's sermon time was up. Here are some of your questions, which will be addressed in worship services over the course of the congregational year. Thank you for asking such wise and chewy questions!

- When did the Unitarian (or Universalist) church become active in the Civil Rights movement, how did it happen, and how can we best continue this legacy?
- Do we have a spirit?
- What is loneliness?
- What are some of the most significant social justice actions UUs are involved in at the national level?
- I recently read an article about cultural appropriation that confuse me. Could you explain what this term means?
- Please speak about the interdependent web of all existence.
- How can we be caring and considerate of older people?
- What's the best way to work towards balance?

Anti-Racism Book Club: Part 2

Throughout the summer, members of this congregation and the wider community gathered on a regular basis for a discussion about racism and our understanding of white privilege. That group — which grew to nearly twenty participants — developed such attachment and meaning that we've decided to resume our discussions in October.

Beginning on the week of October 7th (watch the bulletin for details), we'll resume our meetings to discuss *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* by Dr. Robin DiAngelo.

More about White Fragility:

In more than twenty years of running diversity-training and cultural-competency workshops for American companies, the academic and educator Robin DiAngelo has noticed that white people are sensationally, histrionically bad at discussing racism. They will insist that they "were taught to treat everyone the same," that they are "color-blind." They will point to friends and family members of color, a history of civil-rights activism, or a more "salient" issue, such as class or gender. They will shout and bluster. They will cry. In 2011, DiAngelo coined the term **white fragility** to describe the disbelieving defensiveness that white people exhibit when their ideas about race and racism are challenged—and particularly when they feel implicated in white supremacy.

Stay tuned for meeting details!

Rev. Erika on leave

Rev. Erika Hewitt will be on leave from Tuesday, September 11th through Sunday, October 7th. During that time, Erika will not be able to accept phone calls or emails from the Fellowship. In an emergency, please contact Board President Rosie Davis; she and Vice President Bob Whitmire will reach out to Rev. Erika if necessary.

Erika returns to the pulpit on October 4th.

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.



Hospitality / Membership Corner

A warm welcome to our newest member, Jayne Gordon who recently relocated to Damariscotta. Although she is the only one to sign the Membership

Book since our large Welcoming Ceremony on June 10th, please know that you are welcome to join our membership ranks if you have been attending our services, feel a connection, and support our Principles and Sources. Rev. Erika and the congregation will hold another Welcoming Ceremony during a Sunday service when there are some more people to join Jayne as new members.

We have had many guests/visitors this summer but most have been people on vacation who are affiliated with another UU congregation or have been visiting one of our members. One new local family that has been with us on several Sundays are the Arbuckles who recently relocated from Missouri to a farm in North Newcastle (John, Holly, Noah and Zea). The interaction between our members and new visitors seems much easier and more congenial since relocating our Coffee Hour to the Atrium.

While we were not able to get a summer family picnic beyond the "maybe" stage, we hope the Sept. 16th plans for an all-congregation picnic at Chris and Carol Robins' home in Whitefield will be as well-attended as last year and that the weather will once again cooperate for a fun afternoon.

For any questions on hospitality or membership don't hesitate to ask me or Rev. Erika.

Sandy Barth sbarth1942@gmail.com

Are you a singer, dancer, comedian, musician?

This is your big opportunity to perform in front of your own family & friends, as well as members of the community. Just for the sheer fun of it!

Community Open Mic
All Age Groups
Invited to Perform

Sunday, Oct. 14
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Mobius, 319 Main Street
Damariscotta

Performer's Registration fee: \$5
General Admission: \$10
Children: FREE

For more information:
Email: fundraising@uumidcoast.org

Proceeds to Benefit the
Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Hospitality Schedule

- Sept. 2 - (Purple Pod) Jennifer & Dick, Robin, Bob & Joan Whitmire
- Sept. 9 - (Indigo Pod) Lindy, Stephanie & Isaac
- Sept. 16 - (Green Pod) Kate, Phyllis, Deb Arter, Tim & Karen
- Sept. 23 - (Red Pod) Rosie, Bob, Deb Lomas
- Sept. 30 - (Blue Pod) Tiffany, Joelle & Kay