

# MUUF LETTER for January 2019

HAPPY ☆ NEW ☆ YEAR

## 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*

### January's Theme: Endings & Beginnings

#### January 6: "Lamentations"

Rev. Erika Hewitt

Lamentations — our expressions of sorrow, angst, or our need for companions in the wilderness — come in all forms. Today we'll explore some of the theological beliefs that hide within our lamentations, and find ways to fine-tune them. (You'll leave this service feeling better than when you came!)

#### January 13: "The Purposes of Awe."

The Rev. Dr. James Gertmenian will be leading our worship service. Jim, a native of California, is a graduate of Oberlin College and Union Theological Seminary in New York. He served parishes in upstate New York and Connecticut before becoming, in 1996, the Senior Minister of Plymouth Congregational Church in Minneapolis. He retired from that position in 2015 and moved to Cumberland, Maine. While in Minneapolis, Jim helped found Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative which has built nearly \$120 million of supportive housing, mostly for formerly homeless people. Currently he works on a project that brings young, progressive, faith leaders (Muslim, Jewish, Christian, Unitarian, and others) together in small gatherings around the country. Jim is a hymn writer whose work appears in various denominational hymnals. He and his wife, Susan King, a poet, have a home on Great Cranberry Island, near Mt. Desert, where they have summered for nearly forty years.

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Minister's Column



*Rev. Erika Hewitt*

When I was seven years old, one of the biggest let-downs in life was realizing that the homemade mac n' cheese I'd requested for a special meal looked and tasted nothing like the fluorescent orange ambrosia from the cheap Kraft box.

That innocence is cute only if you block out the sobering reality of what we've allowed to happen here in the United States to other young children.

In the past month, two children — one seven years old, and the other eight — have died while in custody of our U.S. Border Patrol. Last month, we also marked the Sandy Hook anniversary. Of the 28 people killed in Newton, most were 6- and 7-year olds. For the fifth year in a row, we were invited to confront the fact that collectively, We the People decided that gun owners' "rights" — codified in the 18th century — are more sacred than keeping our kids safe; keeping them alive.

Some of you might be annoyed that I'm saying "we." I'm not backing off of that language. Yes, I'm tired...and so are you. I feel beleaguered; you, too? Over and over, I've witnessed us rising to the occasion of fighting for our values and our vision... then falling back into exhaustion, or feeling guilty for the small, silly pleasures that are as vital as oxygen to our suffocating hearts.

But (to paraphrase Rabbi Tarphon) I've also allowed the enormity of the work to reduce me

*(Continued on page 2)*

*(Upcoming Services-continued)*

**January 20: “The Creation of Whiteness”**

Rev. Erika Hewitt

To be responsible partners in racial justice, we have to un-learn and then re-learn much about our country’s history. On this Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend, we’ll go back one hundred years to the “Americanization” of immigrants in the U.S. How does this re-learning inform us as citizens of the 21st century?

Our **SHARE THE PLATE** offering will be given to *People United Against Racism*.

**Monday, January 21st, 7:00 p.m.**



Join Rev. Erika Hewitt and MUUF members at Second Congregational Church as they co-lead our community’s Martin Luther King, Jr. service. Childcare will be provided, and the service will be followed by a reception. The offering will be given to Wabanaki REACH.

**January 27: Our Rock Candy Culture**

Former MUUF President Caity Bogden talks about Our Rock Candy Culture. Just like rock candy is formed on a stick placed in a sugar solution, do we know what we are absorbing from the culture that surrounds us? And what do we do if those ideas aren't in line with our UU values?

Dr. Bogdan recently completed her graduate work in Mechanical Engineering and is one of your MUUF Trustees. She rests from her nomadic lifestyle in Wiscasset, ME, with her husband and two cats.

**MUUF Caring Team**



Our 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

*(Minister’s Column-continued)*

into inaction; to let me off the hook from chipping away at it.

I have no answers, here at the bottom of the well. All I know is that we can’t look away — especially we with the most privilege, which is another way of saying The Least to Lose. We can’t stop resisting, or “spelling” one another in turns.

For me, the overarching imperative of being human is that we belong to one another, and share a responsibility to ensure that the most vulnerable and the most marginalized among us are being cared for.

How do you articulate the glowing coal at the heart of your activism? I'd love to hear the narrative that keeps you afloat in the churn of greed, cruelty, and violence. And I give thanks for all of you, kindred, who are healers of the broken places.

In faith,  
Rev. Erika Hewitt

**Community Supper, January 30th**

Happy New Year! Start the new year off with service to our community! Come help our fellowship in the next Community Supper on Wednesday January 30th at the Congregation Church from 4:30-6pm. Please come help us serve those less fortunate with a hearty meal and a warm smile. We are always looking for volunteers to help make food items and serve at the dinner.

If you are interested in helping out please contact Tiffany Vencile at [willeywonka@hotmail.com](mailto:willeywonka@hotmail.com)--207-551-9248 or Rosie Davis [rosiesdavis@gmail.com](mailto:rosiesdavis@gmail.com). This community service is a nice way to get to know folks outside the fellowship as well as connect with our own members while doing service work. We look forward to seeing you on January 30th!



## Religious Education

### RE Stories & Activities for January

Carney Doucette

- January 6** - God Created the World in Seven Days – A creation story
- January 13** – RE Special: Craft Day – Marbled Paper (for using on January 20th)
- January 20** – Buddha & the Mustard Seed Medicine – Beginnings & Endings
- January 27** – Phan Ku & the Cosmic Egg – A creation story

### OWL Grades 4 & 5 Continue

Our Whole Lives (OWL) Sexuality Education for Grades 4 & 5 sessions for January are on the 6th & 20th at the Rockland UU Church.

As we look to the future for OWL, we need more trained facilitators. Do you think this would be a good fit for you? Do you feel a calling to this ministry? If you would like to explore this possibility please contact Carney at [midcoastuure@gmail.com](mailto:midcoastuure@gmail.com).

### Adult Religious Exploration Opportunity: Earth Conversations



Molly Willcox, convener and host of Talking Tree: Earth Conversations, brings this opportunity to have conversations about our planetary climate crisis in a small group circle over 6 sessions (and

beyond if the group desires). This circle will convene on Sunday, February 3 at 12:15 noon at the Skidompha Library. Sessions will last 1 ½ hours, and continue every other Sunday.

Talking Tree is a conversational community that intends to stimulate growth and change in our consciousness of the Earth and in our

relationships to its ecological crisis. Provocative Conversation topics are provided by the Convener and are solicited from participants as well. A question is picked from a basket, and using a talking stick, participants explore that question for as long as the Conversation holds momentum. Then they pick another topic. Molly says, "As we hear our own voices, test our ideas, and approach new thoughts, Conversation becomes a vehicle for insight and change."

If you would like to join this circle, please register with Carney Doucette at [midcoastuure@gmail.com](mailto:midcoastuure@gmail.com). If you are interested in participating in Earth Conversations, but the time does not fit into your schedule, please let Carney know as well.

*Learning about body Image with collages Created from popular Magazines OWL 4-6*



*Gingerbread creations*





**Annual Holiday  
"pageant from the pews"  
Sunday December 16, 2018**

We told a familiar story in a new way-- with costumes, of course--asking the Spirit of Joy to move among us.



**Presidents  
Corner**



Greetings Friends,

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday and were able to spend time with loved ones. If you were alone this Christmas time, please know I held you in my heart and in my prayers.

Your board are excited for a New Year and would like to welcome, Jayne Gordon and David Bilski as your newest board members. Jayne and David have taken over from Carol (Robins) and Sandy (Barth) whos terms had been completed.

I'd like to thank Sandy for her time on the board and for being someone who we could turn to with any questions we had regarding the fellowship and its history, she is a wealth of knowledge. Sandy was a wonderful secretary, who was always organized, thorough and efficient with her reports and any questions she had. Sandy, again, Thank you..

And Carol, Thank you so much for your knowledge and guidance as a former President. You were always there for any questions I had as a new President. Your immediate responses to my emails was very much appreciated. Your input, ideas and calming presence is something I and the board will miss.

Your 2019 board are excited to be attending our annual retreat this month, to assist and guide us for the upcoming year.

Happy New Year to you All.

In faith,  
Rosie x



Rev. Donna Dolham

## Congregational News

The Reverend Donna Dolham, our former board president, is currently the interim minister at Denton UU Fellowship (DUUF), in Texas. A city of about 134,00 people, it is in the Dallas/Ft. Worth metro area and home to the University of North Texas.

The UUA listing is for a Welcoming Congregation of 138 members, with 58 in the church school and 93 pledging units. Rev. Donna is preaching at both of their services, 9:30 and 11:30 each Sunday. "A couple of the draws for me to this particular congregation," said Donna, "were: they hire professional teaching staff for their life span faith development program. The lead teachers work with one volunteer assistant teacher for classes. They have a middle school and youth group as well as k - 1 and 2 - 5 classes. (youth groups on Wednesday night and other classes on Sunday). The congregation led a community wide conversation in 2011 that culminated in the development of OUTreach Denton, a program of the congregation (like Outright in Maine) serving LGBTQ youth and they have a weekly drop in center at the Fellowship on Sunday nights. The Fellowship began informally in the 1940s through the Fellowship movement. Very much like MUUF!

"We recently held the first (hope to be annual) Transgender Awareness Panel during Transgender Awareness week. We had around 65 people from the community attend. It was really an exciting event. Here is a link to the coverage from the local paper."

[https://www.dentonrc.com/life/local-church-talks-evolving-language-cultural-norms-around-transgender-week/article\\_27e4fdc5-4f2b-58e3-b34e-4651deeac071.html](https://www.dentonrc.com/life/local-church-talks-evolving-language-cultural-norms-around-transgender-week/article_27e4fdc5-4f2b-58e3-b34e-4651deeac071.html)

On a personal note, Donna said "We still own our home in Union and it is still on the market

although there was a few weeks break between contracts. Unfortunately, Kate (her wife) is living in Maine. She's the manager of a department and has to be present to do her job. She's been at Maine Health for 25 years and loves her job so with my temporary gig didn't seem to make sense for us both to make the move. She visits TX monthly and does have the ok to work from "home/telecommuting" some which makes this possible. She actually though lives in Topsham where we recently purchased a condo since she works in Portland and had been either commuting or renting living space near Portland.

My mom is here with me in TX though and loves it. She likes the weather, likes that she can get out of the apartment on her own with her walker (I got a wheel chair accessible apartment). She likes going to church and has some friends she sits with when she goes. She is there for both services!"

### **People To People Donations**

*Thank you again to all who donated to our short notice-collection for People To People in December. They were very appreciative.*

*For future donations, used clothing is already plentiful, but they would gratefully accept other household items, particularly bedding. People to People is located in the basement of the Damariscotta Baptist Church, open Mondays 4-6 pm, or leave donations in the stairwell at their door. Speak to Social Justice Committee members for any questions.*

Robin Hall

## Early Days of the Midcoast UU Fellowship by our first president, Roger Duncan

### Part 1 of a 4 part article

In 1982 it appeared to some perceptive Unitarian Universalists including Reverend Qare at Beacon Street, Reverend Joseph Barth in Alna and Reverend Glenn Turner, District Director in Portland and to a group of local lay people that the Damariscotta region would be a fertile field to cultivate. It lay between UU churches in Augusta and Brunswick and not far from a growing UU group in Brunswick. The population in this area was growing quite rapidly, many of the new people being "summer people who didn't know when to go home," (that is, retired people who stayed year round). Many of these had belonged to UU churches in their former home towns and missed the social, intellectual and spiritual associations of a church but could not accept the theology of the local church. Accordingly, the word was passed around and announcements appeared in the newspapers of the opening of a Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

My journal for Sunday, October 17, 1982, records, "Mary and I dressed in our Sunday regalia and drove to the Edgecomb Town Hall for the first meeting of the Midcoast Fellowship of the UUA. About 50 people

(probably an exaggeration), mostly suburban types transplanted from Massachusetts and mostly well along in years. Among them were Jack and Marcia Wilson, Howard Bass, the Ripleys, Jim and June Johnson, and others. Dan Schick seemed to be more or less in charge. The service, a traditional Unitarian one, was conducted by Glenn Turner."

From here more or less regular services were held but there seemed to be no planned program until on November 19 we held our first Program Committee meeting at Dan Schick's. After talking old houses and drinking coffee, the Committee decided on Reverend Robert Ives on *Boatbuilding for Bad Boys* on December 5, Rev. Turner on December 12 (no topic), Candlelight Service on December 19 (no leader, no music, no topic), December 26 no service, January 2 Open, Duncan in reserve.

*Submitted by Sandra Barth  
Original MUUF member*

**\*\*Part 2 will appear in February's newsletter\*\***

### Snowy Sunday? Use Zoom!

During the winter, your Fellowship leaders may decide to cancel worship in the interest of safety. If that happens on a “Rev. Erika” Sunday, she will open her online Zoom room at 10:30 a.m. on that Sunday for a brief online gathering.

**Those dates are:  
January 6th, January 20th, February 9th  
(March dates TBA)**

Zoom is a videoconferencing platform offering the option of using your computer to see Rev. Erika & others on video, or calling in to listen and talk by phone. Erika will lead a chalice lighting, joys and sorrows, a meditation, and group discussion. It’ll be shorter and less formal than a worship service, but Zoom will allow us to connect before we go back to our shoveling/jigsaw puzzling/hot chocolate guzzling.

#### To join by computer:

1. Go to [www.Zoom.us](http://www.Zoom.us)
2. Click the blue heading “Join a meeting”
3. Enter Erika’s designated number:  
749-979-5863

#### To join by telephone only:

1. Dial 646 558 8656 or 408 638 0968
2. Enter meeting ID: 749 979 5863

### Calling All Singers!

If you’d like to be part of a community chorus for our Jan. 21 MLK service, please gather at Second Congregational Church on Sunday, January 20th at 2:00 p.m. for a rehearsal with Jane Wilmot, the congregation’s Minister of Music.

### The Holy Work of Showing Up



Our **community anti-racism vigils** continue every Monday at noon. Please join us for 30 minutes at Memorial Park in Newcastle. Convenient parking at the Second Congregational Church. Make your own signs or choose among the many that are available; bring a chair if that is more comfortable for you. All are welcome!

### Hospitality Schedule

- Jan. 6 - **(Red Pod) - Rosie, Bob, Deb Lomas**
- Jan. 13 - **(Blue Pod) - Tiffany, Joelle and Kay**
- Jan. 20 - **(Purple Pod) - Jennifer & Dick, Robin, Bob & Joan**
- Jan. 27 - **(Indigo Pod) - Lindy, Stephanie & Isaac, Rob & Molly**
- Feb. 3 - **(Green Pod) - Kate, Phyllis, Deb Arter, Tim & Karen**



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## *addendum*

### Hospitality / Membership Corner



*Sandy Barth*

We are delighted to give a warm welcome to our newest members, the Arbuckle family - John, Holly, Noah and Zea. They signed the Membership Book in December. They are the new owners of Singing

Prairie Farms in North Newcastle which they have transported from their former home in Missouri. Besides organic pork, they will also be raising egg-producing chickens. When the chickens mature in the Spring, the eggs will be going to Colby College for their dining services. Little Zea was a most impressive Mary along with John Adams as Joseph in our Christmas Pageant on December 16th.

As I mentioned in December, we need some additional volunteers for greeting prior to the service on Sunday mornings. People seem to be having difficulty committing to this a few weeks in advance, and some that we have relied on in the past have several other Fellowship duties. So let's spread the work load around. And it is a good way to put names with faces as you help locate name tags or help them sign the Guest Book.

We will try to have better luck with another round of Circle Suppers than we did last winter when the weather refused to cooperate with our plans. If you might be willing to host a Circle Supper in January, February or March, contact Sandy (see below).

The host provides the main dish and attendees fill in with the rest of the meal. The host decides the date and how many they can comfortably handle - we'll put out sign-up sheets at the Fellowship.

Please continue to greet and speak with the unfamiliar faces on Sunday morning. We want to continue to be known as a warm, welcoming community.

**Sandy Barth**

[sbarth1942@gmail.com](mailto:sbarth1942@gmail.com)

### People United Against Racism



**Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Day Events**

**Monday, January 21,  
2019**

**9 am – 12 noon:** Day of community service at Second Congregational Church, Newcastle

**12 noon – 1 pm:** Anti-Racism vigil at Veterans Memorial Park, Newcastle

**2 pm:** Special Matinee Screening of Green Book at Lincoln Theater, Damariscotta

**7 pm:** Interfaith service at Second Congregational Church, Newcastle