

MUUFLETTER for June 2019

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

June's theme: LGBTQ Pride

June 2: Owing our Homophobia: Several MUUF members will speak about their personal journeys from homophobia to LGBTQ inclusion. Patti Anderson, Worship Associate.

June 9: Outlawing Jelly Beans, and Other Injustices



Intergenerational Worship!

Led by Rev. Erika Hewitt +
Worship Wizards

How do we respond to injustice? In this fairy tale-gone-awry, a pompous and power-hungry Duke is gently put in his place by the inclusive and justice-loving people in his royal kingdom. When we use our shared power in the name of love, we can overcome almost any obstacle.

June 16: "You Can Never Be Sure, But I'd Say

99% Boy" Lisa Kynvi, guest minister
Courtney Belolan, Worship Associate

Loving and raising a child who did, in fact, fall fairly "far from the tree" can be a humbling, baffling, and rewarding experience. Lisa's sermon is about her experiences with her transgender daughter, and their family's experiences with a world that doesn't quite know what to do with them. *Our Share the Plate of-fering will be given to OUTMaine.*

Lisa Kynvi is a UU seminarian. She comes to this career change from 22 years in special education and hospice, where she worked as a mental health counselor and music therapist. She brings to this PRIDE month service a lifetime of experience as a lesbian, and 20 years as the parent of a transgender daughter.

June 23:

10:00 a.m. HYMN SING with Rev. Erika & Kevin Kiley

10:30 Worship led by Rev. Erika Hewitt, followed by an optional sermon discussion.

Minister's Message



This beautiful, growing, lively, diverse, imperfect congregation is *yours*.

Do I offer you that reminder often enough? Do you ever forget that this Fellowship belongs to you — the Fellowship's members — and not to me, your half-time called spiritual leader?

Six years ago, I was interviewed as a candidate for your consulting minister position. Your search committee and Board told me about the congregation's history, growing edges, and vision. I was hired (yay) and given a charge: to help you build structures and patterns that would foster health, growth, and renewed connection to Unitarian Universalism. I began speaking of shared ministry: our collective dance of giving and receiving, leading and following. It took a while, but together we began to grow towards that which you were ready to become.

All the while, the Fellowship was yours. It still is.

Over the years, our relationship deepened into a trusting, loving one. You called me as your settled (i.e. quasi-permanent) minister. We hired Carney as our religious professional. We formalized our mission (To nurture spiritual growth, engage in justice, and love joyfully, without limits). Various Board members have rotated in, and out, as your elected leaders. Our shared ministry has adopted many incarnations... and we're discovering still more.

Now, as ever, this Fellowship is *yours*. Your hopes, vision, and voices are the bright coal that burns at the heart of our congregation. Our next chapter — whatever it holds — isn't up to me; it's up to us, together.

I give thanks every day that you are the congregation I serve. Thank you for being part of this Fellowship, and our shared ministry.

In faith,
Rev. Erika

SUNDAY SERVICES, continued

June 30: Remembering Stonewall. The Fellowship's worship team commemorates the 50th anniversary of the 1969 Stonewall Riots in New York City's Greenwich Village, an event that ignited the modern LGBTQ rights movement. The riots, a defiant resistance to systemic police harassment and brutality, propelled the struggle for human rights by gay, lesbian, transgender, and queer people onto the radar screens of mainstream American culture.

Tech Reminders from Rev. Erika

Since technology preferences differ from person to person, I offer periodic reminders to the Fellowship about how I do — and don't — use technology.

- The fastest way to get a response from me (*except on Tuesdays and Wednesdays) is texting me: 207-650-5757. The second fastest way is calling. The slowest way to get a response is email.
- I'm politically active and an avid reader—but I also have multiple email accounts and dozens of books on my "to read" stack. I regret that I'm unlikely to open petitions, articles, and other attachments that you might try to email me.
- I frequently check our Midcoast UU Fellowship Facebook page for messages, and reply to them as I'm able. (This page is where you can find videos of past sermons, too.)
- Since I use Facebook in personal ways, I don't "friend" anyone who's part of our Fellowship. If you'd like to connect with me on social media, you can follow my WorshipWeb page — [facebook.com/UUWorshipWeb](https://www.facebook.com/UUWorshipWeb) — or my (warning: more personal) Instagram account, [@rev.erika.hewitt](https://www.instagram.com/rev.erika.hewitt).



Religious Exploration Field Trip!

On May 5th, our children (and a few eager adults) spent the morning at John and Holly Arbuckle's farm, Singing Pastures. We visited their chickens, pigs, and team of Clydesdale horses.

Thank you to Holly, John, Noah, and Zea for teaching us about the beings who live on your farm (including the microbes that live in the soil)!

photo at right, more on page 4

Message from the President



Greetings Friends,

It is so nice to see the sun shining at last. It really lifts my spirits to feel the warmth of the sun on my face. I love my visitors of hummingbirds and the greenery that is all around.

General Assembly is happening this month in Spokane, WA. If you are interested in attending and being a delegate for our congregation, please let me know. To find out more information visit this link: <https://www.uua.org/ga>

Your board have discussed and decided that this year we will not be holding a Yard Sale. There are several reasons for this. Mainly it's the number of people who volunteer and the number of hours works they put in is not reflected in the amount raised. We are looking into a few other ideas for fundraising this year and your board would love to hear your ideas.

I wish you all a joyous June!

In faith, Rosie 207-380-3011

Hospitality Schedule

June 2 - Blue Pod - Tiffany, Joelle & Kay

June 9 - Purple Pod: Jennifer & Dick, Robin, Bob & Joan

June 16 - Indigo Pod - Lindy, Stephanie & Isaac, Rob & Molly

June 23 - Green Pod - Kate, Phyllis, Deb Arter, Tim & Karen

June 30 - Red Pod - Rosie, Bob & Deb Lomas



ALL-AGES PIZZA & PROGRAM NIGHT

Friday, June 14th at 5:00 p.m. Porter Auditorium

Join Rev. Erika for our **third and final** night of friendship and fun — in fact, bring a friend! We gather at 5 p.m. in our worship space for pizza and non-alcoholic beverages (please bring some money for the donation basket, if you're able). While we eat, we enjoy conversation across the generations.

At 5:30, Rev. Erika will lead an informal, interactive program for all ages.

We'll clean up together and will say good-bye by 7:00 at the latest.

Erika asks that you please RSVP so that we have enough pizza (text is best — 207-650-5757 — but you can also email erika@UUminister.com). We're looking forward to seeing you!

UU FIELD TRIP!

Tuesday, June 11th

Are you curious about what the Unitarian Universalist Association



is like? Are you interested in visiting its headquarters, and meeting other UUs from New England?

Join us on **Tuesday, June 11th** as some of us travel by bus — the 9:30 a.m. Concord Coach* out of Portland — to Boston. We'll attend a chapel service led by Rev. Erika, share lunch with UUA staff, and receive a guided tour of the UUA headquarters. We'll browse in the InSpirit bookstore before catching the bus back to Portland. (We currently plan to arrive back in Portland by 6:15 p.m.) *Please note that the UUA headquarters are fully accessible, but the rest of the trip may involve walking.*

If you're interested in joining us, please contact Rosie Davis: rosiesdavis@gmail.com.

*The Concord Coach is a 2-hour bus ride each way. The bus has a bathroom, wifi, and an optional movie. We'll arrive at Boston's South Station, which is a 6-block walk — or a short cab ride — to UUA headquarters. The round-trip fare is \$40 but if that cost is prohibitive to you, Rev. Erika is offering travel scholarships to anyone who'd like to come. Please contact her at erika@UUminister.com.



RE stories for June - Pride Month

Carney McRae Doucette,
Director of
Religious Exploration

- June 2 Red – A Crayon’s Story
- June 9 Multigenerational Service – all ages attend worship
- June 16 And Tango Makes Three
- June 23 And to Think That I Saw it on Mulberry Street (*Dr. Seuss summer begins*)
- June 30 The Big Brag

Thank you to the Arbuckle’s

On Sunday, May 5, our RE group went on a field trip to explore the Arbuckle Family Singing Pastures Farm. The group enjoyed visiting baby pigs and their other critters. Explorations like this are fun and help to deepen our relationships with each other. We want to plan more, so if you have something that you do and would be willing to host our children, please let me know. And if you have a skill to share as a special project for our children, we are looking for opportunities. It can be offered on a Sunday or another day, anytime during the year. Talk to Carney or a member of the Religious Exploration Committee (Deb Lomas, Kate Pennington and Lindy Gifford).

Thank you to our Mystery Friends

Thank you to our Mystery Friends who were revealed at the luncheon on May 19. We all enjoyed getting to know our children. Our Mystery Friends for this year were: Kate Pennington with Mason; Deb Lomas with Noah; Bob Whitmire with Zea; Jill Linzee with Finn; Phyllis Loney with Autumn; Robin Hall with Caitlin; Jennifer & Dick Ober with Dylan; Mike Lomas with O’Doshie; Courtney Belolan with Toby; and Carney Doucette with YuJi. As part of this program, we also filled a large box with items for the Ecumenical Food Pantry.

Summer RE starts June 23

We welcome back Alex Murray who will be providing leadership in RE starting June 23 for the summer. This summer, we will explore the stories of Dr. Seuss – UU Style. Each Sunday, one book will be read followed by activities that support a universal message being illustrated in the book.



Just one of our RE children with the baby pigs at the visit to Arbuckle Family Singing Pastures Farm.



Mystery Friends were revealed at the luncheon on May 19 (see item at left)



The serving line at the Community Supper on May 29 and our leader, Tiffany Vencile preparing food



March with MUUF in the Portland Pride Parade!

Our Fellowship will be marching in the Portland Pride parade on Saturday, June 15, with other Maine UU congregations. All are invited to join us in this joyful way of visibly and publicly celebrating our UU first principle, the inherent worth and dignity of every person. MUUSAN has once again paid all the registration fees, so we just need to show up.

Here is the schedule:

10:00 AM - Pride Interfaith Service at First Parish UU Church in Portland, 425 Congress Street (at the head of Temple St. at Congress St.) .The church will also be open for out-of-town UUs to use the bathrooms and rest, even if you can't get there in time for the Interfaith Service. The front steps of the church will be a temporary staging area for UU congregations and their banners until we move to our assigned line-up spot near Monument Square.

11:30 AM - Marchers begin lining up with banners at an assigned location near Monument Square. Wear a YELLOW SHIRT if possible. Loving signs and rainbow flags are welcome.

1:00 PM - The parade starts in Monument Square. It ends about 45 minutes later in Deering Oaks, where the Pride Festival runs from 2:00 to 6:00.

Pride Portland is a safe, happy and fully-inclusive intergenerational event.

If you want to carpool, we will be leaving at 8:30 am from the park-and-ride site in Edgecomb (across from the Pioneer Motel). Contact Julia Fitz-Randolph or Kate Pennington no later than June 10 to make carpool arrangements.



Patti Anderson and Michael Mason were among our Fellowship's participants in last year's Pride Parade.

Fallen Soldier Table for the Fellowship's Memorial Day worship service.



The white tablecloth and place setting expresses our desire that each fallen soldier could be with us on this occasion. The white candle represents the light of hope.

A rose symbolizes the families that love and keep faith with the men and women who serve. The yellow ribbon represents loyalty in waiting for those who are serving away from home, while a red ribbon symbolizes the memory of and search for those missing in action.

The upside down wine glass represents the fact that the fallen comrade is not able to participate in the happy toasts at this event. A lemon wedge on the bread plate represents the bitter loss of the life of the fallen soldier. Salt sprinkled over the lemon and bread plate represents tears shed for the soldier who is missed.

The empty chair is for the missing soldier. The bush hat hanging off the chair was worn by a member of the congregation during his tour of duty in Vietnam.

Special thanks to visiting minister Greg C. Carrow-Boyd for introducing this solemn remembrance to our Memorial Day service.

New Member Sunday



Our newest members participated in the welcoming ceremony at the May 19 worship service