

MUUFLETTER for July 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

July 7: "Come Anyway"

Rev. Erika Hewitt

Sometimes we read the sermon description to decide whether to come to church. Rev. Erika suggests that our relationships with one another are reciprocal in life-giving ways, and the question of "What will I receive?" might not be as important as "Who might need me to be present?" Join us!

July 14: "The Stories We Tell Ourselves"

guest speaker Aisha Hauser

Bob Whitmire, worship associate

In what ways do the stories we tell ourselves now about Unitarian Universalism serve us, and how do we offer stories that affirm our theology and our commitment to affirming all others in the fullness of their humanity?

Aisha Hauser, a religious educator since 2003 is the Director of Lifelong Learning at East Shore Unitarian Church in Bellevue, Washington. She is a co-creator (with Christina Rivera and Kenny Wiley) of Teach-In materials to support UU congregations in understanding and fighting against white supremacy.

July 21: "Come Anyway (Again)"

Rev. Erika Hewitt

Sometimes we read the sermon description to decide whether to come to church. If that sounds like you, Rev. Erika wonders if there's more to it. Since our relationships with one another are mutual and reciprocal, the question of "What will I receive?" might not be as important as "Who might need me to be present with, and for, them?" Join us! Our SHARE THE PLATE offering will be announced in the Sunday bulletin.

(Continued on page 2)



Rev. Erika Hewitt

Minister's Message

If you were at worship on June 16th, you experienced the pastoral and loving presence of Lisa Kynvi, a UU seminarian who lives outside of Boston. Lisa was a student of mine when I taught two graduate courses this spring at Starr King School for the Ministry — the seminary from which I graduated, too. I was impressed by Lisa's wisdom, maturity, and playful spirit, so I asked Lisa if she would come preach for us.

This is where things get magical: Lisa mentioned that she's "wired for possibility"—which also describes me to a T—and asked more about our vibrant, small, thriving congregation. Could she come preach, Lisa asked, but also come visit us more, so that as part of her ministerial formation she could learn what it's like to serve a healthy UU congregation? (What do you think I said?)

Everyone who's spoken to me about Lisa's worship service has offered their praise for her. For her part, Lisa fell in love with us, too. Your Board of Trustees and I are now talking with Lisa about making her a recurring part of our Fellowship's leadership when I go on sabbatical from February 1st through April 30th, 2020. What's more, we're exploring ways to enter into a learning agreement with her so that Lisa can join us as a half-time Intern Minister in the fall of 2020, and serve us through the spring of 2022.

That's big news, isn't it? And none of it is written in stone; all of it is still in formation. Your Board and I will soon come to you with our vision, and with an explanation of how this internship would work, and be funded (spoiler: we think it will be easier than you might think).

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(services - continued from page 1)

July 28: "Choosing to Bless the World"
Rev. Jordinn Nelson Long, guest minister

Tiffany Vencile, worship associate

A time to kill and a time to heal? What does that line from Ecclesiastes mean, anyway? Join returning pulpit guest Rev. Jordinn Nelson Long, lead minister of the UU Society of Fairhaven, MA, as we consider order from chaos, and the reverse, in what continues to be an interesting time in our national political life.

August 4: A Produce Communion

Join Courtney Belolan and other members of the Worship Associates to honor and celebrate the summer fruits of the Earth. We will thank the Earth for providing for us, and reflect on our agricultural connections to spirit and community. If you have a home garden, please bring some fruits or vegetables to share!

(Minister's Message— continued from page 1)

Whether Lisa becomes part of our Fellowship's professional ministry team, I give thanks that many of us—not just me, and not just Lisa—are "wired for possibility." This is a congregation that responds to every question with curiosity, and to every possibility with reflection. We're not scared of suggestions or new ideas. Sometimes, we reach out, pull those possibilities toward us, and bring them to fruition.

In faith,
Rev. Erika

Note: I'll be on vacation from July 22nd through the 28th. If you need to meet with me, please contact me at 207-650-5757 by Thursday the 18th.

President's Corner



Rosie Davis

Greetings friends,

June has been a wonderful month. On June 15th I attended Portland Pride with Julia Fitz-Randolph and her wife Bourge, Bob Whitmire, Molly Davis, Kevin Kiley, John Adams and Tom, Kate Pennington, Sandy Barth, John McBee plus friends of the above and sister congregations.

Some of us attended worship at the Portland Unitarian Universalist Church, which was thought provoking, heartwarming and Joyous, a great way to start such a meaningful event. Ending appropriately with the song "Don't Rain on my Parade."

We waited in our side street for a few hours before it was our turn to join the parade. Thousands of people lined the streets of Portland and it was a sea of beautiful rainbow colors. I couldn't stop smiling. As an LGBTQIA Ally, attending this event and walking beside my gay friends is one of the most meaningful and joyous days of the year. I could go on and on about this fantastic day instead I invite you, if you're able, to attend a Pride event, you won't be disappointed.

In faith
Rosie





Religious Education

RE stories for July Dr. Seuss UU Style

Carney Doucette

- July 7 The Butter Battle Book
- July 14 Horton Hatches the Egg
- July 21 Horton Hears a Who
- July 28 Hunches in Bunches

Thank you to this past year's RE Guides

It truly takes a community to support our Religious Exploration program for children. Thank you to our regular RE guides and assistants on Sunday mornings: Molly Davis, Rob Brown, Kate Pennington, Deb Lomas, Lindy Gifford, Liz Greenleaf and Alex Murray. Also, thank you to Rosie Davis, Courtney Belolan, Karen Kleinkopf, Holly and John Arbuckle and Robin Hall who helped us with some special activities during the year. If you are interested in helping in RE on Sunday mornings or have a special talent to share with our children, please contact [Carney Doucette](#).

RE Family Picnic at Damariscotta Lake State Park

Join Carney and members of the REC (Religious Exploration Committee) for a picnic at Damariscotta Lake State Park. Bring a lunch, lawn chair, swim suit and some money to get an ice cream treat at Jefferson Scoop. There also is an admission fee into the park unless you have a park pass (\$5 for adults, \$1.00 for children 5-11 years old). We'll meet at Jefferson Scoop, have our dessert first (yum!) and then head into the park to find a place where we all can gather. If it rains, we will reschedule for another time.

Lomas Family at the Blueberry Cove Retreat with UU Rockland



*Caitlin with new friends bringing
candles they made in sand*



Dylan practicing his balancing act



Dylan with friends making s'mores



Lindy Gifford

News from Lindy Gifford Interfaith Chaplain and Fellowship Member

This is a follow-up to my April sermon Listening for the Ancestors (in print on the MUUF website), much of which was about following the lead of the native peoples toward healing ourselves, our relations, and the earth. In it, I spoke of Sherri Mitchell’s yearly gathering, Healing the Wounds of Turtle Island, and I wanted to remind everyone, that gathering is coming right up, July 12, 13, 14 & 15. You do not need to register (though donations are always needed), nor attend every day. There is a lot of camping space, but nearby hotel accommodations may be sold out. For more information and to make a donation: www.healingturtleisland.org

Also, those of you who heard my sermon on the ancestors might remember the benediction. It was from a poem For Calling the Spirit Back from Wandering the Earth in Its Human Feet by Joy Harjo, member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and recently named the Poet Laureate of the United States! The first Native American Poet

Laureate. Big news! Read the full poem here: <https://poets.org/poem/calling-spirit-back-wandering-earth-its-human-feet>

Lastly, I have some personal news. Way back in September of 2014, when I was as student at ChIME (Chaplaincy Institute of Maine) I offered a different sermon at Midcoast UU Fellowship. That sermon grew out of Rev. Erika’s sermon writing seminar and in many ways is a prequel to the ancestor sermon. The earlier sermon has been picked up by the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF, “a Unitarian Universalist Congregation Without Walls”). It’s the lead article in their July/August Quest Monthly publication, on the theme of Wonder. It has already come out in the print version and is available online as of July 1 at: <https://www.questformeaning.org/spiritual-reflections/quest-monthly/>. (I also recorded a podcast of the sermon—there’s a link to subscribe on the same page.)

I look forward to seeing some of you at Turtle Island, and may the healing ripple out through each of us.

Lindy Gifford

Come and Join an Adventure in Singing - the new MUUF Choir!

All interested folks are welcome. Singers will meet once a week, beginning in September, at Susan Borg and Dick Nessen’s house in Bristol. We’ll sing together and learn a piece to include in the worship service for one Sunday of each month. Susan will teach singing technique and musicianship as we go along, in a relaxed and easy-going manner. It’s not so much about getting the notes right, but rather about listening to each other and putting one’s heart into the music. We’ll laugh and have fun, and we’ll also explore the depth of beauty and spirit in the music.

All adults are welcome and kids 12 to 16 years old are welcome with a parent. **Sign-up sheets are located on the sideboard outside the sanctuary before and after each service from now until September, or contact Susan Borg with questions at susangborg@gmail.com or 563-2535.**

Before moving to Maine about a year ago, Susan directed community choruses for adults and children, sang in two a cappella groups and served as choir director for the Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society in Middlebury Vermont. She’s very eager to sing with all the wonderful MUUF voices!

Come to the new MUUF Choir for fun, come to sing and come to contribute to our worship services!

July Hikes with Rev. Erika

Come for a hike (or two) with our minister! Rev. Erika invites you to join her for one or both of these July hikes. We'll take in the beauty as we chat about whatever's on your mind.

Dogs on leashes & children are welcome, but hikers of all ages should come prepared for physical effort and whatever the weather & trail give us. Please BYO water, sunscreen, & bug repellent. *Thunder and/or lightning will cancel the hike/s.*

Thursday, July 11th, 9:30 a.m. at LaVerna Preserve, Bristol



This is 2.5 mile, moderate (not gentle) hike leads to the ocean shoreline through mixed forest.

Take Route 32 south from Round Pond. Go 3.5 miles south of the Round Pond Post Office. Notice Ocean Hill cemetery on your right. Soon after the cemetery, there's a parking area for the preserve on the right (west side of road).

Monday, July 15th, 6:30 p.m. at Dodge Point, Newcastle

We'll take an easy-to-moderate hike through mixed growth forest, perhaps resting at the pebble beach that's filled with evidence of 18th- and 19th-century brick making operations.

From Newcastle, follow River Road for 2 miles. The parking lot and trailhead will be on your left.



(Not a hiker? No worries! In August, Rev. Erika will invite you to join her at a more sedentary mixer.)

Free Community Dinner



Our next Community Supper is Wednesday, July 31st 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 willey-wonka@hotmail.com--207-551-9248 or Molly Davis at organicearth-star@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 July 31st!



MUUF Immigrant Justice Initiative

Since our initial meetings of this small MUUF group in early Spring, we have been looking for ways to broaden our approach. With no significant efforts in our local area, we attended meetings of the Midcoast New Mainers Support Group in the Bath/Brunswick area. While they welcomed our assistance, they are overwhelmed with helping two families in the Bath area and don't have any current plans for settling more families primarily due to the housing shortage.

Then in mid-June the sudden influx of asylum seekers to Portland caught everyone by surprise but also unleashed a torrent of support and interest both in the local area and throughout the state. On June 20th, a spontaneous local ecumenical effort led by Rev. Char Corbett came together with an initial Community Meeting at the Second Congregational Church, Newcastle. Several members of our MUUF congregation attended including Sandy Barth, Nancy Slobodnik, Jill Linzee, Patti Anderson, Julia Fitz-Randolph, Sarah Wolcott and Andrew Twaddle, Deb Arter, and Lindy Gifford. Fourteen churches and several ecumenical and advocacy groups were represented. There was a lot of sharing of information and interests. **A follow-up meeting has been scheduled for July 11th at 2 pm at the Second Congregational Church.** We will keep you updated on the results of that meeting.

In the meantime you can:

- 1) **donate funds to support the asylum seekers on Saturday, July 6th from 10 am - 2 pm in front of Sherman's Book Store, Damariscotta. Almost \$600 dollars was raised on Sat., June 29th**
- 2) **donate directly to the City of Portland's Community Support Fund: text Expo to 91999 or go to: portlandmaine.gov/donate**
- 3) **support the Somali Bantu Immigrant Community that has a booth at the Damariscotta Farmers Market on Fridays from July through October**



Habiba Noor shows off some of the produce she has grown on her farm in Maine

Sandy Barth sbarth1942@gmail.com

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
robin.hall518@gmail.com



John Schindler & Friends

Concert to Help Asylum Seekers in Maine

Sunday, July 14 7:00 p.m.

Congregational Church of Boothbay Harbor

Sponsored by the Mission Committee of the Church.

All donations will be given to ILAP, Maine's Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project, for legal support to and representation of asylum seekers and refugees.

Originally from Saint Louis Missouri, John was influenced early on by that town's rhythm and blues and his Oklahoma mother's singing. This funky start was drastically tempered by a nine-year stint in a Catholic seminary where silence and Gregorian chant were his daily bread. After leaving the brotherhood, and armed only with his vow of poverty, John moved to New England and pursued the path of an itinerant musician, playing in sundry bands and bad barrooms. It was during this time, he realized, that his audience could not understand Latin. Winner of both the 2003 Boston Folk Festival Songwriting Contest and the 2006 Rose Garden Coffeehouse Song Contest, John has also been a finalist in many other song contests. His CD Memory Train was CD of the Week on Chicago's WFMT's Midnight Special. His new CD is Two-Step Man. John lives in Boothbay Harbor, ME with his wife, Jane and fat cat, Iko.



Molly Willcox

Talking Tree Earth Conversations:

Talking Tree is a safe place that offers authentic conversation about our global climate emergency. It makes possible deep thought and meaningful reflection. Talking Tree intends to stimulate growth in our consciousness of the Earth and in our relationships to its ecological crisis.

Provocative conversation topics are provided by convener and host, Molly Willcox, and are solicited from participants as well. A question is picked from a basket and, using a talking stick (giving everyone space to express themselves without interruption), participants explore that question for as long as the conversation holds momentum. Then another topic is picked.

Molly says, "As we hear our own voices, test our ideas and approach new thoughts and feelings, our conversation becomes a vehicle for personal insight and deeper connection to the Earth and the future we hope to create."

Talking Tree sessions last an hour and a half and are held upstairs in the Carpenter Room every other week at 12:45, right after the service.

For an extended sampling of conversation topics, please go to www.ourtalkingtree.info.

All are welcome!

Our community anti-racism vigils

continue every Monday from 4:30 pm to 5:00 pm. 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

- July 7 - (Blue Pod) - Tiffany, Joelle and Kay
- July 14 - (Purple Pod) - Jennifer & Dick, Robin, Bob & Joan
- July 21 - (Indigo Pod) - Lindy, Rob & Molly
- July 28 - (Green Pod) - Kate, Phyllis, Deb Arter, Tim & Karen
- Aug. 4 - (Red Pod) - Rosie, Bob, Deb Lomas