

# Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

*“The Illusion of Our Separateness”*

**May 16, 2021**



**Rev. Molly Brewer - Guest Minister**

Unitarian Universalist principles—and our Unitarian heritage—teach us about the importance of the individual. But in American society, focusing on individualism robs us of the inherent power of being part of a collective and sharing a united goal. Are we ready to confront the limitations of our tradition’s focus on individuality and imagine a new way of being together?

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://zoom.us/j/96686220659>

Meeting ID: 966 8622 0659

Telephone: Dial by your location  
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

## **Upcoming Service**

**May 23: Lindy Gifford - “Pentecost and Mary Magdalene”**

Pentecost Sunday is today, May 23, this year. Growing up UU, I knew little about Pentecost until recently, when I decided to learn more about the Christian heritage of both Unitarianism and Universalism. Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples of Jesus, is considered to be the day the Christian church was born. The four canonical Gospels and Acts of the Apostles tell the widely accepted story of what Jesus said and how the church came to be. But

there are other versions of that story, which were in wide circulation in the early years of the church. One of these is the “heretical” and long-lost Gospel of Mary Magdalen. What can this gospel tell us about the power struggles and specifically the suppression of women’s voices and influence in the early church. Can it help us access again some of the more “feminine” Divine Wisdom of Christianity which was so systematically silenced?

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### **Stewardship**

[Pledge 2021 Link](#)

[Anytime Donation Link](#)

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### **Religious Exploration**

This Sunday is an OWL Sunday. [Our Whole Lives \(OWL\) Sexuality Education for Grade 5.](#)

This weekend, participants from ChUUrchcraft World Religions will be videotaping their sections of the tour of the Minecraft realm. If you don’t understand what that means, plan to come to the worship service on Sunday, June 6, 10 a.m. – UURockland and MUUF will be worshipping together as we celebrate a year of exploring, learning and growing together.

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### **Pastoral Care**

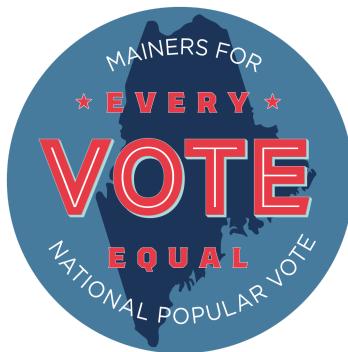
A reminder that during this time without a minister, members of the fellowship in need of pastoral care can contact the co-chairs of the Care Committee, Sandy Barth (207-563-5565) or Joan Whitmire (207-350-6954). Either of them can establish contact with Rev. Charles Stephens.

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## Social Justice

Learn about the National Popular Vote  
from the League of Women Voters

May 19th @ [12pm](#) or [7pm](#)



National Popular Vote buttons from the League of Women Voters of Maine!  
Contact your [congregational legislative liaison](#) to learn how you can get one.

### Do you agree that in a presidential campaign:

- The presidential candidate with the most votes in all 50 states should win?
- Presidential candidates should have to seek support in all 50 states?
- Every vote in every state in every election should be equal?

Then join us to learn about how the **National Popular Vote Compact** can help achieve all of these goals. **The League of Women Voters of Maine will offer two educational webinars to MUUSAN members and friends on Wednesday, May 19th.**

Register for the [presentation at 12pm](#) or the [presentation at 7pm](#) and bring your questions about the National Popular Vote!

**Racial, Native and Immigrant Justice:**

Lots is happening in the Maine Legislature and the Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network has been very busy advocating for bills that are aligned with our UU Principles. Thanks to all who contacted their legislators on behalf of the Wabanaki Sovereignty Bill. The Wabanaki Omnibus Bill will be brought up again later in the session. This will provide some time for coalition building and the reworking of language to ensure the bill's passage.

In the racial justice area, there have been successes and movements forward. LD 2, "A Bill requiring racial impact statements in the legislative process" has been passed and signed by the Governor. This has far reaching implications for all legislation in Maine and a way to address how all bills affect under represented minorities in the State.

This week, please contact your senator and state legislator and ask for their yes vote in supporting LD 1034, An Act to Provide Funding to Support the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations. This Commission is now permanent, but currently has no funding. If funded, this Commission would have far reaching ability to address systemic racism in Maine. It will provide for the voices of racial minorities and tribal people, and a seat at the table to help prevent further discrimination.

If you need help with talking points, please contact Mary Finn 781-866-3317, [maryefinn4@gmail.com](mailto:maryefinn4@gmail.com). They love hearing from their constituents!

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**Closing coverage gaps in the MaineCare Program:**

The 2021 legislative season is beginning to wind down with many pieces of legislation about to be voted on. Several of us in the Fellowship have been actively working with MUUSAN (the Maine UU State Advocacy Network) on some of this legislation. One piece that may come soon to the full legislature is LD 718 - An Act to Improve the Health of Maine Residents by Closing Coverage gaps in the MaineCare Program. Sandy Barth has prepared some "Talking Points" that could be used with your legislators and she encourages you, if you

are so inclined, to contact them in support of this legislation. There are several Representatives that cover the districts where we live, but Sen. Chloe Maxmin is the State Senator for most of us. Her cell is 200-6224 and her email is [chloe.maxmin@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:chloe.maxmin@legislature.maine.gov). It may help to say that you are a person of faith in their district. Feel free to use any of the points below:

- We believe that healthcare is a human right for everyone.
- Maine has an impressive history of welcoming and supporting immigrants. Until 2011 that support included MaineCare coverage. That coverage should now be restored.
- We depend on immigrants for jobs in farming, direct care and nursing homes, and many other low-paying but essential positions.
- This legislation has the broad support of many health and immigrant support groups.
- The pandemic has demonstrated the importance of basic health care in making sure that EVERYONE stays healthy.

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**General Assembly (GA)** is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. The 2021 UUA General Assembly a 100% **virtual event** being held on June 23-27, 2021! This is an inspirational engagement and learning opportunity for UUs at any point in one's spiritual journey.

Anyone may attend and registration is \$200. The Midcoast UU Fellowship is eligible to credential two delegates who agree to be present to vote on UUA business. Once you have registered, please email Zig Ziarnik at [president@uumidcoast.org](mailto:president@uumidcoast.org) of your interest in becoming a delegate. Julia Fitz-Randolph has attended GA for the past six years and welcomes anyone to contact her with questions and inspiration. Here's a highlight: Stacey Abrams and Desmond Meade are the Ware Lecturers this year!

For more information visit <https://www.uua.org/ga>

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**Anti-racism Vigil:** Every Monday noon to 12:30 pm at the Newcastle Veterans Memorial Park until further notice. Check [PUAR's Facebook page](#) for updates.

