



# Midcoast UU News

Interim Minister: The Reverend Danielle Di Bona

Telephone: 350-0210

August 2009

**Sunday, August 2 at 10:30 am**  
***Lughnasadh (LOO-nus-uh):***  
***A Celebration of the First Harvest***  
—Bonnie Ginger et al.

This service is the 4th in a series of Celtic Wheel of the Year intergenerational services. Lughnasadh is a cross point holiday on the Pagan calendar, falling between Summer Solstice and the Autumnal Equinox. For Neo-Pagans and Earth based practitioners these holidays are special markers in the turning of the year. Lughnasadh acknowledges and honors the first harvest of the year when we give thanks for the Earth's bounty and sustenance. Included in the service will be a special blueberry communion in honor of our states special fruit.



**Sunday, August 9 at 10:30 am**  
***Sermon Without Words: Music***  
***for A Sunny Summer Morning***  
—Barbara Prose & musicians

Come enjoy a morning of music, from Chopin to Gilbert and Sullivan, from solo instrumental to vocal duet. Another intergenerational service!



**The Rev. Danielle Di Bona poses with some of the dogs (and their people) whom she blessed at Midcoast UU Fellowship, July 12.**

Please note: the beautiful wolfhound in the center is available for adoption from the Lincoln County Animal Shelter.

Photo: Andrew Twaddle

**Sunday, August 16 at 10:30 am**  
***Hope, Fear, Wonder and Awe***  
—Rev. Danielle Di Bona

When changes happen in our lives, be it our personal life, our professional life, or the life of our Fellowship, we experience many emotions. All of them are valid and can happen all at once. How might we use these feelings to move us on into our journey?

**Remember our website:**  
**[www.uumidcoast.org](http://www.uumidcoast.org)**  
**for more information!**

**Sunday, August 23 at 10:30 am**  
***The Health Care Crisis***  
—Andrew Twaddle

We have the most expensive health care system in the world and it is in some ways the least effective in the developed world. This reflection will discuss how we got here and what current research tells us about how to reduce cost and improve access. This is a fundamental social justice issue.

Andrew Twaddle is a member of MUUF and Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Family and Community Medicine, University of Missouri



**Sunday, August 30 at 10:30 am**  
***Leave-Taking***

When we leave whatever it is that we're leaving, what do we leave behind and what do we take with us? On this, my last day with you, I will explore the spiritual nature of leaving and taking.

## UPCOMING DATES:

Lunch Bunch will not meet in August.

**August 9 Sunday**—RE Committee meeting, before service at 9 am at the Edgecomb Town Hall.

**August 10 Monday**—Sunday Program Committee meeting, 9:30 am at the Baileys'.

**August 13 Thursday**—Poetry group, 1:30 pm at Roger and Mary Duncan's house.

**August 13 Thursday**—Adult RE, 7 pm at Friends Meeting House, Damariscotta.

## Minister's Message

Dear Ones:

It is August, the last real month of summer and my last month with all of you. As you know, when a minister leaves a congregation, she ends her day-to-day relationship with the congregation members. This is so that you can move on with your new minister and his or her exciting suggestions and plans. This does not mean that I will ignore you when I see you on the street! Certainly I will look forward to saying hello, to reading the newsletter and I will be cheering you on.

This year has been a joy for me. I have relished the relationships I've made with all of you. I have loved working with all of you and seeing this congregation take some steps into your future. I cherish your openness to me and to the changes I've suggested. I am especially grateful for all of the kindness I've received as my life has changed this past year.

You will continue to be a part of my heart and I will keep all of you in my thoughts and prayers. Remember that I have great expectations for the Mid-Coast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, so go out and change the world!

Very fondly,  
Rev. Danielle

## President's Message

There are some tasks that require the concentrated effort of only one person. Getting my boat ready to launch, finally on July 23, was solely my responsibility. The early spring weather led me to believe this was the year to redo all the bright-work. Family matters took me away on many of the dry days, but long, tiring days produced results.

The Fellowship, on the other hand, cannot reach its goals with efforts from just a few members. The service and meeting that followed on July 19 made it clear that we need to find a replacement for Danielle. Yes, it was a small group, about 30 percent of our current membership. But it included many of those who keep this Fellowship going, who want to ensure our future as a liberal voice in our wider community.

We need a part-time minister to provide pastoral services, to provide guidance to our important committees, to encourage us to do the work needed to put our long range plan into motion. Also, to provide some spiritual guidance through sermons at one or two services a month. A few of us are working on this, including our current minister.

But this search, and a few summer-like days, should not keep the rest of you from participating in the work required to keep this unique religious community alive and well. One or two of you need to step forward and take charge of the refreshment materials, buying what is needed and keeping the bins organized. Others are needed to help with the sound system, ensuring that it is setup and recording each and every service. More people need to step forward and help Mimi with her fundraising events. The lack of a membership chairman is a hindrance to our very survival.

On a higher level of needs, a membership run Fellowship needs some members to participate in a Lay Ministry. A few of us who are ready to step in and conduct a service, complete with a 'sermon'. Ready to step in when a member needs to talk with someone and a minister is not readily available.

Finally, to ensure that this Fellowship survives, all of you must join in the fall effort to put the long range plan into action. If you haven't signed up for one of the four groups, please do and save us a lot of phone calls. If you don't participate it is akin to not voting at your town meeting: you lose your right to comment or complain.

My thanks to all who do so much, and to all of you who are now going to step up and help.

David

## RE News

Sunday, August 2 is our inter-generational celebration of Lughnasah upstairs. Lughnasah is the fourth of the Celtic Wheel of the Year holidays and celebrates First Fruits (Lamas or loaf-mass, in the Christian calendar), a harvest festival. There will be Maine blueberries and special breads to help us celebrate!

The next Sunday, August 9, is another intergenerational service: *Sermon Without Words: Music for A Sunny Summer Morning*, lead by Barbara Prose and with the participation from young musicians.

The RE committee will meet at 9 am before the service Sunday on August 9, downstairs at the townhall.

We will be starting to plan the children's programming for the fall, so please join us if you have ideas and would like to participate in the RE program for the new school year!

Sunday **August 16**, Mimi Moore and Kate Pennington will lead Spirit Play.

**Adult RE** continues every other Thursday night at 7 pm at the Friends Meeting House in Damariscotta.

We are reading the Commission on Appraisal Report entitled *Engaging Our Theological Diversity*. If you are interested, you can get the full report at: [www.uua.org/documents/coa/engagingourtheodiversity.pdf](http://www.uua.org/documents/coa/engagingourtheodiversity.pdf).

We will meet next on August 13 to discuss the fourth section, *Values*.

- Travel and stay in homes of people who share your ideals
- Host travelers in your home to meet new friends and earn extra money

The UU bed and breakfast directory *UU're Home* (formerly *Homecomings*) offers a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and are happy to open their home to like-minded people. Travel to different cities and stay in reasonably priced accommodations or become a host and enjoy meeting new friends.

For more information, visit [www.UUreHome.com](http://www.UUreHome.com) or write to [info@uurehome.com](mailto:info@uurehome.com)



8/2

### Coffee/Tea

Mabel O'Brien

8/9

Mimi Moore

8/16

Phyllis & Jim McQuaid

8/23

Helene & Arthur Barnes

8/30

Anne & Billie Flanagan

### Greeter

Sandy Barth

Sue van Alsenoy

Tipton/Larocque-Tipton

Goltz/Kleinkopf

Hancock/Wolcott

## MUUF Long Range Plan

The MUUF Long Range Plan is an ambitious and comprehensive document that outlines the major initiatives to take place over the next five years. It is imperative that we implement this plan in order to ensure our continuing presence in the Mid Coast community.

The Board has voted to establish a focused and energetic effort to launch an implementation plan. There are ten areas identified in the plan that represent the key areas of concern. We have established four Task Force Groups to focus on these ten key initiatives.

We need the participation of each and every member and friend of the

Fellowship. As announced at the Fellowship in June, this effort will be undertaken from September to November. We believe by giving sufficient notice and avoiding the busy summer season that you will have been able to clear your calendars in order to prepare to meet during that three month period.

Please choose the group that best reflects your interests and add your name to the list posted on the Bulletin Board in the Town Hall.

The goal is to breathe life into the Long Range Plan and develop clear and doable steps to accomplish our goal of a thriving and energized MUUF.

### From the Long Range Plan:

- |                           |                             |                          |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Major Initiatives:</b> | 1. Community Outreach       | 6. Religious Exploration |
|                           | 2. Future Visioning Process | 7. Small Groups          |
|                           | 3. Governance/Finance       | 8. Sunday Services       |
|                           | 4. Membership               | 9. Spiritual Leader      |
|                           | 5. Music                    | 10. Future Growth        |

### From the Interim Minister

Music is the language of the soul. It is a universal language. We can be anywhere in the world and, when the music starts, we can feel in our bodies what the gathered community is feeling, even if we cannot understand even one word of their language. In Unitarian Universalism, music has evolved from the hymns that we remember from our childhoods to a more inclusive model. This Fellowship is blessed with great music and an open mind so that all can join in the community and be moved and touched by what is heard. It is important to continue to keep music at the center of worship and the Fellowship.

### From The President

Without music our services would be meaningless to most of us. We have begun implementation of the plan suggestions, including a hymn for the call to worship, more spiritual than ringing a bell or striking a bowl or gong. It helps to have familiar hymns, especially if you are like me and don't read music and can't carry a tune—except when others are leading the way. We hope to have enough choir members that they can lead all of us, but this won't happen unless we grow our membership, and attendance. With growth and increased income we can offer honorariums to visiting musicians, adding to the richness of our services.

There are still **CDs available** with the photos, by Les Frederick, of the May Day/Beltane service. See Dave Bailey and make a donation to the new sound system.



## Fund Raising News

Dear Friends,

Please note that the following dates have changed:

### Harvest Supper

5:30 pm, Saturday, September 12  
Edgecomb Town Hall.

### Jim Scott Concert

7pm, Saturday, October 3  
Eddy School in Edgecomb.

Both events will honor local gardens and the environment and we can be proud to give our efforts to make them a success.

As you know summer disappears quickly and September 12 is less than two months away. Mabel O'Brien and I have met to plan the menu and will soon be calling each member of the fellowship to learn where you would like to participate. We figure we need 20 salads and casseroles and 15 pies.

We want to have music again, lots of publicity and a good crew of young people to act as waiters and waitresses. Yes, we will need people to set up and decorate and others to wash dishes and take the tables back downstairs.

Much work... good community outreach.... good fun....and hopefully a pot of money raised to support the work of the church.

Happy Summer!  
Mimi Moore

## Faith in Action

We are taking orders for *The Better World Shopping Guide*, a pocket book that rates corporations by the products they make. The book sells for ten dollars and MUUF will earn five dollars for each book sold. See Andrew Twaddle to place your order. Here is an example of a company rating page from the guide.

### Social Responsibility Rankings: Gas Stations

- A Sunoco
- B+ BP, Amoco, ARCO
- B Valero, Beacon, Total, Diamond Shamrock
- B- Citgo
- C+ Marathon, Ashland
- C Costco, 7-Eleven
- C- Shell
- D+ Conoco, Phillips 66, 76, Jet, Circle K
- D- Chevron, Texaco
- F Exxon, Mobil

Turn every dollar into Social Change

**As you travel to work or on your way to some wonderful summer vacation, wouldn't you like to take along some UU friends?**

**Unitarian Universalist Podcasts**—sermons, meditations, RE materials and more, are available from the Church of the Larger Fellowship any-time and any place for your ipod, MP3 player, or computer. Hear the voices of UU contributors to the CLF's worship publication via iTunes subscription, or listen à la carte.

The Church of the Larger Fellowship is the UU congregation through mail and the Web. Our monthly worship publication, "Quest" (also available in print and on-line), gathers contributions from renowned UU ministers.

You can subscribe to our free podcasts at [www.clfuu.org/podcasts](http://www.clfuu.org/podcasts), or listen to segments à la carte at [www.clfuu.org/quest](http://www.clfuu.org/quest). The CLF Quest podcast has nearly 1,000 subscribers worldwide: join our community of listeners today! Visit the Church of the Larger Fellowship at <http://www.clfuu.org>.

### **FALL TASK GROUPS**

Every member has been asked to serve on one of the four groups that will meet regularly for three months in an effort to determine the future of this Fellowship. Please sign up for your choice, we need everyone involved in this effort.

### **Fellowship Minister and Board of Directors**

**Minister:** Rev. Danielle Di Bona

**President:** David Bailey

**Vice-president:** Anne Flanagan

**Secretary:** Phyllis Loney

**Treasurer:** Jean Howe

**Trustees:** Allen Millett  
Mimi Moore  
June Phillips

**Nominating Committee:**  
Andrew Twaddle  
Mabel O'Brien  
Lindy Gifford

**Minister of Music & Pianist:**  
Barbara Prose

**Director, Religious Exploration:**  
Lindy Gifford

**Newsletter:** Lindy Gifford  
Donna Dolham

**Public Relations:** David Bailey  
Judy Linker

### **Committee Chairs**

**Sunday Programs:** Sandra Barth

**Music:** Suzanne Carlson

**Faith in Action:** June Phillips



Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
P. O. Box 2, Edgecomb, ME 04556

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