

## Hello Everyone!

My name is Emory Burke. (My pronouns are they/them/theirs.) I am excited to introduce myself as the new Christian Education Facilitator for State Street Congregational Church, Woodfords Congregational Church, and Williston-Immanuel United Church. I live with my husband, my three dogs, and my cat in our little cabin on the river. I have lived in Maine for 1.5 years and thoroughly enjoy living here, especially engaging in outdoor activities and exploring cities and towns throughout Maine. I am originally from Colorado but have lived in various places in both the United States and abroad. I spent a year in South America, specifically Peru and Paraguay, as a volunteer missionary working with children and youth programming and supporting churches there. I grew up in the Church of the Nazarene and served as a volunteer, intern, and volunteer pastor for several different churches in that denomination. I also worked as a Youth and Family Minister for an Episcopal Church in the Midwest. I have also attended congregational churches, including being a member of a Christian Church (Disciples).

All of these different experiences have helped shape me into someone who loves to explore the big questions of faith and life. I appreciate diversity and love learning. I am currently finishing my Master of Theology degree. My undergraduate degree is in Intercultural Ministry and Christian Ministry, as well. One of my favorite parts of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation is allowing people, especially kids and teens, the space to explore their own faith in meaningful, creative ways. I enjoy connecting to my personal faith through spending time in nature, engaging in social justice, praying, meditating,



and having spiritual conversations with friends. I love drinking coffee, going to the ocean, watching my favorite TV shows, and traveling. I am excited to get to know each of you and to work together to create impactful, engaging Christian education and spiritual formation programming for our families and young people.