



# THE COMMON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF CASTINE

April 2023

## A Month of Sundays in April

<b>2</b>	<p>“I Need You” Rev. Margaret Beckman, Worship leader Karen Forehly, Musician</p>
<b>9</b>	<p>Easter – No Single Story Rev. Margaret Beckman, Worship leader Karen Froehly, Musician</p>
<b>16</b>	<p>Rev. Al Boyce, Worship leader Chris Poulin &amp; Juliane Gardner, Musicians Potluck Sunday</p>
<b>23</b>	<p>Earth Day 2023 Rev. Margaret Beckman, Worship leader Karen Froehly, Musician</p>
<b>30</b>	<p>Inciting Joy Rev. Margaret Beckman, Worship leader Colleen Fitzgerald, Musician</p>



### Our Mission

To establish and promote an open and welcoming congregation that supports and sustains the spiritual, ethical, intellectual and overall well-being of our members while serving our broader communities.

### Contact Us

P.O. Box 520, 86 Court Street, Castine, ME 04421  
207-326-9083 • Email: [office@uucastine.org](mailto:office@uucastine.org)  
Website: [uucastine.org](http://uucastine.org) • “Like” us on Facebook

For questions or comments about The Common or to submit items for this newsletter, please contact Debbie Morehouse [office@uucastine.org](mailto:office@uucastine.org).

## From the President's Desk

Is it Spring yet? We have waited a long time and even though winter can be beautiful, it can become taxing to get through for many.

When I think of April, I think of the yellow in the daffodils and forsythia, the red in the tulips and the various greens in the budding trees. My mother-in-law taught Alvion and I to look into the colors, because there was so much they told us. It is impossible not to think of the creation of all these beautiful things to enjoy. It is a wonderful time.



I hope your Spring is bright with yellows and reds and greens. A new beginning, deeper faith and oh yes, a visit from the Easter Bunny.

Love to All, Cindi



## Music Matters – Colleen Fitzgerald

Sing of the seasons that circle around us  
Sing of the joy that each moment can bring  
Sing of the colors and healing vibrations  
Playing a love song on nature's heartstrings.

Colleen Fitzgerald became a part of UUCC's music team in 2018. She says, "It is a great privilege to be able to play the beautiful Steinway piano in the UUCC parish house for Sunday worship services. I enjoy collaborating with Margaret and visiting ministers to support the theme, mood, and tempo of each service, knowing that music can touch us in heartfelt ways beyond the reach of words and ideas."

Beginning piano lessons at age eight, Colleen soon learned the power of music to comfort and entertain. She sang in the choir and played the organ at St. Edwards Catholic Church in Westminister, Massachusetts. She and her friend, Patsy, introduced folk masses to the congregation with mixed results. Later, as an elementary education teacher of students in grades K - 4, Colleen found singing and dancing with her students to be the activities she most enjoyed.

Colleen found the UU Church in Bangor in the late 1980's and quickly joined the choir. In 1993 she met Kay Gardner at a Hersey Retreat and they, along with Pam Gross, founded a women's singing circle to be named Women with Wings. Almost 30 years later, Women with Wings still meets weekly and has brought comfort, strength, and hope to many women across the country.

Colleen and her wife, Sharon Baker, live in Newburgh on a small gentlewoman's farm where they care for 27 chickens, 4 goats, a large garden, 3 bee hives, and their cat Sam. They have felt welcomed by the wonderful people at UUCC and are grateful to be part of Sunday services and No Neighbor Left Behind.



## Lakeside Reflections April 2023

It's April. I want to be writing about daffodils, tulips and peepers. What I can't get out of my mind is the deadly impact of another mass shooting, taking the lives of six people at a school in Nashville. Two things come to me time and time again. Yes, there are so many causes



and tragedies in the lives of those who take up weapons of mass destruction and murder innocent people. Yet, the single common element – the guns. And second, thoughts and prayers are necessary. Thoughts and prayers mean something. I know, this year more than ever before in my own life. At the same time, offering thoughts and prayers alone when the power, authority and ability to actually prevent, or at the very least reduce, these utterly senseless tragedies is not enough.

The Chaplain of the US Senate knows this and calls it out in prayer. After this mass shooting took the lives of six people, including three 9-year-old children, at a Nashville, Tennessee, school, Senate Chaplain Barry Black used his opening prayer to urge lawmakers to take action. *“Lord, when babies die at a church school, it is time for us to move beyond thoughts and prayers,”* Black said as the Senate opened for business on Tuesday. *“Remind our lawmakers of the words of the British statesman Edmund Burke: ‘All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing.’ Lord, deliver our senators from the paralysis of analysis that waits for the miraculous.”*

The White House Press Secretary knows it. During an appearance Tuesday on “CNN This Morning,” White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said it was “devastating” for the parents who lost their children, and Americans at large, to hear lawmakers state that the country had run out of options on gun safety measures. *“They lost their kids yesterday, and that’s what we’re saying?”* Jean-Pierre asked. *“We should not be saying there’s nothing else to do. We should be trying to figure out what else there can be to do.”*

New York Times opinion writer Esau McCaulley knows it. *“There are many ways to judge the success or failure of a country. We can look at its economy, the strength of its military or the quality of its education. We can examine the soundness of our bridges or the smoothness of our highways.*

*But what if we used a different standard? We should judge a nation by a simple metric: the number of weeping parents it allows, the small coffins it tolerates. The debate around gun control is not new, of course, and each tragedy brings a fresh wave of calls for*

*common-sense gun regulation. The adversaries of reform will rebuke us for turning a tragedy, the deaths of six innocent people, into an occasion to debate politics. We will be urged to offer prayers for the victims and their families while we await the appropriate time to discuss the more difficult issues. But too often it seems that rather than waiting for the right time, politicians are simply trying to wait out the news cycle.”*

You and I know it. Thoughts and prayers have a sacred place in our lives and thoughts and prayers can make a real difference for people. But, when thoughts and prayers become no more than a talking point for people who refuse to solve the problem, thoughts and prayers make a mockery of both faith and human life.

We’ve seen the countless images of children’s funerals. We’ve seen the horrible suffering of families, schools, towns and places of worship, commerce and education. We know .... There are all the things we cannot control that contribute to these tragedies. Why do we refuse to do the one thing we CAN do – control weapons of mass killing.

Like you, I am heart-broken. Like you, I am frustrated. Like you, I am angry. Like you, I ask “what else can I do to soften the stone-hard hearts and stiff necks of those who could pass and implement meaningful and sensible reforms?” Maybe some time during April when so many around the world celebrate the holy days of Passover, Ramadan and Easter; when so many walk the woods listening for peepers and admiring the daffodils and white trilliums; when families plan summer vacations and people come out of winter malaise and cabin fever; maybe we can take the time to contact legislators within and beyond our own state and plead with them again and again and again to stop the madness and work toward a country that can both defend itself and save the lives of our children. No more tiny coffins after mass shootings, please. Amen. Margaret

## Why Not Give Up Easter?

Easter brings up so many different images to different people. Of course, it depends on your past experiences. Easter may carry the Christians' message of the resurrection of Jesus Christ after his crucifixion. Maybe it suggests memories of a family gathering with hot cross buns for brunch or ham and sweet potatoes for afternoon dinner. Perhaps, one pictures hidden Easter baskets with artificial green grass or pansies, and little candy kisses, lovingly placed around the living room or new Easter bonnets, chocolate-covered marshmallow eggs, colored jellybeans, and dark hard chocolate bunnies. Maybe a parade or the annual community Easter egg hunt on lush new grass or a late snow.

But what is the message of Easter for those of us who do not relate to the strong religious traditions of Christ's death, ascension and resurrection, nor engage in candy feasts and egg hunts. For me, I cannot totally give up Easter, for it provides me the opportunity of a new beginning each spring; a chance to look at Nature and see rebirth. After a hard, long

winter that has chilled the ground and broken the backs of many trees, I know we will see the tiny purple or yellow crowns of the first crocus, the subtle changes in the trees as stark black on gray sky become rose red buds on a clearing blue backdrop, and then the pale yellow and light green hues as new leaves the size of mouse ears reach toward the sunlight. Fresh and clean.

Can I too have the yearly opportunity to start anew? To begin with new clothes, perhaps not ones I wear on my outside but more importantly new fabrics for my soul. Can I resurrect the soul that has been dragged down---with a hard winter of below zero temperatures and less than mild relationships? Can I see the resistant, defensive ground or shield yield to become the porous, forgiving base for fertile growth. Just as the sun's warmth grows more intense, Easter reminds me to spread out my love more intensely. If I give up my Easter, I give up the yearly ritual of stopping for just a day to revive, renew, and refocus my love for family and friends and even for those who are outside my circle.

And what can we pass on to our children and grandchildren? They will take away from their memories. Easter will become their own experience and will be what they choose to make it, or not. I only hope that they don't just give up on Easter.

Written several years ago after my children moved away.

Joan MacCracken



## Food Glorious Food

On **April 14**, join in on the fun and fulfillment of putting together our quarterly No Neighbor Left Behind meal. With your help our neighbors will enjoy some glorious food!

On **April 18**, come to Church prepared to partake of our monthly Potluck Luncheon. It's our chance to reconnect and enjoy a meal together.

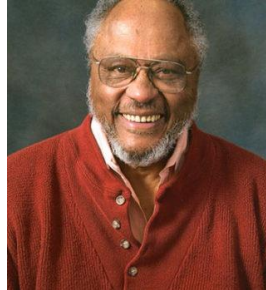




## Hidden Legacies: Uncovering Castine's African American History

April 20th at 7:00 pm

The Castine Historical Society is pleased to launch “Hidden Legacies: Uncovering Castine’s African American History”, an educational series that will tell the untold stories of African Americans in Castine and Maine. The series will take place from mid-April through mid-October.

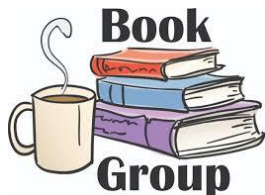


While some of the lectures will be in-person, all will have a Zoom component for those who can't make it to Castine. And if you can't Zoom on the day of the event, each lecture will be uploaded onto our YouTube Channel and linked from our website.

After years of research and several in-depth newsletter articles, we are poised to share with you our ongoing research. We also will bring in speakers from throughout the county who will share their expertise in related areas such as slavery in Maine, the myths of Maine and the abolition movement, three centuries of Maine's Black history, and the state's new place justice project. We even are hosting a walking tour in Castine!

The series launches on Thursday, April 20 at 7:00 p.m. with a talk via Zoom on three centuries of Maine's Black history by noted historian and journalist, Bob Greene. Preregistration is required for this free talk and you can learn more and sign up <https://www.castinehistoricalsociety.org/events/maines-black-history/>.

To see the complete list of Castine Historical Society's programs visit their website <https://www.castinehistoricalsociety.org/>.



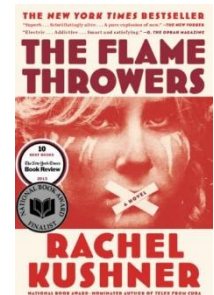
**Book**

**Group**

### UUC Reads ~ Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. on ZOOM.

The next book our book group will read is *The Flamethrowers* by Rachel Kushner.

Reno, so-called because of the place of her birth, comes to New York intent on turning her fascination with motorcycles and speed into art. Her arrival coincides with an explosion of activity—artists colonize a deserted and industrial SoHo, stage actions in the East Village, blur the line between life and art. Reno is submitted to a sentimental education of sorts—by dreamers, poseurs, and raconteurs in New York and by radicals in Italy, where she goes with her lover to meet his estranged and formidable family. Ardent, vulnerable, and bold, Reno is a fiercely memorable observer.



Consider becoming part of the UU Reads book discussion. The Zoom link can be found on our webpage or our weekly e-newsletter.



## General Assembly: The Unitarian Universalist Association's Annual Meeting

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 the democratic process.

### General Assembly 2023

Join us June 21 - 25, 2023 online or in-person in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Most GA events will take place at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, 1000 Fort Duquesne Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA.



- More about traveling to Pittsburgh - <https://www.uua.org/ga/travel>.
- Register early to secure the lowest rates - <https://www.uua.org/ga/registration>.
- [Volunteer opportunities](#) and [financial support](#) are available.

General Assembly this year includes a VOTE for a new President and a VOTE on the revised Article II of our UUA By-Laws. Both important aspects of our living and strong faith.

UU Castine has two delegates. Do you want to represent us at General Assembly this year? In Pittsburgh OR On-line... your participation is needed and is important.

If you are interested in serving as a delegate to the 2023 General assembly: Contact our President, Cindi Kimball, or our Minister, Margaret Beckman, by emailing [office@uucastine.org](mailto:office@uucastine.org) with GA Delegate in the subject line.



There is no glory in star or blossom  
till looked upon by a loving eye;  
There is no fragrance in April breezes  
till breathed with joy as they wander by.”

-William Cullen Bryant

