



The Common December 2018



Sunday Service Calendar

Winter Holidays Series “Gifts of the Season”

December 2nd Rev. Margaret Beckman “Light—It’s Hanukkah!”

Ian Brenner-Simpson, Musician

December 9th Rev. Margaret Beckman “Kindness—Buddhism’s gift”

Colleen Fitzgerald, Musician Potluck Sunday and **ANNUAL MEETING**

December 16th Rev. Margaret Beckman “Wonder—Solstice Celebration”

Joan Kroehler, Musician

December 23rd Rev. Margaret Beckman, “Love—Stories of African American Christmas” Colleen Fitzgerald, Musician

December 24th is Christmas Eve. Candlelight Service at 4:00 p.m. “Calm and Bright: 200 Years of Silent Night” Colleen Fitzgerald, Musician

Coffee, Tea and sweets in the Parish House at 3:00 p.m.

December 30th Rev. Margaret Beckman “Gratitude & Hope at the End of the Year” Juliane Gardner & Chris Poulin, Musicians

January 6th Lane Fisher with Ian Brenner-Simpson, Musician

Sunday Morning services are at 10:30 in the historic Unitarian Universalist Meeting House on the Castine Town Common. Coffee Hour to greet and visit with friends and new-comers at 11:30. All are welcome to come to one or both of our regular Sunday morning gatherings.

President's Desk

Leslie Fairbank

Greetings, members and friends of UUCC. We are rapidly approaching the Shortest Day. There's Hanukkah, Winter Solstice, Christmas, Kwanza, New Year—all the winter holidays that celebrate light and love and help us get through the dark days.



The church year will end, and a new one begin, on December 9th at the Annual Meeting. Our excellent nominating committee has put together a slate of candidates for the governing board which, we trust, will be elected by the members at the Annual Meeting.

Meanwhile, I would like to offer some appreciations and welcomes as outgoing president. **Diana Bernard** is finishing her service as Treasurer after two terms, the maximum allowed continuously. We thank her for her dedicated service and her vigorous pursuit of better deals on insurance, energy and other requirements. Many, many thanks, Diana. **Rodney Flora** will be leaving the board, but will continue to serve on the Finance and Music Committees. Thank you, Rodney. **Anne Price** has served as Clerk this year, and will move to be Treasurer, a position she has held before. Thanks for the accurate minutes and wise presence. **Colin Powell** has served our congregation as our Alternate board member. Being busy as selectman and chair of the Collaborative Ministry Team, Colin is now leaving the board. We appreciate all he does.

Emma Sweet will finish his term as Alternate board member. **Tom Mason** will become Vice-President and continue as chair of Buildings and Grounds, thank goodness. **Brooke Tenney** will become President, having served two years as VP. She will help guide UUCC in the next phase of the Opportunity Fund and other possibilities. **Elaine Gerard-Climo** has agreed to serve as Clerk. We welcome her to the board. **Jess Morehouse** will join the governing board as member at large. Very glad to have you, Jess. **Anne Parsons** and I will continue on the board as

We are pleased that **Joan Bothwell, Sue Clement, Marcia Mason and Anne Romans** will continue to serve another year in the most important role of Nominating Committee.



Many thanks to all who have agreed to serve. It has been an honor to serve as UUCC board president. I encourage everyone to support the new board as it continues to guide UUCC's ongoing work in the world. I send warmest holiday greetings to our friends, near and far, and hope for a peaceful 2019. Love to all, Leslie



Congregational Life

Annual Meeting

ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9th at 11:30 a.m.

Our UCC congregational Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 9th following the morning worship service. This is the time when we review the year ending and look forward to We will vote on the proposed budget, Officers and Governing Board members for 2019.

Printed copies of the Annual Report, 2018 will be available on Sunday the 9th in the Parish House.

Kitchen Considerations

Many of us are in and out of the kitchen in the Parish House preparing for Coffee Hour, Special Dinners, Leave No Neighbor Behind meals, and a host of other things. Our small space is showing signs of wear and tear. Tips for success:

The dishwasher needs special starting instructions for extra hot water – ask for help.

The oven has temperature settings in both F and C. Use Fahrenheit settings!

Cupboards and drawers are labeled (mostly) to keep us organized.

Trash goes out Sunday afternoon for Monday morning pick-up. Please remember to take out the trash.

Enjoy!



Religious Education Kay Hansen

In November, we talked about the meaning of Veteran's Day and Election Day. We listened to a story about making decisions and having our voices heard, and we tried some voting, even a variation of "ranked-choice voting!" The children heard a story about Thanksgiving and talked about how this special day reminds us of all the things we are thankful for every day. The children also wrote thank you notes to someone they wanted to thank.

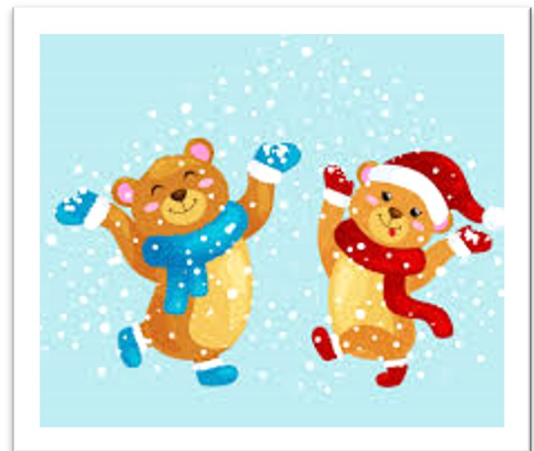
So, now we move into December, a month filled with holidays and festivals. Throughout the month, we will hear stories and learn more about the traditions of Hanukkah, Christmas and Winter Solstice. In the spirit of all of these holidays, we will be making gifts for those special people in our lives. In addition to giving gifts, candles and lights play a significant part in all of these festivals. For Hanukkah, which begins at sundown on December 2nd, the children will hear a story about a very special candle made with a potato, oil and a thread from Great-Aunt Rose's skirt.

The following is a Hanukkah poem:

*Look to the light, the light of the window,
The simple lit candles that shimmer and shine.
The message is clear as simple lit candles,
The passion for freedom is yours and is mine.*

--Rabbi Dan Grossman

Wishing peace and love for this season,
Kay Hansen



A Season of Gratitude and Giving

Unitarian Universalist Association Disaster Relief Fund

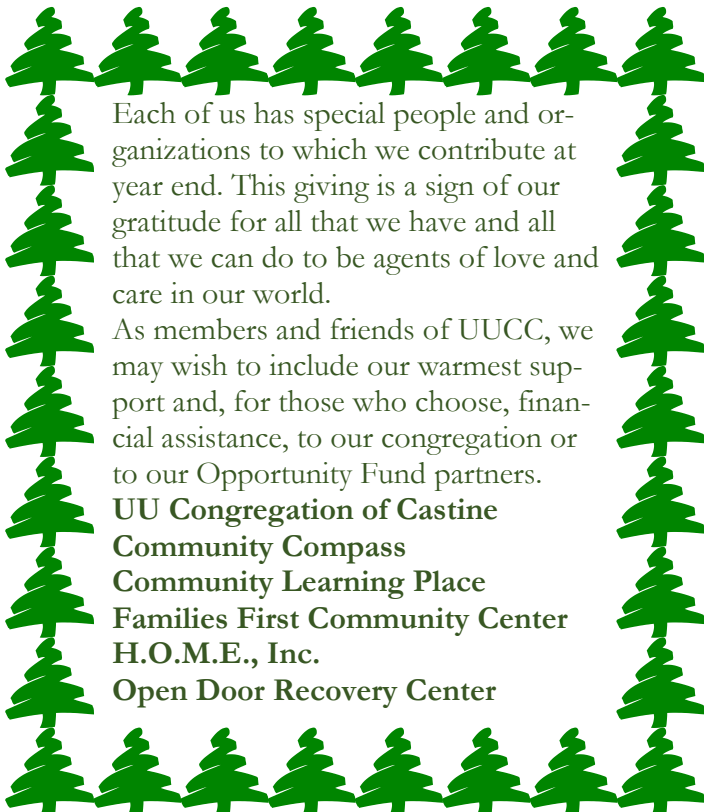
Several people have inquired about the ability to make a meaningful contribution to help people following the disasters of fires and mud slides in California. Our UUA has an on-going fund that supports congregations when disaster strikes. Here is more information:

We know that long after the initial clean-up, real recovery can take months or years. The UUA stands with its congregations and is ready to provide assistance to help congregations in repairing any damage, and to support them in responding to the needs of their members' and their community's efforts to get back on its feet.

The Disaster Relief Fund disburses grants to UU congregations and affiliated UU entities. Disaster relief grantees have reported feeling held in care and more connected to other UU congregations and to the UUA as a whole. For an online contribution, go to:

<https://giving.uua.org/disaster-aid>

If you prefer to donate by mail, please make your check payable to the UUA with "Disaster Relief Fund" on the memo line, and send to UUA Gift Processing, 24 Farnsworth St, Boston, MA 02210.



Each of us has special people and organizations to which we contribute at year end. This giving is a sign of our gratitude for all that we have and all that we can do to be agents of love and care in our world.

As members and friends of UUCC, we may wish to include our warmest support and, for those who choose, financial assistance, to our congregation or to our Opportunity Fund partners.

UU Congregation of Castine
Community Compass
Community Learning Place
Families First Community Center
H.O.M.E., Inc.
Open Door Recovery Center

Thanksgiving Meal Boxes

Gil Tenney reports that Tracey Hair, director of H.O.M.E., told us that H.O.M.E. collected enough Thanksgiving meal boxes to feed 105 individuals. Thanks to the teamwork of: Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine
Trinitarian Congregational Parish of Castine
Our Lady of Holy Hope
St. Brendan-the-Navigator
St. Francis by the Sea
Bangor Savings Bank

In addition, boxes were delivered to Open Door Recovery Center and many other friends and neighbors around the Blue Hill Peninsula and Stonington/Deer Isle areas. Together we are making a difference.

CASTINE COMPASSIONATE COALITION continues to encourage donations to the International Refugee Committee as they work with the families who were separated at our southern border. We have raised just over \$5,000 so far from our near and far away neighbors and friends. That will support about two families with much needed help.

Steps to make your ONLINE donation:

Go to:

<https://help.rescue.org/donate/us-faith-communities-separated-families>

Click on: Donate Now >

Select an amount to donate and enter it under
MAKE A MONTHLY DONATION
OR
MAKE A ONE-TIME DONATION

Enter your Name, E-mail address. Then enter

Castine Compassionate Coalition

In the box that reads Congregation or Organizational Affiliation

Continue with your Address and Zip/Postal Code information. Then select PAYMENT INFO

Verify your donation amount and type of donation at the top of the next page, then enter your Credit Card Information or your PayPal Information. Finally enter SUBMIT DONATION . You will receive confirmation of your donation as well as an email to print for your tax records.

Collaborative Ministry Team

The three Unitarian Universalist congregations of Belfast, Castine and Ellsworth are the Collaborative Ministry in mid-Maine. UUCC members of the Collaborative Ministry Team (CMT) are: Colin Powell, Leslie Fairbank, and Rev. Margaret Beckman.

One of the most innovative things our collaboration does is our Collaborative Ministry Internship. Each person preparing for ordained ministry as a Unitarian Universalist needs to complete an Internship in an established UU ministry setting. Most interns serve in a parish congregation under the supervision of a UU minister in Fellowship with the UUA. Our first Intern was Lane Fisher. Our second was Amy Fiorilli. This year we did not have an intern. We are accepting applications for an intern to be with us in 2019-2020. Castine will be the primary congregation for this new intern. You know very well that housing in and around Castine can be expensive and hard to find. The CMT thought about possible ways to help. Here is one idea from Lane Fisher.

Let's Work Some Magic!

Your Collaborative Ministry Team is trying to make our internship more attractive to seminarians who don't already live



One possibility is to help the intern find a place to live. If we offer our intern doesn't fully understand among the churches, and others are stretching to provide that much, plus reimbursement.

ing to make our internship more attractive in the area, as our first two interns did.

affordable housing. The \$13,000 stipend covers normal housing costs, transportation expenses—and yet our churches fund for FICA and some travel reimbursement.

So we're appealing to all three congregations to help us get creative on the housing need.

There are professional boundary issues that make living with one of our members inadvisable, but living in a separate space or with a non-member might work. We're asking UUs in Belfast, Castine, and Ellsworth to explore any possible situation.

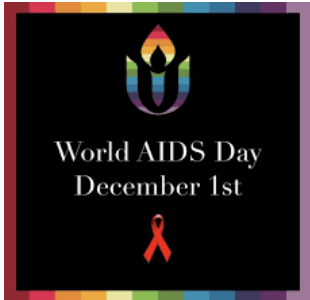
Do you know:

- + someone who has an in-law apartment that they might be willing to rent at a suppressed rate for nine months?
- + seasonal residents who don't rent their Maine home but might be willing to "try out" that experience with a good person?
- + non-UU friends near any of our three churches who might be interested in renting a room?
- + anyone who will be traveling or taking a sabbatical and might want a house-sitter?
- + a person who is purchasing a house but isn't ready to move into it?

Here's a true story to inspire this search. Twenty years ago, I left my first marriage. I wasn't making much money and, when I did my calculations, figured that I could afford \$300 per month for rent until I could take my equity out of our marital home. I put it out on my network that I was looking for a house to rent for three seasons at \$300/month—and, oh, I had a Rottweiler puppy. Even that long ago, it was an absurd proposition—but I had nine houses offered to me! Surely our three congregations can work some similar magic on behalf of our next intern.

Will you help? It's as easy as talking to your friends. Please contact Colin Powell at colin.powell@gmail.com with any leads.

For the CMT, Lane Fisher



Lakeside Reflections, December 2018

December 1st is the 30th year of World ADIS Day. Thanks to many, many people doing lots of research , very fine medical treatment and disease management, and decent (mostly) insurance, AIDS in our country is regarded by many as a chronic disease that requires ongoing management rather than as the death sentence it was in the 1980s. In other parts of the world, AIDS remains a killer disease and its spread is as yet not controlled. With the passage of time, and good health care, it's easy for us to forget that AIDS is still very much with us and cripples the lives and futures of adults and children around the world. May our advocacy and our loving care for people who suffer with AIDS and HIV everywhere not diminish while the need for world attention and action remains so great.

The darkness of December envelops us and we settle in for another long winter. I am moved by the poetry of David Whyte and share this poem. May your holidays be full of blessings and good cheer. Namaste, Margaret.

THE WINTER OF LISTENING

No one but me by the fire,
my hands burning
red in the palms while
the night wind carries
everything away outside.

All this petty worry
while the great cloak
of the sky grows dark
and intense
round every living thing.

What is precious
inside us does not
care to be known
by the mind
in ways that diminish
its presence.

What we strive for
in perfection
is not what turns us
into the lit angel
we desire,

what disturbs
and then nourishes
has everything
we need.

What we hate
in ourselves
is what we cannot know
in ourselves but
what is true to the pattern
does not need
to be explained.

Inside everyone
is a great shout of joy
waiting to be born.

Even with the summer
so far off
I feel it grown in me
now and ready
to arrive in the world.

All those years
listening to those
who had
nothing to say.

All those years
forgetting
how everything
has its own voice
to make
itself heard.

All those years
forgetting

how easily
you can belong
to everything
simply by listening.

And the slow
difficulty
of remembering
how everything
is born from
an opposite
and miraculous
otherness.
Silence and winter
has led me to that
otherness.

So let this winter
of listening
be enough
for the new life
I must call my own.

~ David Whyte ~
(The House of Belonging)

