



# THE COMMON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF CASTINE

February 2020

## February Services at UUCC

**Services are Sunday at 10:30 a.m.**

The Soul Matters Theme for February is **Resilience**.  
We ask, What does it mean to be a people of resilience?

**February 2:** Rev. Margaret Beckman, *Strength Through Grief*  
Ariel Aaronson-Eves, Worship Associate  
Ian Brenner-Simpson, Musician  
Hungry Sunday

**February 9:** Rev. Dr. Duncan Newcomer, *Why the spiritual life of Abraham Lincoln?*  
Dr. Newcomer's recently published book is *Thirty Days with Abraham Lincoln*  
Margaret Beckman, Worship Associate; Colleen Fitzgerald, Musician

**February 16:** Rev. Margaret Beckman, *What's In a Flag?*; Julie Gardner & Chris Poulin, Musicians  
Potluck Sunday

**February 23:** Rev. Margaret Beckman, *Harriet*; Colleen Fitzgerald, Musician

**March 1:** Intern Ariel Aaronson-Eves leading worship; Ian Brenner-Simpson, Musician  
Hungry Sunday



**Please remember:** Our Meeting House is being painted so we are gathering together on Sundays in the Parish House for both worship and coffee hour. So far, it's working nicely.

## 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

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For questions or comments about *The Common* or to submit items for this newsletter, please contact Jean Lamontanaro at [jean.lamontanaro@gmail.com](mailto:jean.lamontanaro@gmail.com).



## Lakeside Reflections, February 2020



100 Seconds. I heard it on Public Radio. Maybe you did too. On January 23rd, the Doomsday Clock was set to 100 seconds before midnight. I was jarred by those words. 100

Seconds. I know the Doomsday Clock is symbolic, but symbols matter and they help us mere humans put things into a manageable perspective. But seriously, 100 Seconds? I cannot grasp what this means to me as I live my daily existence in 2020. So, I listened to the experts and I was not comforted.

“It is 100 seconds to midnight. We are now expressing how close the world is to catastrophe in seconds – not hours, or even minutes,” said Rachel Bronson, president and CEO, Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. “It is the closest to Doomsday we have ever been in the history of the Doomsday Clock. We now face a true emergency – an absolutely unacceptable state of world affairs that has eliminated any margin for error or further delay.”

(<http://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/cybersecurity/nukes-climate-change-cyber-disinformation-push-doomsday-clock-to-100-seconds/>)

What is happening, or not happening, to move the minute hand ever-so-much closer to midnight? Apparently, three factors are considered in measuring the threat humans pose to our planetary home. Nuclear Weapons. Climate Change. Cyber-based Disinformation. Wow. The threats from Climate Change and Cyber-based Disinformation are recently included elements in the calculation. Originally, it was the threat of nuclear weapons and mutually assured destruction that made up the calculation. While

still a real and present danger, the other two factors are increasingly important in predicting our human and planetary future.

Is there a way to avoid the stroke of midnight? Yes, there is. In fact, the announcement of the decrease in time remaining to within seconds rather than minutes contains a few pragmatic recommendations:

- US and Russian leaders can return to the negotiating table
- The countries of the world should publicly rededicate themselves to the temperature goal of the Paris climate agreement
- The United States and other signatories of the Iran nuclear deal can work together to restrain nuclear proliferation in the Middle East
- The international community should begin multilateral discussions aimed at establishing norms of behavior, both domestic and international, that discourage and penalize the misuse of science

It is not that we lack the knowledge or the capacity to implement these suggestions. It's that we lack the political will. The Rev. Dr. William J. Baber II says that what we have is a moral problem that requires, in addition to pragmatic policy directives, a spiritual awakening. I agree. The challenges illustrated by the Doomsday Clock require a spiritual revolution as well as political, economic and diplomatic changes. We are the ones who can help shift the world toward a spirituality of compassion and inclusion. It's not too late. We still have 100 Seconds. Let's use those precious seconds wisely.

Namaste,  
*Margaret*



## From your Collaborative Ministry Team intern

My, how the time flies. It's hard to believe I'm more than half way done with my internship. March is still a month away, but June will be here in a blink! I've just done my mid-term evaluation with my intern committee and now I'm consciously thinking about how I want to spend the next few months with you all. As you probably know by now, I'm a planter of seeds; I'm also a preparer of soil. Now what exactly does that mean in our congregational contexts?

I'm sure there are multiple fronts with this. One is around my climate organizing guided by my [EcoFaith Recovery](#) practicum. I've been having lots of one-on-one meetings with people to get to know them, hear about their interests, and encourage their creativity around local climate response. If I haven't spoken with you and this is something you are in the slightest bit interested in, please reach out to me! I know that between the three congregations there are hundreds of you that fall into this category!

My social justice workshops at Ferry Beach also played a big role in soil preparation, I believe, and really got folks imagining what our regenerative future might look like. At least one idea has arisen for an active response to climate change that has the power to transform our lives. I've been talking with Penel Houghton in Ellsworth about Makers' Spaces and skillshares and how we might use our available space to build community and support

sustainable living in ways that are resourceful, meaningful, and pleasurable. I'd love to talk with folks in all three of our church communities about ideas, resources, and experiences you might have. Those of you in Ellsworth who are interested in joining our nascent team should get in touch with me or Penel.



In other news, as part of my final class at Starr King School for the Ministry, "Reviving Pilgrimage: Decolonizing Holy Land Tourism," I will be joining an interfaith pilgrimage to Israel and Palestine at the end of March. For more information and to support that trip, check out our [Faithify campaign](#) (Faithify is a crowd-funding platform specifically for Unitarian Universalist projects). There's a short little video that I'm in that talks about the trip. I look forward to sharing my experience with you all when I return.

Finally, after a successful first run of "Tea with the Intern" in January, I will be continuing the event in February. Please join me for unstructured conversation with myself and others, tea, and perhaps even treats. I'll be in the office in Castine on Tuesday, February 18, from 2 to 3.

Ariel Aaronson-Eves, Collaborative Intern Minister,  
UU Congregations of Castine, Belfast, & Ellsworth

### Tea with the Intern

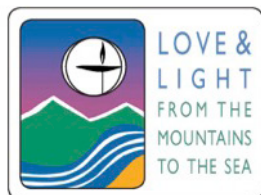
Tuesday, February 18  
2-3pm

Join Ariel at the Castine office  
for tea and conversation.

## Call for Voting Delegates

It's time to select delegates to represent us at our annual meetings. Our Castine Congregation has two lay leader voting delegates and one minister voting delegate. Our Northern New England District Annual Meeting in April and our UUA General Assembly in June are great ways to take your faith to a deeper level. At these meetings, we conduct business, go to workshops, share worship, and generally enjoy the company of a whole lot of Unitarian Universalists.

Want to be a delegate for our congregation? Let Margaret Beckman or Brooke Tenney know you are interested!



Northern New England District  
of the Unitarian Universalist Association

**April 24 & 25 in Nashua, NH:**  
Spring Assembly and Annual Meeting.



## UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**June 24-28 in Providence, Rhode Island:**

*Rooted, Inspired, & Ready!* is the theme for General Assembly in June 2020. We are in touch with our theological roots, we are engaged in transforming our faith, and we are fired up to take action in the wider world.

General Assembly 2020 will take place at the Rhode Island Convention Center, centrally located in the heart of Providence, at 1 Sabin St, Providence, RI 02903.

## Let the painting begin!



Our Meeting House is in the process of being painted. Rev. Beckman shared this view of how things looked on January 31.

## Pilgrimage to the Philippines

The Partner Church Committee is excited to announce a Pilgrimage to the Philippines in October. Our budget this year includes money for two people to attend with the tuition paid and some money toward the flight fare. The attendees will visit Aquino, our Partner Church, and visit other churches and places of interest on the Island of Negros.

### FALL PILGRIMAGE 2020

#### Beloved Community in Filipino UUism

Experience the joy of persistence. Experience the life-giving Beloved Community. Here where love is the most talked about in culture.

#### INCLUSIONS

- A 3-day retreat with local trainee ministers and pilgrims alike
- Visit 10 congregations
- Attend 2 unique local festivals (The Festival of Festivals “Buglasan” and The Festival of Masks “Masskara”)
- Visit 2 world renowned tourist destinations for biodiversity accessible to the locals and the working class
- All meals, lodging, and land transfers

The Philippines is known as Festival Islands, there's a festival everyday of the year. Now you can experience Masskara the festival of masks and Buglasan, the festival of festivals.

Come check local educational tours like the Anthropological Museum that showcases ancient history, Apo Island Tour where you learn that the Philippines has 2/3 of the world's biodiversity, swimming with giant turtles, and staying at Mambukal, a rainforest experience known for its 7 falls, sulfur bath, and wild bats.



Photo by Krisia Vinzon at pexels.com

You will join a 3-day “Beloved Community” retreat with seminarians of the UUCP, a retreat that recovers the counternarratives and postcolonial truths. Visit the place where the Philippine UU founder was born, where the first UU church was built, and where the founder Rev. Toribio Quimada was assassinated.

Accommodations are in airconditioned rooms, twin sharing, transportation is a dedicated airconditioned van. You will be assisted by a minister and the pilgrimage manager.

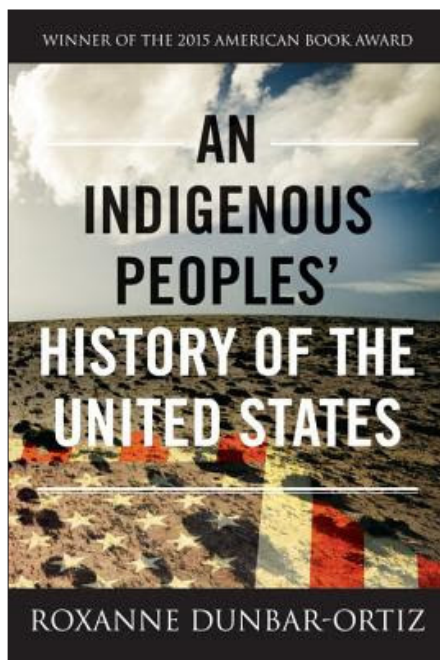
Tuition is \$1500, including registration, hotel, van, meals, retreat and tours. Airfare at your own expense. If you book early, US - PH is only \$800 two-way. The schedule is Oct 16-25, 2020. We have a limit of only 15 pilgrims. So register early by emailing [uucp.ph@gmail.com](mailto:uucp.ph@gmail.com)

## UUA Common Read

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth's Decolonization & Us Taskforce will be hosting a book discussion series of this year's UUA Common Read, *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*, by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, or the recently released Young People's version. We will be supplementing this text with additional material that addresses the particular history of the Wabanaki.

The book discussion will take place over the course of 3 sessions, on February 13, February 27, and March 12, from 1-2:30.

All are welcome. To be sure to get supplemental materials and any relevant announcements, please register by emailing [office@uuelsworth.org](mailto:office@uuelsworth.org).



## Opportunity Fund Update

In a letter addressed to Gil Tenney and the rest of the UUCC opportunity fund trustees, Terri Ouellette, the Board President for Families First Community Center, shared some exciting news of some new funding they are expecting. Terri wrote:

*On behalf of the FFCC Board, I wanted to share with you some exciting news! As you know, this has been a journey with many ups and downs. Your faith in our mission as well as your significant financial support has allowed the dream of FCC to grow, although not as quickly as we all would have liked.*

Terri went on to share of commitments for an additional \$225,000 in funding (\$50,000 from the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation and \$175,000 from the Sunshine Ladies Foundation\*) that will allow them to hire more help for the work that still needs to be done and help them move forward “to the long awaited opening.”

\*

“The Sunshine Ladies Foundation was founded by Doris Buffet. Their mission is closely aligned with ours. They are particularly focused on empowering young women, and helping victims of domestic violence.”

—Terri Ouellette  
President, Board of Directors  
Families Frist Community Center

To learn more about Families First Community Center, please visit [www.familiesfirstellsworth.org](http://www.familiesfirstellsworth.org)