



THE COMMON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF CASTINE

January 2023

A Month of Sundays in January

1	Happy New Year! Worship Leader: Rev. Margaret Beckman As this service is Zoom only - see you on Zoom!
8	Worship Leader: Rev. Lane Fisher Musician: Karen Froehly
15	Worship Leader: Rev. Margaret Beckman Musician: Colleen Fitzgerald Potluck Sunday
22	Worship Leader: Rev. Margaret Beckman Musician: Colleen Fitzgerald
29	Worship Leader: Rev. Margaret Beckman Musicians: Juliane Gardner & Chris Poulin



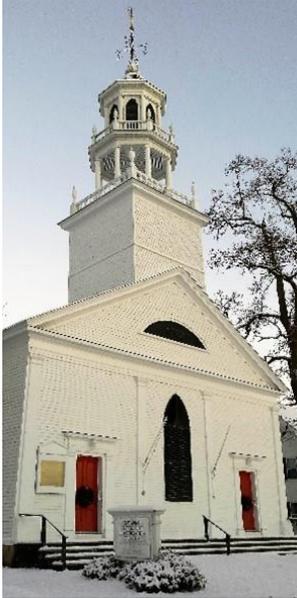
Our Mission

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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207-326-9083 • Email: office@uucastine.org
Website: 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.



Dear Friends,

Here it is a new year for our church and our lives. Let us pray for a calm year and a healthy year. Pray for those still in a war and those who have a war within them.

We have lots to work on this year, continue getting more members, a permanent area for Margaret and Debbie, and getting better at our “zooming” to mention a few. After having no lights or heat this past week, let’s think about a generator for the church. It will be good for the building, for our members, and for those who need a warm place during outages.

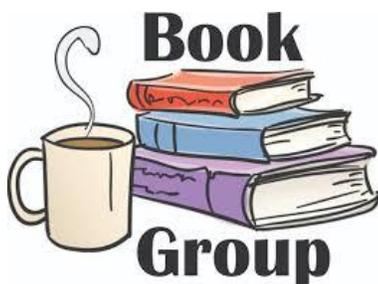
Again thank you to the Christmas Elves who decorated the church with a tree and all. It was beautiful.

Bob Holmberg is the new leader for the Opportunity Fund.

Congratulations Bob and thank you for stepping up.

Alvion and I will be heading south on the 5th of January after kissing the sardine in Eastport, but we will miss you all.

Cindi



Book

Group

UUC Reads

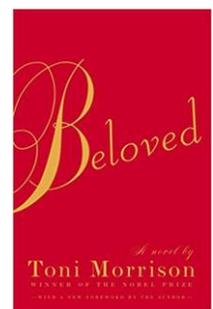
Begins the New Year on January 3, 2023
Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. on ZOOM

We will begin the new year with Pulitzer Prize winner, *Beloved*, Toni Morrison’s spellbinding and dazzlingly innovative portrait of a woman haunted by the past.

Sethe was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but eighteen years later she is still not free. She has borne the unthinkable and not gone mad, yet she is still held captive by memories of Sweet Home, the beautiful farm where so many hideous things happened. Meanwhile Sethe’s house has long been troubled by the angry, destructive ghost of her baby, who died nameless and whose tombstone is engraved with a single word: *Beloved*.

Combining the visionary power of legend with the unassailable truth of history, Morrison’s unforgettable novel is a great and enduring works of American literature.

If your New Year's resolution is to read more, consider becoming part of the UUC Reads book discussion. Give us a call or drop an email to office@uucastine.org and we will add you to the weekly reminder list.



Lakeside Reflections, January 2023

Another New Year. How can it be? Did we blink? Some of us want nothing more than to say a final farewell to 2022. Some of us find the passing of 2022 bittersweet – with moments to treasure and celebrate; and, moments of sadness, grief and disappointment. Some of us are simply excited to



begin another year. I don't have any original wisdom to share this first day of 2023. So, I turn to my own wisdom teachers. I offer two reflections. The first is from Rachel Naomi Remen as she recounts the story of the birthday of the world to Krista Tippett in an *On-Being* interview. The second comes from within our Unitarian Universalist family. Rev. Amanda Poppei (she/her/hers) serves as Senior Minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, VA. Amanda is also a certified Ethical Culture Leader, having served over a decade at the Washington Ethical Society.



The story of the birthday of the world by Rachel Naomi Remen

In the beginning, there was only the holy darkness, the Ein Sof, the source of life. And then, in the course of history, at a moment in time, this world, the world of a thousand thousand things, emerged from the heart of the holy darkness as a great ray of light.

And then, perhaps because this is a Jewish story, there was an accident. [*laughs*] And the vessels containing the light of the world, the wholeness of the world, broke. And the wholeness of the world, the light of the world, was scattered into a thousand thousand fragments of light. And they fell into all events and all people, where they remain deeply hidden until this very day.

Now, according to my grandfather, the whole human race is a response to this accident. We are here because we are born with the capacity to find the hidden light in all events and all people, to lift it up and make it visible once again, and thereby to restore the innate wholeness of the world. This is a very important story for our times, that we heal the world one heart at a time. And this task is called “tikkun olam,” in Hebrew – “restoring the world.”

Meditation for a New Year by Amanda Poppei

My friends, we have arrived: we are here, in this new year.

We have crossed the boundary of time, into the next year, with all its resolutions and plans and schedules ahead of us.

Let us pause, for just this moment, before we move boldly onward.

Let us pause to hear the breathing of those around us, to feel their presence in this room; to know their presence in our lives.

Let us pause to consider the trees, their branches stripped bare, their elegant architecture on display.

Let us pause to feel the spirit of life and love that ties us to each other, that winds its way through our very bones and settles in our hearts.

Before we move forward, armed with resolutions that will shortly be forgotten in the day-to-day of living, let us notice what it is that remains every year, every day. What exists beyond schedules and months, beyond time. It welcomes us to life, not just at the start of the year, but every day. And let us answer... Amen.

So, Happy New Year. May this year bring you joy.

Namaste, *Margaret*



On Our Minds – In Our Hearts

Each year our Social Justice grants and donations empower organizations doing good in the community and beyond. It is important for us to keep in mind that the work of these great organizations goes on all year round. This month let's remember the good work of:

Finding Our Voices

SURVIVOR-POWERED OUTREACH

4,000 POSTERS in 85 Maine towns featuring Faces and Voices of 44 named, Maine survivors aged 18 to 81 including an incarcerated woman and Governor Janet T. Mills.

- ♥ Hospitals including Portland Greater Health
- ♥ Every Goodwill dressing room in Maine, New Hampshire, and northern Vermont
- ♥ Every Maine Family Planning clinic
- ♥ 70 7-Elevens
- ♥ 130 high schools and tech schools

30,000 BOOKMARKS distributed by police, librarians, food pantries, and in all Renys stores.



Youth **LOVE/NOT LOVE** art projects/exhibits

PLUS Translated versions of our posters in migrant and immigrant communities.

NEW Smaller posters in restaurant bathrooms, boutique changing rooms, employee break-rooms.

SISTER-TO-SISTER SUPPORT

GIFT BOOKS that were helpful to us in our journeys to peace and safety, inscribed by us and including our bookmark.



\$75,000 disbursed in the past 18 months for critical items to **Get Out and Stay Out.**

- ♥ Car repairs & registration
- ♥ Apartment rent, emergency motel stays
- ♥ U-Haul, storage unit fees
- ♥ Legal consultations, dental care
- ♥ Gas, clothing, groceries

EMPOWERING INCARCERATED WOMEN

to become peer-to-peer DV-victim advocates.

Weekly Online **SUPPORT GROUP**

NEW Our FOV/Joy Fund gives **comfort and joy to children traumatized by domestic violence** with a weighted stuffed animal for a child needing to testify in court, orthopedic shoes for a two-year-old with a club foot, Hallowe'en costumes, art camp.

COMING UP!

Expanded outreach to youth, immigrants/migrants, college/university students; Pet Abuse-awareness campaign; Pro-Bono dental care; Survivor-panel discussions on tour!



No Neighbor Left Behind— January 13, 2023

I'm looking for volunteers to bake, serve, and deliver this month's NNLB meal. A meatloaf dinner, including baked potatoes and peas and clementines or oranges for dessert will be delivered to approximately 124 individuals.

10 - 11:30 a.m.

Meatloaf Prep

Marcia, Brooke and I will make the meatloaves and have them ready for baking by 11:30 a.m.

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Baking the Meatloaves

My oven can handle 6 of the 21 pans, but 15 remain for baking. If you live in Castine and can take on some of these, let me know. They will be waiting for takers at 41 Court Street, Pedrick's and my home. We can deliver them to you and pick them up once baked if you are unable to do so. Note: Test to make sure they are thoroughly cooked. I underestimated the cooking time last time we prepared them. All baked meatloaves should be delivered to the UUCG by 1 p.m.

1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Portioning & Packing

Volunteers will portion meatloaf, potatoes and peas into containers and pack them for delivery. Clementines will also be counted and arranged to accompany the meals.

2:30 - when the job is done **Delivery**

Once boxed, counted, and recounted, we hand them over to three drivers for the final leg of their journey.

Let me know if you are available for the baking, portioning/packing, or distribution of these meals and in what capacity.

All best to you in the New Year. I'm looking forward to our working together.
Johanna Sweet (Home phone: 207-326-4924)



A New Year Blessing



May your new year be a happy one.

Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,

But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;

Not by making your path easy,

But by making you sturdy to travel any path;

Not by taking hardships from you,

But by taking fear from your heart;

Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,

But, by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;

Not by making your life always pleasant,

But by showing you when people and their causes need you most,

And by making you anxious to be there to help.

Love, peace, hope, and joy to you for the year ahead.

