



THE COMMON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF CASTINE

July 2020

Sundays in July

We will continue to meet on-line Sunday mornings in July.

Look for your Zoom Invitation to Sunday church on Saturdays in your email. Beginning in July, Zoom will require all meetings to have a passcode to enter the site. Look for the Passcode (like a password) with the invitation at some point in July.

If you aren't getting the email invitation, contact Margaret Beckman at minister@uucastine.org or Jean Lamontanaro at jean.lamontanaro@gmail.com to be added to our communications list.

July 5:

Rev. Mark Worth leading worship
"We Hold These Truths"
Musician is Ian Brenner-Simpson

July 19:

Rev. Margaret Beckman leading worship
"Confessions of a Free Market Capitalist"
Musicians are Chris Poulin and Julie Gardner

July 12:

Rev. Margaret Beckman leading worship
"Rejecting the Binary"
Musician is Colleen Fitzgerald

July 26:

Rev. Margaret Beckman leading worship
"Can We Have a Jubilee?"
Musician is Colleen Fitzgerald

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, Maine 04421
207-326-9083 • Office 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 Jean Lamontanaro at jean.lamontanaro@gmail.com.



Lakeside Reflections, July 2020



This morning, a single line from a song lyric jumped into my head and I can't get it out. You know how that is – we call it an “earworm.”

“I read the news today, Oh Boy.” Can you hear it? That's it. Not the whole song – thank goodness! {“A Day in the Life” is a song by the English rock band the Beatles that was released as the final track of their 1967 album Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band. Credited to Lennon–McCartney, the verses were mainly written by John Lennon, with Paul McCartney primarily contributing the song's middle section. It is widely regarded as one of the finest and most important works in popular music history.}

Every day brings new reports from Covid-19 increases in infection rates to growing numbers of unemployed – maybe for a very long time – to reports and denials of reports of Russian efforts to have American soldiers killed to Supreme Court rulings against draconian abortion laws and crazy financial regulations to the possibilities for reconciliation and racial healing through “Truth-Telling.” Oh Boy.

Then, I saw a video for the Portland (Oregon) State University 2020 Online Commencement. A senior music (jazz) major, Madisen Hallberg, sings the national anthem alone, in a park, with her face covering temporarily around her neck. Partway into the song, an African American man walks behind her, stops and turns toward her and begins to sing with her. A chance encounter. Emmanuel Henreid, a professional opera singer who goes by the name Onry heard Madisen, someone he didn't know, singing and joined in. When She saw him, they smiled at each other and finished singing together. An unexpected, moment of harmony, grace, hope and pride. Watch it. It may give you chills and reignite your own sense of humility and pride in being Americans – all Americans of every race, color, creed, national origin, sexuality, and religion. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y2V0rG_4Ax4

The news is not always disturbing. Sometimes it is heart-warming and full of hope. This July 4th will be tamed by our adherence to the guidelines that protect us from Covid-19, but it needn't be depressing. It will be different – and memorable. Fireworks may be sporadic but one sky show is guaranteed to go on: The full moon in July, known as the buck moon, will begin to rise on July 4th and provide us with a partial lunar eclipse July 4-5 in the wee hours before and after midnight.

Happy Independence Day. May your celebrations be joyful as we look toward accomplishing the work of reconciliation and healing for all.

Namaste, *Margaret*



Remembering Anne Parsons



Everyone connected to our congregation was saddened to learn of the death of Anne Parsons on June 16th. Anne's family was with her during her final days at St. Joseph Hospital in Bangor.

Anne's memorial and committal service was held at the Castine Cemetery on Friday, June 25th.

A supportive group of friends gathered under the trees and in the sunshine to bid Anne farewell and to greet Lynn Parsons and his family.

Anne will be missed by all of us. We hold Lynn in our hearts.

Condolences may be sent to: Lynn Parsons, Dirigo Pines, 9 Alumni Drive, Orono, Maine 04473.



In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine, PO Box 520, Castine, Maine 04421.

You may read Anne's obituary from the Bangor Daily News here:

<https://obituaries.bangordailynews.com/obituary/anne-parsons-1079394066>.

Castine Patriot here:

<https://penobscotbaypress.com/remembrances/remembrances/#.XvrFMShKhPY>



Opportunity Fund Update

Unfortunately, Nichols Day Camp will not be opening this summer, so the scene like the one in the picture at left will not be happening this year. Community Compass, an organization that has received support from the Opportunity Fund, provides Starfish Camperships to send children to camp. It has been a very successful program and we look forward to seeing more vibrant summer scenes like this when the camp is able to reopen in the future.

Thoughts from the Congregation

Slow ME Down

Most of us live at least part of the year in or around Castine, somewhere between Verona Island and Surry. We normally drive a car or SUV to go about our business and don't think of ourselves as "vulnerable road users." Well, think about yourself again. If you're using public streets and not in an enclosed motorized vehicle, you're considered a vulnerable road user. That includes pedestrians, bicyclists, motorcycle riders, and others.

In addition to being a pedestrian and car driver, I'm also a bicyclist, (a slow bicyclist, unless I'm going downhill), I'm reaching out to you for your help to make your community a more enjoyable place to live, make our roads safer and help me, you and others stay safe. Castine Village is normally a great place to go for a walk or bicycle ride but coming or leaving town and using roads that go through neighboring villages is an intimidating challenge. Car and truck drivers going 5 or 10 mph over the speed limit don't allow

other road users or themselves adequate time to react. When drivers are speeding on roads with sharp curves, changes in elevation and little or no shoulder, there's no avoidance time and no place to go. Not everyone using the road is in a 3,500 lb. vehicle capable of going the speed limit, especially pedestrians, wildlife and bicyclists. We all need to learn to share the road better.

Slow ME Down is a project started by the Bicycle Coalition of Maine to make our streets and roads a safer environment for users of all ages and all recognized modes of transportation. Talk to your local select board about sharing the road and staying within the speed limit. If you'd like more information about sharing the road, go to www.bikemaine.org/slow-maine-down-petition, or call me at (207) 902-2240. Thank you and stay safe.

Cheers, Alvion

Alvion Kimball

Albuquerque Friends' Sanctuary Task Force

Greeting Cards with Art by Emma

This information came to use from Sarah Malone of Albuquerque Friends' Sanctuary Task Force.

Emma learned to paint while living in Sanctuary in a church basement from 2017-18.

Proceeds from card sales with photos of Emma's work are applied toward legal and other expenses as she pursues her immigration case from abroad.

Visit www.sanctuaryworks.org to order cards and support a wonderful Friend in her quest to rejoin family and friends in the States.

