



THE COMMON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF CASTINE

July 2026

It is 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 and friends while serving our broader communities.

A Month of Sundays in

July 5	Worship Leader: Rev. Amy DeBeck Musician: Colleen Fitzgerald
July 12	Worship Leader: Rev. Amy DeBeck Musician: Colleen Fitzgerald
July 19	Worship Leader: Rev. Amy DeBeck Musician: Karen Froehly
July 26	Worship Leader: Rev. Charles Stephens Musician: Karen Froehly

Contact Us

P.O. Box 520, 86 Court Street, Castine, ME 04421
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 Henry DeBeck office@uucastine.org.



President's Letter

Did you know that the Opportunity Fund was created in 2017 by concerned congregants of the UUCC? This was possible because of a generous bequest to the UUCC from Deborah Pulliam (1952-2002).

The fund provides grants that complement the social justice mission of our church by supporting non-profit organizations in the ten towns of our region. Since 2017 the Fund has funded 56 grants totaling \$527,000. The (OF) also provides funding for Pulliam Grant recipients as well as the Rev. Randall Hilton Scholarships.



The Opportunity Fund celebrated Deborah Pulliam's generosity on June 2nd by inviting present and past recipients to a gathering in the Parish House in her honor. She has been described as being a quiet, private and shy person. She lived modestly and never flaunted her wealth. Deborah was also remembered for her love of baking cookies. She published a cookbook, *The Orange Bowl* in 1996 and some of her favorite recipes were sampled at today's gathering.

Adams School held their graduation ceremony in the UUCC sanctuary on Friday, June 12th.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcia Mason/ Board President

First Sunday

Day of Giving for the Free Little Pantry

Please bring non-perishable items to the Parish House to help restock the Little Free Pantry behind the Clinic. This resource is being used and appreciated by our community. Help us keep it filled with nutritious food.

Thank you for giving!!



July 2026**Minister Meanderings**

As I write this, it is the end of June and the peninsula is in its summer glory, verdant and bright. With our usual year-round group here PLUS our summer folks it feels alive at UUC.

Given this feeling maybe it will seem odd to lift up death and our commemorations of people who have died, but that is where my mind and heart are right now.

Our congregation is unified in our mission statement, and in our desire for keeping love at the center of everything, even as we are geographically very diverse. This means that when a congregant we care for dies, their service might not be local for us to attend. Sometimes their service is streamed or on Zoom, so out of towners could be part, and sometimes that is not possible, even as grieving families and supporting congregations wish we could all be together.

In the spring and early summer, we have had quite a few losses, and I am feeling an urge to hold a remembrance service for the congregation of UUC so that we have the experience of mourning our losses together.

Virginia Bourne April 16, David Jarrett April 25, Carol Taylor June 2, and Judy Sullivan on June 17. I hope I did not leave out a name, and please let me know if I did. Also, our church building is hosting the service for a woman who loved the whole town and attended church with the Episcopalians, Ann Miller, on July 11.

I do not yet have a firm date, or even a service outline, but I believe we will choose a date and time to have a gathering to remember these dear souls. Tentatively, and I do hope you will send me a line about it, I see that the third Sunday in August, the 16th, when we would be having a potluck, might work. In general, I picture a special service on LIVES WORTH REMEMBERING with a coffee hour afterward in place of a wake. Maybe this is something we would do that would NOT be during the service? In any case, please let me know what you think about this and help shape this important time. You can call, text, email, or chat when we are together.

As your summer rolls itself out may love and warmth wrap around you. I hope to see you and yours in church and around town.

In peace with love and care,

Rev. Amy



No Neighbor Left Behind July 10 Meal

If you think this looks like *deja vu*—you are correct! This is the same message as the one that appeared in the June edition of *The Common*.

Yup, it is time for our July meal to be organized, packed, and delivered on July 10th! As you may recall, for the past several years we have provided a summer “picnic” consisting of an Italian type sub with ham, salami, and cheese, accompanied by a bag of chips and watermelon.

We have proven to be an amazingly efficient group of packers, in spite of ourselves!!! Therefore, we will meet at 2 p.m. at the UUCC fellowship hall, with the expectation that meals will head out the door by 3 p.m.

As in the past, we need volunteers to make the sandwiches and cut up watermelons. We also need drivers to deliver the meals, so let me know how you would like to participate. (johanna.s.sweet@gmail.com or 326-4924)

If you have any large cardboard boxes into which we may pack the meals for delivery, that would be helpful, too. Looking forward to joining forces with you on July 10th.



Rev. Amy's General Assembly Report



This June as Kevin and I headed off to the Midwest for our association's General Assembly, I was not sure what to expect. Mostly, it was online, but also, late in the game, they added some in-person events in Louisville KY. Back when it was scheduled to be entirely online, I gathered a couple of Midwestern minister friends to meet up with us so that we could have a POD (remember those during the Pandemic?) to encounter the GA events together. The 4 of us stayed at an Indiana State Park inn, and even got to celebrate a 65 th birthday together.

The biggest takeaways are that at the next GA, we will elect a new president. The Rev. Sofia Betancourt is at the end of her 6-year term. A new Presidential search committee was formed and will present their candidate to us next year for an affirming vote. An issue that took up Ministry Days and the General sessions is the call to address and rectify the injustices and unfair employment practices some ministers have suffered. Churches and ministers currently work together such that, during duress and turmoil ministers are often put “on hold” while the problem gets resolved or the ministry ends, such that they cannot work and be paid. The UUA and the UUMA continue to work on this.

The last piece of news about GA is that the Sunday morning worship service will be shared at UUCC at a future date. If you want to read more about GA, here is a good link.

<https://www.uua.org/pressroom/ingoodfaith/ga-2026-executive-report-summary>



Clerk's Summary

The Governing Board held its monthly meeting on June 25th. What follows were the key topics of discussion.

Building and Grounds projects dominated the meeting. The Steeple Project is still on track to occur in August. The upstairs bathroom project at the Parsonage is complete, and we hear from the residents that it is wonderful. There have been repairs to the Parsonage shed where a tree branch had done some damage, and with leftover material from that project, some siding repair has been done to the front of the Parsonage.

It's time to think about the 2027 Budget. Can you believe it? Several people volunteered to serve on the Committee (see the Bean Counter's Tally elsewhere in this Common for the names). The Building and Grounds Committee is already at work on this. They have identified some future projects and professionals are being sought to give estimates. We'll have more on this as the Building and Grounds Committee meets and gathers information and the Budget Committee commences its work.

UUCS has been getting a supply of solar electricity from a company called Power Market. It appears that they have been selling us more solar credits than we can use in a year and the credits disappear after a year – not a good deal. While we're still committed to using solar power, the Board voted to discontinue the Church's account with Power Market. Since it will take a year to deplete the solar credits we currently have banked, we will use that time to research other solar options. We'll keep you posted.

The Minister has suggested that she and her family hold an Open House at the Parsonage on July 19th, in place of our Potluck Luncheon which is on hiatus for the summer. It was also suggested that a commemoration for our members and friends who have recently passed away be held in August. Plans are being formulated and if you are interested in participating, please let Rev. Amy know.

Due to the passing of David Jarrett, the Governing Board has been short one member. Barbara Fleck was recommended to fill David's term through the end of the year. As Barbara was willing, the Board voted and approved her appointment. Note: there are a couple of other Board members whose terms will expire this fall. If you have an interest in helping to guide UUCS into the future, please contact President Marcia Mason.

The Governing Board's next meeting will be July 16th at 10 a.m.

Debbie Morehouse, Clerk

President: Marcia Mason

Vice President: Tom Mason

Treasurer/Clerk: Debbie Morehouse

Members:

Peter Fairbank

Barbara Fleck

Keith Hagel

Alvion Kimball

Alternate: Leslie Fairbank

marciamason@hotmail.com

tmason@biochem.umass.edu

legacycrafts2@yahoo.com

peterfairbank72@gmail.com

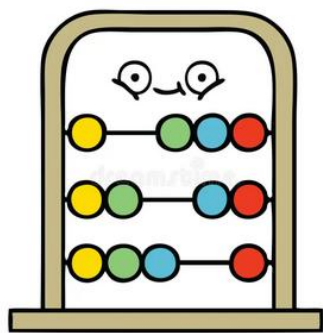
barbara.fleck@mma.edu

wordguy1@gmail.com

ackimball1995@msn.com

b.or_lesliefairbank@icloud.com





Bean Counter's Tally

through June 25, 2026

Our endowment currently stands at 9.28M. The Finance Committee met with two of the investment partners this month to see how they view the market at this time. Both projected optimism even in light of world events.

Debbie has finished the training of Henry DeBeck, our new Church Administrator, and has resumed her full Treasurer responsibilities, namely signing checks.

The Financial Review, which we contracted with Andrea White of LG&H Accounting to perform, has begun. Last week we received a list of requested 2025 documents which the Treasurer, the Bookkeeper and the Finance Chair are gathering and will provide.

And, we are looking ahead to 2027. It is time to think about next year's budget. Committee Chairs are asked to provide their wish list for 2027 by the end of July. This year's Budget Committee, consisting of Debbie Morehouse, Marcia Mason, Peter Fairbank, Barbara Fleck, Alvion Kimball and Rev. Amy DeBeck, will then meet to try to reconcile the wishes and the projected expenses of the Church with the income that we can expect for the year. Not an easy process. Wish us luck!

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have on UUCC's financial circumstances.

Debbie Morehouse,

Chief Bean Counter (aka Treasurer)

Castine Caregiver Support Group

Monday July 6th at 2:30 p.m.

Trinitarian Church meeting room, 68 Main Street, Castine

We are excited to announce a new Caregiver Support Group for the Castine area! If you are a caregiver and would like to meet in a supportive environment to discuss, listen and find support, please join us on Monday, July 6th at 2:30 p.m.



Facilitated by Anne N. Ossanna, LSW and Program Coordinator of the Aroostook County Action Program in Blue Hill, the group will meet monthly on the first Monday of the month at 2:30 p.m. All are welcome, no matter where you are on your journey of caregiving for a loved one.

Questions? Feel free to call or text Jen Woods (207-702-0024) or Lisa Lutts at (603-960-4488)



Family Open Studio Introductory Materials Exploration*

Looking for a family arts experience...or two, or three, or six? Unleash your creative spirit as you experiment with a variety of art materials. In addition to having these materials available to you, a brief artist-led activity will take place at the beginning of each session. These workshops are free and provided by the Castine Arts Association.



Where: Downstairs in Emerson Hall

When: Every other Monday June through August

Our next dates are:

July 6 and 20

August 3 and 17

Drop in between the hours of 9am-Noon

Explore pastels, paints, wire, clay, printmaking and etching.

*These gatherings are intended for families or individuals. Age 12 and older may come solo. Younger must be accompanied by an adult who is

18 or older.

- Dress for mess
- Come for a little while or stay for all three hours



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine

Are you church-curious?

If so, visit our church, where social justice journeys alongside faith.

Join us on Sundays at 10:30 AM at 86 Court St. in Castine

DISCOVER UUC

We are now advertising in the Rising Tide News! We are glad to be able to reach out to like-minded individuals through this publication and hope it brings about new members and new friends.



Carol Ann Phillips Taylor

November 5th , 1935 – June 2nd , 2026



We lost a beloved friend, mother, and wife, Carol Ann Taylor, on June 2nd , 2026. She lived life to the fullest and was very active up to her last few days.

Carol Ann Phillips Taylor, the daughter of Charles Franklin Phillips and Evelyn Chapel Minard Phillips, was born in Geneva, NY in 1935. She attended Lewiston High School in Lewiston, Maine before continuing her education at Oberlin College in Ohio. It was at Oberlin where she met her love, Ken Taylor. She graduated in 1957 with a bachelor's degree in Education. Ken and Carol were married June 22nd , 1958.

Carol and Ken moved to Birmingham, AL with their children in 1971, where Ken began his work with UAB as a professor of Biochemistry in the UAB Medical School. They were members of Vestavia Hills (United) Methodist Church. At the age of 44, in 1979, she returned to school to earn her Master's degree in Library Science from the University of Wisconsin in Madison while Ken was on sabbatical there.

Back in Birmingham, Carol worked as a librarian at the Homewood Public library before joining the staff of the Samford University library. She loved working in the cataloging department and especially enjoyed the Special Collections department. Carol was an active volunteer in the Vestavia schools and the League of Women Voters. She was the leader of a Camp Fire Girls troop for many years. After retirement, she volunteered at the Birmingham Museum of Art and the archives department at the Birmingham Public Library.

Following retirement, the Taylors spent summers at their cottage in Maine. They both volunteered with the Schoodic International Sculpture Symposium and promoted the sculpture trail in Downeast Maine. During their time in Maine, they attended the Unitarian Universalist Church of Castine.

Carol is survived by her husband, Ken Taylor and children; Karen B. Taylor of Ashland, OR and Brad (Jennifer) Taylor of Hoover, AL; grandson, Gage Taylor and step grandson Forest (Taylor) Jinks along with great-granddaughter, Ryland Jinks.

Remembrances can be made to:

Birmingham Museum of Art or the Community Food Bank of Central Alabama.

Announcement of Passing

Judy Sullivan, member and friend, passed on June 17th, survived by her husband, Jason Sweet. Please send your regards to her family.



Parsonage Open House-July 19th



Join Rev. Amy DeBeck and her family at the parsonage for an Open House. While our potlucks take a break during the summer, join us at the Parsonage on this third Sunday, July 19th, after the service or noon, whenever you get there!

86 Court Street, next to the church. Use the wooden ramp through the side-yard, or the front door on Court Street. Of course your tasty contributions are welcome, and the DeBecks will be sharing the spirit of generosity and hospitality that UUCG offers.

Celebration of the Grantees of the Opportunity Fund of UUCG on Deborah Pulliam's Birthday

On Tuesday, June 2nd, the Opportunity Fund Committee held an event to remember Deborah Pulliam on her birthday and to honor grantees of the fund.

Several people came to network and be together to celebrate her generous financial gift that made the Opportunity Fund and its grants possible. Pictured is the Opportunity Fund Committee plus Barbara Fleck, holding Deborah's picture. Our current committee co-chairs are Leslie Goode and Brooke Tenney. This day was so special that Bob Holmberg came back from his new home in Southern Maine to be with us!

For everyone who came and everyone involved through the year, we think this was a great event that we could see becoming an annual tradition of people who help others gathering together.





Celebrate the Fourth of July in Quintessential Castine Style!



1K/5K Race

7am-9am

At Town Dock. Register before with the Castine Variety or Windmill Hill



Parade & Games

10am-12pm

Head to the Town Common for the annual parade, lawn games, pie-eating contest, and FOOD!



TCP Lobster Lunch

11am-1pm

The Trinitarian Congregational hosts their annual lobster roll feast!



Pentagöet BBQ

12pm-3pm

An all-American BBQ smorgasbord with music. Call for reservations!



Fort George Demos

2pm-3pm (tentative)

A Q&A with the leaders of the Penobscot Expedition & musket demo!



Town Band Concert

4pm-6pm

The Castine Town Band plays Americana classics in Town Common.



Music & Fireworks

7pm-9:30pm

End the day on the town docks with music and a fireworks extravaganza!



Flag Day Tourney

All day

The Castine Golf Club hosts the annual 9-hole game; \$10 entry fee.

JOIN US FOR OUR BASTILLE DAY CELEBRATION

**TUESDAY
JULY 14
2026
CASTINE**

Tuesday, July 14

**8:30-10 French Toast
Breakfast** Main Street Church

**10:00 Crepe Elizabeth
FoodTruck** on town dock

**10-2:00 Dyce Head
Lighthouse Tour**
52 steps to the top

Castine Kayak Tours

Booking Required 207-866-3506
or Castinekayak.com

**1-2:00 Historical
Walking Tour**
Castine Historical Society
Meet @ Town Common

**1:00 French Film
with Subtitles**
at Emerson Hall Court Street

**2-4:00
Ice Cream Social**
French Vanilla Ice Cream
w/toppings
Wilson Museum

**4:00 Auxford Market
Wine Tasting**

**5:00 Crepe Elizabeth
FoodTruck** on common

Picnic en Blanc

5-7:30

Court St., White Attire suggested
VisitCastine.com/dinner
for seating - Table assignments will
be posted at event. Additional seating
on common: bring blankets or camp
chairs. Please carry in and carry out
and help with break down

**To reserve
Picnic Orders:**

Windmill Hill Provisions
5 Castine Road
207-965-5379

Auxford Market
12 Water Street
auxford.me

**7-10:00 French
Themed
Cocktails**
at the Pentagöet Inn Pub

VisitCastine.com

Castine Historical Society presents:

**CASTINE
MAINE
HOUSE &
GARDEN
TOUR 2026**

**FRIDAY, JULY 24
10am-4pm**

Tickets: \$50 purchased through July 12;
\$60 thereafter
info@castinehistoricalsociety.org

ART
Under The Elms
**A FESTIVAL OF ART & CREATIVITY
IN A CHARMING SEASIDE TOWN**

PAINTING | ART GLASS | PHOTOGRAPHY
DRAWING | MIXED MEDIA | SCULPTURE
JEWELRY | GRAPHICS | POTTERY

**Saturday, July 25, 2026
10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Castine Town Common**