



# THE COMMON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF CASTINE

June 2021

## Sunday Services

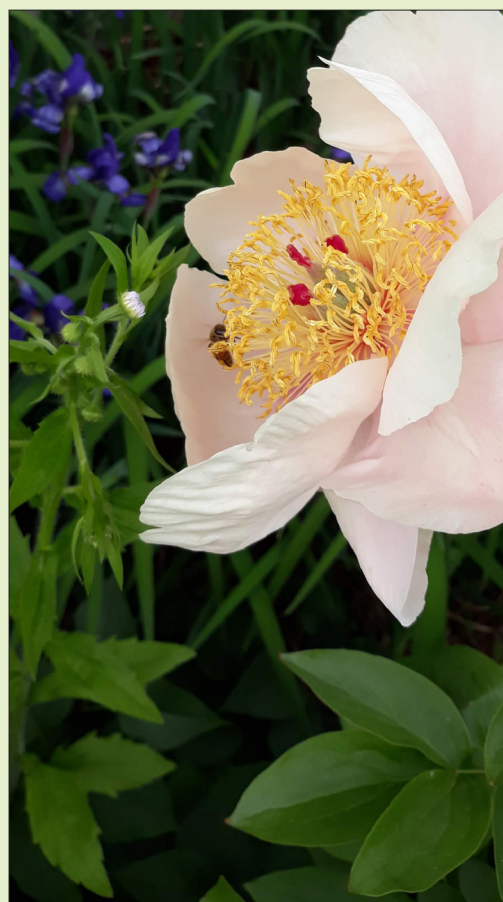
**June 6<sup>th</sup>** All Of Who You Are Is Sacred  
Rev. Margaret Beckman – Worship Leader  
Juliane Gardner & Chris Poulin - Musicians

**June 13<sup>th</sup>** Ecological Ethics  
Rev. Margaret Beckman – Worship leader  
Colleen Fitzgerald – Musician

**June 20<sup>th</sup>** Hello Summer  
Rev. Margaret Beckman – Worship Leader  
Colleen Fitzgerald – Musician

**June 27<sup>th</sup>** UUA General Assembly Sunday  
The GA Worship Team

**July 4<sup>th</sup>** Guest Minister  
Rev. Jane Dwinell – Worship Leader  
Juliane Gardner & Chris Poulin – Musicians



by Jean Lamontanaro

## 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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Website: [uucastine.org](http://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](mailto:jean.lamontanaro@gmail.com).



## Lakeside Reflections, June 2021

### *The 8<sup>th</sup> Principle*

of UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALISM

***“We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”***

The 8<sup>th</sup> Principle. Perhaps you have not heard anything about this proposed 8th Principle. Perhaps you are among those who understand that this commitment to anti-racism and multiculturalism is long overdue and much needed. Whatever you already know about this principle, the time for our congregation to learn what we can about its origin, meaning and future is now.

We will be asked to vote on the proposal that our UU Association of Congregations adopt this principle as an official 8<sup>th</sup> Principle to be listed with the other 7 in all our publications. We will be asked whether we, as a congregation, but also as individuals, are ready and willing to affirm and promote this principle with the same reverence and determination as we do the other seven of our principles ([www.uua.org/beliefs/what-we-believe/principles](http://www.uua.org/beliefs/what-we-believe/principles)).

Here is a resource for your learning: [www.8thprincipleuu.org](http://www.8thprincipleuu.org). The origin and background are explained. In part, here is what we learn.

Justice, developed the idea of the existence of 2 different paradigms in UU circles: the UU 7 Principles and Beloved Community (deep multiculturalism). After working with congregations on these issues for over 15 years, she realized that a person can believe they are being a “good UU” and following the 7 Principles without thinking about or dealing with racism and other oppressions at the systemic level.

- UUs and the UUA have done very good work in fighting racism, such as during the Civil Rights Movement and in the 1990’s (passing a resolution in 1997 at GA, after a precursor resolution in 1992, to become an Anti-Racist, Anti-Oppression Multi-Cultural, or ARAOMC, Organization), but the funding and support started to wane in the 2000’s – our accountability mechanism failed us.
- We need to de-center whiteness and other dominant cultures in UUism. The 8<sup>th</sup> Principle came from a feeling that we need something to renew our commitment to this work, to hold ourselves accountable, and to fulfill the potential of our existing principles.

There is more to learn; more to consider, more to discuss, more to understand, more to internalize BEFORE we move too quickly to sign on with our support. Too many times in our past, well-meaning and committed Unitarian Universalist clergy and lay leaders have pledged their support to the process of de-centering the dominant culture and re-centering previously marginalized or missing culture and people. We failed to embody our pledge. We failed to internalize the necessary changes within our own

- Paula Cole Jones, Director of Racial & Social

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## Lakeside Reflections, continued

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minds and hearts. We turned away when the going gets tough. The 8<sup>th</sup> Principle project is a carefully crafted approach to inviting deep listening before shallow adoption.

My Dear Spiritual Companions, will you join me in listening and learning together as our deeper promise to do our work in understanding the real level of change and promise within the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle before adopting it as our own? Our faith and our growing number of BIPOC (Black/ Indigenous People of Color) UUs deserve and need nothing less than our very best.

You will be seeing and hearing more about the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle. You will have ample opportunity to grapple with the complicated and complex experience of BIPOC UUs over the last many years. There will be structured times to discuss and question and even argue with background and meaning of multiculturalism, anti-racism and Beloved Community.

Here are two more of the many comments about the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle – just to whet your appetite for more conversation.

- Our existing 7 principles *imply* this 8<sup>th</sup> principle, but do not *explicitly* hold us accountable for addressing these oppressions directly, especially at the systemic level.
- UUism has great potential for building diverse multicultural Beloved Community as envisioned by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (not just European/Americans and African/Americans, but including Native Americans, Latinx people, and other cultural groups)

*globally* and could experience tremendous diversification, vitality, and thriving if it works to embody this vision, but it won't happen without conscious awareness and effort on our part.

One way you can participate right now is to attend the Collaborative Ministry Conversation on Anti-racism on Tuesday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 -5:30 p.m. on zoom. This is our final conversation of the 20-21 program year, so come now because it may come again. I'm hosting this month's conversation and we will begin by viewing a clip from the documentary **THE BLACK CHURCH** hosted by Louis Gates Jr. The Belfast church provides the zoom link.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4695376814>

Meeting ID: 469 537 6814

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,4695376814# US (New York) or  
Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 469 537 6814

As we, together and individually, consider how we will engage with the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle, I am reminded of these words of prayer from Howard Thurman:

*In the quietness of this place, surrounded by the all-pervading Presence of God, my heart whispers:  
Keep fresh before me the moments of my High Resolve, that in fair weather or in foul, in good times or in tempests, in the days when the darkness and the foe are nameless or familiar, I may not forget that to which my life is committed. Keep fresh before me the moments of my High Resolve.*

Namaste, *Margaret*

## From your minister

Dear Members and Friends,

I come to you all with a heavy and broken heart to share news of a death among us.

**Jessica Rollerson**, member, friend and our Lifespan Faith Development Specialist, suffered a sudden brain aneurysm on Sunday, May 30th. She was rushed to Eastern Maine Medical Center, but the damage to her brain and lack of oxygen was too great to survive. Jessica's death is a great loss to our Beloved Community.

We will have a memorial celebration of Jessica's life on Sunday, June 6th at 2:00 pm on the Castine Town Common. Following the service, everyone is invited to Timberwyck Farm (421/432 The Shore Road, Castine) where Jessica lived with Emma Sweet and Colin Powell, their four children,



several dogs and many farm animals. We are asked to be cheerful rather than mournful and to wear something colorful and comfortable.

Yours in faith and service,  
Reverend Margaret Beckman

## Religious Education

***Jessica Rollerson submitted this note before her untimely and tragic death this week. She loved our children and loved working with them. We will find a way to honor her desire to 'play with the kids' and keep our faith development programming going. Her note to us is a true reflection of exactly who Jessica was. We loved her too. We will miss her.***

Hello Dear Friends,

As some of you may know, I am painfully shy. I become anxious at the thought of being in public, speaking to people or having to make a phone call. I can rally when necessary and I am usually glad I have but it is energetically expensive and requires rest after. I am the definition of

"introverted". But after this year of separation and isolation, a new wind is blowing for me. I am feeling some excitement over the prospect of playing with kids in person again. I look forward to seeing you all and to sharing a meal. Could it be that among the devastating losses of Covid it has bestowed some small gifts? Gifts of gratitude for each other? I am not saying anything that hasn't been said a thousand times before but at this moment, on the threshold of "after Covid," this introverted soul can think of only one thing to say. I've missed you. Here is to better days and the love and community of our little church family.

Warmly,  
Jessica

## Guidelines for using the UU Meeting House and the Parish House

We are all looking forward to being together with family, friends and UUC folk as the pandemic continues to decline. In accordance with the advice from our UUA, we are being cautious, careful and caring of others. We are a broad and diverse community. Since there will be both vaccinated and unvaccinated people among us when we gather, our policy will be to protect the vulnerable and assume that not all, especially our children, have been vaccinated. Please be prepared to wear a mask and maintain a distance between family groups when we meet together.

The Meeting House remains closed for now. Sunday morning services will continue on Zoom. When we can manage a multi-platform (both

on-line and on-site) service, we will begin to open the Meeting House in addition to being together on Zoom.

The Parish House may be used for small gatherings of ten or fewer. All events need to be scheduled through the office ([office@uucastine.org](mailto:office@uucastine.org) or Becky St. John) a week in advance so cleaning can be maintained. The space must be well ventilated with open doors and windows to provide adequate airflow. The person in charge of the event will maintain guidelines for unvaccinated people (masks and social distancing) unless ALL participants are fully vaccinated and agree to lesser standards. We are not yet allowing the serving of food or beverages.

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### FROM OUR UUA STAFF

Use the [Guidance for Gathering in Covenantal Community \(PDF\)](#) to practice [covenantal consent](#) – taking time to listen deeply to one another's concerns and fears before making any decisions that might put members of the community at risk, either physically or mentally.

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### New CDC Guidelines in Covenantal Community

By UUA Congregational Life Staff - June 1, 2021

In May 2021, the US Centers for Disease Control released [new interim guidance](#) that surprised many congregational leaders and members. The guidance tells individuals that once they reach the two-week point after completing the COVID-19 vaccine, they do not need to wear masks in indoor places.

But the CDC's guidance is about *individuals*. As congregations, our decisions about masking or unmasking need to be about *community*. We are in covenant with one another to act not just as a collection of individuals, but as a body that works for the good of all.

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## New CDC Guidelines, continued

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Because our Unitarian Universalist faith is grounded in values that call us to care about one another, we must continue to make our decisions by centering the needs of the most vulnerable among us:

The UUA strongly recommends that congregations maintain a culture of indoor masking when they regather in person. This is because of who we are, as congregations, at our best:

The UUA encourages congregations to maintain a culture of masking while indoors regardless of vaccination status.

- We are all-ages communities, and not all ages have been able to get vaccinated yet.
- We are all-abilities communities, and some of us have immune systems that do not mount a strong protective response after the COVID vaccination and can suffer severe consequences upon infection.
- We are all-inclusive communities, and we want to express our UU values by being able to include all, regardless of vaccination status.

Therefore for the near term, as part of our covenantal commitment to care for all, we encourage congregations to maintain a culture of masking while indoors regardless of vaccination status.

It is also helpful to refer back to Susan Frederick Gray's [Key Principles for Planning](#) when interpreting the CDC guidelines for covenantal faith communities.

- As a faith community, we root our decisions in the values of inclusion and consent.
- Follow the science.
- Go slow and be flexible.
- Be humane and realistic with expectations of ourselves and others.





## From Your Ministerial Intern

It has been eight months for me with you all at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine. Eight months ago you welcomed me, a shy intern-minister by name, but uncertain in claiming the title. You have allowed me to practice this craft of ministry, to make mistakes, and try again.

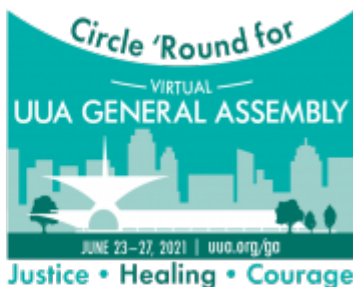
I have been humbled in the ability to grow under the guiding eye of the very people I am leading in worship. This has been a gift that I have been honored to continue in the Fall when I will be

collaborative intern minister for the 3-church collaborative.

Before then, at the end of May, I will be taking leave from my duties here for the summer and embarking on a clinical Pastoral Education unit at Eastern Maine medical center, as part of my seminary training. I thank you all for your graciousness and look forward to spending this next year in continued growth and development of ministerial relationship with each of you.

Vanessa Williams

## Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly



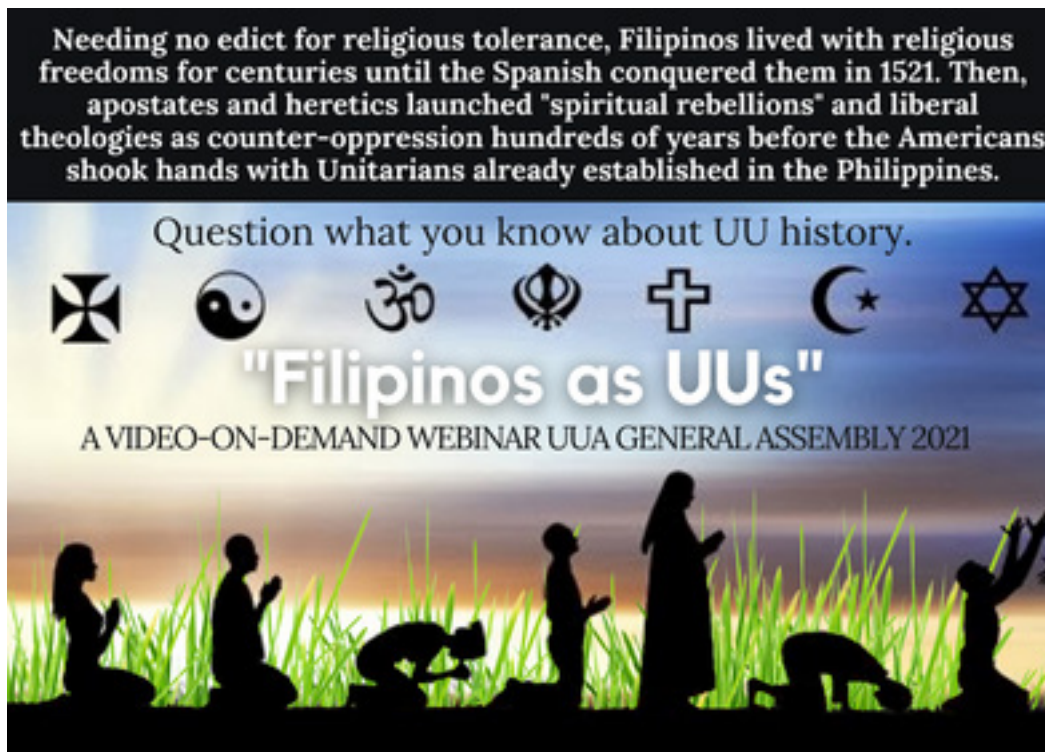
### Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly – Fully Virtual

June 23-27, 2021 ~ Register now!  
<https://www.uua.org/ga/registration>

It's here! The 2021 GA Program Book (PDF) ([www.uua.org/files/2021-05/2021 Program Book.pdf](http://www.uua.org/files/2021-05/2021%20Program%20Book.pdf)) is now available for viewing and download.

GA 2021 will be fully virtual! Experience all of the amazing opportunities to enrich your faith and connect with other Unitarian Universalists! General Assembly, the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), offers workshops, programs, and lectures customized and created for spiritual growth and development. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity! Registration is now open here. Anyone can attend, but only delegates can vote on the business of the association. If you would like to be delegate for the UU Congregation of Castine, please contact our congregation President, Brooke Tenney, ([bptenney2@gmail.com](mailto:bptenney2@gmail.com)) or Rev. Margaret Beckman ([minister@uucastine.org](mailto:minister@uucastine.org)) for information about becoming a delegate.

## Partner Church News



Hello Friends of UU Castine and our UU Partner Church in Acquino.

Let's everyone jump online for this General Assembly on-line presentation about the history of Unitarian Universalism in the Philippines.

Be sure to check out "Filipinos as UUs" with Rev. Ma. Theresa Gallardo (2016-2017 Balázs Scholar) and Lori Lai at General Assembly this year!

Here is the exact program. It's Wednesday, June 23rd, 8:00 am-9:30 am CDT

[https://whova.com/embedded/session/uuaga\\_202011/1561461/](https://whova.com/embedded/session/uuaga_202011/1561461/)

Or – you can watch it anytime with the above link!



## Hilton Scholarship winners

It's graduation time again, and time to announce the scholars who will be continuing their educations with a grant from our Rev. Randall Hilton Scholarships.

This year we are awarding \$1000 to each of the following students from our local area:

### From Bucksport High

Kaylee Gray  
BS in Health Science Pre-Dentistry  
University of New England

### From Deer Isle Stonington High

Taylor Hardy  
BS Mental Health & Human Services  
University of Maine Augusta

Jacob Gell  
Marine Engineering Operations  
MMA

### From Ellsworth High

Ben Osterlin  
Aerospace engineering  
Florida Tech

### And a Junior at Christopher Newport University

Fiona Marie Tucker  
Theater Major with concentration  
in Directing and Dramatic Literature

Congratulations to all!!

## Strong Clothespins

*A poem for Lynne*

On a windless day,  
you don't need much  
in the way of clothespins.  
Laundry behaves,  
hangs dutifully  
waits to be retrieved,  
pretends it is already hanging in closets  
or stacked neatly in linen cupboards.

But when gales  
send sheets snapping  
drive lines of towels, shirts,  
pants, socks, underwear  
into horizontal frenzies,  
when everything you know  
strains to set itself free,  
you need strong clothespins  
to keep your world from flying apart.

Johanna Sweet  
May 26, 2021

