



THE COMMON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF CASTINE

June 2022

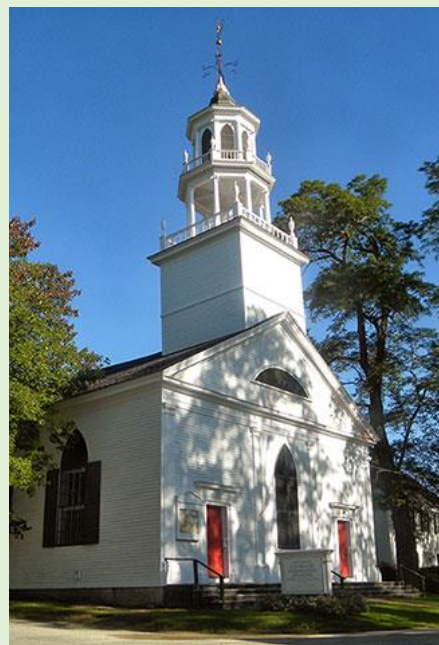
A Month of Sundays in June

June 5 Rev. Margaret Beckman
The Limits of Rights and the Embrace of Responsibility
Musician – Julie Gardner & Chris Poulin
Congregational Meeting following the service

June 12 Rev. Margaret Beckman
Blessings of the Journey
Musician – Colleen Fitzgerald

June 19 Three Church Collaborative Service
in Belfast & on Zoom
Worship & Music Leader: Matt Meyer
Release of Covenant
with our Intern, Vanessa Williams

June 26 Rev. Margaret Beckman
Blessing our Gatherings
Musician – 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, 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 Debbie Morehouse office@uucastine.org.

Information and Notice of a Special Congregational Meeting

A few years ago, a “Parish House Design Committee” began exploring ways to provide offices for our minister and staff, adequate space for religious education and an expanded and updated kitchen. At a special meeting May 23, 2021, the congregation approved spending \$25,000 for a preliminary feasibility study to construct a new, two-story Parish House.

After plans were developed and costs clarified, the committee, after much deliberation, concluded that our endowment could not support both this ambitious building project and our ability to ensure both the future of the congregation and our continuing service to the broader community. We also discovered that UUCC did not hold title to either the buildings or the land, but the Castine Town Meeting on May 14, 2022, resolved this problem by voting to give the title to UUCC.

Our leased office space on Main Street was relinquished this April 2022, saving approximately \$13,000 per year. However, we are now faced with the necessity of creating suitable office space for Margaret Beckman and staff within the confines of the current footprint of the Parish House. At the same time, we also want to optimize the religious education room and the kitchen. Obviously, this huge design challenge requires input from professionals. Two architects were

approached, and the committee has chosen the architect we believe is most suited for this project.

The cost estimate for the development of a design and a contractor pricing plan for renovations to remodel the interior of the existing Parish House is \$27,500. The Building Account has \$15,000 that was not spent last year, so an additional \$12,500 is necessary to meet the cost of design and contractor pricing services for the proposed plan. The additional monies will require a congregational vote.

This letter is intended to provide information for your consideration. The date of Sunday, **June 5** has been set aside for a special congregational meeting to address your questions or concerns. After a general discussion, a vote will be taken to decide if UUCC wants to appropriate the necessary funds (\$12,500) to cover the cost of a feasibility study for the modification of the Parish House.

I look forward to seeing you at the discussion and vote. If you would like to contact me before June 5, please do so.

Brooke Tenney
UUCC Governing Board President
207 326 4372 bptenney2@gmail.com



Rev. Randall Hilton Scholarships Announced

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine (UUCC) is pleased to announce that it has awarded eleven \$1,000 Rev. Randall Hilton scholarships to the following individuals from our local communities who are seeking to further their education:



Bucksport High School
 Mason Forrest
 Emily Hanscom
 Emily Keniston
 Johanna Stiles

George Stevens Academy
 Ashly Emerson
 Abigail Parker
 Chloe Sheahan
 Harrison Walden

Ellsworth High School
 Amber-Rae Pesek
 Cody Olson

Husson University
 Elise Dow, 2nd year student
 Ellsworth High School Alum.

The intended courses of study for these students are widely varied, including environmental science, criminal justice, architecture, and pharmacology, to name a few. The Rev. Randall Hilton Scholarship was begun in 2010 to honor the memory of Rev. Hilton who served the Castine congregation in the 1930s. We thank the Board for recognizing that the education of our youth directly impacts our future, and increasing this year’s budget allocation to allow more students to be assisted. We wish these and all students success as their futures unfold.

Joan Bothwell, Chair

Debbie Morehouse



**Flash! In the Pans Performance
 Castine Town Dock**

Monday, June 6th, 2022; 7:30 - 9:00p.m.

Flash! in the Pans is a Blue Hill-based steel band that is known far and wide for its energy, skill and musical variety. This is an exciting event and will mark the beginning of the post covid era of performance

gatherings here in Castine. Please join us and enjoy something special. Attendance is free. Donations are gladly accepted! For more information: Sam Friedlander: 326-9583; gramma_sam@yahoo.com



Lakeside Reflections June 2022

The morning after 22 people died and dozens were injured in Uvalde, Texas in a 4th grade classroom, my world at Green Lake is calm and still and a perfect reflection of the beauty of creation.



How can this be? How do we hold at once the terrible and the beautiful?

I think of Wendell Berry's poem, *Peace of the Wild Things*. When the horror and the pain and the violence of humanity becomes too much to bear, I go and lie down where the wood drake rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds. I recall the comfort of the Psalms and I go to rest beside the still waters where my soul might be restored. For a time. Then, I rise and meet the day and try to remain open-hearted and compassionate.

We are heart-broken. We are sick with grief. We are frustrated. We are angry. We are exhausted with the repetition of platitudes and promises that seem to have no effect and no ability to prevent the next mass killing.

This is my home and your home. What do we do when we know that our home is not safe from reckless (or carefully planned) violence of the very worst kind?

The best I can offer is to stay honest, speak the truth, face the opposition and work to change our laws and culture that allow for the wanton killing of the innocent like our lives depend on our success, for surely the lives of so many do depend on our success. We advocate. We write. We make phone calls. We hold our elected representatives accountable. And yes, we send up prayers and we think with loving kindness of the suffering and grieving as often as we possibly can.

We gather. We light candles.

We share words of comfort and determination. We sing *Amazing Grace*. We hold each other in Love, because Love is the strongest thing we know. On the Town Common in Castine on the day after the terror, we gather. Again. We are tired of holding vigils. We must continue to hold



vigils. We light a candle. Then we get to work and always, we vote.

May you all find peace in your hearts and souls. May you all find a way to shift the energy of our world toward loving kindness and away from fear and hate.

Namaste, *Margaret*





Juneteenth Day of Freedom

June 19, 2022

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States.

From its Galveston, Texas origin in 1865, the observance of June 19th as the African American Emancipation Day has spread across the United States and beyond.

Today Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement. It is a day, a week, and in some areas a month marked with celebrations, guest speakers, picnics and family gatherings. It is a time for reflection and rejoicing. It is a time for assessment, self-improvement and for planning the future. Its growing popularity signifies a level of maturity and dignity in America long overdue. In cities across the country, people of all races, nationalities and religions are joining hands to truthfully acknowledge a period in our history that shaped and continues to influence our society today. Sensitized to the conditions and experiences of others, only then can we make significant and lasting improvements in our society.

Juneteenth Collaborative Worship Service in Belfast is June 19, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. (Please note the time!)

Multi-platform Worship at 10am!
(In-person in Belfast sanctuary & on ZOOM)

Come One & Come ALL – in person or on line – we can't wait to see you!

Matt Meyer, Guest Worship Leader

Universalism means that no one is saved until we're all saved. Interdependence means grounding ourselves in love, and working together for justice. Join us for a musical celebration of community solutions to systemic problems, and the power we each have to face the crises of our time together while healing ourselves.

As part of this joyful service, we'll release Vanessa Williams from her covenant with us and wish her well on her journey into ministry.

Matt Meyer is a musician and worship leader who has led hundreds of services for UU congregations across the country. He has a degree in hand drumming and serves as Director of Community Life for Sanctuary Boston.

The sanctuary of our Belfast UU Church will be open for people to come in-person to this worship service. All others are welcome to come to worship on ZOOM.

6/19 Worship Service Zoom Meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4695376814>

Meeting ID: 469 537 6814

Phone: 646-558-8656



From Your Collaborative Intern
“Each Other”, a prayer
-Vanessa Williams

Dear ones,

This will be my closing newsletter contribution as intern minister for the three Church Collaborative of Maine.

My heart is heavy, and yet it is so very full; from all that is happening in our world, and in saying my goodbyes. This internship, in these times, has been an experience like no other. And I am grateful to have had it; and to have had it with you all.

For this last piece, I offer you a prayer. Through prayer is the best, and presently, only way I can express the myriad of thoughts and emotions I wish to fit into this segment. May these words support and/or uplift you on your own life journey.

Thank you for everything, and blessings to each one of you!

Sincerely,
 Vanessa Williams



Spirit,
 Before you are sentient beings,
 Feeling everything.
 Our hearts are heavy with the weight
 Of this world,
 And full of so much
 Love;
 Love that allows us to feel,
 To grieve,
 To hope,
 To believe,
 To strive for better days,
 For a better world,
 Spirit,
 Thank you,
 For uniting us in community,
 So we need not feel these
 Heavy emotions
 Alone,
 Help us to together
 Be the support
 Needed
 When things are so very hard,
 And the mirrored smiles
 for when joy,
 Is all we can express.

Spirit
 Thank you
 For this gift of
 Each other.

Blessed be, Amen.