



THE COMMON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF CASTINE

June 2024

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 June

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| June 2 | Worship Leader: Vanessa Titang
Musician: Karen Froehly |
| June 9 | Worship Leader: Rev. Jenny Reece
Musician: Colleen Fitzgerald |
| June 16 | Worship Leader: Rev. J. Mark Worth
Musician: Colleen Fitzgerald
Potluck Luncheon |
| June 23 | Worship Leader: Rev. Jacquie Robb
Musicians: Juliane Gardner & Chris Poulin |
| June 30 | Worship Leader: Rev. Charles Stephens
Musician: Karen Froehly |

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.





From the President's Desk

There is a television newscaster that says, "If you are bored in Maine, it is your own darn fault," and that's certainly true this June.

We have great weather to go outside, attend graduations and weddings, share new recipes at potlucks, celebrate Flag Day and Father's Day, and savor all the good summer dishes at picnics. At church we have great Sunday services to hear, the opportunity to see the premiere of "Building Hope" on June 29th, and the chance to join Vanessa Titang at her ordination

on June 30th. Don't forget to vote in town elections. Join our reading group. When it rains you can read a book, work on trivia questions, or take a long nap.

We can use our time lending a hand where needed, sending a card to cheer someone who needs it, take time to really hear what someone is saying. Hold a child's hand. Be a little more thankful. You will fill your day, "no time to be bored, or it will be your own darn fault".

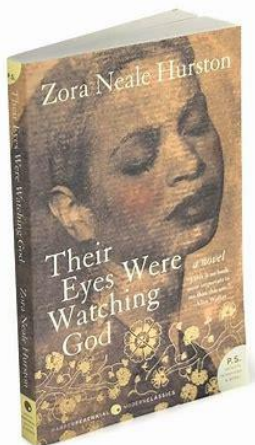
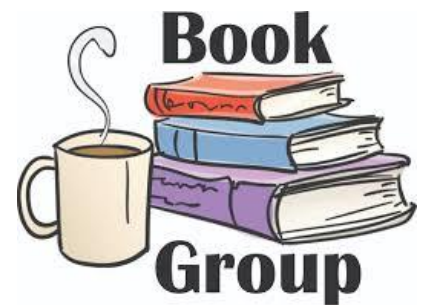
Stay busy, be happy, stay well.

Love to all,

Cindi

UCC READS Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. on ZOOM.

June will begin with a discussion of *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Thurston.



The epic tale of Janie Crawford, whose quest for identity takes her on a journey during which she learns what love is, experiences life's joys and sorrows, and comes home to herself in peace. Her passionate story prompted Alice Walker to say, "There is no book more important to me than this one."

When first published in 1937, this novel about a proud, independent black woman was generally dismissed by male reviewers. Out of print for almost thirty years, but since its reissue in paperback by the University of Illinois Press in 1978, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* has become the most widely read and highly acclaimed novel in the canon of African American literature.

To join UCC Reads book discussion and get the zoom link, sign up for our weekly e-newsletter, or email office@uucastine.org to be added to the weekly reminder list.



No Neighbor Left Behind

On July 12, the No Neighbor Left Behind meal will consist of an Italian-type sub, potato chips, a cupcake, and a wedge of watermelon—a great picnic meal for a summer’s day.

We will meet in Fellowship Hall at 1 p.m. to create these subs, to cut up and bag the watermelon, and to pack up the meals so they will be ready to send on their way.

Although I have boxes of the cupcake mixes, I will need bakers to whip them up, frost them, and deliver them back by 1 p.m. on the 12th. Other than that, the rest of our work will take place at the UUCU.

Drivers, as always, are essential and the faces known to our recipients. I smile knowing that friendships have grown through these personal contacts.

So put the date on your calendar and let me know how you are able to participate in the making of this meal (cupcake maker; driver; meal preparer & packer).

All best, Johanna Sweet (207-326-4924)



[Click HERE for more information.](#)

[Click HERE to register.](#)



Building Hope:

a film to build hope for those caught in the daily crisis of homelessness

Premiering Saturday, June 29, 2024 4-6 pm

Hosted by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine, 86 Court St, Castine, this free event features an in-person panel with **Rachel Talbot Ross**, Maine Speaker of the House; **Tracey Hair** former director of H.O.M.E.; **Cullen Ryan**, Executive Director of Community Housing of Maine (CHOM); and **Katie Spencer White**, Director of Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter. Please RSVP to office@uucastine.org Also available via Zoom - link to be sent upon request.



Cullen Ryan (L), Director of Community Housing of ME and Tracey Hair, Former Director of H.O.M.E., Inc.



Valley Ave. Bangor Encampment w/ Kathleen and Kelly distributing hot drinks and food to the unhoused



Rachel Talbot Ross, Maine Speaker of the House



Senator Angus King

The film is produced by Richard Kane and Melody Lewis-Kane of Kane-Lewis Productions who will moderate the panel. Executive Producer is Gil Tenney of Castine. Fiscally sponsored by Downeast Community Partners, the film is supported by the Maine Community Foundation, Heart of Maine United Way, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine Opportunity Fund and many individuals.





The Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth, The Unitarian Universalist Church of Belfast, and The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine

Invite You to Join in Celebrating the Ordination of

Vanessa Lynn Titang

to the Unitarian Universalist Ministry

Sunday, June 30, 2024, 4:00 p.m.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth

121 Bucksport Road
Ellsworth, Maine 04605

Reception to Follow

Seminarians and Ministerial Colleagues are Invited to Robe and Process or join in a virtual procession.



RSVP: <https://pp.events/vtitang6302024>

The service will be multi platform with a Zoom link provided for those who cannot attend in person.



~ Food for Thought ~

Excerpts from *Joy and Ease* by Wren Bellavance-Grace



In one conversation I had last week, I heard ministers and religious educators reflecting on how they are discerning what families today need from church, and they left me with two questions:

What is bringing you JOY?

How can we make things EASIER for you?

What good questions for all of us. Whether we are parents, children, youth, or elders; whether we are long-time engaged volunteers, or occasional worship-goers, trust me - your congregation wants to know the answers to these questions.

So, what does bring you joy? Specifically, what brings you joy in your congregation? Is it connecting with others? Engaging in the work of justice? Creating - or just celebrating - art? Making food together? The silent church before the service starts? Is it singing together? Or when Nancy makes her famous cinnamon rolls for coffee hour?

Healthy communities of faith know that Joy is sacred. Joy is essential. Joy is the secret spice every potluck table needs. Talk with each other about where you and they find joy. Then meet each other there.

[The] other question—*how can your congregation make things easier for you?*—is both powerful and in a way, countercultural. So often we inadvertently send the message to our members that there is a one-way delivery system between congregants and their congregation. “WE NEED YOU!!!” we

practically shout it in all caps to new members and visitors alike.

WE NEED YOU to volunteer for this committee!

To increase your pledge!

To show up for this meeting!

To bring your kids to church!

To bring your kids QUIETLY to church!

To invite your friends!

To join the board!

To donate something to the auction!

To carry the flame of Unitarian Universalism in this community for the next few generations because we have been trying so hard and we are tiiiiiiiiired!!!

Okay, we don’t yell all these things out loud, but we have definitely heard all of these concerns from congregational leaders this year, and these messages have a way of getting out - even if they aren’t shouted from the pulpit.

If these are the messages we are sending—even inadvertently—what questions are we *not* asking, whether to new guests or longtime members?

What do you need from community?

What does ‘faith’ mean to you?

What might you—or we—be able to *stop* doing, at least for a while, to create room for rest?

Do you (do your children...) know that you are loved here?

How do you hope to grow?

How can we accompany you?

Joy and Ease. Like Bread and Roses, we need all of it to be whole, to be healthy, to be free to connect with our community, to deliver our gifts, to heal ourselves, and the world.

About the Author - Wren Bellavance-Grace



Wren works with the New England Region team to support congregations across New England with particular experience in Safer Congregations, faith formation, and spiritual leadership.

Read the entire article at these links:

<https://www.uua.org/new-england/blog/joy-and-ease-part-one>

<https://www.uua.org/new-england/blog/joy-and-ease-part-two>