



# THE COMMON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF CASTINE

June 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 June

|         |                                                                 |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| June 7  | Worship Leader: Rev. Amy DeBeck<br>Musician: Colleen Fitzgerald |
| June 14 | Worship Leader: Rev. Amy DeBeck<br>Musician: Karen Froehly      |
| June 21 | Worship Leader: Guest<br>Musician: Colleen Fitzgerald           |
| June 28 | Worship Leader: Rev. Amy DeBeck<br>Musician: Karen Froehly      |

## 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 Henry DeBeck [office@uucastine.org](mailto:office@uucastine.org).



## President's letter

June 2026 The Common



This year's Memorial Day Service was held indoors at Emerson Hall due to inclement weather. The event was sponsored by Castine Veterans and moderated by Mike Coughlin in honor of deceased veterans who served their nation in both war and peace. You might think that the steady rain would have prevented people from attending but weather wasn't really a factor. Everyone was dressed for the occasion and many locals, visitors, and people from away sat quietly and listened

to the town band play appropriate songs of the day. UUCC's minister Rev. Amy Debeck led the audience in prayer and an Adams School student, named Keir Carmichael, recited the Gettysburg Address.

### SUMMER HAS OFFICIALLY BEGUN IN CASTINE!

Seasonal residents are arriving eager to connect with friends, check out the waterfront project, and to take part in the many activities planned throughout the summer.

Also, lots of events are scheduled at UUCC during the coming months, therefore, the board has decided NOT TO HAVE POTLUCKS during the months of June, July, August, and September but please join us for COFFEE HOUR during these months as usual.

Welcome to Castine and safe travels to all.

Respectively Submitted,  
Marcia Mason/ Board President

## First Sunday Day of Giving for the Little Free 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!!



## Flourishing Together



What a fun word! Flourish! Just saying it makes me want to move my arm in a grand gesture. And I think that is the point. It's that little something extra. Isn't that how we feel in June, finally able to move about outside? I leave the house with a flourish. The birds bring pieces of their nest to the branch with a flourish. Warmth is returning, and it feels like that little something extra. Flourishing is all around us—how do we encounter it together?

Have you had the experience of flourishing? Or watching kids flourish? That period of time, however long, that was not necessarily perfect, but its experiences lifted your life to a higher than usual level? You were flourishing. Maybe you are still there, or headed back.

Flourishing is a big word and idea, the way joy and happiness are, and none meant to be permanent. Nobody in the real world can exist while always feeling any of these qualities; it would not be healthy or authentic. We are blessed in this life to experience *moments or periods* of joy, happiness, or situations in which we flourish.

In a community that flourishes together, individuals know themselves, so they might know their limits, balanced with hopes, and keep their boundaries while joining the community. Ongoing good, clear communication helps a group flourish. Sharing information, and seeking to know it are both parts of group communications. Being open about expectations on both parts, disclosure of pertinent information early, so there are opportunities to talk through potential issues, and feeling a shared responsibility for keeping up the communications are just some of the ways we can flourish together.

In June we will have our General Assembly, and June is Pride Month globally, and we will remember Virginia Bourne, and meet for worship services, and see summer folks and others in person instead of zoom, we will celebrate the flower ceremony, and so much more! Dare yourself to flourish—add into the gathering or family dinner or church event that “little something extra” and cultivate the habit of flourishing together.

In peace and Love, Rev. Amy



## Clerk's Summary

The Governing Board held its monthly meeting on May 21st. What follows were the key topics of discussion.

The Board noted the passing of David Jarrett who was serving on the Board at the time of his passing. Rev. Amy led a short ceremony of remembrance during this month's Board meeting.

The Opportunity Fund is hosting an event on June 2nd, commemorating Deborah Pulliam's birthday and celebrating the organizations who have benefited, through the Opportunity Fund, from some of her largesse. See the invitation elsewhere in The Common.

The Hilton Scholarship Committee has reviewed 24 area applicants and chosen 11 to give scholarships. See the Bean Counter's Report & Hilton Scholarship Committee Report for more details.

Rev. Amy reported on General Assembly being held this year in Louisville, Kentucky. She will be attending from June 15 through June 22. She also noted that she will be participating, as a colleague, in the installation of the new Episcopal Rector.

As noted last month the Board is looking at ways to bring people into the Church. One such method is an advertising campaign which is just getting off the ground. Any event or gathering that gets people through the door is viewed as a step in the right direction.

One such way is hosting the Adams School Graduation. This will take place on Friday, June 12 at 12:30 p.m. Another way is hosting a group of local people who had been meeting socially at the old Berlukey Restaurant. They reached out to UUCC looking for a place to meet. We are pleased that they will be meeting each morning (except Sundays) in the Parish House from 6:30 - 8 a.m. for coffee and conversation. Stop by sometime.

Starting the list of projects at the Parsonage, spring yardwork has taken place including the removal of some invasive barberry bushes. Work will begin shortly on some of the other outdoor projects. We are told that materials are being gathered for the work on the upstairs Parsonage bathroom.

The Governing Board's next meeting will be June 25th at 10 a.m.

Debbie Morehouse, Clerk

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**Alternate:** Leslie Fairbank

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## Bean Counter's Tally

through May 21, 2026

Our investments continue to grow, though one partner has fallen behind. It is understood that the market fluctuates, one minute down, the next up, so it was felt that no action is needed at this time.

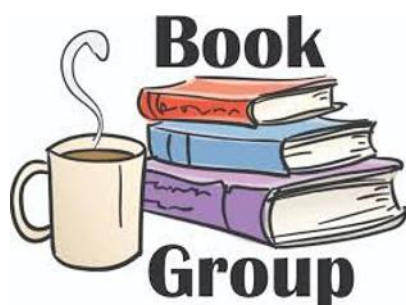
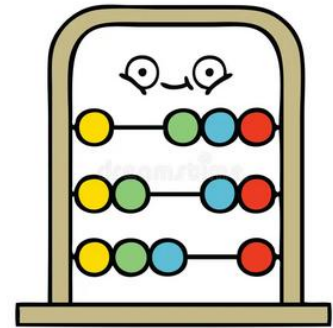
A second part of Sue Clement's bequest was received and will help the Church begin an advertising campaign aimed at making UUCC more visible to the public with the ultimate goal of increasing membership.

As our Church Administrator has taken on a full-time internship out of town, Debbie will be filling in and training a new Admin. She requested and was approved by the Board to be paid while doing this. In order that her work not conflict with her position as Treasurer, Debbie will not be signing checks during this time.

The Board approved the recommendation of the Hilton Scholarship Committee to give \$10,000 in scholarships (as budgeted) to 11 students from the area; 9 for \$1,000 each and 2 for \$500 each. This includes 10 seniors from area schools and one returning applicant looking for support as they continue their college education. See the Hilton Scholarship's Report elsewhere in this edition of The Common for more details.

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)



## UCC READS

**Tuesdays at 3:30 on Zoom**

Since we didn't meet on May 26<sup>th</sup>, rather than discuss a book, on June 2<sup>nd</sup> we will be discussing what books to read in the future.

Consider becoming part of the UUCC Reads book discussion.

Email [office@uucastine.org](mailto:office@uucastine.org) and we will add you to the weekly reminder list.



## No Neighbor Left Behind July 10 Meal



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 UUCU 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.

Gratefully yours, Johanna

## Flash! In the Pans Concert



**June 1. 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.**

**On Castine's Waterfront**

So many wonderful activities as summer beckons!

On June 1, at 7:30 - 9:00 p.m., on Castine's waterfront, Flash! In the Pans will hold a steel drum concert, co-sponsored by the Castine Arts Association. In case of rain, we will relocate to Emerson Hall.

The concert is free, but donations are much appreciated, and donations are shared by both organizations, enabling additional concerts and arts programs to take place in the area.

Mark this “Feel Good” event on your calendar and jumpstart the summer season with song and dance!



## Rev. Randall Hilton Scholarships for 2026

The Rev. Randall Hilton Scholarship application deadline was April 3rd. With a budget of \$10,000, the Committee, consisting of Joan Bothwell, Chair and Debbie Morehouse, met on April 24 to review the 24 applications received. This represents a marked decrease in applications over last year's 35, but a return to the consistent 24-25 received in each of the previous 5 years. From these applications 11 were chosen: 9 to receive \$1,000 scholarships each and 2 to receive \$500 scholarships each. This includes 10 seniors from area schools: 1 recipient from Bucksport High School, 4 from Deer Isle Stonington High School, 3 from Ellsworth High School, 1 from John Bapst High School, and 1 from Sumner Memorial High School. Also chosen was one returning applicant looking for support as they continue their college education. The intended courses of study for these 11 students vary widely including secondary education, nursing, diesel mechanics, security, apparel design, medical radiology, anesthesiology, vessel operations & technology, and environmental science. They will be studying at a variety of higher education institutions both in and out of state, including: University of Maine, Maine Maritime Academy, Husson University, Ohio Technical College, University of New Hampshire, Rhode Island School of Design, Grove City College, University of Tampa, Eastern Maine Community College, and Mt. Holyoke College.



Respectfully submitted,  
Joan Bothwell, Chair  
Debbie Morehouse

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## Adams School Graduation



UUCC is pleased to be the venue of the Adams School Graduation on June 12<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. again this year.

We are thrilled to be part of the tradition of sending our Castine students off to their next great educational adventure!



## 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

June 8 and 22

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



### Opportunity Fund Committee

The opportunity committee recently sent a donation of \$1500 to the American Legion post in Bucksport to help them with their campaign to make the Legion Hall usable throughout the winter season. The American Legion sends students each year to Dirigo State, where students “learn by doing” the basics of state government at the State House in Augusta for a day. The Legion also assumes from the town the responsibility for decorating veterans’ grave sites with American flags each year. They also have a good track record for helping any neighbor who needs a hand.



***You're Invited!***

Help us celebrate the work of the Unitarian  
 Universalist Congregation of Castine's  
**Opportunity Fund grantees**  
 made possible by the generosity of Deborah Pulliam  
 On Deborah's birthday  
 June 2, 2026

4pm

At Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine  
 86 Court Street, side door by the Common

Please share with others  
 RSVP by May 27 2026 by clicking [here](#)  
 For More Information: 326-9083



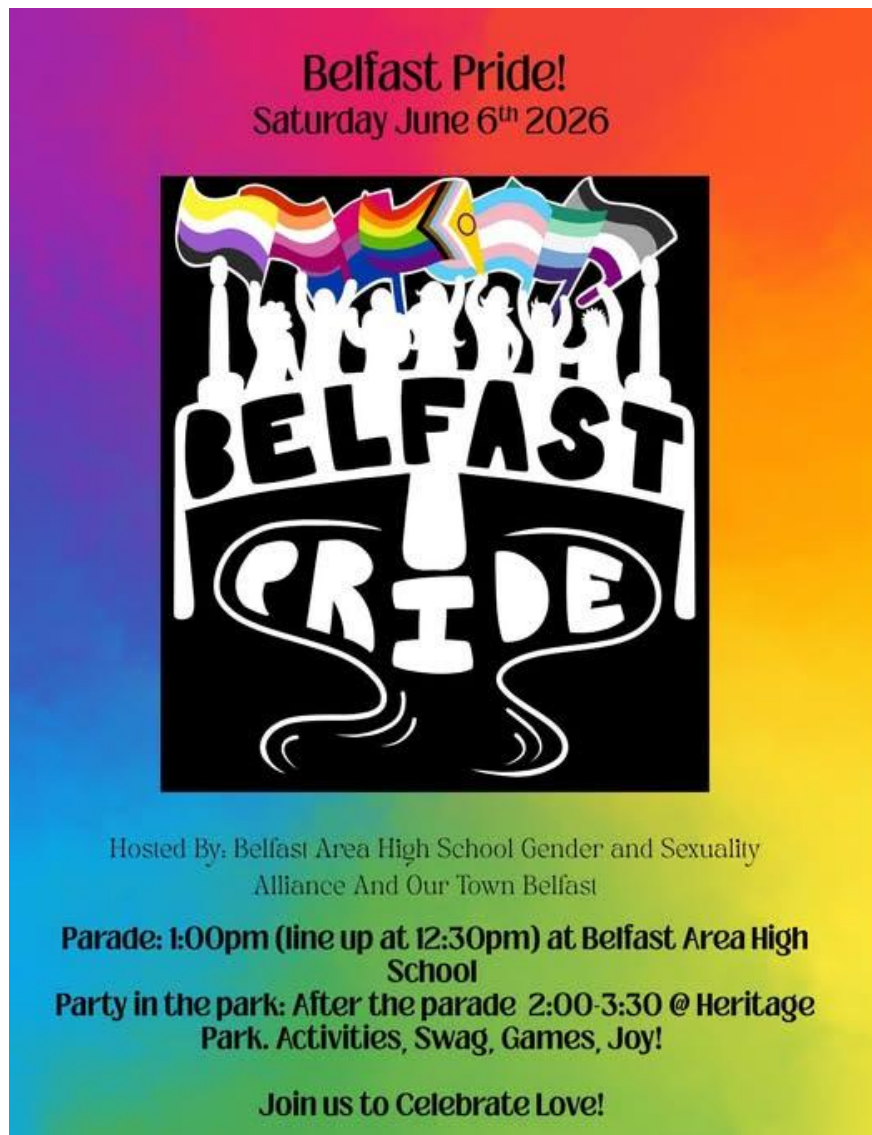

## Open House

**Saturday, June 6**  
**1:00 pm - 3:00 pm**  
**118 Ellsworth Rd., Blue Hill**

Please join us for a summer BBQ and an  
 afternoon Open House at Friendship  
 Cottage as we celebrate and gather to  
 tour the cottage, enjoy brief remarks and  
 enjoy summer refreshments.



*Kindly RSVP by May 22:*  
 207-610-5003  
[anne.ossanna@acap-me.org](mailto:anne.ossanna@acap-me.org)



The **Ellsworth PrideFest 2026** celebration will take place:

**Sunday, June 7, 2026 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM**

The event location is currently being finalized.

For event updates, vendor information, volunteering, or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Healthy Acadia at [dani.robbs@healthyacadia.org](mailto:dani.robbs@healthyacadia.org)

