



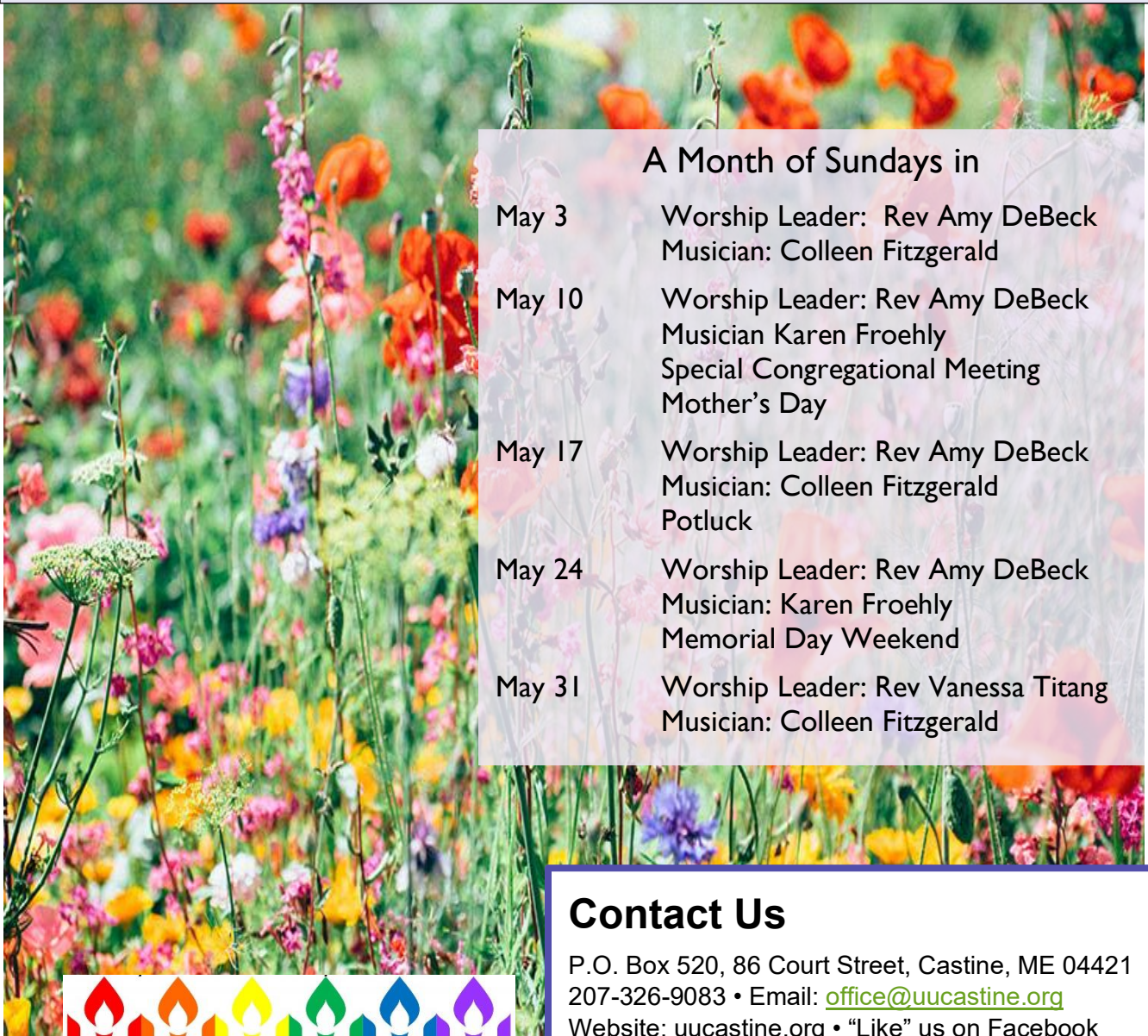
THE COMMON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF CASTINE

May 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

- | | |
|--------|--|
| May 3 | Worship Leader: Rev Amy DeBeck
Musician: Colleen Fitzgerald |
| May 10 | Worship Leader: Rev Amy DeBeck
Musician Karen Froehly
Special Congregational Meeting
Mother's Day |
| May 17 | Worship Leader: Rev Amy DeBeck
Musician: Colleen Fitzgerald
Potluck |
| May 24 | Worship Leader: Rev Amy DeBeck
Musician: Karen Froehly
Memorial Day Weekend |
| May 31 | Worship Leader: Rev Vanessa Titang
Musician: Colleen Fitzgerald |

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 Victoria Bujan office@uucastine.org.



The Minister's Meanderings

Art awakens curiosity. Something about that painting speaks to us. There is a memory attached to the curve of that statue. We want to know more about the piece of art, and often about the artist. Same with music. We like finding out about the people creating the sounds that we enjoy, that move us. And of course there is poetry and prose that move us and cause us to think about the whole universe because of the words provided.

Art, in its many forms, can awaken curiosity within us.

About the world around us.

About life.

About death.

About ourselves.

Curiosity keeps us going.

Finding ways to keep reawakening our curiosity is best done in a sustainable manner so that we don't fall prey to thrill seeking.

Awakening curiosity can happen by taking more outdoor pictures on our cellphones.

Awakening curiosity can happen by slowing down the pace of a week to include a couple of in-person meetups.

May is such a great month to think about curiosity. The weather is better and travel is easier.

I always uphold May as the National Month for Mental Health Awareness. NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness's theme



is "In every story, there is strength." My May 17 service will be so titled. Approaching the mental health of ourselves and others with more curiosity than judgment is a topic to learn about, along with some inspiring stories.

All of the things we wonder about, for better or worse, are what we stay curious about. Therefore it behooves us to surround ourselves and others with interesting things to wonder about. Like the Great outdoors.

Or other people. There is a sweetness to watching somebody's curiosity awaken, not just a child, like seeing a beautiful sunrise and wondering where the day will go. That is how friendships and communities are built.

May we go into May with a sense of curiosity and wonder. It makes the day lighter, even if only for a moment.

In peace

Rev. Amy



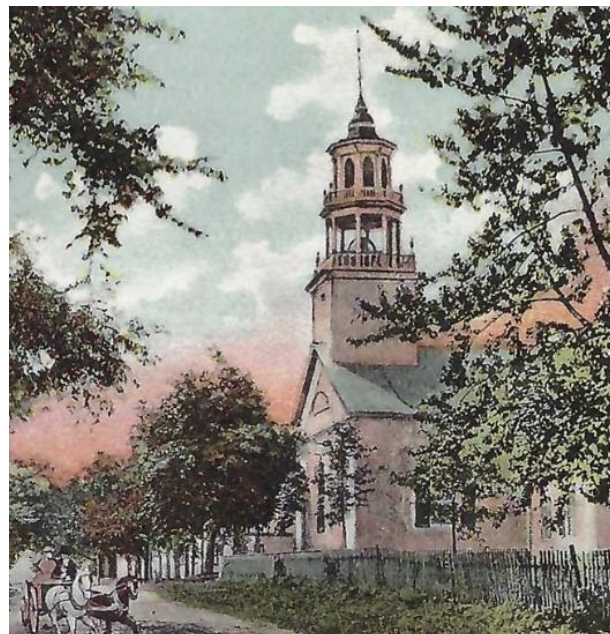
From the President's Desk

Our Sunday services are held in the oldest house of worship in Downeast Maine. The original structure was built in 1791, and it fulfilled the requirement of each new community in the Province of Maine to build a meeting house suitable for the "publick worship of God." As was typical of the time, the meeting house also served as a site for town meetings and as a courthouse. The building was redesigned in the 1830's and a new bell cast by Paul Revere's son was installed. This bell continues to ring on Sunday mornings.

Recently, on the rainy afternoon of Sunday, April 19, a standing-room-only crowd packed our building during an event related to the upcoming state primary elections in June. It was a pleasure to see our historic building function again as a civic meeting house.

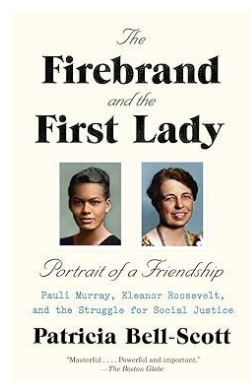
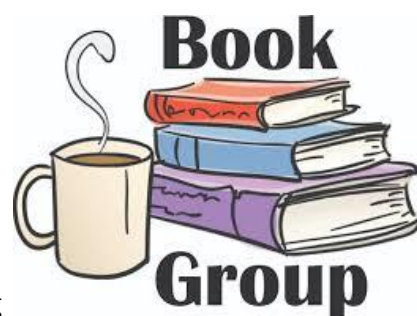
Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Mason/ Board President



UUC READS

Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. on ZOOM



This week, UUC Reads will begin discussing *The Firebrand and The First Lady*, by Patricia Bell-Scott.

In 1938, the twenty-eight-year-old Pauli Murray wrote a letter to the President and First Lady, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, protesting racial segregation in the South. Eleanor wrote back. So began a friendship that would last for a quarter of a century, as Pauli became a lawyer, principal strategist in the fight to protect Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and a co-founder of the National Organization of Women, and Eleanor became a diplomat and first chair of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

Consider becoming part of the UUC Reads book discussion.

Email office@uucastine.org and we will add you to the weekly reminder list.



Clerk's Summary

The Governing Board held its monthly meeting on April 16th. What follows were the key topics of discussion.

The Building and Grounds Committee reported that E.L. Shea is set to work on the steeple this summer. The smaller repair projects are set to begin soon now that the weather has warmed. All quotes are in on the upstairs bathroom renovation project at the Parsonage, with Andrew Pataky's quote as the lowest. However, he has noted that materials have all increased substantially since he first submitted his quote. Check out the Bean Counter's Tally and the Call to Special Meeting elsewhere in this edition of The Common to see how the universe has conspired to meet this need.



A newly formed Membership Committee has met and they have suggested an advertising campaign to make UUCG more visible to the public with the aim of increasing membership.

Immediately following the monthly Governing Board meeting, the Board met with an estate attorney for a question and answer session regarding bequests and Deborah Pulliam's bequest in particular. While we were aware of the wording in Deborah's will, namely that should UUCG cease to exist, the bequest PLUS interest must go to the UUA, there were questions regarding the interest. Though it is not stated explicitly, the lawyer reasoned that the intent was that interest should be calculated from the date of the bequest. That could be a great deal of interest in 20 years and counting. We were advised to research and gather all the paperwork from each endowment bequest as well as all of our founding documents to pass along, so that future Boards would understand the requirements should the need arise. All agreed that, in the meantime, the best course would be to remain a viable congregation for as long as possible. How fortuitous that our newly formed Membership Committee is working in that direction already!

The Governing Board's next meeting will be May 21st at 10 a.m.

Debbie Morehouse, Clerk

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marciamason@hotmail.com

Vice President: Tom Mason

tmason@biochem.umass.edu

Treasurer/Clerk: Debbie Morehouse

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Alvion Kimball

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Alternate: Leslie Fairbank

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Bean Counter's Tally

through April 16, 2026

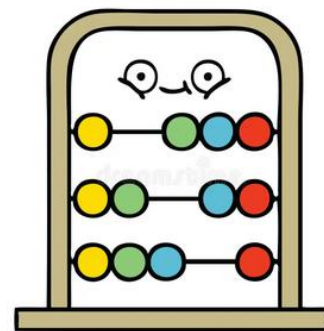
While our endowment investments were down last month, the value has rebounded this month, back up to 9.2M. We are very fortunate to have dedicated members who have provided for our endowment through the years.

As Rev. Amy reported in church recently, Sue Clement left an unrestricted bequest to UUCB in her will. We have received her check for \$22,500 and propose to use these funds to meet the repair needs at the Parsonage, namely the bathroom renovation project. We will come to the Congregation on May 10th to seek approval to expend these funds in this manner. See the Call to Meeting with all the background information elsewhere in this edition of The Common.

We have received the UUA's request for a pledge of funds for the APF (Annual Program Fund). The UUA figures our pledge amount based mostly upon our operating budget, but some consideration is also given to our location, and to an even lesser degree, the size of our congregation. Our pledge amount for 2027 is \$9,462. The Board will take this opportunity to understand the pros and cons of supporting the UUA to this extent, and will share what we learn.

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

Debbie Morehouse,
Chief Bean Counter (aka Treasurer)



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!!



Call to a Special Congregational Meeting

May 10th following Service

Members of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine are requested to attend a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 10th, immediately following Sunday service, to vote on spending up to \$22,500 on bathroom repairs at the Parsonage.

Background: It was noted by the Minister in November of last year that a leak from the upstairs bathroom had developed. The Building and Grounds Committee looked into it and discovered that tiles had come loose in the shower allowing water to infiltrate the wallboard. The tiles were sealed to prevent further leaking in the short-term, but a more permanent solution was needed. At that time, it was noted that the downstairs bathroom also had issues, such as a rotten window frame and an inadequately sized shower. While both bathrooms were in need of renovation, putting both out of commission at the same time was not convenient or practical. It was determined to concentrate on the upstairs bathroom first.

Contractors were invited to assess the bathrooms and give estimates for the cost of repairs. Four contractors viewed the bathrooms. One did not feel qualified to address the plumbing side of the renovation so did not submit a quote. One would not consider working on any of the bathrooms unless the house was



unoccupied. Andrew Pataky gave an estimate of \$12,000 for renovating the upstairs bathroom. E.L. Shea gave an estimated range of \$20,000 - \$30,000, due to not knowing what would be found behind the floor and walls. Since submitting his estimate, Andrew has noted that prices have increased substantially, due to tariffs and world events. He would now estimate between \$16,000 and \$20,000. We understand that it may be impossible to lock in a solid price.

Request: UUCC has recently received a bequest from the Estate of Sue Clements in the amount of \$22,500. These funds have arrived like “manna from heaven.” They are not restricted, they meet the current need for renovation funds, and by using this bequest, we do not need to dip into our investments. As this project is beyond what was budgeted for 2026 and is over \$10,000, we come to the Congregation seeking approval of the Board’s recommendation to expend up to \$22,500 for the renovation of the upstairs bathroom at the Parsonage, any unspent funds would be used for other repair and maintenance projects at the Parsonage or Church.

We hope this background information is helpful in your consideration of this request.

Respectfully submitted,
UUCC Governing Board



In Memoriam

We are saddened to report that two very dear members of our congregation have passed away recently:

Virginia Bourne
David Jarrett

Each of these people were gems, and their lives, as with gems, were multi-faceted. We were privileged to know both of these people mostly through the facet of our UU Church community.



Virginia Bourne **1930-2026**



Virginia Stone Weis Bourne was the daughter of the Reverend Frederick Lewis and Elizabeth Williams (Stone) Weis. Because her father was the minister of the First Church of Lancaster, MA, a church which had been Unitarian since the 1830s, Virginia found a home at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine when she and her family moved here. She fulfilled the role of matriarch of our church for many years. She and her husband Stan were very generous with their time and talents to UUCC. Virginia served on the Governing Board for many years and felt the importance of encouraging membership through welcoming all who came through the door. She took this role very seriously and can be credited with facilitating many a membership. Virginia also reached out to ministerial students inviting them to preach in Castine, mentoring quite a few. She maintained a busy correspondence, and it was always a blessing to receive a handwritten note from Virginia Bourne. Beyond cultivating people, Virginia was an avid gardener and the gifts from her garden were enjoyed each week on the chalice table. For many years she shared her historic home and the legacy of her great aunts by hosting the Annual Church Picnic at her beloved Moss Acre. Her passing is a great loss. You may read her full obituary here:

<https://obituaries.bangordailynews.com/obituary/virginia-bourne-1093761808>.

There will be a memorial service for Virginia in Peterborough, NH on June 6th.

David Jarrett **1947-2026**

David Jarrett was born in Queens, New York in 1947. He was a Psychiatrist and an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry. A winter resident of Athens, GA, David and his wife Pat fell in love with Maine, spending summers first in Brooksville and more recently in Penobscot. David brought a wealth of experience from work with his Church in Georgia to his service here at UUCC. At the time of his passing, David was serving on UUCC's Governing Board and Finance Committee. He also enjoyed filling the pulpit on occasion. We will miss his enthusiasm and sense of humor. David's service will be in Georgia on May 23rd and will be viewable on zoom. We will pass along a link to his full obituary and memorial service zoom link as they become available.



On Tuesday May 5, Rev. Amy will be on this national call.
Join if you can!



Rev. Liz Theoharis

Freedom Demands We Organize

A National UU Call to Moral Action

Tuesday, May 5

8:00 pm ET - 7:00 pm CT - 6:00 pm MT - 5:00 pm PT

Join Rev. Liz Theoharis for an urgent gathering on how Unitarian Universalists can meet this moment with courage, solidarity, and strategic action.

Get Your Tickets here:



bit.ly/We-Organize





Potluck on May 17th!

Join us for our traditional 3rd Sunday Potluck luncheon.

All are welcome!

In the spirit of Potluck, please bring a dish to share.



Movie and Potluck a at Emerson Hall May 14th

Gather for an evening of good food and a
good movie at Emerson Hall

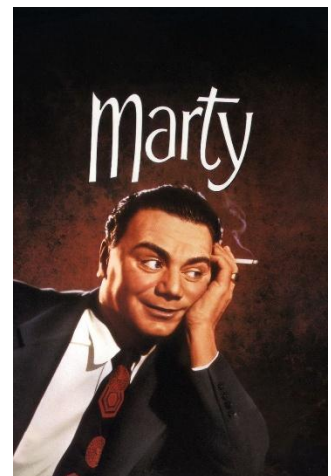
Potluck at 5:30;

Movie at 6:30.

Bring a dish to share!

Put on by the Castine Arts Association

www.castinearts.org





The Gathering: What's Next After May Day?

Monday, May 11, 2026

8:00 PM - 9:15 PM ET, 7pm CT, 6pm MT, 5pm PT, 4pm AT, 2pm HT.

Join us for The Gathering, a monthly virtual event from Side With Love designed to offer:

- Spiritual Grounding – Strengthen your heart and spirit for the work ahead.
- Political Analysis – Understand the threats to democracy and justice. Collective Action
- Organize with others to block anti-democratic forces and build a just and loving world.

This Month's Focus:

This month, we'll strategize about the specific roles congregations can play in building the organization and power we need to force our government to put our families over billionaire fortunes. Get inspired by stories of congregations running strike schools, mapping and mobilizing their resources; and strengthen your spirit with music from Soren Austenfeld. The Gathering is Side With Love's monthly event to strengthen your spirit, make sense of the threats to democracy, and take meaningful action alongside others! Join us live or watch the recording later.

See you at The Gathering to strengthen your spirit, make sense of the threats to democracy, and take meaningful action alongside others!

Sign up here:

<https://secure.everyaction.com/vHbBfrzqCEe6JLDTxEgSvQ2>



SIDE WITH LOVE

