



The Common November 2018



CALENDAR

November 6th Election Day

November 8th Film night at the Alamo—a special showing of **RBG** by the CMT

November 11th Potluck

November 18th **Bringing Families Together**
Conversation sponsored by the Castine Compassionate Coalition at 5:30 p.m.

November 22nd Thanksgiving Day

November 29th Governing Board Meeting

December 9th UUCC Annual Meeting following the Sunday morning service

December 10th **Castine Christmas Celebration** at 7:00 p.m. at the UU Meeting House

Closing the \$\$ Gap

A healthy congregation is a giving congregation and financial giving is a part of that formula for success.

As we approach the end of our fiscal year, which is the calendar year, we are falling short on expected income from pledges and regular giving. Our budget calls for \$33,000 in pledges and regular giving from members and friends. At the moment, we have recorded income of just less than \$24,000 toward that target of \$33,000. We can close that gap if we are committed to ending the year in good financial shape. If you are a bit behind on your pledge or expected giving, please take this opportunity to catch up. If you are in a position to give a little bit extra this year, please do. Thank you for your continuing generosity.



Sunday Service Calendar

Nov. 4th Rev. Dr. Duncan Newcomer will be in the pulpit.

Ian Brenner-Simpson, Musician

Hungry Sunday to benefit the Thanksgiving Dinner in a Box program

Nov. 11th Rev. Margaret Beckman
"To Be a Patriot"

Colleen Fitzgerald, Musician

Potluck Sunday

Nov. 18th Rev. Margaret Beckman
"Bringing Families Together"

Joan Kroehler, Guest Musician and Organist at Trinity Episcopal Church

Nov. 25th Rev. Margaret Beckman,
"A People of Memory"

Colleen Fitzgerald, Musician

December 2nd begins the Christian season of Advent, the four Sundays leading to Christmas. Services in December to be announced.

President's Desk

Leslie Fairbank

As the calendar and church year winds down, our hearts are weighed with grief over the murder, in Pittsburg, of eleven Jewish folks in their Torah class, so like the assault on the Bible study in Charleston, N.C. There was also the murder of two Black folks in a grocery store by a man who couldn't get into a Baptist church. And, of course, there was the attempt to assassinate a dozen prominent Americans which, thankfully, was foiled. We would like to believe this is the low point in the condition of our politics. More than ever, we need our loving community.

We can celebrate many positive accomplishments within our community. Elaine Gerard-Climo recently organized the highly successful turkey dinner which raised almost \$1300 to support our Dollars for Scholars program. Under Johanna Sweet's precise logistical direction, we prepared 65 meals for the Friday night food effort. We provided lunch options for children all summer: many thanks to Brooke Tenney and the Masons for taking care of that.

There has been continued participation in support of the various Opportunity Fund recipients led by the Steering committee. We have distributed Puliam Grants and increased the amount given in Hilton scholarships. We also matched gifts in memory of Kent Price to send over \$2400 to the UU United Nations Office.

We continue to participate in the Collaborative Ministry, with an event coming on November 8th. We will gather at the Alamo theatre in Bucksport to enjoy RBG. It will be good to be together to celebrate the life of Ruth Bader Ginsberg, a brilliant, positive, amazing woman. May she live forever!

Let us remind ourselves that even in the midst of these difficult times, we have much to be thankful for. Happy Thanksgiving to all and warm regards, Leslie



Religious Education

Kay Hansen

During October, our religious education group celebrated the change of seasons with a walk and enjoyed the story of Henry and his walk to Fitchburg. The children decided that they, like Henry, could see and experience a lot more by walking than riding a train or car. They also heard John Muth's version of "Stone Soup," in which three monks set out to find what makes people happy. And indeed, sharing with others seems to be the key to joy and happiness! As we enter into the holiday season, we plan to think of more ways our group can share with others.

For the first Sunday of November and the week of "Election Day," we will focus on our 5th principle: "All people need a voice." The children will hear a story about two children who are sent off to the pet store to choose "one" pet. How do they make that decision? Could they vote?

For Potluck Sunday (November 11th), we will help our church community by decorating the tables and making a food to share with others. Lane will help the children celebrate Thanksgiving on the third Sunday, and on the last Sunday of November, she will share a book called, "Grandad's Prayers of the Earth."

The Future of Faith Formation: A workshop for exploring the current trends in "Faith Formation" (Religious Education). Saturday, November 17, 2018, 10:00-3:00 Unitarian Universalist Society of Bangor Hosted by: The MidMaine DRE Cluster Group Several people will be attending this event, as a team, to explore ideas for the future of Castine's Religious Education Program. If you are interested in joining us, there is still time to sign-up. Contact: Kay Hansen hansen85023@gmail.com.



Congregational Life

Annual Meeting



Our UUC Congregational Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 9th following the morning worship service. This is the time when we review the year ending and look forward to the new year.

Each committee and task force leader is requested to write their report to be included in the published Annual Report. Please have your report finished and submitted to the church office (either paper or electronic to Office@castineuu.org) by November 15th. Remember to include the names of the people on your team as part of your report.

Looking ahead, we will vote on the proposed budget for 2019 and elect officers for the coming year.

We hope to have printed copies of the 2018 Annual Report available for review on December 2nd. Please mark your calendar and come to morning worship, the Annual Meeting and Potluck on December 9th.

Worship Associates

Shared leadership in planning and conducting worship is a wonderful way to keep our Sunday morning services diverse, relevant and well-organized. When we invite a guest to preach or be our primary speaker, we need someone to assist with the planning, selection of hymns and readings, and to lend support during the Sunday morning service.

If we had a team of three or four people take on this role with worship, everyone would benefit.

See Rev. Margaret Beckman to learn more about Worship Associates and join the team.



First Impressions

We only get one chance to make a first impression.

Helping guests feel welcome and included and wanting to return is essential. Our Greeters and Ushers are typically the first people to talk with our guests and visitors. It's all about making a personal contact. Intentional friendliness makes all the difference in how welcome people feel when they come to our Sunday service.

Unitarian Universalists are known to say that the single most important thing that keeps them coming to church each week is the people. We come to see each other and share our lives. In small congregations like ours, this closeness among our members is deeply affirming. For the newer people, this closeness among others can be difficult. It is hard to break into a small tightly knit group.

Let's make it part of our Sunday practice to be intentionally friendly to those we do not know with the same warmth and enthusiasm we show our best friends. People remember how we make them feel. Let's get it right the first time!



Castine Compassionate Coalition

BRINGING FAMILIES TOGETHER

The Castine Compassionate Coalition (CCC) is a group of Castine people who came together in with a Vigil on June 21st in response to the plight of children separated from their parents on the southern border of our country. The goal of this spontaneous gathering was to seek ways of providing material and financial support to those trying to relocate and reunite parents and children.

After unspeakable violence in their home countries of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, families have fled, seeking safety. When they arrive at our border, many have had no choice but to sleep on the streets or under bridges before gaining access to a U.S. port of entry. Children have been placed in government custody and housed in child detention centers without clear procedures for parents who have been detained or departed to track their children or discover how they will be reunited.

On **Sunday, November 18th**, any and all who are concerned about these separated families and wonder how they might be of help are invited to come together for a simple potluck supper and an informal discussion of this humanitarian crisis from **5:30 - 7:00 pm in Emerson Hall**.

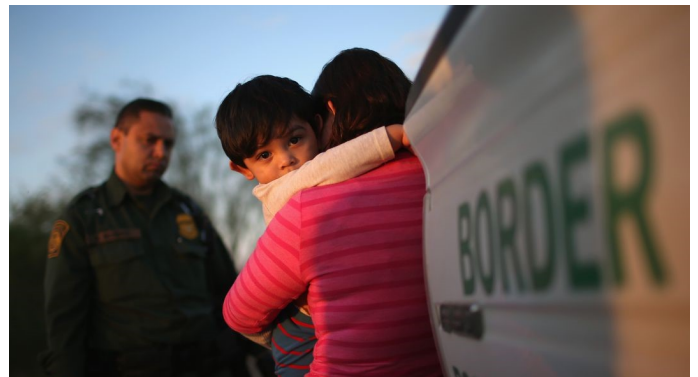
Each of our four Castine churches will take time on a Sunday morning in early November to focus the attention of its membership on this event. A Castine fund for refugee children and families on our southern border has been established with leadership gifts of over \$2500. These funds will be directed to the International Rescue Committee, a highly recommended agent of rescue and relief that works with faith communities as well as other helping organizations. More information on these efforts will be provided at our community conversation on November 18.

So please join us in trying to be of help to these separated little ones and their families.



FOR OUR BELOVED "AWAY" FRIENDS AND MEMBERS

If you cannot be with us on November 18th and you want to participate in this congregation and town relief effort, please follow the steps outlined below to make your contribution of any amount.



Steps to make your ONLINE donation:

Go to:

<https://help.rescue.org/donate/us-faith-communities-separated-families>

Click on: Donate Now >

Select an amount to donate and enter it under
MAKE A MONTHLY DONATION
OR
MAKE A ONE-TIME DONATION

Enter your Name, E-mail address. Then enter

Castine Compassionate Coalition

In the box that reads Congregation or Organizational Affiliation

Continue with your Address and Zip/Postal Code information. Then select PAYMENT INFO >.

Verify your donation amount and type of donation at the top of the next page, then enter your Credit Card Information or your PayPal Information. Finally enter SUBMIT DONATION >.

You will receive confirmation of your donation as well as an email to print for your tax records.

UUCC Opportunity Funds at Work in our Communities

We will be talking about the Opportunity Fund and what's next for our congregation at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 9th. The Governing Board has endorsed the recommendation of the Opportunity Fund Task Force and the Finance Committee to make a \$100,000 distribution through the Opportunity Fund in 2019. In anticipation of the conversation at the Annual Meeting, here is some helpful information on where we've been and where we are going.

~ Gil Tenney and Cindi Kimball, Co-chairs Opportunity Fund Task Force

History and Background

In November 2017, the UUCC Congregation approved the distribution of \$100,000. The stated goals for the distribution were to 1) make a meaningful financial impact and 2) encourage UUCC and community engagement. To make a meaningful financial impact, distributions would be divided among no more than five recipients within Hancock County.

Financial Impact

H.O.M.E (Orland): closed on two new homes for low income families and built a play gym for the H.O.M.E. campus

Open Door Recovery Center (Ellsworth): funded school adolescent addiction and mental health case work and helped to meet a financial crisis for the residential program.

Families First Community Center (Ellsworth): Design and construction of the facility that will house families.

Community Compass (Blue Hill Peninsula, Deer Isle/Stonington): Supported the mission of reducing the cycle of poverty by connecting those in need with opportunity and helping to build a community collaborative of local citizens, service agencies, churches, and towns for better poverty awareness and engagement.

Community Childhood Learning Place (Castine): Support for construction of the physical center.

Vision

While funding critical needs of our agency partners, the Opportunity Fund has planted seeds for hope and a spirit of collaboration. A year ago, Open Door Recover Center had filed for closure of Hills House, the only residential treatment facility in Hancock County. Now not only has Hills House been reopened, plans are underway to double its capacity.

A year ago, Tracey Hair, H.O.M.E. director, hardly knew Barbara Royal, Open Door director. A major concern for H.O.M.E. is the referral for addiction treatment. *"The opioid crisis is the worst addiction epidemic in U.S. history"* (TIME 3.5.18). Tracey estimates over the last few years H.O.M.E. has experienced an increase of 38% of people with substance use challenges in H.O.M.E. shelters. Now Barbara and Tracey are working together in their mutual commitment to save lives.

Another challenge for Open Door is the six month limit of government reimbursements. After six months, Open Door must make the difficult decision of absorbing cost for continuing treatment or finding safe transitional housing elsewhere while providing outpatient care.

Families First has committed to providing transitional housing. Their facility is in close proximity to Open Door and has a goal of being able to provide transitional housing of up to 18 months, another example of two agencies working together to increase the likelihood of success in saving lives.

Partner Church Update

TURKEY DINNER—Resounding Success

By Elaine Gerard-Climo, Soup Czar

What's the key to a great Turkey Dinner?
The turKEY.

If that answer is too corny, how about the community, the food, and a great cause make for a great turkey dinner? On October 20th, the Parrish House once again hosted a dinner for nearly 60 adults and six children, raising \$1,276. Laughter, camaraderie filled the air, aromas of stuffing pulled friends and newcomers to the serving table of turkey, stuffing, gravy, mash potatoes, carrots & peas, and squash. Baskets of homemade rolls and bowls of cranberry sauce sat next to fall decorations and flowers on tables.

“It was a wonderful cross section of people from this area – different religions, folks from the surrounding communities and Castine,” said Jean Devereux, a member of UUCC. “We were all there because we wanted to help those kids go to school when they otherwise wouldn't have the choice.”

The “kids” live in the village of Aquino, on the Island of Negros in the Philippines. Their parents must pay for school tuition, uniforms, books and transportation to school. The main source of income is rice farming which barely meets a family's need for food and shelter, giving education a low priority.

“The room looked so festive. I sat at a table nearest the food (I am very clever. :) The food was absolutely delicious. Kudos to the cooks! I was very pleased to meet and chat with my table mate, Mrs. Bishop. We found we had a lot in common, so it was delightful. Already looking forward to next year's gathering.”

Liz Allen, Blue Hill resident

Our congregation partnered with the Aquino UU congregation many years ago. Their religious education program consists of 40 - 50 children, maybe more. To help support our far-away friends who have embraced the democratic principles of Unitarian Universalism, our small congregation helped develop a preschool program. We were shock to learn that many of the older children did not attend school due to the lack of funds.

Dollars for Scholars arose – a program that now supports 40 youngsters from first grade through high school and one college student, now in her fourth year. Over half of these students are supported by sponsors, mostly members of UUCC; the other half from fund-raising, such as a turkey dinner. So you see, the turkey is the Key.



Behind the scene heroines for the success of our Turkey Dinner:

The Turkeys: Rev. Margaret Beckman, Tom and Marcia Mason, Rick Larson, and Elaine Gerard-Climo
Chief of potatoes: Debbie Morehouse,

Queen of peas and carrots: Anne Parsons,
First Place Winner of Squash: Leslie Fairbank
Collector of money and baker of rolls: Anne Price,
Servers: Cindy and Alvion Kimball,
Wine connoisseur: Tom Mason
Table decorators: Kay Hansen and RE children
Save the day florist: Becky St. John
Do all that we command waiter: Alex Yap,
President of Kitchen clean-up: Leslie Fairbank
Field lieutenant: Becky St. John
Soup Czar: Elaine Gerard-Climo
And thanks to all the bakers of pies, cakes and cookies!

Lakeside Reflections, November 2018



Our hearts are broken, again.
And again. And Again.

The Psalmist, King David, cries out to his God:
“How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me? How
long must I take counsel in my soul and have sor-
row in my heart all the day? How long shall my ene-
my be exalted over me?”

Too many deaths. Too much hate and fear. Too
much isolation and indifference. Too many guns.
When will we ever learn, when will we ever learn?



For as long as takes, we will light our candles and
offer our prayers.

For as long as it takes, we will work for justice.
For as long as it takes, we will know that Love is
stronger than fear.

Finally, we do know this truth: “there is only love.
Love that heals, love that sets me free. There is on-
ly love.” (Michael Gott)

Have courage. You are not alone.
May our lives be blessed and enriched through the
love and faith we share.
Namaste, *Margaret*

18 killed - August 1, 1966 - University of
Texas - Austin, Texas

13 killed - April 20, 1999 – Columbine
High School – Littleton, Colorado

32 killed - April 16, 2007 – Virginia Tech
– Blacksburg, Virginia

13 killed - November 5, 2009 – Fort
Hood, Texas

13 killed - April 3, 2009 – Immigrant
Community Center - Binghamton, New
York

12 killed - July 20, 2012 – Screening of
the Batman film – Aurora, Colorado

27 killed - December 14, 2012 – Sandy
Hook Elementary School – Newtown,
Connecticut

9 killed - June 17, 2015 - Emanuel Afri-
can Methodist Episcopal Church -
Charleston, South Carolina

9 killed - October 1, 2015 - Umpqua
Community College - Roseburg, Oregon

14 killed - December 2, 2015 - Inland
Regional Center - San Bernardino, Cali-
fornia

49 killed - June 12, 2016 - Pulse night-
club – Orlando, Florida

58 killed - October 1, 2017 – Music Con-
cert - Las Vegas, Nevada

25 killed - November 5, 2017 - Baptist
Church – Sutherland Springs, Texas

17 killed - February 14, 2018 – Marjory
Stoneman Douglas High School – Park-
land, Florida

10 Killed - May 18, 2018 - Santa Fe High
School - Santa Fe, Texas

11 killed - October 27, 2018 – Tree of
Life Synagogue – Pittsburgh, Pennsylvan-
ia

