



THE COMMON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF CASTINE

November 2025

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

November 2	Worship Leader: Rev, Amy DeBeck Musician: Colleen Fitzgerald
November 9	Worship Leader: Rev, Amy DeBeck Musician: Karen Froehly
November 16	Worship Leader: : Rev Mark Worth Musician: Colleen Fitzgerald Potluck
November 23	Worship Leader: Rev, Amy DeBeck Musician: Karen Froehly
November 30	Worship Leader: Rev, Amy DeBeck Musician: Karen Froehly



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 Victoria Bujan office@uucastine.org.



Ministers' Meanderings

Nurturing Gratitude

Welcome to November, friends. The air is getting colder, we need to build in weather considerations to travel now. This first weekend we turn our clocks back.

Yet this November feels unusual; like the first November of Covid (2020) when we could not imagine what to expect as we continued social distancing and institutions remained closed with online meetings only. We could not imagine what the holiday season, what the coming winter, what the days themselves would bring.

As the US Government continues to act in ways that are not supported by most Americans, people who usually receive assistance for groceries and household items—SNAP is Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program—lose that assistance November 1. We could talk all day about why, and how terrible it is, but while we figure out how to reverse this terrible decision, people are hungry.

At UUCC we care about our neighbors, and not just those who come to our church. Through rituals of putting together meals for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and No Neighbor Left Behind, through giving to the food pantries in town, through our financial support of different organizations, we do a pretty good job of caring for our neighbors. And we need to continue all of those rituals.



Probably, more help will be needed. Probably, we will see people experience trouble who we might not have expected to need help. Probably, in ways we had not previously thought about, we will be searching our hearts, minds, and wallets.

November's theme is "Nurturing Gratitude" which I interpret as getting ready for the road ahead. Nurture the feeling of gratitude inside each of us, stoking the fire, building it into a blaze. When we have cause to remember who taught us the skills helping us get by, it nurtures gratitude in us. When we recall how somebody else helped us once, and now a stranger needs some help, we are more likely to repay the kindness.

Whether you need help, or need to give help, let's be brave to speak up, brave to act differently in these different times.

Gratefully yours,

Rev. Amy



Potluck on November 16th!

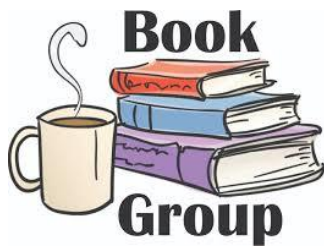
When: After our Annual Meeting on November 16th, our traditional 3rd. Sunday potluck day,

Where: 86 Court Street in the Parish House

All are welcome!

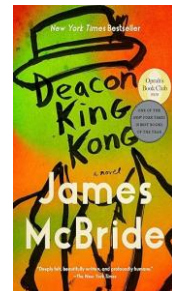
11:30 to 2pm ;

in the spirit of Potluck, you may bring a dish to share



UCC READS

Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. on ZOOM



This week, UCC Reads will begin discussing *Deacon King Kong* by James McBride.

In September 1969, a fumbling, cranky old church deacon known as Sportcoat shuffles into the courtyard of the Cause Houses housing project in south Brooklyn, pulls a .38 from his pocket, and, in front of everybody, shoots the project's drug dealer at point-blank range.

The reasons for this desperate burst of violence and the consequences that spring from it lie at the heart of *Deacon King Kong*, James McBride's funny, moving novel and his first since his National Book Award-winning *The Good Lord Bird*. In *Deacon King Kong*, McBride brings to vivid life the people affected by the shooting: the victim, the African-American and Latinx residents who witnessed it, the white neighbors, the local cops assigned to investigate, the members of the Five Ends Baptist Church where Sportscoat was deacon, the neighborhood's Italian mobsters, and Sportscoat himself.

Consider becoming part of the UCC Reads book discussion. Click on the link below Tuesday, or email office@uucastine.org and we will add you to the weekly reminder list.



From the Presidents Desk

October 18, 2025

No King Teach-in and Protest

Castine, Maine

The nationwide No King Protests were a huge success. The day was perfect. Clear skies and warm temperatures kept 7 million peaceful protesters in the streets of New England as well as the entire USA at 2,600 locations. These demonstrations were some of the largest mass demonstrations in American history and they confirmed the sharp polarization of our country under President Donald Trump.

Saturday's protest was preceded by a smaller No King protest on June 14 th with 2 million fewer participants. If Saturday's rally is an indication that people are becoming disenchanted with the currant administration's policies and treatment of targeted US citizens among other things they are

now willing to let their thoughts be known.

I'm a proud member of the "Making Waves" group from Castine that held a teach-in in our beautiful Unitarian Universalist Sanctuary Saturday afternoon. The purpose of this event was to clarify to Maine voters the wording of 2 referendums that will be on the November 4 th ballot. It was well attended by a local audience as well as citizens from neighboring towns. The 100 to 150 people then moved outside to the town common to hear pertinent stories about democracy, sing a few songs, chant a few chants and be humored by a couple of local inflatable pandas.

Keep calm and keep focused!

Marcia

Never be afraid to raise your voice for honesty and truth and compassion against injustice and lying and greed.

William Faulkner (1897-1962)



No Neighbor Left Behind

We did it again: gathered, packed and delivered a NNLB meal. The rubbed tenderloin slices, with baked potatoes, cranberry-glazed carrots (and a few corn substitutions), with homemade apple crisp for dessert served 120 recipients, and I, for one, felt the need to make my own at replica of this meal for home consumption!

Truth to tell, the meals we produce often have that mouth-watering effect on me. As ever, a stalwart group of volunteers gathered in faith and goodwill, trusting in our ability to pull this off yet again! And, as ever, we managed to do so—in spite of the counting chaos that usually serves as an exclamation point during the

packing process. So, thank you all for making these meals possible and we'll meet again come January 9, 2026

. Johanna Sweet 207-326-4924

johanna.s.sweet@gmail.com



Don't Forget

Tuesday November 4th is

Election Day.

Tuesday November 11th is

Veterans Day.



Join Rev. Amy and others for this annual vigil



We gather to read the names of our transgender people in this country whose lives were lost to violence in the last year

Vigil at 5:30, reception to follow

UU Congregation of Castine

86 Court Street, Castine



Dr. Mary Cushman Circle hosts the

Holly Berry Fair

6 December	Emerson Hall CASTINE	3:00 PM — 7:00 PM
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CRAFTS BY TALENTED ARTISTS AND MAINE'S YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

DINNER AT 4:30 PM TILL IT LASTS

Bring your friends and family.
All funds raised go to charities.

Dr. Mary Cushman Circle
PRESENTS THE
ANNUAL FUND RAISER

CHRISTMAS WREATHS

FOR SALE

\$45 EACH
PICK UP DEC 4-5 @
EMERSON HALL 1-4 PM

ALL PROCEEDS GO
TO CHARITIES

TO ORDER
email: juliebohan@me.com or
call 917-664-2541

*Note: Image of wreath is for representation only.
Actual wreath includes a solid red bow, pine cone and berry clusters*



My Soul is Awakened

My soul is awakened, my spirit is soaring,
And carried aloft on the wings of the breeze;
For, above, and around me, the wild wind is roaring
Arousing to rapture the earth and the seas.
The long withered grass in the sunshine is glancing,
The bare trees are tossing their branches on high;
The dead leaves beneath them are merrily dancing,
The white clouds are scudding across the blue sky.
I wish I could see how the ocean is lashing
The foam of its billows to whirlwinds of spray,
I wish I could see how its proud waves are dashing
And hear the wild roar of their thunder today!

Anne Bronte (1820-1849)

