



THE COMMON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF CASTINE

October 2020

Sundays in October

October 4: UU The Vote Sunday with a worship service from Rev. Susan Frederick Gray and the whole UU the Vote team for this week.

October 11: Welcoming Our Intern. Vanessa Williams – Worship Leader. Rev. Margaret Beckman – worship associate. Colleen Fitzgerald, Musician.

October 18: Deep Listening – Can You Hear Me Now? Rev. Margaret Beckman – Worship Leader. Julie Gardner & Chris Poulin, Musicians

October 25: United Nations Sunday – Our Place in the World. Rev. Margaret Beckman – Worship Leader. Colleen Fitzgerald – Musician.



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 while serving our broader communities.

Contact Us

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For questions or comments about *The Common* or to submit items for this newsletter, please contact Jean Lamontanaro at jean.lamontanaro@gmail.com.



Lakeside Reflections, October 2020



October is the month of my birth. That is not the sole reason that it is my favorite month, but it helps. I love the changing colors. I reach for fleece and sweaters for my morning walks with Cedar, our chocolate lab.

October is orange with complements of red, yellow, green and a growing brown. It is time for a fire in the woodstove and replacing the summer blanket with the winter electric warming blanket. Growing darkness makes the daylight precious. Early sunsets and a lower-in-the-sky sun mean horizontal slanting light that casts a beauty so different from the high bright sun of summer. The spirituality of October calls for reflection and introspection. We could use a bit more of that calming spirituality as we struggle to maintain balance in the days leading up to the November



election and as we prepare for a hard winter as predicted by the Farmer's Almanac.

And, I pick apples, lots of apples. I know, September is also a month of apples, but for my applesauce, it is apples that come in mid October - Ida Reds and Northern Spys when I can get them. Nothing else – just apples and enough water to keep the bottom of the pan from burning. Add a helping of cinnamon if desired.



October 31st is Samhain, the end/beginning of the annual cycle of the wheel in earth centered traditions. This is my favorite holiday. End of the harvest. The time when darkness overtakes daylight. This is the day when we remember our ancestors and those who have died during the year. The veil between this world and the afterworld is thin; so thin that sometimes we can feel the presence of loved ones already gone from our sight, but still in our hearts. Contemporary versions of Samhain are celebrated as All Hallows Eve, All Saints and All Souls Days, and Halloween.

However you celebrate this month, may you be blessed with all the gifts of the season.

Namaste, *Margaret*





October by Robert Frost

O hushed October morning mild,
Thy leaves have ripened to the fall;
 Tomorrow's wind, if it be wild,
 Should waste them all.
The crows above the forest call;
Tomorrow they may form and go.
O hushed October morning mild,
Begin the hours of this day slow.
Make the day seem to us less brief.
Hearts not averse to being beguiled,
Beguile us in the way you know.

Release one leaf at break of day;
 At noon release another leaf;
One from our trees, one far away.
Retard the sun with gentle mist;
Enchant the land with amethyst.
 Slow, slow!
For the grapes' sake, if they were all,
Whose leaves already are burnt with frost,
Whose clustered fruit must else be lost—
 For the grapes' sake along the wall.

From your Collaborative Ministry Team intern

Happy October, UUCC!

We're officially in fall now, with the colder nights, shorter days, and changing colors to prove it. My daily walks are an experience of wonder, as I watch the landscape turn from green to red and gold.

This is the time of year when we turn inward, begin to hunker down for the winter months ahead. It's a time of reflection and deep listening, as we consider what we have stored up and what will sustain us in the time to come.

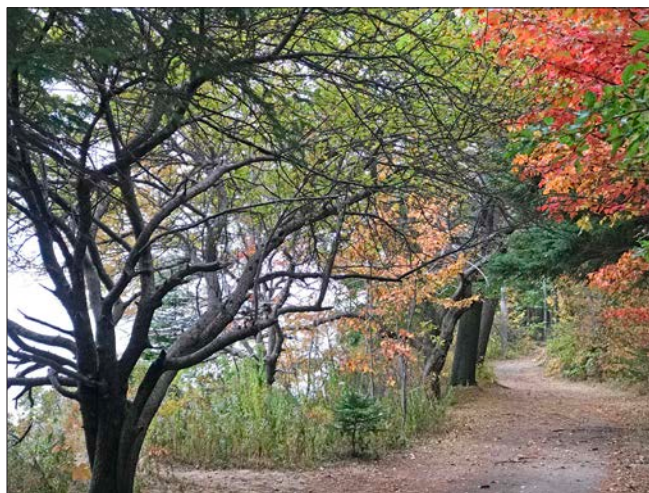
When I think about listening, I think of Henri Nouwen, beloved teacher, wounded healer, Jesuit priest. Nouwen was a great proponent of deep listening, which he felt was the gateway into communion with God.

"Prayer is first of all listening to God. It's openness. God is always speaking; he's always doing something. Prayer is to enter into that activity..."

Nouwen advocated a daily time of quiet listening, what he called "a useless hour before God." This is time spent not in trying to do anything or get anywhere, but just being... being who you are with all the "have-to" removed.

This, for you, might be a walk along a forest trail...a cup of tea and a good book...an unhurried, open-ended conversation with a friend. Anything that allows you to shift from productive to receptive mode, to put down your list of to-dos, to simply be.

Here's a Zen-inspired quote from a piece of music I heard recently: "You are not who you think you are. Don't think. You are."



That's the kind of place in which change is possible ... in which insight arises ... in which we can hear the voice of God, or inner wisdom, speaking to us.

It's a practice, to make ourselves open and available to that inner voice. To engage deep listening without any agenda for what the outcome will be.

The German poet Rainer Maria Rilke famously counseled a young friend to live into the questions, without needing to know the answers.

Can we do that now? Live into the questions that beset this turbulent time? Listen into relationship with our inner wisdom, trusting that what we need to know will be revealed in time?

Warmly,
Bettina

P.S. Join me for October Conversations each Friday of this month! We'll share a bit about our spiritual journeys and follow where the conversation leads. One hour, starting at 11:15 a.m. Rev. Beckman or I will send a Zoom link.



The Reverend Lane Fisher

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Belfast ordained Lane Fisher to the Unitarian Universalist Ministry on Sunday, September 20, 2020. With a small, masked and joyous group in the Belfast sanctuary and hundreds joining by Zoom, we participated in the most important ritual in ministry. Greetings were brought from near and far, a sermon was preached, prayers were offered, charges were issued to the congregation and the ordinand, collegial welcomes offered, gifts given, promises exchanged and tears shed. The three congregations where Lane interned each presented her with a gift for her ministry. Ellsworth gave a robe. Belfast presented a handmade stole. Castine provided a chalice. Lane is on her way and her professional ministry. Congratulations Reverend Lane Fisher!



Clockwise from top:

Chalice cookie from Belfast Hospitality team. Wooden Chalice Castine presented to Lane. Lane Fisher, just ordained. The UU ministers gathered: Margaret Beckman, Carie Johnsen, Lane Fisher, Amy Fiorilli and Sara Hayman.



A Letter of Thanks

Dear ones,

It took a long time for the day of my ordination to roll 'round, and I might need just as long to take in all of the love, prayers, and good wishes that were expressed that day.

At this point, I've received only the first half of the chat messages that were captured for me to read afterward, and seeing them immediately moved me to tears and laughter. My great thanks goes to all in your congregation (and at least one-four-legged being closely associated with it) who chose to sit in front of a screen on a beautiful Sunday to be with me on that momentous day. I'll try, over the coming weeks, to answer every note and card.

Knowing that right now you can't hang a handwritten note on a bulletin board for all to see, I do want here to thank all members of the Castine congregation for your gift of a beautiful, cedar chalice and electric candle. (Now if only I could have Asa as my regular chalice lighter!) They sit on a shelf right behind my Zoom chair, to be lit during worship services as I serve the Peterborough, NH, congregation this fall and during the meetings that make up such a large part of any minister's work. I'll feel my enduring connection to your congregation each time I light it.



Belfast's sanctuary, with an ordination crowd of 14 gathered in it (Christy and Margaret are at the rear left).

Thank you for all of the ways in which you "encouraged me to growth" as a minister! Special thanks in that respect go to Rev. Margaret and my Castine internship committee members, Leslie Fairbank and Lynn Parsons. Thank you for the love in which you've wrapped my ministry, and please know that you, the good people of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine, live in my heart for all of time!

With love and blessings,
Lane



A properly Covid-distant, no-touch hug after I opened your gift.



The act of ordination, with UUCB President Mandi Thomas officiating.

Collaborative Black Lit Reading Group

Collaborative Black Lit Reading Group, led by intern minister Bettina Lehovec. Join us on Zoom as we read selections from some 20th century greats, including Maya Angelou, Ralph Ellison, Richard Wright, Octavia Butler, and Toni Morrison. Our lens will be appreciation of their work as

authors, but we will also delve into the social issues they address. Five Thursdays: Oct. 15 and 29, Nov. 5 and 19, and Dec. 3, from 4-5:30 p.m. Please register by Oct. 10 by emailing Bettina at blehovec@gmail.com.

The Castine Arts Association
presents

A Concert on the Common

Sunday, October 4th, 2:00 PM

at Castine's Town Common
featuring

The Castine Brass

Tim Hall, trumpet; AJ Billings, trumpet; John Wheeler, French horn;
Silas Yates, trombone; and Candace Hart, tuba

Playing marches, show tunes and classical brass
and

Mike and Susie Fay (guitar and fiddle) and Henry Erhard (mandolin)

Playing Celtic, Sea Shanties and Folk

*We are asking that all attendees **wear face coverings** and **abide by social distancing rules**. There will be areas marked on the grass indicating proper distancing locations between groups. You are encouraged to bring seats and blankets, as well as your own refreshments.*

In case of inclement weather, the concert will be cancelled.

For more information please call 326-9583



Wood Bank

The Castine area wood bank is already a much-needed support system for our neighbors in Castine and the surrounding area. In a typical year, requests for additional wood for home heating begin after the first of January. This is not a typical year! Some of our families were not able to secure a supply of wood over the summer

to take them through the winter heating months. Our wood bank is well stocked today, but we know that won't last. Fall is the time to procure tree-length logs to be cut and split by our hardy volunteers. A load of logs is about \$800 and our funds are running low. Can you help with a donation to our Wood Bank fund?



No Neighbor Left Behind

Our congregation will provide the meal for the Blue Hill area No Neighbor Left Behind meal ministry on Friday, October 9th. Johanna Sweet is our coordinator for this wonderful project.

During the months when we cannot gather together at the UUCC Parish House to prepare and package the meals, Johanna, Pedrick and Emma Sweet have turned their home kitchens into production zones.

Fabulous as they are, they can't do it all.

If you can provide cornbread or chocolate chip cookies – or if you can help deliver the meals – please contact Johanna Sweet at 207-326-4924. Thanks. Together, we can help about 100 people with a warm meal on Friday, October 9th.

