



THE COMMON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF CASTINE

September 2023

A Month of Sundays in September

3	A Service of Music featuring favorite hymns and stories Karen Froehly, Musician
10	Grandparents' Day Johanna Sweet, Worship Associate Colleen Fitzgerald, Musician
17	The Alchemy of Apology Rev. Sara Hayman, Worship Leader at Ellsworth UU Church
24	Karen Francour, 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 and friends 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 Debbie Morehouse office@uucastine.org.

From the President's Desk

We did it! As of September 1, 2023, the purchase of the property at 88 Court St. has been completed. (See Tom Mason's article). A big thanks to so many.

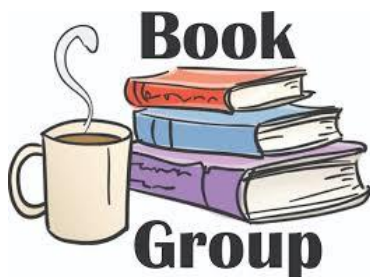
Something different is happening on Sunday the 3rd of September, our congregation will have a service of music. This is an idea of Tom Mason's and we think it is great. The next Sunday is Grandparent's Day and since a few of us are grandparents and even great grandparents we will celebrate with Johanna Sweet. Alvion Kimball, the new kid on the block, will speak on the third Sunday and our own Karen Francour (Kayak Karen) will speak to us on the last Sunday.



Now it is almost Labor Day. Kids are going back to school. Some snowbirds are packing up and others are waiting for the coolness of Fall. Rosh Hashanah begins as well as Autumn. Where has this year gone?

In about a month, we will be enjoying our new Parish House after renovations are done. We will begin real coffee hours and have time to chat again after the services. So much has happened so far this year and I hope I have done a good job for you. Your Board has accomplished a lot of amazing work, thank them. Our congregation is so strong (small but strong), and I want to personally thank each one of you for hanging in there through all this change.

With Love,
Cindi



Book

Group

UUC READS - Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. on ZOOM.

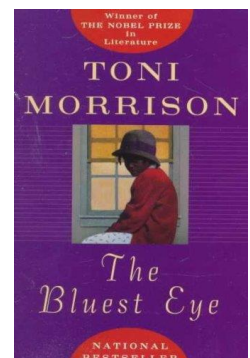
We begin September with *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison.

The Bluest Eye is Toni Morrison's first novel, a book heralded for its richness of language and boldness of vision. Set in the author's girlhood hometown of Lorain, Ohio, it tells the story of black, eleven-year-old Pecola Breedlove. Pecola prays for her eyes to turn blue so that she will be as beautiful and beloved

as all the blond, blue-eyed children in America. In the autumn of 1941, the year the marigolds in the Breedloves' garden do not bloom. Pecola's life does change—in painful, devastating ways.

It is the vivid evocation of the fear and loneliness at the heart of a child's yearning, and the tragedy of its fulfillment. *The Bluest Eye* remains one of Toni Morrison's most powerful, unforgettable novels— and a significant work of American fiction.

Consider becoming part of the UU Reads book discussion. Drop an email to office@uucastine.org and we will add you to the weekly reminder list.



Thank you from our Minister Emerita



August 5, 2023

Dear Members and Friends of UU Congregation of Castine,

Thank you so very much for all you have given me. Seven years of ministry together. A chance to know you and share our spiritual and daily journeys together. Your care during the past year has made a great difference to me as I continue toward restored health. Last, and not least, thank you for the terrific send-off as I retire from parish ministry. The portrait of Cedar is wonderful beyond words. I am so honored to be named as Minister Emerita.

May all your days be filled with love.

Most sincerely, Margaret Beckman

We are happy to report that Rev. Margaret had a successful surgery and is now recovering! We wish her a long and prosperous retirement!

A Message from Rev. Amy Fiorilli

In a recent UUCB newsletter Rev. Amy Fiorilli wrote a letter to her congregation. She has graciously allowed us to reprint it for The Common. Its message speaks to us in our current time of transition. May we take the time to lovingly and seriously consider the questions Amy poses near the end of her letter, as we move into what we will become and who will go with us.



Dear UUCB

My very first month with you all in August of 2019 I shared a story about:

An archaeologist who once hired some Inca tribesmen to lead him to an archaeological site deep in the mountains. After they had been moving for some time, the tribesmen stopped and insisted they would go no further. The archaeologist grew impatient and then angry. But no matter how much he cajoled, the tribesmen would not go any further. Then suddenly, the tribesmen changed their attitude. They picked up the gear and set off once more. When the bewildered archaeologist asked why they had refused to move for so long, the tribesmen answered, "We had been moving too fast and had to wait for our souls to catch up." Source: based on a story told in the movie Beyond the Clouds

As I begin my 5th year as your Minister, I find myself thinking about that story and the wisdom inherent in it all over again. And for those of you less oriented to soul language I'm also reminded of this little nugget from Albert Einstein, "It is not that I'm so smart. But I stay with the questions much longer."

I feel the desire to stabilize and center ourselves after the tumultuous and uncertain years of Covid adaptation and response. I want to let our souls catch up and then stay with the questions of "Who are we now? What can we count on? Does our church community feel stable and healthy? How are we treating one another and where would we like to direct our precious energy?" I want us to take the time we need to process the many losses we have endured and to celebrate the positive accomplishments and necessary changes we have allowed to evolve. I want us to take comfort in our faith and gather our strength for the challenges calling us to service. Let's dig our roots even more deeply into the earth, settling into what it means to Love (in the capital L, UU sense of the word) ourselves, one another, and the world.

Gratefully, Rev. Amy Fiorilli



Our Great Real Estate Adventure

The UUCC has had a long-standing interest in the property abutting the church at 88 Court Street. Approximately three or four years ago the Governing Board asked Hank de Raat of De Raat Realty to reaffirm our interest and to arrange an informal “right-of-first-refusal” agreement with the owners, Marjorie and Brian Olivari, should they ever decide to sell. That time arrived on June 12, 2023 when Gil Tenney received a phone call from Lynn Evans, a broker with Saltmeadow Properties, with information that the property was going on the market and that



UUCC would have a limited time to make a decision before the property would be publicly listed. Several factors were considered by the Governing Board before it voted to recommend that we proceed with the purchase. First, Gil Tenney and the Finance Committee agreed that we could afford it and that it could be considered a diversification of a part of the endowment from financial assets into real estate. Second, inspection of the property professionally (Green Bridge Home Services) and informally by a knowledgeable individual (Steve Shea) revealed that the 1820-era building is basically in good shape and would only need upgrades/repairs in the basement. Third, this represented a unique opportunity to expand the footprint of our church property and to ensure that we had a desirable neighbor, namely us. Fourth, having a parsonage available next door could prove to be very valuable in recruiting a new settled minister.

The congregation voted unanimously on Sunday, July 9, 2023 to approve spending \$1M to acquire the Olivari property with an additional \$100,000 for a contingency fund.

An 88 Court Street Subcommittee consisting of board members Diana Bernard, David Jarrett, and Tom Mason plus Alvion Kimball as an advisor was formed to oversee the ongoing process of completing the purchase and to deal with the inevitable new issues of ownership. Diana, David and Alvion are experienced in dealing with real estate, Tom not so much. The closing date is set for September 1, 2023. It must be noted that UUCC would not be in a position to acquire this property without Gil Tenney’s prudent, skillful leadership in managing our endowment over the past several years.

Photos of the house are available on the Saltmeadow website:

<https://saltmeadowproperties.com/listing/1562731/88-court-street-castine-me-04421/>

Diana Bernard, David Jarrett, and Tom Mason



Renovation Update



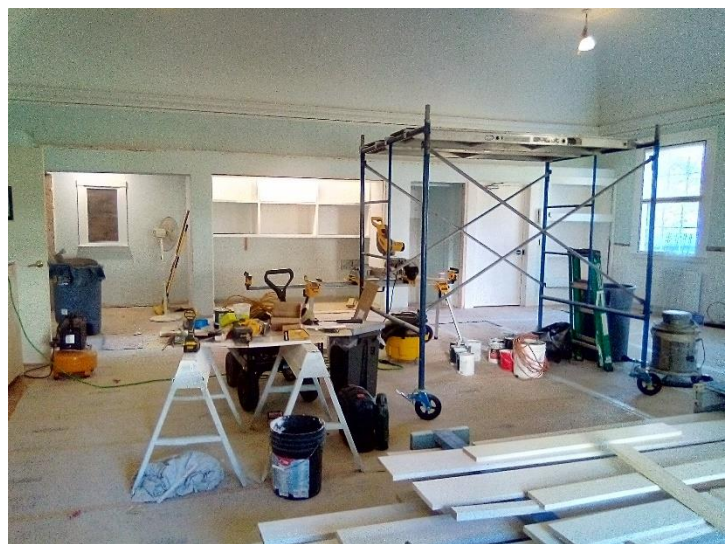
The Parish House Building Committee, Tom Mason, Marcia Mason, Peter Fairbank, Gil Tenney, and I looked at three mini projects in the Parish House today. We looked at the bathroom, the kitchen, and the multipurpose room. I now have a list of questions for the architect and the builder when the three of us meet in preparation for completing the finishing touches. When those final items have been taken care of, the kitchen, the bathroom and the multipurpose room will be closed off and considered finished.

That will leave the large meeting room with the two cabinets/desks, and storage for the chairs and the tables plus miscellaneous items such as door hardware, mounting of the telephone, a corner cabinet and lighting to softly illuminate the ceiling.

We are cautiously planning for an October potluck in the renovated space and looking forward to seeing all who are able to join us.

You are welcome to contact me if you have questions, concerns, and ideas.

Brooke Tenney



A few things left to do.



Newly rebuilt emergency exit landing and stairs.



History framed.



No Neighbor Left Behind Meal July 14, 2023

Our July NNLB provided 127 meals consisting of two drumsticks (with the rub recipe that has appeared in The Common in the past), macaroni salad, jello, homemade cookies, and a bag of chips.

We are grateful to everyone at the Trinitarian Church, where we were made welcome since our own kitchen and fellowship hall is under construction. Also, thanks to Janet Shanley, her crew, and everyone else who joined the macaroni salad effort. Thank you, Emma Sweet and family, for putting together all of the jello servings. Chicken bakers, those chicken drumsticks were fantastic, thank you for baking in spite of the heat wave. Bravo to Chad Davis for leading the cookie making charge. Meal packers, you pulled the pieces together, drivers--you sent them on their way. All of you, your time, effort, caring, and generosity is appreciated.

Here is the macaroni salad recipe that serves a crowd (approx. 24 5.5 ounce servings). It is also a wonderful base to which you might add chicken or shrimp for an easy summer meal.

NNLB Macaroni Salad Recipe

Pasta:

Choose a 1 lb. box of a macaroni shape, such as elbows, fusilli, farfalle. Spaghetti-type pasta does not work as well. Boil in salted water. Cook slightly longer than the recipe recommends. You do not want an al dente texture, as it will get chewier in the salad. I added three minutes to the outside recommended cooking time when I boiled Barilla farfalle.

Once cooked, drain and rinse till cold. Try to remove as much water as possible. Place paper or cloth towel on a cookie sheet and spread pasta over the surface, then use a second towel to absorb moisture from the top. I found that I needed to create two layers on the tray with a towel between them.

Place in the refrigerator for approx. an hour.

Vegetables:

- 2 cups frozen peas that have been thawed and warmed for approx. 2 minutes in the microwave.
- 2 cups matchstick, 1 inch length, pieces of carrot. I steamed these for approx. three minutes in order to make them slightly tender, but still firm. 3 large carrots worked.
- 1 red bell pepper, finely diced. (You may certainly use any color you want.)
- 1/2 large Vidalia onion, finely diced.
- 2 celery ribs, finely diced.

Prepare and set aside in a bowl until time to assemble.

Dressing:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| • 2 cups mayonnaise | • 2 tablespoons sugar |
| • 2 tablespoons cider vinegar | • 1 teaspoon salt |
| • 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard | • 1/2 teaspoon pepper |

Enjoy the rest of this summer, and we will reconvene in October for our next NNLB meal.

Sincerely, Johanna Sweet

