



THE COMMON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF CASTINE

September 2024

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.

Ah, September! You are the doorway
to the season that awakens my soul...

Peggy Toney Horton

A Month of Sundays in September

- Sep 1** Worship Leader: Rev. Amy DeBeck
 Musician: Marina Minkin
- Sep 8** Worship Leader: Rev. Amy DeBeck
 Musician: Colleen Fitzgerald
 Please bring a vial of water for water ceremony.
- Sep 15** Worship Leader: Rev. Amy DeBeck
 Musician: Karen Froehly
 Potluck
- Sep 22** Worship Leader: Rev. David Jarrett
 Musicians: Colleen Fitzgerald
- Sep 29** Worship Leader: Rev. Amy DeBeck
 Musician: Karen Froehly



Contact Us

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Website: uucastine.org • "Like" us on Facebook

For questions or comments about The Common or to submit items for this newsletter, please contact Debbie Morehouse office@uucastine.org.

Minister's Meanderings

September's Theme is Invitation

Now that I am more or less settled in, and definitely welcomed, I thought I would share with you all some words and their meanings to invite you into my world.

Themes: I like to use a UUA tool called Soul Matters. For an affordable yearly subscription rate, the Rev. Scott Taylor gathers we ministers (and others) into the creative process on Zoom. We secure themes for 10 of the 12 months and then gather up poems, readings, stories, and even sermons that subscribing congregations have access to. Protestant and Catholic churches have lectionaries, so wherever you go, the scripture will be the same. Many UU congregations use thematic scheduling so that a visiting speaker or musician will have consistency.

Blessing: When we imbue a person, venture, or object with our best hopes and wishes, we are blessing it/them. For those who want to feel some spirituality, there is space. For humanists who often dispense with religious or spiritual words, a blessing is a human's good wishes. In September, we bless all items for the new year in a Blessing of the Backpacks, as well as bringing the UU tradition of water ceremony so that



we have Community Holy Water to use for blessings all year.

Worship Team: In the time when UUC had no lead minister, worship was scheduled by Cindi, and we have had rotating lists of speakers. I am coming into this post so proud of you for keeping Sunday morning going! Now that I am here, I would love to have regular meetings to plan out services and review those already done. Also, when we have guest speakers or musicians, it is helpful to have a couple of professionals on hand. If you have any interest in nurturing our Sunday morning community by any of these means, please let me know. I would love to schedule a meetup in September. Folks who like to share readings, chalice lightings, and prayers are needed too!

I am looking forward to getting to know more of you and also, we WILL figure out our sound system issues soon so that our Zoomers are not left out.

In peace,
Rev. Amy



From the President's Desk

August brought us Rev. Amy and her family. A long-awaited joy that we celebrated with a Pot-Luck luncheon. She has already started meeting the town's people and had a good neighbor cut up a fallen limb in her yard! Now that is our community!

More repairs and painting the front of the church are in the works and soon our to do list will be much smaller than it was a few months ago.

The Board is working on finding the best kind of generators for possible installation at the Parish House and Parsonage. An AED device is also in the planning stages. We really are moving forward in a positive way for the future of UUC.

It is time for us to look at 2025's budget and the new and continuing officers. If you are interested, or have an inclination or a nominee, please let me know soon. We need good leaders.

May it be so!

Cindi



Summer Visits

Linda Trumbull has been out visiting this summer!



When Virginia and Stan Bourne were here at their Castine home, Linda took lunch over to them and enjoyed a lovely visit at Moss Acre. But, Stan, we can't see your smiling face!

A little later in August Linda paid a visit to Jean Devereux. Jean is homebound, but she is accepting and enjoying visits.



August Photos from Our Partner Church in the Philippines



Thank you to our partner church in the Philippines for sending these great pictures of a recent Sunday service and RE class of the Aquino Congregation!

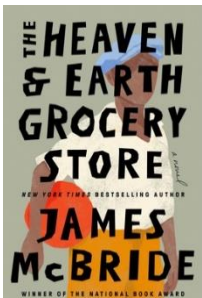


UCC READS Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. on ZOOM.

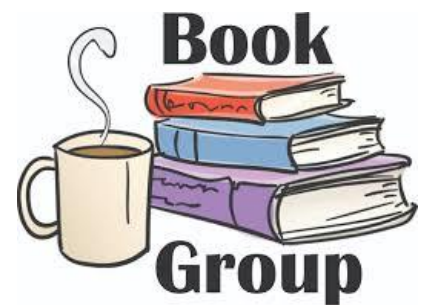
We start the month continuing our discussion of *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride.

James McBride tells a vibrant tale of Chicken Hill, a working-class neighborhood of Jewish, Black, and European immigrant families in Pottstown, Pa., where the 1972 discovery of a human skeleton unearths events that took place several decades earlier. McBride's pages burst with

life, whether in descriptions of Moshe's dance hall, where folks get down to Chick Webb's "gorgeous, stomping, low-down, rip-roaring, heart-racing jazz," or a fortune teller who dances and cries out to God before registering her premonitions on a typewriter. This endlessly rich saga highlights the different ways in which people look out for one another.



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



Buildings and Grounds

The Court Street side of the Meeting House has received much attention in the last few months, mainly for repairs and overdue painting. Andrew Pataky was hired to repair damage to the southeast corner caused by a large limb that fell during one of the storms in January.



In the repair process, he discovered extensive deterioration and rot along the entire lower part of the front facade. In addition, the “display cabinet” was removed and rebuilt. I believe Andrew did an excellent job of restoration of this part of our historic building. Remaining work includes replacing the thresholds for the front doors and repair or replacement of the deteriorating sign in the lawn, which now displays Rev. Amy’s name as our minister. Happily, work is finally underway to paint the front façade, a job that was originally scheduled for the summer of 2023.

As is common with older buildings, there are several maintenance issues remaining on the wish list. These include stabilization of the railing and brickwork at the entrance to the Parish House, repair of damaged shutters, fixing the storm windows on the School Street side of the Meeting House so that they can be closed in the winter, and raising the brick sidewalk on Court Street so that is above



ground level. These projects will necessarily involve outside contractors and additional expense. It is noteworthy that Alvion Kimball, at no cost to the budget, has pruned and weeded the plantings at the entrance to the Parish House. Thanks to Alvion for this

beautification project.

The plans for improving the energy efficiency of the 1820 era Parsonage at 88 Court Street have been completed thanks to the extraordinary efforts of Barbara Fleck. Many of the windows now have “Window Dresser” inserts, the basement has been waterproofed

and insulated, and the old vermiculite, possibly asbestos-containing, insulation in the attic has been removed and replaced with blown-in cellulose material. This work should significantly reduce the carbon footprint of the oil-fired heating system. A bit of good news is that we have received \$4,000 from Efficiency Maine for the energy efficiency upgrades, and an application is in the works for \$5,000 as partial reimbursement from Zonolite (the mining company) for removal of the vermiculite insulation. However, the best news is that Rev. Amy DeBeck and her family have settled into the Parsonage and are making it their home.

Tom Mason
Building & Grounds Chair

the Little Free Pantry of Castine

located on Court Street in Castine,
behind the Northern Light Clinic



Take what you need:

the little free pantry is stocked with non-perishable food items, available 24/7.

Leave what you can:

Castine-area churches collaborate to keep the cupboard stocked. Donations welcome of canned goods and non-perishable items.



Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Little Free Pantry

We are thrilled to announce a new inter-church collaboration to help address food insecurity in the Castine area: coming in mid-September, there will be a Little Free Pantry, stocked with non-perishable food items, behind the Clinic on Court St. Our local churches are teaming up to keep the pantry stocked. UUCC's first month to keep it stocked is November. Soon, in the Parish Hall, we will have a table for your donations of unopened, non-perishable items.

The Little Free Pantry movement is a grassroots effort to help neighbors in communities around the country who are experiencing food insecurity. Little Free Pantries do not replace full-scale food pantries, but offer another option to help our neighbors. Please spread the word!

And if you're interested in more

information about Little Free Pantries, visit www.littlefreepantry.org.

Third Sunday Potluck

Join us **September 15th** for our regular third-Sunday Potluck Luncheon. Bring a favorite dish and friend – the more the merrier! Catch up with old friends and new.

