



The Common April 2018

Opportunity Fund Motivated Volunteers for Covenant Way Project

Covenant Way, a Sedgwick low income housing community, has been a focus of Castine's Wood Bank and free meal deliveries for several years. On Saturday, March 31st representatives from H.O.M.E., Maine Maritime Academy, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine and Covenant Way came together to clear accumulated trash from a vacant neighborhood house and yard in preparation of major house repairs. Upon completion of necessary repairs, an additional home will be made available for a low-income family.

Adults and children were happily engaged in the project, while establishing friendly, personal connections.

Clearly, the goals and spirit of the Opportunity Fund provided the motivation.

Opportunity Fund Committee members, Jill Schoof and Barbara Fleck, made the connection with Maine Maritime Academy students for this and, we hope, future volunteer projects. H.O.M.E. was an Opportunity Fund recipient.



Sunday Service Calendar

- April 1st Rev. Margaret Beckman
Tracy Bigney, Organist
- April 8th Rev. Margaret Beckman
Colleen Fitzgerald, Pianist
- April 15th Rev. Margaret Beckman
Juliane Gardner & Chris Poulin,
Musicians
- April 22nd Rev. Charles Stephens
Ann Boudreaux, Organist
- April 29th Rev. Margaret Beckman
Juliane Gardner & Chris Poulin,
Musicians

A word about this month's edition of The Common

Kent Price has been editing *The Common* for as long as many of us can remember. Kent's season with *The Common* is concluding. It is time for us to release him from what has been, for him, a labor of love. With gratitude and appreciation for all Kent has contributed over the years, we now must pass the *The Common* to new hands. I have a great respect for the care and commitment editing *The Common* requires. We are seeking a new editor who will take up *The Common* and keep us in the tradition of an excellent monthly newsletter while also moving our publication into 21st Century media. Perhaps that editor is You!

Please Volunteer.

Thanks, Margaret Beckman, Guest Editor for April

President's Desk

Leslie Fairbank

The snow is melting. Daffodil shoots are emerging. The season is changing. Change is inevitable, but not always welcome. We are all deeply grateful to Kent Price for the many years of quality production of *The Common* and for so much else. We wish Kent and Anne well as they embark on a season of change.

We have reconnected with our Opportunity Fund recipients and enjoyed hearing about their plans, progress and excitement as they reached out and supported each other. Lists of volunteer possibilities will be shared soon. The Filipino dinner is planned for April 21st at the UU Parish House. Please contact Elaine Gerard-Climo for reservations and to offer assistance. It is still possible to sponsor a Scholar from our Partner Church at Aqino.

Opportunity Fund Partners Luncheon

The five organizations that received Opportunity Funds from the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine met together with members of the congregation for lunch and conversation on March 28th. Representatives from The Open Door Recovery Center, Families First Community Center, Community Compass, H.O.M.E. and the Castine Community Child Learning Center shared their stories of success and what important work they are doing now. Connections were made to strengthen the collaborations that already exist among these organizations. A discussion of the ways that trauma impacts children was most enlightening with the recommendation of a book—*The Body Keeps the Score* by Bessel Van der Kolk—for those interested in learning more about trauma.



Religious Education

Kay Hansen

We begin the month of April with a celebration of Easter and Spring. We will talk about the Christian celebration of Easter as the “rebirth” of Jesus, a man who practiced kindness and love. We will relate this to the season of spring and the “rebirth/renewal” of our earth. In the spirit of these special times, we will engage in a Jelly Bean Communion to share what we might do to be kind and loving and what we have seen as new beginnings of spring.

As many of you know, “Our Unitarian Universalist faith is having discussions all over the country about who is represented and how. We realized that many white people were in positions of making important decisions without people of color.” This month, our class will gain some awareness of these issues by hearing the story of a young girl, named Marley Davis, who started a book drive to collect 1000 books in which the main character was a black girl. You might want to view this video about her story: <https://www.njtvonline.org/news/video/11-year-old-marley-dias-creates-change-through-1000blackgirlbooks-campaign/>. We will also use several books in class that encourage the discussion of the issues of differences, and racial differences in particular. One of these books, which I highly recommend, is titled, “The Other Side,” by Jacqueline Woodson. I would also recommend a further look at books this author has written for children, youth and adults.

MidMaine DRE Cluster Group

The “Faith Formation” workshop that was scheduled for March 24th was cancelled so that people could attend the “March for Our Lives” events. We will try to reschedule this workshop in the fall.

March for Our Lives

Belfast, Maine on Saturday, March 24, 2018



Hundreds of Mainers gathered in front of the Post Office in Belfast, Maine to march in support of the international "March For Our Lives" project. The energy and determination of our young people to see an end to assault style weapons used to murder our children and countless others is inspiring.

The Belfast March was organized by members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Belfast. Several people from each of three Collaborative Ministry congregations participated. Thanks to the organizers and everyone who came to demonstrate our belief that a country without such violence is possible.

From the Mission Statement of March For Our Lives:

Not one more. We cannot allow one more child to be shot at school. We cannot allow one more teacher to make a choice to jump in front of an assault rifle to save the lives of students. We cannot allow one more family to wait for a call or text that never comes. Our children and teachers are dying. We must make it our top priority to save these lives.

March For Our Lives is created by, inspired by, and led by students of all ethnicities, religions, and sexualities across the country. We will no longer sit and wait for someone else to take action to stop the epidemic of mass shootings.

We demand morally-just leaders to rise up from both parties in order to ensure public safety. Specifically, we are working towards...

1. Universal, comprehensive background checks
2. Bringing the ATF into the 21st century with a digitized, searchable database
3. Funds for the Center for Disease Control to research the gun violence epidemic in America
4. High-capacity magazine ban

For more information about the March For Our Lives project www.marchforourlives.com.



WE THANK YOU SKY FOR YOUR BLUE

By Gary Kowalski

We thank you sky for your blue,
Also, breeze, for what you do:
Everything simple,
Undivided,
And too ordinary to be tried as true.

The sound of rain when we're warm inside,
Purple shadows on the mountainside,
Help us to notice,
Open our eyes,
Give us grateful hearts,
And unclinging minds.

That we might be at one
And at peace when our story's told:
As much a part of nature
As the beauty we behold.

A Benefit Dinner for "Dollars for Scholars"

Students living in Aquino, The Philippines

Filipino Dinner Menu

Chicken & Pork Adobo
Pansit (Asian Noodles)
Fresh Vegetables
Lumpia (Egg Rolls)
White Rice
Flan

Drinks and a Variety of other Desserts

Saturday, April 21st at 5:30 p.m.
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine
Parish House

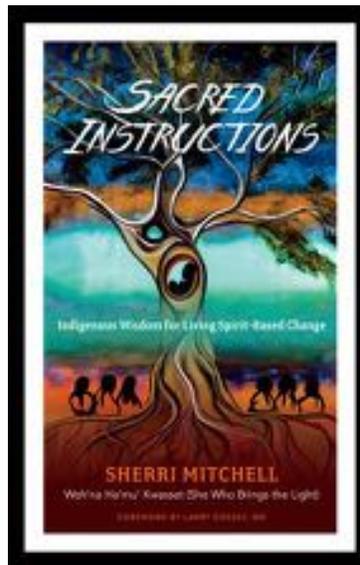
Call in Advance to Reserve Your Seat –
Elaine Gerard-Climo at 326-0992

Adults \$15.00 or Family \$40.00
Children 8-15 \$10.00
Children under 7 No Charge

The Belfast, Castine & Ellsworth Collaborative Ministry Team Announces the Spring 2018 Common Read

Our three congregations have read several books together over the past three years. Each congregation encourages our members to read the selection and then gather together for a conversation about the book and our UU faith.

Join us for our May—June 2018 book discussion of Sherri Mitchell's newly released book, ***Sacred Instructions***, A narrative of Indigenous wisdom that provides a road map for the spirit and a compass of compassion for humanity



Drawing from ancestral knowledge, as well as her experience as an attorney and activist, Sherri Mitchell addresses some of the most crucial issues of our day, such as environmental protection and human rights. Sharing the gifts she has received from elders around the world,

Mitchell urges us to decolonize our language and our stories. For those seeking change, this book offers a set of cultural values that will preserve our collective survival for future generations.

Get this book at your favorite bookseller and begin reading now. Discussions will take place during May & June.

From Our Ministerial Intern Amy Fiorilli

Hello All,

In lieu of a formal newsletter article this month I'd like to share with you a reading that has been important to me of late. I was recently in a car accident with Lilliana and have been feeling the fragility and preciousness of life more intensely. In addition, a friend and classmate of mine, died suddenly of a heart attack when he arrived in Chicago for classes. His name was William McEvoy. He was a beautiful soul, full of generosity and a glorious sense of humor. This poem by Mark Morrison-Reed was shared at his memorial service. His message is one that perhaps we all could benefit from hearing.

Let Me Die Laughing

We are all dying,

Our lives always moving toward completion.

We need to learn to live with death,

And to understanding that death is not the worst of all events.

We need to fear not death, but life---empty lives, loveless lives

Lives that do not build

Upon the gifts that each of us has been given, lives that are like living deaths,

Lives which we never take the time

To savor and appreciate,

Lives in which we never pause to breathe deeply.

What we need to fear is not death,

But squandering the lives we have been miraculously given.

So let me die laughing, savoring one of life's crazy moments. Let me die holding the hand of one I love, and recalling that I tried to love and was loved in return.

Let me die remembering that life has been good, and that I did what I could.

But today, just remind me that I am dying so that I can live, savor, and love with all my heart.

I wish the best, most savory types of moments for you all. May we laugh often and love without restraint. I am beyond blessed to be doing ministry with you.



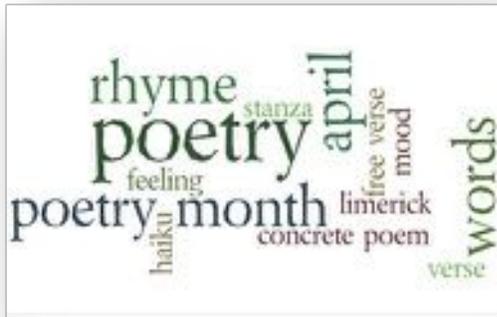
**A World Without
Plastic Pollution
Earth Day 2018 Campaign**

From poisoning and injuring marine life to disrupting human hormones, from littering our beaches and landscapes to clogging our waste streams and landfills, the exponential growth of plastics is now threatening the survival of our planet.

In response, Earth Day 2018 will focus on fundamentally changing human attitude and behavior about plastics and catalyzing a significant reduction in plastic pollution.



Lakeside Reflections April 2018



It's April. April showers are raining down and melting March's extreme snow build-up. Perhaps this rain is making way for glorious May flowers. Time to begin the spring gardening season. Flowers. Vegetables. Whatever plantings call out to you, this is the time to get your hands in the dirt!

It's April. Earth Day is April 22nd. It hardly seems possible that we have been celebrating Earth Day and working for clean air, clean water, clean soil and sustainable living practices for 48 years. Richard Nixon was President in 1970. The idea for a national day to focus on the environment came to Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson, then a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, after witnessing the ravages of the 1969 massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California. Earth Day 1970 achieved a rare political alignment, enlisting support from Republicans and Democrats, rich and poor, city slickers and farmers, tycoons and labor leaders. By the end of that year, the first Earth Day had led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts. "It was a gamble," Senator Gaylord recalled, "but it worked." I was there in 1970 and I'm here in 2018, doing a little bit here and there to support our Blue Boat Home.

It's April. National Poetry Month. Tracy K. Smith is the Library of Congress 22nd Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry for 2017-2018. *"I am profoundly honored," Smith said. "As someone who has been sustained by poems and poets, I understand the powerful and necessary role poetry can play in sustaining a rich inner life and fostering a mindful, empathic and resourceful culture. I am eager to share the good news of poetry with readers and future readers across this marvelously diverse country."*



For your April celebrations, here is a bit of a Walt Whitman poem from *Leaves of Grass*:

Love the earth and sun and the animals,
despise riches, give alms to everyone that asks,
stand up for the stupid and crazy,
devote your income and labor to others,
hate tyrants, argue not concerning God,
have patience and indulgence toward the people, ...

May we be blessed with all that is April in Maine (or wherever you are)!

Namaste, *Margaret*

