



THE COMMON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF CASTINE

April 2026

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 April

April 5	Worship Leader: Rev. Amy DeBeck Musician: Colleen Fitzgerald
April 12	Worship Leader: Rev. Amy DeBeck Musician: Colleen Fitzgerald
April 19	Worship Leader: Rev. Amy DeBeck Musician: Karen Froehly
April 26	Worship Leader: Rev. Kevin 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 Victoria Bujan office@uucastine.org.

Minister's Meanderings

The theme this month is Approaching Possibility. It is also coming up on two years since I came to Castine to meet y'all, April of 2024, before starting in August. Maybe all of you know what "a pastor is for" but I wanted to remind or share when is a good time to call/text/email me. We pastors NEVER want our folks to think that we are too busy or shouldn't be bothered. I truly want to hear from you, in joy and sorrow, and in between.

Call your minister before going to the hospital if possible. If surgery is scheduled, I can make every effort to see you beforehand, for prayer or affirmation that we will be holding you in love. Sometimes this support happens the day before, or maybe in the hospital room before surgery. Or, these days, support may happen over the phone, too.

Call your minister before planning your wedding. Many people think more about the reception than the ceremony itself, and then realize that this rite of passage takes time and consideration to tailor it to your specific ideas.

Call your minister before a young person goes to college or moves away. Pastors want to keep



up with what's going on with their young people.

Call your minister before making funeral arrangements for a loved one. I will be sensitive to helping in planning a funeral service that meets your needs and desires. Also, the church and I can provide support in a time

of grief. When death occurs, the minister should be among the first notified.

Call your minister when a difficult decision confronts you. Life-changing decisions should not be made alone. Most ministers can help people think through the options that face them in life.

Call your minister when you or someone you know needs help. Most ministers will readily admit there are few easy answers these days, but ministers also know about resources and options which can help. For instance, we have food pantries and a fuel fund.

I am here to help, not just to preach on Sundays. I love you people and I am privileged to serve the UU Congregation of Castine. That means you.

In peace,
Rev. Amy



Rev. Amy will be away from Castine at a Ministers gathering in Greenfield NH from Monday April 13 to Friday April 17. During that time, she will still be checking emails and even doing the Board meeting on Zoom.

Rev. Amy is taking her first week of vacation in 2026, with away messages and relief from duties, from April 21 to April 28. During that time she will ask somebody to handle pastoral care concerns, and the April 26 guest speaker will fill in for her regularly scheduled Sunday off.



From the President’s Desk

A worldwide No Kings III march took place on Saturday, March 28th , 2026.

Protesters filled the streets at more than 3,300 rallies across 50 states and major European cities for No Kings, a movement that bills itself as non-violent opposition to the policies and actions of President Trump and his administration.

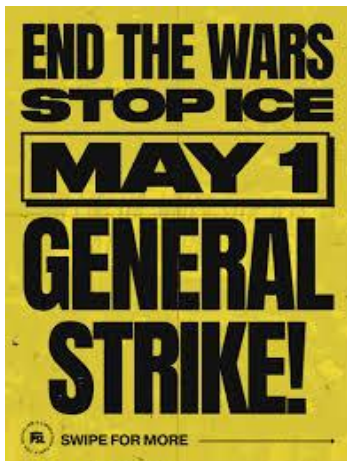
The number of participants was somewhere around 8 million people which was an increase over the second march. The swell of Saturday’s marchers marked the third major collective action for this grassroots campaign, which began in 2025 as an outlet for those infuriated

by the actions of the Trump administration. Castine’s group Making Waves and Blue Hill/Brooklin’s group Indivisible Peninsula contributed to these numbers. Their voices could be heard singing and chanting while marching from Fort George to the Common.

The theme behind Saturday’s march was not one single issue but more about executive over reach. We are now engaged in a war with Iran that Trump started on February 28th. He has been vague about why a war with Iran is necessary. He is now struggling to find a way out.

We must not give up. We must continue to work to replace those in power. We must continue to work for what is good for our country and the world.

Respectively submitted,
Marcia



MayDay, MayDay!

While there has been no widespread announcement yet, simply stirrings so far, it looks like our next call to RESIST may be in the form of a General Strike on May 1. If we shut down everything-- school, work, transportation, shopping--just for one day, it would send a message to those Authoritarians that We, the PEOPLE, are in charge, not them.

An effective general strike takes time to plan, and I (Rev. Amy) have seen information on Labor sites and Education sites. Watch our weekly emails through April to see IF it is time for a strike, and what we can do. To the left is just one notice I have found, so far, and I will be on the lookout for more info.



Clerk's Summary

The Governing Board held its monthly meeting on March 19th. What follows were the key topics of discussion.

Regarding the Parsonage bathrooms project, the Building and Grounds Committee continues to meet with contractors with another scheduled for the last week in March. Once all quotes are in and thoughtful consideration given them, the Board will need to come to the Congregation with a recommendation for funding the project. In the meantime, there is a list of smaller maintenance issues that need to be addressed at the Parsonage including a window as well as some siding and trim that has rotted out, downed branches to be removed and the resulting damage to the shed to be repaired, removing some shrubbery, and repairing some mortar on the foundation. It was decided to move forward on these smaller projects as we continue our due diligence on the larger bathrooms project.



Following the Congregational vote on Sunday, March 15th, it was reported that E.L. Shea has been contacted and they feel that they will be able to complete the steeple in approximately 4 weeks during the summer. The town has also been contacted regarding permitting needed. Thus, the project begins!

The Sanctuary Church concept, first introduced last month, continued to be discussed this month. Historically, churches have been considered sanctuaries, but in reality, this is not in U.S. law. While all agreed that we do not want ICE to enter the church, it was determined that more thought and discussion is needed not only on specific wording, but whether affixing signage to our buildings would be an effective deterrent or important as a statement of opposition.

It was reported that the Interfaith Coalition would like to hold a White Elephant Sale on August 22nd on the Common to benefit H.O.M.E. and would like to know, by the first week of April, if any of our Congregation would be willing to make a commitment to work on this event. If you can make that commitment, please let Rev. Amy know asap.

The Governing Board's next meeting will be April 16th at 10 a.m.

Debbie Morehouse, Clerk

President: Marcia Mason

Vice President: Tom Mason

Treasurer/Clerk: Debbie Morehouse

Members:

Peter Fairbank

Keith Hagel

David Jarrett

Alvion Kimball

Alternate: Leslie Fairbank

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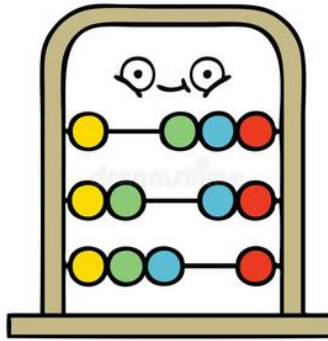
Bean Counter's Tally

through March 23, 2026

While global events mess with world and national economies, our endowment is no different, with the balance, mid-month, down, but still a very respectable, \$9.1M.

Thank you to those who attended the Congregational meeting on March 15th where the Board's recommendation to fund the Steeple repairs for \$160,000 was approved unanimously. As reported in the Clerk's Summary, this project has begun to move forward.

Also reported in the Clerk's Summary, there are multiple repair and maintenance tasks needing attention. Paying for these can be accomplished by considering the budget as a guideline to spending for the year. Reality is that all circumstances cannot be foreseen



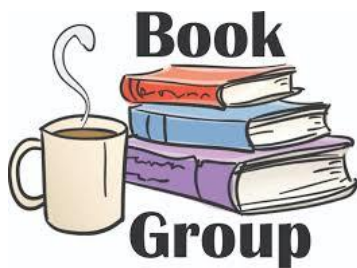
when a budget is created. Some line items will invariably go over budget, while others will be under budget. In the end, the goal is to live within our overall budget for the year. The Board has taken a close look at 88 Court Street's budget and has determined that the maintenance projects may go forward while still staying

within the overall budget.

A contract with Andrea White of LG&H Certified Public Accounts was signed and a review will commence following tax season.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have on UUCC's financial circumstances.

Debbie Morehouse,
Chief Bean Counter (aka Treasurer)

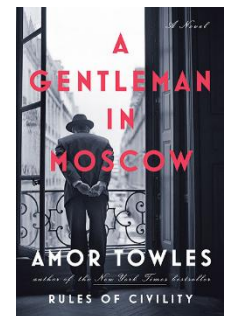


UUCC READS

Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. on ZOOM

We will be reading and discussing *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles.

A Gentleman in Moscow immerses us in an elegantly drawn era with the story of Count Alexander Rostov. When, in 1922, he is deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal, the count is sentenced to house arrest in the Metropol, a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin. Rostov, an indomitable man of erudition and wit, has never worked a day in his life, and must now live in an attic room while some of the most tumultuous decades in Russian history are unfolding outside the hotel's doors. Brimming with humor, a glittering cast of characters, and one beautifully rendered scene after another, this singular novel casts a spell as it relates the count's endeavor to gain a deeper understanding of what it means to be a man of purpose.



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



No Neighbor Left Behind Apricot Chicken Meal

It's time for all bakers, packers, and drivers to gather on April 10 as we provide 90 - 100 meals to area individuals and families.

The menu: Apricot chicken with rice, green beans, and individual fruit cups.

Sooooooo, let me know if you are available to fill any of the following roles:

- Baker (chicken dish or rice)
- Packer (available at 1 p.m. to pack take-out containers)
- Driver

And if you would like to join one of the drivers in delivering meals, let me know, and we'll do our best to make that happen.

As ever, all best, Johanna Sweet (326-4924)



First Sunday Day of Giving for The Little Free Pantry



Please bring non-perishable items to the Parish House to help restock the Little Free Pantry behind the Clinic. This resource is being used and appreciated by our

community. Help us keep it filled with nutritious food. Thank you for giving!!

Potluck Luncheon April 19, 2026

Join us for our regular 3rd Sunday potluck luncheon following service on April 19th! Don't miss the lively conversation and, of course, the good food! Bring a tasty dish and a friend. (We miss you, Virginia & Stan!)

The table is a place where strangers become friends and friends become family.



Opportunity Fund

At the Opportunity Fund Committee’s Friday, March 6 meeting, we voted to support the Garry Owen House, a transition shelter for up to ten or eleven veterans. This shelter provides a free, secure and comfortable place for residents to take the time to find employment, housing and support systems so they can channel into self-sustaining and satisfying lifestyles. Clients are provided with counseling, room and board, and opportunities to interact with the surrounding communities. Founded ten years ago by the Garry Owen Motorcycle Club, a veterans group, it is a 501(c)3 organization that does not receive aid from state or federal



funds; it is supported by private donations and a dedicated group of supporters. They have an ambitious plan to move their existing older home from its crumbling foundation to a new foundation nearby, a project that is estimated to cost, with necessary upgrades to the structure, \$300,000. They are in the process of establishing a capital funding program to finance this effort. The Opportunity Fund Committee voted to give the Garry Owen House \$10,000.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JUNE 14 – 21, 2026

MEET THE MOMENT: TOGETHER EVERYWHERE

Four Ways People Are Planning to Experience GA 2026

As people begin to make plans for General Assembly 2026, we’re hearing a lot of thoughtful conversation about how folks want to participate. Some are looking forward to **joining from home**, settling in with a cup of coffee and watching on their own schedule. Others are planning to **gather with friends or members of their congregation** to watch together. Some are drawn to the energy of a **Satellite Site**, where a larger group comes together in person for shared viewing, conversation, and worship. And some will be part of the live audience at the **Studio Site**, the largest in-person gathering for GA 2026. However you choose to participate, GA 2026 is designed to meet you where you are and help you feel connected to something larger.



Register now – after April the price goes up by \$100. <https://www.uua.org/ga/registration>



**Earth Day
April 22, 2026**

Climate Change is Real

We are temporary stewards charged with caring for this precious earth. Sadly, we are not doing a very good job of it. Climate Change is an existential threat to our world.

Over thirty of our members participated in making this Climate Change Music Video. Bill McKibben (350.org, Third Act) saw this and exclaimed,

“This is fantastic!”. I agree. Music is unifying and uplifting. This video is positive and motivating, a **Call to Action**. Please take a moment and watch the video.

This video was filmed in houses of worship from across Massachusetts, including: North Parish UU, North Andover, Old South Church UCC, Boston, AME (African Methodist Episcopal Church), Jamaica Plain, and two other locations: True Collaborative, YWCA, Manchester, NH, and on the Boston Common, in front of the Massachusetts State House.

Rev. Lee Bluemel,
Minister, North Parish Unitarian Universalist, North Andover, MA

Climate Change Music Video - "You are OUR Sunshine"

Here is the YouTube link to the video: <https://youtu.be/i8yC9Sh4qz0>



Gather for an evening of good food and good movies at Emerson Hall – potluck at 5:30; movie at 6:30. Bring a dish to share!

Put on by the Castine Arts Association
www.castinearts.org

- April 2, [The Turning Point](#), Pat Winter
- April 16, [Penguin Lessons](#) - Kathryn Munn Hodgkins
- April 30, [October Sky](#) - Pedrick Sweet
- May 14, [Marty](#) - Tony Politano

