



THE COMMON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF CASTINE

August 2020

Sundays in August

Sunday, August 2nd, we welcome The Reverend Molly Brewer to our pulpit. Her sermon is "Cookies Need Love, Like Everything Does:" Lessons in Revolution From a Hot Kitchen.

Vanessa Williams is our tech support for this Sunday and Ian Brenner-Simpson provided the music.

During the remainder of August, we will focus on what we have and how we might bring to bear in our lives and our world the resources and responsibilities we both need and already have.

Episcopal priest, Rev. Amy McCreath has written a simple song with a profound message that will serve as our meditation during August. The song is five words. "What we need is here."

August 9: Rev. Margaret Beckman - *Wise Hope*, Colleen Fitzgerald, Musician

August 16: Rev. Margaret Beckman – *Suffrage Then and Now*, Various contributors to our music

August 23: Rev. Margaret Beckman – *Compassion & Covid*, Colleen Fitzgerald, Musician

August 30: Rev. Margaret Beckman – *Gifts and Responsibilities*, Juliane Gardner & Chris Poulin, Musicians

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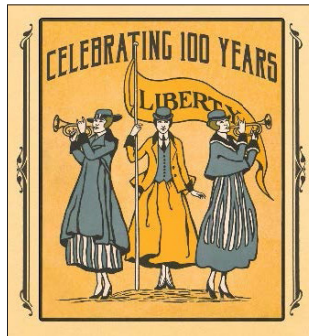
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For questions or comments about *The Common* or to submit items for this newsletter, please contact Jean Lamontanaro at jean.lamontanaro@gmail.com.



Lakeside Reflections, August 2020

On August 18, 1920, Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution which recognized women's right to vote in all elections, state and federal. One Hundred Years. Certainly, we will pause and remember and celebrate this moment in our nation's history.



In the same moment that we will celebrate the 100 years of women voting, we must also recognize the forces at work to deny many Americans the ability to vote. Although we say that voting is a right of citizenship in a democracy, we must also acknowledge that it is a fragile right. We cannot take the right to vote for granted and we cannot waver in our demand that ALL citizens be allowed to vote without fear or constraint or barriers.

Congressman John R Lewis died in July and was honored by our nation as his body lay in state in the US Capitol Rotunda. John Lewis dedicated his life to nonviolent and unending advocacy for civil rights and voting rights. In recognition of the importance of the man and his legacy, the US House of Representatives voted by unanimous consent to approve a measure, proposed by House Majority Whip James Clyburn (D-S.C.) to rename the current voting rights bill the "John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act." We must advocate for full passage of this bill in both the House and the Senate and the President's signature to make it law.

Shortly before he died, John Lewis wrote an essay which he asked to have published in the New York Times on the day of his funeral. It is a moving and motivating essay. I encourage you to read it in full. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/30/opinion/john-lewis-civil-rights-america.html>. Let me share part of his essay.

The vote is the most powerful nonviolent change agent you have in a democratic society. You must use it because it is not guaranteed. You can lose it.

In my life I have done all I can to demonstrate that the way of peace, the way of love and nonviolence is the more excellent way. Now it is your turn to let freedom ring.

When historians pick up their pens to write the story of the 21st century, let them say that it was your generation who laid down the heavy burdens of hate at last and that peace finally triumphed over violence, aggression and war. So I say to you, walk with the wind, brothers and sisters, and let the spirit of peace and the power of everlasting love be your guide.

Dear Friends, may we be stalwart supporters of voting rights and may we work as hard as John Lewis did to keep voting rights alive for all. May we be guided by the power of everlasting love as we dedicate our lives to the pursuit of life, liberty and justice for all.

Namaste, *Margaret*

From your Collaborative Ministry Team intern

Hello, UUCC!

I'm up to my elbows in bins and boxes, packing up my home for a year away.

Thanks to the generous help of Lane Fisher and Sara Hayman, I have a mostly furnished apartment waiting for me in Belfast.

That means I can travel light: carrying only clothes, some personal items, and a few favorite pieces of cookware. Two cases of books have already been mailed to Maine.

It's been interesting to sift through a lifetime of belongings in these past few months, deciding what to bring with me, what to store away, and what to let go of. (Lots!) The process has offered a great opportunity for life review. I've revisited many different chapters, celebrating the growth that came from both the challenges and the blessings.

I grew up in Western Massachusetts, so this sojourn to Maine feels like coming home. I've been gone a long time — first in San Diego and San Luis Obispo, California, for eight years, and then Fayetteville, Arkansas, for 33 years. Fayetteville is where I met my husband (we are now divorced), reared our son, earned a bachelor's degree in journalism, and worked as a features writer for our regional newspaper for 14 years.

I took a big leap in 2013, leaving my career as a journalist to pursue a master of divinity degree at Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Phillips is a progressive, ecumenical seminary affiliated with the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). I knew all the way through I wasn't going to lead a Christian denomination, but my interest



in religion and spirituality called me forward.

I found Unitarian Universalism in my very last semester. "People who think" was my first assessment. I've since learned that UUs also are people who laugh, people who care, people disturbed by the state of the world and committed to making a positive impact.

I've spent two and a half years deeply involved in my local fellowship, helping lead worship, adult RE, and social justice outreach. I continue to deepen my identity as a UU. I continue to learn and grow.

Much of my life has been focused on the inner journey, both spiritual and psychological. My growth curve lies in taking the skills I've nurtured and sharing them outward. What can I do — what can we do together — to make this world a better place?

I am so looking forward to meeting all of you and being part of the UUCE/UUCB/UUCC communities! I know we have a lot to give each other. I've been participating in a couple of study groups through UUCE this summer, and already feel like I'm beginning to know a few of you.

Because of Covid-19, this year will be quite different for intern and congregations alike. As we've all learned, a great deal of community and connection are possible over Zoom. We'll continue to explore the possibilities. We have hopes for some in-person time, too, always as safely as we can.

I am thrilled beyond belief to be coming to you, the congregations of Ellsworth, Belfast, and Castine! I look forward to an exciting and mutually beneficial year. Thank you for having me.

Warmly, Bettina Lehovc



Opportunity Fund Update

The Opportunity Fund gave Travis Mills Foundation a donation as part of their continued support to veterans. Travis and hundreds of volunteers established a place to enjoy the land, water, nature and fellow veterans. After losing both arms and both legs in Iraq, Travis had to find a way to go forward. He learned that his fellow soldiers, family and friends was his start. He wrote a book "Tough as They Come", purchased the land for the retreat and became a motivational speaker. With help he spent years rehabbing the property and opened the retreat in 2017. The house has 8 separate suites that can sleep families of up to seven, a movie theater,

a massage room and a library. The pond on the property has kayaks, canoes, paddleboards and boats for tubing, skiing and sailing. Many have been modified with special grips for paddlers and more. Travis is a hero to everyone. To learn more go to travismills.org/foundation.



Update on Families First Community Center

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine has supported Families First Community Center through our Opportunity Fund. Please read below for a message from Terri Ouellette updating us on the progress being made.

Hello, For those who may not know me, my name is Terri Ouellette, I am the Board President of Families First Community Center. Our mission is to break the cycle of generational poverty by assisting homeless and near homeless families with minor children to become self sufficient.

You were most likely introduced to FFCC by its founder, Dawn Coffin. Dawn is no longer directly working with FFCC but we have continued the work she started back in 2015. We are nearing our first goal, which is to complete our house located at 41 North St in Ellsworth. We expect to be approved for occupancy and open to families somewhere between October and November. We will begin with the 6 families that will live at the house, and then incorporate outreach assistance to any family in need. Our focus is on

serving the homeless population, particularly those with children.

I know this has been a very challenging time. I hope that you and your congregations are staying safe. I wanted to reach out to you so you would be aware of where we are as far as being operational. If you have families in need please give them our contact information. Our Interim Director, Alice Grindle is responding to phone messages. We are currently accepting names of families that might qualify for our residential services. Our contact information is: phone: 207 460-3711 email: familiesfirstellsworth@gmail.com my cell is 207 812-1645

We look forward to working together to provide help to those in our community that struggle with even the most basic needs.

Terri Ouellette, Board President
Families First Community Center
P.O. Box 951, Ellsworth, ME 04605
www.familiesfirstellsworth.org

Remembering David Mathiasen

David Mathiasen, husband of UUC member Carolyn Mathiasen, died June 13 in Washington. He and Carolyn had owned a summer home in Castine since 1991. He rarely joined Carolyn at church on Sunday, being uncomfortable with

religious services. He did, however, love the beauty of the church and also enjoyed producing creative desserts for the receptions after evening concerts there as well as helping out with the occasional coffee hour.



Photo by Mohammad reza Fathian at pexels.com

