



THE COMMON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF CASTINE

August 2023

A Month of Sundays in August

6	Rev. Charles Stephens, Worship Leader Karen Froehly, Musician
13	Rev. Erica Baron, Worship Leader Colleen Fitzgerald, Musician
20	Dr. David Jarrett, Worship Leader Karen Froehly, Musician
27	Rev. Amy Fiorilli, 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 while serving our broader communities.

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.

From the President's Desk

It was a lovely day to celebrate Margaret's retirement after 6 years with us. She did so much for us as a congregation and to each of us as a person. She left with a smile we all learned to love and a tear in her eye as well as ours. We look forward to seeing her again soon and wishes for her happiness will never end.



Thank you, Brooke, Marcia, Bev, David, Debbie, Keith & Leslie for helping with the food and many other needs to make Margaret's day go smoothly.

For those who want to hear about the 88 Court Street house, the closing will be on 1 September. Currently the residents will stay until mid- October. Our Property Team will continue their work with repairs and paperwork!

The church in the Philippines is in contact with us and we will soon be sending a donation to them.

During this month Rev. Charles Stephens, Rev. Erica Baron, Dr. David Jarrett and Rev. Amy Fiorilli will be in the pulpit. Please come hear them, they will be wonderful. Karen Froehly and Colleen Fitzgerald will provide beautiful music for us.

Thank you all for the support that you have shown me with these many items we are working on. A parsonage, a Parish House renovation, filling the pulpit, increasing our congregation, and day to day duties. You are the best!

With Love and Gratitude,

Cindi Kimball
Board President



Rev. Margaret's Retirement Party

It was a Celebration, a Turning Point, a Thanksgiving,
Old Home Week, and a Love Fest
all rolled into one!



88 Court Street Update

We are pleased to report that the Congregation voted on July 9 to invest in the house and property located next to the Church at 88 Court Street. An inspection has revealed a couple of issues which the Board and Congregation agreed were repairable. By a resounding vote of the congregation, money was appropriated to cover the costs of the purchase. The closing is scheduled for September 1st. In the tight housing market that is Castine, this property will make an ideal parsonage for our next minister.

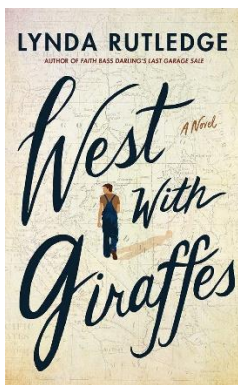


Stay tuned - we will keep you updated.

UUC Reads

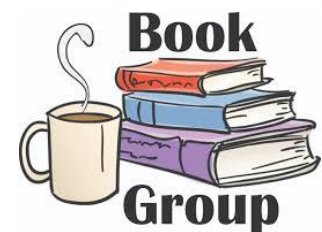
Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. on ZOOM.

August's read is *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge.



West with Giraffes tells the great adventure story of 17-year-old Woodrow Wilson Nickel, who drives two giraffes cross-country in 1938 America, finding himself along the way through the joys and conflicts of the voyage. This novel is a piece of historical fiction, in which the historical context of 1938 permeates the narrator's character development. Told through the first-person narrative point-of-view of the protagonist, Rutledge engages her reader in a story of adventure and an homage to animal rights. Central to this story is the promotion of animals as worthy of human devotion. Inspired by a true story, this novel is about hope, resilience, love, and the importance of memory and storytelling. *West with Giraffes* was published in 2021.

Consider becoming part of the UU Reads book discussion. Click on the link below Tuesday, or drop an email to office@uucastine.org and we will add you to the weekly reminder list.



Parish House Update

We seem to have transitioned from gathering in the Parish House after a Sunday service to gathering in small groups in the sanctuary and on the front steps without missing a beat. May we always be so resilient.

When I visited the church today Margaret and Debbie were both working together in a space in the back of the sanctuary no bigger than 10 ft x10 ft. I thank them for being so adaptable and pleasant about their temporary quarters.

The Parish House renovations are progressing as scheduled. On a walk through today, Margaret, Debbie and I saw the new heating elements which fit nicely and unobtrusively under the windows. The floor has been installed in the bathroom and a coat of paint on the walls. Do you remember the color of the walls? They were blush just as we have in the sanctuary. When all is said and done, we will have white wainscoting, windows and door frames. The walls will be a Benjamin Moore “for your eyes” blue.



Charles Earley of Lewis & Malm Architects called me recently with good news. The project is on budget! That is not to say that in the future the unknown may bring some surprises, but I will accept the good news and be glad for now.

Brooke Tenney

Volunteers Needed

WindowDressers is a non-profit organization that builds low-cost insulating window inserts that reduce energy use and save money. There will be a Castine Community Build in November 2023; Barbara Fleck is the local coordinator.

Your home will benefit from window inserts if you have older windows, especially if your windows are single pane. We can build about 250 window inserts at the Castine build; once we have orders for 250 windows the orders will be deferred to 2024. We hope to get all orders measured by the end of August, so if you are interested in getting window inserts for your home sign up soon at <https://windowdressers.org/sign-up-for-inserts/>

We also need volunteers to measure and build the windows, as well as volunteers to bring food for the builders. If you are interested in volunteering in any way email Barbara at windowdresser.castine.bhf@gmail.com



INSULATING WINDOW INSERTS



Jen Lancaster/LWVME

Land Acknowledgement

We gather together as a community of seekers, to honor the interdependence of life, to respect the dignity of all, and to honor the land. For thousands of years, the land we now call Castine was the ancestral fishing, hunting, and agricultural grounds of the Wabanaki people of the Dawnland. In the 1600s, European colonizers began to inhabit the Wabanaki ancestral land. Today, Maine is home to the sovereign people of the Wabanaki Confederacy; the Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, Maliseet, and Mi'kmak peoples. We gather together on the traditional land of displaced indigenous people who continue to actively work toward justice and self-determination.

Let us be allies and friends of the Wabanaki people of the Dawn in working toward justice and their self-determination.



**“The brilliant poppy flaunts her head
Amidst the ripening grain,
And adds her voice to sell the song
That August’s here again.”**

—Helen Winslow

