



THE COMMON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF CASTINE

August 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.



A Month of Sundays in August

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Aug 4 | Worship Leader: Rev. Amy DeBeck
Musician: Karen Froehly |
| Aug 11 | Worship Leader: Rev. Amy DeBeck
Musician: Colleen Fitzgerald |
| Aug 18 | Worship Leader: Rev. Amy DeBeck
Musician: Karen Froehly
Welcome Potluck |
| Aug 25 | Worship Leader: Rev. Charles Stephens
Musicians: Colleen Fitzgerald |

Contact Us

P.O. Box 520, 86 Court Street,
Castine, ME 04421
207-326-9083 •

Email: office@uucastine.org

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

As it is now the month of August, we have our new minister, Rev. Amy DeBeck.

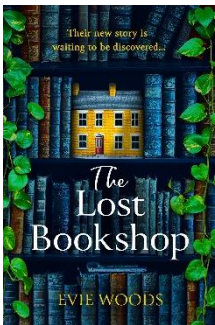
Thank you for the nice comments on my articles and I know you are looking forward to reading and enjoying Rev. Amy's comments each month.

And thank you to Debbie for printing my words and providing the wonderful pictures that go with them each month.

As Ever,
Cindi

UUCR READS - Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. on ZOOM.

We begin August with a continuation of our discussion of *The Lost Bookshop* by Evie Woods.



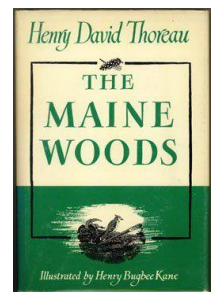
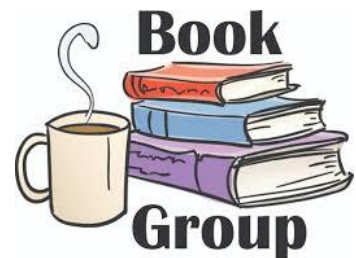
'The thing about books,' she said 'is that they help you to imagine a life bigger and better than you could ever dream of.'

For too long, Opaline, Martha and Henry have been the side characters in their own lives. But when a vanishing bookshop casts its spell, these three unsuspecting strangers will discover that their own stories are every bit as extraordinary as the ones found in the pages of their beloved books. And by unlocking the secrets of the shelves, they find themselves transported to a world of wonder... where nothing is as it seems.

Get ready, the next book will be the classic *The Maine Woods*, by Thoreau

The Maine Woods, is a collection of three autobiographical narratives by Henry David Thoreau. Each of the essays recounts the details of an excursion in Maine. The collection, edited by the clergyman and writer William Ellery Channing, Thoreau's friend and frequent touring companion, was issued posthumously in 1864. The three essays are "Ktaadn and the Maine Woods," "Chesuncook," and "The Allegash and East Branch." They describe Thoreau's guides and include detailed studies of the flora, fauna, and history of each geographic area.

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



Hello, Castine!

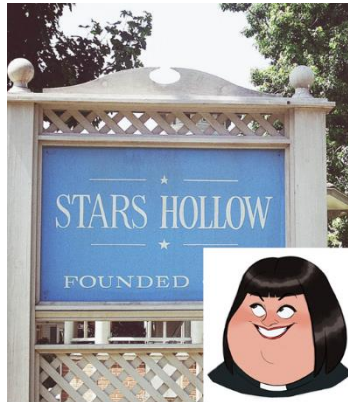
Here is the story of how I came here, with my family.

We left our Reading PA apartment on June 30. We could not move into the parsonage for the first two weeks of July because of maintenance being done. So we packed up my 26 house plants, our cat, Pearl, minimal personal items and clothing, and traveled slowly from PA to Castine, visiting along the way.

Henry, 24, and Eliza, 20, drove with Pearl the cat, 12, in the little black car, and Kevin and I used the wagon. We stayed several days each in Lewes Delaware, Newburgh New York, and Worcester Massachusetts before getting to Maine.

The evening we drove into Castine was Sunday, July 14 and when we pulled in, the Bastille Day picnic had turned into dancing. As we arrived, there were, literally, people dancing in the streets. Not for us, to be sure, but memorable, nonetheless.

The relief and comfort of being back home in Maine, for me and my family, is matched by the excitement I feel to start our shared ministry. I have been telling friends and family



that I feel like the Vicar of Dibley (Geraldine is my kind of clergywoman!) found herself in Stars Hollow (the ideal New England town from Gilmore Girls) as I learn of the daily rhythms in town, i.e. picking up our mail, buying trash stickers, and chatting with folks.

Now in August we can establish OUR rhythms as we learn about each other.

I can assure you that unpacking will be my hobby for some time. In ministry terms, my time in the church, besides Sundays, will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10am to 3pm. Monday is off, Friday is writing day, and if you would like a meeting, let me know and we can do that. Of course, after a month or two, this schedule might get changed for realism as my role defines itself. I am thrilled to get to know you all! Call, text, visit my office—I am so happy to be here and to serve you. This vicar loves the town and cannot wait to build relationships in the congregation.

In peace,

Rev. Amy

574-304-1282

minister@uucastine.org



Opportunity Fund supported Bagaduce River Kayak Expedition Camp

Ribbons of mist swirled above the roiling waters of the Bagaduce River after a furious downpour. Twelve determined students paddled against the current, close to the lee of the shore of the Narrows. They were heading home to Castine at the end of a unique educational expedition under the watchful eye of master river guide Karen Francoeur and her staff from Castine Kayak.

These 7-9th grader students chosen from Penobscot, Castine, Sedgwick, and Brooksville schools were participating in the first Bagaduce River Kayak Expedition Camp, June 19-24, with full subsidies provided by the Opportunity Fund of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine and by the Bagaduce Watershed Association.

Highlights included learning basic kayak skills and tidal navigation, how horseshoe crab blood is used to test vaccines, camping out safely despite a raging lightning storm, stories of the Wabanaki who had navigated and fished these waters for millennia,

studying the glacial geology of the Bagaduce watershed. The culminating experience was a 3-day overnight camping expedition paddling from the upper Bagaduce below Walker Pond down to Castine.

Instructors included Penobscot Nation historian John Bear Mitchell, Julia Gray from the Wilson Museum, Jake Holmes from the Climate Institute of Maine, and MMA marine ecologist Sarah O'Malley in addition to Karen Francoeur and 2 young staff guides from Castine Kayak.

The lessons learned ran deeper than the educational instruction and included comments as "there was terrible weather but they taught me never to back down, never to give up, so I had a great time." "The kayaking part was fun too and I think it made me much stronger than I was before." Another student told: "I have never really been away from home and happy I was able to try something new. Thank you for the experience."



*The Camp was absolutely amazing!
Thank you all for making this
adventure and vision a reality for the
good of our children and our valued
watershed!!*

Karen Francoeur, Director Castine Kayak

“We need to tell your story”

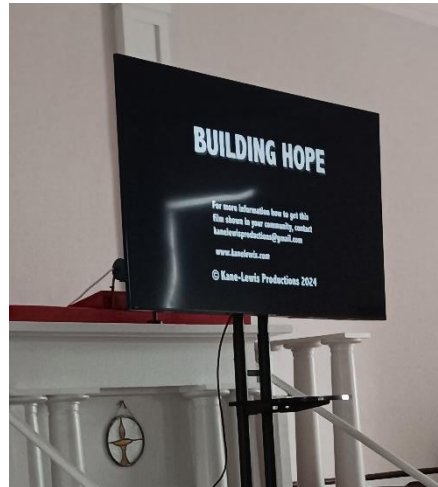
Several years ago, I shared these words with Tracey Hair, Executive Director of H.O.M.E., a homeless shelter in Orland, Maine

Clearly, I was impressed with her story of living in poverty and being homeless when she discovered H.O.M.E. in 2004. Then, in twelve short years, with a high school education, hard work and perseverance, Tracey gained the knowledge and skills to run this non-profit organization.

What compelled me to suggest to Tracey “we need to tell your story”? I guess it was simply a vision, a vision that here is a remarkable person who has changed the lives of so many who struggle with the realities of homelessness. This is a state and national crisis, impacting us all in many ways.

I made a proposal to *Kane-Lewis Production* in Sedgwick. Richard and Melody Lewis-Kane agreed to produce the film if I would raise the money and if the subject were broadened to deal with homelessness throughout Maine and not only Tracey’s story. I agreed. To reflect the motto of H.O.M.E., the film is known as “**Building Hope**”.

On June 29, 2024, 118 people filled the Meeting House at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine and 30 people joined via Zoom to view the premiere screening of “Building Hope”. The general public, donors, legislators, social service providers and more were present. The film received a standing ovation. Many inquiries and compliments followed for days.



The event concluded with a panel discussion which included **Tracey Hair** (now former Executive Director of H.O.M.E.), **James Raines** (once incarcerated for 25 years and now an active supporter of efforts to end homelessness), **Cullen Ryan** (Executive Director of Community Housing of Maine), **Katie Spencer White** (Director of Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter), **Rachel Talbot**

Ross (Maine Speaker of the House was scheduled to attend but, at the last minute, she was diverted by a family need.)

Tracey has said “**Mentors are in fact the only reason I am alive ...**” Just imagine the many doors that are closed to those born into a culture of poverty and homelessness. The caring and trust of mentors can instill dreams and perseverance to open new doors of opportunity. Many of us can likely name mentors who made a difference in our lives.

Tracey recently retired from H.O.M.E. and has been hired as a program manager at Maine Community Foundation, a wonderful compliment for her dedication to ending poverty and homelessness.

Congratulation Tracey!

The next screening is scheduled for **The Alamo** in Bucksport, September 19, 2024. More screenings will follow throughout Maine and beyond.

If you have comments or wish to take part in follow up conversations, feel free contact:

Gil Tenney, Castine
gtenney@maine.rr.com
 326-4372.



Partner Church – Aquino, Philippines

Brigada Eskwela



Brigada Eskwela is an **annual school maintenance program** that urges students, teachers, parents, and other staff to contribute their time and resources to ensure that schools are ready for class opening.



Dear members of UU Castine

I am writing to inform you that classes for the Aquino Congregation started on July 29, 2024.

As our partnership has always been a cornerstone for the success of our students, we want to ensure they have all the necessary materials for the new academic year.

Your continued support will greatly contribute to providing the students with the resources they need to thrive. We appreciate your commitment and collaboration in helping us create a positive and productive learning environment for our students.

Thank you for your dedication and ongoing support. We look forward to your response and to further strengthening our partnership.



Best regards,

Rev. Jeremias Bacaling Jr.
UUCP Scholarship Coordinator



Welcome Potluck



Join us for a celebration to welcome our new minister, Rev. Amy DeBeck, and her family to our congregation on Sunday, August 18, 2024.

Please reach out to members and friends that we have not seen in Church lately. What better way to start this new chapter in our congregation's history than with a shared meal together!

H.O.M.E., Inc.



Empty Bowls Fundraiser

Thursday, August 15

4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

90 Schoolhouse Road, Orland

H.O.M.E. is pleased to host an Empty Bowls Event featuring handmade bowls from H.O.M.E. and local potters. Empty Bowls is a grassroots movement by artists and craftspeople in cities and towns around the world to raise money to care for and feed the hungry in their communities.

Our Empty Bowls Fundraiser allows you to receive a unique bowl made in H.O.M.E.'s Pottery Studio while joining us for a delicious meal with a suggested donation of \$15. Live music with George Rossi and Timbered Lake! Free ice cream with Darling's Ice Cream truck! All proceeds benefit H.O.M.E.'s Food Pantry.

The event will be in the parking lot of the H.O.M.E. Market Stand. Parking will be across the street at the Gift Shop. Check out our HOME-made Gift Shop and see what our amazing crafters have created. As we move through the summer season, it is important to remember that not all of our neighbors can fill their plates and bowls with food.

Questions? 207-469-7961 ext. 105, www.homemmausa.org or www.facebook.com/HOMEINC1970



The Community Climate Connection
presents

**Yes We Can:
reduce energy use by sealing
and insulating our homes**



4 p.m. on Thursday, August 15
Emerson Hall.

The program will feature Chuck Ransom, Project Manager for RS Insulation, and a certified Energy Auditor and Quality Control Inspector. Chuck has experience in the building trades and degrees in Environmental Policy and Sustainability. He will provide information about free energy assessments for your home and will explain the advantages of the types of insulation available. He can also answer questions about Efficiency Maine rebates and other incentives.

Co-sponsored by:

Castine Community Partners, The Wilson Museum, and Witherle Memorial Library.

The program is free and open to the public.

Refreshments will be served, and door prizes will be awarded.

