



THE COMMON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF CASTINE

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 2	Worship Leader: Rev. Margaret Beckman Musician: Karen Froehly
August 9	Worship Leader: Rev. Amy DeBeck Musician: Colleen Fitzgerald
August 16	Worship Leader: Rev. Amy DeBeck Musician: Karen Froehly
August 23	Worship Leader: Rev. Amy DeBeck Musician: Colleen Fitzgerald
August 30	Worship Leader: Rev. Amy DeBeck Musician: Colleen Fitzgerald



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 Henry DeBeck office@uucastine.org.



From the President's Desk

August 2026

Summer in Castine offers more activities than one can possibly attend. Two recent events are worth mentioning.

Art Under the Elms, held on the Town Common for the second year, is sponsored by 22 organizations and many volunteers. Art, crafts, music, food was enjoyed by all who attended with proceeds supporting the Outreach Program of the Trinitarian Congregational Parish of Castine.

The Castine Historical Society, our neighbor on the Town Common, sponsors a House and Garden tour of eight to ten homes and three or more gardens every four to six years. As a major fundraiser for CHS this event requires extensive, detailed planning.

The tour this year was on a beautiful, warmish summer day and attracted more than 1,400 visitors who visited the various properties between 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. They were able to use a free shuttle service when necessary. It was very rewarding to hear the positive comments from visitors about the beauty and history of our village.

The visitors also appreciated the efforts of the cadre of volunteers from Castine and surrounding areas who are critically important in the success of such events. In fact, this community spirit and volunteerism is evident throughout the year in many other activities in town.

We are indeed fortunate to be part of this special place.

Respectively submitted,

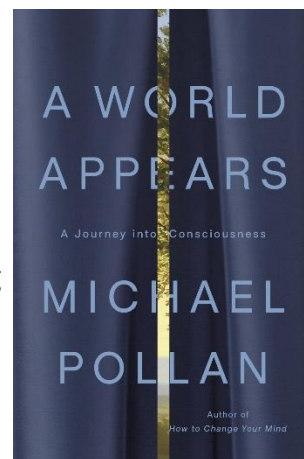
Marcia Mason, President of the UUCC Governing Board

UUCC READS

Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. on ZOOM

This week, UUCC reads will be discussing *A World Appears* by Micheal Pollan

In Pollan's dazzling exploration of consciousness, he discovers a world far deeper and stranger than our everyday reality. Eye-opening and mind-expanding, *A World Appears* takes us into the laboratories of our own minds, ultimately showing us how we might make better use of the gift of awareness to more meaningfully connect with our deepest selves.



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



Minister's Meanderings



I remember an old friend characterizing the summer months as weekend days.

Friday, when you had to work early in the day, THEN relax, is June.

Saturday, when you have *all day* to relax OR get projects done, is July.

Sunday, which begins with deep contemplation THEN ends with getting ready for the week, is August.

Of course Monday, back to work, is September.

August begins contemplatively enough. But then we see Back to School supplies in stores. Summer folks start planning to go back to winter homes. Registrations are filled out for all of the classes and workshops and events that will fill our time for the rest of 2026.

By the middle of the month, if we think about August as being one long Sunday, we “get ready for the week” or really, the next month or months to come.

Our frequent guest musician, Marion Feldman, will be moving to CA before August is over, so we will send her off in style, with appreciation. Put August 16 on your calendars to be with us. She will play cello during the service, and then we will all feast on chocolate cake and give thanks for all of the beautiful music.

We will remember those we have lost to death with ongoing, continuing remembrances. As I work with family members to pick the right times for remembrances, we will honor Judy Sullivan, Carol Taylor, and David Jarrett.

We will welcome new and returning students and staff to our neighborhood's schools. From the experience of years past, we will prepare for September's MMA Community Fair by registering in August.

The nation's Unitarian Universalists think about Water Ceremony, deciding which Sunday to Blend the Waters. UU Castine will have ours on August 30. Bring a dram, a vial, a mason jar, whatever, with water that is sacred or special so that we may blend them all and keep this tradition going.

August 1, 2026, marks the beginning of my third year with you as your minister, for which I am grateful every day. I love you people. Let's keep up the good work!

In peace with love, Rev. Amy



Clerk's Summary

The Governing Board held its monthly meeting on July 16th. As I was absent from the meeting, what follows were the key topics put forth in the meeting minutes. Thank you, Barbara, for taking the minutes!

There was a discussion regarding "Joys and Sorrows." Areas discussed included what was appropriate to share and other possible ways of structuring this time of congregational care. If you have opinions or suggestions concerning Joys and Sorrows, please contact Rev. Amy and let her know your thoughts.



At the time of the meeting, there was anticipation for a social gathering at the Parsonage, in lieu of coffee hour, to view the completed bathroom project. On July 19th, the Parsonage coffee hour was enjoyed by about 20 people and the bathroom remodel was commended.

With the bathroom project now complete, the Building and Grounds Committee is considering other projects such as replacing the kitchen floor at 88 Court St. and removing the nearly unreadable sign from the side of the church. They are also busy compiling their list of next year's projects and procuring estimates for budgeting.

As reported last month, the Board voted to discontinue the Church's account with Power Market. This process has been implemented, but for some reason will take a couple of monthly cycles before completed. At that point we will be able to use our banked credits until they are used up. In the meantime, other solar options are being investigated.

Our Partner Church in the Philippines was a topic of discussion. With the disbanding of the UUA Office of Partner Churches, it feels as if there is no oversight on the receipt of monies from churches such as ours or on how the money is being used. It was decided to compose a letter to our Partner Church in Aquino outlining our concerns.

The Governing Board's next meeting will be August 20th at 10 a.m.

Debbie Morehouse, Clerk

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FRIDAY AUGUST 14 is the LAST 2026 Summer Concert!



July 4 4:00 pm Town Common	July 17 6:00 pm Wilson Museum	July 31 6:00 pm Town Common	August 14 6:00 pm Town Common
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The Castine Town Band.

Together again.

FIRST MONDAYS EACH MONTH



Castine Caregiver Support Group

Monday August 3rd at 2:30 p.m.
Trinitarian Church Fellowship Hall
68 Main Street, Castine

If you are a caregiver and would like to meet in a supportive environment to discuss, listen and find support, please join us on Monday, August 3rd at 2:30 p.m.

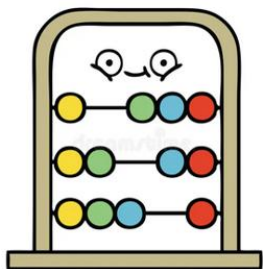
Facilitated by Anne N. Ossanna, LSW and Program Coordinator of the Aroostook County Action Program in Blue Hill, the group will

meet monthly on the first Monday of the month at 2:30 p.m. All are welcome, no matter where you are on your journey of caregiving for a loved one.

Questions? Feel free to call or text Jen Woods (207-702-0024) or Lisa Lutts at (603-960-4488).

Bean Counter's Tally

through July 16, 2026



I am pleased to report that all documentation requested by the accountants for the Financial Review has been gathered and sent on to them. We now await any next steps, or the final results and recommendations.

Our endowment currently stands at 9.39M through mid-July. As we have reached the halfway point of the year, the bean counter in me is now watching our budget even more closely. From the beginning of the year to the end of June, we are in good shape. We have taken in more than half of our expected income for the year, and spent less than half of our expected expenses. The expense of renovating the upstairs bathroom at the Parsonage came in within budget. Thus, 88 Court Street's projects and overall expenses are also within our budget guidelines.

And, speaking of budget, committees were asked to submit their wish list and priorities to the Budget Committee by the end of July. The Budget Committee will meet in August and September to reconcile the wishes and the projected expenses of the Church with the income that we can expect for the year. Quite the balancing act. We'll keep you posted.

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)

First Sunday

Day of Giving for the free little 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!



August 4 through 6

Maine Preservation's Castine Residency



The Wilson Museum, Castine History Partners, and the Castine Historic Preservation Commission are excited to be partnering with Maine Preservation for a historic preservation residency here in Castine! **Maine Preservation is looking for small businesses, homeowners, and nonprofit organizations who steward old buildings who would be interested in a site visit from the Maine Preservation team.**

Maine Preservation is charting a course for maritime Castine. Our next residency, August 4-6, is a highly requested opportunity to connect with our staff in-person for help addressing your pressing preservation questions and challenges.

During our Castine Residency, Maine Preservation's expert staff will provide technical guidance for old building stewardship and highlight how our programs and services could serve the community. If you would like to connect with our team as well as others who care about local preservation, please join us for a presentation at the Witherle Memorial Library on August 4 at 5PM. This will be followed by a casual meet-and-greet across the street at the Castine Historical Society.





Dark Sky Maine's Downeast Night Sky Festival 2026

Jul 23	Stars Over Surry • <i>Surry</i> Surry Town Landing at Sunset Dark Sky Committee, Town of Surry
Aug 12	Blue Hill Mountain Star Party • <i>Blue Hill</i> Mountain Road Parking Lot - Rain date of Aug 14 Blue Hill Heritage Trust
Aug 14 - 16	Maine State Star Party • <i>Pembroke</i> Pembroke Fairgrounds - Free camping! Downeast Amateur Astronomers
Sep 3 - 10	Schoodic Institute Star Programs • <i>Schoodic Point</i> Programs offered by Astronomer Dick Leucke Schoodic Institute
Sep 9	Night Sky at Tidal Falls • <i>Hancock</i> Telescope program with Astronomer John Meader Frenchman Bay Conservancy
Sep 12	Dark Sky Maine Star Party • <i>Brooklin</i> Flye Point - Food trucks, live music, and camping! Dark Sky Maine

Visit Dark Sky Maine's website to learn more about these events and others like it!



DarkSkyMaine.com

Inquires Welcome
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“In the same way that your heart feels and your mind thinks, you, mortal beings, are the instrument by which the universe cares. If you choose to care, then the universe cares. If you don't, then it doesn't.” – Brennan Lee Mulligan