



THE COMMON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF CASTINE

July 2025

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 July

- | | |
|---------|--|
| July 6 | Worship Leader: Rev. Amy DeBeck
Musician: Karen Froehly |
| July 13 | Worship Leaders: Revs. Amy & Kevin DeBeck
Musician: Colleen Fitzgerald |
| July 20 | Worship Leader: Rev. Amy DeBeck
Musician: Colleen Fitzgerald
Potluck |
| July 27 | Worship Leader: Rev. David Jarrett
Musician: Karen Froehly |

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.



Minister's Meanderings

July is Good Weather for Church Shopping

Have you been curious about Unitarians, Universalists, or UUs in general? Have you come a few times and feel like you wish you knew more? There is (soon) a class for that!

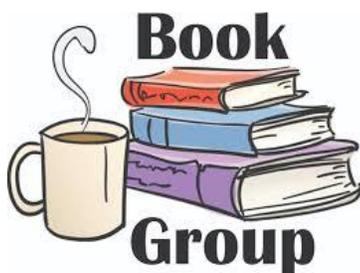
I have said in church a couple of times now, that I do not believe people begin attending church simply because they had an empty spot in their schedules on Sunday mornings. People might check out a church for any number of reasons: they tend to keep returning because there is both intrigue and comfort. Intrigue about a group of people who have agreed to follow certain methods of being together and "doing" religion, comfort about how it feels around said people.

In many parts of the country, for many people, July is moving time. It was for my family last year! The DeBecks were lucky because we knew before we got here which church community would capture our time, treasure, and talent. For most people, though, it takes a bit longer to decide to go that first time, and feelings of belonging take different lengths of time for everybody.

Church is a great place to meet kindred spirits, get involved in community aid through the church's ministries, find out what to expect from that first winter you face (!) in Maine, and sing with a bunch of people every week, just to name a few advantages of settling into a congregation, slowly, over the summer.

If you are interested in what we do over at 86 Court Street, this class is for you. Whether you have been attending for a long time, or feel curious about the religion, I hope that you will come to **Orientation to UU** classes. 2 Sundays, August 10 and August 24 are the proposed dates, from 2 to 4pm at the Parish House. I would like to hear from interested parties if these dates work, because they can be changed, especially if it means having more folks! Yes, we can make them multiplatform, too! I would love to know how many to plan for, so please email at minister@uucastine.org so that the August newsletter will announce firm times. Looking forward to seeing you around the Meeting House.

In peace,
Rev. Amy



Book

Group

UUCC READS

Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. on ZOOM

UUCC Reads will begin July discussing *The Kew Gardens Girls* by Posy Lovell.

This is a heartwarming historical novel about women in wartime, inspired by real life events. It's 1916 and England is at war. Desperate to help in

whatever way they can, Ivy and Louisa enlist as gardeners at Kew, taking on the jobs of the men who have gone to fight. Under their care, the Gardens begin to flourish - but Ivy and Louisa aren't being treated fairly, and not everyone wants them there. Without women's rights, the pair begin to struggle - but can the support of the Suffragettes help their cause? And when a tragedy overseas affects the people closest to them, can the women of Kew pull together to support themselves and their country through the darkest of times?

Become a part of the UUCC Reads book discussion. Send an email to office@uucastine.org and we will add you to the weekly reminder list.



From the President's Desk

Thank you, Debbie

Dear Friends,

A big change is about to happen at UUCC.

For those of you who don't know, Debbie Morehouse, our office manager, is stepping down from that position on July 3, 2025. She has truly been an asset for UUCC the last four years and we will greatly miss her smiling face, big laugh, computer skills, and ability to get the job done. Debbie plans to travel with her husband Jess as well as spend more time in her

garden, pursuing genealogy research, and enjoying various crafty projects.

It is good fortune for us, however, since she will continue as an active member of the UUCC Governing Board, we can count on her expertise and guidance as we deal with church issues. On the other hand, we will not see her on a daily basis at her desk in the Parish House.

Three cheers for Debbie!



*Into the forest
I go, to lose
my mind and
find my soul*

John Muir (1838-1914)

Dear UUCC Congregation,

As most of you know, I have been wanting to retire from at least one of the churches where I work for quite some time now. It feels like this is the time to take that leap of faith. Though I am resigning as Church Administrator, I am not leaving UUCC. I will continue to serve on the Governing Board, and the two Committees on which I serve: the Archival Committee and the Rev. Randall Hilton Scholarship Committee. While I have tried to be scrupulous in the separation of paid employment and volunteer Board work, this will relieve any perception of conflict of interest there could be. I have really enjoyed my time as Church Administrator and of helping to “keep it together” during some major events here at UUCC such as our search and transition to a new minister, purchase of a parsonage, and the renovation of the Parish House. It has been an eventful four years! I am looking forward to “just” being a member of the Church, the Board, and the Committees I serve.

It was very special to be honored during the church service on Sunday, June 29th. Thank you so much for all the nice things said and for the gift certificate! And just think, no more hounding (by me anyway)!

Love you all,

Debbie



Bagaduce Kayak Expedition Camp

Exploring the Unique Ecology and Traditional Waterways of the Bagaduce watershed and fostering future stewardship

Dates July 7-12, 2025



Fully sponsored by

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine's Opportunity Fund & Bagaduce Watershed Association

for 7-9th graders from Brooksville, Castine, Blue Hill, Bucksport, Penobscot and Sedgwick

Expedition Kayak Camp Includes:

Paddle from the Source to the Sea

Kayak Camping trip: 3 days/2 night (approx 5-7 miles/day)

- *Geology and Marine Ecology of the Bagaduce -*
- *Kayak Skills, technique and rescues -Navigation skills -*
- *understanding of the cultural stories and waterways of Wabanaki -*
- *Engagement in Citizen Scientist projects: Seaweeds, Horseshoe Crabs, Middens -*
- *Wilderness Camping skills - Preparation for future Junior Maine Guides -*

Through education and exploration

empowering children with the tools to make a difference in the future!

Register [HERE](#) or Call to Register: application process for approval!

CastineKayak.com ~ 207-866-3506

Bagaduce Kayak Expedition Camp

Exploring the Unique Ecology and Traditional Waterways of the Bagaduce watershed and fostering future stewardship

The Bagaduce has been federally designated as
"A focus area of statewide ecological significance"

July 7-12, 2025

for students from grade 8

from Brooksville, Castine, Blue Hill, Bucksport, Penobscot and Sedgwick

The Bagaduce Teen Kayak Expedition Camp's goal is to educate, inspire and foster future generations of stewards of the Bagaduce Watershed. Program is offered by Registered Maine Master Sea Kayak Guide Karen Francoeur of Castine Kayak Adventures.

The Six Day Educational camp will include:

9-4 daily and 2 night overnight camping trip

Day 1: Kayaking basics, water safety and rescues

Day 2: Wabanaki culture and traditional waterways: led by Wabanaki cultural historian John Bear Mitchell, Julia Gray of Wilson Museum and "Midden Minders".

Day 3: Geology and Marine Ecology Paddling the Bagaduce

Day 4-6: Three-day/two night, camping trip paddling the Bagaduce headwaters and traveling the upper Bagaduce and then through the Reversing Falls and the Narrows to Castine. Led by Master Maine Sea Kayak Guide, Karen Francoeur and staff. Educational components will include navigation, use of tides, citizen scientist study of horseshoe crabs, eel grass/seaweed, and Shell Middens, Wabanaki and Revolutionary War history. Discussion along the route with Bagaduce Watershed experts!.

Program goals and skills building include:

- Immersion in kayak technique and water safety
- Navigation and map reading
- Deeper understanding of traditional Wabanaki travel routes and cultural history
- Geology and how it impacted settlement of the area
- Experiential citizen scientist activities while learning the unique marine ecology of the Bagaduce, that could be followed up throughout the summer and beyond!
- Preparation for future Junior Maine Sea Kayak Guide program

Through education and exploration we will empower our children with necessary tools to make a difference in the future!



Partner Church

The Unitarian Universalist Church of the Philippines has recently started a good conversation with Linda Trumbull and me. A new Executive Minister has been elected and is reaching out to us. She has held formal installations of new ministers in many areas including Aquino. She believes that recognizing the ministers officially, it strengthens their authority and responsibility to guide their communities in faith and service.

She also started two interesting projects: Basic Life Support and First Aid Training skills training. The practical and hands-on training is aimed at empowering their communities to respond effectively in emergency situations. The second project is a seminar focused on Sexual Abuse Awareness and Understanding Sexual Orientation. These topics help to create a safe and inclusive church environment.

The Church Administrator Rev. Arman Pedro is also working on many needed projects of outreach, empowerment, and growth. He has been instrumental in crafting and submitting proposals that resulted in tangible support for the congregations.

It has been wonderful for Linda and me to read all of these improvements and the dedication shown by these two people in such a brief time. More information will be provided in the following month, but Linda and I wanted to share the good work by our Partner Church.

Cindi Kimball and Linda Trumbull, Co-Chairs

No Neighbor Left Behind - July Picnic Meal

In two weeks, we will gather in the Parish House and make 130 -140 Italian subs consisting of ham, salami, cheese, and lettuce. Accompanying this sub will be a bag of chips, cookies, and watermelon.

And along the line of cookies, we need approximately 270 homemade, medium-size cookies to be put in two-cookie bags. We do this at the Parish House so we can provide variety. An added note: best to avoid peanut butter and nuts.



Volunteers are needed to make the subs, cut the watermelon and bag it, as well as pack up the meals for delivery. Speaking of delivery, we need drivers. Drivers are the most important representatives we have representing the UUCC volunteers. As ever, I am grateful to the drivers for the personal contact they make and the friendships they have developed.

In short, contact me to let me know how you would like to be involved:

cookie baker

sub maker

meal taker

watermelon...can't think of a rhyme for that one—but you get the idea!

We will meet at 1 p.m. at the Parish House on July 11, and we hope to have all the meals packed and ready to start delivering by 3 p.m.

I can be reached at 207-326-4924, or you can email me at johanna.s.sweet@gmail.com

Thank you, team! It couldn't happen without you—Johanna



On Entering the Meeting House

by Debbie Morehouse

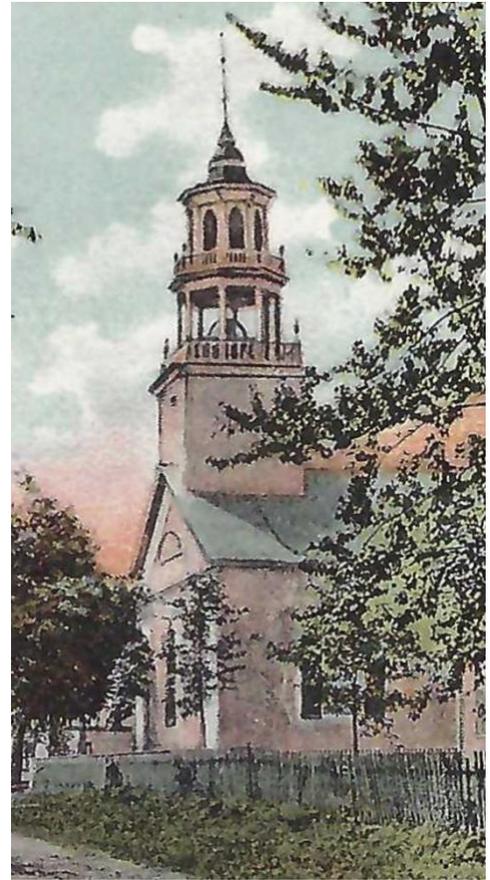
I come into this place, this venerable building
with Reverence.

For the history and the people
Who lived, loved, persisted, and ultimately perished,
The memorable and the unremarkable.
They were never “good,” they were human.
Godliness was beyond them, beyond all of us, always.
But, using what God gave them, they strove to survive,
They strove to thrive and they refused to suffer fools lightly.
Can we do the same? Can we do all that we humanly can do
To live within our just means, learning and conveying
As much as we can, living as best we can
with Reverence?

May we know our place, in this place, on earth and under heaven,
Within a society filled with people of differing and nuanced frames of reference.
May we be reminded each time we come into this place
That our time here on earth is limited.
May we find the courage to live our lives fully, humanly, humanely
with Reverence

For the virtues that bind diverse perspectives together,
In awe of the Unknowable and with respect for the web of life,
Striving for justice and equality for all,
Holding each human accountable to laws
More sacred and valuable than nations.

I come into this venerable place
with Reverence.



Our Common is an ACTIVE town Common

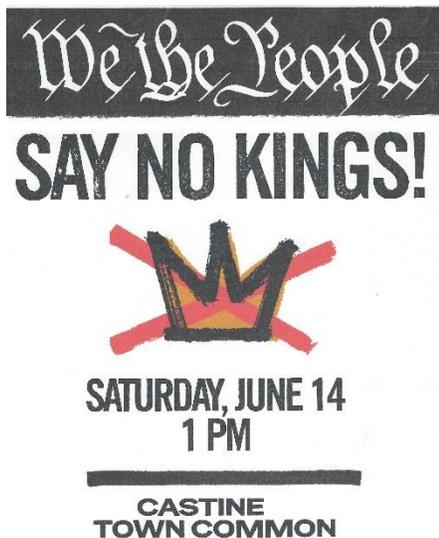
Working in the office at the UUCC means getting to see events on the Common. What a joy! Maine is magic, and often we see that magic conjured on the Common.



July 4th is coming, and our Common will look like a Norman Rockwell depiction of Americana. A children’s parade around it, hot dogs and lemonade, games and races, a 4pm concert on it, and memories for years, going back and stored for the future.



On July 14th Castine’s **Bastille Day** celebrations will include a Picnic En Blanc which will stretch from the Common down Court Street with music and dancing to follow.



Our Common has seen some civic action lately, too, from the new group Making Waves Castine. On April 5 in windy, cold weather, a group of 150 people from all over coastal Maine gathered to solidify the message to keep HANDS OFF our rights and ways of life. On June 14 when it was warmer 170 people gathered to declare that we want NO KINGS. The heart of Castine keeps reaching out for people to join us on the Common. Us is all of us, not just UUCC or even Castine folks. The Common is common ground for us. Still being discussed, not yet decided or formed, the call has gone out for another event on Thursday, July 17 called GOOD TROIUBLE LIVES ON to commemorate the passing of elder statesman

and activist John Lewis.

Besides Patriotism in all forms, the Common is for lovers of art as well. On Saturday July 26 our neighboring church, the Trinitarian Congregational Parish of Castine will bring **Art Under the Elms** to our Common. Several artists, makers, and Silent Auction items will be gathered to delight us on our Common.

