



THE COMMON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF CASTINE

June 2019

Sunday Service Calendar

Services are at 10:30 am

June 2: Rev. Margaret Beckman, *Each of Us Has a Name*, Ian Brenner-Simpson, Musician

June 9: Collaborative Ministry Joint Worship Service at UU Castine Meeting House. Rev. Dr. Jodi Hayashida preaching, Colleen Fitzgerald, Musician, Ellie Daniels, Choir Director

June 16: Rev. Margaret Beckman, *Nature as Spiritual Practice*, Julie Gardner & Chris Poulin, Musicians, PICNIC at Moss Acre hosted by Stand and Virginia Bourne (210 The Shore Road, Castine)

June 23: Rev. Margaret Beckman, *PRIDE: Something Inside So Strong*, Colleen Fitzgerald, Musician

June 30: Rev. Margaret Beckman, *In Praise of Religious Education*, Celebrating the work of Kay Hansen as she retires from UUCU, Joan Kroehler, Organist

July 7: Colin Powell, Worship Leader, Ian Brenner-Simpson, 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.



Raising the flag from half to full staff on the Castine Town Common on Memorial Day. See more Memorial Day photos on page 3.

Contact Us

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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, June 2019

I looked out the kitchen window one morning this week and I saw a male rose breasted grosbeak. He was strikingly beautiful. I haven't seen grosbeaks at our house for a few years. There he was. And just a half minute later, the female landed beside him. A pair! I stopped what I was doing (no problem there, it was the breakfast dishes) and simply watched them as they had their breakfast at our feeding station. I spent a delightful few minutes watching them before she flew away and I returned to the task at hand.

I'm grateful that "the task at hand" was not so completely absorbing that I did not see these two birds right outside my window. It reminds me that often there are things in this one precious life more important and certainly more beautiful than "the task at hand." I can get so caught up in my "to do" list that I miss the gifts right under my nose, or window. Sometimes it's a pair of grosbeaks. Sometimes it's a neighbor weeding her flower garden. Sometimes it's my dog, Cedar, who looks at me with loving eyes and a nudge to remind me that she too wants to go out and play and be loved. Sometimes, it's a friend who needs me to leave work early and go pick up her two black labs for a week because her father unexpectedly died this morning and she is on her way to New Jersey with ten minutes notice. Of course, yes, I will do this. I recall that she took care of Cedar when it was the death of my father and a few years later my mother when Christy and I left for Pennsylvania



on ten minutes notice. I never worried about the care of Cedar and I trust my friend will not worry about her two – Blu and Sadie.

Sure, it changes my schedule and it will require a bit of rearranging to take on two more dogs for the next ten days. I'm happy that I can figure it out. Life is so full of moments when the task at hand and our best laid plans are interrupted by beauty in front of us or a friend in need. We are often blessed to have these sorts of interruptions. Unexpected interruptions remind us to live in the moment and to be both amazed and grateful.

Whether it's the birds of spring or the finally blooming tulips or the call of a friend or the warmth of three dogs curled up in their beds, enjoy the moments of wonder, awe and interruption. Perhaps they will turn out to be the greatest gifts of all.

Namaste,
Margaret



President's Desk

At the governing board meeting last week, we spent some time discussing how the agenda for the day supported our mission. Most of the focus was on how important the building and grounds are. Of course, the first view of UUCC is the exterior of the building, the flags, the steeple, the red doors, the fans above the windows, the surrounding Town Common and on Sunday morning the ringing of the Joseph Warren Revere bell. It is a building that speaks of history and a caring congregation.

The interior reminds me of the days of footwarmers in the pews, long dresses and bonnets, and stern men, (not sternmen on a lobster boat), to the fall of 2008 when we first attended UUCC, to the present, remembering now absent faces, and sometimes thinking of what Sunday service will be like after we are gone. The care we take of the sanctuary and parish house

provide a second impression of who we are. Some might ask, are we stuck in another era or are we honoring our past. I suppose that answer might be different for each of us.

On Sunday morning the greeters are the first people welcoming newcomers as well as members and friends. Coffee hour presents an opportunity for person to person contact with old and new friends.

It is those first impressions of a structure, inside and out which bring visitors to us. It is the warmth of welcome between people that sets the stage for people to return and work with us to continue our mission of support to members, friends and the broader community.

Take care, Brooke Tenney

Memorial Day in Castine



Castine Memorial Day parade



Castine town band playing Star Spangled Banner

Religious Education

It has been three years since the Castine Church hosted the “first-ever” worship service for the three churches in our collaborative team. Sunday, June 9th, will be our second time for hosting this event. As we did three years ago, we will all gather in the sanctuary with our families. (Children ages 2-4 can be dropped off in the nursery prior to the service.) After the “Story For All Ages,” children ages 5 and above are invited to join the DREs and helpers for a story and activity in the Parish Hall. Children will return for the conclusion of the service and to join their families. We hope this will be a great day for worship, celebration and fellowship with our neighboring UU churches.

Some of you may remember that 3 years ago, the children decorated a tapestry circle, symbolizing the relationship between the 3 churches. On the Sunday prior to this year’s service (June 2nd), our children at Castine will be hearing a story about how good deeds come back to you, as it might in a circle. For our activity, we will make some additions to the tapestry and share it with our collaborative churches on June 9th.

For the remainder of June, we will celebrate Father’s Day on June 16th and on June 23rd, we will remember the story of Norbert Capek and the first “Flower Festival.” For the last Sunday of June, we will celebrate summer with a picnic and some fun games.

Thank You

It has been an honor and privilege to have worked with the children and families of the Castine Church for the past 10 years, in helping to develop understandings of our Unitarian Universalist principles and promoting the mission of this church through related and age-appropriate activities and projects. Though I have found it quite difficult to make this decision, it has become more clear to me that the time has come for me to “retire” to another phase of life, one that hopefully involves some travel and spending more time with family.

When I first began this journey at the Castine Church, I had no idea that I would be here so long and become so attached to the church—its children, families and adult community. I have maintained my official membership at the Ellsworth Church, but I feel like Castine is home. I am especially impressed with the mission of this church and the “action” that takes place to fulfill this mission.

I thank all of you for welcoming me into this congregation—for your positive reinforcement regarding my work with the children and your interest in the children and the activities they are doing. Thanks to the families who have entrusted their children to my care and guidance. I have enjoyed observing your children as they’ve developed and grown through their early lives. They have been my “Sunday morning grandchildren.” And finally, thanks to the children for helping me grow and stay young in mind and spirit.

Much love to all,
Kay

Partner Church Update

With great pleasure, I wish to announce the graduation of Laica Navarro Fajardo from the Negros Oriental State University, Island of Negros, Republic of the Philippines. Many of you know Laica is a scholar of our Dollars for Scholars program in which we have supported 30-42 students each year. Laica has been our first college student. Through her four years, we raised money to cover her tuition and books. She now holds a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology Major in Computer Technology.

I will miss her sweet, endearing messages of gratitude to our congregation.

Elaine Gerard-Climo

Last March 26, 2019 was the most special and one of the most awaited day of my schooling journey. I am very happy because after 4 years of sacrificing I have now achieved the fruit of my labor and everything had been paid off.

But this success might not be possible without all your help and effort that's I would like to say thank you so much to all of you. Thank you for supporting me since day one of this journey until this very moment. I will never forget all your goodness. I am very glad that God had given me a chance to meet people like you. This achievement is not just for me and to my family I also offer this success to all of you. You are such a blessing from above. I owe you a lot for this.

I hope that you will continue giving joy and touching hearts of those people who are willing to be successful. I will surely miss all you comforts and support. May God give you good health and more blessings. Once again thank you so much for shaping a brighter future for me.

-This is LAICA NAVARRO FAJARDO a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology Major in Computer Technology. Also a proud scholar of UUCP Congregation.



Partner Church Update continued

Filipino Supper

Three cheers for Chef Ray Nualla. Thanks to Ray, UUCC hosted another successful Filipino supper on April 26. Ray who insists on cooking the main meal of chicken and pork adobo; pansit (Asian noodles/with fresh vegetable); lumpia (egg rolls); white rice; and flan as usual brought everything hot and steaming into a crowd-hungry room-of 60 people.

Ray also served up another ten take-outs and nine people were on a waiting list! Not only is Ray's food tasty there is always plenty to go around. Seconds are freely shared – no wonder this dinner sells out fast.

Each dollar raised supports students in UUCC's Dollars for Scholars program. This supper raised \$1,380, before costs. In June, 42 students in grades one to twelve will be able to pay for their uniforms (mandatory), books, tuition (no free public education) and for the high school students transportation fees (no school bus system), thanks to Ray's efforts.

Throughout the year, UUCC sponsors and members receive cards and emails with heartfelt thanks from the students in the village of Aquino, Island of Negros, Republic of Philippines. Shem Santos, an eleventh grader, said it best. "Thank you for supporting me in my study it's a big help for me."

A great meal, a caring community, a special cause – three cheers all around.

A special thanks to Jess and Debbie Morehouse who served and jumped in where ever they were needed. Becky St. John, dessert organizer; Tom Mason, collection officer and overseer of wine; Sherri and Sheena Whittaker, Elaine's kitchen helpers (and great daughters); and Rev. Margaret Beckman who filled in wherever needed. Also, to those folks who made cakes, pies, flans or donated wine, please know, we know, what kind, generous folks you are.

The Partner Church Committee

FERRY BEACH FALL RETREAT OCTOBER 25-27, 2019

Summer hasn't officially begun, and here we are planning for an event in October. Yes, it is time to make plans to attend our collaborative fall retreat at Ferry Beach. Again this year, it will take place during the last weekend in October. No worries about it being too hot and if the temperature plummets, there will be heat and hot showers and lots of hot coffee all day long. The scenery is awesome, and there are lots of interesting and wonderful people to meet!

Registration will begin Sunday, June 2nd and will continue each Sunday until July 28th, at which time we will need to let Ferry Beach know how many people from Castine Church will be attending. A non-refundable \$25.00 registration fee is due at registration. The balance is due July 28th.

Please see Kay Hansen after church for more information and a form to register for this event.

The Opportunity Column

Rev. Margaret Beckman recieved the following letter from Families First Community Center:

A simple thank you really does not express how much we appreciate the generous support FFCC has received from your congregation. At the April 14th service, I gained a deeper understanding of how your church views financial giving. Social Justice is such a vital part of the Christian walk. You are right in saying that now is not the time for being timid. Good intentions don't feed hungry people or provide shelter to the homeless.

Your recent gift of \$10,000.00 will be used to help us get our staff for providing services up and running. We are currently taking applications for our mentoring program we call VIFS (Volunteers in Family Service); these are the people who will be matched up with the families to provide ongoing personal support, much like an extended family member. Together with the director and case managers we will support and guide these families toward self-sufficiency.

We look forward to sending you and the members of the opportunity fund committee stories of how your financial support is actively changing lives.

Please keep us in your prayers as we continue toward this goal.

Sincerely,
Terri Ouellette
Board President
of Families First Community Center

Hilton Scholarship

It is graduation time and time again to announce this year's Rev. Randall Hilton Scholarships awardees. From Bucksport High School: Jaycob Wilbur (Husson University), Tyson Gray (UMO) and Chelsea Parent (Empire Beauty School) From Ellsworth High School: Olivia Robidoux (University of New England) and from Deer Isle-Stonington High School Kaley Eaton (UM-Farmington) Each student has been awarded \$1000 for the upcoming academic semester. Congratulations All!

Reflections from Our Congregation

FIXABLE

Under what circumstance did
we expect this would work?

Days, numbered, slide past
and not everything is repaired
promptly.

Some things are not fixable at all.

Amazing, what we'll carry with us,
into the subway, the neighbor's house,
our last swim in the ocean.
Scars from life.

Some physical,
some metaphysical,
all a product
of choice and circumstance.

Colin Powell