



THE COMMON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF CASTINE

March 2022

The Soul Matters Theme for March is *Renewing Faith*

- Sunday, March 6th Rev. Margaret Beckman
Musicians are Julie Gardner & Chris Poulin
- Sunday, March 13th Rev. Margaret Beckman
Musician is Colleen Fitzgerald
- Sunday, March 20th UUSC Sunday*. We will share the pre-recorded
National UUSC Justice Sunday Worship service.**
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.
FMI go to www.uusc.org.
- Sunday, March 27th Rev. Margaret Beckman
Musician is Colleen Fitzgerald

*The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is a nonprofit, nonsectarian organization advancing human rights together with an international community of grassroots partners and advocates. We focus our work on intersecting roots of injustice to defend rights at risk due to criminalization and systemic oppression of people based on their identity. We support self-determination and defend the rights of people displaced due to climate, conflict or economic hardships; and we respond to humanitarian crises as partners with people whose access to aid is most limited.

Striving to center the voices of people most affected by injustice, UUSC creates eye-to-eye relationships with frontline grassroots movements across the world that support marginalized communities in determining their steps for the future.

Our mission: UUSC advances human rights and social justice around the world, partnering with those who confront unjust power structures and mobilizing to challenge oppressive policies. Our work is grounded in the belief that all people have inherent power and dignity.

** Our congregation has been a consistent supporter of the UUSC for decades. Supporting the work of the UUSC is part of our core ministry of justice and philanthropy. Many of our members and friends also personally contribute to the work of the UUSC.

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

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 Jean Lamontanaro at jean.lamontanaro@gmail.com.

Lakeside Reflections March 2022

January - March 2019, we were tightly nestled together in the Parish House on Sunday mornings waiting expectantly for the painting of the Meeting House to finish. We did not know that on March 15th we would be advised to close down all in-person gatherings for the foreseeable future as what we came to call Covid-19 took hold of us.

Has it really been two years? Seems like yesterday. Seems like a decade.

We have endured much. We have lost much. We have gained much.

There will be no “going back” to the way things and life used to be. There will be a going forward to what lies in front of us. No one has yet been where we are going. We are not following a path well-worn by previous travelers. We are breaking, making, and marking the trail upon which we travel.

I read this week in one of the on-line religious news services a short description of this time about clergy. Although I agree with this statement, I think it is also an accurate portrayal of what laypeople in faith traditions have experienced.

For clergy, COVID-19 has brought both burnout and breakthrough

Religion News Service: After two years of a global pandemic, rabbis, pastors and other congregational leaders have given up predicting the future. Some say they are exhausted. Some are thinking about quitting. Others, while they are weary and the future is uncertain, say the pandemic has also brought opportunities for ministry and growth.

As we cross over into our third year of life with Covid and its Omicron cousins, let us be kind and generous with ourselves and each other when we experience fatigue and possible burn-out. Let us be enthusiastic about the opportunities for ministry and deeper faith development and expressions.

I give you also this poem, *The Path*, by UU minister Lynn Ungar.

May March be kind and may our crocuses survive the inevitable frost that follows the first real thaw.

Blessings to each of you as you wander the path of your own creation.

Namaste, *Margaret*



The Path

Life, the saying goes, is a journey,
and who could argue with that?
We've all experienced the surprising turns,
the nearly-impassible swamp, the meadow
of flowers that turned out not to be quite
so blissful and benign as we first thought,
the crest of the hill where the road
smoothed out and sloped toward home.

Our job, we say, is to remain faithful
to the path before us. Which is an assumption
as common as it is absurd.
Really? Look ahead. What do you see?
If there is a path marked out in front of you
it was almost certainly laid down for someone else.

The path only unfolds behind us,
our steps themselves laying down the road.
You can look back and see the sign posts—

the ones you followed and the ones you missed—
but there are no markers for what lies ahead.

You can tell the story of how
you forded the stream or got lost
on the short cut that wasn't,
how you trekked your way to courage or a heart,
but all of that comes after the fact.



There is no road ahead.
There is only the walking,
the tales we weave of
our adventures,
and the songs we sing
to call our companions
on.

by Lynn Ungar 7-27-17

From Your Collaborative Intern Vanessa Williams *Rediscovery*

Recently, I have been thinking
about the connection between the
Soul Matters themes of *Widening
the Circle* of last month and that
for March, of *Renewing Faith*. In
exploring these together, I find
there is a rediscovery of what
brought me to Unitarian
Universalism; and followed the
call for UU ministry. As I created
the content in the *Inclusion by
Widening the Circle* service for
February, I remembered what it was that I
found so captivating in the Unitarian
Universalist faith, so much so that I wished to
share it with others.

And by seeking to widen the circle I recognize
that as Unitarian Universalists must
acknowledge what it is that we would want to
share this faith with others for. In this light we
are coming back to rediscover our own beliefs
and to understand them in a different way. We



Photo courtesy Buckman Bridge
Unitarian Universalist Church

are not widening the circle for the
sake of adding more followers to
the Unitarian Universalist roster,
but to share in what it is that we
found so great about Unitarian
Universalism with the world over.

In widening the circle, we are
welcoming more into the fold of
the truths we are aware of, and
those we are still in search of.

Additionally, we are increasing our
own awareness of what it means to
be Unitarian Universalist and creatively finding
ways of living into our UU faith and principles.

May this spiritual rediscovery be exciting,
adventurous, and nourishing to the spirit;

May this rediscovery of faith bring insight and
illumination to you as if it is newfound!

Blessed be. Amen.



Membership with UUCC

Are you interested in learning more about membership in the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine?

Membership is available to those who live in the Castine area and is now available to those who live farther away who wish make UCC their spiritual home. The Governing Board has reviewed the by-laws regarding membership to assure an open and available membership process for everyone who may be interested in joining UUCC.

What's required?

Membership requires a commitment to support the members/ friends and the ministry of UUCC. Members make annual contributions to UUCC of their time, talents, and treasures. Members are expected to know and support the Mission and Covenant of our congregation and the Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

What Are the Benefits of Membership?

Members may vote at congregational meetings, may serve in elected office, and may

receive full pastoral care at no additional charge.

How to Become a Member?

Prospective members meet with the minister or representative of the Governing Board to express their interest and review their commitment to the congregation. Those new to Unitarian Universalism may participate in a class or discussion about the history and tradition of Unitarian Universalism. Those who are already Unitarian Universalists and now wish to join this congregation may do so without additional study.



Receiving New Members.

New members are received into the congregation during a Sunday morning service, or if that is not possible, in the presence of the minister and a member of the Governing Board. New members sign the membership book if physically present or by signing a membership statement to be entered into the membership book by those present at a Sunday service.



Our church recently received a lovely thank you letter from Skip Greenlaw the President of the Board of Directors for Community Compass in which he said:

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the incredible grant of \$15,000 you sent us in January. These funds will be utilized to support the work of our Navigators. Were it not for our Navigators [and your support of them], Community Compass would not exist.



Applications Open for 2022

Rev. Randall Hilton Scholarship

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine (UUC) is pleased to announce that it will again offer the Rev. Randall Hilton Scholarship to graduating high school seniors at Bucksport High School, Deer Isle-Stonington High School, Ellsworth High School and George Stevens Academy, as well as to non-traditional (older) students. Scholarships may be used for any higher education facility, continuing education, technical training, or any other endeavor to gain proficiency or expand one's knowledge in a chosen field. Successful candidates will be selected by UUC's scholarship committee and will be awarded in the spring. The Scholarship Committee reserves the right to determine the number and amount of each scholarship given, up to \$1,000 each. To apply, contact your school's Guidance Office or visit uucastine.org/scholarships/ to download an application and scholarship criteria.

Deborah Pulliam Social Justice Grant

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine is pleased to invite qualified 501(c)3 organizations to apply for a Deborah Pulliam Social Justice Grant for the year 2022. The Pulliam Social Justice Grants were created to honor the memory of the late Deborah Pulliam, a longtime member of the Congregation and benefactor for social justice causes. To find out if your organization qualifies and the criteria for applying visit uucastine.org/social-justice/. Deadline for applying is June 1, 2022. Grants will be awarded October 1, 2022. Call 207-326-9083 for more information.



AUGUST 23-26, 2022 – Tri-Church Collaborative Retreat.

Remember when we gathered together for a fun weekend with our friends from the Belfast and Ellsworth UU Congregations? Well, it's that time again! Yes, there are some changes in place at Ferry Beach due to the ongoing need to have Covid protocols, but this summer may be a time when the restrictions and protocols in place at that time are quite manageable.

Registration opens on MARCH 1st. Don't delay – think about attending our week in August before the rooms are all taken!

The Registration Form can be requested from Margaret Beckman at minister@uucastine.org. Or, use the form included at the end of this edition of The Common.



Freezin' to Keep Others Warm

On Friday afternoon, January 21, 2022, an intrepid group of students, faculty, and staff gathered at the MMA Waterfront to participate in the 2022 Polar Plunge! Despite it being one of the coldest days of the year, it was a fantastic event and over \$800 was raised in support of the Castine Wood Bank.

Thank you to the organizers, all of the participants and the excellent safety crew that was on hand throughout the event

Talk about freezin' for a reason!



Photograph by Lisa Marks Burton – thank you Lisa, for sharing the beauty of Castine!



UU Ellsworth/Belfast/Castine Multigenerational Ferry Beach Retreat – August 23-26

Registration will occur by mail starting March 1, 2022 and must be received by June 27, 2022, payment in full is due by July 31, 2022. You are registering for 3 nights housing (dorm or campsite) 8 meals and housekeeping fee. Note: **You must include a \$25.00 per person non-refundable program fee when you register!**

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Congregation: _____
Email: _____
Who will be attending the weekend?

Name	Adult 18+	Youth 9-17	Under 8
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

_____ Adults 18+ at \$325.00 each (includes **SHARED dorm room with another adult in Underwood**, housekeeping and 8 meals)

_____ Adults 18+ at \$550.00 each (includes **PRIVATE dorm room in Underwood**, housekeeping and 8 meals) NOTE: **Single parents with 1 or more child** should reserve **PRIVATE**

_____ Adults 18+ at \$325.00 each (includes **SHARED twin dorm room with another adult in Quillen**, housekeeping and 8 meals)

_____ Adults 18+ at \$550.00 each (includes **PRIVATE twin dorm room in Quillen**, housekeeping and 8 meals) NOTE: **Single parents with 1 or more child** should reserve **PRIVATE.**

_____ Adults 18+ at \$366.00 each (includes **SHARED queen dorm room in Quillen**, housekeeping and 8 meals)

_____ Adults 18+ at \$575 each (includes **PRIVATE queen dorm room in Quillen**, housekeeping and 8 meals) NOTE: **Single parents with 1 or more child** should reserve **PRIVATE.**

_____ Adults 18+ at \$375 each (includes **SHARED family room with another adult in Quillen with queen bed and two twin beds**, housekeeping and 8 meals)

_____ Adults 18+ at \$625 each (includes **One Adult and 3 children in Quillen with queen bed and two twin beds**, housekeeping and 8 meals).

_____ Adults 18+ at \$450.00 each (includes **double ADA room**, linens, housekeeping & 8 meals)

_____ **Clafin Cottage** at \$1,350.00 (includes linens, sleeps 8 -2 queen bedrooms, 2 twin bedrooms)

_____ Youth 9-17 at \$140.00 each (includes shared dorm/campsite, housekeeping and 8 meals)

_____ Children (8 and under) \$35.00

_____ Tent Sites at \$120.00 per site for 3 nights

_____ RV/Sites at \$144.00 per site for 3 nights

_____ Large RV at \$150.00 per site for 3 nights

_____ Adult 18+ Camper Meal Plan/Registration \$160.00 per person

_____ Day Pass \$10.00 per day/per person for those staying off campus and \$25.00 per person Registration fee for Programming. NOTE: Meals are not included

Total Payment: \$_____



Please make checks payable to UUCE and include FERRY BEACH RETREAT in the memo line. Checks and registration forms should be mailed to:

Anne Ossanna
69 Great Pond Road
Franklin, ME 04634

We do not want the cost of the retreat to deter you from joining us. Limited **partial** scholarships may be available to assist with costs. Please contact Anne Ossanna to request financial assistance prior to registration.

of Vegetarians in Party: _____ # of Vegans in Party: _____1 # of Gluten Free in Party: _____

Other dietary restrictions, allergies, food considerations, and or special needs (ie – no stairs, close to bathroom)

See Reverse side

Amount paid at Registration (minimal of \$25.00/person): _____
Balance Due: _____

Payment Installments:

Date	Check #	Amount Paid	Balance
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Are you willing to lead a workshop? Yes _____ No _____
Topic/Focus of workshop you are willing to lead _____

Please contact Anne Ossanna for any questions:

aossanna@aol.com
(207) 565-2057 (home)
(207) 479-6338 (cell/text)

