



# THE COMMON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF CASTINE

March 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.



### March: in like a lion, out like a lamb.

While this proverb is often an apt description of March weather in our neck of the woods, it may have started in the stars. You see the constellation Leo (the lion) rises in the east to start March and the month ends with the constellation Aries (the ram, or lamb) setting in the west.



## A Month of Sundays in March

- Mar 3      Worship Leader:  
Rev. Jacqueline Robb  
Musician: Karen Froehly
- Mar 10     Guest Speaker: Sue Campbell  
from OUT Maine  
Musician: Karen Froehly
- Mar 17     Guest Speaker: Lisa Simpson Lutts,  
from Castine Historical  
Musician: Colleen Fitzgerald  
POTLUCK
- Mar 24     Worship Leader: TBD  
Musicians:  
Juliane Gardner & Chris Poulin
- Mar 31     Worship Leader: TBD  
Musician: Karen Froehly

## Contact Us

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Website: [uucastine.org](http://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](mailto:office@uucastine.org).

## From the President's Desk:

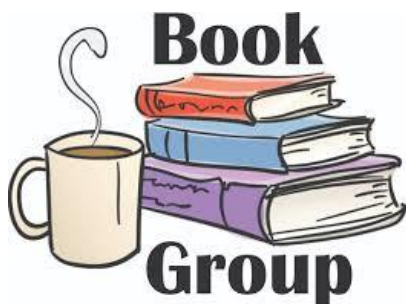
If you are wondering what I will be doing in March, look at this list! So many wonderful things to celebrate.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup>  
 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ON THE 10<sup>TH</sup>  
 POTLUCK ON THE 17<sup>TH</sup> & ST PATTY'S DAY  
 SPRING BEGINING ON THE 19<sup>TH</sup>  
 PALM SUNDAY ON 24<sup>TH</sup>  
 EASTER ON THE 31<sup>ST</sup>

I also plan to enjoy our Sunday Services with some great speakers and sermons and of course wishing I was there for Potluck. But besides all these things I hope you join me in seeing the first flowers beginning to poke their heads out of the ground and maybe a bud or two on the trees. Knowing the sun will shine a little more and the warmth from it bringing a smile to our faces. Please take time to stop and take a breath of fresh air, count your many blessings and give a stranger a smile. It will only make the world a better place.

Until next month, stay safe, happy and healthy.

As Always with love, Cindi

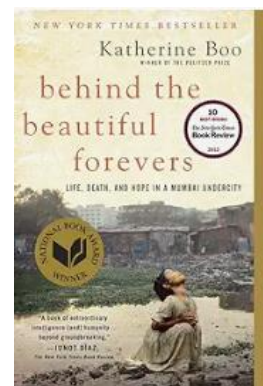


## UCC READS Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. on ZOOM.

We will begin the month of March with a discussion of *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* by Katherine Boo.

*Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity* (2012) is a nonfiction book by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Katherine Boo. The book follows residents of a Mumbai slum called Annawadi. Boo, an American investigative journalist, was inspired to write the book by frequent visits to Mumbai with her husband, who is from the area. She spent several years among Annawadi's residents, from 2007 to 2011, and the book recounts their struggles and stresses, which stem from adversities like poverty, disease, ethnic conflict, and a fear of displacement. A *New York Times* best-seller, the book won several awards, including the 2012 National Book Award for Nonfiction.

Consider becoming part of the UCC Reads book discussion. Sign up for our weekly e-newsletter to get the zoom link, or email [office@uucastine.org](mailto:office@uucastine.org) to be added to the weekly reminder list.



## Rev. Randall Hilton Scholarships

We are pleased to announce that the 2024 Rev. Randall Hilton Scholarship applications are now live on our website and have been sent to local guidance offices for graduating high school seniors at Bucksport High School, Deer Isle-Stonington High School, Ellsworth High School, and George Stevens Academy, as well as to local adult education programs for non-traditional (older) students. This scholarship 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.



The Scholarship Committee reserves the right to determine the number and amount of each scholarship given, up to \$1,000 each. Last year we awarded ten \$1,000 scholarships. If you know of a local student who should apply, encourage them to contact their school's Guidance Office or visit [uucastine.org/scholarships/](http://uucastine.org/scholarships/) to download an application and scholarship criteria. The application deadline is April 5, 2024, and successful candidates will be selected by UUCC's scholarship committee and announced by the first of June.

## Opportunity Fund Committee News

Several exciting news items from your hard-working Opportunity Fund Committee, which meets the first Friday monthly.



Mark Your Calendars: At Sunday service March 10 we welcome Sue Campbell, director at **Out Maine** who will give an update on the new Hancock County-wide, school-based program we have funded to build both LGBTQ student support (e.g. school based gay/straight student alliance groups), school staff and regional health provider education, parent support, and community education.

OFC will be helping fund production of the first ever **Wabanaki historical educational signs in Castine.**

OFC member Brooke Tenney is working with Castine Historical Partners in collaboration with the two museums and Castine Select Board in consulting with Wabanaki cultural historian James Francis to write and produce the new signs, besides reviewing existing signs for cultural and historical accuracy.

The OFC sponsored **Bagaduce Kayak Expedition Camp** is set for 5 days this June, led by experienced master Maine Guide Karen Francoeur of Castine Kayak. Recruitment is underway through the four town school principals (Bagaduce Watershed towns of Castine, Penobscot, Brooksville, Sedgwick) for twelve 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders who could best benefit from the free stipend.



## World Water Day: Water is Life



**March 21, 2024. 7:00 pm ET / 90 minutes long / on Zoom**

World Water Day celebrates water and raises awareness that 2.2 billion people live without access to safe water. We are honored to welcome Rev. Dr. Clyde Grubbs and Rev. Karen Van Fossan into a conversation on this important and sacred day. They are defenders and protectors of water; two spiritual leaders in our UU movement who will help us build a heart-centered approach to a right relationship with Mother Earth and her waters. Register in advance at: [https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZEldOqvqzgpE9KuY\\_xUopuUhVgbYq22IDIB#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZEldOqvqzgpE9KuY_xUopuUhVgbYq22IDIB#/registration)



**Rev. Dr. Clyde Grubbs** is a Unitarian Universalist minister who served congregations in Indiana, Quebec, Massachusetts, Texas, Florida and California. He honors his Native American heritage (Texas Cherokee) which informs his spiritual understanding and practice, and his anti-racist and anti-oppressive commitment. He has worked for peace, justice and equality since he was in the Unitarian Universalist youth movement, Liberal Religious Youth.

**Rev. Karen** is also a Unitarian Universalist minister and author of *A Fire at the Center: Solidarity, Whiteness, and Becoming a Water Protector*. She is an abolitionist, licensed professional counselor, and former defendant in the Line 3 pipeline resistance. She is pursuing a Doctorate of Ministry specializing in abolition through Pacific School of Religion. Clyde is on her dissertation advisory committee. Karen lives in Fargo, North Dakota, on the traditional lands of Anishinaabe, Lakota/Dakota, and many Indigenous peoples.



### POTLUCK SUNDAY March 17th

Lots to talk about and learn at this month's Potluck Luncheon. Don't miss the lively conversation and, of course, the good food! Bring a tasty dish and, WE'LL SEE YOU THERE!



## UCC Supports UUA International Office

Our congregation supports many efforts. The Unitarian Universalist International Office is just one from whom we've recently received a thank you for our donation.

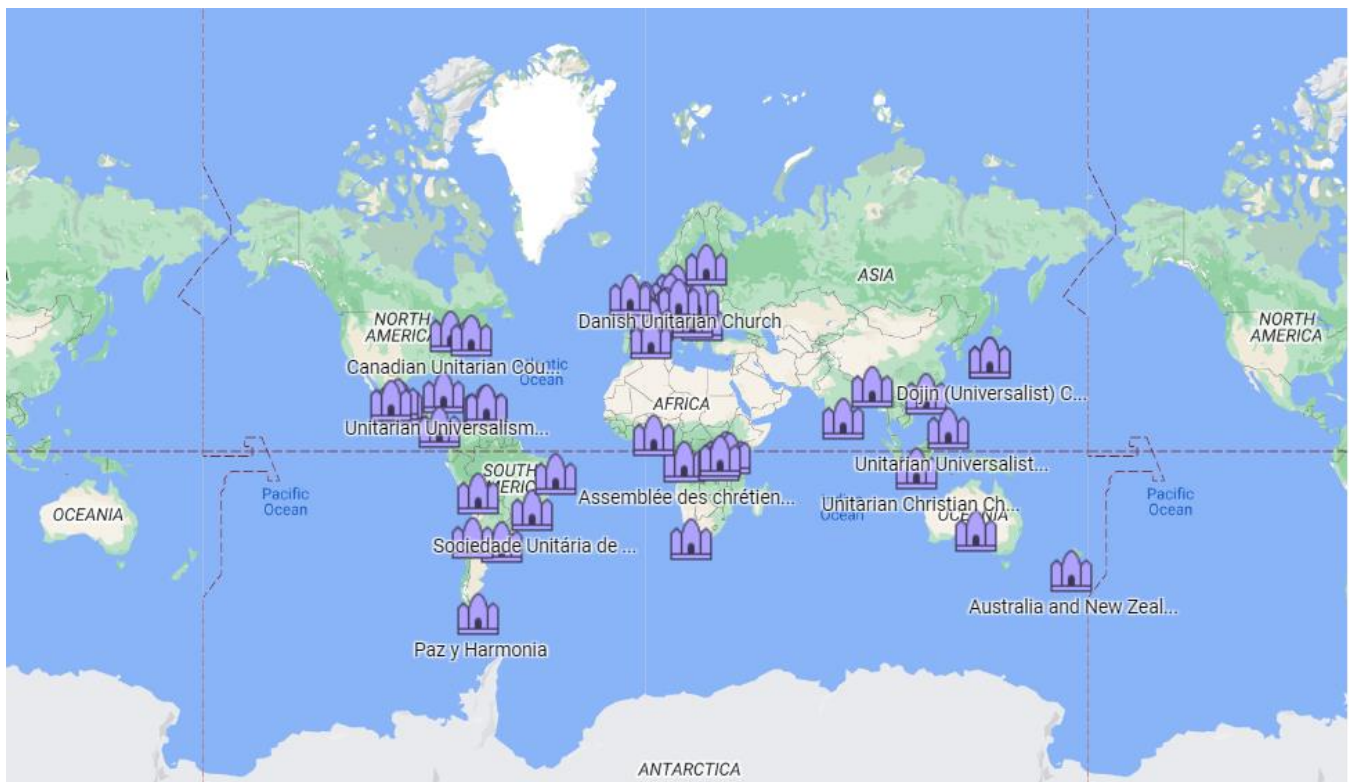
We thought you might like to know a little more about this part of UUA. Feel free to take a deeper look on their website:

<https://www.uua.org/international>.

The UUA International Office offers opportunities for congregations to more fully engage with the world community in spiritual and justice-seeking ways. They also offer a blog highlighting people and activities throughout the world.

The International Office of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) includes three collaborative programs:

- The International Resources Office — provides resources and guidance to assist congregations across borders.
- The UUA Office at the United Nations— engages in international advocacy work at the UN.
- The UU Holdeen India Program— translates UU values into bold action through partnerships with organizations that advance justice and equity in India.



*This interactive map shows U/U headquarters and churches around the world. Go to this map at <https://www.uua.org/international>. By clicking the icon on the top left of the map, you can choose to view information as well about a variety of critical moments that occurred in chapters of the Global U/U Story.*



## Beyond Every Door

A Time for All Ages by Molly Housh Gordon

The UUA theme for the month of March is transformation. What can be found beyond a door can be transformational.

The author suggests supplementing this Time for All Ages with a slide show of interesting doors and asking the kids to imagine what is on the other side of each of them. Can you identify all of the doors to the right?

*Who here knows the book *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*? Can one of the kids in the room tell me how Lucy Pevensie discovers Narnia?*

*Lucy looks for the perfect place to hide and opens up the door to a big wardrobe. She goes through the door and into the back of the wardrobe and suddenly she's in a whole other world! A magical world with witches and fauns and talking beavers!*

*Wouldn't it be cool if there were a magical world beyond every door? When Lucy opened the door to Narnia, it didn't look like anything special. It was just a boring door to a wardrobe full of clothes and coats, but across its threshold was magic. Lucy already had a foot in Narnia before she quite realized what was happening.*

*Many of the thresholds in our lives are like this: we don't know that we're crossing into*



*another world until we're already half way there.*

*The door of a church takes us down a pathway of growth we might never have expected.*

*The door of the doctor's office suddenly opens out into life with a hard diagnosis.*

*A restaurant door opens onto a first date and echoes forward into the relationship of a lifetime.*

*A beloved person's door closes behind you and sends you out into the world heartbroken.*

*The door to a library, or a gym, or a dance studio introduces you to a life's passion you might not have otherwise discovered.*

*We cross these thresholds every day of our lives, for good and for ill – in joy, in sorrow, in bittersweet truth.*

*Truly, even our own front door is a great threshold, no matter how familiar the worlds within and without may be... Given our lives' reality of constant change, every day we open the same old door again, only to step out into a world that is new since the day before. In this way, there is a new world behind every door, awaiting our discovery if we will only encounter it as such.*

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/time-all-ages/beyond-every-door>