



THE COMMON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF CASTINE

March 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 March

- | | |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mar 2 | Worship Leader: Rev. Amy DeBeck
<i>Know Thyself</i>
Musician: Colleen Fitzgerald |
| Mar 9 | Worship Leader: Rev. Amy DeBeck
<i>The Complexities of Honesty</i>
Musician: Karen Froehly |
| Mar 16 | Worship Leader: Rev. Vanessa Titang
Musician: Colleen Fitzgerald
Potluck |
| Mar 23 | Worship Leader: Rev. Amy DeBeck
<i>Hope Springs Eternal</i>
Musicians: Colleen Fitzgerald |
| Mar 30 | Worship Leader: Rev. Amy DeBeck
<i>The Spirituality of Van Gogh</i>
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.

From the President's Desk

February 16, 2025 - Today was a special day!

UUCC welcomed back Rev. Margaret Beckman, Minister Emerita of our congregation. Her presence was a happy event even though a predicted snowfall forced us to hold the service via Zoom, so all participants were safe in their homes with no worries about icy roads. We also cancelled our potluck lunch, but we hope Margaret will join us sometime in the near future.

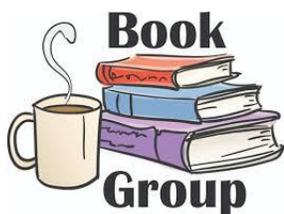
While the third Monday in February is a Federal Holiday in honor of Presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, many of us are deeply concerned, even distraught, about the actions of our current president. In her

service today Rev. Margaret acknowledged the uncertainties we face and read from Wendell Berry's poem *The Peace of the Wild Things*. She thought we too might find ourselves in need of a place to rest and reflect on the world as we see it and to strive for a better environment. Berry finds peace in the grace of nature and for a moment is freed from fear. Rest is essential and necessary, but it is also important to reunite. Berry's wisdom provides guidance and strength as we face the challenges of social justice work and peace at the same time.

Respectively submitted,
Marcia Mason, UUCC Board President

Quote from Amanda Gorman's 2021 inaugural poem:

*"There is always Light if only we're brave enough to See it,
if only we are brave enough to Be it"*



Book

Group

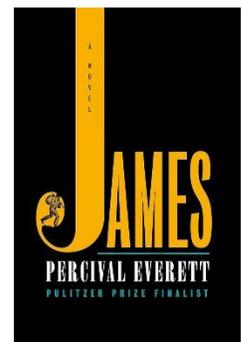
UUCC READS Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. on ZOOM

We start March discussing *James*, by Percival Everett.

James is a brilliant reimagining of the *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*—both harrowing and ferociously funny—told from the enslaved Jim's point of view. By day, Jim passes as a slave content with his status—an easy target for young Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer's pranks—but by night, he is determined to use his learning to improve his family's condition. However, when Jim discovers that he will soon be sold downriver to New Orleans, he must choose between making a perilous escape or losing his family forever.

Thrust into the harrowing life of a fugitive slave, Jim hides on Jackson Island to plan his search for a place where he and his family can be free. There he meets Huck Finn, who has faked his death to escape his abusive father. Together, Jim and Huck embark on a transformative and high-stakes journey on the Mississippi River, where each bend reveals new characters, dangers, and discoveries.

Consider becoming part of the UUCC Reads book discussion. Drop an email to Debbie office@uucastine.org and we will add you to the weekly reminder list.



Minister's Meanderings

March Theme is Trust

"Whoever is careless with the truth in small matters cannot be trusted with important matters." - Albert Einstein

"Love all, trust a few, do wrong to none."

"Trust, but verify."

"I cannot trust a man to control others who cannot control himself."

"Trust dies but mistrust blossoms."

"A lie can travel halfway around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes."

That's what came up when I did an online search for "trust."

We all say we value being able to trust another person, and being worthy of trust, ourselves. But how do we describe trust?

When we TRUST somebody, we EXPECT them to act in a conscientious way.

When we TRUST somebody, it means we feel SAFE with them.

When deciding to TRUST a piece of information, we decide if we BELIEVE it.

Trust is one of those characteristics one cannot inherit, it cannot be bought or stolen, and thus

it can only be grown, learned, and/or earned. If a person consistently acts the way we would EXPECT them to, so that we can BELIEVE what they say, then we feel SAFE with them.

Trust is not just between 2 people, on which most of my musing has been focused. Deep trust is built, made up of multiple affirming interactions, and is present and continually practiced in real relationships. Interpersonal or on a massive scale.

For instance, it is important for a board to be communicative so that their people trust them. It is important for a politician to do their best to represent what their constituents expect from them. Trust happens at various levels, from shallow, like momentarily trusting that a whim will work out, to trusting somebody to make the right call when your life depends on it.

In this changing season, from winter to spring, we would do well to consider this virtue known as TRUST and notice its presence in our own lives. I trust you to do the self-work, and you can trust me to do mine. See you in church!

In peace

Rev. Amy



Opportunity Fund

In these difficult times, our Opportunity Fund Committee has been busy getting much needed funding to area non profit organizations whose work supports the social justice mission of our Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine. Funding priorities reaffirmed from last year's survey remain: childhood, poverty-homelessness, climate change, and Wabanaki awareness support. Here's the list of our new funding for 2025:

- \$8,000 to the locally produced "Building Hope" documentary on homelessness and its solutions in order to be further distributed throughout the state including legislators in Augusta.
- \$20,000 to HOME in Orland to support their Wraparound Navigator program assisting homeless clients into transitional housing and jobs.
- \$5,000 to Families First in rebalancing our inaugural \$10,000 fund last year providing transitional housing cost support to graduates of their unique 2-year residential training / support program for single parents with infants.
- \$15,000 to Out Maine in building on our last year's inaugural funding to further provide LGBTQ education and support to 6-12th graders in **all** Hancock County Schools. This includes trainings for school staff, community, and mental health providers, school support circles, online parent support, and Gay Straight Student Alliances in each school.

Here's some feedback received already:

Susan Campbell, Exec Dir, OutMaine:

"This is such wonderful news! We are thrilled to be able to continue the work in Hancock County. Your generous investment allows us to continue creating inclusive, affirming spaces for LGBTQ+ youth in the region. We look forward to sharing updates on our progress and the impact of your support. Your partnership is invaluable in helping us strengthen communities and ensure all youth feel seen, supported, and empowered. Thank you again for your commitment to this work."



Shaina Fraser, Exec Dir, Families First Community Center:

"Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you so much! Our community is blessed that we have this collaboration!"

Rosalina Moore, Exec Dir, HOME, Inc.

This is such amazing news! Thank you so much for the Opportunity Fund Committee's generous support of H.O.M.E. Inc. We are truly grateful for this award, which will allow us to continue the critical work of the H.O.M.E. Navigator program, ensuring that individuals and families receive the guidance and resources they need to transition into stable housing.

Your belief in our mission means the world to us, and this funding will make a real difference in the lives of those we serve. Please extend our heartfelt gratitude to the entire committee! We deeply appreciate your commitment to supporting our community.



Building Hope: Ending Homelessness in Maine Report

The distribution of ***BUILDING HOPE: Ending Homelessness in Maine*** was given a huge boost with a grant of \$8,000 from the Opportunity Fund of the UU Congregation of Castine in February 2025.

As a result we have been able to book the following screenings:

- February 24 Lincoln Theater, Damariscotta, ME
- March 12 St. Philip Lutheran Church, Littleton, CO
- March 21 Carrabassett Valley Public Library, Carrabassett Valley, ME
- April 2 Foundation for Portland Public Schools, Portland, ME
- April 11 Center Theater for the Performing Arts, Dover-Foxcroft, ME (redux)
- April 15 Colonial Theater, Belfast, ME
- April 17 College of the Atlantic, Center for Human Ecology, Bar Harbor, ME
- TBA Curtis Memorial Library, (redux)

Fourteen theaters, churches, museums, retreats, and libraries have already screened the film. All have had excellent in person expert panel discussions.

Many other communities in Maine are requesting screenings including: Machias; Belfast; Waldoboro; Farmington; Winterport; Bethel; Waterville; Brunswick; others.

We have created a one-page “Tool Kit” -- ***WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP*** that is being distributed to every venue screening the film.

Betsey Harding (friends of Gil and Brooke Tenney) have been on the forefront of pushing the distribution of ***BUILDING HOPE***. Here’s

a note from Betsey to several legislators advocating that the film be shown at the Maine Legislature:

“It’s excellent that this movie is generating awareness, concern, and questions about how we can make a difference. ...working through Maine State government has to be our best approach. Can we who have seen the movie ... work with our legislators to get Building Hope shown in a legislative session? ... We need action before the awareness and concern fades into the background.” Betsey Harding

We have followed up on Betsey’s connections with several legislators and have been offered March 27 or April 22. We are awaiting confirmation from Senator Rachel Talbot Ross who is hosting the screening. Speaking afterwards will be Greg Payne, Governor Mills’ Senior Policy Director for Housing, Cullen Ryan, Director of Community Housing of Maine; and Senator Talbot Ross.

We have edited an hour version at the request of Maine Public that is expecting to broadcast the film in September. At that time there is the hope that they could have a panel discussion with some of Maine’s greatest advocates to help end homelessness. If you believe this is important, it would be helpful to contact Maine Public to encourage that they both broadcast the film and hold a 30-minute panel discussion afterwards. Please call: 1-800-884-1717 and add your voice to our advocates.

A big thank you to the Opportunity Fund to helping make this happen.

Richard Kane and Melody Lewis-Kane
Director and Producer of ***BUILDING HOPE***



Castine Wood Bank

The Need for Accessible Firewood Has Never Been Greater.

The Castine Wood Bank is a volunteer heating assistance program, supporting the needs of the surrounding communities of Castine

In University of Maine professor Jessica Leahy's report on poverty and heating challenges, Jessica stated "Lots of people are on the edge of poverty...Heating their homes becomes one of those things that is especially hard to cover".

After reading this report in 2015, a few Castine residents agreed to start a local and volunteer wood bank program.

Since our start, 10 years ago, the number of wood banks in Maine has grown substantially. So too, has the need for heating assistance. To keep pace with the growing demand, **we need to grow our team with more volunteers to cut, split, stack, deliver wood, manage communications and build financial support.**

With a vision of future growth, Castine Wood Bank volunteers are talking with a newly formed, state-wide, supporting network.

Maine Wood Banks Network

*"Fueling New Wood Banks,
Stoking Stronger Communities,*

Maine Wood Banks Network is a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to expanding and strengthening wood banks across the state. We provide **expert consultation, mentorship, and hands-on support to help both new and existing wood banks thrive.** By joining our network, wood banks gain access to vital resources, shared equipment, fundraising opportunities, and professional services—all **designed to increase efficiency, reduce risk, and maximize impact.** With Maine's heavily forested landscape (89% coverage) and half of households relying on wood heat, **the need for accessible firewood has never been greater".**

Please join our team, so we might better serve a critical need.

Contact Gil Tenney 326-4372

gtenney@maine.rr.com or

Pedrick Sweet 326- 4924



No Neighbor Left Behind—April 11th

Thankfully, the days are growing brighter and spring might just be around the corner! Our next NNLB meal takes place on April 11. The menu consists of pork loin slices, baked potatoes, a vegetable, and pineapple upside-down cake.

As ever, volunteers are needed to cook the loins, bake the potatoes, and make the dessert. We can heat up the vegetable in the UUCC kitchen. Additionally, we need drivers to deliver these meals.



I have included the pineapple upside-down recipe below. Each recipe makes 12 servings—so twelve batches are needed. I have the pineapple rings to distribute to dessert volunteers. I have 28 lemon-garlic marinated loins that need baking. An oven using two racks can accommodate at least 10 loins—so three volunteers will be needed for the meat portion of this meal. Three people can bake the potatoes.

I will start distributing potatoes, pork, and pineapple at the end of March/ beginning of April. We will meet at 1 pm to box the meals and send them on their way by 3 pm. Let me know how you would like to participate and we will make meal magic happen once again!

Thank you for all you do—Johanna Sweet. (johanna.s.sweet@gmail.com; 207-326-4924)

PINEAPPLE UPSIDE-DOWN CAKE

Make yellow cake batter for a 9 x 13 size pan. This can be from scratch (Use recipe below, if you would like, but it must be DOUBLED) or from a standard size yellow cake mix. Once mixed set aside and prepare the pan. Pineapple upside-down Cake: Preheat the oven at 350 F. Place 1/2 cup butter in bottom of 9 x 13 pan and put in warming oven to gently melt. Remove pan from oven and sprinkle 1 cup (packed) brown sugar on top of the melted butter. Place 12 drained pineapple rings (3 x 4—and the three depth row will be a squeeze) on top of sugar/butter. Put halved maraschino cherries in the centers of the pineapple rings with the cut side facing you and the rounded side facing down. Place slightly toasted pecan halves in spaces between and around the pineapple rings. Pour yellow cake batter over the ingredients already in the pan. Bake approx. 35 - 45 minutes—until wooden toothpick in the center comes out clean. Invert onto a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Let the pan sit there for a few minutes before lifting it off the cake. Makes 12 servings.

DOUBLE THIS RECIPE IF YOU WOULD LIKE A HANDY FROM SCRATCH CAKE.

Betty Crocker Dinette Cake Recipe

- 1 1/4 cups flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1/3 cup shortening
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp vanilla



Measure all ingredients into large mixer bowl. Blend 1/2 minute on low, scraping the sides to incorporate all ingredients. Beat 3 minutes at high speed and pour over prepared pineapple pan.



In Memory of Jean Devereux



Photo courtesy of Wilson Museum

From Leslie Fairbank

We first met Jean when we started attending UUCU in about 2007 or so. She was one of the people who warmly welcomed new folks. Always a warm smile, always concern for others and a great deal of affirmation and affection for the children. One day, after service, we had a problem with our car. Jean came along and rescued us in various ways which began a closer connection, that eventually brought her and her beloved JackBe to spend the winter with us during which we shared stories and became very close. I know she served on the Board in several capacities, was a lifelong UU, and was deeply committed to the Principles. She served the broader community in many ways including as president of the Hospital Auxiliaries of Maine, as a Hospice leader and volunteer, giver of rides to anyone who needed, and in innumerable other ways. She practiced Love in so many ways. Spending time with Jean over these last years has been one of the deepest joys of my life, a privilege indeed. I miss her greatly.

We remember that Jean housed the unhoused in her Dad and Mom's summer camp on Rt 166.

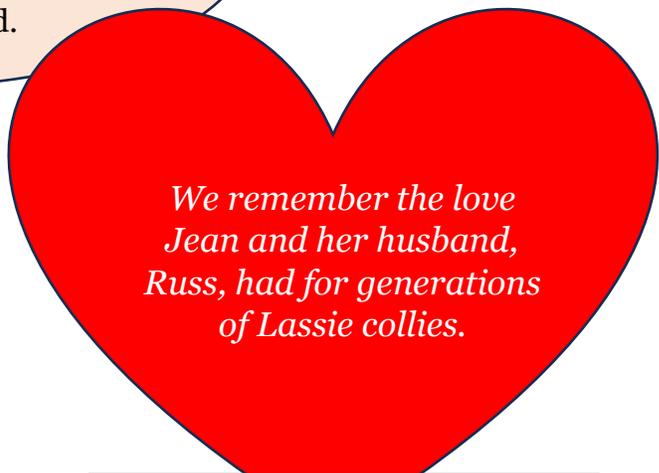
We remember Jim's dilapidated land yacht in her driveway and how Jean enjoyed watching racoons jump merrily through the roof and its broken windshield from her kitchen door.

I remember that Jean spent endless hours on telephone, reading the Ellsworth American to her visually impaired friend.

From Rev. Margaret Beckman

What I most remember about Jean is her kindness. She went out of her way to be a friend and to practice kindness. She provided financial and emotional support to many in and around our Castine community. She was a staunch supporter of the young Filipino students in Aquino and our Dollars for Scholars initiative. Jean gave folks the benefit of the doubt, thinking the best of them ... unless they proved to be undeserving of that benefit. For Jean did not suffer fools or cruelty easily. She very deeply believed, understood, and acted on the truth that Justice is Love in Action.

I will miss her wonderful story-telling. Her life was long and full of extraordinary experiences, uplifting and devastating. She kept a strong spirit and an open heart. As I recall her, she as much as anyone I've known practiced the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism.



We remember the love Jean and her husband, Russ, had for generations of Lassie collies.

I remember that Jean always baked cardamom yeast rolls for UUCU potluck luncheons and Board meetings.



Jean E. Devereux

September 09, 1934 - January 27, 2025

[from Bangor Daily News]

Jean E. Devereux passed peacefully at The House of Comfort, Presque Isle, on January 27, 2025. She was born September 9, 1934, the daughter of Colin and Evelyn Maloney Darrell, in Worcester, MA.

Jean is survived by three daughters, Audrey Peasley of Brooksville, Andrea Devereux of Penobscot, and Allayne Snowden of Deer Isle; a sister, Evelyn Hill of Worcester, MA. She was predeceased by son, Charles Devereux Jr. (Susan) of Ft. Pierce, FL. Jean's fourteen grandchildren include Diane Harmon (Brent), Berwyn Peasley Jr. (Linda), Debra Werts (Wayne), Christine Doyle, Kathleen Doyle, James R. Doyle, Dennis Doyle, Patrick Doyle (Heather), Audrey Snowden (Moya), Beverly Williams (Will), Elizabeth Devereux, Merle Devereux, Brian Devereux (Angie), and Michelle Devereux. She leaves fifteen great-grandchildren, and many great-great-grandchildren, godchildren, nieces and nephews, all who were loved deeply by Jean. She also leaves her dear friend, Cyndy Willis of Penobscot. She was predeceased by her husband, Russell Devereux.

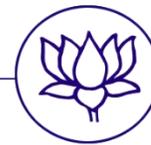


Photo courtesy of Castine Woman's Club

Jean will be remembered for the countless hours she gave to others, volunteering at Blue Hill Hospital, promoting hospice in the area, cooking for church suppers and functions, and being a willing sitter for the many grandchildren and friends. Her culinary skills included her incredible mac and cheese dish! She was a member of both the American and Maine Hospital Association, Blue Hill Hospital Auxiliary, Hospice of Blue Hill, Castine Grange, Castine

Women's Club, Dr. Mary Cushman Circle, and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation to name a few of the organizations with which she was associated.

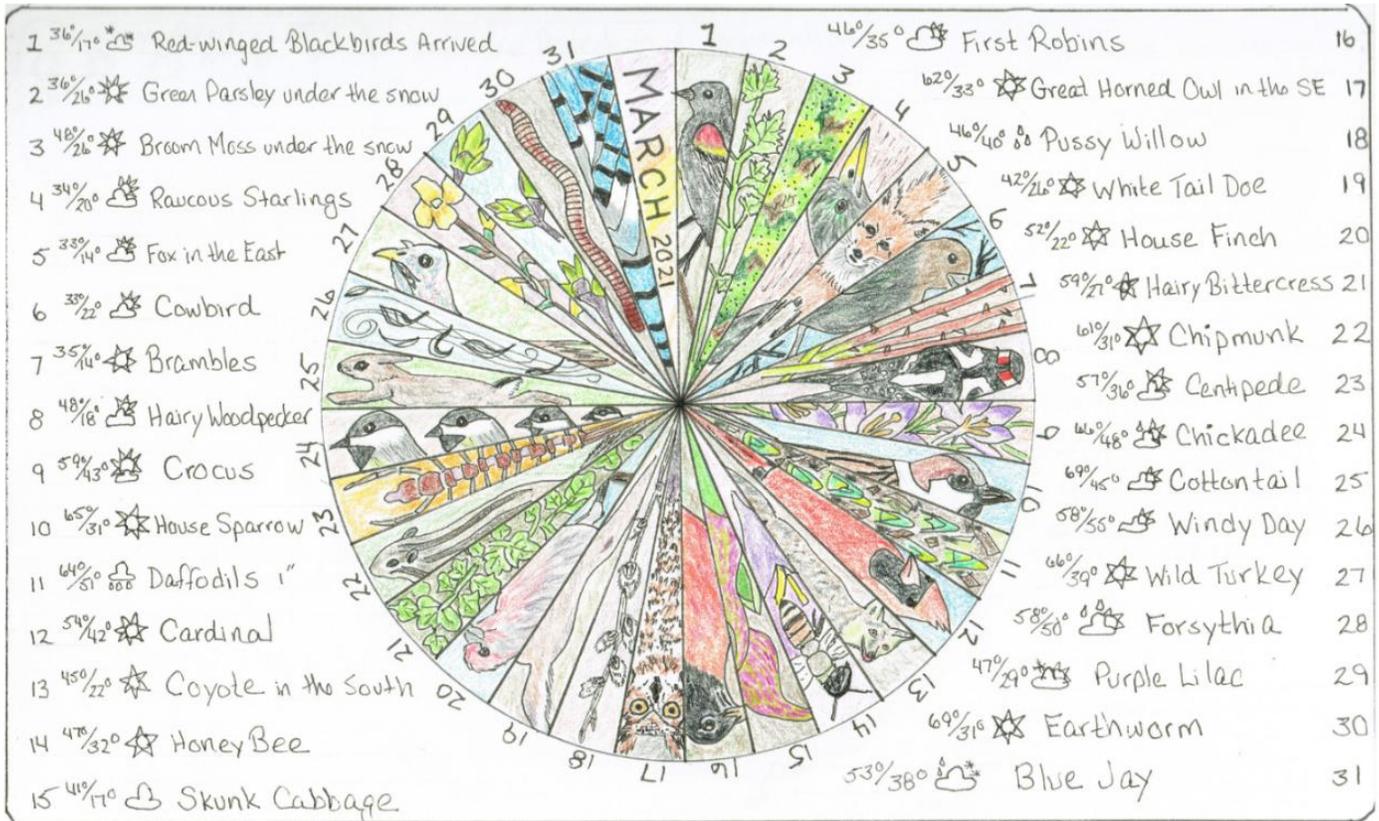
A celebration of life will be held at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine on April 19 at 1 p.m. with a reception following the service. The committal will be at the family cemetery in Penobscot, on June 6. Arrangements are under the care of Mitchell-Tweedie Funeral Home and Cremations Services, Bucksport.
mitchelltweedie-young.com



A few more memories of Jean:

- ♥ I remember Jean sitting in the Meeting House in one of the chairs along the back organ loft wall. She had someone come to her with the microphone during joys and concerns, and someone always was happy to do so.
- ♥ I remember that Jean drove Nancy multiple times to MD appts in Scarborough.
- ♥ I remember Jean sitting in "her chair" during coffee hour holding conversation with whoever sat with her that day.
- ♥ I remember Jean crafting during UUCC small group meetings.
- ♥ I remember Jean at the Filipino Dinner with a few young Filipino students, introducing them and encouraging them to tell us about their lives.





"I live in Rockwood, PA on a small farm. I created this phenology wheel a few years ago. Each day I looked for flora or fauna to add to the wheel for that day. I also added the weather for the day. I was so surprised at some of the things I saw and heard. I know I would have missed some of them if I hadn't been looking so intently to do this project! It's a terrific way to increase your awareness of what is going on in your backyard and track changes from year to year."

Submitted to UUMFE by Susan Levy. [Click here](#) to view a larger version of the image.



We're marching into spring
Don't forget to change your clocks on March 9th!

