

# THE COMMON

A Liberal Faith | Love Beyond Belief | A Community of Caring

## A Little Different

Hello all, You may have noticed that this month's UCC newsletter is a little different. I have put it together as best I can, though in a little rush. It is a labor of love, but a bit unorganized and certainly not up to the standards you are used to under the careful work of our dear Kent Price and Rev. Margaret. Please accept this edition with my humble thanks and appreciation for all that you are and all that you do.

Warmly,

Amy Fiorilli



## A Note from our President

We send our deepest condolences to Pastor Margaret and her siblings and families as they mourn the passing of Margaret's mother. Margaret will be with the family for the funeral on Friday, May 4 and for some days as they celebrate her life and share memories. Fortunately, the family had been called to visit last week while Mrs. Beckman was fully present. Our thoughts and prayers are with Margaret's family at this time.

The congregation is grateful to Amy Fiorilli for offering assistance in various ways during Margaret's time of loss. She is putting together this newsletter and has volunteered to preach on Mother's Day. She will also preach on May 20th as scheduled which will be her last as our Intern. We have enjoyed having Amy's cheerful, youthful presence and wish her every good thing as she continues her journey to full time ministry.

Warm regards to all, Leslie

## Multi Church Worship Service

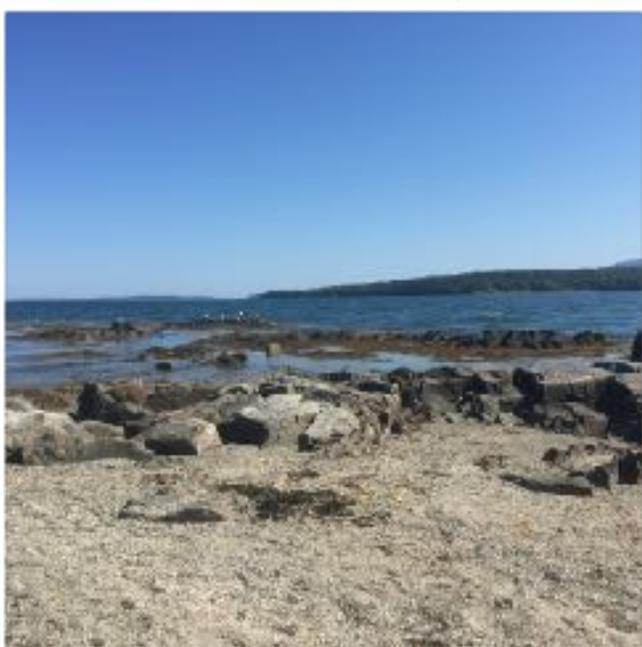
### June 3rd 2018

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 This year's theme is:  
 How Will We Shine?

Mark your calendars and plan your picnic. The Collaborative Ministry Team is happy to be putting on the 3rd annual Multi Church Worship service to be held in Belfast's new sanctuary.

Pick up choir will meet at 9:30am. Service begins at 10:30am. Bring your picnic lunch and join everyone at Belfast City Park after the service for fun and fellowship.

There will be music, and stories, ritual and inspiration from members of all three of our sister congregations. Come take a journey through the last three years, how did we start, where are we now and how will we shine?



## UCC Opportunity Fund Makes a Difference

Through our **UCC Opportunity Fund** we can make a positive difference in the lives of those caught in the grip of poverty. Seven years ago, I was told that to make a difference, the most important thing I could do is to build community awareness and (I would add) engagement. In this spirit, I share with you the text of an email forwarded to me by one of our Opportunity Fund partners.

*"I have in the last 5 days found myself homeless and broke. I am currently residing in my car. I have tried every other resource for even a little bit of assistance as I have not eaten in 3 days. I still have 2 weeks before I can get a food box from either the Emmaus center or Loaves and Fishes. Then I have nowhere to cook. So I need foods I can eat cold or warm up on the defrost in my car. My husband was laid off all winter and has just returned to work... but I also need a way to get him to work as I have no money for gas... and he doesn't get his first check until next Friday. I am looking for just a little bit of assistance. Someone said sometimes churches have a fund set aside to help local people. This goes against everything in me to beg for help... I have always been the person that has helped others throughout my life. I am now out of resources and I have nowhere to turn."*

I, in turn, sent this call for help to the Castine churches and, in short order, received \$170 in Hannaford meal

cards which I delivered to the Opportunity Fund partner who initiated this email chain. I am so grateful for the charity and good will of our community.

What I learned from this experience was there is a vital need for some form of a "crisis network" to provide, on short notice, a modest amount of money to help someone get over an unexpected crisis. I am open to anyone's thoughts (326-4372 or [gtenney@maine.rr.com](mailto:gtenney@maine.rr.com)).



### Lakeside Reflections May, 2018

It is a Mother’s Day custom born a century ago that for many people, endures. Those whose mothers are dead commemorate by wearing white flowers; those whose mothers are alive celebrate with buds of red. I’m not sure how many of us follow this custom, but I’m pretty sure the florists are all in alignment with wonderful arrangements of both red or white carnations.

In the past, I haven’t taken extreme notice of this color differentiation, except that I try to have both colors in the floral arrangements at church. This year is a little different for me. On April 27<sup>th</sup>, my mother died at age 92 after a long and good life. So, for me, this is my first Mother’s Day without a living mother. Many of you have already been where I now find myself. Some of you continue to enjoy the company of your mother. A few of you may not have memories or a present experience of a nurturing and loving mother. We come from all kinds of families and some of us grow up without a sense of family. As adults, we choose our family from among the people who know and love us. This year, I am remembering my mother. Elizabeth Jordan Schabacker Beckman (June 14, 1925 – April 27, 2018). I have extremely wonderful memories of my mom. I am very lucky, I know. My mom seemed to me to be about three things as priorities in her life. Family. Faith. Community. I can only hope to live my life with these three as well she lived hers. Here is a picture of my family together celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Mom & Dad. You might just be



able to spot the two of them hiding in the middle of the pack, surrounded by their

family. However you choose to mark May 13<sup>th</sup>, may your day be filled with love and kindness.

Namaste, **Margaret**



Religious Education  
The Common  
May, 2018

Alas, May will bring those long awaited flowers and a special day to celebrate all that our mothers have done and do to help us in this very complicated world we live in. This past year, our religious education class has explored the lives of children from other countries and how they do things. I wondered whether Mother's Day was celebrated in other countries in the world. The answer is yes, but sometimes on a different day other than the second Sunday in May.

I did some searching to see how Mother's Day is celebrated in the Philippines:

In the Philippines, Mother's Day is celebrated with great enthusiasm and is celebrated on the same day we celebrate it in the United States. Mothers are held in high esteem and have various nicknames such as Mama, Nanay, Mom, Mommy and many others. The children denote their mother by "ilaw ng tahanan," which means the "light of the house." Mothers bring cheerfulness to the household. They sacrifice their own interests to serve the children, and they make sure they keep the well-being of the entire family alive.

Not only do the people of the Philippines honor their mothers on this day, but they revere their grandmothers, cousins, aunts and every other female member of the family. Children draw pictures of their mothers on cards, and they might arrange for breakfast in bed. Husbands give their wives gifts and arrange to take them on a trip of relaxation.

Along with honoring our mothers on May 13<sup>th</sup> by making cards and gifts, our religious education class will celebrate "creativity" during the month of May----with stories, games and craft activities.

Kay Hansen  
Religious Educator



***Woullard Lett***  
***Acting Regional Lead***  
***New England Region UUA***

We are delighted to announce that Woullard Lett will join the New England Region UUA as Acting Regional Lead starting May 1, 2018.

Woullard is a long-time member and congregational lay leader at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Manchester, NH and board member of Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community.

Professionally, Woullard works as a nonprofit and community development consultant, and was a senior college administrator for Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) and adjunct faculty member for SNHU and Springfield College. During his career, Woullard has provided technical assistance for government agencies, national community development intermediaries, and local community organizations.

Woullard's volunteer leadership in national and local community organizations includes roles in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People-Manchester, NH (NAACP), Haymarket Peoples Foundation, National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA), New Hampshire Health and Equity Partnership and the Ujima Collective.

Please join us in welcoming Woullard Lett to the New England Region UUA team!



From your Intern:

I write this while looking out my window at the gray sky. I wish it wasn't so gloomy and yet hope is all around that spring is coming. I will choose gratitude this morning. My days and weeks have gone by so fast during this internship. I will admit to an excitement as I think about bringing this school semester to a close. I have one more paper to write and one more project to finish. I am beginning to write my self-evaluation, which I will send to the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the UUA as part of my application to enter into primary fellowship as a UU Minister. This is all very real now. I am enjoying the opportunity to reflect on all the things we have done together over the past 8 months. Worship services, discussion groups, a March for Our Lives event, fundraising, stewardship, multi gen services,

potlucks, community engagement, pastoral visits and classes.

I have learned so much. You all are my teachers. There are things I wish I'd done, things that I will not find space and time during this internship to do. Things that I had ambitiously planned for. I wish I had spent some Sundays in RE. I wish I had offered a class on theology. I wish I had recorded my services and been brave enough to watch them. I wish I had started a peace and social action group for the collaborative. I wish I could've attended every single amazing thing that each of my congregations offered.

Still as I sit here, I recognize that it was enough. It is enough. It is more than enough. We have created an abundance of experience together and it has meant the world to me. I have six more amazing, full and rich weeks with all of you. I promise to make the most of it.

Sincerely,

Your Ministerial Intern,

Amy Fiorilli