



THE COMMON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF CASTINE

May 2020

May Services — Services are Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

A Month of Sundays – Subject to Change, Of Course

We expect to be together via Zoom for Sunday Services through May.

May 3:

On Becoming Real

Lane Fisher, Worship Leader

Ian Brenner-Simpson, Musician

May 10:

Jeni & Mattie: A Love Story for Mothers Day

Rev. Margaret Beckman, Worship Leader

Colleen Fitzgerald, Musician

May 17:

The Inequalities of Covid-19:

A Religious Response

Rev. Margaret Beckman, Worship Leader

Juliane Gardner & Chris Poulin, Musicians

May 24:

Memorial Day with Black Flies

& Mosquitoes – but No Parades

Rev. Margaret Beckman, Worship Leader

Colleen Fitzgerald, Musician

May 31:

TBA



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, Maine 04421

207-326-9083 • Office 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, May 2020



My mother, Elizebeth Jordan Schabacker Beckman, died two years ago this week on April 27, 2018. My oldest sister, Jean, sent all of us kids this photograph with a single word, “remembering.” We all knew exactly what the message was and what it means to us. We did remember and we shared in emails back and forth our memories.

These two turquoise flower vases were two of Mom’s favorites. Perhaps it’s because they are beautiful, simple and elegant, or perhaps it’s because they were her mother’s and adorned the sideboard in our Grandmother’s dining room many days throughout each spring and summer. Probably for both reasons my mother loved these vases. Now, filled with flowers from her garden, they adorn my sister Jean’s home (she lives in southern Indiana and spring is giving way to summer weather already). What a simple gift we shared in quietly remembering Mom.

Now, I am spending many hours in our den where my desk and books and other church paraphernalia reside. There are photographs here with me. One of my mother. One of my father’s mother. One of my mother’s father. I see them all as I sit at my desk and work. Remembering them is a comfort. I can

be caught by an instant of grief, especially when I see my mother’s face, and even that is a comfort. We grieve what we have loved and lost, and in this way, grief helps keeps love alive.

This year, our Memorial Day celebrations will be different. No parade from the Castine cemetery to the Common to the town dock. No big family gatherings at grave sites to clean up the detritus of winter and lay fresh flowers. If we engage in cemetery visits, they will be solitary and subdued. Picnics will be small, intimate affairs with potato salad, hot dogs and chips, but not with neighbors and friends and Aunts and Uncles and Cousins who drive long hours to be together.

In the relative quiet of your May celebrations, may you find and cherish a peace in your emotions and remembrances. May each of us be grateful for those close by and those still far away. May we be effusive in our expressions of love. May we know that more than anything else, kindness and compassion are called for in these days of social distance and emotional closeness.

May you take time to remember and cherish those whom you have loved and lost and thus keep love alive. I’ll be remembering and cherishing my mom and dad this Memorial Day.

Namaste, *Margaret*



President's Desk

A Response to Pandemic and Economic Realities

There is much we cannot do these days there is also much we can do. We can't wish away COVID-19, we cannot wish away the present economic crisis but we can offer help to members of our congregation and to our neighbors in the Blue Hill Peninsula community.

The 2020 budget has a Charitable Budget Distribution line item for \$2,500. At the March governing board meeting \$7,500 from the Opportunity Fund was added to the \$2,500 for a total of \$10,000. The intent is to be able to help with food insecurity, rent, utilities etc. as needs arise. Margaret Beckman and Anne Price will be administering this fund. Please contact them if you or someone you know is in need.

Also, a group of concerned citizens, representatives from Castine churches, and Shawn Blodgett, Castine Town Manager, met with the same concerns surrounding the pandemic and economic crisis. The Castine Area Relief Fund was created using \$2,000 from the Town of Castine, \$1,500 from our Charitable Budget

Distribution fund, a donation from the Trinitarian Congregation of Castine and private donations. This fund is for food as well as other necessities. On Friday, April 24 the fund distributed 12 boxes of food from T&C to those in need. This distribution will be ongoing as long as funds are available. Donations to Castine Area Relief Fund may be sent to Castine Community Partners, a 501 C3 organization, Box 506, Castine, ME 04421.

Another effort in Castine which addresses food insecurity is Blue Angel. This effort was started last summer by Deborah Joy Corey. Deborah and her family prepare and distribute nearly 50 meals per week. Our Charitable Budget Distribution fund donated \$1,000 to this effort. A donation to Blue Angel may be made at blueangelme.org or at Box 161 Castine, ME, 04421.

Phone calls and emails abound with information about each effort with confidentiality maintained where necessary. It is an example of the Interdependent Web that works so well.

Take Care and Be well,
Brooke Tenney

Just for fun!

For a good laugh during a challenging time. Thanks to Elaine Gerard-Climo for sending these in! These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

From your Collaborative Ministry Team intern



[“Life twists and sourdough cinnamon and chocolate twist bread,”](#) the food blog post was titled. Really, I just wanted an excuse to eat chocolate, and the fact that this life is full of twists is more than a good enough excuse, right? Sadly, I don’t get to share this decadence with you.

More twists in life than in this bread; among them, for many though not all of us, an unexpected check for \$1200. For me, it’s like another month’s income from my internship. For some, this is vitally needed cash to compensate, in some small way, for lost income, for increased expenses, for existing debts. But for others, including myself, for whom there is not acute need to spend this money, this is an opportunity for reinvestment, for reparations. I’ve been strongly influenced by this blog post by Susan Raffo, [“time to redistribute](#)

[those stimulus checks, baby,”](#) which has inspired me to look for ways to give this money away. I have yet to budget out exactly how I want to divide the money, but I’m thinking about two grand categories: 1) directly addressing problems, such as by funding the installation of hand washing stations in homeless encampments, supporting out-of-work artists, or helping meet the needs of frontline responders; and 2) investing in the kind of future world I want to be a part of. To this end, I was excited to learn about Sherri Mitchell’s [Wicuhkemtultine Kinship Community and Learning Center](#). I feel called to invest, as I can, in this compelling vision for a land-based indigenous-led community and place of learning built on ideas of sovereignty and mutual aid. I want to live in a world in which reciprocity is honored, in which indigenous people are respected and Traditional Ecological Knowledge is revered. I want to participate in a gift economy, giving so that others may also give, not expecting anything in return. I don’t know that I will ever be blessed with a direct relationship to this place and project, but I believe that our state, our country, our world, will be better for places like this. I give, to this project and elsewhere, with a dream for a future I want to live in held closely in my head and in my heart. I give, with the faith that you will support your congregation so that it may continue to cultivate generosity, and in doing so work to model the world of which we dream.

Dreaming of a world in which
we break bread together,
Ariel

Religious Education

Happy Spring!

The children of Timberwyck Farm have been very busy this spring! They have built their own little gardens, cared for new chicks and kept up with their schoolwork. Silas is a real reader now and Jane has taken her role as oldest sister seriously as she learns to help with Nabby. Asa continues his work trying to keep up with Jane and Silas and Nabby is now a steady walker. She is even saying some words including “up, chick” and “outside”. She regularly puts together a daring ensemble of a pink hat with bunny ears, a diaper and ladybug boots to show she’s ready to go outside to work in the garden. There is no shortage of care for our “Blue Boat Home” and celebration of the wonders of nature for these little ones this spring.

Our R.E. work this spring has come in the best way possible, naturally. There has been no need for contrived lessons about life and death, kindness and gratitude or the importance of relationships. All of these themes have arisen naturally. The children use the dinner table to sort out what’s happening in our home and our world as well as a place to share what makes us feel gratitude. Daily life in a house of eight people offers ample opportunities to practice patience, generosity and kindness.

And so, for now, we are well. The children continue their work of becoming themselves and so do the adults. We hope you too are well and that you can join us in approaching our days with curiosity and gratitude.

Love and warmth from Timberwyck Farm

Jessica Rollerson

From the UUA President

The following is part of an email message from Unitarian Universalist Association President, Rev. Susan Fredrick-Gray:

Two weeks ago, it became clear to me that my normal spiritual practices were not cutting it. I felt so worn down. I had a longing for more time to be present to the emotional realities all around me. I realized I was compartmentalizing my grief and fear – putting it away in order to stay focused on tasks at hand. While this strategy works in the short term, I’ve learned if I don’t make time to return to the pain I set aside, it finds its way in – generally as exhaustion, short-temperredness, forgetfulness, even depression.

...It’s easy to feel anxious and overwhelmed at this time. Remember that you are enough and that rest and joy are essential for resiliency. They are a source of our creativity and compassion. And just as others are in need of compassion, so are you.

...Recognizing this need in my own heart, mind and body, I’ve lengthened my time for morning meditation to make more space to feel and to be attentive to all that is in my heart. I’ve pulled out poems that make me smile and remember the beauty and joy in life. And I’ve started listening to more music and singing aloud to my favorites. I’m also trying to teach our dog to dance. It’s not going well, but it is getting me to dance!

In these difficult and painful times, we need joy. Joy is life-saving. Joy helps nurture our resilience. Above all, I pray you are making time to care for your well-being because you are a good gift. You are valuable, needed and loved. Taking care of yourself matters.

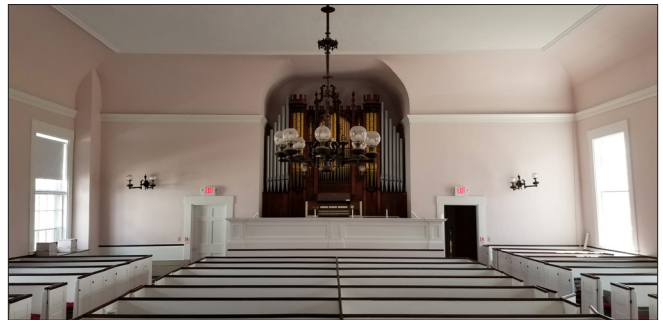
Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, UUA President

Our Meeting House Awaits Our Return

The painting of our historic Meeting House and the upgrade of our sound system are finished. These were major upgrades to the beauty and function of our worship space. We will paint the numbers on the pew box doors when we find someone to do this painstaking work. We'll be bringing the decorations and worship elements back into our space when it is safe to do so.

We've cancelled or delayed all public gatherings in the Meeting House through the end of May. Summer may bring an improved situation for the health and safety of public gatherings.

Here's a sneak peek at how beautiful the Meeting House is now.



Ferry Beach Collaborative Ministry Retreat

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN
until May 17th



The ocean is calling you for a long weekend (August 21-24, 2020) of relaxation, spirituality, creativity, music, worship, s'mores, bonfires, swimming, dancing, workshops

and delicious food with members of the UU Ellsworth, UU Belfast and our UU Castine congregations.

Registration for our Multi-church Summer Retreat has begun and continues until May 17th. A \$25.00 NON-REFUNDABLE deposit is due when you register. Ferry Beach has changed the cancelation policy due to COVID-19 and Anne Ossanna (Ellsworth UU Church) will keep us posted as this develops. As of right now a full refund, minus the \$25.00 deposit per registration will be refunded if you or Ferry Beach cancels due to COVID-19 two weeks prior to our retreat.

There are no hotel options this year. The fee includes housing for 3 nights, housekeeping, all programming and 9 delicious ALL YOU CAN EAT meals. There is a lobster option for Sunday dinner with the cost of \$13.00 per lobster, which must be ordered and paid for by May 10th.

DETAILS:

- Adults 18+ \$325.00 each (includes shared dorm room, housekeeping, programming and 9 meals)
- Adults 18+ \$375.00 each (includes ADA double room, housekeeping, programming and 9 meals)

- Youth 9-17 \$130.00 each (includes shared dorm or campsite with parent(s), housekeeping, programming and 9 meals)
- Children (age 8 and under) \$25.00
- Tent sites are \$120.00 per site for 3 nights; RV sites are \$144.00 per site for 3 nights; Large RV sites are \$150.00 per site for 3 nights
- Adult 18+ Camper Plan \$150.00 per person (includes programming and 9 meals)
- Day pass for individuals not staying overnight on campus \$10.00 per day per person plus \$25.00 Registration fee to cover programming. Meals not included.
- A la cart meals: Breakfast \$15.00 adult/\$11.00 youth/free ages 8 and younger; Lunch \$15.00 adult/\$14.00 youth/free ages 8 and younger; Dinner \$22.00 adult/\$17.00 youth/free ages 8 and younger.
- Lobster for Sunday dinner \$13.00 per lobster

Very limited partial scholarships are available. Ask Margaret Beckman about getting a scholarship to attend our Ferry Beach Retreat.

GET THE REGISTRATION BY EMAILING
MARGARET BECKMAN (mabme@aol.com)

Please send your completed registration form and \$25.00 made payable to UUCE to:

Anne Ossanna
69 Great Pond Road
Franklin, ME 04635

