



# THE COMMON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF CASTINE

May 2023

## A Month of Sundays in May

7	Worship Leader - Guest Minister Rev. Dr. Deane Perkins Musicians – Chris Poulin & Juliane Gardner
14	Mother's Day – What Mr. Rogers can say about “mothering” our children and ourselves. Worship Leader – Rev. Margaret Beckman Musician – Colleen Fitzgerald
21	The Path of Creativity Worship Leaders – Rev. Margaret Beckman & Johanna Sweet Musicians – Karen Froehly and Morgan Davis Potluck
28	The Unitarian Flower Celebration Worship Leader – Rev. Margaret Beckman Musician – Colleen Fitzgerald



### 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](mailto:office@uucastine.org)  
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



May is always a beautiful time, you actually feel like going outside, enjoying the green grass and planning your gardens. It is a time when we celebrate Mother's Day and Memorial Day.

I was blessed with a wonderful mother and two great mothers-in-law. I only hope I was that good to our son Michael for the short time we had him. He was the joy of my life.

And Memorial Day, the sorrow and pain of so many lives lost to keep our freedom. We salute them all.

If Alvion and I were in Indiana we would be decorating everything in black and white for race day. I never went to church on that Sunday so I could hear "Back Home Again in Indiana" and cry. Silly, but true.

Let's enjoy "May in Maine" in any and every way you desire. Count your blessings, enjoy the weather and scenery and most of all be kind and understanding to each other.

Love to All, Cindi

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## Lakeside Reflections - May 2023

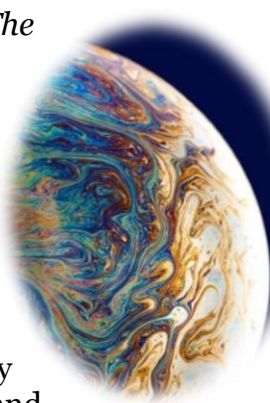
The Soul Matters theme for May is *The Path of Creativity*.

We talk about creativity, and we hunger for creativity, but how often do any of us practice creativity in our daily lives? Now that I think about it, I don't think that I have regarded creativity as a practice that I could add to my regular spiritual routine. I know many of you are much better at living with and expressing creativity, so I'll be paying attention a little bit more to you. .... and then, to me. I found a couple of quotes that helped to get me thinking.

*We have a mythology that tells us creativity is selfish. We are tutored to believe that artists are self-centered, but I think that as we experience our creativity, we experience a sense of expansion that is in fact the opposite of selfish. – Julia Cameron*

*So this, I believe, is the central question upon which all creative living hinges: Do you have the courage to bring forth the treasures that are hidden within you? - Elizabeth Gilbert*

We are leaving behind the April showers that bring May flowers. Watching the bushes, trees,



and flowers come to bloom here in Maine is a ritual of waiting for long weeks and then, when it comes, it comes fast. Nature's creativity is glorious. And inspiring. As I attempt to bring forth my own creativity, I invite you to do the same. Let's see where our creativity takes us. Meanwhile, I leave you with parting words from Rev. Tom Shade (retired UU minister).

*My friends,  
There is a power at work in the universe. It works through human hands, but it was not made by human hands. It is a creative, sustaining, and transforming power and we can trust that power with our lives [and with our ministries]. It will sustain us whenever we take a stand on the side of love; whenever we take a stand for peace and justice; whenever we take a risk.*

*Trust in that power  
We are, together, held by that power.*

We are indeed held by the most creative energy of all – the One Life, One Light, One Love we all share.

Namaste, *Margaret*





April 10, 2023

Rev. Margaret Beckman and Cindi Kimball  
 Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine  
 PO Box 520  
 Castine, ME 04421-0520

Dear Rev. Margaret and Cindi,

Thank you for the generous gift of \$1,000 for the 2023 Rainbow Ball Weekend.

This annual event is the largest LGBTQ+ youth event in the state, drawing youth from all around Maine. Your support is making this weekend of community connections and hope possible. Without you, our programs like the Rainbow Ball Weekend just could not happen.

Heartfelt thanks from the youth, staff, Board, and volunteers for your generosity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue B. Campbell".

Sue Campbell  
 Executive Director  
 she/her/hers

## UCC Supports the Rainbow Ball

Thanks to a donation from our Opportunity Fund, LGBTQ+ youth will enjoy a weekend where they can connect in a safe way with their peers. Just one more area where UCC is making a difference in our community.



A mother's heart  
 is a song  
 that puts rhythm  
 in your soul.

Nusrat Ahmed



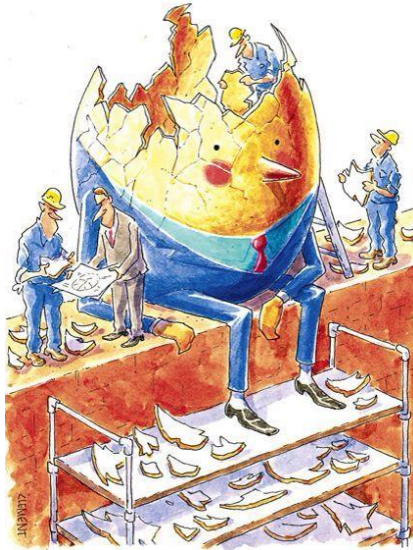


## Parish House Renovation Update

The members of the Parish House Renovation Committee, Tom Mason, Marcia Mason, Peter Fairbank, Gil Tenney, Brooke Tenney and Margaret Beckman wish to thank all of you who were able to attend the meeting on April 2nd for a vote to spend funds for renovation of the parish house. Your vote of confidence is appreciated.

I expect that by the time you read this the contract will be signed, we will be ramping up plans to rehouse, store, or dispose of all items in the parish house. If there is an item you gave to UUCC in the past and would like to have it returned to you please let us know. If you have your eye on a chair, table or another artifact please tell us. We will be sending you a MailChimp with photos and dimensions of everything that will go out the door and not be returned after the work is finished.

Is there a bowl or plate you brought for a potluck or coffee hour that you left behind?



The kitchen will be repainted necessitating the removal of all items on the shelves and in the drawers, so it is time to retrieve what was left by mistake. There are also books that might be of interest to you. Stop by when Debbie is in the office to take a look.

When the work starts in late June we will no longer have access to the Parish House. We WILL have access to the sanctuary so Sunday services will continue as usual. Debbie and Margaret will set up their temporary workspace in the back of the sanctuary. There will be a handicapped accessible port-a-potty outside the building.

Please let me know if you have questions or concerns as we progress.

I know we all look forward to October when we, unlike Humpty Dumpty, will be put back together again!

## UUA Article II Amendments

The UUA has been working on a proposed new draft of Article II of the UUA Bylaws.

Suggestions and ideas have been submitted for amendments for ways for modifying the Article II Study Commission proposal. Now it is time to discuss these suggestions.

### Discussions on Amendment Ideas - May

There will be three amendment discussion workshops. These are open to anyone. Whether or not you submit a suggestion or idea, we encourage you to join us for one or more of these workshops.

- **Amendment Discussion Workshop #1** Thursday, May 11, 2023 7pm ET  
[Register now for the May 11th workshop.](#)
- **Amendment Discussion Workshop #2** Thursday, May 18, 2023 7pm ET  
[Register now for the May 18th workshop.](#)
- **Amendment Discussion Workshop #3** Sunday, May 21, 2023 4pm ET  
[Register now for the May 21st workshop.](#)





A warming planet is increasing both the frequency and intensity of natural disasters.

This past year has been full of weather-related disasters that have negatively impacted our congregations. In the fall, **Hurricane Ian** swept across Florida; all winter atmospheric rivers dumped heavy rain and snow on the Pacific West; and more recently, multiple tornadoes have ripped across the south.

This year the **UUA Disaster Relief Fund** is set to distribute the most money to UU congregations since Hurricane Harvey hit in 2017. The disaster fund is at a desperately low level so that we can't fund the the full amount that our congregations need. **We need your help.**

**Give to Disaster Relief**

Here's how recent contributions to the disaster fund have been used to support UU congregations and their communities so far this fiscal year:

**Granted \$106,850 for hurricane relief in Florida** for damage to buildings and grounds, as well as to help support their members and neighbors in recovery efforts:

- All Faiths Unitarian Congregation, Fort Myers
- UU Church of Fort Myers
- UU Church of Lakeland
- UU Church of St. Petersburg
- UU Congregation of Venice
- UU Fellowship of Charlotte County, Port Charlotte

**Granted \$50,000 to support several congregational partners** around Selma, AL, after a tornado inflicted heavy damage to homes and businesses.

**Granted \$47,000 for storm relief in California** for recovery from impact of flooding and snow destruction caused by the atmospheric storms:

- UU Church of Berkeley
- UU Church of Monterey Peninsula
- UU Community of the Mountains, Grass Valley



We have additional aid applications pending requesting a total of \$150,000 for tornado and flood responses. **We will be unable to fulfill these requests without an influx of new contributions to the Disaster Relief Fund.**

**Can you make a gift today so the Disaster Relief Fund is available for UU congregations and their members who need it?**

Thank you for the many ways you give and serve. **Donate now**

In faith and gratitude, **Rev. Lauren Smith** Director of Stewardship and Development



# Grief Support Groups

*Support of others makes a difference.*

Often the stories and caring of others going through grief can ease your own grief journey. Our trained volunteer leaders provide a safe, accepting setting where your thoughts and feelings are welcome. You share only what you are comfortable sharing. During eight weekly sessions, you will explore the grief process and discuss many related topics. The support you receive, and the support you share with others, can help in healing. Please join us.

## **Spouse and Partner Loss Grief Support Group (In Person)**

May 9 - June 27

Tuesdays, 1:00-3:00pm

HVHC Office, 14 McKenzie Ave. Ellsworth, ME 04605

## **General Grief Support Group (Zoom)**

May 11 - June 29

Thursdays, 1:00-3:00pm

**Pre-register by May 3 at [hospiceofhancock.org](https://www.hospiceofhancock.org) or  
call us at 207-667-2531.**





## No Neighbor Left Behind - April 2023

A huge thank you to all who “stayed calm and carried on” on April 14th. Due to my testing positive for COVID on the 13th, I was not at the helm the next day, but you didn’t need for me! 124 shepherd pies were served with fruit salad as a side. Nine of you prepared the pies in your homes and delivered them to the church at 1 p.m. Twenty-four cans of tinned fruit salad and numerous pounds of fresh grapes were mixed together at the church and then packed into lidded containers. Jess Morehouse, Gil Tenney, and Pedrick Sweet delivered the meals.

And in the end, I think we proved that even without access to our kitchen facilities, as will be the case in July and October, we are capable

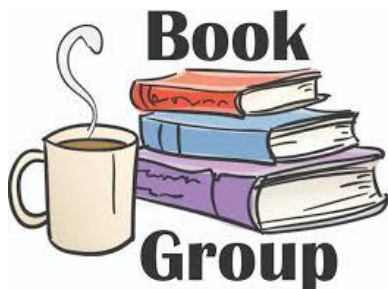


of pulling together these meals. Also, once a plan is in place, it can run smoothly with the concerted efforts of our NNLB crew!

We now look ahead to the second Friday in July. Chicken drumsticks with barbecue sauce, vegetable pasta salad, potato chips and jello with fruit will be our meal. Again, with volunteers baking the chicken and/or making pasta salads at home then delivering them to the church, we will be able to pack the meals fairly quickly and send them along.

As ever, it takes the fantastic team that you are to make these meals happen. Thank you.

Johanna Sweet



### Book

### Group

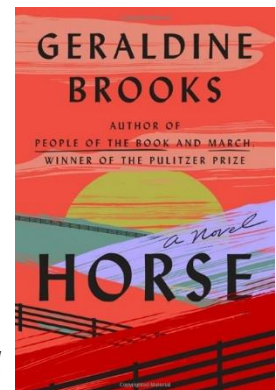
## UUC READS

**Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. on ZOOM.**

We are reading "Horse" by Geraldine Brooks.

*Despite the simplicity of the title, Geraldine Brooks' latest novel is a heart-pounding American epic that gallops backward and forward in time to tell a story about race and freedom, horses and art, and the lineage of not just ancestors but actions. In present day, we meet Theo Northam, a Black art historian who is researching 19th century equestrian paintings, and Jess, a bone specialist who is called to help uncover an old horse skeleton lodged somewhere in the Smithsonian. And flash back to the 1850s, there is Jarret Lewis, an enslaved groom for Lexington—a horse that will become the fastest thoroughbred ever to race—who desperately wants to be free but will do anything for the horse he's raised. Weaving together these different narratives, Horse tells a distinctly American story that shines a light on the legacy of slavery and the pursuit of independence.*

—Al Woodworth, Amazon Editor



Consider becoming part of the UU Reads book discussion. Click on the link below Tuesday, or drop an email to [office@uucastine.org](mailto:office@uucastine.org) and we will add you to the weekly reminder list.



excerpt from **Ten Thousand Baby Names**  
by Kathleen McTigue

What's in a name? Always, there is a story. You were named for a beloved relative or, contrarily, named after no one because your parents wanted a clean break from family history. If you were a first son and your family went in for such things, you got to be called after your father and have "junior" tacked on. If you were a daughter, you could be named for a virtue or aspiration such as Hope, Serenity, or Faith. Recalling some sweet romantic setting, your parents might have named you for their favorite Spanish or Italian village. Perhaps you carry the name of one of their heroes or heroines, or more whimsically, some favorite musician or movie star. Maybe you've ended up with an affectionate nickname born of a sibling's mispronunciation, or some jackass thing you tried as an adolescent and never lived down.

Always, there is a story.

In church on Sunday mornings we read aloud the names of the American soldiers killed in Iraq or Afghanistan each week. Alone in my study the night before, I speak each name out loud and then wonder about the stories. I



imagine these soldiers as the babies they once were, held in someone's arms at a baptism or naming ceremony. The proud relatives gathered around as the name was formally bestowed, and everyone beamed as the baby cooed or wailed or fidgeted. There was so much gladness and pride in each moment of naming, and not once did anyone imagine that the road their baby walked would end eighteen or twenty years later in a mix of blood and dust halfway around the world.

As part of a witness for peace on Memorial Day, a cairn of stones was built at a busy downtown intersection in Hartford, each stone bearing the name of a fallen American soldier, or one of the tens of thousands of Iraqi and Afghani civilians who have died in these wars. How do you choose one name from thousands, to symbolize so much carnage and loss? I finally brought three stones to the cairn, one for each of my own three children. Each stone bore the name of a child who had died on the birthday of one of mine. As I placed the stones, I wondered about their names.

Always, there is a story.

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Source: *Shine and Shadow*, by Kathleen McTigue. The Rev. Kathleen McTigue is the former minister of the Unitarian Society of New Haven, in Hamden, Conn. Shared from [worshipweb@uua.org](mailto:worshipweb@uua.org).

