



THE COMMON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF CASTINE

May 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.



A Month of Sundays in May

- May 5 Worship Leader: Rev. Elaine Peresluha
 Musician: Joan Kroehler
- May 12 Worship Leader: Rev. Jenny Reece
 Musician: Karen Froehly
- May 19 Worship Leader: Rev. Charles Stephens
 Musicians: Juliane Gardner & Chris Poulin
 ~Potluck~
- May 26 Worship Leader: Rev. Jacquie Robb
 Musicians: Colleen Fitzgerald

Contact Us

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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

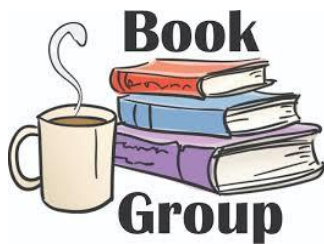
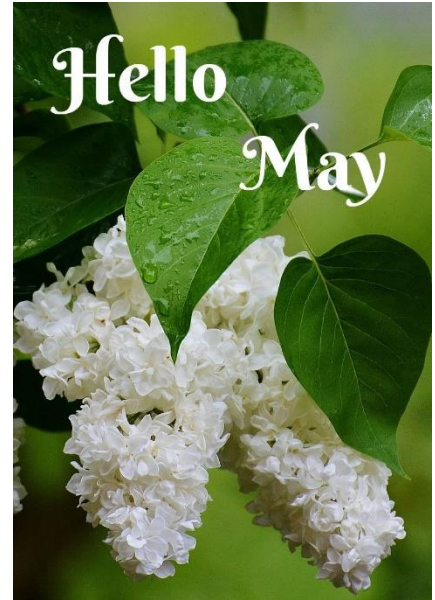
The change in our clocks has occurred, spring has sprung, Mother's Day is soon arriving and at the end of the month we will celebrate Memorial Day. I am not sure we are always thankful for the time change, but we certainly are for spring, our mothers and to those who served to keep us free.

So here is a little poem for May:

May is the month of sunshine and flowers
 Birds in their nests, and one or two showers,
 Games to play and kites to fly or just looking at the sky,
 We could spend a year this way if the year were made of May.

My wish for you and this May, is to feel the warmth of sunshine, pick a flower just for you. Enjoy the way the air smells after a shower, play like a child, and let all the hard stuff in life float away.

Love to All, Cindi



UUC READS

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

Our book, beginning in May, is *Lady Clementine*, by Marie Benedict.

In 1909, Clementine steps off a train with her new husband, Winston. An angry woman emerges from the crowd to attack, shoving him in the direction of an oncoming train. Just before he stumbles, Clementine grabs him by his suit jacket. This will not be the last time Clementine Churchill will save her husband.

Lady Clementine is the ferocious story of the ambitious woman beside Winston Churchill, the story of a partner who did not flinch through the sweeping darkness of war, and who would not surrender to expectations or to enemies.

To join UUC Reads book discussion and get the zoom link, sign up for our weekly e-newsletter, or email office@uucastine.org to be added to the weekly reminder list.



Breaking News - Ministerial Search Update

As you may have heard from President Cindi Kimball over Zoom on Sunday morning, April 28th, Rev. Amy Kulesza DeBeck who filled our pulpit on April 21st, was offered a contract as our minister and **SHE HAS ACCEPTED!**



Amy will begin her ministry with us at UUCC in August. In the meantime, here is some information about Amy:

Rev. Amy DeBeck is finishing her time as Interim Minister in Reading, PA before she comes to Castine. A graduate of Bangor Theological Seminary, she has served in Leesburg VA and Elkhart IN before getting back east to PA. A fun fact, Amy and her husband were married at UUCC by Rev. Mark Worth in 1998. Amy's husband, the Rev. Kevin DeBeck, grown kids Henry and Eliza, and their cat, Pearl, look forward to being home again in Maine.

From Rev. Amy: "I cannot wait to work with you all and begin this new shared ministry! See you August 1, if not before."

No Neighbor Left Behind

A huge thank you to all who volunteered their time, energy and ovens on April 12th. We served up over 135 meals of roasted pork loin, glazed carrots, and baked potato. Plus, twenty-four cans of fruit salad were packed into lidded containers.

Jess Morehouse, Gil Tenney, and Pedrick Sweet delivered the meals.

We now look ahead to the second Friday in July. Again, with volunteers cooking and baking at home, then delivering them to the church, it will enable us 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!





Opportunity Fund Update

The Opportunity Fund Committee continues to be most active and generous on the behalf of you, our UUCC congregation.

Our 2024 Opportunity Fund Survey of congregational concerns has been completed. Key priorities for funding will continue to be: regional poverty, homelessness, and children's welfare. Other concerns include climate change and veterans affairs.

Our committee has updated the Opportunity Fund Policy statement for the trustees. Let me know if you wish to have it sent by email: makes for great bedtime reading!

New Initiatives: The OFC has unanimously approved 3 new funded opportunities:

1) We agreed to provide \$10,000 for the planning and towards building the new concrete Bucksport Skate Park next to the school. This park will offer students who may not be engaged in traditional sports an after school facility for wholesome recreation and relationship building space, monitored by a volunteer adult/ parent group.

2) \$4000 to the Bagaduce Watershed Association in running this Spring a day long learning experience on native history at the Wilson Museum and Bagaduce River ecology aboard the locally captained Little Toot. This experience will include ALL students in 7-8 th grades in Castine, Penobscot, Brooksville, and Blue Hill. This one day learning experience will complement the more immersive summer Bagaduce Kayak Expedition Camp also sponsored by the Opportunity Fund with \$4000 additional support from the BWA.

3) We have ear marked \$10,000 towards the \$90,000 Castine community fund raising effort to rebuild the outdated Adam's School playground. We are awaiting information on level of town council support.

Finally: mark your calendars for June 29th and the "world premier" of our partially sponsored documentary film "Building Hope" by local Kane Lewis Productions. This filming, highlighting the state of homelessness in Maine and possible solutions, will have a large invitation list including key state homelessness experts, government leaders, regional church leaders, and donors.

Rev. Randall Hilton Scholarship Awards Announced

We are pleased to announce that UUCC has awarded Rev. Randall Hilton scholarships totaling \$10,000 to eleven individuals from our local communities who are seeking to further their education. These include students from Bucksport High School, Deer Isle-Stonington High School, Ellsworth High School, George Stevens Academy, Husson University and Emmanuel College. The intended courses of study for these students are widely varied, including pharmaceutical science, nursing, engineering, and elementary education, to name a few. The Rev. Randall Hilton Scholarship was begun in 2010 to honor the memory of Rev. Hilton who served the Castine congregation in the 1930s. UUCC recognizes that the education of our youth directly impacts our future. We wish these and all students success as their futures unfold.



Potluck Sunday

Our third Sunday Potluck Luncheon will occur, like clockwork, on Sunday, May 19th. Plan to bring something yummy and join us for our shared meal and lively conversation. See and participate in the magic that turns our Parish House into a welcoming dining room for our congregational family. It's Thanksgiving every month and we want to see you there!



See anyone you know?



Happy Mother's Day
to all the selfless women
who inspire, motivate and
remind us to be a better
person every single day.



International Day of Biodiversity May 22, 7 p.m. ET

Join UU Ministry for Earth for poetry, song and story to honor International Day for Biological Diversity with Dr. Lyla June Johnston.

Register here -

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUqcO6ppzgiE91gSZOPzQ7hiS7SIu9VtcQs#/registration>.

We will collect donations, half of which will go to National Indigenous Women's Resource Center.

<https://www.niwrc.org/>

The Gift of Remembrance

by George A Tyger



*The young dead soldiers do not speak...
They have a silence that speaks for them at night and when the clock counts.
They say, We were young. We have died. Remember us.*

—Archibald MacLeish (1940)

I met Scott's father a year after he was killed. It was a pilgrimage for me. I drove a thousand miles, every moment wondering if he'd see me as a symbol of a system that had taken his son. When he and his wife met me in their front yard, Mike and I hugged tightly for too short an eternity.

As an Army Chaplain and therapist, I understand the spiritual, psychological, and physiological foundations of trauma. I can talk for hours about how the "body keeps the score;" about vagus nerve response; about the flight, fight, or freeze mechanism. I can reflect with you about the spiritual meaning of loss, grief, and suffering; how they fit in your life; and the how they can burden the Soul if held too tightly.

I understand all this, yet not a day goes by when something doesn't bring to mind a young life now gone. Ghosts of what might have been are my everyday companions. I will not let them go, for I fear if I do that I will forget. I'm greeted when least expected with waves of unbidden grief. A tightness in the throat. Vision blurred a bit by welling tears. A little tremor in my hand. All things that remind me that I cannot—I will not—forget. How many children lost? How many parents grieve?

These memories, these ghosts, are necessary reminders of the futility of war and the desperate need for peace in our world. The memories, which come upon me not as thoughts but as bodily sensations, have deepened my compassion and steeled

commitment to bringing peace to this suffering world.

I serve in the U.S. Army. I support the readiness of those who have and will fight and win the wars our civilian leaders call us to fight. I love the people I am called to serve, knowing full well the dreadful reality we will one day face again. How then can I speak of peace? This is the difficulty of a holiday like Memorial Day.

Memorial Day is not to be celebrated. It is to be observed, scrutinized, and witnessed on behalf of the true witnesses of our human failure to love our neighbor as ourselves. They are ghosts now: haunting lives with the gift of remembrance, so that we will not forget their living—but even more, that the grief of remembering will create in us a yearning for peace that will stir us to action.

Prayer

Gracious God, Living Spirit of Love, give to me compassion steeled with commitment, that I might become your peace given in loving sacrifice to our troubled world.

About the Author - George A Tyger

Chaplain (Major) George Tyger (he/him/his), LMFTA, is a United States Army Chaplain. He currently serves in Fort Bragg, NC. While he resides in NC, his home is with the love of his life, Jennifer, and son Adin in Harker Heights, TX.

Story courtesy: <https://www.uua.org/braverwiser/gifts-remembrance>

