



THE COMMON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF CASTINE

November 2021

SUNDAY WORSHIP November - December 2021

Date	Worship Leader	Musician
November 7	Jodi Hayashida	Julie & Chris
November 14	ANNUAL MEETING	Colleen
November 21	Erica Barron	Julie & Chris
November 28	Amy Fiorilli	Colleen
December 5	Lane Fisher	Julie & Chris
December 12	Vanessa Williams	Colleen
December 19	Margaret	Julie & Chris
December 24	Margaret	Colleen
December 26	Margaret	Colleen

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.

Photo by Tomas Anunziata from Pexels



President’s Desk

If memory serves me it was just about two years ago that concerns were raised about the need for more kitchen space, more religious education space and appropriate space for a minister’s office in the parish house.

Tom Mason, Marcia Mason, Peter Fairbank, Gil Tenney, Margaret Beckman and I began to think seriously about those concerns. After many meetings with architect Charles Earley and informational meetings with all of you we are not ready to put shovel to ground but along the way a lot has been learned.

Who knew that UUCC does not own the land or building we have been good stewards of for many years? Would we be able to put a cellar under a new building? Who knew that the UUCC by-laws had a dissolution clause much less what it said? How much would our dreams cost?

We now have answers to all of those questions! That in itself is progress. We have a land survey and a new dissolution clause which Castine voters will vote upon at the town meeting in the spring. Yes, the borings showed that the ground under the current parish house would support a cellar if we so desired. Ah yes, we also learned

that our dream of a new parish house would be costly, approximately \$2,300,000. We are now waiting to learn where we might cut costs effectively.

If you are interested in the history of UUCC and other churches in Castine I suggest you read **Missions and Meeting Houses, Chapels and Churches** by our own Lynn Hudson Parsons. It is easy to order the book from the Castine Historical Society.

Brooke Tenney



Annual Meeting

Important announcement!

The annual meeting is on Sunday, November 14 via Zoom. It will be a part of our Sunday service this year.

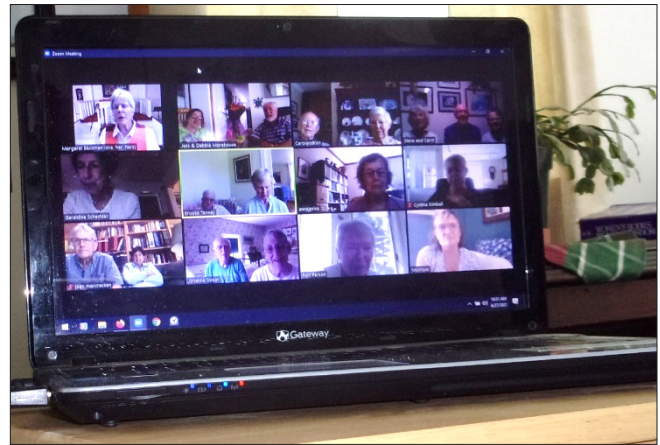


Zooming Along: Be Careful What You Volunteer For

“Since I’ll be going to church on Sundays anyway, I’d be happy to be a Participant on Zoom when we go back into the church, so that those at home can still see the service,” I volunteered in the midst of the pandemic, little knowing what lay ahead.

It turned out that the vision wasn’t to let the people at home just see the service, but to allow them to participate as well. That meant more technology than I knew anything about. But, being game to learn something new, I stuck around as Colin and other knowledgeable techie folks experimented with equipment, programs, and settings. I listened, asked questions, and began to learn a new program called OBS. Several snafus later, I was just starting to feel like I could run the equipment (as long as the multitude of settings were preset), when, BOOM, we resumed at-home Sunday Zooming.

OK, I had run a Sunday PowerPoint before. But with Rev. Margaret’s pending Sabbatical rapidly approaching, suddenly it became important to learn how to actually set up a PowerPoint slide show including how to get audio and video to work – something Margaret always did herself. Again, several snafus later, I’m finding that I enjoy setting these Sunday services up. It’s a fun, creative challenge to take the theme from our guest ministers, the music from our



musicians, and pair them with images and videos to help make a service that, I hope, is beautiful and inspiring. And yes, there are still snafus; technology is like that. Just when you think you’ve got it figured out and are looking forward to a smooth-running presentation, a slide skips, music won’t play, or *SOMETHING* unexpected happens.

Thank you everyone for bearing with me in my learning curve and the snafus that inevitably will happen. I am proud and thankful that our congregation shows up, works together, and makes Sunday morning a time of community and love, no matter if we are in church or on-line. See you Sunday!

Debbie Morehouse

Call for Submissions

Calling all poets, prose writers, lovers of the written word, jokesters and those who need just a little encouragement to put pen to paper.

Our monthly newsletter, *The Common*, has a few pages needing to be filled. Do you have a favorite quote, would you like to remark on a news article? Perhaps you would like to write

anonymously keeping us guessing about who the author is. Do you have a question about the history of the Meeting House or Castine we might be able to answer?

Let’s have fun, submit an item to Jean Lamontanaro at jean.lamontanaro@gmail.com by November 27 for the December Common.

No Neighbor Left Behind Chicken Casserole Meal

On October 8, we prepared 120 meals to be sent out for No Neighbor Left Behind. The recipe was particularly fast, easy, and TASTY!

Following Thanksgiving, if you have leftover roasted turkey, you could cut 1 1/2 lbs into bitesize pieces and create the recipe. Otherwise, trim boneless, skinless chicken breast and use 1 1/2 lbs of that raw, prepared meat.

Serve with a side vegetable and/or salad and some cranberry sauce.

Enjoy! Johanna Sweet



Photo by RODNAE Productions from Pexels

Chicken Casserole Recipe

Using the Kraft Stovetop Chicken Stuffing recipe (can be found online). Makes up a single casserole that generously serves 6.

- Place 1 1/2 lbs of bite-size raw chicken pieces in the bottom of an ungreased 9 x 13 casserole pan.
- Top with 1 can of condensed Cream of Chicken soup that has been mixed well with 1/3 cup sour cream.
- Top that with 1 package Stovetop Chicken Stuffing Mix to which 1 2/3 cups of hot tap water have been added, mixed, and allowed to sit several minutes in order to soften.
- Bake at 400 degrees F for 30 minutes uncovered.

Note: You can always jazz up the stuffing with chopped onions, celery, and/or dried cranberries.

Theology in Process

In venturing into seminary, instructors in courses would implore us as students to write papers defining our theologies. I was in seminary, of course I wanted to discuss such matters, but define my own? The prospect intimidated me. In my mind I had so long been searching for the right faith to lead me, I had never considered the authority I had in defining my own theology. But in truth I had been doing this since early adolescence. I found affinity with Wiccan faith and Buddhism, and wondered of my own Christian roots, but instead via Quaker belief.

I had all of these wonderings and faith practices in the back of my mind, always searching. Never did I realize until seminary, with all of these “define

your theology” assignments that I had a theology of my own, all along. Recognizing that these faith ideas in the back of my mind, are not just fleeting thoughts, but ideas and ideals that were part of my formation as an individual.

It took seminary for me to realize a defined theology does not exist somewhere out there. It is right here, for each of us, close at heart. It is a theology of a living, loving panentheistic spirit that makes me value the 7 (and 8) principles of our faith, and makes me a Unitarian Universalist, but also a Unitarian Universalist minister in formation.

Vanessa Williams

