



THE COMMON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF CASTINE

November 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 November

This month's theme is Repair

Nov 3 Worship Leader: Rev. Amy DeBeck
Musician: Karen Froehly

Nov 10 Worship Leader: Rev. Amy DeBeck
Musician: Colleen Fitzgerald

Nov 17 Worship Leader: Rev. Amy DeBeck
Musician: Karen Froehly
Potluck

Nov 24 Worship Leader: Rev. Amy DeBeck



Contact Us

P.O. Box 520, 86 Court Street, Castine, ME 04421
207-326-9083 • 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 Debbie Morehouse office@uucastine.org.

Minister's Meanderings

November 2024 Theme is REPAIR

Each month I get onto two zoom calls for Soul Matters, our thematic curriculum. We are the folks who build the resource list each month through brainstorming, and then all the congregations who use Soul Matters have worshipful pieces to support those themes. Two months prior, we gathered and shared quotes, poems, whole books, ideas, music, visual art—anything regarding the theme is discussed. First we worked to compile these with Soul Matters Director, Scott Taylor, and then one month later, we fine-tuned it. We decided November is REPAIR because it is election month and brokenness is all around us.

The election has caused internal strife for many, as well as divisiveness between friends, family, and neighbors. On Wednesday, November 6, I will be at the church from 2 to 4pm for you to come by. Light a candle, or eat a cookie, or share a prayer, regardless of election outcome, so that repair might begin.

Repair is also important to think about as November holds Thanksgiving Day. At its best, it is joyful as family and friends

gather. At its hardest, repair is needed before gatherings can happen if those friend and family bonds are tenuous or have even been broken. Repair also might look like re-inventing how this Gratitude Day happens for you, entirely. Sometimes we must cast off old ways for repair to happen, and this may include moving on from troublesome relationships, too.



Mostly what I wish to impart on the subject of repair is that it is never too late. There is no right or wrong way to do it. Repair might be complete restoration of the brokenness, or the rebuilding of one small corner. However, and with whomever, you might choose to engage in repair as a

spiritual endeavor, do so by being kind to yourself, first. We cannot change another's mind or control the outcome of very much, but we can be in that space, spiritually, as we seek to repair the rough edges for a smoother tomorrow.

In peace

Rev. Amy



From the President's Desk

Did you know that November is traditionally Religion in American Life Month? It is when we go back to the essential teaching of every religion, which is "keep the faith". Now if ever, we need to "keep the faith". So many people are going so far from faith, kindness, trust that it scares me. It is a feeling that I never expected nor ever wanted. Whatever your method of asking for the return of people being civil to one another, please do so now. This congregation has stayed loyal in your faith, walks the walk as they say. Don't give up now. There are more of us with this need to be hopeful for our lives and our world. Please join me on November 5th and vote. Believe that your wish, hope or prayers can make a needed difference.

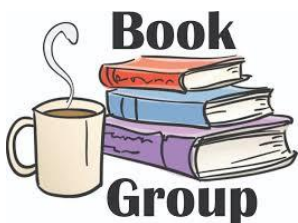
Love is our doctrine.

The quest for truth is our sacrament

Service is our prayer

Keep the Faith,

Cindi



Book

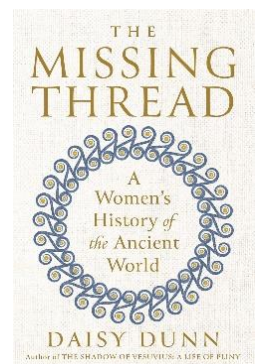
Group

UCC READS

Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. on ZOOM

This week we will begin *The Missing Thread* by Daisy Dunn.

In this monumental work, Dunn reconceives our understanding of the ancient world by emphasizing women's roles within it. *The Missing Thread* never relegates women to the sidelines and is populated with well-known names such as Cleopatra and Agrippina, as well as the likes of Achaemenid consort Atossa and Olympias, a force in Macedon. Spanning three thousand years, the story moves from Minoan Crete to Mycenaean Greece, from Lesbos to Asia Minor, from the Persian Empire to the royal court of Macedonia, and concludes with Rome and its growing empire. The women of antiquity are undeniably woven throughout the fabric of history, and in *The Missing Thread* they finally take center stage.



Consider becoming part of the UCC Reads book discussion. Drop an email to Debbie at office@uucastine.org and we will add you to the weekly reminder list.





November 5th

Please exercise your right to vote. If you have not done so already, please vote on Election Day!

November 6

Join us in community to be together, light candles, and pray after this stressful, divisive election. This invitation is to stop in or hang out, and there is no planned ceremony. Rev. Amy will be at the Parish House from 2 - 4 p.m.

Annual Meeting November 17, 2024

November is the month for UUCC's Annual Meeting. Members of the congregation are invited to participate in the Church's governance on November 17, 2024, right after our Sunday worship service. We will be voting on the budgets and slate of

Board members for the coming year. Annual Reports describing the good work our various committees have done over the year are available in the Parish House, or contact Debbie to have a digital copy emailed to you.



We have been busy!



Potluck Sunday November 19th

The democratic process really works up an appetite. Join us after the Annual Meeting for a Potluck Luncheon. Bring a favorite dish and enjoy some conversation and camaraderie. Our own congregational Thanksgiving!



the Little Free Pantry of Castine

located on Court Street in Castine,
behind the Northern Light Clinic

Take what you need:
the pantry is stocked
with non-perishable
food items, available 24/7.



Leave what you can:
Castine-area churches collaborate to
keep the cupboard stocked. Donations
welcome of canned goods and non-
perishable items.



Neighbors Helping Neighbors

It's Our Turn!

The Little Free Pantry is up and running!

As part of the Castine Church Collaborative, November is our first month to keep it stocked. We have a table for your donations of non-perishable foods set up in the Parish House. Please check out the pantry behind the Clinic on Court Street to see the types of things that are included. As Rev. Amy lives nearby, she has volunteered to keep an eye on it this month, but as “many hands make light work,” please be in touch with her if you can help.

Thanksgiving Food Boxes

It's our Annual Holiday Tradition!

We are accepting donations for the purchase of Thanksgiving food boxes.

Last year we were able to provide 61 boxes at Thanksgiving and another 66 at Christmas which cost nearly \$3,000. As we all are aware, the cost of food has risen. We will not know the exact price of the food boxes until very close to Thanksgiving as it is dependent on the market price of turkeys. Your help is vitally important!

You may donate by check (please note holiday food boxes in the memo), or online by going to <https://uucastine.breezechms.com/give/online>.



No Neighbor Left Behind

142 meals made their way to No Neighbor Left Behind recipients on October 11th. Seasoned pork loin slices, baked potatoes, green beans, and apple crisp filled our “take-out” containers and were delivered throughout the Penobscot Bay area. Thanks to the help of dessert cooks, meat and vegetable bakers, package packers, and delivery drivers, we have been able to provide quarterly dinners to an ever-increasing number of individuals facing food insecurity.

It would not be possible to achieve without all of you who volunteer your time, ingredients, ovens, and cars to the NNLB effort. Add to that the always welcome camaraderie experienced as we face the challenge of making yet another meal come together. We seem to have struck upon a formula that is definitely working. Add to that the generosity of the Blue Hill Hannaford that provided us with 1/3 of our pork loins and all of our potatoes.

Our next meal preparation date is January 10th. Know that we always welcome new volunteers and look forward to working with you.

All best, Johanna Sweet



i held an atlas in my lap
ran my fingers across the whole
world
and whispered
where does it hurt?

it answered
everywhere
everywhere
everywhere.

from *What They Did Yesterday Afternoon*
by Warsan Shire

