



THE COMMON

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF CASTINE

October 2022

A Month of Sundays in October

Soul Matters Theme – The Path of Courage

- October 2nd Collaborative Ministry Worship Service
“Courage, Compassion & Conviction”
Rev. Margaret Beckman, Rev. Amy Fiorilli, & Rev. Sara Hayman
Chris Poulin & Juliane Gardner, Musicians
- October 9th The Courage of Indigenous People
Rev. Margaret Beckman, Worship Leader
Colleen Fitzgerald, Musician
- October 16th Courage When Dialogue Is Not Enough
Rev. Margaret Beckman, Worship Leader
Karen Froehly, Musician
- October 23rd Transgender Life and Courage
Rev. Margaret Beckman, Worship Leader
Colleen Fitzgerald, Musician
- October 30th The Courage of Michael Servetus
Rev. Margaret Beckman, Worship Leader
Karen Froehly, Musician

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
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.

Lakeside Reflections October 2022

The second Monday of October is a complicated holiday. Most of us grew up celebrating October 12th as Columbus Day. It was the day we all remembered the voyage of Italian explorer, Christopher Columbus, from Spain to the Western/ Northern Hemisphere. I thought this was a great holiday and a great way to celebrate our 'American' history and heritage. I learned that Columbus discovered America.

What we learn and what we believe and what we know is, to such a huge degree, determined by who is telling the story and why they are telling it. There are other ways of understanding October 12th!

Did you know that Columbus Day was originally a celebration of Italian heritage and the discrimination Italian immigrants to this land experienced? "The day was first founded as a way to appreciate the mistreatment of Italian Americans, and Congress eventually made it a federal holiday in 1934." (NPR October 11, 2021). Some people experience this celebration as one of Italian cultural pride and have expressed great sadness at the current interpretation of Columbus Day as a nasty and ill-considered celebration of genocide. Complicated.

Native Americans and other indigenous people have long advocated for a complete discontinuation of any national celebration of Columbus because his treatment of the residents of the lands he and his sailors/soldiers encountered when landing in this hemisphere was so horrible and the trauma for native people continues to this very day.

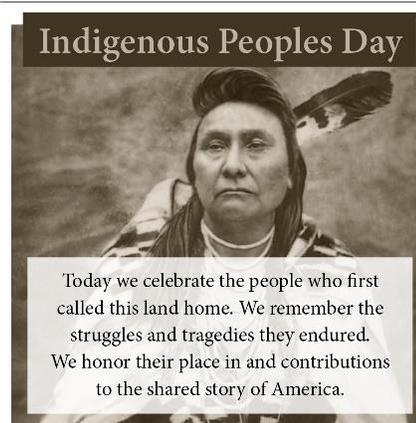
We need not disparage Italian-Americans or forget the discrimination they experienced in relocating to America as we deepen the process of reconciliation with indigenous people. Two things may, and must, coexist. But not on the same day. I fully support the move toward universal proclamation of the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples' Day.

Maine is one of only a few states that has designated the second Monday as Indigenous Peoples' Day. In April 2019, shortly after taking

office as Governor of Maine, Janet Mills signed into law *LD 179, An Act to Replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day*. President Biden, when he took office in 2021, followed suit. On Indigenous Peoples' Day, we honor America's first inhabitants and the Tribal Nations that continue to thrive today. I encourage everyone to celebrate and recognize the many Indigenous communities and cultures that make up our great country. NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 11, 2021, as Indigenous Peoples' Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities. [Here's the proclamation.](#)

In our congregation, we begin our time together on Sunday mornings with a land acknowledgment that expresses our understanding that Castine sits on the unseeded territory of the Wabanaki people and our pledge to work toward sovereignty for the Wabanaki people. These are not mere words. The political situation for the tribes in Maine is unfair. So far, the legislature and Governor have not come together to enact a bill (supported by four tribes and most Mainers) to grant that status. Our work continues to be important. Tribal sovereignty is not mere semantics. It means self-determination and responsibility for care of the land and water of Wabanaki people. Earth and our descendants will benefit from indigenous care of our natural land and resources. It's the right thing to do. May we continue to be good neighbors and strong advocates for the **Abenaki, Maliseet, Micmac, Passamaquoddy, and Penobscot** people.

Namaste, Margaret





Over the course of three months, we will hold a Climate Disaster Response series geared toward congregations who are committed to being responsive to the needs of their broader communities in times of crisis and disaster. Rooted in the belief that shared knowledge and faith are essential to Beloved Community, this series will provide the climate activists and teams in your congregation with essential tools to build a climate disaster preparedness approach that lifts up the best of Unitarian Universalism in your community.

Though we know it's too late to join the September session, don't miss Oct. & Nov.'s sessions!

Tuesday, September 27: (7pm ET/ 6pm CT / 5pm MT / 4pm PT)

Climate Disaster Response: Assessing Climate Impacts & Making Connections

Tuesday, October 25: (7pm ET/ 6pm CT / 5pm MT / 4pm PT) **Mobilizing for Action**

Tuesday, November 15: (7pm ET/ 6pm CT / 5pm MT / 4pm PT) **Community Conversation**

This series is put on by the Create Climate Justice Initiative. The UU Ministry the Earth, the Unitarian Universalist Association Office at the United Nations, and the Unitarian Universalist Association Green Sanctuary Program launched the Create Climate Justice initiative.

Collaborative Anti Racism Conversation to Begin Again

Second Tuesdays 4-5:30pm

Topic for October 11, 2022:

The Complicated Reactions to Queen Elizabeth's Death

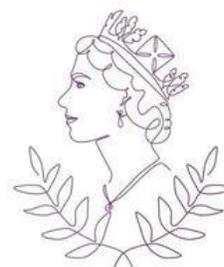
As condolences poured in from across the globe for Elizabeth II, who died at aged 96 recently, so did anger and resentment at the unresolved trauma of colonization that, for them, the crown represented.

In Australia, Prof Sandy O'Sullivan, from Macquarie University, attempted to explain the reaction and put it into context.

"For those saying we should be magnanimous about the passing of the queen, a reminder that the queen inserted herself into the lives of Indigenous people here multiple times. She wasn't a bystander to the effects of colonisation and colonialism, she was an architect of it."

Join us for this monthly Collaborative Anti Racism Conversation as we explore the complicated nature of mourning and the monarchy, racism and reparations.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4695376814>





No Neighbor Left Behind

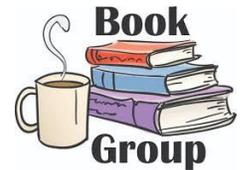
October 14th is our opportunity, once again, to help our neighbors. We need food prep volunteers to meet at the church at 1 p.m., ready to plate and pack the meals so they will be ready for distribution. We also need several drivers to deliver those meals. AND, also needed are baking volunteers to cook our entree prior to the 1 p.m. gathering at the church. HOWEVER, at this point in time, the menu has not been decided upon. With the economy being what it presently is, we are waiting to see what will be the best protein value available at a reasonable cost.

So, there you have it: We don't know what we are serving, and we don't know what kind of prep will be needed...yet. We do know that our volunteers always come through to make these meals happen and get them to families and individuals who appreciate neighbors helping neighbors.

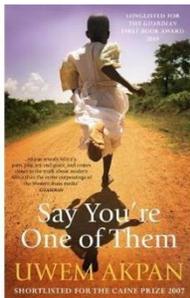
Please call Johanna at 326-4924 to volunteer.

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

Our current two books:



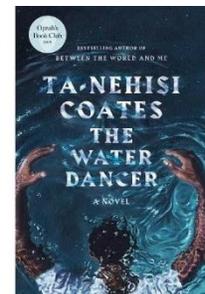
Say You're One of Them (short stories) by Uwem Akpan



Uwem Akpan's stunning stories humanize the perils of poverty and violence so piercingly that few readers will feel they've ever encountered Africa so immediately. Akpan's voice is a literary miracle, rendering lives of almost unimaginable deprivation and terror into stories that are nothing short of transcendent.

The Water Dancer by Ta-Nehisi Coates

This is the dramatic story of an atrocity inflicted on generations of women, men, and children - the violent and capricious separation of families - and the war they waged to simply make lives with the people they loved. Written by one of today's most exciting thinkers and writers, *The Water Dancer* is a propulsive, transcendent work that restores the humanity of those from whom everything was stolen.



Potluck Sunday October 16th

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 16, bring your favorite potluck dish, a friend and enjoy the conversation and camaraderie!

A Deed Done – Notes from the Board

On August 1 the three Castine selectmen signed the deed transferring the property at 86 Court Street in Castine to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine. The deed was recorded as the Hancock County registry of deeds on August 16. It took over a year to complete this transaction but by the time you read this a copy of the deed to the land and buildings we all love will be tucked away in the UUCC safe deposit box.



On June 5 we had a special congregational meeting to discuss and vote on allocating \$12,500 for the parish House renovation fund. As I am sure you remember, the vote passed. We continue to work with Charles Earley from Lewis and Malm Architecture on the project.

Several of you inquired about voting by proxy. At that time our bylaws did not allow for proxy voting. At the August 26 meeting the governing board discussed the pros and cons of proxy voting. We agreed that we would not be in favor of changing the bylaws to allow for a proxy vote. We did agree that votes from members attending the meeting via Zoom would be valid.

I hope you are planning to join us for the collaborative service with UU Ellsworth and UU Belfast in our sanctuary on Sunday.

Take care, Brooke Tenney

Hello from your nominating committee: Joan Bothwell, Anne Romans, and Emma Sweet.



It's that time of year again when new people or people with past experience on the board get a new opportunity to participate firsthand in governing our congregation. Brooke Tenney's term as president is up this year and we need a new chair. Are you up for it?

Several positions will continue to finish their present terms. We are checking in with 3 other members to encourage them to do a second term.

You need to be a member of the congregation for a year to be on the board. Contact one of the three members of the nominating committee to indicate your interest and we will get back to you promptly. Joan Bothwell is bothwell@acadia.net; Anne Romans is sarvangini@gmail.com; Emma Sweet is emma.c.sweet@gmail.com. Thank you for your support.

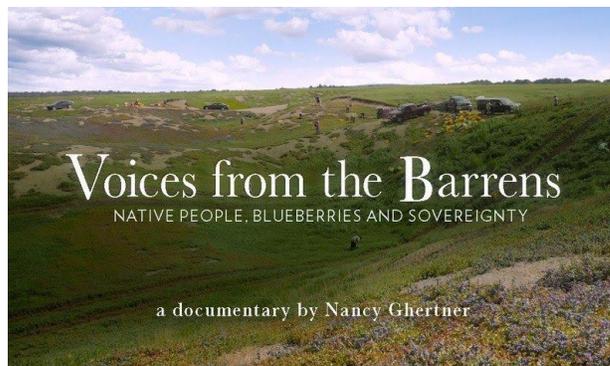


Upcoming Events of Interest from our Good Friends at Blue Hill Heritage Trust

October 10th

Film Screening & Panelist Discussion

6 pm Blue Hill Heritage Trust is delivering an online film screening of "Voices from the Barrens, Native People, Blueberries and Sovereignty" in celebration of Indigenous People's Day. This film documents the wild blueberry harvest of the Wabanaki People from the USA and Canada. The film focuses on the Passamaquoddy tribe's challenge to balance blueberry hand raking traditions with the economic realities of the world market, which favor mechanical harvesting. Each August, First People of the Canadian Wabanaki, the Mi'kmaq and Maliseet (Wolastoqiyik) tribes, cross the US/Canada border into Maine to take part in the tradition of hand raking blueberries with their Passamaquoddy brothers and sisters. This crossing to Maine's blueberry barrens isn't considered "agricultural labor," but is a part of the traditional harvest from the earth.



[Register Today](#)

November 6th

Healing Begins with Truth: Understanding Colonization



Wabanaki REACH

Truth • Healing • Change

12- 2pm Blue Hill Heritage Trust and **Friend Memorial Public Library** will be co-hosting an online **Wabanaki REACH** educational program. Explore the differences between the worldview and culture of Indigenous peoples and settlers (and their descendants). Using historical and present-day examples, participants will examine the deliberate strategies of colonization and resulting impacts on Indigenous people, land, and culture, including the domination culture that maintains systemic racism and oppression. This program is intended to serve as a safe space for participants to join with peers and identify strategies to support healing in relation to each other and to the land.

****Space Is Limited****

[Contact Landere to Register](#)

