



The NUUS

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth
121 Bucksport Rd., Ellsworth, ME 04605
(207) 667-4393 www.uuellsworth.org

Volume 46

No. 12

December 2014

A Month of Services in December

(All Sunday morning services at 10:30 a.m.)

Sunday, December 7th *These Are the Days*
GUEST AT YOUR TABLE & Potluck Sunday!

Rev. Sara Huisjen, Worship Leader
Molly Mercer, Worship Associate

The December theme for worship is *Waiting & Wonder: the practice of nurturing reverence*. How do you nurture reverence during this Holiday Season? In story, song and silence we'll explore a few of the ways we might do this.

Sunday, December 14th *Christmas Truce*
UUCE Choir will sing! with Members and Friends

Jim Fisher & Bob Dickens, Guest Worship Leader

On the 100th anniversary of World War I 1914 Christmas Truce. We will explore this historic pause in the Great War through lessons and carols.

Saturday, December 20th at 2pm *Into A Deeper Hope: A Blue Holiday Service* Rev. Sara Huisjen

The holiday season is seldom easy for people who are grieving the loss of loved ones, lonely or struggling with an illness. With music, poetry and the ritual lighting of candles, this intimate, simple service will make room for people to gather in a supportive & uplifting way. Come as you are, and take refuge in this season in the gentle embrace of fellowship with others.

Sunday, December 21st *And So the Shortest Day Came: An Intergenerational Winter Solstice*
UUCE Choir will sing!

Rev. Sara Huisjen, Worship Leader

From the beginning of time, people have celebrated the return of light to earth. On this Winter Solstice day, we'll celebrate the slow return of light to the world in this season. The children and youth will remain in the sanctuary for the service. Nursery care for infants will be provided.

Wednesday, December 24th at 6pm *A Little Girl is Singing for the Faithful to Come*

UUCE Choir will sing!

Rev. Sara Huisjen, Worship Leader

Rev. Alfred S. Cole wrote this Christmas meditation: *Into the bright circle of life and light which is the Christmas season we have come, to warm our hearts and minds at the cradle of the child.* With song and story, with candlelight and silence, we will recall together the hope and mystery at the heart of this holy season.

Sunday, December 28th *On Beginnings & Endings*

Stephen Berger, Guest Worship Leader

PLATE SPLIT

As the old year draws to an end and we approach the threshold of the new year arriving, what beginnings and endings are at work in you? What do you wish to hold onto or let go of as you mindfully enter into the new year?

Ministry Matters



I don't know any more when we began, but we did, all of us, my mother and father and sister.

There would be bowls of butter, two sticks in each one on the table, wooden spoons ready to be used.

Some kind of Christmas music would be playing in the background and we'd be baking— gigantic chocolate chip cookies which became my mother's signature cookie.

Cookie sheets moved in and out of the oven, cooling racks on every available surface.

And the assembly into boxes and jars would begin as soon as they were cool enough.

At some point, later that same day, I'd get in the car with my father and we'd head out, Eartha Kitt and more Bing Crosby playing on the radio, the back seat piled high with delicious bundles.

We'd stop at neighbor's homes, and make sure we had enough for the newspaper boy, too, and the school bus driver who picked us up every school day at the end of our driveway.

Eventually, we'd end up at Ma Tante Rose's apartment in downtown Lewiston and once she finally heard the doorbell ringing, she'd let us in and kiss my father and hug him, so happy to see her beloved and only nephew. And they'd speak French, and I'd watch, taking it all in, amazed by him and his ease and comfort there.

And then we'd be off again, some other stop to make.

For me, there's a nostalgia to this season, a sweet remembering of the ways I have been moved and warmed by visits with beloveds and strangers who shared their bounty with me— cookies, or a story, time enough found in a day that might otherwise have been too cold and long.

And so I wonder, how will you enter into the ancient stories of this holy season?

Which ones will speak to you this year?

How will you open yourself—your heart and home to welcome others in,
and to see and experience the many miracles we do know—
a child born into a loving family,
or oil enough to keep the lantern lit,
or a wood fire burning strong and bright,
heralding in the knowing in our bodies & bones
that the light of the sun does return?

This season & always, may there be warmth and love in you.
May the gifts we each choose to share be the lasting kind—
a listening presence we can offer where loneliness lives,
a forgiving, flexible heart where love & trust can slowly dare to take root again,
a place at our table, where the bounty of friendship & love bring us back to light.

Praise be for the songs, and many loves we know,
the hopes alive in us that kindle more strength & resolve to live more generously.



Yours in ministry together,
Sara

From the Board of Trustees



David Wilcock
President of the Board of Trustees

Note of Thanks from Board of Trustees President David Wilcock

Three weeks ago I had open heart surgery at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston to replace my ailing aortic valve. The operation went exactly as planned and I am well on my way to recovery. I am convinced that the support I received before and after the surgery from Reverend Sara, the caring committee and many individual members of the congregation has helped greatly in the healing process.

For this and many other blessings that flow from my participation in UUCE, I am very grateful, especially as Thanksgiving Day arrives in two days.

Cheers, David

A look ahead to two Parish Meetings in January:

There will be two UUCE parish meetings in January 2015 after Sunday services on January 11 and January 25. The January parish meeting was previously scheduled for January 18.

At the request of the UUCE Committee on Ministry, the parish meeting on January 11 will be a "Conversation with Sara." Sara wants to be sure that she is fully aware of the congregation's expectations of her as a called minister AND that the congregation is aware of her expectations.

At the January 25 parish meeting, an item on the agenda will be a vote on calling Sara as our called minister. Because of the January 11 meeting, debate on this motion will be none or severely limited. Thank you. Committee on Ministry

Lifespan Religious Education



Late Fall Greetings from the Carl Stehman Wing,

November has been a busy and full month. The children are enjoying their time together, many new friendships have developed. Our dedicated volunteer teachers have spent much time creating fun and meaningful lesson plans for the children. For those of you who have not seen our new set up, I encourage you to venture back to the Carl Stehman Wing and take a peek. You will find the children's artwork hanging on walls, comfy couches and chairs, altars and chalices in each classroom. The teachers have worked hard to create a nurturing environment.

Many thanks to our volunteer teachers who taught in November: Jody Murphy; Jenn Ryan; Cecily Judd; Amy Fiorilli; Kim LaPlant; Casey Hanson; Lisa Whittemore; and Bill Clark.

Several of our teenagers have volunteered in November, and we thank: Eryn; Lynn; and Mikayla for taking time to be with the younger children.

On November 30th we will hold our first Faith in Action project. The children will learn about the Emmaus Center and homelessness. Additionally they will make gift bags to hold donated gifts for the Giving Tree. Liz True is leading our Faith in Action projects, we are grateful for her vision and leadership.

I will be on vacation November 28th – December 8th. During that time I will be checking my aossanna@aol.com email daily. I also can be reached on my cell phone (207) 460-1101. Lisa Whittemore will be covering for me on November 30th, which is also her birthday. Carol Rosinski will be covering for me on December 7th.

December Religious Education Calendar

December 7th: "G" Dana Greenly – We make the world a better place; Love Surrounds Us without Boundaries; Moral Tales – Forgiveness; Riddle and Mystery – Does God exist; Potluck Sunday; Anne is on vacation, Carol Rosinski will cover for her today.

December 14th: "H" Oliver Wendell Holmes, SR. – We are fair and kind to each other; Love Surrounds Us through Acceptance; Moral Tales – Forgiveness continued; Teacher Meeting directly after worship service.

December 21st: Solstice Multi-Generational Worship Service; All children will remain in the sanctuary.

December 28th: "I" – Everyone is special – so am I; Love Surrounds Us through Acceptance – continued; Moral Tales – Welcome One and All.

Woyaya - Anne

Treasurer's Corner



Total income for October 2014 was \$19,064.37. This was \$7,955.56 more than the total expenses for the month which was \$11,108.81. Total income through October is \$67,084.77, 45.69% more than the year-to-date percentage 33.2%.

Total expenses for the same period was \$43,412.80, 29.58 % of budget which is 3.62% less than year-to-date figure of 33.2%.

Pledge income for October was \$9,172.00. Total pledges through October were \$40,961.08, 37.62%. of budget which is 4.42% more Than year-to-date figure 33.2%.

Plate income for October was \$590.65. Total Plate income through October was \$3,179.93 or 32.78% of budget 0.42% less than the year-to-date figures 33.2%.

Plate income church through October was \$2,559.03 or 31.99% of budget.

Plate income – Plate split charity through October was \$620.00 or 36.52% of budget.

Fundraising income in October was 8,723.74 from the Auction. Total income for fundraising through October was \$13,305.21 or 126.72% of budget.

Rental income in October was \$570.00 for a total through October of \$3,723.00 or 39.82% of budget.

Rental income other was \$1,723.00 or 28.72% of budget of \$6,000.

Expenses for October were \$11,108.81. Total expenses through October were \$43,412.80 or 29.58% of budget.

These figures represent the budget as of the end of October and do not include any figures from November.

Treasurer, Don Martin

Adult RE

Adult RE offerings continue – Amy Thompson's Expressive Art class, Rev. Sara's groups. Yoga is taking a break, hopefully only till January. GA sermons will also resume in January.

We are hoping for several new offerings in winter and spring, from Rev. Sara, Hope Lewis, and Rev. Peter Richardson.

Next meeting is Thursday, December 4th, at 2:30 p.m. All are welcome!

Steve Berger

The Peace and Social Action Committee

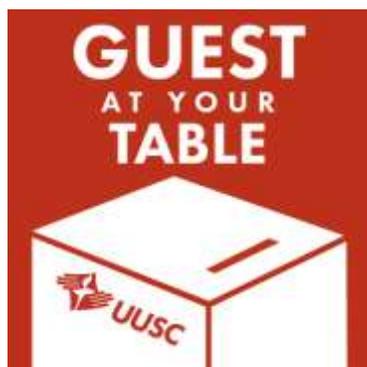


CLIMATE CHANGE EVENT

PASA invites you to a screening of the film “Disruption” on **Friday, December 5 at 6:30 PM** in the sanctuary. This hour-long documentary film about climate change covers the science, the politics, and the movement. A discussion will follow including Reverend Sara talking about the climate march in New York City and Tom Martin describing how we are and will be affected locally. Dessert and coffee will be provided. Please come and bring your friends and neighbors for a stimulating evening on this very important topic.

This event is being co-sponsored by the Ellsworth Community Union and the League of Women Voters. For more information contact Robin Lovrien: 207-598-0468

This is the first of 4 in a lecture series sponsored by PASA.



The kick off for this yearly event to support the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee will occur on Sunday, December 7. Join us for our monthly potluck to share food and to celebrate and reflect on the work of the UUSC.

Guest at Your Table has been an important part of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and congregational culture since it began in 1975. Each year since, involvement in Guest at Your Table has grown – strengthening UU connections to our shared principles and helping to challenge injustice throughout the world. UU congregations in the United

States and around the world participate in this important annual tradition. They come together, learn about people directly connected to human rights work, and raise funds to support this work.

Together, members of these congregations inspire people to join UUSC and help raise funds to support our shared vision.

This year’s UUSC partners are doing important work in Haiti, Honduras, and Africa. Read about them in the Stories of Hope booklets which will be on the tables along with the traditional boxes and envelopes. Donations are due by January 15 but can be returned to the office anytime.

The next PASA meeting will be Sunday, December 21 at 9 AM in the Tidewater Room.

Comments from the North Ellsworth Small Group about small group ministry



- Small group is an opportunity to get to know people on a more personal level. Our group has been meeting for a number of years, so we have been exposed to the ups and downs of the members' lives. We have and a number of topics and all of them have led to interesting discussions leading to a better understanding of the members of the group.
- Small group is the opportunity to get to know a group of individuals better than is possible any other way. I mean really get to know them, their history, likes, and dislikes, etc., etc.
- Small group keeps me connected to my neighbors. I've gotten to know these people who go to the same church much better in a small group. We support each other in "hard" times- give and take as the need arises.
- I come to small group because it has helped me feel connected to people in my neighborhood and church. It has helped me get to know people on a deeper level than is possible by just going to coffee hour after church. We've been through a lot over the past years. People have moved away, moved in, had surgery, gotten married, died, had grandchildren, raised children, adopted children (or dogs). We've been there for each other.
- I like being in our small group because I like having a "where everybody knows your name" experience (a la "Cheers"). I need to be known. I like having friends. I like the variety of people in our circle.
- Small group has allowed me to form strong bonds of friendship. We have gotten to know each other so well, and to appreciate each other. Not only that, the topics we discuss are interesting- we laugh, we cry, and I always feel better for having been there.
- Small group is a way to connect with other individuals in an intimate way, being able to express thoughts and feelings freely without concern of how others will perceive us. You form long-term relationships.
- I like the diversity and variety of topics we've discussed over the years. I like the support we give each other. I like the way we've woven different people into the group as people come back for the summer or move away- no matter who is at any given meeting, the composition is always just right.

Carol Rosinski



NURTURING YOUR SPIRIT DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Tending your soul looks like lots of different things for different people. And in *this* season, surely it looks like finding time for quiet, and rest, and listening within.

Perhaps it looks like sitting near a warm fire in your home, or having a silent meditation practices that invites you into a time of expectant waiting in darkness. My wish for you: that there be spaces and community to support your seeking and your experience of beauty and presence in *this* season. Here are a few of the invitations (at UUCE & beyond) that might help you tend your own spirit & fire.

Sara

Saturday, December 13th *The Annual Winter Solstice Celebration* of the UU Church of Belfast
4pm at the Blue Goose, Rt. 1 in Belfast
Adults \$10 Youth 6-18 yrs old \$5 Age 6 & under Free
All proceeds to benefit the Interfaith Fuel Fund in Belfast

Saturday, December 20th at 2pm *Into A Deeper Hope: A Blue Holiday Service*

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Saturday, December 13th *Advent Spiral* at the Reversing Falls Sanctuary in Brooksville, ME
4pm on the Coastal Road in Brooksville

Come join a parish of neighbors who walk the Advent spiral with apple and candle in hand, inviting the holy to be seen and felt among them. With meditative live music and words of welcome & gratitude for the beauty in this season, all are welcome to participate. For more information look up www.reversingfalls.org or call Anne Ferrara at 326-8564.

Sunday, December 21st *And So the Shortest Day Came:*
at 10:30am at UUCE **An Intergenerational Winter Solstice Service**

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10:30am at UUCE **Christmas Eve Service**

Rev. Alfred S. Cole wrote this Christmas meditation: *Into the bright circle of life and light which is the Christmas season we have come, to warm our hearts and minds at the cradle of the child.* With song and story, with candlelight and silence, we will recall together the hope and mystery at the heart of this holy season.

Dear Friends,

Can you feel the glow from the UUCE Ferry Beach weekend, still in the air? Everyone is talking about what a good time it was! All agreed that we should go again next year, and plans are being made. We hope you will join us there in fall 2015. Details will be coming soon!

For the Ferry Beach Retreat Committee,
Jude Lamb and Evelyn Foster



Personnel

Contact Information

Minister Rev. Sara Hayman Huisjen: 610-2872 (cell) sara@uuellsworth.org	Religious Education Coordinator Anne Ossanna: 565-2057 anne@uuellsworth.org
Church Office (T, W, Th, F, 1:00-5:00 P.M.) Alison Stephens: 667-4393 office@uuellsworth.org	Music Director Wayne Smith: 667-9482 wayne@mrlanguage.com
President of the Board David Wilcock: 963-2950 president@uuellsworth.org	Newsletter Editor Lance Funderburk: 276-3301 lfunderburk@roadrunner.com

Board of Trustees

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Trustee: Eileen Brennan, to 2015	Trustee: Tom Martin to 2017
Trustee: Margaret Thurston 2014	Trustee: Stephen Berger to 2016
Trustee: Evelyn Foster 2016	Trustee: Peggy Strong to 2017

Committee and Task Force Chairs

Adult Education: Stephen Berger	RE Chair: Lisa Whittemore
Aesthetics: Linda Laing	Leadership Development: Dartha Reid
Auction: Peggy Strong	Library: Paul Reid
Fiscal Matters: David Wilcock	Lobster Bake: Anne Ossanna
Building Maintenance: Don Martin	Membership: Nancy Avila
Coffee Hour: C. J. Lavertu,	Committee on Ministry: Marta Rieman
Caring Committee: Stephanie Alley and Linda Barsanti	Music: Vacant
Charitable Giving: Mary Susan Haynes	Peace and Social Action: Karen Volckhausen
Choir: Haydee Foreman	Potluck: C. J. Lavertu
Ferry Beach -----Jude Lamb, Evelyn Foster	Sunday order of service: Send to: office@uuellsworth.org
Flowers: Bronwyn Caldor	Small Group Ministry: Cynthia Perkins
Green Sanctuary: Kay Wilkins	Stewardship: Evelyn Foster
History Committee: Wayne Smith	Ushers: Jon Thomas
Landscaping: Vicki Fox	Web Pages: Peggy Strong
Loaves and Fishes: Sue Clark, Nina Turner, Dartha Reid	

December 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 3:30-6 pm ExpArts (D) 7:00 St. Augustine (T)	2 12:00 Al-Anon 6:30-8:30 SGM(BR)	3 2:30-6pm Violin (REwing) 6:30-8:30 ARE Class (D&BR) 7 p.m. Coyote Group(TD)	4 10-11:30 Exec.Cmt.(TD) 9-12 Violin (D) 12:00 Al-Anon(s) 3-6 Violin (S) 2:30 pm ARE Mtg (TD)	5 AM - Piano tuning (S) 11:45-5:15Violin (D) 6:00 AA 6:30PASA Film&Disc "Disruption"(S)	6 9:30-12:30 EFM(CR) 12-UUQ Singers (S) 5-7 WBG (CR) 6:30 "Voices Across the Divide" PASA film & disc.
7 POTLUCK & GAYT 9-1 RE office hours 10:30 a.m. Worship Service w/ Rev. Sara Huisjen	8 3:30-6 pm ExpArts (D) 7:00 St. Augustine (T) 7 DE-NVC (D)	9 12:00 Al-Anon	10 2:30-6pm Violin (REwing) 3-4:30 Stewardship (S) 6:45-8:45 WBG (CR) 6:30-8:30 ARE Class (D) 7 p.m. Coyote Group(TD)	11 10-1 Violin (H) 12:00 Al-Anon(s) 3-6 Violin (S) 6-8 Board mtg. (BR)	12 11:45-5:15Violin (D) 6:00 AA	13 9:30-12:30 pm Ellsworth Farmers Mkt.(CR) 12-UUQ Singers (RE office)
14 HUNGRY SUNDAY 9-1 RE office hours 10:30 a.m. Worship Service w/ Jim Fisher	15 6:30-8:30Women's Bus. Grp (S) 7 St. Augustine (T) 7 DE-NVC (D)	16 12:00 Al-Anon 5-6:30 LED Comt (TD) 6:45-8 WBG (S)	17 2:30-6pm Violin (REwing) 2-4 SMG (CR) 7pm -Traditional Music Jam (S) 7 p.m. Coyote Group (TD)	18 10-1 Violin (H) 12:00 Al-Anon(s) 3-6 Violin (S)	19 11:45-5:15Violin (H) 5-7 SGM 6:00 AA	20 9:30-12:30 pm Ellsworth Farmers Mkt.(CR) 2 pm Blue Holiday Service (S)
21 9 am PASA mtg.(TD) 9-1 RE office hours 10:30 a.m. Intergenerational "Winter Solstice" Worship Service w/ Rev.Sara Huisjen	22 7-8:45 WBG (S) 7:00 St. Augustine (T)	23 12:00 Al-Anon	24 2:30-6pm Violin (REwing) 6pm Christmas Eve Service (S)	25 OFFICE CLOSED 12:00 Al-Anon(s)	26 11:45-5:15Violin (H) 6:00 AA	27 7 Farmers Mkt.(CR)
28 PLATE SPLIT 9-1 RE office hours 10:30 a.m. Worship Service w/ Stephen Berger	29 7:00 St. Augustine (T) 7 DE-NVC (S)	30 12:00 Al-Anon	31 2:30-6pm Violin (REwing) 7 p.m. Coyote Group (TD)			

Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth
121 Bucksport Road
Ellsworth, ME 04605

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Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth

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<p>We covenant to affirm and promote: The inherent worth and dignity of every human being; Justice, equity and compassion in human relations; Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations; A free and responsible search for truth and meaning; The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregation and in society at large; The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all; Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.</p>
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