



# The NUUS

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

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February 2015

## A Month of Services in January

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

**Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>** Your theme for February is "Resilience" and I will be using *"Resilient Communities: Some Lessons from the Monastic Tradition."* I will be speaking about how the experience of community building by Benedictine, Franciscan and Celtic monastics can still help us today as we seek to form strong and resilient communities of love, faith, and service. We will especially look at the roles of worship and silence in the formation of lasting and flexible bonds among people, and between people and all other living beings.

**Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>** *"Vignettes on Diversity and Resilience"*      Bob Dickens, Worship Leader  
Anne Funderburk, Wayne Smith and Maria Burdette, Worship Associates

**Sunday, February 15** *"the small work in the Great Work"*      Rev. Sara Huisjen, Worship Leader

This month's worship theme is RESILIENCE: *the practice of staying the course.* How is resilience (or being resilient) a part of your life journey? From whence or from whom have you found the strength to live through difficulties and in the process grow more flexible, more accepting of your struggles, more compassionate toward yourself and others? What does our UU faith have to say about resilience?

**Sunday, February 22**      *"Active Hope"*      Rev. Sara Huisjen, Worship Leader

Molly Mercer, Worship Associate

In a poem she wrote called, "Trusting the Spiral," Joanna Macy writes, "active hope is not wishful thinking, nor waiting to be rescued by the Lone Ranger or by some savior. Active hope is waking up to the beauty of life on whose behalf we can act...Active hope is [encouraging in us] a readiness to engage...a readiness to discover the strengths in ourselves and in others." How are you (and how are we as a congregation) doing this? How are we engaged in creating a sense of "active hope" in ourselves and the world?

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## Ministry Matters

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As I write this article, I am sitting at the kitchen table in our cozy home with the pellet stove cranking behind me, looking at a beautiful bouquet of flowers that were left for me at church this past Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. Time and again, I am the recipient of such sweet, encouraging gifts of appreciation, and in *this* moment, my cup runneth over with gratitude and excitement about the journey we are on together—your Called Minister with her beloved & generous congregation.

*Thank you* for voting at the January Parish Meeting to call me as your settled minister with great enthusiasm and joy. With humility and deepest thanks, I whole-heartedly accept this invitation and look forward to all this is to come.

*Thank you* for believing (as I do) that we *are* working well together, that although neither of us is (or ever will be) perfect, we are committed to learning and serving and becoming as vibrant and healthy and engaged a congregation and spiritual home as we can possibly be.

*Thank you* for the trust and confidence you have given me to serve our congregation and to represent our faith—our principles and commitments—in the larger world. I am inspired by your example and your passionate, engaged interests already.

And *thank you* for choosing to be part of creating & strengthening a culture of *shared ministry* at UUCE, a place and people I love, where *all* are encouraged to search, and grow, and see themselves as capable and needed in our developing ministries together. My work is a joyful, meaning-filled work.

February's Worship theme is **RESILIENCE: *the practice of staying the course***.

And you are a resilient and vibrant congregation. Thank you for your presence, and for your commitment to each other and living our shared UU faith.

Yours in ministry together,  
Sara

**PS** During the first week of February, from 2/1 -2/9, I will be away in Asilomar, CA at UU Minister's Association gathering called the CENTER INSTITUTE. With 200+ UU ministerial colleagues, I'll have the chance to worship, and reconnect, and learn, while also participating in a 4-day intensive course with Joanna Macy, a well-known and respected Buddhist scholar who's written extensively about Deep Ecology, movements for peace, justice and the environment. I already look forward to sharing some of what I learn when I return.

While I'm away 2/1-2/9, the Rev. Charles Stephens will provide emergency pastoral care coverage if needed. He can be reached (and messages left for him) on his cell phone at 609-947-5564. If need be, you can call Alison's cellphone, at 207-812-5232, to try and reach him.

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## From the Board of Trustees

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### The State of the UU Church of Ellsworth: January, 2015 Views of David Wilcock, President of the UUCE Board of Trustees

Yesterday evening (January 20<sup>th</sup>) I was inspired listening to President Obama's State of the Union speech, with its optimism and idealism in the face of political adversity and cynicism. I thought it was very "UU" in scope and tone. Although I cannot be with you on January 25<sup>th</sup> for our winter parish meeting, I wished to share a few of my thoughts on the "state of our church" as we begin 2015. In a few summary words, UUCE is strong and growing. Here are a few of the reasons why I think so:

- **We are spiritually strong:** Our church is blessed to have the spiritual leadership of Reverend Sara Huisjen, who the Board anticipates will be overwhelmingly chosen by secret ballot today to be our called minister. Sara radiates energy and commitment in her work for and with the congregation -- in the pulpit, in pastoral care, and in helping us to choose "right paths" in a wide variety of social issues and actions at the local and other levels.
- **We are financially sound:** While we are not a particularly wealthy congregation by national UU standards, we have been raising sufficient funds through generous pledges and a growing fund-raising program to be able to more correctly pay Sara and our part time staff members, while continuing to exceed UUA guidelines for local charitable giving in our community.
- **We have turned the corner in our Religious Education programs for Children:** It is in this area that we have made the greatest improvement in the past few years. We now have growing numbers of children who are eager to participate in our Sunday classes and other activities thanks to the strong efforts of the RE Coordinator, the RE Committee and our many volunteer teachers.
- **We are growing in membership:** On January 11<sup>th</sup> we were honored when six new members signed our membership book, joining a substantial number who joined in 2014.
- **We are growing as a liberal religious community:** The fact that 14 UUCE members attended the 2014 General Assembly in Providence, RI, and came back full of inspiration and ideas, some of which are being put into practice at church, was quite remarkable. Soon after GA we also held our first congregational retreat at Ferry Beach, judged by all to have been a great success. Our Peace and Social Action Programs on climate change, electoral reform, helping achieve health care insurance for all, and participation in the Maine UU Social Action Network (MUUSAN) have given us opportunities to put our beliefs into action. We are looking forward to similar engagements in 2015, especially beginning to grapple with the escalating crisis of inequality in the distribution income and wealth in America.
- **We are taking greater care of our church infrastructure:** Over the past six months we have laid the groundwork for making some needed investments in making our church building safer and more attractive. In the

months to come we will be adding a special exit door in the sanctuary to facilitate emergency exiting especially for those with limited mobility. We will also be making improvements to render the community room more functional and more attractive.

Clearly not everything at UUCE is perfect; our evolving religious community is a work in progress. The Board of Trustees welcomes your ideas and suggestions. We welcome even more your participation in church committees and other volunteer organized and led activities. This is your church ... be active and make it what you want it to be in 2015 and beyond.

**David Wilcock, Board of Trustees President**

### **Summary of Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting, January 8, 2015**

Present: Evelyn Foster, Stephen Berger, Tom Martin, Treasurer Don Martin, Vice President John Fink (presiding), Margaret Thurston, Secretary Robin Lovrien; Reverend Sara Huijsen; Absent: Pres. David Wilcock, Peggy Strong, Eileen Brennan

Guests—Bill Clark, Committee on Ministry; Bob Dickens Emergency Preparedness Committee

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The meeting was called to order by Vice President John Fink at 6:09 PM and the board addressed the following items:

- **Report from the Emergency Preparedness Committee:** Bob Dickinson reported that expense estimates are being solicited from a contractor for converting the central sliding glass door to a wheel-chair width emergency exit door. He reminded the board that the door will require a lit EXIT sign, and that the ramp outside will have to end at the driveway and so will have a very slightly steeper slope than desired. Bob assured the board that as soon as he has the estimates, he will inform the board.
- **The Treasurer's Report and financial statements** from Don Martin were submitted and approved. Don also noted that the church has a new cleaning person, Laura Snyder, who will be paid slightly more than the previous person was paid. A motion was made and seconded to approve Don's increasing this person's wage.

Don suggested that the church consider having a sexton, who would be responsible for minor maintenance, overall security, cleaning and other duties. The board will explore this option in the near future.

Also, one of the violin teachers paying rent for space for lessons has moved to the new community center in Ellsworth. Don hopes this rent loss, though small, can be made up.

- **Religious Education Report:** Evelyn Foster reported that attendance at Religious Education has increased to 22 children from 15 families, and that 10 teachers and three aides are helping with classes. The first "Faith in Action" endeavor with Liz True —making bags for Emmaus House-- was a success; others will follow. RE Director Anne Ossana will take part in a daylong conference with a cluster group of churches on "Faith Formation in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" in Rockland in March. There will be a meeting later in the spring on the OWL (Our Whole Life) Curriculum, which has been used in UUCE's Religious education program.

Rev. Sara expressed her gratitude for the hard work that RE mentors Evelyn Foster and Eileen Brennan have done supporting the RE committee and Director. She says their work has clearly added to the health of the church.

- **Minister's Report:** Rev. Sara Huijsen's report was accepted without discussion
- **Report on Election Committee:** Tom Martin reported that he had been in communication with the Election Committee to assure that the committee had candidates to present for election on January 25<sup>th</sup> at the Parish Meeting. He said the committee has three persons currently functioning on the committee. The duration of service on this committee was discussed, and it was noted that the by-laws are not clear enough on tenure on this committee, an issue which probably should be addressed soon.
- **Personnel Policy Report:** Tom Martin said he had been helped by a sample personnel policy sent to him from Charles Stephens. The vacation policy for employees was discussed, with the conclusion that the policy for the church administrator needs to be clarified. Rev. Sara agreed and suggested that the resolution of the issue be generous and fair for the administrator. It was noted that the church does not carry workmen's compensation since we are a non-profit not held to state laws; outside contractors theoretically carry their own insurance. Tom will finalize parts of the policy concerning leave and how work missed due to weather related closures can be made up. He will present the revised draft at the next meeting.
- **The Board Potluck**—will take place on January 22 at Evelyn Foster's house. The Leadership Development Committee will join the board for the potluck dinner and will discuss ideas with the board for its continuing and future work.
- **Calendar Issues:** A calendar should be available on the website now. The dates of up-coming events and of building use should be visible on it. The board briefly discussed the date of the Spring Fling, noting that the tentative date in April will have to be changed due to a conflict with an ARE event.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At the request of guest Bill Clark from the Committee on Ministry, the board voted unanimously to go into executive session to discuss procedures around calling Rev. Sara Huijsen to be our settled minister.

**Follow-up to Executive Session:** The board voted unanimously to hold an "emergency meeting" on January, 22, preceding the potluck, for the purpose of adopting its own statement of endorsement of the Committee on Ministry's recommendation to call Rev. Sara Huijsen to settled ministry. The statement of the Committee on Ministry to be presented at the January 11 Congregational Conversation with Rev. Sara will also be read into the minutes at that minute so as to have a public record of it. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robin Lovrien, Secretary.

Please note: A full record of the minutes board meetings will be posted on the bulletin board in the community room. Copies can also be obtained from the church administrator.

**Summary of Minutes of the "Emergency Meeting" on January 22, 2015.**

**Statements of the Board of Trustees and of The Committee on Ministry Concerning the Calling of Rev. Sara Huijsen to Settled Ministry**

The UUCE Board of Trustees convened a quorum on January 22, 2015, at the home of Evelyn Foster in Ellsworth, as agreed at the regular January 8 meeting, for the specific purpose of adopting an official statement (written and previously disseminated by member Tom Martin) declaring our support for calling Rev. Sara Huijsen as our Settled Minister and of ensuring that the similar statement by Committee on Ministry, presented to the congregation on January 11, was made a matter of public record.

Vice President John Fink called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Present: Vice President John Fink [presiding in the absence of President David Wilcock], Rev. Sara Huijsen, Evelyn Foster, Tom Martin, Stephen Berger, Don Martin, Margaret Thurston, Secretary Robin Lovrien [late arrival]. Absent: David Wilcock, Eileen Brennan, Peggy Strong.

The statement by Tom Martin stating the board's support of the recommendation of the Committee on Ministry to call Rev. Sara Huijsen to settled ministry was approved unanimously. The statement is as follows:

*"We the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth unanimously endorse the Committee on Ministry's recommendation to call the Reverend Sara Huijsen to be our minister. We affirm that she has demonstrated the highest level of commitment and skill as a spiritual leader and teacher, partner in social justice, pastoral care giver, and participant and leader in denominational affairs. In calling her to ministry at this time, we acknowledge her long-time association with our church and her intention and desire to serve as our parish minister. We know that she can continue her strong partnership with our congregation as we evolve."*

The board also agreed unanimously to adopt the statement of the Committee on Ministry presented at the January 11<sup>th</sup> Congregational Conversation with Rev. Sara. The statement is as follows:

*Committee on Ministry's Statement for 1/11/15 Congregational Meeting with Rev. Sara Huijsen.*

*Over the past 3 1/2 years UUCE has been working to develop our ministry with Sara. This has been a thoughtful step-by-step process, involving a transition from Sara being a community minister and Hospice chaplain to becoming our contract minister. The Committee on Ministry is very pleased to have come to the point where we are ready for the congregation to vote to call Sara as our parish minister.*

*One year ago, Sara requested that that vote be postponed because she had not served a family in the congregation well. The family shared a statement with the congregation at the January 2014 Parish Meeting; however the Committee on Ministry continues to respect their privacy and does not feel comfortable naming them. The Committee on Ministry has during this year met with the family, provided a mediation process with a professional mediator, and made arrangements for pastoral care to be available to the family. The family withdrew their membership from UUCE in the spring of 2014, and this fall contacted the UUA. Sara is ready and willing to proceed with any process recommended by the UUA.*

*Sara has worked intentionally since last year with the Committee on Ministry and professional support to establish and maintain professional boundaries and to develop the confidence and skills required to serve UUCE well. Both she and we feel she is now ready to do that. The Board of Trustees, which has been kept abreast of the situation, has communicated to*

*us that they fully endorse the work of and conclusions of the Committee on Ministry.*

*When we hired Sara as our contract minister after several difficult years including an interim minister, a called minister who did not work out for us, and time without a minister at all, we knew we were hiring a caring person with focus and purpose, someone who acts intentionally and has a vibrancy about her which has expanded our hopes for this congregation. As a result, we are becoming accustomed to acting intentionally ourselves along with her. Every aspect of UUCE is working better right now than at any time in the past 20 years. We are working together by intention. This is no accident. We have a leader who is also our partner as we build our church community together. Intentional, efficient leadership is half of the equation.*

*The other half is Sara the person - a kind and caring person who is assertive and has a level head in dealing with the processes of the church. Her outgoing personality shares her joy of life with all - and thus we are moved to do what is right here and today. Her Hospice experience determines that she will always be there for us when most needed. Two examples of this are: 1) she was at the hospital last May after Lance Funderburk's accident even before Anne got there, ready to comfort and to help, and 2) after Judy Rothrock's untimely and shocking death, when we met together that dismal Friday night to mourn and were not sure how to do it, she named our sorrow and we shared our grief. We know through these examples that Sara will also be there for each of us and our loved ones through our own sorrowful times.*

*UUUCE is blessed that Sara found her calling and wants to continue to be with us now. The Committee on Ministry has every confidence in Sara and wholeheartedly endorses confirming our relationship by calling The Reverend Sara to be our minister at the Parish Meeting on January 25.*

Finally, the board agreed unanimously that in response to an inquiry from a congregant, no absentee voting could occur for various legal and procedural reasons, but that the issue could be taken up at a later date as a proposal for a change to the bylaws

The meeting was adjourned at 5:28 PM.

### **Minutes of the Parish Meeting of the UUCE, 1/25/15**

The secretary notes that 51 members signed in, exceeding the required quorum of 26 members (25% of 104).

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Ruth Eveland at 12.00 PM.

1. Don Martin gave a brief treasurer's report, saying that all is in good order. He provided written copies of the budget report and financial statement for the second half of 2014.

Don announced to the congregation that he will step down as treasurer as soon as Peggy Strong can take over. The congregation thanked him warmly for all his excellent service. Stephen Berger noted that Don has MANY jobs, not just one, and he will be exceedingly hard to replace. Again, Don was thanked for his work in ALL his capacities over many years.

2. Kay Wilkins from the Elections Committee said that the committee for 2014 had been herself, Cecily Judd, and Bob Dickens. She reminded the congregation that the EC has two jobs, one to identify persons who will be candidates to be officers of the church and serve on the board, and the other to replace itself with a new slate. Today we vote for the new EC members Don Martin, Cynthia Perkins

and Lisa Whittemore, with Jenn Ryan running as alternate. Kay noted that there is no mention in the by-laws of having an alternate, but it seems like a good idea.

Ruth agreed, saying that having an alternate permits the committee to function in the event that one regular member is incapacitated or away.

The motion to accept the slate of new members for the EC was seconded and approved by voice vote.

3. Voting to Call Sara: The Committee on Ministry was asked to re-read the statement originally presented on 1/11/ 2015. Marta Reiman read the statement on behalf of the COM recommending that Rev. Sara Huijsen be called as our settled minister. Margaret Thurston then read a statement from the Board of Trustees endorsing the recommendation of the Committee on Ministry. (Both this statement and the statement from the COM are published in the minutes of the Emergency Board Meeting of 1/22/ 15 in the NUUS.)

The vote was then conducted. 51 members signed in; the secretary reported that there were 51 votes in favor of calling Sara, which was 100% of those members present.

The Moderator accepted the vote. Sara returned to the sanctuary to be welcomed by the congregation with a standing ovation.

Moderator Ruth Eveland adjourned the meeting at 12:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Lovrien, Secretary of the Board of Trustees

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin Lovrien Secretary (Margaret Thurston substituting for minute taking on Jan 22).

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## Lifespan Religious Education

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### Winter Greetings from the Carl Stehman Wing!

This past Sunday I had the pleasure of observing Bill Clark lead the Tween classroom. They were exploring the big question: What Happens When You Die? The children thoughtfully considered and expressed their own personal beliefs. Bill beautifully transitioned the conversation to What IS Heaven? I was so impressed with the conversation they had with each other and how accepting

they were if someone had a different belief. It is an honor to be with our children, I have learned so much from them.

Attendance is booming, we currently have 23 children enrolled in Religious Education and an average weekly attendance of 16. I am so thankful for our dedicated volunteers who serve on the RE Committee and our committed volunteer teachers. Our teachers spend hours each week preparing lessons they have adapted from



the Tapestry of Faith curricula and sending Take it Home overviews to the parents of the children in their classroom. Please join me and extend a heartfelt thank you to the following who volunteered in RE programs in January: Jody Murphy, Jenn Ryan; Amy Fiorilli; Cecily Judd; Casey Hanson; Carol Rosinski; Bill Clark; Lisa Whittemore; Eryn Coalson; Lynne Hundhammer; Vincent Ossanna; and Mikayla True.

**Woyaya – Anne**

### Religious Education February Calendar

- **February 1st:** SLEDDING PARTY at Woodlawn – we will leave directly after Time for All Ages and be back in time for Potluck. Please make sure children are dressed warmly and leave their sled on the walkway entrance to the community room. Our youngest children (Penguin classroom and infants) will remain in the RE Wing or sanctuary.
- **February 8<sup>th</sup>:** Faith in Action with Liz True. Children will begin in the Sanctuary and will begin their project after announcements.
- **February 15<sup>th</sup>:** UU Alphabet – “N” Florence Nightingale – We make the world better for everyone; Love Surrounds Us – Our words matter; Moral Tales – Footprints: Treading Softly on Earth; Riddle and Mystery – What is Truth?; RE Committee Meeting directly after worship.
- **February 22<sup>nd</sup>:** UU Alphabet – “O” Mary White Ovington – We make the world better for everyone; Love Surrounds Us – Our words matter – continued; Moral Tales – Footprints – continued; Riddle and Mystery – How am I connected with everything else?; RE Teachers Meeting directly after worship.

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### Treasurer’s Corner

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The first half of the church’s financial year has gone smoothly. Pledges, where the majority of income comes from, \$108,895, is on target running slightly above year to date percentage at 55.54%

Fundraising has been successful. Auction, Lobster Bake, and Yard sale goals were on target. One more event will put us on goal of \$16,000 for charity and the church.

Rental income is running above goal by 17.63% this is excellent since we had a shortfall from the YMCA, moving to their new permanent location, of \$1000.

Expenses continue to run low at \$63,288 or 43.12% of budget. For our financial position to continue in a positive direction, we will have to continue to pay our pledges.

If for some reason you are unable to pay your pledge, please let me know so I can make the necessary adjustments.

I have served as your Treasurer for six years and I have managed with your help to keep us out of the red. I am ready to step down. Peggy Strong has agreed to replace me. She is knowledgeable as a bookkeeper and has worked with me this past year.

Don Martin, Treasurer

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## The Peace and Social Action Committee

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### GUEST AT YOUR TABLE

Thank you to the congregation of UUCE for your generous donations to the Guest at Your Table program which supports empowering Unitarian Universalist Service Committee partnerships around the world. For anyone who has not turned in a donation yet but would like to, it is not too late!!! Bring it in to the church office or donate on line at the UUSC website.

### Coming Events

**Thursday, February 5 & 19**, 3 PM in the Board Room

Come join the last 2 sessions of the book group currently discussing Naomi Klein's *This Changes Everything*, which is all about climate change. Even if you were not able to make the first session in January, you are more than welcome to the last two!

And as part of PASA's on- going lecture series:

**Friday, March 20**, 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary

Talk and discussion about 2 important state issues: Clean Elections in Maine and We the People Maine. This will be presented by two local activists, Ann Luther and Jan Carpenter

**Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>** and **Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>**

A 3 part program Saturday evening and Sunday presented by Maine All Care, an organization which works to raise public awareness for the need for universal health care in Maine.

WATCH FOR DETAILS ON ABOVE IN MARCH NUUS!

PASA meets the third Sunday of each month at 9 AM in the Tidewater Room. Visitors are welcome!

Next meeting: February 15

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## Building & Grounds

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**Don Martin** has been doing a great job as head of Building and Grounds for many years, going above and beyond in his quick response to building issues that arose over the years. We are grateful to him, and Jean for doing without him all those hours he put in. But it is now time for him to step down.

We are lucky to have a new Mr. Fixit to help UUCE -**John Fink**. John has been working along with Don on Building and Grounds and is ready now to lead the charge. Thank you John for stepping in to help out.

If you are interested in helping out on Building and Grounds, give John Fink a call.

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## Adult Religious Education

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LIVING  
BY HEART

### RESCHEDULED INFORMATIONAL

SESSION for *Living by Heart*

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26<sup>th</sup> from 7-8:30pm  
at UUCE

Rev. Sara Huisjen, Facilitator

Please RSVP your plans to attend this meeting at [office@uuellsworth.org](mailto:office@uuellsworth.org)

Creating Supportive Community at UUCE to Help Cultivate Contemplative Spiritual Practices in Our Lives

Do you wish you made more time for silence, prayer or meditation in your life?

Do you enjoy reading poetry and other sacred texts as sources of insight and inspiration?

Do you long for more support (and accountability) to help you *do* your spiritual practice every day?

At this meeting, folks will learn more about the year long class (meetings once a month) she hopes to offer in the new year as a source of on-going support for people interested in having a disciplined spiritual practice. This adult religious education offering will be based in large part on a workbook & video called LIVING BY HEART created by UU ministers Harry Scholefield (deceased) and Laurel Hallman. Those interested in participating will be provided copies of the workbook & video. Regular attendance at monthly meetings will be required.

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*There's still room for you to sign up for a winter, 6-week small group ministry offering!*



### TOUCHSTONE Small Group Ministry Offering

Facilitated by Rev. Sara Huisjen

Six Tuesday Evenings from 6:30-8:30pm at UUCE

**Beginning February 10<sup>th</sup>** Room for up to 12 people to participate

Register *now* by calling or emailing Alison, Church Administrator  
at [office@uuellsworth.org](mailto:office@uuellsworth.org) or 667-4393.

TOUCHSTONE is a time-limited format of Small Group Ministry that will offered & facilitated by Rev. Sara at UUCE again this winter. Over the course of six gatherings, beginning on Tuesday, February 10th from 6:30-8:30pm at church, folks will gather to listen to each other and explore topics of interest they identify related to spiritual & personal growth. Anyone who wants to participate is asked to plan to attend all six gatherings. The dates of these gatherings are Tuesday evenings 2/10, 2/17, 2/24, 3/10, 3/17 and 3/24. There's room for up to 12 people to participate and pre-registration is required. For more info or to register, please email Alison, our Church Administrator at [office@uuellsworth.org](mailto:office@uuellsworth.org) or call at 667-4393.

**INTRO TO UU & UUCE CLASS** with Rev. Sara Huisjen & friends  
**2 Sunday afternoons at UUCEL March 1<sup>st</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> from 1-2:30pm**

To register, call or email Alison, Church Administrator at  
[office@uuellsworth.org](mailto:office@uuellsworth.org) or 667-4393.



Are you interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism?  
 Do you have questions you'd like answered about the UU faith and this congregation in particular?  
 Are you potentially interested in becoming a new member at UUCE?

If you answered "YES" to any of these questions, please consider joining Rev. Sara & a couple other long time church members for an *Intro to Unitarian Universalism & UUCE Class* she'll facilitate on two Sunday afternoons at UUCE on 3/1 and 3/8.



**Italian Dinner Fundraiser to Support Upcoming  
 UU Youth Service Project to New Orleans  
 Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at UUCE**

We hope you will join us for a wonderful meal prepared & hosted by several of the UU Youth from four congregations who are traveling with Revs. Sara Huisjen & Deane Perkins (Belfast UU Minister) to New Orleans over this year's April Vacation week to assist with still needed hurricane recovery efforts! Come hear what this trip means to them and learn a little more about the Center for Ethical Living & Spiritual Justice Renewal, the organization with whom we'll be working. THANK YOU in advance for your support in making this spiritual pilgrimage possible!

In faith,  
 Iris Aripotch, UUCE Youth Participant & Rev. Sara



**Small Group Ministry**

The newest UUCE Small Group Ministry group started in January. We don't have a name for our group yet, but we've tossed around some fun possibilities!

The idea for this group came out of a Touchstone group that Sara led last summer, and that three of us attended. She mentioned her hope that a new small group ministry would grow out of her class. That seemed like a great idea to some of us, although it took a few months to find the time to put it together, advertise it to the congregation and get a meeting time that would work.

We also wanted to make sure that Cynthia Perkins knew about our plans. As the coordinator of the Small Group Ministry program, she offered us help with facilitation or anything else we might need to get started.

Getting started was actually pretty easy, and we filled our group right away through announcements on Sundays – with a big boost from Sara who encouraged the members of her current Touchstone class to join.

We meet at UUCE, and draw our members from Ellsworth, Blue Hill, MDI, and Downeast. We meet at dinnertime, because it was most convenient for people from outside of Ellsworth to come right after work, and so we decided to include a potluck dinner in our meetings.

At our first meeting we decided that we would mostly choose our topics according to the UUCE monthly worship themes. We wanted to not only gather to share our ideas and experiences on these important topics, but also to put our ministry mission into action by engaging in some service activities. We are planning to work together on one annual activity to help UUCE, and one to help a non-profit agency in Hancock or Washington County. We got started right away by pooling our contributions to the Guest At Your Table program so that we could get the matching donation for the UUSC from the UU church on Long Island. We also hope to do some service work that directly benefits our church in the spring or summer. For our community project, we are talking about joining with WCHA to help with a home weatherization or to help Habitat For Humanity build a house. We'd like to invite any other of the UUCE Small Group Ministry groups to join us on any of our projects.

We've only had two meetings so far, but we are off to an enthusiastic start! We have already bonded to one another, and we definitely have lively discussions!

Submitted by Mary Haynes

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## **Save the dates for Ferry Beach!!! October 9-12, 2015.**

### **That's right, a long weekend!**

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After a very successful all-church retreat at Ferry Beach, in Saco, last October, those attending were enthusiastic to return. This year we are very excited to have secured the dates of Columbus Day Weekend giving us an extra 24 hours of time together.

We have months to do our planning, but you can indicate your interest now to Anne Ossanna and Helen Kazura who will be taking reservations.

Last year our ages spanned from four years old to eighty five. There was fun for everyone and we are planning much more for this next fall.

We have asked for dormitory and campsite space for sixty people. Wouldn't it be special if we all could be there? For those who don't yet know Ferry Beach - it is a UU Conference Center, just south of Portland, with a long sandy beach on the ocean. It includes a glorious pine grove with an outdoor chapel and camping sites. Details will unfold soon.

For photos and more about Ferry Beach: [www.ferrybeach.org](http://www.ferrybeach.org)

Co-chair-Jude Lamb and Evelyn Foster

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## Valentine Hearts!

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For the first 2 weeks in February, The Sanctuary Table will be covered in colorful hearts for anyone to take, for themselves or to give to others. (Charlie says "any color is good for Valentines. It's what makes you happy!")

Please help yourself to them!

Thanks so much,  
Colleen

### Old Ackley Farm

*42 Ackley Farm Road  
Blue Hill, Maine 04614  
374-5919  
facebook - Old Ackley Farm*

Blue Hill Raised Is Best!

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## Belated Thanks...

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We want to thank "Bur" Brubaker (retired certified Forester – Linda Laing's "Significant Other") and his friend and helper, Rich Sutley, who worked for several hours on two days in November to safely cut all the dead trees in our parking lot. They did this at no charge—a task that would have potentially cost us several hundred dollars for a professional tree outfit. Thanks so much!



## Personnel

### Contact Information

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

### Board of Trustees

<b>President:</b> David Wilcock, davidwilcock68@gmail.com	<b>Vice President:</b> John Fink
<b>Treasurer:</b> Don Martin	<b>Secretary:</b> Robin Lovrien
<b>Trustee:</b> Eileen Brennan, to 2015	<b>Trustee:</b> Tom Martin to 2017
<b>Trustee:</b> Margaret Thurston 2014	<b>Trustee:</b> Stephen Berger to 2016
<b>Trustee:</b> Evelyn Foster 2016	<b>Trustee:</b> Peggy Strong to 2017

### Committee and Task Force Chairs

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

# February 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 POTLUCK</b> 9-1 RE office hours 10:30 a.m. Worship Service w/ Rev.Dr.Reece, Guest RE Sledding Party	<b>2</b> 7:00 St.Augustine (T) 7 DE-NVC (D)	<b>3</b> 10-11:30 GRIP (D) 12:00 AI-Anon 4:30-6:30 Asthetics (TD) 7-9 Acadia Choral (S)	<b>4</b> 2:30-6pm Violin (REwing) 7 p.m. Coyote Group(TD)	<b>5</b> 10-1 Violin (H) 10-11:30 Exec Com (TD) 12:00 AI-Anon(s) 3-Climate Change Disc(BR)	<b>6</b> 11:45-5:15Violin (D) 6:00 AA	<b>7</b> 9:30-12:30 Ellsworth Farmers Market
<b>8 HUNGRY SUNDAY</b> 9-1 RE office hours 10:30 a.m. Worship Service w/ Bob Dickens	<b>9</b> 5 – 8 Lifestag(S) 7:00 St.Augustine (Seals)	<b>10</b> 10-11:30 GRIP (D) 12:00 AI-Anon 6:30-8:30 Touchstone (D) 7-9 Acadia Choral (S)	<b>11</b> 2:30-6pm Violin (REwing) 7 p.m. Coyote Group(TD) 7pm –Traditional Music Jam (S)	<b>12</b> 10-1 Violin (H) 12:00 AI-Anon(s) 2:30 Adult RE (TD) 4-5:30 WA (S) 6-8 Board mtg. (BR)	<b>13</b> 11:45-5:15Violin (D) 6:30 Stewardship (S) 6:00 AA	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9 am PASA mtg.(TD) 9-1 RE office hours 10:30 a.m. Worship Service w/ Rev.Sara Huisjen Noon – Movie & Lecture Adult RE (s)	<b>16</b> 3:30-6 Expressive Arts (D) 7 St.Augustine (Seals) 7 DE-NVC (S)	<b>17</b> 10-11:30 GRIP (D) 12:00 AI-Anon 6-8 Lifestag(CR) 6:30-8:30 Touchstone (D) 7-9 pm Acadia Choral	<b>18</b> 2:30-6pm Violin (REwing) 5-7 Adult RE Mtg. (S) 7 p.m. Coyote Group (TD)	<b>19</b> 10-1 Violin (H) 12:00 AI-Anon(s) 3- Climate Change Disc(BR) 6:30-8:30 Spirituality (REwing)	<b>20</b> 11:45-5:15Violin (H) 6:00 AA	<b>21</b> 9:30-12:30 Ellsworth Farmers Market
<b>22 PLATE SPLIT</b> 9-1 RE office hours 10:30 a.m. Worship Service w/ Rev.Sara Huisjen	<b>23</b> 6-8Lifestag(S) 7:00 St.Augustine (Seals)	<b>24</b> 10-11:30 GRIP (D) 12:00 AI-Anon 6:30-8:30 Touchstone (D) 7-9 Acadia Choral (S)	<b>25</b> 2:30-6pm Violin (REwing) 6-8Lifestag(S) 7 p.m. Coyote Group (TD)	<b>26</b> 10-1 Violin (H) 12:00 AI-Anon(s) 5:30-7 LED (TD) 7-8:30 LivingByHeart info meeting (S)	<b>27</b> 11:45-5:15Violin (H) 6:00 AA 6 Fundraising: Italian Dinner	<b>28</b>



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

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# ***The NUUS***

## **February 2015**

### ***The NUUS***

#### **Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth**

**February 2015**

**Vol. 47, No. 2**

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.