



The NUUS

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth
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November 2016

A Month of Services in November

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

NOVEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES:

November's monthly worship theme is *Stories*.

Sunday, November 6

Whose Work?

Lane Fisher, Worship Leader

1st Sunday Potluck

Carol Rosinski, Worship Associate

WELCOME & ORIENTATION TO UUCE MEMBERSHIP at 1 pm in the Sanctuary!

Beginning with a jarring compliment she received 35 years ago, Lane will fathom the concept of God and some resistance to it. Lane is an M.Div. candidate at Starr King School for the Ministry and this year's intern for our collaborative ministry with Castine and Belfast. She describes her religious journey as one from childhood Christianity to skepticism and militant agnosticism ("I don't know, and you don't, either!"), and returning to a theism that is heavily shaped by our fourth UU principle and our first source.

Sunday, November 13

Story and Song

Rev. Sara Hayman, Worship Leader

Hungry Sunday

Bob Dickens, Worship Associate

Monthly Congregational Conversation after church!

NEW MEMBER RECOGNITION CEREMONY!

UUCE Youth Group from 3-5 pm!

We each have stories to tell. Sharing our stories helps us to learn and grow. There are universal truths about what it means to be human in the particular stories of our lives. In addition to welcoming new members into our congregation, in this service we'll explore the power of sharing our stories as a source of strength in our lives. Hope Lewis will tell our Time for All Ages!

Sunday, November 20

To Name What Is Holy...

Rev. Sara Hayman, Worship Leader

UUCE Choir Sings!

Kay Wilkins, Worship Associate

Monthly Guatemala Youth Group Mtg in Belfast 3:30-5:30 pm!

In our UU faith, there is no single word to name what is holy. Instead, we embrace and reach for a multitude of words that aim to name what we experience as holy and sacred: *God, Spirit of Life, Ground of Being, and Ancestor* are a few of these words. By what word(s), or gesture, or story do you name the Holy as you understand and experience it? What sacred text speaks some truth about what the Holy is?

Sunday, November 27

Stories of Gratitude

Ellsworth Small Group Ministry

Plate Split Sunday

Circle, Worship Leader

“Gratitude is the inward feeling of kindness received. Thankfulness is the natural impulse to express that feeling. Thanksgiving is the following of that impulse.” —*Henry Van Dyke*

On this Thanksgiving weekend, we examine the unique power stories of gratitude offer in teaching us to live with thankful hearts.

Ministry Matters

I wasn't sure what would come of Mary Haynes' request (with a couple others from our church) for a conversation about worship at UUCE with Lane Fisher, Amy Fiorilli and me, but I knew I wanted it to happen. (Please see Mary's article in this newsletter on page 8 in which she reflects on her own experience of our conversation.) During our conversation we wrestled with important questions looking for small, actionable footholds into experimenting with doing things differently to help shift or deepen our shared worship life.



I couldn't be more grateful that Mary asked for this conversation, and it makes me think about who else in our congregation would like to weigh in on these questions, and what other ideas are out there. I wonder what your answers are to these questions:

What do you hope to experience when you come to our Sunday morning worship service?

What, in your opinion, makes for “good” and meaningful worship?

What particularly moves you about how we do worship?

How can you, as a congregant, help create a more “worshipful” atmosphere on Sunday mornings?

What do you hope to be thinking about or feeling when you leave a service?

Mary and Cecily Judd and Cynthia Perkins shared some of *their* answers, stretching at times to find language to describe what “worshipful” means to each of them, and I'm grateful they did. It's not easy to articulate such things.

In general, I heard these three things they each long for: 1) More explicit references to religion, theology and/or spirituality in our services (such as passages from sacred texts and varied languages of reverence used) 2) Worship services that “go deeper” by enabling one to go inward and also to feel connected to that which is larger than we are alone...God, or the Holy by whatever name(s) we use. Lastly, 3) to leave each service feeling exhorted to be kinder, more loving people in the world; people who are at least a little bit more clear about their responsibility (dare I say duty?!) to serve God in the ways they live.

I love the growth and depth that we're already finding in our shared worship. People have been revealing, brave and working hard and I still share these same longings explored in our meeting last week. I love knowing that others among us do, too. We each have something to contribute (and a part to play) in helping to strengthen and deepen our shared worship life together.

Over the course of this church year, be on the lookout for invitation to enter into this important conversation.

Yours in shared ministry, *Sara*

A Growing Year: The Collaborative Ministry Internship

Was it an epiphany or a “duh” moment? I learned last month that the trickiest part of this internship is that when I say “yes” to one church, then I cannot be present for the other two churches — and I rarely have all of the relevant information when I make the first commitment.

The worst conflict so far came on October 9, when I first preached in Castine. The competing interest was a Sunday afternoon “New to UU” class, which is an element in my learning and service agreement (the “road map” for my internship). Weeks earlier, I had asked to sit in on Belfast’s class and agreed to lead the third of the four sessions. The night before session two and my service in Castine, the organizers discovered that their session-two presenter could not be there. Nor could Deane Perkins, who was in New Jersey. I agreed to keep the class moving forward, meaning that I had to be back in Belfast at 1 p.m.

It all might have worked smoothly, except that Castine needed to hold a congregational business meeting after church. UUCC’s president, not wanting to lose a quorum, began the business meeting as soon as the postlude’s last note faded. Long story short: I left for Belfast before the meeting was over and, thus, without speaking to anyone who had attended the service — which felt supremely ungracious! I apologize to those in the congregation that morning and thank Margaret Beckman for relaying the comments she heard.

On more ordinary occasions, being in the right town for one event has caused me to miss a meeting I wanted to attend in another congregation. I hope to leave the next intern a template of meetings for all three congregations (understanding that some info will inevitably change the instant I commit it to a computer file). Still, serving three congregations will mean limitations as well as richness — frustrating to one who wants it all!

Speaking of richness, the past month enabled me to witness a group coming back into covenant after hitting some volatile bumps and to take part in a meaty and provocative discussion of worship. Discussion in the “New to UU” class also traveled well below the surface. Dealing with people working so deeply is truly an honor.

Blessings,

Lane, lanefisher@myfairpoint.net

Peace and Social Action (PASA)

News from the Peace and Social Action Committee

Guest at Your Table!!

This year’s kick-off date for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee’s annual program supporting partners around the globe will be Sunday, November 20. *Defying Hate* is the theme for 2017 and focuses on such issues as LGBTI oppression in Africa; immigration abuses in the Dominican Republic; the Syrian refugee plight; and the story of Martha and Waitstill Sharp, Unitarians who helped hundreds escape from Nazi persecution in the 1930s and 1940s. Our congregation gives generously each year, and we encourage you to do so again to support UUSC’s critical work!

Karen Volckhausen, PASA Chair

Lifespan Religious Education



Fall Greetings from the Carl Stehman Wing!

October has been such a full and fun month in Religious Education. We began October with our Faith in Action project, Kiva's CHANGE for GOOD. With guidance from Kay Wilkins (PASA), Michael Arruda (Green Team), and Liz True (RE Committee), our children provided eight microloans to entrepreneurs from seven countries to improve or start up their businesses. Seven of the loans have been fully funded and the final loan is 50% funded.

Our theme for October was *Healing*. Cecily Judd talked to the children about the role of the Caring Committee at UUCE and guided the children in making cards to send to members of our congregation. Helen Kazura guided the children on the healing comfort our pets can give us. Suzanne Aubrey told the children about Clara Barton, Founder of the Red Cross and a Universalist. Bill Clark finished up the monthly theme by exploring how Unitarian Universalist Rachel Carson helped heal our Earth.

A heartfelt thank you to Eryn, Mikayla, and Nolan who helped as aides in October.

We collected \$20 in CLYNK donations this month and we're able to provide \$200 from the Youth Scholarship Fund to help cover the cost of meals for ten of our children attending the Fall Retreat at Ferry Beach. Thank you! Woyaya, Anne

Our theme for November is *Stories*:

November 6: The Stories That Are Inside Each of You—with Amy Fiorilli; Potluck Sunday

November 13: When We Listen to Each Other's Stories, We Come Closer to Understanding Each Other and Making Our World Better—with Nathalie Arruda

November 20: The Story of the Song "We Shall Overcome"—with Suzanne Aubrey

November 27: The Story of an Adoption—with Liz and Mikayla True

Notes from the Board of Trustees

Report from the Board of Trustees' Meeting, October 13, 2016:

At the Board of Trustees' October meeting, we learned that we have great momentum in our fundraising, with the last two major events—the Strong Brothers' Eggrolls and the Goods & Services Auction—netting us in the neighborhood of \$16,000.

The BOT is beginning discussions about church governance models and ways to structure committees and systems more intentionally. We are hoping to have a learning session with the Rev. Jodi Hayashida of The First UU Church of Auburn, whose church has reorganized itself in recent years. Auburn is very similar to our church in size and demographics.

The BOT is also looking for active involvement from the congregation in the upcoming development of a mission statement and the direction of the church. We are in a moment of positive growth and community building.

In the summer of 2017, another youth group will go on a service trip to work with Safe Passage in Guatemala. The Board approved a request from the youth group to hold several fundraisers at UUCE over the course of this church year. These will include a dinner, a celebration and game night, and a raffle of two quilts made by a relative of a board member. The funds will go toward helping our youth and other youth in the area meet their fundraising goal for their trip and will be added to money raised in the other churches sponsoring youth for this trip.

We heard reports on the performance evaluations of Rev. Sara and of RE Coordinator Anne Ossanna, both of whom have done outstanding work over this last year. Rev. Sara expressed gratitude for her evaluation, which was done by board members, noting that not all ministers have the luxury of being evaluated in this way, and she considers it extremely helpful in shaping her ministry and growing as a minister.

Susan Opdycke visited the meeting to discuss ideas that she and Suzanne Aubrey have for doing publicity for church events and for the church in the larger community. We are VERY pleased that Sue and Suzanne have volunteered to do this. The hope is to get more comprehensive, timely publicity out and to make our church more visible in the larger community of Downeast Maine.

Finally, we planned for the Parish Meeting, which took place on October 23, the Sunday following our meeting.

Parish Meeting, October 23, 2016

The first of our three parish meetings per year took place following the service on Sunday, October 23. After John Fink, our moderator, called the meeting to order and a quorum was verified, we first heard from Shawn Mercer, who announced that the congregation will be invited to take part in the development of a congregational mission statement. The Board of Trustees (BOT) has not yet decided on one of two possible approaches to this process, so the final decision will be announced and the process initiated at the January meeting. Shawn said that development of a mission statement allows the members of the church to examine what we value and what we want the church to be and to become.

Treasurer Peggy Strong gave a budget report, noting that the church is doing very well budget-wise, thanks to income from fundraisers (see below). She also reported that as of September, the investment in the Maine Community Foundation "Green Fund" had diminished by about \$900, which she characterized as a "trivial loss," given that the church funds were only transferred in July and have not had time to have a clear investment history.

Peggy also reported on the eggroll effort that took place at the Common Ground Fair. A large number of people volunteered for that work, which paid off since the nearly 4,500 eggrolls sold earned us well over \$9,000! Once again, we expressed our thanks to Peggy and her enormous effort in making this event happen. Peggy announced that Susan Opdycke and Julie Connell will be taking over as co-chairs and will be working with her throughout the year to make the load less onerous in the weeks leading up to the fair.

Next we heard from Margaret Thurston, Auction Chair, who reported that the auction was a great success and so far has netted just a couple dollars under \$7000 [note: we are now OVER \$7,000 and counting!]. There are still a few items for sale and still a few places at events or services available. Lists are posted in the hallway and the community room, so take a look if you would still like to get in on the auction goodies. Part of the auction take was the turkey raffle, which was a fun hit. Kim Roos (cheese seller at the Ellsworth Farmers' Market) was the winner of the turkey. Mack McDonald, who sells the turkey raffle tickets, noted that this was the third year running that someone OUTSIDE the church has won the turkey! He says this means that church folks need to BUY MORE TICKETS!

Rev. Sara gave a brief update on the work of Lane Fisher, our ministerial intern, and expressed gratitude to the congregation for wanting to be a teaching congregation by hosting an intern with the other churches in our collaboration. Sara also announced that 62 people from UUCE, 75 from Belfast, and 17 from Castine will be going to Ferry Beach next week for our three-church retreat and fun weekend!

Bill Clark, chair of the Committee on Ministry, announced that Rev. Sara will be eligible for a six-month sabbatical as of July 1, 2017 [see Bill's article below]. She has not yet decided when or how she will spend it. Bill remarked that for Sara, who will study and contemplate subjects that will help her renew her energy and ideas as a minister, and for us as a congregation, who will need to manage the church without our minister, the experience will be understood as growth—a good thing for all concerned.

Mack MacDonald, who is managing the hospitality effort, noted that more persons are needed to help with hospitality in December and January. Anyone who is not affiliated with a group or committee and would like to join a team to help out with potluck and/or coffee for one or more Sundays in a month is invited to contact Mack to volunteer. It is a joyful experience!!

Bob Dickens gave an update on the work that the Property Maintenance and Management Committee has had done. The list was very long and included a new ramp for the community room door, sealed windows and skylights, new faucets and much, much more. We are extremely grateful for the vigilance and care of this hard-working group.

A call was put out for a person or persons to spearhead a grounds clean-up in the absence of Amy Thompson, who has family matters she is taking care of. Anyone who could do this should let Evelyn Foster or Robin Lovrien know so they can be in touch with Amy about what needs to be done.

Robin Lovrien announced that UUCE will hold a Thanksgiving Feast on Nov. 23 (Thanksgiving Day) at 1 pm. Details are in the weekly e-bulletin, the *NUUS* and the weekly inserts. Robin and Penel Houghton will be signing up people for donations for the dinner. Some have already volunteered food. We expect this to be a rich community experience for all! Please come if you can!

Robin Lovrien, President, BOT



"Our Sabbatical Year"

SARA'S SABBATICAL IS COMING SOON—She has been our minister for five years, accumulating one sabbatical month for each year. She will be taking her sabbatical in 2017 or 2018. The date has not yet been determined.

Sara is planning her sabbatical as a respite from established routines and responsibilities, as a time for reflection, for new experiences and stimulation, as an opportunity for healing, for new insights and perspectives—and as a time to become charged with new energy. The Sara who returns to us will be a renewed person and possibly even a stranger. The only certainty is that she will be changed—in some ways a different Sara than we accept so joyfully at present. We call this growth.

THIS WILL BE **OUR** SABBATICAL—While Sara is absent, we will assume Sara's responsibilities. This will be a time for us to look back and ahead, to see our relationship with Sara from a new perspective, and to find a new appreciation for all that she provides as our called minister—and to develop a new appreciation for all that we do. Perhaps we will do some things in ways that we have never considered before. We call this growth.

We have much to do before the sabbatical begins. Sara will provide us with her sabbatical plan and specific dates. A timeline will develop. We will plan how to do all those things that our minister does for us. There will be some surprises. The key will be open communication between Congregation, Board of Trustees, Committee on Ministry, and Sara. Beginning now, please share your ideas and/or concerns with Sara or any member of the Committee on Ministry: Bill, Eileen B., Jenn R., and Karen V.

Sara's sabbatical is announced well in advance—

- So that no one will be surprised;
- To inform all that the sabbatical planning is beginning now;
- So that, on behalf of Sara, I can ask for your continued love and support; and
- To express my personal wish that we will embrace this time as *our* sabbatical.

Bill Clark

Chair, Committee on Ministry

News from Your Collaborative Ministry Team

The Collaborative Ministry Team—with representatives from Belfast, Castine, and Ellsworth—met in Ellsworth on October 11. Items on our agenda included the following:

Our Next Three-Church Service

We are going to have a single person organize and coordinate the three-church service, which takes place next summer on June 11 in Belfast. This coordinator could possibly be paid up to \$300, with \$100 from each church. We are still considering who that might be and then we will begin to shape the job for that person. While we were very happy with the first collaborative service that we had this last June, we recognized that it was quite

cumbersome and often inefficient for several different groups to be planning parts of the service. Lane Fisher inquired as to whether she would be eligible to do that job. Members of the team agreed to look into that idea.

Ministerial Internship

The UUA has agreed to a reduction of Lane Fisher's stipend by a small amount for this year so that we can add that amount to next year's stipend for an intern. The UUA gave our collaboration an extra amount for this year, in addition to the aid of \$4500 for the stipend. Half of this extra amount will be withheld and added to next year's amount, since we will not have the gift from UUA, and the stipend from UUA will be half what it has been this year. This is a normal reduction of UUA contributions to internships. Lane has agreed to this.

Mary Haynes is in the process of completing the application for next year's intern for our collaborative ministry. We look forward to having a second year with an intern. Lane has been very busy with work in all three churches and meeting monthly with her Internship advisory committee, which, like our CMT, is made up of people from all three churches, and with Rev. Sara Hayman, who is her supervisor.

A Showing of "Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War"

On behalf of the CMT, Colin Powell has organized a showing of Ken Burns' "Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War" at the Alamo Theater in Bucksport on December 1. All three congregations are invited to see it together. We will send out details as they develop.



The Common Read: *The Third Reconstruction: How a Moral Movement Is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Fear*

The CMT is planning to implement gatherings of congregants to discuss the first of three books we would like to do as a common read. The first book is *Third Reconstruction: How a Moral Movement Is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Fear* by the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II and Jonathan Wilson-Hargrove. Rev. Dr. Barber inspired many of us deeply at General Assembly in Columbus in June of this year, and is a nationally honored and recognized leader in social justice activism. The pastors of our three churches will each have ways of engaging their congregations in the Common Read. This book is also the Common Read of the UUA, and there are study guides available from the UUA.

Ferry Beach

Our next collaborative gathering is our three-church retreat at Ferry Beach this weekend, October 28-30. We are expecting a record turnout—as of this writing, 75 from Belfast, 62 from Ellsworth and 17 from Castine, plus all three pastors and Lane! It will be a fun and spiritually reviving weekend. Members of all three churches will lead a large Halloween party plus lots of other informal and formal gatherings and a joint worship service. Look in this column for a follow-up report!

Representatives to the CMT are: Ellsworth: Rev. Sara Hayman, Robin Lovrien, and Mary Haynes; Belfast: Rev. Deane Perkins, Karen Wigglesworth, and Judith Grace; Castine: Colin Powell, Rev. Margaret Beckman; Ministerial Intern to the Collaboration: Lane Fisher.

Robin Lovrien, President, BOT

A Conversation on Worship

I participated in a very special conversation last week at UUCE with Reverend Sara, our intern Lane Fisher, and our congregant and seminary student Amy Fiorilli. I had requested some time with them, Cecily Judd, Cynthia Perkins, and me. The topic on our agenda was worship services.



When I set up the meeting, I explained to Sara that I had been feeling some dissatisfaction with the worship services for several months and very much wanted to talk it over with her, Lane and Amy. I had also been having some conversations with Cynthia and Cecily recently, learned that they were having some of the same experiences, and wanted to be present at the meeting. Sara enthusiastically accepted the opportunity to meet, as did Lane and Amy.

In the days before the meeting I was anxious because I couldn't really articulate what wasn't working for me, and was worried about wasting the other people's time as I searched for words to describe my experience with services. In fact, I thought I might well leave the meeting without ever having been able to articulate what I was feeling so deeply. Cecily, Cynthia and I explained that we each are yearning for more depth of spirituality and religiosity in the services, but it was difficult to articulate beyond that. Amazingly to me, Sara, Lane and Amy immediately grasped the nature of our concerns. They each asked questions that helped us further explore our dilemmas, and offered insights that helped us better articulate what we are seeking, moving the conversation forward to places I hadn't even dared to hope it could go.

Because being a UU means that we bear responsibility to be agents of positive change, we determined that we could do a few simple things that might begin to move the services to a more spiritual level. For example, I wondered if people might need some help in effectively utilizing the gathering music and prelude times to transition into a spiritual, reverent attitude. I thought that perhaps we could use a suggestion from the pulpit on how to do that, or maybe include some words in the Order of Service bulletin that would guide us. Also, the group agreed with Sara's suggestion that we each could model doing more of what we want to see, such as remaining quiet while settling into the gathering music, and being more disciplined about using Joys and Sorrows time only for sharing important personal information.

I've been involved with two other religions (Episcopal until my early 30's and Judaism from then until three years ago). I loved many things about both of those religions, but had never experienced a discussion with clergy as open and accepting about my deepest beliefs, self-doubts, and yearnings for personally meaningful spiritual and religious expression during worship services as this one.

We were all so taken by the profound discussion that, at Sara's suggestion, we decided to continue it in a couple of weeks, and at some point to open it up to others in the congregation who are interested.

You'll be hearing more about opportunities to share in this discussion very shortly. Please consider joining in, and be prepared to wear your spiritual and/or religious heart on your sleeve. I can assure you that you, and your ideas, will be received with warm welcoming and love.

Mary Haynes

Money Matters

The Goods & Services Auction

Our annual auction on October 8 was a good time AND, along with the turkey raffle, brought in well over the amount estimated in this year's budget for our church and charities! There are still some auction items available for sale, many of which are on display in the Community Room and the Board Room. Check our website, www.uuellsworth.org, for the list of goods, events, and services still available for bid, and contact Margaret Thurston at mhthurs@gmail.com if you're interested in any of these items. The list of events and services offered at the auction, with relevant dates, locations, donors and winning bidders, will also be posted on our website for your reference throughout the year. Paper copies of both lists are pinned on the church bulletin boards.

Many thanks are due Mary Haynes for organizing the superb food brigade; Anne Ossanna for overseeing the liquid refreshments; Mack MacDonald for running the raffle for the organic turkey donated by Colleen Prentiss; energetic and engaging new auctioneers Lori Johnson and Beth Pepper; and ALL our many gracious volunteers who gave of their time and energy to make this important event happen so soon after our inaugural eggrolling adventures at the Common Ground Fair!

Margaret Thurston, Auction Chair

Sankofa Corner

by UUCE Historian Wayne H. Smith



The Early Early History of Unitarianism in Hancock County*

New England Puritanism started out as the one common root of both the Trinitarian-leaning and the Unitarian-leaning church-goers within the general congregational movement. The early churches in New England were called "congregational" because each individual church ran its own affairs, there being no bishop or other hierarchy above the congregation. They were independent congregations in fellowship with one another. Nowadays, we have added on a denominational structure in that we have created the UUA, short for "Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations," yet we retain congregational polity and we do things by vote of each independent congregation. The Congregationalists have now merged with the Evangelical and Reformed Church to form the United Church of Christ, and made some compromises vis-à-vis their polity along the way. So, in a sense, the UU churches are more congregational than the Congregationalists.

Between about 1800 and about 1830, these two groups of thinkers, the Trinitarian church-goers and the Unitarian church-goers, eventually split away from each other. This occasionally created some interesting conflicts between the individual parishes (which represented the adult men, or the "voters of the town," who

were taxed to support the established church) and the Church itself because very often the parishioners were largely liberal (read: Unitarian) in thought, but the members of the Church were largely orthodox (read: Trinitarian or Congregational). So, for example, a minister that might be recommended by the Church could be voted down by the parish, that is, turned down by the town, perhaps because he was too conservative. In the precedent-setting Dedham Case of 1820, a Massachusetts judge ruled that if there was a split between the members of the parish and the members of the Church, the church building and other church property went with the parish, causing the losing Trinitarian side to say: "They kept the property, but we kept the faith." In this way, many of the early congregational churches in Massachusetts eventually became Unitarian churches. As such, the Unitarians ended up with many of the church buildings that were originally the established churches for each town. This Dedham decision later became a basis upon which the emerging Unitarian denomination was built.

The split between the liberal and orthodox factions of the churches in New England had been precipitated by the calling of a liberal to fill the chair of Divinity at Harvard College around 1805. The ensuing controversy raged for years, culminating in William Ellery Channing's Baltimore sermon of 1819, *Unitarian Christianity*, which was printed in pamphlet form and became the battle cry of the Unitarians. This pamphlet had the largest distribution of any pamphlet since the publication of Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*. One notes that the American Unitarian Association was established in 1825, just five years after the Dedham Case, and just ten years before the first attempt to create a Unitarian presence in Ellsworth.

But, first, let us take a look at what was happening in Castine. Castine had built a church building in 1790 to serve as the town meeting place, but it wasn't until 1798 that they actually called a minister. That minister, Parson William Mason, was theologically liberal, and he had begun serving in Castine before the time of the Unitarian controversy, served all the way through the split, and continued to serve until nine years after the establishment of the AUA. While the controversy was raging in Boston, the parishioners of Castine were keeping up with the discussions, and, eventually, in 1820, the year of the Dedham decision, there was a walkout from the Castine congregation, and the more orthodox members formed the Trinitarian Church of Castine (now a UCC church) to differentiate themselves from the First Congregational Society (Unitarian), which in 1991 changed its name to the Castine Unitarian Church. In 1831, the Unitarian church was remodeled and they removed the original balcony from the three sides of the sanctuary. They did this partly because of the significant number of people who had left the church, and partly because Castine was gradually losing its position as county seat and it was passed up by the railroad. So, by the time of Parson Mason's retirement in 1834, the church was exclusively Unitarian.

After Parson Mason, a younger man named William Wiswall came to the Castine church. He came with little experience and had not yet been ordained, and in the minds of the parishioners he couldn't begin to fill Parson Mason's shoes, Mason having been there so long that he had become an institution. Wiswall himself was probably also disheartened to find a much smaller congregation than he expected, and after about a year in Castine, he apparently returned to the Boston area.

Meanwhile in Ellsworth...

The first real pastor to serve the Ellsworth area was Rev. Peter Nourse. Rev. Nourse was born in Bolton, Massachusetts, in 1774 and graduated from Harvard College in 1802. Although he made occasional visits to the Ellsworth area during the summers, he didn't actually move to this area until 1810. Ellsworth historian

Herb Silsby, in his *History of the Congregational Church in Ellsworth*, notes that Nourse arrived in 1810 with every intention of establishing a church, which he eventually did in 1812. He was hired by the selectmen of Ellsworth to work one-quarter time as a preacher, and three-quarter time as the superintendent of Ellsworth's "common" or elementary schools.

Although Nourse wasn't exactly a Unitarian, he was indeed of the liberal persuasion. Another Ellsworth minister described him as "a man of liberal mind and genuine Christian feelings and not regarded by the Orthodox clergy as perfectly sound in the faith." Others said that he "preached the love of God rather than the terrors of the law." It is interesting to note that the pulpit Bible that he used at the Congo church had been given to him by Rev. William Ellery Channing, the leader of the Unitarian movement. They had been classmates at Harvard.

Nourse's Unitarian—or at least "liberal"—leanings eventually created some controversy among his parishioners. By the mid-1820s the Unitarian Question which had become rampant in the Congregational churches of Massachusetts had begun spilling into Maine. Membership at his church had fallen from 41 in 1828 down to 36 in 1835, and eventually Nourse made the decision to resign in October of 1835, after a ministry of 23 years, and a more orthodox or conservative minister was called by the Congregationalists to take his place. The liberal (Unitarian) minority of that congregation, who were pleased with Rev. Nourse's style, had already decided to take action. As early as May 19, 1835, a group of them issued a "Public Call for a Meeting," saying: "Those persons in favor of forming a Unitarian Society and taking measures for the support of liberal preaching in this town are requested to meet for that purpose at the Masonic Hall tomorrow evening at seven o'clock." At the meeting held the very next day and chaired by David Dyer, the participants—all men—drafted the following resolution:

The undersigned, having long enjoyed the benefit of the moral and religious instruction of the Rev. Peter Nourse, of which they are now unfortunately deprived by his dismissal from his parish, and being satisfied that the constant care of a religious teacher is important to their well-being as it is impossible for one not living among them to have that knowledge of their disposition or of the state of their minds and hearts necessary to be able to give them such counsel as may be for their present and future welfare, believing that public religious worship has a tendency to soften down the asperities of private life to bring man more closely in unison with his fellow man and profitably to employ some of those hours that our Heavenly Father has kindly directed to be set apart to rest our weary minds and bodies and to enlarge and soften our hearts by reflection on His goodness and loving kindness unto all men. Do hereby agree to form ourselves into a Society for the support of public worship in Ellsworth & do severally promise to pay to the Collector of such Society, when chosen at such time or times as said by vote may direct, the sums set against our names as a salary to such Teacher or Preachers as the Society may select to instruct them the ensuing year, provided however the gross sum that may be thus raised be not too large for that purpose, the amount so to be expended to be fixed by the Society and the remainder, if any, to be subject to their future disposal.

Perhaps more importantly, each of the Subscribers was encouraged to make a financial offering to assist in getting the organization off the ground. A total of \$595 was collected that evening, which in 2016 dollars would be worth about \$16,000.

In true Unitarian fashion, a committee was appointed to find a preacher and locate a place for public meetings. This “Prudential Committee” was given discretionary power to manage the affairs of the Society, and within two months a Mr. Samuel Adams Devens arrived in Ellsworth and began serving as a “public teacher” on Sunday, August 23, 1835. The committee also arranged with the selectmen to use the Town House for the meetings of the Society, and Sunday services began on September 6, 1835. After a six-week trial, the committee met at the office of Charles Jarvis and decided to invite Mr. Devens to continue preaching with the Society for a total of nine months, at a salary of \$600 per year. It appears, however, that the Ellsworth congregation was not very satisfied with Devens, and eight months later, once they had the opportunity to hear from a different preacher, Rev. William Daniels Wiswall, who was by then a supply minister working on occasion in Castine, the committee decided not to rehire Devens, but rather to extend a tentative invitation to Rev. Wiswall. Wiswall began in May of 1836 and by July the committee decided to ask Wiswall to settle over the Society. For some reason, they delayed action for another eight months, but finally sent him the letter of invitation in March of 1837.

Wiswall replied in a letter dated May of 1837 from Boston saying that he had decided to accept the call to settle over the Society, and was ordained by the Ellsworth congregation on July 5 of that year. He stayed for only two years, and apparently wasn’t very successful at his work. The reason for this is unclear, but in his book *American Heretic: Theodore Parker and Transcendentalism*, Dean Grodzins describes how the well-known Unitarian theologian Theodore Parker later hired Wiswall in January 1846 to fill the pulpit at his church in Boston. Grodzins described Wiswall as “another little-known clergyman who had been without a settlement for years” and notes that “for some reason [he] declined to deliver a sermon.” Parker, in his sermon record book, angrily noted: “No preaching. Wiswall was present!” In any event, by 1839 the effort to maintain the Unitarian Society had failed, the Society was disbanded, and the members of the Society either returned to the Congregational Church or went to other churches and there was no church home for those of the Unitarian persuasion for twenty-six years, from 1839-1865.

* Much of this article is based on an interview with Rev. Mark Worth on March 8, 1996.



Come partake of a community Thanksgiving feast!

Share in good food for the body, company for the spirit, and gratitude for the bounty and the community that feeds our souls!

Family and friends: Join us for Thanksgiving dinner at UUCE!
Thursday, November 24, 1-4 pm
Gather and Grace at 1 pm

Roast turkey will be provided; attendees are asked to bring a potluck dish, as they are able, to add to the table (and to bring their own place setting in order to keep cleanup to a minimum). Dinner will be followed by conversation and sharing in the circle of those gathered. Rev. Sara will join us.

Ideas, questions, offers of help, and requests for transportation should be directed to:
Robin Lovrien at robin.uuce@gmail.com or 598-0468
Penel Houghton at penelhoughton1@gmail.com or 266-1484

**Penobscot Indigenous Rights Attorney Sherri Mitchell Presents
“Building a Movement: A Workshop for Protecting the Rights of Indigenous People”**

**Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth
Saturday, Oct. 29, 2016, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.**



This workshop is designed for individuals who are concerned about the continued erosion of the land, water, mineral, and hunting and fishing rights of Native Americans and who wish to take a stand in their support. Sherri Mitchell—a global advocate for human rights and Earth rights and the founder and director of the Land Peace Foundation, an organization dedicated to the protection of Indigenous rights—will focus on the skills needed for building an effective network for a non-violent movement, understanding the obstacles, and putting the wheels in motion.

Pre-registration is required, and a donation is encouraged. For information call: 207-546-4246

Advertising Opportunities—Promote Yourself or Your Cause

The office had a number of requests to use the church news venues for personal ads. In response, the Board of Trustees formalized a policy for members and friends of UUCE to advertise in the weekly email and the monthly *NUUS*. We started experimenting with these guidelines as of January 2016, and after a trial period we will evaluate how well the policy is working.

Questions or comments? Contact Peggy Strong, other Board members, or Rev. Sara.

SERVICES

New Day Housekeeping

New UUCE member Julie Connell offers residence cleaning service with a conscious caring attitude. Call 266-2482 or email julieconnell326@gmail.com.

Beaming Light Reiki and Sound Healing

Experience relaxation and release in a 90-minute energy session with Eileen Mielenhausen in the privacy of your own home—or at our Ellsworth studio space. Call/text Eileen at (207) 441-2785, email eileen.mielenhausen@gmail.com, or visit beaminglightcoaching.com for more info.

FOR SALE

- For sale: 1 queen-size sofa bed with queen-size LL Bean mattress topper. Never used. \$200.
 - Additional sofa for sale: a three-cushion, off-white brocade sofa with a leaf pattern, like new. \$150.
- Contact CJ at 664-3265.

What's Happening at the UUCE? Find it on our online calendar:

<http://uuellsworth.org/about/uuce-calender/>

Personnel

Contact Information

Minister Rev. Sara Hayman: 610-2872 (cell) sara@uuellsworth.org	Religious Education Coordinator Anne Ossanna: 565-2057 anne@uuellsworth.org
Church Office (M, W 12-5 p.m.; Th 12-6 p.m.) Administrator Eileen Mielenhausen: 667-4393 office@uuellsworth.org	Music Director Wayne Smith: 667-9482 wayne@mrlanguage.com
President of the Board Robin Lovrien: 546-4352 robin@uuellsworth.org	Newsletter Editor Margaret Thurston: 271-7974 mhthurs@gmail.com

Board of Trustees

President: Robin Lovrien to 2017	Vice President: Mack MacDonald
Treasurer: Peggy Strong to 2017	Secretary: Michael Arruda
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Committee and Task Force Chairs

Adult Education: open position	
Aesthetics: Linda Laing	Leadership Development: open position
Auction: Margaret Thurston	Lobster Bake: Anne Ossanna
Caring Committee: Cecily Judd	Membership: Nancy Avila
Charitable Giving: Rev. Sara Hayman	Peace and Social Action (PASA): Karen Volckhausen
Choir: Haydee Foreman	Property Management & Maintenance: Amy Thompson
Committee on Ministry: Bill Clark	Religious Education (RE) Chair: Liz True
Ferry Beach Retreat: Evelyn Foster	Safety: Helen Kazura
Fiscal Matters: David Wilcock [stepping down]	Sunday Order of Service: Send to office@uuellsworth.org
Flowers: Bronwen Kaldro	Small Group Ministry: Rev. Sara Hayman
Green Sanctuary: Kay Wilkins, Shawn & Molly Mercer	Stewardship: Stefanie Alley
History/Archives/Library: Wayne Smith	Ushers: Jon Thomas
Hospitality Manager: Mack MacDonald	Wayside Pulpit: Mack MacDonald
Landscaping: Amy Thompson	Web Pages: Brook Minner
Loaves and Fishes: Sue Clark, Nina Turner, Dartha Reid	Yard Sale: Beth Pepper & Beth Allen

Keep Up to Date on UUCE News!!

Are you receiving UUCE's weekly electronic newsletter? We want to make sure everyone who wants to read the *latest UUCE news* is receiving our weekly e-news bulletin. We send it out every Wednesday via MailChimp and have heard that some people may not be finding it in their inbox. Check your All Mail, Junk, and Spam folders first if you think you have not been receiving the weekly news. Please contact Eileen at 667-4393 or office@uuellsworth.org with your questions, to get on the mailing list, or to update your email address. Thanks!

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

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The NUUS

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The NUUS

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth

November 2016

Vol. 48, No. 11

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.