

The NUUS



April 2017
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The Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth
121 Bucksport Road, Ellsworth, ME 04605
(207) 667-4393 www.uuellsworth.org



A Month of Services in April

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

APRIL WORSHIP SERVICES: This month's worship theme is *Transformation*.

Sunday, April 2 "...then you become real" Rev. Sara Hayman, Worship Leader
1st Sunday Potluck after Worship! Nathalie Arruda, Worship Associate

This month's worship theme is TRANSFORMATION. Our worship service today will explore the transformative power of **love** in our lives. What does love require of us if we're to truly live it out in our relationships with each other? How is sorrow and a willingness to be vulnerable a part of deeply loving another? Why does that matter?

Sunday, April 9 The First Principle of Unitarian Universalism Anne Funderburk, Worship
UUUCE Choir Sings! Stewardship Gathering from 12-1 pm! Leader with Friends

The First Principle of our Unitarian Universalist faith is: We covenant to affirm and promote the inherent dignity and worth of every human being. This lay-led worship service will explore what this means and call us to this spiritual practice.

Sunday, April 16 Easter Sunday: *Out of the earth, out of the spirit...* Rev. Sara Hayman, Worship Leader
UUUCE Choir Sings! Eileen Brennan, Worship Associate

Easter is a beloved holiday and holy day to many that celebrates the rising again of light and life through the experience of suffering and death. This Easter Sunday we'll revisit a portion of the ancient story told of Jesus's life, death and resurrection as we make time and space to celebrate the sanctity of life and living.

Sunday, April 23 "I'm Still Here..." Rev. Sara Hayman, Worship Leader
Stewardship Gathering from 12-1 pm! Robin Lovrien, Worship Associate
Monthly Guatemala Meeting at 3:30 pm in Belfast!

All our lives, we grow and change and still, a portion of who we are in our depths remains. Spiritual and personal growth calls us to reflect on our lives, to heal old wounds and work humbly with others to become our more authentic selves, more rooted in compassion and generosity, too. How do we do that and why does it matter?

Sunday, April 30 Yes! Kay Wilkins & Intern Lane Fisher, Worship Leaders

This service will be a theologically grounded and challenging dialogue about our attitudes toward the differently abled. It builds upon a service Lane gave here last April before she became our collaborative ministry intern. Kay is a worship associate and social activist in our congregation, just home from wintering in Florida.

Sunday, May 7 **Stewardship Sunday**
Celebratory subs, cake & ice cream after Worship; NO 1st Sunday Potluck!

Ministry Matters



At 5:45 pm on Tuesday, March 21, I sat in the vestry hall of the First Congregational Church of Ellsworth with a few ministerial colleagues wondering if anyone would show up. A week earlier, we'd organized a Community Forum for that night in response to an incident that happened at

the Ellsworth High School: three students had flown large Confederate flags on the back of their trucks which they'd prominently parked in the high school parking lot. A youth in our congregation had reached out to her church community and named her discomfort and upset. Yes, there's freedom of speech and there are also attendant responsibilities re: the safety and well being of all. We local ministers wanted to respond constructively.

By 6:30 pm, as the forum started, every seat in the circle of about 30 chairs was filled. Each person who showed up had a chance to speak uninterrupted and together we practiced the discipline of listening to each other. Concerns and fears were raised, as were many questions, among them, how do we get better at talking with people with whom we disagree? What actions could we take to help bridge the divides of opinion, politics

and faith that keep us a part?

Later this week, I meet with my ministerial colleagues to revisit our notes from this Community Forum and begin thinking about what might come next. Together, we are learning how to act more visibly in the public sphere. Together, we are willing to experiment and committed to asking others to join us. Together, we are wanting to do more than simply "sing to the choir" of those with whom we agree. Together, we are hoping to build relationships that lead to a deeper sense of understanding and caring between people who might otherwise never personally engage in conversation with each other. Together, we are committed to listening and creating spaces where people might hear and come to better understand and respect each other.

I'm grateful for my Ellsworth Area Minister's Association (EAMA) colleagues who are showing up and committed to working together, and I'm grateful for the presence and support of members and friends of our UUCE community. These are timely and worthy goals and aspirations of faithful, civic engagement. I hope you will join us.

Yours, in shared faith, *Rev. Sara*

P.S. Please read Karen Volckhausen's article about the Community Forum in this newsletter.

Tom Martin, intrepid UUCE explorer, on March 17 offered a fascinating slide show and stories of his trip along the Silk Road, the Internet of Antiquity! He traveled from Xi'an, China, to Kyrgyzstan to Tashkent, Uzbekistan, with a stop overnight in an Uzbek hospital.



Xi'an



11th c. Burana Tower



Kyrgyzstan Stone Figures

**APRIL KICKS OFF OUR ANNUAL PLEDGE CAMPAIGN,
LEADING UP TO STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY ON MAY 7.
DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP WITH A GROUP TO
MAKE YOUR PLEDGE!**

Dear Members and Friends of Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth,



We are approaching an important time in the life of our thriving community, the time to make our annual pledges of financial support for the 2017-18 budget. This year we are doing things a bit differently than in previous years, and we need you to let us know which of the following opportunities to pledge works best for you.

With permission, two representatives from our Stewardship Committee (including Rev. Sara) will attend our church's Small Group Ministry meetings in April and May for half an hour to share our stewardship goals and collect people's completed pledge cards. If you are *not* in a Small Group Ministry program or are unable to attend your monthly

meeting, we have established four other meeting dates and times that you can select to do this important work.

The following dates and times of these other stewardship meetings at church are:

Sunday, April 9 from 12-1 p.m.

Tuesday, April 11 at 2 p.m.

Tuesday, April 11 at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday April 23 from 12-1 p.m.

Please let us know if you will be present for your Small Group Ministry in April or early May. If you will not be at the Small Group Ministry meeting or if you are not a member of one of these groups, please contact me and let me know which of the above times is best for you to attend. Evelyn Foster will also have sign-up sheets at church each Sunday in April. If you would prefer an individual meeting with someone on the Stewardship Committee to make your pledge, let us know that as well. We want to hear from everyone so that we can be well prepared to receive your annual pledge.

Thank you, *Betty Massie* bm41massie@gmail.com 207-460-1682

Got an announcement for a Sunday service?

Get a preprinted form at the table in the foyer, fill it in, and get it to the podium by 15 minutes prior to the service. The five most urgent announcements will be read at 10:30 a.m.

Want to volunteer to help with potluck or coffee hour after services?

***Sign the sheet on the entry bulletin board or talk to Jody Murphy
(murphyjodyann@gmail.com). And we thank you very much!!***

A Growing Year: The Collaborative Ministry Internship



March was a “pile it on” month! In Ellsworth we held eight small-group discussions that will lead, we hope, to the articulation of a new mission statement; I took part in most of them, as did Rev. Sara, Robin

Lovrien, and Mary Haynes. In Belfast, several people asked me to meet for pastoral care in Rev. Deane’s absence. In Castine, I was finally able to join their Social Justice Committee for a meeting! I led worship in both Belfast and Ellsworth, plus a “welcome, spring” vespers service. Unless I’m preaching, Saturday is normally my one cleanly “off” day, but last month I attended three Saturday workshops in a row—in Bangor, Framingham, MA, and Ellsworth. Whew!

The Collaborative Ministry Team did not meet in February, since two of our three ministers were away, but several of us regret that. We did meet in March (right after the *NUUS* deadline) to plan additional three-church activities for this year:

another book discussion and at least one film. Watch for details on Facebook and the e-news. April will also include some travel. I’ll join the New England Region’s ministers at their spring retreat early in the month and then will travel to Woburn, MA, with several from our churches for our first regional assembly. At the latter, worship with Glen Thomas Rideout and singing with Ysaye Barnwell will most assuredly fill our wells. Back at my desk—or desks—surveying our congregations on how members might like to expand their social justice focus is at the top of my list.

Winds of change are stirring. Before March is out, the primary candidate to be next year’s intern will have been interviewed. As I write, I have just 13 weeks left in my internship, and it’s jarring to realize I won’t be here for events I’m now hearing discussed. It has been a great joy and a deep privilege to share all I have with you this year, and it’s jarring to have the end of it looming already.

With blessings and love,
Lane

SOCIAL JUSTICE GRANTS

UUCC Invites Social Justice Grant Proposals

Please spread the word: applications for next year’s cycle of gifts from the Deborah Pulliam Social Justice Grants are sought by the UU Congregation of Castine. The 2017 application form will be available by April 1 at UUCC’s web site.

The deadline for applications is June 30, and the grants will be announced and fulfilled by September 1. For this year’s guidelines, visit the Social Justice page on uucastine.org.

The News from the Peace and Social Action Committee

COMMUNITY FORUM ON FLAG

What does the confederate flag symbolize? Is it a symbol of pride or hate, memory of the South's glorious past or slavery, an innocent expression or a white extremist threat, free speech or hate speech? That is what 25 or so community members were wrestling with when they met at the Congregational Church on the evening of March 21 to discuss the confederate flag incident that occurred at Ellsworth High School several weeks before. The students have been talked to, the flags removed, problem fixed. But no, it is not. Looking over the past year of the fear and hate that have been unleashed and acted on in this country, no, it is not. In the first 10 days after the election, 867 hate incidents were recorded by the Southern Poverty Law Center. And the number keeps growing. The fact is we are not immune here!

We needed to talk and talk we did, about many things: The possible innocence of the boys involved and the desperate need for education. How precious freedom of speech is but not when it is used to intimidate. How things feel like they are falling apart, respect lost, people feeling they can say or do anything with no regard for the hurt they are causing. How it has to be the responsibility of the people and institutions in our towns to create safe, respectful community.

We looked around and realized what a homogeneous group we were. Where were the people who disagreed with us? How would we talk with them? There was a hunger growing for dialogue and connection with others, to gain the skills to have hard conversations, to go further than we could go that evening.

We knew by the end of the meeting that this could not be the end of the story! The need to meet again was apparent. Luckily, a list of ideas generated during the meeting is in the hands of the six ministers present who will be discussing them further and defining the next steps. You will be hearing more about this!

Karen Volckhausen, PASA Chair



BOOK GROUP

PASA and Adult RE will be co-sponsoring a book group on Thursday, April 27 and May 4, at 4:30 pm in the Board Room. We will be discussing *Viking Economics* by George Lakey. This book takes a close look at the Nordic Model showing how, by increasing financial equality in the Nordic countries, their citizens are among the happiest, healthiest, most productive people on the planet, with smarter environmental policies and shared social justice goals. Is this something we could achieve in the USA? Come join us and find out! The book is available on Amazon [or better yet, order through your local bookstore].

DIRECT ACTION TRAINING #2

The Direct Action Training at UUCE in January was a great success with over 70 people attending. PASA has had requests to repeat the training for those who were unable to attend. Therefore, we have scheduled a second training on Saturday, May 13, from 10-4 at UUCE. We will have the same team of experienced trainers: Larry Dansinger, Jim Freeman, and Logan Perkins. See Nathalie Arruda or Kay Wilkins if you are interested in attending.

BYSTANDER TRAINING

Harassment in public and in the workplace is ever present for many people in our communities and on the rise since the election. Bystander training helps give us ways to address this form of assault when we are the target or when we witness others being targeted. Through this training we can explore how to intervene directly, indirectly, and through distraction, and the ways to de-escalate volatile situations.

PASA is working on finding a bystander training in our region which will probably take place in the early summer. Stay tuned for details.

PASA meets monthly on the second Wednesday on each month at 4 p.m. in the Tidewater Room. All are welcome. Next meeting is April 12.

Religious Education

Spring Greetings from the Carl Stehman Wing!

Our children spent March exploring the topic of *Risk* with their guides. I was moved by the thoughtful conversation and insight the children had. The guides read books about children who took a risk, then asked questions that led to discussing risks we each have taken or not taken. We are so fortunate to have such caring volunteers. A heartfelt THANK YOU to our March RE guides: Suzanne Aubrey, Carol Rosinski, Jody Murphy, and Jenn Ryan!

The youth, ministers, and chaperones who are participating in the service trip to Guatemala this summer raised funds by providing a delicious and healthy lunch to participants at the New England District Workshop on “Diving Deeper into the Leadership Crisis” hosted by UUCE on March 18.



On April 1 and 2, UUCE will host the Mid-Maine Tween Overnight Gathering. We anticipate that 24 tweens and 6 chaperones from our region will gather in fellowship at UUCE and explore “Finding Common Ground.” UUCE members have willingly offered to share their talents and ministry to the tweens. Michael Arruda, Suzanne Aubrey and I will chaperone. Amy Thompson and Cecily Judd will lead a gathering art project to be displayed in the Sanctuary on April 2. Mack MacDonald, Margaret Thurston, and Suzanne Aubrey will assist with our taco dinner, while Stefanie Alley, Amy Fiorilli, Bob Dickens, and Dawn Ray will serve our pancake and sausage breakfast. Rev. Sara will spend some time with the tweens, and Emma Macaillen has facilitated our guest speaker, a member of the Penobscot Nation, who will sit in circle and share leadership traditions of the Nations.

I will attend the UUA NED Regional Assembly in Massachusetts on April 21-22 and look forward to spending time with colleagues, attending informative workshops, and singing. During that time I will be available by email and cell phone.

SAVE THE DATES: On May 6, Bangor and Ellsworth tweens, ages 9-12, will have a sleepover at UUCE and then attend Morgan Bay Zendo on May 7 for Buddha’s birthday meditation and potluck. Ellsworth teens are welcome to join in, providing we have sufficient transportation. More details forthcoming.

Woyaya, *Anne*

April Religious Education Calendar—Transformation

April 1: “Finding Common Ground” Tween Overnight Gathering at UUCE—noon.

April 2: Tweens will remain in the Sanctuary; Exploring *Transformation* with Cecily Judd;

Potluck Sunday with 30 extra guests—please be as generous as you can with your food offerings.

April 9: Exploring *Transformation* with Jenn Ryan

April 16: Easter Sunday—Easter Egg Hunt after Time for All Ages. Seeking two parent volunteers to help.

April 21-22: Anne attending UUA NED Regional Assembly

April 23: Exploring *Transformation* with Anne Funderburk; Guatemala service trip meeting

April 30: Exploring *Transformation* with Suzanne Aubrey

On Saturday, April 8, our Guatemala Youth will host a fabulous French music concert and dessert café (sweet donations welcome) as a family-friendly fundraiser for their July 2017 Service Project to Safe Passage in Guatemala City. Rev. Sara, for one, plans to kick up her heels!
Suggested donations: \$10 per person or \$15 for a family.

Laissez les bon temps rouler!

Le Bon Truc Trio (“The Good Stuff”)



Saturday, April 8, at UUCE
Traditional dance music and songs from
Central France, Alsace, Brittany, and more
Dessert Café at 1 p.m. Concert at 2 p.m.

Spring Cleanup—Join the Happy Team

Winter has left us sand on the new pavement, leaves in the gardens, clutter in our closets and storage shed, and trees and limbs to be trimmed. We are proud of our beautiful building and grounds and want it to look well cared for—not just for ourselves but for the many other people who visit us and rent our space.

Show your pride and team spirit by adopting some small plot to work on or pick some other project. There will be a map of the work projects and chance for you to sign up soon in the community room.

We hope the snow will be melted soon. Our target date is Earth Day, April 22, but people will be working all weekend. It's more fun to work when others are working with you, but you are welcome to do your job at your convenience or when the weather seems right for you.

Watch for the Signup Board!

Sankofa Corner



Rev. William Henry Lyon: Scholar and Man of Letters

William Henry Lyon, minister at the First Unitarian Society of Ellsworth from 1873-1878, was the second minister to serve the congregation after its establishment in 1867. Lyon was born in Fall River, Massachusetts, on December 23, 1846. His father's family came from a long line of distinguished individuals in the history of the Boston area but whose influence and travels extended as far west as Idaho and California and as far east as Turkey, Palestine, and Egypt. His father, Henry Lyon, was an engraver and trustee of the Fall River Athenaeum and the Fall River Library, and was noted for his inventiveness, geniality, and love of literature.

Young William grew up loving to read books of biography and history. He earned some of his college tuition money by singing in the church choir and playing the organ. After graduating from Brown University in 1868, he continued on to the liberal bastion of divinity, the Harvard Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, earning his Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1873.

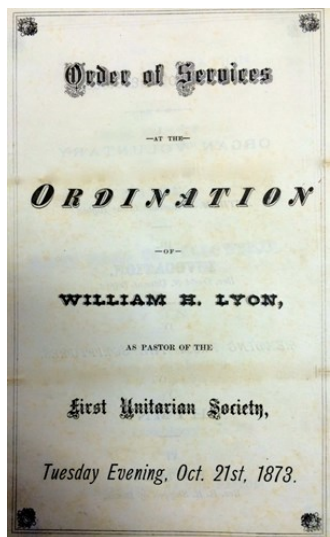
Rev. Lyon's first placement after earning his degree was in our church, arriving in July of 1873. In the words of the first church historian, Mary Ann Greely, "His first sermon aroused a great interest among the congregation which constantly increased during his stay. At the close of the month, a unanimous call was given him to become pastor of the church for an indefinite period. This, after deliberation, he accepted and was ordained into the Christian ministry and installed pastor of the First Unitarian Society of Ellsworth on Tuesday evening October 21, 1873." His ordination involved a number of local Unitarian ministers, including Rev. L. E. Beckwith of



Augusta who recited the Prayer of Ordination; Rev. A. M. Knapp of Bangor, who administered the Right Hand of Fellowship; and Rev. W. H. Savary, then of Canton, Massachusetts, but who had served as our first minister after our foundation, who delivered the Address to the Society.

Again, quoting Ms. Greely, "Under Rev. Mr. Lyon's ministry the Society became more firmly united than before. Each department worked with increased vigor, and the congregations grew more regular and of larger numbers. He put new life into the Sunday School and it, always prosperous, began to realize the important position it holds in the Society and to be more systematic in its arrangements. A Secretary was appointed who should make record of all that pertained to the school and Mr. Lyon himself drilled the school in singing."

Rev. William Henry Lyon, *continued*



Rev. Lyon tendered his resignation in June of 1878, which was regretfully accepted by the society. He was honored with the following words by the *Ellsworth American* of June 27, 1878: "Mr. Lyon has been in this city about five years and has won for himself the love and esteem not only of his own parishioners, but of all our citizens without regard to creed or opinions generally. Behind every word he utters in public or private there is a sincerity and conscientiousness which makes it a power. It is this, more than anything else, which has given him such a hold upon the affections of the people. He has not confined his work to his own Society, but has been first and foremost in every good work for the benefit of mankind. The good influence he has exerted in our city has made him a public benefactor and when he goes out from among us he will be remembered with the kindness and affection that are due to his genuine...friendship. We wish to indulge in no more words of fulsome compliment but merely to recognize modestly and sincerely the debt of gratitude which Ellsworth owes to its friend."

After leaving Ellsworth, Rev. Lyon served for ten years at the Mount Pleasant Congregational Church in Roxbury, Massachusetts, followed by six more years at the All Souls Unitarian Church,

also in Roxbury. It was while he was serving this last parish that he married Alice Louise Dennison of Boston on April 5, 1893. The couple eventually had three children. He then moved on to the First Parish in Brookline, Massachusetts, where he served for a number of years and became tightly involved in the affairs of the town.

His love of books and scholarship never abated, and he felt that Unitarian ministers should maintain a high standard of literary achievement. Speaking to a Unitarian Festival in 1897, he bemoaned the fact that the Unitarians were losing their intellectual leadership, saying "the decline of scholarship and literary ability, and an increasing indifference to the learning and knowledge of this wide-awake and abundant time" threatened no good. He stated that Unitarians pride themselves on the list of scholars and literary men that they have produced, but then asked, "Where are their successors?"

Consistent with these values, Rev. Lyon served the city of Brookline as a trustee of the public library, a member of the school committee, and president of the Education Society. He was a visiting lecturer at the Harvard Divinity School, president of the Unitarian Sunday School Society, chancellor of the Unitarian Synod of Hungary, and secretary of the National Unitarian Conference. His writings include *A Study of the Sects*, 1891; *Early Old Testament Narratives*, 1893; and *Later Old Testament Narratives*, 1905. Brown University conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1896. He admonished young people with the following words: "The selection as early as possible of the work you mean to do and then steady, cool, trustful prosecution of it, simplicity in living, kindness to all, confidence in human nature and in the divine love, and justice to every man will help to win such success as is possible and worth while."

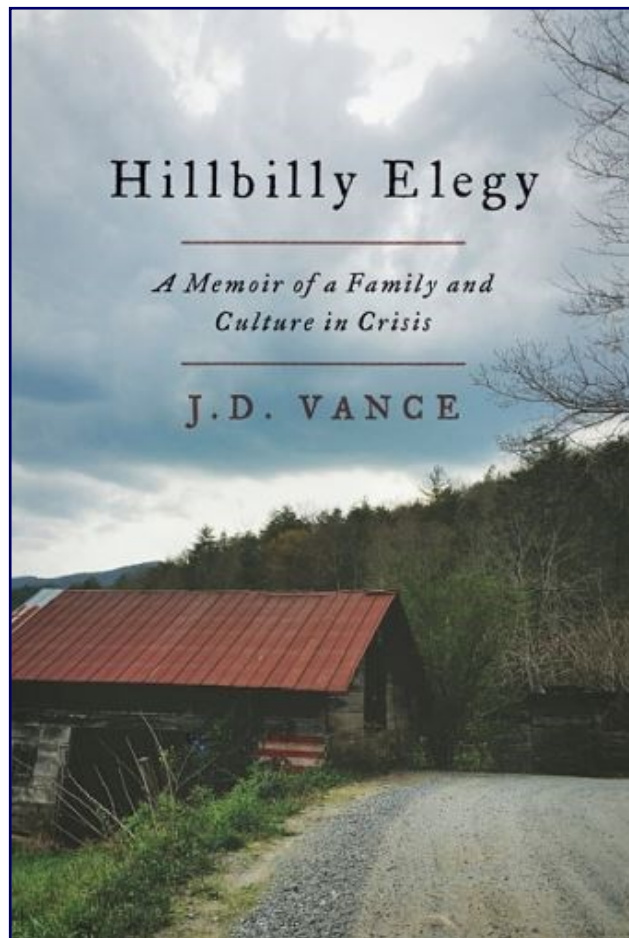
Rev. Lyon passed away in Brookline on December 20, 1915.

Hillbilly Elogy—Next Collaborative Read

The Collaborative Ministry Team of the UU congregations of Belfast, Ellsworth, and Castine invites you to mark your calendars for the evening of Thursday, June 1, at 5:30 p.m., when groups will be gathering for a discussion of our second Collaborative Read.

Save the date, and buy or borrow the book. J.D. Vance's *Hillbilly Elogy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* was named by the *New York Times* as one of a handful to read if you want to understand why last fall's election went the way it did. The Collaborative Ministry Team has chosen it as our next common read. On June 1, we'll gather in our respective church meeting spaces, talk about the book with our churchmates, and then, once again, connect electronically to have some three-church discussion.

For more information, please contact Lane Fisher. Start reading now and make plans to join us for this timely and important discussion!



OTHER LOCAL SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVITIES

The Hancock County Democratic Committee is meeting on April 20 to focus on the issue of access to health care and the efforts to replace the Affordable Care Act. Join in at the Gen. Bryant E. Moore Community & Conference Center in Ellsworth at 7 p.m.

Indivisible Ellsworth usually meets every Wednesday at 7 pm at the UUCE. And Indivisible Blue Hill meets next on Tuesday, April 4 at 6:30 pm at the Blue Hill Library. There is also an Indivisible MDI group.

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

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

You can find posted on our website www.uuellsworth.org the list of events and services that were offered at the auction, with relevant dates, locations, donors and winning bidders, for your reference throughout the year.

New England Region UUA Regional Assembly

April 21-22, 2017 in Woburn, MA

Your New England Region UUA is bringing you a unique opportunity to gather with New England Unitarian Universalists for a celebration of spirit. Worship with acclaimed liturgist-singer-music director Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout and UU/UCC preacher Rev. Robin Bartlett. Sing with composer-musician-song leader Dr. Ysaye Barnwell. Attend a UUA Presidential Candidates Forum. Meet and greet your New England Region UUA staff, and choose from three workshops being offered. Register at: new-england.eventbrite.com

Youth are welcome to participate; special rate for ages 12-19. Free child care available for ages 11 and under.



Advertisements

SERVICES

New Day Housekeeping

New UUCE member Julie Connell offers home cleaning services with a conscious caring attitude. Call 266-2482 or email NewDayCleaning@outlook.com.



BeamingLight 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 studio space in Ellsworth or Lamoine. Email eileen.mielenhausen@gmail.com, call/text 207-441-2785 or visit beaminglightcoaching.com for more information.

NEEDED

Summer Housing

Eileen Mielenhausen is looking for a new place to live starting May 15. Please let her know if you have any leads for inexpensive accommodations. Call/text Eileen at (207) 441-2785 or email

eileen.mielenhausen@gmail.com.

Cards

If you have some nice greeting cards that you don't need, the Caring Committee can put them to good use. See Dartha Reid or Cecily Judd.

Contact Information

Minister Rev. Sara Hayman: 610-2872 (cell) sara@uuellsworth.org	Religious Education Coordinator Anne Ossanna: 565-205 aossanna@aol.com
Church Office (M 10-3, W 12-5, Th 10-4) 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.uuce@gmail.com	Newsletter Editor Margaret Thurston: 271-7974 mhthurs@gmail.com

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Ferry Beach Retreat: Evelyn Foster	Safety: Helen Kazura
Fiscal Matters: Gerry Mehl	Sunday Order of Service: send to office@uuellsworth.org
Flowers: Bronwen Kaldro	Small Group Ministry: Rev. Sara Hayman
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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 to get on the mailing list or to

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The NUUS

April 2017

The NUUS
Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth

April 2017

Vol. 49, No. 4

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.