



# The NUUS

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

Volume 48

No. 4

April 2016

## A Month of Services in April

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

### APRIL WORSHIP SERVICES:

**Sunday, April 3**      Living a Life Is a Journey      Rev. Sara Hayman, Worship Leader  
*Potluck Sunday!*      Eileen Brennan, Worship Associate

"Authentic pilgrimage is not a site made holy by belief,  
but a state of mind and heart made holy by the lives we lead." —Rabbi Rami Shapiro

This month's worship theme is PILGRIMAGE: *the practice of journeying*. What is the journey we are on at different stages in our lives: young adult, middle age and older age? What values and principles are most important at these different times in our lives? Drawing on the experience of three people, this service will explore these questions and invite you to reflect on your own experience as part of creating a meaningful life.

**Sunday, April 10**      Multigenerational Worship Service      Members of UUCE's Green Team and  
"Our Home, Our Heart: Exploring Earth Day Connections"      Anne Ossanna, R.E. Coordinator

*Congregational Conversation after worship re: Collaborative Ministry, led by Rev. Sara (See article below)*

The Green Team and Religious Education will be co-leading a Multigenerational Worship Service honoring our Mother Earth. All are invited to bring a can or bottle for our Recycling Communion and to join us immediately after the service to bless our compost bins and raise our Earth Flag.

**Sunday, April 17**      Lane Fisher, Starr King Seminarian and Member of  
the UU Church of Belfast; Amy Fiorilli, Worship Associate

**Sunday, April 24**      Dawn is breaking. It's time to head out.      Rev. Sara Hayman, Worship Leader  
*UUCE Choir Sings!*      Kay Wilkins, Worship Associate

Ours is a seeking and searching faith, one that calls us to be curious and willing to be shaped by all we encounter in the world. What insights and wisdom have come to you through the pilgrimages you've made? How has pilgrimage helped cultivate more of a sense of openness, attentiveness, and responsiveness to each other and the world in you?

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## Ministry Matters

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At a recent meeting with Worship Associates from our Ellsworth, Belfast and Castine churches, my wise friend and colleague Deane Perkins suggested that we adopt the following “rule” his church council members recently implemented: for 5 minutes, everyone will say YES to any idea or suggestion that’s put forth. We all laughed when Deane said it—it’s striking how quickly we can and do dismiss out of hand people’s ideas—AND, ever since, I’ve been thinking about the *wisdom* of such a practice and discipline in congregational life!



And so I wonder, what project or new program offering —maybe an Adult Religious Education class or a book discussion group or film night —might *you* want to offer at UUCE?

Is there a particular ministry or social justice initiative that’s calling to you, that you’re passionate about, that you’d like to share with others?

Have you heard we’ll soon have compost bins in the back yard, thanks to our Green Team’s initiative? (Thank you Shawn and Molly Mercer and all other Green Team members!)

Do you know our tweens recently made a field trip to the Islamic Center in Orono as part of their “Neighboring Faiths” R.E. curriculum? (Thank you, Anne Ossanna, Jody Murphy and Bill Clark!)

Are you aware that the way keeps opening for UUCE to try to become a food vendor at this year’s Common Ground Fair in September? (Thank you, Peggy and Matthew Strong, Mary Haynes, David Wilcock, John Fink, and everyone else who will volunteer that weekend!)

Together, in more ways than I can possibly name here, we *are* a vital and growing congregation, and it’s *your* passion and energy and continued commitment to our church community that’s making all of this possible. THANK YOU!

Yours, in shared faith,  
Sara

### Keep Up-to-Date!

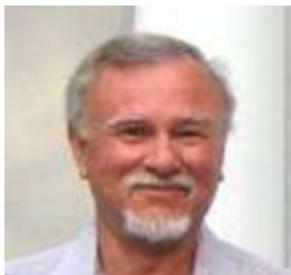
Are you receiving UUCE's weekly electronic newsletter? We want to make sure everyone who wants to read the *latest UUCE news* is receiving our weekly e-news bulletin. We send it out every Wednesday via MailChimp and have heard that some people may not be finding it in their inbox. Look in your All Mail, Junk, and Spam folders if you think you have not been receiving it.

Questions? Please contact Eileen at 667-4393 or [office@uellsworth.org](mailto:office@uellsworth.org) with your questions, to get on the mailing list, or to update your email address. Thanks!

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## From the Board of Trustees

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The Board of Trustees met on March 14. Following is a summary of the meeting: Present at the meeting were: President David Wilcock, Vice President Robin Lovrien, Treasurer Peggy Strong, and Trustees Tom Martin, Shawn Mercer, Mary Haynes, Evelyn Foster, Margaret Thurston, Jr. Board member Eryn Boucher. Reverend Sara Hayman, Secretary Amy Fiorilli, and Trustee John Fink were absent.

Treasurer Peggy Strong gave a financial report for February and March. The budget is in good shape, with heating costs down, due not only to a mild winter, but also to repairs done last year on the furnace. Costs for shoveling and plowing are very low this year and several committees have not used their budgeted funds. She noted that the new Green Team (see below) and the now well-functioning Property Management and Maintenance group will necessarily incur some costs not previously budgeted.

Our Lucky Leap Year collection on February 28 netted over \$1770, an incredibly generous amount. This nearly closed the \$2000 budget gap caused by not having a large spring fundraising event. Our charitable giving is strong, with our congregation giving more to MUUSAN than any other congregation in the state and our contribution to UUSC remaining strong.

New fundraising efforts include a soon-to-be functioning Amazon SMILE account, set up so church members can contribute to UUCE when they buy at Amazon. Also, steady progress is being made on the project to sell Strong Brothers' Egg Rolls at the Common Ground Fair. Many of the youth preparing for the Guatemala service trip in 2017 have agreed to work some shifts at our booth at the fair, if our application is accepted.

The Stewardship Committee is planning a large event on April 28 with food, music, entertainment, and cake to celebrate the church's 150<sup>th</sup> year and to have people pledge for the new church year. We will have a new ministerial intern, to be shared among the three churches in our collaborative effort, and our new Green Team will have an action plan, both developments that the Stewardship Committee can promote during the pledge drive. The board approved money for the Stewardship Committee to put on this event.

David Wilcock noted that the Fiscal Matters Committee will create a new version of the budget for the upcoming year. He mentioned that this committee has considered the possibility of paving the parking lot, since Loaves and Fishes has received money to pave their own portion of the lot and have proceeded with plans and bids. The board will ask someone from the PM&M to contact Loaves and Fishes about this matter and to get bids for the church and board to consider.

Rev. Sara Hayman commented in her report that the time seems right to develop a vision/strategic plan/mission statement to provide structure for the church. Joe Sullivan of the UU Northern New England District will advise us further on taking steps in this plan. Sara will arrange with Joe to have a video conference with the board members who want to begin to formalize this process.

Sara also mentioned that the Castine UU Church annually gives away about \$20,000 in Pulliam Grants, which support social justice efforts. Castine has invited us to choose a representative to the grant board (and one from Belfast as well) to help make informed decisions about who will receive the grants. Someone from PASA will be proposed for this.

Mary Haynes and Robin Lovrien reported that the Collaborative Ministry Team has submitted an application to UUA for partial funds to support a ministerial intern and has developed a job description. The person identified is a member of the Belfast Church and will be interviewed on March 14 by a Collaborative Ministry subcommittee. The group is also moving ahead with plans for a three-church service in Bucksport on June 12. Other plans for collaboration include a retreat at Ferry Beach and possible adult RE offerings.

Shawn Mercer brought the board up to date on the Green Team. The team sent out an electronic survey to find out more about individual households' commitment to green practices. As of the meeting, 44 responses had been received. The survey will close on March 15. Among various efforts to have a greener relationship with the environment, the team will start a composting program at the church, building compost bins and launching the effort with an intergenerational worship service on April 10 and donation of an earth flag to the wayside pulpit. The team will also hire a firm to do an energy audit, and then it will proceed to plan a project for the whole church to get behind. The board approved money to begin the process of getting an energy audit, as well as to cover some of the expenses the Green Team will incur.

The Aesthetics Committee now has a working policy about displaying art in the community room and has advertised it to the congregation.

Finally, the board approved money to help send one church leader to General Assembly and chose not to support a ballot initiative on minimum wage, deeming the proposed increase insufficient.

Sara noted that six people would be going to a district meeting in Bangor on shared ministry.

Also: The 8th Annual Meeting of the Northern New England District of our Unitarian Universalist Association will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Concord, NH, on April 9, 2016, at 2:05 p.m. Rev. Sara will be attending, and if anyone else is interested, there is space for delegates from our congregation. Please reach out to Rev. Sara for more information if you are interested.



Amy Fiorilli, Board Secretary

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## General Assembly 2016

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General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association. It is a time when thousands of UUs gather to worship, sing, witness, attend meaningful workshops and lectures, and conduct business that shapes our faith.

GA 2016 will be held June 22-26 in Columbus, Ohio. The theme this year is: Heartland—Where Faith Connects. Registration begins March 1. We do hope many of you will decide to join us in Columbus, Ohio, for GA 2016.

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## Looking for a Few Good Men and Women

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There are three positions to be filled on the Board of Trustees starting in June, with elections taking place at the congregational meeting in May (there WERE four, but the secretary's position has been filled!). The vice president and two trustee positions are available to be filled with.....who??? Perhaps this is the opportunity you have been waiting for!

Are you interested in serving our congregation in collaborative leadership as we move forward as a vibrant church in Hancock County and to support Sara's ministry?

There are basic qualifications that need to be met. You must have been a member for at least one year, have made a recorded financial contribution, and have served on a committee. Prospective candidates can be nominated by another member (with permission) or may self-nominate. Please let a member of the Elections Committee know of your interest. Members are Karen Volckhausen, Bob Dickens, and Helen Kazura.

*Thank you!*

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## Lifespan Religious Education

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### Spring Greetings from the Carl Stehman Wing!

March has been a rich and full month. Our youngest children explored Grace—The Practice of Discovering Strength through song, story, movement, discussion, and activities. Our middle school age children continued with Building Bridges, exploring the Islamic beliefs. We had an enriching visit at the Islamic Center of Maine and were given a Quran. In May we hope to go back to the Islamic Center of Maine for their monthly potluck. Many thanks to our guides who volunteered in March: Amy Fiorilli, Cecily Judd, Carol Rosinski, Suzanne Aubrey, Jody Murphy, and Bill Clark. Also, we appreciate Eryn, Nolan, and Mikayla for helping in the nursery and classroom.

I've noticed several of the children have been bringing in cell phones, cameras, and other electronic devices on Sundays. Our policy is that children do not bring electronics and gadgets into the RE Wing. Parents, please help remind your children of this policy. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

A heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who has brought CLYNK bags to Hannaford or UUCE. Your donations benefit our Youth Scholarship Fund, which recently was able to honor partial scholarships for some of our youth to attend summer camp at Ferry Beach! Yay, you!

And speaking of Ferry Beach, registration for our fall retreat begins on April 3. A non-refundable \$25 per-person deposit is due at registration. A limited number of partial scholarships are available; please see me if you have a need.

I hope you all attend our April 10th Multigenerational Worship Service led by the Green Team and RE. Together we will honor our Mother Earth and work toward becoming a Green Sanctuary.

Our theme for April is Pilgrimage: The Practice of Journeying. Our Building Bridges focus will be Buddhism as we prepare for our May visit to the Morgan Bay Zendo. April is a very full month, so please take a careful look at our RE calendar and mark your calendars as well. *Woyaya –Anne*

### April Religious Education Calendar

**April 2:** All Children and parents are invited to arrive at UUCE at 9 a.m. to assemble compost bins with Shawn Mercer and Anne Ossanna; at 10 a.m. we leave for Tween Overnight Gathering at UU Rockland. Please send brown bag lunch, snacks to share, sleeping bag, pillow, change of clothing, etc. Look for updates on our UUCE Facebook closed group. Anne Ossanna and Michael Arruda will be chaperoning.

**April 3:** Seals/Dolphins with Beth Allen and Carol Rosinski; Liz True will be available as well; Tweens with Anne Ossanna and Michael Arruda attending worship at UU Rockland and arriving at UUCE by 2 p.m.; registration begins for the fall retreat at Ferry Beach; Potluck Sunday.

**April 10:** The Green Team and RE Multigenerational Worship Service; all children remain in the sanctuary. Please welcome members of UU Castine who will be coming to this service to observe how we do multigenerational worship; registration for the fall retreat at Ferry Beach.

**April 17:** Seals/Dolphins with Cecily Judd and Anne Ossanna; Whales with Jody Murphy and Bill Clark will begin Building Bridges with our Buddhist block; registration for the fall retreat at Ferry Beach.

**April 24:** Seals/Dolphins with Suzanne Aubrey and Anne Ossanna; Whales with Jody Murphy and Bill Clark continue Building Bridges Buddhist block; after worship all children, their parents, and guides practice song for April 30th Block Party; registration for the fall retreat at Ferry Beach.

**April 30:** UUCE Block Party

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## Stewardship News

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The Stewardship Planning Team is pleased to announce that we're having a Block Party! For our annual pledge drive this year, we are planning a fun family evening on **Saturday, April 30, from 5 to 7 p.m.**, where church members and friends can share pizza and be entertained by a dynamic cast led by our storyteller Jude Lamb. We will each have an opportunity to make our annual financial commitment to support the church, followed by cake and ice cream to celebrate UUCE's 150th birthday.

**SAVE THE DATE!** Many more details will follow during the month of April. **Our Stewardship Goals for 2016: Inspire generosity in pledging. Celebrate who we are. Reach for our dreams.**



The Stewardship Planning Team is: Stefanie Alley, chair, Evelyn Foster, Kay Wilkins, Betty Massie, Margaret Thurston, David Wilcock, Peggy Strong, and Margarita Marnik.

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## NEWS from Your Collaborative Ministry Team

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The Collaborative Ministry Team of the Ellsworth, Belfast, and Castine UU churches had its monthly meeting on March 22 in Belfast and advanced plans for wonderful events and ideas for the three-church community we are creating.

### **Multi-Site Ministerial Internship in Place**

The multi-site ministerial internship we have been working on since January is taking shape. After developing a job description for the internship, a team with representatives of each church interviewed Lane Fisher, of the Belfast UUC, for this position on March 14. The interview team was extremely pleased with Lane's interview and recommended her to the CMT, which voted to offer Lane the full-time position for the nine-month 2016-17 church year. The intern position is intended to enhance our efforts at collaboration among the three churches, with the intern participating in many aspects of ministry and governance and focusing especially on growing a joint social justice program. Thus far, we have \$13,500 in place to offer as an honorarium, which includes a \$3000 commitment from each church board and \$4500 from UUA, and the CMT has applied for an additional \$4500 from UUA. The total \$18,000 will include taxes and some travel reimbursement. Rev. Sara Hayman of UUCE will be supervisor of the intern.

### **Multi-Church Worship Service Is Coming**

Planning for the three-church worship service on June 12 was the other major focus of the March meeting. As we strive to craft a meaningful, worshipful, and above all, exciting, service to celebrate our strength in collaboration, we addressed such details as determining a theme for the service, deciding on an inspiring guest speaker, imagining an excellent experience for the children, figuring out amazing music—including a pick-up choir, and facing the possibility of weather interfering. The service is slated to take place at Fort Knox; however, we continue to explore that site to make sure it will suit all our needs. After hearing about our plans for this service at the Shared Ministry District Meeting in Bangor on March 12, the Bangor UU Society asked to be invited to join us and the CMT happily agreed. The RE Directors from all the churches will work to establish good management for all the children. Since youth from Rockland and Augusta are also involved in a multi-church service project, Rev. Deane Perkins suggested that those churches be invited as well, and the team agreed. Be sure to put the date—June 12—on your calendar for what is shaping up to be an unforgettable worship service!

### **“Shared Pulpit” Class Starting**

As part of the CMT's vision of holding inter-church adult RE offerings, Revs. Sara and Deane will facilitate a six-session class using the “Shared Pulpit” curriculum developed by Rev. Erika Hewitt. The intention is to develop a strong corps of lay worship leaders who will be able to serve all three congregations. Three Worship Associates and Lay Leaders from each congregation will be invited to participate in this class, which will meet on Tuesdays on April 5, 12, May 3, 27, 31, and June 14, with location and specific time to be determined.

### **Ferry Beach Three-Church Retreat**

Registration will soon be under way for our three-church retreat at Ferry Beach on the last weekend in October. The program committee for the retreat will be meeting on May 10, under the leadership of Evelyn Foster of UUCE, who has planned the UUCE retreats for the past two years with enormous success. This is another date to put on your calendar: October 29-30. The Collaborative Ministry Team includes Colin Powel,

Leslie Fairbank, and Rev. Charles Stephens from Castine, Karen Wigglesworth, Judith Mabee, and Rev. Deane Perkins from Belfast, and Robin Lovrien, Mary Haynes, and Rev. Sara Hayman from Ellsworth.

We welcome your questions and ideas for ways the CMT can continue to grow our three-church community. Please contact your representatives if you want to know more or comment on our plans. Our next meeting is on April 12 in Ellsworth, 10-11:30 a.m.

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## Political and Social Action (PASA)

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### **The News from the Peace and Social Action Committee**

PASA will have information about the Trans-Pacific Partnership at their table on Sundays during coffee hour for the next several weeks. We urgently encourage you to learn more and email or call your representatives and senators about this concerning trade treaty.

### **Farmers Market Returns**

The Ellsworth Farmers Market has returned to UUCE and will be in the Community Room on Saturdays, April 2 and April 16, from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Community Room. The outdoor market will begin on Saturday, May 7 next to FlexIt, same hours.

### **Acadia Centennial**

Our beloved Acadia National Park will be 100 years old this year, and Friends of Acadia is leading a year-long celebration of this big event. Friends of Acadia has invited organizations, individuals, and businesses to become Centennial Partners, and so far 300 have applied and been accepted, including UUCE. Our plan is to have a service dedicated to Acadia National Park in conjunction with our seventh principle. Amy Fiorilli will conduct this service on June 19, which is also Father's Day. There will be activities leading up to this service. See her should you wish to know more about our own celebration. To learn more about how to become a Centennial Partner and/or to see the schedule of events, visit the website [www.AcadiaCentennial2016.org](http://www.AcadiaCentennial2016.org). It will be an exciting year!

### **Loaves and Fishes**

At the March 14<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting of the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry, Marien Hand, Manager, reported that in January we served 279 families and 877 individuals, including 28 new clients and 27 evening clients. (Last year 248 families and 806 individuals were served.) In February we served 252 families and 767 individuals, including 30 new clients and 20 evening ones. (Last year, the figures were 184 families and 581 individuals.)

We are now on Facebook since December and have received an offer to have a website designed. Marien was proud to announce we are the new owners of a NEW computer donated by Beth Jewel. The new pavement before the loading door is a big help and now no volunteers are needed to unload the truck. The driver drops the pallets inside and leaves.

The Board voted to continue the Blue Hill Pie Booth on Labor Day weekend, one of our popular and rewarding efforts. Darth Reid and Sue Clark will post the Manager's Reports on the new bulletin board for those who have asked for more information. Hungry Sunday foods were welcomed. And any time there is a donation, we will take it to the Food Pantry.

## New Solar Energy Policy for Maine

PASA is excited about legislation before the Maine Legislature called "An Act to Modernize Maine's Solar Power Policy and Encourage Economic Development," LD1649. We hosted a meeting on March 25 at UUCE on "Solar Energy in Ellsworth and Maine" that featured guests from the Natural Resources Council of Maine and ReVision Energy, so that we could all learn more about the latest developments in solar power for our community. Other UU churches in Maine are installing photovoltaic arrays, as are local governments such as Belfast and Bar Harbor. If you missed the March 25th meeting, you can talk to any of us who did attend. Good information is available through the NRCM website at [nrcm.org](http://nrcm.org) and through the Maine legislative site – just google "LD1649 Maine." Learn about this new solar policy, and if you think it is a good idea, we'd like you to join us in contacting our legislators. As of March 24, LD 1649 was in committee and likely to be put before the full legislature soon.

Martha Dickinson  
[marthad@gwi.net](mailto:marthad@gwi.net)  
 667-5863

## Touchstone Small Group Ministry



### PLANS FOR A TOUCHSTONE SMALL GROUP MINISTRY OFFERING IN BLUE HILL BEGINNING IN MAY!

6 Wednesday evenings from 5-7 pm  
 at Haydee Foreman's home in Blue Hill  
 May 4, 11, 18, 25, and June 1 & 22  
 Facilitated by Rev. Sara Hayman

*LISTENING* to each other is a foundational principle of Small Group Ministry.

*BUILDING COMMUNITY* (that's affirming and supportive) among people connected to UUCE is the other main intention in offering this kind of program.

*Touchstone* is a time-limited (6-week) SGM offering that gives participants a chance to explore five topics related to spiritual and/or personal growth that are of interest to them. At the first session, folks introduce ourselves, create a covenant (the guidelines we'll follow when together as part of creating a safe, welcoming space), and then generate topic ideas and select the ones they'll explore. Readings, quotes, and questions are shared in advance of each gathering to help stimulate thinking about the topic.

As a general rule, it's best if folks can plan to make ALL six sessions, acknowledging that that's not always possible. There's room for **up to ten people participate**. In years past, folks who've participated in a Touchstone SGM program have sometimes gone on to set up a longer-term SGM circle that meets once a month.

Please let Rev. Sara know ASAP if you're interested in signing up for this Touchstone SGM program. She's also happy to answer any questions you may have. You can email her at [sara@uuellsworth.org](mailto:sara@uuellsworth.org), or call or text her at 207-610-2872.



### **PLEASE SHARE YOUR ART WITH US!**

UUCE invites artistic members and friends to display their work on the walls of our newly refinished community room! If you have a collection of paintings, drawings, photographs, or other hanging art work that you would like to show, just see any member of the Aesthetics Committee for information and an application. A new policy outlining the procedures and conditions has been approved by the Board of Trustees and is available in the UUCE Office.

We're eager to see your work brightening our space!



Contact Chair Linda Laing, Nancy Avila, Evelyn Foster,  
Amy Thompson, Vicki Fox, Sally Littlefield, or Margaret Thurston.

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## **Come and Blossom in a UUCE Small Group Ministry!**

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You have probably heard of the UUCE Small Group Ministry (SGM) program. SGMs are circles of up to ten members who meet at least once a month in a comfortable, tolerant, trusting environment to reflect together on life experiences and topics of shared interest, to listen without judgment, and to build connections with one another.

The goals within each group are personal spiritual growth and strong bonds of friendship and support for each other; this in turn leads to a strengthening of our larger congregation and of our faith. Our UUCE has a number of enthusiastic and enduring Small Group Ministries at present, and we hope to refresh some and add other new groups to serve our growing congregation.

Currently, there are SGMs meeting biweekly or monthly in the Bar Harbor, Brooklin-Blue Hill, Ellsworth, and North Ellsworth areas. In an effort to expand and revitalize our SGM program at UUCE, we have now created an SGM Core Group that is working with Rev. Sara and leaders from the existing groups to compare practices and identify what makes these circles successful and satisfying, to train more facilitators, and to use what we learn to create new SGMs in our area that can provide the best possible experience for members looking to join. If you're new to the UUCE congregation or a long-time member who would like an opportunity to connect more closely and to "let your light shine" in a small spiritual discussion group, here's your chance! In

June we will be starting six-week introductory “Touchstone Circles.” A trained facilitator will lead groups of 8-10 people interested in sharing thoughtful, in-depth discussion of ideas and experiences. At the end of six meetings, a new permanent Small Group Ministry can then form, with its own regular members, facilitator or facilitators, and schedule.

If you think you might like to join one of these Touchstone Circles to see what it's all about, or if you already know and would like to ask about joining an established group in your area, please contact Cynthia Perkins (csp41@myfairpoint.net) or Rev. Sara Hayman (sara@uuellsworth.org).

## The Green Team

The Green Team of UUCE, in partnership with the Peace and Social Action Committee, will be offering a curriculum entitled “Our Place in the Web of Life” for five consecutive weeks in May. This highly engaging class invites participants to look deeply at how the consequences of their actions on people and the environment ripple out from their neighborhoods across the United States and the world. Film, music, research, mapping, ethical reflection, meditations, and ritual will all be used to help us discuss what it means to be faithfully and justly part of an inter-connected community of life. This class is an important part of our process toward Green Sanctuary certification for UUCE and an excellent way to involve congregational input in this process.

### Class schedule:

- Session 1 - Gratitude for Our Place in the World
- Session 2 - Mindfulness and the “Stuff of Life”
- Session 3 - Mapping Congregational Impact
- Session 4 - Ethical Reflections on Our Place in the Web of Life
- Session 5 - Lessons Learned, Next Steps, and Evaluation



Tentative dates are Tuesdays, May 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31, from 5-7 p.m. Snacks will be provided.

**We invite you to sign up and join** us in grappling with these issues. The last session includes an action plan which will help inform our environmental justice action plan required for certification. Sign-up sheets will be available. For more information speak with Shawn or Molly Mercer, or Karen Volckhausen. The class will be limited to 15 participants. This curriculum is sponsored by the UU Ministry for the Earth.



## An Invitation to YOU!

In honor of Earth Day, please plan to stay after church on Sunday, April 17 (weather permitting) to do a little spring cleaning outside in our gardens and driveway! Bring your gloves and rake and broom and leaf blower (if you have one), and help us spiff up our grounds in time for the daffodils to bloom! Please contact Amy Thompson for more information at [amygthompson@msn.com](mailto:amygthompson@msn.com).

## Taking Steps to Create a UUCE Congregational Covenant

On Sunday, January 31 during the Winter Parish Meeting, Peggy Strong and I led a brief conversation and exercise about congregational covenants, *i.e.*, what they are and what helpful purpose they often serve in UU congregations in terms of articulating how we'll behave together and what *shared purpose* we aspire to serve as a liberal religious congregation. At our invitation, 35+ folks present at this parish meeting took the time to write down and share their thoughts about covenant by completing the following sentence: *We covenant to....*



On Sunday, March 6, at a second Congregational Conversation about covenant, folks present read aloud together the different statements people had written in January, and then proceeded to talk about the common themes that appeared to be emerging. Among other things, several people suggested how critical it is that we all listen to each other and agree to stay engaged with one another through times of conflict. Several people also suggested that any congregational covenant we create needs to name and reflect our congregation's commitment to actively engage and honor our UU heritage and 7 Principles.

At my invitation, a few of the folks present at the March 6<sup>th</sup> Congregational Conversation went home and thought some more about what they'd heard people saying about covenant in the written statements they'd shared. With their permission, I'm grateful to share *their* observations with you here now:

### **From Christine Bowman:**

Love comes through as a common element as well as support of each other to remain true to our principles, to encourage spiritual growth and creativity, and to see each other through difficult times.

Diversity is another theme—the importance of listening to each other without interruption or judgment, being open to differences, rejoicing in our diversity as we walk together.

Many spoke about our role as a model for our community through peace, social action, respect, and again, love.

### **From Mardi Thompson-George:**

Covenant at UUCE should mean participation in the community with time, talent, and support, each according to his/her ability and interest. This includes a belief in everyone's worth and the knowledge that all should be heard and that any disagreement should be resolved through listening and problem solving. This church will only grow when we all reach out beyond our close friends to all who are present, especially visitors and new members. Cooperative participation, not just "consuming" UUCE's products is what we need to be about.

### **From Peggy Strong:**

What I hear we want is a community  
That cares for and supports each member,

That promotes our individual spiritual growth,  
Where we live in right relationship.

Community is created and conflict is resolved by  
Listening,  
Respecting and appreciating, especially diverse opinions and choices,  
Trust and honesty,  
Refraining from judgment,  
And learning our UU Heritage, especially the 7 UU Principles.

We'll be continuing this conversation in the months to come, with the aim to help us articulate our very own Congregational Covenant by the time fall rolls around.

Thank you for your interest in these conversations. I continue to believe our congregation as a whole will be strengthened by having a Congregational Covenant.

Please feel free to share your thoughts and ideas about covenant with me at [sara@uuellsworth.org](mailto:sara@uuellsworth.org) or call/text at 207-610-2872.

**YRUU\* Local Service Project and Overnight Adventure at UU Church in Houlton, Maine**  
Saturday, May 28-Sunday, May 29, leaving from Bangor UU Church at 7 am!

Youth Group members in the Ellsworth, Belfast, Castine, Bangor, Rockland, and Augusta churches are invited to participate in a local (to Maine) Service Project and Overnight Adventure at the Houlton UU Church on the last weekend of May.



When we're there, we'll volunteer at the local food pantry and help paint the outside trim of this historic church, which is on a national registry.

Youth group members and ministers Sara Hayman and Deane Perkins (and other adult chaperones as needed) will stay overnight at the Houlton UU Church. On Saturday night, folks will enjoy hearing a band in the church's fabulous CUP CAFÉ, a fancy cafe in their basement. On Sunday morning, we'll worship with the Houlton UU congregation and plan to be back in Bangor in late afternoon for parents to pick people up (exact time yet to be determined).

Youth who participate will need to bring a sleeping bag, pillow, clothes to paint in, clothes for church, snacks and some spending money. We will also need parents' written permission on file for youth to be able to participate.

Please email Rev. Sara at [sara@uuellsworth.org](mailto:sara@uuellsworth.org), or call/text her at (207-610-2872) with any questions and/or to sign up to do this. [*\*YRUU stands for Young Religious Unitarian Universalists*]

## A Congregational Conversation about Collaborative Ministry

Sunday, April 10 in the Sanctuary  
after the worship service, facilitated by Rev. Sara



For about a year now, the ministers and lay leaders of the Belfast, Castine, and Ellsworth UU churches have been working together to bring more shared ministry and collaboration to life among us.

There are exciting developments to share and discuss, including the effort under way to create a shared, full-time Collaborative Ministerial Internship Position, a joint worship service at Fort Knox on June 12, and a church retreat at Ferry Beach in the fall for all three churches.

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### Plan Now for All-Church Retreat at Ferry Beach

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Our third Ferry Beach weekend is planned for October 28-30. This promises to be even more fun and very special. This year we have invited the churches from Belfast and Castine to join us (we have reserved the whole place for our three churches). And to make it all even more fun, our programming will include a gala Halloween party.

Registrations will begin during coffee hour from April 3 to June 26. A non-refundable deposit is due at registration and will be applied to the balance. All fees must be paid in full by July 31. There will be a limited number of partial scholarships to assist with the cost. Please see Anne Ossanna, registrar, for questions.

\$175 per adult 18+ (includes shared dorm room, housekeeping fee, and six meals).

\$225 per adult 18+ (handicapped assessible room) with six meals.

Children under age 5 FREE.

Campsites are \$32 for the weekend (maximum of five persons per site)

Meal option for campers (children under 5 eat free):

Age 5-12      \$50 per child

Age 13 +      \$75 per camper



# *Sankofa Corner*

*by UUCE Historian Wayne H. Smith*



## **Midwinter Musings about Maine\***

by Katherine Button, Church Historian,  
First Parish Church of Watertown, Massachusetts

In the dead of winter, I think about Maine. That's not where I want to be right now. The town of Franklin, Maine, (270 miles Downeast, 41 square miles, winter population 1500) has no sidewalks and no public transportation. Even in summertime, when the population swells, there are few walkable destinations in Franklin. My neighbor sends me pictures of snow scenes. The landscape is truly beautiful, but as a single person in rural Maine, I would feel quite vulnerable in winter.

However, after Mud Season is over, I intend to spend much more time in Franklin. The summer of 2014, my partner Bob Andersen suggested that I attend services at the UU Church of Ellsworth. He knew better than I that when truly alone, I would need their fellowship. Little did I know that the following year I would be summering by myself.

And what a momentous summer it was! On June 26, the Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage throughout the land. The Supreme Court also declared that the Affordable Care Law passed the Constitutional test.

And Pope Francis published an encyclical letter about climate change and the poor, "Laudato Si': On Care For Our Common Home." On a tragic note in our nation's history, June 17, a deranged individual murdered nine people during a prayer circle inside the Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Charleston, South Carolina. The following week, members and friends of the UU Church of Ellsworth held a vigil on the bridge over the Union River. I was there helping to hold in place the banner that read, "Standing on the Side of Love." The vigil made Fox News.

The Rev. Sara Hayman held conversations after church to talk about the senseless tragedy and how the community can respond. I contributed notes about Watertown's Unity Breakfast. I was able to recite the Six Kingian Principles and Six Steps Towards Nonviolence. It was my suggestion to go as a group to see "Selma" at the Grand Theater. No, I did not dominate the conversations, by no means!

Wayne Smith, the Ellsworth church historian, supplied me with notes. The history of the UU Church of Ellsworth dates to 1835, when a group of religious liberals organized the Unitarian Society of Ellsworth. It was a short-lived endeavor, collapsing in 1839. Renewed efforts to re-establish the society in 1865 were more successful, and in 1867 the Unitarian Society dedicated their first church on Main Street, in the center of town. I have seen pictures of that lovely wooden edifice. The Great Fire of 1933, which destroyed most of Ellsworth's down town, did not reach the Unitarian Church. However, for economic reasons, the church was eventually torn down. There is a lovely inscription in stone in what is now Whiting Park: "On this site from 1866 to 1971 stood one of his [Samuel Kidder Whiting's] most enduring achievements, a majestic Unitarian church constructed in the Gothic style which served as a prominent landmark for more than a century." Those words might suggest that Mr. Whiting was the architect. Not so. S.K. Whiting, a prominent Ellsworth businessman, sold the lot of land to the Unitarian Society in 1866. Sheperd S. Whiting of Boston served as architect.

One would like to think that the Town of Ellsworth purchased the lot from the Unitarian Society in 1971 to create the pocket park. No, Dunkin' Donuts bought the land. However, around 2004, the State Department of Transportation took the land by eminent domain for the widening of the intersection of High and Main Streets. Occasionally things go right. When asked, the State deeded the vacant property to Ellsworth. The S.K. Whiting Park was dedicated in 2006. Whether taking the Coastal Route, US 1 or the Bangor Road, Route 1A, on the way to Mount Desert, you will pass Whiting Park with its distinctive 22-foot clock.

As I got to know people in the UU Church of Ellsworth, I was amazed at the distances people traveled. Studying the members' directory, I counted roughly 30 communities and unorganized territories represented. This past summer, Stefanie, a lobsterwoman, invited me for lunch at her home on Little Cranberry Isle off Mount Desert. I took the mail boat from Northeast Harbor. That trip was the best. The boat rides, including one on Stefanie's lobster boat, her warm hospitality, walking on the beach imagining myself as a heroine out of a Regency romance—all of these experiences helped to lift the fog of funk following Bob's death on April 19.

Robin travels from Steuben, about 30 miles or so Downeast from Ellsworth. Yes, there is a church in her community within walking distance of her home, but she chooses to drive to Ellsworth for reasons she answered with a chuckle.

An aside. According to the UUA web site there are 26 UU churches in Maine. (Compare with Massachusetts, which has 140 UU congregations.) The Rev. Mark Harris has preached in Augusta, Pittsfield, Sanford—where Sue Gabrielson, a former intern at First Parish of Watertown remembered as Sue Kingman, preaches—and in Rockland, near the Harris family's summer home. A good number of the churches are rooted in the Universalist tradition. During Bob's various hospitalizations at Pen Bay Medical Center in Rockport, I found a welcoming community at the First Universalist Church of Rockland. Rockland is also a church where the Rev. Andrea Greenwood has preached many times, and it was her grandmother's church. Frances (Bird) Hjerpe, or "Grammy," was born in Belfast, Maine, where there is also a thriving UU church today.

So here is the crux of my meanderings. Many of you vacation in Maine or own property in Maine. For a real Maine experience, go to church. Bob's religion was camping. It was not my cup of tea. But he understood my need for a spiritual community, whether in Maine or in Massachusetts. Thank you, Bob. Here is the other message: Come visit me in Maine and be my honored guests.

\*Reprinted from *The Arbella*, newsletter of the First Parish of Watertown, February 2016, pp. 10-12.

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## Have You Heard of PM&M and Wondered What It Means?

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PM&M stands for Property Maintenance & Management. It is our mission to aid in the coordination of the many committees of the church whose tasks include the maintenance and management of the buildings and grounds. The committees and groups represented include:

- Aesthetics, chaired by Linda Laing
- Landscaping, represented by Vicki Fox and Amy Thompson
- Leadership and Development, Mardi Thompson-George
- Board of Trustees, David Wilcock
- Treasurer, Peggy Strong
- Kitchen, Evelyn Foster
- Green Team, Shawn and Molly Mercer
- Rev. Sara Hayman
- Bob Dickens, who oversees hands-on repairs, electrical and fire concerns, as well as interfacing with contractors for plowing, shoveling and plumbing, etc.

Our committee meets regularly to foster open communication, creatively explore options and solutions, and to plan and prioritize present and future needs. We are hopeful that members of the congregation will support the work of this group and volunteer to help with the many tasks undertaken to maintain our facility.

The Landscape and Kitchen Teams are always looking for volunteers. "Handipersons" are always needed to help with specific short-term projects. To date we have addressed the skylight leakage in the RE wing, addressed gutter concerns by the front entrance, completed the installation of the Fire Safety system, overseen the yearly spring and fall clean-up campaigns, made plans for removal of the old wooden trash container, joined with Loaves and Fishes for trash removal and solicited several volunteers for specific tasks, including the sound system. We have also identified the need for dimmer switches in the Community Room (these are on order), replaced broken electrical outlets, fitted new storage doors to accommodate the ramp into the Tidewater Room, and ordered a "mold" evaluation. Back door weather-stripping is also in progress.

We are currently advocating for a wheelchair/handicap-accessible emergency exit door for the Sanctuary, supporting the Aesthetics Committee plan for foyer renovation, including needed replacement of the front door and addressing the rotted wooden walkway with railings to the Community Room. We look forward to coordinating with the Green Team as they raise our awareness and make recommendations guiding us through the steps to becoming a certified Green Sanctuary.

On our "bucket list" is the proper grading and paving of the driveway.

I wish to extend a huge thank you to Bob Dickens who helps to keep a pulse on so many of the day-to-day maintenance projects. We welcome suggestions and observations, and we hope that you can give us a hand from time to time.

Amy Thompson, PM&M Chairperson  
 amythompson@msn.com  
 469-3645 (h)

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## Advertising Opportunities—Promote Yourself or Your Cause

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

There will be two ad categories:

- **GOODS & SERVICES:** for advertising your own business or something you have for sale.
- **COMMUNITY EVENTS:** for promoting entertainment or political events you support or may be participating in. Please use this venue in lieu of "Joys and Sorrows" for such events.

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

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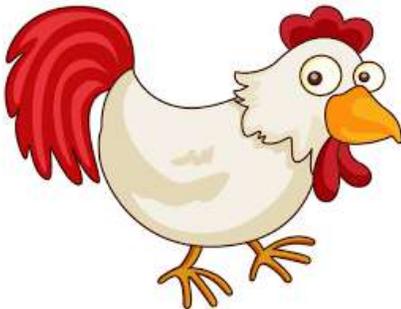
## Chicken eviscerators needed at Old Ackley Farm

Wednesdays

June 22 through September

6:45 am to lunch

Snacks and coffee, and a yummy, homemade farm lunch is provided.



\$13/hour pay and/or food credit  
(beef, pork, chicken, turkey, veggies)

Or

a chicken per week and custom-cut  
pork side in November

Old Ackley is a MOFGA Certified Organic farm in North Blue Hill.

We process our Certified Organic, pasture-raised chickens in a State licensed building.

Call Colleen at 374-5919 or see our farm page on Facebook.

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## Personnel

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### Contact Information

<b>Minister</b> Rev. Sara Hayman: 610-2872 (cell) sara@uuellsworth.org	<b>Religious Education Coordinator</b> Anne Ossanna: 565-2057 anne@uuellsworth.org
<b>Church Office</b> (M, W 12-5 p.m.; Th 12-6 p.m.) <b>Administrator</b> Eileen Mielenhausen: 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> Robin Lovrien to 2017
<b>Treasurer:</b> Peggy Strong to 2017	<b>Secretary:</b> Amy Fiorilli
<b>Trustee:</b> Mary Susan Haynes to 2018	<b>Trustee:</b> Tom Martin to 2018
<b>Trustee:</b> Margaret Thurston to 2017	<b>Trustee:</b> Shawn Mercer to 2016
<b>Trustee:</b> Evelyn Foster to 2016	<b>Trustee:</b> John Fink to 2017
	<b>Youth Member:</b> Eryn Boucher

### Committee and Task Force Chairs

<b>Adult Education:</b> open position	<b>RE Chair:</b> Liz True
<b>Aesthetics:</b> Linda Laing	<b>Leadership Development:</b> Mardi Thompson
<b>Auction:</b> Margaret Thurston	
<b>Fiscal Matters:</b> David Wilcock	<b>Lobster Bake:</b> Anne Ossanna
<b>Property Management &amp; Maintenance:</b> Amy Thompson	<b>Membership:</b> Suzanne Aubrey
<b>Coffee Hour:</b> VACANT	<b>Committee on Ministry:</b> Marta Rieman
<b>Caring Committee:</b> Cecily Judd	<b>Peace and Social Action (PASA):</b> Karen Volckhausen
<b>Charitable Giving:</b> Sara	<b>Safety:</b> Helen Kazura
<b>Choir:</b> Haydee Foreman	<b>Sunday Order of Service:</b> Send to: office@uuellsworth.org
<b>Ferry Beach Retreats:</b> Evelyn Foster	<b>Small Group Ministry:</b> Rev. Sara Hayman
<b>Flowers:</b> Bronwen Kaldro	<b>Stewardship:</b> Stephanie Alley, Margarita Marnik
<b>Green Sanctuary:</b> Kay Wilkins, Shawn and Molly Mercer	<b>Ushers:</b> Jon Thomas
<b>History/Archives/Library:</b> Wayne Smith	<b>Wayside Pulpit:</b> Mac MacDonald
<b>Landscaping:</b> Vicki Fox, Amy Thompson	<b>Web Pages:</b> Brook Minner
<b>Loaves and Fishes:</b> Sue Clark, Nina Turner, Dartha Reid	<b>Yard Sale:</b> Beth Allen

# April 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> 10-12 Spiritual Aging 1:30-5:30 Violin (P) 3:45-4:15 Piano (S) 6:00 p.m. AA (CR)	<b>2</b> 9:30-12:30 Ellsworth Farmers Market (CR)
<b>3</b> <b>POTLUCK</b> 10:30 a.m. Worship Service w/Rev. Sara Hayman  9-1 RE office hours	<b>4</b>  6-7:30 p.m. URU (D) 7 p.m. DE-NVC (TD) 7 p.m. St. A's (Seals)	<b>5</b> 9:30-11:30 Writing group (BR) 11-12:30 Exec. Comm. (TD) 12:00 Al-Anon (S) 2-4 p.m. FMC (BR) 7-9 p.m. Acadia Choral (S)	<b>6</b> 1-6 p.m. Violin (D) 4-5:30 p.m. Stewardship (BR)  7 p.m. Coyote Group (TD)	<b>7</b> 11:15-12:15 Violin (D) 12:00 Al-Anon (S)  6-8 pm LifeVantage (S)	<b>8</b> 1:30-5:30 Violin (P) 3:45-4:15 Piano (S)  6:00 p.m. AA (CR) 6:30-9 pm Intl. Club (S)	<b>9</b>      <b>5-9 Single Women Potluck (CR)</b>
<b>10</b> <b>HUNGRY SUNDAY</b> 10:30 a.m. Worship Service  9-1 RE office hours  12 p.m. PASA	<b>11</b>    7 p.m. St. A's (Seals)	<b>12</b> 9:30-11:30 Writing group (BR) 12:00 Al-Anon (S) 12:30-1:30 p.m. Joe S. (BR) 7-9 p.m. Acadia Choral (S)	<b>13</b> 1-6 p.m. Violin (D) 4-5:30 p.m. Stewardship (BR)  7-9 p.m. Trad. Music (CR) 7 p.m. Coyote Group (TD)	<b>14</b> 11:15-12:15 Violin (D) 12:00 Al-Anon (S)  6-8 Board mtg (BR)	<b>15</b> 1:30-5:30 Violin (P) 3:45-4:15 Piano (S)  4:30-8:30 pm LifeVantage (S) 6:00 p.m. AA (CR)	<b>16</b> 9:30-12:30 Ellsworth Farmers Market (CR)
<b>17</b> 10:30 a.m. Worship Service  9-1 RE office hours	<b>18</b>  6-7:30 p.m. URU (D) 7 p.m. DE-NVC (TD) 7 p.m. St. A's (Seals)	<b>19</b> 9:30-11:30 Writing group (BR) 12:00 Al-Anon (S) 7-9 p.m. Acadia Choral (S)	<b>20</b> 4-5:30 p.m. Stewardship (TD) 5-7 p.m. SGM (BR) 6-8 pm LifeVantage (S) 7 p.m. Coyote Group (TD)	<b>21</b> 12:00 Al-Anon (S)	<b>22</b> 6:00 p.m. AA (CR) 7 pm PASA (S)	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <b>PLATE SPLIT</b> 10:30 a.m. Worship Service w/Rev. Sara Hayman  9-1 RE office hours	<b>25</b>  6-8 pm LifeVantage (S) 7 p.m. St. A's (Seals)	<b>26</b> 9:30-11:30 Writing group (BR) 12:00 Al-Anon (S) 7-9 p.m. Acadia Choral (S)	<b>27</b> 1-6 p.m. Violin (D) 2-4 p.m. SGM (TD) 4-5:30 p.m. Stewardship (BR) 7 p.m. Coyote Group (TD)	<b>28</b> 11:15-12:15 Violin (D) 12:00 Al-Anon (S)  6-8 pm LifeVantage (S)	<b>29</b> 1:30-5:30 Violin (P)  5 pm Stewardship setup (CR & K) 6:00 p.m. AA (S)	<b>30</b> 10 am-7 pm Stewardship Pledging (CR & RE) 4 pm Dinner (CR & S)

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

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# ***The NUUS***

## **April 2016**

### ***The NUUS***

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

**April 2016**

**Vol. 48, 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.