

Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth



a community of caring . . . caring for our community

In March, reality changed and we all began to face the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic. Suddenly, our ways of being a community shifted and UUCE began a transition to socially distancing while devising ways to maintain an atmosphere of remaining close...being in touch without touching. Originally we thought it would be for a few weeks or at most a month or two. Your Board of Trustees contacted members and friends, just to check in and let you know that if needed, UUCE was there to offer assistance or to chat. A task force was created to keep people informed about COVID-19 and establish policies for the pandemic, Caring Circles were created and our Small Group Ministries expanded their contact to include frequent check-ins. Zoom became our “new normal” for services and meetings and instead of hugs, we had online conversations before worship and drive-by celebrations.

UUCE slowly introduced ways for members and friends to safely gather, Sunday afternoon hikes, our annual picnic at Lamoine Beach, working for social justice through gatherings with spaces between participants and masks for all, small group gatherings outside on the church grounds (again with distance and masks), and a masked and sanitized outdoor one-day yard sale.

Now, more than six months later, we find ourselves meeting virtually or outdoors in small groups, dealing with masks and sanitizers and observing safe distancing. A new working group has formed to transition UUCE to a place that will be a hybrid of virtual and in-person connections as we go forward.

The following includes information to help all of us stay a connected with each other and our beloved UUCE community:

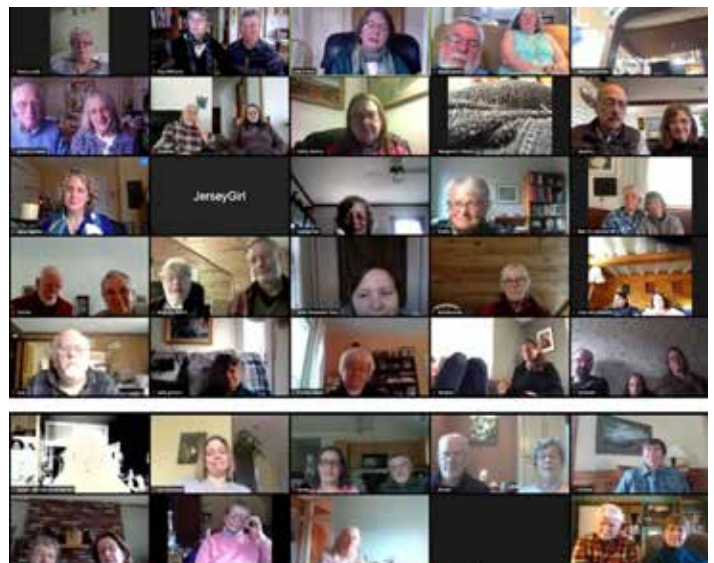


WAYS TO BE & STAY CONNECTED AT UUCE:

UUCE Worship Services on ZOOM

Sunday Morning Worship:

Every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. on ZOOM. Folks begin arriving at 10am and visit with each other before the service begins. The ZOOM link is included in the Wednesday E-news email and our monthly newsletter, the NUUS. These services are recorded and archived. You can request a link to view a service by contacting our Church Administrator, Jeff Jeude, at ucellsworth@gmail.com or by phone at 207-667-4393.





EVENING SERVICES

Tuesday Evening Vespers with Rev. Amy Fiorilli:

Every Tuesday night at 6 p.m., Rev. Amy offers a 45 minutes vespers service, an intimate, contemplative worship gathering. All are welcome. The ZOOM invite is included in our Wednesday E-news email.

Wednesday Morning Matins with Rev. Sara Hayman:

Every Wednesday morning at 8 a.m. for 30 minutes, Rev. Sara leads an intimate worship gathering with music, readings, silence and an invitation for those gathered to share. All are welcome. The ZOOM invite is included in our Wednesday E-news email.

Advent Vesper's Services in December Three Wednesday Evenings:

December 2nd, 9th and 16th at 7 p.m.
(45 minutes) on ZOOM.

Rev. Sara and Bettina will lead these intimate holiday, evening vesper services with music, readings and invitations that invite you to experience the quiet depth and beauty of this time of year. All are welcome. The ZOOM link will be included in the Wednesday E-news email and our December monthly newsletter, the *NUUS*.



Blue Holiday Service:

DATE to be determined and shared in the November & December *NUUS*.

We hope to offer this intimate worship service both for a small of number of people in person in the sanctuary and on ZOOM. This worship service is for people who are struggling with grief, depression or loneliness in this season on holy days. Contact Rev. Sara at sara@uuellsworth.org and be willing to wear a mask and maintain social distancing in the sanctuary.



ACTIVITIES FOR MEMBERS & FRIENDS

UUCE Monthly Hikes:

Sunday, October 18th at 2 p.m.:

Connors Nubble Trail (3.7 miles and moderate)
Meet at Eagle Lake Parking lot

Sunday, November 1st at 2 p.m.:

Jordan Homestead Trail (1 mile and easy)
Meet at parking lot on Bayside Road. Bring your mask, a snack and something to drink and enjoy being together in the beauty of this place.

RSVP to Rev. Sara at sara@uuellsworth.org or text to 207-610-2872

Once in a Blue Moon Halloween Party:

Saturday, October 31st from 2-5 p.m. Outside at UUCE

This party was offered at the Goods and Service Auction last February, with about 10 people bidding on it. We are inviting the congregation to join us for this All Ages In-Person event. A suggested donation of \$10.00/person or \$15.00/family will be gladly accepted (checks can be mailed to UUCE with Blue Moon Halloween Party in the memo line or brought to the event).

All are welcome to attend regardless of ability to make a donation. You are required to wear masks for times when you cannot be physically distant by 6 feet, a costume, a sense of adventure and humor.

You also might want to bring your own lawn chairs, smore's fixings, a snack and non-alcoholic beverage, and candy for trick or treaters.

Events will include, but not limited to:

- Parking Lot trick or treating;
- a Spook Path around UUCE;
- Photo table;
- Bonfire; a Blue Moon Ritual; and
- Dancing.

Registration through the office and giving your contact information is required.

For more information, please reach out to Anne Ossanna at aossanna@aol.com.



Thanksgiving Nature Walk:

Thursday, November 26th from 2-4 p.m. at the Stonebarn on Norway Drive in Bar Harbor. Weather permitting, we'll meet at the Stonebarn and walk the trails and enjoy a scavenger hunt together. Wear your mask, warm clothes and bring a thermos with a hot drink in it and enjoy the company of each other!

Holy Days Tree Decorating Outside at

UUCE: Sunday, December 13th at 2 p. m. Bring edible ornaments for the birds to hang on our outdoor Holy Days Tree this year and enjoy the company of each other.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Adult Faith Formation, Spiritual Deepening & Small Group Ministry ***Collaborative Black Lit Reading***

Group: facilitated by our Intern Minister Bettina Lehovec. Five Thursdays from 4-5:30p.m.: Oct. 15 and 29, Nov. 5 and 19, and Dec. 3 Please register by Oct. 10th by emailing Bettina at blehovec@gmail.com.

Join us on ZOOM as we read selections from some 20th century greats, including Maya Angelou, Ralph Ellison, Richard Wright, Octavia Butler, and Toni Morrison. Our lens will be appreciation of their work as authors, but we will also delve into the social issues they address. This reading group is open to the members and friends of our three congregations.



Collaborative Anti-Racism Conversations

2nd Thursday of each month from 4-5:30 p.m. on ZOOM beginning on Thursday, October 8th. Your Collaborative Ministers: Revs. Amy, Sara and Bettina Lehovec, Intern Minister, will take turns facilitating this monthly conversation about racism and doing our work re: decolonization and being anti-racist activists. Each session will include a presentation of some sort (a video clip, case study or reading) followed by conversation, deep listening and engagement with each other. These monthly anti-racism conversations will happen each on ZOOM each 2nd Thursday from 4-5:30pm, October 2020 through June 2021 and are open to the members and friends of our three congregations.

Our Small Group Ministry (SGM) Program

Contact our SGM Coordinator, Christine Bowman, ccs9762@aol.com. For more information about Small Group Ministries. (<https://uuellsworth.org/worship/>)

Child and Youth Religious Education Offerings

Weekly R.E. Lesson Plans

Prepared by Anne Ossanna, our wonderful R.E. Coordinator, and sent out to families via email each week. If you are not receiving this R.E. Packet and would like to, please contact Anne at aossanna@aol.com.



Children's Chapel

One Sunday a month at 9:30 a.m., our children are invited to gather together on ZOOM with Anne Ossanna and Linda Uberseder, our R.E. Committee Chair.

A New Collaborative R.E. Offering for Our 5th, 6th, and 7th–9th Grade Youth: The Fifth Dimension

Anne Ossanna and her colleague and friend, Danielle Bannister, DRE of our Belfast congregation, have imagined a way to bring our 5th – 9th grade youth together during the October 2020-June 2021 year using the “Fifth Dimension” curriculum. The Fifth Dimension (Grades 5-6) and Fifth Dimension (Grades 7-9) will be offered in collaboration with our Belfast friends. These classes will explore UU values by viewing age appropriate Twilight Zone episodes followed by guided discussion.

Fifth Dimension classes in October are:

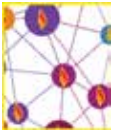
October 17th: Fifth Dimension (Grades 5-6) - Looks Just Like You (Season 5) collaboration with Belfast 4:00-5:00 p.m. by Zoom

October 24th: Fifth Dimension (Grades 7-9) - Looks Just Like You (Season 5) collaboration with Belfast 4:00-5:00 p.m. by Zoom.

In these times of virtual services and meetings or limited small group contacts, we have been fortunate to maintain our connections. Many are missing in-person greetings and hugs, and still, it's good to come together and be together in the ways we can. Please contact UUCE at uucellsworth@gmail.com or 207-667-4393 if you need assistance or have ideas to add to ways for our beloved community to stay connected.



a community of caring...



CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

As we share our love and concern for each other, there are also have opportunities to show your appreciation of and talents with UUCE. Recent UUCE Pledge Drives have centered around something Bart Frost said on the blog Blue Boat Home. His words describes our shared concerns for one another and for our community:

Being Stewards and Living Generously: One of the best things about church is that it is an intentional community where you can live out your values. In a world where almost everything is based on a transactional “fee-for-service” system, church is one place where things operate differently. A church shares its services with you joyfully, until you decide that you feel ready to give joyfully back.

Stewardship often focuses on our sharing our treasures with our congregation, but we should remember it also includes the willingness to share of our time and talents, as we are able. As a church that gets things done with a small staff and a large number of volunteers, UUCE can show its values by our members sharing their abilities and time. Please consider helping our community by offering your services to our community. Some examples are listed below:

Service Opportunities Connected to UUCE:

- Capable folks to join our fiscal matters or stewardship committees
- Sunday Morning Worship Tech support
- One or two more facilitators for Small Group Ministry - contact SGM Coordinator, Christine Bowman, ccs9762@aol.com
- Helping with our pastoral care ministry
- Help with the fall clean up in November – Date to be announced
- A point person (or more than one person) to take on responsibility for our building needs
- Folks to offer and lead adult faith formation classes on line (with tech support and training provided)
- Volunteering w/ Our Fundraising Projects
 - Reenvisioned Cookie Walk
 - On-line Goods & Services Auction
- Volunteering with Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry

*A church Shares its services with you joyfully,
until you decide that you feel ready to give joyfully back.*

As your UUCE family and friends care for you, your stewardship is reciprocal caring – choosing to give joyfully to our beloved community.

*But I think we are called to go beyond cultures of gratitude,
to once again become cultures of reciprocity.*

– Robin Wall Kimmerer,
“Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom
Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants”

... caring for our community