

# The UUCE NUUS

June 2022

Volume 54, No. 6



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth

121 Bucksport Road, Ellsworth, Maine 04605

207-667-4393 www.uuellsworth.org

Celebrating the sacred, we gather in loving community  
to nourish souls and live justice into the world.

## CELEBRATE BLESSINGS

### JUNE WORSHIP SERVICES, 10:30 A.M.

#### **SUNDAY, JUNE 5 Flower Communion: Celebrating Your Gifts!**

Rev. Sara Hayman, Worship Leader

Tori Bell & Paul Kelly, Worship Associates

Plate Split Sunday to benefit Wabanaki Public Health

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/4810087457?pwd=a1RpVS9EMDRxNXQya0R2T2RrUUF5QT09>  
Meeting ID: 948 1008 7457  
Password: 901279  
Phone: 646-558-8656

Drawing inspiration from our Unitarian forefather Norbert Capek's vision of a Flower Ceremony, this Sunday we'll celebrate Flower Communion and name our gratitude for the many gifts people share in our UUCE community.

Special invitations to help us celebrate Flower Communion: 1) Please send a photo of YOU with a FLOWER(S) or an ONLY FLOWER photo to Rev. Sara (sara@uuellsworth.org and 207-610-2872) by Saturday, June 4th at 12pm. 2) If you're planning to attend worship in-person, please bring a cut flower(s) and add it to the bouquet we'll create and exchange with each other.

#### **SUNDAY, JUNE 12 Celebrating Gay Pride Month!**

Cooper Reed, Guest Worship Leader & UUCE's North Ellsworth  
Small Group Ministry,

Worship Associates: Helen Kazura, Marta Rieman, Carol Rosinski,  
Peggy Strong, Amy Thompson, Karen Volckshausen & Kay Wilkins

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/96729440348?pwd=Ni90WXhCOTJkajJrakpCbVZnM05vUT09>  
Meeting ID: 967 2944 0348  
Password: 858735  
Phone: 646-558-8656

# JUNE SERVICES CONTINUED

During each June, Pride Month, and this year on June 12, Ellsworth Pride Day, we remember the origins of the Gay Liberation movement from the uprising at Stonewall in 1969 to all the advancements made since in the LGBTQ+ community. Join our small group ministry in our beloved and welcoming community, to celebrate in song, reflections, and blessings this historic event and where we are today. Cooper Reed will share a reflection.

**Cooper Reed** grew up between Belfast and Ellsworth, engaged in LGBTQ+ activism and politics beginning in 2008, and was one of the first members of Ellsworth High School's Gay-Straight Diversity Alliance. Cooper works for the Human Rights Campaign covering legislative sessions and elections in ten states in the Northeast. The EHS Gay-Straight Diversity Alliance members have been invited to attend our service.

All are invited to go to the Knowlton Park after the service for Ellsworth Pride Day festivities!

## **SUNDAY, JUNE 19 AT 10AM!** **All for One and One for All: 3-Church Worship Service \***

Matt Meyer, Guest Worship Leader  
Revs. Margaret, Amy & Sara and Vanessa Williams,  
Worship Associates

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4695376814>  
Meeting ID: 469 537 6814  
Phone: 646-558-8656

Universalism means that no one is saved until we're all saved. Interdependence means grounding ourselves in love, and working together for justice. Join us for a musical celebration of community solutions to systemic problems, and the power we each have to face the crises of our time together while healing ourselves. As part of this joyful service, we'll release Vanessa Williams from her covenant with us and wish her well on her journey into ministry.

**Matt Meyer** is a musician and worship leader who has led hundreds of services for UU congregations across the country. He has a degree in hand drumming and serves as Director of Community Life for Sanctuary Boston.

*\* Only the sanctuary of our Belfast UU Church will be open for people from all three congregations to come in-person to this worship service. All others are welcome to come to worship on ZOOM. Please be aware that no one will physically be at the UU Church of Ellsworth for this worship service.*

# JUNE SERVICES CONTINUED

**SUNDAY, JUNE 26**

**Call Down a Blessing! \***

Rev. Sara Hayman, Worship Leader

Marta Rieman, Worship Associate

**\* Conversation about service/sermon after worship!**

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/94713743892?pwd=UCtPOERpMS8xaXcyZWZjZ25vNIB6dz09>  
Meeting ID: 947 1374 3892  
Password: 240967  
Phone: 646-558-8656

In her book, *My Grandfather's Blessings*, author and physician Rachel Naomi Remen suggests that we all have the power to bless each other in life-affirming and healing ways. In this service, we'll explore what the means and offer some ideas and invitations to be practice being more bold about both blessing others and receiving blessings ourselves.



**UUCE PLATE SPLIT FOR THE UPCOMING MONTH:**

**June 2022      Wabanaki Public Health and Wellness**

Wabanaki Public Health and Wellness, dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of the Tribal community members through connection, prevention, and collaboration.

# MINISTRY MATTERS

REV SARA HAYMAN



Dear Ones.

Welcome to our June NUUS chuck full of invitations to participate in our beloved UUCE community! This month's worship theme invites us to "Celebrate Blessings" in our lives and I'm struck by the fact that there are so many blessings to celebrate in our UUCE community. Thank you for creating such a vibrant and engaged congregation, and for being such generous, loving members and friends among us. I am so glad you're here and so grateful we're a part of so many ministries together <3

Love,  
*Rev. Sara*

PS Please be sure to check-out **ALL** the many UUCE Summer Offerings including hikes each month and Circle Gatherings in the newly dedicated Eileen Brennan Outdoor Sanctuary; fun together at the PRICELESS YARDSALES on Saturday, June 18th; and the UUCE Church Picnic at Lamoine Beach on Sunday, August 7th.



Wednesday Morning Matins  
Zoom Invite:  
<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/96669607701>  
Meeting ID: 966 6960 7701  
Phone: 646-876-9923

## WEDNESDAY MORNING MATINS at 8 am

All are welcome to come and be a part of this ½ hour weekly, contemplative gathering on ZOOM. With music, poetry, readings, silence and space enough for people to share their wisdom, we companion each other with love and gratitude into the day. Come, be nourished in this loving circle.

# RE SUMMER GREETINGS!

It has been so wonderful having multiple children return to in person classes during Multi-platform worship. We also had 4 children join Jude Lamb and myself for a Lady Slipper Hunt at Birds Acre in May. We look forward to being outside as much as possible this summer during our Multi-platform Worship Sundays, so please make sure our children dress appropriately for outside.

## Religious Education Calendar:

**Sunday, June 5th:** Multi-platform Flower Communion, please bring a flower to share if you will be in the sanctuary.

**Saturday, June 11th:** All Age Gathering at Alison and Rev. Charles Stephens home in Blue Hill-11:00-2:00, bring your own lunch and enjoy swimming in their pond walking their labyrinth.

**Sunday, June 12:** RE class with Anne during Multi-platform Worship Service.

**Sunday, June 19th:** Multi-church Zoom only worship service, no RE classes.

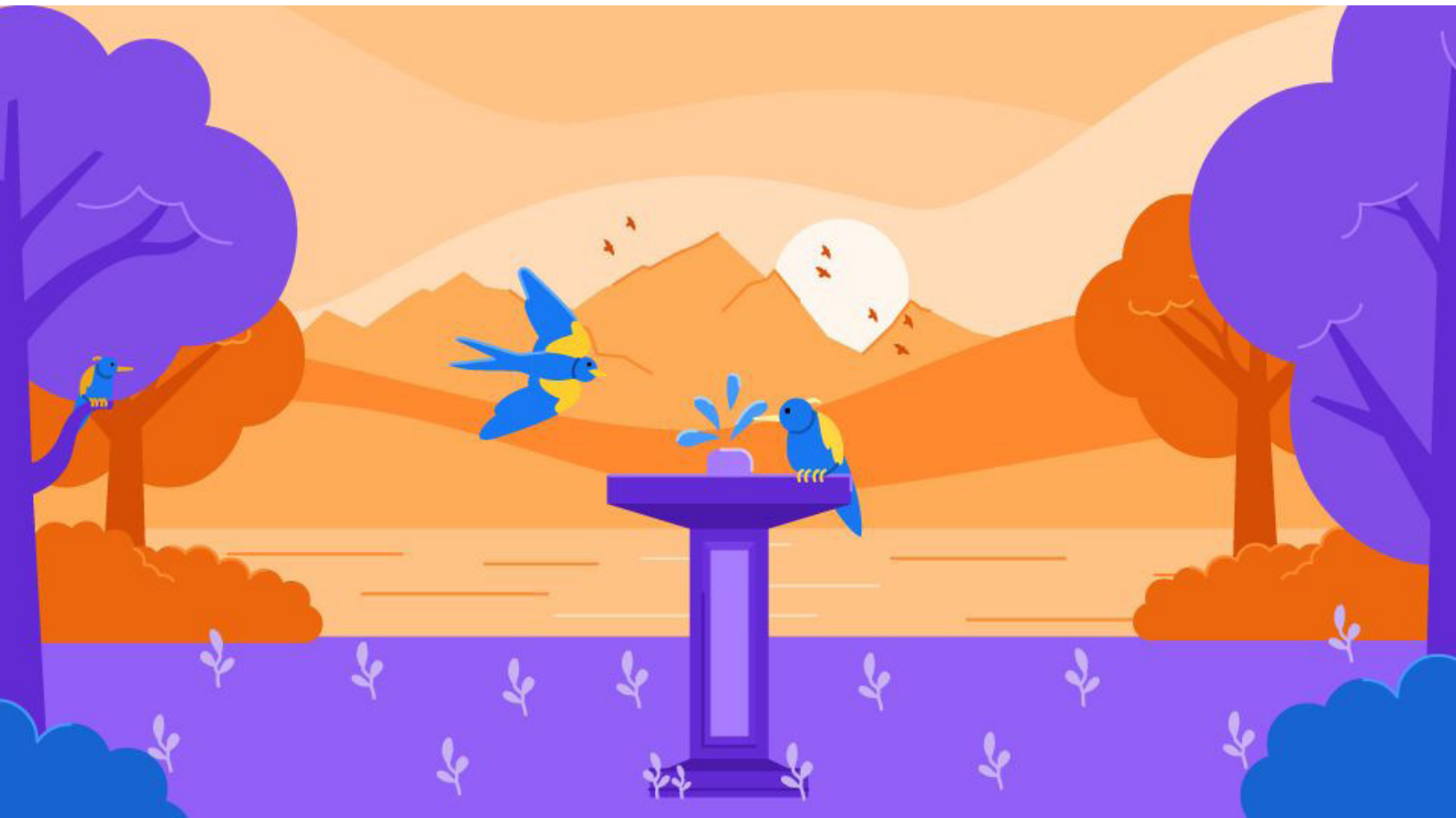
**Sunday, June 26th:** RE class with Anne during Multi-platform Worship Service.

Woyaya-Anne



# ALL AGES GATHERING

All are invited to bring their own lunch and swimsuit to visit with Rev. Charles and Alison Stephens at their beautiful home at 39 Prett's Meadow Lane in Blue Hill. You can walk their labyrinth or swim and paddle boat in their pond on Saturday, June 11th from 11:00 am-2:00 pm. Please RSVP to [Anne Ossanna](#).



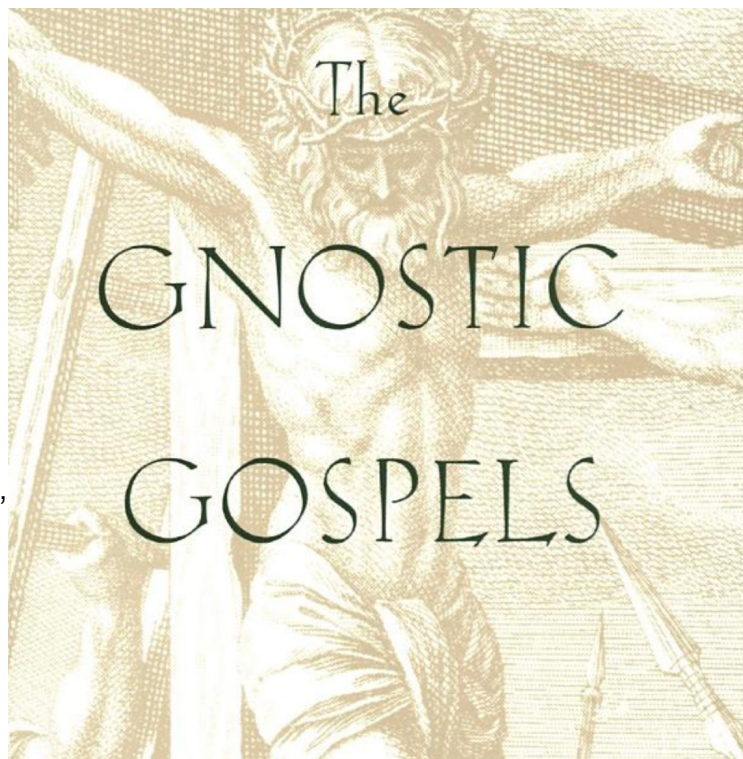
# EXPLORING THE GNOSTIC GOSPELS

**Mark Your Calendar Now  
& Plan to Join us!**

7-Session Class: Wednesdays from 10-11:30am,  
in-person at UU Church of Ellsworth

**June 8, 15 & 29 and July 6, 13, 20 & 27**

Facilitator: Rev. Deane Perkins, former Belfast  
UU Minister. Registration through the church  
office required: uucellsworth@gmail.com or  
207-667-4393. Room for up to 14 people to  
participate. Bookstacks in Bucksport will have  
10 copies of the book, *The Gnostic Gospels* by  
Elaine Pagels' for sale for \$12.75.



## **Class Description & Invitation from Rev. Deane Perkins:**

Dear Friends,

After a group of us at UUCE completed a course last summer on World Religions, there was some discussion about having a class this summer on early Christian history, and, specifically, the Gnostic Gospels. Many of the Gnostic Gospels (which are not part of the Christian Bible) were discovered in 1945, and have added dramatically to our understanding of the genesis of Christianity. Its history is far more complicated and, in many ways, politically-driven than what is taught in traditional Sunday School or even bible studies!

In this class we'll be reading Elaine Pagels' classic work, *The Gnostic Gospels*. We'll be meeting at UUCE on Wednesday mornings, from 10-11:30am, for seven weeks. We'll begin on June 8 and will continue meeting on June 15 and 29 (note that we will not meet on the 22nd), and on July 6, 13, 20, and 27. We'll be starting off immediately with a lively discussion over controversies surrounding Jesus' life and resurrection, so please read the Introduction and first chapter for June 8.

See you then!--Deane Perkins (former minister of UU Belfast)



# SUMMERTIME FUN WITH YOUR UUCE COMMUNITY

## UUCE Monthly Hikes & A Walk

### Mark Your Calendar Now & Plan to Join us!

Hosted by Rev. Sara, Kathy Hall & Mary Murray, Your UUCE Hike Ministers!

At UUCE, it's tradition to schedule monthly hikes & walks together in the summer and early fall. This year, we've chosen four beautiful places to experience and explore together. Put on your hiking boots (or walking shoes on July 3rd!), pack a snack and water, and meet us at the trailhead! All are welcome. Masks are optional this year

If you have questions (or want to know more any of these hikes/walk), please reach out to Rev. Sara, Kathy Hall or Mary Murray. (More detailed trail descriptions will be published in the Wednesday e-news and posted to our UUCE Facebook group)

- **Saturday, June 11** at Great Pond Mountain off the Fish Hatchery Road in Orland  
Meet at Great Pond Mountain trailhead at 10am!
- **Sunday, July 3** at the Bucksport Riverfront Walkway in Bucksport  
Meet at 2pm at the gazebo below Warren's Restaurant
- **Sunday, August 14** at Blue Hill Mountain in Blue Hill.  
Meet at 2pm in the parking lot across from the field at the base of the mountain.
- **Sunday, September 11** at Great Head in Acadia National Park.  
Meet at 2pm in the parking lot off Schooner Head Road.



## YAY! It's finally June - summer is coming and **SO IS OUR YARD SALE!**

You're running out of time to gather your donations, but if you hop to it, you can still do it! If it's CLEAN and IN GOOD WORKING ORDER, we'll take it!\* (\*no big exercise equipment and no tube TVs, no matter how clean or how well they work - sorry ).

### To get your donations to us:

**1st choice:** drop them off at The Junction (507 Washington Junction Rd, Hancock) on Thursday 6/16 when we're setting up.

**2nd choice:** contact Jeff in the office (207-667-4393 or office@uuellsworth.org) to arrange a time to meet him at The Junction.

**3rd choice:** box or bag them and clearly mark them YARD SALE and drop them off at UUCE in the Board Room.

UU CHURCH OF ELLSWORTH

# PRICELESS

# YARD



YOU NAME YOUR PRICE!

**SATURDAY, JUNE 18**  
**8am - 2pm**

**507 WASHINGTON JUNCTION RD, HANCOCK**

Over the years, we've honed our yard-sale-setup skills and **only NEED VOLUNTEERS on 3 days:**

**Thursday 6/16 & Friday 6/17 (anytime 8am - 6pm)** for set up, and

**Saturday 6/18 (anytime 7:30am - ~4pm)** for the sale itself and then clean up. Clean up starts at 2pm: haul away "leftovers" to Goodwill or the curb or UUCE or back in our shipping container right there at the Junction.

Contact Jeff in the office (207-667-4393 or office@uuellsworth.org) to come join the fun!

This is a lot of fun, a great fundraiser for the church and it's GREEN (reduce/reuse/recycle). It's also a fantastic way to bond with your fellow UUCE peeps! And you might even find a treasure or two that you just can't live without! Hope to see you there!



## Ellsworth Pride Fest

Sunday, June 12th, 2022

11:30 am – 5:00 pm

Knowlton Park Bandstand

Entertainment is family friendly for all ages!

Drag Queen Story Hour  
Sourdough Down  
Ellsworth High School Jazz Combo  
Whippoowill Wood  
The Crown Vics  
Family-friendly Drag Show featuring  
Curbside Queens with Geo Neptune

Event is free and open to all!

Food trucks & vendors will be on site.

Ellsworth Pride is sponsored by



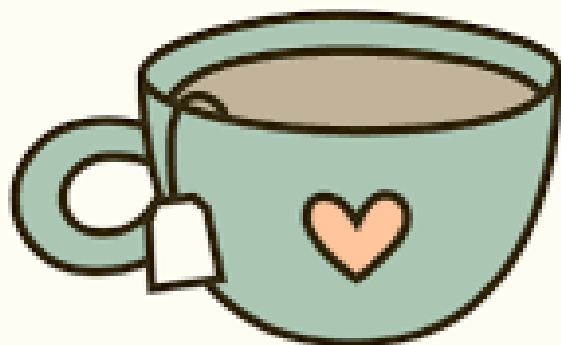
**UUCE will have a table at the festival**  
and we need to staff it from 11:30AM to 5PM on Sunday June 12th.

Anyone who is interested, please contact [Doug Bird](#). We are also seeking individuals who can create simple displays for the table showing the Principles (all 8) and Sources. Hopefully these will be made of materials so that they can be reused. Please contact [Doug Bird](#) if you can do this.

# COME FILL MY CUP

## Soulful Circle Gatherings

**In UUCE's Eileen Brennan Outdoor Sanctuary\***



- **Wednesday, June 29** from 5-7:30pm
- **Wednesday, July 6** from 5-7:30pm
- **Wednesday, August 10** from 5-7:30pm
- **Friday, September 2** from 5-7:30pm

What a blessing it is to be able to gather together in this beautiful place now! This summer, Rev. Sara looks forward to partnering with others to host soulful gatherings that will include things like drumming, singing, movement, silence and music! Come sit in the circle under a canopy of trees and savor the beauty and the warmth of each other.

If you are interested in helping to create and host one of these gatherings, please reach out to Rev. Sara at [sara@uuelsworth.org](mailto:sara@uuelsworth.org) or 207-610-2872.

Details for each gathering will be published in the Wednesday e-news and posted on our private Facebook group. All are welcome and masks are optional.

\*In an effort to be more inclusive and accessible to all, a sound system (including microphones) will be used in this outdoor sanctuary space, and, as volunteers are able to help, we'll stream these gatherings on ZOOM. UUCE remains committed to building a more accessible walkway. Meet at 2pm in the parking lot across from the field at the base of the mountain

# EACH OTHER

## FROM OUR INTERN MINISTER VANESSA WILLIAMS

Dear ones,

This will be my closing newsletter contribution as intern minister for the 3 Church Collaborative of Maine.



My heart is heavy, and yet it is so very full; From all that is happening in our world, and in saying my goodbyes (UUCE I will continue as a regular member). This internship, in these times, has been an experience like no other. And I am grateful to have had it; and to have had it with you all.

For this last piece, I offer you a prayer. Through prayer is the best, and presently only way I can express the myriad of thoughts and emotions I wish to fit into this segment. May these words support and/or uplift you on your own life journey.

### “Each Other”, a prayer

Spirit,  
Before you are sentient beings,  
Feeling everything.  
Our hearts are heavy with the weight  
Of this world,  
And full of so much  
Love;  
Love that allows us to feel,  
To grieve,  
To hope,  
To believe,  
To strive for better days,  
For a better world,  
Spirit,  
Thank you,  
For uniting us in community,  
So we need not feel these  
Heavy emotions

Alone,  
Help us to together  
Be the support  
Needed  
When things are so very hard,  
And the mirrored smiles  
for when joy,  
Is all we can express.

Spirit  
Thank you  
For this gift of  
Each other.

Blessed be,  
Amen.

Thank you for everything, and  
blessings to each one of you!

Sincerely,

Vanessa Williams

# 8th Principle TASK FORCE



**“We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”**

## UUCE ADOPTS 8<sup>TH</sup> PRINCIPLE!!!

The UUCE adopted the 8th principle on Sunday May 22—a bold step. With that action, we have chosen to take action to dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions, and to build a more diverse and multicultural beloved community. We have real work ahead of us.

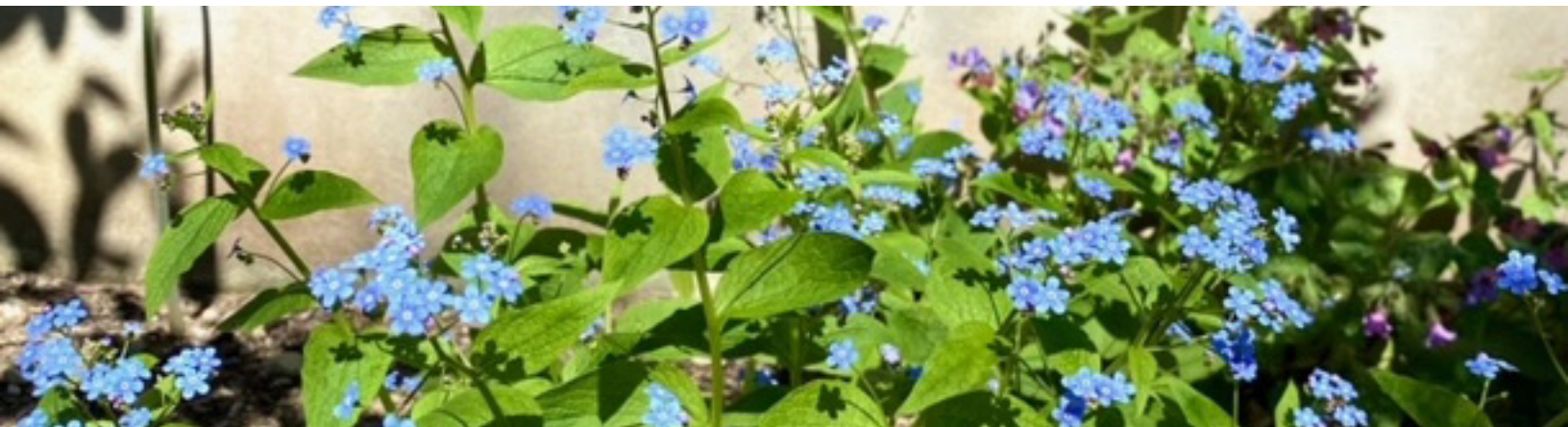
The 8th Principle task force would like to thank everyone who participated in the months-long process to reflect and learn about the meaning of this principle. With this vote, the work of this task force is completed although we will continue to provide information and resources related to this grass roots movement. We encourage members to check out the RE library of books about racism and to add books you read to the collection there. The board will create a new task force to work with congregational members on how we implement this action. We invite all interested to let Gary or Sara know.

We look forward to a future celebration of this action with you and remain grateful for your affirmative vote at our Congregational Meeting.

# In the Gardens

at UUCE

Now that the daffodils have bloomed and the spent flowers cut back, the other plants in the gardens are showing themselves, some with very beautifully colored flowers. The crab apple and cherry have bloomed and the viburnum, on either side of the Community Room door, are about to burst out in full bloom.



# LOOKING FORWARD TO...

## FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT GARY SHELLHAMER



As we move into Spring, I am looking forward to the opportunity to hold in-person outdoor gatherings. While your COVID-19 Task Force continues to work and our church policies continue to evolve as the pandemic also changes, we still need to do what we can to maintain a strong connection and keep our members and friends safe.

We have a beautiful campus and I am grateful for the work of our Landscape and Grounds Committee, creating a beautiful setting as well as their work with RE to continue improving the new Eileen Brennan Outdoor Sanctuary.

For those who were not able to attend the May Annual Congregational Meeting, A brief recap follows:

Congratulations to Bob Francis, who volunteered to stand for the position of Board Secretary and was elected at the meeting. Thank you to our Elections Committee members Doug Bird, Kathy Hall, and Linda Uberseder. I also want to thank out-going Secretary Susan Opdycke for her service, not only as secretary, but also for all the other UUCE activities and events for which she volunteers her time and talents, including making Sunday coffee happen.



The proposed budget for our FY 2022-2023 was discussed at the budget hearing on the 15th and passed by congregational vote. Thanks goes to the Fiscal Matters Committee, our Treasurer, Administrator, Board of Trustees and Rev. Sara for the work to craft an operating budget. Thank to you to the Stewardship Committee for a successful pledge campaign and to you for pledging your support of UUCE.

At the meeting, we had a lively discussion about the 8th Principle (***“We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist***

**Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”)** and voted to adopt this principle for UUCE. Thank you to our 8th Principle Task Force for the many opportunities they made available for our members and friends to focus on the journey to more inclusivity in our community by addressing racism and oppressions. Going forward a new charge will be drafted by the board to a task force as UUCE embraces the 8th Principle and selects our delegates to the UUA General Assembly where it will be a topic for consideration and action.

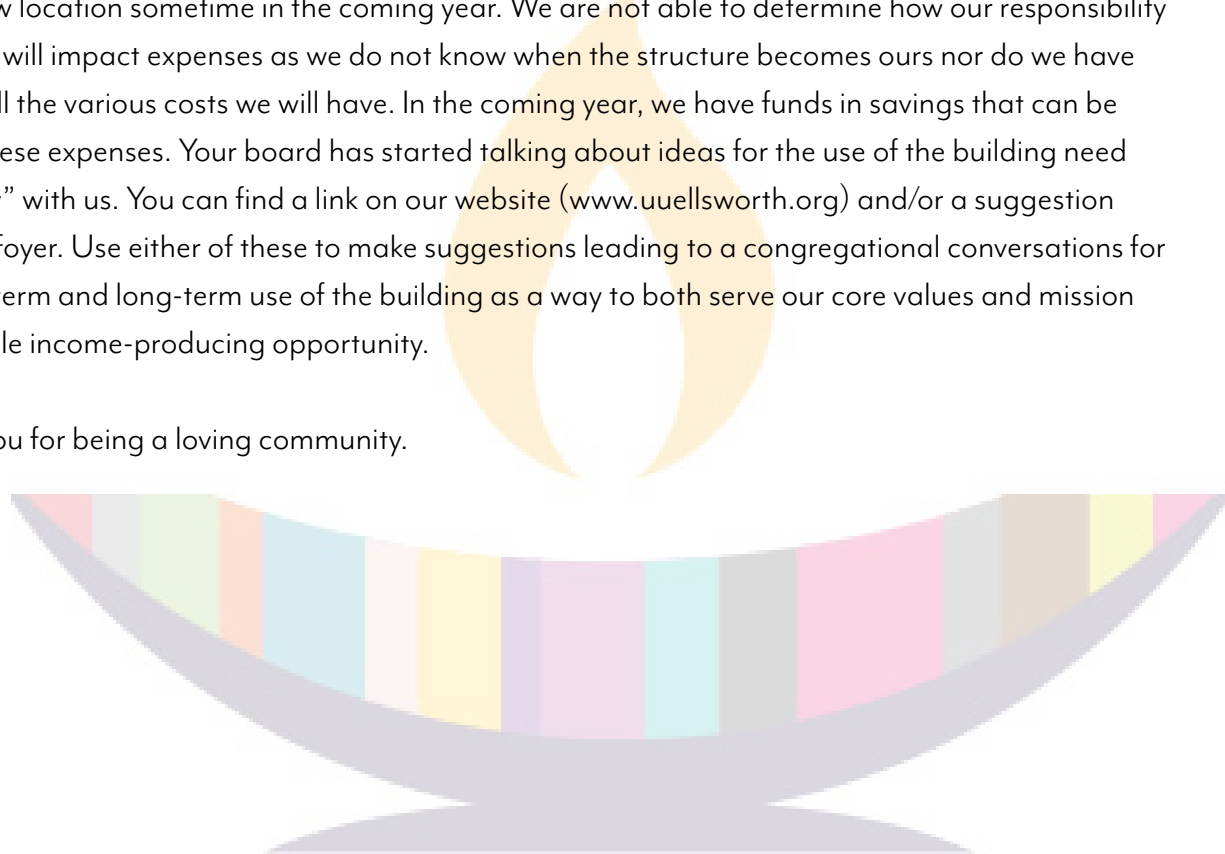
UUCE’s Committee on Congregational Engagement created an informative volunteer guide as well as a survey about your interests and willingness to contribute your talents to UUCE. The survey was distributed a few weeks ago. CCE is grateful for the responses we received and encourage you to complete the questionnaire so your interests and availability are known.

The upcoming summer is full of events: our Yard Sale Fundraiser, events at our Eileen Brennan Outdoor Sanctuary, the resumption of UUCE hikes, our annual picnic, the 3-church Ferry Beach gathering, and getting ready for our Egg Roll Sale at the Common Ground Fair. Both the Yard Sale and the Egg Roll booth are fun activities that benefit UUCE, so if you are interested in working on either project, please contact Jeff Juede ([uuellsworth.org@gmail.com](mailto:uuellsworth.org@gmail.com)).

At the May meeting, we talked twice about the Loaves and Fishes Building. As you know, L&F will be moving to a new location sometime in the coming year. We are not able to determine how our responsibility for the building will impact expenses as we do not know when the structure becomes ours nor do we have knowledge of all the various costs we will have. In the coming year, we have funds in savings that can be used to meet these expenses. Your board has started talking about ideas for the use of the building need you to “blue sky” with us. You can find a link on our website ([www.uuellsworth.org](http://www.uuellsworth.org)) and/or a suggestion box in UUCE’s foyer. Use either of these to make suggestions leading to a congregational conversations for both the short-term and long-term use of the building as a way to both serve our core values and mission and as a possible income-producing opportunity.

Finally, thank you for being a loving community.

Sincerely,  
Gary





# FERRY BEACH

# RETREAT

**2022** *The ocean is calling you...*

**for 3 days - AUGUST 23-26, 2022 - of relaxation, spirituality, creativity, music, worship, s'mores, bonfires, swimming, dancing, workshops and delicious food with members of the UU Belfast and Castine congregations.**

Registration for our Multi-church Summer Retreat begins March 1st and continues until June 27, 2022. A \$25.00 NON-REFUNDABLE deposit is due for each attendee when you register. The balance is due by July 31st . Limited partial scholarships are available. Please contact Rev. Sara or Anne Ossanna for a confidential request. There are no hotel options this year. Onsite shared dorm rooms are just steps away from the ocean. The ADA rooms and campground are a short walk to the ocean. The fee includes housing for 3 nights, housekeeping, all programming and 8 delicious ALL YOU CAN EAT meals. Please contact Anne Ossanna for additional information: Email - [aossanna@aol.com](mailto:aossanna@aol.com); Text - 1 (207) 479-6338; Landline - 565-2057.

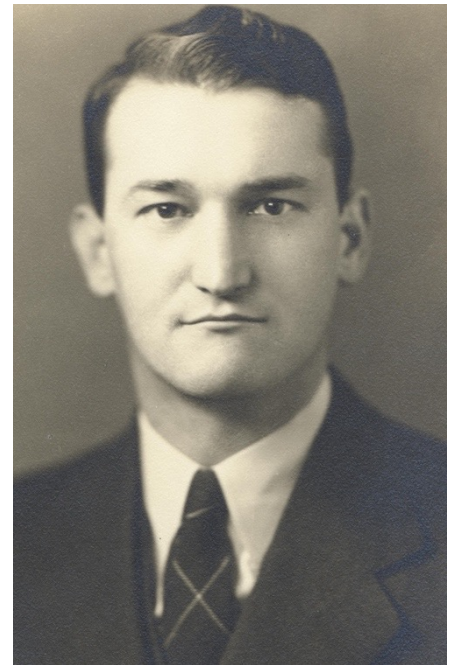


Wayne H. Smith  
UUCE Historian

## **REV. HERMAN HENRY GEERTZ (1914-1964)**

Herman Henry Geertz was born on July 26, 1914 in Chicago, Illinois, the third of the six children of Christian Heinrich Hermann Geertz of Altona, Hamburg, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany and his wife Anna Marie Louise Hannchen

Scheewe of Berlin, Germany. They were of a Lutheran/Congregational background. His parents arrived at Ellis Island on March 20, 1914 aboard the S. S. Emperor, his mother five months pregnant with him. His father, who usually went by the name of Hermann, had previously visited the United States in 1904, but once they arrived in 1914, they settled in Chicago where he worked as an iron moulder for the Semi-Steel Foundry Company, an iron works factory. He became a naturalized citizen of the U.S. in 1920.



Young Herman attended public schools in Chicago and graduated from Carl Schurz Public High School in 1931. He received his B.A. degree from Central YMCA College in 1937 and took a few graduate level courses at the University of Chicago from 1937 to 1938. He served a pastorate as minister at a Congregational church in South Merrimac, NH from March 1939 to October 1940. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Divinity degree at Andover Newton Theological School (ANTS) in Newton, Massachusetts in 1942. While studying there, he appeared twice in the 1940 U.S. census. He is recorded as living at the family home at 2336 N. Knox in Chicago, yet he is also listed as a student at Andover Newton living in Newton, Massachusetts and working as a part-time janitor at the college. He also spent part of that summer at the Norfolk, MA Prison Colony working as a student social worker.

1940 turned out to be a significant year for him in other ways. By then he had developed a relationship with Elizabeth Leigh Shurtleff, daughter of Rev. Alfred Dewey Keegan Shurtleff, a retired Unitarian minister. She had also studied for two years at ANTS. The couple was married on Oct. 12 of that year in Framingham, Massachusetts. They would later give birth to three children:

William S. Geertz (1943), Hope Huntington Geertz (1945), and Catherine L. Geertz (1951).

By 1942, Herman was finishing his studies at Andover Newton and was trying to figure out what his next steps would be. On March 12 of that year, he had a meeting with the Fellowship Committee of the American Unitarian Association (AUA) and a transcript of the interview reveals a number of important issues. Although he had served briefly at the Congregational church in South Merrimac, NH, he was not completely at ease with many aspects of traditional Christianity. His wife had been raised by an Episcopalian mother, yet her father was a Unitarian minister. He admitted to the Fellowship Committee that he didn't know that much about the Unitarian church. He stated: "I have read some literature on it and the point of view seems to coincide with mine. You seem very progressive and don't seem to insist upon any particular dogma. The emphasis is on reasonableness and religion of the heart...I believe religion should be a manner of doing things, not merely of words."

Two months later, Herman wrote to Rev. Dan Huntington Fenn of the Department of Ministry at the AUA saying that he would like to start candidating "with a view to securing a small charge not too far from Boston." Well, that small charge ended up being the First Unitarian Society of Ellsworth. He first preached at FUSE on June 21, 1942 and the following Sunday on June 28. He spent the week in between getting to know the members and officers of the Society. Geertz made quite an impression on the congregation, especially on one of the younger members. Rev. Henry Saunderson, who summered in Sullivan Harbor, wrote a note to Fellowship Committee chair Dan Fenn saying: "One of the prominent men of the church had his little son with him at the service. The lad is six years old. After the prayer, the lad whispered to his father, 'When this man prays, he certainly does go to town.'"

In any event, on July 2 at 12:16 PM, FUSE Board President Lyle L. Brown sent a telegram to Dan Fenn saying: "Parish meeting unanimous for Geertz. Please notify him. Invitation letter follows." The invitation letter, penned by Board Clerk Eva N. Osgood, stated that his pastorate would begin on Sept. 1, 1942 with no term limit. He was to be paid \$1300 plus the use of the parsonage on Pine Street, which the Trustees were to make ready for occupancy. However, when his pastorate officially began, the parsonage was not exactly ready. In a Nov. 15, 1942 letter to Fenn, Herman wrote:

*[continued on next page]*

The manner in which the repairs to the parsonage have been handled is unfortunately only symptomatic of the way in which the parish does everything. There seems to be no group solidarity. This is a little hard for us to understand because individually we like the people very much, and as individuals they have been very kind and sympathetic. But they will not act together. The one meeting of the trustees I have been able to call was a dismal failure, largely because those who attended acted like a bunch of prima donnas.

In any event, the Fellowship Committee granted him a Preliminary Certificate of Fellowship in October, just in time for his ordination and installation on Oct. 29. The service was officiated by such Unitarian luminaries as H. H. Saunderson, Arthur Schoenfeldt, and his father-in-law A. D. K. Shurtleff. Rev. Dan Fenn preached the ordination sermon.

Rev. Geertz wasted no time in extending an invitation to his fellow Ellsworth ministers to participate in a Union Thanksgiving Service held at the Unitarian Church on Wednesday evening Nov. 25, 1942. The guest preacher was Dr. Harry Trust, president of the Bangor Theological Seminary. This was the first such service to be held in Ellsworth for several years.

By the following spring, the repair work on the parsonage was still not yet finished, but was slowly progressing. On March 6, 1943, the Geertz family welcomed their first child, William S. Geertz. In May, Rev. Geertz thanked the AUA for a sustentation check which “made possible the purchase of a carriage for little Billy.” He continued:

We are feeling much more optimistic now that the long hard winter is over. We have undergone some hardship, but we feel that it has had a maturing effect upon us. I wish that I could say that the church is forging ahead since we came here, but that would not be entirely true. I have done little more than get acquainted and settled in the parsonage since our arrival. But I hope that this year we have at least laid the foundation for some constructive work next year, particularly with the Sunday school and young people. We had an attendance of 80 on Easter Sunday. Last Sunday the attendance slipped back to the usual 35, but even that brief moment of glory on Easter was very heartening.

In the fall of 1943, Rev. Geertz wrote, “We look forward to a less arduous and more rewarding year here in Ellsworth. The church seems to us to be pulling out of his mood of despondency. At any rate, we hope to make progress this year.” He followed up on Oct. 1 with a letter to the members of the congregation,

*[continued on next page]*

encouraging them to be present at the following Sunday's celebration of World Wide Communion and to pledge to attend church for the next six Sundays. He further extended an invitation for all members to participate in the Annual Conference of the Unitarian Churches of Maine which was to be held at the Ellsworth church on Oct. 5 and 6. Rev. Charles R. Joy of Boston, head of the Unitarian Service Committee, would be speaking on "The Work of the Service Committee in War-Torn Europe."

By February of 1944, Rev. Geertz was making plans to leave Ellsworth and was filling out an application to serve as an Army chaplain. Under Experience, he listed his previous pastorates in South Merrimac, NH and Ellsworth. He also listed his prior military training, having completed a ROTC Basic Course and served as Cadet Captain from 1928-1931. In another letter to Dan Fenn dated April 13, 1944, Rev. Geertz mentioned that he had received a letter from the War Department telling him that "there was no present or impending need for Unitarian chaplains." He then wrote: The current issue of the Christian Century reports that a thousand Army chaplains will be needed by July, and it seems unfair to me that men of our denomination who are willing to fill the need should be excluded when so many other denominations have not responded.

His letter to Fenn goes on to detail the many obstacles and difficulties that he and his family have experienced while in Ellsworth. He refers to "the problem of meeting increased living costs with an inadequate income," "the cost of heating the parsonage" (\$300 a year), and the damage to their car due to having to park it outside in the winter. On the more personal level, he notes the "unfriendliness of these people to strangers, especially since at times they can be almost unbelievably good-hearted and friendly...They let us freeze with an incompletely installed furnace until December 31 of the first year we were here simply because no one would take the responsibility for getting the work done." In an early verse to a song that would be sung again and again over the next quarter century, he laments: I don't know what is to become of this church. The truth is that it is dying a natural death, and I feel helpless to do anything about it. Such life as the church now has consists in about a dozen people, all well advanced in age, and without children. There are others in the church but they have just come along for the ride and jump off the train when the conductor comes through to collect the fare... The people here have a curious habit of tearing every previous minister to shreds... Our two years here have in the main been a sobering and maturing experience for both of us. At this

*[continued on next page]*

point, at any rate, we are the richer for having been here.

Fenn recommended that he stick it out for another two months, until the end of June, and see what develops in terms of entering the Army chaplaincy. The timing was perfect. A letter from Rev. Geertz to Rev. Fenn on July 3, 1944 said: "I have just received orders to report to the chaplains' school at Harvard July 17." Fenn recommended that he resign from the Ellsworth position, which he did. "I have resigned from the church, and the people have taken my resignation with good grace, giving us a cordial send-off."

Geertz then underwent "a very strenuous five weeks of training" lasting from July 17 to Aug. 23, 1944 at Harvard University. He then served for one month at the 28th Medical Training Regiment at Camp Ellis, Illinois, then for 13 months at the 85th Field Hospital during which time he was promoted from 1st Lieutenant to Captain. In October of 1945, he began serving at Cushing General Hospital in Framingham, MA. His date of separation was May 28, 1946. During his military career, he earned a number of special recognitions, including a Service Ribbon for the European Theatre of Operations Feb. 11, 1945 to August 8, 1945, two Battle Stars (Campaign Rhineland and Central Germany), an American Theatre Ribbon, and a Victory Medal. A February 27, 1946 letter from the Office of the Chief of Chaplains stated: "The Chief of Service desires that I express to you his appreciation for the work that you are now doing and the splendid reports which have come to this office."

Following his period of military service, Rev. Geertz served for a year and a half at the Hawes Memorial (Unitarian) Church in South Boston and while there took graduate level courses at the Harvard Divinity School leading to an S. T. M. (Master of Sacred Theology) degree in June of 1947. This was followed by a five-year stint at the Unitarian Church in Norwell, MA from 1948 to 1953 and a year and a half pastorate at the Unity Church in North Easton, MA from 1954 to 1955.

At this point in his life, Rev. Geertz made the decision to retire from church ministry, move to California, and begin teaching in the public schools. He took graduate-level teacher training courses at the University of Southern California in English, Journalism, and Special Reading from 1955-1961 and was employed at Garfield High School in Los Angeles starting in 1955. He also did guest preaching at the San Gabriel Fellowship. He died at his home in West Covina, CA on Oct. 2, 1964 at the age of 50.

# STAYING CONNECTED

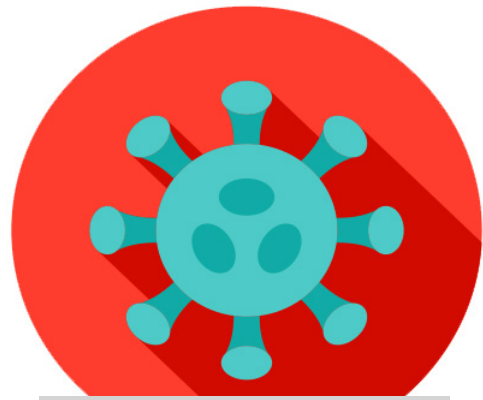
## UUCE OFFICE

During this time of mandated isolation to curtail the spread of Covid-19, the Church and Office remain closed. Church Administrator Jeff Jeude is working remotely most of the time, but coming into the office on Wednesday, from 11:00 to 3:00.

You can ALWAYS reach him by phone at 573-330-4677 and email either [office@uuellsworth.org](mailto:office@uuellsworth.org).

### Support to Set-Up ZOOM Meetings for Church Gatherings

Jeff is able to schedule church-related ZOOM meetings. If you need to schedule a ZOOM meeting for your church purposes, please email him at [office@uuellsworth.org](mailto:office@uuellsworth.org) or call the church at 207-667-4393 on Wednesdays when he's physically in the building, typically 11:00 a.m. to 3p.m. If your need is urgent and Jeff has not gotten back to you, please call, text or email Rev. Sara Hayman at 207-610-2872 or [sara@uuellsworth.org](mailto:sara@uuellsworth.org). If possible, please give us several days notice to schedule these ZOOM meetings.



## COVID-19 TASK FORCE

### UUCE COVID-19 TASK FORCE CONTACT INFORMATION

Mary Haynes:

667-7596 (home)  
207-266-2207 (cell/text)

Anne Ossanna:

565-2057 (home)  
374-5612 (work)  
207-479-6338 (cell/text)

Marta Rieman:

667-7584 (home)  
207-479-7250 (cell/text)

Gary Shellehamer:

667-0034 (home)  
202-494-3593 (cell/text)

Karen Volckhausen:

667-9212 (home)  
207-266-9212 (cell/text)

## BREEZE CHECK-IN /REGISTRATION FOR SUNDAY SERVICES

We now have a page on our UUCE website with an instructional video made by our own Jeff Jeude. Here is the direct link: <https://uuellsworth.org/sunday-service-check-in/>

You can also reach it by simply going to our main page and clicking on the MEMBERS tab and then clicking on SUNDAY SERVICE CHECK-IN.

## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM'S 6 SOURCES

The living tradition which we share draws from many sources:

1. Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
2. Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
3. Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
4. Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
5. Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
6. Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.



## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM'S 7 PRINCIPLES

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.



## UUCE'S AFFIRMATION OF COVENANT

Love is the spirit of this church,  
and service its law;  
this is our great covenant:  
to dwell together in peace,  
to seek the truth in love,  
and to help one another.



# CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Minister</b> Rev. Sara Hayman: 610-2872 (cell) sara@uuellsworth.org	<b>Children's Religious Education Coordinator</b> Anne Ossanna: 565-2057 aossanna@aol.com
Church Office (Tue 11-4, Wed 11-4, Thu 11-4) <b>Administrator</b> Jeffrey Jeude: 667-4393 office@uuellsworth.org	<b>Music Director &amp; Pianist</b> Wayne Smith: 667-9482 wayne@mrlanguage.com
<b>Collaborative Intern Minister</b> Vanessa Williams: 781-853-7610 williams@meadville.edu	<b>NUUSletter Editor</b> (submissions deadline: 25 <sup>th</sup> of each month) Lisa Williams: 274-0177 lisa@IndigoArtDesign.com

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

<b>President:</b> Gary Shellehamer to 2021 (667-0034)	<b>Vice President:</b> Beth Pepper to 2023
<b>Treasurer:</b> Alison Stephens to 2024	<b>Secretary:</b> Susan Opdycke to 2022
<b>Trustee:</b> Robert Breeden to 2022	<b>Trustee:</b> Kathy Hall to 2024
<b>Trustee:</b> Sally Gervais to 2022	<b>Moderator:</b> John Fink

## COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE CHAIRS

<b>Adult Committee on Education:</b> vacant	<b>Landscaping and Grounds:</b> Bron Day
<b>Aesthetics:</b> Margaret Thurston	<b>Loaves &amp; Fishes:</b> Beth Pepper, Nina Turner
<b>Auction:</b> Margaret Thurston, Lori Johnson-Pannier, Jeff Jeude	<b>Membership:</b> Jody Murphy
<b>Building &amp; Maintenance/Safety:</b> Ken Hanson	<b>Pastoral Care Ministry:</b> Eric Uberseder
<b>Charitable Giving:</b> Rev. Sara Hayman, Nancy Guy	<b>Peace and Social Action:</b> Barb Acosta
<b>Choir:</b> Haydée Foreman	<b>Publicity:</b> Susan Opdycke
<b>Collaborative Ministry:</b> Robin Lovrien, Mack MacDonald, Gary Shellehamer	<b>Children's Religious Education:</b> Linda Uberseder
<b>Committee on Ministry:</b> Karen Volckhausen	<b>Small Group Ministry:</b> Mary Murray
<b>Congregational Engagement:</b> Marjorie Loring	<b>Stewardship:</b> vacant
<b>Cookie Walk:</b> Robin Lovrien	<b>Ushers:</b> Jon Thomas, Ken Hanson
<b>Eggroll Project:</b> vacant	<b>Technology Coordinator:</b> vacant
<b>Ferry Beach Director:</b> Anne Ossanna	<b>Wayside Pulpit:</b> Nancy Guy
<b>Fiscal Matters:</b> Connie Bailey	<b>Website:</b> Esther Sampol
<b>Flowers:</b> Bronwen Day	<b>Worship Arts:</b> vacant
<b>Green Sanctuary:</b> Paul Kelley	<b>Yard Sale:</b> Beth Pepper
<b>History/Archives:</b> Wayne Smith	<b>Youth Advisor:</b> Bob Dickens
<b>Hospitality Ministry Coordinator:</b> Jeff Jeude	

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



June 2022



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

**JUNE 2022**

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Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.