



# The UUUCE NUUS

December 2022  
Volume 54, No.12



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.

## The Path of Wonder

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

**Sunday, December 4\***

**This is why you were born...**

Rev. Sara Hayman, Worship Leader  
Katherine Hubner, Worship Associate

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/91482938103?pwd=N2ZGZ0k0OThvelpwN3BLSjYk4aVdEUT09>

*Plate Split Sunday to benefit Madel Wadsworth Center!  
R.E. Classes today!*

Meeting ID: 914 8293 8103  
Password: 208813  
Phone: 646-558-8656

In a meditation she wrote, Rebecca Parker articulates a promise and potential about this time of year: "Let this be a season when holiness is heard and the splendor of living is revealed. We are not alone. In the universe there moves a Wild One whose gestures altar the earth's axis toward love..." Come, and join us in being moved by the wonder of awaiting the birth of every child. Enter into the wisdom of old stories that tell us divinity is hidden in all, and our work is to see with our hearts and find and strengthen those sparks of the Divine.

\* PLEASE BE AWARE that this Sunday, 12/4, the Sanctuary will be a "Mask Optional" space and the Community Room will be a "Masks Required" space for worship.

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/98454851008?pwd=YjliZWREUT09>  
Meeting ID: 984 5485 1008  
Password: 819641  
Phone: 646-558-8656

**Sunday, December 11\***

**Wonder is where love begins...**

Rev. Sara Hayman, Worship Leader  
Kay Wilkins, Worship Associate

*R.E. Classes today!  
Holy Days Tree Decorating after church!*

In her book, Revolutionary Love, author and civil rights activist Valorie Kaur calls us to the practice and discipline of wondering about people, especially those with

# DECEMBER SERVICES CONTINUED

whom we struggle. “Wonder,” she writes, “is where love begins.” How do we cultivate this sense of wonder in ourselves about others? What helps and what hinders our efforts to create more radical kinship with all people?

\* PLEASE BE AWARE that this Sunday the Sanctuary will be a “Mask Optional” space and the Community Room will be a “Masks Required” space for worship.

**Sunday, December 18\***

**Everyday Wonder!**

Rev. Sara Hayman &  
UUCE Friends, Worship Leaders

*Special Music!*

Caspar Henderson says, “Wonder is, among other things, an act of deep attention.” Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel writes, “Our goal should be to live life in radical amazement.” In this multigenerational worship service, we’ll make space to share things about the holy days of this season that help us live with a deep and animating sense of wonder.

\* PLEASE BE AWARE that this Sunday the Sanctuary will be a “Mask Optional” space and the Community Room will be a “Masks Required” space for worship.

**ZOOM-Only Service**

**Sunday, December 25\***

**Merry Christmas, Everyone!**

Rev. Sara Hayman, Worship Leader  
Marta Rieman, Worship Associate

All are welcome to come and participate in this ZOOM-only Christmas Morning service. There will be music, readings and gentle invitations to share if you’re moved to do so. Come in your pajamas if you like, with your coffee or cocoa in hand, too!

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/93280449635?pwd=RzIleUNELIhNdzQ3Smtlb3lZSGIDUT09>  
Meeting ID: 932 8044 9635  
Password: 793918  
Phone: 646-558-8656

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/99946759017?pwd=cVhla0VjY1dES3ZHQQ092aEw3NljoQT09>  
Meeting ID: 999 4675 9017  
Password: 956792  
Phone: 646-558-8656

# SPECIAL UUCE HOLIDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

## ADVENT VESPER SERVICES

3 Wednesday Evenings with Rev. Sara  
December 7, 14, and 21 from 6-6:45pm on ZOOM!

*I wonder what this Advent season, a time of watchful waiting, is trying to say to us? All are welcome to come and be a part of this intimate contemplative circle. We'll share readings, music and make space for listen to spirit at work in silence and in each other.*

*O Spirit of Advent and Christmas past,  
prepare in us an expectant heart.  
Thaw the wintry coldness of our ways.  
Help us not refuse those waiting birth.  
And teach us that Bethlehem is not a town,  
past or present,  
but a place in our hearts,  
where the cry of the newborn baby can be  
heard.*

- Burton Carley

## A BLUE HOLIDAY SERVICE

Sunday, December 18, at 2pm at UUCE

**Come in to Christmas here...**

The holidays can be a hard time of year for folks grieving, struggling with illness or loss, or missing loved ones. Knowing this is true, we welcome you come light candles, hear music and readings, and share your heart's wisdom while we sip cups of hot apple cider and companioned each other in tender and gentle ways. All are welcome!

## MULTI-PLATFORM CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE\*

A Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Carols and Readings  
Saturday, December 24, at 7pm.

Special Music!

Rev. Mark Worth, Worship Leader  
Rev. Sara Hayman & Karen Volckhausen,  
Worship Associates

Tonight, we gather with candlelight to sing carols and help each other enter into the mystery of the Christmas story. Come, make room in your heart to behold the babe in a manger, and the power and promise of love born and renewed in this world.

\* PLEASE BE AWARE on this Christmas Eve Service (Saturday, 12/24 at 7pm), the Sanctuary will be a "Masks Required" space and the Community Room will be a "Masks Optional" space for worship.

ADVENT ZOOM  
INVITE (for all three  
gatherings):  
<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/94312006003>  
MEETING ID: 943 1200  
6003  
PHONE: 646 876 9923

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/94888832835?pwd=TnhiWEIXSmx3NHVBR0I5azJOeTJNUT09>  
Meeting ID: 948 8883  
2835  
Password: 672862  
Phone: 646-558-8656

Beloveds,

On the cusp of December's arrival, I have to tell the truth:  
The grey and dark of late November is getting to me...  
I keep turning lights on in the house in the middle of the day!  
Driving to Portland to pick up my beloved who'd  
been visiting her 92-year-old mother in Chicago,  
I was so grateful to notice the red berries on bare branches  
alongside the road down all of Route 3.  
Paying attention to beauty (wherever it is)  
is an important lifeline, really!

Seriously, I say to myself, come up with  
worship services about the "Path of Wonder?"  
Overwhelm isn't a great source of inspiration or  
imagination, and overwhelmed is how I'm feeling...  
My long list of things needing attention,  
things that aren't easily solved or fixed,  
it chases me around and muffles the magic  
inside this season of holy days.

That's the way it is, sometimes:  
Christmas comes slowly...  
We have to wait patiently, as best we can,  
and do our part to keep our hearts open—  
maybe write and send a few cards,  
hang a wreath on the door,  
make time to sit at night with a beloved  
person or creature and light a few candles  
while singing a carol we've always loved.

I am remembering with you that  
Christmas does come, and it will come,  
even if it takes a while to get here...

May the beauty, mystery and love-filled  
promises of this season find you.

Yours, in shared ministry,  
*Rev. Sara*

# MINISTRY MATTERS

REV SARA HAYMAN







## **CAN YOU HELP US BAKE HOLIDAY COOKIES?**

### **UUCE ANNUAL DRIVE-BY COOKIE WALK FUNDRAISER**

Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> from 9-11am

We hope to sell 75 beautifully decorated boxes of 3-dozen homemade holiday cookies for \$25 each! That's 225 dozen cookies!

Please email Rev. Sara ([sara@uuellsworth.org](mailto:sara@uuellsworth.org)) if you're willing to bake cookies!

If possible, we thank you for baking a minimum of 6 dozen cookies of any variety of your choosing. (This helps us keep the cookies in each box consistent.)

Over the years, we've learned that these kinds of traditional holiday cookies are favorites and we'd LOVE to have them to put in our cookie boxes:

- 1) peanut blossoms,
- 2) sugar cookie cut outs (with sprinkles or decorated)
- 3) spritz cookies
- 4) chocolate-peppermint chews
- 5) speculas
- 6) Russian tea cakes
- 7) stamped spice cookies
- 8) plain shortbread
- 9) chocolate dipped shortbread
- 10) coconut macaroon
- 11) crisp gingerbread cookies
- 12) raspberry thumbprint cookies

Holiday Cookies need to be delivered in sealed & labeled containers (cookie type(s) and your name) by Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 12pm to the UUCE kitchen.

Many, many thanks to all who help with this annual holiday fundraiser!

# 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.”**

Now that UUCE has adopted the 8th Principle, how do we go about creating a multicultural, antiracist Beloved Community? How can we learn from other congregations that have gone before us, and how can we prepare ourselves for some of the frustrations and disappointments, as well as hopes and wonder, as we embark on this journey together?

Join us for a UUA common read of ***Mistakes and Miracles*** by Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin. This book study, to be led by Cecily Judd and Barb Acosta of the 8th Principle Journey Task Force, will take place through four 90-minute sessions Thursdays at 4:30 pm every two weeks via Zoom beginning in January:

Jan. 19 Session 1: Every Congregation Has a Story

Feb. 2 Session 2: Let’s Talk About Power

Feb. 16 Session 3: History and Hope

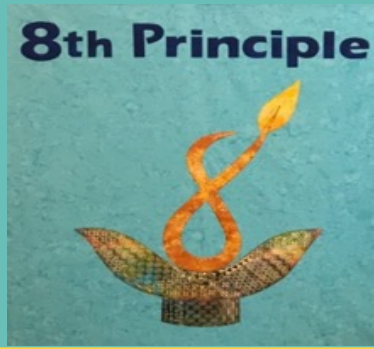
Mar. 2 Session 4: Strategy and What’s Next

**REGISTER** in advance for this meeting (write in your own name.) to reserve your place! After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting as well as reading assignments. Books are available for \$20 each and will be available to anyone who wants to participate regardless of ability to pay.

If you’d like a copy of the book *Mistakes and Miracles* by Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin, please contact Jana Robinson, [janasmith.robinson@outlook.com](mailto:janasmith.robinson@outlook.com) or text 207-347-9008.

## ARTICLE II STUDY COMMISSION

We would encourage everyone to review the Article II Study Commission’s most recent draft of the language being presented to the UUA board for discussion in January and then inclusion on the June 2023 General Assembly agenda. Article II of the UU bylaws addresses principles and sources. FMI see the Article II draft feedback website.



"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."

## Article II Purposes and Covenant-Proposed Language

### Section C-2.1. Purposes.

The Unitarian Universalist Association shall devote its resources to and exercise its organizational powers for religious, educational, and humanitarian purposes. Its primary purposes are to equip congregations for vital ministry, to support and train leaders both lay and professional, to heal historic inequities, and to advance our Unitarian Universalist values in the world. We will transform the world by our liberating love.

### Section C-2.2. Values and Covenant.

Love is the enduring force that holds us together.

As Unitarian Universalists in religious community, we covenant, congregation-to-congregation and through our association, to support and assist each other in engaging our ministries. We draw from our heritages of freedom and reason, hope and courage, building on the foundation of love.

Love inspires and powers the passion with which we embody our values. Inseparable from one another, these shared values are:

Justice. We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all people thrive. We covenant to dismantle racism and all forms of oppression within individuals and our institutions. We are accountable to each other for this work.

Generosity. We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope. We covenant to freely share our faith, presence, and resources. Compassionate generosity connects us one to another in relationships of mutuality.

Evolution. We adapt to the changing world. We covenant to collectively transform and grow spiritually and ethically. Evolution is fundamental to life and to our Unitarian Universalist heritages, never complete and never perfect.



## 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."

Pluralism. We celebrate that we are all sacred beings diverse in culture, theology, and experience. We covenant to learn from one another and openly explore the depth and breadth of our many wisdoms. We embrace our differences and commonalities with love, curiosity, and respect.

Equity. We declare that every person has the right to flourish with dignity and worthiness. We covenant to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain a fully inclusive and accessible community of communities.

Interdependence. We honor the sacred interdependent web of all existence. With humility we understand our place in the web. We covenant to care for and respect the earth and all beings by fostering relationships of mutuality. We work to repair the bonds we have broken.

### **Section C-2.3. Inspirations.**

As Unitarian Universalists, we draw upon, and are inspired by, the full depth and breadth of sacred understandings, as experienced by humanity. Grateful for the religious lineages we inherit and the pluralism which enriches our faith, we are called to ever deepen and expand our wisdom.

### **Section C-2.4. Inclusion.**

Systems of power, privilege, and oppression have traditionally created barriers for persons and groups with particular identities, ages, abilities, and histories. We pledge to replace such barriers with ever-widening circles of solidarity and mutual respect. We strive to be an association of congregations that truly welcome all persons who share our values. We commit to structuring congregational and associational life in ways that empower and enhance everyone's participation.

### **Section C-2.5. Freedom of belief.**

Nothing herein shall be deemed to infringe upon the individual freedom of belief which is inherent in the Unitarian Universalist heritages or to conflict with any statement of purpose, covenant, or bond of union used by any congregation unless such is used as a creedal test. In expressing our beliefs, we do so in the spirit of love, in ways that further Beloved Community.

# 8TH PRINCIPLE JOURNEY TASK FORCE **BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**

## **BEGINS IN JANUARY**

Now that UUCE has adopted the 8th Principle, how do we go about creating a multicultural, antiracist Beloved Community? How can we learn from other congregations that have gone before us, and how can we prepare ourselves for some of the frustrations and disappointments, as well as hopes and wonder, as we embark on this journey together?

### **Join us for a UUA common read of *Mistakes and Miracles***

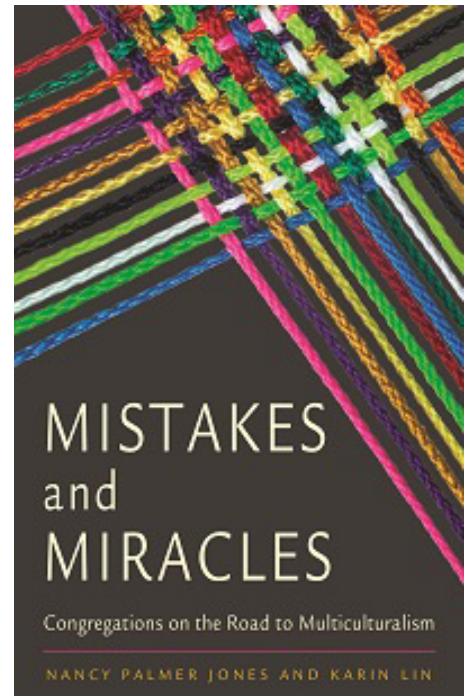
by Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin.

This book study, to be led by Cecily Judd and Barb Acosta of the 8th Principle Journey Task Force, will take place through four 90-minute sessions Thursdays at 4:30 pm every two weeks via Zoom:

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <b>Jan. 19</b> | <b>Session 1: Every Congregation Has a Story</b> |
| <b>Feb. 2</b>  | <b>Session 2: Let's Talk About Power</b>         |
| <b>Feb. 16</b> | <b>Session 3: History and Hope</b>               |
| <b>Mar. 2</b>  | <b>Session 4: Strategy and What's Next</b>       |

Register in advance for this meeting. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. to reserve your place! Books are available for \$20 each, but will be available to anyone who wants to participate regardless of ability to pay.

Please email Muzz at [isabmuzzy@gmail.com](mailto:isabmuzzy@gmail.com) to register and if you have any questions.



## TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY

Last year, a couple of bills passed the Maine legislature to support Wabanaki rights, but LD 1626, the bill recognizing tribal sovereignty in Maine, was tabled by Governor Mills. There is a good chance another tribal sovereignty bill will be introduced in the 131st legislature.

The Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Organization (MUUSAN) has passed a Resolution on Tribal Sovereignty. PASA urges our congregation to sign onto this resolution. Please review it here prior to voting YES at UUCE's congregational meeting in January. Email Barb Acosta drabarb@gmail.com if you have questions or concerns

On the federal level, Rep. Jared Golden introduced HR 6707, a bill to amend the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act so that the Wabanaki tribes can benefit from future federal laws that apply to 570 other federally recognized tribes. The measure was ultimately added on to another bill and passed the House with bipartisan support. It awaits action in the Senate.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Send the MUUSAN resolution in an email to your legislator along with congratulating them on their (re-) election. Tell them you are a constituent, a UU, MUUSAN is your organization and you support this resolution and ask them to support tribal sovereignty in any upcoming new legislation.

- You or your congregation can also send the resolution to the Governor's office as email or letter. Her swearing-in for her second term is January 4, 2023.
- Write to Senators Collins and King to support legislation that puts Wabanaki tribes on equal footing as all other federally recognized tribes.
- Write a letter to the editor in support of Maine tribal sovereignty
- Show up to support Maine tribal sovereignty legislation

*[continued on next page]*



### IMPORTANT DATES FOR ALLIES

- Dec. 7, 2022. Swearing in of Legislature. The Wabanaki Alliance asks allies to be present at the State House for a Lobby Day and keep tribal sovereignty at the forefront. Contact Barb Acosta drabarb@gmail.com for details
- Jan 4, 2023, is Mills' swearing-in for her second gubernatorial term. There are tentative plans for a Celebration Event the night before, Tue, Jan 3, at an independent venue in Augusta, with tribal singing & drumming; all legislators, governor and allies invited, as well as media (who like to predict what the issues of the legislature will be). This is pending on confirmation with the venue. Save the date but await further details TBA.

# UUUCE BOARD ELECTION COMMITTEE 2023-2024

**Kay Wilkins, Helen Kazura, and Candace Hubbard have volunteered to be on the Election Committee to choose a slate for the next Board of Trustees.**

The outgoing Election Committee thanks them for stepping forward to do this important work. While these three meet the minimum number for the committee, additional members may come forward to help with this process before by contacting Kathy Hall, Linda Uberseder or Doug Bird or at the Congregational meeting in January.

Thank you,  
Kathy Hall, Linda Uberseder, and Doug Bird



**RACISM  
STOPS  
WITH YOU  
AND ME**

Join Zoom Meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4695376814)

[us/j/4695376814](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4695376814)

Meeting ID: 469 537 6814

Phone: 646-558-8656

## MONTHLY COLLABORATIVE **ANTI-RACISM CONVERSATIONS** 2nd Tuesdays from 4-5:30pm on ZOOM

**Next Meeting: December 13, 2022**

**This Month's Topic: Reckoning with Our Local UU History**

**Facilitated this month by Rev. Sara Hayman**

What do we know about our UU congregation's historic ties and involvement in slavery and the genocide of indigenous people? What uncomfortable truths do we need to acknowledge and wrestle with? What are we learning from the research and work of other Maine UU congregations at this time? Where do we begin and how might we engage in truth-telling, healing and accountability?

All are welcome to come and be a part of this learning community. Each month, we explore a topic together about our efforts as individuals and UU faith communities to be more anti-racist people and congregations.

# FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

## GARY SHELLHAMER



We are headed into a time of year filled with holidays: the Winter Solstice/ Yule, Pancha Ganapati, Hanukah, Rohatsu, Zarathosht Diso, Advent, Christmas, Kwanza, HumanLight, Osaka, and, of course, New Year's Eve and Day. (Just to let you know a bit more about me, when I see something like a meme telling people saying Happy Holidays is not against Christmas but is inclusive of the 14 holidays happening this time of year, I often investigate. That's how I came up with the list and still wonder what I've missed.)

As we experience the calm and contemplation found in the season's darkness, we also look forward to the joy of the returning light. I hope that, whatever holidays you celebrate, you enjoy the season and your being a part of our beloved community that is UUCE.

This season is also a busy time for our church: the celebration of the time of year with the recent return of the Thanksgiving potluck, special services in celebration of the time of year, showing our support for our LGBTQIA members and friends dealing with the recent Club Q shootings, exploring our commitment to the 8th Principle, the upcoming Holiday Cookie Sale, and the ongoing work of our committees, task forces, groups, and individuals working to support the values and mission of UUCE as well as maintain our campus.

Your board continues to work on the creation of new and review of existing church policies as we continue to gather in our community, with considerations caused by Covid-19 and the safety and health of members and friends.

Your board has approved the removal of several trees on our property along the Bucksport Road and near our parking lot which could cause issues to individuals and property.

With the transfer of responsibility for the Loaves & Fishes building to UUCE, we are also facing the opportunity to vision the many ways that building can be used and serve our community and our mission.

Our search for a new Administrator continues, and Reverend Sara, the review committee, and board continue to explore options for filling the position, while being grateful for Jeff Jeude's willingness to continue fulfilling important duties.

UUCE is beginning our calendar year, with our first 2023 Congregational Meeting scheduled for January, and looking ahead to various activities regarding spiritual growth, social justice causes, and the church financial well-being. It has been a constantly changing two-and-a-half-pandemic-influenced years and I am grateful for your continued participation and support of our community.

I wish you the happiest of holidays and look forward to our continued community connection in the New Year.



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.

I look forward to being in this circle with you!

- Rev. Sara

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



## UUCB ONLINE EVENING VESPERS at 6pm

Our weekly time of rest, renewal, and reflection Thursdays at 6pm. Join UUCB Rev. Amy each week for a 30-minute online service to help settle our minds and hearts, provide nourishment and comfort through music, word and ritual. Everyone is welcome. ~ Rev. Amy



Stories from the Heart will be on holiday break in December. On **January 8** Barbara Acosta will tell her life story.

ZOOM for Stories from the Heart:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85142950735>  
ID: 851 4295 0735  
Phone: 646-558-8656



## UUCE PLATE SPLIT FOR THE UPCOMING MONTHS:

October - December 2022

MABEL WADSWORTH CENTER in Bangor - providing sexual and reproductive health care since 1984.



## Give a Double Gift This Holiday Season



As you shop for delicious holiday meals and plan for gifts for your family and friends, remember that Hannaford and Shaws Gift Cards bought from UUCE give 5% back to the church!



Sally Gervais will be selling cards on Sundays after in-person services and also by mail. You may contact her at [sal1937@yahoo.com](mailto:sal1937@yahoo.com) or 207-837-0353.





## SANKOFA CORNER



Wayne H. Smith  
UUCE Historian

# BOB DICKENS (1939-2022)

### **PART III**

It was around 1968 that a Native boy, nicknamed “Sparks,” came to live with Bob and Anne for about a year as a foster child at their home in Buffalo. He later established contact with his birth family and had a relationship with them and with his sisters and brothers who were living on a reservation in Cattaraugus, NY. When the family later moved to Buffalo, Bob and Anne reestablished contact with the family, and Sparks later came back to live with Bob and Anne when he was an adolescent.

Bob and Anne later went on to adopt three children. In Bob’s own words:

Keith was actually the first one of our children to come to us. He was adopted at age seven. He had been in eight foster homes by that time, one of them having been a policeman that had abused him. He had been abused in other homes too. In the last one, he was told that he wasn’t Indian, but you only had to look at him to know that he was Indian. So when he came to us, he really didn’t think he was Indian, and so when we went down to 78 Virginia, with all those Native people there, he was scared half to death because “he wasn’t Indian” and there were a bunch of Indians there, and he learned that he was Indian.

We had applied to adopt Keith, but the State refused to finish with our application because we were not active members of a church. We weren’t actually members of the Buffalo UU church. We attended it from time to time, but we weren’t members, and the State would not accept the idea of us becoming members just for the adoption. So we took them to court, and we won in the State court, in Federal court, in Federal Appeals court, and it even went to the Supreme Court of the United States, who refused to hear the case. So we beat them three times, and the law in the state of New York was made weaker three times. In the process, we went to a private agency who had Keith and they didn’t mind as



Bob and Anne’s home in Buffalo

long as we got along with Keith. They knew he was Indian, but he was a wild kid, as far as they were concerned. We had known Keith for about six months before we adopted him.

We got Keith when he was seven, and we got his brother Christopher when he was a year and a half, also in Buffalo. We thought Chris might have cerebral palsy, but we didn't see any signs of it and we took him on. When we left Buffalo in '76, he was maybe two and a half years old. He was a toddler.

We moved to Maine in 1976. We knew that Keith was Gay before he actually came out to anybody. It was very clear to us. He had ended up in special ed schools, and he was in one near Augusta in Greene. They asked for a meeting with us, and they brought him up there. They had the social worker for the school, and we met in our living room. The head of the school said, 'We have to make an announcement. Your son is Gay,' and we said, 'Well, we knew that,' and Keith looked at us and said, 'How do you know?' and we said, 'Oh, we know you pretty well.' And then the social worker went into all sorts of...and we said, 'Look, all we want from you is a good education for him. The fact that he's Gay is something that you don't really have to deal with...That's who he is.' Well, he ran after that, and he ended up addicted to cocaine and all kinds of problems...Then he came for Christmas. He loved Christmas. He always came home on Christmas. And he came and he told us that he had HIV. And we said, 'Well, do you want to live with us, or do you want to continue living in Scarborough?' and he said, 'Well, I think I'll live in Scarborough,' so we would visit him down there.

Bob and Anne moved to Maine in 1976 and for financial reasons they spent their first six months in a camp on the Toddy Pond Road in Surry while they were trying to find a place. Bob was working at a gas station in that area. Then they finally found a place on Hancock Street in Ellsworth. That's the house that Keith knew as home. [That house later burned down in November of 2003, and the UU community and all of their friends and co-workers rallied in support of them.] After getting settled, Bob found work at Treestump Leather in Ellsworth. Bob learned to repair shoes and then went on to develop an impressive set of leatherworking skills. Bob and Anne operated a home-based leather business for over 40 years.

After a few years of fixing shoes and tooling belts full-time, Bob took a position as a



Christopher and Keith Dickens



The Community School in Camden

[*continued on next page*]

teacher at the Community School, located in Camden. Bob remained in that role for over three decades. Bob considered being a teacher as his life's work and he maintained lifelong relationships with many of his former students.

Again, in Bob's words,

[Keith] eventually ended up in a boarding house just for addictive kids and he was their first Gay person, at least the first they knew was Gay. He was in and out of the hospital, and he ended up under Dr. Owen Pickus, a D.O. (doctor of osteopathy), the first medical person in the State of Maine to take on HIV clients and work with them. That's what he became known for. In fact, they named the building down at the University of New England Medical School after him. Keith was diagnosed in 1984. It was early. They didn't know much. Dr. Pickus knew as much as anybody in the country. He was short on bedside manner, but was very competent, and he understood his clients. He was just very straightforward and honest. When he was going to tell Keith 'You don't have very long to live – six months,' he invited us to come down there, and we all stood around and Keith said, 'No, I'm gonna live. I'm not gonna die from this.' Pickus didn't say a word to him. Later we all stood out in the hallway, and he said, 'He will die within six months. He's got three failing organs: kidneys, liver, and something else. It's just a question of which one gets him first. But there's no point in arguing with him. That won't help him.' So that was the kind of guy that he was.

We got a call from Dr. Pickus about one in the morning, and he said, 'If you want to see Keith alive, you'd better come immediately.' We were gone in less than half an hour, and got to Portland somewhere around 3:30 - 4:00 o'clock. Keith was obviously in tremendous pain. They had just given him morphine. He went to sleep on us, and so we left to our place (Anne has a 1/3 interest in a home) and we went there to sort of spruce up and get ourselves together, and then we went back, and when we got back around 7:30 or 8:00, he was dead. A protective nurse was hesitant to let us see him, but we succeeded. Then we had a funeral down there, and a little piece of that funeral was interesting. The funeral was held at a cemetery in Saco, officiated by Mark Worth. There was family, and there were all kinds of friends, his Gay crowd, and other people who were just a little odd, his grandmother [not biological] who was just about as straight as you could be, in a wheelchair, and all kinds of different people. We went back to his grandmother's house for a little meal and friendly gathering afterwards, and we were standing and I'm looking over and I'm thinking, 'Oh, my God, I'm supposed to take care of her.' So I looked over, and there she was in a wheelchair, so I started over to help her at least get up to the table or something, and this guy comes walking up, grabs the wheelchair, and pushes her over to the table. One side of his head was purple, and the other side was pink, it was standing straight up, and he's

*[continued on next page]*

got stuff attached all over the place, and piercings all over the place, on his face...and he's taking care of Keith's grandmother. He goes over and gets two plates, fills them up, and brings them back, puts one down in front of her, pulls a chair up next to her, and they have a conversation. And I just think that is one of the most beautiful things that could happen in Keith's life. It was wonderful.

After we lived in Maine for a few years, we wanted another child, and we took on Barbie, who had been living in foster homes for all of her ten years. It just never quite worked out for her. Keith didn't really know her because he was living down in Scarborough by that time. Christopher knew Barbie, but had a hard time with her.

So then, here we are at the Unitarian Church. I first visited the church in about 1977. We had been here for about a year, and really thought we needed a church for the kids. So we went up there scouting around and we could see no evidence at all of there being a nursery school or RE program. We were just looking at it from the outside. We looked in the window and realized there was no set-up for kids, so we didn't do anything at that point.

We visited it a second time a year later, and we found five or six little chairs in the kitchen, which was sort of a little hallway. That's when we decided that we'd actually go to the church. This was in 1979. So the next Sunday we went and took Chris (aged about 5) and added one more to the size of the RE group at the time. There were about 20 people in church that Sunday and they all, like, descended on us: 'Ah, new blood!' We didn't have a coffee hour to speak of, because all there was was that mini kitchen. The kitchen was a little smaller than that hallway, and then there was a door, and then we were in the woods.

We enjoyed the service. Harry Meserve was the preacher and I liked Harry. Harry was strict and stern, and he had a certain intellectual quality to him. He preached three times a month. The next Sunday it was Arthur Foote, and I really liked Arthur Foote. He was wonderful, but he was there only once a month. They were good. They were just good. They were totally different, but they loved each other. But Arthur Foote... my way of describing him was I always felt better when I left the church every time he preached. I always felt better than I did when I got there. There was something about his approach to things that just made you feel good about yourself and your relation to the world. He had a speech impediment, but he would practice his sermons to the point that he didn't stutter. He was incredible, and I really liked him. I always felt better after he preached. We joined the church in 1980 and Anne and Barbara Donovan were quickly drafted to be teachers in the RE.

Bob was an avid gardener, reader, historian, cook, tennis player, soccer player, sometime poet, outdoorsman and absolute Green Bay Packers fan. Bob was a longtime

*[continued on next page]*

*[Sankofa Corner, continued from previous page]*

member of the Ellsworth Unitarian Universalist Church. He loved music in all forms, particularly Frederic Chopin and Leonard Cohen. Bob was fond of dogs, cats and turkey vultures. Bob had an exceptional intellect and sharp wit and never shied away from a heated debate. Bob was a pacifist by nature and believed that conflicts could be resolved through non-violent means. Bob believed that “Human Rights Are Universal.”

Bob died at Eastern Maine Medical Center on August 29, 2022 at about 5:30 PM. Bob is survived by his wife Anne, son Christopher and daughter Barbara as well as his daughter-in-law Elizabeth, brother-in-law Albert, and sister-in-law Alison. Bob was predeceased by his son, Keith. Bob is also survived by his grandchildren, Niamh, Nolan, Ciera, Jasmine, Nicholas, Andrew, and Jada, and by his great-grandchildren, Wyatt, Mia, Giovanni, Keith, and Tristan.

In his obituary, Bob asked that any donations in his name be made to HOME Co-Op, the Maine chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, or Amnesty International.



Bob and his grandson Nolan

## 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.

# STAYING CONNECTED

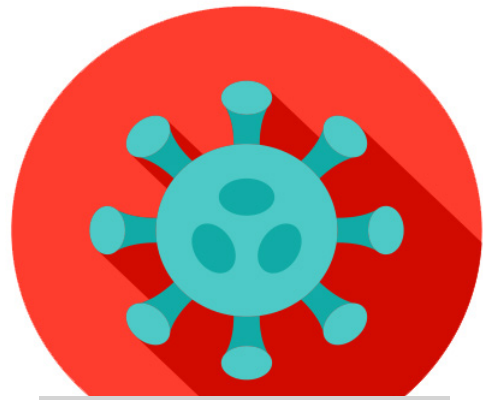
## UUCE OFFICE

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.

# CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Minister</b> Rev. Sara Hayman: 610-2872 (cell) sara@uuellsworth.org	<b>Children's Religious Education Coordinator</b> vacant
Church Office <b>Administrator</b> Jeff Jeude: 667-4393 office@uuellsworth.org	<b>Music Director &amp; Pianist</b> Wayne Smith: 667-9482 wayne@mrlanguage.com

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

<b>President:</b> Gary Shellehamer to 2023 (667-0034)	<b>Vice President:</b> Beth Pepper to 2023
<b>Treasurer:</b> Alison Stephens to 2024	<b>Secretary:</b> Bob Francis to 2024
<b>Trustee:</b> Mary Murray to 2023	<b>Trustee:</b> Kathy Hall to 2024
<b>Trustee:</b> Sally Gervais to 2023	<b>Moderator:</b> John Fink

## COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE CHAIRS

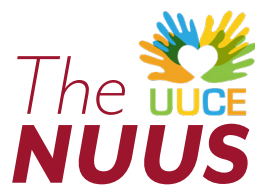
<b>Adult Committee on Education:</b> vacant	<b>Landscaping and Grounds:</b> Bron Day
<b>Aesthetics:</b> Margaret Thurston	<b>Loaves &amp; Fishes:</b> Beth Pepper, Nina Turner
<b>Auction:</b> vacant	<b>Membership:</b> Liz True
<b>Building &amp; Maintenance/Safety:</b> Susan Opdycke	<b>NUUSletter Editor:</b> Lisa Williams
<b>Charitable Giving:</b> Rev. Sara Hayman	<b>Pastoral Care Ministry:</b> Kay Hansen
<b>Choir:</b> Haydée Foreman	<b>Peace and Social Action:</b> Barb Acosta
<b>Collaborative Ministry:</b> inactive at this time	<b>Publicity:</b> Susan Opdycke
<b>Committee on Ministry:</b> Karen Volckhausen	<b>Children's Religious Education:</b> Linda Uberseder
<b>Congregational Engagement:</b> Evelyn Foster	<b>Small Group Ministry:</b> Mary Murray
<b>Cookie Walk:</b> vacant	<b>Stewardship:</b> Doug Bird
<b>Eggroll Project:</b> vacant	<b>Ushers:</b> Jon Thomas, Ken Hanson
<b>Ferry Beach Director:</b> vacant	<b>Technology Coordinator:</b> vacant
<b>Fiscal Matters:</b> Connie Bailey	<b>Wayside Pulpit:</b> Nancy Guy
<b>Flowers:</b> Bronwen Day	<b>Website:</b> Esther Sampol
<b>Green Sanctuary:</b> Paul Kelley	<b>Worship Arts:</b> vacant
<b>History/Archives:</b> Wayne Smith	<b>Yard Sale:</b> Beth Pepper
<b>Hospitality Ministry Coordinator:</b> vacant	<b>Youth Advisor:</b> vacant



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



December 2022



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

**DECEMBER 2022**

Vol. 54, No.12

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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.