



The NUUS

JULY 2023 VOLUME 55, NO. 7



MINISTRY MATTERS

BY SARA HAYMAN

Dear Beloveds,
Welcome to your July NUUS!

Click image to right to
view a short video by
Rev. Sara

In spite of the relentless grey and rain showers that continue, I hope you're finding ways to savor this greening up time of year. I enjoyed my first CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) work shift at Happytown Farm earlier this week along with the delicious cucumber and greens that were in my box!

There are LOTS of invitations to gather together this summer in our UUCE Community. I hope to see you somewhere: Worship, or one of our Thursday night potluck & play gatherings, or a maybe the Tea & Card writing gathering, or one of our twice Shamanic Journeying gatherings? Be sure to check out our UUCE Summer Offering brochure and our weekly Wednesday e-news for more details!

I'm grateful to be on vacation this month from Tuesday, July 10th through July 31st, and I'll be very glad to see you when I'm back.

Many thanks to all those who are hosting church gatherings and helping to lead worship while I'm away. You are a wonderful & generous congregation!

With much love,
Rev. Sara

PS Thank you again to Beth Pepper & ALL of this year's "Name Your Own Price" Yard Sale volunteers who created such a fun and successful community building fundraiser on June 17th!

July UUCE happenings:

- July 3 - Tea & Cards at UUCE
- July 6 - Mid-Week Potluck Garden Dinner Party & Play
- July 8 - Malaga Island trip
- July 13 - Shamanic Journey
- July 27 - Shamanic Journey

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



In the UUCE Gardens





JULY WORSHIP SERVICES

10:30 A.M.

* Sunday, July 2

Rooted in Our History & Values and Yet, Still Becoming...

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

In this worship service, Rev. Sara will share early reflections from this year's annual UUA General Assembly. How do we embrace change, re-imagine our future and remain rooted and committed to our history and values?

- Plate Split Sunday today to benefit the *Hancock County Neighborhood Support Team!*
- RE this Sunday!
- During Coffee Hour, Celebrate Wayne Smith's Retirement after 19 years as our Beloved Music Director!

** UUCE Sanctuary is a mask-optional space for worship, and the Community Room is a mask-required space during the service.*

7/2 Worship Service Zoom Meeting: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/96663148665?pwd=Ym16cGdzZkVxZFF6Yi9FM0hQci9KUT09>
Meeting ID: 966 6314 8665
Password: 933789
Phone: 646-558-8656

* Sunday, July 9

Love your neighbor as yourself...

Rev. Sara Hayman, Worship Leader
Karen Volckhausen, Worship Associate

Who is your neighbor? What gets in the way of getting to know them? What does it look like to "love your neighbor" today, and why does it matter that we reach out, across divides and distances to get to know one another?

- RE this Sunday!

** UUCE Sanctuary is a mask-optional space for worship, and the Community Room is a mask-required space during the service.*

7/9 Worship Service Zoom Meeting: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/91688782709?pwd=VDBuWUJWNzM5VXF5WE9yMjhCNHBVZz09>
Meeting ID: 916 8878 2709
Password: 234072
Phone: 646-558-8656

* Sunday, July 16

Modified Quaker Service

Marta Rieman, Worship Leader
Kay Wilkins, Worship Associate

Marta Rieman, a longtime member of UUCE, presented a modified version of a Quaker meeting to UUCE multiple times pre-Covid. Now she is bringing that service back in our current multiplatform setting. Come and learn how Quakers center themselves, and feel free to speak if the spirit moves you to do so.

- No RE Classes!

** UUCE Sanctuary is a mask-optional space for worship, and the Community Room is a mask-required space during the service.*

7/16 Worship Service Zoom
Meeting: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/96706995217?pwd=OHluQjR1STBqNkVhQ1g5a05oY3FWZz09>
Meeting ID: 967 0699 5217
Password: 532852
Phone: 646-558-8656

* Sunday, July 23

To Secure the Blessings of Liberty

Rev. Mark Worth, Worship Leader
Helen Kazura & Cecily Judd, Worship Associates

- No RE Classes!

Rev. Mark chooses a phrase from the Preamble to the Constitution of the United States as the theme for this Sunday. Rev. Mark Worth has completed his first six months as Representative from Maine's 13th Legislative District, which includes Ellsworth, Waltham, and Flether's Landing. He is also one of two Emeritus Ministers of UUCE.

** UUCE Sanctuary is a mask-optional space for worship, and the Community Room is a mask-required space during the service.*

7/23 Worship Service Zoom
Meeting: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/92208073708?pwd=T011OFU1UmtwN3J3TGJpaDZ3UWptZz09>
Meeting ID: 922 0807 3708
Password: 650218
Phone: 646-558-8656

ZOOM-Only Worship at 10:30am

Sunday, July 30 Choose Your Hard

Katherine Hubner, Worship Leader
Karen Volckhausen, Worship Associate

In life we are often presented with many paths to walk. Each one with its own challenges and rewards. What does it mean to choose the hard path. The one that helps us rise up and live our values. Pushes us outside of our comfort zone and helps us to be brave in the world around us. How can we support each other as we navigate through the ever-changing hard choices we face in life. Join us in this Matins style service that explores making hard choices and reminds us to give ourselves grace on the journey.

NOTE: Please bring your smartphone to worship and have it available for an interactive time for all ages.

8/20 Worship Service
Zoom Meeting: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/99057843527?pwd=RW40cXZXcDNHT0RoMEI1R2hCMTI6QT09>
Meeting ID: 990 5784 3527
Password: 187759
Phone: 646-558-8656

SUMMER 2023 UUCE

EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

IN THE MONTH OF JULY

Celebrate Wayne Smith with Cake - Sunday, July 2, after service

Wayne is retiring as our music director after 19 wonderful years. Come and join in the celebration. Cards are most welcome also. Contact Mary Murray marydmurray@comcast.net 239-699-0150 if you would like to help with set up and/or clean up.



Malaga Island trip - Saturday, July 8.

The 8th principle task force is planning a field trip to Malaga Island to learn about the mixed race cultural community that lived on Malaga Island from the mid-1800s to 1912 until they were forcibly removed by the state of Maine. Contact Barb Acosta for information or to be added to the waitlist for this trip.



Tea & Cards at UUCE - Monday, July 3, 1-3pm

Come join us for a social tea with opportunity to reach out to others in the congregation through card writing. Contact Christine Bowman ccs9762@aol.com

Shamanic Journey - July 13 & 27, 4-6pm in UUCE

Sanctuary. Experience the spiritual practice of shamanic journeys for healing, support, and inspiration accompanied by drumming. Contact Mary marydmurray@comcast.net 239-699-0150 if you have questions.



Mid-Week Potluck Garden Dinner Parties & Play - Thursday, July 6, 5-7pm.

Come, be a part of this summertime fellowship & fun at UUCE with Rev. Sara & friends! Plan to come and share a potluck meal and join in some fun multi-generational invitation to play together. Bring your favorite summer salad or something sweet or savory to share, and we'll break bread together and be nourished body and soul. All ages and all abilities are welcome! Contact Mary Murray marydmurray@comcast.net 239-699-0150 if you would like to help with set up and/or clean up.



Find out more by reading the rest of your monthly NUUS!



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Greetings UUCE Congregates and Families,

And then there were four. Four beautiful months of being at the heart of the UUCE community and the ongoing blessings the congregation offers up. This past month has been packed with exciting events on the UUCE Calendar. From the commencement of the middle school OWL program, the incredibly successful Name Your Price Yard Sale, the summer solstice ritual and the events happening at General Assembly. June has been a wonderfully hectic month.

We are hoping to make July just as packed with events and opportunities for connection and community. This summer we are going to launch our Summer of Stories program in RE. We will be reading a series of children's books and connecting them to the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism and doing a craft that reflects the theme of the story. For the older kids we will be storyboarding and rewriting the book to make it either align with the individual principle on a deeper level or to make the story more inclusive and accessible to all. The story the older youths create will then be shared with the younger ones and the congregation. We look forward to sharing stories together.

Stories, oral traditions, the sharing of tales is one of the strongest spiritual experiences we share as humans. Our stories make us a community and help us share our memories and information with each other. What is your Story? What is the story of this congregation? How can we help our community grow into the next chapter of our story. Use this next month to think about these questions and share your answers with me so we can move our stories along. We are all in this together and we need to be able to rely on each other to carry the story of others.

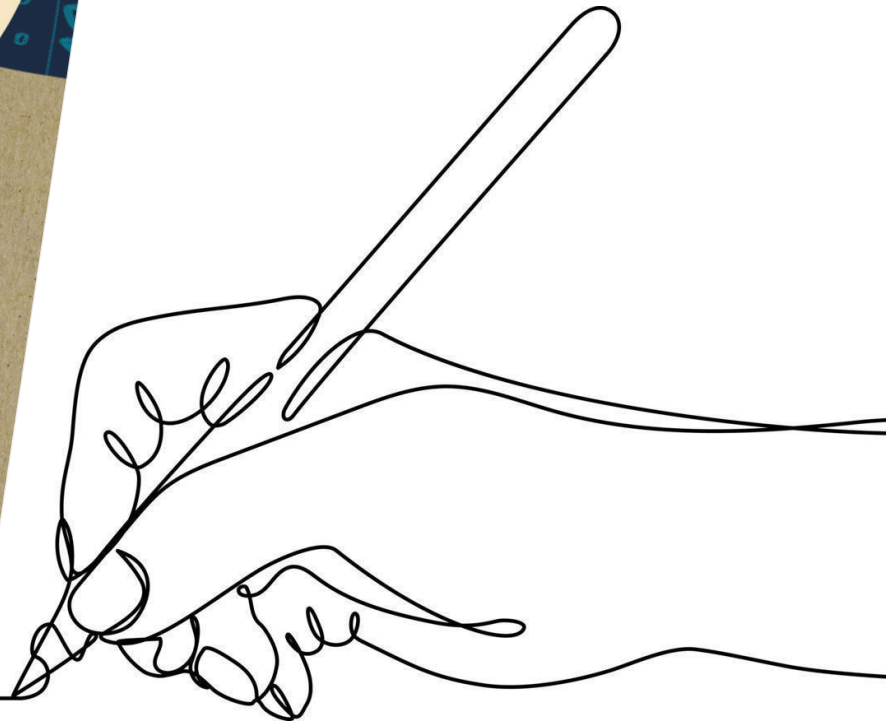
Thank you all for everything you do and keep it coming. This congregation is so beautiful and loving and the story we share amongst ourselves and the story we share with the community is just as powerful and loving. Let us keep writing this story together.

Brightest Blessings to you all,

Charles A Betancourt,
Religious Exploration Coordinator



Adventure awaits



Tea and Cards

July 3 (and August 14)

1:00-3:00 @ UUCE

Come enjoy tea and sweets while we express love and care through card writing. If you are looking for ways to reconnect, be involved and support our UUCE family, please join us.

For more information: Christine Bowman, ccs9762@aol.com



MID-WEEK POTLUCK GARDEN DINNER PARTIES & PLAY

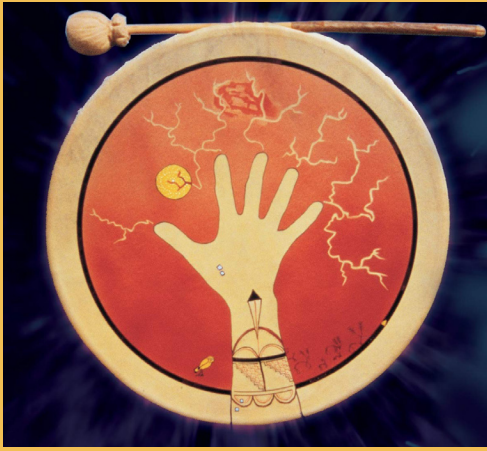
Come, Be a Part of this Summertime Fellowship & Fun!

2 more Thursdays with Rev. Sara:

July 6th (& August 17th)

from 5-7pm at UUCE

As part of dreaming up new ways to re-connect and enjoy and savor this season together, Rev. Sara invites you to mark these three Thursdays on your calendar now! Plan to come and share a potluck meal and join in some fun multi-generational invitation to play together. Bring your favorite summer salad or something sweet or savory to share, and we'll break bread together and be nourished body and soul. All ages and all abilities are welcome! Contact Mary Murray marydmurray@comcast.net 239-699-0150 if you would like to help with set up and/or clean up.



SHAMANIC JOURNEY

JULY 13 & 27 4-6 PM
UUCE Sanctuary

Experience the spiritual practice of shamanic journeys for healing, support, and inspiration accompanied by drumming. Bring a frame drum or rattle if you would like join in the drumming. Bring a stone, flower, shell or other natural object from your home to place on the altar. Linda Laing, Evelyn Foster and Mary Murray will lead this event. Contact Mary marydmurray@comcast.net 239-699-0150 if you have questions. We will meet indoors at the church.





COMING SOON!!!

A new UUCE online community-building project will launch on Tuesday, August 1.

This project, which is called **UUCE Zoomers**, will offer a variety of online-only programming for UUCE Members and for Friends who pledge. Our goal is to foster connections between our congregants who participate in church only by Zoom and those who participate in-person, and to provide meaningful religious and spiritual programming to our congregants.

We will be using a web-hosted platform called Mighty Networks for this project. Mighty Networks is dedicated to helping organizations and businesses create online communities without having to set up their own community-building website and app with all of the skill, effort and money that entails.

We embrace the fact that everyone wants to be a part of UUCE, regardless of how we attend church - only on Zoom, only in-person, or some of both. We know that we are one church, and that we all want to feel connected to church, and to one another.

OUR PROGRAMS MAY INCLUDE

- **Faith-focused offerings such as**
 - Let's Talk About... series, which will focus on religious and spiritual development
 - Points to Ponder series, which will focus on ethical issues and the important issues of our time
 - UUA Wellspring Sources program
 - Theology of Climate Change
 - Online only Small Group Ministry group
 - Healing Arts with Amy Thompson
 - Quotes, short readings, or brief observations on current issues posted twice weekly, with an invitation for comments and discussion
- **Informative conversations such as**
 - Coffee With..... This is a monthly series which will feature a different member of our clergy or lay leadership each time. It's your chance to learn more about them, what's currently happening at the church, and what hopes, dreams and plans they have for the future at UUCE, including Q&A time
 - Posts of Sara's sermons

- **Just for fun groups, events and postings such as**

- Monthly movie night
- Book group
- Needlework & chat group
- Tuesday Tunes – a music video posted each Tuesday for your enjoyment, with an invitation to post your own favorite
- Politics group
- Health & Wellness group
- Birthday celebration posts
- Food
- Gardening

Additional ideas for groups and events are welcomed. This project will be as broad and as deep as we want it to be, with the goals of strengthening faith and deepening our connections to one another. The more the congregation gets involved in participating as facilitators of groups, as participants in groups and as contributors of comments, photographs, etc. the more vibrant the program will be.

The project will launch on Tuesday, August 1. All programs will take place on Zoom. All events and programs are available free of charge to UUCE Members and those Friends who pledge.

If you are eligible to participate as a UUCE Zoomer (i.e., a Member or pledging Friend) you will receive an email on August 1st with an invitation to join. You will be provided with a link to the registration page, where you will enter your email, create a password and make a request to join. Your request will be vetted to ensure that you are eligible to join, and then you will be allowed access to the UUCE Zoomers site. You will also be given the opportunity to download the app to your smartphone at that time. The icon for the app will be for Mighty Networks, but will take you directly to the sign-in for UUCE Zoomers.

Full instructions on how to sign up and how to navigate the site will be provided to you within the next few weeks. Hands-on assistance will be available remotely via Zoom to help you learn how to use the site if desired.

Stay tuned for more information, which will be coming your way via the pre-service slides, through the weekly e-news, the NUUS, the UUCE Facebook page and through a church email that will go out to everyone as launch time nears. And be sure to look for your email invitation to join on August 1!

**We hope that you are excited about the possibilities this project holds
and that you will want to join us as a UUCE Zoomer.**

If you'd like more information, have an idea for a group to add or would like to facilitate a group please email Mary Haynes (mhaynes@roadrunner.com) or call her at home (207-667-7596) or on cell (207-266-2207).



8TH PRINCIPLE NEWS

How can we all benefit and learn more about continuing our learning journey to become an anti-racist, multi-cultural and beloved community, a group of people who welcome diversity

and encourage a sense of belonging. The 8th principle Journey task force has been working to develop a questionnaire and assessment form and process to help us evaluate how we think we're doing, where we are in this work, and what still lies ahead of us. Please be on the lookout for this questionnaire assessment coming to everyone this summer.

WHAT HAPPENED AT THIS YEAR'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY?

Would you like to know what happened at this year's General Assembly? It just ended on Sunday, June 25. There were more than 2300 people attending, nearly 700 in person, like Rev. Sara. Another 1200+ attended virtually—Haydée Forman and Jana Robinson from UUCE and Rev. Amy from Belfast. There was LOTS going on and the theme was "Faithfully Becoming":

- The UUA elected a new President. Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt for a 6-year term.
- Article II bylaws revision, with some amendments, was approved by the General Assembly and will again require general assembly approval in 2024.
- Fossil fuels investment divestment and reparations business resolution was not adopted at this time—although there was good support for the need to explore this issue further. The youth who supported this effort were well-organized and well spoken.
- Future General Assemblies. The 2024 General Assembly will be completely virtual, (Thurs., June 20-Sunday, June 23, 2024) returning to a combined in-person/virtual meeting in 2025 in Baltimore, MD., from June 19-22.

Any of us would be glad to provide you with more information, or you will soon be able to see information on the [UUA past information](#) website. **The 8th Principle Task Forces welcomes your involvement:** For more information, contact Jana Robinson, janasmith.robinson@outlook.com, or call 207-347-9008 and leave message.

SATURDAY, JULY 8TH MALAGA ISLAND FIELD TRIP

This will be an all-day trip, meeting in Harpswell at 10 am to catch a boat out to the island. We will learn about the history of the island, where a mixed-race fishing community was forcibly removed by the state in 1912. The island is now a public preserve and important Maine historical site. 4 spots have opened up. Grab yours while you can! \$25 donation. Contact Jana Robinson janasmith.robinson@outlook.com to register (first come first served).

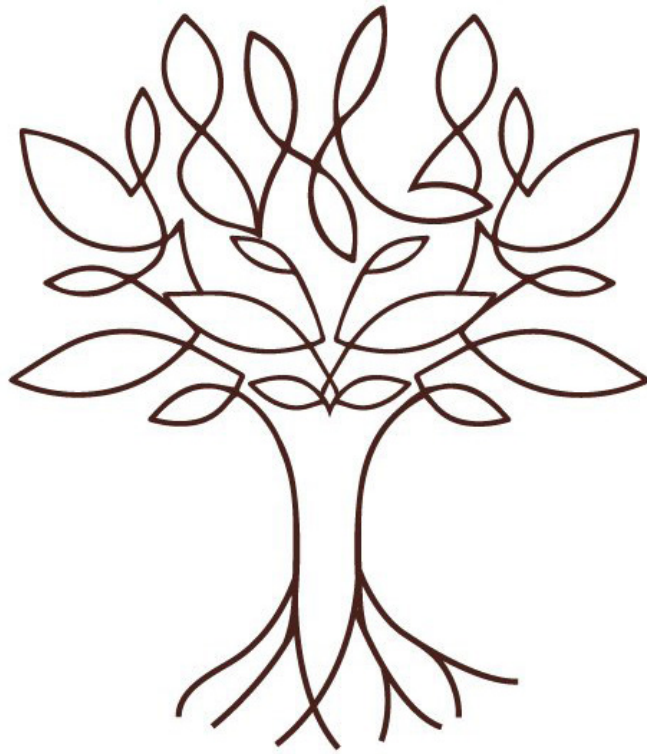
Are you concerned about climate change, LGBTQ+ rights, reproductive rights and democracy? How about racial and indigenous justice or related justice issues? We invite you to join our annual retreat on **August 13th** after church to learn more about our congregation's **Peace and Social Action Ministry**. No ongoing commitment required to attend the retreat, just a strong conscience and curiosity to explore what we can do together. Contact Barb Acosta drabarb@gmail.com to RSVP.

August 30 11am - 1pm. Cultural Connections in the Park: Talk and Storytelling with Dwayne Tomah, Passamaquoddy. Sieur de Monts Spring, Acadia National Park. The Cultural Connections in the Park series occurs on select Wednesdays from June through September. Dwayne Tomah, Passamaquoddy, will be hosting a talk and storytelling program regarding his work with the Passamaquoddy wax cylinders, which are the earliest known field recordings of Native Americans. These recordings, preserved on wax cylinders in 1890, include Passamaquoddy narratives, vocabulary, number lists, and songs. The Passamaquoddy Tribe and the Library of Congress have worked on restoring, digitizing, and revitalizing these recordings as digital repatriation. All of these programs are sponsored by Dawnland, LLC, are offered in partnership with the Abbe Museum, and are free and open to the public.

Hancock County Neighborhood Support Team (HCNST) is seeking volunteers to support Ukrainian refugee families on MDI. HCNST is a community-wide, church-based (but open to all), non-denominational effort to resettle refugees under a Federal Government Program. Their immediate need is for volunteers to work with a group of 5 to 10 to shepherd them through all of the agencies and paperwork necessary to connect them with the benefits of the program. There are many other teams that they plan to form, and they welcome monetary donations as well. Contact Art Worster artworster@gmail.com or 908-619-3317 for more information.

Want to learn how to become an effective advocate? [MUUSAN's Advocacy Toolkit](#) is full of resources for giving **testimony**, writing **letters to the editor**, **contacting your representatives** and more.

Visit PASA's [web page](#) to find resources and to learn more about ongoing peace and social action efforts.



ROOTS HOLD ME CLOSE: **Grounding Ourselves & Growing Our Souls**

**A 4-Session, In-Person Spiritual Deepening Class
with Rev. Sara on Wednesday Evenings in August:
August 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th
from 6:30-8pm at UUCE**

Registration by August 1st required. (To register email, Ellen at uucellsworth@gmail.com)
A minimum of 8 people must be registered for this class to happen. A maximum of 12 people can participate. Attendance at all 4 classes strongly encouraged.

I'm still dreaming up the exact ground we'll cover and explore in this in-person, discussion-based spiritual deepening class. There will be homework invitations in advance of each class, including articles or excerpts of books to read, brief videos to watch and writing prompts to explore in your journal. Together in class, we'll listen deeply to one another and share our respective journeys of self-discovery.

Save the date for this very special event on **AUGUST 13!**

Sayon Camara, Drum Artist from Guinea, will be with us to offer two drumming workshops. He will also be participating in our service, sharing his culture through music and story. Please contact Ellen Sedgwick (667-4393) to register (cost adjustments can be made if needed), or Christine Bowman (ccs9762@aol.com) for more information. Come join us! Find out more about Sayon at: SayonCamaraDrumming.com

SPECIAL SUNDAY WORKSHOP **DRUM!**



Photo Courtesy of Anaralab.com

with Sayon Camara



UUCE in Ellsworth, Maine

Sunday, August 13, 2023

**One Afternoon
with Drum Artist
Sayon Camara!**

Location – UUCE
Unitarian Universalist
Church of Ellsworth
121 Bucksport Road
Ellsworth ME

Date
Sunday August 13, 2023

2 Classes!

Beginning \$25
1:00 - 2:15 pm

Beyond Beginning \$35
2:45 - 4:30 pm

Register in Advance!
Hold Your Spot!

By Email
uucellsworth@gmail.com

By Phone
207-667-4393

Don't have a drum? Rent one
for \$5 for one or both classes.

Sayon is an energetic, gentle teacher who holds the rhythms and life of his village within him. He is ready to share them with us! This rare gem will be right here in our community! Drumming is good for the soul. The joy in Sayon and his music are balm for the heart.

Learn about Sayon Camara!
SayonCamaraDrumming.com



Yard Sale 2023 (YS23) Wow, wow, wow! Just wow!

UUCE, once again, you ROCKED the annual yard sale! About a month ago, I looked in the Annex (old Loaves & Fishes building) where we were storing yard sale donations and thought to myself, “Hmmm, we don’t have a whole lot this year.” I could not have been more wrong! By the time set-up was happening, we had SO MUCH, we had to use the Annex for furniture!

Volunteers showed up in droves to “un-church the church” so we could display the merchandise. And to move merchandise from the Annex to the church. And to display all our merchandise in attractive, organized, easy-to-see fashion. And to welcome our neighbors to the yard sale and help them find their treasures. And to check them out with a smile and a thank you. And to help them carry stuff out. And then when it was all over, to “re-church the church” and make us ready for Sunday services. (And to pivot the plan when Goodwill said, “no more today!”)

Thank you to EVERY. SINGLE. ONE. OF. YOU. who publicized and/or donated and/or fed us and/or worked the yard sale this year - there were dozens and dozens of you! And an EXTRA HUGE thank you to my ad hoc yard sale committee: Sara Hayman, CJ Lammers & Sarah Rauber, Mary Murray, and of course, Lisa Williams. It takes a village to make a successful yard sale, and our village showed up! Our goal this year was \$6300 and we beat that - by over 1/3 - we made \$8580! Congratulations and THANK YOU, Team YS23!

...WOW, WOW, WOW!

FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT BETH PEPPER



Happy July, everyone! I sure do hope July brings us more sunny days than June did!

Wow, was I ever thankful our yard sale was inside this year! It rained some of Wednesday, Thursday, Friday AND Saturday, so we would have been miserable if we'd been outside. The yard sale once again exceeded its financial goals and garnered lots of good comments from the folks attending. Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way, big or small, to Team Yard Sale 23 - we couldn't have done it without you!

Your Board traditionally takes July off and we're sticking with tradition! We'll regroup in August with our annual retreat where we'll set goals for the upcoming year and then we'll be back to our regular monthly meeting schedule in September.

Now that we've (almost) emptied the Annex (old Loaves & Fishes building) of its mountains of yard sale merch, we're looking forward to renting it. If you or someone you know might be interested in it, please contact Kathy Hall at kathy-hall@comcast.net.

Have you seen all the great stuff UUCE has going on this summer? From Potluck Garden Dinner Parties & Play to a field trip to Malaga Island to Shamanic Journeys to our annual Church Picnic and lots more! I hope you can make it to some or all of these events!

A little "business" note: Gary & I have switched the president@uellsworth email account over to me, so I now have 3 email addresses and am wrestling with them a little to make sure I'm not missing something important from you.

Please use:


president@uellsworth.org for Board & presidential stuff;

eapepper2@gmail.com for anything else

And please forget my AOL email (eapepper1@aol.com) because now I just use that for "junk" mail.

Again, Happy July, everyone!





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 An Intimate Worship Gathering with Rev. Sara & Others

Are you longing for more intimate space to connect with others in our UUCE community? Do you enjoy poetry, music of all kinds, reading, silence and time for sharing in community? If so, please come! All are welcome to be a part of this ½ hour weekly, contemplative gathering on ZOOM where we companion each other with love and gratitude into the day.

I look forward to being in this circle with you!
Rev. Sara

UUCB ONLINE EVENING VESPERS is on break until mid-September 2023.



UUCU BULLETIN BOARD



**PROGRAMMING
OFFERINGS AND IDEAS
WELCOME!**

Congregational life is budding again and we are looking forward to opportunities to do things together once more. If you would like to offer a program, event or class or have ideas you would like to share please contact Mary Murray marydmurray@comcast.net 239-699-0150 and she will see that your idea is shared with the folks who can make it happen.



Wayne H. Smith
UUCE Historian

REV. RICHARD BURPEE GIBBS (1907-1992)

Rev. Richard Burpee Gibbs was born on Feb. 18, 1907 in Arlington, Massachusetts, the third of the five sons of Richard John Gibbs of Spencer, Massachusetts and Emaline E. (White) Gibbs of Worcester. By 1920, the family had moved to Medford, MA where he attended Medford public schools. The 1930 census shows the family living in nearby Burlington, MA, but he returned to Medford when he began his studies at Tufts University in Medford, graduating in the Class of 1937 with an A.B. degree. Following this, he attended Tufts' theological school, and served a student pastorate in Stoneham, MA from 1937-1938. He finished his studies in 1939 with an S.T.B. degree.



Richard B. Gibbs

Somewhere along the way, “Dick” met his future wife, Mildred Douglas Williamson, born on Sept. 13, 1903 in New Hampshire, the third daughter of Llewellyn Moody Williamson of Nova Scotia and Julia Mabel (Douglas) Williamson of New Hampshire. They were married in Medford on March 4, 1940. Their only child, Brenda Eileen Gibbs, was born in 1943 in Brockton, MA where Dick had begun serving his first Unitarian pastorate in 1939. He remained there for five years. In 1944, he began a nine-year pastorate in Memphis, Tennessee. One of his parishioners in Memphis, Gregg Carter, noted that Rev. Gibbs articulated religious views that “made sense” and provided a “pivotal link” in his own decision to pursue professional ministry.

Quoting from a report on his pastorate in Memphis prepared by his dear friend Robert Raible:

Mr. Gibbs first gained denominational attention in Memphis where he metamorphosed one of our marginal little churches into a large, strong church with an assured future. The statistics are startling. In the nine years that he was there in Memphis, [the] church increased in membership 213%; in Church School enrollment 305%; in budget 185%. Striking to me is the fact that our Memphis church was segregated when Mr. Gibbs was settled over it, and was integrated when he left. Mr. Gibbs accomplished this without losing members (as has happened when some of our other southern churches integrated). He did it by what I call Gradualism Plus Pressure. He'd push for integration, then before a crisis occurred, he'd relax and coast for a while. When everything calmed down and everyone in the church was relaxed again, he'd mount another offensive ploy. He never lost one of his segregationist

members, but he gradually either convinced them, or wore them out. To me it was a magnificent example of the best in religious statesmanship.



While being interviewed by a reporter, Rev. Gibbs was nearly hit on the head by a piece of the roof that fell off the church.

While still in Memphis, Rev. Gibbs served for five years as the part-time Regional Director for the former AUA Southwest Conference, acting as trouble-shooter and advisor for the southwest churches and fellowships, and during this period of time, the number of churches and fellowships increased from 9 to 28.

In 1954, Dr. Eliot, president of the AUA, asked Rev. Gibbs to come to 25 Beacon St. in Boston, headquarters of the AUA, to head up the Department of Church Extension and be the minister of the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF). The function of the extension department was to organize and direct

the lay movements of Unitarian Fellowships, provide financial assistance and leadership to new churches, and advice on promotion and churchmanship. During his tenure in these positions, the number of churches and fellowships increased from 431 in 1954 to 710 in 1961 when the AUA united with the Universalist Church of America. Beginning in 1961, Gibbs served as the Director of the Department of Extension and Maintenance of the UUA wherein he oversaw the CLF and the acceptance into the denomination of new churches and fellowships.

By 1968, the UUA became aware that the First Unitarian Society of Ellsworth was struggling. Its population was down, the church's finances were in bad condition, and the old church building at the corner of Main and Oak Streets was literally falling apart (see photo). There had been no called minister at the church since 1963, and the Sunday morning services were being led by students and faculty members from the Bangor Theological Seminary. There was serious discussion as to whether the church doors should be permanently closed. Based on his excellent record of accomplishments as Director of the AUA's Southwest Conference, head of the Extension department, and minister of the CLF, the UUA made the decision to try to save its little outpost on the coast of Maine by calling Rev. Gibbs as a full-time minister.

Rev. and Mrs. Gibbs, along with their 25-year old daughter Brenda, arrived in September of 1968 and Rev. Gibbs took up his duties in Ellsworth on Sept. 5, with the first worship service of the church year held on Sept. 15. One of the first things he did was to start a church newsletter, which he tentatively called Lifeline. He wrote: "We think we should have a contest for best name for our newsletter. Submit your entries in faith that there will be a prize. Ah Faith." He also wrote: "My goodness! We mentioned from the pulpit that we really ought to replace our thirty-year old hymnals with the new *Hymns for the Celebration of Life*. Right after the service we were offered a check for half of what we need and before the afternoon was over, a check for 1/4 of the remainder was in my hand. As we said before - My goodness!!! Now, 3/4 of 1/2 come to - phew?"

Arithmetic.” Hey! Check out the whole newsletter:

https://uuellsworth.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/NUUS19681000_0019.pdf to see what he has to say about dissent, abortion, Vietnam, race relations, etc.

[For more about this tumultuous period of transition at UUCE, go back and read my Sankofa Corner article from the February 2016 NUUS:

<https://uuellsworth.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/February-2016-NUUS.pdf>]

Rev. Gibbs retired from UU ministry in 1973 after our new UUCE building had been built, furnished, and dedicated. He and his family settled in Greenfield, Massachusetts and worshiped at All Souls Church, Unitarian Universalist. He died on May 21, 1992 in Greenfield, and was buried in Green River Cemetery. He was joined by his wife in 1997 and his daughter in 2005.



Rev. Richard Burpee Gibbs

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

Minister Rev. Sara Hayman: 610-2872 (cell) sara@uuellsworth.org	Children's Religious Education Coordinator Charles Betancourt uuce.re@gmail.com
Church Office Administrator Ellen Sedgwick: 667-4393 uucellsworth@gmail.com	Music Director & Pianist Wayne Smith: 667-9482 wayne@mrlanguage.com

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President: Beth Pepper to 2025 (610-4070)	Vice President: Jill Jeude to 2025
Treasurer: Alison Stephens to 2024	Secretary: Bob Francis to 2024
Trustee: Tori Bell to 2026	Trustee: Kathy Hall to 2024
Trustee: Doug Bird to 2026	Moderator: John Fink

COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE CHAIRS

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

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



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Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth

207-667-4393 www.uuellsworth.org

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