



The NUUS

SEPTEMBER 2023 VOLUME 55, NO. 9

MINISTRY MATTERS

BY SARA HAYMAN

Dear UUCE Community Members & Friends,

I'm writing my NUUS article on August 29th, aware that this is the one-year anniversary of **Bob Dickens'** death. Bob was (and still is) a beloved, longtime UUCE member. I miss him. In his honor today, I'm going to reach out to a few teenagers I love and read some good poetry by Joy Harjo. Bob's life among us was a gift and may his memory continue to be a blessing.

There's much to celebrate and look forward to this month:

This coming **Sunday, September 3rd at 9am**, UUCE will have its **first in-person choir practice** since the pandemic began with **Meg O'Dell**, our new, very part-time Choir Director, leading us. If you enjoy singing, please come and be part of this exciting and uplifting new adventure in building and deepening community. (See the article in this month's NUUS with the choir schedule and a personal welcome video from Meg!)

In two weeks, on **Sunday, September 10th**, we'll celebrate our annual **Water Communion & Ingathering** in worship. Please bring a small vial of water from a source sacred to you – maybe your garden hose, or the pond where you live, or your kitchen sink, or the river where you've been kayaking or swimming—some source meaningful to you.

The MOFGA Common Ground Fair is just around the corner (Friday, September 22nd to Sunday, September 24th) and for the 6th year, **UUCE will sell Eggrolls!** Last year, we sold 5,000 and ran out of eggrolls around 1pm on Sunday. This year, we've ordered more eggroll wrappers so won't run out! THANK YOU to all who are signing up to volunteer – YOU are the magic ingredient in making this happen! Many, many thanks, too, to my **Sarah Nicholson, CJ Lammers & Mary Murray** (this year's Volunteer Coordinator) who are working extra hard behind the scenes to get all the supplies, people and plans in place to be another successful fundraiser and community-building adventure. I LOVE BEING IN THE BOOTH WITH ALL OF YOU!

There's so much more going on at UUCE, but I'll close here and encourage you to read the many articles in this month's newsletter! I hope and trust you know you are wanted, needed and enthusiastically welcomed into our UUCE community.

Much love,
Rev. Sara



Soul Matters

The Gift of Welcome



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



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





SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

10:30 A.M.

Sunday, Sept. 3

Let's be the welcome we crave...

Rev. Sara Hayman, Worship Leader
Helen Kazura, Worship Associate

In his meditation called, "A Theology of Welcome," UU minister David Breeden implores us to be, "the welcome we crave." We do this, he suggests, by living with open hearts and outstretched arms, and by deeply listening to each other and more honestly sharing and honoring who we are with one another. How do we aspire to embody this depth and quality of welcome in our UU congregation? In what ways are we willing to try and to stretch into more sincerely and inclusively inviting each person and all of us into community?

- Plate Split Sunday today to benefit the *Hancock County Neighborhood Support Team!*
- RE this Sunday!
- Multigenerational Choir Practice at 9am w/ Meg O'Dell!

9/3 Worship Service Zoom Meeting: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/97942020007?pwd=ODdWTDk5amZqR3FMQ2hFT2RVdVFmZz09>
Meeting ID: 979 4202 0007
Password: 242787
Phone: 646-558-8656

Sunday, Sept. 10

UUCE's Annual Water Communion & Ingathering Worship Service

Rev. Sara Hayman & Charles Betancourt, Worship Leaders
Karen Volckhausen, Worship Associate

This Sunday we will celebrate Ingathering—the beginning of a new church year together—with a Water Communion ritual. If you are attending in-person, please bring a small vial of water from a source sacred and soul-nourishing to you to pour into our common vessel. Those participating virtually in worship are invited to email Suzanne Aubrey (suzanneaubrey57@gmail.com) a photo of you by water, or a brief video (20 seconds or less) of you pouring water into a vessel.

- UUCE Choir Practices & Sings in Worship today!
Multigenerational Worship Service!

9/10 Worship Service Zoom Meeting: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/92275338300?pwd=Q0lrZWZiZWVRRFp5cGVnYmp3UUVkdz09>
Meeting ID: 922 7533 8300
Password: 769575
Phone: 646-558-8656

Sunday, Sept. 17

The Alchemy of Apology

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

What does a real apology look like in our lives? What kind of healing is more possible in our lives when we ask for forgiveness and do the work needed to make amends when and where we've hurt others? In this time of the Jewish High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we'll reflect on these questions and call each other to the sacred work of trying to restore and rebuild relationships that strengthen life.

- RE Classes today!

9/17 Worship Service Zoom
Meeting: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/91000382814?pwd=eWRoUjluazkyQmo5MmVGc0dnbkFKUT09>
Meeting ID: 910 0038 2814
Password: 053461
Phone: 646-558-8656

Sunday, Sept. 24

Welcoming? Are we living the hospitality of our Faith?

Charles Betancourt, R.E. Coordinator & Worship Leader
Kay Wilkins, Worship Associate

This month's theme is all about Welcoming. From In Gathering to Water Communion UU's have many traditions that create a welcoming space for all. How do you live your welcoming faith? What are some of the traditions in other faith systems that embody this Hospitable Nature? Sit with me for a spell as we examine what Hospitality can truly be, how it effects those around you, and what some faith paths warn against what manners and welcoming is ignored.

- No RE Classes today!

9/24 Worship Service Zoom
Meeting: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/96434641533?pwd=ZGcvenBmbVY3S0JWa010VTFILOpudz09>
Meeting ID: 964 3464 1533
Password: 099726
Phone: 646-558-8656





UUCE CHOIR BEGINS SEPTEMBER 3rd

First Choir Rehearsal is Sunday, September 3rd from 9-10:15am!

Mark your calendars now!



Click image above
to view a short video
by Meg.

With joy and gladness, we're thrilled to announce that **Meg O'Dell** has agreed to be our very part-time **UUCE Choir Director** beginning in September!

This will be **Multigenerational Choir** with young people welcome to join with their parents or friends.

Choir rehearsals are on **Sunday mornings from 9-10:15am** at church and the choir will sing once a month in worship.

This is such a wonderful opportunity!

The Choir Schedule the first half of this year.

If you want to sing, please make a commitment to be at all rehearsals.

UUCE CHOIR SCHEDULE – Rehearsals on Sundays from 9:00-10:15am

September 3rd – Rehearsal

September 10th – Rehearsal & Sing in Worship – Annual In-gathering & Water Communion Service!

October 1st - Rehearsal

October 15th – Rehearsal & Sing in Worship – UUCE Hosting Collaborative Service w/ Belfast & Castine!

October 29th – Rehearsal

November 19th – Rehearsal & Sing in Worship – Sunday before Thanksgiving!

December 10th –Rehearsal

December 17th—Rehearsal & Sing in Worship – A Winter Holiday Service!

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Tori Bell (toribell14@gmail.com), Chair of UUCE's Music Committee.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Greetings UUCE Congregates and Families,

Do you remember, The 21st night of September? Love was changing the minds of pretenders, while chasing the clouds away.

This is the month of Welcoming. But what does that mean for us as a congregation and as a community. Unitarian Universalism is a faith system based on Welcoming. According to the UUA website under beliefs, “We are a house without walls, a congregation without spiritual boundaries. Simply put, we are a supportive path towards a better you and a better world.” How are we as members and staff of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth embodying this ideal? What are we doing to make a better YOU and a better WORLD?

These are heavy but serious questions. Serious doesn't mean negative or positive, just weighty. I would love to hear your feed back on these questions and any other questions or comments you might have. We are trying to build together but another question comes to mind. What does that mean for us? What are we trying to build? Are we all trying to build parts of the same thing or are we building our own things around each other? I want us all to have input on the plans in front of us. Let us work at building the same greater design even if we are building our separate parts.

Now December, Found the love that we shared in September. Only blue talk and love, remember. The true love we share today.

Brightest Blessings to you all,

Charles A Betancourt,
Religious Exploration Coordinator





small group MINISTRY

SEEKING A DEEPER SENSE OF CONNECTION,
COMMUNITY, AND BELONGING?

JOIN SMALL GROUP MINISTRY!

Our UUCE Small Groups meet each month for 2 hours. Some meet in-person and some via Zoom. The new year starts in September and groups meet through June. (You can change to a new group each year.)

Small Groups are facilitated and during their time together, members reflect on thought-provoking topics that follow the church's monthly theme.

Here's what people are saying

"I was new to the congregation and my Small Group gave me a way to get to know people and feel like I belonged."

"I continue to participate in SGM because of the connection with the people. We are a caring group and I believe that we are there for each other."

"I enjoy thinking about and hearing others' perspectives on the monthly topic."

Contact Mary Murray to learn more about Small Groups and to find the group that's just right for YOU! marydmurray@comcast.net or (239) 699-0150 phone or text.

Check out our Small Group Ministry page on our website at: <https://uuellsworth.org/small-group-ministry/>



UUCE Zoomers launched less than a month ago. We deliberately didn't schedule events immediately after the launch because we wanted to give you time to join the site and have a chance to look around. We hope you've done that, but if you haven't you still have plenty of time to enjoy the site and to sign up for some classes and discussion groups of interest.

All of our events take place on Zoom. You can access the Zoom link by signing on to the site and clicking on Events (left-hand side of your screen). Here's what's coming up in September:

- **Energy Switch (Tuesday, September 5, 3:00 – 4:00 PM), hosted by Mary Haynes.** In this monthly discussion group we'll watch an episode of the PBS Energy Switch program that features two energy/climate experts who take at least somewhat opposing views to the topic for that show. The discussions are moderated by a renowned energy scientist Dr. Scott Tinker. The goal is to educate us through presenting a point/counterpoint perspective on the energy and climate change issues facing us. There will be discussion time afterward. The topic for September is **Responding to Climate Change**, with experts Dr. Michael Greenstone and Dr. Steven Kronin.

- **Coffee with Reverend Sara (Thursday, September 7, 10:00 – 11:00 AM).** The Coffee With... series is a monthly event in which we get to know our UUCE staff and our church lay leaders. This month we'll kick off our series with an interview with Reverend Sara by the host Mary Haynes and will then open up the discussion for comments and Q&A time.
- **Let's Talk About God (Tuesday, September 12, 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM), hosted by Mary Haynes.** This 3-part discussion will take place over a 3-month period, with one meeting per month. We'll start the first session with a survey about the participants' concepts of God (the survey is completed before the first session and is anonymous) and we'll share our reactions to the survey and how our views about God have likely changed since childhood. We'll then move to a discussion about the most-commonly held concept of God, which is that of creator. How and what did God create? And what ideas have religious scholars going back to the beginning of recorded history about why God created our world?
- **UUCE Mighty Book Club (Wednesday, September 13, 1:00 – 2:30 PM), hosted by Robin Lovrien.** This will be the second meeting of the Book Club (the first is Wednesday, August 30 @1:00 PM). The book for this meeting will be chosen at the August meeting. This group meets every other Wednesday.
- **Points to Ponder (Thursday, September 14, 4:00 – 5:30 PM), hosted by Mary Haynes.** This is a monthly discussion group on the most important cultural and political issues of our day. The topic for September is Populism. Register in advance for this program if you would like to receive the reading materials prior to the meeting.

- **Monthly Movie Night (Sunday, September 17, 6:00 – 8:30 PM).** The movie for September has yet to be determined. Check back on the UUCE Zoomers site and your email for the selection for this month.
- **Stitch and Chat (Monday, September 18, 3:00 – 4:00 PM), hosted by Marta Rieman.** This is a monthly gathering (on the 3rd Monday of each month) of those who enjoy needlework to get together and chat while working on individual projects. It's an old-fashioned sewing circle with the modern update of taking place virtually.
- **UUCE Zoomers Block Party (Monday, September 25, 7:00 – 8:00 PM).** The Block Party is a monthly gathering of all of the people who have joined the site. It's a purely social event, and will allow members to interact in a large group for a period of time and then we'll break out into very small groups so that participants get a chance to know one another better.
- **UUCE Zoomers Mighty Book Club (Wednesday, September 27, 1:00 – 2:30 PM), hosted by Robin Lovrien.**
- **Art from the Heart...for the Soul (Wednesday, September 27, 4:00 – 6:30 PM), hosted by Amy Thompson.** This 5-session series requires no recognizable artistic talent or previous experience. It draws upon a curiosity and willingness to explore personal growth in a new way, using simple art materials. You must register for this class by September 13 so that Amy can contact you to make sure you have the necessary materials to support a positive experience.

The materials are not provided by UUCE, but some very simple supplies will suffice. Amy has paper pads available at cost which will greatly enhance your satisfaction with your creative efforts.

- **Regular posts which you can enjoy viewing/reading, with the invitation to comment on and also to share your own.** Regular posts include birthday greetings to our members, our popular Tuesday Tunes feature in which you can view music videos and share your own favorites, Quotes and Comments, Friday Funnies for a laugh, and observations of notable days, sometimes accompanied by an informative article or a yummy recipe.

There are so many ways to be connected to other UUCE members and friends on our UUCE Zoomers site. Our goal is to our members and friends know that UUCE is one church, whether we never attend worship services in person, we always attend worship services in person or a combination of the two.

If you haven't already joined and need an invitation or if you've joined and find the site a little confusing to use (which indeed it can be until you get familiar with it), help is available. Contact Mary Haynes (mhaynes@roadrunner.com or 667-7596) or Suzanne Aubrey (suzanneaubrey57@gmail.com or 272-7008) for assistance.

PASA RETREAT. Note: New Date! 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 **Saturday, Sept. 2 from 12-4pm** to learn more about our congregation's **Peace and Social Action Ministry** and to contribute your ideas. Anyone with an interest in peace and social action at UUCE may attend. Contact Barb Acosta drabarb@gmail.com to RSVP.

Best way to respond to the wildfire that destroyed Lahaina on the island of Maui. Contribute to the UUA Disaster Relief Fund (<https://giving.uua.org/disaster-relief>). Giving what you can to this fund will allow us to amplify a UU response to the devastation and suffering on Maui. If you are a praying person, pray with your words, then pray with your wallets, and then pray with your actions to fight for climate justice.

Mahalo nui loa iā kākou no ka kama'ilio ia'u (From a UU based on Oahu)

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.

SEPTEMBER MEANS ... EGG ROLLS!

FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT BETH PEPPER



Y'know that old saying (that I just made up in June) that if the lupines are blooming, then the UUCE yard sale isn't far behind? Well, here's another one: If kids are returning to school and the leaves are j-u-u-s-t starting to turn, then it's time to volunteer for the UUCE

Egg Roll Booth at Common Ground Fair! **Mary Murray (239-699-0150 or marydmurray@comcast.net) is our volunteer coordinator and she's got jobs for you here (home/Ellsworth), there (Unity), and before, during, and after the Fair.** Come join the unique fun that is UUCE Egg Rolls!

But I'm getting ahead of myself ... before we look forward to September, let's recap a pretty hoppin' August. Being the party animals that we are, we had the Annual Church Picnic at Lamoine Beach, the Dragonfly Party on Toddy Pond, and the mid-week potluck/dance party at UUCE! All were well attended with lots of love and camaraderie and FUN! In between, we danced and drummed with Sayon Camara and August kicked off with UUCE Zoomers launching their site! They've been holding classes and book groups and movies and lots of good stuff. Check it out!

But it hasn't been just fun and games. Your Board of Trustees held its annual retreat, getting to know one another deeper, acknowledging with gratitude UUCE's many accomplishments over the past year, and focusing on goals for this upcoming year. The Annex Task Force is getting soooo very close to finishing the work on the Annex and turning it over to our tenants, Hancock County Planning Commission. Our extraordinarily generous anonymous donor is paying for both a heat pump in the Annex AND a replacement heating and hot water system in the church building itself. And if the stars align, we'll have hot water in time to have our 1st Sunday Potlucks return in October!

Now, it's time to contact Mary Murray and join Team Egg Roll '24!

2023 UUCE Egg Roll Booth

at the Common Ground Fair

September 22-24

Mark Your Calendars! Join in the Fun!

One of our churches big fund raisers. Many large and small tasks go into making this year's fair a success. For Instance:

- Volunteers needed before the fair: cleaning equipment, Vegie Prep, hauling equipment and supplies to the fair, setting up and more
- Volunteers needed during the fair: Vegie prep, rolling egg rolls, sales, food for volunteers and more
- Volunteers needed after the fair: clean up, break down and bring it all home

Contact Mary Murray, this year's volunteer coordinator, for more information about ways you can take part. marydmurray@comcast.net 239-699-0150 phone/text



NEWS from the Sabbatical Committee

We're going on Sabbatical! Actually, Rev. Sara is going on Sabbatical, but because it affects all of us, it is "Our Sabbatical." The dates are January 1, 2024 to May 31, 2024. It will be 5 years since her last Sabbatical and a lot has happened in our congregation between that time and now – the most challenging being Rev. Sara's skillfully navigated spiritual leadership through COVID.



While she is taking this much needed time of spiritual enrichment and self care, our church community is charged with continuing our commitment to each other and to our congregation as a whole.

To that end The Sabbatical Planning Committee will be developing a plan in the next few months to clarify the roles of the committees, creating a list of resources and planning a worship calendar for the duration of the Sabbatical.

We are very fortunate to have Rev. Amy Fiorilli, who is the minister of the Belfast UU congregation, leading multi-platform worship in our sanctuary one Sunday a month while Sara is on sabbatical. She will also be leading a worship service from Belfast one Sunday a month that will include a Zoom link for UUCE members. We are all invited to participate in Adult Faith Formation/Spiritual Deepening opportunities that Amy will be offering.

On the Sundays that Amy is not leading worship, there will be a schedule of guest ministers and lay led services.

The members of The Sabbatical Planning Committee are: The Committee on Ministry (Helen Kazura, chair, Mary Haynes, David Dietrich, Christine Bowman and Liz True.), Board Member - Beth Pepper, president of the board, and Member at Large - Bronwen Day. Please feel free to contact any one of us with questions, concerns or ideas.



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 on Zoom. 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

UUCB Online Evening Vespers – on TUESDAY Evenings again beginning, September 5th with Rev. Amy every at 6pm

Our weekly time of rest, renewal, and reflection begins again this coming Thursday October 6th at 6pm. Join Rev. Amy each week for a 30-minute service to help settle our minds and hearts, provide nourishment and comfort through music, word and ritual. Everyone is welcome.

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



Dr. Wayne H. Smith
UUCE Historian

JOHN DEAN HOPKINS, “THE GRAND OLD MAN OF ELLSWORTH” (1817-1901)

John Dean Hopkins was born on Feb. 17, 1817, probably in Ellsworth, Maine, the second of the eleven children of John and Abigail (Brimmer) Hopkins. His paternal ancestry originally came from Cape Cod, and he was almost certainly a descendant of Stephen Hopkins, a passenger on the Mayflower. His grandfather, James, came to Ellsworth before the Revolutionary War and served as the town’s first Treasurer, and his son John was born in Ellsworth when it was still a small village. As a young man, he soon became engaged in buying and selling land, from which he accumulated a good sum of money. He even served for a time as Sheriff of Hancock County. John married Abigail Brimmer in 1813. Her family had come to Ellsworth from Boston in 1794.

John’s son, John Dean Hopkins, always signed his name as “John D.” to distinguish himself from his father. His attended school in Ellsworth, and he was very possibly one of the pupils at Rev. Peter Nourse’s school on what is now known as the Surry Road. After working on his family farm, John became engaged in teaming and lumbering, and then was actively employed as a dealer in lumber.

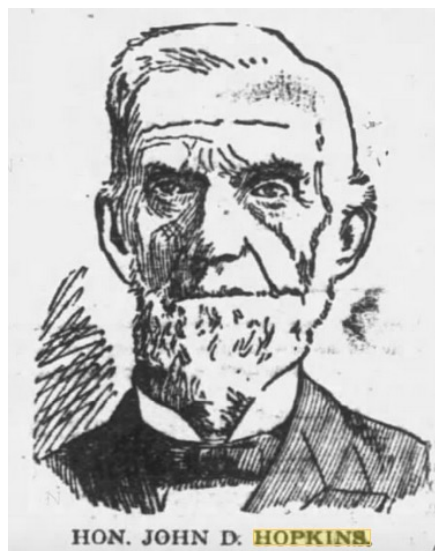
In 1843, John married Almira Jordan, who was born on Jan. 21, 1823 in Mariaville, the oldest child of Jeremiah and Isabel (Brimmer) Jordan. John and Almira had two children: Maria S., born in 1844, and Frances or “Fannie,” born in 1850. Almira passed away in 1864, and two years later, in November of 1866 in Boston, John

married Mrs. Caroline M. “Carrie” (Jordan) Jarvis, the widow of Charles Edward Jarvis, and Carrie brought her daughter Julia Alice Jarvis, born in 1855, into the Hopkins home.

During the second half of his life, John D. Hopkins was engaged in a wide number of pursuits, social, political, religious, and work-related. On January 10, 1860 at Whiting’s Hall, we find him managing a Grand Ball to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the Hunneman Fire Engine Company No. 1. In April of the same year, he was among the signers of a pledge to promote temperance in Ellsworth and to unite in a determined attempt to suppress the illegal sale and trafficking of intoxicating liquors. In October of 1863, during the Civil War, we find him serving as the National Union Party representative from Ellsworth, “Union” being the name used by the newly minted Republican Party during the war years.

In the spring of 1864, the home in which he was living on Main Street was destroyed by fire. If that wasn’t bad enough news, his wife Almira passed away on July 9 of that same year leaving him with two teenagers to raise. In spite of this, by August he was in the process of, as the Ellsworth American put it, “erecting a magnificent dwelling on the lot next [to] the American House where his old one stood.”

1865 brought an end to the Civil War, and in September John was again elected to fill a position as representative to Augusta from Ellsworth. But the year also brought an



effort to reestablish a Unitarian presence in Ellsworth. This effort was led by 33-year old Ann Frances Greely, daughter of Col. Charles Jarvis, who, along with her close friends Kate Dyer and Fanny Otis, arranged for Rev. W. H. Savary to come to Ellsworth from Groveland, Massachusetts to form a Unitarian society. When the First Unitarian Society of Ellsworth, or FUSE, was formally established on Oct. 31, 1865, among the signatories was the name of John D. Hopkins. Up to that point, those Ellsworth citizens of the Unitarian persuasion had been meeting alongside their Baptist friends at the Ellsworth Village Baptist Church, John occupying pew number 70. In May of 1866, however, the Unitarians in the group made a proposition that either they buy out the pews of all the Baptists or that the Baptists buy out their pews. The Baptists agreed to buy out the pews of the Unitarians, and thus began the effort to build a new church edifice for the Unitarians. This activity culminated with the dedication of the church building in August of 1867.

1866 brought John a property tax bill of \$305 in June and his new wife, Carrie, in November. A year later, in 1867, the effort to find a suitable place to house a library was afoot, and the Bank room in the Tisdale building was proposed, "if it can be had of the present owner, J. D. Hopkins, Esq." At the same time, the Lygonia Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons purchased the third floor of this same "Tisdale Hall" for its own use.

In 1869, Ellsworth was officially upgraded to the status of a "city." At the last "town" meeting, five people were chosen to divide Ellsworth into five wards, including John D. Hopkins. Later, at the first meeting of the "city" government, John was chosen alderman from Ward 1. Later that year, on August 12, Ellsworth played host to a visit from the then President of the United States, Benjamin Harrison, and his accompanying party consisting of Secretary of State James G. Blaine, Secretary of the Navy Tracy, Henry Cabot Lodge, and fifteen others. A public reception for the President was held at Hancock Hall that afternoon from 4:30 to 5:30. As the *Ellsworth American* described it, "The President and party were escorted from their carriages

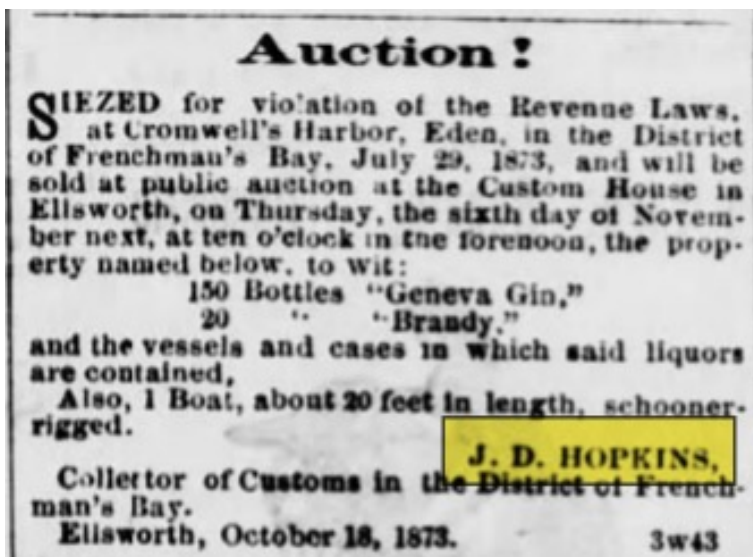
to the hall as follows: President by Mayor F. B. Aiken, Secretary Blaine by Senator Hale, Secretary Tracy by Hon. John D. Hopkins."

Always ready for new political challenges, John was also chosen as delegate from Hancock County to the 1871 and 1872 Republican State Conventions. Let one think that he was only interested in politics, note that he, as well as his brothers Albert and Edward, were engaged as "managers" of the Grand Masquerade ball held at Hancock Hall on Feb. 22, 1872 under the auspices of the Unitarian Reading Club, a social arm of the First Unitarian Society. His Unitarian activities extended statewide the following year when he and representatives from Unitarian churches around the State were "appointed and constituted the first board of trustees for said corporation by the name of Trustees for the Maine Conference of Unitarian Churches."

1873 also brought a new career focus when in January he was appointed "Collector of Customs in place of N. K. Sawyer, Esq." Said the *Ellsworth American*, "This intelligence was unexpected and a surprise to all. The appointment is favorably regarded and almost universally acceptable to the people." A month later, the *American* added, "Mr. H., by reason of his long service in the Legislature and on the Republican State Committee, has become well known to public men, and has made numerous friends." Always busy, we also find his name among the members of the corporation of the Hancock County Savings Bank in May of 1873. And we learn that his earlier work in lumbering was still ongoing when we read that his lumber yard, the John D. Hopkins & Co., was damaged on Sunday June 1, 1873 by a fire, fueled by high winds, that destroyed nearly a million feet of lumber and covered two acres of land. The loss was estimated to be about ten or fifteen thousand dollars (\$255,000 to \$382,000 in 2023 dollars), and it was noted that this same firm lost their steam mill the previous year. The day after the fire, the firm sent out a "card," printed in the *Ellsworth American* thanking their "friends and fellow townsmen" for the "generous aid and prompt and manly efforts" in saving the mill and much valued lumber from the fire.

Immediately after the fire, his co-delegates at the State Committee again “selected John D. Hopkins, Esq. of Ellsworth as the county member of the State Committee for the ensuing year. Mr. Hopkins was reluctant to continue on that Committee where he has now been for three years, but the delegates would not excuse him. They remembered too vividly the vigor, skill, and zeal which were shown in the campaign last Fall” (*Ellsworth American*).

An example of an interesting aspect of his work as Collector of Customs was an announcement in the *Ellsworth American* of Nov. 6, 1873 that went as follows:



I wonder who bought all that gin and brandy.

An important event in the history of the First Unitarian Society of Ellsworth occurred on Sept. 2, 1875 when a meeting was held in the second-floor room above Ann Greely's store on Main Street. The group of women in attendance decided that the church building needed to be raised up and a vestry added beneath the sanctuary to provide an appropriate space for church suppers. Carrie Hopkins, John's second wife, was chosen one of the members of the Building Committee and John was chosen a member of the Associate Committee. These two committees did their job well for in a matter of two months the



construction was completed and the new vestry was dedicated on Nov. 10 of the same year.

The next few years continued to be busy ones for Mr. Hopkins. In 1878 he was elected Foreman of the Hunneman Engine Co. No. 1. In 1878 and 1879 he was engaged in building a summer residence in E. Lamoine. In 1878 he was elected to the Executive Committee at the annual Conference of the Maine Unitarian Churches held in Saco. In 1880, after the discovery of silver in some local mines, the West and Sowle Silver Mining Company was organized and John was chosen as one of the Directors. In 1885, his term as Collector of Customs came to an end, (but he was reappointed to the same position five years later in 1890).

On November 15, 1888, after the presidential election results were published, the *Ellsworth American* wrote that the following Tuesday at Hancock Hall, “a Harrison dinner will be given to those citizens of Ellsworth who voted for Gen. W. H. Harrison in 1840 and Gen. Benjamin Harrison in 1888.” In the long list of names of the supporters of the two Harrisons we find that of John D. Hopkins. At the end of the article, it says: “Others...who voted for the two Harrisons will please hand in their names to Hon. J. D. Hopkins.” It is obvious that J. D. was quite a supporter of Harrisonian democracy.

As he grew older, John had already established himself as a distinguished gentleman from Ellsworth, so it is not surprising that he was hobnobbing with the elites of both church and state. At the Bangor Fair in September of 1890 he sat on the visitors' stand alongside Governor Burleigh. At the funeral of Hannibal Hamlin in Bangor in July of 1891, J. D. was there sitting beside Senator Eugene Hale, Judge L. A. Emery, and many other Ellsworth luminaries. In the 1892 Yearbook of the Unitarian Congregational Churches, he is listed as being on the Executive Committee of the Maine Conference of Unitarian Churches, and also on the Finance Committee of the Maine Unitarian Association. June of 1893 finds him at the opening meeting of “Hancock County's new and luxurious social club,” the Abenauquis Club which was housed “in the handsome structure on Main

Street, just below the American house, built by Hon. J. D. Hopkins on the site of the house that was burned early in the sixties.” Then, three months later, J. D. was elected president of the Hancock County Conference of Unitarians and Other Liberal Christian Churches.

In May of 1894, John’s load was made slightly lighter when he (finally!) retired as Collector of Customs for the port of Ellsworth during Grover Cleveland’s second administration. After this date, Mr. Hopkins’s activities began to slow down somewhat. His wife, Carrie, was still quite active in church affairs, such as her involvement with the annual church supper and sale in December of 1894. Both Carrie and John attended the Unitarian Conference in Houlton in 1895. In January of 1896, John was called, along with other county commissioners, to deal with yet another blaze, but this was a pleasant one: it was the burning of \$24,400 in county bonds which had been redeemed. They were part of the \$30,000 in bonds issued in 1885.

In November of 1896, good old J. D. was elected President of the Unitarian Society of Ellsworth, alongside Vice-President Ann F. Greely. That same month, 27 members of the Hopkins family gathered in the American House in Ellsworth. The Bangor Daily News reported that “Hon. John D. Hopkins was the central figure of the gathering and did everything possible for the enjoyment of the company.” Just under three months later, the “venerable” John D. Hopkins, “Ellsworth’s honored octogenarian,” celebrated his 80th birthday, insisting that “I’m eighty years young, not eighty years old!”

At this point in his life, tributes kept pouring in honoring the achievements of this “grand old man of Ellsworth.” Reporting on an entertainment held on the lawn in front of Senator Hale’s home, a reporter wrote the following: “[T]he presence of Mr. Hopkins was signaled by heartiest demonstrations of good will, and among the groups on the lawn, his erect and towering form, surmounted by the familiar white-felt hat, was constantly surrounded by the friends he has made during his long and honorable participation in public affairs.”

In February of 1898, John was part of the committee on reception at the ball given by the citizens

of Ellsworth at Hancock Hall to Governor Powers and his staff. That same month was his 81st birthday, and it was celebrated with a surprise party given at the home of Mrs. Sarah Partridge. The Hopkins spent the summer at their Lamoine Point cottage where their entertained family and guests throughout the summer. At the annual meeting of the Unitarian Society in 1898, and again in 1899, John was reelected President of the Society, again alongside Ann Greely as Vice-President. Even after he celebrated his 83rd birthday in 1900, he was still presiding over a caucus of Republican voters that following April. September of that year saw him in attendance at the annual picnic of the Hopkins families, and he even attended Ellsworth’s Carnival and Fair, saying that it was “the most orderly big time he ever saw, and a credit to the city and to the management.” In October, he was once again reelected President of the Unitarian Society, and the following February 17, he was once again able to celebrate his 84th birthday. As he was wont to say: “No, not eighty-four years old, but eighty-four years young.”

John D. Hopkins died at home three days later at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 20, 1901. He was buried at Woodbine Cemetery in Ellsworth under a simple stone that reads:



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 Paul Kelly (starting 9/1/23) 207-412-9887 ourdreamalso@gmail.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: Megan O'Dell Chittenden	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: vacant	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: Marta Rieman
Green Sanctuary: Paul Kelley	Yard Sale: Beth Pepper
History/Archives: Wayne Smith	Youth Advisor: vacant

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

207-667-4393 www.uuellsworth.org

SEPTEMBER 2023

Vol. 55, No. 9

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