



The NUUS

OCTOBER 2023 VOLUME 55, NO. 10

MINISTRY MATTERS

BY SARA HAYMAN

Dear UUCE Community Members & Friends,

Welcome to our October NUUS! We're so glad you're here.

Mary Murray, this year's Eggroll Volunteer Coordinator, said it best in what she wrote: "We did it again!" (See her thank you note in this NUUS) I am so grateful for our Eggroll Foodbooth planners & leaders – Sarah Nicholson, CJ Lammers, Mary Murray and Beth Pepper—and for ALL of you who volunteered and cheered us on! Be sure to come to worship on Sunday, October 1st to hear just how miraculously well we did! You amaze me.

UUCE hosts the first of three Multiplatform Collaborative worship services this year on Sunday, October 15th! We hope you'll choose to come to church—in person or on ZOOM—and enjoy seeing and being with our beloved UU colleagues from Belfast and Castine. (All are welcome to come at 9am and practice with the choir and sing in worship that day, too!)

Here's a favorite poem that gives voice to a bit of wisdom reflected in the natural world this time of year.

May you, too, be finding ways to lean into the poignant beauty of autumn's arrival here in Maine.

I'm grateful to be in ministry with you and as always, I hope you are well.

Much love,
Rev. Sara

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



**"The Promises,"
by Jane Hirshfield**

**Stay, I said
to the cut flowers.
They bowed
their heads lower.**

**Stay, I said to the spider,
who fled.**

**Stay, leaf.
It reddened,
embarrassed for me and itself.**

**Stay, I said to my body.
It sat as a dog does,
obedient for a moment,
soon starting to tremble.**

**Stay, to the earth
of riverine valley meadows..
of limestone and sandstone.
It looked back
with a changing expression,
in silence.**

**Stay, I said to my loves.
Each answered,
Always.**



SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

10:30 A.M.

Sunday, Oct. 1

Roots, Hold Me Close...

Rev. Sara Hayman, Worship Leader
Jill Jeude, Worship Associate

One of the gifts of heritage (this month's worship theme) is knowing and claiming anew and again our spiritual roots that can help strengthen our experience of kinship and connection with all of life. What wisdom teachings and sacred instructions give voice, shape and depth to your evolving understanding of spirituality? How are they helping you to grow and live a more generous and courageous love into your life and this world?

- Plate Split Sunday today to benefit Mabel Wadsworth Center
- RE this Sunday!
- Multigenerational Choir Practice at 9am w/ Meg O'Dell!

10/1 Worship Service Zoom Meeting: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/92057476024?pwd=aUlXRnVcU0NqNzZjLTBmcW9kbmk5dz09>
Meeting ID: 920 5747 6024
Password: 534722
Phone: 646-558-8656

Sunday, Oct. 8

Yet to be determined – Updated info will be published in the 10/4 Weds, e-news, UUCE's closed Facebook group, and our church website as soon as it's available. *Thank you for your understanding!*

- Jude Lamb interviews Jim Fisher today at 9am on ZOOM as the first Stories from the Heart of this church year!

10/8 Worship Service Zoom Meeting: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/99554489074?pwd=OGJYmmlkT3V6OXRIYnNkVWRyQWRsQT09>
Meeting ID: 995 5448 9074
Password: 711389
Phone: 646-558-8656

Sunday, Oct. 15

Collaborative Worship Service: To live in this world...

Rev. Sara Hayman, Worship Leader
Rev. Amy Fiorilli, UU Belfast, Worship Associate

To practice and embody LOVE at the center of our UU faith is to choose to live with a broken-open heart and to hold what's hard and what's glorious and say yes to the holy and the hallowed of all of life, again and again. In the gathered community of our three sister churches of Belfast, Ellsworth & Castine, Rev. Sara will invite us to reflect on the life-strengthening legacy of living this way.

Guests from our UU churches of Belfast & Castine are welcome to come practice and sing with our UUCE choir at 9am in the sanctuary and during worship.

- [UUCE Choir Practices at 9am & Sings in Worship today!](#)
- [RE Classes today!](#)

10/15 Worship Service Zoom Meeting: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/98986479264?pwd=ampRREIQRUUhEdjRBbXdOdFV3VINIUT09>
Meeting ID: 989 8647 9264
Password: 586632
Phone: 646-558-8656

Sunday, Oct. 22

To Secure the Blessings of Liberty

Rev. Mark Worth, Worship Leader
Kay Wilkins & Cecily Judd, Worship Associates

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

- [R.E. today!](#)
- [UUCE Fall Congregational Mtg at 2pm on ZOOM](#)

10/22 Worship Service Zoom Meeting: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/95589416734?pwd=MDJqNVhGdHZLzBpRjFvdlllb0R0xQT09>
Meeting ID: 955 8941 6734
Password: 459787
Phone: 646-558-8656

Sunday, Oct. 29


Samhain, Honoring our Ancestors and The turning of the Wheel

Charles Betancourt, Worship Leader
Rev. Sara Hayman, Worship Assistant

As the wheel turns on its axis we are brought further into the Autumn and the time of our Ancestors. Come Celebrate the Pagan Holiday of Samhain with us as we close out the theme of Heritage with honoring those who have passed before us. We will have an Ancestors Altar in the foyer so bring a token of someone who has passed so we can display it and honor them as a beloved and connected congregation.

- [No RE Classes today!](#)
- [Multigenerational Choir Practice at 9am w/ Meg O'Dell!](#)

10/29 Worship Service Zoom Meeting: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/92183826016?pwd=N0lvMnorNjErZzdxbHhMng3VDhvZz09>
Meeting ID: 921 8382 6016
Password: 358983
Phone: 646-558-8656



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
with Rev. Amy every 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



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Greetings UUCE Congregates and Families,

This is the blessed month of October. September has come and gone, and we are diving into the Fall. We have held In Gathering and Water Communion. Celebrated the turning of the Wheel to the Holiday of Mabon and participated in the Common Gound Fair and the Eggroll Booth. Our church family has been quite busy. Activities and Events help us to connect with each other and grow as a congregation. Which UUCE events have you been to this past month? Do you plan on going any this month?

October, as per this month's Soul Matters material, is the month of Heritage. Our Heritage as UU's is very short lived in the grand scheme of things. As most of you know the Unitarian Universalist Faith System was the combination of Unitarians and Universalists. This joining came to fruition in 1961. When you realize that only makes Unitarian Universalism 62 years old, we have older congregants than the system we are all working apart of, we need to come together and decide the directions we want this system to grow further. We know that the 8th principle and the restructuring of the UUA is prompting us to move further forward but how do we want this to affect our situation as a church together?

How does the word Heritage move you? What mind set does this theme invoke in you? I challenge you to take charge of this theme within yourself. Heritage, Ancestors, those who have come before you and those who are going to walk your path after you are what October is spiritually about and what Soul Matters has deemed our theme. Thank you for being part of my UUCE Heritage, and I hope that we can grow that Heritage into something wonderful

Brightest Blessings to you all,
Charles A Betancourt, Religious Exploration Coordinator.





Meditation

and teachings

Dharmata Foundation
presents an event with
Anam Thubten

An evening with Anam Thubten

Ellsworth, Maine
October 7, 2023

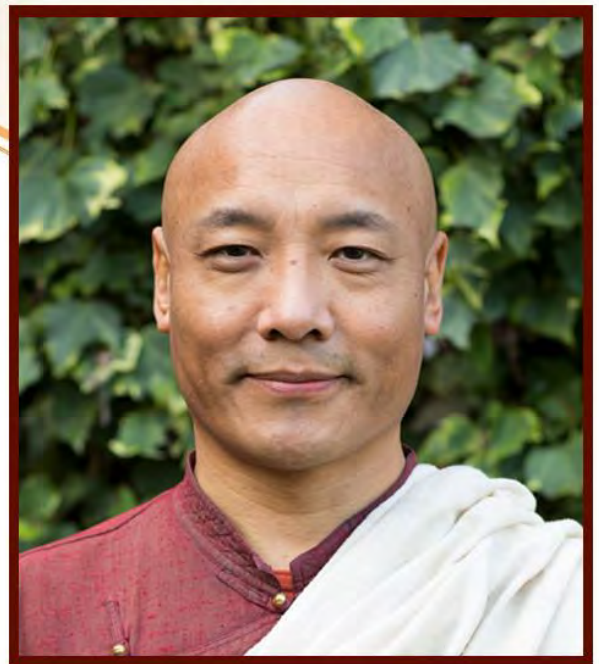
There are three important aspects of meditation: mindful attention, open awareness and lovingkindness. By practicing these, we can let go of negative mental patterns and expand our heart and mind, bringing about joy, peace and inner freedom. Anam Thubten will teach and guide participants in developing these three aspects of meditation and share Buddhist wisdom on working with our thoughts and emotions.

Location: Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth
121 Bucksport Rd., Ellsworth, ME 04605

Schedule: 7:00 pm, Saturday, Oct. 7

Suggested Donation: \$10–\$15 (no one turned away for lack of funds)

To register, contact: info@thewholehealthcenter.org



Anam Thubten grew up in Tibet and at an early age began to practice in the Nyingma lineage of Tibetan Buddhism. He currently resides in the San Francisco Bay Area. He is the founder and spiritual advisor of Dharmata Foundation, teaching widely in the US, Europe and Asia. He is the author of several books, including Embracing Each Moment, No Self, No Problem, and The Magic of Awareness. Through sharing his wisdom and personal experience on the spiritual path, Anam Thubten brings alive the timeless teachings of Buddhism.

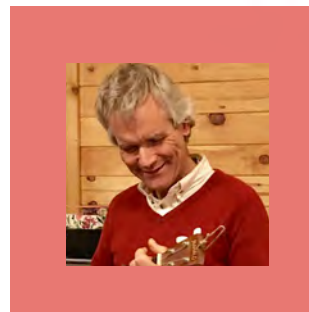


www.dharmata.org

Stories FROM THE Heart



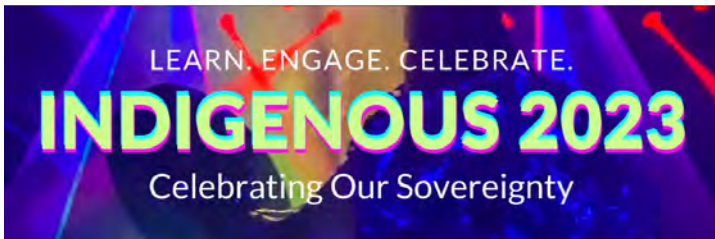
**Jude Lamb interviews
Jim Fisher,
October 8, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.
on ZOOM.**





8TH PRINCIPLE NEWS

Indigenous Day Celebrations – Monday, October 9, free admission at the Abbe Museum from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Explore some of the most important collections of Wabanaki cultural material and art in the world at this Native-led Smithsonian Affiliated museum in the heart of Bar Harbor, Maine at Pesumkuk in Wabanaki Territory. The Abbe Museum has developed a Wabanaki Allies Guide, focused on Sovereignty, to help attendees go deeper in the understanding and activation in support of the Wabanaki Nations. To explore this excellent source of information and pathways for action, visit <https://www.abbemuseum.org/2023-allies-guide>.



Organizations on Mount Desert Island and surrounding communities are coming together to celebrate and honor the sovereignty, resilience, and invaluable contributions of Indigenous people, and to facilitate learning, engagement, and allyship. This regional event has evolved into a multi-day experience offering opportunities for learning, engaging, and celebrating. This year, INDIGENOUS 2023 celebrates the sovereignty of Wabanaki people, highlighting both the challenges and triumphs of recognition and respect with a number of inclusive experiences planned for early October. This collaborative effort is coordinated by Firefly The Hybrid, The Abbe Museum, College

of the Atlantic, Healthy Acadia, The Jackson Laboratory, Friends of Acadia, and The Criterion Theatre. For more information, please visit: <https://mailchi.mp/healthyacadia.org/indigenous-2023?e=387dbe1259>.

The River is Our Relative, a new documentary film is now available for free viewing by Maine Public this fall and winter. This hour-long film explores the historical, physical and spiritual connections between the Penobscot Nation and the Penobscot River. It is available here: <https://www.maine-public.org/shows/maine-public-film-series/special/the-river-is-our-relative-x2k63c>

October Recognition Month. October is Domestic Violence Awareness and Bullying Prevention Month, LGBTQ+ History and Hispanic Heritage Month. What cause calls to you to be involved?

Assessment. The 8th Principle working group has adopted a rubric, an assessment to share with church committees and working groups to learn more about where we are on our journey to dismantle racism and what kinds of activities we should be planning. Please watch for further information at the October congregational meeting.

Please reach out to Jana Robinson, janasmith.robinson@outlook.com, or call 207-347-9008 and leave message Or reach out to anyone on the task force: Barb Acosta, Haydée Foreman, Cecily Judd, Marta Rieman.



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 CHOIR IS HAPPENING: WE ARE SINGING AGAIN!

**UUCE Choir Rehearsals are 9-10:15am
on Sunday mornings in the sanctuary**

All are welcome to come and join in the fun!

Singing together in September as part of our annual Ingathering & Water Communion Service was beautiful. What a blessing it is to have Meg O'Dell as our part-time UUCE Choir Director!

Please know all are welcome to join this **Multigenerational Choir**.

Young people are especially welcome to come sing with their parents or church friends.

The Choir Schedule for the remaining first half of this year is printed below.

We thank you for making a commitment to be at all rehearsals as best you can.

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

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, or reach out to Meg directly at meg.odell.kelly@gmail.com.



UUCE Zoomers launched two months ago, and we offer many events, gatherings and posts to interest you. We hope you've joined the site, but if you haven't you still have plenty of time to enjoy connecting with your UUCE friends and to sign up for some classes and discussion groups of interest.

If you would like to sign up you can a) go to uuce-zoomers.mn.co and request to join or b) contact Mary Haynes (mhaynes@roadrunner.com) and request a link to join. You'll need to enter your email and create a password, and you're in! You may also download the app to your phone or tablet when you join.

All of our events take place on Zoom. You can access the Zoom links for your events by signing on to the site and clicking on Events (left-hand side of your screen) or by going to the menu in the middle of the left side of your screen and clicking on the Group that is hosting the event you're attending.

TO ACCESS EVENTS ON THE APP:

1. Tap on the UUCE Zoomers logo, which is on the bottom left of your screen.
2. Tap on Events, which will be on the top part of the screen.
3. You will see a list of all upcoming events. Within the box for the one in which you're interested tap on Zoom meeting, which is next to the blue Zoom icon.
4. You will be taken to another screen. Tap on Zoom meeting, which is at the bottom of this screen and you will be taken to your event.
5. You can also RSVP to events on this screen. Just tap on the one that applies (i.e., Going, Maybe or Not Going).
6. You can add the Event to your calendar from this screen, and you can access the Zoom link.

Here's what's coming up in **October**: Full descriptions of all events is available on the UUCE Zoomers site (uuce-zoomers.mn.co).

- **Art from the Heart...for the Soul (Wednesday, October 4, October 18, October 25, November 1, 4:00 – 6:00 PM), hosted by Amy Thompson.** This 5-session series began on September 27 and concludes on November 1. You must have participated in the first event in order to participate in subsequent sessions.
- **Energy Switch (Tuesday, October 10, 3:00 – 4:00 PM), hosted by Mary Haynes.** This is a point-counterpoint series on climate change and energy. This month's topic is The Future of Natural Gas.
- **Coffee with ... (Our guest, the date and time of this event is TBA).** The Coffee With... series is a monthly event in which we get to know our UUCE staff and lay leaders. We'll start with an interview with our guest by the host Mary Haynes and will then open up the discussion for comments and Q&A time.

- **Let's Talk About God (Thursday, October 12, 3:00 – 4:00 PM), hosted by Mary Haynes.** This is the second of a 3-part discussion, with one meeting per month. In this session we'll focus on the following topics: Is God all good? Is God all-powerful? How do we reconcile the existence of evil in a world with a good God? How is it that bad things can happen to good people if God is love? How do we make sense of praying to God when God doesn't answer our prayers to avert both man-made and natural disasters? How do we utilize the concept of a good God to make a positive difference in the world? **You are welcome to join us for this discussion even if you didn't attend the first session. If you'd like to take the God survey that was discussed in the first session, contact Mary Haynes (mhaynes@roadrunner.com) and the survey will be sent to you. The survey is an exploration of your own views about God, there are no right or wrong answers, and it is submitted anonymously.**
- **Write Your Own Obituary (Thursday, October 12, 6:30 - 8:00 PM and Thursday, October 26, 6:30 – 8:00 PM), hosted by Jude Lamb.** This two-part (and possibly three-part depending on what the group wishes) class on crafting an obituary will teach you how to tell the story of your life in a way that will ensure that you and your life are remembered well and accurately.
- **Monthly Movie Night (Sunday, October 15, 6:00 – 8:30 PM).** The movie for October is **Descendants**, which is the story of the descendants of the last slave ship to arrive in the US (which took place after such ships were no longer legally allowed). This is the same movie that we tried unsuccessfully to air in August. We've figured how to share a movie now .
- **Stitch and Chat (Monday, October 16, 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, October 23, 7:00 – 8:00 PM).** The Block Party is a monthly gathering of all the people who have joined the site. It's a purely social event, and allows members to interact in a large group for a period of time and then break out into very small groups so that participants get a chance to know one another better.
- **UUCE Mighty Book Club (Wednesday, October 25, 1:00 – 2:30 PM), hosted by Robin Lovrien.** The book for this meeting is TBA. This group meets on the fourth Wednesday each month. Information about the book choice for October will appear in the UUCE weekly e-news, will be emailed to all UUCE Zoomers members, and will be posted on the UUCE Facebook page.
- **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 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.

HAPPY OCTOBER, UUCERS!

FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT BETH PEPPER

Thank you to so, so many who made our Egg Rolls fundraiser at this year's Common Ground Fair such a HUGE success, but especially to our leaders, Sarah Nicholson, CJ Lammers and Mary "Egg Roll" Murray! It's a real team effort, so whether your participation was before, during or after the Fair; at the Fair or at home; for 4 hours or 8 days ... every single person's help made this year's fair successful. As we say at the Fair, "UU IN DA HOUSE!"

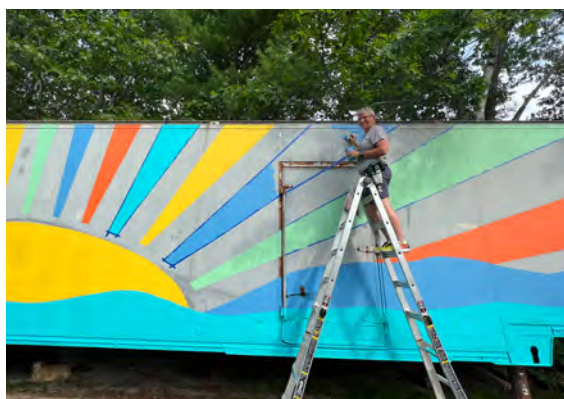


I'm proud that our Board voted unanimously at our last board meeting to have UUCE join the Wabanaki Alliance Coalition, in time for Indigenous Peoples' Day, October 9. The Coalition is looking for other organizations and businesses to join, so if you know of any that might be interested, see wabanakialliance.com.

We have heat! We have hot water! Thank you anonymous donor who paid to have the new system installed and thank you to Susan Opdycke who has been shepherding this project from the start. Yay!

We also have renters for the Annex! Hancock County Planning Commission started their lease of the Annex on October 1. You may see cars parked back by the Annex and they'll be putting up some signs to indicate their new location (similar to the signage Loaves & Fishes had). If you see them out and about, please welcome them to our campus! And BIG thank you to Kathy Hall, Rev. Sara, Lori Johnson, Greg Whitehead, Mike Boudreau, Susan Opdycke, Peggy Strong, Janet & Dave Szarmach, and David Dietrich who painted, re-floored, cleaned, hung doors, hauled trash, and a million other things, all to get us ready. And one more big THANK YOU goes to our trailer mural crew: Lise Williams, Peggy Strong, Bron Day, and Anne Ossana. What a great burst of fun color when you come into our parking lot!

Please mark your calendars for our Annual Fall Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 22 at 2pm on Zoom (only). You'll hear updates from our Sabbatical Committee and others on what's coming up for UUCE.



UUCE'S 6TH EGGROLL FOODBOOTH FUNDRAISER AT THE MOFGA'S COMMON GROUND FAIR WAS A GRAND SUCCESS!

A thank you from Rev. Sara:

It's impossible to know where to begin with ALL the THANK YOU's that need to be said so I'll just start here:

THANK YOU to our dedicated & generous Eggroll Planning & Leadership Team: CJ Lammers, Sarah Nicholson & Mary Murray, with incredible support & leadership from Pepper all week at the Fair, too!

THANK YOU to every single person who volunteered in some fashion or other: your help with setting up and/or breaking down and working in the booth; your help with making & delivering food for volunteers; your help behind the scenes with attending to a MILLION different necessary tasks & details, from ordering & delivering veggies, to dropping off ingredients and picking up the eggroll wrappers in Boston, to making sure the propane arrived on Wednesday, to finding us a new fryolator when the small one needed to be replaced this weekend! This fundraising and community building endeavor is a labor of love, and it COULD NOT happen without the support of so many people!

We will share a final accounting of the income we made in worship on Sunday, October 1st, AND, at this moment, I can tell you we met and exceeded our goal of raising \$16,000! You make miracles happen and you amaze me at every turn. Thank you for all the love, dedication, hard work, showing up and cheerleading you do to support, strengthen and sustain this congregation!

Love,
Rev. Sara



A thank you from Mary Murray, UUCE's Eggroll Volunteer Coordinator:

WE DID IT!! We pulled off another successful year at the Common Ground Fair selling our world famous Egg Rolls - no joke many people told me they look forward to having our Egg Rolls every year.

The \$ raised are still being tallied against expenses but I am certain we did well. Steady business each day. But the money is only one part of our success.

You contributed to the real success which was being part of and supporting this major project of ours. It takes a lot of people playing many roles to pull it off. From ordering supplies, setting up the operation before the fair, The Kale Party and other prep work on site, then 3 days of preparing and selling Egg Rolls about 25 volunteers per day, Food for those Volunteers!, cleanup and laundry every night, Break it all down and bring it back to the church.

WOW I am so impressed with how well we worked together to get it done.

We could not have done this without you!

Thank you so very much,
Mary Murray for the 2023 Egg Roll Booth Team



COMMON GROUND
COUNTRY FAIR



CELEBRATE RURAL LIVING WITH MOFGA

SEPTEMBER 22, 23 & 24, 2023
UNITY, MAINE

GATES OPEN AT 9:00 AM

Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association

P.O. Box 170, Unity, Maine 04988 • 207-568-4142 • mofga.org

Illustration by Rebekah Lowell - Printed by Lincoln County Publishing Company

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.

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.

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. Sara and the Worship Arts Committee are putting together a great selection of worship leaders for those Sundays.

The Sabbatical Committee met with the Program Council for the purpose of creating a system of support and communication for the Council chairs during the sabbatical.

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 of Trustees, and Member at Large - Bronwen Day. Please feel free to contact any one of us with questions, concerns or ideas.



sabbatical
rest | refresh | refocus

In the UUCE Gardens





DAVID JOHNSTON CONNER (1932-1978)

Dr. Wayne H. Smith
UUCE Historian



David Johnston Conner's portrait from Stuyvesant High School

David Johnston Conner was born on July 23, 1932 in Melrose, Massachusetts, the son of Raymond William Conner and Lucille Augusta Lamson. The family later moved to Cutchogue on Long Island, New York. David graduated from Stuyvesant High School in New York City in 1950. Soon after graduating from high school, David married Nancy Joy Knoud and to them were born three children: Timothy in 1953, Stephen in 1954, and Elizabeth in 1956.

In September of 1957, he was sponsored by a Baptist church in New York to come to the Bangor Theological Seminary (BTS) where, in addition to his studies, he participated in the Seminary Choir, singing bass. While studying there, he also served as the assistant minister at the First Baptist Church in Waterville, but

occasionally preached at the United Baptist Church in Waterville.

Not long after Rev. Walter F. Smith finished his pastorate at the First Unitarian Society of Ellsworth (FUSE) in the spring of 1960, the Board of Trustees began looking for a new minister for the church, and at a meeting held on June 4, Herbert Lord read a letter from Board Chair Gordon Ramsdell that suggested that Mr. David Conner, a BTS student, be hired as minister at a salary of \$45 per week, plus the use of the parsonage with heat furnished beginning immediately, even though church services wouldn't resume until the first Sunday in September. Lewis Smith moved to accept the recommendation of the BOT. This was seconded by Herbert Lord, and the Board voted to hire him. A group consisting of Messrs. Royal, Lord, Mason, and Beal, along with the assistance of some of the women in the parish, formed a team to renovate the parsonage, located at 40 Elm Street.

Among the interesting sermon titles that Conner used during his pastorate at FUSE



The Unitarian parsonage at 40 Elm Street

were “Tea and Sympathy,” which looked at the possibilities of a Unitarian service of communion, “The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Hancock County,” “Natural Law,” “Was Calvin Right When He Burned Servetus at the Stake?: Bring wood, matches, etc. pending our decision in the matter,” and “The Church’s Girdle.”

By November of 1960, both David and his wife Nancy were singing in the Acadia Choral Society, then under the direction of Mrs. Tsuin Hwa Hsu [Malen Hsu’s mother]. At Christmas, the Women’s Alliance presented the new minister with a gift of \$15, and soon after, on Jan. 4, 1961, Mr. Conner spoke to the members of the Alliance at the home of Mrs. Neal Raymond. By the following April, Mr. Conner had become involved with the Ellsworth school system, where his oldest children were in elementary school, and he was elected President of the Ellsworth PTA. The next month, FUSE held its annual meeting during which Mr. Conner reviewed the previous church year and expressed hopes for a more ambitious program for the ensuing year.

September of 1961 marked the beginning of Mr. Conner’s second year as minister of FUSE. In addition to delivering Sunday morning sermons, he was also occasionally invited to deliver sermons at other locations, such as the Maplecrest Nursing Home. At the end of September, Roy J. Hatt, of the Department of Education of the recently created Unitarian Universalist Association, came to visit the FUSE church school and prepare a field report. He specifically wanted to meet with the superintendent, Mrs. Ann Black, teachers from the church school, and the minister. They discussed the curriculum, the placement of classes, and children’s worship and also talked over ways to improve the church school and strengthen the adult program. There were at the time 16 children enrolled in the church school, although the capacity was for 30 to 35. Mr. Hatt also made a presentation to about 12-15 members of the congregation concerning the objectives of

liberal religious education. Among the audience members were “Mr. Norge” (meaning Mr. Robert Noé), the former minister at the church, his wife (our beloved Dot Noé), and Professor and Mrs. Gordon Ramsdell. In his field report, Mr. Hatt described Mr. Conner as “intelligent and dedicated,” and noted that he was now a full-time student at the University of Maine. He also wrote: “He hopes to complete his theological education at a school other than the Bangor Seminary.”

On January 2, 1962, Mr. Conner assumed the added duty as chaplain for the Hancock County Civil Air Patrol Squadron, a position he was not altogether unfamiliar with as he had previously served as a cadet in New York State. His focus was primarily in the area of character and citizenship guidance programs with the local Cadet Squadron, yet he also assisted with special activities of the Senior Squadron.

At the Annual Meeting held on May 2, 1962, Mr. Conner’s report “was read and placed on file.” In the report, Mr. Conner notes that he had officiated at four funerals and two weddings, had delivered 39 sermons, and had paid 113 pastoral visits to church members. He also points out other activities that he engaged in, and gives thanks to various church members who had done their part to keep the church running smoothly. He states, “I am convinced that among the many churches of Ellsworth, we, potentially at least, have the most to offer. It is our task to develop and nurture that potential so that it may one day blossom and unfold.”

As 1962 progressed, the church began to take a hard look at issues which had plagued it for several years, including its limited funds, a building that was falling apart, an aging population, and the ever decreasing number of children in the church school. The minutes of the Annual Meeting go on to say: “The business of what to do about a minister was presented, with the following choices: 1. Keep David Conner; 2. Have student supplies; 3. Become a fellowship;

or 4. Close. As there was a tie vote on the final ballot and some members had left the meeting, the meeting was postponed until a new meeting could be called by the Board of Trustees. The vote was 16-16 with 7 abstentions.”

During this same meeting, the Treasurer, Herbert Lord, indicated that during the previous fiscal year, out of a total budget of \$4707.08, expenses had included \$2500 for the minister’s salary and \$639.99 for parsonage utilities and paint. The Finance Committee then presented its proposed budget for the fiscal year 1962-1963. Included in the budget was the following statement: “The major changes in this budget over the previous year’s are: the inclusion of the parsonage utilities in the minister’s salary, and a modest raise for the minister.” The original allocation for the minister was to be \$4000.00

At the follow-up meeting, held on May 17, 1962, the minutes noted: “On a proposal by Fred Mason, seconded by Herbert Lord, it was voted to keep David Conner for another year. The vote was 20 yes - 15 no and 1 undecided. The proposed budget was changed to read Salary \$3000.00 and it was agreed to pay utilities, which item was estimated at \$550.00.”

Mr. Conner, in addition to his duties at the church, also made himself available to other groups in the community. He continued his work with the Ellsworth PTA, he gave speeches to groups such as the National Honor Society, delivered invocations to meetings of the Ellsworth Cub Scouts’ “Blue and Gold Banquet,” participated in a panel discussion on the Cuban missile crisis, attended functions of the Women’s Alliance, and wrote a letter to the editor of the Ellsworth American urging voters to show up at the polls to vote “Yes” on a referendum question that would give the people a stronger voice in the area of education.

At the Annual Meeting on May 1, 1963, the minutes read: “The minister’s report was read, accepted, and filed.” Mr. Conner’s report on that

date included the following paragraph. “My personal project for the year has been an attempt to be less abstract and more expressive in writing and preaching our sermons. It has been uphill going all the way but unless you are all kindly fibbing to me, there has been some progress.” Mr. Conner left immediately after reading his report. Irving Copp made a motion not to hire our present minister for the next year. Herbert Lord seconded the motion. After considerable explanation and discussion, a vote was taken by secret ballot. The vote was 31 not to hire and 3 to hire. On motion by Evelyn Lord, it was voted to have President Smith appoint a committee to take care of supplies [i.e. supply ministers] for May 5 and 12 and June - 5 Sundays. It was moved and seconded that the Conner family be allowed to stay in the parsonage until school closes (June 14) at the discretion of the Board of Trustees.

This last sentence has raised questions about what actually happened in June of 1963. When Elizabeth Conner, David’s daughter, spoke with her mother years later, her mother indicated that the Board of Trustees had “thrown them out onto the streets,” which left a bad taste in both her and her daughter’s mouths. What actually happened will probably never be known, but let it simply be said that the Board must have done something that caused the Conner family to have a very negative opinion of Unitarian Universalism ever since.

After leaving Ellsworth, the family moved to the Lewiston-Auburn area. David and Nancy divorced sometime around 1968 and they both remarried, David marrying a woman named Helen Castle. David worked for a time with the Woman’s Job Corps in Poland Spring. He later moved to Mechanic Falls and around 1973 came to Windham where he was the owner and operator of an antique business named Country Mother Antique Shop.

David passed away on May 25, 1978 in a Portland hospital after a long illness.

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
121 Bucksport Road
Ellsworth, ME 04605



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