



# The NUUS

AUGUST 2023 VOLUME 55, NO. 8

## MINISTRY MATTERS

BY SARA HAYMAN

Dear Beloveds,  
Welcome to your August NUUS!

I'm just back from a glorious vacation that included lots of being outside: walking, swimming, sitting on rocks, jumping in the ocean and generally savoring the beauty of this place I live. Life is good! I hope you, too, are well and honoring your own heart and body's needs for rest and soul-nourishing fun.

Below, I've copied a new-to-me poem I love. It's called "The Dog Body of My Soul," by Katherine Williams.

Rev. Amy Fiorilli shared it with me when we were sitting at the beach last week, enjoying a glorious day. Life is good.

I hope we see each other soon!

With much love,  
Rev. Sara

PS I hope to see you at Lamoine Beach (the beach at the end of the road!) for our annual UUCE Picnic on Sunday, August 6th from 1-4pm! Bring a dish to share, your swimsuit and lawn chairs and join in the fun. All ages and abilities are welcome!

## August UUCE happenings:

- August 6 - Annual Church Picnic
- August 9 - Roots Hold Me Close begins
- August 13 - Sayon Camara Drumming Workshop
- August 14 - Tea and Cards
- August 17 - Mid-week Garden Potluck

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 Dog Body of My Soul** by Katherine Williams

Some days I feel like a retriever racing back and forth fetching the tired old balls the universe tosses me.

Some days I'm waiting in a darkened house bladder insistent not knowing when my people will return.

Some days I'm on a leash following someone else's route, sensing I'm supposed to be grateful.

But some days I hurl myself into the sweet stinging surf, race wildly back and roll in the sand's warm welcome.





# AUGUST WORSHIP SERVICES

## 10:30 A.M.

### Sunday, August 6

#### Go Swimming. Now.

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

Spiritual growth requires our commitment to having and keeping spiritual practices. Just back from vacation, Rev. Sara reflects on some of the challenges (and delights!) of making and keeping spiritual practices that can help us grow and become more of who we truly mean to be more of the time. Knowing today is the day at hand, let us rejoice and be glad in it!

- Plate Split Sunday today to benefit the *Hancock County Neighborhood Support Team!*
- UUCE Annual Picnic at Lamoine Beach from 1-4pm

8/6 Worship Service Zoom Meeting: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/97727711172?pwd=ZWlWURoUXY2dEIMNWxuTINwUFltdz09>  
Meeting ID: 977 2771 1172  
Password: 847456  
Phone: 646-558-8656

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### Sunday, August 13

#### Rooted Like a Tree

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

This Sunday we welcome Sayon Camara, a world-renowned Guinean drummer, and his partner, Lev, into our worship service. Come to worship and remember - literally feel again in your body - the vitality of our connections to earth, to each other and our own heart beats. Today, we'll know the gift of sharing culture that helps us experience a sense of rootedness and meet our longing to be and feel more alive. (FYI, in addition to being part of worship today, Sayon and Lev are also leading two drumming workshops this same day at UUCE. See the NUUS article about this for more info re: how to register.)

**Sayon Camara** is a cultural ambassador for his people, the Malinke (or Mandinga) of the Sankaran region of Guinea. He is a keeper of generations of village music that he loves to share, to create joy and carry his culture forward in the world. Sayon creates villages wherever he goes. <https://sayoncamaradrumping.com>

8/13 Worship Service Zoom Meeting: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/93655821451?pwd=Q2J0MWxKc3B5a09JYWtBaHMzQ2NzZz09>  
Meeting ID: 936 5582 1451  
Password: 660952  
Phone: 646-558-8656



## Sunday, August 20

### **A love like that lights the whole sky**

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

Today in worship we'll welcome new members into our congregation and consider how we're each called to help participate in making our UUCE a welcoming spiritual home for all who share our values and choose to be here. Where do we struggle to welcome each other into community? What gets in the way? How might we stretch and change to get better at becoming a spiritual home for all of us?

- No RE Classes today
- New Member Welcome Ceremony

8/20 Worship Service  
Zoom Meeting: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/93424089925?pwd=TFcIVy95MUdqWHFoSzd4bHBpNHFxUT09>  
Meeting ID: 934 2408 9925  
Password: 723431  
Phone: 646-558-8656

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## ZOOM-Only Worship at 10:30am

## Sunday, August 27

### **A Lay-Led Service Created by Members of UUCE's 8th Principle Task Force Members & Other UUCE Friends**

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

More information will be forth-coming in upcoming weekly e-news emails and updated on the church website.

8/27 Worship Service Zoom  
Meeting: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/96051048544?pwd=SjjRTlpWbGdhVmpKYmhuaIZDSTY1Zz09>  
Meeting ID: 960 5104 8544  
Password: 173125  
Phone: 646-558-8656





## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Greetings UUCE Congregates and Families,

August has come upon us my friends and it is going to be one whirlwind of a month. My time with you has been wonderful but I feel as though there is something missing. What can we do as a community to rebuild the sense of unity we had before the pandemic altered all our lives? I understand that this is a difficult question to be asking and I am not looking for an immediate answer. I want us to build this community back into its glory.

Humans on a base level are just pack animals. We are socially motivated entities. I want us to be able to fulfill our social needs while enhancing our spiritual growth and wellbeing. How can we accomplish this as a congregation? We need to think ahead to the future and to propel our youth forward. Taking care of the “pups” should be one of our main objectives.

This month I am asking for you to reach out to me with your suggestions to fulfill this need. I have a plan for the upcoming “RE Semester” and am looking for other ways to enhance our program and give back to the youth. I want to quote a movie here “If we build it, they will come”. I want that to be true, but I need the congregations buy in for this all to work. I want to be the resource you hired me to be for all the congregation.

I want to be of use to you and I want to congregation to thrive. We can grow this church together.

Brightest Blessings to you all,

Charles A Betancourt,  
Religious Exploration Coordinator





# ANNUAL CHURCH **PICNIC**

AUGUST 6, 1-4 PM

Bring your lawn chairs, sunscreen, bathing suit and a dish to share to Lamoine Beach on August 6<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-4:00. Bring dishes and beverages to share along with your own place settings. And we hope you'll plan to jump in the water!





## 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 9, 23, 30 and 4th class date yet to be determined by those who register.  
from 6:30-8pm at UUCE**

**Room for 2 more people to sign-up and participate!**

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.

# BE SURE TO REGISTER 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](http://SayonCamaraDrumming.com)

## SPECIAL SUNDAY WORKSHOP DRUM!



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](mailto: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](http://SayonCamaraDrumming.com)



The launch of UUCE Zoomers takes place August 1! We hope that you've been hearing about this new online project designed to keep us all connected regardless of how we attend church. You will be receiving an invitation to join on Tuesday, August 1, and we really hope that you will respond to that email.

If you've heard about the project, you know that it will be offered free of charge to all UUCE members and those friends who pledge. All of our programming will be offered on the UUCE Zoomers site through our platform host Mighty Networks. The programming will be a variety of options including classes, group discussions on topics of interest, online events that are just for fun and postings that invite you to comment. You can join us for as many events, discussions, etc., as you like. All of the events, discussions and classes will take place on Zoom. This is not a social media site, but there are options available for posting a topic for chat to everyone on the site, or to have private chats with one or more members. There will be something new almost every day, so be sure to check back frequently.

## HERE ARE JUST SOME OF THE EXCITING AND FUN THINGS WE HAVE LINED UP:

- **Monthly movie night** - We'll watch a movie together and have discussion time following. Our first selection will be the documentary "Descendants" on Sunday, August 20. **Please note that you must RSVP for this event as there is a cap on attendance.**
- **Art from the Heart...for the Soul** – A 5-week expressive arts group led by Amy Thompson. **Please note that you must RSVP for this program as class size will be limited.**
- **Write Your Own Obituary** – a series on a unique and very interesting topic led by Jude Lamb. What will the world get to know about us when we die?  
**Points to Ponder** – This is a monthly discussion group meeting that will focus on the major ethical and cultural issues of our time. Join us for every meeting, or just for those topics of particular interest to you.
- **Energy Switch** – This is a series focusing on the material from the PBS series by the same name, which presents a balanced view of the various sources of energy available and their pros and cons to both the environment and the economy. We'll watch an episode of the PBS series together and have discussion time to follow.
- **Coffee with....** – This monthly event features conversation and Q&A time with our church staff and lay leaders. **Our kickoff event is September 7th at 10:00 AM with Rev. Sara.**
- **Tech Tips`** - This is an ongoing series led by Suzanne Aubrey, who will answer any of your questions about tech issues in general or about using the Zoomers site in particular.
- **Specific interest gatherings** such as a book club and needlework club. These will be informal online social get-togethers that are designed for and by the group members.



- **Tuesday Tunes** – this is a weekly posting of a music video or audio play for your enjoyment. A tune will be posted, but we also encourage you to post your own selections.
- **Quotes and Comments** – this is a twice-weekly posting of a quote or short reading. We encourage you to comment and to post your own quotes if you like.
- **Food and Arts** sections in which you are encouraged to post anything related to the particular topic. For example, Friday, August 4 is National Chocolate Chip Cookie day, so be on the lookout in **Food** for killer recipes that make small batches sized just for you to enjoy the day of observation! In **Arts** be on the lookout for posts of original artwork, beautiful photographs, examples of handcrafts from our members, etc.
- **Birthday celebrations** – You will want to be sure to check this Topic frequently for fun acknowledgements of your friends' birthdays (not to mention your own!). You can add your well-wishes and you can post your own greetings if you like.
- **UUCE Zoomers Block Party** – This is a monthly gathering of everyone who has joined the Zoomers site. The purpose of the Block Party is to give everyone a chance to see one another in one place at the same time. We'll have some time together as a large group and then break into very small groups for chat time so that we have to a chance to talk to and get to know people we wouldn't necessarily otherwise connect with.

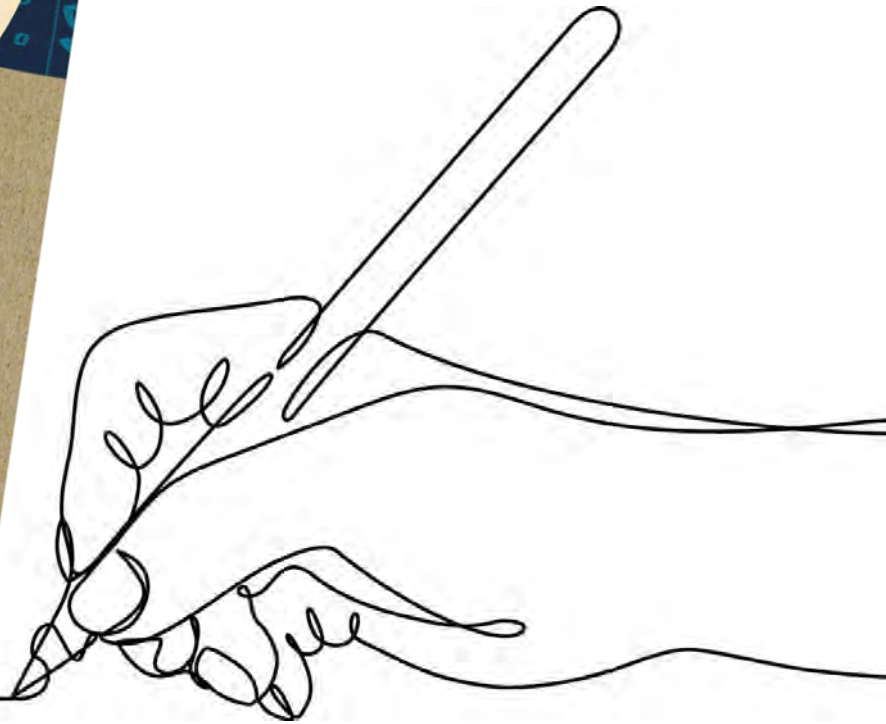
**If you would like email notifications of new offerings, be sure to sign up for the Daily Digest when you establish your account. That way you won't miss anything that's happening on the site.**

That's what we have lined up for now, and we are always eager to consider new programs and specific interest gatherings that our members would like to facilitate. The more everyone participates in the offerings as facilitators, as group members or through posting the better we will be able to ensure that we are one church regardless of how we do church and that we remain connected to one another even if we don't see one another in person.

We look forward to seeing you on the UUCE Zoomers site! Your email invitation to join will expire after three weeks, so if you don't sign up by then but would like to join email Mary Haynes (mhaynes@roadrunner.com) for a new invitation or go the site and click on Request to Join. If you use the second option you will need to be vetted for admittance, which may happen quickly or may take a day or two to clear.

If you have any difficulty understanding how to use the site once you've joined, please contact Mary Haynes or Suzanne Aubrey for help.

If you know of people who are Members or are Friends of UUCE that have pledged but did not receive an invitation to join the Zoomers, please let Mary Haynes know. We don't want to miss anyone who is eligible!



# Tea and Cards

**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](mailto:ccs9762@aol.com)



# MID-WEEK POTLUCK GARDEN DINNER PARTIES & PLAY

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

**1 more Thursday with Rev. Sara:**

**August 17**

**from 5-7pm at UUCE**

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](mailto:marydmurray@comcast.net) 239-699-0150 if you would like to help with set up and/or clean up.



# 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](mailto:marydmurray@comcast.net) 239-699-0150 phone/text



**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.

**August 16 REVERB** is looking for volunteers to help promote environmental causes at the upcoming Lumineers Show in Bangor, ME, at Maine Savings Amphitheater on Wednesday, August 16th. Volunteers work to encourage fans to reduce single-use plastics and take meaningful climate action at the show. Volunteers will receive a pass to watch the show in exchange for their hard work. Follow this link for more information and to apply: <https://reverb.org/volunteer/the-lumineers-2023-tour-north-america/> REVERB is an environmental nonprofit based in Maine working to make the music industry more sustainable.

**August 30 11am - 1pm. Cultural Connections in the Park:** The Burnurwurbskek singers, a men's drum group from the Penobscot Indian Nation at Indian Island, ME, will perform on the Jordan Pond House lawn, 11 am to 1 pm, Wed Aug 16. This group

has been performing traditional Wabanaki songs for audiences across Maine and other states for many years. This is a cultural demonstration that will captivate audience members of all ages. All Cultural Connections 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](mailto: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.**

# HELLLLLLLOOOO AUGUST!

FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT BETH PEPPER

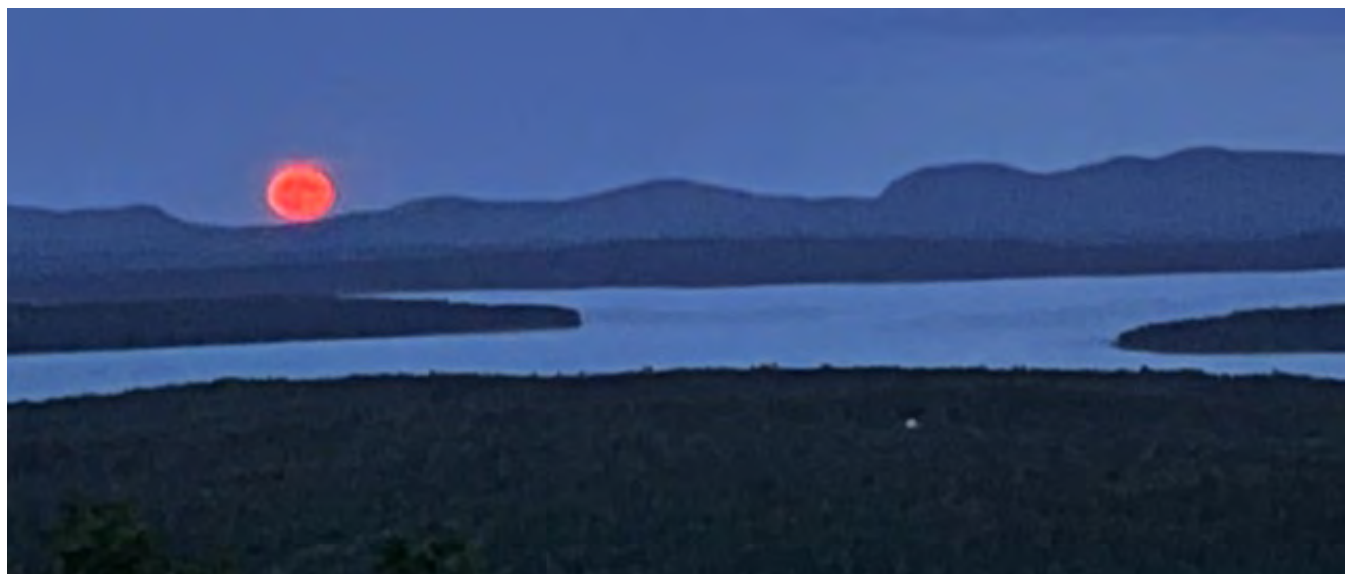
Well it took Maine's summer long enough to get here, but here it finally is - YAY! Lise & I (and about 100 others) hiked up Blue Hill Mountain (called Awanadjo, "small misty mountain" by the Penobscot) yesterday evening to watch the super moon rise. It was fantastic!



Your Board of Trustees took July "off" though we completed some business via email. We'll have our annual retreat on Aug 25 where we'll brainstorm plans for the upcoming year. The Annex Task Force has been hard at work and we are ready to do some prep work in the Annex (remove some shelves, paint the walls, build an insulated wall around the garage door to keep the heat in and the cold out, clean things out), so look for invitations to come help get it all spiffed up! Your Sabbatical Committee has also been churning & burning, getting us ready for Sara's sabbatical (Jan 1 - May 31, 2024). And last but not least, Susan Opdycke has been meeting with contractors and getting proposals for our new heating system! \*whew!\* There's lots of work going on behind the scenes these days! Thank you to all of you who help keep our church hummin' along!

Hope to see everyone at our Annual Potluck Picnic, including games, swimming and lots of good company, this Sunday, 8/6 from 1-4 at Lamoine Beach (427 Lamoine Beach Rd, Lamoine - NOT Lamoine State Park - keep going!).

And it's not too late to claim your seat at the 3rd Annual Dragonfly Party at Lise's & my house on Toddy Pond on Saturday, 8/19 from 2-7. It's the Auction price of \$10/person or \$15/family. We'll have food & drink, sun & shade, games, swimming, boating, kayaking, SUP'ing, and again, lots of good company! Rain date is Sunday, 8/20.






# In the UUCE Gardens







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** is on break until mid-September 2023.





Wayne H. Smith  
UUCE Historian

# REV. ROBERT COLE (1815-1897) OR “WHY IN THE HECK WAS A BAPTIST MINISTER HANGING OUT WITH A BUNCH OF UNITARIANS?”

One of the most interesting cases of strange bedfellows in the history of the Unitarian Church of Ellsworth was that of Rev. Robert Cole. He was clearly a strong supporter of the First Unitarian Society of Ellsworth (FUSE) from the date of its inception: Oct. 31, 1865. But wait! He was a Baptist minister! What in the world.....?????

Robert Cole Jr. was born on April 9, 1815 in Cornish, ME, a town in York County less than half the size of Surry (but at least it has a Dunkin’ Donuts). He was the fourth of the twelve children of Robert Cole Sr. and Nancy (Thompson) Cole, both of Cornish. His father worked as an innkeeper in Limerick, just south of Cornish, but he probably also had property in the town of Lovell, about 30 miles to the north, as three of his first eight children were born there. In any event, around 1823 the family moved to the Penobscot County town of Levant where the remainder of his children were born and where young Robert was educated. The family appears to have held on to the inn in Limerick for as long as ten years after Robert Sr.’s death in Levant in 1831.

Once Robert Jr. finished his schooling, he enrolled at Colby University in Waterville where he studied for the ministry, but upon graduation he appears to have had some role in the management of the inn in Limerick as he is shown living there in both the 1830 and 1840 censuses. In the latter part of 1841, he placed a series of ads in the Portland Press Herald trying

to find a buyer for the property. By November, he announced that he would be succeeded by a Mr. E. R. Lamos, “who is a gentleman every way calculated, it is believed, to accommodate and please the public.” (Well, he perhaps accommodated and pleased the public for six years, but as of November of 1847, the Limerick House was taken over by Lemuel Rich 3rd, who intended to operate it “on strictly temperance principles.” Hmmm....)

So what does a recent graduate from a ministerial program do now that he is free of the burden of keeping an inn? He goes into politics, of course! In 1843, we find him serving as one of the two representatives from the town of Limerick to the Democratic State Convention meeting that year in Bangor, a total of 327 delegates.

Notwithstanding his political ambitions, he also found time for romance, and in 1844 in Levant, he married Mary Fiske Mann, born about Feb. 23, 1816 in Hillsboro, New Hampshire, the oldest child of James Mann of Vermont and Mary “Polly” Fiske of Hillsboro, NH. Robert and Mary would eventually go on to have three children: Frances M. “Fannie,” Adaline M. J., and Charles R. Soon after the birth of his daughters, Rev. Cole was called to the Baptist Church in Harrington, ME. But then politics called him to Augusta and he represented the Harrington district

of Washington County for one term in the Maine legislature.

**Tavern Stand For Sale.**

**THE SUBSCRIBER** offers for sale his well-known stand at *LIMERICK VILLAGE*. It is the only house which has been occupied in the said *Village*, as a tavern, for several years. The house has been recently improved at considerable expense, and all the buildings, wells of water, &c. pertaining to it are rendered convenient.

An inclination to change his business is the only inducement the subscriber has to sell an establishment which to him has been a source of income for twenty-two years. **ROBERT COLE.**  
Limerick, August, 1841.



Soon after the birth of his son Charles in 1853, we find him traveling to Waterville again to accept an honorary degree from “Waterville College.” After his return to Harrington, he moved west to Brooklin, ME where he served as pastor of the Baptist church in Brooklin for a time. Then, in 1857, in the words of Ellsworth historian Herbert T. Silsby, “he picked up and left Brooklin, ‘leaving a people devotedly attached to him and without a call – without encouragement from any one’ he moved to Ellsworth. He commenced preaching in Ellsworth before various people and groups. He soon had an ‘interested and intelligent congregation’ and he had won ‘the confidence and esteem of the community and the favorable regards of the other denominations.’”

That he was highly regarded in Ellsworth is evident from the fact that in November of 1858, he was the surprise recipient of a “Donation Party,” a social gathering held to honor a well-deserving member of the community, frequently a member of the clergy, and in the midst of the occasion, “a liberal donation in money and in goods necessary for family use was made.” In Rev. Cole’s case, more than \$90 “and other articles sufficient to swell the sum to over one hundred dollars was contributed.” The author of the article noted that “Mr. Cole has been laboring in our village since last May, earnestly and zealously, and without any certain means of support. We are therefore pleased to record this voluntary contribution, and this act of sympathy extended to him at this time.”

On Tuesday September 6, 1859, the Hancock Baptist Association was organized at the West Meetinghouse in Eden [Bar Harbor] and they chose Rev. Robert Cole for Moderator and Rev. H. C. Estes for Clerk. Rev. Cole also kept himself busy with other Baptist affairs, primarily the construction of two new Baptist churches. He would, on occasion, supply the church in Surry, and his labors later resulted in a new

church building. And in Ellsworth, his efforts led to the dedication of the Ellsworth Village Baptist Church on Nov. 30, 1859. Six weeks later, on Jan. 11, 1860, an ecclesiastical council convened and it was unanimously voted to recognize the new church society as a “regular Baptist church.”

When the census was taken in 1860, Rev. Cole was listed as a “B. Clergyman,” the “B.” standing for Baptist. Be that as it may, Rev. Cole resigned from the Baptist church and Society that year due to ill health. His 1897 obituary perhaps captured this period of his life best with these words: “Early in the ‘60s, Mr. Cole’s religious views underwent a change, and finding his more liberal ideas inconsistent with his position as pastor of the church, he retired from the ministry. A few years later, he interested himself in the effort to establish a liberal church here, and was one of the most active in the movement which resulted in the building of the Unitarian church in 1867.” Rev. Cole continued to perform weddings in the Ellsworth area, and even preached at the dedication of the Baptist church in Surry in 1863 which was a success due to his management, but he was gradually moving in the “liberal” direction.

By 1864, Rev. Cole was also making changes in his career choice. In that year, he bought the Main Street bookstore business from Messrs. Sawyer and Burr and also became the Ellsworth agent for a number of out-of-state companies, including the Ulmer and Tyler brand of “Grey’s Patent Washing Machines.” He also advertised that “a large stock of new goods has just been received at the Book, Stationery, and Variety Store now occupied by Rev. Robert Cole.”

Another ad for the “New Bookstore, Union Block, Main St., Ellsworth” noted that he had a large variety of papers, envelopes, books, wallets, portfolios, knives, scissors, perfumery, and miscellaneous. He was also the agent for Grover and Baker sewing machines.



Ellsworth Village Baptist Church, built in 1859

The next twelve months brought tragedy to Rev. Cole's life. On October 7, 1864, he lost his mother, Nancy (Thompson) Cole, and on the evening of October 18, 1865, his house on Pine Street in Ellsworth was consumed by fire. His wife and daughter were at the time on a visit to New Hampshire, Rev. Cole was at his bookstore, and their domestic was out, so no one was lost to the flames, but very little of the contents of the house was saved, and lost with it were many of the early records of the Baptist Society.

Not quite two weeks after the fire, the organizational meeting of the First Unitarian Society of Ellsworth took place at the Ellsworth Village Baptist Church on Oct. 31, 1865. There is no record that Rev. Cole was in attendance but he was undoubtedly aware of the event. Indeed, those citizens of Ellsworth who were of the Unitarian persuasion had been attending services at the Baptist church throughout the early 1860s and several of the pewholders in that church were the founders of the FUSE. Rev. Cole was undoubtedly familiar with all of them.

It is not recorded where he lived after the fire destroyed his home, but he went right back to work at the bookstore where he was selling subscriptions to the magazine *Hours at Home* and pushing all kinds of books, paper hangings, stationery, and fancy articles. In February of 1866, he was part of the effort to establish the Ellsworth Village Library Association as a legally organized society, with Maria S. (Black) Perry, a granddaughter of Col. John Black, as president, and FUSE founder Miss Catharine S. "Kate" Dyer as second Vice-President and Treasurer. The Constitution of the Association was left at Rev. Cole's bookstore for people to examine and sign to become members.

During the summer of 1866, the Unitarian Society was taking the first measures toward building a church, and on September 13 of that year, the Society elected Rev. Robert Cole to be the head of the Building Committee, the other members being James Harrison Hopkins and Isaac Hull Thomas. A lot on the corner of Main Street and Oak Street was purchased and Rev. William H. Savary, minister of the Unitarian Society, procured plans for a church edifice from the office of

L. L. Woodcock, Architect, in Boston. The Building Committee also hired Ichabod and Otis Winsor Kent to build the church building. Soon after the work started, Rev. Cole, as Chair of the Building Committee, visited several towns in Maine and also spoke with the Secretary of the American Unitarian Association (AUA) in an effort to solicit material aid in carrying on the work. Among the donors that he spoke with were Unitarian churches in Bangor, Portland, Kennebunk, and Saco and he received a thousand-dollar interest-free loan from the AUA. One of the individual donors was George Nixon Black of Boston.

At the Aug. 28, 1867 dedication of the new Unitarian church, "Mr. Cole of the Building Committee formally presented the Edifice for Dedication." He also spoke of the origin of the Society, and of the attempt to build a church and "feelingly acknowledged the generous aid received from the Unitarians of Bangor, Portland, and other places."

In March of 1868, Rev. Cole moved his bookstore "4 doors above his old stand" on Main Street to a place "next above H. & S. K. Whiting's," and by the time of the 1870 census, he was listed as a "Bookseller," and his 16-year old son Charles R. Cole was identified as "clerk in store," being primed to take over his father's business. Rev. Cole would still officiate at an occasional wedding, such as the one in Hancock on July 13, 1870 for Mr. George W. Dow and Miss Jennie W. Bush. On February 8, he was installed as Chaplain of the Lygonia Lodge of Masons, and later in the year he had become the Ellsworth agent for Stephen Grover of E. Boston, Massachusetts, piano tuner and repairman. By 1874, he had enlarged his bookshop and added a second story to it which was to be occupied as a book-bindery by his son, Mr. Charles Cole, "a practical book-binder," offering "a good, neat, and strong binding...25 to 50 per cent cheaper than is done elsewhere." As if all this weren't enough, by the end of 1874, Rev. Cole had also become the local agent of the American Popular Life Insurance Company of New York.

In the meantime, the ladies of the Unitarian Church decided to organize under the name of the Unitarian Social and Benevolent Society and at their



first meeting, on Sept. 2, 1875 in the room over Mrs. Ann F. Greely's store, it was voted to raise the church and build a vestry beneath. In addition to a building committee consisting of three women, an associate committee, made up of Robert Cole, John Dean Hopkins, and Carleton McGown, was also established. The construction was completed in just two months, and during the dedication ceremony, Rev. Cole, as chairman of the advisory committee, was invited to give a few remarks "in which he attributed much praise to the ladies and spoke of the close connection of the kitchen to the pulpit."

By this point, it was apparent that Rev. Cole had become an integral part of the Unitarian Society and was frequently being called upon to offer his services. When the second minister of FUSE announced his resignation in June of 1878, a committee made up of Rev. Cole, William Oliver McDonald, and Albert

M. Hopkins was appointed to write up an expression of the sentiments of the Society, saying: "[W]hile we...accept his resignation, we most deeply regret that the pleasant ties which bind us together must so shortly be severed." When the next minister, Rev. Charles Parker Lombard, was being ordained the following August, it was Rev. Cole who was chosen to open the ceremony with an address. And on the occasion of the Annual Meeting on Oct. 1, 1879, Rev. Cole was elected vice-president of the Society. On July 23, 1882, Rev. Cole was one of eight ministers assembled as a Council to make a final decision on the ordination and installation of the Society's acting pastor, Mr. Loren Benjamin MacDonald, which was decided in the affirmative.

The 1880 census lists Robert and Mary F. Cole, ages 65 and 64 respectively, living in Ellsworth, and his trade was listed as "Book Store." He was still performing the occasional wedding ceremony, but his primary occupation was maintaining the store. Indeed, in September of 1881, he "raised his store and put in a new foundation. It has greatly improved

the appearance of the property." Rev. Cole was also active in social issues. Undoubtedly influenced by such woman suffragists as Mrs. Ann F. Greely, founder of the Unitarian Church, Cole had also taken up the cause, and was author of a petition for Woman Suffrage that was reported on by a House Committee of the Maine Legislature in September of 1887.

His son, Dr. Charles R. Cole, had by then given up the book-bindery business. He had married in 1880 Miss Ella Brooks, and had gone into the study of medicine and was, by 1887, living and practicing in Bangor. By the end of 1891, he had moved his practice to Rockland where he was visited by his father as the latter was returning to Maine after a "serious surgical operation" in Boston. The Ellsworth American reported that though he was still feeble after the operation, "he is gaining in health and his case is very hopeful."

Rev. Cole's wife Mary Fiske (Mann) Cole, passed



The Cole Family gravestone at Woodbine Cemetery in Ellsworth

away in Ellsworth on September 18, 1894 and was buried at Woodbine Cemetery. Rev. Cole followed her on June 29, 1897, passing away at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Fannie Saunders in Ellsworth and was buried alongside his wife at Woodbine. During his 82 years of life, he had held many positions: innkeeper, student,

state representative from Limerick, state representative from Harrington, Baptist preacher in Harrington, Brooklin, Surry, and Ellsworth, chairman of church building committees, wedding officiant, bookstore owner, temperance worker, woman suffrage supporter, and agent for a number of out-of-state companies that sold sewing machines, washing machines, and miscellaneous other goods. He was very interested in the cause of education and for over ten years held the office of supervisor of schools and was instrumental in the building of the brick schoolhouse on High Street in 1860, also known as the Pine Street School. He was also a loving husband, a doting father, and, well, just a good guy. And, although it took him a while, he was also a Unitarian.

## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM'S 6 SOURCES

The living tradition which we share draws from many sources:

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



## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM'S 7 PRINCIPLES

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

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



## UUCE'S AFFIRMATION OF COVENANT

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



# CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Minister</b> Rev. Sara Hayman: 610-2872 (cell) sara@uuellsworth.org	<b>Children's Religious Education Coordinator</b> Charles Betancourt uuce.re@gmail.com
<b>Church Office Administrator</b> Ellen Sedgwick: 667-4393 uucellsworth@gmail.com	<b>Music Director &amp; Pianist</b> Paul Kelly (starting 9/1/23) 207-412-9887 ourdreamalso@gmail.com

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

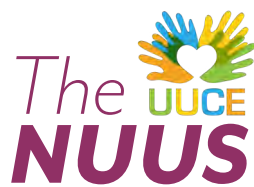
## COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE CHAIRS

<b>Adult Committee on Education:</b> vacant	<b>Hospitality Ministry Coordinator:</b> vacant
<b>Aesthetics:</b> Gary Shellehamer	<b>Landscaping and Grounds:</b> Bron Day
<b>Annex (former L&amp;F building):</b> Kathy Hall	<b>Membership:</b> Liz True
<b>Auction:</b> vacant	<b>NUUSletter Editor:</b> Lisa Williams
<b>Building &amp; Maintenance/Safety:</b> Susan Opdycke	<b>Pastoral Care Ministry:</b> Kay Hansen
<b>Charitable Giving:</b> Rev. Sara Hayman	<b>Peace and Social Action:</b> Barb Acosta
<b>Choir:</b> Megan O'Dell Chittenden (starting 9/1/23)	<b>Publicity:</b> Susan Opdycke
<b>Collaborative Ministry:</b> inactive at this time	<b>Children's Religious Education:</b> Linda Uberseder
<b>Committee on Ministry:</b> Karen Volckhausen	<b>Small Group Ministry:</b> Mary Murray
<b>Congregational Engagement:</b> vacant	<b>Stewardship:</b> Doug Bird
<b>Cookie Walk:</b> vacant	<b>Ushers:</b> Jon Thomas, Ken Hanson
<b>Eggroll Project:</b> vacant	<b>Technology Coordinator:</b> vacant
<b>Ferry Beach Coordinator:</b> vacant	<b>Wayside Pulpit:</b> Nancy Guy
<b>Fiscal Matters:</b> Connie Bailey	<b>Website:</b> vacant
<b>Flowers:</b> Bronwen Day	<b>Worship Arts:</b> Marta Rieman
<b>Green Sanctuary:</b> Paul Kelley	<b>Yard Sale:</b> Beth Pepper
<b>History/Archives:</b> Wayne Smith	<b>Youth Advisor:</b> vacant

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



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207-667-4393 [www.uuellsworth.org](http://www.uuellsworth.org)

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