

JANUARY WORSHIP SERVICES, 10:30 A.M.

MULTI-PLATFORM WORSHIP ON January 7, 21, 28 **ZOOM ONLY WORSHIP or IN-PERSON AT UUCB on January 14**

SUNDAY, JAN 7 Liberation, Love and Laughter: Now What?

Rev. Amy Fiorilli, Worship Leader Marta Rieman, Worship Associate

Rev. Amy Fiorilli, who serves as settled minister to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Belfast, Maine, is also now serving as UUCE's sabbatical minister while our beloved Sara rests and rejuvenates. Amy's ministry had its beginnings at UUCE, when she began attending in February of 2014, realized ministry was her calling, and was then ordained at UUCE in June of 2019.

On this first Sunday in 2023 and the first Sunday with Rev. Sara away on sabbatical let's explore the nature of what it means to say, practice, live this truth: "Love Liberates" I first heard this eloquently shared by Maya Angelou. I wonder, is it really love if we or others are not set free in some way? What does that look like in real life? And, what does laughter have to do with anything? UU theology is tricky and sometimes confusing. As we take on big topics like this, let's make room to poke a little fun at ourselves. Nothing frees up the clogged and congested space in our hearts and minds and bodies as well as a good belly laugh. It will be good to be with you.

1/7 Worship Service Zoom Meeting: https://uuma. zoom.us/j/92767492884 ?pwd=djg1TkhjSDF2LON ZdVY5bStrQn|6dz09 Meeting ID: 927 6749 2884

Password: 684437 Phone: 646-558-8656

*RE today

*Choir rehearsal 9 a.m.

*Plate split Sunday to benefit Maine TransNet

*Church potluck today hosted by Membership Committee

SUNDAY, JAN 14

What do you expect?

Rev. Amy Fiorilli, Worship Leader Ivy Lobato, Worship Associate

10:00 a.m. worship with UU Belfast, either in person or by Zoom

Many of you probably know the poem by Hafiz that says:

Even after all this time, the sun never says to the earth, "You owe me." Look what happens with a love like that. It lights the whole sky.

Today let's talk about how our expectations, what we think we're owed, by whom and for what, might get in the way of living our UU Faith to its fullest most impactful iteration. And what do I mean by UU Faith? Let's talk about that too. What could we do with a love liberated from the limits of transactionality?

1/14 Worship Service Zoom Meeting: https:// us02web.zoom. us/i/4695376814 Meeting ID: 469 537 6814

Phone: 646-558-8656

JANUARY WORSHIP SERVICES CONT.

SUNDAY, JAN 21

The Spiritual Discipline of Love

Rev. Charles Stephens, Minister Emeritus, Worship Leader, Kay Wilkins, Worship Associate

Rev. Charles and Alison, his wife, moved to Blue Hill, ME in 2012 when he retired as the Minister of UUCWC in Titusville, NI. Charles continues to be a guest speaker at UU congregations, remains active in social justice activities and provides Spiritual Direction. He loves to garden, process firewood and do various projects on their land which includes the rental of seasonal cabins which they built on their property.

Over the years as a Minister and as a Spiritual Director, I have learned the importance of practicing spiritual disciplines. There are many different kinds of spiritual disciplines and I have practiced a variety of them with more or less success. That is why I remind myself that I am always practicing these disciplines in my daily life in the hope that it might deepen my relationship with that which is most important in life. I have come to believe that practicing the Spiritual Discipline of Love can have an electrifying effect on our lives.

*RE today

1/21 Worship Service Zoom Meeting: https:// uuma.zoom.us/j/928865 89497?pwd=M1lvRG9Ld DdiQWJFYmd0Q0pvUW dyUT09

Meeting ID: 928 8658 9497

Password: 114245 Phone: 646-558-8656

*UUCE Winter Congregational Meeting today!

SUNDAY, JAN 28

Being & Longing

Rev. Hillary Collins-Gilpatrick, Worship Leader Ill leude, Worship Associate

Rev. Hillary Collins-Gilpatrick serves as the Minister at First Universalist Yarmouth and has served UU congregations in Massachusetts and Washington DC. While she studies and respects all faiths, Rev. Hillary's personal beliefs are rooted primarily in Buddhism, a religion she has practiced since childhood. Born and raised in Maine, Rev. Hillary enjoys spending her free time going on gallivants with her loved ones and greyhounds to the mountains, woods, and sea.

The word 'belonging' holds together the two fundamental aspects of life,' writes John O'Donohue, "being and longing.'" Join us this Sunday, on the first month of the New Year as we reflect upon and explore what it is that our beings are longing for at this time and also consider the ways we can provide a space for the longings of others to be met.

*Choir Rehearsal 9 am

*Choir sings in worship today



1/28 Worship Service Zoom Meeting: https:// uuma.zoom.us/j/926119 32351?pwd=RkFLMGZ6 Q3q4dDF|UnB6bVVoSn k1dz09 Meeting ID: 926 1193

2351 Password: 003921

Phone: 646-558-8656



Begin your journey into 2024 with others from your UUCE community.

- What calls you or what do you wish to call into your life in the coming year?
- What would you like to release that no longer fits?
- What would it take to create the life you long for?

Explore these or your own questions using art, meditation, journaling and more. Lunch will be provided.

Contact Evelyn Foster evfoster33@gmail.com to sign up and for more information.

FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT BETH PEPPER

Happy New Year from Wilmington, NC! Lise & I flew down a couple days after Christmas to celebrate the new year and our youngest's birthday with her and her fiancé. Lots of sunshine and lots of quality kid time!

Soooooooo, sabbatical is underway! We welcome Rev. Amy Fiorilli back to UUCE as she serves as our part-time interim minister during Sara's sabbatical. Amy will lead services at UUCE this Sunday, January 7, then we'll join her and our UUCBelfast friends in Belfast (or on zoom) at 10am (that's 10am!) on January 14. On January 21, our very own Minister Emeritus Charles Stephens will lead services, then on January 28, Rev. Hillary Collins-Gilpatrick of the First Universalist Church of Yarmouth will join us. What a great lineup!



And speaking of great lineups, what a lot of great events we have coming up! PASA's heading up our contingent going to the State House in Augusta for the Gun Safety Day of Action on Wednesday, **January 3**; our monthly potluck is Sunday, **January 7**; Kathy Hall is leading the Artist's Way class starting on Saturday, **January 13**; on Sunday, **January 14**, there will be an informational meeting about Anne Ossanna's new Adult RE Star-Trek-themed class, To Boldly Go – how cool is that; and our Winter Congregational Meeting (zoom only) is Sunday, **January 21** at 2pm.

Thanks to Kate O'Dell for leading this year's Cookie Express, and to Elf Lise Williams, Sara Hayman, Sue Aubrey, and Gary Shellehamer for distributing those cookies! Thanks also to those who marched in this year's Ellsworth Holiday Light Parade with the Ellsworth HS Gay-Straight Alliance – we had a lot of fun!

So, back to sabbatical ...

What do you want to do while Sara is gone, to nourish your spirituality?

Church activities ARE spiritual nourishment.

They are ministries, in and of themselves.

There are many opportunities to get involved:

Help organize the auction

Join the stewardship campaign team

Help host a potluck lunch

Participate in UUCE Zoomers activities

Come to church

So, I ask you again: what do you want to do while Sara is gone, to nourish your spirituality?







Wed.Jan. 3. Is Gun Safety Day of Action, when Mainers from across the state will descend on the State House in Augusta to demand that our legislators pass strong gun safety legislation this year. It's time for our legislators to hear from the vast majority of Mainers who want these bills. Showing up in numbers that display the breadth and diversity of voices on our side will be vital to passing these bills, and YOUR presence is requested! PASA will be organizing a carpool. Contact Barb Acosta for more info or click here.

Ellsworth Pride is a group of volunteers committed to supporting the LGBTQ+ community in Ellsworth and the surrounding areas. Beginning in 2021, Ellsworth Pride has organized and run the annual PrideFest in Ellsworth, held on the second Sunday in June at the Knowlton Park. For 2024, the Fourth **Annual PrideFest** will be on **June 9,** from midday to the latter part of the afternoon. Our group would welcome interested folks who'd like to volunteer to help with planning, doing specific tasks as the event gets organized, and/or helping on the day of the event. If interested, please contact Sue Collins at 546-6735 by call or text.

Want to learn how to become an effective advocate? <u>MUUSAN's Advocacy Toolkit</u> is full of resources for giving **testimony**, writing **letters to the editor**, **contacting your representatives** and more.

Visit PASA's <u>web page</u> to find resources and to learn more about ongoing peace and social action efforts.

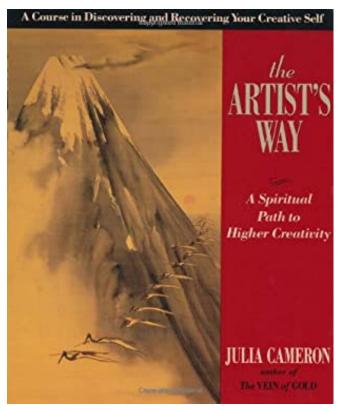
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Artist's Way Class

THE ARTIST'S WAY: Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity - Julia Cameron.jpeg"No matter what your age or your life path, whether making art is your career or your hobby or your dream, it is not too late or too egotistical or too selfish or too silly to work on your creativity." - Julia Cameron

Join us for a course in discovering and recovering your creative self!

You will need a copy of the book, The Artist's Way by Julia Cameron. You'll be invited to participate in daily and weekly artistic activities and to share (as you are comfortable) your spiritual creativity journey with the group. We will also engage in creative exercises during the class.



Saturdays, 10 am to 12 pm at UUCE: January 13, 20, 27, February 3, 10, 17

Minimum 6, maximum 12 participants. RSVP to Kathy Hall by January 3, 2024, Kathy-Hall@comcast.net.

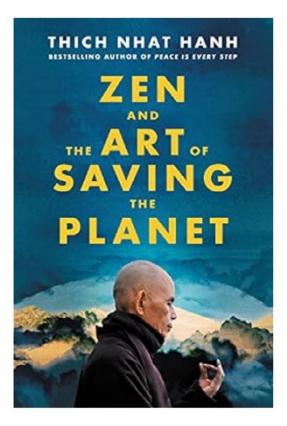


Coffee House

Saturday, January 13, 6:00-8:00 pm at UUCE

Come listen or share whatever inspires you - music, poetry, art..... Stephen Bowman, Hugh Bowden & Phil Kell will start us off with some songs and then, it's your turn. Contact: Christine Bowman ccs9762@aol.com

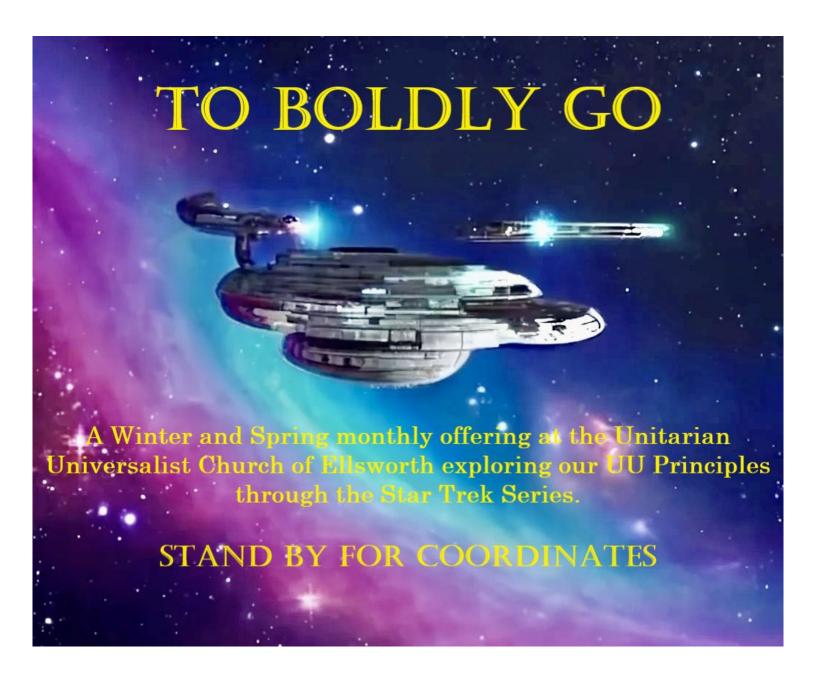




Zen & the Art of Saving the Planet, by Thich Nhat Hahn

Sunday, January 21, 9:15-10:15 at UUCE

Reading together, we will explore ways of seeing and living that can bring healing and harmony to ourselves, our relationships and the Earth. This will be monthly or bimonthly as determined by the group, and you will want to have the book. Contact: Christine Bowman ccs9762@aol.com. Please RSVP by 1/11/24



Please join Anne Ossanna and Reverend Mark Worth on Sunday, January 14th from 12:30-1:30 pm to learn more about TO BOLDLY GO, a winter and spring monthly offering at UUCE exploring our UU Principles through the Star Trek Series. Mark will provide comments on the Theology of Star Trek and there will be a Star Trek Trivia game with a special prize.

On Sunday, January 28th from 12:30-2:00 pm we will watch and discuss Dear Doctor, from Star Trek: Enterprise (Season 1, Episode 13). The crew encounters an alien race in desperate need of medical and scientific assistance, but Dr. Phlox refuses to treat them because of this ethical beliefs.



Greetings UUCE Congregates and Families,

The Monster Mash....
No not that one.

Tom Tom the Turkey will be here soon.... No not that one eithe

Deck the halls with Boughs of.... NO we passed that one too.

It's now January, can you believe it. Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, are now all passed us. The New Year has been sparked and we can start this calendar off fresh. What are you looking forward to this new year of 2024? We need to strive to have this year to do better than what 2023 was.

While our beloved Reverend Sara is out on sabbatical, I would like to challenge us to come together as a congregation and move our church forward. Not in spite of her being away but because she is away. What can we do to make the church and the community around us better for her return? We are going to thrive

with Sara's absence because she will still be with us in spirit.

Time continues to turn, one year has come to an end and the next year comes to its beginning. This month we are offering 2 RE classes during services. Those dates are published on the Facebook page, the Instagram profile, and the Bulletin Board in the foyer. They will also be in Kindling the Flame as well as the teen cohort events. Let me know if you enjoy this much attention or if you need it to be pulled back. We want to also include a child spotlight in the Kindling the Flame newsletter as a way for the congregation to get to know our kids better.

January begins for us this year with change. Change is scary but it is needed to thrive. We will get through this as a community and as a community there is nothing that we cannot do.

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



8TH PRINCIPLE NEWS

ANTI-RACISM CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATIONS. This series of

congregational conversations is now scheduled to run once monthly from February through May. They are tentatively set for the second Tuesday of each month from 4-5:30 p.m. (to be confirmed). Invitations to participate will include members of UUCE; Belfast, Castine and Bangor congregations and will be facilitated by a rotating number of congregational lay leaders. We hope you will join us and would welcome questions, suggestions for topics. Stay tuned as we finalize the details.

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY. Martin Luther King Day will be celebrated on Monday, January 15. Dr. King changed the lives of Americans in his speaking up for and advocating for the rights of Black Americans for justice and the rights of all people to live lives unfettered by fear, by discrimination, by racial bias and restrictions.

Some of his more famous quotes follow:

"Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood."

"The time is always right to do what is right!"
"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

"There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but he must take it because conscience tells him it is right!"



We invite you to explore books in the 8th Principle Library about Martin Luther King and the work of creating and ensuring racial equity.

For more information about activities in Maine related to Martin Luther King Day, see: https://www.bates.edu/mlk/#2024-schedule live workshops and films at Bates College. https://www.kitetails.org/events-calendar/mlk24Children's Museum and Theatre of Maine More event information will be included in the weekly e-news.

ONGOING ASSESSMENT WORK. The 8th Principle Journey working group will be reaching out to church committees and working groups to schedule an assessment exercise with each. This work will help us clarify our perceptions of how both the church as an organization and its multiple working groups are managing the commitment to become a more multi-cultural, anti-racist beloved community. We look forward to talking with you.



Saturday, February 17

Online Silent Auction ends at 5 pm Live Zoom Auction begins at 6 pm

ONLINE SILENT AUCTION runs February 3–17 https://onlinefundraiser.events/UUCE2024 (online catalog access)

LIVE ZOOM AUCTION zoom link for live auction https://uuma.zoom.us/j/97613871497

DONATIONS REQUESTED BY FEBRUARY 1ST

To donate auction items, please contact:
Co-chair Liz True eatrue9@gmail.com 207-326-0553
Co-chair leff leude emmaus117@gmail.com 573-330-4677

UUCB ONLINE EVENING VESPERS AT 6PM

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

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



WEDNESDAY MORNING MATINS AT 8 AM

Continues while Rev. Sara is on Sabbatical! YAY!



Are you longing for a 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. While Rev. Sara is on sabbatical, regular attendees of Matins will share responsibility for hosting, creating and facilitating this sacred worship space. We hope you will come!

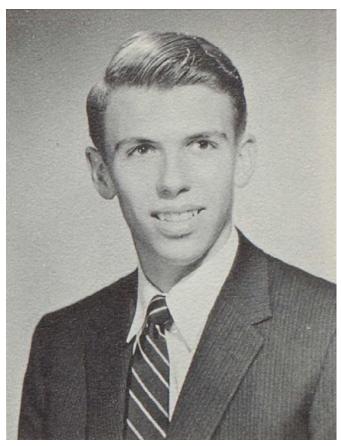
Wednesday Morning Matins Zoom Invite: https://uuma.zoom.us/j/96669607701 Meeting ID: 966 6960 7701 Phone: 646-876-9923

SANKOFA CORNER



Dr. Wayne H. Smith UUCE Historian

REV. RALPH THOMAS CLARKE (BORN 1942)



Ralph Thomas Clarke's high school graduation photo

Ralph Thomas Clarke was born on June 19, 1942 in Paterson, New Jersey, the older of the two sons of Ralph Clarke and his wife Elinor Beatrice Acorn. He was baptized six months later on Dec. 6, 1942 at the Methodist Episcopal Church in Paterson. Although born and brought up mostly in New Jersey, from the age of four on his family spent part of every summer in Maine, and from the age of nine on, they were spending all of the summer in Maine. Ralph says that's where he developed his early and most lasting friendships. When it came time for him to choose a college in the early '60s, Bowdoin was his only choice;

not only was it a very good school, but also it allowed him to live in Maine for four years.

Ralph majored in biology at Bowdoin, graduating in 1964. He then received a Master of Science degree in zoology at the University of New Hampshire at Durham in 1966. For a number of years he taught biology, but also raised honey bees, restored cars, worked in an activity center for mentally handicapped adults, as a substance abuse counselor, as owner of a restaurant, as a computer consultant, and finally as a pipe organ builder. He relates that he struggled between working with people in a way that was helpful and creative and working with his hands where he could build things.

Around 1988, Ralph took up residency in the Canaan-Hinckley area of Maine just east of Skowhegan and held property there for at least three decades. He is frequently referred to as Ralph Clarke "from Hinckley, Maine."

On one occasion, while repairing an organ, he was working with a group of volunteers at a UU church in Bangor. He quickly got "hooked" on Unitarian Universalism and began attending church every Sunday, helping out at fundraisers, serving on committees, getting elected to the Board, the whole nine yards. He entered the Bangor Theological Seminary and obtained his MDiv in 1992 at which time he was also granted preliminary fellowship in parish ministry by the UUA. He had served for two and a half years as a Student Minister at the Winthrop Street Church in Augusta where he was ordained in June of 1990, and arrived in Ellsworth in September of 1990 to serve as an Interim Minister for another year in both Ellsworth and Castine.



Rev. Ralph T. Clarke

When he first arrived at UUCE, Rev. Clarke sent a letter to the congregation, published in the church newsletter, in which he laid out the differences between a settled ministry and an interim ministry. He emphasized that the biggest difference between the two is that an interim ministry will end sooner. He noted: "After a long and successful ministry, most of you probably think ministry is 'the way Charles [Stephens] did it.' In large part it is, but this is a year to explore what parts of that ministry are essential and which are 'style' which may be changed... We need to decide what we want to do together and get about doing it... An interim ministry is a little like having a fatal disease. One can mope and complain about the short time one has left or one can get one's affairs in order and do those really important things in the limited time remaining!"

When he left Ellsworth in July of 1991, he took an extended sabbatical to be with his parents during a difficult time which left him with neither the time nor the energy to serve a congregation. From 1995 to the present, his permanent address has been in Acton, Massachusetts where his parents were living. After his father's death at the age of 93 in Acton in March of 2004, he return to active ministry. He was granted full fellowship in parish ministry by the UUA in 2004, and over the next few years served a number of

congregations in eastern Massachusetts. He served as half-time minister at the First Universalist Church of Orange and quarter-time minister at the First Parish Unitarian of Hubbardston. At various times he also served at the First Church Unitarian in Athol and the First Congregational Parish Unitarian in Petersham.

As recently as 2020 he was the minister of the Unitarian Congregation of Mendon and Uxbridge, located in Mendon. In 2012, Rev. Clarke wrote: "I have served as part time Lead Minister to the Unitarian Congregation of Mendon and Uxbridge since September of 2005. Since part-time ministry left some ministry tasks un-met, Mendon Uxbridge has become a teaching congregation. Each year we have had one or more students of ministry from neighboring seminaries providing support, particularly in leading worship, but also in other areas. Each year we challenge and are challenged by students preparing for the Unitarian Universalist Ministry."

If you would like to see a video of one of Rev. Clarke's sermons delivered during Covid at the Mendon-Uxbridge church on Youtube, go to: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=30Zxv3Z55Dw.

Here is a recent photo of Rev. Clarke, taken from that Youtube video.



Rev. Clarke in 2020 at Mendon-Uxbridge

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM'S **6 SOURCES**

The living tradition which we share draws from many sources:

- 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;
- 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;
- 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.





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.



WhaleCoast Alaska 2024

Experience a unique and awe-inspiring UU Alaska tour!

- National Parks Tour June 15-25, 2024 \$4,050
- All-Alaska Tour July 19-31, 2024 \$5,005

*Optional 2 day extension to Anan Bear Observatory and Wrangell

Our 30th Year!

- Whales, bear, moose, caribou, and eagles
- Native Alaskan culture
- Alaska's finest museums and attractions
- Spectacular travel on the Alaska Railroad
- Alaska UU homestays and dinner parties
- Hiking, canoeing, kayaking, and rafting options



Website: whalecoastak.org

Tour Director: Maya Kaup, Anchorage UU and Alaska travel enthusiast

Email: whalecoastak@gmail.com

Hurry! Each tour sells out when 40 guests register



CONTACT INFORMATION

Minister Rev. Sara Hayman (On Sabbatical January - May 2025)	Children's Religious Education Coordinator Charles Betancourt uuce.re@gmail.com
Church Office Administrator Ellen Sedgwick (207-667-4393) uucellsworth@gmail.com	Music Director & Pianist Paul Kelly (207-412-9887) ourdreamalso@gmail.com

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President: Beth Pepper to 2025 (207-610-4070)	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 Willliams
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: Kate O'Dell	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
The UUCE
NUUS
JANURARY 2024





Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth

207-667-4393 www.uuellsworth.org

JANUARY 2024

Vol. 56, No. 1

We covenant to affirm and promote:
The inherent worth and dignity of every human being;
Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
Acceptance of one another and encouragement
to spiritual growth in our congregations;
A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process
within our congregation and in society at large;
The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;
Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.