



# The NUUS

DEC 2023 VOLUME 55, NO.12



## MINISTRY MATTERS

BY SARA HAYMAN

Beloveds,  
 It's time again to light candles and decorate trees  
 and breathe in the cold air and blue sky of winter's arrival.  
 YES, the world is full of heartbreak and pain,  
 AND, there's also magic and mystery to discover and delight in.  
 Will you step outside and soak in the dark and starlight?  
 Will you bake cookies and deliver them to neighbors and friends?  
 Will you endeavor to find your way to create and share  
 a bit of the love and warmth we all long for and need?  
 May the wisdom and generosity of this  
 season of holy days live brightly in you.

Much love,  
Rev. Sara

*Advent Thoughts captured  
 after walking the labyrinth  
 at the Alcyon Center  
 Breathe.  
 Behold.  
 Walk with awareness.  
 Sunlight and wind, woodchips and  
 generous tending to the path.  
 The eagle overhead.  
 The car noise, too.  
 You do not have to be embarrassed  
 by your spoken and felt longing  
 to connect with Spirit, to praise Spirit,  
 to feel Spirit in the center of your being...  
 There is joy and hallowed grief,  
 and seed and water and light,  
 and the dark, the rest,  
 the stillness of waiting.*

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



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



2023.December.Ministry.Matters.Video

Dolby Vision

UUCE





## DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES 10:30 A.M.

**Sunday, Dec. 3**

**Into the Mystic...**

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

12/3 Worship Service Zoom  
Meeting: [https://uuma.zoom.us/j/95284940014?](https://uuma.zoom.us/j/95284940014?pwd=K3hZSmJ4QUQvYytVa2Y3djI5dWJYQT09)  
[pwd=K3hZSmJ4QUQvYytV](https://uuma.zoom.us/j/95284940014?pwd=K3hZSmJ4QUQvYytVa2Y3djI5dWJYQT09)  
[a2Y3djI5dWJYQT09](https://uuma.zoom.us/j/95284940014?pwd=K3hZSmJ4QUQvYytVa2Y3djI5dWJYQT09)  
Meeting ID: 952 8494  
0014  
Password: 353645  
Phone: 646-558-8656

On this first Sunday of December, we turn to pondering what is the rich mystery of mysticism – What is it? Why does it matter? Who among us wishes to be or become more of a mystic? David Steindl-Rast defines mysticism as “the experience of limitless belonging.” In this world that would have us regard others as separate and different, so often less than us, how do we get better at living in ways that honor and strengthen our fundamental wholeness and beautiful interdependence?

- Plate Split Sunday today to benefit Mabel Wadsworth Center
- R.E. today
- “New to UU & UUCE” Class after worship at 12:15pm

### DECEMBER CHURCH POTLUCK

will be held **Sunday, December 3** after service  
and will be hosted by our Small Group Ministry



**Sunday, Dec. 10**

**“Let the mystery be”**

Jeff Jeude, Guest Worship Leader  
Rev. Sara Hayman, Worship Associate

12/10 Worship Service  
Zoom Meeting: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/96987667668?pwd=S00zcGRHVHFIR2djNVlObldUNmtSUT09>  
[Meeting ID: 969 8766 7668](https://uuma.zoom.us/j/96987667668?pwd=S00zcGRHVHFIR2djNVlObldUNmtSUT09)  
Password: 518242  
Phone: 646-558-8656

A favorite poet of mine writes “I need a Theophany, writ large across the sky.” Often I am reminded to seek out those visible manifestations of the divine as I travel the landscape of my life. When I encounter something so marvelous yet so simple, so profound yet so natural, so commonplace yet so intricate, I sense the presence of the divine. It might be a birdsong, a wall of sea smoke, a rainbow, or droplets of dew decorating a web- these things show me the mystery that is larger than myself. I accept them as such, and count myself as blessed. I force myself to “Let the mystery be.” Join us as we celebrate those divine mysteries and revel, as a child might, in the wonder of it all.

- Choir Practice today at 9am
- R.E. Today

**Sunday, Dec. 17**

**A Multi-Generational Holiday Worship Service**

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

12/17 Worship Service Zoom  
Meeting: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/93188451325?pwd=NDBrOWZjYWlycnZXK2VqZ0F4WFZJUT09>  
Meeting ID: 931 8845 1325  
Password: 141138  
Phone: 646-558-8656

More details about this service will be forth coming. We hope you and yours will come and be a part of celebrating this winter season with stories and singing for all!

- UUCE Choir Practices at 9am & Sings in Worship today
- RE today
- 3rd Spectrum Class today at 12:30pm at UUCE


**ZOOM-ONLY Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30am**

**Sunday, Dec. 24**

**Christmas Day Meaning-Making**

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

12/24 Worship Service  
Zoom Meeting: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/99425765870?pwd=eVFTZzhweVFwU9tUVJPaIZKQnJydz09>  
Meeting ID: 994 2576 5870  
Password: 596401  
Phone: 646-558-8656

Where or how does the Christmas story come most to life for you? What ancient wisdom regarding the power of love incarnate in this world warms your heart? This morning, we invite you to hear and ponder the meaning of Christmas through a myriad stories and beloved songs. Come in your pajamas if you like, with your coffee or cocoa in hand, too! 

**Multi-Platform Christmas Eve Worship at 5:00pm**

**Sunday, Dec. 24**

**To kneel at the manger...**

Rev. Sara Hayman, Worship Leader  
Toby Betancourt, Worship Associate

12/24 Worship Service  
Zoom Meeting: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/98859113427?pwd=bn8zVHJqbUxOGUvVURtSlpWwUdoZ09>  
Meeting ID: 988 5911 3427  
Password: 714593  
Phone: 646-558-8656

In a beloved Christmas meditation, 20th century UU educator and minister Sophia Lyon Fahs reminds us that, “each night a child is born is a holy night.” On this Christmas Eve, come listen to an ancient and meaning-filled story, sing beloved carols and light candles that call us to celebrate and participate in the miracle of love’s arrival in this world.

- Cookies & tea before worship at 4pm!

**Sunday, Dec. 31**

**There’s no escaping the magic now...**

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

12/31 Worship Service Zoom  
Meeting: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/92643209139?pwd=STHldGNHckVhbVpoeE5KSzdCR0IMZz09>  
Meeting ID: 926 4320 9139  
Password: 214121  
Phone: 646-558-8656

What wakes you up to wonder and awe and helps you to live in more grounded and grateful ways? Drawing inspiration from a poem by Andrea Gibson, this Sunday we call each other to see more clearly all that sparkles and glimmers in our lives and this world, a seedbed for more generous living.

- Sara’s Goodbye Party after Worship!





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

# ADVENT VESPERS

3 Tuesday Evenings with Rev. Amy Fiorilli  
December 6th, 13th and 20th from 6-6:45pm

What, I wonder, is this Advent season—a time of watchful waiting—trying to say to us? This year, I'm grateful we're all welcome to attend Rev. Amy's Advent Vespers services on ZOOM. In this intimate and contemplative space, Rev. Amy share readings and music and invites us to listen for the spirit of love found in the heart of this season.

*O Spirit of Advent and Christmas past,  
prepare in us an expectant heart.  
Thaw the wintry coldness of our ways.  
Help us not refuse those waiting birth.  
And teach us that Bethlehem is not a town,  
past or present,  
but a place in our hearts,  
where the cry of the newborn baby can be  
heard.*

- Burton Carley



Click image to right to  
order your cookies!



Saturday, December 16, 2023,  
9-11 am

Order online at [uellsworth.org](http://uellsworth.org)  
through Thursday, December 14, 2023.

Pick up cookies at church parking lot, 121 Bucksport Rd, Ellsworth on Saturday,  
December 16, between 9-11 am. Each box of 3 dozen assorted cookies is only \$25.  
Contact Kate O'Dell, [odellkk@gmail.com](mailto:odellkk@gmail.com), for more information.



# Christmas

## OPEN HOUSE

at **Rev. Sara's** in Bucksport  
Monday, December 25th from 2-5pm

In my heart and mind, Christmas Day is best when visiting with neighbors and friends happens! To that end (and after a long pandemic hiatus), all are welcome to stop by & visit between 2-5pm. We'll have hot apple cider and mulled wine and holiday sweets and treats to share! There will be a small bonfire in the backyard and if you're so inclined, you can jump in hot tub, too! Please be aware that our house is small and it can get crowded, and that you have to climb 3-4 steps to get in and out. If it's a right thing for you and yours, we look forward to seeing you and sharing in some holiday cheer.



# Thoughts about Sabbatical Time

Rev. Sara is going on Sabbatical from January 1, 2024 to May 31, 2024.

Church activities have an ebb and flow to them. If you serve on committees or organize functions or fund raisers, there are times that the work will make you incredibly busy, even feel overwhelmed.

Then, there's nothing, nothing but coming to church and filling up on spiritual nourishment.

Except, church activities ARE spiritual nourishment. They ARE ministries, in and of themselves..

There are many opportunities to get involved.

- Help organize the auction
- help organize the stewardship campaign,
- host a potluck lunch,
- participate in zoomers activities,
- come to church.

Our shared ministries can get us through the toughest times, and our shared ministries will get us through sabbatical time.

But, more than just making sure church business goes smoothly, I've been thinking about what I want to learn, how I want to grow, what I want to do while Sara is gone. I certainly don't want my time to be all "ebb", twiddling my thumbs until Sara returns. I'm excited for the diversity of Sunday services, but I also know there is a diversity amongst us, and I want to come to know you better. I want to learn more about folks just as I have come to know my dear friends in my small group ministry. I'm hoping for opportunities to deepen my connections with people I only see on Sundays or in committee meetings.

What do you want to do while Sara is gone?

~The Sabbatical Committee: Helen Kazura (chair), Beth Pepper (President of the Board), Bronwen Day, Christine Bowman, David Dietrich, Mary Haynes, Elizabeth True

*Please be sure to pick up a brochure with the schedule of Sunday Worship Leaders and contact information. If you need one mailed to you, please contact the church administrator.*





## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Greetings UUCE Congregates and Families,

Another month down and another letter written. November is behind us, and we are moving into December. During this time of holiday hype, I want us to take a second and breathe. Not everyone has the joyous memories of the holidays that you yourself hold. Although this is a time of joy and happiness, it is also a time of trauma and mourning. We are heading into the darkest parts of our lives both literally and metaphorically. As our days grow shorter and our nights longer, let us put forth just a smidge of extra effort for those around us and part of us. We are a community of caring, and we should show it to each other.

With the sad portion of this piece behind us, I wanted to update the congregation with what we are going to be doing for one of our most important assets, our youth. We are going to be presenting a Religious Exploration offering for the youth that may seem slightly different than what has been offered in the past. We are going to be splitting youth into two cohorts.

**Cohort A:** Will consist of any youth between the ages of 5-10. This age group will have exceptions but only if those exceptions are discussed with the REC (Religious Exploration Coordinator) and/or the RE Committee Chair. This cohort will be held during the worship service twice a month, dates have already been picked for these meetings and will be published in the next issue for *Kindling the Flame*. These sessions will be a scripted lesson which will tie to our UU tenets and usually will include a craft or activity or story.

**Cohort B:** Will consist of any youth between the ages of 11-16. This age group will have exceptions but only if those exceptions are discussed with the REC and/or the RECC. This cohort will be held twice a month but will be held as a REC Event that may or may not be taking place during the service or even on a Sunday. These dates and activities have not been mapped out yet, but we will be discussing options with the families to make these activities as accessible to all as possible. These dates will require an RSVP so we can ensure that we have enough youth participating, if not we will cancel the event and wait till the next one.

Although we are not identifying them as their own cohort, children 4 and under are still welcome in the Nursery care when requested. Please let us know if you require these resources so we can make sure that they are availability when needed.

As usual, we welcome all feedback on this change and any other change that comes along with it. We are here to help how we can. Knowing how we can help arms us to help in bigger and better ways. Please embrace this upcoming season with that same sentiment. Let us all begin to help in bigger and better ways.

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





**Saturday, December 2. Downtown Ellsworth Holiday Light Parade** (Rain Date December 3). Last year, a number of us marched with the Ellsworth High School Gay Straight Alliance and it helped boost everyone’s morale. Plus, it was fun! Ellsworth Pride invites our congregation to march with them again this year. Parade starts at 4 PM with lineup beginning at 3 PM. Contact Barb Acosta for logistical details and a meetup place.



**Sunday, Dec. 10 from 12 - 1:30. How can we process our difficult emotions regarding the conflict in Israel-Palestine?** Join us in Beloved Community for a grief ritual dedicated to honoring our pain for the ongoing Settler Colonialism and genocide occurring in Israel/Palestine as well as for the

rise of Islamophobia and Antisemitism around the globe. Margarita Acosta (Barb Acosta’s daughter) will lead us in a process called a “Truth Mandala” to help us alchemize our complex emotions of fear, anger, numbness and grief so that we may access active hope and make liberatory choices in response to the ongoing conflict from a place of love. We will gather in the Board Room. Contact drabarb@gmail.com for more information.

**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?** **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.**



# 8<sup>TH</sup> PRINCIPLE NEWS

**Thanksgiving history.** For more information about our Thanksgiving traditions and history, we encourage you to listen to this interview with Chris Newell, author of [If you lived During the Plimoth Thanksgiving](#) and former director of the Abbe Museum from the Newburyport Literary Festival (43:31 min.): <https://www.facebook.com/NewburyportLitFest/videos/chris-newell-if-you-lived-during-the-plimoth-thanksgiving/388454249823726/>

**Malaga Island.** Last summer the 8th Principle task force sponsored a field trip to Malaga Island, home to a mixed race fishing community until 1912, when the state of Maine forcibly removed community residents, committing eight to the Maine State Institution for the Feeble-Minded. The full story of that mass eviction has been relatively untold and the injustices unacknowledged. But as of September 19, Malaga Island, now managed by the Maine Coast Heritage Trust, is officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places. For the full story see: <https://wgme.com/news/local/maine-island-that-had-its-community-forcibly-removed-added-to-national-register-of-historic-places-malaga-island-maine-coast-heritage-trust-mixed-race-fishing-community>.

Or read [This Other Eden](#) by Paul Harding. “This Other Eden” is set on the fictional Apple Island, which is a stand-in for Malaga Island, a 40-plus acre island off the coast of Phippsburg that was settled in the mid-19th century by a mixed-race community of European, African and Native American descent.

Maine Public’s All Books Considered Book Club will host a discussion with the author on Thursday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m. Check out the book club site for details: <https://www.mainepublic.org/all-books-considered-book-club>

[This Other Eden](#) will also be the selection for the December Zoomers book club. Contact Robin Lovrien, [robin.uuce@gmail.com](mailto:robin.uuce@gmail.com), or go on the Zoomers site for more information.

### **Anti-racism congregational conversations.**

Beginning in January, the 8th Principle Journey Task Force, in collaboration with our sister congregations in Belfast and Castine, and the Bangor UU Society, will be jointly facilitating a once monthly informal conversation about various aspects of anti-racism. We hope you will join us. We anticipate meeting via Zoom on the 2nd Tuesday, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Stay tuned as we finalize the details.

**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.



# HERE'S WHAT'S COMING UP IN DECEMBER

UUCE Zoomers offers events, gatherings and posts.. We hope you've joined the site, but if you haven't you can still do so to enjoy connecting with your UUCE friends and to sign up for some classes and discussion groups of interest. In December we will have a reduced number of events and gatherings because of the holidays.

## Here's what's coming up this month:

Full descriptions of all events is available on the UUCE Zoomers site ([uuce-zoomers.mn.co](http://uuce-zoomers.mn.co)).

- **Stitch and Chat (Monday, December 18, 3:00 – 4:00 PM), hosted by Marta Rieman.** This is a monthly gathering (on the 3rd Monday of each month) of those who enjoy needlework to get together and chat while working on individual projects. It's an old-fashioned sewing circle with the modern update of taking place virtually.
- **UUCE Mighty Book Club (Wednesday, December 27, 1:00 – 2:30 PM), hosted by Robin Lovrien.** The book for this meeting is *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. The discussion for this book was postponed in October. This group meets on the fourth Wednesday each month. Information about the book choice for November 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.

**We have some exciting groups planned for later this winter that will keep us connected to ourselves and to one another during Sara's absence.** Here's a short description of what we're working on:

- **Build the Life You Want** – This 8-session offering is based on the work of Dr. Arthur Brooks, a professor at Harvard, and Oprah Winfrey, and draws on the expertise of Harvard scientists who have been studying happiness for decades. **We'll have discussions and do worksheets designed to help us find contentment, and yes, become happier with the life that we create.**
- **Divided We Fall and How to Love Our Enemies-** As UU's we are called by our faith to fully respect the humanity and dignity of every person. However, most of us have found that harder and harder to do as we (and pretty much our entire country) become more politically and culturally contemptuous of those on "the other side". This group will examine ways to break that pattern and help us learn how we can assist in healing ourselves and our nation of damaging divide.

**These sessions will be held online but not through the Zoomers site, so you don't have to become a member of the Zoomers to participate. We'll send out information about the schedule for both groups and how to sign up after the beginning of the new year.**

*continued on next page*



In the meantime, If you would like to sign up to join the UUCE Zoomers you can:

- a) go to [uuce-zoomers.mn.co](http://uuce-zoomers.mn.co) and request to join or
  - b) contact Mary Haynes ([mhaynes@roadrunner.com](mailto: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.
- continued on next page*

### TO ACCESS EVENTS VIA THE UUCE ZOOMERS WEBSITE:

1. On your browser, enter [uuce-zoomers.mn.co](http://uuce-zoomers.mn.co) and click on Events (upper menu on 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.
2. Click on the Event you want to attend.
3. In that box, click either on Zoom Link or on View Event. Both will take you to a new screen. If the event has not yet started, click on the blue Zoom link on that screen. If the event has started, you'll see We're Live on the right side of that screen, and with a click you'll be in the event.

### TO ACCESS EVENTS ON THE APP:

1. Tap on the three-bar symbol on the top 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.

**TECH TIP:** If you would like to get email notifications for events that you are planning to attend, make sure that you have let the Zoomers site know that you want notifications by completing the following steps:

1. **If accessing from the UUCE Zoomers website**, click on your profile picture (or the circle on the upper right of your screen if you haven't uploaded a picture).
  2. Click on Personal Settings
  3. Click on Notifications
  4. Toggle **Email Updates** to On if you want Notifications
  5. Toggle to On for anything you would like notifications for
  6. Scroll down to Spaces and toggle to On for any Groups or Topics for which you would like notifications
  7. **Be sure to RSVP for events that you are interested in attending, or those that you might be interested in attending. To RSVP, click on Events, then View Event. On this screen click on either Going, Maybe, or Not Going. If you click on Not Going you will not receive a reminder; otherwise you will get a reminder as long as you have completed the steps above to get notifications.**
- 
1. **If accessing from the Mighty Networks app**, tap on the three bars on the upper left of your phone or tablet screen
  2. Scroll down and tap on Personal Settings
  3. Tap on Notifications
  4. Tap on Email Updates and/or Push Notifications, depending on your preferences
  5. Tap on each of the Notification Types you would like to receive
  6. Scroll down and tap on each of the topics or activities (called Spaces in Mighty Networks) for which you would like to receive notifications
  7. **Be sure to RSVP for events that you are interested in attending, or those that you might be interested in attending. To RSVP, click on Events, then View Event. On this screen click on either Going, Maybe, or Not Going. If you click on Not Going you will not receive a reminder; otherwise you will get a reminder as long as you have completed the steps above to get notifications.**



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.



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*



# UUCE CHOIR IS HAPPENING

COME SING WITH US!

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

**Singing together in choir is such a joy!**

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 December is printed below.

The schedule for the winter & spring semester will be forth-coming.

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

**All are welcome to come and join in the fun!**

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

**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](mailto:toribell14@gmail.com)),  
Chair of UUCE's Music Committee, or reach out to Meg directly at [meg.odell.kelly@gmail.com](mailto:meg.odell.kelly@gmail.com).



# FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT BETH PEPPER

Happy holidays, one and all! No matter which holidays you celebrate, I hope they are good to you and yours.

Lise & Mom (Rose Marie) & I are just back from a trip to Virginia - 17 hours driving down and 15 hours back, but oh-so-worth it! We had a very modern family Thanksgiving of 24, including our daughters, in-laws, exes, parents & kids of in-laws and exes, etc, etc, etc. Diagraming this family tree would look like some kind of scraggly bush more than a tree, but I love it!



It sounded like the Gratitude Harvest Feast at UUCE was a HUGE success and lots and lots of people joined in. Thank you so much to those who put it all together, especially Anne Ossanna and Mary Murray! So glad to hear of all the joy and so sorry to miss it! Maybe next year ...



Hope to see lots of you on Saturday, Dec 2 for the Ellsworth Holiday Light Parade, supporting our local Ellsworth Pride contingent. We'll meet in the Ellsworth Elementary/Middle School around 3-3:30 and the parade starts at 4. Wear your rainbow-iest warmest winter gear - it looks like it'll be chilly!

And on Dec 16, we'll have our annual Cookie Express, from 9-11am. Contact Kate O'Dell (odellkk@gmail.com or 508-340-5389) to sign up and show off your baking skills!

A couple months ago and with the help of the 8th Principle Task Force, the Board of Trustees completed the anti-racism assessment that the Task Force is hoping to do with all committees and groups within UUCE. I'm glad we did it and I hope your group will take the time to complete it also.

Potlucks have returned - yay! I'm so glad to share in our monthly gatherings again! Thank you, Mary Murray, for making this happen.

This is Sara's last month before her Sabbatical. While I know we will all miss her, I'm so glad she gets this time to set aside the day-to-day of ministering to our congregation and focus on her spiritual enrichment, self care, and recharging her batteries. While she's on sabbatical, we will have Rev. Amy Fiorilli as our sabbatical minister and a host of guest ministers in our pulpit every Sunday - very exciting!

Love,  
Pepper  



## A GIFT FOR YOURSELF

### First Day Workshop

Monday January 1, 2024 10:00-3:00

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](mailto:evfoster33@gmail.com) to sign up and for more information.

# TO BOLDLY GO



A Winter and Spring monthly offering at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth exploring our UU Principles through the Star Trek Series.

## STAND BY FOR COORDINATES

This Winter and Spring a new Adult Religious Exploration series will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth. Each month we will view an episode of the Star Trek series and then discuss how that episode reflects our UU values. **An informational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 14th at 12:30 pm at UUCE in the Community Room.** At that time, Rev. Mark Worth will discuss the Theology of Star Trek. We will also have a trivia contest (with prizes) and enjoy some popcorn.

For additional information please contact Anne Ossanna via email [aossanna@aol.com](mailto:aossanna@aol.com)





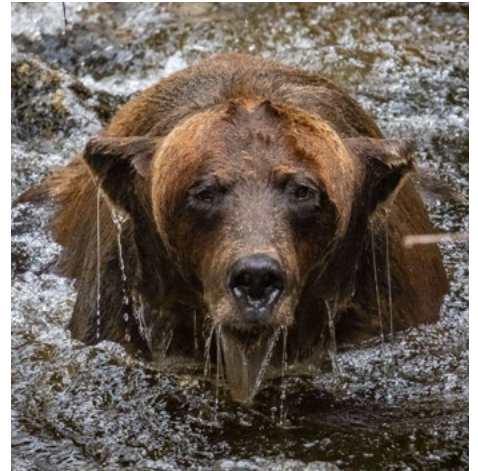
# WhaleCoast Alaska 2024

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](http://whalecoastak.org)

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

**Email:** [whalecoastak@gmail.com](mailto:whalecoastak@gmail.com)

**Hurry!** Each tour sells out when 40 guests register





*Dr. Wayne H. Smith*  
UUCE Historian

## **HARRY CHAMBERLAIN MESERVE JR. (1914-2000)**



Harry in 1930

Harry Chamberlain Meserve Jr. was born on Sept. 7, 1914 in Rye, New York, the youngest child and only son of the five children of Rev. Harry Chamberlain Meserve Sr. and his wife Bertha Francis Murkland. He grew up in Weston, MA and graduated from Phillips Academy in Andover.

Harry later married and had three children by his first wife, the former Louise Warren Bloomfield of Waban, a village within the city of Newton, MA. His first child was Emily Louise Meserve (1940-1981), followed by Harry C. Meserve (1942-2018), and Peter L. Meserve (b. 1945). By his second wife, Katharine “Kay” Mann of Richmond, MA, he had a third son, David M. Meserve (b. 1949).

Harry received an A.B. degree from Haverford College in Haverford, PA. He later earned an S.T.B. degree from the Harvard Divinity School, and an honorary D.D. from the Meadville Theological School in 1955. He served Unitarian congregations in Cohasset, MA, Buffalo, NY, San Francisco, CA, and the Northern Westchester Fellowship in Chappaqua, NY.



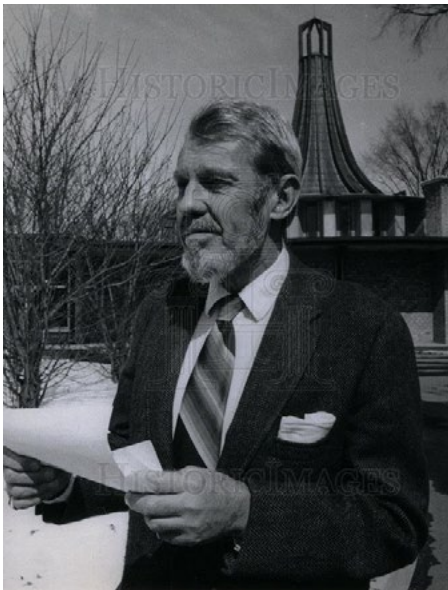
Harry in 1965

In addition to his ministerial career, beginning in 1957 he served as a member of the executive staff for Humanities and Social Sciences of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund in New York. In 1960 he became director of programs at the Academy of Religion and Mental Health in New York. He founded the Academy’s quarterly, the *Journal of Religion and Health*, and served as its editor from 1962 to 1993.

From 1965 to 1974 he served the Unitarian church in Grosse Pointe, MI. When he began his pastorate there, Harry was described as a minister “who has up-to-date ideas on religion. He contrasts healthy emotion and neurotic emotion in religion. The first kind of emotion, he says, directs one into society, the second bottles one up in his own self-concern for his soul’s salvation only.”

Among his denominational activities, he was on the Board of Directors of the American Unitarian Association, the Starr King School for the Ministry, and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. And he was also active in a variety of other organizations. From 1949 to 1957, he was chair of the Northern California Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union and was a leader in the fight to defend civil liberties and improve race relations in the Bay Area. He was also active in the Urban League of Detroit, and was chairman of the Committee on Religious Resources for the President’s Special Assistant for Mental Retardation from 1962 to 1965.

Harry was the author of a number of books and publications, including *Faith in the Making* (1946), *No Peace of Mind* (1955), *The Practical Meditator* (1981), and *About Community* (1998).



Harry in 1971 at Grosse Pointe, Michigan

Harry and his wife Kay settled in Kay's family's old stomping grounds of Southwest Harbor, Maine in 1974 and Harry served as part-time minister in both Ellsworth and Castine, ME from 1974 to 1980. When he retired in 1980, the Ellsworth congregation

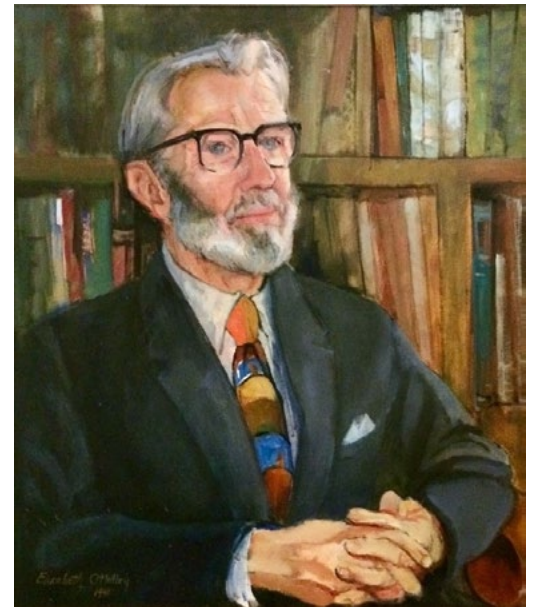
named him minister emeritus. Eight years later, on Oct. 14, 1988, the congregation hosted a "Celebration of the Fifty-Year Ministry of the Reverend Dr. Harry C. Meserve." During the celebration, Harry was the recipient of words of appreciation from Doug Houck, President of UUCE, Peter Boss, President of the Castine Unitarian Church, Natalie Gulbrandsen, Moderator of the UUA, Glenn Turner, District Minister, Gordon Ramsdell, long-time member of UUCE, Rev. Charles Stephens, then minister of UUCE, and by the UUCE choir.

In retirement, Harry served as a trustee at the Southwest Harbor Public Library and served on the Southwest Harbor Conservation Commission, the Comprehensive Plan Committee, and the board of the

Mount Desert Island Historical Society.

As if he wasn't already busy enough, from 1981 to 2000, he and his wife also edited an informal monthly newsletter of articles, editorials, and reviews entitled View from the Cove. When over 200 Views had accumulated, Harry, Kay, and editor Nicols Fox selected 106 of the best and most timely, and arranged them in a logical order. They were later published in 2005 by Infinity Publishing as Views from the Cove. Editor Fox wrote: "A thoughtful observer of his times, the late Dr. Meserve, an unrepentant liberal, offers a perspective on society, culture, spirituality, and politics that is too often missed or ignored today. With wry humor and counterintuitive wisdom, he focuses on Norwood Cove in all four seasons and on his community, then on issues for the nation and the world beyond."

Harry died on Nov. 8, 2000 in Bar Harbor, ME at the age of 86 and his wife Kay followed him on Jan. 20, 2002.



Harry's portrait at the Castine Unitarian Church

*Rev. Harry Chamberlain Meserve and Wayne Henry Smith are Sixth Cousins Twice Removed.*

<b>Daniel Meserve (1675-1756) md.</b>	
<b>Deborah Merrow (1677-1747)</b>	
Daniel Meserve (1710-1783) md. Abigail (b. abt. 1700)	Mary Meserve (1719-1789) md. Daniel Meader (1718-1758)
Daniel Meserve (b. abt. 1734) md. Sarah Demeritt (b. abt. 1736)	Daniel Meserve Meader (1749-1819) md. Jerusha Wormwood (1751-1843)
Samuel Meserve (b. 1777) md. Sarah Pendergast (b. 1785)	Abraham Meader Sr. (1773-1856) md. Sarah Allen (1772-1867)
John P. Mexerve (b. 1813) md. Rebecca V. Eaton (b. abt. 1815)	Susan Meader (1799-1877) md. Francisco Manoel Gaspar (1790-1871)
Harry A. Meserve (1834-1900) md. Nancy Lucenia Chamberlain (1833-1904)	Josiah Allen Meader Gaspar (1828-1906) md. Philena Murch Milliken (1839-1915)
Rev. Harry Chamberlain Meserve (1868-1925) md. Bertha Francis Murkland (1874-1961)	Manoel Almond Gaspar (1861-1924) md. Celia Augusta Jordan (1863-1934)
<b>Rev. Harry Chamberlain Meserve (1914-2000) md.</b> Katharine "Kay" Mann (1912-2002)	Annie Maria Gaspar (1892-1937) md. Francis Turner Smith (1886-1953)
	Henry Bertrand Smith (1920-1986) md. Pauline Winnifred Hughes (1921-2007)
	<b>Wayne Henry Smith (b. 1948) md.</b> Clarence Joseph Lavertu (b. 1945)



## 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	<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> Kate O'Dell	<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



December 2023



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

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

**DECEMBER 2023**

Vol. 55, No. 12

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