

# The NUUS



May 2024

Volume 56, No. 5



**The Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth**

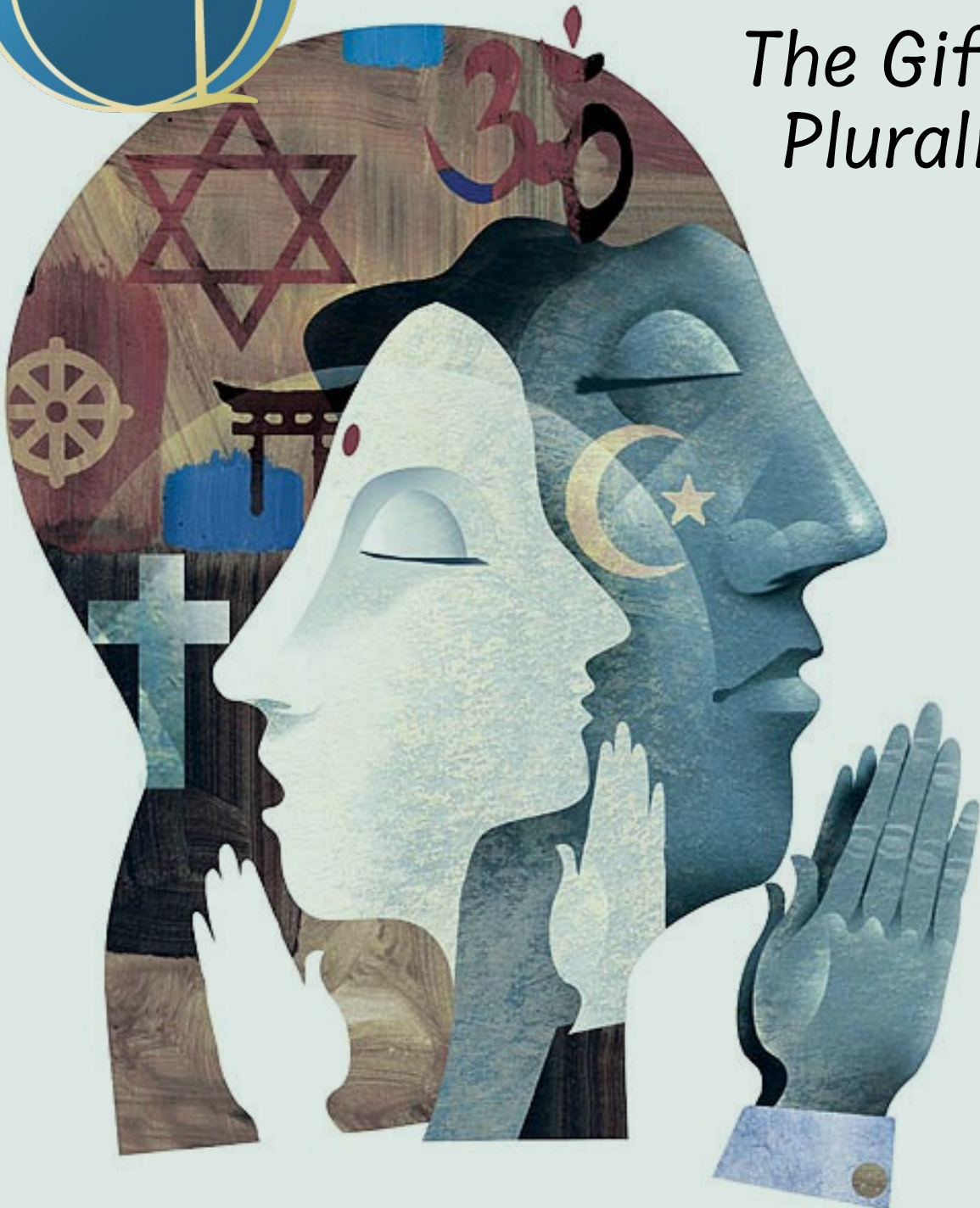
121 Bucksport Road, Ellsworth, Maine 04605

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



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

## The Gift of Pluralism



# MAY WORSHIP SERVICES

**SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024**

**Multi-Platform Worship at 10:30am**

**With Love, Curiosity, and Respect**

Rev. Margaret Beckman, Guest Worship Leader  
Kay Wilkins, Worship Associate

Plate Split Sunday to benefit NextStep Domestic Violence Project!  
Potluck after church!!

5/5 Worship Service Zoom Meeting: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/97903037126?pwd=blpnNWlhYdmQ2Qi85cy9SK2dlM0o1UT09>  
Meeting ID: 979 0303 7126  
Password: 890871  
Phone: 646-558-8656



*The Rev. Margaret Beckman was born and raised in Western Pennsylvania. Following college and a brief stay in California, she returned to Pennsylvania and worked with the family business for ten years in Human Resources and senior management. During that time, Margaret attended McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago and in 1983 completed a Master of Arts in Theological Studies with an emphasis in ethics and Old Testament. In 1989 she and her spouse, Christy Stout, moved to Maine. For the next eighteen years she worked for a small not-for-profit job training and career development company. Margaret joined the Unitarian Universalist church in Bangor, Maine and found the faith tradition that has become her spiritual home. Margaret then returned to seminary where she earned a Master of Divinity degree in 2003 from Bangor Theological Seminary. Ordained by the Unitarian Universalist Society of Bangor in May of 2003 and receiving UUA fellowship the same month, Margaret began her UU ministry. She served 14 years as a hospice chaplain, 12 years as the Part Time minister of the First Universalist Church of Pittsfield, Maine and 7 years with the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine. She retired from full-time parish ministry in July 2023 and is the Minister Emerita of the Castine congregation. Margaret and Christy live in Dedham, Maine where they enjoy life together at Green Lake and can often be found in the sanctuary of the great outdoors.*

The May Soul Matters theme is The Gift of Pluralism. Much can be and has been said about pluralism in this age of division and separation. The UUA proposed new values include “Pluralism” as one of the six values with Love at the center of all. In this framework, about pluralism, we say, “We celebrate that we are all sacred beings, diverse in culture, experience, and theology. We covenant to learn from one another in our free and responsible search for truth and meaning. We embrace our differences and commonalities with Love, curiosity, and respect.” Efforts to achieve greater Diversity, Inclusion, and Equality are pursued by many and rejected by a few others.

As Unitarian Universalists, we continually ask ourselves, in light of all that both confronts us and graces us, “How then shall I live?” Ours is an evolving faith and an aspirational faith. .... we too are evolving and aspirational we as we each seek to continually become the next best version of our sacred selves.

This week, we will explore the ways in which love, curiosity, and respect may give us welcome guidance us as we seek to live faithfully and fully in this world giving meaning and some purpose to our one wild and precious life.

**SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2024**

**In Belfast or on Zoom 10am  
Peace Attend Thee**

Rev. Amy McCormick, Worship Leader  
Marsha Donahue, Worship Associate

ZOOM Worship or In-Person at UU Church of Belfast at 10:00am Worship Service <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87521034152>  
Meeting ID: 875 2103 4152  
One tap mobile  
+16469313860,,87521034152# US  
+19292056099,,87521034152# US (New York)

The Soul Matters theme for the month of May is “Pluralism”. This is the idea that there are many stories, many perspectives in this life. It touches on the belief that there are so many ways to tell the truth, to know the truth; That it is possible to hold multitudes without fear or struggle, without the need to make anyone else wrong, or convert them to our particular view. As I reflect on this Mother’s Day, and what it means to love our children I am moved by the teachings of pluralism and this quote by psychotherapist Carl Rogers:

*People are just as wonderful as sunsets if I can let them be. In fact, perhaps the reason we can truly appreciate a sunset is that we cannot control it. When I look at a sunset as I did the other evening, I don’t find myself saying, ‘Soften the orange a little on the right-hand corner, and put a bit more purple along the base, and use a little more pink in the cloud color.’ I don’t do that. I don’t try to control a sunset. I watch it with awe as it unfolds. I like myself best when I can appreciate my staff member, my son, my daughter, my grandchildren, in this same way.*

Join us this Sunday as we dive into the truth of what it means to let peace attend thee and all others through the practice of awe, witness and letting be.

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**SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2024**

**Multi-Platform Worship at 10:30am  
Metaphors Be with You**

Rev. Barnaby Feder, Guest Worship Leader  
Jill Jeude, Worship Associate

Choir Practice at 9am  
R.E. today  
UUCE Annual Meeting is today

5/19 Worship Service Zoom Meeting: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/97260484743?pwd=RW9HeXJxVIBXSjBHSnZqNGZsOE5JQT09>  
Meeting ID: 972 6048 4743  
Password: 399489  
Phone: 646-558-8656



Rev. Barnaby Feder retired from being Lead Minister at Champlain Valley UU Society in June 2023 where he’d served since 2012. He now serves the UU Church in St. Johnsbury, VT. He is a San Francisco Bay Area native. He was raised in a Unitarian Universalist congregation in San Mateo, Calif., that his late mother helped organize in the early 1950’s. His transition to New Englander began with extended summer visits to relatives in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. He entered Williams College (Williamstown, Mass.) in 1968 and lived in Putney, Vt., for part of 1970 to work full time in the Phil Hoff for U.S. Senate campaign. After

graduating from Williams, he immediately went to work as a reporter for the nearby North Adams Transcript. Except for 1974-77 when he obtained a J.D. Degree at the University of California at Berkeley School of Law, he worked as a journalist until 2008. His last 27 years in journalism were spent with The New York Times where he covered business and technology from New York City, London, and Chicago. He was one of the writers on the award-winning Portraits of Grief project memorializing the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Prior to entering ministry, Barnaby was a member and lay leader at numerous UU congregations during his journalism career. Following staff reductions at the Times in 2008 and with the unstinting support of his wife, Michele Lowy, he enrolled at the Drew Theological School. During seminary and in the year after graduation, he served Unitarian congregations in Morristown, NJ., and Stroudsburg, Pa.

“Metaphors Be with You” - Rev. Barnaby Feder’s wife, a reading instructor, first put this bumper sticker on a car of theirs nearly 20 years ago as her prayer for her students. But it also describes the sweet spot toward which Unitarian Universalism is evolving as it becomes wiser about pluralism, justice, compassion and beauty.

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**SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2024**

**Multi-Platform Worship at 10:30am**  
**The Best and the Worst**

Rev. Amy McCormick, Worship Leader  
Kathy Hall, Worship Associate

Choir Practice at 9am & singing in worship  
R.E. today

5/26 Worship Service Zoom Meeting: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/92519429944?pwd=MjJBK0wvb2ZkZDVUZ3ovaYwLlFtQT09>  
Meeting ID: 925 1942 9944  
Password: 507344  
Phone: 646-558-8656

This is the final Sunday of Rev. Sara’s 5-month sabbatical. I am so happy to be with you as you joyfully prepare for her return. I’m not entirely sure what direction this service will go in just yet. But I hope to invite us into an exploration of what it means to welcome in all that is true, the good and the bad, the hard and the hopeful. Using the work of Richard Schwartz and Internal Family Systems perhaps we can celebrate the messy and the organized, the struggle and the joy of what it means to share ministry, to lead and follow with grace and competence sometimes, and with exhaustion and impatience at others. What is the best and the worst of this beautiful life, how can we hold it all in love?







## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Greetings UUCE Congregates and Families,

May! The last month in what has historically been the “Spring” months. Does it feel like spring is almost over? Can you believe that this is the last month without Rev. Sara? We are on the home stretch for the end of the sabbatical. It almost feels like we all need one, am I right? I wanted to take a few sentences to thank the Sabbatical committee and the Board for guiding us through this absence and for helping us to be successful while Sara has been living her best life to bring back her growth and rejuvenated self to us.

May’s Soul Matter’s theme is Pluralism. Do we all understand what pluralism is? There are two definitions that stand out for me.

- A. A condition or system in which two or more states, groups, principles, sources of authority, etc. coexist
- B. A theory or system that recognizes more than one ultimate principle.

Now that Mister Webster has helped us define the word, what does the word mean to you and why is it so important? It’s important to me because it shows us that we can all get along. We can take our differences and showcase them amongst our similarities to assist our faith and our community in flourishing.

Pluralism is the easiest way to combat the ever present “echo chamber” that exists in the UU Faith. It is one of the pieces of the New and Improved language of UU, the consummate J.E.T.P.I.G. Justice, Equity, Transformation, PLURALISM, Interdependence, and Generosity. The Jetpig is powered by Love. This month, let your Pluralism Flag Fly. Ask questions and be curious instead of judgmental. Be powered by love.

Brightest Blessings to you all,

Charles A Betancourt  
Religious Exploration Coordinator



# Stories FROM THE Heart

**JUDE LAMB WILL  
PARTICIPATE IN HER FINAL  
'STORIES FROM THE HEART'**

**ON SUNDAY MAY 12  
AT 9:00 AM, VIA ZOOM.**



**TUNE IN TO HEAR ANN JARVIS GREELY**  
INTERVIEWED BY WAYNE SMITH.

**Since Ann Greely was our 'founding mother'  
it seems fitting that she have the 'last word.'**

(Though if someone else would like to take over this program  
that would be fabulous! Ann Greely would surely agree!)

Jude has loved each and every 'Stories from the Heart' interview,  
and getting to know church members on a deeper level.

Other obligations require her to step down from organizing this program.

# UUCE's annual NAME YOUR OWN PRICE



**SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 8AM-2PM!**

**Our beloved Name-Your-Own-Price\* YARD SALE is fast approaching!  
Mark your calendars for JUNE 15 (and the 12th - 14th).**

Repeating the success from last year, We are BACK TO UUCE again for the yard sale!

We will be indoors, and we will set up the various rooms in the church like rooms in your house - kitchen, garage, clothes closets, etc. **We've got LOTS of opportunities for you to come join the fun.** Come for a couple hours, come for a half-day, come before &/or after you run some errands - we can use your help for as long or as short as you've got.

**Wed, 6/12, noon - 6pm** - move stuff from the "Sunrise" trailer on the parking lot into UUCE

**Thur, 6/13, 8am - 6pm** - yard sale set up

**Fri, 6/14, 8am - 6pm** - yard sale set up

**Sat, 6/15, 8am - 2pm - YARD SALE!!**

**Sat, 6/15, 2 - 4pm** - magic crew - make the yard sale disappear! Run stuff to Goodwill and put the church back in "church order."

There's still time to gather up your stuff that's just collecting dust in your home and we'll find it a happy new home! Those clothes that "shrank" over the winter? We'll take 'em! Those kitchen gadgets that just never quite worked like you thought they would? We'll take 'em! Books? We'll take 'em! Furniture? We'll take it! As a matter of fact, we'll take anything you've got, as long as it's CLEAN and IN GOOD WORKING ORDER (except old tube TVs and large exercise equipment).

## **To get your donations to the yard sale:**

Bring them to UUCE on Wed, 6/12, noon - 6pm **OR** Bring them to UUCE on Sun, 6/9 and we'll find space for them after the service **OR** Bring them to UUCE on any Tues (9am-noon) or Wed (10am-3pm) when Ellen is in the office and she can direct you to the trailer **OR** if none of those times work for you, contact Jeff Jeude 573-330-4677 or emmaus117@gmail.com) and we'll work something out.

\*This year most everything will again be NAME YOUR OWN PRICE, but we will have some big-ticket items that will be priced.



**Congregational conversations about the Palestinian cease fire and humanitarian relief effort.** Come join the conversations about the Ceasefire Resolution for the Palestine/Israeli War as proposed by PASA and the 8th Principle task force. Join us on **Sunday, May 5, noon, live at church.**

Hear more about the ceasefire resolution and why we call for this humanitarian action as response to the devastating loss of life and the destruction of the infrastructure needed to support the daily lives of people living in Gaza.

Below is the ceasefire resolution that PASA and the 8th Principle Task Force submitted to the Board of Trustees and will present to the congregation at the May 19 meeting for a vote.



**UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST CHURCH  
ELLSWORTH CALL FOR  
ACTION AND CEASEFIRE**

**Vision: A world community in which the worth and dignity of all people is recognized**

We grieve for the loss of life in both Israel and Palestine as we witness the unfathomable death, devastation and destruction of lives, homes and property, and the displacement of populations. Our hearts mourn and feel the pain of this escalating and continuing violence.

As Unitarian Universalists, we cannot turn away.

We call for a just peace in Palestine/Israel that reflects our UU values of respect for the inherent dignity and worth of all individuals, justice, equity and compassion in human relations, and support for democracy. Our values state that we are interconnected and interdependent, that when conflict arises, we will work constructively toward healing, and to build a beloved community. Our UU principles call us to center love, bear witness and interrupt hate and violence wherever it occurs. We must respond with compassion and care and pledge to take action to create a more just and equitable world and to seek liberty with a just peace for all.

In the face of devastating violence in Israel and Gaza, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth joins with many other Unitarian Universalist voices in expressing our deep concern. We acknowledge that the exploding violence is deeply rooted in historical conditions that can be understood from a multiplicity of perspectives, and we reject simplistic explanations. The narrative we must bring to these tragic circumstances is rooted in multiple truths, and a commitment to justice.

We call for all involved to follow international humanitarian and human rights laws.

We add our voices to those urging Maine's Congressional delegation and the Biden Administration to take affirmative positive action for a just peace. Specifically, we call upon our elected leaders to do the following:

- Advocate for an immediate ceasefire.



- Work for the safe release and return of hostages.
- Ensure ample humanitarian assistance and the free flow of water, food, and medical aid to directly impacted communities in Gaza.
- End human rights violations.
- Curtail US military support.
- Commit to creating a long-term solution that allows all to flourish in peace, justice, and safety.

Let us work to create a world where all people are honored and valued, where all people do not have to fear for their lives and where racism, Islamophobia, antisemitism, and other forms of historical oppressions can no longer exist.

## ISRAEL & PALESTINE



## A LAND SHARED BY TWO PEOPLES

We encourage you to explore the following UU sites: [UUA Condemns Violence Against Gaza, Urges Immediate and Total Ceasefire](#), Feb. 14 Statement developed by the Office of the President and other senior national staff of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), grounded in the values of Unitarian Universalism and in conversation with previous resolutions, statements, and actions passed by General Assembly, the UUA’s democratically-elected governing body.

[Why We Cannot Turn Away, Resources for UUs](#)

[Engaging Palestine and Israel](#). Webinar. 1.45.17 As our world bears witness to the tragic and traumatic events unfolding in Palestine & Israel, many of us are yearning for a faithful way to discuss and engage with what is occurring. On November 6th, UUA staff and special guests hosted a 90-minute webinar for religious professionals and congregational leaders, “Why We Cannot Turn Away: Resources for UU Leaders Engaging on Israel & Palestine.”



**Hold the date! Anti-racism virtual conversation, Sat. May 11, 10:00-11:30 a.m.**, hosted by Belfast and Ellsworth social action committees, UUCE facilitating. Title of conversation is expected to be Intergenerational Trauma and Resilience. Come join our conversation as we attempt to figure out how carrying the pain of history affects our current lives and choices, how our UU values call for us to work to eliminate the pain and the conditions that perpetuate that pain. Everyone welcome. No need to sign up. Zoom link will be sent out separately. Questions: contact Barb Acosta or Jana Robinson

**Prioritizing social action.** We, the 8th principle task force and PASA, as well as our UU congregation,

need more people to be actively engaged in the many ways in which we address the ills of our communities. So many of you already provide help to the hungry and the homeless, or support our LGBTQ+ community, or work to make our communities more just and everyone safe and secure in their own homes. We also need your help and support in our work to oppose racism and to build a vibrant, diverse, multicultural, and beloved community. Won't you step forward and participate in these efforts? Attend our congregational conversations. Help plan and facilitate an antiracism conversation. Suggest a topic that you'd like to discuss with your fellow members. Forward information about resources that made a difference in how you understand this world community in which we all live. Share some words, a reading or a poem that inspired you to greet the day with a more understanding heart. Support our efforts to provide safe spaces to hold difficult conversations. We welcome your input and your participation. Please step forward and volunteer by contacting Barb Acosta, [drabarb@gmail.com](mailto:drabarb@gmail.com) or Jana Robinson, [janasmith.robinson@outlook.com](mailto:janasmith.robinson@outlook.com)

**UU General Assembly registration.** This year's GA's theme is Love Unites, Stories Ignite and is virtual, on June 20-23. Would you consider attending as a delegate of UUCE? General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. Activities will include voting on the adoption of the proposed revision to Article II of the bylaws, the section defining the UU values and principles. UUCE can have three delegates in addition to Rev. Sara and our church must affirm its delegates.

For more information: see <https://www.uua.org/ga> or [registration information](#). Current full registration is \$315, good until May 18. It's possible to attend as a business delegate for a donation.

As always, any questions can be directed to Jana Robinson, 347-9008, [janasmith.robinson@outlook.com](mailto:janasmith.robinson@outlook.com). or you can check with Beth Pepper about being approved as a delegate, [presiden@uuellsworth.org](mailto:presiden@uuellsworth.org).



### **Juneteenth Downeast [Wed. June 19]**

is seeking peacekeeping and/or first aid volunteers for the commemoration at Knowlton Park. They will be hosting an in-person peacekeeping/de-escalation training on Saturday, June 1, from 3-4:30 PM. It's free; pre-registration is required. Peacekeeping and/or first-aid volunteer time slots are from 3-5 PM or from 5-7 PM. Or if folks would like to volunteer more generally, UUCE volunteers willing to help with general set up ahead of time (probably about noon, possibly earlier), and take down beginning about 7 PM should contact Jana Robinson, [janasmith.robinson@outlook.com](mailto:janasmith.robinson@outlook.com). UUCE will probably loan out tables and help transporting and setting up, and bringing back would be greatly appreciated. There will be outstanding free food, including for all volunteers.. Contact Shemaya Laurel 207-546-0345 voice/text or [Shemayalaurel@yahoo.com](mailto:Shemayalaurel@yahoo.com) if you want to register for the peacekeeping training.

**PEOPLE POWER & PEACE.** 6-Week Online Course with Rivera Sun. **Mondays, May 6 – June 17, 2024. 4-5:30pm ET.** \$95, scholarships available. We have more power than we think. Everyday people, like you and me, have the potential to halt or prevent war through nonviolent strategies. Join us for an inspiring 6-week course, where you'll explore powerful stories from around the globe. From Liberia to Northern Ireland, Colombia to the Philippines,

you'll discover how communities have successfully halted or averted wars through nonviolent action.

The Bar Harbor **Cultural Fusion Fest** features food from Jamaica and New England, and music from Stream Reggae and Big Moose Contra Band. Thursday, May 2nd, 3:30 – 7:00, MDI YWCA at 36 Mount Desert St, Bar Harbor. For more info call 288-5008.

## DOWNEAST RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

### COMMUNITY INFO-SESSION

Introduction to Restorative Practices & DRJ community programs  
 (Zoom attendance available, contact us for link)

- Saturday May 4th (11-1pm) Frenchman Bay Library
- Monday May 6th (5-7pm) Blue Hill Library
- Tuesday May 7th (5:30-7:30pm) Northeast Harbor Library

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### Free Community Workshop

Our workshops offer a deeper exploration of: restorative practices, circle keeping, engaging in difficult conversations, using case studies as working examples for Trauma Informed Practices.

Info-session + workshops will also allow you to become a DRJ volunteer in your community!

**Registration required for Workshop Series in Ellsworth:**

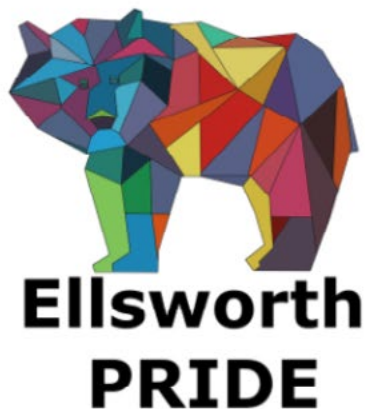
**Part A: Saturday May 11th 9am-3pm**  
**Part B: Tuesday May 14th 5-7pm**

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For more information and registration contact:  
[all@downeastrestorativejustice.org](mailto:all@downeastrestorativejustice.org)







# PRIDE FEST 2024

SAVE THE DATE  
SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2024

**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.**



# In the UUCE Gardens





# More Happenings around UUCE this month!

## SUNDAY MORNING MEDITATION GROUP Forming

**Sunday May 5, 9:15-10:15 a.m. @ UUCE**

Join us for reflection and meditation before services. The group that formed to read and discuss Zen and the *Art of Saving the Planet* by Thich Nhat Hanh decided to create the opportunity to engage in regular reflective reading and meditation. We will meet twice a month on Sundays that the choir is not practicing. All levels of meditation experience are welcome. Contact Christine Bowman for more information [ccs9762@aol.com](mailto:ccs9762@aol.com)  
Contact Mary Murray to join the group email list [marydmurray@comcast.net](mailto:marydmurray@comcast.net).



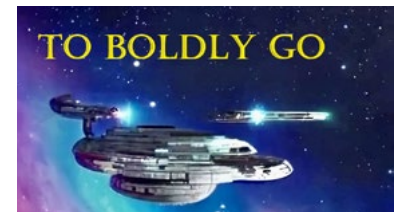
## POTLUCK after service. May 5, 11:30 am

Following the service we will gather together for a potluck lunch. Drop off your dish in the kitchen. You are welcome to join in whether or not you brought something. There is always plenty.

## TO BOLDLY GO

**Sunday, May 12th, 12:30-2:30 p.m.**

We will view *Tuvix from Star Trek: Voyager: Season 2, Episode 24*. This is an intense episode where we will view and discuss is one life more important than the other. Chicken Stew and Popcorn will be provided. Contact Anne Ossanna, [aossanna@aol.com](mailto:aossanna@aol.com)



## WOMEN'S DRUM CIRCLE

**Saturday May 25, 1-2:30 p.m. (and future 4th Saturdays)**

Join us to share drum circle songs and rhythms, co-creating the magic of a women's drum circle. All levels of experience and all sorts of drum and rhythm instruments are welcome. Hosted by Evelyn Foster, Linda Laing, Christine Bowman and Mary Murray. Contact Mary Murray, [marydmurray@comcast.net](mailto:marydmurray@comcast.net)

Note: Starting in June, we will drum twice a month - 2nd and 4th Saturdays.

## FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT BETH PEPPER

Hello, all my beloved UUCE Peeps!

Lisa & I (& our pups) had a WONDERFUL month visiting family in NC and VA, at our youngest daughter's wedding to "her guy" and then our oldest daughter's baby shower ... oh, have you heard that Lisa and I are going to be grandmothers?? 😊 BUT, it is also wonderful to be back home. I've missed you!

LOTS has been going on, and lots continues. The Stewardship Campaign is oh-so-close to our goal, so we've decided to extend it just a bit longer to see if there are any last-minute pledges or reconsideration of current pledges that will get us to our goal. I'm hoping we can present Sara with a fully funded operating budget for next year! If you're able to increase your pledge by any amount - no matter how small - that'll help us reach our goal. Please contact Doug Bird, Stewardship Chair, at [birddougl37@gmail.com](mailto:birddougl37@gmail.com).

Barb Acosta (PASA) and Jana Robinson (8th Principle Task Force) have been doing an outstanding job leading our Congregational Conversations about the cease-fire resolution we'll be voting on at our Annual Meeting on May 19 at 2pm on zoom only. Lots of folks have attended the first two, listened with love, shared their thoughts, and asked questions. If you haven't made it to either of the first two conversations, I hope to see you at the final one on Sunday, May 5, at noon in person in the Sanctuary after services. I'll be emailing out the feedback Barb & Jana have received, so all can see what's been shared by our attendees.

In addition to voting on the cease-fire resolution at the Annual Meeting, we will also be voting to elect a Secretary, Treasurer, and a Member-at-



Large to your Board of Trustees; a new Moderator; and to finalize the 2024-2025 budget. Lots of voting! That means we need to have a quorum at the Annual Meeting, so please mark your calendars.

Speaking of voting, thanks to Suzanne Aubrey and Doug Bird, we have a way to vote anonymously at the Annual Meeting! Pre-covid and pre-zoom, we used to vote anonymously by paper ballot - and now we will be able to do so via zoom. Thank you Suzanne & Doug!

The week before the Annual Meeting, on May 12 at noon in person in the Sanctuary, we will hold a Congregational Conversation to go over next year's budget, so if anyone wants to dig deep into the numbers and ask questions, this is an excellent opportunity.

SO, dates to remember:

- Now-May 8 - please contact Doug Bird if you can pledge or add to your pledge.
- May 5 - last Congregational Conversation about the cease-fire resolution; noon in the Sanctuary.
- May 12 - Congregational Conversation about next year's budget; noon in the Sanctuary.
- May 19 - Annual Meeting including votes on three Board Members, Moderator, approving next year's budget, and the cease-fire resolution; 2pm via zoom (only).





Sustaining & Sharing  
**OUR LIGHT,** Together

## A MESSAGE FROM THE 2024-2025 STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Stewardship Campaign results are as follows:

**Goal: \$154,700**

Pledged as of April 29, 2024:

**\$137,745**, which is 89.04% of our goal.

**Deficit of \$16,955.**

*We are sooooo close to our goal! We're close enough that we've decided to extend the Stewardship campaign to May 8, so if you haven't gotten around to making your pledge yet, or if you can increase your pledge by any amount - small or large, everything helps! - please contact Doug Bird at [birddog137@gmail.com](mailto:birddog137@gmail.com).*



# THE CANDIDATES: WHO'S RUNNING FOR OFFICE

The Elections Committee (Jill Jeude, Cecily Judd, and Gary Shellehamer) present candidates for your consideration at UUCE's Annual Meeting, on Sunday, May 19, 2-4pm on Zoom (only). Additional candidates are open to a floor nomination by a member of the UUCE congregation at the May Annual Meeting.

The following positions will be voted on by the congregation:

## SECRETARY



**Candidate:** Bob Francis currently holds this position and has agreed to run again.

**Candidate statement:** I grew up in Florida, a salt before I joined the Navy and became one.

Higher ed schooling was in teaching and admin and supervision. My wife, Sally, and I moved to Virginia for a 30 year career in public ed. I was a teacher, administrator and school social worker. We raised two adopted daughters and enjoyed our country life. Our love of traveling often brought us to Maine. In 2014 we moved here permanently and have loved it ever since. We joined UUCE in 2016 and found our home. I have served on several committees — Fiscal Matters, Stewardship, Committee on Ministry, and last year and this, the Board of Trustees as Secretary. I look forward to continuing to serve in that capacity as our church continues to move forward.

## TREASURER



**Candidate:** Kate O'Dell has volunteered to stand for this position.

**Candidate statement:** Kate O'Dell is volunteering to be considered for treasurer because

she feels very committed to the health of our church community, and to fiscal responsibility in general. Kate joined our church in 2019 (just 2 months before the pandemic opened our virtual doors), and has volunteered for a variety of activities and fund-raising projects since. Related to this position, her experience includes serving prior UU churches as treasurer and stewardship chair, and participating on the boards of a variety of non-profits. Kate looks forward to working closely with our professional bookkeeper, out-going treasurer, board, and fiscal matters committee to monitor and keep our congregation informed about our financial health, needs, and well-being.

continued on next page

## **UUCE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBER AT LARGE** - one position open

**Candidates:** both Pam Person and Jana Robinson have volunteered to stand for the one open position.



### **Pam Person Candidate**

#### **statement:**

Pam joined the UU Church of Rockville, Maryland in 1973 when Phil and I were just starting to plan our wedding. I asked Phil "where should we get married" and he said "UU Rockville" He explained that he was a UU Church Rockville founding member. Since I had no church affiliation I agreed.

At Rockville I served on various membership and welcoming and finance committees as well as Board President.

We visited UU Ellsworth before we moved to Maine knowing we would want a UU Church nearby to attend.

I would be honored to be on the UUCE Board. One goal would be to help lead interactive sessions on the UU Principles at our church.



### **Jana Robinson Candidate**

#### **statement:**

Who's Jana? Mother, gardener, volunteer, college-educated, occasionally crafty, armchair reader, anti-racist/anti-violence, full-time employee -not in any particular order. Grew up Methodist in cow & corn country in a small Illinois town. I married, lived overseas for a while, worked with people from many countries, backgrounds & faiths. I've worked with nonprofits & their boards: worked in direct patient care, summer camps, domestic violence advocacy, Jax & now MaineCF.

In most of these roles, I thought I was helping make people's lives safer or healthier or better. I've been so very fortunate & privileged! As a member of UUCE, I've served on PASA & facilitated the 8th principle task force, help plan & lead Sunday services, pulled weeds & tended our garden, attended GA as a church delegate. I'm working to become responsible, to reach out to others & to learn & grow myself. I believe in listening to people, looking for the good, seeing the big picture, finding solutions, working together.

## **MODERATOR**



**Candidate:** Gary Shellehamer has agreed to stand for position of UUCE Moderator.

**Candidate Statement:** Gary joined UUCE in 2017 shortly after moving to Ellsworth from

Washington, D.C. He served as coordinator of the Green Team and PM&M. Gary was elected to the Board, serving for one year before being elected President for two terms. He also serves on the Covid-19 Task Force. Gary is currently the interim coordinator of the Aesthetics Committee and is working with Board member Tori Bell to establish a Safety Committee addressing the security of our church. He admits to a less-than-comprehensive knowledge of Robert's Rules of Order and has dusted off his copy in the event you choose to elect him to the position of moderator.

Thank you to all UUCE members who considered our inquiries regarding service to UUCE.

# UPDATE FROM THE SABBATICAL COMMITTEE

Here we are with one month to go before our beloved Sara returns!

It seems to have gone fast!

We have done well. Our UUCE family is as strong and happy as ever. There have been lots of fun things to do and wonderful services to attend, all because we have creative and hardworking leaders, lots of folks to help and even more to show up. UUCE has a covenant and mission that is our guiding star. Challenges have been faced with courage and loving kindness. The Sabbatical Committee will be disbanding after our June meeting, but the work our congregation has done will continue. We have to take care of our church, our minister and each other, take on responsibilities that may be hard or uncomfortable because of our covenant to each other, and make sure no one is over-burdened.

We have profound loving gratitude for Rev. Amy McCormick's guidance. Her last service with us is May 26. We will be thanking her, not saying goodbye, because we will also be looking forward to continuing our relationship with her and the Belfast congregation

There are so many individuals and committees that need to be thanked, and their chair people who made sure things got done: Board of Trustees (Beth Pepper), Worship Arts (Marta Reiman), Religious Education (Charles Betancourt), Fundraising, Hospitality, Building, Landscape and Grounds, Membership (What a beautiful directory we have!), Music, Pastoral Care (Kay Hansen), Peace and Social Action, 8th Principal, Small Group Ministry. This is an incomplete list as it would be very long if it included every person and activity. Did you enjoy classes, open mic coffee houses, pot lucks, drumming, book discussions and other conversations, to name a few? And how about the Sunday services? We had the pleasure of enjoying a rich variety of meaningful topics brought to us by diverse spiritual leaders. Wow!

So what did you do during the sabbatical? There was so much to do and experience!

One of the things we hope happened is that we got to know each other better and have a better appreciation for what it takes to keep a church vibrant and inviting. May it continue to be so.





The Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth, The Unitarian Universalist Church of Belfast, and The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine

Invite You to Join in Celebrating  
the Ordination of

## Vanessa Lynn Titang

to the Unitarian Universalist Ministry

**Sunday, June 30, 2024, 4:00 p.m.**

Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Ellsworth

121 Bucksport Road  
Ellsworth, Maine 04605

Reception to Follow

Seminarians and Ministerial Colleagues  
are Invited to Robe and Process or  
join in a virtual procession.



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**RSVP: [vanessa.titang@gmail.com](mailto:vanessa.titang@gmail.com)**

The service will be multi platform with a Zoom link  
provided for those who cannot attend in person.



# MULTI-CHURCH FERRY BEACH FALL RETREAT

**WILL BE  
OCTOBER 4-6, 2024!**

*MORE INFORMATION FORTHCOMING.*



## UUCB TUESDAY EVENING VESPERS AT 6PM

Our weekly time of rest, renewal, and reflection Tuesdays 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.](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4695376814)

[us/j/4695376814](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



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**

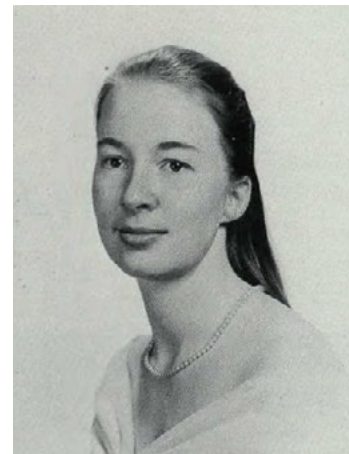




Dr. Wayne H. Smith  
UUCE Historian

# MARDI THOMPSON-GEORGE (1940-2023)

## PART 2



Mardi as a student at Pembroke College, part of Brown University, in 1962

*Mardi attended Woodstock Country School in Woodstock, Vermont where she met a fellow student, Donald Stewart Cooper from Hampton Roads, Virginia, who would later become her first husband. This article is part two of three drawn from the “Stories from the Heart” interview that UUCE storyteller Jude Lamb conducted with Mardi on Jan. 24, 2021. Mardi recalled:*

**Mardi:** Okay, I’m going to take you to two places, first Washington DC., and we were living in a upscale suburb, and I’m going to bring my mother back in.

Oh no, I went to this junior high school. I had gone from this little school in Czechoslovakia to this high school. Imagine how well I fit in. Not very well. It was like the grease time of grease: duck tails, poodle skirts, that hairstyle, all greasy. I didn’t fit in very well. I was very lonely. I spent a lot of time watching TV, which had just come into being. I would say that was the one time in my life I’ve suffered from severe depression. Thank goodness for my puppy dog. But I did have a Girl Scout troop and that was really...those were my friends.

**Jude:** And this was a troop that your mother started, right? Or she was the leader?

**Mardi:** Yeah. And my mother said “You guys just have too privileged a life. Life is too easy for you. There’s a lot of people in this world that don’t have anything. I think you should learn about that.” Well, she took us to volunteer in downtown Washington DC, in the ghetto, in an orphanage. And you want to know why I’m a social worker? I saw from the first time children with third-degree burns from diapers left on them too long, maybe for two or three days, third degree burns, kids who were burned with cigarettes, kids who are bruised all over their body, broken bones...And we...I can’t believe

that this would happen now. We were allowed to wash them, to bathe them, to hug them. And this is again one of those memories that was burned into my brain, burned, and now you asked what happens next. Well, out of the suburbs in Washington, DC and my mother’s adventures that she takes me on, and my father does too, we go to Canada for my early adolescence, which is, I guess, a chance to be somewhat normal, at least I know the language. I don’t have the accent but I know the language. And I go to a proper Girls School, which we don’t have...Even though we have uniforms in some of the schools in our country, these were pretty ugly uniforms. And again, I didn’t fit in very well. Some of these girls were from very wealthy families. But I found a very dear friend who is a friend to this very day. Her name is Fran and she was extremely smart and she just didn’t quite fit in either, so we got very close. And so, again, I remember my parents took me off doing sports. So, one winter day we were off skiing, and she’s trying to learn how to use a rope tow, because that’s how you got up those hills in those times, with this new fancy gadget, and she couldn’t do it, and this very nice man offered to help her. Well, he did. And when she came into the lodge a little later to get warm, there I was sitting with my father. From then on, and you just talk about little turns.

**Jude:** So, he was the very nice man who had helped her, right?

**Mardi:** Yeah, so just a small thing you don't... Yeah, he's not thinking anything of it. She became very close with the family. Her parents were not outdoors people. My parents were. Franny went skiing with us, she went canoeing with us, she came to Hancock with us for years.

And I just talked to her a week ago.

**Jude:** That's wonderful.

**Mardi:** So that's, that's one of those really wonderful memories...

*Around this time, Mardi decided to attend college at Pembroke College in Providence, Rhode Island (which later became known as Pembroke College in Brown University). There she majored in international relations. The earlier photo of Mardi was taken from the Brown University yearbook of 1962.*

*She later became a student at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, the graduate school of international affairs at Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts.*

**Jude:** Now, I'm going to back you up just a minute here, because you had, back in Virginia you had a boyfriend whose family had a lot of influence over you. Do you want to tell us about that?

**Mardi:** Yes, and now you get some religion coming in. He, my first husband [Donald Stewart Cooper], he became my first husband...But we went down to visit them first. It's the period of segregation, and I'd been living mostly from Washington, DC north. So you get on those segregated trains, segregated water, and now plunked in the middle of segregation. They were integrationists from the word go. He taught at a black university, Hampton Institute, and they started the first religious, integrated (that means all races)...

**Jude:** it was a fellowship, right?

**Mardi:** Yes, a Unitarian fellowship in downtown Hampton, Virginia. Nobody would give them a place to go. So they bought an old synagogue because the Jewish community was, again, moving towards helping the integrationists. This is in the early 50s. And so I went to the Unitarian Church with them. It was an amazing experience. Things weren't always easy. They had had their dog poisoned. Later in life, my boys [David and

Jackson Cooper] were allowed to play until I adopted a black son [Andrew Cooper]...which I didn't tell you earlier...and then they were not allowed to play. There's some misadventures in Hampton, Virginia. We'll leave them alone for now.

**Jude:** Okay, let's go back to...All right, so you're in Canada, and there was no formal religion at that point. Is that true?

**Mardi:** That is true, except in Hancock. You'll notice that Hancock keeps popping up here. There is a chapel down at the other end of the peninsula. And in the summer we went.

**Jude:** So this was a multi-denominational...

**Mardi:** Yes, so we had everything from Catholic priests to Congregational ministers coming and talking. I'm sure we're talking about my various ages. I did that for quite a lot...every summer that my grandmother was alive. So, I've got a lot of different view viewpoints.

**Jude:** And your mother too, right? Your mother had rebelled against her parents' religion?

**Mardi:** Yes, and that's the other part. My mother went with us and, backing up, when she was a late teenager, she and her mother and father went to the Episcopal Church on State Street, the Cathedral, high Episcopal.

**Jude:** This was in Bangor.

**Mardi:** This was in Bangor, and my grandmother [Marion Webb Hunt] at one point took me to Bible school there and I'd gotten to learn about a punishing God. I found out my mother decided when she was about 16-17 that she wasn't going there anymore. Well, in Bangor, and still to this day I think, we had both a Unitarian and a Universalist Church. I don't know which one she went to, but so...that better fit who she was, remember this lady of unconditional love. She must have found a home. And so I think her spirituality and her connection to nature, as well as who she is, again, all these little strings start leading me towards the Unitarian Church.

**Jude:** Now, you became eventually a clinical social worker. So how did that happen? Tell us how the steps went in that.

**Mardi:** Okay, well to back up: I told you about the orphanage, and that's my first experience of saying... helping somebody and really realizing, you know, beyond the sort of world events, but the kind of social structure



of this country. And so that led me to think about social work. My father wanted me to go into the Foreign Service. And I did tell my mother later on in life I said, "You know what, the reason I'm a social worker is all your fault." She went, "What?" She was about 70 at that point and I said, "Well, you took me to that orphanage and you opened my eyes." She said, "Do you think I opened eyes for the other girls?" I said, "I hope so."

*Mardi and Donald Cooper were married in Hancock, Maine on June 29, 1963 at the Chapel at Hancock Point. The officiant was one of their former teachers at the Woodstock Country School, Rev. Mounir Sa'adah of the Universalist Church of Woodstock, Vermont. After their marriage, they settled in Cambridge and Newton, MA for the early years of their marriage. She gave birth to two boys, David and Jackson, and they later adopted Andrew.*

But I had been married [to Donald Cooper], and so I was sitting by a sandbox again...small gestures lead to big, big, big changes...sitting by a sandbox with my two small children [David and Jackson], and a neighbor said, "We're starting a hotline for adolescents." It's now the early 70s, late 60s - early 70s. This country is in an uproar again. And I said, "Sure. Sure, I'll do that." Well, it's the times of drugs, sex, rock and roll, and LSD, and the whole nine yards, and I didn't know what I was getting in for. But I proved to be good at it. I was a good listener. And the adults on the whole didn't do a great job of answering the phones. So our teenager advisor said, "Let us...let us do it." So we trained them. Boy, did I get an education. And I do have a memory. One of my phone calls is...this guy is sitting on a window sill, his name...his roommate calls and says, "I can't get him off the window sill. He's having a bad trip from LSD." And Mardi is talking to him. I'm in my late 20s. And I said, "Okay, how do I get him back off?" Well, nature helps a little bit. I said, "Why don't we...I think you must be a bird if you're sitting on the window sill." He said, "Yes, I'm a bird. I can fly." I said, "Birds don't fly at night. Tuck your head under your arm, but you have to get back on your nest." "Well, where's my nest?" "It's behind the window you're sitting on. Tuck your head under your arm and go to sleep. That's what birds do at night." His roommate

picked up the phone call and said, "I think we're going to be okay, but why is his head under his arm?" I told him, I said, "Let him be."

**Jude:** Okay, Mardi. So the next thing I want to ask you is "What are your most important values and ethics, as an adult?"

**Mardi:** Okay, I think I have a fairly strong value system which... I feel like we... I wish we had more education in the schools on this, but I know the Unitarian religious program really does a great job of this. I emphasize love, caring, hope, and kindness. I believe that with my mother's help, you can have a positive foundation to lean on. I think there's an importance of family, friends, and community, and community ranges everything from the small community of our family to the larger community, to the world. I also have a faith in American democracy, which has really struck me in these last number of years, and my belief that we have to learn from our mistakes as well as our successes, that if we beat up on ourselves for our mistakes, that doesn't help at all. But if we learn from them... Of course we're going to make mistakes, we're definitely imperfect, so that we should learn from our mistakes as well as our successes. And my mother, through her modeling, I think, as much as...and who she was, who she was every day. The importance of giving and helping others to heal. To know there's somebody to count on. And I did learn resilience, by the way. And I trust... the word popped into my brain one night, when I was getting ready for this. And I looked it up. And it's the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties. And I think we all need that. We've all needed that for the last four years where I realize I've been holding my breath.

**Jude:** That's true, that's true. Okay, what about life lessons that kind of tags onto some of what you just said?

**Mardi:** Okay, well I gave you resilience. So I think that's one.

**Jude:** Yup.

**Mardi:** Can I sidetrack to social work a little bit?

**Jude:** Sure.

To be continued.....

## 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 (On Sabbatical January - May 2025)	<b>Children's Religious Education Coordinator</b> Charles Betancourt uuce.re@gmail.com
<b>Church Office Administrator</b> Ellen Sedgwick (207-667-4393) uucellsworth@gmail.com	<b>Music Director &amp; Pianist</b> Paul Kelly (207-412-9887) ourdreamalso@gmail.com

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

<b>President:</b> Beth Pepper to 2025 (207-610-4070)	<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> vacant

## 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> Jeff Jeude & Liz True	<b>NUUSletter Editor:</b> Lise 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> Tobias Betancourt
<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> Mary Murray	<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> Jeff Jeude
<b>History/Archives:</b> Wayne Smith	<b>Youth Advisor:</b> vacant

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



May 2024



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

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

**MAY 2024**

Vol. 56, No.5

We covenant to affirm and promote:

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