



The NUUS

DEC. 2024 VOLUME 56, NO. 12

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

FOR THESE UPCOMING HOLIDAY & HOLY DAYS, FUN,
MULTI-GENERATIONAL INVITATIONS AT UUCE!

IMPORTANT FILM VIEWING & PANEL DISCUSSION AT UUCE: *BUILDING HOPE*

... a film about homelessness in Maine

Saturday, December 7th at 3pm

Sponsored by UUCE, Families First Community Center
& Downeast Community Partners.

Produced by Kane-Lewis Productions.

Come learn about the needs of unhoused neighbors
and be a part of thinking about what we can do!

MULTIGENERATIONAL FIELDTRIP TO WABANAKI WINTER MARKET

at the Collins Center in Orono

**Saturday, December 14th, carpooling from
UUCE at 8:30am!**

Please RSVP to Charles Betancourt, RE Coordinator,
at uuce.re@gmail.com, or Rev. Sara

at sara@uuellsworth.org

All ages welcome!

HOLIDAY FUN AT UUCE:

**Hanging of the Greens in the Sanctuary,
Cookie Box Decorating
& Holiday Cookie Baking!**

**Saturday, December 14th from 1-4:30pm
– All are welcome!**

Come be part of decorating our Holy Days Tree,
and frosting cookies, and decorating Cookie Express
boxes! Pizza will be served, too!

2024 UUCE COOKIE EXPRESS FUNDRAISER

Saturday, December 21st from 9-11am at UUCE!

Contacts: Kate O'Dell (odelkk@gmail.com) or

Karen Volckhausen (pkvolckhausen@escrap.com)

Order YOUR box of home-made holiday cookies here:

<https://ourfundraiser.events/Cookies>

UUCE YULE TIDE RITUAL

in the Eileen Brennan Outdoor Sanctuary:

Saturday, December 21st at 3:30pm

Hosted by Charles Betancourt, RE Coordinator
& Summer Cornetta-Webb, new UUCE friend!

Soup & Hot Cider in the Community Room
afterwards & your potluck goodies to
share are also welcome & appreciated!

UUCE CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE-LIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE

Tuesday, December 24th at 5pm

Cookies & tea before the service in the Community
Room. All are welcome!

ON THE THRESHOLD OF A NEW YEAR:

**A Gathering to Clearly Into a New Year Arriving
Sunday, December 29th from 1:30-5pm at UUCE**

Hosted by Rev. Sara, Evelyn Foster & Amy Thompson

Sign up to participate by emailing Ellen in the office at
uucellsworth@gmail.com or Evelyn at evfoster33@gmail.com



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

DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY, DEC 1, 2024

Multi-Platform Worship at 10:30am
...and our hearts will open wide to receive

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

2nd Quarter Plate Split to benefit Healthy Acadia
Justice Ministry Conversation 12-1pm in sanctuary & ZOOM
UU Wellspring LOVE AT THE CENTER from 2-4pm

12/01 Worship Service Zoom Meeting:
<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/5157959121?omn=97126018386>
Meeting ID: 515 795 9121
Phone: 646-558-8656

I can't remember another time that we've needed to do more to strengthen the muscle of presence than now!? How do we do that?! What practices and wisdom teachings help us get better at being present with each other and what is?! How can relating more deeply to the sacred earth and the rhythms of this slowly arriving winter season help us to stay more present and more open-heartedly engaged in bearing witness to life while also embodying a love that doesn't look away or only anxiously react to suffering and fear? How do we cultivate a deeper capacity to be present and settle ourselves and lean into actions that look like loving engagements in the world? Come and be a part of a worship service and faith community committed to creating sanctuary and solidarity for each other and for all.

SUNDAY, DEC 8, 2024

Multi-Platform Worship at 10:30am
Namaste – Honoring the sacred in all!

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

UUUCE Choir Practice at 9am! RE today
Justice Ministry Conversation 12-1pm in sanctuary & on ZOOM
R.E. Committee Mtg from 12-1pm in RE Wing

12/08 Worship Service Zoom Meeting:
<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/5157959121?omn=97126018386>
Meeting ID: 515 795 9121
Phone: 646-558-8656

In this season of Advent, waiting in hopeful anticipation, can we help ourselves to see the Holy in every person, whatever language we use to know and describe such things? Today in worship, in stories and personal reflections shared, we'll explore how "presence" – our ability to open-heartedly companion one another—is strengthened when we remember to honor the wholeness and inherent worth and dignity in every person.

SUNDAY, DEC 15, 2024

Multi-Platform Worship at 10:30am
Celebrating this Season of Holy Days!

Rev. Sara Hayman, Worship Leader
Karen Volckhausen, Worship Associate

12/15 Worship Service Zoom Meeting:
<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/5157959121?omn=97126018386>
Meeting ID: 515 795 9121
Phone: 646-558-8656

9am UUCE Choir practice & choir sings in worship
Justice Ministry Conversation 12-1pm in sanctuary & on ZOOM
UU Wellspring LOVE AT THE CENTER from 2-4pm

What are your favorite carols and winter holiday traditions? What ancient stories or sacred texts do you turn to to be able to enter more fully into the magic of this season of holy days? Today we sing and tell stories and companion each other into the listening and deep-feeling invitations of this season.

SUNDAY, DEC 22, 2024

Multi-Platform Multigenerational Worship at 10:30am
A Multi-Generational Holiday Pageant

Charles Betancourt, RE Coordinator & Worship Leader
Rev. Sara Hayman, Worship Associate

Come be a part of celebrating the sacred story we tell at Christmas time – a babe (or maybe two this year!) in a manger, a family seeking shelter, wise people traveling long distances with sheep and goats and other beloved creatures in tow. With a playful spirit that also honors this ancient and wise story, we will sing and celebrate love reborn in this season

12/22 Worship Service Zoom Meeting:
<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/5157959121?omn=97126018386>
Meeting ID: 515 795 9121

SUNDAY, DEC 24, 2024

Multi-Platform Christmas Eve Worship at 5:00pm!
To kneel at the manger...

Rev. Sara Hayman, Worship Leader
Candace Hubbard, Worship Associate

12/24 Worship Service Zoom Meeting:
<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/5157959121?omn=97126018386>
Meeting ID: 515 795 9121

Cookies & tea before worship at 4pm

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.

SUNDAY, DEC 29, 2024

Multi-Platform Multigenerational Worship at 10:30am
Present in This Moment:
Meaning-Making on the Cusp of a New Year

UUCE Worship Arts Team Members,
Worship Leaders

On this last Sunday of the year, come reflect with several of our Worship Arts Team members about the poignancy of beginnings and endings and our want, as individuals and members of this faith community, to live well and generously all of our days.

12/29 Worship Service Zoom Meeting:
<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/5157959121?omn=97126018386>
Meeting ID: 515 795 9121

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



*In this holy season,
may we make room for mystery and wonder,
room for grief and fear and gratitude and courage,
room for beauty,
room for holy curiosity, burning like a star,
and room as well
for the quiet and resilient hope
that waits in the soil of the soul.
As the great wheel turns
and darkness deepens all around,
may we be reminded that the greatest mystery
is that we're here at all,
here and now,
and undeniably together.*

- Victoria Safford

Dec. 7, 3pm UU Church Ellsworth



BUILDING HOPE:

Ending Homelessness in Maine

*One of the worst societal traumas of this century **BUILDING HOPE**, puts a face on homelessness and tells us it could happen to anyone.*

But there is hope.

We can all make a difference.

Featuring panel with Rota Knott, Tracey Hair, Mark Worth, Liz True and Melody Lewis-Kane

Richard Kane, Director

BUILDING HOPE ... a film about homelessness in Maine

Fiscally sponsored by Downeast Community Partners

Produced by Kane-Lewis Productions

UUCE Justice Ministry

UUCE has a new Justice Ministry and we can all be a part of it! With many of us feeling despair, grief, anger, fear, or a myriad of other emotions as we face this new moment, it's more important than ever for us to join together around our shared UU values and our collective love for one another and for those who are most vulnerable. The Justice Ministry will be PASA's focus this year. We aim to:

- **create a safe space to share our hearts and ideas, to grapple with what's happening, and to figure out together how to move forward**
- **coalesce around our shared values and live them into the world**
- **excite people and make participation in the Justice ministry feel joyful**

You can be a Justice Minister by taking any action, large or small, grounded in our UU values of Justice, Equity and Love. You are probably already doing something, and that means you are already a Justice Minister! This could include making coffee for a meeting, writing letters to your representatives, or accompanying a young woman who comes to Maine to receive reproductive care. The Justice Ministry will be posting ideas for action on a bulletin board in the community room, and invites you to post your own actions to inspire others. The Justice Ministry will be holding periodic hybrid meetings after church on selected Sundays for anyone who wishes to attend. Watch for the upcoming schedule in the e-news and in the Sunday announcements. FMI contact Barb Acosta, Jana Robinson, Kay Wilkins, Cecily Judd, David Dietrich, or Tom Martin.

-- Barbara Acosta (she/ella)



Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth

Cookie Express

Drive-Through Holiday Cookie Sale



*\$30 for a festive box of 3 dozen
assorted homemade cookies*

ORDERING HOLIDAY COOKIES IS AS EASY AS 1 - 2 - 3!

- 1 Access the cookie site by using the link or QR Code
or go to <https://ourfundraiser.events/Cookies>
- 2 Order as many cookies as you desire, and checkout using a credit card.
- 3 Swing by UUCE, 121 Bucksport Rd, on Saturday, December 21, 9-11 am
to pick up your Cookies!



If you cannot access the internet, or need additional help using the
Cookie Site, please contact Jeff Jeude at 573-330-4677.

You may also send a check to the UU Office for your payment.

Denote "Cookies" on the memo line.

Cookie sales start on December 1, 2024 and continue while supplies last!

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A GROCERY CARD

TUCKED INTO A STOCKING OR CARD
TO ADD THAT EXTRA WHOOSH OF LOVE
TO YOUR HOLIDAY GIVING.



Hannaford grocery cards are sold at
UUCE coffee hour every Sunday and
come in denominations of \$50.00,
\$100.00, and \$250.00. (We accept
cash, check, credit, or debit).

**Our UUCE gets 5% of the sales
amount and it really adds up!**
You'll be giving twice when you use
grocery cards as a gift.
How fabulous is that?



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Are you an extrovert? Or can you be one for half an hour once a month? The membership committee is seeking volunteers to serve as greeters once a month - to arrive between 9:45 and 10 am, greet all who arrive and offer programs of service, and welcome visitors (plus count the number of attendees).

Would you like to join our committee? We need some fresh ideas on membership and congregational engagement. We meet on Zoom monthly in the early evening - day of week to be determined by membership.

Contact Liz True for more information on any of these topics - eatrue9@gmail.com. The membership committee would like to thank the greeters who welcome all to worship services.

Our greeters this fall include: Mary Murray, Evelyn Foster, Karen Volkhausen, Matt Gerald, Hannah Adams, Christine Bowman, Mac MacDonald and Linda Tarlow.

NEW NAMETAGS ARE COMING SOON!

SEEKING NEW MEMBERS FOR PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY

Every week members of the Pastoral Care Ministry pay special attention to the Joys and Sorrows expressed in our church service. We send cards, text, phone calls, and/ or visit people who need support, or help celebrate joys. We send birthday and holiday cards too. In addition, we assist with memorial services when asked to help, and we recently celebrated an ordination. Often this work involves the provision, serving, and clean-up of food for events. We sometimes honor confidentiality at the request of the recipient.

We are seeking 12 new members for our committee. If you can provide some or all of the above we would welcome the help! Please contact Kay Hansen or Rev. Sara.

Hello Congregants and Friends,

RE

Ticking Away the Moments,

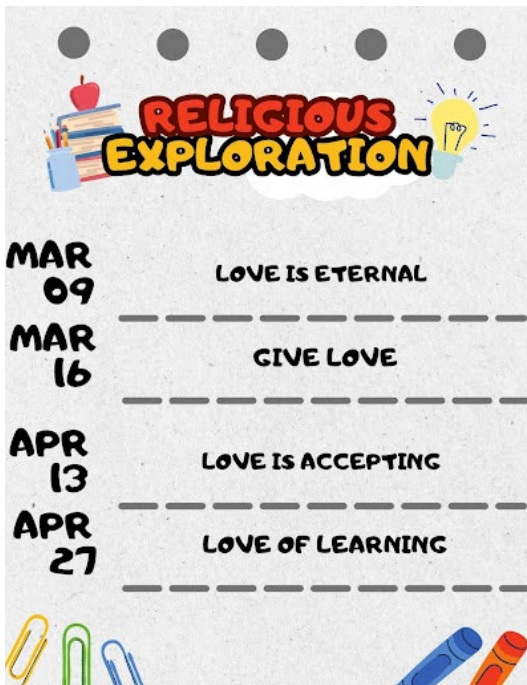
We have come to the end of another month together. We are almost at the end of another year. This month has been one of the more difficult months for everyone. This month, we were shown a deep truth in the world that I believe we were all hoping wasn't real.

November brought with it increases in Israeli Conflicts, increases in the Somali Civil War, the Sudanese Civil War, Bills to dismantle the Treaty of Waitangi, and not to mention the current socio-political environment of the US. This has been a hard month mired in even harder events. With all the changes and the barriers that keep being placed in the way of beneficial progress, how do we persevere? We need to come together and hold space for ourselves and others.

That being said, we have rallied together as a community. The Solidarity Gathering showed how quickly this congregation can move together to come to the needs of others. Our Harvest Feast run by Anne and Mary, had 60+ people registered to attend and celebrate being together. We have had several new families come and attend RE classes and our services have been growing more each Sunday. We are holding our own in the face of great adversity and will continue to hold onto each other.

Religious Exploration has begun to flourish even in the face of these hard times. We have spoken about the Five Elements of creation and explored thought forms. We went out to the outdoor sanctuary and collected acorns that we then placed in sacred water filling them with our intentions for health and healing to those we love and want to help. In the coming month, we will be playing **Chrismahanukwanzatide** bingo to learn about all of the holy days in December, will have a party to celebrate them, and then partake in the "No Rehearsal Pageant". We have also picked the next few months of RE dates listed here.





Another new event that has taken place is the hiring of a Religious Exploration Assistant, Jess Hill. She has been a life saver with the planning of programs, setting up and cleaning up, and holds us in compliance with Safe Sanctuary practices and policies. Please when you see her in church on any given Sunday, please introduce yourself and thank her for what she is doing for our congregation and our youth.

November was the month of The Practice of Repair. I believe that not only was it the practice in the sense of working through repair during the time of turmoil, but the act of practicing in a sense of doing it over and over to get it right or better.

December is the month of The Practice Of Presence. We need to be here for each other and for ourselves. We need to hold space as we have been and continue to do so. As the words we espouse each sunday by James Vila Blake,

**Love is the spirit of this church,
and service is its law.**

**This is our great covenant:
To dwell together in peace,
to seek the truth in love,
and to help one another.**

We need to dwell together in peace. We need to seek the truth in love. But now is the time where we just need to be willing and able to help each other. Do you need help? Can you offer help? As our church family grows, are you reaching out for your and their needs? Growing sometimes comes with pains. Pains can be eased. Let's come together and ease the pain.

The time is gone, the song is over, thought I'd something more to say

(Bonus Points to anyone who knows the song these lyrics are from)



FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT BETH PEPPER

Welcome to a chilly start to December! I was in Virginia for a week celebrating Thanksgiving with our very, very modern family, snuggling with Lise (& our pups) who I've missed this past month, and holding our grandson, Nolan, every chance I got. He's graduated to trying pureed vegetables - and seems to like wearing them as much as eating them! Lise and I also got to toast each other at the restaurant where we had our first date - 25-3/4 years ago!



UUCE's Gratitude Harvest Feast sounds like it was AH-mazing! Seventy+ people attended - wow! Thank you Anne Ossanna and Mary Murray for coordinating the feast and to all their minions who helped make the magic happen - and then helped clean up after all the magic happened.

One of the things I love about living in Maine is that people purposely find reasons to gather in the winter, when folks "from away" think we're all hibernating and lonely. Ha! Far from it! And December kicks it off!

Saturday, Dec 14, we've two events:

- our annual field trip to the Wabanaki Winter Market in Orono, meeting at UUCE to carpool at 8:30am; and
- our hanging of the greens in the Sanctuary, cookie-box decorating and holiday cookie baking from 1-4pm.

And on **Saturday, Dec 21**, we've got two more events:

- our (almost) world-famous Cookie Walk fundraiser takes place from 9-11am; and
- our Winter Solstice celebration in the Outdoor Sanctuary at 4:30. Bundle up! Afterwards, you can warm up with soup and hot cider in the community room and any goodies - ahem, like cookies, maybe? - you bring to share.

I wish you all peace and love and a safe holiday season,  





WE'D LOVE YOU TO COME SING IN UUCE'S CHOIR!

Choir Practices this month – Sundays November 3rd and 20th at 9am
Choir Sings in Worship on Sunday, November 20th!

We are so lucky to have Meg O'Dell as our Choir Director again this year! Come join the choir that meets twice a month on Sundays at 9am before worship to practice and then sing one Sunday a month in worship. Everyone, of all ages and abilities, is welcome to be a part of this soul-nourishing singing community! If you have questions, feel free to reach out to Tori Bell, chair of our Music Committee, who also sends out reminders each month about choir practice. You can reach her via email at toribell14@gmail.com.

Here are the Choir Dates for fall & winter months so you can mark your calendar now:

December 8 (practice) & **15** (sing in worship)

January 12 (practice) & **26** (sing in worship)

February 2 (practice) & **9** (sing in worship)



WOMEN'S DRUM CIRCLE

Saturday, December 7 and 21,
1:00 - 2:30
at UUCE

Sharing drum songs, improvisational rhythms, chants
and raising energy. No prior experience needed. We
have drums to share. Contact Mary Murray for more
information marydmurray@comcast.net



DINNER ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD



Tickets available:

- UU Church office
- UU members
- uubelfast.com
- Green Store
- or scan below!

WHERE WILL YOU GO?

FMI - uubelfast.com or call Anna at 207-930-9399

**Support Our UU Church of Belfast:
Buy a Dinner Anywhere Around the World Raffle Ticket!**

The UU Church of Belfast's 7th annual Dinner Anywhere in the World raffle is under way with only 1000 tickets available. Your \$20 ticket purchase may win you: If the winner chooses to travel internationally they will receive airfare, two nights in a hotel, and dinner for two anywhere in the world. If they choose to stay in the continental U.S. the winner receives transport, two dinners for two, and four nights lodging. If they decide to stay in Maine they could host a staycation at a camp on a lake for their friends, rent a tent and throw a catered party, or something else (an all-expense paid trip to GA anyone?). Anna Wood-Cox in our UU Belfast helps with the logistics and bookings. The only limitation is imagination and the maximum prize value of \$5,000.

Raffle tickets make great thank you gifts, Yankee swap gifts, stocking stuffers, holiday presents, you name it. There are beautiful gift cards available to make gift giving even easier.
FMI: uubelfast.com or Anna Wood-Cox at 207-930-9399



Dr. Wayne H. Smith
UUCS Historian

TAIWAN TRAVELS - THEN AND NOW CONT.

Soon after I arrived in Taiwan this past October, I took a train (well, hardly just a “train” – more like the “bullet” trains of Japan, known in Taiwan as the Gāotiě, or HSR, high-speed rail) south to the city of Tainan, formerly known as “Taiwan.” One could call Tainan the “cultural capital” of Taiwan, and its name gradually came to refer to the entire island. Taipei means “Taiwan north,” and Tainan means “Taiwan south.”



Pan Yuzhi back
in the 1990s

travel to Tainan to visit Pān Yùzhì, a Deaf man who was quite “out” as a Gay man, and I must confess I fell for his good looks, his intelligence, and his confident disposition. Over the years I had lost contact with him but thanks to my friends Xiǎo Dīng and Zhōngpéng (hereafter: XDZP), I was able to reestablish that contact.

Pān Yùzhì (Pān is his family name and Yùzhì is his given name, which means “nurture intelligence”) was incredibly handsome in his youth. He’s now 58 and has lost his beautiful head of hair (thanks to his genes), but he’s still

the same confident person that I knew three decades ago. He worked for years in a noodle shop in Tainan, then eventually set up his own noodle business three years ago. Soon after, he met Cedric Chai, a hearing man two decades his junior, who was also attracted to him just as I had



Pān Yùzhì and his husband Cedric
Chai in their noodle shop

雲手麥麵

been. They went into business together and the result was 雲手麥麵 (Yún Shǒu Màimiàn – “Cloud Hands Wheat Noodles”), some of the best noodles in Tainan. They were legally married just three weeks before I arrived in Taiwan.

As if that love story wasn’t enough, it turned out that the following weekend was: “Taipei Pride!” I returned to Taipei just in time to see an entire ocean of LGBTQ+ people flooding the plaza area in front of Taipei’s City Hall. There were stands set up by various organizations providing services for the Queer community, there was a big parade featuring all sorts of floats, there were people wearing all sorts of rainbow-colored costumes, or (in the case of many of the men) going shirtless except perhaps for some leather straps. I thought I had died and gone to heaven surrounded by all

these handsome young men! The parade was so big that after heading west for a few blocks it divided into two groups, heading north and south, before doubling back towards the City Hall Plaza for even more ceremonies. Of course, the activities continued into the evening, but by then I was exhausted and my feet sore, so I headed back to the Taipei Main Train Station where I caught the MRT (subway) back to the Nánshìjiǎo Station where XDZP picked me up.



Devin Tankersley (R) and his husband Hubert

I need to add that I was hardly the only foreigner in attendance at the Pride festivities. A friend of mine who attended the same men's gathering in West Gardiner that Doug Bird and I went to a few weeks ago heard me say that I was

going to visit Taiwan. He told me that his Gay son Loren has been living in Kaohsiung, Taiwan for eight years and wanted me to look him up if I could. I got in touch with Loren and he told me that he would be attending Taipei Pride. And then another Gay American, Devin Tankersley or 唐駿 (Táng Jùn), who has been living in Taiwan for ten years and who, like me, has been doing research on Taiwan Sign Language (!!!) for years, was also at the Pride events, and the three of us all happened to meet at the same subway exit at the same time! Divine Providence!

On Monday, October 28, I had the pleasure of returning to my "home of choice" in Taiwan: Xīnpǔ. (In case you're wondering, "X" is pronounced like the English "sh."). A former student of mine, Shawn Chang, has frequently invited me to visit his childhood home in the Hakka community west of Taipei in the

mountains of Xīnzhǔ County. The area is known for growing tea, and Shawn's family property is covered with acres of not only tea, but also oranges, kumquats, mangoes, something called pitayas, and who knows what else. And then there's the animals: chickens, ducks, geese, goats, dogs, cats, what have you. Up in the mountains, the air is clear and fresh, and Shawn's parents have lived there virtually all their lives. His mother is 87, and his father 92, and they're still going strong. His mom is also a great cook, and for my visit there, Shawn went shopping for all my favorite foods and his mother cooked it all up. Absolutely delicious!

On Wednesday evening, Oct. 30, I was asked to speak to a group of students in a TSL interpreter training class about my early experiences (50 years earlier!) with the Deaf community in Taiwan. I may be old, but those memories are still clear as a bell. The session was recorded and it will help me when I start writing my autobiography (!).

All of that visiting and speaking behind us, we're now (Oct. 30) preparing for yet another type of visitor. Typhoon Leon (here called Typhoon Kāngruì) is supposed to make landfall sometime tomorrow. It's mostly going to affect eastern Taiwan with lots of rain. Taiwan is quite used to typhoons, and buildings are well built to protect against both typhoons and earthquakes, which are also frequent visitors.

(Continuing on Nov. 23):

Well, Typhoon Leon came and went. He blew down a lot of trees, dropped a lot of rain, and gave us an excuse to stay inside and get a lot of work done.

On Friday, November 1, I met with several of my blind friends, whom I've known for 50 years now, at the home of one of them, Howard Chang. It's interesting to note that in a blind person's home, there are no pictures or other decorations on the walls. It's just plain walls and basic furniture, although since he's quite a musician, Howard does have a very nice piano. It's also interesting to note that when you're in the midst of a group of blind people all talking together, the word "you" is rarely used. Instead,

“you” is replaced by each person’s name because if you just say “you,” no one would know which “you” is being referred to. So, for example, you might hear things like: “So, what does Lú Jīndìng think of the new mayor of Taipei?”

On Monday, Nov. 4, I went with XDZP to the town of Guānshān in southeastern Taiwan to visit Xiǎo Dīng’s mother, now age 92 and bedridden, but she enjoys singing Japanese songs that she learned as a child during the 50-year Japanese occupation of Taiwan. She also loves to play “Russian Squares,” an app on her iPad similar to Tetris. She is cared for by Xiǎo Dīng’s brother Dīng Lìjǔ, who is a doctor of Chinese medicine, and by a hired Vietnamese live-in “nanny” who cooks, cleans, and takes care of “Granny Dīng” and sends money back to her family in Vietnam.



Outside the Hot Springs Bathhouse

Lastly, on the day before my flight back to the States, I went with my friend Chén Dūnshì, or “Dennis,” to a hot springs bathhouse in northern Taipei on Yángmíng mountain. It’s a communal bath, separated by the sexes, with two levels of heat: hot and hotter, and the smell of sulfur is everywhere. There were about 20 people on the men’s side, and there was no end of conversation going on the whole time. The water felt good, especially on my feet which, after three weeks of walking all over Taipei, were pretty sore. It was a great way to relax after a busy trip.

I left for the States on Monday afternoon, Nov. 11, at about 4:00 PM and arrived in San Francisco the same day, about five hours before I left, at 11:00 AM. (That never ceases to amaze me!) The connecting flight left SFO at 1:00 PM and arrived in BOS around 10:00 PM the same day. I stayed with a friend in Quincy that evening and managed to get a good night’s sleep. I got up the next day and took my time driving back home, where I was greeted by CJ around 3:00 PM.

IT WAS A GREAT TRIP!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Office Administrator Ellen Sedgwick (207-667-4393) uucellsworth@gmail.com	Children's Religious Education Coordinator Charles Betancourt uuce.re@gmail.com
Minister Rev. Sara Hayman rev.sara.hayman@gmail.com	

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President: Beth Pepper to 2025 (207-610-4070)	Vice President: Jill Jeude to 2025
Treasurer: Kate O'Dell to 2026	Secretary: Bob Francis to 2026
Trustee: Tori Bell to 2026	Trustee: Jana Robinson to 2027
Trustee: Doug Bird to 2026	Moderator: Gary Shellehamer

COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE CHAIRS

Adult Committee on Education: vacant	Membership: Liz True
Aesthetics: Gary Shellehamer	Music: Tori Bell
Auction: Jeff Jeude & Liz True	NUUSletter Editor: Lise Williams
Building & Maintenance/Safety: Susan Opdycke	Pastoral Care Ministry: Kay Hansen
Charitable Giving: Rev. Sara Hayman	Peace and Social Action: vacant
Choir Director: Meg O'Dell	Pianist: Paul Kelly
Collaborative Ministry: inactive at this time	Publicity: Susan Opdycke
Committee on Ministry: Karen Volckhausen	Children's Religious Education: Charles Betancourt
Congregational Engagement: Hannah Adams	Small Group Ministry: Mary Murray
Cookie Walk: Kate O'Dell	Stewardship: Doug Bird
Eggroll Project Volunteer Coordinator: Mary Murray	Ushers: Beth Pepper
Ferry Beach Coordinator: Anne Ossanna	Technology Coordinator: vacant
Fiscal Matters: Charles Betancourt	Wayside Pulpit: Nancy Guy
Flower Ministry: Linda Tarlow	Website: vacant
Green Sanctuary: Paul Kelley	Worship Arts: Marta Rieman
History/Archives: Wayne Smith	Yard Sale: Jeff Jeude
Hospitality Ministry Coordinator: vacant	Youth Advisor: vacant
Landscaping and Grounds: Bronwen Day	

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



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Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth

207-667-4393 www.uuellsworth.org

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We covenant to affirm and promote:

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