



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW
AND CHOOSE TO BE A PART OF UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS
IN OUR UUCE COMMUNITY!

COME SING IN THE CHOIR

with Meg O'Dell Directing!

**Sundays, January 12th and 26th
at 9am**

Sing in worship with choir on January 26th!

Reach out to Tori Bell, toribell14@gmail.com,
if you want to receive choir emails.

(See article in NUUS about UUCE Choir)

COME TO RE CLASS *this Month*

with Charles Betancourt

& Jess Hill, RE Assistant!

Sundays, January 12th & 26th!

Contact Charles Betancourt, RE

Coordinator,

Uuce.re@gmail.com, for more info!

We'd love to get to know your kiddos!

FOOD, FELLOWSHIP, FUN!

In the Community Room at UUCE

Thursday, January 30, 2025

11:00 am to 1:00 pm

(See more of a description of this gathering
in this NUUS!)

UUCE WINTER CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**Sunday, January 26th following
worship at 12pm**

(In-person & on ZOOM)

Come, learn more about what's happening
our church community!

UUCE'S "REVOLUTIONARY LOVE" CLASS

Rev. Sara & Marta Rieman, Co-Facilitating

Introductory Session w/ a Shared Meal is

**Thursday, January 30th 5:30-7:30pm
at UUCE.**

10 Class Sessions on **1st & 4th Thursday**

Evenings from 6-7:30pm on ZOOM

from February – June 2025:

February 6 & 27, March 6 & 27, April 3 & 24,

May 1 & 22, June 5 and Final Class In-Person

June 15 from 5:30-7:30pm

(See more of a description of this gathering

in this NUUS!) Sign-Up through an email

to Ellen, our Admin, at uucellsworth@gmail.com.

to be a participant.



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

JANUARY WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY, JAN 5, 2025

Multi-Platform Worship at 10:30am

Stay in the Room

Jeff Jeude, Guest Worship Leader

Karen Volckhausen, Worship Associate

1/05 Worship Service Zoom Meeting:

[https://uuma.zoom.us/](https://uuma.zoom.us/j/5157959121?omn=97126018386)

j/5157959121?omn=97126018386

Meeting ID: 515 795 9121

Phone: 646-558-8656

3rd Quarter Plate Split to benefit Maine Multicultural Center

Confucius said, "If you are the smartest person in the room, then you are in the wrong room." To some extent, this is wise; However: leaders, mentors, educators - we are called to be "in the room" to facilitate learning, provide help and comfort, and inspire growth. Join us as we identify our reasons to stay in the room for others.

SUNDAY, JAN 12, 2025

Multi-Platform Worship at 10:30am

Looking for Grace in the Fabric of Our Stories

Rev. Jacquie Robb, Worship Leader

Toby Betancourt, Worship Associate

1/12 Worship Service Zoom Meeting:

[https://uuma.zoom.us/](https://uuma.zoom.us/j/5157959121?omn=97126018386)

j/5157959121?omn=97126018386

Meeting ID: 515 795 9121

Phone: 646-558-8656

UUUCE Choir Practice at 9am! RE today

Justice Ministry Conversation 12-1pm in sanctuary & on ZOOM!

How has Grace informed your story? We pause at the beginning of the new year, before diving into our resolutions and intentions, to reflect on how Grace guides us and what we have learned about walking the path of inspiration, curiosity and love.

Rev. Jacquie Robb, BCCC is an ordained interfaith minister and is certified nationally as a clinical chaplain and spiritual care practitioner and counselor. She has worked as a nonprofit administrator in health care and education and owned an independent bookstore for 10 years. She began a daily spiritual practice in her early 20s and spent three years on staff at an international meditation retreat site. She retired as chaplain for a 450 resident continuing care retirement community and currently volunteers with hospice and as a worship leader at congregations in the midcoast area.

SUNDAY, JAN 19, 2024

Multi-Platform Worship at 10:30am
**The arc of the moral universe is long
but it bends toward justice.**
UUCE Justice Ministry Members, Worship Leaders

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. has taken a thought from Theodore Parker, transcendentalist and Unitarian minister, and made these words echo through the ages. They offer hope and give rise to a sense that progress toward freedom, equality, and—indeed—justice is inevitable. But is it? In honor of Martin Luther King Day, the Justice Ministry will focus on this quotation, and whether the arc of the moral universe needs our active participation in order to pull it toward justice. How might we help to shape a just universe? How long might it take to get there? How does our faith provide us with guidance? These are challenging times and we will need to work together to foster justice in our communities and in our larger society. Let's plant the seeds of justice and tend the growth toward an equitable society in which all have value and the opportunity to flourish.

The Justice Ministry has grown out of our UUCE Peace and Social Action Ministry in response to our sense of the changed political environment since November. We have been meeting regularly to acknowledge our fears and concerns for our democracy and for the many community members who fall into one or more of several population groups whose rights may be threatened. We are working to live our faith and spiritual values into our world, identify areas in which we can actively work to foster justice, improve and protect the lives of underprivileged people, and speak up for our democratic ideals of and belief in justice for all.

SUNDAY, JAN 26, 2024

Multi-Platform Multigenerational Worship at 10:30am
Hearing & Holding Hard Stories
Rev. Sara Hayman, Worship Leader
Marta Rieman, Worship Associate

1/26 Worship Service Zoom Meeting:
[https://uuma.zoom.us/
j/5157959121?omn=97126018386](https://uuma.zoom.us/j/5157959121?omn=97126018386)
Meeting ID: 515 795 9121

UUCE Choir Practice at 9am & singing in worship! RE today!
Winter Congregational Mtg at 12pm in person & on ZOOM!
UU Wellspring Class from 2-4pm at church!

In worship today, Rev. Sara & Marta Rieman share stories about their respective experiences making civil rights pilgrimages to the South last year. How does engaging “hard” stories and truths about our country’s history help us to grow and change as individuals and as a country? How can we, as a UU faith community committed to antiracism, become more active learners engaged in reconciliation and healing?

MINISTRY MATTERS

BY SARA HAYMAN

Welcome to Your January NUUS, Beloveds!
What a full & soul nourishing month December was
and I look forward to the new year ahead, too.

I'll be off for three weeks beginning Tuesday, December 31st
and returning to work on January 21st! In addition to enjoying
a three-day retreat with 6 women UU colleagues, I plan to be
home and enjoying the coziness and beauty of winter here in Maine.

I hope you'll find ways to be nourished by the rhythms of this season, too

Much love,
Rev. Sara





FOOD, FELLOWSHIP, FUN!

UUCE COMMUNITY ROOM

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2025
11:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

Rev. Sara and Jeff Jeude invite you to swing by and sit a spell at UUCE to join with others and share a lunch, share a conversation, or maybe play a game. As we make time to connect with others, we will find ourselves a bit less lonely and further filled with hope.

As Jeff will remind us on January 5th during worship, we are called to love on one another, to be brave and outgoing, to share our wisdom, our pain, our dreams - even if it's just one gray winter day.

Lunch and snacks will be provided, along with coffee, tea, and water. If you would like to bring something to share, we would welcome that!

We've saved the best part for last - no advanced reading required! - no homework! - no dress code! - no cost to you other than your time!!

We look forward to spending some time with you, our church family.

Jeff and Sara

A “REVOLUTIONARY LOVE” CLASS

BEGINS AT UUCE IN LATE JANUARY

Rev. Sara & Marta Rieman, Co-Facilitating

Introductory Session w/ a Shared Meal is

Thursday, January 30th 5:30-7:30pm at UUCE

10 Class Sessions on 1st & 4th Thursday Evenings

from 6-7:30pm on ZOOM from February – June 2025:

February 6 & 27, March 6 & 27, April 3 & 24, May 1 & 22,

June 5 and Final Class In-Person June 15 from 5:30-7:30pm

Rev. Sara is excited to co-facilitate this spiritual deepening class with Marta Rieman based on Valorie Kaur's book *See No Stranger: A Manifesto of Revolutionary Love*. This discussion-based class invites participants to explore the concept of Revolutionary Love as a foundation for justice work in the world. Participants are asked to read this book (certain chapters will be assigned for each session) and to make every effort to attend all the class sessions and actively participate in conversations.

For more information, please speak with Rev. Sara sara@uucellsworth.org or Marta Rieman at rieman.clayton@gmail.com. There's room for up to 10 people to participate and registration thru Ellen in the church office (uucellsworth@gmail.com) is required.





march into spring!

Goods & Services Auction

Dear UUCErs,

Our annual Goods and Services Auction will be held on March 1st this year, and the theme is March into Spring. Mark your calendars now for this fun event!

Co-chairs Jeff Jeude and Liz True are seeking your donations. The Silent Auction will take place from February 8th until 5 pm on March 1st, and the Live Auction will start at 6 pm on Zoom with auctioneers extraordinaire Pepper and CJ.

Do you have a talent to share such as handy person skills, wood-stacking, leading a workshop, hosting a dinner party? Do you have a vacation home you could donate for a week or weekend stay? Would you share your seats at Fenway, Waterfront Concerts or some other venue with bidders? Do you have art, crafts or useful treasures that you are ready to part with?

Already we have donations including:

Wine-tasting at Cellar Door Winery with Liz, Anne & Bron

A kayaking tour of the Bagaduce River including guaranteed seal sightings

A stained glass workshop

4 hours of handyman service

Please send an email to either Liz at eatrue9@gmail.com or Jeff at emmaus117@gmail.com with the following information:

- **Name of donor**
- **Email of donor**
- **Title and description of donation**
- **If an event/dinner - how many can participate? Is it by individual tickets or must the bidder buy the whole shebang?**
- **Approximate value**
- **Minimum bid if necessary**
- **Photo if possible**



Hello Congregants and Friends,

RE

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Should old acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind?

Is a lyric I never understood. Why would we forget them? For me even though this is a secular time of year, since we use the Gregorian calendar, it's not completely devoid of spirit. What has this past year, 2024 told you about yourself and your faith path?

Clifford Geertz, American Anthropologist and author of Deep Play, tells us that our cultural, religious, and anthropological lives are "the story we tell ourselves about ourselves". As January's theme is Story, I want to hear your stories. What got you through 2024 to get you to the point you are now? What are you looking forward to in 2025?

We have been lucky to have three new members to our Religious Exploration Committee, Carol Rosinski, Summer Cornetta-Webb, and Emily Samuel. We are working on developing new programming for our youth over a wider age range. The story of our Religious Exploration Program has been varied and ever-changing and we are working hard to have to make positive changes to the story we tell ourselves about ourselves.

If you would like to add to our RE Story please reach out to our committee members or me and you can be part of the change to this program. Here are the RE dates up to April. We will be pepper other events here and there and will have the year finalized by the next news letter.

Work hard on your stories this year and we will be making strides to be larger parts of it.

Brightest Blessings,

Charles A Betancourt





WOMEN'S DRUM CIRCLE

Saturday, January 4 and 18,
1:00 - 2:30 at UUCE

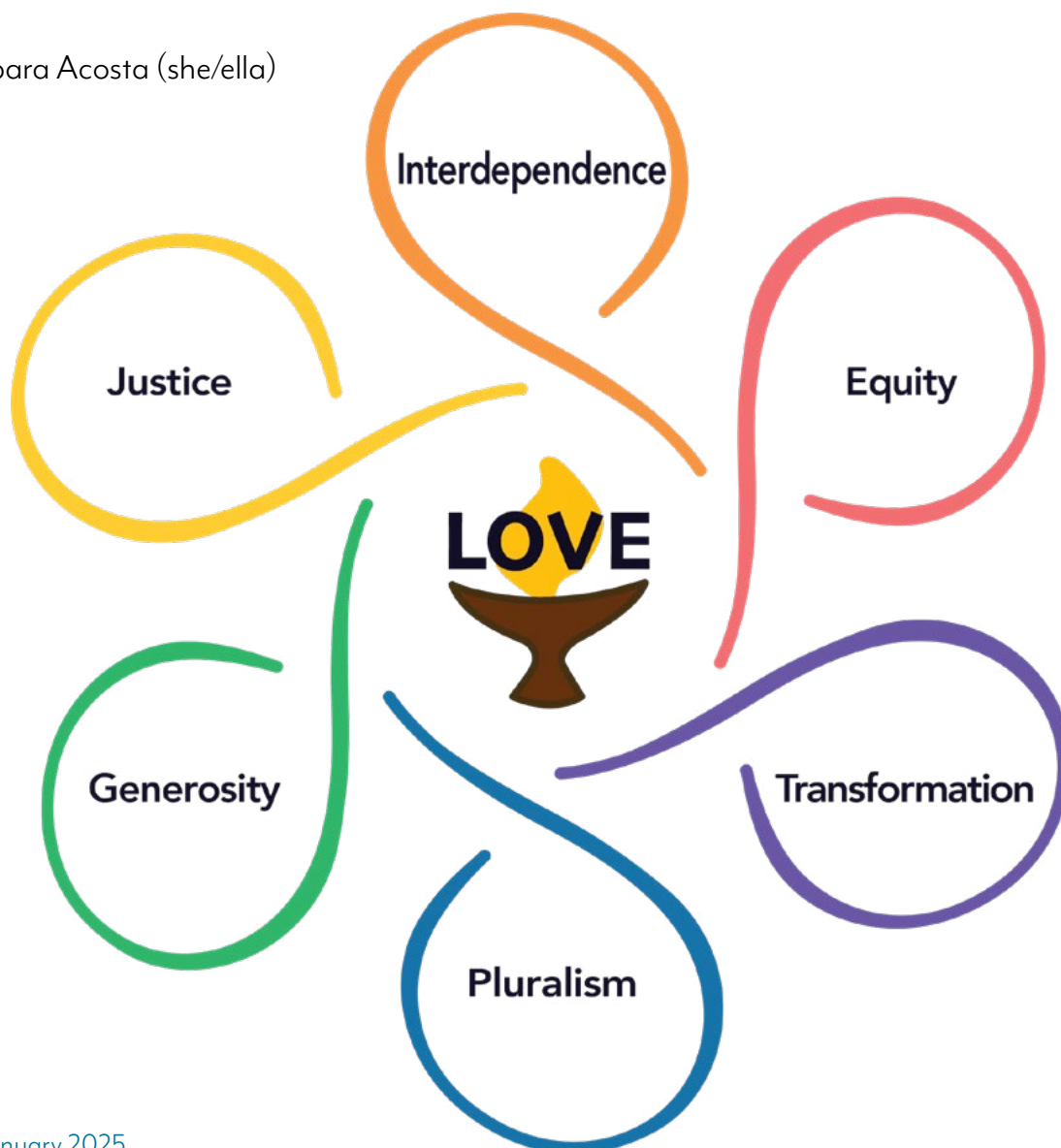
Sharing drum songs, improvisational rhythms, chants and raising energy. No prior experience needed. We have drums to share. Contact Mary Murray for more information marydmurray@comcast.net

UUCE Justice Ministry

UUCE's new Justice Ministry (an outgrowth of PASA) will continue to meet after church on Sundays from noon to 1pm. Please watch the weekly enews for exact dates.

This ministry is for all who wish to be a part of living our faith into the world. We are in the process of shaping our focus for the months ahead. So far, we have identified several areas of potential work, which we will continue to hone as a group. We have decided to focus on local needs, while remaining connected to national and global movements for justice and revolutionary love. Our first direct actions included a warm clothing drive as well as donations for people experiencing food insecurity. Meetings take place in-person and on Zoom. Contact Jana Robinson or Barb Acosta for more information.

-- Barbara Acosta (she/ella)





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 the next couple of months so you can mark your calendar now:

January 12 (practice) & 26 (sing in worship)
February 2 (practice) & 9 (sing in worship)

FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT BETH PEPPER

Hello from Virginia (again)! I'm joining Lise & the pups as we start officially babysitting for a chunk of January while our daughter starts back to work. I loved my Coast Guard career, but I think this is going to be the BEST. JOB. EVER!! We'll BOTH (yay!) be back home on Monday, Jan 20 and we are looking forward to seeing everyone again!

Many thanks to **Kate O'Dell** and **Karen Volckhausen** for chairing our successful Cookie Express; to **Charles Betancourt** and **Summer Corbett-Webb** for leading our Yule Tide ritual; to **Evelyn Foster, Amy Thompson,** and **Rev. Sara** for hosting the On the Threshold of a New Year gathering; and to **Jana Robinson** for collecting (and continuing to collect) the warm winter wear for our neighbors in need.

Special thanks also go to **Holly Hendricks** for running our tech booth for the past three-and-a-half years. You made some real miracles happen, Holly! Thank you from all of us who got to experience church services in person or on zoom - and that's all of us!!

As I said last month, one of the many 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! UUCE's January offerings are no exception! Besides our weekly Sunday services, we have our **Winter Congregational Meeting** on Sunday, Jan 26 at noon, both in person and on zoom. Please plan on attending because we need a quorum to vote in our new Elections Committee, those folks who will put the slate together for Board elections at our Annual Meeting in May. We finish January with **Food, Fellowship, and Fun** luncheon from 11am-1pm on Thursday, Jan 30 and the first (of ten) sessions for the **Revolutionary Love** class that evening.

Hoping 2025 is a good year for each and every one of us,



CELEBRATING COMMUNITY AT UUCE!



Please Join Us in Thanking the Members of UUCE's RE Committee!

Emily Samuels, Carol Rosinski, Christine Bowman, Jenni Morgan, Tobias Betancourt, Summer Cornetta-Webb, Charles Betancourt, RE Coordinator and Rev. Sara Hayman.

Thank You for Donating Your Warm Winter Clothes for Neighbors in Need!

We're still collecting donations through the end of January, 2025.

Contact Jana Robinson, janasmith.robinson@outlook.com, for more information.



This Year's "On the Threshold of a New Year" Gathering had lots of fun!

Many thanks to Evelyn Foster & Amy Thompson for helping to host this year's gathering. It was wonderfully fun and a soul-nourishing time! We hope you'll participate next year!

EVEN IN THE DEAD OF WINTER, BUYING
GROCERY CARDS

EARNS BIG BUCKS FOR OUR UUCE.
CARDS ARE AVAILABLE IN AMOUNTS
OF \$50.00, \$100.00, AND \$250.00. PAY
BY CASH, CHECK OR CREDIT. EVERY
SUNDAY AT COFFEE HOUR.



Our UUCE gets 5% of the sales amount and it really adds up!



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	

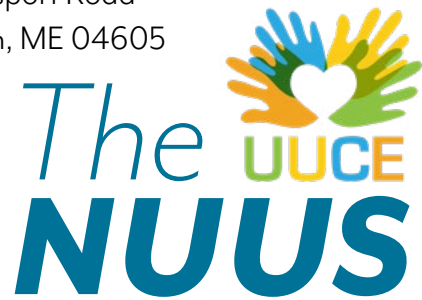
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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



January 2025



Newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth

207-667-4393 www.uuellsworth.org

JANUARY 2025

Vol. 57, No. 1

We covenant to affirm and promote:

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