



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ELLSWORTH

The NUUS

JUNE 2025 VOLUME 57, NO. 6

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, June 1 and 18 at 9 am

Sing in worship with choir on June 8

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, June 8 at 10:30am

(Time for All Ages in worship, then Religious
Exploration Classes)

**Multi-Generational Flower Communion
Service on June 22**

Contact Charles Betancourt, RE Coordinator,
UUCE.re@gmail.com, for more info.

ELLSWORTH PRIDE

at Knowlton Park on

Sunday, June 8 from 11:30am -4:30pm

Come be at the UUCE Table for an hour-long shift
and help us celebrate and affirm EVERYONE at
PRIDE this year!

Contact Rev. Sara about helping with the table.

(sara@uuelsworth.org or text: 207-610-2872)

And looking ahead...

UUCE'S ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

is on Sunday, August 3 from 1-4pm

at Lamoine Beach.

Come join in the fun, too!

Freedom





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

JUNE WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 2025

Multi-Platform Worship at 10:30am
The Perfect Heart: A Multi-Gen Service

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

6/1 Worship Service Zoom Meeting:
<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/5157959121?omn=97126018386>
Meeting ID: 515 795 9121
Phone: 646-558-8656

Choir Practice at 9am
First Sunday Potluck after church
4th Quarter Plate Split to benefit Seeds of Peace
Justice Ministries Congregation Conversation 12:30-2pm

All the world's wisdom traditions call us to this knowing: Our sacred, most faithful work is to live with broken-open hearts that mean we offer our love, strength and generosity with others in this beautiful and suffering world. In worship today, we tell an old story that invites you to be brave and more actively and intentionally engaged in living love, that looks like compassion and justice, more boldly into the world.

SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2025

Multi-Platform Worship at 10:30am
Inside you are entire Universes...

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

6/8 Worship Service Zoom Meeting:
<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/5157959121?omn=97126018386>
Meeting ID: 515 795 9121
Phone: 646-558-8656

Choir Practice at 9am & Singing in worship
RE today

Rev. Julián Jamaica Soto writes: "To be free...you must know, not that you can do whatever you want... You must know instead, that inside you are entire Universes [and]...you must fight for the entire Universes inside of everyone else..." Today, we explore the relationship between freedom and liberation and how our UU faith calls and compels us to see, honor, protect and celebrate all of us.

6/15 Worship Service Zoom
Meeting: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/5157959121?omn=97126018386>
Meeting ID: 515 795 9121
Phone: 646-558-8656

SUNDAY, JUNE 15, 2025

Multi-Platform Worship at 10:30am
UUCE's Annual Flower Communion Service

Rev. Sara Hayman & Charles Betancourt, Worship Leaders
Jill Jeude, Worship Associate

Drawing from our Unitarian roots and the prophetic ministry of Rev. Dr. Norbert Čápek, this Sunday all are invited to create and share together in our annual Flower Communion ritual. Please bring a flower of your choosing to church and place it in the vase when you enter the sanctuary. If you're worshipping with us on line, please email a photo (JPEG file) of you and a flower, or just a flower, to Suzanne Aubrey at suzanneaubrey57@gmail.com by Friday, June 20th at 5pm.

SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 2025

Multi-Platform Worship at 10:30am
Queer Holy Stories

Rev. Benjamin Perry, Guest Worship Leader
Rev. Sara Hayman, Worship Associate

6/22 Worship Service Zoom Meeting:
<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/5157959121?omn=97126018386>
Meeting ID: 515 795 9121
Phone: 646-558-8656

Congregational Conversation w/ Rev. Perry from 12-1:30pm

As part of our Pride celebrations, Rev. Perry will preach about reclaiming queer stories from sacred texts that are too often overlooked or not recognized. After church, we'll talk about how we can create space so children feel welcome to bring their whole selves into worship and community life, and how to support families in this work.

Rev. Benjamin Perry is the Editorial Director at Garrett Seminary and author of *Cry, Baby: Why Our Tears Matter*. An award-winning writer, his work has been featured in *The Atlantic*, *TIME*, *The Washington Post*, *Teen Vogue*, *Slate*, *Religion News Service* and more, and he has appeared on outlets like *NPR*, *Vox*, *MSNBC*, and *The BBC*. He was previously Minister of Outreach and Media Strategy at Middle Church in NYC, and now lives in Camden, Maine with his partner, the novelist E.K. Sathue. Rev. Perry is also a board member of OUTMaine, an award-winning queer theologian, and an experienced group facilitator.

Creating Space for Families – Please come and be a part of a 3rd Congregational Conversation after worship with Rev. Perry facilitating. We'll engage each other in listening and sharing and continue the work of creating more inclusive and welcoming culture in our church for *all* of us.

SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 2025

Multi-Platform Worship at 10:30am
Donald and Elon Meet the Apostles

Rev. Mark Worth, Guest Worship Leader
Kay Wilkins, Worship Associate

6/29 Worship Service Zoom
Meeting: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/5157959121?omn=97126018386>
Meeting ID: 515 795 9121
Phone: 646-558-8656

Elon Musk, the world's richest man, ended medical aid and food aid for some of the world's poorest people while he was the head of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), an agency created by Donald Trump without any Congressional hearings, authorization, or oversight. Are Musk and Trump without empathy for the sick and starving? Elon Musk says, "the fundamental weakness of Western civilization is empathy." President Trump's budget is making further cuts to medical care, education, and nutrition programs in order to pay for tax breaks for the wealthy. But has Bible salesman Trump ever opened a Bible? What did Jesus and the Apostles have to say about wealth, poverty, and our responsibilities to one another?

Rev. Mark Worth served our church 1991-2006, and served in the Maine legislature 2022-2024.

MINISTRY MATTERS

BY SARA HAYMAN

Welcome to your June NUUS, Beloveds!
We're so glad you're here.

At some point, the sun WILL shine on a weekend and it will begin feeling like summer is arriving. In the meantime, be sure to stop and smell some lilacs beginning to bloom, and take note of the Sweet Fern beginning to grow in again alongside your favorite walking trail, and the green, and green, and green popping everywhere.

There are lots of ways and invitations to join in the hum & nourishment of community this month at UUCE: We hope to see you at our annual **NAME-YOUR-OWN-PRICE Yard Sale** fundraiser on Saturday, June 7th from 8am-2pm. We'd also love for you to volunteer to help set up some portion of the whole church on Thursday (6/5) and Friday (6/6), and/or to be a part of clean-up on Saturday at 2pm! Please reach out to Jeff Jeude (Emmaus117@gmail.com) if you're able to help, and THANK YOU, too, for your donations and help spreading the word!

UUCE will have a table at this year's **ELLSWORTH PRIDE** celebration in Knowlton Park on Saturday, June 8th! Please reach out to Rev. Sara if you're able to take an hour long shift at the table between 12-4:30pm. It's so good and right and necessary that we show up to boldly love and celebrate all of us, especially our LGBTQIA+ siblings! Hope to see you there!

One last thing: When you see her next, please join me in thanking **Beth Pepper** for her 6 years of steadfast service on our **UUCE Board of Trustees**! She's been our Board President for the last two years and is now in her last month helping **Jill Jeude**, President Elect, and **Jana Robinson**, Vice-President Elect, to be ready to step into their new leadership roles. We are very lucky to have such generous, community-minded people willing to serve in leadership roles—Thank you!

Yours, in our shared ministries,
Rev. Sara



Hello Congregants and Friends,

JUNE 2025

RE

Who has two thumbs and can't believe that it's June already? This Guy! How many of you are just as shocked that the time has flown so fast? I feel like it was just December, and now I am writing you my last NUUS Letter of the Church Year.

June's Theme this year is Freedom. I think that is a loaded term. What are you free from? Free from oppression? From abuse? From physical constraints? From your emotional hang-ups? What are we celebrating Freedom from? And why are we celebrating Freedom when so many of our siblings aren't free?

Have you ever sat by yourself and thought about the freedoms you possess? I think that is something we all need to do every once in a while. We need to check our privileges, be happy about them, and utilize them for the greatest good possible. We are able to do more with what we have than we believe we can.

Part of that set of privileges is Education. Education also happens to be my interpretation of the 4th UU Principle: A free and responsible search for truth and meaning. As UUs, it is our responsibility to educate ourselves in truth and meaning. It is also part of that principle to teach the next generation and help with that cause.

The reason that I stated that I am writing my last NUUS Letter of the Church Year isn't just because the new Fiscal and RE Program year begins on July 1st. My contract as Religious Exploration Coordinator is only for a 10-month position that

runs from the Middle of August until the Middle of June. My last day for this contract is June 15th. It is Flower Communion and our RE Party for the year. The reason I am saying this is because we have a great need for volunteers to lead summer sessions of the RE Program in my absence.

I know that it brings up questions, most notably, why do we need them? There are two important answers to this question. The first one is funding. It is a large ask of the congregation to fund a program that historically has had varied attendance. I would like the congregation to know that this church year, 24-25, our program has boasted the largest attendance increase in 3 years. We average between 4-5 youths per class now, with our smallest gathering being 1 youth and our largest session being 11. Our children are the potential of this congregation and the future of it as well. We can find ways to raise money for our youth. The Religious Exploration Program should also be about the adults as well. Embrace the 4th UU Principle and help me to come up with programs for all our congregation's ages. Comparative Religious Programming, Dive into our 6 Sources Programming, Adult O.W.L., and GSD Programming. If you ask for it, we will create it. Need assistance with your Small Group Ministries? We are available for that as well.

The next reason, though, is to rebuild our connections as a community. One of the topics that the RE Committee brought up in its last meeting is the concept of Alloparenting.

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All parenting is defined basically as parental care provided by individuals other than the biological parents of an offspring. But why is this important, and what does this mean?

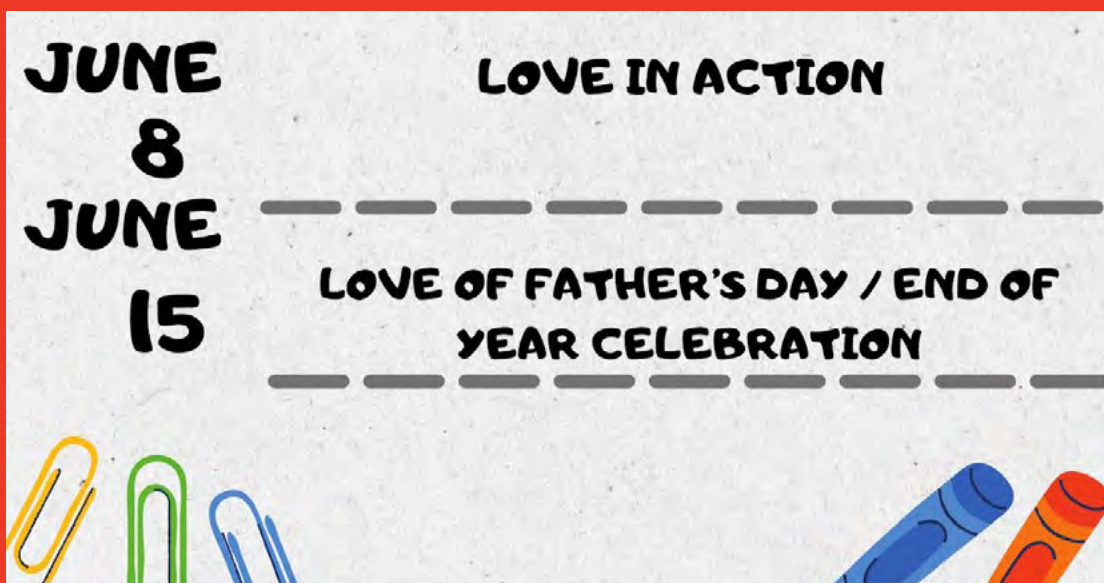
This concept is important because it embraces the 6th UU Principle of the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all. Part of building a community is taking part and care of all of its members. Teaching them your faith path. Showing them you care about them and becoming a trusted adult. Being there for the parents to be able to rely on and come together with. Chosen, Safe, Responsible places to be. We truly need to start LIVING our faith

and what we espouse it to be, and not just walking through the motions. We are the living examples for our young ones and the first level of education in the greater world.

Thank you for allowing me a platform to speak what I consider to be important truths. Thank you for allowing me to help mold your younglings into ethically rounded individuals. Please take a second to read this, not just for you but for your future and the future of this institution. Volunteer, Ask Questions. Live your UU Faith.



Brightest Blessings,
Charles A Betancourt



UUCE's annual **NAME YOUR OWN PRICE**



Our beloved Name-Your-Own-Price* YARD SALE is fast approaching!

Mark your calendars for JUNE 7 (and the 4th - 6th).

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, 6/4, noon -5 pm** - remove and secure church items inside - cover things that cannot be moved and we DO NOT want to be sold!! Set up tables in each room.
- **Thur, 6/5, 8am - 6pm** - yard sale set up - picking up items from community locations, unloading Sunrise Trailer, moving items into church
- **Fri, 6/6, 8am - 6pm** - yard sale set up
- **Sat, 6/7, 8am - 2pm** - **YARD SALE!!** (A few folks early to help put out road signs is great!!!)
- **Sat, 6/7, 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 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!

Books? - **NO BOOKS THIS YEAR** (save those for the UUCE book sale in the fall!)

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 Thursday, June 5th,

OR contact Jeff Jeude 573-330-4677 or emmaus117@gmail.com

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

We can always use food and water donations for the workers. We can use people to help customers shop, and pack up their purchases. We can use people to patrol the rooms, looking for any opportunity to consolidate merchandise to make clean up easier! We can use any help you might offer!

Your UUCE Yard Sale Chairfolks Love and Appreciate YOU!!

Jeff Jeude and CJ Lammers

**Come be at the UUCE Table for an hour-long shift
and help us celebrate and affirm EVERYONE at PRIDE this year!**

Contact Rev. Sara about helping with the table.
(sara@uuellsworth.org or text: 207-610-2872)



11:30 4:30 June 8
KNOWLTON PARK STATE STREET

ELLSWORTH PRIDE

LGBTQIA+
nonprofits

Food + Fun
Vendors

by Leif Ford

**STRONGER
TOGETHER**

Drag performances for all,
live music, pet parade,
drag queen story time, yoga
Featuring Curbside Queens,
live music by Boy.Scout, Lasers In The Jungle

Healthy
Acadia
Building stronger communities for over 20 years.

**HEART
of
ELLSWORTH**

UUCE JUSTICE MINISTRY



Our next open Justice congregational conversation is Sunday, June 1 at 12:30 p.m. We'll potluck and talk at the same time. Join us to find out more about how we can live our shared values into the world by being involved in the work of protecting and expanding justice and equity for all.

We encourage you to check out the bulletin boards and literature rack in the community room for information about different justice working organizations in Maine, actions and events, and ways to plug into various activities.

Please reach out to Jana Robinson, janasmith.robinson@outlook.com with any questions or comments.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, June 8. Pride Day at Ellsworth, Knowlton Park, from 11:30-4:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 14, We Rise! Rally at Ellsworth City Hall, noon-2 p.m. Come at 11:15 for learning/sharing protest songs. More details will be forthcoming.

Thursday, June 19. Juneteenth Commemoration. Knowlton Park, 4:00-7:00 p.m. to celebrate the freeing of the last enslaved black Americans in Texas. This free festival invites all Mainers and visitors to participate in a day filled with Black and Indigenous music, culture, food, and activities for all ages. The overarching theme for this year's event is: Caring for each other, as we care for ourselves. Looking for volunteers to help with set up, take down, and monitoring garbage cans. If you can help, reach out to Jana Robinson, janasmith.robinson@outlook.com



Saturday, June 21, 12:00-6:00 p.m. Walk to Honor Wabanaki Veterans, marks the 250th anniversary of Chief Joseph Orono's speech allying the Wabanaki nations with the Americans in the Revolutionary war. Since 2009, June 21st is also recognized as Wabanaki Veterans Day in Maine. Join Penobscot Nation and its partners in a six-mile walk to honor Wabanaki veterans and to consider Orono and its surroundings from a Wabanaki perspective. The walk will conclude with a ceremony and community meal on Indian Island. You are welcome to join us for just a portion of the route, or for either ceremony, or both. [Register here.](#)

June 18-22. UUA General Assembly. We hope someone, several of you, may be interested in representing UUCE at this national convention of UU churches! UUCE is still looking for representatives to attend this year's General Assembly. If you'd like to learn more, see the information here, <https://www.uua.org/ga> or reach out to Rev. Sara, Barb Acosta or Jana Robinson, to learn more. Barb and Jana were delegates last year, benefitted from attending, and participated in

the discussions that led to the initial approval of a change in the bylaws, the principles and values that guide us all. Proposed congregational study/action issues this year include: Abolition is Faith Formation; Fat Liberation, building Justice and Inclusion; and Housing:--Diversity Equity and Inclusion. There will be voting on bylaws and election of board members among other governance topics. Attendees get updates on and gain a better understanding of priority issues being discussed by the UUA . If you cannot attend in person, you can attend virtually and participate in all meetings at which votes will be taken. UUCE can have 3 attendees in addition to Rev. Sara. If cost is an issue, it may be possible to provide some assistance. Virtual business registration is only \$150.

Sunday, June 22. Being a welcoming congregation: Join us in learning and understanding more about LGBTQ+ and accepting people as they are. Rev. Ben Perry will return for another open congregational conversation about gender expression/gender acceptance on. Come join us.

Monday, June 30, 2025, 10 am -- 12 Noon. Queerly ME Workshop at Cobscook Institute: Cultivating Community - The Power of Gathering Spaces; The Impact of Belonging. In this talk, explore the three components of community building Queerly ME employs to foster strong support networks and strengthen community belonging for LGBTQIA+ adults in Maine. Dive into what is needed for a gathering place to thrive and lead towards meaningful, long-lasting community connections. This workshop will have a strong focus on the LGBTQIA+ community in Maine, and the many sociopolitical obstacles challenging the creation and growth of gathering spaces and how we may overcome those challenges through collective action. [CLICK HERE](#) to register at Queerly ME.

July 5 9 – 5. Non-violent Direct Action All Day Training led by Ethan Hughes. Questions? Call Ethan at (207) 338-5719 No need to register; just show up. Belfast UU Church

Statewide Action Calendar. Use this [link](#) to access the Activate Maine calendar listing statewide activities.



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

Choir Practices this month – Sundays, June 1 and 8 at 9am

Choir Sings in Worship on Sunday, June 8!

Meg O'Dell is 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.

A Series of **Courageous Conversations** in **Community** at UUCE

Facilitator, Rev. Benjamin Perry
with Charles Betancourt, RE Coordinator & Rev. Sara
Sponsored by Your Committee on Ministry

We've had such enthusiastic participation in the two community conversations that Rev. Perry led about sexuality and gender, but we also know those aren't the only social issues we must faithfully engage to build a more just world. So, we're delighted that they have agreed to facilitate a monthly series of conversations! We hope you'll mark these dates on your calendar, so we can all help make UU Ellsworth the most welcoming community we can be. Don't worry if you're not available one or more of the dates, but please try to make as many as you can. Remember, even if there's one issue particularly dear to your own heart, that's similarly true for fellow congregants and we need to show up for one another!

June 22 - Queer Holy Stories + Creating Space for Families

As part of our Pride celebrations, Rev. Perry will preach about reclaiming queer stories from sacred texts that are too often overlooked or not recognized. After church, we'll talk about how we can create space so children feel welcome to bring their whole selves into worship and community life, and how to support families in this work.

September 28 - Race Matters

October 25 - Ageism and Ableism

November 16 - Ecology and Poverty



RED SIGNS



UUCE was excited to purchase 50 of the Red Heart Yard Signs that we've seen sprouting up across Maine and the country as a statement of the tremendous need for love.

You can purchase one or more of these signs, which can be picked up in the church foyer. The cost to UUCE was \$10 per sign, so anything you would like to donate above that is greatly appreciated.

After the fraught 2016 election Midcoaster Peter Baldwin took note when a neighbor painted over their political sign leaving a bright red heart over a stark white background. Peter says the simple symbol, "made me feel good when I drove by it." And so, he headed to his woodshop and made a few of his own. When neighbors expressed interest, he placed an order. He started selling the signs at \$10 a pop and donating the proceeds to the Wabanaki Cultural Preservation Coalition to support their effort to buy the land they had been renting.

Peter says he's placed several orders over the last 8 years, probably totaling around 1,000 signs. They've become a commonplace symbol of hope and community in the Midcoast-area. The effect resonates for many – seeing one "makes you feel good." They remind us that in a world that can be ugly and hateful, many of us are still unafraid to show love.

UUCE BUILDING MAINTENANCE

Jeff Jeude has agreed to be the new contact person for the Building Maintenance at UUCE. Several kind folks have assisted Jeff in a "walk around" of the building, identifying needs and potential repairs and improvements. If you notice something in need of gentle repair, please notify Jeff at 573-340-4677 or emmaus117@gmail.com

One area of immediate improvement is the return to eco-friendly, sustainable sourcing of cleaning products and supplies. The Board of Trustees has indicated a strong resolve to live out our principles in our purchasing and use of products.

If you have questions, please contact Jeff. Thank you for caring for our buildings and grounds!



FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT BETH PEPPER

Sunshine has finally arrived! Boy, Sara was so right when she said this May has looked more like March! Fingers crossed for a gorgeous June and the arrival of lupines!

This is my last President's Letter since I step down at the end of June ... wow, two years sure can fly by! Thank you to all the Board Members who served with me these past two years: **Jill Jeude, Bob Francis, Doug Bird, Kathleen Hall, Alison Stephens, Tori Bell, Kate O'Dell, and Jana Robinson**. I was lucky to serve with each of you! And a special thank you to **Rev. Sara** - ❤️ it was great working together on all the million-and-one things that go into running UUCE. We are so lucky that you are our Minister, Sara!

And thank you to all of you who attended our Annual Congregational Meeting on May 18. Special thanks to Tech Booth Operator **Holly Hendricks** and Zoom Host **Suzanne Aubrey** who, together, made everything run smoothly. We got some great stuff done at the meeting! We passed next year's budget (thank you, **Fiscal Matters** and Treasurer **Kate O'Dell**), we passed a bylaws amendment to address a process for handling Congregational Resolutions in the future (thank you Task Force members **Kathleen Hall, Barb Acosta, and Jana Robinson**), we voted to spend money from the Margaret Thurston bequest to make our campus more safe and secure (thank you, **Tori Bell**), and we elected new Board Officers, a Member, and a Moderator! Congratulations and many thanks to President-elect **Jill Jeude**, VP-elect **Jana Robinson**, Member-elect **Mike Stadler**, and Moderator **Kay Wilkins**. UUCE is in GREAT hands!

And thank you to my lovely wife, **Lise Williams**, for putting up with me when I was the last to get my material in for the monthly NUUS and supporting me through the thick and thin of being your Board President.

I love this Congregation and I love each of you!





WOMEN'S DRUM CIRCLE

Saturday, June 21

1:00 - 3:00 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



WEDNESDAY MORNING MATINS AT 8 AM



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. 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



With Profound Thanks to Tom Martin!

Beloveds,

It was my honor to share the incredible news at UUCE's Annual Congregational Meeting that Tom Martin, longtime beloved UUCE church member who died on March 3rd this year at the age of 72 after living a long time with Parkinson disease, left our congregation a bequest of \$755,000. There are no words LARGE enough to say thank you enough. This gift is a reflection of Tom's want for his life and his legacy to help strengthen our UU congregation and our ability to live our values, principles and mission as a liberal religious faith into the world! *Look at what can happen with a love like that...*

Please join me in offering your deepest thanks for Tom Martin—for his life, his generosity, his belief in us and in his love for Unitarian Universalism as a force for justice, compassion and meaning-making in the world.

Love,
Rev. Sara

CELEBRATION OF LIFE for Connie Bailey Saturday, August 2, 2025 at 1pm at UUCE

Please mark your calendars now and plan to be a part of Connie's Celebration of Life on Saturday, August 2nd, 2025 at 1pm at UUCE. Four of Connie's longtime friends from the Boston area will join us and together we'll make space to name our gratitude for her generous spirit and soulful ways of living, always listening for spirit and the nourishment of the natural world. It's an honor and a privilege to be part of this loving community made stronger by so many beloved people.

Kay Hansen and our wonderful Pastoral Care Ministry leaders will host the reception to follow. Thank you, too, for offering to make a food donation and/or help with set or clean up. More information will be forthcoming as the date gets closer.



BEQUESTS AND UNSOLICITED GIFTS

- WHAT DO WE DO WITH THEM?

Your Board has adopted a Church Policy for handling bequests (and unsolicited gifts) that are given to UUCE. We wanted to find a way to not just “stash it all away for a rainy day” but to use it so it not only protected UUCE’s future, but also helped us live our mission - “nourish souls and live justice into the world” - in the present.

Under the Policy:

If the gift is given with a designated purpose, the Board will only accept that gift if it will be used for that designated purpose.

- If a gift is less than \$5,000, the Board will decide the best use of that gift.
- If the gift is between \$5,000 and \$200,000, half will be invested for future use (in the endowment currently at Maine Community Foundation (MCF) or other prudent investment) and the Board will decide the best use of the remaining half.
- If a gift/bequest is more than \$200,000, all but \$100,000 of the gift will be invested for future use (in the endowment currently at MCF or other prudent investment) and the Board will decide the best use of the remaining \$100,000.

Typical considerations of “best use” include both critical needs of the church (i.e., emergency repairs, safety equipment, payment of outstanding debt) and using the gift to further our congregation’s mission. “Best use” may also be depositing some or all of the funds available to spend into MCF or other prudent investment.

Our bylaws allow the Board to approve expenditures up to \$5,000, but expenditures over that require Congregational approval by a vote. This Church Policy doesn’t change that.

So, for example, if we were to receive a bequest of \$350k:

- \$250k would go to MCF/be invested;
- \$100k would be set aside for the Board to make the best use of: maybe that’s purchasing heat pumps for the Sanctuary and/or helping sponsor Equality Maine’s Pride Prom and/or paying off our parking lot loan and/or buying a new refrigerator because ours broke (it didn’t, but just for an example).
 - Heat pumps and paying off the parking lot loan each cost more than \$5k, so the Congregation would vote on those two items.
 - The new fridge and the Pride Prom sponsorship are each less than \$5k so the Board would vote on those.
 - And if there’s any of the \$100k left, the Board might determine that the best use of it is to add it to the endowment.

In the UUCE Gardens

Visit the new Azalea Path located at the end of the circular drive by the big rocks beyond the end of the RE wing.





Dr. Wayne H. Smith
UUCE Historian

EVERYBODY LOVES THE RAYMONDS

[Names underlined and in bold face are those of people with known connections to the First Unitarian Society of Ellsworth (FUSE), the First Unitarian Church of Ellsworth (FUCE), or the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth (UUCE)]

Over the past few months, we've taken a look at two local families that were active in the Unitarian community of Ellsworth through several generations. I'd now like to delve into yet another family that has played a major role in our history: the **Raymonds**.

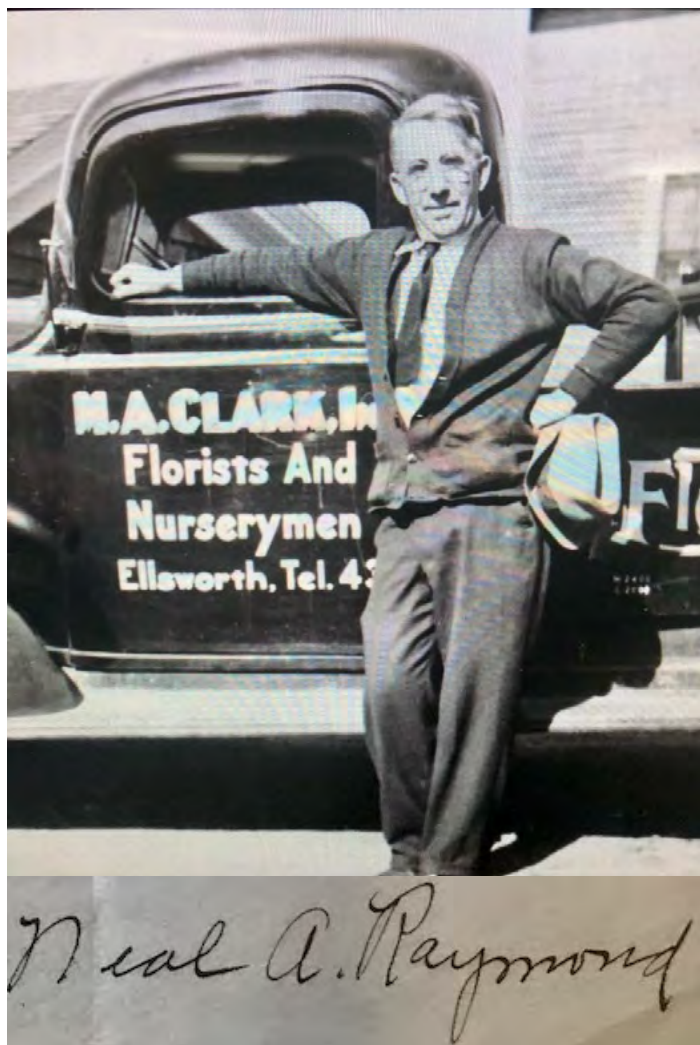
When we looked at the Royal family a few months ago, we encountered our first Raymond. **Grace M. Raymond** was born on Jan. 9, 1877 in Caribou, Maine, the oldest of the five children of Wallace L. Raymond (b. Presque Isle 1860; d. Portland 1929) and Mary Elizabeth "Lizzie" McQuinn (b. Ellsworth 1858; d. Ellsworth 1907). Three of Grace's younger siblings also left their mark on the history of our church. Here's two of them:

Grace's younger sister **Maud E. Raymond** was born on Oct. 23, 1878 in Ellsworth. She married twice, first to Walter Kelliher Mason, who was fifteen years her junior, born in Ellsworth on Sept. 20, 1893. They were married at the First Unitarian Society of Ellsworth (FUSE) on Nov. 4, 1916 by **Rev. John William Tickle** (later known as John Wesley Heyes) who served at FUSE from 1914 to 1919. For whatever reason, their marriage ended in divorce, and on Feb. 12, 1921 we find her in Sharon, Vermont marrying her second husband, Walter Rupert Spaulding, born in Royalton, Vermont on April 15, 1881. That marriage apparently succeeded and lasted until Maud's death in Ellsworth on Oct. 16, 1963.

Grace's younger brother, **Neal Alexander Raymond**, was born in Trenton on Mar. 25, 1882. At the age of 18, he was working at the shoe factory in Ellsworth. By the time of the 1910 census, his mother, Lizzie, had passed, and his father, Wallace, for some reason does not appear in the Ellsworth census. Rather, 28-year old Neal is found living with his older sister Maud as head of household, and his marital status was listed as "widowed." Looking back in the records, I found that on Nov. 28, 1906, Neal had married 21-year old Agnes M. Clark, daughter of John Clark of New Brunswick and Matilda Abram of Ellsworth. Unfortunately, Agnes died of consumption (tuberculosis) just shy of their second wedding anniversary on Nov. 18, 1908.

In the 1910 census, Neal is listed as working as a gardener in a greenhouse. It turns out that he had begun working as a florist under Miss Mary A. Clark in 1901 and continued in that line of work for the rest of his life. In 1923, he became a member of the firm, and eventually became president of M. A. Clark, Inc. in 1942.

In the meantime, Neal had met **Miss Helen F. Nealley** of Ellsworth, the daughter of Joseph William Nealley of Ellsworth and Lettice Cornelia "Lettie" Chapin of Orrington. They got married on June 25, 1919 at the First Unitarian Society of Ellsworth in a ceremony officiated by a former minister of FUSE, **Rev. Silas W. Sutton**. The 1920 census shows Neal and Helen renting a home at



12 School Street, not far from his job as a florist at what was recorded as the Ellsworth Greenhouse. The following year, on Jan. 9, 1921, their only child, John Ellis Raymond, was born. Neal and Helen eventually settled into their own home at 140 High Street.

Neal and Helen's association with the First Unitarian Church of Ellsworth was hardly limited to having gotten married there. Both were active in church activities throughout their lives. On October 5, 1921, Neal was elected Vice-President of the congregation and from January 9, 1924 through to 1945, he was an active member of the Unitarian Laymen's League, the church men's group.

In 1942, Neal and Helen sold their High Street home, and on March 1, 1943, Neal was elected to the Ellsworth City Council, eventually becoming chairman. In 1944, he became a trustee of the soon to be constructed Eastern Memorial Hospital, and in October of 1946 he became president of the hospital. He was involved with the Lejok Lodge of the IOOF of Ellsworth (once serving as a noble grand), the Nokomis Rebekah Lodge, the Lygonia Lodge of Masons, the Arcadia Chapter, the Blanquefort Commandery, the Anah Temple Shrine of Bangor, the Bayside Grange, the Woodbine Cemetery Association, the Maine State Florist Association, the Ellsworth School District, and the Woodlawn Association. Not to be outdone, Helen was a Noble Grand of the Nokomis Rebekah Lodge of Ellsworth, Worthy Matron of the Irene Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, and past president and treasurer of M. A. Clark, Inc. Needless to say, they were both active members of the Unitarian Church of Ellsworth.

Neal died on Aug. 30, 1956 at a hospital in Damariscotta. He had had a heart attack while attending a florists' meeting in Pemaquid. His wife Helen passed away 17 years later on Dec. 5, 1973 in Ellsworth. They were both buried at Woodbine Cemetery.

Up Next: The next Raymond sibling: **Mary (Raymond) Lysaght!**

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Justice Ministry: Barb Acosta & Jana Robinson	Youth Advisor: vacant
Landscaping and Grounds: Bronwen Day	

Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth
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Ellsworth, ME 04605



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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.