



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

### **OUR NEXT CHAPTER BOOK SALE!**

**Saturday, September 6th from 9am-2pm  
at UUCE**

Come join the fun on UUCE's first Book Sale fundraiser! Help sort and set up books Tuesday 9/2-Friday 9/5 from 10am-5pm. Contact Jill Jeude (jjeude61@gmail.com), Gary Shellehamer (gleeindc@gmail.com) or Jeff Jeude (Emmaus117@gmail.com) for more info!

### **R.E. CLASS 2 OF 4 SUNDAYS** this Month!

**Sundays, September 7th and 28th**

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

No RE on 9/14 (Multigenerational Ingathering & Water Communion Service)

No RE on 9/21 (ZOOM-Only Worship at 10am w/ the UU Church of Belfast!)

Please reach out to Charles Betancourt, RE Coordinator at [uuce.re@gmail.com](mailto:uuce.re@gmail.com) if you have questions or would appreciate more info.

We look forward to getting to know your kiddos!

### **UUCE CHOIR BEGINS AGAIN** in September!

**September 7th (practice) & September 14th**

(practice & singing in worship)

Come join in the soul-nourishing fun of singing together in our choir. The wonderful & talented Meg O'Dell leads our choir again this year! All are welcome! Contact Tori Bell ([toribell14@gmail.com](mailto:toribell14@gmail.com)) for more info Or to get on the choir email list.

### **UUCE'S EGGROLL FOODBOTH**

at MOFGA is this month!

**Friday, Saturday & Sunday,  
September 19, 20 & 21 in Unity**

Thank you to ALL who are able & willing to volunteer in our booth this year!

Please read the article in this newsletter to learn more about it this fun, community building fundraiser! Contact Mary Murray ([marydmurray@comcast.net](mailto:marydmurray@comcast.net))

### **FOOD, FUN & FELLOWSHIP**

is starting up again!

**Thursday, September 25th from 11am-1pm**

Bring a dish to share for our "Back-to-School" themed potluck gathering! Jeff Jeude will make something yummy to share so come enjoy a meal and spend time getting to know each other better! Contact Jeff Jeude ([emmaus117@gmail.com](mailto:emmaus117@gmail.com))



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

## SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

**SUNDAY, SEP. 7, 2025**

**Multi-Platform Worship at 10:30am  
From You I Receive, to You I Give...**

Rev. Sara Hayman, Worship Leader

Jeff Jeude, Worship Associate



Choir Practice at 9am!

R.E. Class this Sunday!

1st Quarter Plate Split to benefit A Climate to Thrive!!

1st Sunday Potluck after worship!

This month in worship we explore the theme of building belonging. How is being seen, really known and seen, a part of belonging? How can we help each other get better at seeing each other in our complexity with grace and generosity, too? Six years ago, our congregation articulated four congregational values, among them the values of authenticity and whole-hearted connection. This Sunday, we invite you to join us in imagining how you'll take up the sacred and vulnerable work of creating a stronger culture of belonging in our congregation, too.

**SUNDAY, SEP. 14, 2025**

**Multi-Platform Worship at 10:30am  
Annual Ingathering & Water  
Communion: tending this land**

Rev. Sara Hayman, Worship Leader

Karen Volckhausen, Worship Associate



**together....**

Choir practice & sing today!

Board Facilitated Congregational Conversation at noon!

Come to church this Sunday and join in the fun of celebrating the beginning of a new church year together with our choir singing and our annual multi-generational Water Communion ritual. Please bring a small vial of water from a source sacred to you that you'll be invited to pour into our common bowl.

**\*\* ZOOM-ONLY Worship at 10am with our UU Belfast Congregation! \*\***  
**Please be aware there is NO IN-PERSON church at UUCE today!**

**SUNDAY, SEP. 21, 2025**

**Love Alone is Sovereign**

Rev. Gabe Burford, Worship Leader  
Margi Pulkingham, Worship Associate



This Sunday, Rev. Gabe Burford leads worship at 10am the Belfast UU. In his service description he writes: "Join us as we affirm the reality that within our hearts lies a power that can shape the world. Our power as everyday people lies in reclaiming our ability to define what our world should be - not letting the world define it for us."

As a community & climate chaplain ordained by the interfaith Chaplaincy Institute of Maine, **Rev. Gabe** is passionate about belonging in the context of climate. By advocating for this time not just as a crisis, but as an opportunity to revive the social fabric we all share, Gabe highlights that climate work and activism at large are not just for public advocates, politicians, or scientists. If we find our place together as communities of belonging, we can find our place caring for the world. In strengthening our values of mutual support, we can strengthen a climate response right where we are.

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**SUNDAY, SEP. 28, 2025**

**Multi-Platform Worship at 10:30am**  
**Whose Story is it Anyway?**

Rev. Benjamin Perry, Worship Leader  
Rev. Sara Hayman, Worship Host



R.E. Class this Sunday!

Congregational Conversation about Ageism & Ableism after worship w/ Rev. Perry!

Rev. Sara is glad to welcome Rev. Benjamin Perry back to UUCE to lead worship today! In this service, he will preach, asking us to reconsider who we offer agency to in our holy texts and worship—who do we imagine at the center of God's story? After worship, everyone is then invited into a conversation on ageism and ableism in religious communities, dreaming together about how we can build religious life where everyone is centered, held, loved, and seen.

**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.



# THIS IS A TRANSCENDENTMOMENT: WHY ARE WE HERE NOW???!!!

**Our UUCE Values: Courageous Love, Awe,  
Whole-hearted Connection, and Authenticity**

**Our UUCE Mission: Celebrating the Sacred,  
we GATHER TOGETHER in loving community  
to NOURISH SOULS and LIVE JUSTICE into the world.**

What do those statements mean to us as we envision our place in the world?

Our beloved member Tom Martin has blessed us with the single largest bequest in our church's history. Now is the time to take a leap and conscientiously fund our mission and values!! What is that going to mean in terms of our thoughtful actions?

In the next 2 months, watch for many opportunities to envision this work. The Board of Trustees needs your help to be sure every voice is heard and every idea shared toward the Board's charge to use Tom's Legacy to support both the long-term health of our UU community, AND the immediate social justice and environmental values we shared with Tom.

Watch for the background, details,  
and schedule for this work in a special separate emailing!!



# MINISTRY MATTERS

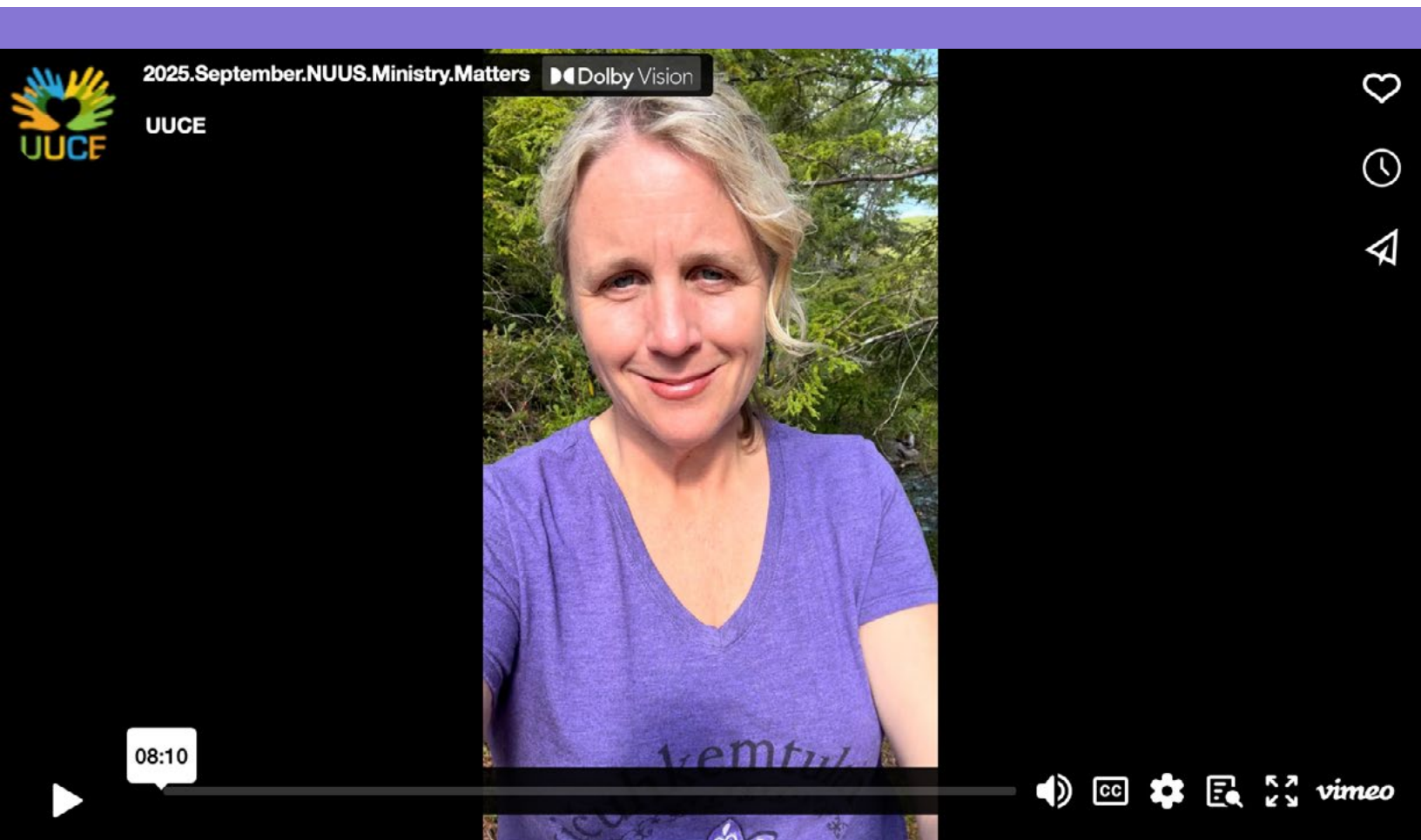
## BY SARA HAYMAN

Happy September, Beloveds!  
Welcome to this month's newsletter.

I'm so glad you're here and wanting to know more about what's happening in our hopping & humming UU Church of Ellsworth, Maine! Our choir starts again this month, Sundays, 9/7 and 9/14 with 9am practice in the sanctuary! A first ever "Our Next Chapter" Book Sale Fundraiser happens on Saturday, September 6th from 9am-2pm! Our Annual In-gathering & Water Communion Worship service is on Sunday, September 14th – please bring your small vial of water from a source sacred to you! UUCE's wonderful Eggroll Food Booth fundraising adventure at the MOFGA Common Ground Fair happens again the weekend of September 20th (Friday, Saturday and Sunday!) – Thank you to ALL who signed up to volunteer already, AND, we'd love to include you, too! (See the article enclosed for more info!)

I love being your minister and a part of the soul-nourishing, Love-serving community we create together!

Yours, in shared ministry.  
*Rev. Sara*



September, 2025

# Hello Congregants and Friends,

WELCOME BACK UUCE! This summer has been filled with trials and tribulations but as usual we are gathering back together and forging strong with our community around us. We are going to try some new things this coming church year as it comes to RE.

Firstly, we are expanding our class schedule to cover 3 RE classes in the months that have 4 weeks and 4 RE classes in the months that have 5. This has us having Religious Exploration every week of the month, 3 classes and 1 Multi-generational service or 4 classes and 1 Multi-generational service. These Multi-Gen services are just as important as the RE Classes themselves. For those of you who were able to attend, our August Multi-Generational service was The Science of Faith where Candace Hubbard and I fabricated a service around science. Experiments such as Elephant Toothpaste, Naked Eggs, and a Take Home Lava Lamp helped us to explain the theme that "Science is the movement forward of Society. Faith is the movement forward of the Individual. When these forces come together we are shown the movement forward of Community through Love."

By having the children participate in these services we are teaching them that they are an integral part of our church family and that we need them just as much as they need us. The future of this church and of our way of life is found in the hearts and minds of our youth which we are responsible for molding.

Part of that molding is volunteering. As part of the initiative to have more RE days during the month we are going to need volunteers in order for me to be able to have 1 Sunday off a month from teaching and have the ability to prepare and further our curriculum. Volunteers will help this program not only grow into what it used to be before Covid but it will allow us to be able to surpass what we were into what the church has always wanted and needed.

Secondly, we are going to be working on planning more events for our youth outside of our regularly scheduled RE Classes and services. We would love for the greater church congregation to participate with them with the children so be on the look out for more announcements and opportunities for help and to join in.

Lastly, as always I look for your feedback to help us in all our endeavors. I can only get better for the church and for the children if I am aware that something can be improved or if something isn't working. For lack of better words, Help me Help you. I look forward to another fabulous church year with UUCE and this continually growing community.



Brightest Blessings, Charles A Betancourt

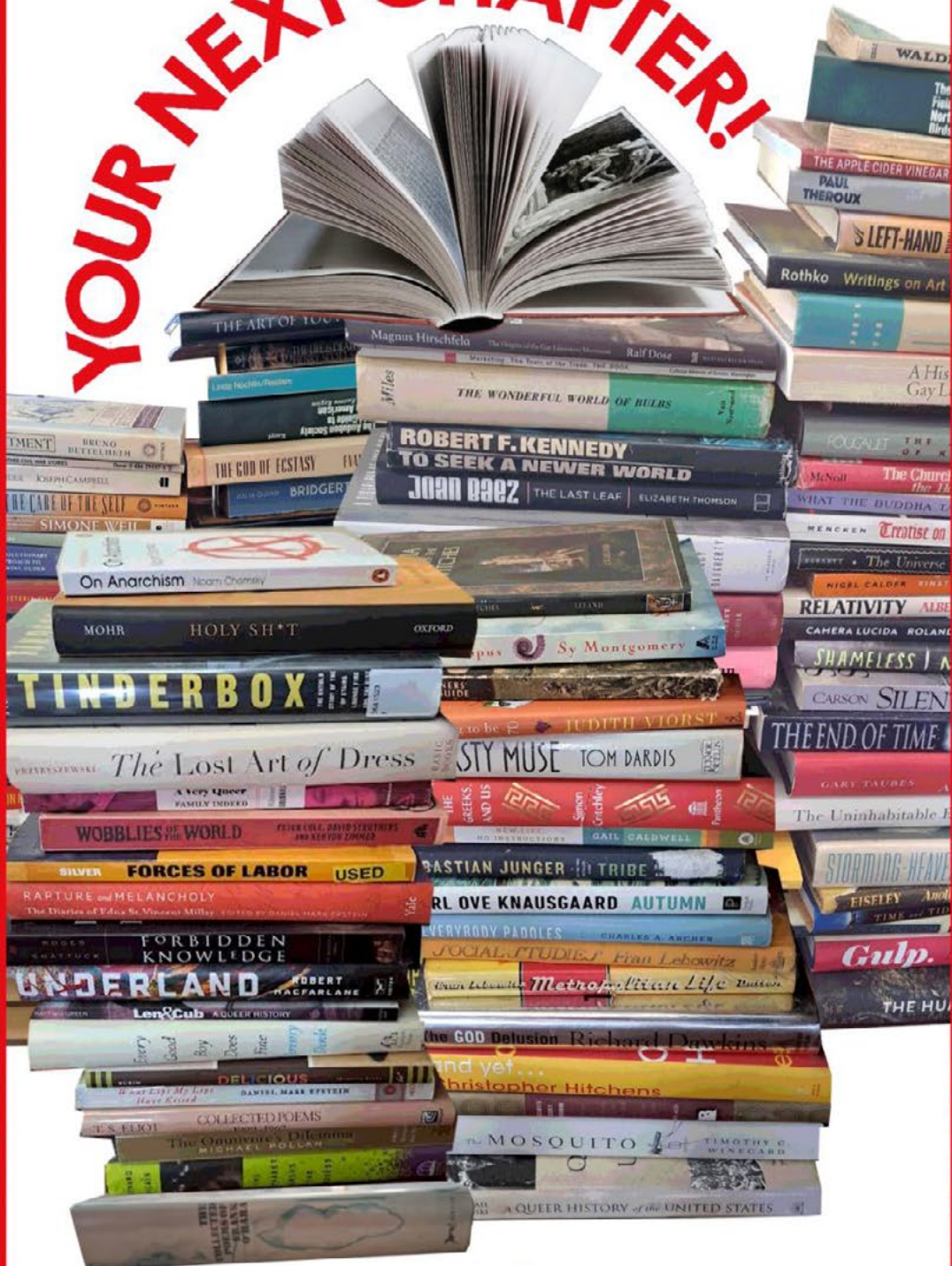


"The next page is always something to embrace." Abigail Cossette, *Like You Do*

Welcome to...

YOUR NEXT CHAPTER!

"You think your pain and your heartbreak are unprecedented...but then you read." James Baldwin, *Notes of a Native Son*



"One must always be careful of books...for words have the power to change us." Cassandra Clare, *Clockwork Angel*

BOOK  SALE

September 6, 2025 - 9 a.m to 2 p.m.  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth  
121 Bucksport Rd. Ellsworth, ME

"A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies." George R.R. Martin, *A Dance of Dragons*

# UUUCE JUSTICE MINISTRY

## ORGANIZE IN SOLIDARITY

a 5-week training series on organizing our communities to resist ICE



SOLIDARITY  
ORGANIZING  
INITIATIVE

Tuesdays: 8/26, 9/2, 9/9, 9/16, 9/23  
8-9:15pm ET | 5-6:15pm PT



## ORGANIZE IN SOLIDARITY

The 5-week solidarity organizing training program is focused on getting you and your chapter, circle, or team everything you need to take action in your community right now to do something about the Trump regime's terror campaign of brutality. Over the course of five weeks of training and coaching you will learn how to connect to, and speak from the heart about, why it matters to act courageously and stand in solidarity, to make a plan to speak to your peers and recruit them to join you, to run a campaign to make institutions in your life places of solidarity, and to stand up for your immigrant neighbors. [Register.](#)

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

### What can we do to forward justice?

"If the world is to be healed through human efforts, I am convinced it will be by ordinary people, people whose love for this life is even greater than their fear. People who can open to the web of life that called us into being." – Joanna Macy

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Tuesdays: 8/26, 9/2, 9/9, 9/16, 9/23  
8-9:15pm ET | 5-6:15pm PT



## Find what calls to you. What one thing will you do today?

- **Call or email your representative** about an issue that concerns you. Use the 5 Calls app or Resistbot to get started.
  - Write a **letter to the editor**.
  - **Attend a protest** (such as the Labor Day event above)
  - **Attend online events and trainings.** Some good ones are offered by Showing up for Racial Justice ([surj.org](https://surj.org)) or the ACLU ([aclu.org](https://aclu.org)).
  - **Support a vulnerable community.** Write letters to people in prison ([WriteAPrisoner.com](https://WriteAPrisoner.com)), join a rapid response network (ask Barb Acosta or Jana Robinson), or support the Cookie Ministry (ask Kay Wilkins).
  - **Make art and display it in public.** Draw, paint, or write a colorful sign about your dreams, your hopes for a better world, or to celebrate something that you love about this one.
  - **Check in on a beloved,** let them know they are loved and supported.
  - **Find joy!** In times of oppression, Audre Lorde teaches us that choosing to find and express joy can be an act of resistance, challenging the status quo and affirming one's humanity.
- Got something to add to this list? Email [JustUs425@proton.me](mailto:JustUs425@proton.me).



# Join in the Fun & Camaraderie!

## UUCE Egg Roll Booth

### at the Common Ground Fair

### Friday - Sunday (September 19-21)

ONE OF OUR BIGGEST FUND RAISERS!

Many large and small tasks go into making each year's fair a success. For Instance:

- Volunteers needed **before the fair:** Setting up and veggie prep
- Volunteers needed **during the fair:** Veggie prep, rolling egg rolls, frying, serving, sales, and providing food for volunteers
- Volunteers needed **after the fair:** clean up, break down and bring it all home

Contact Mary Murray for more information about ways you can help  
[marydmurray@comcast.net](mailto:marydmurray@comcast.net) 239-699-0150 phone/text

# COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS

## in Community at UUCE This Fall!

**Facilitator, Rev. Benjamin Perry & with other UUCE Members,  
Charles Betancourt, RE Coordinator & Rev. Sara**

Rev. Perry returns to UUCE at the end of the month on **Sunday, September 28th** to lead worship and co-facilitate another building-the-muscle-of-practicing-covenant-together Congregational Conversation. We hope you'll plan to be there and actively participate in sharing and listening to each other as we name some of the challenges of becoming more conscious of the impacts of ageism & ableism in our congregation.

Rev. Perry will also lead worship and two more Congregational Conversations in October and November (see details below). We encourage you to put these dates on your calendar now! Even if you're not able to make it every time, we'd love you to be there for as many as possible. Remember, too, 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!

### **September 28 - Ageism and Ableism –**

We're called to build church that welcomes all bodies, embracing differences in ability and where we find ourselves on life's journey. For this conversation, Rev. Perry will be joined by Cecily Judd as we reflect on how we may inadvertently put a stumbling block before people's full participation, or disregard the unique gifts that people bring. We'll also reflect on how we can improve our facilities to better welcome all who enter our doors!

### **October 12th – Race Matters – talk about it as allies**

For this conversation, Rev. Perry will be joined by Rev. Vanessa Titang to co-facilitate discussion about how systemic racism manifests in our communities, and what we can do to build more just and loving communities. We'll talk about how whiteness shapes cultural and religious spaces, as well as our own emotionality, and reflect on how we can uproot these harmful legacies.

### **November 16 - Ecology and Poverty**

In Maine, we're blessed with incredibly rich natural resources, but we also have stark gaps in access to food, education, and affordable housing. Together, we'll reflect on the rich abundance God calls us to share, and the ways we're falling short of that goal. We're thrilled that Rev. Perry co-facilitate a discussion on how UU Ellsworth can be part of the solution, using worship and community events to move us toward a more just future.





# WOMEN'S DRUM CIRCLE

**Saturday, September 27**

**1:00 - 3:00 at UUCE in the Outdoor Sanctuary  
weather permitting.**

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](mailto: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**



## THE FLOWER MINISTRY IS LOOKING FOR FOLKS TO DONATE FLOWERS FOR OUR ALTAR

starting with the last week in October, and into November and December.

If you're new to donating flowers, Linda Tarlow will tell you exactly what you need to do. If you're an old hand, we need you again. Please write to Linda at [lindatarlow@gmail.com](mailto:lindatarlow@gmail.com) and tell her which Sunday you'd like to cover.

*A beautiful altar adds a lot to our service!*

## HOW YOU HELP OUR UUCE BY PURCHASING HANNAFORD GROCERY CARDS

Hannaford grocery cards are sold every Sunday at coffee hour. We sell \$50.00, \$100.00 and \$250.00 cards. Buy your card and use it at the cash register just like a credit or debit card. No PINS, no registering, no technology issues, zero stress. Our UUCE earns 3-5% of the amount of the card purchased, depending on whether you pay by cash, check, or credit card.

**Now that you can purchase grocery cards using your credit card you do not lose credit card points by participating in the program.**

Participation in the grocery card program is a no-brainer for anyone who shops at Hannaford. Please stop at the grocery card table any Sunday, ask any questions you may have, and join the fund-raising fun. It's easy to incorporate Hannaford grocery cards into your weekly shopping routine!

**OUR UUCE WILL THANK YOU!!!**





# In the UUCE Gardens

The Landscape and Grounds Committee is looking for **MORE VOLUNTEERS** to help with the care and maintenance of the church gardens. If you are interested in **LEARNING MORE ABOUT GARDENING** or are **EAGER TO SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE** and experience please get in touch with Bronwen Day.  
[brondaydesigns@gmail.com](mailto:brondaydesigns@gmail.com) or (207) 266-9749





# CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Church Office Administrator</b> Frankie Roth (They, Them) uuellsworth@gmail.com	<b>Children's Religious Education Coordinator</b> Charles Betancourt uuce.re@gmail.com
<b>Minister</b> Rev. Sara Hayman rev.sara.hayman@gmail.com	

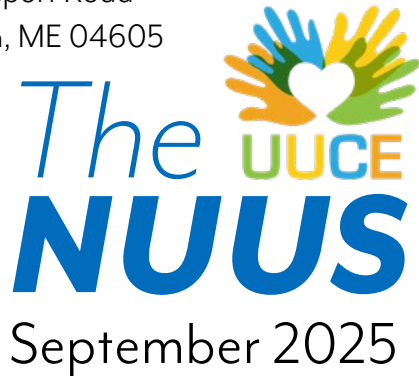
## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

<b>Incoming President:</b> Jill Jeude to 2027 (573-366-7688)	<b>Incoming Vice President:</b> Jana Robinson (She/Her) to 2027
<b>Treasurer:</b> Kate O'Dell to 2026	<b>Secretary:</b> Bob Francis to 2026
<b>Trustee:</b> Tori Bell to 2026	<b>Trustee:</b> Mike Stadler to 2028
<b>Trustee:</b> Doug Bird (He/Him/His) to 2026	<b>Moderator:</b> Kay Wilkins to 2027

## COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE CHAIRS

<b>Adult Committee on Education:</b> vacant	<b>Membership:</b> Liz True (She/Her)
<b>Aesthetics:</b> Gary Shellehamer	<b>Music:</b> Tori Bell
<b>Auction:</b> Jeff Jeude & Liz True (She, Her)	<b>NUUSletter Editor:</b> Lise Williams (She/Her)
<b>Building &amp; Maintenance:</b> Jeff Jeude	<b>Pastoral Care Ministry:</b> Kay Hansen
<b>Charitable Giving:</b> Rev. Sara Hayman	<b>Pianist:</b> Paul Kelly
<b>Choir Director:</b> Meg O'Dell	<b>Publicity:</b> Susan Opdycke
<b>Collaborative Ministry:</b> inactive at this time	<b>Children's Religious Education:</b> Charles Betancourt
<b>Committee on Ministry:</b> Karen Volckhausen	<b>Small Group Ministry:</b> Mary Murray
<b>Cookie Walk:</b> Kate O'Dell	<b>Stewardship:</b> Doug Bird (He/Him/His)
<b>Eggroll Project Volunteer Coordinator:</b> Mary Murray	<b>Ushers:</b> Beth Pepper (She/Her)
<b>Ferry Beach Coordinator:</b> Anne Ossanna (She/Her/Hers)	<b>Technology Coordinator:</b> vacant
<b>Fiscal Matters:</b> Kate O'Dell & Bob Francis	<b>Wayside Pulpit:</b> Nancy Guy
<b>Flower Ministry:</b> Linda Tarlow	<b>Website:</b> Suzanne Aubrey (She/Her)
<b>History/Archives:</b> Wayne Smith	<b>Worship Arts:</b> Marta Rieman (She/Her/Hers)
<b>Hospitality Ministry Coordinator:</b> Anne Ossanna (She/Her/Hers)	<b>Yard Sale:</b> Jeff Jeude & CJ Lammers
<b>Justice Ministry:</b> Barb Acosta (She/Her/Ella) & Jana Robinson (She/Her)	<b>Youth Advisor:</b> vacant
<b>Landscaping and Grounds:</b> Bronwen Day	

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



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

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

**SEPTEMBER 2025**

Vol. 57, No. 9

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.