

NEWS FROM THE HILL

NEWSLETTER OF THE U.U.
MEETING HOUSE OF CHATHAM

PO BOX 18 CHATHAM MA 02633

508-945-2075

FEBRUARY 2025 VOLUME XXIII NUMBER 2



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“NEWS FROM THE HILL”

is published monthly year round
by the UU Meeting House of
Chatham.

Editor: Susan Bauer

Layout Editor: Susan Bauer

SUNDAY SERVICES are
held at 10:30 AM each week.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

next month is THURSDAY
February 20. Send items to
Sue Bauer: Ralphb1234@cs.com



VALENTINE'S CROCK-POT POT LUCK

VALENTINE'S DAY IS A GREAT REASON TO
SHARE A MEAL
ON SUNDAY FEBRUARY 9 AFTER THE CHURCH
SERVICE, WE ARE HAVING A CROCK-POT
POT LUCK BRUNCH IN THE FLECK ROOM

So, bring your sweetheart and your appetite and your
favorite dish to share. If you have an ethnic dish or just a
family favorite, we would love to taste it!

We are looking for appetizers, salads, crock-pot favorites,
and desserts.

Sign up sheets will be available. See Sandi Porter, Mary
Parsons, or Sue Bauer to sign up.



Roses are red
Violets are blue
We gather to celebrate
Friends, lovers, UUs!

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VISION STATEMENT

We, the members and friends of the UUMH, strive:

To apply UU principles in our daily living, social actions, and community service;

To nurture a safe community that encourages intellectual, spiritual, and religious freedom and celebrates all the passages of life;

To welcome diversity and pluralism as essential for our connection with all humanity;

To provide fellowship, friendship, and fun, and to support a creative artistic and musical environment;

To sustain and promote a vital religious and spiritual lifespan education program.

MONTH OF SUNDAYS

February 2 Scout Sunday Gail Eldredge

Come to church and see how the Cubs Scouts, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts have grown, physically and as scouts over the past year. Stay for coffee hour and enjoy and/or order Girl Scout Cookies while you get to know our young people and their parents.

February 9 Can a Unitarian Universalist be a Mystic? Rev. Chris McMahon

UUs pride themselves on reason and rationalism. By definition, a mystic is one who seeks unity with “other” defined in so many ways by the world’s religions. To say the least, mystics most often move beyond what some would consider “reasonable and rational.” A mystic seeks truth beyond what is easily explainable in the world. Often mystics use various mechanisms such as meditation, vision quests, spirit dances, and a host of other activities to seek ultimate truth. How does that fit into the UU world? Is it possible for UUs to seek the mystical?

February 16 The Kingdom of Heaven in a Vineyard Rev. Paul Sprecher

The parable of the Workers in the Vineyard challenges our ideas of what is fair in life and work in the world as we know it. Jesus tells a story about a different kind of world, one where everyone gets enough for their needs -- the Kingdom of Heaven, a Blessed Community.

February 23 Universalism - Is it Still Relevant Today? Rev. Chris McMahon

The second “U” in Unitarian Universalism is just that - “Universalism.” Just what did Universalists say, and why did the Unitarian and Universalist movements join together? Is there relevance to Universalism today?

Who’s Preaching

Rev. Paul Sprecher served as sabbatical minister at UUMH for the first six months of 2014 and has spoken several times a year since. Since his retirement in 2021, he has become a climate activist at his Senior Living Community in Hingham, as well as in the town. In another lifetime, he was a middle school teacher at a boys' prep school in New York City and Vice President for Technology at the American Stock Exchange.

Windward Passage

The Past Year – Nature Won - a Lot!

During the past year, it seems we have moved from natural disaster to natural disaster. Years ago, I can never remember hearing about tornadoes in the winter time. Yet in 2024 there were 1776 confirmed tornadoes. In 1970, the number was 653. Some would say the average number remains the same but the destructive force of tornadoes has greatly increased. The destruction this past year has been unprecedented.

Then there is the hurricane situation. In 2024, there were 11 hurricanes in America which is roughly the average. And this doesn't include the 5 named storms that hit America. The destruction caused by last year's hurricanes is one of the worst in history. Then there is the flooding from numerous heavy rain storms throughout the country – again causing some of the worst destruction in history. And finally – the fires – not only on the west coast but in other parts of the country, including the northeast. We don't yet know the total cost but it is likely to set another record. (Quite likely, your home insurance reflects this as does mine.)

In short – nature is reminding us of how powerful “she/he” is. To say the least, the loss of life and the terrible damage and cost wrought on victims of these disasters is a terrible tragedy and certainly worthy of our compassion and support – financial and otherwise.

It is natural when disaster strikes for victims to seek someone to blame for the disaster. And in some cases, blame is well-founded. Mistakes have been made in many cases. But there does seem to be ample evidence that climate change is a major factor. Climate change has happened throughout the earth's history and it has caused droughts, ice ages and a whole lot more. North Africa long ago was not a desert. It was a lush prairie grassland. Climate change created the desert.

Is it the earth or it is humans causing the present climate change? This is a difficult question but if, indeed, the earth itself is beginning to change the climate again – it's pretty obvious that humans have been accelerating the change since the beginning of the industrial age. It is clearly within our power to address this – if only we try. We have the technology. We have the resources. We just need the will – as hard as this may be to come by. And this is not a problem for just the United States. It is a global problem.

In the final analysis, amidst all of this, I am reminded of one powerful reality. Human existence is very, very fragile. Just as we have the ability to love our earth – our home – and take all measures possible to protect the earth, the environment, and the countless creatures that make up our magical ecosystem – we easily have the ability to destroy it and, indeed, our home in the process.

In the Book of Genesis – the myth of creation says that “God created humans in God's image.” Some would say that “God must look like us.” I rather doubt it, but I do take a lesson from this statement. I read it to say that God created humans in God's image which is “to create and to love as God does,” not to destroy. Quite a different twist on the narrative. If only we could abide by this.

Reverend Christopher McMahon



MOVING FORWARD

Our monthly gathering, a support and discussion group will be meeting every month on the second Saturday at 3:00 pm in the Fleck Room. This ongoing discussion group will meeting next on Saturday, February 8th at 3:00 PM. All are welcome. In our gatherings we aim to hear and support each other along with the vulnerable in our communities in this starkly altered world we share.

**IN MEMORIAM****Eric Riley****1955-2025****Celebration of Life to be held later****CARE GIVERS GROUP**

The next meeting of the Caregivers' Support Group will be Saturday, February 22 at 9AM in the Fleck Room.

For anyone who is feeling the weight of caring for a loved one, be it local, at a distance, or if you are just feeling overwhelmed with feelings, please join Rev. Chris and others to share. Let Chris know you are coming – or just arrive.

All are welcome. If you let Chris know, he would be happy to set up a Zoom connection for you.

Email him at revchrisuumh@gmail.com

Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. (M. L. King, Jr)

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Social Justice has been busy composing a description of its charge. They will be sharing this with the Board of Trustees at the end of January. Once it's finalized, it will be available for new members and others to read. Look for it in next month's Newsletter. We are hoping that this will encourage folks to join the SJ Committee or at least participate in SJ activities.

For the month of February, the Community Outreach will be the Martin Luther King, Jr. Action Team of the Nauset Interfaith Association. Their mission is to address systemic racial injustice through education and building transformative relationships. Through conversations that raise awareness, community organizing, cultural events, and educational programs, they move toward more deeply integrated and equitable communities on Cape Cod.

Robin Hubbard, Chair

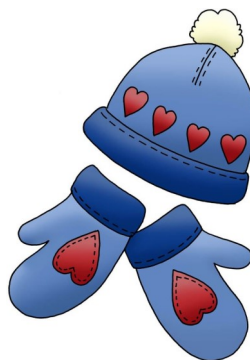
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Have you ever thought it might be fun to be a greeter at the UUMH?

On Sunday, Feb. 23, there will be a brief information session along with coffee time in the Fleck Room. Stop by and listen in, even if you are just curious. If you like what you hear, you can try signing up and see how it goes. We would make sure you are working with a more seasoned greeter.

A reminder will be sent out closer to the date.

Bonnie and Kathy, Co-Chairs



A REMINDER

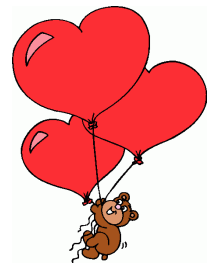
Before scheduling church activities, remember to check the current calendar of events to make sure there isn't another church event at the same time. You can find the calendar on the UUMH website (uumh.net)

LADIES LUNCH

Let's gather on February 25 from 11:30-2pm at the 400 East in Harwich and continue to gather every 4th Tuesday of the month. Please come for all or some of the time; to eat lunch or just to visit. Please let Linda Jean know if you are going to attend by contacting her: in person, by email at lindajeanean@yahoo.com or by text at 774-316-3310. I hope to see you then.

MUUGS - Men's Unitarian Universalist Group Social. 3rd Thursday of the month.

This month **February 20 at 11:30 AM** at the 400 East Restaurant in East Harwich.
A cordial, stimulating, friendly, and thought provoking social get together!



SCOUT SCUTTLEBUTT

BOY SCOUTS

Chatham Boy Scout Troop 71 generously donated \$1,000 to the Chatham Children's Fund and \$1,000 to the Lower Cape Food Pantry from the proceeds of their Christmas Tree pick up fund raiser.

The Troop is spending time retrofitting their Klondike Derby sleds to be prepared for snow (or not) for the Cape and Islands Klondike Derby event.

Battleship Cove is in their future as well as a winter camping experience in New Hampshire.

Several boys have been working on advancement.

CUB SCOUTS

Chatham Cub Scout Pack 71 keeps on trucking!

BE SURE TO STAY TUNED TO WHAT THE SCOUTS ARE DOING!

I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden. (M.L. King, Jr.)

JOYS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Congratulations to Luka Eldredge for receiving High Honors in Grade 6 at the Monomoy Middle School

Interesting article about our Dawn Dinnan who owns Watermark Office Services. Check the January 16 Chronicle.



Instructions for submitting UUMH news items:

The deadline for submissions to the *Weekly Bulletin* (published on Monday) is **6 pm on Sunday**.

Email items to KD Ryan: socialtechie1@gmail.com

- Submissions suggested include upcoming events, programs, opportunities, enhanced activities, etc.
- On your email's subject line, please write "**For Weekly Bulletin on Monday (Insert Date)**" Include your name and contact information in case KD has a question.

Newsletter:

Email directly to Sue Bauer (ralphb1234@cs.com.) Follow schedule written on cover of previous month's Newsletter.

On subject line, write "For Newsletter"

THIRD MONDAY BOOK CLUB

The **UUMH Book Club** will meet Monday, February 17 to discuss *My Antonia* by Willa Cather. Join us for one book or many. For more information, please contact Gail Eldredge at 508-776-3760 or gail.eldredge@gmail.com



PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE

February Birthdays

- 3 Joyce DeVoe
- 5 Mary Chesnut
- 16 Joanne Arnold
- 19 Phil Peters
- 20 Debbie Zahka
- 25 Luka Eldredge
- 26 Kathy Nye
- 27 Joan Caputo



February Anniversaries

- 1 Liz and Dave Van Wye
- 2 Marija and Thadd Eldredge
- 17 Anastasia and Bill Conley

MISSION STATEMENT

Nurturing inclusive community

Seeking justice and equity

Encouraging free minds and spirits

MEDITATION GROUP

“Our body talks to us in Feelings and Sensations. Meditation Practice is taking time out to listen.”

The UU Meditation group meets on Zoom at 9:30 every Saturday morning. If anyone is interested in joining the group you can tune in from any location .

Email Nancy Fields with questions:

nefields42@gmail.com

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://zoom.us/j/93717313258?](https://zoom.us/j/93717313258?pwd=OUZDbzdjSzZoa2dybGo4cWp4dnNPUT09)

[pwd=OUZDbzdjSzZoa2dybGo4cWp4dnNPUT09](https://zoom.us/j/93717313258?pwd=OUZDbzdjSzZoa2dybGo4cWp4dnNPUT09)

Meeting ID: 937 1731 3258 Passcode:040260