

NEWS FROM THE HILL

NEWSLETTER OF THE U.U.
MEETING HOUSE OF CHATHAM
PO BOX 18 CHATHAM MA 02633

508-945-2075

DECEMBER 2024 VOLUME XXII NUMBER 12



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Celebrate the Season	1
Month of Sundays	2
Windward Passage	3
Membership Committee	4
Social Justice Committee	4
Holiday Fair	4
Worship Committee	5
Board of Trustees News	5
MUUGS	5
Care Givers Group	6
Book Club Choices	6
Sunday Flowers	6
Scout Scuttlebutt	7
Bits and Pieces	8

“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**
December 19. Send items to
Sue Bauer: Ralphb1234@cs.com



CELEBRATE THE SEASON

HOLIDAY FAIR

Crafts and Cookies and More! December 15 after the service. See P.4

CHRISTMAS EVE

Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

Gather at 5:00 p.m. for our traditional Christmas Eve service filled
with story and song and light. More details on P.2

POINSETTIAS

Help decorate UUMH for the season and your home, too. Mary
Parsons will happily receive your \$12 for a poinsettia. As in past years,
the plants will grace the steps and area around the pulpit until
Christmas Eve, at which time you are encouraged to take your own
home to enjoy if you wish. Please give your \$12 to Mary by December
15, as she must order and pickup for placing in the church before the
22nd Sunday service. Call her for more info (508-367-0714)

DECEMBER OUTREACH

Mittens and hats and socks...

Please fill the box by the tree in the front of the Sanctuary with new
hats, mittens, and socks. The collected items will be delivered to
a Cape Homeless Shelter.

STAFF MEMBERS

MINISTER:

Rev. Chris McMahon
 revchrisuumh@gmail.com

MUSIC DIRECTOR:

Frank Toppa
 ftoppa444@gmail.com

BOOKKEEPER:

Kim Carroll
 bookkeeperchatham@gmail.com

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR:

Dawn Dinnan
 chathamuumh@gmail.com

MONTH OF SUNDAYS

December 1 *Amidst Uncertainty—Remaining Present for our Children & Our Community* Sarah Manion

A service on how mindfulness can help us feel grounded, connected, and capable of meeting the challenges we face in our lives and our world. Sarah is Executive Director of Calmer Choice.

December 8 **Banned Together Tammy DePasquale**

As the number of book challenges and bans continues to rise across the country, how do we come together to create community and champion our right to read? Tammy is Assistant Director of Eldredge Public Library.

December 15 **Christmas—A Time for Peace—A New Beginning Rev. Chris McMahon**

Christmas is a religious holiday at least 1700 years old, and it does celebrate the birth of Jesus - a poor, itinerant rabbi, one of the most influential human beings in history, though not by his own design. But the words and deeds and the celebration of Christmas also offer important messages for non-Christians too. Just what are they, and can UUs also celebrate Christmas in a non-religious but, perhaps, spiritual way?

December 22 **Calm on the Listening Ear Rev. Maddie Sifantus**

In this time of year as we go headlong into the end-of-the-year holiday season and everywhere we go the sounds of familiar carols are piped into elevators, stores, and restaurants, Rev. Sifantus will consider the historic hymns sung in this season.

December 24 *Christmas Eve Service at 5 PM* Listening for Emmanuel—The Christmas Story in Word and Song Rev. Barbara Whittaker-Johns

Many ancient winter traditions speak to us of Emmanuel—God, the Sacred, as incarnate—embodied within, among each of us, and all that is. In the story of the birth of Jesus, we hear the story of our own birth, entwined with a death story, both part of life.

December 29 **A Gathering to Reflect on the Past Year For those who wish to come together to discuss the last year.**

Who’s Preaching

Barbara Whittaker-Johns is a UU minister, having served as Solo/Senior Minister in Amherst, MA, and Arlington, MA. She graduated from Harvard Divinity School and was ordained by First Parish Brewster and the Nauset Fellowship in 1984. Since the ‘80s she has served in leadership and speaking roles for the Institute on Religion in an Age of Science (IRAS). In a previous life as an educator, she focused on children and adolescents who are ‘neuro-divergent.’ Sometimes she adds her violin to husband Frank Toppa’s music, and sometimes he adds his rake to her love of digging clams on Cape Cod. And whenever possible, they enjoy the company of their adult son Isaac Toppa.

Board of Trustees

Danielle Jeanloz, President
 Evan Howard, Vice President
 Dave Van Wye, At Large
 Beth Avery, At Large

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.

Windward Passage

“One Drop of Water and the Waterfall”

One drop of water doesn't seem like much and in some sense it isn't. One drop of water won't save a person from dehydration. One drop of water won't save a plant or a tree from dying in the middle of a severe drought. One drop of water won't turn the turbines in a hydroelectric plant so as to produce electricity.

But we all know that one drop of water when combined with billions and trillions of others produces a huge amount of water that will do all of these things. Rainfall is nothing but tiny raindrops – sometimes so many you can't see through the rain more than a few feet. These are the types of raindrops that create rivers and waterfalls. These are the types of raindrops that provide life-giving water that sustains life.

December is the time of year we enter the Christmas season. One does not have to be Christian to understand and appreciate one of the powerful messages of the season – to open our hearts and extend ourselves and to give to others in need. Too often people of limited means think they cannot give to others because their gift would be too small and won't not have any effect. But this is just not true. Just like a drop of water, a small gift to charity may only make the tiniest of differences, but just like raindrops, when a small gift to a charity is combined with millions and billions of others it can make a huge difference. Imagine, for example, if each American gave only five dollars to a charity. Five dollars, by itself, would make very little difference but when multiplied by 300 million, it would equal \$1.5 billion which would make a huge difference.

As we enter this holiday season, consider giving to causes that make a difference in the world. Each of us has an obligation to make a difference in the world and each of us can give financially to others – even if our contribution is very modest. Together, we can make a waterfall.

Reverend Christopher McMahon



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee wishes to express our thanks during this season for all the people who help greet, meet visitors, and make our community a welcoming place to be. If anyone is interested in becoming a greeter, please let Bonnie or Kathy know. It's actually a lot of fun.

Be on the look-out for a new Guest Book designed to make it easier for visitors to enter address and email. Thanks to Linda Jean Kirkpatrick for putting her idea into action.

Bonnie Brydges and Kathy Nye, Co-Chairs

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Social Justice is coming off a successful collection for the Lower Cape Outreach Council. About \$250 was donated and sent on to LCOC.. This will help provide a nice Thanksgiving for several families. November donations are going to the Angel Fund to help a local family have a joyful Christmas!! In December we will be collecting warm hats, gloves and scarves for homeless folk. We will also be collecting monetary donations for the Independence House. Independence House provides free and confidential assistance to victims/survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence and their children.



HOLIDAY FAIR

Calling all crafters, bakers, and cooks to our Holiday Fair, directly after church from 11:30 to 1:30 on December 15. Do you sew, knit, create art of any type...cards, wreaths, etc., bake cookies, pies, cakes, make soup, bread, jams and jellies?

We would love your participation. It is suggested that 20% of your profits be donated to the Meeting House, but that is totally up to you (no one will be checking:)) Please call Mary Parsons at 508-367-0714 with questions or to reserve a table – or even half a table!

You can set up on Saturday after 2PM. Red paper tablecloths provided.

And, especially, plan to come and shop – and invite your friends!!



Christmas is love in action (Dale Evans)

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

It is time to take a break from the election and think of positive things. December 1st, Sarah Manion of Calmer Choice will be in the pulpit for “*Amidst Uncertainty—Remaining Present for our Children & Our Community.*” She will share how mindfulness can help us rebuild our capacity to feel grounded, connected, and capable of meeting the challenges we face in our lives and in our world. December 8th, “Banned Together” on banning books with Tammy DePasquale, Eldredge Public Library. As the number of book challenges and bans continues to rise, how do we come together to create a community and champion our right to read? December 15th, Rev. Chris McMahon, on “Christmas - a Time of Peace - A New Beginning.” December 22nd, “Calm on the Listening Ear,” Rev. Maddie Sifantus. December 24th, Christmas Eve Service with Rev. Barbara Whittaker-Johns at 5:00. On December 29th, a gathering of those who wish to come together to discuss the last year.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWS

Yikes, we’ve already served as a “new” board for five months! This month, our board looks forward to meeting with a couple of committees to learn how the restructuring process works for some volunteers and offer support as needed. By the way - the old saying “time flies when you’re having fun” is true!

Your Board of Trustees wishes you Happy, Healthy, and Peaceful Holidays
Danielle, Evan, Beth, and Dave

MUUGS - MEN'S UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST GROUP SOCIAL.

3rd Thursday of the month.

This month on December 18 at 11:30 AM at the 400 East Restaurant in East Harwich. All interested men are invited to join this cordial, stimulating, friendly, and thought provoking social get together! And Lunch!



CARE GIVERS GROUP

The Care Givers Support Group is open to anyone who is feeling the weight of caring for a loved one, be it local or at a distance, or if you are just feeling overwhelmed with feelings of stress. Please join Rev. Chris and others to share. Let Chris know you are coming – or just arrive.

Next meeting will be Saturday December 14 at 9AM at UUMH.

BOOK CLUB CHOICES FOR THE UPCOMING MONTHS

.....In case you want to read ahead!!

January 20 Born a Crime by Trevor Noah

February 17 My Antonia by Willa Cather

Looking Back—or Ahead to Next Summer!

Thanks to Linda Jean Kirkpatrick for this awesome picture and reminder of the fun we have



SUNDAY FLOWERS

Don't forget that you too can provide lovely flowers for a Sunday service. Call Sue Bauer (945-3264) for more information or to have her order them. Or you can bring your own (New England Gardens is a great resource!) Any Sunday other than the first Sunday of the month is available.

After the service, you are welcome to take your flowers home if you wish.

SCOUT SCUTTLEBUTT

BOY SCOUTS

Chatham Boy Scout Troop 71 camped at our own campsite on November 17 and 18. After a lunch of grilled cheese sandwiches the boys set out on an orienteering course that placed first aid related questions at each station. Nine boys completed the necessary requirements to earn their First Aid Merit Badge and start on their Orienteering Merit Badge. Once they returned to camp, they made a most delicious corn chowder. Due to the drought conditions, all cooking was done on propane stoves with all of the requisite safety precautions taken. Ten scouts, four Scout Leaders, a Merit Badge Counselor, four Cub Scouts, three Cub Scout Leaders, many Parents and two Grandparents convened at our local campsite to enjoy an absolutely beautiful afternoon, leaving the Troop to spend the night and continue with breakfast on Sunday morning.

CUB SCOUTS

Chatham Cub Scout Pack 71 was introduced to the Scout Outdoor Code on Sunday afternoon, followed by a quick hike to Oyster Pond practicing the “Buddy System”. Nine Cubs and their parents picked up trash along the way and at the beach. No picture is available as I was busy “herding kittens” as they say.

Both Cubs and Scouts participated in the Veteran’s Day Ceremony on November 11, 2024 at the Community Building.

Gail Eldredge

HAPPY FRIENDS AND COFFEE HOUR



Christmas isn't a season. It's a feeling. (Edna Ferber)



MISSION STATEMENT

Nurturing inclusive community

Seeking justice and equity

Encouraging free minds and spirits

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 December 16 at 10AM at Park Place to discuss *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt.

All are welcome to attend for one book or many. For more information, please contact Gail Eldredge at 508-776-3760 or gail.eldredge@gmail.com



PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE

December Birthdays

- 3 Danielle Jeanloz
- 6 Jan Perry
- 7 Liz Sjogren
- 11 Dick Fewkes
- 15 Bill Conley
- 16 Barbara Rothenberger
- 27 Chris McMahon
- 29 Sandi Porter



December Anniversaries

- 6 Edith and Clif Mayfield
- 15 Evelyn and John Raye
- 17 Virginia and Chris McMahon
- 24 Greg Heyl and Eric Riley
- 28 Karen and Ron Nickerson
- 29 Jane and Read Moffett



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