

NEWS FROM THE HILL

NEWSLETTER OF THE U.U.
MEETING HOUSE OF CHATHAM
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“NEWS FROM THE HILL”
is published monthly year round
by the UU Meeting House of
Chatham.

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

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
next month is THURSDAY
August 22. Send items to
Sue Bauer: Ralphb1234@cs.com



ENJOY SUMMER UUMH FUN IN AUGUST

MUSIC WITH PAVIA

August 14: UUMH at 6PM. Suggested donation is \$20
Enjoy our own very special Pavia and her incredible voice.
Included will be 1930s songs from Mexico, Berlin, Paris, New York,
maybe a little Yiddish, and some works of her own!

MUUGS

MUUGS - Men's Unitarian Universalist Group Social
3rd Thursday of the month. This month **August 15 at 11:30 AM** at
the 400 East Restaurant in East Harwich
A cordial, stimulating, friendly, and thought provoking social
get-together!

OSPREY POINT

Osprey Point gatherings are open to all women connected to the
Meeting House. We meet at Osprey Point once a month on Monday
evenings at 5PM for an hour or so (before the bugs arrive!). Bring your
lawn chair and your dinner/snack/whatever, and join new and old
friends. It is a beautiful, peaceful place that we usually have to
ourselves. Bring your cameras and/or your binoculars.
Watch the Eblast for further info on our August gathering, set for
Monday, August 12. Call Sue Bauer (945-3264) for more
information. By the way...Osprey Point will be found on no map or
through any Google search. That's because we named it – for obvious
reasons, as you will see. Directions: Forest Beach Road off Route 28
in South Chatham. Go .4 miles to a left turn on Bay View. Straight
ahead and up a short hill. And there you are.

AND, OF COURSE...THE THRIFT SHOP!!!!

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Dave Van Wye, Treasurer
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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.

MONTH OF SUNDAYS

August 4 A UU View on World Energy Susan Tordella

Electricity is the blood of society. A power failure halts life in America. Electricity equals prosperity for nearly a billion people without it. Nuclear power can fuel the great electrification with safe, clean, reliable energy and provide a just transition from fossil fuels using minimal land.

August 11 Loving Others and Loving Yourself – A Balance Rev. Chris McMahon

We live in a society which tends to promote selfishness – “what’s in it for me” and “you should think about yourself first.” Then there are teachings and scriptures from many of the world’s religions which call for people to “love others” – sometimes even at the expense of oneself. Well – which is true? Or – are they both true in some way?

August 18 Impacts of Sea Level Rise on Chatham Greg Berman

Sea level has been rising for thousands of years globally and in Chatham. The recent acceleration of rising water levels has caused more frequent flooding and flooded areas that have never flooded before. Greg will discuss the impacts of sea level rise on Chatham, including the area of Morris Island Road and surrounding areas.

August 25 Are Miracles Real? Rev. Chris McMahon

We hear a lot about miracles. It is a common expression – “it was a miracle that ___” (fill in the blank.) And of course many, if not most, of the world’s religions talk about miracles and even describe them in detail in many scriptures. So – the big question is – are miracles real or just fantasies? What are the implications if they are real?

Who’s Preaching

Susan Tordella is a writer, volunteer, and activist. She joined First Church Unitarian in Littleton, Mass. in 2000 and has served on many committees, including as chair of the Green Sanctuary Certification. In 2023, she joined Eco-Nuclear Solutions, led by two fellow UUs.

Greg Berman (PG/CFM) is the Director of Natural Resources for the Town of Chatham. He has a diverse background (hydrologist, environmental scientist, professional geologist, coastal processes specialist), and for the past 15 years, he has focused on fortifying coastal community resilience on Cape Cod.

WINDWARD PASSAGE

My Spiritual Journey

Generally speaking, when priests or ministers are called to a ministry – they bring with them a standard accepted religious belief system complete with rules and regulations, creeds and dogmas. Obviously this is not the case with UU ministers.

That said, I think it is important for UU congregations to hear and understand what their minister believes in, in terms of religion and spirituality. So – let me offer you the story of my religious journey to Unitarian Universalism.

I grew up Catholic – partly in an Irish Catholic family. My family members weren't particularly intense Catholics. In my early years we did go to church every Sunday and I did attend Sunday school (usually on Saturdays). By the time I was in high school, my parents and my siblings had drifted away from the Church and stopped going. I, however, remained devout and made every effort to attend Church several days a week. I attended a Catholic (and military) school which made this pretty easy.

Even in college at the United States Merchant Marine Academy (Kings Point), I attended mass most days of the week, but by then I was having trouble. I could no longer blindly accept the Church's authority, and some of the creeds and dogmas made no sense to me. But, I tried my best to remain loyal.

Then after graduation from Kings Point, I started sailing aboard commercial vessels engaged in worldwide trade. In doing this I became exposed, first hand, to the world's religions. I also spent many hours most days studying theology, history, philosophy, and astronomy. All of this finally pushed me away from the Catholic Church. I wasn't happy about this – in fact, I felt empty inside.

Then in the early 80's I found my way to a Lutheran Church and was happy there for a few years. (I even visited the Lutheran seminary in Gettysburg PA and considered becoming a Lutheran minister.) Then I moved to New York to teach at Kings Point part of the year. I tried out about every Lutheran Church in Western Long Island. I didn't like any of them and finally realized that it was not the Lutheran faith that I had liked, but my former congregation. Again I drifted away in despair. It was at this point, I finally took the big plunge and accepted the fact I could not believe any of the Christian doctrines and creeds. They just made no sense to me.

And so – a few years went by. Much to my surprise – in 1985, my sister decided to get married in a "church" and picked a Unitarian Universalist congregation in Bethesda Maryland. I was impressed by all I read hanging on the bulletin boards in the building. I also had the opportunity to speak with the minister. She did a great job explaining the openness of Unitarian Universalism, and I was hooked. When I returned to New York, I visited (and later joined) what was to become the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Shelter Rock. It wasn't long after joining that I began to ponder to idea of attending a UU seminary.

I do not think that Unitarian Universalism is perfect by any stretch of the imagination, but it is truly the only place I have found where I can grow and change my spiritual and religious beliefs and be accepted at the same time.

Sometimes people ask me why bother to join any denomination? After all, spiritual growth can occur without other people or a minister. However, while this is potentially true, I believe spiritual growth can happen in a more profound way in the company of others – especially with those who are also searching and seeking. This is why I am a UU and a UU minister.

So what do I believe? Well, this will take some time and some sermons to explain. I am not an atheist, not a theist, not an agnostic, nor a humanist. I don't believe in the "God" of the Jews, Christians, and Muslims. If I had to sum it up – I'd have to say that "God" to me (and I do use the word by the way), is part and parcel of this magnificent universe we live in. I see God as both the creator and the created. I see it in all things and all people.

I do find truths in all the world's religions but I do not see "THE TRUTH." This is why I am a Unitarian Universalist. As I grow and change through the years, I can keep searching for more truth. I am a UU minister because I want to share my long and difficult spiritual journey with others, and I am very thankful to have become a part of the UUMH!

Fair Winds and Weather – With Blessings,
Reverend Chris McMahon

P.S. I am going to call my monthly column "*WINDWARD PASSAGE*". (A windward passage, like a spiritual journey, can be a difficult place to get to and often requires many attempts.)

WORSHIP SERVICES COMMITTEE

We are fast moving through the summer months with different and informative services. Something that has been bothering me and several other church members is the clapping after the musical presentation of our talented musicians. Pavia and Priscilla are doing a marvelous job of using appropriate pieces. We appreciate it very much, but it really isn't appropriate to clap in church after such pieces. When Frank is here with us in the fall we also shouldn't be clapping. Music is part of a usual church Sunday Church Service.

We decided to call those who give announcements and welcome the Service Host when it's Rev. Chris' Sunday. On other Sundays when outsiders are in the pulpit, we will be known as Service Leaders. The distinction is the amount of work that goes into preparation for each Sunday.

Dolly Howell

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

We have been welcoming many new visitors this summer. Some folks are here for a short vacation; others have expressed an interest in our community. Greeters are an important entry point to welcoming people, offering an Order of Service sheet and suggesting they sign our guest book with name and email. We also check in with them after the service to answer any questions and introduce them to other members. Thank you to all the Greeters who fulfill this important role. And thank you to all members who truly make a difference in welcoming new folks.

Bonnie Brydges and Kathy Nye, Co-Chairs .

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Although we are taking a hiatus from formal meeting this summer, we are still busy. We're excited to have collected moneys for the Homeless Prevention Council's Back Packs for Students program again. This is such an important way to help our local students. We are going to collect money to help the First Parish, Kingston UU which was severely damaged by vandalism on the Fourth of July. Like us, they are a fairly small congregation in an historic building. More info on the vandalism is available at: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/crime/man-accused-of-vandalizing-historic-massachusetts-church-allegedly-had-ammunition-writings-on-mass-shootings/ar-BB1q6rww>

In September we will be collecting to support Together Women Rise, the women's empowering organization Sally Davol gave such an informative talk about.

On another note, Social Justice would like to encourage folks to participate in non-partisan postcard and letter writing during this election season. There are lots of opportunities to encourage folks to register and to vote. Also, remind family and friends, particularly in other states to check their registration. In some places, if you haven't voted since 2020 they may remove you from the rolls!

In the face of uncertainty, there is nothing wrong with hope. (B. Siegel)

NOTES FROM THE BOARD

The 2024/2025 Board of Trustees kicked off our new year with a retreat and board meeting at Danielle Jeanloz's home, focusing on key areas for the coming year. We hope you like the direction we plan to take and encourage your feedback. Please feel free to contact me or any board member if you have any questions or concerns. We want to be sure that we focus on what is most important to all of us!

Our top priorities for this year include:

Growth and Retention (re-envisioning Membership) through

- community involvement
- innovative services and activities
- providing a refuge both for the larger community and our congregation
- teaching about our practices and values while remaining inclusive
- defining our voice or unique purpose

Restructuring the UUMH Organization by creating

- a simple singular governance structure
- a smaller and less-overlapping structure
- a flexible and responsive structure
- a right-sized model that releases us from all the programs usually offered by a larger church
- a goal-setting & review system that empowers leaders & avoids micromanagement practices
- practices and habits that ensure that teams communicate, coordinate, collaborate, and consult with each other

As part of restructuring and recognizing that we are currently a smaller congregation, the group discussed applying RACI as a methodology or guideline that the Restructure Committee recommended. RACI stands for:

Who is RESPONSIBLE for the work?

Who are they ACCOUNTABLE to? (seeking approval)

Who do they have to CONSULT before decisions and projects? (seeking input)

Who do they have to INFORM after deciding something or making a decision?

Adopting the RACI approach in making decisions throughout the congregation could help our organization grow and thrive. The method empowers our leaders and other members to make plans and decisions quickly on projects that support our mission while working as a team.

Danielle Jeanloz
Board of Trustees President





THRIFT SHOP

It is turning out to be a truly banner year at the Thrift Shop. Lots of customers, bursting with praise for our Thrift Shop. All the volunteers are super helpful and creative. Donations have been many and wonderful. Thanks to everyone – helpers and shoppers all.

Mary Parsons



IN MEMORIAM

Geri Appleyard

1940-2023



EMERGENCY CONTACT CARDS

Several years ago, the Pastoral Care Team created a file of emergency contacts for members and friends of the Meeting House. These cards gave us, and the minister, names and contacts for friends or family for emergency purposes...a fall in church and a need to contact someone, contacting someone we haven't seen in a long time and are worried about. They were very seldom used, but have come in very handy and necessary a few times. Twice in the last few months we have used them to try to contact members and found that the information was out-of-date, thus our current effort. Family members did not contact the church, so we were left quite adrift.

The Pastoral Care Team is creating a new file and would like your help. The card asks for the names of family member or friend to notify if needed, and that's about it—nothing nosy or intrusive, we promise. They will not be used for any other purpose. The cards will be available on Sunday mornings from any Team member—Sue Bauer, Mary Parsons, or Debbie Zahka. We are also happy to deliver a card to you or even fill it out for you over the phone. Even if you are a seasonal resident, this information could help us.

Please help with this important way for us to keep in touch with our community. Any questions—ask any member of the Team. And thanks!

2024 FLECK AWARDS



Danielle Jeanloz



Liz Van Wye



Dave Van Wye

PURPLE DAY AT UUMH



Sandi Porter Liz Van Wye Danielle Jeanloz Bonnie Brydges Sue Bauer

SAVE THE DATE!

Make sure to circle September 1 as a special Sunday to bring your friends to UUMH! Musician Jim Scott will lead the service at 10:30 speaking on Gaia, Mother Earth. Then at 1PM, enjoy his concert entitled Save the Earth.

If you have heard Jim before, you know how impressive and moving he is. Do come and invite friends to one or both events.

SCOUT SCUTTLEBUTT**BOY SCOUTS**

Bottles and cans are being sorted and bagged at the dump at an alarming rate! Thank you to the residents and visitors to Chatham for contributing to the bottle and can bin at the landfill. The proceeds allow our Pack and Troop to participate in a wide variety of activities.

The Boys Scouts can be found at the **Friday Night Band Concerts selling light sticks** as an additional very successful fund raiser.

Five boys and five adults have just returned from a week in **South Dakota visiting many sites including Mount Rushmore**. What a great trip for our older boys at a minimum cost to the families as a result of the fund raisers.

Chatham Troop 71 had the honor of carrying the flags for the Select Board and also participated in the float. It has been a long time since we had enough boys participating to man both portions of the parade.

We now have a total of **15 boys in Chatham Troop 71**.

CUB SCOUTS

Thank you to **America Lesh** for coordinating our float in the 4th of July parade. And another big thank you to **Peter Hopple** for volunteering his truck and trailer.

We had great participation from both the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts creating the float the evening prior to the parade and in riding on the float during the parade.

Rather than giving out items from our float the adults walking with the float picked up trash from crowd watching the parade to further exemplify the theme of keeping our beaches and town clean.

We had all **8 Cub Scouts** participate in creating the float and riding on it.

August will see us preparing for our fall recruitment efforts and making our plans for the coming Scout year.



One can never receive too many hugs. (Anon)

FLOWERS

Flowers are such a special part of our services. It is a joy to see something beautiful at the front of the church each Sunday. If you would like to bring your own from your garden, please let Sue Bauer know (945-3264). Sue is also happy to order flowers for you through New England Gardens. The cost is about \$45, and as you have seen, their bouquets are lovely.

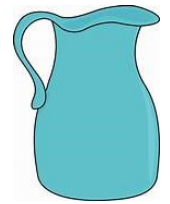
Remember, it doesn't have to be just flowers. A plant, a piece of sculpture, anything that can be seen from the back of the church—all contribute to a Sunday service.



REFRESHMENTS ON THE PORCH

Juice and nibbles on the porch after Sunday service! Simple setup and cleanup. And everybody will love you!

Need volunteers to take a Sunday, bring some nibbles, set up a table, fill two pitchers of water and juice (provided), put out cups and napkins, and then cleanup. Email Sue Bauer (ralphb1234@cs.com) or call



DO YOU ENJOY PLAYING BRIDGE?

Our UU Marathon Bridge Group is looking for more members to benefit the UU Church of your choice with a donation for their Minister's Discretionary Fund, or in the case of Eastham, their building fund.

You and your partner will play friendly bridge once a month (Sept. - April) in member homes. Prizes are given at a luncheon in May. Community members are welcome. It's a great way to meet new friends, challenge your mind, and have fun.

For more information, contact Carol Ann Yeaple before August 15th, 508-760-8127, CAYeaple@live.com.

JOYS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Emma and Luka Eldredge both received High Honors for the 4th Quarter, Emma at Monomoy Regional High School and Luka at the Middle School.

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Edith and Clif Mayfield have a new address:
830 W. Circulo Napa
Green Valley, AZ 85614

Thelma Dykens has a new phone number
Call Liberty Commons at 945-4611 and ask for X7017

Anastasia and Bill Conley’s zip code should be 02646

FROM REV. CHRIS

Just a reminder - my new email for the congregation is: revchrisuumh@gmail.com.
If anyone in the congregation wants to reach me, this is the best way to get to me. I will be checking the new email as often as possible and generally a couple of times a day at least.

THIRD MONDAY BOOK CLUB

The **UUMH Book Club** will be on hiatus for the summer. The September book will be *The Weekend* by Charlotte Wood.

This book is readily available through the Eldredge and Brooks Public Libraries.

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

August Birthdays

- 2 Janet Jansson
- 13 Pat Army
- 15 Anastasia Conley
- 21 Ruth Treen
- 26 Liz Van Wye
- 27 Allison Shorey



August Anniversary

- 5 Sally and Stephen Davol

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:

nfields42@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