

NEWS FROM THE HILL

NEWSLETTER OF THE U.U.
MEETING HOUSE OF CHATHAM
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SUNDAY SERVICES are
held at 10:30 AM each week.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
next month is THURSDAY
MARCH 27. Send items to Sue
Bauer at Ralphb1234@cs.com



CROCK-POT POT LUCK

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY IS A GREAT REASON TO
SHARE A MEAL!
ON SUNDAY MARCH 9 AFTER THE CHURCH
SERVICE, JOIN YOUR FRIENDS FOR A CROCK-POT
POT LUCK BRUNCH IN THE FLECK ROOM**

**Bring your appetite and your
favorite dish to share, and maybe your blarney too! 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, or
Mary Parsons to sign up.**



REMEMBER

YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD

TO SET

STAFF MEMBERS

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 revchrisuumh@gmail.com

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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.

MONTH OF SUNDAYS

March 2

Gathering up the Stories

Rev. Barbara Whittaker-Johns

On January 19, my service suggested that paths of ‘spiritual practice’ may serve as an embodied foundation leading to a ‘spiritual experience’ – for example, a sense of ‘being at home in the universe’. But if such spiritual experiences are to inspire *lasting transformation* personally, and in our communal work in the world, we need ways to *remember* them and to *share* them. One way of doing this is itself a spiritual practice; that is, to frame such an experience as a story, and tell it. We’ll consider these stories from our own lives, in addition to those we receive from others – whether Biblical figures, our country’s forebears, or ‘regular folk’ like Dolly Parton. From such personal scriptures we hope to wrest a blessing for these troubled times.

March 9

Meet the Nauset High Green Club

Students from Nauset Regional High School’s environmental club, the “Nauset Green Club,” will share their initiatives, goals, and community involvement. The group of passionate students is committed to protecting and advocating for our planet through sustainable practices around their school and the local community.

March 16

Putting it in Context

Rev. Chris McMahon

There is no question that our lives are filled with challenges, with sadness, with pain – with a whole lot of things. There is a natural temptation during life’s difficult moments to think we are the center of the universe and a universe which is seemingly against us. Unfortunately, we also know people who do think the universe revolves around them and “it is all about them.” But – of course, both ways of thinking are not true. It is important to understand and realize that we are but one incredibly tiny “thing” in the vastness of the universe. If we understand this, we can appreciate the great gift of life – even in the difficult times.

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Windward Passage

“It is a Small World – Particularly for Some”

When we meet a person we know in an unexpected place or when we find out we share a common friend with a stranger, we usually say – “Oh what a small world.” In many ways it is a small world but this saying has another meaning for some people.

I find that for many people, their world is very small. In other words, although most Americans, today, are presented with endless opportunities to learn, to explore, to challenge one’s beliefs, a lot of people simply do not do this.

Sometimes it is appalling what seemingly educated people do not know. You may remember years ago, the late-night host, Jay Leno, took advantage of this in the frequent segment on his show called, “Jay Walking.” One of his common vignettes was to interview people on the streets of New York and ask questions such as “who was Columbus? Or “where is Libya?” Incredibly a great number of people could not answer the most basic of questions. (If you are curious about his, google “Jay Walking – Best of Jay Leno” and you will see what I mean.)

From a religious and spiritual standpoint, this is distressing and it is dangerous because it can easily lead to an unwillingness to grow intellectually and spiritually. It can lead to fundamentalism in any religion and to fundamentalist-like beliefs among those who do not believe in religion or refuse to consider anything related to spirituality. It can lead to bigotry, intolerance, and fear of the unknown.

Sadly, some people – even whole nations use religion as a justification for heinous acts, even though the religion they seemingly practice in no way justifies their actions toward others. We find examples of this in many nations and religions throughout the world.

Unitarian Universalists can be proud that our tradition calls for “a responsible search for truth and meaning” and it draws wisdom from all the world’s religion. We are supposedly an open, accepting and inclusive people, or at least we claim to be.

That said – it is all too easy for UU’s to become intolerant of others who do not share our views. It is important to realize that practicing openness and acceptance of others and continually expanding our knowledge as we pursue our spiritual quest is a lifelong process. We do not “graduate” one day with all the answers, for there are always many more questions.

How much time do you devote to continually learning and trying to spiritually grow?

Fair Winds and Weather,
Reverend Christopher McMahan



(P. 2 continued)

March 23

Housing is Community – How do we Build it?**Andrea Aldana**

The social fabric of the Lower and Outer Cape is held together by our collective ability to create and preserve homes and stability for our neighbors, our families, and ourselves. Like most of the country, we are in a housing crisis because people who live and work here year-round cannot afford to rent or buy a home. We all have the ability to help our communities thrive in ways that can have a direct and short-term positive impact. Let's talk about how we got here and what we can do about it.

March 30

The Presence of Evil—The Dark Side**Rev. Chris McMahon**

There is little doubt that evil exists in the world. Where does it come from and why does it exist? Some religions speak of an evil force – a devil that influences people and the world. Is this real?



WHO'S PREACHING

During recent years, **Rev. Dr. Barbara Whittaker-Johns** has been an occasional guest minister at UUMH, leading worship along with her spouse, Frank, our Music Director. Before her twenty-two years in full-time UU parish ministry, she spent sixteen years in education, doing graduate work in neurodiversity and working with every age group.

Andrea Aldana, Chief Program Officer at the Community Development Partnership, was born and raised in Miami Beach, Florida, a first generation US-born daughter of Colombian immigrants. She holds a BA in Urban Studies from New York University with a minor in Environmental Science. In 2011, she moved to Eastham with her husband, Scooter, to raise oysters and experience rural living. Andrea first joined the Community Development Partnership in 2011 as a volunteer, and was then hired as the Office Manager and is now our Chief Program Officer (CPO). As CPO, she seeks opportunities for collaboration and innovation across our programs. Andrea serves on the boards of Citizen's Housing and Planning Association, Abundant Housing Massachusetts, and the Wellfleet Farmers Market.

Compassion is the basis of all morality. (Schopenhauer)

WHAT NOW (formerly MOVING FORWARD)

Our monthly gathering, support, and discussion group, What Now, meets every month on the second Saturday at 3:00 pm in the Fleck Room. All are welcome. Our gatherings aim to allow us to hear and support each other along with the vulnerable in our communities in this starkly altered world we share.

The next meeting will be March 8 and will feature a talk by Mike Schell, Chair of the Chatham Select Board and Chair of the Chatham Democratic Town Committee of Chatham.

**The sympathy of the
Congregation is extended to
Gail Tilton on the death of
her son, Rusty.**

**CARE GIVERS GROUP**

The next meeting of the Caregivers' Support Group will be Saturday, March 29 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

**HAPPY
St. Patrick's
Day!**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWS

The Board wants to recognize our volunteers and staff who organize and lead our small groups at UUMH. These groups enrich our community by creating social connections and opportunities to learn from one another. To be successful, these groups require planning, coordination, follow-up, and energy from their leaders.

Our groups, which usually meet monthly, include Caregivers, What Now, Sue Bauer's Small Group, Book Club, MUUGS, and Women's Luncheon Group. Saturday Meditation meets weekly via Zoom, and Osprey Point Women's Group meets during the warmer months only. The groups are a great way to get to know UUMH members and friends. Some groups are new, while others have been around for years. If you have not participated in one, we suggest you try one or more out. Our weekly bulletin has more information on group meetings or visit our website at: <https://www.uumh.net/events-activities>. You can also contact a board member, group leader, or Chathamuumh@gmail.com for more details.

**MARCH 9****LADIES LUNCH**

Let's gather on March 25 from 11:30-2pm at the 400 East in Harwich! 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 lindajebean@yahoo.com or by text at 774-316-3310. Hope to see you then!

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

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

SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Social Justice Committee has kept busy identifying local non-profits to share the Community Outreach with each month. Some of the organizations are annual, as they help with specific local issues. Others are selected due to urgency of an identified need. In March the funds will go to the Emerald Hollow Therapeutic Riding Center. The donations are used to help support and promote the strength and well-being of their students with cognitive, physical, emotional and social needs. Social Justice had also reviewed and updated the description our goals as well as give a brief description of the Social Justice history of the UU Association.

“The Social Justice Committee is actively involved in sharing the Unitarian Universalist very strong Social Justice history with the Membership. UUs were leaders in the Abolition Movement, the Women’s Suffrage Movement, the Civil Rights Movement, and many more areas. As outlined in the UUA information:

“As an expression of our faith and values, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) takes positions on relevant issues of social justice. Our positions are discerned via the social witness process, as shepherded by the Commission on Social Witness. Grounded in these social witness statements, the UUA will sign on to letters and amicus briefs in coalition with other faith and social justice organizations, magnifying our impact in the larger world.”

In supporting this vision, our UU Meeting House identifies and sends support to many local non-profits, as well as supporting our fellow congregations going through tragedies, i.e. supporting the Montpelier VT UU after the devastating floods and the First Parish Kingston after the extensive vandalism they experienced.

Our Social Justice Committee believes strongly that we should join with other congregations in supporting national and international social justice causes identified and sanctioned by the UUA. This support could be in many forms such as encouraging members to write letters, sign on to a petition, join marches or Zoom discussions, or read more information. None of these are required, but should be made available to the membership.

Social Justice is always looking for membership and/or suggestions. Please contact one of the members or the Chair, currently Robin Hubbard (davrobhub@comcast.net) with ideas or interest.”



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)

Do unto others as if you were the others. (Anon.)

JOYS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Rev. Chris McMahon presented an extremely well received talk on the Merchant Marine at the Marconi Center in February.

Huge thanks to Jon Nye, Evan Howard, Pam Ebeling, and Joe Zahka for their beautiful job of freshening up the Fleck Room with a new coat of paint. Looks great!

MARCH

9



MARCH

9

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, March 17 to discuss *The Soul of an Octopus* by Sy Montgomery. 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

March Birthdays

- 2 Emma Eldredge
- 10 Barbara Blanchard
- 12 Helen Smith
- 12 Ralph Bauer
- 13 Jane Moffett
- 13 Evan Howard
- 24 Marija Eldredge



March Anniversaries

- 7 Janice and Phil Peters
- 8 Joan and Joe Caputo
- 15 Virginia and Chris McMahon
- 19 Jean and Ed Mangiafico

April Birthday

- 1 Annie Wallace

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