

# NEWS FROM THE HILL

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

508-945-2075

NOVEMBER 2024 VOLUME XXII NUMBER 11



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Angel Fund	1
Month of Sundays	2
Windward Passage	3
Thrift Shop	4
Holiday Fair	4
Membership	5
Social Justice	5
With Sympathy	5
Care Givers Group	6
Book Club	6
MUUGS	6
Refreshments	6
Notes from the BOT	7
Scout Scuttlebutt	7
Pumpkins in the Park	8
UU Men Doing Their Thing	9
Bits and Pieces	10

“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  
November 21. Send items to  
Sue Bauer: Ralphb1234@cs.com



The UUMH will support a family for the Angel Fund again this year. For those who are unaware, every year we adopt a family and provide a wonderful Christmas for them.

The **Chatham Children's Fund** provides the ages, genders, and special requests for each child in the family, and we shop!

I do not yet have the specifics for “our” family, but will send them to you all in an e-blast as soon as I have them. If you choose to support this UUMH Community Service Project, you can do so in one of two ways:

- you can purchase one of the items on the list; or
- you can give money to one of our elves, and we will do the shopping for you.

This year the elves are Gail Eldredge, Sandi Porter, and Linda Jean Kirkpatrick.

Our deadline for shopping is November 28, as all gifts must be delivered to the Angel Fund by December 1. For more information, please contact Gail Eldredge at 508-776- 3760



**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

**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**

**November 3 Giving Thanks is a Sign of Love Rev. Chris McMahon**

Too often, we take for granted all the blessings in our lives, and that includes being thankful to the people who are kind to us. It includes strangers who help us, too. As we enter the Thanksgiving season, let us ponder just how important being thankful is - both for ourselves and for others.

**November 10 The Meaning of Veterans Day Dave Van Wye**

Why is Veterans Day celebrated? It is a national holiday with origins in Armistice Day on November 11, 1918. Now there are fewer veterans in our population. Does Veterans Day still have meaning in today's world? Why would anyone want to become a veteran? Join our service on the eve of Veterans Day to explore the answers to these questions and more.

**November 17 Healing Happens with Intention Rev. Cari Keith**

**November 24 The Value of Religion. The Value of Spirituality**

**Rev. Chris McMahon**

We hear people say, "they are spiritual but not religious." Can this be true? Can people be religious but not spiritual? What is religion in relation to spirituality? Are both important?

\*\*\*\*\*

**Who's Preaching**

**Dave Van Wye** is a longtime UU and a member of the Meeting House. He has had a career in public administration and is the author of two books on Vietnam, *SAVING BEN TRE*, and *VIETNAM BLUES*. Having served in the Vietnam War and earned the combat Infantryman Badge, he has a veteran's perspective on this topic.

**Cari Keith** is a registered psychiatric nurse, an ordained minister, and a practitioner of interfaith spiritual guidance and dream work. Cari's passion is to create a sacred space that is open and affirming of all people.



## *WINDWARD PASSAGE*

### **LIFELONG LEARNING**

I think in our society today most people recognize the value of education and/or training. We know that for young people to succeed, a college education can be very important, and if a young person chooses not to go to a regular college, then obtaining special skills is very important in order to become employed in the complex economy of today. In this regard, community colleges and specialized training schools can play a valuable role.

What a lot of people don't seem to understand is the value and importance of lifelong learning. Just because a person has completed their "formal education" in college or in a training school does not mean they should not continue to educate themselves. I think a big problem in our society today is a lot of people finish formal schooling and then just stop learning.

Of course, every day is a learning experience whether we want to learn or not but this is not the same as actively pursuing learning. There are, naturally, periods in people's lives when spending extra time for "learning" is difficult. A parent who is carrying a stressful job and dealing with the myriads of challenges and demands of parenting probably doesn't have a lot of free time on their hands to enjoy the luxury of "learning." The same is true of people with a demanding job or someone who is tasked with constant care of a loved one.

But most people have at least some free time, or they will eventually have free time to learn, and there are so very many ways to learn. Most people have cable or satellite television, and there are numerous channels which offer unlimited ways to learn through programs in history, science, cooking, gardening, home remodeling, and so much more. I find it discouraging that there are so many more channels on topics that are very popular but offer no learning experience; programs that simply offer the opportunity to gawk at others.

Consider the endless reality programs on crazy if not violent weddings, on people with tragic deformities, on people who hoard, on people with mental problems, on obnoxious housewives, and so much more. Why are these programs seemingly so much more popular than programs where people can actually learn?

Having a college education may be important, but it is, by no means, an indication in later life that a person is knowledgeable, well-rounded, or aware of the world around them. It is only a lifelong learner who can truly embrace the complex and ever-changing world. It is little wonder that people who do not continue to learn in life tend to be the most resistant to change, the most obstinate of people, and the ones who most criticize the societal changes around them.

I also believe that lifelong learning and spiritual development are totally linked together. It is through learning that we explore and appreciate the spiritual. It is through lifelong learning that we continually build on our knowledge, appreciate more, and continue to develop our minds and our spirits.

No one can claim there are no resources available to them for lifelong learning. Not only are there a myriad of good programs on television, but everyone has access to a public library and adult education classes in their community.

Lifelong learning is so important for us to grow as people and to better serve our families and friends, our society and ourselves! It is also a way to stay happy and feel fulfilled. Think about all the great ways you can continue to learn!

Reverend Christopher McMahan



### THRIFT SHOP

Though the Thrift Shop had to close three weeks early, it was, nevertheless, a **SPECTACULAR** season. Thanks to all the hard-working and friendly volunteers, as well as the many donors of awesome merchandise, the Thrift Shop finished the season with slightly over \$50,000!!!

Mary Parsons, as she has for several years, guided and encouraged us through a fun and profitable summer. Pam Ebeling will be taking over the reins next summer, and she has some great ideas as well. So, see you all in May.

And a note from Mary herself:

I would like to thank Pam Ebeling and Evan Howard, Kathy and Jon Nye, Liz and Dave Van Wye, Deb and Joe Zahka, Carol Lewis and Deb Tenney for all their help when the Thrift Shop Flooded. We certainly couldn't have done it without you. And my thanks to everyone who made the summer such a success.

Mary



### 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!

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



**Fall is proof that change is beautiful.**

### MEMBERSHIP

Rev. Chris and Bonnie helped the Congregation welcome Barbara Segall into our community during the October 20 service. Once again, we are so happy to welcome you, Barbara.

There are many projects going on inside and outside of our building that will all contribute to making us a more welcoming place. \*Thanks to Linda Jean Kirkpatrick for keeping the flower urns in beautiful shape. \*Thanks to Joe Zahka and Jon Nye for brightening the Fleck Room with new paint( Beth helped choose a great color). \*Thanks to Evan Howard and Dave Porter for repairs to the walkway to the downstairs entry. \*Thank you to all the folks involved in our huge advertising campaign.

Watch for the Pew Cards that will soon be in our pews for visitors to complete.

Bonnie Brydges and Kathy Nye, co-chairs



### SOCIAL JUSTICE

Social Justice continues to support positive causes with the monthly Outreach. The members of the First Parish Kingston UU were grateful for the money we sent toward the restoration after the terrible vandalism in July. We have just sent off a nice donation to Together Women Rise, the terrific organization that Sally Davol told us about. That money will go toward education and training. As has become a tradition, we are just concluding our October Outreach for the Thanksgiving meals through the Lower Cape Outreach Council.

For November Social Justice will encourage membership generosity for the Angel Fund which will make Christmas a happier day for a local family. In December we will encourage folks to bring in mittens, scarves and hats and place them in the basket at the front of the church.

As always, thanks to everyone for helping our Outreach projects!!

Robin Hubbard, Chair



**The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Beth Avery on the death of her sister Ann Shank, whom many of us got to know when she joined us on Zoom during Covid.**

### CARE GIVERS GROUP

The Care Givers Support Group will have their first meeting at 5PM on November 1 in the Fleck Room. For 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

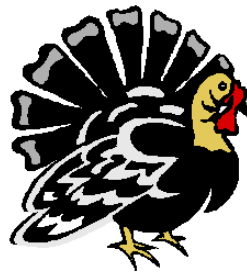
### BOOK CLUB CHOICES FOR THE UPCOMING MONTHS

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

December 16 Remarkably Brilliant Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt

January 20 Born a Crime by Trevor Noah

February 17 My Antonia by Willa Cather



### MUUGS

MUUGS - Men's Unitarian Universalist Group Social. 3rd Thursday of the month. This month **November 21 at 11:30 AM** at the 400 East Restaurant in East Harwich.

Join us for a cordial, stimulating, friendly, and thought provoking social get together! (And lunch!)

### REFRESHMENTS - HELP NEEDED

Coffee Hour (complete with coffee!) has returned to the Fleck Room. Make the coffee (easy directions available), pour juice and heat tea water. set up the cups, etc., bring a goodie or two, and clean up afterwards (with lots of help!)

Please email Sue Bauer ([ralphb1234@cs.com](mailto:ralphb1234@cs.com)) or call 945-3264 to volunteer for a Sunday.



## NOTES FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Communications Committee has created an ad campaign for November and December thanks to a donor's generous support. Our "Search with Us" theme will be featured throughout the campaign. You can hear Rev. Chris on Ocean 104.7 or Classical 107.5 FM radio as of November 18. The ads will run four times daily and on alternating radio stations each week for seven weeks. We hope to be able to announce some of the radio ad scheduled times in advance. You will also see print ads in the Chronicle starting November 7, a banner ad online at [Capecod.com](http://Capecod.com), and occasional ads on Facebook. The "Search with us" message is designed to draw people into our sanctuary and our website to learn more about us.

Our Board is working with our committees, one at a time, to support and assist with creating goals for the year. Goal setting helps define the purpose and direction of each committee and its role in supporting the Meeting House's overall mission. As a group, our volunteers continue to explore new ways to get things done with fewer people. We are grateful for their creativity and dedication.

## SCOUT SCUTTLEBUTT BOY SCOUTS

**Chatham Boy Scout Troop 71** assisted with the unloading thousands of pumpkins at the Congregational Church for the Pumpkin Patch.



The Troop attended the President's Trail Camporee from Saturday, October 12 -Monday, October 14 at Marymount Park, Quincy, Massachusetts. They placed a display in Pumpkin People in the Park for Oktober Fest. Several boys are working on their Chess Merit Badge. The First Aid Merit badge has been almost completed by 10 boys. The proof will be demonstrating their knowledge of the requirements on an orienteering course later in November during a fall campout. Things are hopping at 244 Stage Harbor Road on Sunday afternoons!

## CUB SCOUTS

Chatham Cub Scout Pack 71 is up and running with several new Cubs and Leaders for the youngest Cubs in our Pack (age 5 and 6).

The new adults are busy learning the ropes, and the Cubs are "Doing Their Best" to compete with the older scouts in noise making activities!

Both Cubs and Scouts will be participating in the Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11 at the Community Center.

**Today is a great day to be amazing.**



PUMPKIN PEOPLE IN THE PARK

REV. CHRIS AND THE ADMIRAL SEARCHING FOR COMMUNITY



AND MORE PUMPKINS IN THE PARK OF THE SCOUT VARIETY



UU MEN DOING THEIR THING



Evan Howard and Dave Porter repairing the sidewalk outside the Fleck Room

Rev. Chris tending the beautiful—and healthy plants in his office



**JOYS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Great picture of Mary Parsons in the Chronicle on October 10 announcing her “retirement” from leadership of the Thrift Shop. She looks pretty happy!



**PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE**

**November Birthdays**

- 5 Jackie Venner
- 6 Susan Patterson
- 7 Judy Reed
- 7 Betsy Gill
- 10 Clif Mayfield
- 15 Mary Parsons
- 19 Bonnie Brydges
- 20 Marion Harcourt
- 20 Joe Caputo
- 21 Bob Rice
- 26 Gail Tilton



**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](mailto: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](mailto:ralphb1234@cs.com).) Follow schedule written on cover of previous month's Newsletter. On subject line, write "For Newsletter"



**MISSION STATEMENT**

**Nurturing inclusive community**

**Seeking justice and equity**

**Encouraging free minds and spirits**

**THIRD MONDAY BOOK CLUB**

The **UUMH Book Club** will meet Monday November 18 at 10AM at Park Place to discuss *Grandma Gatewood's Walk* by Ben Montgomery.

See page 6 for books for the next few months in case you want to read ahead!.

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](mailto:gail.eldredge@gmail.com)



**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](mailto:nefields42@gmail.com)

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/93717313258?pwd=OUZDbzdjSzZoa2dybGo4cWp4dnNPUT09>

Meeting ID: 937 1731 3258 Passcode:040260