

NEWS FROM THE HILL

NEWSLETTER OF THE U.U.
MEETING HOUSE OF CHATHAM
PO BOX 18 CHATHAM MA 02633
DECEMBER 2022 VOLUME XX NUMBER 12

508-945-2075



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"NEWS FROM THE HILL"
is published monthly year round
by the UU Meeting House of
Chatham.

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Layout Editor: Susan Bauer

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

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
next month is **TUESDAY**
December 27. Send items to
Sue Bauer: Ralphb1234@cs.com



Joy Joy Joy

EMBRACE, ENJOY, CELEBRATE

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING AND REFLECTION

Advent, the season of hope and waiting for what is to come, is celebrated in the Christian tradition on the four Sundays prior to Christmas Eve. Join Rev. Tracy for the final three Sundays beginning December 4 on zoom at 4:00 p.m. as we light an Advent Wreath candle. There will be music, poetry and quiet reflection through the poetry of e. e. cummings. A zoom link is below and the poems will be provided weekly with a reminder.
Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/91717661336?pwd=MEM5YjhBNnpoc3QxaW5aVWILL0V0QT09>



Meeting ID: 917 1766 1336
Passcode: 560049

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

The Voice of the Heart, our Christmas Eve Service, will take place at 5PM, Saturday, December 24. Join us for a service of lessons and music.

HOLIDAY CARING

Remembering homeless individuals and families. Donate mittens and hats, scarves, socks, and underwear which will be given to a Hyannis Homeless Shelter. There will be a basket beneath the Christmas Tree in the Sanctuary.



Dear Ones, All –

There is a chill in the air as I sit to write this morning, a harbinger of the season to come! It is bright and crisp and once bundled up, a joy to experience. And while there is a chill in the air, our hearts are filled with the warmth of the season. When I was young and phasing out of a belief in an actual Santa Claus who made his way down the chimney with a bag of toys, I refused to give up on the idea of Saint Nick, believing instead that he stood for the Spirit of Giving in our lives and world. Clearly one of those moments when my father's retort that I was 'too deep for my own good' held sway, but I still hold onto this notion today. And we here at the Meeting House have been about this Spirit over the past month and into this one – collecting for a local asylum-seeking family so that their Christmas might be more special, contributing to the joy of a young Chatham children on Christmas morning through the Angel Fund, and now as we place hats and mittens, socks, and other essentials beneath it for the unhoused in our area. The Spirit of Giving is alive and well in our midst, and I am blessed to serve such a generous congregation.

Our Soul Matters theme this month is "Wonder." I will be devoting our December 11th service to this topic, and I wonder . . . (insert winking emoji here!) . . . where you find yourselves awestruck, as the sermon title suggests, in this season. Something in the natural world, something in your relationships, something about where your thoughts wander. I invite you to reflect on this idea and to share what you discover with me sometime before the 8th of the month.

Our Advent Reflections continue through the 18th and you are invited to join in whether you can attend them all or just one. Together we engage in a time of sharing, an opportunity to deepen our relationships with one another, to give and receive from our hearts. The warmth and intention of the season are alive again in our midst. Check the e-blast and watch for weekly invitations in your email.

Our world is offering us so many opportunities to enter into a mindset of giving. While we would rather this was not the case, the truth is that there will always be need in our lives. There is no gift too small, none is insignificant. When we operate from a place of gratitude and generosity, the spirit of the season is amplified, and like the Grinch, our hearts grow and grow, love overflowing and poured out. May you find in this month of holidays and holy days the Spirit of Giving in your interactions with one another, with family and friends, with those whose need is greater than our own. In so doing, may you be blessed and blessing both.

In peace –
Reverend Tracy



MEMBERSHIP MINUTE: BRANCH OUT FOR 2023

Branch Out is a UUMH social gathering sponsored by the Membership Committee and held on the fourth Thursday of the month at 5 pm. We are breaking for the holidays in December and on January 26 at 5 pm, we will hold **our first Branch Out gathering for 2023 at 400 East, 1421 Orleans-Harwich Rd, East Harwich**, across from the Stop and Shop. Our first two sessions of Branch Out held at Branches Restaurant in Chatham were very successful. We are varying the location to make the event more accessible to members from Harwich and Orleans as well as Chatham. Branch Out is a chance for UUs and friends to gather socially (for an hour, more or less) in a casual way. Stop in to discuss whatever is on your mind, to share refreshments or grab a bite. Bring a friend or two along. No RSVP needed...see you then!



Rev. Tracy Johnson lights candles in remembrance of Transgender individuals who died this year.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

See the information on page 1 of this Newsletter. The Committee will collect and deliver cold weather items of clothing to a homeless shelter. Bring your contributions by December 18. If you would prefer to send a monetary donation, they will be happy to shop for you. Please call Joan Caputo for more info or questions. 508-776-0319.

Never be less than your dreams. (Anon.)

CAN YOU HELP??**RIDES NEEDED**

We have 2 members in North Chatham and one in Eastham who would love to join us in the Sanctuary on Sunday but need a ride. If you would be willing to provide that ride, please let Sue Bauer know (945-3264). It could be every Sunday, but once or twice a month or even occasionally would be great. It would be wonderful to have a group of people to share the driving. Plus you would make a congregant extremely happy and make yourself feel good too!

FOOD AND COMFORT

Many of you have been very generous providing food for recent Memorial Service collations. The Pastoral Care Team really appreciates your willingness to help. Another caring service, which fell into that deep Covid hole, is meals for those who need short term help - perhaps a few meals while recovering from a hospital stay or some other overwhelming event. Pastoral Care would ask you to prepare just one meal and deliver it to one of our congregants: main dish, salad, dessert. Please let Sue Bauer know (943-3264) if you would be willing to be on a list of possible providers - only occasionally and only on your schedule.

**COFFEE HOUR**

Welcome back to the Fleck Room after the service on Sundays! Coffee, tea, water are all available, but even better....conversation and a chance to connect with friends, old and new. We have all missed this chance to be together. How joyous to be able to gather again. If you would be willing to help set up or clean up after - easy and not very time-consuming – please let Sue Bauer know (945-3264)



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 contribute to the "Flower Fund" or bring your own, please let Sue Bauer know (945-3264). Sue is also happy to order flowers for you through New England Gardens. The cost is about \$40, and as you have seen, their bouquets are lovely. Remember, it doesn't have to be just flowers. Christmas greenery, a plant, a piece of sculpture, anything that can be seen from the back of the church!



IN MEMORIAM

NANCY CHASE

1932-2022



THANKS

Slightly belated but very sincere thanks to Gail Eldredge and her committee for the great Pumpkin People in the Park during October. Great idea and great presentation!! Thanks Gail!! See you next year!!

Listening, not imitation: the sincerest form of flattery. (Anon.)

J OYS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

At the recent Toronto Film Magazine’s Art Film Spirit Awards, 2022, Dana McCoy won Best Composer for *Three Muses*, A film written and directed by Marcia Haufrecht of the Actor’s Studio. The film will hopefully be in some 2023 Film Festivals.

Girl Scouts Emma Eldredge, Zoe Simmons, and their leader, Marija Eldredge recently handed out flyers and collected donated food and money for the Chatham Food Pantry at the Chatham Village Market.

Jane and Read Moffett are celebrating their 60th Anniversary this month. Congratulations!!

Wonderful picture in the November 24 Chronicle of Mary Parsons, Linda Redding, and Larry Marsland donating proceeds from the 2013 Turkey Trot. All three of them so involved over the years in this incredible undertaking.

PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Danielle Jeanloz
- 6 Jan Perry
- 7 Liz Sjogren
- 11 Debbie Rogers
- 11 Dick Fewkes
- 15 Bill Conley
- 16 Barbara Rothenburger
- 21 Lisa Evans



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Ed and Jean Mangiafico have new phone numbers:
 Ed: 508-221-5206
 Jean: 508-221-5199



THIRD MONDAY BOOK CLUB

Third Monday Book Club will meet at 10AM on December 19 to discuss *Growin’ up white* by Dwight Ritter.

Contact Mary Parsons with questions.
 marypmac@comcast.net / 432-7194



All are welcome for one book or many!

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 with Joan Konopka as the facilitator. 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