

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**
October 23. Send items to Sue



COME ONE and ALL....

IT'S TIME TO CRAWL INTO FALL

Our “Celebration of the Autumnal Equinox” Pot Luck will once again be held at the Chatham Marconi Maritime Center, located at 831 Orleans Road (Route 28), North Chatham.

The date has been changed to Sunday October 19.

We will gather at the Marconi shortly after church. Exact time to be announced. There is plenty of parking.

Please join us on the veranda for great conversation, food, and libations.

A signup sheet will be available at the service, so be thinking about what you would like to bring to share. (Remember to bring your own liquid refreshments.)

Social Activities Committee
Sandi Porter, Chair
Mary Parsons



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MONTH OF SUNDAYS**October 5 Conversations with the Sacred Rev. Chris McMahon**

Throughout human history, one common characteristic of every culture is that there are people within the society who seem to have some special connection with the sacred – and clearly, what is called “sacred” can be defined in very many different ways. How does this fit into Unitarian Universalism?

**October 12 South Chatham Public Library:
150 Years of Community**

This tiny library celebrated its 150th anniversary last year (2024). A young lady named Mercelia Evelyn, daughter of the legendary Levi Eldridge Jr., originally opened a library on her father’s wharf at the end of Deep Hole Road in Harwich. Over the years, the library grew and moved down Main Street to Levi’s store (currently 2607 Main) and eventually to its current location in 1934. Join us for the fascinating history of our cherished resource.

**October 19 Knowledge is a Key to Spiritual Searching
Rev. Chris McMahon**

It’s unfortunate that many if not most adults stop learning about the world around them when they leave high school or college. Lack of learning can, most often, lead to a closed mind. A closed mind prevents a person from seeking and finding spiritual truth.

**October 26 The Everyday Prayers of Process Philosophy
Rev. Barbara Whittaker-Johns**

Perhaps, as Unitarian Universalists, we might claim for ourselves the power of everyday prayer as a *relational* activity that creates new life. A process world-view invites us to imagine that such prayer might create new life whether that’s within each of us, between us, in distant places of suffering or turmoil; whether for our numbered days on Earth, or in the timeless realm beyond birth and death.

**Board of Trustees**

Sally Davol, President

Linda Jean Kirkpatrick, Secretary

Rick Pike, At Large

Barbara Segall, At Large

Dave Van Wye, 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

“It is a Small World – Particularly for Some”

When we meet someone 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 is not what I mean by this saying.

Instead – I find that for many people, their world is very small. In other words, although most Americans 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. I remember when the late night host, Jay Leno, used to take advantage of this in his segments on “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/cannot answer the most basic of questions.

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. In turn this can lead to bigotry and intolerance. 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 and in today’s “ISIS phenomenon.”

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 an open people, or at least we strive to be.

That said – it is all too easy, even 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 McMahon



UPDATE AND EXPLANATION FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The recent decision to pause frequent rallies on the UUMH lawn was not made lightly. Many of our members sympathize with the mission of the “What Now” group, and you will see individuals from our community standing with them. However, it’s important to clarify that “What Now” is not a UUMH-sponsored organization, and some members have expressed discomfort with ongoing protest activity on our lawn.

UUMH is, first and foremost, a religious and spiritual community. While we remain committed to social justice and are open to hosting occasional standouts that align with our values, frequent rallies on our property can send the wrong message. They may give the impression that UUMH is politically affiliated or aligned with only one viewpoint. This could unintentionally alienate potential members and hinder our ongoing efforts to grow as an inclusive, welcoming congregation.

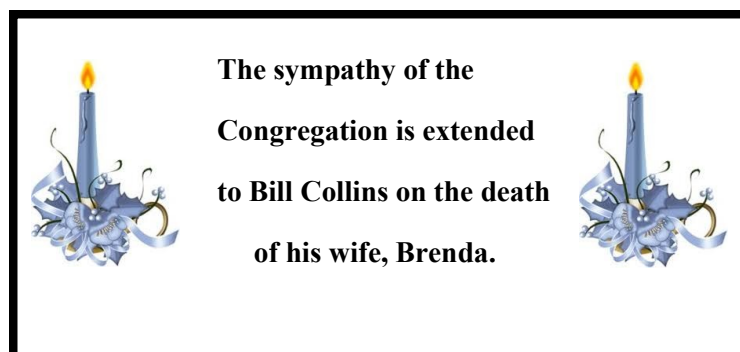
Unfortunately, miscommunication and misunderstanding have played a role in recent events. The previous Board of Trustees (BOT) approved the June 14 “No Kings” event, which the “What Now” group interpreted as an approval for future rallies. The July “Good Trouble” rally occurred before the new BOT held its first meeting. Then, last Thursday, the BOT received late notice of two more upcoming protests—highlighting a second instance of miscommunication.

Considering these issues, the BOT has decided to be more selective about activities held on our lawn. Like other towns on Cape Cod, there are public spaces better suited for protests—venues that are accessible, safe, and welcoming to all. That said, we are pleased to share that the BOT and “What Now” have mutually agreed: The October 18 “No Kings 2” rally, a national event, will be held on the UUMH lawn

After that, the group will seek a new location for future gatherings.

We thank everyone for their understanding as we navigate this with care and compassion for all voices in our community.

Sally Davol
Board of Trustees President



That’s all non-violence is—organized love. (Joan Baez)

WHO'S PREACHING

Barbara Semple grew up in Fairfield, Connecticut, moving to Hartford, then Washington, DC, then settling in New Hampshire for 28 years. She served as a public school librarian, a children's librarian for a public library, and a librarian for a private day school. She and her husband moved to South Chatham in 2009.

Rev. Dr. Barbara Whittaker-Johns is an occasional guest minister at UUMH, leading worship along with her spouse, Frank, our Music Director. Before her decades in full-time UU parish ministry, she had a career in education, focusing on neurodiversity in all age groups. Since the mid-80's, she has served various leadership roles in IRAS - The Institute on Religion in an Age of Science - where she is an Honorary Vice President. Most recently she Co-Chaired the 2025 IRAS Annual Conference, which was on Spiritual Experience, and is now enrolled in a Certificate Program in Spiritual Direction.



FINDING ANSWERS AT UUMH

Back by popular demand - spend an hour (or less) of your time with Danielle Jeanloz on Zoom learning tips and sharing information that could enhance your computer skills. Please review the list below and advise if there are other topics you'd like to discuss.

When: October 28 at 11 or 3, or October 29 at 9. Reservations are necessary to determine the best date and time.

Where/How: On Zoom. I will send you the link a day in advance.

What:

Highlights on the UUMH Website

Who does what at UUMH?

How to get more information, like our directory, bylaws, and safety plan.

Exploring our YouTube Channel and Facebook page.

Shortcuts and resolving some of the mysteries.

Questions & Answers

RSVP to daniellejeanloz@gmail.com with your preferred dates, times, and suggested topics.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Please mark your calendars!

We are planning a New Member Brunch for 11/16/25 immediately following the Sunday Service. We will be recognizing all Members who have joined since our last brunch in 2024.

Everyone in the congregation is invited to enjoy this special event.

We will be looking for volunteers to contribute food and help with set up. More details will be coming.

Thank you all in advance,
Kathy and Bonnie

SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Social Justice Committee has been working on Community Outreach and a panel discussion on nuclear power. The panel has been postponed until after the first of the new year. Health issues of several of the members makes trying to get a panel discussion organized difficult at this time. Look for it to happen early in 2026.

Community Outreach is going strong. Having just completed raising funds for Meals On Wheels, the Outreach for October will be the Lower Cape Outreach Council's Thanksgiving dinner baskets. LCOC does a great job with these every year, and every year the need is greater. Anyone who's been grocery shopping knows how prices have gone up on so many food items. Let's help all of our neighbors have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Social Justice is really in need of a few more members. We are just looking for an hour of your time perhaps once a month. We often are organized enough to skip a month. If you might be interested in learning more about the Social Justice Committee or in joining, please get in touch with Robin Hubbard: davrobhub@comcast.net or 508-237-2254.



WHAT NOW?

Our support and discussion group, What Now, will meet on Saturday October 4 at 3:00 pm. in the 2nd floor Club Room at the Community Center in Chatham. (There is an elevator.) All are welcome. Our gatherings aim to hear and support each other along with the vulnerable in our communities in this starkly altered world we share. The second meeting of the month is still to be determined. An email/notice will be sent out.

ALERT ALERT ALERT ALERT

Members and Friends,

I was distressed to learn in late July that someone had sent out an email with my picture on it requesting “help” in the form of sending gift cards. Sadly, this type of scam is becoming more and more common, and it is difficult to guard against it – particularly with the advent of artificial intelligence.

I have one piece of advice. If you receive a telephone call, a fax or an email requesting some action from you that involves asking for any of your personal information, or if there is a request for anything that involves money or finances – DO NOT – respond immediately. Call a verifiable and trusted telephone number first and inquire if the information requested is legitimate.

Example – if someone calls you asking for information, tell them you will call back and use only a telephone number you know is trustworthy and accurate. Don’t let them try to talk you into giving them information over the phone until you have checked it out.

Example – if you receive a fax or email requesting information – DO NOT immediately respond. Call a telephone number that you know is trustworthy and ask if it is a legitimate email or fax.

And remember – the federal government: Social Security, Medicare, the Internal Revenue Service – WILL NEVER send you an email or text and will never call you. They will only communicate with you by old-fashioned mail!

And – if you are doubtful, call a friend or you can even send me an email and I’ll call you to discuss!

It is so sad we must be so careful these days, but it is a reality.

Fair winds and weather,

Reverend Chris



Love is, above all, the gift of oneself. (Anouilh)

MUUGS

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

This month on Thursday, **October 16** at the 400 East Restaurant in East Harwich.

A cordial, stimulating, friendly, and thought provoking social get together!

CARE GIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

The next meeting of the Caregivers' Support Group will be in the Minister's Office at 9AM on Saturday, October 19. 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.

LOVELY MEMORIES OF RUTH TREEN



FROM OUR NEW UUMH PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

As your new Board of Trustee President, I think it is important for you to know more about me. I am a lifelong UU- what does that mean? I spent my childhood going to other churches in the 70's because ours was dying. I look at this as a good thing! I sang with the Methodist choir in elementary school (great hymns!), did Pilgrim Fellowship with the Congos in middle school, went on skiing trips with my Catholic friends in high school, and did the Our Whole Lives sex-ed curriculum with the UU minister and one other student. To say I had a well-rounded religious education is an understatement! This background has made me accept people of all ages, backgrounds, and beliefs. I worry about buying local and ecofriendly, recycling and composting.

I am a Special Education teacher, a musician, a proud mother of three, and a devoted spouse to Stephen.

I especially believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every person and the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.

Sally Davol

THRIFT SHOP FINALE

The UUMH Thrift Shop has closed for the season. And WHAT a season it was!!! Under the energetic and creative leadership of Pam Ebeling and her hardy and enthusiastic crew, the Thrift Shop had record profits and is already planning for next May. **MANY, MANY THANKS** to Pam and all the volunteers. See you in the Spring!

**SCOUT SCUTTLEBUTT****BOY SCOUTS**

Chatham Boy Scout Troop 71 New leadership positions for both adults and boys are under way. After a successful fundraising season, a committee meeting will be held planned to finalize the activities for the rest of the year.

CUB SCOUTS

Chatham Cub Scout Pack 71 We had a successful recruitment night in September. Our Pack is working on creating the Pumpkin People display for Kate Gould Park.

COMMUNITY EVENT**LOWER CAPE LGBTQ OLDER ADULTS GROUP**

The Lower Cape LGBTQ Older Adults is a group of those 55+ who get together several times a year to network and meet new friends. We gather to promote opportunities for connection, engagement, enrichment, and support. We hope you will join us at our next event!

What's coming up?

“DINE & DISCOVER” Friday, October 17, 5:30-7:30pm

Come join us for a “Baked Potato Bar” dinner, followed by a discussion with Barnstable County Human Rights Coordinator, Leslie Dominguez. We'll learn about the work of the Human Rights Commission and an overview of what discrimination looks like across Cape Cod, particularly in regards to seniors and the LGBTQIA+ population. She will also discuss steps we can all take to disrupt and address discrimination.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. Please Call the Orleans Senior Center at 508-255-6333 to register.



DIRECTORY CHANGES

Janet Young has moved. Please check the UUMH Directory for the new address.

MISSION STATEMENT

Nurturing inclusive community

Seeking justice and equity

Encouraging free minds and spirits

FOOD PANTRY

There is a box/container in the Meeting House foyer to put donations of food for the Veterans' Outreach Food Pantry in Hyannis. Veterans' Services supports veterans with food, as well as counseling, housing assistance and other services. We have donated to them before through our monthly Outreach, and this is another way to help and show them our appreciation at a time when services are being cut.

**THIRD MONDAY BOOK CLUB**

The Third Monday Book Club will meet on Monday, October 20 to discuss *The Women* by Kristin Hannah. Contact Mary P. for more information.

**PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE**

We hope to begin listing birthdays again soon, first name, last initial, date.

Please let Sue B. know of any concerns you might have.

Thanks for your understanding.

**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

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 B.

Follow schedule written on cover of previous month's Newsletter.

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