

# 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.

Editor: Susan Bauer

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

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**  
next month is **THURSDAY**  
September 25. Send items to Sue  
Bauer at [Ralphb1234@cs.com](mailto:Ralphb1234@cs.com)



WE STAND UP

WE STAND OUT



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**MONTH OF SUNDAYS****August 3****Looking at Public Health Through a UU Lens****Gretchen Van Wye**

I will discuss the principles of UUism and how they "show up" in public health. I'll provide an explanation of what public health is and discuss how my UU values are practiced through being an epidemiologist at a governmental public health agency.

**August 10****Saints, Sinners, Free Will ?****Rev. Chris McMahon**

Throughout western religion, and to some extent in the eastern religions as well, various people have been called "saints" or "sinners." Can these really be accurate descriptions, and what is the role of free will in any case?

**August 17****"Crossing to Safety" — What Did Robert Frost Mean?****Alex Beam**

Robert Frost's 1942 poem, "I Could Give All to Time" appeared in the collection entitled "A Witness Tree", which won the Pulitzer in 1943. Beam encourages us to seek out the poem online prior to the program. If time permits we will also discuss the Wallace Stegner novel of the same name.

**August 24****Is Faith a Gift or a Delusion?****Rev. Chris McMahon**

People use the expression "faith" in many circumstances—religious and otherwise. Even leaders at the UUA talk about "our UU faith." What is faith anyway? Does it play a role in our world view? Is it important, and can we really live without it?

**August 31****Beyond Partisan Division****Rev. Paul Sprecher**

Unitarian Universalism has sometimes been described as "The Democratic Party at Prayer." Are we truly welcoming to people of every description – politically?

**Board of Trustees**

Sally Davol, President

Linda Jean Kirkpatrick, At Large

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*

### **Changes to the IRS Rules for Congregations?**

As most of you know, the IRS recently changed the rules so that ministers and congregations can endorse political candidates. Specifically, the rule says:

*Churches may endorse political candidates to their congregations: The IRS indicated in a court filing that churches can now endorse political candidates in communications to their congregations in connection with religious services through their usual channels of communication on matters of faith.*

While this is now allowed under many circumstances, I do not think it is appropriate in a church setting, and you will not hear politics from me in a Sunday service for a couple of reasons. First, although many, if not most, UUs tend to be on the liberal or very liberal side, not all of our members are. Just because a person happens to be open and accepting of the diverse spiritual preferences endorsed in Unitarian Universalism does not mean the same person is politically liberal. Given this, I do not think it is appropriate for a minister to “take sides” in political discussions, much less endorse a political candidate.

I also believe many people come to church and our Meeting House on Sunday to escape the stresses of everyday life and that includes politics. As I have told you many times, I see my job as one “that teaches, not preaches.” I believe the different parts of a service including affirmations, readings, music, and sermons are supposed to help put a person in a “spiritual place” and provide a time for personal introspection, reflection, gratitude and possibly even growth. Engaging in politics is not, in my view, a way to do this in a church setting.

You will not hear politics from me on Sunday. I certainly have no problem with our members holding meetings that have a political overtone – whether that be liberal or conservative as long as it is within the requirements of a 501 C-3. I think this also applies to using our real estate for a demonstration but I believe that we as a congregation should not make political endorsements – and we should keep Sundays free from any such events.

Fair winds and weather,

Reverend Christopher McMahon



### WHO'S NEW

Scott Gessner grew up in Worcester, Massachusetts. He attended Vassar College and spent his junior year abroad in Denmark. He has been Editorial Assistant for the Journal of the American Academy of Psychoanalysis in New York City, Outreach Coordinator for the Institute of Latin American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin, and a schoolteacher at the American School of Guatemala and a Texas charter school. He has also done environmental research in Poland, studied a Native American language, and done housing research on the Texas-Mexico border. A busy, busy man, he also worked in Boston for the Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership.



### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

We are looking for volunteers to help as greeters for Sunday Services. No previous experience required, just your warm, welcoming presence. You would greet only periodically and have complete control over your schedule. You would start out with a seasoned greeter and would never be greeting alone.

It's a fun way to meet visitors.

See Bonnie B. or Kathy N., Membership Co-Chairs, for more information.

**Words and ideas can change the world. (Robin Williams)**

### SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Social Justice Committee is on hiatus until August. That does not mean we are resting. For the month of August, the Outreach collection will be for Elder Services Meals on Wheels.

This program brings nutritionally balanced meals to people 60 and over, prepared without added salt and adjusted for special dietary needs. They do ask for a small donation of \$4.00 per meal, but will never deny anyone a meal if they cannot make a donation. A large part of their budget is through federal and state grants. Under the new federal legislation much of this money will be cut.

Let's help keep Meals-on-Wheels and food on the tables of those who cannot prepare their own meals.

If you're interested in learning more about the Social Justice Committee, or in joining us, please get in touch with Robin: [davrobhub@comcast.net](mailto:davrobhub@comcast.net)



### IN MEMORIAM

**RUTH TREEN  
1929-2025**

**Former music director at UUMH**

**Memorial Service Saturday, September 20, 2PM**



### OSPREY POINT

**It's summer and, therefore, time for Osprey Point!**

Open to all women connected to the Meeting House. We meet at Osprey Point on certain 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 if you like. Watch the Eblast for further info on our **August 11 and 25** gatherings. Sue B. will send out a reminder email a few days ahead.

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. There are a few printed directions at the back of the sanctuary.

Hope to see you there at one of our favorite spots with some of our favorite people!



### WHAT NOW?

Our support and discussion group, What Now, meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday, 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.

### SUNDAY REFRESHMENTS

Could you help out one or two Sunday mornings this summer? Bring a goodie or two, juice is in the kitchen fridge, and paper goods are in the kitchen. Table on the porch with or without a cloth—your choice!. Just carry everything up and then back down again. Always people willing to lend a hand. Please see or call Sue B. if you could help out

### MUUGS

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

This month on Thursday, **August 21 at 11:30 AM** at the 400 East Restaurant in East Harwich  
A cordial, stimulating, friendly, and thought provoking social get together!



### CARE GIVERS GROUP

The next meeting of the Caregivers' Support Group will be in the Minister's Office at 9AM on Saturday, August 23.

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.

### 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.



### THRIFT SHOP

The Bearly Used Thrift Shop is full of treasures – and buyers! We are having a great summer so far. But.....that means we need more of your treasures to keep up with the sales! Please check your shelves, your closets, your basements for items that could be someone else's "great finds!"

Volunteers still needed for a 3 hour shift or as subs. Please contact Pam E. if you can help out.

## SCOUT SCUTTLEBUTT

### BOY SCOUTS

**Chatham Boy Scout Troop 71.** Some Scouts are attending Camp Greenough Scout Camp this summer. They will be earning merit badges during their week(s) at camp.

Sales of light sticks at the band concerts are going well. We are gearing up for fall activities

### CUB SCOUTS

**Chatham Cub Scout Pack 71** Plans for another recruitment drive are underway for the start of the school year.



July 4 Parade

Chatham Scouts

Reenacting the  
Crossing of the  
Delaware during  
The American  
Revolution

**Justice done is happiness won.**

### JOYS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Emma and Luka Eldredge both achieved High Honors for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter at Monomoy High and Grade 6, Middle School, respectively.

### MISSION STATEMENT

**Nurturing inclusive community**

**Seeking justice and equity**

**Encouraging free minds and spirits**

### WHO'S PREACHING

**Gretchen Van Wye** serves as the Chief Epidemiologist at the New York City Health Department and also adjuncts at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. (Daughter of Liz & Dave)

**Alex Beam** was for many years a columnist for the Boston Globe and is the author of several books including a recently published short biography of Wallace Stegner.

**Rev. Paul Sprecher** served as our sabbatical minister in 2014 and has preached here several times a year since. Since his retirement, he has become a climate activist at his Senior Living Community in Hingham as well as in the town. In other lifetimes, he was a middle school teacher at a boys' prep school in New York City and Vice President for Technology at the American Stock Exchange.



### THIRD MONDAY BOOK CLUB

The Third Monday Book Club will not meet this summer but will read *The Women* by Kristin Hannah for the October 20 meeting. Contact Gail E. for more information.



### PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE

**Because of the recent problems with hacking emails, We have decided to not list names and birthdays/anniversaries at this time.**

**Until then, be assured, cards will still be sent! Thanks for your understanding.**



### BRIDGE ANYONE???

Would you like to play bridge once a month starting this September?

If so, join the UU Marathon Bridge Club. We play friendly bridge in our homes and would welcome new players. A charge of \$25 per person benefits the minister's discretionary fund in our churches. Community members are welcome. It's a great way to make new friends, challenge your mind, and have fun. Contact Carol Ann Yeaple at [CAYeaple@live.com](mailto:CAYeaple@live.com) or 508-760-8127 for more information. Deadline to join is August 15, 2025.

### 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](mailto: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