

NEWS FROM THE HILL

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

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
next month is **THURSDAY**
January 25. Send items to
Sue Bauer: Ralphb1234@cs.com



REPORT FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

What's going on with the Search committee? When we wish Rev. Tracy farewell in June, we hope to have a new part-time minister in place for our Meeting House. How is that done? The Unitarian Universalist Association maintains an online portal through which candidate ministers can make known their interest in an opening like ours. That process is now underway. The Search Committee is receiving applications from candidates interested in serving as our part time minister starting in July 2024.

After careful consideration, including reviewing a candidate's online responses to a series of questions, conducting interviews, contacting references, and consulting with UUA staff, the Search committee will make a recommendation to the Board of Directors of UUMH. The Board makes the final decision and will approve the contract with the minister.

The names of potential candidates are not disclosed beyond the committee. Ministers expect this from search teams, and it is part of their covenant of fair process with the UUA. So, while at times congregations may not see much going on with the Search, there is a lot of work, research, and discussion happening quietly in order to bring a successful candidate forward for UUMH. The confidential nature of the process means that members of the Search committee cannot discuss individual candidates outside of the committee.

The Search Committee hopes to have a recommendation for the Board in early spring 2024. We have been well served by Rev. Tracy as our Minister. As she moves on in June to the opportunities that lie ahead, we wish her all the best. Meanwhile, we hope to have a new minister in place this summer. Please feel free to reach out to any of the committee members if you have any questions about this process.

UUMH Search committee

Liz Van Wye, Sally Davol, John Raye, Debbie Zahka
and Dave Van Wye

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Board of Trustees

Jon Nye, President
Danielle Jeanloz, Vice President
Joan Caputo, Secretary
Joe Zahka, Treasurer

At large members:

Beth Avery
Naomi Turner
Liz Van Wye

Program Council

Sue Bauer, Chair

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

January 7 A Preferential Option Rev. Tracy Johnson

Today we will take a look at the meaning and usefulness of liberation theology for us as Unitarian Universalists.

January 14 Centering Love Rev. Tracy Johnson

Our theme this month is liberating love. What does it mean to center love in our faith and in our faith community?

January 21 The Healing Power of Creativity Deer Sullivan

Process is more important than Product. We will have Art from Independence House displayed in the Fleck Room.

January 28 Who is God? Rev. Chris McMahon



Happy Anniversary, Dear Ones!

Yup! We've been together now for four years! The honeymoon is over. We have come to know one another's quirks and have settled into a comfortable rhythm. It has been good to be together, good for me to have an opportunity to use some different "ministry muscles" and good for you to hear from a different kind of voice. I want to believe that we have each learned from this experience.

This month I plan to begin a four-month study with those of you interested in exploring the underlying values in the proposed UUA Article II Bylaw language that is under study this year across the UUA. We will be using the UU Wellspring Small Group model for this process which lends itself to deepening one's own understanding while coming to know other participants more fully. Please see the weekly eblast for details about timing and how to register and let me know by January 1st if you are interested. I will send out further details to registrants as the date grows closer.

Our theme this month is "Liberating Love." It is the kind of love that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King was referencing when he talked about Beloved Community. Together we will explore what liberating love means and what it asks of us. We will take a dive into Latin American liberation theology and Catholic social teaching. What can they teach us as we strive to make King's goal a reality in our world? And what does it mean when Unitarian Universalists use the expression "Side with Love?" Love is centered in the graphic depicting the Article II values and we call it the Spirit of this place. How central is it in our lives together and in our way in the wider world?

As we settle into the calm and quiet of a Cape Cod winter, I invite you take some time to think about where love shows up in your life – with family, in community connections, through an acknowledgement for our abundance, in its being shared. You will have your own places, no doubt! As we weather the season, may our hearts be warmed and full, and may we know the power of love in our midst.

Blessed be.

Reverend Tracy



THANKS

So many thanks to so many for so much during this holiday season

Thanks to Mary Parsons who coordinated the lovely display of Poinsettias in the Sanctuary.

Thanks to Joe Zahka for putting up all the Christmas wreaths.

Thanks to the Nyes for filling the urns on the front steps with seasonal greens

Thanks to Gail Eldredge and her crew for setting up and then dismantling the Christmas tree at the front of the sanctuary

You may remember that a jar of coins was found under the kitchen sink that was identified as belonging to Priscilla Smith's grandson Ryan Higgins. He asked her to give it to the Thrift Shop; he was moving and knew that it was a special place for her. It will go to helping us have the best Thrift Shop around! So, THANKS to Ryan – and to his grandmother too!

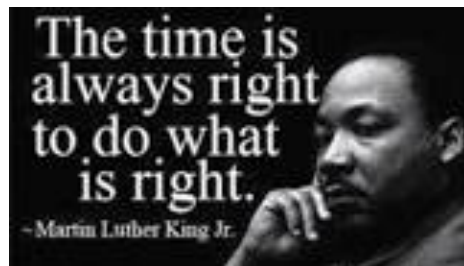


SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Social Justice Committee has selected Meals on Wheels, from the Elder Services as the share the plate for the month of January. They provide meals to many of the house bound folks on Cape Cod. They are always in need for drivers, but there is also a need for money to support the program.

We are busy planning for at least one service in March and/or April. Several names were proposed, and the committee is in the process of getting a commitment. We also find there is a need for a procedure to address important social justice activities that arise between meetings. We will work with the Board to develop one.

There was also discussion about the horrendous situation in the Middle East. Rev. Tracy mentioned the UUA Webinar and the emphasis on the first principle, the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Social Justice is going to check to see if the Webinar is available for general viewing.



Peace is never the absence of tension but the presence of justice. (Anon)

BRANCHING OUT

Our next Branches meeting will be January 25 at 2:30 at Branches on Crowell Road. No need to reply; just show up! For a drink, a nibble, a meal, or just to spend some time with friends.



WORSHIP SERVICE COMMITTEE

The Worship Service Committee is looking forward to an interesting lineup of speakers in 2024. Starting with Rev. Tracy for two Sundays and then two guest speakers. January 21 with Deer Sullivan and January 28 with Rev. Chris McMahon. We are looking forward to seeing you in the church or on Zoom.

Dolly



UPDATED MEMBER AND FRIENDS DIRECTORY

Our Member and Friends Directory is updated almost every month. To get your latest copy, visit <https://www.uumh.net/directory>. You will need the guest password. If you have forgotten it, please send an email to daniellejeanloz@gmail.com, and she will provide it for you. Access to this directory is available to the Members and Friends of the Congregation who are listed in the directory.

THRIFT SHOP REMINDER

As we work our way through the New Year, take some time to go through your house and see if some things are ready to give away, The Thrift Shop is a ways off, but if we wait until the last minute it becomes a chore. You know the ropes, but we would love summer clothes, knickknacks, dishes, books, tools, linens, and jewelry. If you have items I am willing to pick them up, so don't hesitate to call me.

We did an amazing job last year, and I want to thank everyone who helped with this endeavor.

Mary Parsons

Email: marypmac@comcast.net

Phone: 508 367-0714

CHRISTMAS EVE AT UUMH 2023

JOY TO THE WORLD



OUR MUSICIANS

**Above: Priscilla Smith, Harp
Sally Davol, Flute
Frank Toppa, Music
Director
Left: Kristin Howard, Soprano**

SCOUT SCUTTLEBUTT

Troop 71 had a very successful, damp, and windy camping outing on **Monomoy Island**. Our own Luka Eldredge was recognized for his tent erection and sustainability. His was the only tent to survive a very windy night...it was still standing in the morning!

Nine of the twelve registered scouts in Troop 72 also attended the **Cape and Island's Council Annual Turkey Shoot**, where they brought home 4 of the 50 turkeys awarded for their skills in various activities such as skeet shooting, hatchet throwing, fire arms safety, etc. Scout Master Dave Carlson was very impressed with the entire event for the comradery and good will expressed by all of the more than 200 hundred participants. He noted that there were a few troops of girls included, who did very well in the competitions.

Life Scout Paul Carlson passed his **Eagle Board of Review** with flying colors. We will be informed about his Eagle Ceremony as the family makes definitive plans. I have offered the UUMH as a location if needed.

We have two **additional adult leaders** in the process of being vetted by our Council to join our **Troop**.

On **November 18th**, a veteran helicopter pilot spoke to the Boy Scouts regarding his experiences, including retrieving a returning space shuttle from the ocean and providing rescue services during a hurricane.

Plans are just about complete for a **ski weekend** at Gunstock Ski resort for the first weekend in February. There are also plans in the works for a **winter camp** experience to be held sometime this winter, date to be determined.

CUB SCOUTS

Pack 71 and Den 1 held their first Den Meeting of the year on November 5th, with **eight boys and 6 parents attending**. We have 1 Kindergartener and 4 first graders joining **Den 1**; we also had 2 second graders attend. We are creating **Den 2** to accommodate their more advanced needs. They will meet more often than the younger boys. I am told we may have a third-grade girl joining Den 2. I also know of a 4th grade boy possibly looking for a Den to join. We are growing!

At the first **Pack 71 Pack Meeting** of the year, **Lion Scout Douglas Constantine** was given an award for representing our Pack at the **Cape and Islands Council Awesome Autumn Event** on October 28th. His favorite event was the two-faced pumpkin carving.

America Lesh, our first registered, trained Den Leader was presented a key to the **Doc Keene Scout Hall**.

Both **Boy Scout Troop 71 and Cub Scout Pack 71** were present at the **Veteran's Day Ceremony** on November 11th at the Community Center.

GIRL SCOUTS

Chatham Girl Scout Troop 80272 held a five-hour marathon meeting where they made their own pajama bottoms from official Girl Scout material to wear them during their over-night scouting experience at the Maritime Museum in New Bedford.



We don't have the answers; we have the questions.

WINTER STORM PROTOCOL

We are coming into winter and the possibility of snow or ice which might make physically getting to the Meeting House difficult. There is a procedure for such times with a decision made by the Minister, the President of the Board and the chair of Building and Grounds. Whatever the Meeting House does, please decide on your own whether or not to venture out!

Sunday Services: If a Sunday service needs to be canceled, the following will occur as soon after 8AM as possible:

An all-wide church Eblast will go out to the congregation

Notice will be sent to Cape Radio 107 and to Channel 7.

But, remember, a Zoom service WILL happen if at all possible! Watch your email!

PLEASE!!! Make your own decisions based on your situation. Sunday in-person services will not be canceled unless absolutely necessary, but consider your street, your neighborhood, your love – or not! – of driving in the snow.

The most important thing is not the sermon, but your safety!!!



UUMH CLASSIFIEDS

(Please email Sue Bauer with your "ad" at ralphb1234@cs.com)

(An occasional feature of the UUMH Newsletter. Do you have a service to offer? Something to sell or donate?)

Here's our first one.....

Marvin Bryan, the foreman of Pine Tree is available for after-hours work – lawn work, mowing, pruning, etc. Call or text Marvin at 508-332-0113. PS He does superb work! (see Sue Bauer for testimonial !!)

MISSION STATEMENT

- Nurturing inclusive community**
- Seeking justice and equity**
- Encouraging free minds and spirits**

PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE

January Birthdays

- 6 Zoe Simmons
- 7 Naomi Turner
- 8 Charlotte Edgcombe
- 13 Read Moffett
- 23 Jenni Makihara
- 26 Beth Avery
- 28 Ron Nickerson



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"



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

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

THIRD MONDAY BOOK CLUB

Third Monday Book Club will meet on to discuss *Hang the Moon* by Jeannette Walls. Contact Mary Parsons with questions.

marypmac@comcast.net / 508-367-0714.

All are welcome for one book or many!

