

NEWS FROM THE HILL

NEWSLETTER OF THE U.U.
MEETING HOUSE OF CHATHAM

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

next month is **THURSDAY**

April 25. Send items to

Sue Bauer: Ralphb1234@cs.com



STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2024-2025

April ushers in Spring with all its beautiful changes to our lives and our surroundings. It is a time of transition, a time of change. Not at all unlike the effects and influences Spring has on us, so too are the transitions and changes our Meeting House is facing going into 2024. Over the past four years, we have been fortunate to have the strong leadership and insight from our minister, Reverend Tracy Johnson. Sadly, Tracy will be moving on from our Church on the Hill to pursue further life's aspirations. We all wish her well. She will be missed!

As a consequence of Tracy's departure, we will be transitioning to a new minister and, with that, new leadership and guidance. Furthermore, the Meeting House will be reviewing possible structural and procedural changes with respect to the Board of Trustees and the Program Council with the aid of an outside consultant.

This past year UUMH has seen some noticeable and remarkable accomplishments. The Social Justice Committee has repeatedly succeeded in arranging associations and support for numerous worthwhile causes. We have benefited from numerous outstanding guest speakers' presentations. The Thrift Shop has been both exceptionally well-run and financially successful. UUMH stepped up to charter and sponsor the local Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts when they lost their former sponsorship.

At this time every year, we ask our members and friends to make a financial pledge or in-kind contribution in support of the Meeting House. Our goal this year financially is \$100,000.00, as well as the invaluable volunteer energies and efforts of members and friends! You can send your pledge to UUMH or use the Donate button on the website. We hope to have your response by April 30. Whatever you elect to give, either monetarily and/or with in-kind voluntary efforts, we are grateful for your contribution!

Evan B. Howard and Sandi Porter

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 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

April 7 Refugee Work for Ukraine Tom Johnson

Tom Johnson will speak on his experiences setting up a hotel in Poland for refugees from the war in Ukraine.

April 14 The Fire in Your Belly Rev. Tracy Johnson

I recently read Karen Van Fossan's "A Fire at the Center" - a memoir about becoming a water protector. Today we will explore that journey and the fate of water on our planet. How are you called to respond?

April 21 One Journey, Many Paths Rev. Tracy Johnson

On the road to justice making, there is more than one way to achieve the ends we desire. We tend to think the way forward has room for only certain types of people. Today we will look at some powerful alternatives together.

April 28 Earthiness Rev. Tracy Johnson

This is an earthy month and our theme is interdependence. Let's take a dive into the earthiness of our existence. How are you connected to the earth? If you have thoughts to share on that, please email me at arevtracy@gmail.com no later than April 24th.



Who's Preaching:

Tom Johnson, a resident of Harwich, helped start the Ukrainian Relief Mission Charitable Corp. This group is working to provide housing and basic needs to refugees, with an emphasis on mothers and children.

Dear Ones, All –

It is the morning after the announcement of your soon to be minister, the Rev. Christopher McMahon, and the start of the pledge campaign. I said yesterday that I believed us to be at the threshold that we have been preparing for all this time, at the point of crossing over it, all that we have been packed up to carry with us and all that we can be awaiting our thoughtful and rigorous and tenderly loved planning for the future. And we even joined hands, if you missed it, and took a little symbolic step together. You can see it on the website!

It was a bit of an emotional day as we acknowledged out loud once more the fact of our parting and its proximity. A bittersweet kind of knowing because we have used our time together wisely, making the most of what we would have together, its limited tenure a given from the start. You have been open to my (hopefully) gentle honesty about the Meeting House and all that is wrapped up in its ethos. We have navigated new territory, asked hard questions, gotten to know one another, and have come to care deeply for each other. A blessing, to be sure.

Many have asked where I am going! The truth is, not far! I, too, am crossing a threshold. I came to you from community ministry, and to it I will return. Not the same thing in the nonprofit world here on the Cape. Something new. All those roles you see piled up beneath my name on the signature line of my email are calling out to be lived into. Bringing balance to people's lives and beings through my Reiki practice. Accompanying folks as they approach their life's final transition as an End-of-Life Doula. And journeying alongside those who want to explore the place of the Sacred in their days as a Spiritual Companion, this latter one as I complete a 2-year certificate program in Spiritual Direction this month. And there is always pulpit supply and rites of passage! I will be busy, but not so busy that I can't begin to enjoy some of the things which Chuck and I came to the Cape to explore eleven plus years ago. I know you all think of me as your "young minister," but I am not getting any younger, and I have a few things left to do as I make my way toward my 70's!

For now, though, we have three months left to continue to dive into what we've been working on. Structural and organizational revisions are in the offing, and I am so proud of and delighted for you as you navigate changes that will help to make you sustainable – the thing you have said you wanted all along. And this is April! Our theme is interdependence, and boy, aren't we though, in so many ways! I will talk a bit about the water protectors this month, and our 'earthiness' in general as it comes to a close.

May we take the time this month to savor the shifting season, the much-anticipated warmth, the lengthening of days, the buds about to burst open with new life. May we live into newness of life each day that we awaken and know that we are loved.

Blessed be.

Reverend Tracy



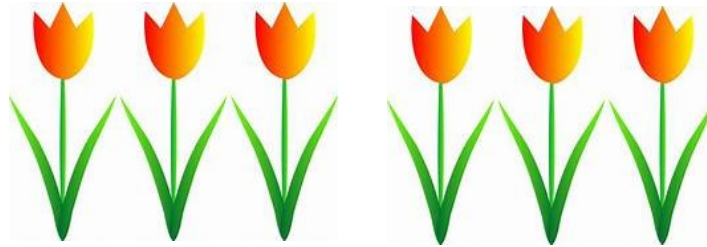
NEW MINISTER ANNOUNCED

Rev. Christopher McMahon will serve as new minister of UUMH Chatham. The Board of Trustees has hired Rev. Chris McMahon as our new minister. Rev. McMahon will start on July 1, when Rev. Tracy Johnson expects to return to community ministry, with an enhanced focus on the provision of spiritual care and meaningful rites of passage.

A 1977 graduate of the United States Merchant Marine Academy, Rev. McMahon sailed for many years on commercial merchant ships engaged in worldwide trade. He is a master mariner of steam, motor, and sailing vessels. He earned a Masters in Divinity from Starr King School for the Ministry at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA in 1993.

Rev. McMahon is also a Rear Admiral in the Maritime Service and served in this capacity in several senior positions with the U. S. Department of Transportation and Maritime Administration. For many years, he also served as a part time minister with several UU congregations on Long Island. In 2021 he retired from the federal government. He also holds Masters' degrees from American University in business and Long Island University in mental health counseling. He is currently an adjunct professor at Nichols College in Dudley MA where he teaches "World Religions" and "Leadership."

Rev. McMahon is eager to return to ministry, he said, "because I feel a strong calling to help people develop their spiritual side and through pastoral counseling to help people deal with the challenges of life." He and his wife, Virginia, reside in Woodstock CT and Brewster MA.



THRIFT SHOP



Some of us have been thinking of the Thrift Shop, and in another month we will be back setting it up. If you have items you would like to bring to the church, please do so and put them in the library.

I would like to have a meeting before we set up and hope many of you will attend. The date will be April 17, at 10:00. We'll meet in the Fleck Room. Come with your ideas of things we need to improve on or questions you might have.

Let's hope we have another banner year.
Thank you.
Mary

April hath put a spirit of youth in everything. (Shakespeare)

MUUGS

MUUGS (Men's Unitarian Universalist Group Social) held their first lunch/meeting recently. The group of men had a good time chatting, getting to know one another better, and, of course, eating! Join them on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 11:30 at the 400 Restaurant in E. Harwich for a cordial, stimulating, friendly, and thought-provoking social get together! Hope to see you April 18! Questions? Call Evan Howard at 262-666-9900.



SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Social Justice continues to be busy helping local groups with the Share the Plate. In January we raised \$224.62 for Elder Services of Cape Cod, Meals on Wheels program. Every little bit we do helps our neighbors here on the Cape. In April we will be collecting for Calmer Choice, a Cape Cod group founded in 2010 committed to teaching young people how to effectively and safely manage stress and resolve conflict. Then, in May we will once again collect to help the J-1 Students get backpacks with reflective taping.

The Sunday service with Madahvi Venkatesan was very interesting and well received by the membership. Remember you can always see the service on the UUMH website.

We are working on getting a speaker to share information on Cape Cod PATH, the local group that focuses on Human Trafficking here on the Cape.



SCOUT SCUTTLEBUTT

BOY SCOUTS

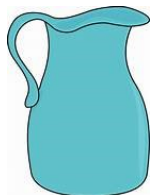
Three boys: Luka Eldredge, Elija Leighton, and Skyler Baker and two leaders: Dave Carlson and Bob Baker went to Salem, New Hampshire for a Winter Camping Experience. Kudos to the Scouts who decided to go in spite of a snow storm and freezing weather. They did choose to sleep in a tent rather than on the ground! A new Eagle Project, providing art work at Liberty Commons, has started. The Eagle Ceremony for Paul Carlson and Skyler Baker is scheduled for May 11th.

CUB SCOUTS

Fun was had by all at the Pine Wood Derby held on March 16th. We joined with Harwich Pack 76 at the Harwich Elementary School. There is a learning curve regarding the best design for a pine wood derby vehicle. Thank you to the Harwich Pack for demonstrating the basics to our novice Cubs! Between our equipment and their expertise, it was a very successful derby! And thank you to Evan Howard and Pam Ebeling for representing the UUMH at the event.

Both of our Scouting Units will be participating in the Earth Day Clean Up sponsored by the Chatham Conservation Foundation on April 27th.

REFRESHMENTS ON THE PORCH



Beginning in May, refreshments after the Sunday Service will be held on the church porch and will include cold drinks and goodies. Please let Sue Bauer (945-3264) know if you would be willing to “host” on a Sunday or two. Easier setup and cleanup than winter coffee hour!

IN MEMORIAM

Debbie Rogers

1928-2023

A Founding Member of UUMH

Memorial Service May 25 in Cohasset, MA



UUMH CLASSIFIEDS

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

This is an occasional feature of the UUMH Newsletter. Do you have a service to offer our members and friends? Something to sell or donate? Here's the first one of the season:

The foreman of Pine Tree is available for after-hours work – lawn work, mowing, pruning, etc. Call or text Marvin Bryan at 508-332-0113. PS He does superb work! (see Sue Bauer for testimonial) (Pine Tree, which also mows UUMH's lawn, is owned by UUMH's own, Bill Conley)



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"

No one has ever become poor by giving. (Anne Frank)

SMALL GROUP INVITATION

Thinking about exploring our Small Groups? Small groups are members and friends who meet to discuss topics of interest to them and to share their life experiences with each other. Plus have a wonderful hour or two together once or twice a month. Let us tell you about them!

Reach out to Beth Avery (baverytown@verizon.net, 255-2777), Priscilla Smith (psmith6947, 945-1292), or Sue Bauer (ralphb1234@cs.com, 945-3264). We would love to encourage you to try us out!

MISSION STATEMENT

Nurturing inclusive community

Seeking justice and equity

Encouraging free minds and spirits



THIRD MONDAY BOOK CLUB

The **UUMH Book Club** will hold its next meeting on Monday, April 15 at 10AM at Park Place, 912 Main Street, Chatham.

We will be discussing **Dust Child** by Nguyen Phan Que Mai.

This book is readily available through the Eldredge Public Library.

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



PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE

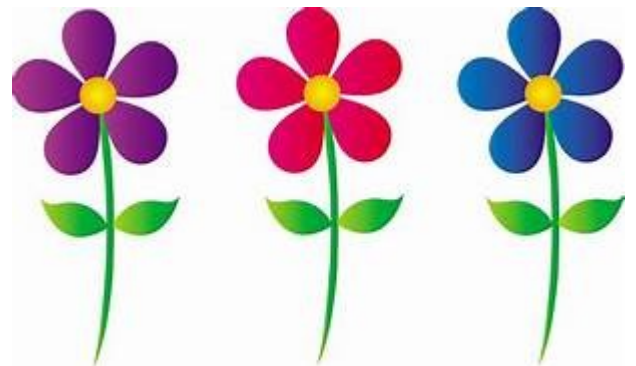
April Birthdays

- 1 Ann Wallace
- 7 Sally Davol
- 8 Connie Pina
- 24 Mary Byrne
- 29 Pavia



April Anniversaries

- 1 Tracy and Chuck Johnson
- 5 Sue and Ralph Bauer



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