

# 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

Layout Editor: Susan Bauer

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

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

next month is **THURSDAY**  
**MAY 22.** Send items to Sue  
Bauer at [Ralphb1234@cs.com](mailto:Ralphb1234@cs.com)



## BEARLY USED THRIFT SHOP

### OPENS MAY 15

### Monday-Friday 10-3



**Both donations and help welcomed and appreciated! Set-up starts May 1.**

**Call or email Pam Ebeling to volunteer for a weekly shift or to join the sub list.  
(262-666-9901 or [pebeling1313@gmail.com](mailto:pebeling1313@gmail.com))**

*Here's to a successful 2025 season!!*

**STAFF MEMBERS****MINISTER:****Rev. Chris McMahon****revchrisuumh@gmail.com****MUSIC DIRECTOR:****Frank Toppa****ftoppa444@gmail.com****BOOKKEEPER:****Kim Carroll****bookkeeperchatham@gmail.com****OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR:****Dawn Dinnan****chathamuumh@gmail.com****MONTH OF SUNDAYS**

**May 4      Conflict as an Opportunity for Positive Change**  
**Ann Tessier and a team from Cape Mediation**

Cape Mediation will introduce the idea of creating positive change through the power of conflict. When we have the right tools, we can empower ourselves and others to work through challenges by harnessing the power of conflict to build stronger personal and work relationships, and to strengthen our community.

**May 11      Mothers for Reconciliation      Rev. Paul Sprecher**

The women who first advocated for Mother's Day were addressing themselves TO mothers, not asking others to praise them. Remembering the work of Julia Ward Howe and Anna Reese Jarvis and her daughter Anna M. Jarvis reminds us that Mother's Day was once something more than a celebration of highly commercialized sentimentality.

**May 18      Friends of Trees of Chatham      Dee Dee Holt**

**May 25      Life is About Change      Rev. Chris McMahon**

Everything in life changes. The world changes. Changes happen in society. Changes happen in our own lives. As much as we may resist this, change is inevitable. Change can also bring fear because most human beings are afraid of what they do not know. Change can challenge our sense of security, even religious security. What can we do about change, and how can we learn to accept it?



See P. 8

**Board of Trustees**

Danielle Jeanloz, President  
 Evan Howard, Vice President  
 Dave Van Wye, At Large  
 Beth Avery, 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*

Spring is Springing!

When I think about it, I do like the four seasons and I kind of welcome the change of the seasons. I also like tropical climates, and I love tropical rain forests. But I have to admit, I would get pretty bored if the season was the same the year round as it is in some parts of the world. That said, I also have to acknowledge that I am just not a great fan of winter. Mildly cold days are OK but a lot of ice and snow are not for me. This is why I really welcome spring! At last. At last.

Spring is a time when we begin to see the world around us changing. We see the barren trees beginning to sprout new leaves. Bulbs that lay dormant for almost a year are leaping forth in bloom – almost a celebration of life. We see our favorite birds beginning to return, especially for me the Hummingbirds and the Wood Thrushes. My wife and I learned a while ago that hummingbirds return from South America and go to the same places they spent spring and summer in the year before. Indeed, we see the same hummingbirds year after year. Then their children return to our farm following the same cycle. And we can even track the hummingbird returns on a cell phone app. (What next?)

The spring is also a time we hear people say, “Well, it’s time for spring cleaning.” And indeed, a lot of people do make an extra effort to clean their house, their business and, in my case, our barn, as spring approaches. It is as though people want to shake off the past, move on from a cold and dreary winter and begin life anew.

Actually, spring is a time that we can do a bit of spring cleaning in our life in general. It can be a time of renewal for each of us. Just as the trees and shrubs are growing new shoots, we can too. Just as trees and shrubs grow, so can we.

Perhaps in the past several months we had an idea (just like a leaf bud). Maybe it is time to think about that idea again and “let it grow.” Maybe we can renew a friendship? Maybe we can pick up that hobby we were thinking about. Maybe this year it’s time to “get back to nature” through gardening, walking on the beach or finding a quiet place of contemplation on walking trails. And if we are not able to walk, we can certainly find the beauty of nature in a myriad nature shows on TV and videos on YouTube – some of which are so marvelous they can take our breath away.

As human beings, we are nature, albeit nature that thinks about itself. Just as spring brings renewal to the earth, it can bring renewal in our own lives and in our spiritual life – but we have to enable the spring to spring inside of us.

Just as the author Toni Sorensen said, “Spring is far more than just the changing of the seasons, it’s a rebirth of the spirit.” I think it can be! But this is up to us.

Reverend Christopher McMahon



### UUMH PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

Our 2025-2026 Pledge Campaign is underway. You should have all received your Pledge cards and are encouraged to return them as soon as possible. It is totally your decision how much you wish to pledge for the coming year, of course, but we hope you will be as generous as you can be! UUMH is growing and planning new and exciting programs and events. Pledges, either monetary or in-kind contributions of volunteerism, assistance, organizational participation, etc. are all welcome and necessary.

You may make your pledges via the UUMH website, [www.uumh.net](http://www.uumh.net), by conventional mail or by dropping off your pledge card in the miniature UUMH church within the Sanctuary. If possible, please submit your pledges as soon as possible. However, pledges will always be warmly accepted.!

Thank you all for your participation in this very crucial UUMH Chatham Stewardship/Pledge Drive Campaign



### SOCIAL JUSTICE

For the month of May, the Outreach will be Back Packs for J1 Students, through the Cape Cod Globe Outreach. Every summer over 5,000 international students from over 60 countries come to work on Cape Cod! We want to be sure that these students are safe as they travel to and from their places of employment. They are often traveling after dark. Cape Cod Global Outreach tries to give each student a back pack with reflective tape to make them more visible while walking or biking to their jobs. This has become one of our every year projects which is greatly appreciated.

Social Justice is always open to new members and new ideas. If you want to get involved, get in touch with Robin Hubbard either at church or on email at: [davrobhub@comcast.net](mailto:davrobhub@comcast.net)

**The future depends on what we do in the present. (Gandhi)**

**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 Sanctuary. 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. Occasional speakers will also be invited. May meetings are May 10 and 24.

**CARE GIVERS GROUP**

The next meeting of the Caregivers' Support Group will be in the Minister's Office at 9AM on Saturday, May 24.

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.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### New Member

Spending time with Keith Gourley is like being in the company of a philosopher, a scientist, a searcher and a friend all in one. Keith is curious about kinds of relationships: the human, spiritual, and scientific. He believes what matters most is living in the present moment and finding sources of joy.

Keith grew up in Erie PA having had, in his words, the world's best childhood. After studying Chemistry in undergraduate and graduate school, he found himself at Temple Law School driven by his curiosity around rules pertaining to research and creativity. His career focused mainly on intellectual property issues.

Keith and his wife Kate, also an attorney, spent most of their professional years living in Bethlehem PA where he worked as a Senior Division Counsel in corporate business.

Sadly Keith lost Kate a few years ago. With the help and support of dear friends, Keith decided to try something different and moved to Cape Cod. He is happy he has had a chance to experience the growth that comes with change.

Keith came to the UU in search of a community where he could continue his own spiritual growth and discovery, as well as to become an active member of a congregation that welcomes diversity in thought and belief but holds strong, clear values.

Keith is an avid reader. He enjoys woodworking, music, bicycling, motorcycling, and travel.  
We are so happy to welcome Keith into our community.



## SCOUT SCUTTLEBUTT

### BOY SCOUTS

**Chatham Boy Scout Troop 71.** The Troop has had a very busy winter. A day ski trip to King Pine was a perfect introduction to some new skiers. An overnight on a Battleship. And work on advancement has kept them on the move. Several scouts and parents hiked 23 miles from **Monument Square** (from the Masonic Lodge) in **Concord** to **Old North Bridge** (often referred to as the location of the "shot heard 'round the world"), continued to **Meriam's Corner** using secret trails used by the Minutemen in 1775. That's where the Battle Road trail begins. They continued to **Lexington Center**, continued along Mass. Ave. to **Arlington** and further into Cambridge and **Somerville**, ending the hike at **Prospect Hill Tower** on Patriots Day to commemorate Paul Revere's midnight ride in 1775.

### CUB SCOUTS

**Chatham Cub Scout Pack 71** The Pinewood Derby held on March 9, 2025, included Packs from Chatham, Harwich and Brewster. Our own Levi Merrill was the big winner. Everyone had a great time. Our Cub Scouts also participated in "Beaver Day" joining other units from across the Cape to clean up our Camp Greenough in Yarmouth.



### Frank and the Growing Choir!



### SUNDAY FLOWERS

Don't forget that you too can provide lovely flowers for a Sunday service. Call Sue Bauer (945-3264) for more information or to have her order them for you. Or you can bring your own (New England Gardens is a great resource!)

After the service, you are welcome to take your flowers home.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:ralphb1234@cs.com).)

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

On subject line, write "For Newsletter"

### WHO'S PREACHING

**Ann Tessier** is the Executive Director of Cape Cod Dispute Resolution Center, dba Cape Mediation. She helped establish Cape Mediation's Conciliation Program in 2016 and has been the Executive Director since 2019. She is also an attorney with experience in Elder Law and Estate Planning.

**Rev. Paul Sprecher** is a familiar figure here at the Meeting House, having served as sabbatical minister for the first six months of 2014 and speaking several times a year since. Since his retirement from his seven-year ministry at First Parish in Bridgewater in 2021, he has become a climate activist at his Senior Living Community in Hingham as well as in the town. Previously, he ministered to Second Parish in Hingham. He also served as the sabbatical minister at the Murray Church in Attleboro during the first three months of 2022. 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.



### LADIES LUNCH

We will gather on Tuesday, May 27 at 11:30 at the 400 East in Harwich. Come for lunch, a cup of soup, or just to chat. Please call or email Sue Bauer if you plan to attend (508-945-3264, [ralphb1234@cs.com](mailto:ralphb1234@cs.com))

### MUUGS

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

This month on Thursday, May 15 at 11:30 AM at the 400 East Restaurant in East Harwich  
A cordial, stimulating, friendly, and thought provoking social get together

**Live the life you've imagined. (Thoreau)**



**HAPPY EASTER! The Easter Bunny made an appearance and shared his colorful Easter Eggs**



**NEW MEMBERS: Rory Connolly, Keith Gourley, and Julie Kimbell**



**JOYS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Wonderful Chronicle article on the informational Forum held at UUMH for Chatham's four Select Board candidates. Awesome job making it happen – thanks to Gail Tilton, Mary Parsons, Pam Ebeling, and Evan Howard.

Great representation at the April 5 Hands Off Protests at the Hyannis Rotary and again on April 19 ... More to come!!

Congrats to Luka Eldredge for achieving High Honors in Grade 6 for the 2nd Trimester.

Congrats to Emma Eldredge for achieving 3rd Quarter High Honor Roll.

**PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE****May Birthdays**

16 Merylle-Lee Thompson  
18 Gayle Capulli  
20 Julie Dykens  
21 Steve Shorey  
24 Jamie McClennen

**May Anniversary**

26 Stephania and Jamie McClennen

**June Birthday**

2 Joyce Sterling

**DIRECTORY CHANGES**

Naomi Turner's new email is:  
duchessnaomit@gmail.com

Delete Betty Twiss' email; it is no longer in use.

Add:

Rick Pike / 284 Round Cove Rd. / Chatham 02633/  
508-221-3240 / FWChatham@yahoo.com

Julie Kimbell / 22 Towhee Lane / Orleans 02653 /  
919-225-3562 / julie.kimbell@gmail.com

Rory Conolly / 22 Towhee Lane / Orleans 02653 /  
919-685-0417 / rory.conolly@gmail.com

Keith Gourley / 114 Seaquanset Rd. / Chatham 02633 /  
610-703-7933 / Keith\_Gourley@yahoo.com

**MISSION STATEMENT**

**Nurturing inclusive community**

**Seeking justice and equity**

**Encouraging free minds and spirits**

**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 Eldredge for more information (508-776-3760 or gail.eldredge@gmail.com)

**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