

NEWS FROM THE HILL

NEWSLETTER OF THE U.U.
MEETING HOUSE OF CHATHAM
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"NEWS FROM THE HILL"

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

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
next month is **THURSDAY**
March 23. Send items to
Sue Bauer: Ralphb1234@cs.com



CHANGE IS AFOOT — TIMES 2

COFFEE HOUR

We have been enjoying Coffee Hour after services for a while now. Time to expand! One or two people per week are invited to bring nibbles to go with the coffee and tea. If you would like to help with this, please email Pavia at the address below, so that we don't get too much one week and nothing the next or all one sweet with no variety.

Email Pavia at senorasangria@yahoo.com

NEWSLETTER

If you are like me and like a copy of the Newsletter right at your fingertips, why not make a copy for yourself from the electronic version sent out in the Eblast? It is almost always a max of 10 pages, and if you print double-sided copies, it is really very few pages each month. You can print gray-scale and not use up your color ink, or you can print it in all its glory! There are a few people who require a printed copy, but if this option works for you, please do it. The savings to the Meeting House are quite large over the course of a year, and we can save postage as well! Not to mention the environmental savings!

Thank you for doing your part.

This change will take place in May, so if you have questions or concerns, please call me so that you don't miss anything. (Sue 945-3264/ralphb1234@cs.com)

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arevtracy@gmail.com

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Greg Heyl
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Liz Van Wye

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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

March 5 Our Friend, Ambiguity Rev. Tracy Johnson

Today we will explore another phase of the change process that we first engaged in the fall. Unknown territory can be uncomfortable, but it is a step along the path, not something to be skipped over in favor of what is not yet.

March 12 First Encounter Rev. Tracy Johnson

Our Unitarian Universalist Association is considering proposed bylaw changes put forth by the Article II Study Commission. This work has been ongoing for a few years now, and it is time to take a look at what has resulted from this Association-wide effort. A discussion will follow the service.

March 19 Are We There Yet? Jenni Makihara

On finding peace with frustration and anger on life's manifold journeys.

March 26 Wild Souls Rev. Tracy Johnson

Listening to our wild souls is a way to discover what is most meaningful to us as individuals and as a congregation. As we prepare for the coming church year, I invite us into a time of soul searching for the good of the whole.

Who's Preaching

Jenni Makihara, MFA, Lic. Ac. has been a licensed acupuncturist in private practice for 22 years. She was on the faculty at The Traditional Acupuncture Institute in Columbia, Maryland for 6 years before moving to Cape Cod. Her interests also include study and practice of Tibetan Bon Buddhist meditation and culture.



Dear Ones, All –

Change is in the wind! I think I have been saying this to you since I arrived. We are all always changing. Evolution is real. And we here at UUMH have been in this protracted period of change. Ministerial transitions, world events that shift our ways of life and ask us to adapt, and now as we are faced with decision-making about our future as a faith community, it appears that change is once again in our minds and on our hearts. So, I want to offer a bit of encouragement in this time. This is a thinking people, I heard one member say recently. You have put your efforts into so much work toward creative ideas about how to maintain who we are while ensuring that who we become is sustainable. And that work is ongoing. This is not a church that buries its head in the sand. Instead you face things head on, practical, reasoned.

The heart part is a little harder! All this change tugging at us from every side. It can be wearing. We care deeply about this place and its continued success. We put our hearts into the work, and our emotions get tangled up in the process, too. That is a testimony to the level of care we feel. When emotions get involved, one of the things that happens is that along with joy and excitement, a bit of tension and anxiousness sidles up alongside as well. This is to be expected. I want us to be compassionate with ourselves as we work through change. Compassionate with one another in what can be a tender time.

This month we will talk about a second phase of the change process. You will recall that we explored the idea of letting go last fall. We are in a different place now and it's time to step back and notice. Our Association is proposing changes also and we will talk about that, too. And we will take a moment to listen to our souls as we prepare for the next church year. One thing I know is that we need all of us to move forward. Each of us brings our own special gifts to the table, and each one is necessary to the whole. That is what shared ministry is all about.

As we move into springtime, I have proposed two learning opportunities. Look for a 21-Day Challenge in the Social Justice section of the Newsletter and in our weekly eblast where you will also find an invitation to join in a "common read" offered by our larger Association. I hope you will find the time to dive into one or both. I love learning with all of you!

It is still February as I write this and already the birds have begun their singing to one another. The ground is thawing, and new shoots are preparing to arise. The air feels different, and there is that earthy scent all around us. Change. We can't escape it, and why would we want to, given the beauty that inevitably unfolds alongside the struggle. May you find blessings in both.

Blessed be.
Reverend Tracy



SOCIAL JUSTICE 21-DAY CHALLENGE

Our friends across the way at The Center for the Spiritual Journey (formerly Pilgrim's Landing) alerted us to a practice they have undertaken that was transformative according to one of their leadership. The Social Justice Committee and Reverend Tracy are inviting you into this challenge during the month of March. This opportunity comes to us from the University of South Carolina College of Arts and Sciences and the Collaborative on Race as a way to explore racial and indigenous equity. Every day you click on the link and read or watch or engage with an exercise designed to build awareness. And once a week for three weeks beginning Wednesday, March 15th we will gather on zoom to talk a bit about what we have learned along the way. It's that simple! Watch your eblast for links to the material and to the zoom meetings. I look forward to this opportunity to deepen with you in understanding our relationships to our Indigenous neighbors.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

New member **Sandi Porter** and her husband Dave have lived in Chatham since 1971, and the Porters raised three girls here. "I have waited many years to become a member of a local church," Sandi said. "My friend, Gail Eldredge, invited me to try UUMH in Chatham, and it felt like home at once. I look forward to participating in Meeting House activities and getting to know the other members."

Carol Lewis has been a Chatham resident for 40 years and is the owner of Jackies and Violets, two well-known clothing stores on Main Street. She said she finds herself aligned with the spirit and people of UUMH, in particular our message of reaching out from the heart and connection.



Everything changes but change itself. (John F. Kennedy)

THRIFT SHOP UPDATE

With spring on the way, it's time to clean out your closets and create extra space in your home while donating to a great cause! Our UUMH Chatham Thrift Shop is now accepting donated items in excellent condition. As we are getting ready for another busy summer in the shop, we have already started collecting material for this upcoming season. Arrangements can be made to pick up your goods, if they are local, by contacting Mary at marypmac@comcast.net. Let's make this a banner year at our "Bear-ly" Used Thrift Shop!

Items that sell especially well include:

- * Jewelry (both valuable and costume)
- * Clothing including footwear
- * Household goods
- * Small furniture like chairs and end tables



MISSION STATEMENT

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



UUMH DIRECTORY

For several reasons, we are not going to publish a new UUMH Directory this year. An up-to-date Directory is always available online. This can be updated and available immediately. The Newsletter will still publish updates as well. You might want to print out a copy of the current Directory for yourself. If you need a bit of direction on accessing the Directory, or if you would like actually print yourself a copy and need a bit of instruction, Danielle Jeanloz is more than willing to help. Email her at daniellejeanloz@gmail.com

IN MEMORIAM

Deborah Ecker

1927-2023





Branching Out

February's Outing at the 400
Thursday, February 23

Next Outing will be March 23
Locale to be announced

Plan to join us for a snack or a meal and
some great conversation with new and old
friends.



Michael Caliri
Our new AV Tech
WELCOME Michael!



**THE MONTH OF MARCH—
WHICH SHALL IT BE???**



Every path has its puddle. (English Proverb)

JOYS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Emma Eldredge: High Honor Roll at Monomoy Regional High School

Exciting article on our Family Art Show in the Cape Cod Chronicle. The reporter really saw the deeper meaning in what the show was about. Kudos to her and, especially, Beth Avery, for her vision and hard work.

DIRECTORY CHANGE

Janet Young’s address as of March 15 will be:

1200 South Washington St. Apt. 306
Easton, MD 21601



THIRD MONDAY BOOK CLUB

Third Monday Book Club will meet at 10AM on March 20 to discuss *My Name is Lucy Barton* by Elizabeth Strout.

Contact Mary Parsons with questions.
marypmac@comcast.net / 432-7194

All are welcome for one book or many!



PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE

March Birthdays

- 2 Emma Eldredge
- 10 Barbara Blanchard
- 12 Helen Smith
- 12 Ralph Bauer
- 13 Jane Moffett
- 22 Eric Riley
- 24 Marija Eldredge
- 28 Geri Appleyard



March Anniversaries

- 7 Janice and Phil Peters
- 8 Joan and Joe Caputo

April Birthday

- 1 Ann Wallace

April Anniversary

- 1 Tracy and Chuck Johnson



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 with Joan Konopka as the facilitator. 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?pwd=OUZDbzdjSzZoa2dybGo4cWp4dnNPUT09>

Meeting ID: 937 1731 3258

Passcode: 040260