

NEWS FROM THE HILL

NEWSLETTER OF THE U.U.
MEETING HOUSE OF CHATHAM

PO BOX 18 CHATHAM MA 02633

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"NEWS FROM THE HILL"

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

next month is THURSDAY

October 19. Send items to

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Ralphb1234@cs.com



Jimmy Tingle!

HUMOR FOR HUMANITY



"More than a comic wit... so cheerfully intelligent he makes his audience optimistic in the face of reality."

- *The New York Times*

Fundraiser For:
Unitarian Universalist Meeting House in Chatham

819 Main Street Chatham, MA 02633

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR
AND ONLINE AT: JIMMYTINGLE.COM
CONTACT: UUMH.NET | JOSEPH (508) 945-2075



Oct 7th, 7 PM | \$25 General Admission Seating

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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

October 1 Shelter for the Journey Rev. Tracy Johnson

Our Jewish siblings in faith are celebrating Sukkot. Today we will explore the story of this tradition and seek what meaning it has for us in the present.

October 8 Humor for Humanity Jimmy Tingle

Jimmy Tingle joins us in the pulpit after his Saturday show for a more personal take on how humor makes us human.

October 15 The “F” word Twinks Hastings

As Unitarian Universalists, we work for justice and to end oppression in so many realms, but there is one thing that we are hesitant to address: our own stigma about body size. Fat -credentialed religious educator Twinks Hastings explores navigating our faith, and world as a fat woman.

October 22 The Breath of Our Ancestors Rev. Tracy Johnson

Our theme this month is the gift of heritage. Knowing where we have come from is important as a guide to where we are headed as individuals, as a congregation, and as a faith tradition.

October 29 Inmate care and rehabilitation in Barnstable County Sheriff Donna Buckley

Sheriff Buckley is dedicated to inmate support and rehabilitation, recognizing that many inmates are addicts or victims of poverty or mental illness. She is dedicated to breaking the cycle of recidivism.



Dear Ones, All –

There is a crispness in the air this morning. The leaves of the craggy birch outside my window are yellowing. The sweet gum goes first, their garnet showing up as August comes to a close, a harbinger of what awaits. Squirrels and cardinals, hidden in the still leafy canopy of the kousa, nibble away on the plump red berries. The golden flowers of fall plantings pop open to delight the landscape just when you thought that all the brilliance of the seasons was past. Change is in the wind, and it is all about the colors for me! What is happening outdoors feeds my senses, and I am inclined to mirror those images and scents and textures in my home. In this way I am at one with the seasons, surrounded by reminders of the turning wheel of the year.

Autumn began last month, but it truly comes into its own in October. Seasonal changes take root. Here at the Meeting House we are settling into a new church year. I have been talking about change and sustainability since I arrived, and this is not likely to stop! It is in my DNA. I am certain deep in my bones of the impermanence of things, and rather than fighting it I try to move with the flow, agile and accepting. Our leadership has taken seriously my counsel and is taking a realistic approach to planning for our future here. Who and how many are we? What do we need? What might we like to have? What do we need to set aside for now? You've heard me ask these questions before! Perhaps you will think on these things. They point to a turning in the life of UUMH.

In October I will talk about the Jewish celebration of Sukkot and about our monthly theme, heritage. Both point to stories of the past that feed the present and beyond. I am open to leading a UUA Common Read with the book by Danya Ruttenberg, "On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World." You can sign up with Joan Caputo if you haven't already and if there is sufficient interest, we will plan some time together. I have given a lot of thought to discussion of the proposed UUA Article II Bylaw changes. I do not want to sponsor a debate! You can do that on your own! I would like to lead us into a deeper dive focused on the meaning and intentions of the language. The UU Wellspring organization has offered a curriculum in four parts that will guide us on such a path. Please let me know if you are interested in this kind of conversation.

Take a look around you this month. Breathe in the cool morning air and the warmth imparted by the sun as it makes its way from east to west each day. Notice the fruits and vegetables available to us now – apples and pears and winter squash and hardy greens. Awaken to their arrival with gratitude for the changing palate. May you find in your surroundings a call to Oneness with nature, with mystery, with the certainty of impermanence and its promise of what is next.

Blessed be the journey and our path upon it.

Reverend Tracy



FINAL UU MEETING HOUSE CYCLES OF LIFE PROGRAM TO FOCUS ON GRIEF

The final program in the Pastoral Care Cycles of Life will occur on Wednesday, October 4 from 2-4PM in the Meeting House Sanctuary. Attendance, either in person or on Zoom, is free of charge; no registration is required. The Zoom link will be available at www.uumh.net.

Wrapping up on October 4, the topic will be “Grief and Grieving,” presented by Judith Felton, Pastoral Associate at St. Christopher’s Church, Chatham, MA. Felton will explore the complex and multi-faceted journey of grief, including the concept of grief as a means of honoring those we have loved who are no longer with us, and of grief as something to embrace rather than deny.



Mary Mazzer speaks at the first Cycles of Life Program on September 20 on Caring for the Caregiver.



COMMON READ

As mentioned in Tracy’s column this month, she is offering to lead a group to discuss the book *On repentance and repair: making amends in an unapologetic world* by Danya Ruttenberg. With her interpretation of the writings of the 12th century Jewish physician and scholar, Maimonides, Ruttenberg’s book points people of any and all faiths toward modern day accountability practices that can bring us into wholeness and really make a difference in our personal, community, and national relationships.

There is some interest in joining together with our UUMH folks to read and discuss this book. Rev. Tracy will be the leader if we get a group. Please let Rev. Tracy or Robin (rlhubbard46@yahoo.com) know if you’d like to join us. If we get 10 folks, the books will come at a discount....always a good thing.

Joan Caputo will have a signup sheet next Sunday.

A smile is the universal welcome. (Max Eastman)

THRIFT SHOP



The Thrift Shop did a great job this year, and everyone who participated enjoyed it immensely. We all really worked well together and had fun doing it. There were some from outside the church who came and helped us and from listening to them I'm sure they will back next year to help. As most of you know, we made \$47,000. I think we ought to pat ourselves on our backs for a job well done. Thank you all for your time and the wonderful job you did.
Mary

AND WE ALL THANK MARY FOR HER HARD WORK AND ENTHUSIASM !!

WHO'S PREACHING

**** Jimmy Tingle** is a renowned comedian and social commentator who uses his wit to shed light on the pressing issues of our time. He was born in Cambridge into a Catholic, working class family, both of which influence his humor.

**** Twinks Hastings** is a religious educator with advanced credentials within the Unitarian Universalist Association. Born and raised in Scotland, she developed a passion for education and spirituality from a young age. For seven years, she has served as the Director of Lifespan Religious Education at First Parish Brewster. Before working in religious education, Twinks spent a decade as a director for the YMCA at Camp Burgess and Hayward.

**** Donna Buckley** was elected Barnstable County Sheriff last year and started serving in January 2023. The focus of the Sheriff's office has been to keep our community safe through a focus on corrections, rehabilitation and treatment. Focusing on these goals should help criminals not re-offend through addressing the root causes of the criminal behavior. She is also striving to make the Sheriff's office transparent and responsive to the community. She was the General Counsel for the Barnstable County Sheriff's Office prior to her election.



POSSIBLE AED/CPR TRAINING

The Membership Committee will again offer to coordinate with the Chatham Fire Department to offer AED/CPR training. The class would take place at the Chatham Fire Department . The cost is \$20. Please contact Bonnie @ 508-432-2509 or Kathy @ 518-424-5278. If there is interest, a date and time would be arranged.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Social Justice is pleased with the response the congregation has been making to our monthly outreach. The UUMH has been generously helping so many local charitable organizations. For the month of October, the collection will be going to the Lower Cape Outreach Council to assist in supporting their Thanksgiving Baskets. There is always a large request for food as the summer employment drops off, and money is harder to find. Your generosity will definitely help local families enjoy a nutritious and festive Thanksgiving.

HISTORICAL LOOK AT UUMH

Evan Howard has created a DVD with both photographs and videos of the UUMH in its very early days when his parents were involved in its founding. It is a wonderful look at our history, especially if you recognize some of the participants! Evan has made copies and they are available at the rear of the church. It is also available through the UUMH website. (Pull down the "About" tab and click on History of UUMH) Thank you Evan!!

IS A SMALL GROUP IN YOUR FUTURE?

Small Groups have been a part of the Meeting House for almost as long as we have been here. The facilitators of the existing groups are planning to talk about Small Groups for a few minutes at an upcoming service. What are they, what is discussed in the groups, when do they meet, can I try one on for size? There will then be sign up sheets for anyone interested, plus current members of the three groups more than willing to tell you how wonderful they are! Hope you will be excited and eager to explore! Soon!

UUMH WELCOMES SCOUTS

UUMH welcomed several members of Boy Scout Troop 71 on Sunday September 24, including our very own Luka (and his sister Emma!) Not to mention Scoutmaster Thadd Eldredge! UUMH is now the Chartering Organization for the troop and Cub Pack organizations. Welcome!

SEPTEMBER POT LUCK AT THE POINT HOUSE

Many, many thanks to Dolly Howell for providing such an awesome location for our September Pot Luck at her family's home in North Chatham. A wonderful evening—as you can see in the pictures below!

****BRANCHING OUT****

Last year's very successful and fun "Branching Out" would love to continue this year. But a new coordinator is needed to pick a restaurant, send out emails to interested folks, and notify the Eblast and Newsletter. Nothing very strenuous, and you're sure to have lots of suggestions for the once a month get together at a local restaurant to have a drink, or an appetizer, or a meal—or all of these! Please think about volunteering for this pretty easy—and fun—job. Call Sue Bauer for more info (945-3264) or email her at ralphb1234@cs.com

SEARCH COMMITTEE: SURVEY WRAPS UP

Many thanks to all who took the time to answer the Ministerial Survey which wrapped up on Sunday September 10. We had 28 online responses, and 7 written responses. In addition, our Small Groups answered for a half dozen or so additional members and friends. That is a response rate of just short of 50% of our congregation membership of 81, which we were happy to see. The Search Committee is now in the process of reviewing and compiling the responses to provide important information to potential ministerial candidates. One thing we know already - the responses were thoughtful and candid. Everyone who answered took the time to seriously consider the questions and engage with their responses.

Although the survey is over, the committee will continue to invite your thoughts and comments as we move along in this process. Rev Tracy will be with us until the end of June and it is our goal to have a half time minister on board to start in August.

Liz Van Wye, Dave Van Wye, Sally Davol, John Raye, Debbie Zahka, UUMH Search Committee

A LIBRARY CLASS WORTH ATTENDING

Dave Van Wye, a UUMH member known to many of us, to speak as part of Eldredge Public Library Fall Learning Series

Vietnam veteran Dave Van Wye will be sharing his extensive historical research into how we got into the Vietnam War in a two-part program called "Vietnam War: What Road to Take?" on Monday, October 2 and Wednesday, October 4 at the Eldredge Public Library from 10:30 to noon each day. The sessions will highlight key decisions that drove events, and how that affected what soldiers might have known while serving there. For those who have heard Dave speak about the two novels he wrote based on his wartime experiences, this is a new, highly researched presentation focused on the historical context of those years. He continues to try and put the war in perspective as he considers his participation in the events of that time.

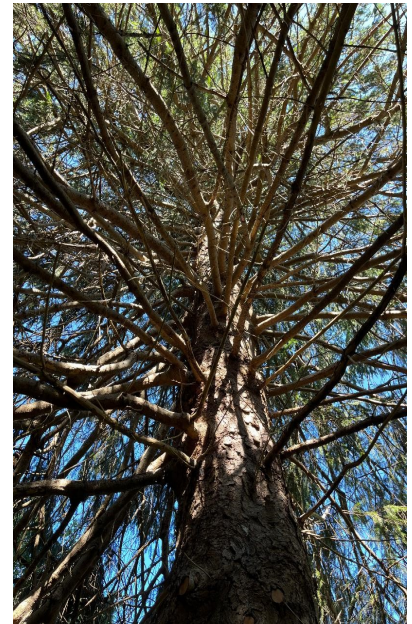
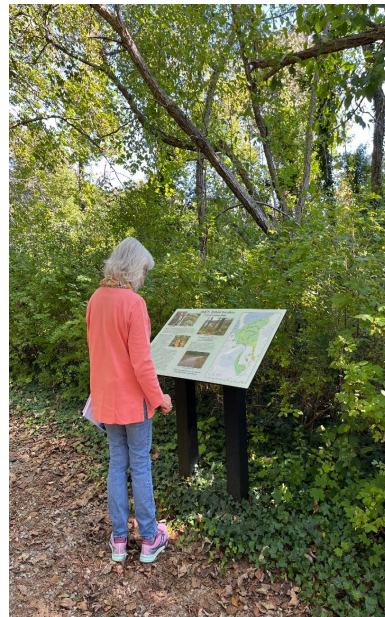
Registration information for the program can be found on the Eldredge Public Library website at www.eldredgelibrary.org/learning-series/ or at the Library's front desk.



Kindness is always fashionable, and always welcome. (Amelia Barr)

ONE MORE PAGE OF PICTURES!

These were taken on a recent Forest Bathing walk in Sylvan Gardens. A beautiful, peaceful place full of nature's wonders. More walks are in the future. Hope you will join us for an hour or so.



AFTER CHURCH COFFEE IS BACK!

Fall has arrived, and with it, refreshments moving to the Fleck Room and featuring both juice and decaf coffee!

Will be looking for volunteers to set up the tables and clean up afterward. Don't have to make the coffee, unless you are willing! Just cups, sugar and creamers, tea bags, juice, etc.

Also looking for someone to coordinate getting volunteers to bring simple goodies—fruit, cookies, whatever makes you smile.

Please call Sue Bauer at 945-3264/ralphb1234@cs.com if you can help.

MANY THANKS!



PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE

October Birthdays

- 2 Robin Hubbard
- 3 Priscilla Smith
- 4 Kimberly
- 7 Terry Eldredge
- 8 Dana McCoy
- 8 Susan Nettleton
- 9 Vavi Conley
- 10 Janet Young
- 11 Dolly Howell
- 23 Jon Nye
- 24 Sue Bauer
- 25 Stephania McLennen
- 30 Ed Mangiafico



October Anniversary

- 3 Allison and Steve Shorey

MISSION STATEMENT

Nurturing inclusive community

Seeking justice and equity

Encouraging free minds and spirits



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 October 16 to discuss *The music of bees* by Eileen Garvin. Contact Mary Parsons with questions. marypmac@comcast.net / 432-7194

All are welcome for one book or many!

