

# 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  
February 23. Send items to  
Sue Bauer: [Ralphb1234@cs.com](mailto:Ralphb1234@cs.com)



## UUMH Family Art Show

Fleck Room,  
February 5 to March 5

A UNIQUE ART SHOW FEATURING BELOVED ART  
FROM OUR HOMES. YOUR ART, YOUR FAMILY'S  
ART, ART THAT IS SIMPLY SPECIAL TO YOU AND  
WHY YOU LOVE IT.

OILS, WATER COLORS, SKETCHES, FABRIC ART.  
HAND-MADE LACE, PRINTS, MAPS, PORTRAITS.

EXHIBIT OPEN BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT.  
CALL BETH AT 508-255-2777. OR BETTER YET, SEE  
AND ENJOY EVERY SUNDAY IN FEBRUARY.



**STAFF MEMBERS****MINISTER:**

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arevtracy@gmail.com

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ftoppa440@gmail.com

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Danielle Jeanloz, Secretary  
Joe Zahka, Treasurer

**At large members:**

Greg Heyl  
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**

**February 5      Bringing It Home      Rev. Tracy Johnson**

We see evidence of climate change all around the globe. Today we will explore our more personal experiences of climate change. **What have you noticed in your life and surroundings that have changed over time? Is there a place that is different now because of climate change?**

Send your thoughts to [arevtracy@gmail.com](mailto:arevtracy@gmail.com) by February 1.

**February 12      Giving, Receiving, as Love Shows Us How      Rev. Tracy Johnson**

What's love got to do with it? How does love spur you on? And what about receiving love? There are two sides to this equation! How does love impact our place in the world as Unitarian Universalists?

**Also : New Member Recognition**

If you have been considering membership in UUMH please reach out to Reverend Tracy to arrange a time to talk.

**February 19      Simplicity and Silence      Rev. Paul Sprecher**

The heart of Buddhism is practice, the experience of having a different relationship with ourselves and with the things around us, of actually abstracting ourselves for a time from attachment, from grasping, and so – at least for a time – to put dukkha, suffering, away from us. What can we learn from such practices?

**February 26      This Is Not Who We Are      Rev. Pancheta Peterson**

Yet, the violence, racial unrest, and police brutality continue. How long can we endure the poison that feeds racial hatred, hostility, and oppression?

**Who's Preaching: See Page 4.**



Dear Ones, All –

“What the world needs now is love, sweet love. It’s the only thing that there’s just too little of.” My mind is full of song lyrics as I think about the month of February. We have been writing and singing about love for eons of time. It seems like we need to put our music into action – dancing along with singing. Life is, after all, a bit of a dance. When we move through the world embodying the love that is the Spirit of our Meeting House, we bring all the things that our mission talks about to fruition – inclusive community, equity and justice, free minds and spirits.

In this month of love I want to share with you how much I have come to love this place and all of you. What was originally intended as a four-month sabbatical ministry evolved into a two-year, half-time contract where we held one another through the height of the pandemic. And that has since evolved once more into another two-year contract at three quarter-time where we are thinking about and planning for the future of UUMH. It has been my decision not to extend our time together beyond June of 2024. Your leadership has made this known to you and is hard at work preparing for this inevitability. And I believe that by then you will have made great strides in creating a sustainable future for the Meeting House.

I believe this in part because of all the reasons I love you! I love how you care for one another, taking everyone into consideration. I love how you care for the world around us, too – the environment, climate changes that affect us here on the Cape and beyond, injustices we see in our nation and across the globe. I love your interest in learning and spiritual growth. I love your creativity and your willingness to move with life’s changes. I love your dreamy side and your practical side. All these lovable qualities serve as a foundation for your success. I love that we have this time together – these next seventeen months to think and create, to learn and to explore, to express just how much we do care in so many ways, and to build a framework that will carry you forward. While the Board has been clear about the ending of our time together, this is not a time to focus so much on June of 2024. Doing so disregards all the months in between where we can continue to grow in love, do the good work of the Meeting House and experience the joy of community. I am with you fully, with all my body, mind and spirit, every day of every one of those months. I invite you in this month of love to engage fully as well, with all your body, mind and spirit, for the good of our Meeting House and its work in the world. The work of Love.

Blessed be.

Reverend Tracy



### WHO'S PREACHING (from Page 1)

**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.

**Rev. Pancheta Peterson** is well known to many Cape Codders for her untiring efforts on behalf of social justice, seeking to engage and inspire participants. She was an active lay leader in Eastham UMC for about 20 years before being invited to join the staff of First Parish, Brewster, where she served for about 10 years and was ordained as Community Minister. Passionately interested in Diversity Issues, she was actively involved with Cape Cod schools for many years as a Trained Diversity Specialist. Born in Jamaica, she earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Massachusetts, and her M.A in Diversity Issues from Cambridge College.



### A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

After the first half of our fiscal year, the finances of the Meeting House continue to look good thanks to the generosity of our members. Pledges, plate, and gifts are at or above the budgeted amounts. Thanks to the Thrift Shop volunteers, the Thrift Shop had a great 2022 and we expect good income in the upcoming season as well. We even expect to get some rental income this year.

There have been no unexpected expenses so far in the fiscal year. Thanks to our volunteers, we are operating without a Communications Coordinator which reduces expenses by about \$10,000.

We have 69 months remaining on our mortgage loan. The interest rate will reset in November 2023. We expect the interest rate to increase from 4.6% to 8.7%. The actual rate will be determined in November based on the Wall Street Journal Prime. To prepare for that increase, the Board has approved the payment of an extra \$1,000/month toward the mortgage principal until the November rate reset. With the extra payments, our principal will be down to \$50,000 in November and our mortgage payments going forward will be a bit less than they were for this term.

Even with the extra payments toward the mortgage principal, we expect a surplus of \$14,000 this fiscal year ending on June 30, 2023. That surplus will be applied to our Reserve so we can operate while we grow our membership. Of course, that surplus depends on our members continuing to fulfill their pledges and make donations to plate.

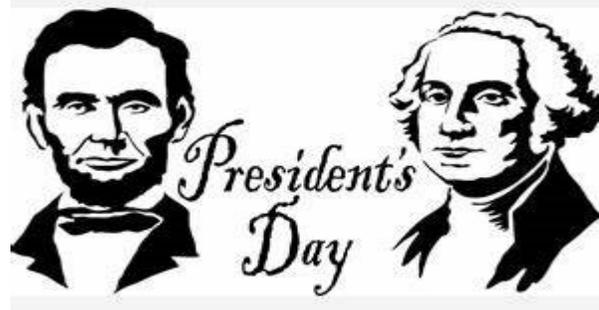
If you have questions or comments, you can contact me at [joseph.zahka@verizon.net](mailto:joseph.zahka@verizon.net) or by phone at 978-995-8964. Thanks for your generosity. Joe Zahka, Treasurer

**Love is sharing your popcorn. (Charles Schultz)**

**MEMBERSHIP MINUTE: THINKING ABOUT JOINING UUMH?**

Maybe you have been visiting for a while, or maybe you have been a Friend of UUMH and would like to step up to membership. If so, mark February 12 on your calendar to sign our membership book during the service. When you become a member of UUMH, you become part of a growing, living community. You will find others who are offering and receiving, supporting and nurturing, exploring, and growing within an open and caring community. To learn more about the pathway to membership for UUMH, go to <https://www.uumh.net/becoming-a-member>. Let our minister, Rev. Tracy Johnson, know of your interest or any member of the Membership Committee. We'd love to have you join us!

Liz Van Wye and Bonnie Brydges, Membership co-chairs

**MUSIC COMMITTEE**

The Music Committee met on January 21, our first formal meeting in some time. We focused on music programming, especially concerts and music programs for both fundraising and enhancing our UUMH image in the community. After a review of past events and discussion of our experiences with them, it was decided to aim for two programs this summer. We are all investigating possibilities for outside or in the sanctuary.

Your suggestions are very welcome. Do you know a performer or group which might perform. Do you have thoughts on other kinds of programming, such as puppets or magic. Contact me with your ideas. You are welcome to attend our next meeting on March 18 at 1pm on Zoom. Let me know if you need a link. (Joan Caputo 508-776-0319)

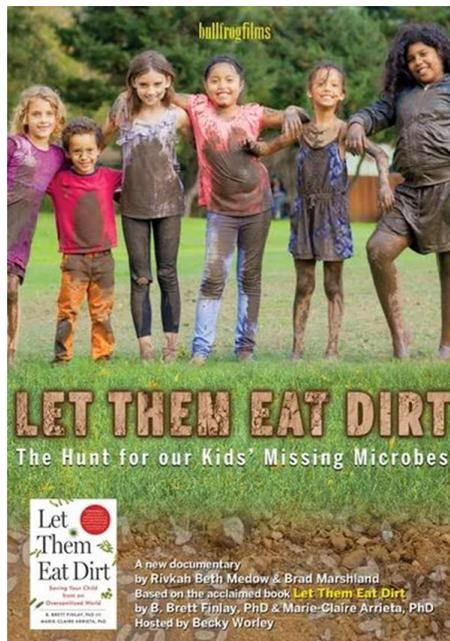
**MEMORIAL SERVICE****BOB TWISS****FEBRUARY 25****11:30 AM**

**SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

Social Justice has designated the Family Pantry in Harwich for our February Outreach Collection. Dollars go further than collecting foodstuffs.. We will also collect paper goods---tissues , toilet paper and paper towels at the Meeting House to be delivered at the end of the month.

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**Sustainable Practices film to be shown at the Orpheum in Chatham February 4 at 9:30AM**



**Alert for Scammers and Hackers**

Recently some members of our church have been Scammed or Hacked. One of them was me, so I thought it might be a good idea to get the word out to the Congregation. I thought I was being vigilant about phone calls, not answering any that I did not know. Then I got one with a number that included Xfinity with the numbers so I answered it. It was a SCAM. But I didn't realize it . The caller seemed to know a lot about who I was and how much my bill was. I was passed from one person to another with a foreign accent until the end of the Scam sent me to CVS to pick up a \$300. Target credit card and my bill would be cut in half! Fortunately, for me the clerk in the store when I asked if a lot of people were doing this, she said DON'T DO THIS. IT IS A SCAM. She refused to do it.

The other hacker had to do with Verizon. Nationally Verizon has been hacked and they have information about us that we thought was secret. The last 4 digits of our Social Security are one of them. Beware do not confirm your number to anyone. It will cause you many, many heartaches and problems.  
Dolly Howell

### BRANCH OUT

**Next Branch Out is February 23 at 5 pm at the 400 Restaurant in East Harwich across from Stop & Shop**

Branch Out is a UUMH social gathering sponsored by the Membership Committee and held on the fourth Thursday of the month at 5 pm. Branch Out is a chance for UUs and friends to gather socially (for an hour, more or less) in a casual way. Stop in to discuss whatever is on your mind, to share refreshments or grab a bite. Bring a friend or two along. No RSVP needed...see you then!



**Snow Globe**  
**By DJ Foley**  
**Arms reach the sky**  
**Face upturned**  
**Red mittens**  
**Knitted cap**  
**Because of her**  
**The snow is dreaming**  
**Freezing her within the globe**  
**Swirls streaming**  
**Capturing the feeling**  
**Forever in time**  
**Lost in the moment**  
**Telling the story**  
**In one view**  
**Only to end**  
**And then,**  
**Shaken again**



### AN INVITATION

If you have a creative or informative piece—like DJ's poem above or Dolly's informative piece on page 6, we would love to include it in the UUMH Newsletter. Please send it to me or call to discuss. I know there is creative talent and thoughtful commentary out there.....please share!  
 Sue 945-3264 / ralphb1234@cs.com

**Love is shown more in deeds than in words. (St. Ignatius)**

### THRIFT SHOP

As our Thrift Shop will be opening in a couple of months now would be a good time to look through items you think would be good sellers, especially jewelry you might want to part with. I would be happy to pick things up from you or you could put them in the library in church. Also, please let me know if you are willing to work again this year.

Thank you. Mary Parsons 432-7194 / marypmac@comcast.net



### NEW AV TECH

UUMH is happy to welcome Michael Caliri as our AV Tech. Michael had been the Eastham Video Services coordinator for ten years. He moved all the town meetings to Zoom and then to a hybrid format. We are fortunate to have someone with Michael's experience. Michael is recently retired and lives in Orleans with his wife Francesca.

Glad to have you with us!



### MISSION STATEMENT

**Nurturing inclusive community**

**Seeking justice and equity**

**Encouraging free minds and spirits**



### FLOWERS AND SO FORTH

In the last few weeks, you will have noticed that the table in front of the pulpit has held not only flowers, but also a "plain" plant and a lovely statue of a dancer. It is a joy to see something beautiful at the front of the church each Sunday. If you would like to contribute to the "Flower Fund" or bring your own, please let Sue Bauer know (945-3264). Sue is also happy to order flowers for you through New England Gardens. The cost is about \$40, and as you have seen, their bouquets are lovely. If you have something else you would like to share, please be in touch with Sue as well.

**OPEN MIC CLASSICAL**

**Black History Month with Linking Legacies from Oberlin, Ohio**

February 19th, 2023 / 3pm \$15  
 St. Peter's Lutheran Church  
 310 Rt. 137 Harwich MA 02645

“Linking Legacies,” a group of Ohio-based performers, presents works by Black composers with ties to Ohio and the greater Cleveland area.

Sign up to play is open to musicians of all levels and ages.

Contact: [openmicclassical@gmail.com](mailto:openmicclassical@gmail.com) / 774-353-0244 / [www.openmicclassical.org](http://www.openmicclassical.org)

**PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE**

**February Birthdays**

- 3 Joyce DeVoe
- 5 Mary Chesnut
- 16 Joanne Arnold
- 19 Deborah Ecker
- 19 Phil Peters
- 20 Debbie Zahka
- 23 Laura Peterson
- 25 Luka Eldredge
- 26 Kathy Nye
- 27 Joan Caputo



**February Anniversaries**

- 1 Liz and Dave Van Wye
- 2 Marija and Thadd Eldredge
- 17 Anastasia and Bill Conley

**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



**THIRD MONDAY BOOK CLUB**

Third Monday Book Club will meet at 10AM on February 20 to discuss *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks

Contact Mary Parsons with questions.  
[marypmac@comcast.net](mailto:marypmac@comcast.net) / 432-7194

All are welcome for one book or many!



**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:  
[nfields42@gmail.com](mailto:nfields42@gmail.com)

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/93717313258?pwd=OUZDbzdjSzZoa2dybGo4cWp4dnNPUT09>

Meeting ID: 937 1731 3258  
 Passcode: 040260