

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 **TUESDAY**

November 21. Send items to

Sue Bauer: Ralphb1234@cs.com



Once again, it's time to reach out and help provide a joyous holiday for a Chatham family. As we did last year, there will be a tree, but no gift suggestions. Your monetary donations will allow us to purchase clothing and specific Christmas wishes for the children of a local family.

We hope you will be generous and trust us to buy some great gifts! Please give your monetary donations to Sue Bauer or Gail Eldredge, put your contribution into the Christmas-decorated church at the back of the Meeting House, or send a check to the Meeting House with Angel Fund on the memo line.

The Children's Fund would like our gifts by the end of November, so please contribute by Thanksgiving. Some holiday spirit a little early!

As always, many, many thanks for your help and your caring.

Questions? Call Sue at 945-3264.



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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**November 5 Taking Refuge in the Dharma Rev. Lisa Perry-Wood**

The Buddha teaches that each of us encounters suffering in our lives. Suffering, mental emotional and physical, is an inescapable part of the human experience. Yet we're also told that there's a path to end suffering, through the dharma, the teachings of the Buddha, and in sangha, the company of like-minded individuals. Let's explore this path together.

November 12 To Give Rev. Tracy Johnson

Our theme this month is generosity. Today we will explore the many shapes that generosity can take in our lives.

November 19 Skeptical Science Rev. Paul Sprecher

What is the relation between science and religion? Why has it become so common to find "science" as contested ground in our contemporary culture wars -- over masking, vaccinations, and what should be taught to children in our public schools?

November 26 The Harmony Way Rev. Tracy Johnson

The Rev. Dr. Randy Woodley is an Indigenous activist, scholar, author, teacher and wisdom-keeper. Together we will explore some of his powerful teachings and what they mean for the sustaining of our humanity.

**Who's Preaching**

Rev. Lisa Perry-Wood was ordained into UU ministry in 2018 and has served UU congregations in Carlisle, Winchester, and Bedford, and most recently served as Senior Minister at First Parish in Brookline, 2018-2023. Currently, she is working as a Hospice Chaplain. She lives in Lexington with her wife, Zoe, and their Shih Tzu, Ali Baba, and enjoys yoga, swimming, long walks, and as much time as possible with her grandchildren.

Rev. Paul Sprecher served as UUMH's sabbatical minister for six months in 2014 and has spoken here 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 of Hingham.

Dear Ones, All –

There are no words as I sit to write this monthly column, three weeks into October. I know it is my job to come up with words for you - to guide, to comfort, to inform, to spark your minds and hearts. But sometimes there are no words. And the thing we need to do is simply be present to one another. To gather up the courage to be vulnerable with each other. To mourn and grieve the loss of life, the affront to our values, the senselessness of violence as a pathway through difference.

We see these scenes play out before us all the time. This world is no stranger to injustice. It is somehow more heinous this time around and more in our faces, so that we can't ignore it. We are rendered speechless, and I wonder, "Is this what it takes?" to stop us in our tracks, to feel our heart skip a beat, that sudden in-breath, held and then released. How desensitized have we become?

There is a powerlessness that accompanies us in this time of tragedy. And I want to say here that it is okay to not be okay. We care too much to be alright in the midst of so much, so very wrong with how we treat humanity and our precious Earth home. I hope you are taking time to allow some space for all this emotion, to allow yourselves to feel whatever it is that rises to the surface for you. Because the only way through it all is to let yourselves actually experience it as you make your way. There is strength in our coming together, our making time to listen or to just be still, to hold one another in a spiritual sense, but also to reach out and take a hand or give a hug if that is what is needed. It is important to know we are not alone on this journey.

We will come together around the theme of generosity this month and I am drawn to thinking about the many shapes that generosity can take. May we be generous with each other, with the rest of our human family and with our world as we move into the quiet of autumn, the season of gratitude for our kin and our abundant lives, and the preparation of our souls for all that is unfolding before us.

Blessed be.

Reverend Tracy



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Social Justice is now meeting at 10:00 on the second Monday of the month. As of now, the meetings are still on Zoom.

There was discussion regarding the Nauset Interfaith info on the Racial incident that occurred in Chatham this summer.

The October 29th service with Sheriff Donna Buckley in the pulpit is set, and Joan has found a good reading from Sen. Cory Booker. There was also brain-storming and discussion about other future Social Justice speakers for after the new year. There were many suggestions, and Climate Change was a topic many thought would be good.

Joan discussed the Eldredge Public Library panel, *The Allure of Fascism Here and Abroad*. Several folks had signed up.

Rather than having two collections going on, it was decided that Social Justice would defer to the Angel Fund for the month of November. We will once again encourage folks to bring socks, mittens and stocking caps to put in the basket at the front of the church or under the tree during November. The Outreach collected in December will go to Independence House.

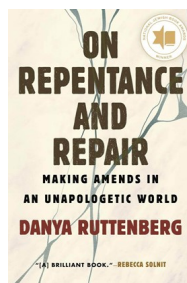
COMMON READ

Saturday, November 11th at 10:00 AM

This Common Read offers a glimpse into one of our faith's foundational sources, Judaism. Readers explore the call to accountability as we follow Rabbi Rutenberg into a framework for making amends offered by the 12th-century Jewish physician and scholar, Maimonides.

On Repentance and Repair invites readers of any faith to explore practices for accountability that can bring us into wholeness and really make a difference in our personal, community, and national relationships.

We will gather on **Saturday morning, November 11th at 10:00 AM** in the Fleck Room. Bring a bag lunch if you would like to stay and continue the conversation. Books can be purchased through [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) in a variety of formats or through the UUA Bookstore at www.uuabookstore.org.



**REMEMBER TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 4
ANOTHER WHOLE HOUR TO SLEEP, READ THE
TIMES, HAVE ANOTHER CUP OF COFFEE, AND
STILL BE ON TIME!**

Joy is the simplest form of gratitude. (Karl Barth)

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Ministerial Survey Results

Thanks to everyone who participated in our recent survey. Here are some of your thoughts about what is important to you in a minister as we look towards hiring a part time minister for when Rev. Tracy moves on in June 2024.

We want a compassionate intellectual, who is approachable, a spiritual leader with a sense of humor who keeps in touch with us and offers new ideas. They should know UU traditions and also understand other faiths. We want a friendly minister with counseling experience and conflict resolution skills who is a good speaker and an equally good listener, and has ideas on increasing membership in UUMH.

And here are your thoughts on what good preaching means to you.

It means a motivating and inspiring speaker and teacher who challenges us with life's big complex issues. They are an intellectual but spiritual guide who can help connect us to the world around us through a variety of topics. They should help us reframe our perceptions and surprise us. They should be reality based, be able to address a wide variety of topics, be relatable and have a sense of humor.

Your favorite parts of the service are the sermon and the music, although "the whole service," Joys and Concerns, Chalice Lighting and meditation were called out as well. Under least favorite part of the service, the most frequent answer was "None." Some specifics mentioned were announcements, doxology, the offertory, coffee hour, meditation, Zoom social hour, readings, the service leader format, applause, and the welcome.

A wide variety of topics was also included under "Other comments/ideas". Key ideas were summarized from the results, and that report is now available to all under the "Members Only" section of the website, www.uumh.net. The results have also been provided to the Board and the Program Council for action as appropriate.

The Search Committee will be sharing these results with candidates for our part time minister to assist in their understanding of what is important to us. Your voice in this process is essential and we are grateful for your support.

Search Committee

Liz Van Wye, Dave Van Wye, Sally Davol, John Raye, Debbie Zahka



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST NEW MEMBERS



L to R: Bonnie Brydges (Membership co-chair), Betsy Gill, Evan Howard, Pam Ebeling, and Susan Patterson

UPDATED MEMBER AND FRIENDS DIRECTORY

Our Member and Friends Directory is updated almost every month. To get your latest copy, visit <https://www.uumh.net/directory> . You will need the guest password. If you have forgotten it, please send an email to daniellejeanloz@gmail.com, and she will provide it for you. Access to this directory is available to the Members and Friends of the Congregation who are listed in the directory.

NEWSLETTER DUE DATE CHANGE

Please note that Newsletter submissions are due this month on **TUESDAY November 21**, so that you may enjoy your turkey in peace!

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 for this treasure!

UUMH RESOURCE TRAINING

How well do you know our UUMH website and the many tools we offer on the Internet? Please let Danielle Jeanloz show you how easy it is to find important information about UUMH on your computer. During our seminar, we will include a visit to our YouTube channel and Facebook page. We will explore the Members-Only section of our website, learning how to access and print information. While we all get lost using our computers at times, practice and learning basic shortcuts can make it easier to use the Internet. Danielle will try to help you unlock some of the mysteries behind your computer challenges if you have any.

Can you join Danielle via Zoom either on **Tuesday, November 14 at 10 a.m. or Thursday, November 16 at 3 p.m.**? Send an email to daniellejeanloz@gmail.com, and let her know if you can attend. Also, feel free to send her your questions in advance. We hope that you can attend this workshop scheduled for an hour or less. Let Danielle know if the dates and times are not convenient and if you still wish to attend at another time.

IN MEMORIAM

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Susan Nettleton on the death of her husband, Connie Donovan



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

There is always something to be thankful for.

SCOUT SCUTTLEBUTT

I have some good news about our **Youth Program, BSA.**

Boy Scout Troop 71 held their first campout this fall in Wellfleet on September 22 and 23. Of course it rained. The younger boys have some things to learn about camping in the rain, and the older boys and leaders are prepared to teach some “camping in the rain” skills, or maybe just some basic camping skills?

On September 24 members of the Troop, their families, and some of their leaders attended the **Welcome Service** at UUMH



Skyler Baker, Dad Chris Hercun, Adrian Hercun and Xavier Hercun, (not able to be seen) Mom Jean Bresciani, Luca Bresciani, Jake Terrio, Mom Kim Terrio, (barely able to be seen) Thadd Eldredge, Scout Leader, sister Emma Eldredge, Luka Eldredge, Mom Marija Eldredge and proud Grandpa Terry Eldredge

It is so nice to have an active Troop of young people associated with our church.

Cub Scout Pack 71 is getting ready to be off and running. We have had a meeting of young Cubs who are enthusiastic to be Scouts and a meeting of parents who are “dipping their toes” into the possibility of being leaders. It is a slow process, but we are progressing and should have a working **Pack** very shortly.

On a Whole Other Matter but still **Scouting:**

Chatham Girl Scout Troop 80272 held a Bridge Ceremony on October 15. Pictured below are the newest recipients of the **Girl Scout Silver Award**. Marija Eldredge, Leader; Emma Eldredge, Maddi Horigan, Zoe Simmons and Chatham Girl Scout Service Leader, Suzy Fishback
Haven't our girls grown up?



AED/CPR TRAINING

The Membership Committee is again sponsoring an AED/CPR training 1 hour session at the Chatham Fire Station on Tuesday October 24 at 1PM. Cost is \$20. All welcome—just show up!

MUUGS

Any men out there interested in reviving the very popular pre-Covid MUUGS, better know as the men's monthly breakfast at a local restaurant? We have someone interested in facilitating this, so let me know if you might like to explore this. (From my husband, Ralph...one of his favorite UUMH things to do—good food, good friends made, good conversation). Call or email Sue Bauer to join up or just ask questions. 945-3264/ralphb1234@cs.com

PUMPKINS IN THE PARK

**WITH MANY THANKS TO GAIL ELDRIDGE AND HER CREATIVE CREW!
(THERE'S A WEB IN THERE, HONEST!)**



JOYS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

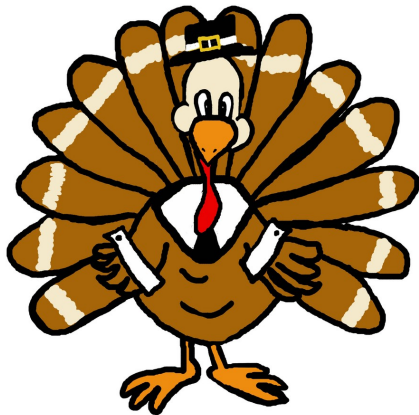
Congratulations to Emma Eldredge and Zoe Simmons who were recently awarded the Silver Award from the Girl Scouts.

Our congratulations and best wishes to Rev. Paul Sprecher on his recent marriage to Zeph Helmreich. Paul has preached at the Meeting House many times, been our Sabbatical minister, and will be in the pulpit again on November 19.

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Jon and Kathy Nye are now full time in Chatham. Please use the West Chatham box, and delete any NY address.

Mary Parsons is just using her cell phone :
508-367-0714



THIRD MONDAY BOOK CLUB

Third Monday Book Club will meet on November 20 to discuss *The Mitford Affair* by Marie Benedict. Contact Mary Parsons with questions. marypmac@comcast.net / 508-367-0714.

All are welcome for one book or many!



PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE

November Birthdays

- 5 Jackie Venner
- 6 Susan Patterson
- 7 Judy Reed
- 7 Betsy Gill
- 9 Priscilla Dalrymple
- 10 Clif Mayfield
- 15 Mary Parsons
- 17 Dave Monroe
- 19 Bonnie Brydges
- 20 Marion Harcourt
- 20 Joe Caputo
- 21 Bob Rice
- 26 Gail Tilton



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