

NEWS FROM THE HILL

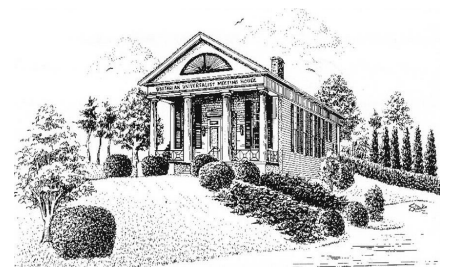
NEWSLETTER OF THE U.U.

MEETING HOUSE OF CHATHAM

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"NEWS FROM THE HILL"

is published monthly year round
by the UU Meeting House of
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SUNDAY SERVICES are
held at 10:30 AM each week.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

next month is **THURSDAY**
December 16. Send items to
Sue Bauer: Ralphb1234@cs.com



CHRISTMAS SPECIALS



ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING AND REFLECTION

Advent, the season of hope and waiting for what is to come, is celebrated in the Christian tradition on the four Sundays prior to Christmas Eve. Join Rev. Tracy for the final three Sundays beginning December 5 on zoom at 4:00 p.m. as we light an Advent Wreath candle and consider one of the four themes of the season: hope, peace, joy and love. There will be music, poetry and quiet reflection.

Each week we will ask the question, "How do you experience this theme in your life?"

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://uuma.zoom.us/j/99252859115?](https://uuma.zoom.us/j/99252859115?pwd=SzdaYOZpVEFXWFJFUGFnRzIKa0tIQTO9)
[pwd=SzdaYOZpVEFXWFJFUGFnRzIKa0tIQTO9](https://uuma.zoom.us/j/99252859115?pwd=SzdaYOZpVEFXWFJFUGFnRzIKa0tIQTO9)

Meeting ID: 992 5285 9115

Passcode: 163140



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 5:00 PM

Join us for a service of lessons and music. See page 2 for details.

POINSETTIAS

We are not selling poinsettias this year, but they will decorate the sanctuary on Christmas Eve. Please feel free to take one after the service.

STAFF MEMBERS**MINISTER:**

Rev. Tracy Johnson
arevtracy@gmail.com

MUSIC DIRECTOR:

Frank Toppa
ftoppa440@gmail.com

COMMUNICATIONS**COORDINATOR:**

Andrew Staiti
chathamuumh@gmail.com

BOOKKEEPER:

Kim Carroll
bookkeeperchatham@gmail.com

Board of Trustees

Ed Mangiafico, President
Mary Parsons, Vice President
Joe Zahka, Treasurer

At large members:

Greg Heyl
Danielle Jeanloz
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.

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

December 5 Joy in Mudville Rev. Tracy Johnson

Our December Soul Matters theme is "Opening to Joy." This week we will explore what that opening might look like.

December 12 A Holiday Message Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

Service Leader: Joan Caputo. Join us as we hear a special message from our Unitarian Universalist Association President..

December 19 Sharing Love and Light Cari Keith

Advent theme of sharing love and light across traditions.

December 24 Christmas Eve Service 5:00PM

A hybrid service of lessons and special holiday music. Join us in person or on zoom. Rev. Tracy Johnson & Music Director, Frank Toppa will lead us in celebration.

No services on December 26th.

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

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

“Deep calls unto deep, joy calls unto joy, light calls unto light.” ~ Gordon B. McKeeman

Dear Ones, All –

It has been such a joy to begin to gather again with all of you over the past few months! As more and more of you feel safe to join us in the Meeting House, there is a building sense of hopefulness in our midst. Even if I can't see your smiles, I can see the light dancing in your eyes! And the depth of connection we experience as we share is breathtaking. Navigating this return to something akin to normal in our lives can be tricky, even a little scary. We aren't quite sure how to be with one another in person yet, even as we know how very much we want to do so. We are being gentle with ourselves and compassionate toward each other as we work to create an inclusive community of folks who aren't all ready to be in the same space at the same time or in the same way.

This year has brought so many changes, and this season has been one of transition, not just because we are coming together, but because we are creating new systems – new ways of being as a faith community in post-pandemic times. There are things we will likely never return to, and there are just as many, if not more, things we will put in place to accommodate the new realities of our lives. It is a time of possibility as we envision all that UUMH can be here in Chatham. Change can be awkward for us; uncomfortable, but if we lean into it with love (the Spirit of this place!) and patience (remembering that we abandoned perfection a year and half ago!), I believe we will come through it all shining as brightly as ever, a beacon of faith and justice here on this hill.

So many of our traditions are grounded in hopefulness. Ancient peoples sought that sense of assuredness and trusted in Mystery to deliver it. Whether it was a miracle of oil in their lamps, new life in the promise of a tiny infant, the lengthening of sunlight in their days, a belief in the natural order of things, or the potential end of suffering, all of these point to a deep desire to maintain hope against all odds. Celebrating in this season is about this hopefulness, about keeping an eye toward potential, about what is yet to be. It is a time of deepening introspection and of opening to the light of love in our hearts; being that light for one another.

My hope is that you will join me this month in an opportunity to learn through our Common Read book discussion, in opportunities to reflect together on the four themes of Advent, in gathering for weekly services and a beautiful hybrid Christmas Eve service, all of which you can find out about in this newsletter and in our weekly e-blasts.

My hope for each of you is for good health, for time spent in the company of those you love, for opportunities of your own to experience hopefulness in the day to day of our living. May you be blessed with all you need, and with abundance enough to share. May the light of this community shine brightly in and through you, and may there be joy in our midst.

Blessed be.

Reverend Tracy



ART IN THE FLECK ROOM: PASTELS BY JANE ECCLES

“Resting Catboat”

Enjoy Jane’s beautiful pastels all through December.

Hours: Can be viewed after the service on Sundays (11:30-12:30) or by appointment. Contact the artist at jecclesart@aol.com

Note: The artist will be available most Sundays to answer questions about her work.

Jane is donating a generous percentage of profits to the Meeting House.

Purchased work may be removed from the wall immediately upon payment by check to the artist. (A different piece will then be placed on that hook.)

**SOCIAL TIME IN THE FLECK ROOM**

Join old friends and make new ones each Sunday after the service for a social time in the Fleck Room. No food or drink yet, but chairs and tables to sit at and chat. Come on down!

It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air. (W.T.Ellis)

WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF



Kim Carroll
Financial Secretary

Jaideen Van Bork
Tech Assistant

Andrew Staiti
Communications
Coordinator



SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The big news is that an asylum seeking family is living in Chatham. They are a young couple from Cuba who have been living in Uruguay for the last 3 years and have a 2 year old child. They also have a 9 year old child in Cuba. This has been spearheaded by the Safe Harbors group at the St. Peter's Lutheran Church. Joan Caputo has done training on working with asylum seekers, so we shall wait to hear from her how we can help.

Our December Outreach, as we enjoy the warmth of family and home, is Lower Cape Outreach, helping those less fortunate than ourselves.

Joan Caputo and Margaret Tompsett

BOOKS TO LOOK AT TOGETHER

Rev. Tracy is offering a few opportunities for study together.

****Coming soon!!! The UU Common Read this year is **"Defund Fear: Safety Without Policing, Prisons and Punishment."** A zoom discussion will be offered on Sunday, December 12, 2021 from 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.

The **June 2021 Report of the UUA Commission on Appraisal** entitled, **"Unlocking the Power of Covenant"** is available and will be discussed in three parts, Sundays, January 9th, 16th and 23rd, 2022 via zoom from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m.

"The Darkness Divine: A Loving Challenge to My Faith" by the Rev. Dr. Kristin L. Harper uses poetry, prose and lived experience to explore the challenges of racism for people of color in our faith. Discussions will occur on selected Wednesday mornings beginning in February 2022.

All three selections can be purchased at www.uuabookstore.org and the latter two are also available on Kindle. Please let Rev. Tracy know if you plan to attend!



ANGEL FUND UPDATE

A final report will come in January, but we want to thank all of you for another year of incredible generosity. We will have more than \$1000 to ensure a merrier Christmas for a local family. Several specially wished for toys, of course, but also clothing, head to toe, and gift cards for groceries, gas, CVS, and maybe even a treat or two! What a wonderful community we belong to. Many, many thanks.

Sue Bauer and Mary Parsons



WORSHIP SERVICE COMMITTEE

It's beginning to feel like winter. It has taken a while to get cold, but here we are. This means we have to think in terms of the New Year and what we want for services. We would love to hear from anyone in the congregation who has any ideas for services or anyone who might like to be our speaker.

Winter also brings snow and ice perhaps closing the church for services. The one positive thing that the pandemic has given us is the ability to zoom our services. We don't want people to come when the weather is dangerous. Now we can let people know by email our zoom address so we can all be together on zoom. There will be an announcement on the church's link saying we will zoom in today. Hopefully, if there is enough warning from the weathermen, the word will get out on Saturday.

In the meantime, have a happy, healthy, holiday season.

Dolly Howell

Perhaps the best Yuletide decoration is being wreathed in smiles. (Anon.)

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Membership Minute: Each one reach one!

By Liz Van Wye, Membership co-chair

It's often said that many people are UUs but don't know it. The best way for our neighbors to find out about us is through us, the members of UUMH. We are encouraging everyone to reach out to someone who may want to know more about us by forwarding or sending this simple message.

The Unitarian Universalist Meeting House in Chatham is a place where we work to be an inclusive caring community and where we advocate for justice and equity in support of free minds and spirits. This shared journey to find our own spiritual truths and answer life's difficult questions keeps us together in community. If you want to learn more you are invited to visit us at 819 Main Street Chatham on Sundays at 10:30AM. Or join us for services on Zoom by clicking on the link at www.uumh.net. Come as you are!

Questions about membership? Go to www.uumh.net to learn about the path to membership or ask Bonnie Brydges or Liz Van Wye, Membership co-chairs. We are stronger as a community together!

NEW WEBSITE FEATURES!

Sermons Page We now feature a collection of all sermons given by Rev. Tracy Johnson! This is under the “Sunday Morning” tab on the homepage. We also have a page that contains the video recordings of *all* sermons led by Rev. Tracy or our guest speakers.

Upcoming Events We have made extensive updates to the “Events and Activities” tab on the homepage. The main page when you click on “Events and Activities” brings to “UUMH Chatham Activities” which shows current and recurring activities to partake in. The “Upcoming Events” page shows our newly integrated Google Calendar (Thank you Danielle!) which has all UUMH events and activities in what we hope is an easy-to-read format.

Past Bulletins On the “News and Information” tab on the homepage, we feature our weekly e-blast/bulletins as well as our monthly newsletters. We are now able to feature *past* bulletins and newsletters as well!

CONTACTING KIM CARROLL, OUR BOOKKEEPER

You have several ways to reach Kim Carroll, our bookkeeper, to get bills paid or be reimbursed. Bills are paid once per week, so it is best to plan ahead

Tried and True – fill out a reimbursement sheet in the brochure holder to the right of the office door. Include your name and address, the amount spent, and the committee to which the expense should be charged. Include a sales slip or invoice. Have the committee chair sign the form to approve the charge. Place the completed form in the bookkeeper’s mail folder to the left of the office door.

Via email – send an email to Kim at bookkeeperchatham@gmail.com with your name, address, amount spent, and the committee to which the expense should be charged. Scan or photograph the invoice or sales slip. If you are not the committee chair, cc the chair so he/she/they can approve the reimbursement.

Emergency – call Kim at 781-775-0406.

Really in trouble – call Joe Zahka at 978-995-8964 or email to joseph.zahka@verizon.net

"ARTS ON THE WALLS" AT UUMH

Whose art is shown?

Most often, the artists are UUMH members or community artists whose work has been recommended to the Art Committee. We like to encourage new artists. If you notice a budding talent among us, please let us know!

What mediums?

We will consider any medium that can be hung by wire on our rod hooks: paintings, textiles, photography, paper, wood, etc. If it doesn't break and can sit on a small table, we will consider that as well.

Does every show have a theme?

Many of them do. Often the artist suggests the theme, but sometimes the Art Committee puts together a show that relates to a subject being talked about. For example, we asked a group of artists to contribute scenes of water (ocean, ponds and rivers) as a fitting backdrop to the Earth Day conversations about cleaning up our Cape Cod waters.

How often are the shows changed?

That depends on the number of artists available who have new work to show.

Is the art for sale?

Some shows are primarily for educational purposes and there are no sales. Most shows provide opportunity for purchasing. Artists agree to donate 15% of sales to the UUMH, but some artists increase the donation.

Viewing times:

Sunday's coffee hour, or by special arrangement with the artist. Some artists schedule a show "Opening" for which they handle invitations, etc. This option has been approved by our Reopening Committee provided that safety protocols- masks and social distancing- are followed. Refreshments will not be served.

Who designs and hangs the shows?

For a one-artist show, the artist usually does the designing. If it is a multi-artists show, the designer is usually someone whose art is not being hung. Designing is hard work because it requires making a piece of art out of many pieces of art! The hanging team has an easier job. They just follow the instructions of the designer, and do the lifting and leveling.

What about publicity?

Even our smallest shows will receive the benefit of e-listings on our website, Facebook and other social media that our Communications Coordinator might utilize.

If you would like to see YOUR art on the Fleck Room walls between February and April 2022, please contact Beth Avery 508-255-2777. You don't have to fill the room by yourself. A few pieces by several artists can make a terrific show!



Thanks and happy creating!

OPEN MIC CLASSICAL ONLINE

3rd Sunday of each month

Next: Sunday, December 19th, 2021 / 3pm

Sign Up: open to classical musicians of all levels and ages (Call : 774-353-0244 or email: openmicclassical@gmail.com)

Featured Guest: pianist **John Thomas**, a well-known artist in Provincetown and Cape Cod for three decades. He was awarded a Bulgarian Fulbright Commission grant for study, research and performance for his project "Music without Borders: Bulgaria and America in Melody, Harmony and Rhythm". He subsequently produced the video concert series "Music without Borders." More information and links to YouTube videos at: <https://johnwthomas.com>

To connect to our Online Zoom Open Mc Classical use our direct link:

Direct Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82454083651?pwd=WkVJOEUwRysxeXJvb3I0cDZacStLdz09>

or

Meeting ID: 824 5408 3651

Passcode: OMC

For more information visit our website: <http://www.openmicclassical.org>

JOYS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Julie and Jeff Dykens welcomed their first grandchild, Marion Mai Dykens, born October 29, 2021 to Andrew Dykens and Stephanie Wu. Sharing the joy is great grandmother, Thelma Dykens and Great Aunt Amy.

Dolly Howell's son Jeff and Dina Lyons were married recently in Newport.

Zoe Simmons, daughter of Dorria Marsh and Chris Simmons, received the 2021 Youth Stewardship Award for her commitment to the environment. Zoe helped found the Nauset Middle School newspaper, the Nauset Current, and has written about environmental issues. She is also involved with Ocean Protection Advocacy Kids (OPAK)

PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE

December Birthdays

- | | |
|----|----------------------|
| 3 | Danielle Jeanloz |
| 6 | Jan Perry |
| 7 | Liz Sjogren |
| 10 | Vivienne Chapman |
| 11 | Debbie Rogers |
| 11 | Dick Fewkes |
| 15 | Bill Conley |
| 16 | Barbara Rothenburger |
| 21 | Lisa Evans |



December Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|--------------------------|
| 6 | Edith and Clif Mayfield |
| 15 | Evelyn and John Raye |
| 24 | Greg Heyl and Eric Riley |
| 28 | Karen and Ron Nickerson |
| 29 | Jane and Read Moffett |

MEDITATION GROUP

The UU Meditation group meets on zoom at 9:30 every Saturday morning with Joan Konopka as the facilitator. We are uncertain as to meeting arrangements going forward as to whether some meetings will take place in person in the church sanctuary...the group has grown considerably with members from outside of Chatham, so zoom has been a very practical and worthwhile tool. If anyone is interested in joining the group you can tune in from any location. Contact Gail Tilton @ gmlilton@capecod.net

THINGS TO REMEMBER

***** Consider mailing a check to the Meeting House each month to cover the amount you would contribute to the Offering each Sunday, if you will continue to Zoom. Thanks.

***** When you send anything to the Meeting House through the mail, please remember that the address must be the Post Office Box, not the street address. **The PO Box is Box 18.**

THIRD MONDAY BOOK CLUB

The Third Monday Book Club will meet on Monday December 20 to discuss *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer.

Contact Mary Parsons for location or with questions. marypmac@comcast.net / 508-367-0714. All are welcome.

The January book will be *Women Rowing North* by Mary Bray Pipher

