

# NEWS FROM THE HILL

NEWSLETTER OF THE U.U.  
MEETING HOUSE OF CHATHAM  
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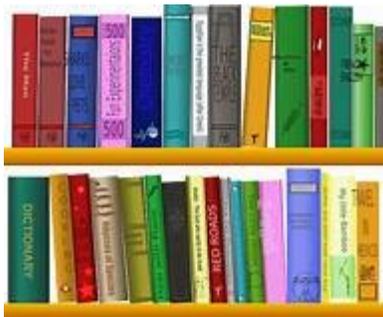
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**"NEWS FROM THE HILL"**  
is published monthly year round  
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Chatham.

Editor: Susan Bauer  
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**SUNDAY SERVICES** are  
held at 10:30 AM each week.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**  
next month is THURSDAY  
January 20. Send items to  
Sue Bauer: [Ralphb1234@cs.com](mailto:Ralphb1234@cs.com)

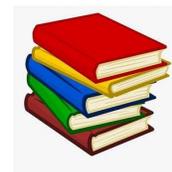


**Book Discussion with  
Reverend Tracy**  
Now is the time to order our  
January book!  
Study begins Sunday,  
January 9th!

The June 2021 Report of the UUA Commission on Appraisal  
entitled, "**Unlocking the Power of Covenant**" explores the  
history of covenant in our faith tradition and asks us to  
consider how that is meaningful for us today.

It will be discussed in three parts,  
January 9th, 16th, and 23rd, 2022 via Zoom from 2:30 to  
4:00 p.m.

Order from [www.uuabookstore.org](http://www.uuabookstore.org) or on Kindle.  
Please join me!



Also, remember.....

**"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.



**STAFF MEMBERS**

**MINISTER:**

**Rev. Tracy Johnson**  
arevtracy@gmail.com

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**Frank Toppa**  
ftoppa440@gmail.com

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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**

**January 2    Sharing thoughts, hopes, and ideas**  
**Mary Parsons & John Raye**

**January 9    Intentional Community    Rev. Tracy Johnson**

A concept from my past has resurfaced with new branding! What does intentional community mean for us?

**January 16    The Dream of MLK Jr.— Where are We Now?**  
**Social Justice Committee**

**January 23    Our Bodies Our Selves    Rev. Tracy Johnson**

Borrowing from a decades old organization and powerful book, let's explore the state of things for women and their bodies in 2022.

**January 30    Musicians Within Our Walls - Pavia and Priscilla Smith**



**MISSION STATEMENT**

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

“In any given moment we have two options, to step forward in growth or to step back into safety.”

Abraham Maslow

Dear Ones, All –

Here we are again at the start of a new year, that moment when we officially move from what was to what will be. We are, of course, doing this all the time, but we mark it with our calendars and make a fresh go of it once every 365 days. It is both a moment like no other and a moment just like all the rest! Maslow says we always have two options: stepping forward in growth or stepping back into safety. Here’s what I want to say about that.

First, stepping back into safety. The year 2021 hasn’t felt so safe for us although we have managed to make it so with our intentionality. Sometimes a step back to take a look at things is a good practice, a balcony view. In those cases, we are doing so in order to prepare ourselves to move forward. Doing nothing is also a step back into safety because we are sticking with the familiar, unexposed to that which might foster growth. It’s a comfortable place that doesn’t require much of us. Vacillation is a choice, a step, and I get it that we may be tired at this point in time in our lives or our journeys or our world. Important though, to acknowledge it and make a conscious decision about it.

Next, stepping forward in growth. What kind of growth are we talking about here? We affirm and promote the encouragement of spiritual growth in our congregations, according to our Principles which guide us on our path. The growth that happens within each of us ultimately serves as a catalyst for the rest of us when take it up in community. It is that creative interchange that I am so fond of! Maybe it feels like stepping forward is leaping off an edge that might be scary or dangerous. If one of us is experiencing this, my guess is that more of us are, too, so we can count on another to serve as parachutes when we do what is risky, but for our own good, as individual persons and as a people.

One of the reasons I am called to parish ministry is that I absolutely love moving with a congregation through periods of uncertainty, risk, and growth. We can work together to create a “safe space” in which to do the work of stepping forward into whatever newness a year or a period of our history may be calling us to. We can spend some time discerning together just what might be asked of us by our hurting world, what a people of a certain faith might bring to the table.

Ours is a unique approach to religion, being covenantal people as opposed to creedal. I hope we can spend some time in the coming months exploring what that meant for our forebears in this tradition and what it might mean for us today. What is the safe container that our faith provides and how can we utilize it to the fullest as we embark on a new year in time?

May your New Year’s celebration be all that you intend for such a time. Mine is a time of reflection and planning, reveling in the beauty of the earth in winter and sharing in the warmth and love of those closest to me. What is it for you?

May we emerge from this turning with fresh eyes to see our way forward into 2022!

Blessed be.

Reverend Tracy



### WORSHIP SERVICE COMMITTEE

Here we are again in a New Year with concerns of Covid on our minds. We have managed so far with our hybrid services and we plan to continue with them in order to keep all members involved in our congregation.

We start the year with new members to help our committee. Naomi Turner and Margaret Tompsett are joining us with great ideas and resources to help as we move into 2022.

The Committee is interested in your feedback as the year progresses. Is there someone you would like to see in the pulpit when Tracy is not there? Should we leave things out of the service or put things in? Are the services too long? Ideas and suggestions are always welcome.

The Committee wishes to thank Frank Toppa who is always there with his music and kindness. We are not striving for perfection, but we know that he is. Hopefully, we are getting there.

Happy New Year!  
Dolly Howell

### SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Following the tragic school shooting by a 15 year old in Michigan we are working on decreasing gun violence. Margaret Tompsett joined the December 14<sup>th</sup> rally of Grandmothers Against Gun Violence at the Hyannis rotary and has copies of their brochure – “You can save a life now!” which emphasizes the importance of safe gun storage, extreme risk protection orders, and suicide prevention.

The Meeting House has signed on to the Mass. Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, which has just received money from federal dollars given to Massachusetts. We worry about the school shootings but these are minor compared what communities of color experience every day. 2021 has so far seen the highest number of gun deaths – 42,500 and counting. If you have a friend or know someone with a gun please take one of the brochures from the table outside the Fleck Room. We also need to lobby our legislators for many aspects of gun safety. **GET INVOLVED!**

Margaret Tompsett

### ANGEL FUND UPDATE

Mary and I learned all about scooters when we shopped for the Angel Fund last month! All three children in “our” family wished for scooters, and thanks to your VERY generous contributions, we were able to fulfill those wishes and more. The Meeting House provided more than \$1400 to give a family a special holiday full of gifts, Grocery and Gas cards, toys, clothes, and more. Our hearts are so very full of thanks and pride for the especially wonderful community here at UUMH.

Sue Bauer and Mary Parsons

**A room without books is a body without a soul. (Cicero)**

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

### Membership Minute

Thank you to all who completed the Membership committee's quick survey at the end of November. During the November 21 service, we asked members to complete the sentence "I joined UUMH because....." Sixteen people attending in the sanctuary put their responses on an index card provided for that purpose; two attending on Zoom put their responses in the Zoom chat section.

The responses were thoughtful, enlightening, and impressive, and we wanted to share some general thoughts with you. Many members stressed the importance of feeling welcomed into our community. Four members cited the role friends and acquaintances who were already members of the congregation played in getting them to join. Additionally, there is clearly a significant role that sermons, social justice, friendship, support, peaceful discourse, and inclusion play in the whole membership process.

The Membership Committee will be using these results in our Outreach efforts, in social media, and in membership recruitment activities. Many thanks for your help!

Liz Van Wye, Membership Co-Chair



## A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

The Meeting House is in good financial condition through the end of November, primarily due to the excellent work of the Thrift Shop volunteers who earned more than \$40,000 for the season. The net amount credited to this fiscal year's income was \$34,000. Plate income is running behind last year. We now expect to receive \$4,000 in plate for the year rather than the budgeted \$8,000. Pledges are coming in slowly, although we expect more at the end of this calendar year and the beginning of the next.

Most expenses are running below budget. We were without paid office staff for the first four months of the fiscal year but are now fully staffed so the monthly expenses have increased. The total cost of the AV system to support hybrid services was \$16,350. \$3,975 has been raised to offset that cost. The Rogers Building Fund has contributed \$8,100 to the project leaving an expense of \$4,244 unbudgeted in this year's accounting. It is likely that we will be able to cover this extra expense due to the Thrift Shop income and lower office expenses during the summer.

I will send out a more formal report at the mid-point of our fiscal year in January. As always, thank you for your support of the Meeting House.

Joe Zahka, Treasurer

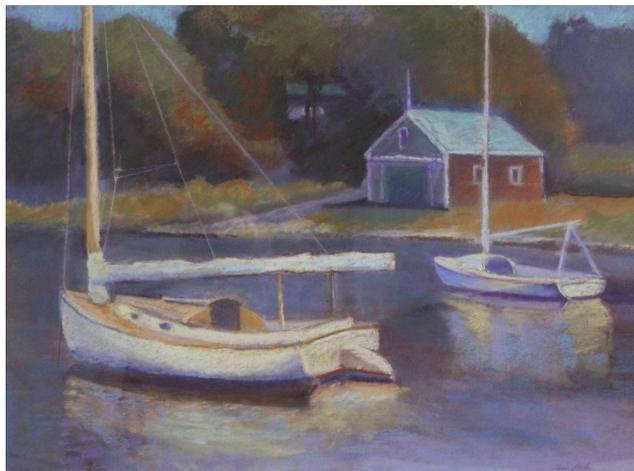
**PASTELS ART SHOW BY JANE ECCLES**

Extended through January (and much longer in our hearts)

The UUMH Fleck Room is temporarily closed to "Coffee Hour" socializing, but it has been beautifully transformed into an art gallery for visiting at your leisure, and for finding a treasure to bring home with you!

Artist Jane Eccles, with her husband Dick, will soon be moving off Cape to be close to family in New Jersey. They care deeply about the UUMH, and have created this art show to benefit our community. Jane is donating 50% of the proceeds to the UUMH.

Jane will hang new paintings to replace those that are sold, so visit often! Having her paintings in our homes will be a wonderful way for us to stay connected with them - in hearts, minds and spirits.

**NEW WEBSITE FEATURES!**

We are repeating this from December's Newsletter in order to include links to our website for two of these features. Check them out!!

**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.

Video Sermons: <https://www.uumh.net/videosermons>

Written Sermons: <https://www.uumh.net/sermons>

**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!

Past Newsletters: <https://www.uumh.net/past-newsletters>

**Change your thoughts and you change your world. (Norman V. Peale)**

### JOYS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Julie Dykens was pictured in the Chronicle presenting a check to the Center for Coastal Studies from donations made this past summer at her gallery, Local Color

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Honor Roll at Monomoy Middle School includes:

Vavi Conley 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors

Emma Eldredge 7<sup>th</sup> Grade High Honors

### DIRECTORY CHANGES

Bob Rice's new address: Maplewood at Brewster  
820 Harwich Rd. Brewster 02631.  
Cell: 207-357-6997

Keenan/Venner family's new address:  
3075 Orchard Ridge Circle  
Duluth GA 30096  
Email: sjkeenan65@gmail.com



### THIRD MONDAY BOOK CLUB

The Third Monday Book Club will meet on Monday January 17 to discuss *Women Rowing North* by Mary Bray Pipher.

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



### PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE

#### January Birthdays

- 6 Zoe Simmons
- 7 Naomi Turner
- 8 Charlotte Edgecombe
- 13 Read Moffett
- 15 Courtney Keenan
- 23 Jenni Makihara
- 26 Beth Avery
- 28 Ron Nickerson



#### February Birthdays

- 3 Joyce DeVoe
- 4 Cathy Kent
- 5 Mary Chesnut

#### February Anniversaries

- 1 Betty and Bob Twiss
- 1 Liz and Dave Van Wye
- 2 Marija and Thadd Eldredge

### 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 . Contact Gail Tilton @ [gmitilton@capecod.net](mailto:gmitilton@capecod.net)

### SOCIAL HOUR PUT ON HOLD

Because of the current Covid conditions, our plan to have a Social Hour after church in the Fleck Room has been suspended until further notice.