

UUMH Chatham – Minister’s Annual Report – 2023-24

Dear Ones, All –

It has been a joy and a privilege to serve you for yet another year! It has been both a full time and a bittersweet time as we navigate each of the ‘last of this or that’ for a while together. I will miss you, but I want to report that from where I sit, the state of the Meeting House is good!

A little about my activities this past year. I have been in the pulpit twenty-eight times this year and officiated at one Celebration of Life. It has been my practice to meet monthly with the committees of the Meeting House, the Program Council, and the Board. In this way I am kept apprised of what is happening, what needs some extra attention or what might bubble up for all of us to be aware of. In a shared ministry, these things are all intricately woven together and as a bit of a weaver myself, I see the value in the connections as being important to the whole of the fabric.

As I reviewed my calendar, I realized how many ancillary pieces I have been a part of as well! I have been your face in the wider community through the Oyster Pond Beach services, Habitat for Humanity Devotions, participation in the Nauset Interfaith Association, the town clean-up, and the Tree of Hope kick-off. I have been behind the scenes with your restructuring effort, an early adviser to the Search Committee and worked with Pastoral Care on their Cycles of Life series. I led a guided meditative hike, offered a special reflective opportunity in the wake of the Israel/Palestine violence, a small group exploring proposed Article II revisions, and a new UU/Membership class and discussion. I attended the Women’s Gathering at Osprey Point, the New Member Brunch, and the annual picnic at Minister’s Point. I have been available to individuals with pastoral needs and have visited many of our elders, sharing the love of the congregation with them. For me, ministry is often about coming alongside a person or a people, holding space for them and journeying with them.

This year I completed a two-year certificate program in Spiritual Direction through Cherry Hill Seminary. I meet regularly with the local UU Minister's Association Chapter and Cluster and am blessed to have colleagues to travel this journey with.

Your Restructuring Team has some ideas suitable for 'trying on for size' and I hope you give them the opportunity to continue to help the Meeting House to become right sized in structure, leading to sustainability and a bright future. It is vital work that you are engaging in, and I am so proud of you for taking it on. Your Search Committee has done an excellent job in locating a half-time minister and I know that you will be in good hands with him. Your leadership is strong and full of wisdom and experience.

I am grateful for all of these opportunities to serve, to have come to know you 'one year better.' As always, should you have questions I am available to take them.

Respectfully submitted –
Reverend Tracy Johnson