

NEWS FROM THE HILL

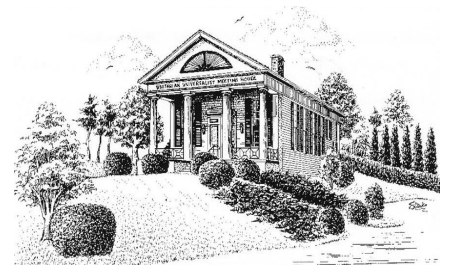
NEWSLETTER OF THE U.U.

MEETING HOUSE OF CHATHAM

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"NEWS FROM THE HILL"

is published monthly year round
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held at 10:30 AM each week.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

next month is **THURSDAY**

September 23. Send items to

Sue Bauer: Ralphb1234@cs.com



FAREWELL TO BENNETT

WITH HEARTY THANKS, AND SOME SORROW, TOO, WE
SAY FAREWELL TO BENNETT HARTLEY, OUR TECH
SUPPORT PERSON
EXTRAORDINAIRE. HE IS
HEADING OFF TO
NORTHEASTERN. WE
WILL MISS HIM AND HIS
SKILLS WHICH HAVE
SEEN US THROUGH
INNUMERABLE ZOOM
SERVICES. WE
WISH HIM MUCH SUCCESS. GOOD LUCK, BENNETT!!!



STAFF MEMBERS**MINISTER:**

Rev. Tracy Johnson
arevtracy@gmail.com

MUSIC DIRECTOR:

Frank Toppa

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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**September 5****Visit other UU churches for worship**

Information and links to other churches will be published in the Friday Order of Service on September 3.

September 12**Mingled Waters****Rev. Tracy Johnson**

This is our annual Ingathering Service. Please see the minister's column for ways you can participate.

September 19**Gaia: Our Unitarian Universalist****Interdependent Web Rev. Paul Sprecher**

The Gaia Theory posits that the Earth is a self-regulating complex system involving the biosphere, the atmosphere, the hydrospheres, and the pedosphere. The name comes from Gaia, the Greek goddess of the earth - that is, Mother Earth. And our mother is under relentless attack. We can't fix that all by ourselves -- but still, we can each do something, as we commit to doing in our Seventh Principle.

September 26**UUMH Auction Sermon****Rev. Tracy Johnson**

...with gratitude to Debbie Zahka for her question about practicing our belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every person, especially when it is difficult.

WHO'S PREACHING

Many of us will be familiar with Rev. Paul Sprecher who substituted for Edmund from January to June, 2014, during Edmund's sabbatical and has preached here several times since.

Dear Ones, All –

September is the time for Ingathering in most Unitarian Universalist settings, and we are no different! Except that it feels like we did this in July when we gathered in person for the first time in over a year! Except that here in Chatham we don't ever really seem to take a break, going straight through summer with as much if not more activity than the rest of the year! Except that most of us have not traveled and returned with little containers of water from far off places! But still, we gather in once again with fresh hopes and plans and ideas, renewed and ready for whatever the 'regular' church year brings us.

Our leadership has turned over by half this year, our Thrift Shop has done an amazing business, we have a plan for safely gathering and a dedicated Reopening Team keeping an eye on things, and in another month we will celebrate 25 years here on the hill in Chatham in this beautiful space where we gather in love and community! We are grateful for all of it, and I would ask you to be thinking about that time a quarter century ago when you all decided to take the step of buying this building. I want to hear from those of you who were there and remember what it was like as I prepare to honor that event on October 3rd.

Meanwhile, we have an Ingathering to plan for! Here are some suggestions for how you can participate:

- *Plan to come on Sunday, September 12th and add some water to our common vessel.
- *Plan to come by the Meeting House on Wednesday, September 8th between 10:00 a.m. and Noon to add your water to our common vessel. This opportunity is for those of you not yet ready to worship in person on Sundays.
- *Plan to have a vessel of water at home on zoom that we can bless along with the water in our common vessel.
- *Think about what you are bringing to the work of this UU community in the year ahead – something tangible or spiritual or creative. There will be an opportunity for these to be shared.

I look forward to our returning to the regular cycle of business here; to seeing many of you in meetings and conversations on zoom and even in person. Our committees are gearing up, and I am here if you need me. It is a joy to be serving with all of you in the shared work of UUMH! And as the sun begins to set a bit earlier, and the air begins to cool just slightly, I hope you will take some time to breathe in the beauty that we are blessed with here on Cape Cod; to reflect on the gift that it is in your life; to experience the wonder of the seasons and this community of faith.

Blessed be.

Reverend Tracy



IMPORTANT NOTICE

DURING SEPTEMBER, PLEASE EMAIL YOUR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE WEEKLY EBLAST TO SUE BAUER AT RALPHB1234@CS.COM.

EMAIL YOUR MATERIALS BY FRIDAY FOR THE FOLLOWING MONDAY EBLAST. ON THE SUBJECT LINE, WRITE “UUMH EBLAST FOR MONDAY (ADD THE DATE)”

THANKS

WORSHIP SERVICE COMMITTEE

Just to keep us on our toes a hurricane decides to come on Sunday. Then it didn't, but it left us with a problem as to how we notify the congregation. Those of you who were disappointed that you didn't receive a notice, we are sorry. We are working on correcting the problem. Off the top of my head we should have a sign we can post on Zoom with the information that we are closed because of a storm or have somebody on Zoom to tell the people who tune in. Tracy is also trying to figure out why not everyone is getting the email messages.

Thank you all for your flexibility and understanding. This is a time in our lives when nothing is routine. Is there anyone in the congregation who would like to learn how to do what Bennett and Joe have been doing each Sunday? Think about giving us a Sunday to learn the system.

Dolly Howell

**THRIFT SHOP**

The Thrift Shop is breaking all records and we are on our way to making 40,000 or more by the end of the year. The last date we will be open is October 8. Then we plan to have a gigantic sale on the lawn in front of the church the next day. We will need lots of helpers, and I hope many of you will join us in this fun event. If any of you know some able-bodied men that could help us please let me know.

We have a lot of planning to do so please let me know if you would like to help. (Mary Parsons at marypmac@comcast.net or 432-7194)

Thank you.

Mary

From the editor: A HUGE shout out to Mary Parsons for her enthusiasm, cheerleading, VERY hard work, and all the little things she does – as well as the big ones – to lead us in this summer adventure!!

The better part of happiness is to wish to be what you are. (Erasmus)

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Social Justice will be co-chaired by Margaret Tompsett and Joan Caputo. The group is continuing its support of the group Grandmothers for Gun Safety which is very active in lobbying and demonstrating.

Our affiliation with Nauset Interfaith Association will continue. Their task forces on Refugees and Homelessness among teenagers on the Cape need our action and support.

We have chosen two Haitian relief groups for our September outreach. These donations will go directly to emergency earthquake relief.

Responding to Haitian Earthquake Victims

From Rod MacDonald/Interfaith Justice Committee of the Federated Church and Am HaYam

These are the 2 organizations we are recommending: Both are extremely reputable, longstanding, Haiti-based and well-equipped to receive and distribute funds:

[FOKAL](#) - foundation committed to distributing funds directly to grassroots organizations based in the Southern region of Haiti, the area with the most severe damage.

[Zanmi Lasante](#) - Partners in Health, providing high quality emergency medical care.

SOCIAL JUSTICE FOLLOW-UP

UUSC expressed their deep gratitude to the congregation for our recent Outreach donation of \$442.40. "In light of the current challenges and uncertainties we are all facing with the COVID-19 virus and its repercussions, we appreciate that your congregation remembers that UUSC is actively partnering with communities already at risk and made even more vulnerable by a public health crisis. The work of advancing human rights is even more urgent in times like these."

Rev. Mary Katherine Morn, President and CEO



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Membership Minute: New UUMH brochures are in!

Have you wanted to tell a friend about who we are and what we do at UUMH? You might want to pick up one of the new UUMH Membership brochures, on display outside the sanctuary, on the wall in the Thrift Shop and online on our web and Facebook pages. The brochure was a collaboration between the Membership and Outreach committees. Next time a friend or family member asks about UUMH, feel free to share one of our brochures with them. It's a great way to spread the word about UUMH and help us grow.

Dave and Liz Van Wye, Membership Co-chairs

SMALL GROUPS

Over the summer the small group community made arrangements as to frequency and time of meetings that were convenient for the group members. One group met at a local park, one met on the patio of a group member and meetings did continue on zoom. If anyone is interested in joining a group for both camaraderie and lively discussion, please contact Gail Tilton at gmtilton@capecod.net

ART ON THE HILL



Our first Art on the Hill event took place this month with artists from the Crafty Chics group of Chatham and artists of the Harwich Art guild displaying and selling their art and fine craft work. A donation of \$300.00 was made to the Meeting House.

OUTREACH/PUBLICITY

Helped to plan coverage during absence of a Communications Coordinator

- New advertisements seeking a Communications Coordinator and Audio Visual assistant will be timed for September.
- Brainstormed with the Personnel Group for how to provide coverage until the labor pool improves.
- Arranged for Karen Ryan (KD) to cover the electronic media tasks usually done by the Communications Coordinator
- Currently exploring features of our data-base software that could improve our record keeping.
- Worked with the Membership Committee to produce new and up-dated print marketing materials.
- Membership's "Welcome Brochure" is now available. (Go to the link on our website to print a personal copy.) The newly scripted "Welcome Card" has been drafted and will soon be ready to print.



IN MEMORIAM

Stephen Wasby
1937-2021



Memorial service at UUMH November 12 at 10AM

Success is getting what you want; happiness is wanting what you get. (Anon)

SOLAR PANEL STATUS – AUGUST 2021

We continue to keep the solar project on hold. Both B&G and the Finance Committees think fundraising for the solar system is unwise while we are still working to pay for the AV system. We will work with Cape Cod Five Bank to see if our remarkable financial performance last year and our budgeted surplus for this year can improve the loan terms. If we can get the cost of the loan to be offset by electrical savings, we could consider the project without fundraising.

We are looking for a champion of the solar project. This person would analyze the funding options, lead the selection of a vendor, and oversee installation when we decide to proceed with the project. If you would like to champion this project, contact Joe Zahka at joseph.zahka@verizon.net.



AV SYSTEM UPGRADE FUNDRAISING

Thank you for your patience as we learn how to use the new AV system. The system is designed to provide quality content to both those on Zoom and in the pews. The components of the system are a camera that displays content from the sanctuary on Zoom, monitors that allow people in the pews to see recorded content and interact with those on Zoom, a “switcher” that allows smooth transition between components of the service, a control point in the balcony, and a modern sound board to control all the audio inputs in the sanctuary and Zoom. The sound board had been donated two years ago by two members of the Meeting House to support the summer concert series, but all the other equipment was purchased to make hybrid services work. We have only raised \$1,000 in fundraising for the system. \$8,000 from the Rogers’ Building Fund and \$7,000 from the Reserve Fund have paid the remaining balance. We would like to replenish those funds so that we can consider other projects like solar panels and improve our balance sheet for the current year.

Please send a contribution to UUMH, PO Box 18, Chatham, MA 02633. Put “AV System Upgrade” in the memo line of your check. If you would like to contribute via the website, go to the “Donate Now” button and select the “Building Fund” tile. Thank you for your support.

See more info and a picture on the next page.

UUMH AV SYSTEM

This is a picture of the control system of our AV system. You can see the digital sound board, control monitor, ATEM TV switcher (under the monitor), and a laptop for controlling the system. In the distance, the two 75-inch sanctuary monitors are visible. Not seen are the camera mounted on the balcony railing and a second computer to monitor the service from Zoom. There are many buttons to push, but Worship Services provides the AV Tech with a script, so he/she/they know what is coming. The objectives of the system are to stream live content in sanctuary on Zoom, provide prerecorded content to the sanctuary, and allow members in the sanctuary and on Zoom to interact.



DIRECTORY CHANGES

Dwight Wilson's new address is Woodlands / Apt.
112/ 120 Woodlands Way / Brewster, MA 02631


**MEDITATION GROUP**

The UU Meditation group continues to meet 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. An in-person retreat is being discussed for September.

Contact Gail Tilton @ gmlilton@capecod.net to be placed on the e-mail list.

THIRD MONDAY BOOK CLUB

The Third Monday Book Club will meet on September 20 to discuss *Monogamy* by Sue Miller. Please contact Mary Parsons for location or with questions. 432-7194 / marypmac@comcast.net. All are welcome for one book or many.

You can also start reading now for October: *The splendid and the vile* by Erik Larson.

**PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE****September Birthdays**

2	Dorria Marsh
2	Thadd Eldredge
4	Betty Twiss
6	Thelma Dykens
8	Jean Mangiafico
12	Gail Eldredge
16	Carolyn Ormond
18	Bob Twiss
20	Karen Nickerson
20	Isabelle Needel
21	Margaret Tompsett
21	David Veach
26	John DaSilva
29	Stephen Davol

**September Anniversary**

22 Naomi Turner and David Veach

October Birthdays

2	Robin Hubbard
3	Priscilla Smith
4	Kim Howard

**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.**