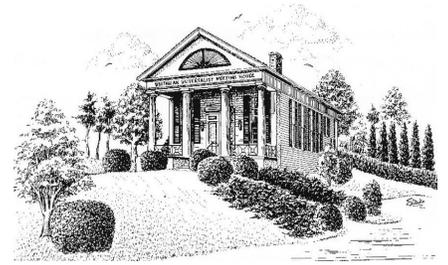


NEWS FROM THE HILL

NEWSLETTER OF THE U.U.
MEETING HOUSE OF CHATHAM
PO BOX 18 CHATHAM MA 02633
MARCH 2021 VOLUME XIX NUMBER 3



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Solar Panels	1
Month of Sundays	2
Minister's Message	3
Online Auction	4
Cookbook	4
Social Justice Committee	5
Pastoral Care	5
Membership Minute	6
Worship Service Committee	6
President's Report	7
More Solar Panel Info	7
Community Event	7
Bits and Pieces	8

"NEWS FROM THE HILL"
is published monthly year round
by the UU Meeting House of
Chatham.

Editor: **Susan Bauer**
Layout Editor: **Susan Bauer**
Publisher: **Karen Murdoch**

SUNDAY SERVICES are
held at 10:30 AM each week.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
next month is **THURSDAY**
March 24. Send items to
Sue Bauer: **Ralphb1234@cs.com**



SOLAR PANELS FOR UUMH

This is a proposal for a solar panels for the Meeting House roof. We expect to bring this proposal to a vote of the membership in the next month. Questions or comments, please contact Steve Keenan (sjkeenan65@comcast.net, 774-212-7719) or Joe Zahka (joseph.zahka@verizon.net, 978-995-8964).

Feasibility of Solar Power for UUMH

UUMH can do its part to mitigate climate change with no cost to the Meeting House
Installing solar panels on our roof will meet our electrical needs without using fossil fuels
The cost of the loan to finance the panels equals our savings in electricity for the first 10 years
For remainder of the life of the panels (20-25 years), our electricity is free

UUMH Solar System Overview

UUMH spends \$2,500/year on electricity
A solar installation will cost \$28,050 and lasts for 20-25 years
In addition to saving \$2,500/year in electricity, UUMH would receive a \$875/year Smart Credit for 10 years
Over the first 10 years, the energy savings and Smart Credit pay for the system.
From 10 to 25 years our electrical energy is "free" saving us \$2,500/year.

Financing

No cost to Meeting House
Electricity savings pay for cost of loan
Pay for system in 10 years
10-year loan from CC5 at 4% (rate resets in 5 years)
Loan payments \$284/month
Save \$220/month electricity
Make \$73/month Smart Credits

Plans to Improve Financing

Fundraise within Meeting House during the first year of the system raising \$14,000
Pay off the loan in 5 years
Saves the Meeting House \$12,500 over the first 10 years of the solar panels' life
Meeting House saves \$25,000 over second 10 years of the solar panels' life in any case
(See page 7)

STAFF MEMBERS

MINISTER:

Rev. Tracy Johnson
arevtracy@gmail.com

MUSIC DIRECTOR:

Frank Toppa
ftoppa440@gmail.com

COMMUNICATION COORD.:

Karen Murdoch
chathamuu@gmail.com

FINANCIAL SECRETARY:

Charlotte Edgecombe
Edgecombe@comcast.net

Board of Trustees

Margaret Tompsett, President
Mary Parsons, Vice President
Joe Zahka, Treasurer
Joan Caputo, Secretary

At large members:

Robin Hubbard
Joan Konopka
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

March 7 Women's Work Rev. Tracy Johnson

International Women's Day is celebrated on March 8th. Together we will take a look at its history and its meaning for us today.

March 14 Artists' Reflections Jane Eccles and Priscilla Smith

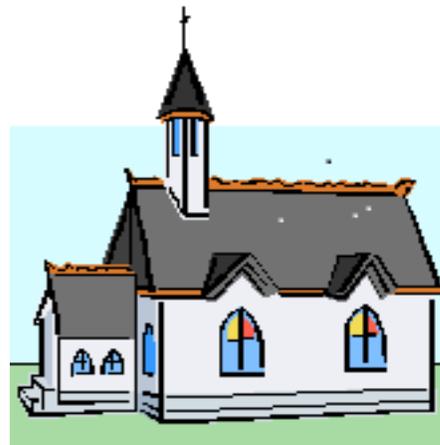
Jane and Priscilla will speak about their art, their process, their inspiration, their creations. Slides will supplement their talk.

March 21 Hope Springs Eternal Rev. Tracy Johnson

A reflection on the changing seasons of our lives.

March 28 Reflections Amotz Kohlmeier

More information to follow



Dear Ones –

This month marks the one-year anniversary of our decision to make the health and safety of this congregation a number one priority! Can you believe we have been in this virtual space for twelve months? Some days it feels more like it than others! **We** have done an amazing job of holding our beloved Meeting House together; of maintaining connections; of doing the work of the church. **We** have all played a role in this, one way or another. Attendance at Sunday morning services is on par with that of when we were in person because **we show up** to be together. All of our committees are functioning in their normal capacities because **we care** about maintaining this organization. Our book studies have had full participation because **we believe** that learning and growth are vital parts of our living. Small groups are gathering weekly, biweekly and monthly because **we feel** the connection as we hold one another in love. Bold and creative ideas have bubbled up in our midst because **we desire** to be inclusive and welcoming to the wider Cape Cod community and to take action that represents our commitments to social responsibility. Our children have continued to gather with the help of dedicated volunteers because **we know** how valuable a youth perspective is to our thriving.

Our Soul Matters theme this month is “Commitment,” and our materials ask us, “What does it mean to be a people of commitment?” From the looks of things, I would say that we know what that means! The commitment to UUMH shows up in so many ways, each of us contributing to the whole, giving and receiving as we are able. And we all have moments of being in the position of one or the other. In community we share in this give and take, a reciprocity of being.

Together we are exploring exactly what we are committed to, beyond or beneath, perhaps, what is so obvious. Many of you have contributed ideas about what our actual mission is here, and I hope to hear from more of you this month so that we can gather our thoughts into a concise statement. Our Social Justice Committee is thinking about what they are committed to; what underlies all the issues they encounter that will serve as a focus or a lens for their work on behalf of the Meeting House. Our Board of Trustees is committed to the sustainability of UUMH and have purposed themselves toward decisions that will enhance that commitment. Your participation in all these discussions is a way to express your commitment.

The philosopher and theologian, Henry Nelson Wieman writes that we will inevitably commit ourselves to something; that the direction and intensity of our loyalties gives shape and meaning to our lives; that our commitments and covenants tell us to what we belong and who we are. I offer his words this month as an opportunity to think about the things we truly commit ourselves to - the big ideals, yes, but also the things we find ourselves turning to on a daily basis. How are we shaping the meaning of our lives as persons and as a people here in Chatham? To what do we say we belong when asked about UUMH? I invite you into this month of consideration and conversation and I look with great anticipation to the spring green shoots that are unearthed.

Blessed be.

Reverend Tracy



UUMH ONLINE AUCTION

We are planning an online auction for late April or early May. We have already received promises of some very exciting items: two boat trips on the Oyster River or to Simpson's Island, an antique dinghy compass, handyman skills, soup and bread or an apple pie, 2 nights at the Chatham Guest Rooms.....and more!

How about a gift card to a favorite restaurant or tickets to a Cape Symphony performance or a seal watch or a basket with books and wine or jigsaw puzzle and wine or a membership to the Atwood House or a wine tasting or maybe even a weekend at a cottage you happen to own! The sky's the limit, and Covid WILL end.

The bidding will all be online and will last for close to a week. It would be great if you would talk it up to your neighbors, family, and friends. Lots of items can easily be mailed off Cape—though perhaps not the boat trips!

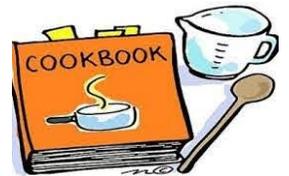
So think of what you might contribute to help the Meeting House have a successful fund raiser. Call Sue Bauer with questions and donations! 945-3264. And many thanks.



Meeting House Meals cookbook

Keep those recipes coming!!

Please follow these very important guidelines when you share your recipe.



*Recipe Title

*Submitted By

*INGREDIENTS: Use abbreviations

pt. qt. pkg. env. c. tsp. T. oz. lb. gal. doz. sm. med. lg.

*DIRECTIONS

*NOTE: (No more than 2 sentences.) Why do you like this recipe or suggestion for the best use of the recipe.

**Email or mail recipes to Barbara Waters or Mary Parsons
See UUMH Directory for addresses Questions?
Call Mary (508) 432-7194**

Not knowing when the dawn will come, I open every door. (E. Dickinson)

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Social Justice Committee continues to, meet monthly on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 1:30 on Zoom. For link contact Joan Caputo.

Many are participating in the book study led by Rev Tracy, "Widening the Circle of Concern". It is focusing us on the obvious and hidden actions and words which reflect white supremacy and inequity. We may really focus on antiracism at least through June.

Other areas of concern are Gun Safety (Join---Grandmothers for Gun Safety. Annual Dues \$30 to PO Box 877, Barnstable MA 02630). Also how to aid refugees especially in MA. We are still working to bring films from Sustainable Practices; a film will be announced and be available on-line for a week with no charge. A discussion will be announced for anyone interested on the Saturday at the end at 11AM on Zoom. Check the eblast for exact info.

Our designated Outreach Donation (formerly Split the Plate) this month is the Cape Cod Branch of the NAACP. Send donations to UUMH by check or by using the donate button. Donations received throughout March will be sent to the local branch. (This replaces the once a month collection that we relied on when we met in person)



REMEMBER TO SET YOUR CLOCK AHEAD SATURDAY NIGHT, MARCH 13

PASTORAL CARE : KEEPING CONNECTED

Many of us are keeping connected with others through calls, emails, cards. If you, one day, think of someone at the Meeting House whom you have not recently talked with, why not call them or send a note. Believe me, they will be pleased, and the satisfaction and happiness will go both ways. So, check out who you see – or don't see – at church on Sundays or at other meetings, pull out your Directory, and make someone's day! You'll feel better too, I promise.



MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

Our Bring a Friend Sunday in January was our first opportunity this year to introduce a friend to UUMH and what Unitarian Universalism is all about. But the reality is that every Sunday is an opportunity to introduce a friend, a neighbor, a family member to UUMH and our values.

During announcements every Sunday, we are bringing back that long time UUMH tradition, inviting members to introduce their guests or asking visitors to introduce themselves if they wish. In this time of Zoom services, we want to continue to model our welcoming congregation for all those seeking a community of support and love in these challenging days. We are the best ambassadors to those who don't yet know they are UUs. The Zoom link to our Sunday Service is always on our website, www.uumh.net, and in our weekly eblast.

In our virtual world, the link is our new front door. When the topic of a service intrigues or moves you, and you think a friend would agree, consider inviting a friend to open that door and join us!

Dave and Liz Van Wye
Membership Co-chairs



WORSHIP SERVICE COMMITTEE

We certainly have a large group of supporters who seem to be able to go with the flow when it comes to bumps in the road with Zoom. I am not sure how we would survive having no electricity and therefore no way to communicate. Thank you, Joe and Jan for keeping your heads when things aren't working.

One thing that was made clear to us is that we need to turn off sound and video to receive the best picture production of the recording. The way to do this is, for all of us, to look at the bottom right-hand corner of our screens and make sure there is a red line through both the microphone and video icon (picture). You can still see and hear everything that is going on. This is all a learning process for us. Hopefully, we will all be experts by the time we go back inside the church.

We have an interesting assortment of services for March, highlighting two of our very talented artistic members and celebrating with seasonal observances of Passover and Earth Day .

Dolly Howell

Luck is not chance; it's toil.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Despite the many glitches and frustrations of the vaccine rollout we are gradually getting ourselves vaccinated and cases of COVID-19 in Massachusetts are coming down, so we can hope to be together again in our Meeting House sometime in the summer. We can also hope to open the Thrift Shop in July and enjoy both the camaraderie and the additional income.

Our congregational update on February 7th went well, and it was great that so many of you expressed positive interest in both putting solar panels on our roof and in replacing our pews in the sanctuary with chairs. I want to make sure that all members of our congregation know about these plans and have a chance to ask questions, express their opinions and know that their voices have been heard. Please be sure to read the article about the solar panels in this month’s newsletter. I, personally think that the solar panels are a no-brainer because they are good for the environment, and the cost appears minimal. The chairs require more thought because it will cost us something and we have not fully figured out the money yet. Please stay tuned while we do the research to present a plan. Then we hope to have a congregational meeting following one Sunday in March to discuss this and vote on the proposal. If you want to know more do contact me at metompsett@gmail.com or 508-245-5212.

Ralph Bauer has very graciously agreed to take charge of our pledge campaign again this year, and he will be getting in touch with all of us shortly. In the meantime, let me thank you all for your generosity during this difficult time , giving us all the message that we not only want to survive but we intend to thrive!

The chart to go with page 1’s description of the solar panel proposal

Version	LG340
System	25 Modules
Power	8500 watts
Price	\$28,050
Estimated Energy	10,603 kwh/yr
Est. Electrical Saving (\$0.24/kwh)	\$2,547/yr
Est. SMART Credit (\$0.08/kwh)	\$875/yr
Est. Total Saving	\$3,422/yr

See page 1 for complete proposal

COMMUNITY EVENT

Open Mic Classical Online

3rd Sunday of each month **Next:** Sunday, March 21st, 2021 / 3pm

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

To connect to our Online Zoom Open Mc Classical use our direct link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82666321336?pwd=Z1Q1VGJyZ0ZTZ3FFQ0pEMW92NnRJZz09> or Meeting ID: 826 6632 1336 Password: OMCFor more information on guest featured performers visit our website:

<http://www.openmicclassical.org>

JOYS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

NEW BOOK FROM MARION HARCOURT

Marion’s latest book, written and illustrated by her, *SALLY BROWN A CAPE COD MERMAID*, is now available from Marion or Amazon for \$15. Her phone is 508-375-6359.

DIRECTORY CHANGES

John Raye’s phone number is now 508-364-9546

Janet Young’s new address is 100 Alden St. / Unit 215 / Provincetown, MA 02657



THIRD MONDAY BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet via Zoom on Monday, March 15 to discuss William Krueger’s *Ordinary Grace*.

Please contact Mary Parsons if you would like to participate. marypmac@comcast.net or 432-7194



PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE

March Birthdays

- 2 Emma Eldredge
- 10 Barbara Blanchard
- 12 Helen Smith
- 12 Ralph Bauer
- 13 Jane Moffett
- 16 Jane Eccles
- 22 Eric Riley
- 24 Marija Eldredge
- 28 Geri Appleyard



March Anniversary

- 8 Joan and Joe Caputo

April Birthdays

- 1 Ann Wallace
- 2 Jan LaBelle

April Anniversary

- 1 Tracy and Chuck Johnson

MEDITATION GROUP

Our Meditation group is meeting every Saturday at 9:30 Via Zoom. Email Gail Tilton at gmtilton@capecod.net or call Joan Konopka at 945-2141 for more info.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

***** Consider mailing a check to the Meeting House each month to cover the amount you would normally place in the Offering bags each Sunday. 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.**