

# NEWS FROM THE HILL

NEWSLETTER OF THE U.U.

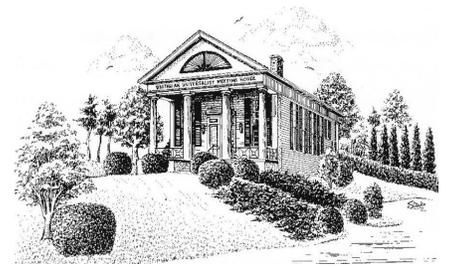
MEETING HOUSE OF CHATHAM

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is published monthly year round  
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**SUNDAY SERVICES** are  
held at 10:30 AM each week.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**  
next month is **THURSDAY,**  
**JANUARY 19.** Send items to  
Sue Bauer: [Ralphb1234@cs.com](mailto:Ralphb1234@cs.com)



## A SEASON OF

## JOY, GOODWILL, AND THANKS

### A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Dear Elves,

We can't thank you enough for helping us to make a Merry Christmas for many of Chatham's families. We wish you a special holiday season and hope to have your assistance again next year! We couldn't do it without you!

Sincerely, Pat Vreeland and Theresa Malone

for the Chatham Children's Fund, Chatham Angel Fund, and  
Monomoy Community Services

**ALSO a big thanks** to Mary Parsons for helping me with this year's Angel Fund – always more fun to have company as we shop. If anyone would like a donation sheet to be filed with your taxes, please let Sue Bauer know (945-3264)

**AND MOST OF ALL,** Mary's and my thanks for supporting this outreach so very generously. Pat Vreeland always expresses her awe and gratefulness that UUMH is so very generous. You all make me proud and happy to belong to such a wonderful community.

Sue Bauer

**THANKS** to Mary Parsons for coordinating, buying, and transporting the beautiful poinsettias that grace the front of the sanctuary this time of year. Gorgeous!

**THANKS** to Charlotte Edgecombe for her donation of the wonderful new Christmas tree that was full of Angel Fund snowflakes. Those who set up the tree are especially grateful for the fact that it is pre-lit!!

**THANKS** to Building and Grounds for the new coffee pot which is preparing delicious coffee again for Sunday's coffee hours. REJOICE!



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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 8 Facts Matter, As a Matter of Fact  
Rev. Edmund Robinson**

The quest for truth in a regime of climate change denial.

**January 15 Guest minister – Denis Meacham**

**January 22 Is Imitation the Root of Evil?  
Rev. Edmund Robinson**

Rene Girard thought that human violence originates in mimetic desire, that we want things because other people want them. Does this help us understand today's politics and social media?

**January 29 Is the Public Interested in the Public Interest?  
Rev. Edmund Robinson**

Whatever happened to the public interest as a factor in deciding policy? Have we gotten so fractured and fragmented that it has disappeared? Is there any truly disinterested point of view from which to judge among competing claims for society's resources?

\*\*\*\*\*

**Who's Preaching this Month**

Denis Meacham is a former Assistant Minister of First Parish Brewster. He is the founder and current member of the Unitarian Universalist Addictions Ministry and the author of *The Addiction Ministry Handbook: a Guide for Faith Communities*. Denis is a graduate of Princeton and holds a DMin from Andover Newton Theological School.



**Sightings**  
**the Rev. Edmund Robinson**

Winter has finally arrived, in all its dangerous beauty. Please take care that you are able to navigate the outdoors before venturing out. If we need to cancel services due to weather, we will put out e-mails, but if your power is out and you can't get e-mails, maybe that's a sign you shouldn't be trying to make it in for services.

I want to thank Ralph Bauer and the Buildings and Grounds Committee for their recent effort to do something about the problem posed by local drivers using our driveway as a shortcut. Several of our people have come close to getting hit. The chains and signs that Ralph put up may not be the ultimate solution, but they are a step along the path. We need to discourage the use of the shortcut and discourage speed, but in a way that does not discard the welcome mat that we need to invite the world into our Meeting House.

We are in better shape financially in these last few months than we have been in the period before that, largely due to your very positive response to the second canvass. We haven't forgotten sustainability, however. The Board of Trustees is continuing to have valuable discussions about how to attract new members, and on Sunday afternoon, a delegation from UUMH is set to meet with a delegation from First Parish Brewster to talk about ways the two congregations could be more cooperative to our mutual benefit. We don't know whether the dialogue will go beyond one meeting or stop there. Anyone who has any ideas along this line is welcome to communicate them to me.

The news on the national front continues to be challenging, and we will have our hands full dealing with the dark times of the year. There will be no Winter Solstice celebration at the Meeting House this year, but there will be a walk at the Chatham Labyrinth in Chase Park on Wednesday, December 21 at 5 PM, and you are all welcome to participate, weather permitting.

Oh, and there's Christmas! Come fill your heart with the joy of the season Saturday, December 24 at 5 PM for our annual Christmas Eve service of lessons and carols. **No service Sunday, December 25.** There will be a sharing service on New Year's Day at the usual time, and of course, the All Worn Out Jug Band and Saltwater Jazz will hold forth in our sanctuary on First Night, Saturday, December 31 at 7 and 8 PM for the jug band and 10 and 11 PM for the jazz.

Blessings of the season!

Edmund



### UUYOUth

During the month of January, the UU Youth will be discussing new beginnings. We will talk about our own dreams and resolutions for the New Year.

We are going to revisit Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech and discuss our own dreams for the future.

Towards the end of January, Dorria Marsh and Dwight Wilson will be helping us build a bookcase that will eventually be filled with books and presented to one of the families moving into a Habitat House in West Chatham.



### HOLD THE DATE!!!!

The first Pot Luck of 2017 will be held in the Fleck Room on Saturday, January 17 at 5 PM. A winter gathering to help dispel the darkness and possible winter blahs is just what we need. More information will be forthcoming in the E-Blast and on Sunday mornings. Maybe this is a great time to bring a friend who has been considering checking us out.



**HAPPY NEW YEAR**



### HOLD THIS DATE, TOO!

Learning for Life will sponsor the screening of a Michael Moore film on Sunday, January 29 at 1PM in the Fleck Room. Title and more information to come.

**The new year is a new beginning (English proverb)**

**THE GATHERING**

Apparently there are some members and friends at the Meeting House who think that the Gathering is not for them. This is correct, but **ONLY** if you are of the male persuasion! Any woman, young, old, or in-between, is more than welcome to join in once a month for an evening of fun, laughs, socializing, and sharing. Try us, you'll like us! Call Charlotte Edgecombe at 398-8516 for more info about the Gathering and our coming events.

The Gathering Calendar of Events for 2017  
 Second Monday of the month except in May (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday) at 7:00 pm

January 9	Travel Night Presentation & Discussion led by Kathy Cole	Fleck Room
February 13	Movie Night	Sue Bauer's
March 13	Game Night (Lots of laughs, too!)	Fleck Room
April 10	Discussion: "What did you love to do as a child and how did it influence your choice of a career (or possibly not)."	Fleck Room
May 15	Yankee Swap-Bring a grocery bag full of stuff and we'll see who has the best or funniest treasures. Leftovers go to Thrift Shop.	Fleck Room
June 12	The One Pot Wonder – A cooking demonstration by Mary C.	Mary Chesnut's
July, Aug, Sep	Osprey Point at 5:30 for Bag Supper	Osprey Point
October 9	Ice Cream Social	Fleck Room
November 13	Art of Conversation - Another Game Night (More laughs!)	Fleck Room
December 11	A Christmas Gathering	TBD

**JANUARY AND FEBRUARY - HOSTS & USHERS**

SGM - Brenda Collins - January 1  
 Finance Committee - Joe Zahka - January 8  
 Membership - Marion Harcourt - January 15  
 SGM - Barbara Rothenburger - January 22  
 SGM - Liz Sjogren - January 29

Music Committee - February 5  
 Ladies' Lunch - Sue Bauer - February 12  
 Worship Service Committee - Dolly Howell - February 19  
 Congregation - February 26



The guidelines that I hoped would be ready for January are still not finished, but the old ones are posted in the kitchen for the hosts and in a notebook on top of the sound system for the ushers. At the last Board of Trustees meeting it was suggested that perhaps we should try taking the new coffee pot into the table rather than filling the thermos and having to refill them when empty. It is a marvelous coffee pot which allows you to just pour one cup. (Thanks Ralph)  
 In January when the weather is very unpredictable, we will need to be aware that we could have church cancelled because of the snow. I will try to call those who are ushering and hosting that Sunday. If you have any doubt please call me at 430-0406.

Thank you one and all for your help.  
 Dolly

## COMMUNITY and WIDER UU NEWS

**FISH** is a Chatham organization which provides transportation to residents needing a ride to a medical appointment on the Cape. It is a free service which uses volunteers to do the driving. They also have volunteer dispatchers to match those needing a ride with available drivers. This is how it works: Anyone needing a ride calls Liberty Commons who then calls the dispatcher on duty that morning. The dispatcher uses a list of available drivers to connect the two. All it requires is a commitment to one day a week from 9:30-1:30 for dispatchers or availability to provide the occasional ride for drivers. Even if you are away for the winter, you could help. If you're interested or want more information, please call Sue Bauer at 945-3264. And thanks!

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### WhaleCoast Alaska 2017

Have you ever dreamed of visiting Alaska? If so, **WhaleCoast Alaska 2017** is for you! Four Alaska UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program next summer! See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Seward, and Sitka with friendly homestays and unique tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bears, caribou, whales, bald eagles, seals, and otters. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. Forget the cruise ships – our program is the best way to visit Alaska! Programs led by Dave Frey, member of the Fairbanks UU congregation and Alaska travel expert. Find out more about this Alaskan trip of a lifetime before our tours sell out! Visit [www.WhaleCoastAK.org](http://www.WhaleCoastAK.org), email [dfrey@whalecoastak.org](mailto:dfrey@whalecoastak.org), or call 907-322-4966. We would love to share our Alaska with you!



## WINTER STORM CLOSINGS

We are coming into winter and the possibility of snow or ice which might make getting to the Meeting House difficult. The Program Council and the minister have developed a procedure for such times. Whatever the Meeting House does, please decide on your own whether or not to venture out!

**Sunday Services:** If a Sunday service needs to be canceled, the following will occur as soon after 8AM as possible:

**An all-wide church email will go out to the congregation**  
**The church phone message will announce the change (945-2075)**  
**WQRC (99.9 FM) will be notified – we will be part of their closings list**

**Other church events on Sundays or during the week.**

**The email and phone message information will remain the same as for Sunday closings.**  
**However, WQRC probably will not be called.**

**PLEASE!!!** Make your own decisions based on your situation. Sunday services will not be canceled unless absolutely necessary, but consider your street, your neighborhood, your love – or not! – of driving in the snow.  
**The most important thing is not the sermon, but your safety!!!**

**Compassion is the basis of all morality (Schopenhauer)**

**THANKS**

THANKS to all who sold and shopped at our Holiday Fair. We were able to contribute \$221 to the Meeting House — and go home with treasures too!



**UUMH LIBRARY**

Remember to check out the UUMH library off in the corner of the Fleck Room. Lots of thoughtful and thought-provoking books are available for loan. Just sign the card in the back and leave it in the small box nearby and then read away for two weeks!

Two new books have been donated to the UUMH library. The life-changing magic of tidying up by Marie Kondo and Between the world and me by Ta-Nehisi Coates. Thanks to Barbara Blanchard.

**CONGREGATE HOUSE SUPPERS**

The first Congregate House dinner for us will be February 5, 2017.

Barbara Waters and Jackie Hebert-Beale will schedule a meeting in January to answer questions and give information to anyone interested in knowing about the Congregate House and joining in this fun and worthwhile endeavor.

**STOP AND SHOP Cards**

Stop and Shop cards are available from Mary Chesnut before and after Sunday services. These are the same as cash when you are shopping, but also benefit the Food Pantry.

**PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE**

**January Birthdays**

- 3 Fran Jones
- 6 Zoe Simmons
- 6 Laurie Fitzpatrick
- 7 Naomi Turner
- 8 Charlotte Edgecombe
- 10 Betsey Stevens
- 12 Brenda Collins
- 13 Read Moffett
- 23 Ann Diers
- 23 Adele Gorelick
- 23 Jennie Makihara
- 26 Beth Avery
- 27 Grady Howell
- 28 Ron Nickerson



**January Anniversary**

- 29 Linda and Bob Redding

**February Birthday**

- 1 Elsa Bastone

**February Anniversaries**

- 1 Betty and Bob Twiss
- 1 Liz and Dave Van Wye

**FOOD PANTRY**

Non-perishables are always welcome. Note that there is now a box attached to the food pantry basket which invites your monetary donations rather than food if this works for you. All money will go directly to the Food Pantry.



**THIRD MONDAY BOOK CLUB**



The Third Monday Book Club will meet on Monday, January 16. Book yet to be chosen.

Newcomers always welcome, for the year or just for a particular book. Call Mary Parsons 432-7194 for more information.