

NEWS FROM THE HILL

NEWSLETTER OF THE U.U.

MEETING HOUSE OF CHATHAM

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

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

next month is **THURSDAY**

June 24. Send items to

Sue Bauer: Ralphb1234@cs.com



BEARLY USED THRIFT SHOP

OPENS TUESDAY JUNE15

10AM-3PM

**MONDAYS WILL BE FOR DONATION
DROP-OFFS ONLY**

More info: Page 4



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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**June 6****(she/her/hers)****Rev. Tracy Johnson**

Some of you have wondered why I put those pronouns after my name on zoom! Today we will explore the meaning and intention of such and identification.

June 13**Sunday School program**

Enjoy and celebrate what our UUYOUth have done this year, where they have gone, what they have learned, what they have created.

June 20**Flower Communion! Celebration time!****Need I say more?****Rev. Tracy Johnson**

Tune in to see what is so exciting about this day! And plan to stay for our Annual Meeting!

June 27**General Assembly service via Zoom**

Observe and share in the work of our denomination.



Dear Ones, All –

Here we are, a full year into a shared ministry together in Chatham! More and more we understand what that means; have come to a place of both giving and receiving in relationship on behalf of the good of this Meeting House. We have much to celebrate about our beloved faith community. Sometimes June is the end of a church year, and at least fiscally, that is the case for us. But we don't take summers off! Instead, it is a high season of sorts for us, reimagined this year in response to the pandemic, but what hasn't been, really. Not exactly like the "before times" and not quite the "after times," but closer to the latter every day, I believe. We have leaned into flexibility and imperfection in ways we might not have dreamed of, and we are stronger and healthier for it.

This month will see the reopening of the Thrift Shop. It is time again for our annual meeting and since we did such a good job with it virtually last year, we will do it this way one more time. Your Worship Committee asked for another round of virtual flower communion, too. Watch for ways that you can participate in the weekly e-blasts. We may even adopt a mission statement! I hope we can take some time to honor our leadership who have done such an excellent job of holding things together, to recognize the service of our Religious Education folks whose creativity has known no bounds, and to honor the work of our Communications Coordinator, Karen Murdoch. We honor the fathers and father figures in our midst, thankful for their presence in our lives. It is General Assembly time for the Unitarian Universalist Association, of which we are a member congregation. I hope you will consider attending while it is virtual and easy to get to for a fraction of the in-person cost. Our wider Association has much to offer us.

This has been a year of getting to know one another and I have enjoyed all the many ways that this has happened, both formal and less so. As we move into summer I will be moving in more permanently to my office and plan to be more of a physical presence in Chatham, even as I have been with you in spirit and virtually. There is a different kind of depth to relationships that happens when people can sit with one another, see each other, and listen deeply, heart to heart. We have made do this past year, and I am looking forward to a different level of connection in the months to come. I hope you will consider this my invitation to you.

I have stated several hopes here, I am noticing! What are you hoping for this summer? In this new church year? In the "after times?" As individuals and as a congregation? Please know that I am present to listen and explore with you, that I am grateful for the opportunity to do so, that it is a role and a commitment that I take as a privilege and hold with the utmost of care.

Blessed be.

Reverend Tracy Johnson



MORE THRIFT SHOP NEWS.....

NEW this summer....The Thrift Shop will be open four days, Tuesday through Friday only. Mondays will be set aside for donations to be received once we open on the 15th

Starting June 1 we will be setting up the room and pricing items. Someone will be at the shop from 10-2 Monday to Friday to receive donations during those hours from June 1-15.

Please make sure everything you bring us is in good condition and clean, that clothes are both clean and pressed.

Bring us jewelry, toys and games, housewares, linens, linens, gadgets, books, CDs, DVDs. Remember, what you are ready to donate may well be someone else's treasure! No large furniture or electronics, please.

Volunteers are always needed and welcome. Work a morning or afternoon shift, be a sub, help us price and set up. Please call Mary Parsons to ask questions and see where you can help. 432-7194 or marypmac@comcast.net

**UUMH ANNUAL MEETING**

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Zoom on Sunday June 20th immediately after the Service. Please be sure to attend if you possibly can so that we have a quorum. The agenda, list of nominees, and proposed budget will follow shortly.

If ignorance is bliss, why aren't there more happy people? (J. Lloyd)

AV IMPROVEMENTS TO THE MEETING HOUSE

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JUNE 6

Improvements are required to the Audio-Visual systems of the Meeting House to support hybrid services. We want people on their couches and in the pews to have similar high-quality experiences.

For people in their homes using Zoom, we need to purchase a camera that can “see” all the aspects of the service. We will mount a camera with 20x optical zoom on the balcony railing. This camera can be preset to see Tracy at the podium, Frank at the organ, and a bird’s eye view of the congregation. It can also be wirelessly controlled to see any part of the Meeting House. Two years ago, several members donated a digital sound system to be used for the summer concert series. This new sound system will be integrated with the camera to provide excellent sound and video on Zoom. The cost of the camera is \$3,500 with another \$1,000 allocated for a dedicated laptop.

For people in the pews, we need to project the recorded Zoom content into the sanctuary. The new sound system gets good quality sound to the Bose speakers in the sanctuary. Getting video into the sanctuary requires some compromise. Because we have significant ambient light, monitors are recommended over a projector and screen. Two 75” monitors mounted over the doorways in the front of the room will be large enough to project content to the room without being the dominating feature of the room. When not in use, the monitors will project artwork. While a projector and screen will have a larger image, getting the room dark enough to make that image clearly visible will detract from the ambience of the room. We understand that adding screens to the sanctuary will require some adjustment, but we have been attending services on screens for more than a year.

The image below shows a mockup of a 75” monitor over one of the doorways.



The cost of the monitors is \$10,000. We need about \$1,000 of electrical work to support them. That makes the total cost of the project to be 16,500. With \$6,000 donation from the Endowment and \$10,500 from the Rogers (Building) Fund, we can immediately finance the project. We will do capital fundraising for this project so we can replenish the Endowment and Rogers Fund over the next several months. The first service using the equipment will be July 11. These hybrid services will take some adjustment for us all, but they will allow maximum participation by our members.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is my last message, and it is a bittersweet moment. On the one hand, it feels good to step down, knowing that I am leaving the Board of Trustees in capable hands, but I will be sorry to stop meeting the group of dedicated friends each month. It has not been an easy year with constant Zoom meetings and rarely meeting one another in person, but I think this congregation has come through it with flying colors! We have been very fortunate to welcome Rev Tracy Johnson as our half time minister, and she has provided encouraging positive leadership with dedication, thoughtfulness and understanding.

Finance has not been easy with the loss of the Thrift Shop but all of you have been extraordinarily generous in maintaining your contributions so that, with Joe Zahka's able management and the wonderful array of goods and services in our ongoing auction we may break even!! Thanks to Sue Bauer and her superb committee for this magnificent event!

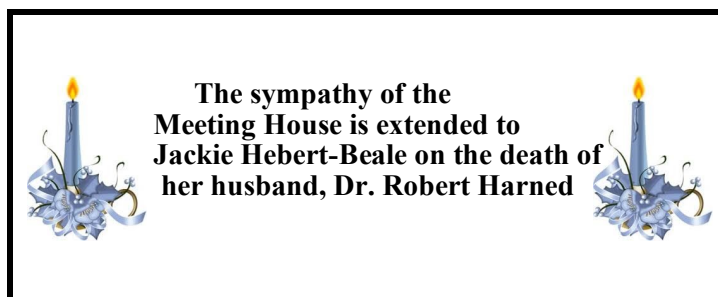
Now with the pandemic receding and the sun shining ever brighter, we are hoping to be back in the sanctuary by July 11th. Joe Zahka has been working on appropriate AV equipment so that we can continue with hybrid services. In that way those of you who live too far away, have mobility problems, or just feel like a late lie-in can still participate in our Sunday services from the comfort of your homes.

I cannot thank everyone by name, but I am truly grateful to our team of dedicated volunteers who have put so much thought and effort into making this a successful year. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Margaret Tompsett

WE NEED YOU!

Now that we are beginning to open up and be with each other again, why not consider joining a committee and be part of making UUMH an even more vital place. Worship, Membership, and Music are all committees that could use your help. Call Sue Bauer for more info. 945-3264



Swallow your pride occasionally. It's non-fattening. (Anon)

SOCIAL JUSTICE : OUTREACH CONTRIBUTIONS

September: Cape Cod Times Needy Fund \$405
 October: Lower Cape Outreach Council \$125
 The Young Center for Immigrants: \$583
 (Provides legal services to children at our southern border)
 November: Housing Assistance Corporation: \$395
 December: Supported Angel Fund as UUMH effort: \$1100
 January: Housing Assistance Corp \$395
 February: The Family Pantry of Cape Cod: \$443
 March: NAACP Cape Cod Branch: \$378 plus \$15 direct check
 April: Independence House \$274

May and June collections are still to come. We welcome suggestions for Outreach Designee groups. We are now announcing the Outreach collection designee the first of the month and will collect from the congregation until the end of the month.

Thank you to all who contributed. Many of the above groups have responded to our checks with appreciation
 Joan Caputo, Social Justice Chair



MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

By Liz and Dave Van Wye, Membership Chairs

Kevin Howard sent in his memories of the UUMH move to our "building on the hill" 25 years ago this year.

"While I wasn't one of the original "investors" in UUMH Chatham, I still remember the call I got from the Reverend Ed Hardy to join the church. My family were members at First Parish in Brewster, where Ed had done his internship and we were the first family to join UUMH. It was a perfect situation for us, as we lived in Chatham, and we quickly became very active. I was recruited to join the expanding Board, the children went into the nascent Sunday School with Sue Pike, and eventually Harmon Diers recruited me for the choir. Ann Diers created a children's choir, which my girls participated in. The community embraced us, and we embraced the community. It was a beautiful thing for many years. I believe that both girls were positively impacted. Kara has gone on and spent two plus years in Africa in the Peace Corps, returned and earned a Master's in Education from Harvard, and is now working with the State Department on school curriculum internationally. Kristin earned her Master's in Vocal Performance last year from Carnegie Mellon. She had her first vocal training with Ann Diers.

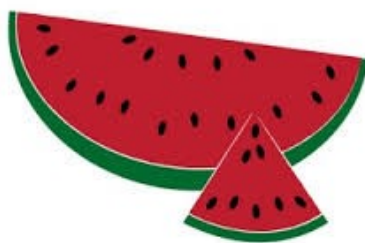
And then, of course, there is the story of The All Worn Out Jug Band. Denis Meacham suggested that several of us get together to work up a set for an April Pledge Dinner. Who knew that it would lead to a band that still exists to this day, has recorded 2 CDs and played in venues all over the Cape, South Shore and the Islands. At one point, the band had 11 participants, most UUMH members.

I will always have a warm place in my heart for UUMH. There were some difficult patches to be sure, but there was always a lot of love, and I think we all had our spiritual journey enhanced by being a part of it."

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

We haven't heard from any of you about helping us out as a member of our committee. We would love to have you do parts of the service. The task could be little if you like to start with or more depending what your interests are. The church will be going into hybrid services this month which is all new to us. It would be a good time to step in and learn the process as we all learn new things.

As we come to the end of our fiscal year we continue to have virtual services until the middle of July. Then we go into our hybrid service with up to 28 people in the church and hopefully, some of the people who have been following us who wouldn't have been able to join us in church anyway will continue with us. There will be no singing but music by Frank and recorded music as well. We will follow the CDC recommendations as fitting to our church.



FUNDRAISING

AUCTION: Although we won't have the final figures until a few days after the Newsletter comes out, we do know that it is a **RESOUNDING SUCCESS!** A lot of hard work, but a lot of fun, and the Auction Committee of Beth Avery, Sue Bauer, Danielle Jeanloz, Mary Parsons, Liz Sjogren, Liz Van Wye, and Debbie Zahka send enormous thanks to all of you who donated items and bid on some real treasures, thus ensuring that the Meeting House will come close to or exceed our goal of \$10,000!!!!

COOKBOOK: Mary Parsons and Barbara Waters and their committee are putting the final touches on the Meeting House Meals Cookbook, hopefully ready in the fall for Christmas shopping! Close to—or more than—200 recipes. Again, many many thanks to those who shared special recipes from their recipe boxes. And, just in case you have a couple more recipes to contribute, do call Mary for instruction at 432-7194.

WHAT A COMMUNITY WE BELONG TO AND WHAT LOVE AND COMMITMENT WE HAVE SHOWN WITH THESE PROJECTS. THANKS TO EVERYONE.

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.

PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE

June Birthdays

2	Joyce Sterling
7	Dwight Wilson
8	Walter Diggs
9	Jeff Dykens
15	Dave Van Wye
17	Connie Johnson
24	Joe Zahka
27	John Raye
28	Greg Heyl



June Anniversaries

12	Debbie and Joe Zahka
29	Greg Heyl and Eric Riley

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.

THIRD MONDAY BOOK CLUB

The Third Monday Book Club will meet on Monday June 21 to discuss *The vanishing half* by Brit Bennett. 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 July: *This tender land* by William Krueger; for August: *A woman of no importance* by Sonia Purnell; for September: *Monogamy* by Sue Miller; and for October: *The splendid and the vile* by Erik Larson



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Open Mic Classical Online 3rd Sunday of each month

Next: Sunday, June 20, 2021 / 3pm

Guest: Pianist Craig Combs

Craig, from Provincetown, trained at the Eastman School of Music where he earned his Masters and Doctorate in piano performance.

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?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82666321336?pwd=ZlQ1VGJyZ0ZTZ3FFQ0pEMW92NnRJZz09r)

[pwd=ZlQ1VGJyZ0ZTZ3FFQ0pEMW92NnRJZz09r](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82666321336?pwd=ZlQ1VGJyZ0ZTZ3FFQ0pEMW92NnRJZz09r) Meeting ID: 826 6632 1336 Password: OMC

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.