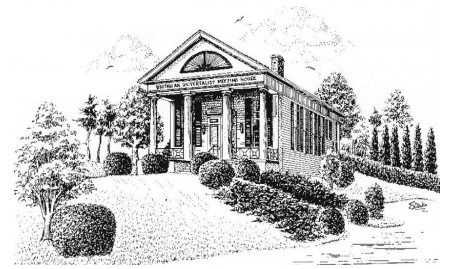


# NEWS FROM THE HILL

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**  
April 23. Send items to  
Sue Bauer: Ralphb1234@cs.com



## PLEDGE DRIVE

### FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

It is that time of year again for you to help UUMH in its operations. I know you are all suffering from the health crisis we are experiencing, the burden that the social restrictions have imposed on you, and the economic stress you are undergoing. I wish you, in this time, all the best of outcomes and hope that this message finds you in good spirits for our upcoming year.

Unfortunately this also comes at the time of year that we need to ask for your support for the next fiscal year which begins July 1. With reduced ministerial time we will need your financial support more than ever.

Please have a positive outlook and respond the best your situation allows.

We will have our usual kickoff coffee hour, if and when the health situation allows and send you a letter detailing our goals for the year and the usual pledge card to help you understand our needs. The drive will take place April 6 through April 30. Please be as generous as you can as we work toward making UUMH the most vibrant place it can be.

Ralph Bauer, Pledge Chair



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Dwight Wilson, Treasurer

**At large members:**

Bonnie Brydges  
Robin Hubbard  
Joan Konopka  
Judy Reed

**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**

**REMINDER:** Until further notice, these services will be held via Zoom on your electronic devices. E-Blasts will be sent with instructions on how to connect. Email Tracy with concerns or questions.

**April 5****Standing Stones****Rev Arthur Lavoie**

Standing Stones have been important religious elements in several traditions. They can be large upright stones that mark religious holy sites such as Stonehenge. They are mentioned in the Bible and other early middle Eastern writings as piles of stones set up to mark the presence of God at an important event. Standing Stones mark a sacred space and are therefore symbols of support, safety and comfort. Can we be Standing Stones for each other, especially at this difficult time?

**April 12****Awakenings****Rev. Tracy Johnson**

In these sacred times in many of our traditions of origin, we ultimately look to this season as one of rebirth. What are we awakening to in these moments of rethinking how we connect with one another and our world?

**April 19****An Affinity for Trees****Rev. Tracy Johnson**

The tree of life is a symbol that lives in many traditions. How does it exemplify our experience as members and friends of UUMH? What does it mean for us today?

**April 26****Grace Happens****Rev. Paul Sprecher**

Just when life has become impossible, when you've gotten to the end of your rope, when you can't take anymore.... Sometimes, grace happens, and life becomes possible again.

**WHO'S PREACHING****Rev. Arthur Lavoie**

Art Lavoie is a Unitarian Universalist minister who served our congregation in Dorchester, Massachusetts for ten years. He was born and raised in Ludlow, Massachusetts and graduated from the Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, California in 2000.

Dear Ones, All –

I write this month knowing that you will read my column a couple of weeks after it is written and a few weeks since our leadership made the wise precautionary decision to suspend gatherings in order to ensure the safety of members and friends. They did so quickly and with an abundance of care. We can all be grateful for such an engaged Board. Please reach out and thank them, if you haven't had the opportunity to do so yet.

These are uncertain times in our nation and our world. We are in a period of change, and that fact is no stranger to UUMH. You have been navigating change together for over a year now. It can be stressful and leave one uneasy. And yet, you have persisted. This community of meaning and care is clearly of value to each of you. You belong to it and it belongs to you. It is “Priceless!” like they say in the commercials, but let's not forget that our doors will reopen soon, and we need to maintain our support for UUMH so that it will be ready to greet you when we return. Pledges and money you would normally offer to the plate during worship can be mailed to the office during this interim time. Let's honor what has been built here in Chatham with our support.

No doubt you have been navigating new ways of staying connected and I hope that you are fearlessly attempting to use technology like ZOOM videoconferencing to this truly important end. Don't think for a moment that it is beyond what you are capable of. It is wonderful new learning that will only serve to enhance our experience of this journey. Your Pastoral Care Team and Small Group Ministries are more important now than ever. It is through these kinds of ministry to one another that we can keep in touch, share our heartfelt joys and concerns, and hold each other in love. As your Sabbatical Minister, I am working to connect committees and groups; to offer tools that I am, myself, still learning how to best utilize; and to offer pastoral care. Please reach out if you want to talk ([arevtracy@gmail.com](mailto:arevtracy@gmail.com) or 203-217-7991), and I will continue to call my way through our directory. Each of you is a blessing and an important part of this amazing community. It is a gift to be present to you in this season of our lives.

I commend to you the practice of calling at least one other UUMH member every day. We need each other. We are blessed by this community of faith and are a blessing to it when we reach out across the ether offering understanding and hope, a listening ear, and the friendship we have cultivated and nurtured over time. May we be reminded of these truly valuable pieces of our lives and know that we are loved.

Blessed be –  
Rev. Tracy

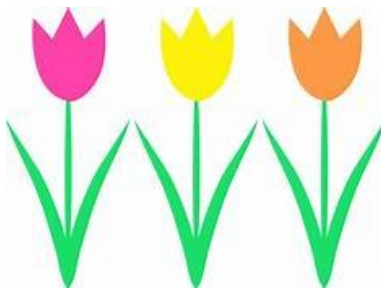


### ANOTHER REMINDER

**Another month, another Newsletter! But this month is more than a little different. Some of the items you will read in the next pages may well not take place or will take place at a later time. The calendar is not even being included. If things change, emails, calls, and E-Blasts will let you all know.**

**On the other hand, there are some things which are always relevant. Perhaps a perfect month to send a birthday card, think about Spring clean-up, meditate, collect treasures for the Thrift Shop.....**

**So, here we go...enjoy the newsletter, take a walk—or a nap—, read a book, call a friend or an acquaintance you've been wanting to get to know better, bake cookies, you could even dust if you're desperate (I am not—yet!)**



### SPECIAL REPORT FROM BUILDING AND GROUNDS

While having an empty building is bad news for most of you, it is a great opportunity for the Building and Grounds crew. When you get back, you will notice some improvements in the facility.

Room darkening shades have been installed on the lower windows on the Main Street side of the sanctuary. This will allow for less ambient light for videos and slide shows.

Barbara Hanrahan is taking the lead on sprucing up the main bathroom. We expect to remove the wallpaper and paint the walls, trim, and floor. Choosing the color scheme can be the most difficult part of the project.

Joe Zahka is painting the windows on the Queen Anne side of the building. This involves building a barrier of plastic sheeting before scrapping the paint. The windows are cleaned and bleached to remove dirt and mildew. The wood is then primed and painted. It takes another day scrape the excess paint, wash the windows, and clean the area.

John Horn, our cleaning contractor, will be doing a deep cleaning of the Fleck Room instead of the normal light cleaning of the whole building.

Hope you are taking this opportunity to deep clean your own homes.

**Happiness lies in living for others. (Tolstoy)**

### FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The contributions which are placed in the open plate that is passed around at Sunday morning services is an important part of the church's income. We would ordinarily expect to receive about \$3000 in the final three months of the church fiscal year ending on June 30. Right now we don't know when Sunday services will resume but if this doesn't happen before the end of June the church budget will become further in the red. The trustees are asking those who donate to the open plate on Sunday morning to consider mailing in that donation perhaps on monthly basis. This would be a big help in dealing with our ongoing budget problem. Thank you.

### BUILDING SECURITY UPDATE

We have improved the security of the building by installing a chime on the lower level door. When the door is opened, the chime rings in the office. This will help Karen keep track of people entering the building.

In addition, cameras have been installed in the lower level and the sanctuary. These cameras can be live streamed on the iPad in the office. When motion is detected, the cameras record a short video segment.



### THRIFT SHOP NEWS

Pot Luck Party. There will be a pre -Thrift Shop celebration on April 25, at 5:00 in the Fleck Room. Think about all the items you've bought over the years. They may be clothes, china, footwear, pots and pans, or other items you can display on a table. We will also be having a fashion show. Please let Joan Konopka or Mary Parsons know if you would like to participate. With all that's happening in the world today it promises to be a time that we can be back together enjoying the fellowship we all need.

April 22 is the date for the Thrift Shop volunteers to meet and choose their shifts and/or their jobs. Everyone will get together to discuss set-up of the shop, shifts, ..... how to help with this important and fun fund raiser.

**Now, both of these events may well not occur**—at least on these particular dates. Stay tuned!! And in the meantime, now that you are home more than usual, why not dig out things you no longer need to help get the Thrift Shop off to a big start—whenever that may be. And thanks.

**HOSTS AND USHERS.....JUST IN CASE**

April 5 - Finance Committee - Dwight Wilson  
April 12 - Worship Service Committee - Dolly Howell  
April 19 - SGM - Bob Rice  
April 26 - SGM - Sue Bauer

May 3 - Music Committee - Joan Caputo  
May 10 - SGM - Sue Bauer  
May 17 - SGM - Priscilla Smith  
May 24 - Social Justice/Learning for Life - Barbara Blanchard  
May 31 - Congregation



This month I have just moved everyone down to cover the Sundays we were not in Church. If this new routine with on line Services continues I will just keep pushing the names down until we are all together again.

In the meantime, stay well.  
Dolly Howell

*Tracy in her office along  
with Frank's and the  
children's instruments.*

*These days will come  
again*



**Save the earth. It's the only planet with chocolate.**



### MEDITATION

This is a unique and frightening dilemma we are all experiencing. They are saying the end might not come till Summer. We need the support of each other more than ever. Keep up with the news of our members so we can send congratulations , condolences or our help along to them. We are not alone, but part of this larger family.

I am cancelling the Meditation Group indefinitely, but will be available if someone needs any help.  
In love, Joan Konopka (945-2141)

### THE GATHERING

The Gathering's Movie Night on Wednesday April 15 has also been postponed. The Gathering is open to all women at the Meeting House. Monthly programs are geared to activities that allow us to get to know each other better and to have FUN! The Movie Night is a favorite, so take this time to think of one of your favorites and be ready to suggest it!

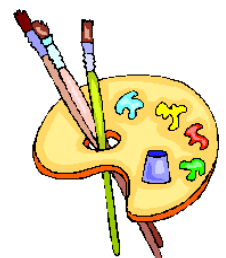


**IN MEMORIAM**  
**BUD (ELLIOT) BROWN**  
**1931-2020**  
**Let the memory be**



### ART ON THE HILL

An excited group of artists are waiting for an appropriate time to convene and plan for the summer event of a weekly Art on the Hill during July and August. Hopefully Thursdays will find us under our bright umbrellas displaying everything from fine art to hand crafted jewelry and painted children's clothing. Stay tuned!  
For more information, call Gail Tilton (945-9012)



**DIRECTORY CHANGES**

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11 Bayview Rd.  
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508-241-5577

Marion Harcourt  
Heatherwood at King's Way  
Unit 5214  
Yarmouth Port MA 02675  
508-375-6359

**TAI CHI**

Tai Chi has been cancelled until the Meeting House re-opens

**BOOK CLUB**

Our book club may be cancelled indefinitely, however, we chose a book for next month entitled *The Orchid Thief*, by Sue Orlean. I know some of you have Kindles and other ways of reading books, but we will just have to see what April brings. I saw this morning that California is in lockdown. I do believe it's going to get worse before it gets better. May I recommend the following: *Last Boat out of Shanghai*, *Last Christmas*, *a Petal of the Sea*, *The Only woman in the Room* and *Dear Edward*. Happy reading...

Stay well and be safe.

Call Mary Parsons for more info at 432-7194.

**PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE****April Birthdays**

1	Ann Wallace
2	Jan LaBelle
7	Sally Davol
8	Connie Pina
19	Jean Raymond
25	Bobbe Bernard

**April Anniversary**

5	Sue and Ralph Bauer
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**SERVICES OFFERED**

This occasional column is here for anyone to offer help or services, ask for help, to offer skills to other members of the congregation. It is really just us being there for each other. Please call Sue Bauer if you have something you would like to see in this column. 945-3264

\*\*\*\* Think Spring! It is coming, honest.

Bill Conley has opened his Landscaping business, "**William's Fine Landscapes.**" All sorts of yard work to get your yard ready for better and warmer times. Call him at 774-209-0527.

References available



\*\*\*\* Would you prefer to stay at home?

Anastasia Conley is willing and able to do your errands for you— pick up your prescriptions, run to the store for groceries, etc. If you are hesitant to go out yourself, call her at 774-209-0386

