

UUMH Newsletter

236 Commercial St. Provincetown MA

December 2023



“The members of the UU Meeting House hold sacred each individual’s spiritual and ethical development. We welcome all and seek unity in diversity. We commit ourselves in service to the wellbeing of the congregation and to all of life.”

~Mission Statement of the Unitarian Universalist Meeting House of Provincetown





Welcome. Come in. Can't find a place to stay? Stay here. Get warm.

I do not know your circumstances, but I can see you are very tired.

Your shoes are worn through, your feet are dusty. Sit. Sit here.

Let me get you a pillow, a blanket, here, and take this drink. Slow, now, no need to worry--there is more water.

We have enough here to share with you. If you need help, we will help.

So, sit, drink. Eat this. Now sleep. You are safe here. Your road has been a long one, but you can rest here.

I see a light ahead. Do I dare knock on their door? Will they shut it in my face, or. . . worse? I can't move another step. All I want is to curl my body tight and closed and fall into the darkness.

How cold it is and oh how hungry I am. Oh, how hungry I am.

Do I dare knock on that door?
Do I dare open up, risk my heart to getting blasted with a "Go Away!"?

My road has been a long one.

Dare I rest here?

Worship Worship Worship
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December



Sunday, Dec 3: "Blue Holidays" Rev. Kate Wilkinson

On the first Sunday of advent we will acknowledge World AIDS Day and also that not everyone is joyous around the holidays

Sunday, Dec 10: "Hanukkah" Rev. Kate Wilkinson

Sunday, Dec. 17: Will Hildreth preaching

Thursday December 21: Winter Solstice 5pm

Sunday, Dec 24: "Pajama Sunday!" Rev. Kate Wilkinson
An informal lessons and carols in pajamas!

Christmas Eve Night: Candlelight Christmas Eve service 7pm

Sunday, Dec 31: Taize service

LIVE!
and
On-line
Sundays
11 am

We live-stream
via YouTube.
Join in at 11 am
www.uumh.org
Click on Sermons

"The dogmas of the quiet past, are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew and act anew."
— Abraham Lincoln

A note from Rev. Kate
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The Giants

What are your favorite Cape Cod holiday traditions? The week before Thanksgiving, I like to get a free hat full of potatoes at the Bird Watcher's General Store in Orleans. I love seeing the monument lit up at the top of High Pole Hill. On Holly Folly weekend, I like seeing the Jingle Bell Run go by on Commercial Street and popping in to all of the Inns for cookies and cider as part of the Inn Stroll. Going to the Heritage Gardens for their "Gardens Aglow" event is always fun... and cold... but you have to get tickets early. On New Year's Eve I really enjoy going to First Night in Chatham to look at the ice sculptures and hear the musicians.

But my very favorite Cape Cod tradition at the holidays has to be driving down route 6A in Sandwich to see their spectacular light displays. Have you seen them? They are called "the giants," and they are created by Sandwich glassblower Michael Magyar. Each business has a big figure out front that represents what they do inside. The vet has a dog. The fire department has a fireman squirting water out of a hose. The baseball card shop has a baseball player. There are over 70 of them now and it is so fun to try to find them all. Not all of them are on the main drag. Some are on tiny side streets.

I particularly enjoyed this magical scavenger hunt during Covid. While most of my other holiday tradi-

tions were cancelled, the Giants were waiting for me. After leading our 2020 Christmas Eve service on zoom, sad that I would not be able to be with my family the next day, Lisa and I bundled up and got in the car. We went looking for the Giants... and found our holiday spirit on the way.

I wonder...if we had a big rebar and rod iron figure outside of the Meeting House, all lit up with lights, what would it be? A chalice? A web? A labyrinth? A music note? A steaming cup of tea or coffee? Maybe a collection of all the religious symbols of the world. What would represent on the outside what we do inside? We sing. We pray. We give comfort. We stand up for justice. We light candles in the dark.

If you are struggling to find YOUR holiday spirit this year, or even if you've already found it, I encourage you to take a drive through Sandwich one evening to see the Giants. I promise you, it will make you smile!

Rev. Kate



Martin Luther King Day Breakfast

Strength to Love: Bridging Our Differences

Special Guest Speaker: The Rev. June R. Cooper



Rev. June R. Cooper is a social justice educator, activist, visionary leader, innovator, and a Christian minister. Rev. Cooper is the Theological in the City at Old South Church in Copley Square, Boston.

Doors open at 8, program begins at 8:30. Rev. June R. Cooper will share a talk titled "Strength to Love: Bridging Our Differences" Jeffrey Clayton will play pan (steel drums) and we will sing, led by Rev Wesley Williams, and talk with Pastor Cooper. The first annual Racial Justice Award will be presented, all over coffee, tea, fruit and fresh baked goods.

All Are Welcome
Free Will Donation

Pre-registration is requested for this popular event as seating is limited.

You can pre-register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mlk-action-team-annual-breakfast-tickets-766475237067?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Monday, January 15, 2024 at 8:30 am
Church of the Holy Spirit
Monument Road, Orleans MA



Blue Holidays

When “the most wonderful time of the year” isn’t.

Sunday, December 3, 11 am

in person and live-streamed: uumh.org

Unitarian Universalist Meeting House, 236 Commercial Street,



Winter Solstice Celebration

We gather in ritual and celebration on the longest night.

Thursday, December 21, 5pm

Services are Sundays at 11, in person and live-streamed: uumh.org

Unitarian Universalist Meeting House, 236 Commercial Street, Provincetown



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Stories, carols, and candlelight in our sanctuary.

Sunday, December 23, 7pm

Services are Sundays at 11, in person and live-streamed: uumh.org

Unitarian Universalist Meeting House, 236 Commercial Street, Provincetown

From the Board
From the Board
From the Board



ZOOM into the 2023
Annual Meeting of the
Unitarian Universalist
Meeting House
of Provincetown.

December 3rd
on Zoom
at 2 PM. Kenneth
has sent the link.

“It is a house of freedom, guarding the worth and dignity of every person.” -- Kenneth L. Patton

JOIN RACIAL JUSTICE PROVINCETOWN FOR

A SILENT VIGIL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE



**THE FIRST
SATURDAY**
OF EVERY MONTH

**FROM NOON
UNTIL 1PM**
AT TOWN HALL ON
COMMERCIAL STREET

**WEAR A MASK AND MAINTAIN
SOCIAL DISTANCING OF 6 FEET**

[FACEBOOK.COM/PROVINCETOWNRACIALJUSTICEPROJECT](https://www.facebook.com/provincetownracialjusticeproject)



"The people who give you their food give you their heart."
Cesar Chavez

Please remember our
Little Free Pantry.
People are depending on our
contributions as prices climb.



Dear UUMH-ers,
remember the
UUSC and its fine
work when,
as 2023 comes
to a close, you
make your
decisions about
charitable
contributions.

To donate,
please go to
[UUSC.org](https://www.uusc.org)
and follow the
prompts
there.

Poet's Corner



No Room at the Inn

Into this world, this demented inn
in which there is absolutely no room for him at all,
Christ comes uninvited.

But because he cannot be at home in it,
because he is out of place in it,
and yet he must be in it,
His place is with the others for whom
there is no room.

His place is with those who do not belong,
who are rejected by power, because
they are regarded as weak,
those who are discredited,
who are denied status of persons,
who are tortured, bombed and exterminated.

With those for whom there is no room,
Christ is present in this world.

*[from an essay by Thomas Merton,
arranged in poetic form by E.R. Fraser]*

Deserts as home

An arroyo welcomes the dead and dying with solicitude: You are entirely at home here. Welcome.

Rattlesnakes and lizards flourish; so do the scavengers. Cacti scratch the bellies of clouds with affection. Love permeates bolt holes, escape tunnels and traps, evaded or embraced.

Some death valleys are permanent. Why not? Others await the inevitable storm. Figures walk through mirages chanting now, now, rain, rain! Christ walks on non-existent water. Every footprint leaves a mark for the ages.

Lightning strikes are also statements; they tell us vindication always wins. When a flash flood roars down a desert wash, it tosses logs and boulders before it. We bow in reverence.

The human heart is a desert but we live there regardless. When hate overcomes love, it carves a new death valley the width of a human hair, powerful as a black hole. The badlands creep forward season by season, and tumbleweeds bounce through our joy and endurance. We plant acacias, cacti and desert roses in fierce retaliation.

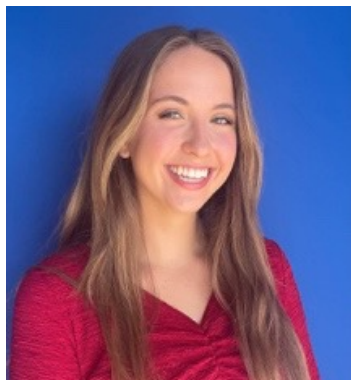
Perspective is all: we were here before and will return. We recognize the arroyo as home. The sky agrees as it bends over the earth, fists full of lightning bolts. Welcome home.

Heather Ferguson, November 2023

Welcome New Members

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Eden Allegretti

Eden is a recent Ptown washashore from Virginia. She spends her time reading an abundance of fantasy novels, exploring new hiking trails, working at the Provincetown Theater, daydreaming, and having dance parties in her room.



Leigh Faye Burroughs

Leigh lives in Provincetown. She is a sixth grade teacher at Nauset Middle School. Leigh has been attending the UUMH since August 2022.



Brian Carmody

Brian is in Ptown until the summer but hoping to stay. He has attended UU churches in NYC, Florida, and Ohio. He is a writer (a slow writer) and loves music.



Stuart Calhoon

Stuart is retired from a career as an aerospace engineer and moved here from California in March 2021. He and his wife, Liz, came here to be closer to their son, Brian, and his husband, Tom, who own the Brasswood Inn. Stuart helps out with repairs and projects at the Inn, rides his two bicycles, and explores the town and the Cape with his wife.

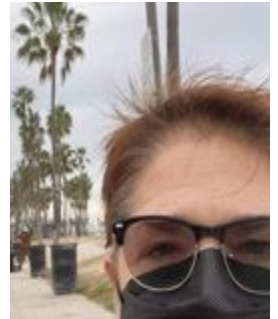


Liz Calhoon

Liz and husband Stuart moved here to be near their son and his husband to help with their nearby inn. She's the gardener at the inn and helps in other small ways -- greeting guests and setting up breakfast trays. She looks forward to joining the UU community and finding new ways to volunteer and meet more locals.

Laura Haskew

Laura lives in Provincetown and works in Brewster at a residential school for kids with special needs. She loves to read, make things and be outside.



Don James

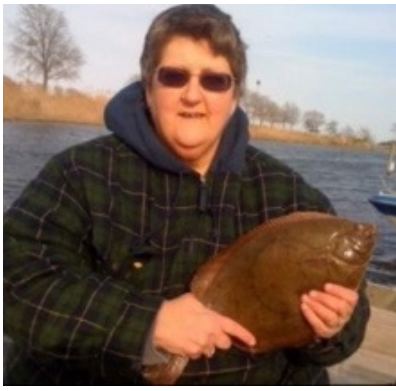
Don James has been attending the UUMH for about four years, mostly in the summer. Now that he lives here, he attends every week!

Mariana Luz

Mariana moved here in June 2022. After living in western Mass for 35 years she decided to return to the ocean. She is a Buddhist and working on being an anti-racist warrior, which means getting out of her comfort zone. She is kind of shy and loves the outdoors, biking, reading, and music.



“One of the marvelous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way we couldn't as individuals. When we pool our strength and share the work and responsibility, we can welcome many people. . .” Jean Vanier



Mary McAtee

Mary lives in a wonderful upside-down house nestled on a densely wooded piece of land in Truro. Mary lives happily with her wife of nearly 30 years (Elise A Stiller) and her 2 hooligan litter mate cats: Starbuck and Skylark.



Lauren Miklavic

Lauren has lived on the Cape for 25 years and currently lives in West Dennis. She is the owner of LaVita Bella Garden Design and she designs, builds and maintains gardens. She is in the process of becoming a certified Feng Shui practitioner through the Wester School of Feng Shui.



Karen Rafeld

Karen has a house in Provincetown and a condo in Dorchester, spending time during the year at each one. Karen plays golf and loves to travel, read and garden.



Elise Stiller

Elise lives on a bluff in paradise (aka Truro!) She's a software consultant for Mastercard and a card-carrying SAG-AFTRA actor. She has married her incredible wife, Mary McAtee in 2 (soon to be 3 states) and they will be celebrating their 28th anniversary in May 2024. They have 2 fluffy felines together!

ITSELF

Each month for a while we'll be highlighting something about our beautiful and unique building. The building itself. If you have a question about something to do with the art in the building, or its history, or have photos, please let us know at meetinghousenews@gmail.com.



This altar cloth was hand-made by Lorraine Kujawa. She has created many for us. This one represents one of our favorite hymns, "Blue Boat Home." Thank you, Lorraine!

"I give thanks to the waves upholding me, hail the great winds urging me on, greet the infinite sea before me, sing the sky my sailor's song:
I was born upon the fathoms, never harbor or port have I known. The wide universe is the ocean I travel, and the earth is my blue boat home." -- Peter Mayer

Among Ourselves



Love is the Spirit

- Dianne Kopser has a lot going on. Her mom got COVID and then gave everyone a scare by getting pneumonia and ending up in the hospital. Dianne herself is in a cast and will face surgery to reconstruct her ankle, requiring her to be in rehab for a stint and then no weight bearing for another 2 months. It's a long road ahead. We hold her in our hearts and prayers.
- Bruce DeSteCroix's bother in law passed away, his brother has a broken arm and Bruce is living in excruciating pain. We send hopes for answers and a pain-free set of legs to walk on.
- We send love and gratitude to Bonnie Breidenbach and good luck with her puppy!
- Pat Medina is getting around on her new hip with far less pain these days.
- Congratulations on your retirement, Len Bowen!
- Love and condolences to Susan Downey after her brother passed. Please know we are here for you!

- Denise Davies, thinking of you, with love, in these hard times.
- Congratulations to Lucinda Garthwaite on the publication of her book, *Bumbling Humans*.
- Sending love to Howard Hernandez.
- Stan Hudson, we send you all the good wishes that the surgery on your other hand will bring you much needed relief and dexterity!
- Great to see: Janine Evers and Elizabeth Johnson in our midst.
- Love and support to Karen Pagano. And thank you so much for our gratitude labyrinth!
- Lovely to see Grace and Brianna LePage among us!
- Love to Peter Schweizer and George Schroeder.
- Brian Morriss, so good to have you here for Sunday services. May you find in us a place to heal your grief and heartache.

Rik Kapler aka ~WAVE

Ceramic 'Wall-pocket' Vessels

Artist Talk

Extended!!! through December 10th!!
November 18th 3-6 PM



The COMMONS 46 Bradford Street, Provincetown

November 14~26, 2023

Every month, it seems, we have a page commemorating yet another life lost or tragically wounded because of systemic racism. If we fight the good fight together, if we make “good trouble,” we can change the world.



“On December 25, 1956, Ku Klux Klan members in Alabama bombed the home of civil rights activist Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth. Rev. Shuttlesworth was home at the time of the bombing with his family and two members of Bethel Baptist Church, where he served as pastor. The 16-stick dynamite blast destroyed the home and caused damage to Rev. Shuttlesworth’s church next door, but no one inside the home suffered serious injury. White supremacists would attempt to murder Rev. Shuttlesworth four more times in the next seven years. In an attack in 1957, a white mob brutally beat Rev. Shuttlesworth with chains and bats and stabbed his wife after the couple attempted to enroll their daughters in an all-white high school.

Rev. Shuttlesworth became a popular target of white supremacists in the early 1950s after assuming leadership of the civil rights movement in Birmingham, Alabama. As founder and president of the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights, Rev. Shuttlesworth organized and participated in numerous protests and boycotts challenging Jim Crow customs and policies in Birmingham and across the South. **The day before the Christmas bombing, Rev. Shuttlesworth had called upon local African Americans to desegregate the city buses starting on December 26. Undeterred by the Klan’s assassination attempt, Rev. Shuttlesworth proceeded as planned with the December 26 protest rides.**

Rev. Shuttlesworth was involved in nearly every pivotal civil rights event of the 1960s, including the 1961 Freedom Rides and the Birmingham Children’s Crusade in May 1963. His tireless activism in the face of violent opposition led Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to describe him as “the most courageous civil rights fighter in the South.” [The Equal Justice Initiative]

On Christmas Day let us remember the bravery and devotion of Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth and his family as they worked and prayed and suffered to bring justice to Alabama.



I've been thinking a lot this month about the times I have been the one opening the door to welcome someone in, and, the times I have been the one feeling unwelcomed and even afraid.

Last night I was in a very long line for a very long time in a very cold parking lot in Truro, waiting to get into the 3 times postponed Special Town Meeting. Freezing. 55 minutes. Only to be told the meeting had to be cancelled due to the historic turnout and fire regulations as to how many people could fit into the school gym.

The woman in line behind me said, "No room at the inn."

This summer I had to renew my driver's license to upgrade to the new "universal" license; without a thought, I wrote down my Milton, Massachusetts address on the form--probably because I was in Milton at the time. Because of the new "universal" quality of the license, any of my addresses listed under the government of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts were thus changed to my Milton address. So, without my realizing it at the time, I was dropped from the Truro voter rolls. I have voted in Truro--which I consider my home--for years. It was a snafu and it was readily fixed, fixed in time for the Town Meeting which didn't happen, but, I have to say I briefly felt left out in the cold. I (irrationally) felt rejected by the town I'd given so much to. It gave me the feeling I was unwelcome and that I didn't belong.

Both of these instances--the long line in the cold only to be turned away and the wrong address on my driver's license were simple, pretty ordinary matters, but they both caused a shaky feeling of unease and displacement in me. And so I think: imagine the immigrant fleeing war or famine or poverty; imagine the addict, the sick and the home insecure.

I imagine both sides of the door. . .

As we celebrate the time of winter when light begins to grow stronger and days longer and new things are possible and stories of love and welcome are told, let's remember our place in all this and open our hearts.



Photo: Marty Cowden

Back Page

The
Meetinghouse News

Kathleen Henry, Editor

Submissions are welcomed
and encouraged!

Please submit written work,
announcements,
and artwork,
by the 20th
of the month
to

meetinghousenews@gmail.com