

UUMH Newsletter

236 Commercial St. Provincetown MA

FEBRUARY 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

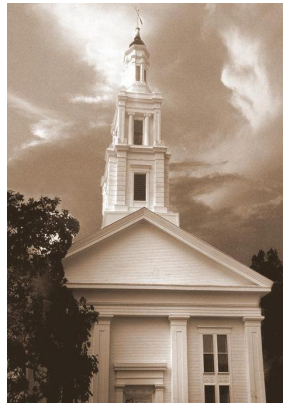


Photo: Mason Morfit



Love plain and simple.

Photo: Marty Cowden

Our theme this Valentine month is Love Plain and Simple.

Let's find hearts in the world around us

and love in its many forms.



A Red, Red Rose

O my Luve is like a red, red rose
That's newly sprung in June;
O my Luve is like the melody
That's sweetly played in tune.

So fair art thou, my bonnie lass,
So deep in luve am I;
And I will luve thee still, my dear,
Till a' the seas gang dry.

Till a' the seas gang dry, my dear,
And the rocks melt wi' the sun;
I will love thee still, my dear,
While the sands o' life shall run.

And fare thee weel, my only luve!
And fare thee weel awhile!
And I will come again, my luve,
Though it were ten thousand mile.

by Robert Burns

Worship Worship Worship
Worship Worship Worship
Worship Worship Worship

February



We are Live
and
On-line
Sundays
11 am

"I hope you don't mind that I put down in words how wonderful life is while you're in the world." — Elton John, *Your Song*

We will be live-streaming via YouTube.

join in at 11 am

www.uumh.org

Click on Sermons



A note from Rev. Kate

A note from Rev. Kate



Love Offerings

Often when someone is going through a rough patch we say to them, “Let me know if there is anything you need.” It’s a kind gesture. But so often we are never taken up on it. The person in need might be too embarrassed to ask for help. They might be too overwhelmed to assign tasks to others in the moment. They might not know what level of support you were offering and so aren’t exactly sure how to take you up on it.

I’ve always found that the easiest way to accept help is if it comes in the form of a very concrete offer. “Can I bring you over some soup this afternoon?” “I’m going to the grocery store today so can I pick you up a few things?” or “I would like to pay for your latest car repair, would that be ok with you?”

I find it to be a great spiritual practice... both re-phrasing my offers of help in ways that are less abstract and more concrete AND learning to accept help when it is offered. In one moment I am the helper and in another moment I am the one being helped. Viewing things this way takes the patronizing element out of charity and makes receiving help a less humbling and more grace-filled experience.

One of the great honors of my position as minister is that I get to oversee the minister’s discretionary fund. This is a fund used (at my discretion) to help those in need in our community and in the larger Outer Cape community. It is usually funded by two large annual events... the Christmas Eve collection and the Drag Bingo raffle ticket sales. But for the last few years we have not had these collections (we were online or outside for Christmas Eve and the pandemic has put a pause on Drag Bingo as well). So lately this fund has been entirely funded by the generosity of UUMH members and friends making individual



donations. It has been so incredibly heart warming to see not a dip in this fund during the pandemic, but an increase. And this has enabled me to help more people with it.

In 2022 I was able to support several UUMH members during their time of need, as well as many community members who needed money for rent, security deposits, health insurance, phone bills, car repairs, medical supplies, and escaping domestic violence situations. I often get referrals from the AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod and Helping Our Women when they have clients in need of funds for emergencies.

This fund was used to pay for cab rides for seniors to come to church and for Little Free Pantry expenses. It was also used to pay for some funeral expenses. Other donations went to support: The Nauset Interfaith Association, The Provincetown Police Association, Racial Justice Provincetown, and The Privilege Institute (a racial justice conference in Barnstable).

Our Christmas Eve collection this year was earmarked specifically for helping dear members of the UUMH who lost everything in the flooding just before the holiday. So again this year we will rely on individual donations to keep this fund topped up. Requests for assistance have gone up significantly during covid and then again as food, gas, and other expenses have risen this year.

Perhaps because I am a minister and folks know that our conversations will remain confidential, or perhaps because I sometimes give very concrete offers of assistance, people do come to me and accept help from this fund. It's never huge sums of money. But it makes all the difference in the world to those who need it.

Thank you for your generosity to this fund. And please do come talk to me if you find yourself in a position of needing financial help. The minister's discretionary fund is one of the ways that this community tangibly lives out its covenant to "help one another." It is our love offering. And I love you for it.

Rev. Kate

You can make a donation to the Minister's Discretionary Fund by writing a check to "UUMH Minister's Fund" and mailing it to UUMH, PO Box 817, Provincetown, MA 02657.



"We know that a peaceful world cannot long exist, one-third rich and two-thirds hungry." -Jimmy Carter

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



Photo of November 2022 vigil

JOIN RACIAL JUSTICE PROVINCETOWN FOR

A SILENT VIGIL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

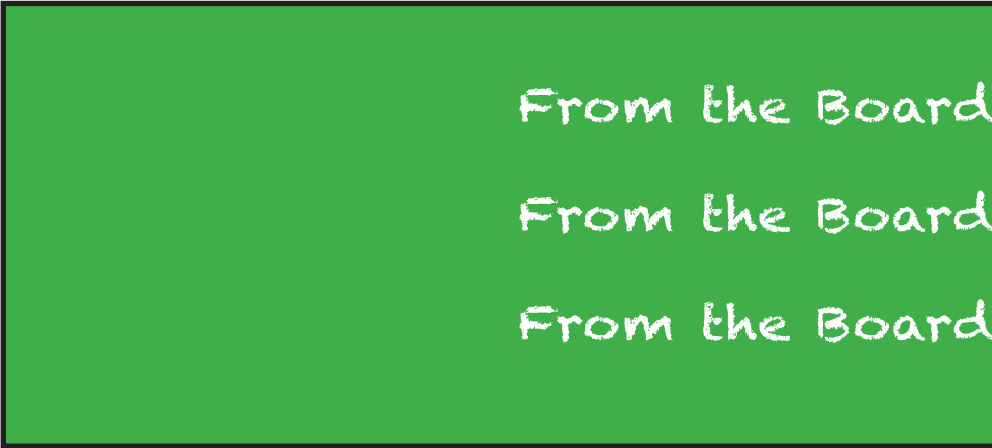


**THE FIRST
SATURDAY**
OF EVERY MONTH

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

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

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



The term “board” to refer to a council of advisors takes its roots in the Norse word for table, “børd.” The wooden plank around which you sat to eat became the place around which you sat to meet.

Your Board meets on Zoom (has done so since Covid restrictions), not around a plank in AB Hall; that makes us your UUMH Zoomboard. As the UUMH community has discovered with the Tuesday at 5 PM Coffee Hour, Zooming has its advantages.

It is easier to Zoom when it’s urgent (you can almost hear the *whooooosh* as the technology falls into place and there we all are!) It is safer to Zoom when weather is a hazard or pandemics intrude on our lives.

But Zooming also has a certain immediacy or intimacy that you wouldn’t think would occur on such a techie platform. There is something about being “face to face” on a Zoom screen that reinforces our connection to each other; in a funny way it can have a one-on-one feeling, perhaps even more than an in-person meeting of 7+ folks sitting around the edges of a...plank.

Others may disagree strenuously, but, for me, I think I am more attentive on Zoom. I really like looking at a whole screen filled with the faces of folks I care about and respect, all working together toward a common goal.

The challenge for me will be to extend those very feelings and attitudes to the transition to in-person meetings that will someday return. Zooming has reminded me how important listening and really looking into someone’s face is.

The lessons you learn from the strangest places!

Your Clerk, Kathleen

Radical Self Tenderness

A UU Meeting House
Winter Spirituality Series
Online Event

Do you want to know how nurturing
your own soul can help heal the
world?

Join UU member and author Christie
Hardwick for an impactful workshop
based on her new book *Radical Self
Tenderness*.

Explore your own barriers to
nurturing your soul and emerge with
a greater commitment to being
radically tender. She will share
readings from the book, we will
journal, meditate and reflect on this
concept of self tenderness.



Saturday,
February 11

10am-1pm
on zoom

Donations gratefully accepted. Register by Jan 31 with a donation of \$25
or more and receive a copy of the book signed by the author!

To Register : e-mail revkate@uuh.org

Soul Collage Cards

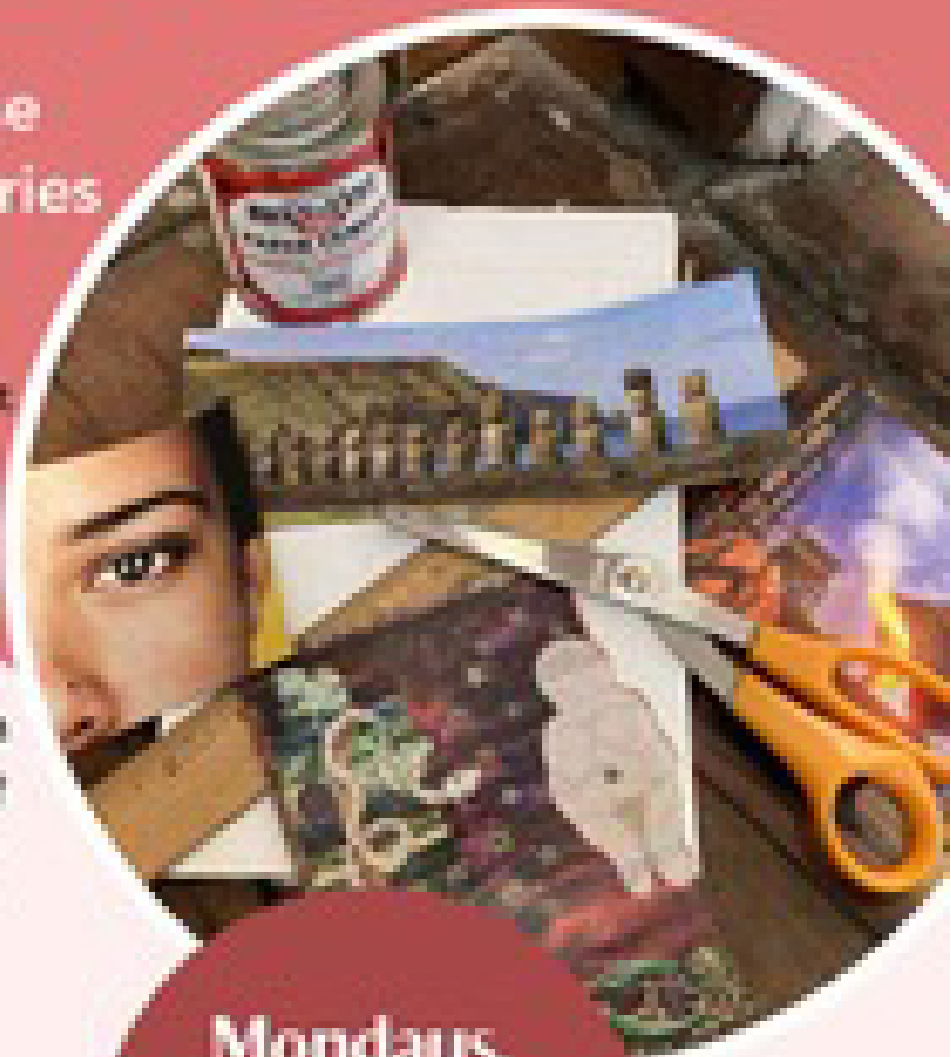
A UU Meeting House Winter Spirituality Series Event

Come collage with us! You don't
have to be an artist!

Originally developed by Seena
Frost, the idea of SoulCollage is
that each card, created through
cutting and pasting a collage of
magazine images, is a mirror of
the self and soul.

Explore different parts of
yourself through this creative
process and get to know others
on a deeper level.

Leave your inner critic at home!



**Mondays,
March 6, 13, 20**

2:30-4pm

This event will be in person at the UU Meeting House of Provincetown.

To Register : e-mail revkate@uumh.org

Winter Labyrinth Walk

A UU Meeting House
Winter Spirituality Series
Event

A labyrinth is a circuitous spiral design that dates back more than 4,000 years. Stepping into the labyrinth and following its twists and turns provides an opportunity to breathe deeply, to reflect, to ask questions and to discover answers!

Come walk this ancient path with us! Our labyrinth is nestled in the woods at a member's home. There will be a fire pit and maybe even some hot chocolate!



Sunday,
February 19
2pm in
Truro

Truro labyrinth location will be shared with you when you register.

To Register : e-mail revkate@uumh.org

Poets' Corner
Poets' Corner
Poets' Corner



Light

*Heather, UUMH
member who Zooms
in from Canada, tells us:*

*“To me, light and
love are synonymous.”*

It's spring. Fog lifts from Race Point and
moonlight floods the beach. The sky's serene.
Curse all you want--you'll salvage nothing
from shipwrecks. The cargo all reached port.
The Cape curls its brawny arm around
summer sunshine, luscious as local honey.
Mirages float in the dunes to lure the unwary.
Sweetie, don't wait! Ride the tide across the bar.

Farmhands harvest light in sheaves of rye,
in bushels of grapes. Autumn bounty foreshadows
revelry -- and lustful glances. Is that a fiddle and
drum?
In root cellars, the bins are overflowing.

A blizzard rages. You're scared?
Turn to a fireplace, to candles and kerosene lamps,
to the lighthouse that guides us through hurricanes,
to harbor and safely home.

-- Heather Ferguson

My Valentine, my Love
I thank my lucky stars above
For that blizzard seven years ago
On Valentine's Day



It was Sunday and you called to ask
If you could help with any sort of task
A ride to church, a shoveled walk
On Valentine's Day

By the time you arrived to pick me up
We'd found out church was cancelled
So off we went to find a cup
of hot chocolate
On Valentine's Day

On that snowy morning, time seemed to fly
As we told our stories of love gone by
We set the stage for happily ever after
On Valentine's Day

Happy Valentine's Day Love
I love you to the stars and back

Kat

My dear UU Family,

I just want you to know that I will miss
all of you and my UU Church. But I will be
around and you can come visit. Please contact
Kenneth in the office for my new address. I
will miss all of you a lot but my heart will
always be there especially in the kitchen, and
when you donate at the offertory on Sunday
mornings my spirit will be there!

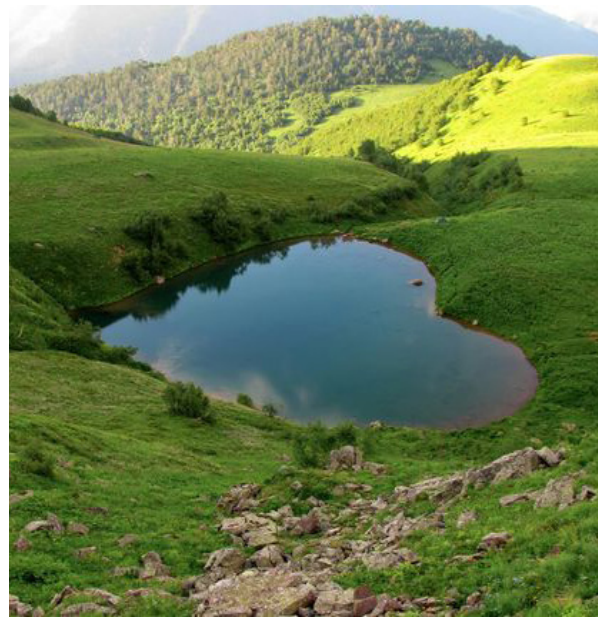
Love in service,
Lawrence





Latest in the Woods Series, Dianne Kopser, oil on panel 12 x 16

To Eleanor and Paul, a.k.a. Ma and Daddy,
I love you so much and miss you deeply.
I'm so glad you had me! Thank you for
raising me on books, imagination, nature,
and wonder. I'm grateful to walk through
life wrapped in your love. Vicky Barstow



Thank you Velma, for
showing me a righteous
life and how to seek the
truth in love. I couldn't
have survived without
you.

I love you Dennis, for your
undying loyalty in sickness
and in health.

Mo, thanks for being such
a wise and kind friend.

Wendy

Love from me to a world in need of so much love and healing.
My heart is so full of love for those I find in my life just now
and in the past that words just don't do justice to them !!
(And I just won't start on the love for my pets present and
past!!!!!!) Elaine



-Dear little Buddy,
You are my Valentine, like it or not!
Stop being so fresh to me...I love
you anyway!
Human momma,
(kisses on yo head!!!)
Pat M



-Dear Jane and Jen,
Am keeping my eyes on you
Have a great Valentine's Day
With love,
Pat M

-Dear Rev Kate,
You bring so much love to this com-
munity. Today should be Saint Rev
Kate's Day in celebration of love!
Pat M

-Sending love to friends far and
near and friends who've passed that
I hold dear
Pat M



Dear UUMH of Provincetown,

I just wanted to let you know that I love
you very much and miss you a ton. I love
your quirkiness, herstory, good humor,
compassion, light, and perseverance. You
made me and many others better peo-
ple... and there is no better gift than that.
I send you a warm embrace, and look for-
ward to spending time with you again in
the not-too-distant future.

Love Always,
~ April

Oh where Oh where is
my dear love~~

Wave



I love the austere beauty of seemingly barren, dangerous places. —Kenneth
(who grew up in the desert and lives at the edge of the sea)



Photo: Marty Cowden



The UUMH of Provincetown is a part of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). One of the service organizations within the UUA is the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Our newsletter will be highlighting what the UUSC does on this page every month. The work of the UUSC is vital. Their scope is international. It is important that we know what is being done in our name around the world to bring food, shelter, aid of all kinds to those in direct need. It is important, too, for us to remember that the UUSC needs us to help them



UU Meeting House News,

We've just released UUSC's 2022 Annual Report and I'm excited to share more with you about what we've accomplished together!

I hope you'll take a few moments to read some inspiring highlights from another bold year of advancing justice.

[Click on this > UUSC-Annual-Report-FY22-Web-Reader.pdf](#)

We believe change is inevitable and unstoppable, and we all can play an active role in shaping what it looks like.



With deep appreciation,

Mary Katherine Morn
President
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Among Ourselves



Love is the Spirit of this Meeting

- We are holding Kenneth in our hearts, as he is coping with his displacement and upcoming ankle surgery. We treasure you, Kenneth. Lean on us.
- Welcome back to health, Kate and Lisa, what a winter season!
- Lovely to have Bonnie Breidenbach among us over the holidays. What a fine addition to our congregation.
- Many happy birthdays are in order: Hilary McHugh, Dave Hawver, Pastor Brenda Haywood, Myra Kooy, Mason Morfit , Bernie Mainz and Cricket (100!). We love every last one of you and celebrate the days you were born.
- We are holding Roger Chauvette's family in our prayers, as we grieve his loss.
- Michael and Susumu are unbelievably amazing and we are awed by their strength and courage. And, while we are on this subject, a HUGE thank you to the generosity and love provided by Barbara and Linda Loren-Murphy for providing them temporary shelter. You are all awe-inspiring.
- Our thoughts are with Jerry Ouellet and Richard Kaminski.

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.



We hope and pray that all the thousands and thousands of good police officers from across this country will demand an end to the terror and brutality inflicted by the police officers who behave criminally against those they have sworn to protect and serve. Until that time, the police culture that has given rise to the hateful, murderous actions that have stolen lives--especially the lives of men of color--will continue to rampage through our cities. Demand the terror stop, demand the culture of institutional violence stops, demand and stand for what is right, men and women of the police forces of the United States of America. If you don't, you are part of it too. Some of us have husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, aunts, uncles who are or have been cops. In their names, we plead with you, good officers of the law, demand the terror stop.



From the Editor

I Love Books

Once there was girl who

read too much.

Is that as bad for you as when you are

fed too much?

Or as embarrassing as when you have

said too much?

Or as expensive as the ticket when you have

sped too much?

Who fines you if they think you have

read too much?

Do the Book Police come charging in and demand to see your library card?

Do they search you for incriminating paragraphs?

How dare they “read” you your rights when reading is the crime at issue?

And, what is “too much?”

She grabs a magazine at her girlfriend’s house and sits with her head bent into it, her fingers springing the pages faster and faster, until she’s done with it and she reaches for another, Your Honor. All this while her friends are playing volleyball outdoors in the sunshine. I rest my case, Your Honor. I rest my case.

She finishes her math tests early so she can read her book, Your Honor. Pardon, Your Honor? Yes, well, she achieves good grades on those math tests most of the time, Your Honor, but begging Your Honor’s pardon that is not, repeat not, the point. She should be proofing her work, taking her time, achieving 100% all of the time.

Nose in the book. Unseemly. Irresponsible. Whatever will become of her if she read all the time when she should, should, should be doing what is required! Your Honor? Your Honor?



Creation sings us her love song.



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