

UUMH Newsletter

236 Commercial St. Provincetown MA

January 2024



“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

In trees still dripping night some
nameless birds
Woke, shook out their arrowy
wings, and sang,
Slowly, like finches sifting
through a dream.
The pink sun fell, like glass, into
the fields.
Two chestnuts, and a dapple
gray,
Their shoulders wet with light,
their dark hair streaming,
Climbed the hill. The last mist
fell away,

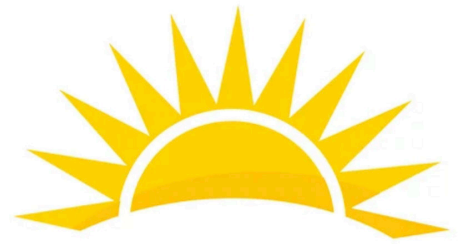
And under the trees, beyond
time’s brittle drift,
I stood like Adam in his lonely
garden
On that first morning, shaken
out of sleep,
Rubbing his eyes, listening,
parting the leaves,
Like tissue on some vast,
incredible gift.

Mary Oliver



Morning In A New Land

SO, what's new? Anything? Anything new?



In Ecclesiastes 1.9, written perhaps by King Solomon, it is said, "There is no new thing under the sun."

Quoting from the 20th Century, Harry Truman said, "The only thing new in the world is the history you don't know."

SO, what's new with you? Anything? Anything new?

We've discussed in these pages before what Heraclitus, the Greek philosopher would say: EVERYTHING is new. The person who steps twice into a flowing river does not step into the same river each time and is not the same person who once stepped. Everything is new.

And bear this in mind: In our bodies, "about 330 billion cells are replaced daily, equivalent to about 1 percent of all our cells. In 80 to 100 days, 30 trillion will have replenished—the equivalent of a new you." (Scientific American, April 1, 2001)

So, anything new? New intestinal lining, that's for sure!

When my mother was sick and dying, she had a Health Aide who took care of her. This wonderful woman was from Kenya; she was Maasai. She stood at least six feet tall and was very strong, but most important, she carried happiness with her wherever she went. Every day to begin her shift, she would enter my mother's room and sing out the same question, "What's new, Peg?" And every day, my mother would answer the same answer, "York, Jersey, Hampshire..." And they would laugh. The question and the answers and the laughter were not new, but rather, they became a cherished tradition. What was new was the love that grew between them with every laugh, every day.

Drawing from Mary Oliver's words, we stand like Adam, like Eve, rubbing our eyes at the majesty and mystery of life itself—the old, the new, the Kenyan new to America from an ancient tribe; the little old Irish American lady, living her last days making a new friend.

It's all so new and it's all so very, very old.

"We shall not cease from exploration and the end of our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time." (T.S.Eliot)

**Worship Worship Worship
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Worship Worship Worship**

January



Sunday, January 7: "Sparks of Justice, Specks of Joy," Betsy Simmons

Sunday, January 14: MLK Sunday,
Rev. Kate Wilkinson

Sunday, January 21: "Come As You Are,"
Rev. Kate Wilkinson

Sunday, January 28: "Lessons from Lima Beans,"
Rev. Kate Wilkinson

i thank You God for most this amazing
day:for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky;and for everything
which is natural which is infinite which is yes

(i who have died am alive again today,
and this is the sun's birthday;this is the birth
day of life and of love and wings:and of the gay
great happening illimitably earth)

how should tasting touching hearing seeing
breathing any—lifted from the no
of all nothing—human merely being
doubt unimaginable You?

(now the ears of my ears awake and
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)

--E. E. Cummings

E.E. Cummings (whose wife said he preferred
upper case for his name!*) was born in Cambridge and
was a Unitarian.

*<http://faculty.gvsu.edu/webster/cummings/caps.htm>; <http://faculty.gvsu.edu/webster/cummings/caps2.html>

**LIVE!
and
On-line
Sundays
11 am
We live-stream
via YouTube.
Join in at 11 am
www.uumh.org
Click on Sermons**

A note from Rev. Kate
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My favorite quote about the New Year comes from Rev.

Nadia Bolz-Weber, who says: May you remember that there is no resolution that, if kept, will make you more worthy of love.

How true. As you turn the page of the year, whether you are making resolutions or not, whether you have big plans or not, whether you are glad to see the end of 2023 or trepidatious about 2024, know that you are worthy of love.

Let's head into the new year together, as our real and whole selves, sensing our place in the family of things.

Happy New Year!
Rev. Kate

Nauset Interfaith Association Annual

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

RACIAL JUSTICE PROVINCETOWN (RJP)
POTLUCK

Celebrating Diversity

Sponsored by ~WAVE, Bruce Mason and David Wilson

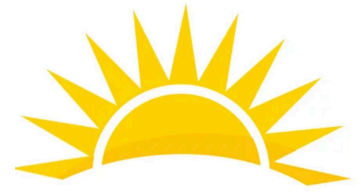
THE CONVERSATION
Equity & Inclusion

You are invited to this informational Gathering
Bring your Favorite Dish (if able) & list Ingredients

5 PM on Wednesday, January 10, 2024
Hatches Harbor Room

Seashore Point Residency
100 Alden Street, Provincetown, MA. 02657

From the Board
From the Board
From the Board



Many thanks to all of you who attended the Annual Meeting last month. Everything we needed to accomplish was accomplished! Thanks to Stan for his skillful facilitation. Welcome to new Board Members, Pat Medina and Vicky Barstow! Special greetings from your Board to each and every one of you for a healthy and happy 2024!

“If you can’t fly then run, if you can’t run then walk, if you can’t walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward.”

Martin Luther King

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.



“As people of conscience who care about human rights, we are called to assist families in migration to find freedom and safety in a new home and dignified treatment if they choose to return to their country of origin.

Many Unitarian Universalist congregations have deepened their commitment to this work through UUSC’s Congregational Accompaniment Program for Asylum Seekers (CAPAS), which connects people seeking asylum with communities of faith who can provide care and support.”

--UUSC

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

Poet's Corner



Rebirths

My world is reborn incessantly in the hands of miners and jewelers. Gemstone beads release their light. They proclaim their joy: Now I am freed from the weight of mountains, raging streams, bitter winters, whole eons of suffering.

Just yesterday – or was it? – my world had closed. I woke again today. My hair's turned white! Wisps of mist are curling round my fingers. The maple branches at the window bow under clumps of snow. A reverence.

Shall I crack open the nugget? My tears shine. For years, I have studied the fine tracteries of cut agates, obscure and weighty as Sanskrit. Time stretches if you watch closely enough.

A lapidary slices open a fossil. An ammonite stares back, impassive. Its caged fire flares and plays with the sun for the first time.

--Heather Ferguson

ITSELF

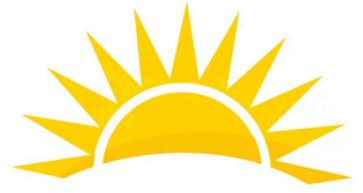
Each month for a while we'll be highlighting something about our beautiful and unique building. The building itself. If you have a question about something to do with the art in the building, or its history, or have photos, please let us know at meetinghousenews@gmail.com.



“...[the] steeple is called the Sir Christopher Wren Tower, after the 17th-century architect who transformed London. Unlike three other surviving church buildings downtown, the U.U. still serves as a house of worship, now under the Rev. Kate Wilkinson. The Greek Revival-style sanctuary was built in 1847. The steeple, added 10 years later, was not sufficiently supported to stand in sandy soil. Steel reinforcements were placed under it in 1999, but its northeasterly inclination (noticeable in the picture) was not corrected, out of concern for what even a bit of torquing might do to the plasterwork.” [The interior plasterwork is all *trompe l’oeil*. More on that next month!]
(Description from *Building Provincetown*.)

Photo: David Dunlap

Among Ourselves



Love is the Spirit

- Bravo to the Outer Cape Chorale. Thank you for bringing so many of us all that glorious joy!
- So many of us are dealing with aging parents. We send love and support to: Alison and Mel Dwyer, Anne Cowie, Amy Graves and Dianne Kopser. This is such a tender time in life.
- We were so sorry to hear of the passing of Deb Felix and Dave Hawver's friend, Dan. We love you two.
- Vicky Barstow has sold her house and is now ready to come home to us full time. We are so happy to have her and her lovely wife among ourselves!
- We send all our good wishes for a painless existence to both Bonnie Breidenbach and Bruce DeSteCroix.
- We are here for you, Marsha Morello, as you step into the caretaking role for your partner, Michelle, who suffered a bad fall.
- In the wake of Kate Wallace Roger's brother's death, we send all our love and support. Lean on us, Kate.
- We are hoping that June Martin is fully recovered from her recent illness.
- Melissa Nussbaum's partner, Althea, has taken the position of the UU contract minister on Nantucket. They are lucky to have her.
- We send such love and gratitude to Karen Pagano for our gratitude labyrinth. Karen, you are so loved in these parts.
- So great to see Ellen Rottersman among us!
- Betsy Simmons, we send you all of our love and support, as you travel through your sister's illness. We are here for you.



Photo: from an online viewer

“Just as one small candle may light a thousand, so the light here kindled hath shone unto many.”

William Bradford, first Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, 1620

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.



44% of Black adults say it's harder to get through daily tasks after learning that officers have harmed a Black person.

Morning Consult survey of Black adults, April 2023

38% of Black people said they feel anxious when they see an officer.

Morning Consult survey of Black adults, April 2023

“You're always on alert, you're always on guard, you know, your blood pressure is up, your heart rate goes up and stuff like that.”

79% of Black parents said police violence affects their mental health.

Morning Consult survey of Black adults, April 2023



New York Times

Produced by Deanna Donegan, Hang Do Thi Duc and Tiffanie Graham. Edited by Kate Lowenstein and Lori Leibovich.



Let's sing.



350

The Ceaseless Flow of Endless Time

$\text{♩} = 96$

1. The cease - less flow of end - less time no
2. The pres - ent slips in - to the past, and
3. The past and fu - ture ev - er meet in

one can check or stay; we'll view the past with
dream - like melts a - way; the break - ing of to -
the e - ter - nal now: to make each day a

no re - gret, nor fu - ture with dis - may.
mor - row's dawn be - gins a new to - day.
thing com - plete shall be our New Year vow.

⊕ Words: John Andrew Storey, 1935-
Music: African American spiritual, c. 1750-1875, adapt. and harmony by
Harry T. Burleigh, 1866-1949

MCKEE
C.M.



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