

U of Provincetown Newsletter

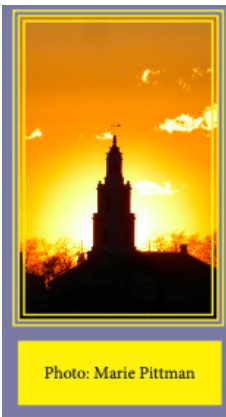
U

M

H

SUMMER 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



Poem 133: The Summer Day

Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean—
the one who has flung herself out of the
grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth
instead of up and down—
who is gazing around with her enormous
and complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thor-
oughly washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats
away.
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall
down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the
grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll
through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too
soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?
—Mary Oliver





Diary of the Untrained Spousal Health Aide

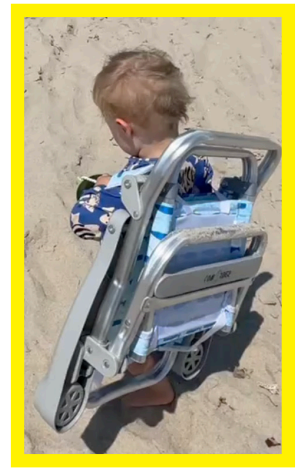
As most of you already know, my schedule and that of the newsletter itself has been in a jumble since my wife fractured her tibia on July 9th.

Huzzah! Flinging myself into the breach with no prior training except for my extensive longterm study of ER, Grey's Anatomy and--yes, I'm old enough to have matriculated at--St. Elsewhere, your happy editor has become nurse and wheelchair racing driver.

Kim must keep her leg still with no weight bearing for 5 more weeks or so. She is in a brace that lends credence to her accident "STORY" (that she broke her leg while catching passes from Tom Brady when Gronk mistakenly tackled her...in the end zone, of course.) because the size of the brace and the heft of it certainly seems like a football player's medical device.

We haven't had any collisions since the chair arrived (ahem, if I do say so myself), and I haven't had to do much cooking as friends up here in the Boston area are keeping us supplied. Kim continues to work at her laptop every day. Her pain is minimal if she keeps her leg straight and still, so, she keeps it straight and still. We did have a few bumps between patient and caregiver at first, bumps of the communication variety: 'Oh, you said you wanted blah blah? I thought you said bluh bluh'. But we have managed through compromise and taking things slow and doing one thing at a time—all to avoid annoying each other—to at least not incurring further injury!

And so, we are okay. We look at each other and say frequently: WE ARE SO BLESSED. We gaze out over the Neponset River and we watch the ducks swimming and the old guys fishing from the little dock and the mourning doves and sometimes the eagles flying by...and we say: WE ARE SO BLESSED. We send loving energy to all those whose lives are so much more constrained and painful than ours, and we pray that we may all be safe and strong and well and free.



Ellen Anthony and Marty Hassell delivering a Valentine, signed by members of UUMH Provincetown to **Carolyn McDade***.

They sang "Spirit of Life" with her and any visitors would be welcome to do the same! She loved their visit and would welcome visits from members from UUMH Provincetown.

* Carolyn McDade is the composer of "Spirit of Life" and many, many other hymns UUs love and sing all the time.

Worship
Worship
Worship



Sunday, July 30:

Lessons for Future Ancestors

Matt Meyer

Sunday, August 6: The Heroes of the Story

Rev. Kate Wilkinson

Sunday, August 13: Icarus

Rev. Kate Wilkinson

Sunday, August 20: Augustitis

Rev. Kate Wilkinson

Sunday, August 27: The Presence of Love

Bruce de Ste Croix

Join us every
Sunday
at
11 a.m.
in our beautiful,
historic sanctuary
or
on-line at You-
Tube.
uumh.org
Click on Sermons

A Note from Rev. Kate
A Note from Rev. Kate
A Note from Rev. Kate



Transforming Together... a recap of General Assembly!

I am just back from the UUA General Assembly in Pittsburgh. Imagine... thousands of UU's coming together to worship, to learn, and to make important decisions together. It was wild. It was great to have Dave Hawver there as another UUMH delegate. In addition to our delegate duties, we also were able to sit together for the Ware Lecture by Imani Perry, hear Emma's Revolution live and meet each other for breakfast at a delicious place called The Speckled Egg! My favorite Emma's Revolution song, by the way, is called Swimming to the Other Side. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=syicfyH2O6U>)

My favorite thing about being in Pittsburgh was getting to visit the Mr. Rogers exhibit at the Heinz History Center. Mr. Rogers is one of my heroes and Pittsburgh was where he carried out his television ministry to children all over the world.

The thing that was the most hopeful at General Assembly was electing our new UUA President, Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt. <https://www.uuworld.org/articles/ga-2023> During the course of the week I had several chances to hear Rev. Dr. Betancourt speak and I was so impressed and excited by her vision. I hope you will get to know her over these next six years of her presidential term.

The other big thing on the docket was Article 2. At the same time that Unitarian Universalist congregations are joining together to add an 8th principle to the 7 we are used to, we are also, at the national level, taking a look at the entire section of the UUA bylaws where the principles live. For several years a selected committee has been studying and revising this bylaw section, which is called Article 2. They have proposed that we not just keep adding principles, but that we radically revise how we express our faith.

Before and at General Assembly, they presented to us their Article 2 Revision. Of course, right away there were many different reactions to it and also many, many proposals about how to change it. At GA we, as delegates, were asked to vote on amendments to Article 2 and also on the article itself. I felt a sense of loss in the room as we talked about letting go of the 8 principles, but also excitement as we were asked to live into a new era of Unitarian Universalism.

A large number of amendments to the Article 2 Revisions proposals were proposed and voted on during Thursday and Friday's General Sessions. Several of them passed which made small but meaningful changes to the wording in the proposal. On Saturday the General Assembly voted to give preliminary approval to the Proposed Article 2 Revisions. Of the 2,109 delegates online and in-person who voted on this matter, 1,816 (86.3%) voted to approve, and 289 (13.7%) voted against the revisions.

Because the by-laws specify that changes to Article 2 must be voted on in two separate General Assemblies, this vote does not actually change Article 2 this year. This vote initiates a year of further study on the proposed changes, where more amendments can be proposed. At next year, the General Assembly will make the final vote

for or against this revision package, and if it passes with a two-thirds majority (67%) next year, then the changes will actually be made.

While the Study Commission has not yet released the full text of what was approved, with the Amendments inserted, it will look something like the text below.

I'd love your thoughts on the proposed new Article 2! And I'm so happy to be home.

Rev. Kate

Article II Purposes and Covenant

Section C-2.1. Purposes.

The Unitarian Universalist Association will devote its resources to and use its organizational powers for religious, educational, and humanitarian purposes. Its primary purposes are to assist congregations in their vital ministries, support and train leaders both lay and professional, to foster lifelong faith formation and spiritual development, to heal historic injustices, to support and encourage the creation of new Unitarian Universalist communities, and to advance our Unitarian Universalist values in the world.

The purpose of the Unitarian Universalist Association is to actively engage its members in the transformation of the world through liberating Love.

Section C-2.2. Values and Covenant.

As Unitarian Universalists, we covenant, congregation-to-congregation and through our association, to support and assist one another in our ministries. We draw from our heritages of freedom, reason, hope, and courage, building on the foundation of love.

Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values. We are accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared values through the spiritual discipline of Love.

Inseparable from one another, these shared values are:

Interdependence. We honor the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

With humility and reverence, we covenant to protect Earth and all beings from exploitation, creating and nurturing sustainable relationships of repair, mutuality, and justice.

Pluralism. We celebrate that we are all sacred beings diverse in culture, experience, and theology.

We covenant to learn from one another in our free and responsible search for truth and meaning. We embrace our differences and commonalities with Love, curiosity, and respect.

Justice. We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all thrive.

We covenant to dismantle racism and all forms of systemic oppression. We support the use of inclusive democratic processes to make decisions within our congregation and the society at large.

Transformation. We adapt to the changing world.

We covenant to collectively transform and grow spiritually and ethically. Openness to change is fundamental to our Unitarian and Universalist heritages, never complete and never perfect.

Generosity. We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope.

We covenant to freely and compassionately share our faith, presence, and resources. Our generosity connects us to one another in relationships of interdependence and mutuality.

Equity. We declare that every person has the right to flourish with inherent dignity and worthiness.

We covenant to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain fully accessible and inclusive communities.

Section C-2.3. Inspirations.

As Unitarian Universalists, we proclaim that direct experiences of transcending mystery and wonder are a primary source of inspiration. These experiences open our hearts, renew our spirits, and transform our lives. We draw upon, and are inspired by, sacred, secular, and scientific understandings that help us make meaning and live into our values. We respect the histories, contexts, and cultures in which these understandings were created and are currently practiced. These sources ground us and sustain us in ordinary, difficult, and joyous times. Grateful for the experiences that move us, aware of the religious ancestries we inherit, and enlivened by the diversity which enriches our faith, we are called to ever deepen and expand our wisdom.

Section C-2.4. Inclusion.

Systems of power, privilege, and oppression have traditionally created barriers for persons and groups with particular identities, ages, abilities, and histories. We pledge to replace such barriers with ever-widening circles of solidarity and mutual respect. We strive to be an association of congregations that truly welcome all persons who share our values. We commit to being an association of congregations that empowers and enhances everyone's participation, especially those with historically marginalized identities.

Section C-2.5. Freedom of belief.

Congregational freedom and the individual's right of conscience are central to our Unitarian Universalist heritage. Congregations may establish statements of purpose, covenants, and bonds of union so long as they do not require that members adhere to a particular creed.

Our Dave Hawver at GA (center) getting ready to raise our UUMH banner high!



JOIN RACIAL JUSTICE PROVINCETOWN FOR

A SILENT VIGIL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE



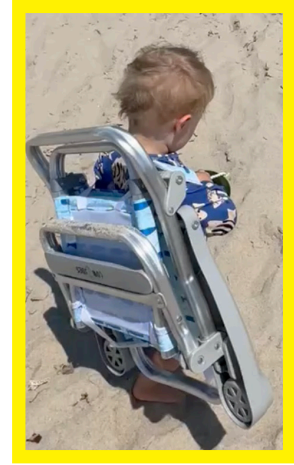
**THE FIRST
SATURDAY**
OF EVERY MONTH

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

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

At your discretion>

[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.

Editor's Note: Originally the theme for July was "in The Swim" but as you know, things changed in my life and I switched the theme to Summer. Will Hilldreth kindly did his Board Report based on the original theme!



"In the Swim" Board Report –

When Kathleen told me the topic for this month's newsletter was "In the Swim" it struck me as being perfect for this moment at the Meeting House. Recent weeks have felt very much like we're "back in the swim", with the pancake breakfast (thanks to Stan and Ada and all the volunteers!), flower communion, beloved members of our congregation and friends returning for the summer, and the spectacular June-teenth celebration.

The Meeting House has been full again, we've had lots of visitors and guests, and it feels so wonderful to have the Sanctuary full of music and song for worship again.

While we are keeping a close eye on the Covid situation in town and beyond, the last few weeks have really felt like a joyful return to a more normal life. I'm hopeful we can continue this trajectory as the summer unfolds.

In the meantime, as Dory in Finding Nemo says "Just Keep Swimming."



UU Meeting House News,

Last fall, UUSC partners testified in front of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). There, they spoke forcefully to the environmental threats faced daily by Indigenous communities in the United States.

Because of their testimony, the IACHR sent the Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights (REDESCA) to meet with Tribes in Louisiana and Alaska in May.

These first-of-their-kind visits assist the Commission to better understand the harms to Indigenous culture and livelihoods due to the climate crisis. The resulting report from the Special Rapporteur will outline the U.S. government's obligations to address their concerns.

Already, these in-depth discussions have shown the immense challenges stemming from climate-forced displacement, ongoing adaptation measures, and why the federal tribal recognition process is so problematic and difficult to navigate. The tours led by UUSC's partners have clearly demonstrated how a lack of governmental responses leaves Indigenous communities without resources needed to repair homes and rebuild livelihoods in the aftermath of climate-caused devastation.

REDESCA's visit provides a strong tool for the Tribes' ongoing organizing, so they can leverage its outcome to help uphold their rights. It comes at a critical time as they continue to experience the acceleration of massive storms, catastrophic land collapse, soil erosion, rising waters, thawing permafrost, and decreasing arctic sea ice, among other adverse climate impacts.

UUSC is proud to be among the NGOs supporting groups advocating an equitable distribution of federal and state resources to confront climate change. The momentum toward a just recovery for communities on the frontlines of climate advocacy will benefit future generations to come.

In the coming weeks, we'll be sharing reflections with you via email and on UUSC's blog so you can also follow the path of the Special Rapporteur's tour. Please take a look at our first post about the historic visit.

In solidarity,

Mike Givens
Director of Strategic Communications
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee



Brenda Silva makes the keys glisten!



Our choir of angels. ??

Mary Abt, director, second from right

Among Ourselves Among Ourselves Among Ourselves



- It occurs to the Pastoral Care Team that there are little elves among you who are working hard at the UUMH doing the work of elves. For all who are working behind the scenes throughout the years, thank you! You do not go unnoticed.
- As we travel through this life together, it seems that we are, indeed, living in times of extreme weather. May all who have been affected by heat, rain, floods and other disasters persevere. We are lifting you up!
- Great to see Isabelle among us! And Wendy Kahn, so glad you made it! And Melissa Nussbaum! And, Gaby and George Whitehouse were here too! We have missed you all!
- We miss seeing Judy Thompson.
- We continue to send love to Melissa and Althea.
- We hold Deb Felix and her sister in our hearts. Let us know if we can do anything. And to Dave Hawver and his brother, we send you love as well!
- We hold on our hearts all the members of the OCC, who have weathered the ups and downs of a community in transition. We trust you to keep filling your hearts, as well as ours with song! Welcome back, Allison!
- Mary Abt, we just love you! Same goes to you, Paul Breen and Bo Harris!
- Thank you, thank you, thank you to Lisa Bergeron, Pat Medina, Vicky Barstow, Karen Kuehl, Lorraine Kujawa, Kenneth and Rev. Kate, Wave, Paul Breen and Bo Harris, who keep our Little Food Pantry stocked, organized and tended to. It is a labor of love!
- Welcome home, Susan Downey and Loretta Butehorn! We were so saddened to hear of the deaths of both Blue and Finn. Know that we are holding you in our hearts!
- And, Bonnie Breidenbach, we send love after the loss of your beloved Kiko. May your new family members (birds) bring you some comfort.
- Michael Fernandes and Susumu Kishihara are making their new home cozy and warm. It's been a long haul, may you finally find refuge! And, Michael, may your healing continue.
- Love, as always, is being sent to Cricket!
- Mary DeRocco, you are a trooper and we miss you. Good luck in this journey of creating a new life for yourself. Let us know if you need anything!
- We missed Mel Dwyer, but are so grateful that she had time with her family in Japan. And, may Alison heal well too! What a time!
- Missing Linnet Hultin indeed!
- Welcome home, Will Hildreth and Ryan Cooke. May your new home bring you great happiness!

Among Ourselves Among Ourselves Among Ourselves

- Marty Hassell, we hold you and your family in our prayers. Know that you can lean on us!
- Okay, no more COVID for Stan Hudson and Ada Park-Snyder okay?
- Thank you, Myra Kooy, for blessing us with your art installation.
- So great having David Mills with us so consistently!
- So great to have Gracie LePage in our choir. She is welcome ANY TIME! Sending you love, Brenda Silva.
- Love to Bernie Mainz and Margueriete Van Doren. It has not been an easy year for them. If we can help in any way, please do not hesitate!
- Dianne Kopser, we send healing energy, after foot surgery. And, may your mom find her new home all that she...and you..hope for.
- Bill Clark, we love you!
- Sending Cameron and Ellen Morfit and Jane and Mason Morfit all our love.
- Much love to Len Bowen, who lost his beloved Gary a year ago.
- Congratulations to Chris Vazquez and Kat Black on their new job as co-pastors of the Christian Union Church in Truro. They are lucky to have you!
- So much love and support being sent to Kathleen Henry and Kim Marrkand. Kim fell and broke her leg and they are coping with strength and equanimity, as always. We love you!
- Jeffrey Harrell married his beloved Shane and we are so very happy for him!

**DO THE BEST YOU CAN UNTIL
YOU KNOW BETTER. THEN
WHEN YOU KNOW BETTER,
DO BETTER.**

– MAYA ANGELOU

Poetry Corner

Rainbows

by Heather Ferguson

A rainbow invites light and bends it eastward
in excessive peacock display.

Love flaunts feathers and glitter,
a wink, the curve of a hip or breast.

The earth knows curves and bends all trajectories to
herself.

A rainbow courts light and bends it westward
with slide rule precision.

Love peers cautiously ahead, makes minute adjust-
ments,

leafs through the calender, checking, checking.

The sun knows sharp-edged shadows, the arrow that
splits the apple.

A rainbow attracts light and bends it eastward and
westward.

Is that an open portal? Will love and justice come at
last?

The earth and the sun confer together for just an
instant.

They nod: it's clear. They say yes, yes.

Poetry Corner

I miss the water
with my sunsets
preferably the Atlantic
or my St. Clair or Huron shore
sunrises are best
with water but are
ethereal magic
anywhere.

birds bringing in
singing in the day
But the moon
courts me everywhere
pearlescent orb
Full this night
tucking me in
and bathing me
in
silver
light.

by Bonnie Breidenbach

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.



Four-year-old Senty Banutu-Gomez holds a photograph of Emmett Till, a 14-year-old Black boy who was lynched in 1955, at a vigil on the one-year anniversary of the murder of George Floyd, who died while in Minneapolis police custody, in Lynn, Massachusetts.

[Brian Snyder/Reuters]

President Biden announced on July 25 the creation of a national monument to Emmett Till and his mother.

From the Editor's Desk



The little guy in the photo which graces many of the pages of this newsletter is Mac. He is celebrating his summer by trekking across Corn Hill Beach carrying his very own beach chair. It is as big as he is and Mac's progress, while steady, is slow. But, wow, is Mac happy with himself as he does his best and chips in to help.

Sometimes what we are given to carry--even what we have volunteered to carry--is tricky and hard to bear.

But sometimes it is a wonderful opportunity to grow and stretch, to develop new strengths.

Sometimes we have taken on too much--as Rev. Kate said in her sermon last Sunday--we try to be Atlas holding up the whole world.

There's a wonderful concept in Sweden that's helpful to this reflection:

"Lagom in the Swedish language literally means not too much, not too little, the right amount, and is a philosophy that aims to balance, in every area and juncture of everyday life. Lagom is the secret that explains a lifestyle based on social awareness, moderation and sustainability." (Technogym News)

Balance. Carrying the right amount. Taking the necessary steps. Helping out without taking over.

Thanks, Mac!



Photo: Marty Cowden

25th season 1999-2023
Great Music on Sundays @5
THE COLORS OF MUSIC
celebrating our 25th season!

ptownmusic.com
 PRODUCED BY JOHN THOMAS

Unitarian Universalist Meeting House 236 Commercial St Provincetown MA

COVID PROTOCOL: mask recommended

\$25 admission \$20 seniors \$50 limited priority seating ages 12 & under free advance purchase brownpapertickets.com handicapped accessible

donations welcome

ptownmusic.com

YouTube @Great Music on Sundays @5 archived concerts for 24/7 viewing

SPONSORS: DISTINGUISHED PRODUCTIONS, WILLIAM BARRIS, Gabby Hanna, The Paletten, Mass Cultural Council, Cape Air, Fanizzi's, Berta Walker GALLERY, WQMR 92.1FM, WEMR 93.3FM

The UUMH Newsletter welcomes submissions. Please send photos, poetry, essays, etc., by the 20th of the month to meetinghousenews@gmail.com

Photos of ourselves are especially welcome!!