



NEW OUTLOOK

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY
A spiritual home where religion and reason meet APRIL 2015

Kindred Spirit



***Enough, I say, of big things and great things.
And extraordinary things, and ultimate things.
I celebrate the ordinary.
I lift my voice in praise.***

Richard S. Gilbert

Not long ago, in a two-hour time period, I collected three pennies, one dime and a quarter. Four of the five coins were found on the street. The quarter was lurking in the trunk of my car.

Finding spare change is a rare occurrence for me. There have been a few times in my life when I looked everywhere for extra money for toll booths and parking meters but to no avail. Just when I wasn't looking, however, on that sunny afternoon the shiny coins landed in my path.

In Hinduism, people pray to Lakshmi (also spelled "Laxmi") the goddess who represents all the riches in worldly life. She is pictured as having gold coins falling from her four outstretched hands. To worship Lakshmi is to pray for abundant luck and good fortune because she stands for wealth in all its differing forms. I wasn't praying to Lakshmi when I happened upon the coins that afternoon but I felt almost giddy each time I spied one of them. I have to admit, even though I'm grown and far from being a child who squeals at shaking a penny bank, I still get excited when I spot a lonely coin in a parking lot.



People say pennies, nickels and dimes are useless. I say it's not what they can or cannot buy that counts. It's what they stand for. They are not worthless when they remind us to value life's little delights.

I invite you to take the time to pay attention to the seemingly small and insignificant riches present in each passing moment. Having trouble finding the treasures in everyday life? A little nod in the direction of Lakshmi might help. And, don't forget to join us at UUFCC where love is ever abundant.

Rev. Amy Kindred

Meditation and Mindfulness

Discussions Continue Every Thursday at UUFCC 5:15 - 6:15 pm

We begin the hour with silent meditation and end it with discussion on various topics related to mindful living and teachings from Buddhism.

Message from MaryHolly

Board President



Our Annual Meeting marks another year of good things happening at UUFCC. Much business was accomplished! And we continue seek input to build our future!

- It is a new Fiscal Year for the newly approved Operating Budget.
- We have an expanded Board with two additional Trustees which I believe will help us better serve the members of the congregation.
- The Board will have a retreat with old and new Board members on April 14th to more clearly delineate roles and responsibilities.
- Particularly during the "high season" months, we are moving from a "family" organized congregation to a "program" organized congregation (skipping over "pastoral"). This usually requires a bit more structure and organization...and policies and procedures. We will keep you informed as we learn more.

UU beyond UUFCC: We are part of something bigger!

All UU congregations are a part of a much larger denomination: **the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)**. Currently, there is the **Florida District** which is part of the relatively newly formed **Southern Region**.

Later this month, April 17th-19th, our delegates who attend the **District Assembly in Orlando** will consider an important vote to define the relationships as UU congregations, clusters, elders and the staff at the Southern Region. We will report back! However, all Florida UUs are welcome to attend this District Assembly in Orlando! Check out the website: www.uuasouthernregion.org and the video link in the box below.

In June, delegates from all over the country and beyond will attend the **General Assembly in Portland, Oregon**. It is an amazing experience with thousands of UUs coming together to participate in common experiences: sharing, learning, singing - and, yes, worshiping together. There are plans to **share some of the events and activities, virtually here at UUFCC**. If you are interested, in helping facilitate any of these activities look for details in early June. In the meantime check out the website: UUA.org/GA 2015.

Learn a bit about what is happening in the UUA and our Southern Region
Video Interview with Rev. Scott Tayler
Communications Task Force

Our Southern Region Communications and IT Specialist, Christine Purcell, recently interviewed the Rev. Scott Tayler about regionalization. Scott, our UUA's Director of Congregational Life, has been a partner with our district leaders and staff in the preparations for regionalization. Scott has a clear vision of why we are asking our delegates at our District Assemblies in April to shift governance from the district to the association level (hint: regionalization is not about the governance). [Watch this video](#) to learn more about the gifts of greater connection which are coming our way!



SUNDAYS

9:15 a.m. Conversation among Friends

9:30 a.m. – Choir Practice

10:30 a.m. – Worship Service
Coffee Hour following Worship
Potluck Lunch on first Sunday



Theme for April: Great News



A gypsy hat, c. 1806.

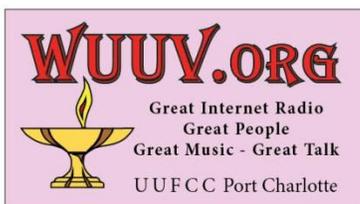
Sunday, April 5 Christian Mysticism: Easter Rev. Amy Kindred

The Easter Holiday presents an opportunity to revisit old parables and to view them in a different way. We'll explore the "rational" approach to a stone that rolls away and then, we'll view the story with a mystically colored lens. Join our tradition of wearing your "Easter bonnet" to brighten up the day!

On this Sunday, we open the book for new members to sign. Email Diane Allen-Harkins, dallenharkins@gmail.com, if you want to become a member of our thriving congregation.

Sunday, April 12 Jewish Mysticism: The Divine Spark Rev. Amy Kindred

In a dominantly Christian society, Judaism is somewhat overshadowed but its importance is not diminished. The Festival of Freedom (Pesach) or Passover begins this year on April 3 and ends on Saturday, April 11. On this Sunday, we'll explore a mystical story from the Jewish tradition. What is hidden? What is revealed?



Sunday, April 19 Radio Hour Sunday
Lay leaders: Rosemary Hagen and Tom Deuley

What is the importance of our web radio presence? How do you find it online? It's a morning of fun talk about our radio program.

Sunday, April 26 Bovines and Bonfires: Beltane and Our Sixth Source
Lay leader: Chris McCoy

Our Sixth Source says that UUs draw from earth-based traditions and honor the planet we call home. Let's explore one of the pagan holidays, Beltane, and how we as UUs of all walks of life and faith honor the teachings of our Sixth Source.



eARTh Day Celebration!

Saturday, April 18

9 AM – 1 PM, at UUFCC



Join us as we Celebrate eARTh Day with a day of activities that show the relationship between the earth, art, and the environment. UUFCC, Goodwill Industries of SW Florida, Keep Charlotte Beautiful, and Charlotte County Solid Waste Division are sponsoring the event with more than 15 environmental groups displaying their programs or businesses.

An exhibit of winning entries in the Keep Charlotte Beautiful 2015 student calendar competition will adorn our sanctuary walls. Charlotte County students, K through 12, created artworks showing their vision of an environmentally healthy county. Our own RE kids built natural displays for the glass cases. Don't miss the children's art reception at 11 AM!!

There will be a lot to do:

- Buy local fresh produce from Boca Grande Farmer's Market.
- Goodwill will provide free, secure document destruction through their Secure Shred program.
- Participate in children's games and activities.
- Enjoy live music.
- Feast on vegetarian goodies.
- Attend a talk on home solar paneling.
- Learn about worm composting, recycling, water conservation, and helping save our bird population.
- Ask master gardeners your pressing gardening questions.
- Join an environmental action group.

Entry "fee": Please bring gently used home articles or books for the Goodwill stores and the Keep Charlotte Beautiful Little Free Library.

VOLUNTEERS!!

We need your help for this event that represents the joint efforts of the Art Committee, Climate Action Team, Religious Education, as well as our musicians and technicians. Please volunteer to welcome visitors, direct traffic and show off our beautiful Fellowship. Volunteer sign-up sheets are in the Social Hall.



Membership Notes

Diane Allen-Harkins dallenharkins@gmail.com



The Membership Committee is happy to announce that a very successful "New to UU" Welcome Breakfast was held on Saturday March 14. The food was good and plentiful, conversation was lively and informative and we had quite a bit of fun.

Special thanks to everyone who provided food and also to those who pitched in to help with setup and clean-up. Jack Harkins, Bill Howatt, Joanie Mountain, Cheryl Lee, Kay Azar, Christina Joy, Gurio Vincenti, Jennifer Rose, Mary Holly Allison, Jean Casey and more... I sincerely hope I have not missed anyone, but if I have, please accept my apologies and know I truly appreciate your contributions.

Sincere thanks as well to Rev Amy for her spirited leadership and to all the board members who were able to attend, your presence was enjoyed and appreciated.

Welcome breakfast leads up to our open book signing for new members which will take place on Sunday April 5, 2015. If you plan to sign the book on that date to become a member please let Rev Amy or Diane Allen-Harkins know of your intention if you have not already done so. We're looking forward to celebrating you as a new member. Please check the upcoming weekly updates to see the names of those who will have signed.

In gratitude,
Diane Allen-Harkins
UUFCC Membership Coordinator

CONTACT US - OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday

8 am – 2 pm

1532 Forrest Nelson Blvd, Port Charlotte, FL 33952
941.627.4303

www.uufcc.org, www.facebook.com/uufcc

Rev. Amy Kindred, minister@uufcc.org
941.916.0957

Minister's hours: Tues. morning and Thurs. afternoon. It's best to call for an appointment.

Chris McCoy, Office Assistant
office@uufcc.org

MaryHolly Allison, President@uufcc.org

Diane Allen-Harkins, Membership Coordinator,
dallenharkins@gmail.com

Ginger Abraham, Newsletter Editor,
newsletter@uufcc.org

Article Deadline: 20th of the month

Myrna Charry, Communications Chair,
mcharry@earthlink.net

CALLING ALL BOOK LOVERS WEDNESDAY APRIL 29TH TO DISCUSS "I, CLAUDIUS"

We gather on the last Wednesday of each month from 1:30 to 3pm to discuss a book (fiction or non-fiction) chosen by the group. Our book for April is "**I, Claudius**" by **Robert Graves**. This book is an acclaimed fictionalized "autobiography" of one of the most interesting Roman emperors who ruled between Caligula and Nero. Graves uses his vast knowledge of the Imperial Roman and his writing skill to produce a fascinating narrative of intrigue and power grabs by powerful personalities, male and female.

Contact: Mary Wolff – 629-0669 or
hmwoff9@hotmail.com





Ubuntu Harmony Singing April 4 9:30 - noon

Are you someone who loves to sing? Would you like to find a friendly, welcoming group of people to share your love of music? Have you wanted to sing but felt like your voice isn't quite good enough to sing in a group? All are welcome to come to Ubuntu singing. We'll sing music from around the world and from many traditions and styles. No experience is necessary. You don't need to have a "good singing voice", just a desire to sing. Ubuntu singing is singing the old way – learning aurally, or "by ear". In primitive cultures no one questions whether they can sing nor do they think about how well they or anyone else sings. For them, it's as natural and necessary as breathing. As a group, we'll do our best to create an environment which feels safe enough for someone who hasn't sung since grade school but interesting enough to tickle the fancy of even the most seasoned singer. The word, "Ubuntu" means "I am who I am because of my friendship with you". Ubuntu is an international network of groups who sing for the joy it brings. Come to UUFCC on April 4 from 9:30 am to noon to experience the joy!

Climate Action Team Notes



On March 28th, The Climate Action Team sponsored its monthly vegetarian potluck followed by an 18 minute TED talk "Beyond Carnism" with discussion.

The monthly Citizen's Climate Lobby meeting will be held @6:00pm on April 14 at Coty Keller's house. See Jack Harkins or Gudrun Mathaus for directions.

The Cat team will be sponsoring a veggie finger foods booth at UUFCC's eARTh Day Fair on Saturday, April 18 from 9:00am to 1:00pm. We are looking for volunteers able to prepare and help sell these wholesome goodies. Please contact Jack Harkins if you are interested.

We will hold our monthly CAT meeting on April 24 to discuss future plans.

Our monthly meatless potluck will be on April 25 followed by discussion. Please look at weekly updates for the exact time.

"Eco- tips" of the month are from the Florida DEP website

April is Water Conservation Month

Consider the following tips to help conserve water in your home.

Repair leaky fixtures. One drop per second from a leaky faucet can waste as much as 10 gallons of water each week.

Install low-flow showerheads, faucets and toilets. Low-flow faucets reduce water consumption and the cost of heating water by as much as 50 percent; using a low-flow toilet can save Americans 2.1 trillion gallons of water and \$11.3 million nationwide every day.

Turn the water off. Don't allow the water to run when brushing your teeth. This can waste two gallons of water per brushing! Instead, wet your toothbrush, brush your teeth, and then turn the water on again to rinse.



2015 Giving Campaign Winds Down

On behalf of the Fellowship, your Stewardship Team wants to thank the many members and friends who have pledged their financial support to make our dreams a reality. Together, our pledges assure that the many programs we love—worship, music, religious education, caring, social justice, and so many others—can be continued.



As of this writing, we are still short of our goal but we are optimistic that, given some time and effort, we can succeed. Members of the Stewardship Team are contacting those we haven't yet heard from. In addition, throughout the year, new people are joining us in greater numbers than ever before, enriching our congregation with their time and talent, and yes, their financial support.

On any given Sunday, you can feel the vitality of our growing fellowship in the rejuvenated choir, the buzz in the social hall, and the laughter of children. You might also feel the crunch while searching for a space in the parking lot or the frustration of trying to fit another meeting or event into our already crowded calendar. But we are growing in more than numbers. We are also changing in the diversity and depth of our programs and expanding our presence and visibility in the community outside our walls. In addition, we have changed the way we think and talk about who we are and what we need in terms of time, talent, and treasure to continue our success. We've abandoned the traditional pledge drive for a new approach to stewardship that requires our attention throughout the year. We intend to continue and expand our efforts to welcome new people and integrate them into our community. We regularly ask members and friends to tell us what they love about the Fellowship and where we can improve. In this next year especially, as we explore our building options and determine what we can afford, we will need to employ every means of communication—weekly updates, newsletters, surveys, and meetings—to keep you informed and to incorporate your thinking into our planning.

THE UU ENDOWMENT FUND: A Question

Will endowment contributions compete with our annual pledge income needs?



No. Endowment giving is separate and differently-motivated from other contributions. Pledges are usually budgeted to provide a dependable income stream that supports the day-to-day operations of the Fellowship. Endowment gifts tend to be episodic. They come from a need to celebrate life or to honor those we love, or come from our wealth or our estates, most often as testamentary gifts. Assuring that gifts are protected in perpetuity is the driving force behind most Endowment giving. The overwhelming use of endowments by colleges, museums, philanthropic and religious organizations is testimony to their efficacy and value as a foundation for institutional good health.

HOLD THE DATE: Attention: all of you who have made a contribution to the UU Endowment will be invited to a celebration event on Monday, April 27th 4-5:30.

It is not too late to make a donation of any amount in honor or memory of a loved one.



Walk the Talk in Charlotte County

**March for Peace, Justice and Community Unity
From Port Charlotte, across the east branch of the
Peace River bridge to Lashley Park in Punta Gorda**

Saturday, April 25, 10:00am to 2:00pm.



Charlotte County and Punta Gorda in particular have a long history of better relations among its citizens than many other communities in America. On opening day, Sept.3, 1963, Charlotte High School was voluntarily integrated before the Civil Rights Act was passed or any court required it, the first in Florida to do so. It was implemented successfully without any major incidents. Over the years there have been numerous challenges and circumstances have never been perfect, but many of our citizens have taken pride in the fact that "Punta Gorda is different."

Prompted by the sorry events in Ferguson, MO, the NAACP, the Chief of Police, the Sheriff, Clergy and other community leaders in our Charlotte County recently organized a Task Force to address a variety of issues. Among the ideas was a public manifestation of our community's dedication to peace and justice by walking together in unity to the Justice Center.

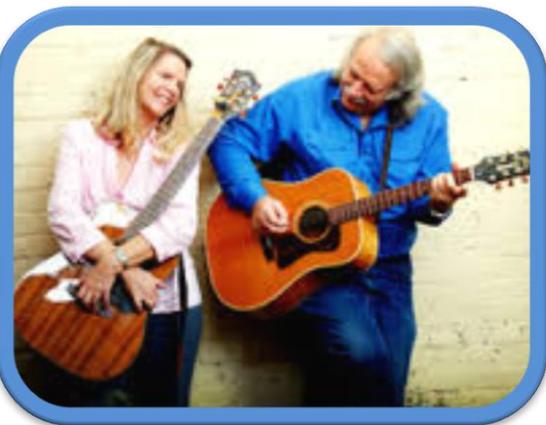
On this, the 50th anniversary of Selma, the crossing of a bridge has symbolic meaning. In response to that tragic incident so long ago, we wish to say now that we here have found a better way. Side by side, shoulder to shoulder, hand in hand, let us march together in peaceful unity towards a better, more just, future.

To help support this cause please DONATE today with any amount to the Charlotte County NAACP Branch 5093, P.O. Box 512539 Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Come, let us walk together.

Rev. Louis C. Anderson Jr., Branch President

CONCERT!!



The music scene continues at UUFCC! On Friday evening, April 17, at 7:00 p.m., we have a double-header UUFCC fundraiser concert. Opening will be Kilo and Linda. Kilo is a longtime fixture at the Punta Gorda Guitar Army, and Linda is superb playing the Native American Flute. Following will be our headliners, Jamieson Roberts. Debbie Jamieson and Michael Roberts will bring tasty guitar work and soul-stirring harmonies to UUFCC, presenting bold interpretations of better-known songs, as well as fun and a touch of romance in their original material. You will find yourselves tapping your toes, nodding your heads, and singing along. Jamieson Roberts released their first album in October of 2014. Tickets

are \$15.00, available at the door. Come, bring a friend, and enjoy! Friday, April 17, at 7:00 p.m.



Events at UUFCC

WEEKLY EVENTS

WEDNESDAYS, APRIL 1, 8, 15 (MON. 27) – Choir Practice 6:00 pm

THURSDAYS, APRIL 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 – Meditation 5:15 pm

SATURDAYS, APRIL 4, 11, 18 – Recorder Group 2 pm

- | | |
|--|--|
| April 4 Ubuntu Singing 9:30 | April 19 Mystical Experiences Group
12:00 pm |
| 5 Nominating Committee 12:15 pm | 21 Climate Action Team 5:30 pm |
| 7 NAMI Group | Sierra Club – New Members
6:00 pm, Meeting 7:00 pm |
| 8 Worship Committee 3:30 pm | 22 Healing Oasis 6:00 pm |
| 10 Field Trip to Virginia B. Andes Clinic
(see below)
Karaoke 5:30 pm
Café Serendipity 7:00 pm | 25 NAACP March for Peace,
Justice and Community Unity
(see p. 7) |
| 11 Art Howard Celebration of Life | 26 This I Believe Discussion
12:00 pm |
| 12 Social Justice Committee 12:00 pm | 27 UU Endowment Celebration
Event 4:00 pm (see p. 6) |
| 14 NAMI Group 6:00 pm | 28 Readers' Theater 10:30 am |
| 16 Peace River Audubon Society 6:00 pm | 29 Book Group 1:30 pm |
| 17 Concert/Fundraiser – Jamieson Roberts
6:00 pm | |
| 18 eARTh Day 9:00 am | |

Field Trip: Virginia B. Andes Clinic

Friday, April 10 Meet at 10 am at UUFCC

The Care and Hospitality Committee has arranged for a field trip to learn about the needs and good work of the Virginia B. Andes Clinic in Port Charlotte. We'll carpool from UUFCC. Please email Chris, office@uufcc.org, or call [941-627-4303](tel:941-627-4303), if you will be attending.

