



# NEW OUTLOOK

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

*A spiritual home where religion and reason meet*

NOVEMBER 2017



## Kindred Spirit

*A perspective focused on abundance is directly related to the depth of your gratitude.*

Two ushers flanked the minister at the front of the sanctuary. The three, facing the congregation, stood behind a long wooden table. The pastor boomed, "And now, friends, it's time to place our gifts on this table. Let us give thanks to God. Come forward, one and all, for the offering." The organ vibrated the room, coaxing those seated to rise. Row by row, the men, women and children lined up to empty the contents of their pockets and purses on the table. The dollar bills, some folded and others crumbled, lay cold and bare on the wood-grained surface. Coins, rolling from soft fingers, glowed as they skidded to a noisy stop next to the growing pile of cash.

The music stopped abruptly after the people had returned to their seats. The pastor broke the awkward silence saying, "Wait...what is this??" The organist highlighted the man's words with a couple of low notes. The pastor pointed to the table, "I know y'all got more to share. God has been good to us. Let's show our gratitude and give this another go 'round." The people chuckled nervously. The organ played and once again, the crowd came forward.

When the morning service ended and the pastor was satisfied with the collection, I rose to leave with the others. As I eased out of the pew to enter the aisle that lead to the exterior door, I glanced at the table where the ushers were beginning to collect the cash. Sitting atop the pile was a small red, toy car...perhaps a child's cherished gift of gratitude. \*\*

At the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, we do things a little differently when it comes to inviting the offering on a Sunday morning. For example, when the baskets come forward after having been passed throughout the room, I place my hands in a prayer position at my forehead and state, "May my thoughts remain on gratitude." Moving hands to my mouth, I say, "May my words speak of gratitude." Finally, with hands at chest level, I end with, "May gratitude rest in my heart." This is not a ritual from any tradition of which I am aware. Of course, there is a similar form with hand gestures in Catholicism and in the Hindu, or Yogic tradition, the hands may be placed at the third eye position, the forehead, for a closing ritual after practice.

Frankly, I don't think it matters what action you take to move your perspective toward gratitude and a recognition of abundance in all areas of life and away from fear of scarcity, judgement of others, criticism of countless actions and a negative outlook on the future. Sure, these are tough times. There is much cause for concern. However, staying focused on gratitude, striving constantly to maintain an attitude of thankfulness for the smallest acts of kindness and opportunities to witness beauty in the world offers equilibrium and a better view of an abundant life.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Irma, the Unitarian Universalist community has been asked often in the past month to donate dollars and goods. Please know that always, always we recognize that any capacity to give makes a difference. Thank you."



## Dear Ones

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I am sorry to inform you that the plan to purchase the two acres adjacent to our back parking lot has been postponed. The sellers have discovered that the title to the property is not clear. We have high hopes that this problem will be resolved and the purchase will occur later this year. I will keep you informed as our efforts to acquire this property continue.

Regardless of the outcome, we need to express our deep gratitude to Don Liermann for his tireless efforts to enhance and expand our facilities.

One of the biggest challenges we face is adequate parking space on Sunday mornings. If you are able, **please park at the public library.**

Our Director of Music, Jim Boyle, is scheduled to return from his summer adventures on November 1<sup>st</sup>. I am so looking forward to another season of singing in the choir under his brilliant direction.

I also want to express gratitude for our new member, and volunteer summer music director, Janet Morrill. Janet, has kept us singing and laughing over the last six months. **Thank you!**

Since August, five members have been cleaning the building once each week. Each participant completes a specific task at his/her leisure. These model citizens are Herb Levin, vacuumer, Cheryl Lee, duster, John Lee, bathrooms, entry windows and kitchen cleaner, and me, sweeper/mopper. Joseph Fenty provides back up. We plan to relinquish our jobs to others for the next three-month cycle (November - January). We are saving \$ 5,200 by doing our own cleaning. If you are willing to spend an hour or two cleaning at the Fellowship each week for the next three months, contact John Lee (john1949lee@yahoo.com).

In faith,  
Dennis Shaw, President  
UUFCC Board of Trustees

### A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER Ellen McGill

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Thank you to all who called or emailed me about the pledge letter they received last month. Ensuring our records are correct now will help us in January when we send a second letter in time for tax preparation. Please note that although our Fiscal Year runs from April 1 - March 31, the letter you receive in January will also include your pledge contributions and other donations from January through March of 2017.

More members are continuing to set up automatic withdrawals (weekly, monthly, or quarterly) from their checking accounts to fulfill their monthly pledges. This takes a few minutes to complete and most institutions will allow this to be done online. There are also other options available by which you can set up an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). If you are tired of writing checks or trying to remember when you made your last contribution, please contact me and I can provide you with options and information you need to establish either automatic checking withdrawals or EFTs.

# Many Paths...

## Sundays

9:15 a.m. Conversation Among Friends  
10:30 a.m. – Worship Service

Coffee Hour following Worship  
Potluck Lunch on first Sunday

## Meditation and Buddhist Discussion Group

Thursday nights, 5 - 6:15 pm

Each evening, we begin with a discussion and end with a period of meditation. All are welcome to attend.

Yoga for Life  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Saturday 9am

Yoga mats available.  
\$5 Donation

## Sunday Services

Theme: *What if we were a people of abundance*"

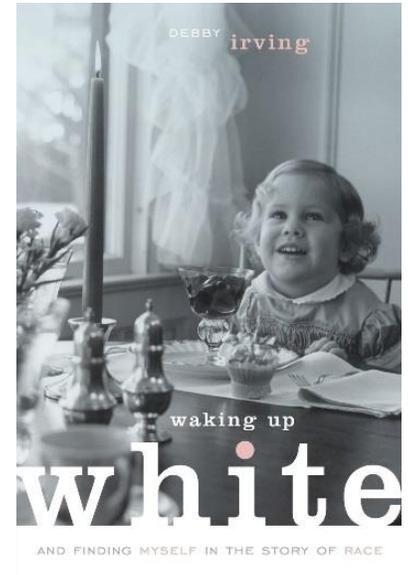
### November 5 "Waking Up White: It's Personal"

Rev. Amy Kindred

*"What I've learned is that I need not embrace extremist white supremacist beliefs to be susceptible to internalizing a host of what are considered white traits, ones that serve to hold racism in place."*

Debby Irving.

Join me on a journey of introspection and exploration. Let's begin to dismantle out-of-date cultural norms that keep all of us from creating deeper relationships.



### November 12 "Waking Up White: It's Institutional"

Rev. Amy Kindred

Historian and professor Mark Morrison-Reed asks, "What's the consequence of not knowing Unitarian Universalism's black history?" In an effort to build the beloved community of our dreams, let's look for the lost voices.



### November 19 "Sing a Song of Gratitude" Rev. Amy Kindred

It's been said, "Thank you" is the most powerful prayer ever spoken. Who could argue otherwise?

### November 26 "Three Perspectives on GA 2017"

MaryHolly Allison, Ginger Abraham, Lorrie Douglas

Three members share their experiences at our faith's annual gathering – General Assembly. Come and learn more about this special event – maybe you will be inspired to attend next year!



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

# REFlections - Religious Education at UUFCC

Marty Wilmer, Lifespan Development Coordinator

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## RE Classes

In November, due to school vacations, we will have just one class, revisiting our World Travelers curriculum from last year. New children are always welcome to join us.

- November 5 – Multi-generational service
- November 12 – Learn about the connections we have with the Netherlands and Thanksgiving, with Miles Williams and Phil Brown
- November 19 – Multi-generational service
- November 26 – Multi-generational service

## Youth Group

We have four youth signed up for our new Youth Group.

The Youth Group is scheduled to meet on Thursday, November 11, from 6:30 – 7:30. There will be no meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday this month due to the holiday. Please watch the weekly Updates for more information.

## Thoughtful Notes

A group of Religious Education students at the Champlain Valley UU Society in Middlebury, Vermont sent thoughtful notes to children in other congregations who were affected by one of the hurricanes. Our children were touched to receive these three notes. The tree picture says, “Hope;” the heart, “I’m sorry;” and the third says: “Dear person My name is Lucy and I am a part of the UU church in Middabary. I am also a kid. I can only begen to imagine the horror of what you are going throo. I jist want you to now that I believe in you.”



We are always looking for people to serve in our Religious Education program. We have Team Leaders who act like our Worship Associates, handling all the regular details. “Guides” are other volunteers who serve one Sunday, or two. Their role for our current curriculum is to read a story and lead an activity, which are selected by me. It’s easy and rewarding! Please let me know if you might be willing to help out for one Sunday. Email: [UUFCClifespan@gmail.com](mailto:UUFCClifespan@gmail.com). Available dates: March 11 – Joseph Priestly, April 22 – Pete Seeger, April 29 – Norbert Capek, and May 20 – LGBTQ Justice with our older children.

## Holiday Play



Plans are underway for our annual holiday play. This year, we will be doing “The Last Straw” on **December 10** (new date). We will have our first organizational meeting on Saturday, November 4, from 1-3 PM; then two more practices on Saturday mornings in December. There are several roles, both speaking and silent, for our children and adults. We also need LOTS of props and set designs, including a large old camel and a young sheep for the two main characters, so let me know if you would like to help with these.



### Many Thanks go to These UUFCC Shining Stars:

- Mary Lou Proudfoot Kennedy, Laura Liermann, Regina Renner, and Nancy Weaver, who each read a story and led the related activity in Religious Education (RE) in October;
- Sonya Waters for assisting Joseph Fenty with our first Social Justice Sunday class for older children;
- MaryHolly Allison for donating Strange Fruit, about Billie Holiday and the power of a protest song, to the children’s book library;
- Phil Brown, Joseph Fenty, Sharon Goding, and Jenn Rose, who served as a Team Leaders in October;
- Sharon Goding and Beth Clark for advising our Youth Group;
- All those who helped make our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Halloween Party a success, including our Youth Group who organized an activity for the younger children.

### **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](http://www.uufcc.org), [www.facebook.com/uufcc](http://www.facebook.com/uufcc)

**Rev. Amy Kindred**, [minister@uufcc.org](mailto: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 Administrator, [office@uufcc.org](mailto:office@uufcc.org)

**Dennis Shaw**, Board President, [President@uufcc.org](mailto:President@uufcc.org)

**Joani Mountain**, Membership Coordinator, [joanimountain@gmail.com](mailto:joanimountain@gmail.com)

**Marty Wilmer**, Lifespan Development Coordinator, [UUFCCLifespan@gmail.com](mailto:UUFCCLifespan@gmail.com)

**Ginger Abraham**, Newsletter Editor, [newsletter@uufcc.org](mailto:newsletter@uufcc.org) **Article Deadline:** 20th of the month

**Myrna Charry**, Communications Chair, [mcharry@earthlink.net](mailto:mcharry@earthlink.net)

# UU Endowment of Charlotte County

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I am writing this article as Ben and I arrive in Cambodia. It is the end of the Festival of the Dead: Pchum Ben. In Cambodia taking care of the deceased can be as serious a preoccupation as caring for the living. As one of the most important Buddhist festivals of the year, Pchum Ben gathers families and communities together for a 15-day ritual of redemption for seven generations of ancestors. It is a highly public holiday for Cambodian citizens, many who pack up their best clothes and travel across the country to return to their hometown and villages and reunite with family members and friends. Pchum Ben is translated as a “gathering of sticky rice balls”, which is part of the rituals, as is feeding the monks. The final day is a gathering for a collective

offering and prayers, granting a valuable resolution to the grief being felt by many who have lost a relative over the past 12 months. The collective act helps share the burden of bereavement while affirming the ties that bind the living.

This experience reminds me of how much I value the UU faith’s traditions. As Unitarian Universalists we honor those who have died with a Celebration of Life – a very special and unique way to honor the life of the individual who has died, reflecting on their life and sharing stories. No two services are alike and that is what makes them so special. Sadly, at UUFCC, we have lost many dear ones in recent months. There have been very special services and there are more to come. I truly value these celebrations of life and the way UUs do death.

Our UU Endowment serves as our community's Memorial Fund to honor those who have been a part of our beloved community and those who we have loved dearly. These gifts will last in perpetuity. The earnings on the principal will be used to further the principles and growth of Unitarian Universalism. We are grateful for the following very generous gifts:

**In memory of Kurt Flachs and Clarence Perry:**      Laura Flachs                      Mary Howard

At this time in the history of our Fellowship, with the possibility to expand our property and invest in the future of our faith, Memorial gifts may also be made to The UUFCC Capital Fund. In the words of Delmar, these funds may be used by the UUFCC Board and congregation for development or modernization of a sanctuary or other buildings supporting the Fellowship and its programs, including purchase of land and other related expenses such as architectural services, engineering or infrastructure required to meet this goal.

So, consider this option...or both funds... as we dream of expanding our space to fit our growing needs and programs. And if you have questions speak to one of the Trustees listed below. We will be glad to assist you in finding the information you may need.

It is an exciting time to be a part of UUFCC and the future of Unitarian Universalism!

With gratitude,  
 MaryHolly Allison, along with the other trustees  
 Stephanie Garrett, Robert Hansman, Don Liermann, Delmar Wooden, The Endowment Trustees

# Library Update

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We are in the process of cataloguing the children's books from RE. You may find them in the catalog by searching for title or author as usual or you may pull up all the catalogued children's books by typing the word juvenile in the search box. That will pull up all the juvenile books that have been catalogued. I should get the rest of them processed and in the catalogue by early December. The cataloguing scheme for the children's books will have a JUV call number followed by the first three letters of the author's last name. If you have any trouble locating the books contact either Marty Wilmer or myself and we can help you locate the book.

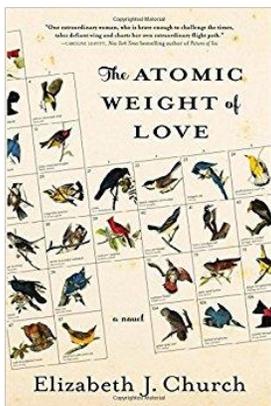
A special thank you goes out to Debbie Conrad for purchasing the Voices in Unitarian Universalism books for the library. *Buddhist Voices in Unitarian Universalism* has been catalogued and is currently residing on our brand new NEW BOOKS shelf located directly below the current magazine display shelf on the far right bookshelf.

With the holidays approaching, it might be a nice time to donate a book to the library. I've started a wish list of books that we would like to acquire for the library and would be happy to find one that appeals to your interests and pocketbook.

# UU Book Group

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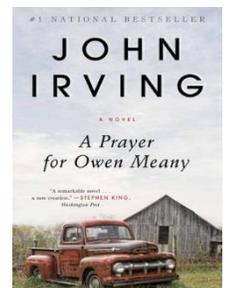
Make sure that you check the weekly update for the date and time of our Nov/Dec book discussion. The Book Group meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. except for the November and December discussions which are combined and held on a date to be determined. For further information contact either Joani Mountain ([joanimountain@gmail.com](mailto:joanimountain@gmail.com)) or Mary Jane Williams ([maryjanewms@comcast.net](mailto:maryjanewms@comcast.net)).

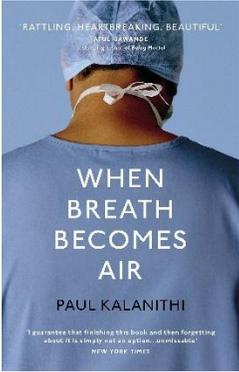


**November/December TBA      *Atomic Weight of Love* by Elizabeth J. Church**  
 In her sweeping debut novel, Elizabeth J. Church takes us from the World War II years in Chicago to the vast sun-parched canyons of New Mexico in the 1970s as we follow the journey of a driven, spirited young woman, Meridian Wallace, whose scientific ambitions are subverted by the expectations of her era. Exquisitely capturing the claustrophobic eras of 1940s and 1950s America, *The Atomic Weight of Love* also examines the changing roles of women during the decades that followed. And in Meridian Wallace we find an unforgettable heroine whose metamorphosis shows how the women's movement opened up the world for a whole generation.

**January 31<sup>st</sup>    *A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving (fiction)**

In the summer of 1953, two eleven-year-old boys—best friends—are playing in a Little League baseball game in Gravesend, New Hampshire. One of the boys hits a foul ball that kills the other boy's mother. The boy who hits the ball doesn't believe in accidents; Owen Meany believes he is God's instrument. What happens to Owen after that 1953 foul ball is extraordinary. One of John Irving's best novels full of laugh-out-loud humor.





## February 28<sup>th</sup> *When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi

At the age of thirty-six, on the verge of completing a decade's worth of training as a neurosurgeon, Paul Kalanithi was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. One day he was a doctor treating the dying, and the next he was a patient struggling to live. And just like that, the future he and his wife had imagined evaporated. *When Breath Becomes Air* chronicles Kalanithi's transformation from a naïve medical student "possessed," as he wrote, "by the question of what, given that all organisms die, makes a virtuous and meaningful life" into a neurosurgeon at Stanford working in the brain, the most critical place for human identity, and finally into a patient and new father confronting his own mortality.

## Social Justice

Myrna Charry

"The Plight of the Pickers" was the weekend topic at the Fellowship on Saturday Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> and Sunday Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> sponsored by the Social Justice Committee. Edward R. Murrow's 1960s classic film: "Harvest of Shame," depicting the horrendous conditions migrant agricultural workers endured was shown followed by a Mexican style lunch prepared by the UUFCC Men's Group. After lunch "Food Chains" was shown, a film examining present conditions of the Immokalee agricultural workers. Representatives from the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) were present and explained how some conditions have improved but many problems still remain, particularly those made worse by hurricane Irma.

Gerado Reyes Chavez, a CIW organizer who considers himself a "farmer" (he grew up working the tomato fields), talked with pride of agreements reached between farm owners and pickers: against practices of sexual abuse, rape, slavery, etc. He also discussed the CIW's campaign to get companies who buy or use tomatoes (supermarkets, fast food chains, etc.) to allocate an additional penny per pound for what is picked (such an agreement has almost doubled pickers' salaries.) Among the many businesses who have signed onto the agreement are Wal-Mart, McDonalds, Taco Bell, Whole Foods, Trader Joes, and Subway, to name a few. Unfortunately, Publix and Wendy's continue to resist any agreement. The CIW is now calling for the public to stop patronizing Wendy's and urges those concerned about the humanity of farm workers to boycott this establishment. The audience and other interested parties were invited to visit the CIW in Immokalee (call 239-657-8311 to arrange a visit).

On Sunday, Sister Maureen Kelleher, Catholic nun, teacher, lobbyist and immigration lawyer spoke to the congregation describing her 27-year tenure with the Legal Aid Society of Collier County in Immokalee. During that time, she served victims of domestic violence, unaccompanied minors seeking care, those seeking to unify their families, as well as those facing deportation. For the most part, she serves low income workers from Mexico, Guatemala and Haiti who are now farm laborers in Immokalee. She spoke of her past 27 years as being a life changing celebration – "It is easy to see Christ present in each of my days."



The two days offered memorable experiences for all.

# WEEKLY EVENTS

Mon., Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27– Conversational Spanish Class 5:30 pm  
 Wed., Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29– Dreams: Psychic Development Workshop 2:00 pm  
 Choir Practice 6 pm  
 Thurs., Nov. 2, 9, 18, 30 - Meditation 5 pm

- Nov. 4** Yoga for Life – 9 am; Art on the Wall – Exhibit hanging 10 am
- 8** Caring and Hospitality – 10 am
- 10** Karaoke Night - 5:30 pm
- 11** Chalice Circles 2 pm; Celebration of Life – Vince Frighetti – 2 pm
- 12** Social Justice – 12 pm
- 14** NAMI Group – 6 pm
- 15** Worship Committee – 4:00 pm
- 16** Food Truck Event – 4:30 pm
- 17** UUFCC Game Night - 6:30 pm
- 18** Talk to Me: Gathering for Grief – 10 am; Celebration of Life – Clarence Perry 5 pm
- 19** Artist Reception 12 pm; Mystical Experiences - 12 pm, Racial Justice - 12 pm
- 20** Art Committee - 10 am
- 21** UUFCC Board Meeting - 7 pm; Sierra Club - 7 pm
- 25** Chalice Circles - 2 pm, Meatless Meal – 5:30 pm
- 27** Coloring Meditation – 1 pm
- 29** Healing Oasis – 6 pm

## SAVE THE DATE!

**The UUFCC Annual Service Auction** will be held Saturday, February 3rd, 2018! 5:30 to 9:00. The theme is *A Chinese New Year*. This is the major fundraiser for our faith community, a special dinner and fun filled evening. Plan to attend.

