



NEW OUTLOOK

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

A spiritual home where religion and reason meet

DECEMBER 2018

Dear Ones



There is much to share as the Fellowship enters high season. It is so good to reconnect with snowbirds. We eagerly await the arrival of others. You, who live in Charlotte County for just part of the year, bring so much energy upon your return.

I am pleased to announce that the Board has entered into a formal arrangement with former UUFCC interim minister, Rev. Margaret L. Beard. Margaret spoke at the first Sunday service following Rev. Amy Kindred's departure. She also led an exceptional workshop for the folks who are responsible for care, hospitality and patient advocacy. In exchange for a very modest stipend, she will be readily available to help UUFCC leaders navigate the challenges we will face while searching for a new minister. Margaret will be available for weddings, celebrations of life services, and make referrals to other UU clergy when she is not available.

The Ministerial Task Force is hard at work preparing our search packet that will be viewed by ministerial candidates. The results of their congregational survey are remarkable. I encourage you to talk with Mary Jane Williams chair, regarding the results.

Most of you remember UUFCC Minister Emeritus, Rev. George Brooks, who died this past summer at age 95. Several weeks ago, I received notification that Rev. George had named UUFCC as the beneficiary of his life insurance. His gift is \$26,500! We will celebrate Rev. George's life on Saturday, December 29th at 2 PM in the sanctuary. Margaret will officiate.

We have received word that the pavers for our new 1,000 sq. ft. patio have arrived and will be installed by the first week of December. Improvements to exterior lighting are complete and the patio furniture is on order. My deepest gratitude to Don Liermann for all his time, talent and energy.

On January 9, 2019, UUFCC will mark its 50th anniversary. The celebration will begin with a service honoring our ancestors on January 6th. On Saturday evening, January 12th, we will party on our beautiful new patio. Dance music will be provided by Katy Brown, our resident disc jockey. If you want to help create the party, talk with Herb Levin, Mary Howard or Debbie Conrad.

I hope that we will be together often during the holidays sharing the joy of this season. On December 23rd, our children will participate in a special Christmas service. There will also be a service of readings and carols on Christmas Eve. Carefully read the weekly updates for times and additional events.

In faith and gratitude,
Dennis Shaw, President
UUFCC Board of Trustees

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.

Sunday Services

December 2 - “The Readiness is All” - Sharon Whitehill

As you look behind and ahead at your life, what has your process been for making important decisions? Are you, or have you ever, acted on impulse--and perhaps come to regret it? Have you had the luxury of time to decide on a choice that will affect you long term? My favorite example of the process is a man who makes and remakes a crucial decision but can't seem to act on it: Shakespeare's Hamlet. In his dilemma, however, he has something important to teach all of us.



December 9 – “The Guardian Ad Litem Program – A Way to Serve”

Margaret Kang

GAL
 Guardian ad Litem
 A POWERFUL VOICE FOR
 FLORIDA'S CHILDREN

Come learn about this program and the important role it has in family court regarding the children who are sheltered when parents can't, or won't, take care of them.

December 16 – “The Spirit of Dance” – Samara Michaelson

Dance is an expression of our heart, body and spirit and all bodies can experience the unique joy that comes from moving together in community. Let us allow music to flow in and our movement to ride on the music. We will explore ways that dance heals us all. No dancing required!



December 23 – “Intangible Gifts” Dennis Shaw and Jennifer Rose

Let's celebrate Christmas! This service will include presentations by our children.



December 24 – Christmas Eve Service

On Christmas Eve at 5:30 PM there will be a traditional service of readings and carols. The service will be lead by Marion Menna, Dennis Shaw, Jim Boyle and a special guest musician.

December 30 - “Making a Difference in the New Year” - Gudrun Matthaus

Members of our Justice Committees (Social, Racial and Immigration) will present past activities and enlist your help in determining what future projects should be considered.

A Note from the Membership Coordinator

Lynn Ritchie



As I stand near the Fellowship doors on Sunday mornings I am delighted to welcome back our beloved snowbirds and the many newcomers who are curious to see what goes on here at UUFCC. For those returning who may not be familiar with me, I assumed the role of membership coordinator in April when my predecessor Joani Mountain moved to California.

The Fellowship is in an exciting transition as we actively engage in a search for a new contract minister. The process as I see it, is helping us identify who we are as a congregation as well as clarifying the characteristics we desire in ministerial leadership. Our task force works diligently as our representatives and wants your input. Seek them out and share your views.

All of our committees and social groups anticipate the rich infusion of energy and participation our seasonal expansion provides. I encourage you to consider all the opportunities offered by this unique community and perhaps trying something new.

We will be celebrating our 50 years as a Fellowship in January. We will be looking back and forward, and of course, having a party! Stay tuned and watch for notices in the weekly updates.

The next Who are UU? Breakfast will be Saturday January 19, 2019. All newcomers and anyone wishing to reconnect to this place more deeply are invited.

May you find joy in the Holiday Season and encouragement in the hopes and dreams of the New Year before us.

Namaste,
Lynn Ritchie

Religious Education – Our Children’s Program

Hello friends. It’s official, the holiday season has arrived. I’ve taken the decorations down from the attic and have given my children full discretion with making our home look like a gingerbread house. I really love this time of year. The chill in the air, the smell of fir trees, the festive lights and the sounds of the season. So, it is a great pleasure to inform you that we’ll be having a special service on Sunday, December 23 with our children. There will be a story for all ages, live music, and a short interactive Hymn to sing with everyone. Please come and celebrate with us.

Dear families, if your children would like to participate, please let me know so we can plan some time to practice. Thank you.

Warm regards,
Jennifer Rose



Ministerial Search Task Force Update

The Ministerial Search Task Force has spent another busy month analyzing the results from the Congregational Survey and compiling a packet of information about UUFCC to be distributed to minister candidates at the appropriate time. Some highlights from the survey results follow.

The Task Force will continue to provide updates to the Fellowship as needed and at least monthly. Please feel free to contact any member of the Task Force at any time to voice your concerns and/or preferences. We welcome input and a list of Ministerial Search Task Force members and contact info is included here.

The Congregational Survey was conducted in late October and early November 2018 resulting in an extremely high participation rate. We had 104 responses.

Some interesting findings from the survey describing our congregation:

- 72% female
- 89% of our congregation have been affiliated with UUFCC for 10 years or less
- 85% are 60 years of age or older with 48% being over 70 years of age
- 35% have been UUs for more than 15 years and 43% less than 5 years
- 68% of our members and friends come from a Judeo-Christian background
- 44% of the congregation describe themselves as humanist in their spiritual understanding
- 30% describe themselves as agnostic
- 24% describe themselves as Buddhist

Some interesting findings from the survey describing the characteristics desired in a new minister:

The top 3 most important functions for our minister:

- Spiritual leader
- Person of character: model of the ethical life
- Pastor and counselor

The top 3 priorities for our new minister:

- Presenting stimulating and challenging Sunday services
- Fostering a sense of awe and wonder in Sunday services
- Caring for and counseling individuals

Ministerial Search Task Force Members

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The top 3 qualities desired in a new minister

- Empathy (genuine interest in and concern for others)
- Professional competence (ability to communicate, counsel, and empower)
- Open-mindedness (receptive to other ideas)

Watch the Weekly Updates for a link to the complete survey results – coming soon!

New Program: Conscious Dance, led by Samara Michaelson



Starting January 8 there will be a new opportunity at the UU to connect to our body-spirits through DANCE. The gathering will happen two Tuesdays a month, every other week, from 4:30 to 5:30 (please arrive at 4:15 to help get the space ready). All ages are welcome and no dance experience is necessary. Bring the willingness to be in your body, either bare feet or soft shoes to protect your feet on the carpet, comfortable clothes for moving, and water.

Conscious Dance is a mindful movement practice where you listen to your inner voice and move from the wisdom of your body, accompanied by dynamic and varied music. There are no steps to learn and no right or wrong movements; simply the chance to move freely. Samara will provide guidance to assist everyone to find their groove. Join us as we create a safe, sacred and play-filled space to connect with your emotions and spirit. ■



Samara Michaelson has been guiding people of all ages into an enhanced relationship with their physical and spiritual selves for 35 years. She loves to build community through movement, while providing the space for each person to connect deeply within themselves

Any questions, contact Samara at samaramich@gmail.com or 304.520.1501. Suggested donation: \$5 to UU

Please join us, mark your calendars for: Jan 8 & 22, Feb 5 & 19, March 5 & 19, April 2 & 16

Immigration Justice

The UUFCC Immigration Justice Committee, announces the last film of its 2018 Film Series on Immigration Justice on Dec. 3 at the Mid-County Regional Library. The first film, “Sins Pais” drew 40 people with Maria Lara, Immigration legal expert and co-chair of the Hispanic American Citizens Council as discussion leader. The second film, “4.1 Miles” drew 50 people with Samar Jarrah, radio host and member of the Islamic Community of SW Florida serving as the discussion leader. Information: immigrationjusticeuu@gmail.com

UPCOMING FILM: MON. DEC. 3, **DON'T TELL ANYONE**, Mid-County Regional Library – 5:30

Don't Tell Anyone, is the story of Angy Rivera, a 19 year old undocumented immigrant who, at age three, fled Colombian violence with her mother and moved to New York City, Director Mikaela Shwer portrays Angy's “life in the shadows” and the ever present fear of deportation. “Being undocumented isn't something we can put in the back of our heads. When I wake up, it's the first think I think about,” Rivera says, revealing that this secret even haunted her dreams.





Social Justice

Herb Levin

Why boycott Wendy's?

Those pictured are representatives of the Social Justice Committee of UUFCC. We go out on the third Thursday of each month and stand (or sit) in front of the Wendy's on Cochran Blvd. or on Jones Loop, in protest of Wendy's business practices.

What exactly are we protesting? Why do we want you to boycott Wendy's here and everywhere?

Principally, Wendy's has refused to join the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) Fair Food Program. Rather than support U.S. growers setting new standards for human rights in the agricultural industry by joining the Fair Food Program (FFP) and its widely-acclaimed, uniquely successful, worker-led model of social responsibility, Wendy's created a supplier code in 2015 that contains no effective mechanisms for worker participation or enforcement. Wendy's code represents the very worst of the traditional corporate approach to social responsibility driven by public relations concerns rather than the verifiable protection of human rights.



Of the five largest fast food companies, Wendy's is the only one not participating in the Fair Food Program.

McDonalds, Taco Bell, Subway, and Burger King all do. As well as Wal-Mart! This means they pay a penny more a pound for their tomatoes to help alleviate farmworker poverty. Wendy's refuses to participate.



More about the Fair Food Program: In its four short years of existence, the CIW's Fair Food Program has eliminated modern-day slavery and sexual violence, improved farmworker wages for the first time in decades, and guaranteed basic protections for workers. Since 2015 the FFP has expanded beyond Florida to Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and New Jersey, and in 2016 it was expanded in Florida to include the additional crops of strawberries and bell peppers. The New York Times has called it "the best workplace-monitoring program" in the U.S., and the Washington Post labeled it "one of the great human rights success stories of our day".

Learn more. Go to ciw-online.org/boycottwendys. And then come and join us on the third Thursday of each month.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Thursdays, December 6, 13, 20, 27 – Meditation 5 pm, Choir Practice 6:15

- Dec. 1** Yoga for Life 9 am
Ministerial Search Task Force 10 am
- 5** Immigration Justice Committee 5 pm
Guilf Coast Acoustic Society 7 pm
- 8** Ministerial Search Task Force 10 am
Chalice Circles 2 pm
Samara's 60th Birthday Party 7 pm
- 9** Social Justice Committee 12 pm
- 11** NAMI Group 6 pm
- 12** Caring and Hospitality 10 am
- 14** Café Serendipity 7 pm
- 15** Yoga for Life 9 am
- 16** Art Committee 12 pm
Mystical Experiences 12 pm
- 18** Staff Meeting 9 am
UUFCC Board Meeting 6 pm
- 19** Immigration Justice Committee 5 pm
- 21** UUFCC Gaming Night 6:30 pm
Yule Solstice Party 7 pm
- 22** Ministerial Search Task Force 10 am
Chalice Circles 2 pm
Meatless Meal 5:30 pm
- 24** Christmas Eve Service 5:30 pm
- 29** Art on the Wall Takedown 10 am
Ministerial Search Task Force 10 am
Celebration of Life – Rev. George Brooks 2 pm

December Birthday Shout Outs



Carol Burkett 12/3
Samara Michaelson 12/8
Florence Martin 12/13

If you would like a birthday recognition in print from your spiritual community contact Stephanie Garrett at garwalsr@gmail.com.