



NEW OUTLOOK

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

A spiritual home where religion and reason meet

OCTOBER 2019



Chalice Chatter from Rev. Dan

Well hello there! I am thrilled to be joining you as your contract minister at UUFCC! While I have been in ministry since 1982 in one way or another, every ministry is unique. I look forward to meeting each of you and learning how we can all work together in our shared ministry.

My focus as I begin this new adventure will be to create a strong shared ministry so we can work together to impact Charlotte County through the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism. I know that “Shared Ministry” can be a buzz phrase with a multitude of meanings, so allow me to be more specific. When I say “Shared Ministry” I mean the following:

- **A Shared Vision** – Working together to create a vision of where we want UUFCC to go in the next year, three years, five years, etc. What do we want to become?
- **A Shared Journey** – We all come from different backgrounds yet somehow we all wound up at UUFCC in this moment. Intentionally listening to each other as we tell our stories, including the pleasures and the pain, helps us better understand each other and work together. What has made you who you are today?
- **A Shared Work** – There is a lot of social justice work to do in Charlotte County, in Florida, in America, and in the world. As the saying goes, “Many hands make light work.” We will never agree on many social justice priorities, but the more we can work together to encourage each other to do *something* that makes a difference, the more we live out what our liberal religion is all about. What causes matter to you?
- **A Shared Community** – Nothing happens at UUFCC without the efforts of volunteers. To make our community work we need all hands on deck in some way. Whether it’s serving on a committee, helping with buildings & grounds, sharing musical gifts, helping with pastoral care, teaching, being a Worship Associate, providing technology skills, etc. there is something everyone can do, and we need everyone to do something (or multiple somethings!). What talents or abilities can you share?
- **A Shared Responsibility** – If you consider yourself part of our beloved community, there must be something important to you about UUFCC. If this fellowship matters to you, then you have a responsibility to contribute to our community through your time, talents, and/or treasures. By sharing ideas, energy, finances, resources, connections, etc., everyone helps to make UUFCC strong and sustainable. How will you be responsible for our success, outreach, & growth?

I look forward to the many, many conversations we will have about how to bring our shared ministry to life. This is a sacred community called to do sacred work. Together we will make great things happen!

Be a blessing to everyone you meet!

-- Rev. Dan



Dear Ones

I am so looking forward to October. The weather should be cooler, snow birds will start their migration south and we will begin developing relationships with our new minister, the Rev. Dr. Dan Lambert. Dan's two-year contract officially begins October 1st.

In preparation for his arrival, we are rearranging. Dan's office will be in what was the nursery. Our office administrator, Mary Jane Williams, will be moving into Rev. Amy's former office. Many thanks to Don and Laura Liermann for their exceptional work preparing for these moves.

Our Labor Day "work service" was held on Sunday morning, September 1st. The windows sparkle, the kitchen has been reorganized, flower beds have been weeded, and the porch has been organized and cleaned. Many thanks to all who made this annual tradition of labor so successful!

I also wish to express special gratitude to the Worship Committee chaired by Ginger Abraham. During the last eleven months this group planned and coordinated approximately 50 services! Also, many thanks to Rev. Margaret Beard for preaching on third Sundays and being on call for special pastoral needs.

We are searching for new members to serve on UUFCC's Finance and Stewardship Committee. Our financial health is directly related to our abilities to live our faith. If you are interested in serving on this essential committee, contact our treasurer, Nancy Weaver.

Based on several conversations with Dan, I anticipate new religious education classes, support and social groups and opportunities to expand our interactions within the larger community. This is such an exciting time for our sacred community. Come and be a part of our growth.

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

Yoga is back!



Come and join the fun on first and third Saturdays at 9 am in the Sanctuary.
A \$5 donation is appreciated.

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 - 6:00 pm

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

Sunday Services

Oct. 6 - Introduction and My Journey to UUFCC



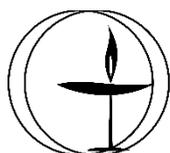
Rev. Dan starts his ministry with us by sharing his spiritual journey and how he has come to embrace the Living Tradition of Unitarian Universalism.

Oct. 13 - Shared Ministry

As we begin a new shared ministry with Rev. Dan, he will share his philosophy of ministry as well as ideas and dreams for how we can work together so our liberal religious community can have an even greater impact in Charlotte County.



Like anything else in life, it can be helpful to review the basics of something you think you know pretty well. In October & November Rev. Dan will take us back to the basics of UUism.



Oct. 20 -- Starting at the Beginning: What it Means to be Unitarian

Oct. 27 -- Starting at the Beginning: What it Means to be Universalist



A Note from the Membership Coordinator

Lynn Ritchie



In the spring I used to feel filled with joyful anticipation of the changes that I had come to associate with that particular time of the year. The way the Earth recovers from its stable and sustained business of progressing on, to the excitement of moving into a time of maximum flourishing and full bloom. In spite of the calendar telling me that the autumnal equinox is the beginning of fall, **now** is the time our Fellowship moves into its peak season of productivity and community.

Thank you to the residential Floridians, leaders, volunteers, members and friends, who have maintained and nurtured this Fellowship through the summer and season of ministerial transition. We look forward to cooler weather, the passing of hurricane season, and the return of our snowbirds. They infuse our community with renewed energy and enthusiasm.

What a perfect time to welcome Reverend Dan Lambert, and his wife Tess to our congregation! This year we celebrated 50 years as the UU Fellowship of Charlotte County. We now proceed forward, writing the next chapters of our history together.

Namaste,
Lynn

Endowment News

The UUE was established in 1991 to ensure the establishment and continuation of UU initiatives at the local and national levels. It is separate from UUFCC with contributions invested through the UUA in Boston. Donations from members and friends of UUFCC are made in memory of Fellowship members and friends and also in support of the general UUE Fund.



This month our last founding member, Evelyn Rapp passed at the age of 95. Many long-term members will recall her quiet energy in support of UUFCC and the various roles she assumed in its development. Evelyn, Mother Rapp to some, served as treasurer of the Capital Campaign for the purchase of our land and the construction of our facility. Her husband Harold served as general contractor and oversaw the design of our facility. Harold, along with Robert Hansman, both recently deceased, established the UUE. Evelyn served as President of our congregation during our early period and was present for the "Burning of the Mortgage" Ceremony approximately 15 years ago.

Please consider a donation to the UUE in memory of and to honor Evelyn, Harold and Robert, our elders who so loved and supported our Fellowship from its early beginnings. Checks should be made out to the UUE and mailed to the Fellowship office.

UUE Trustees:

Ken Brennen, Stephanie Garrett, Mary Howard, Jack Osbourn, Delmar Wooden

The UUFCC Social Justice Committee,
In conjunction with
The Center for Abuse and Rape Emergencies (C.A.R.E.)
Presents



In Her Shoes Living with Domestic Violence A Simulation

Saturday, October 5th, 2019 UUFCC 10:30 a.m. Open to All

The simulation goals are:

- To increase awareness of the additional struggles that victims of this crime face when they are poor or become financially disadvantaged as a result of domestic violence
- To illustrate that domestic violence is a community problem, and not just a personal responsibility
- To show that we all have a role to embrace to end domestic violence (financial institutions, employers, landlords, social service workers, etc.)
- To encourage everyone to think creatively and act intentionally to assist adult and child victims

This activity is intended for adult audiences. Please come with an open mind and an open heart. The scenarios represent real life experiences of adult male and female victims of domestic violence and their children.

We hope to inspire you to take action and partner with us to work toward ending domestic violence in our community.

October Birthday Shout Outs



| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| Barbara Longley | 10/11 |
| Marilyn Reeve | 10/20 |
| Debbie Myers | 10/22 |

If you would like your name included, contact Stephanie Garrett at garwalsr@gmail.com.

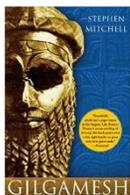
Book Group

Mary Jane Williams

The Book Group meets at the UUFCC on the last Wednesday of the month October through May 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 Mary Jane Williams maryjanewms@comcast.net

All are welcome to attend and suggestions for future discussions are welcome. Please keep in mind that we try to keep the price down for books that need to be purchased by discussion participants. The availability of inexpensive used copies is frequently a consideration.

If you would like to receive email notifications of future book choices and meeting reminders, please contact Mary Jane and you will be added to the group email list.



The October book will be the Epic of Gilgamesh. The story is about four thousand years old and is considered by many scholars to be the oldest piece of epic writing in existence. There are many versions and translations of this work and some of them are more difficult to read than others. A recommended inexpensive version is *Gilgamesh: a new English version* by Stephen Mitchell ISBN 978-0-7432-6169-2.

There are used copies available from Amazon in the \$5 range. If you can't get it, let me know and I'll see if I can lend you an e-reader with the book on it. The story itself is only about 80 pages in most versions but this edition contains a lot of supplementary material. I just like this translation best.

For those of you who like to plan or read ahead, here are the books chosen for the upcoming months:

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Nov/Dec. TBD | <i>Unsheltered</i> by Barbara Kingsolver |
| January 29 | <i>Daring Democracy</i> (a UU congregational read) by Frances Moore Lappe and Adam Eichen |
| Feb. 26 | <i>White Fragility</i> by Robin Diangelo |
| March 25 | <i>A World Made New: Eleanor Roosevelt and The Universal Declaration of Human Rights</i> by Mary Ann Glendon |
| April 29 | <i>The Sandcastle Girls</i> by Chris Bohjalian |
| May 27 | To Be Announced |

Library Update

Mary Jane Williams

With the advent of the new minister, Rev. Dan Lambert, one of the shelves in the library has been relocated to the area in the front left corner where the committee info and mail boxes are located. It is the shelving unit that contains new books, periodicals and our UU authors. Sorry for the inconvenience. A couple of our new books are highlighted below. If you have any trouble locating a book or using the online catalog (accessible from the UUFCC web page), please contact Mary Jane Williams.

Children of the Same God: the historical relationship between Unitarianism, Judaism, and Islam by Susan J. Ritchie. UUFCC call no. 289.2 (presently on the new book shelf)
Dr. Ritchie takes her readers on a journey through the history of Unitarian dialogues with Christian, Muslims, and Jews. Readers will realize from the start that it's not the expected journey. It is a compelling story that explored the history of shared borderlands of Unitarianism and other religions in a moment when such discussions are paramount. This is crucial reading for anyone interested in the obstacles to, and opportunities for, religious tolerance.

How to Love a Country poems by Richard Blanco. UUFCC call no. 811.5 (presently on the new book shelf)

Richard Blanco was the Ware lecturer at the most recent General Assembly in Spokane, Washington. His poems are amazing stories of the complications, contradictions and reality of being a Cuban/American gay man living in this America. His books are published by Beacon Press, the publishing arm of UUA.

Christianity Without God by Lloyd Geering. UUFCC call no. 230.1 (presently on the new book shelf)

This book arrived at UUFCC from the personal collection of The Reverend George Brooks upon his death. One of the best ways to learn about a person is to read the books they read and this is a glimpse into a minister whose departure leaves a hole in the lives of many at UUFCC. You may also want to read his book about his faith and theology: ***I Took my Own Path: a science-based theology*** by Rev. George G. Brooks. UUFCC call no. UUFCC BRO (presently on the new book shelf)



*Start warming up
for
Conscious Dance
with
Samara
Michaelson
starting
Wednesday,
November 6 at
4:30 pm*

WEEKLY EVENTS

Mondays — October 7, 14, 21, 28 – Conversational Spanish 5 pm

Thursdays — October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 – Meditation 5 pm

Oct. 2 Immigration Justice 5 pm
Gulf Coast Acoustic Guitar Society 7 pm

5 Yoga 9 am (see p. 2)
“In Her Shoes” 10:30 am (see p. 5)

8 NAMI Group 7 pm

9 Caring and Hospitality 10 am

11 Café Serendipity 7 pm

12 Chalice Circles 2 pm

13 Social Justice 12 pm

15 UUFCC Board Meeting 6 pm
Sierra Club 7 pm

16 Immigration Justice 5 pm

18 UUFCC Game Night 6:30 pm

19 Yoga 9 am (see p. 2)

20 Art Committee 12 pm
Mystical Experiences 12 pm

23 Worship Committee 10 am
Healing Oasis 6 pm

26 Chalice Circles 2 pm
Meatless Meal 5:30 pm

30 Book Club 1 pm

Café Serendipity

is an open mic night to share talents -
music, stories and jokes.
Come join the fun on Oct. 11 at 7 pm.



Save the date!

Racial Monologues, March 7

This is a presentation sponsored by the Racial Justice Committee sharing personal stories about race in a reader's theater format. The stories are shared and published anonymously. If you have a story you would like to submit, please email it to rmstories2020@gmail.com.

Stay tuned for more information in future newsletters.