



NEW OUTLOOK

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

A spiritual home where religion and reason meet AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2020



Chalice Chatter from Rev. Dan

Dear UUFCC Family,

We're coming up on five months since we've all been together in the sanctuary. I have no idea when we'll be back together again, and it's a unique kind of mourning unlike anything I've ever experienced.

We continue to have good attendance for our live Zoom worship services on Sundays, but it's just not the same. Leading the service and preaching to an empty room while looking into my iPhone camera is not very easy. I miss you all, and I miss us being together in sacred physical community. Whenever we gather using even electronic means, we are still a sacred family, but it's not the same.

I wonder what YOU miss the most about not gathering in the sanctuary. Some things I really miss include:

- Seeing the parking lot almost full when I pull in at 9:45 or so.
- The warm greeting from Fred & Bobbie and others as they sit on the benches and chat before the service starts.
- The smiling faces of our greeters, shaking hands and sharing hugs as they hand out the Order of Service.
- Lorrie and others in the kitchen making coffee and tending to the snacks.
- Seeing a porch full of attentive people enjoying the discussion at Conversation Among Friends.
- The sound of the choir warming up.
- The ringing of the bell signaling that it's time to get a seat.
- Gathering with the choir as we prepare to process in.
- Gleefully singing "*Enter Rejoice and Come In*" with a room full of voices.
- Seeing Jim's face full of joy as he plays the piano.
- Meeting first time visitors as they stand and share a little about themselves.
- Q's raising his hands or clapping or laughing or saying an "amen" during the sermon.
- All the nodding heads, smiling faces, chuckles, and other feedback throughout the service.
- Seeing so many people stay afterward and chat for an hour or more.
- The energy of being together.

I miss a lot, and I mourn that we won't be able to be together like that for many months. Your safety and health are my number one concern.

I miss you and cherish you all. Thanks for your constant encouragement and flexibility as we figure this out together. Remember to be a blessing to everyone you meet.

Rev. Dan

Loving Community



Dear Loving Community,

A strange summer it is...in a delightful way, we are still enjoying the participation of many of our “snowbirds” in Fellowship activities, regardless of location. These new forms of distance communication have also enabled us to connect with several of those who would otherwise have been unable to attend due to a myriad of reasons. Despite our various frustrations with the technology, and longing for closer contact, what a blessing it has been to connect!

The highlight of our season so far, has been the delightful thank you surprise for our ever so beloved Dennis Shaw. Those of us who were able paraded by Dennis & his surprise “Rainbow Garden” thank you sign (delightfully crafted by Tom Deuley) in our own cars...waving, blowing kisses and leaving best wishes. We learn as we go... next time, we will bring along our friends at home by cell phone, and again spread the joy through technology.

Your Board & Committee volunteers (with the support of Rev. Dan, Mary Jane, our office administrator, and Lori Bell, our new Connections Coordinator) have been ramping up activities to both support and spur on our Fellowship by working behind the scenes on our structural foundation & face to the community at large. Our goals are working to ensure that our structure is consistent with our values and the same is reflected in our connection with the larger community. In addition, we need to continue to develop our leadership and programs to assist us in maintaining & growing our fellowship in a safe, inclusive, and faith-based manner.

- **Bylaws Committee** (standing): Stephanie G., Herb L., Nancy W. & facilitated by Mary Lou P.-K. is off and running.
- **The Policy & Procedures Group**, facilitated by Laura A. and joined by Ginger A. & Mary Jane W., has had its’ first meeting. The good news is that Laura A. is in both groups, & Rev. Dan and I are in both groups as ex-officio members, so there is plenty of opportunity for cross-over communication.
- **Website Weavers**: Laura L., Laura A., Tom D., Rev. Dan & I have decided on an upgraded system that will actually cost a little less in the long run yet give us updated technology & easier accessibility. Laura L. & Laura A., will be working on the transfer in the next couple of weeks. Get ready!
- **Re-opening Planning Group**: Regina R., Joe O., Linda H., Katheryn F., Rev. Dan, and I (with input we continue to gain from the Fellowship, UUA, public health organizations, and other resources) will have our first meeting in August to develop specific recommendations on what we will need and what steps we might take in order to move forward when it is time.
- **Leadership Experience Team**: Betty B., Ginger A., Laura A., Laura L., Linda H., Lori B., Mary Jane W., Samara M., and I (wow, what a group of formidable women!) have stepped forward to make an extensive commitment to our Fellowship over the next several months to further develop and ground our leadership skills through this UUA training opportunity!

I am continually filled with gratitude for this community and the many people that reach out to help each other, our Fellowship, and our community at large. Whether it be a phone call, a song, a committee, weeds being pulled, a card sent, information shared, holding up a sign for justice, an ear to listen or a positive thought sent. We are raising the energy vibration in our service and connections, and right now, our country and our world need this desperately! We are not alone, and we continue to work for justice and in love! Thank you!!

Namaste,
Lorrie Douglas
Board President

Sunday Services - by Zoom

Starting in August, we will be taking a deep dive into history - the good, the bad and the ugly.



August 2

**What's a Monument?
James Abraham**

When brick and mortar remembrances distort and divide instead of inform and heal.



September 6

**Not All Labor is Equal
- Rev. Dan**

At risk laborers and social justice.

August 9

**Why UU History Matters
Rev. Dan**

What do we learn by looking back a few hundred years?



September 13

UUs & Slavery - Rev. Dan

While UUs rarely defended slavery, they often chose not to oppose it.



August 16

**A Transylvania Twist -
Rev. Dan**

How Francis David started Unitarianism and changed Europe.



September 20

UUs & Suffrage - Rev. Dan

Many UU women led the charge to get the right to vote.

August 23

**UUs Coming to America -
Rev. Dan**

Unitarians were among the first white settlers in America. There are some troubling issues in that history.



September 27

Personality Plus - Rev. Dan

Unsurprisingly, UU history is filled with colorful characters.

August 30

Heresy in America! - Rev. Dan



Social Justice

Herb Levin

Where is the social justice in the COVID-19 virus? There is none. People are without work, unable to support their families. Food banks are being recurred to as never before. People fear losing their homes and apartments. Medical care is being postponed, with people wary of contracting the virus at a medical facility, or unable to pay because health insurance was lost when the job was lost.

During the months of May, June and July, the members and friends of UUFCC have demonstrated extraordinary generosity towards the Social Justice Committee's appeal for assisting the Harry Chapin Food Bank, C.H.A.P.S., and Meals on Wheels as they struggle to feed those in need. Unfortunately, we must ask you to continue to assist those less fortunate, as there is no end in sight to the damage being done by the virus. While we are going to play it month by month, I fear there may be many more months when those who are able will be called upon to practice true social justice, by stepping up to assist those who are unable to confront the current calamity alone.

I am so proud to say I support UUFCC, and equally proud of the manner in which we all do what we can to help those less fortunate. My deepest gratitude for all you have done, and for your anticipated continued support of our three selected agencies. Please notate "Second Helping" on your checks. Stay safe.

Herb Levin
Chair, Social Justice Committee



**Food
&
Hygiene
Pantry**



Meals on Wheels
of Charlotte County

News from



Harry Chapin Food Bank
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

The world has been turned upside down due to the Coronavirus and Harry Chapin Food Bank has not been immune from the effects of this pandemic. Yet, there is much to celebrate. **Together, we have been able to distribute 11,267,296 pounds of food since March 1st and June 30th of 2020.** By way of comparison, we distributed 6,528,955 pounds of food between March 1st and June 30th of 2019. This is a truly remarkable achievement for our community. It is stunning to ponder what we have overcome: hoard shopping, government shutdowns, school closures, massive disruptions in the food supply channels and yet we have distributed 9,389,413 meals to those who need food.

Harry Chapin Food Bank's new normal involves complex logistics for food redistribution and an astronomical need for food throughout our five-county footprint. Prior to the pandemic, each week Harry Chapin Food Bank fed 28,000 children, adults, seniors, veterans and other individuals through hunger-relief programs in Collier, Charlotte, Hendry, Glades and Lee counties. Last fiscal year, we distributed 26.7 million pounds of food, the equivalent of 22 million meals. **Since the pandemic, we have experienced up to an 80 percent increase in the demand for food.** The sheer number of cars that line up for food will take your breath away.

Zoom Calendar

Weekly Events

Sunday: Conversation Among Friends 9 am
Worship 10:30 am
Social Hour 11:15 (directly following Worship)
Wednesday: Happy Hour with John Lee 7 pm
Thursday: Choir Chat 6 pm
Friday: Spanish for Beginners 4 pm

Most Zoom events can be accessed with this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/93526372148>

For exceptions, please refer to the Weekly Updates and/or email messages from Lori Bell

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| Aug. 4 | Worship Committee 3:30 pm | Sept. 2 | Immigration Justice Committee 5 pm |
| 5 | Immigration Justice Committee 5 pm | 9 | Caring Committee 10 am |
| 9 | Social Justice Committee 12 pm | 10 | Buddhist Meditation 4:30 pm |
| 12 | Caring Committee 10 am | 13 | Social Justice Committee 12 pm |
| 13 | Buddhist Meditation 4:30 pm | 15 | UUFCC Board 6 pm |
| 16 | "What Are You Reading?" Book Group 7:30 pm | 16 | Immigration Justice Committee 5 pm |
| 18 | UUFCC Board Meeting 6 pm | 20 | "What Are You Reading?" Book Group 7:30 pm |
| 19 | Immigration Justice Committee 5 pm | 24 | Buddhist Meditation 4:30 pm |
| 22 | Chalice Circles 2 pm | 26 | Chalice Circle 2 pm |
| 23 | Crafting Circle 7:30 pm | 27 | Crafting Circle 7:30 pm |
| 24 | Town Hall Meeting 4 pm | | |
| 27 | Buddhist Meditation 4:30 pm | | |

Happy Birthday Shout-outs!

August

Linda Himes 8/4
Norma Jock 8/20
Bill "Fossil" Howat 8/23
Rosemary Hagan 8/25
Maureen Peters 8/30



September

Laura Flachs 9/1
Mary Holly Allison 9/12
Betty Barriga 9/19
Cassandra Wooden 9/26
George Clattenberg 9/27
Tom Deuley 9/30

If you would like to receive a birthday shout out send your name and special date to Stephanie Garret at garwalsr@gmail.com