



NEW OUTLOOK

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

A spiritual home where religion and reason meet

NOVEMBER 2020

Chalice Chatter from Rev. Dan

So much in our lives has been way too serious or upsetting this year. Here are a few lines that will hopefully make you guffaw, chortle, and cackle. . . or at least smile a little:

• How many UUs does it take to change a light bulb?

- ❖ Everyone who is present, but first they need to debate whether or not the bulb actually exists. Ultimately, they will choose not to change it for fear of alienating those who prefer other types of bulbs.
- ❖ Six: One woman to replace the bulb while five men review church lighting policy.
- ❖ Three: One to call the electrician, one to make the coffee, and one to talk about how much better the old one was.
- ❖ It's irrelevant because whether your light is bright, dull, or completely out, you are loved. You can be a light bulb, turnip bulb, or tulip bulb. Bring a bulb of your choice to the Sunday lighting service and a drink or snack to share.
- ❖ We choose not to make a statement either in favor of or against the need for a light bulb. However, if in your own journey you have found that light bulbs work for you, that is fine. You are invited to write a poem or compose a modern dance about your personal relationship with your light bulb and present it next month at our annual Light Bulb Dedication Service, in which we will explore a number of light bulb traditions, including incandescent, fluorescent, three-way, long-life and tinted, all of which are equally valid paths to luminescence.



- There are valid reasons why progressive liberals will never win a war. Conservatives are comfortable being armed with handguns and AR 15s and hunting knives and a million rounds of ammo. UUs prefer to be armed with well-informed opinions from reading the New York Times online, watching MSNBC and listening to NPR. Rather than a battalion of tanks and armored personnel carriers, liberals attack in a caravan of hybrid cars with bumper stickers that say "Coexist" and driven by an army of 70 year old white lesbians with really short salt & pepper hair and feisty attitudes who will kick your butt by carrying protest signs and chanting slogans from the 1960s, all while handing out bottles of water so you keep hydrated.
- Living and being a minister in South Florida is such a unique experience. Conversational banter often includes comparing colonoscopy results or an unpleasant gastronomical consequence of last night's dinner.
- I have also learned a lot about incontinence, so I freely talk about adult diapers. I'm wondering if we can get Depends to be one of our congregational sponsors. I guess that could become too commercial. The morning welcome could wind up being "Welcome to UUFCC! This morning's worship is brought to you by Depends and the AARP. Today's silent meditation is brought to you by the AAG reverse mortgage company."
- Are you as annoyed by drug commercials as I am? The list of side effects they're required to include is often longer than the benefit of the drug itself. Why are side effects of drugs always so negative? Why can't side effects be positive, like happiness, wanting to spread love, or increased musical ability? Oh yeah, that's medical marijuana!

- In UUism why do we often refer to god as “she” but never satan?
- This pandemic has been a major challenge for all of us. Worldwide everyone has had to stay home a lot more and rarely go out. It’s been a huge advantage for Bigfoot and the Loch Ness monster.
- Tess & I did get a new pup early in the pandemic back in March. Her name is JuJu and she’s a Bernedoodle – a mix of a Bernese Mountain Dog and a mini poodle. Designer dog breeds often create funny names like Pithuahua (Pit Bull & Chihuahua mix) or Schweenie (Shih Tzu & Dachshund). My favorites are crossing two different kinds of poodles to make a Poo-Poo, or when a Shitzu breeds with a poodle to make a ShitzaPoo.
- I am really anxious for this election season to be done. My family is really conservative so having a “normal” conversation has been almost impossible. My dad is so conservative that he won’t use a product that says, “Apply liberally.” He didn’t even want his grandkids to go to a liberal arts school. And he’s very suspicious of Progressive Insurance.

Remember that laughing is a blessing too!

Rev. Dan

Becoming a Member at UUFCC

You may have been joining services and activities for some time or you are new to Unitarian Universalism. Either way we invite those who are considering becoming a member to participate in **The New UU** Workshop.

Rev. Dan and various lay leaders will share what it means to be Unitarian Universalist and interactive tools for self-discovery to make a clear decision to formally join our congregation.

“When we become a member of a congregation, we should be asked to change our posture from guest to host, from visitor to steward. As hosts, we make sure the guests find a welcoming and nurturing spiritual community. As lifelong seekers, we grow our own souls through our own continuous faith development. As stewards, we offer our time and money to help sustain and grow that community. As members we agree to serve in these roles and more, in covenant with one another and with our highest ideals.”

Rev. Michael Piazza

Please register to attend 2 after Sunday service sessions at 11:30 am, Nov 8th and 15th
https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEtdO2qqjlsEtJ9NfuKZbtj377oQshl_ZI

Nov 8th

1. Theology and Worship
2. Unitarian Roots
3. How We Grow in Faith

Nov 15th

1. Social Justice Philosophy and Practice
2. How Are Decisions Made – Governance and Polity
3. Membership

Contact Rev Dan minister@uufcc.org or Lori Bell membership@uufcc.org for more information

Sunday Mornings on Zoom

Conversation Among Friends - 9 am -

<https://zoom.us/j/95584243345?pwd=Q1ZoV1g0NXloY1BreWtOQVJBNjA3UT09>

Worship - 10:30 am - <https://zoom.us/j/93632314034>

Log in a few minutes early. You will need to be admitted through a waiting room.



November 1 – Our Uncertain Future – Rev. Dan

After the Presidential election, we face a lot of uncertainty regardless of the outcome. Where can we find hope and grounding?

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November 8 - What Just Happened? - Rev. Dan

Looking at the results of the election, what brought us to where we are and how do we move forward?



November 15 – Meditation & Prayer – Rev. Dan



We begin a series on Spiritual Disciplines – activities that help us stay centered and grounded as we seek spiritual depth and grounding. We start by considering the activities of meditation and prayer.

November 22 – Embodied Gratitude & Joy Samara Michaelson



Finding our authentic connection to inherent joy and healing through gratitude practices.

November 29 – Laughter – Liz James

Liz James is the founder and curator of the UU Hysterical Society. She will share about how laughter has shaped her life.





Message from the Treasurer

Hello UUFCC Members and Friends,

I can't believe its budget time already! The Finance Committee and the Board will start developing a budget for the next fiscal year during the next month. This year is a little more difficult since we do not know when things will get back to normal, or really - the new normal. My belief is that COVID-19 will change many aspects of our society's ways of gathering and building community, and that UUFCC will be a part of that. Future uncertainties abound!

The process I use to prepare the draft budget for the first step – review at the Finance Committee, will be similar to past years with adjustments for when we may open. I have a better understanding of what costs increase and decrease during an international health crisis, something I never thought I would need to know. At the end of October, I will have eight months of cash flow data from the pandemic that will help us make decisions. There are lots of fixed costs that remain about the same whether we are open or closed, including personnel, which is by far our largest cost. Utilities and other expenses that are driven by usage have decreased (kitchen supplies for example), and others have increased (items like Zoom that we never had heard of before the pandemic!). Although producing a budget for next year will be tricky, I am sure we will come up with something as close to reality as possible. We will include a budget in your pledge package that will be delivered in early March and will have plenty of time to answer any questions or concerns before the Annual Meeting.

I wanted to let you know that I was pretty happy to see that our Amazon SMILE donation has gradually increased so, let's keep it up!! To remind you: Amazon has a feature that donates a small percentage of most purchases to your favorite non-profit. I hope that you will choose UUFCC, especially for this year.

To participate, all you have to do is designate UUFCC as your benefiting organization. Then, whenever you use Amazon Prime to order anything, use this link: [Amazon Smile](#). Everything else works the same. Just in time for your holiday shopping!

Thanks for all the gifts you give to UUFCC and to our Community with both your hands and hearts.

Take Care,
 Nancy Weaver
 UUFCC Treasurer
nancyxweaver@gmail.com
 303-241-0309

Immigration Justice Committee

Today, building and maintaining detention centers for immigrants has become a big business and a great source of profit. It is our firm belief that profiting from building “jails” for children who have been illegally separated from their parents is wrong. Further, these “for profit” companies are not held accountable for conditions or treatment of detainees and standard medical care is virtually non-existent. As a result of this institutional neglect, there has been a spike in COVID contamination, and cases of medical abuse of women, subjected to hysterectomies without knowledge or consent, has surfaced.

In the past, banks have directly financed these businesses, but a public outcry against banks was successful and this source of financing has stopped. The new source of financial support now comes from shares bought by investment management companies, financial planners, mutual fund companies and private investors.

The Geo, Inc. (GEO) and CoreCivic (CXW) are the two largest for-profit companies that build and operate detention centers. In fact, CoreCivic is now completing a 570-bed child detention center near El Paso. The Vanguard and Blackrock (iShares is part of Blackrock) investment companies are the two largest management groups that buy and profit from shares owned in GEO and CoreCivic.

It is possible that you or your portfolio own shares in GEO or CoreCivic. We ask you to align your money with your values and exert pressure to stop the funding of these two companies. Specifically, we ask you to tell your financial advisor to EXCLUDE from your portfolio any direct investment in the GEO or CoreCivic companies and/or any investment in a management or mutual fund company that holds these shares. Private investors without managers can write directly to either GEO, CoreCivic or the implicated management funds and make the same requests. If enough people take action, we believe that diminished funds will eventually force these two giant “for profit” detention builders/operators to cease operations. This will be a giant step forward for justice and equity.

Below are names of the top investment and mutual fund groups that own shares in Geo and CoreCivic.

The Geo, Inc.

The Vanguard Real Estate Index Fund
 iShares Core S&P Mid Cap ETG *
 Vanguard Total Stock Market Index
 Vanguard Small Cap Index Fund
 iShares Russell 2000 ETF*
 Vanguard Small Cap Value Index Fund
 Vanguard Extended Market Index Fund
 CS Inv. Fd.s 2 (Lux) Security
 SPDR S&P Mid Cp 400 ETF Fund

CoreCivic

iShares Core S&P Small Cap ETF*
 Vanguard Real Estate Index Fund
 Vanguard Small Cap Index Fund
 iShares Russell 2000 ETF*
 iShares SS&P Small Cap 600 Value*
 Vanguard Small Cap Value Index
 Vanguard Extended Market Index Fund
 Fidelity Low Priced Stock Fund
 iShares Russell 2000 Value ETF*

*iShares is a division of Blackrock

Links to CoreCivic (cxw) and GEO (geo) stock market activity:

<https://www.nasdaq.com/market-activity/stocks/cxw/institutional-holdings>

<https://www.nasdaq.com/market-activity/stocks/geo/institutional-holdings>

Social Justice Committee

The Social Justice Subcommittee has submitted a report to compare Virginia B. Andes Volunteer Community Clinic and RIP Medical Debt to see if the SJC might endorse one over the other for financial support from UUFCC.

First, some information about both organizations, and then the findings.

Virginia B. Andes Volunteer Community Clinic:

- Staff is composed of volunteer Physicians, Mid-Level Providers, Nurses, Therapists, Pharmacists, Technicians, Board of Directors and Volunteers.
- **Recipients of services offered are uninsured residents of Charlotte County.** They receive onsite exams, primary and semi-urgent wellness services, minor procedures and limited surgical and laboratory services. Also provided are prescription medications, one on one counseling, and patient advocacy.
- **Total value of care received in 2019** was \$2,024,000. Mental health referrals numbered 2400. Avoided costs to ER was \$22,000,000. Total pharmacy visits were 11,500. Total number of prescriptions was 31,500, with a fair market value of \$1,387,000.
- Total number of volunteer hours in 2019 was 26,000.
- For more information, the website is <http://volunteercare.org>.



Mailing address is: **21297 Olean Blvd., Suite, Port Charlotte, Florida 33952**

RIP Medical Debt:

- This organization uses donations to purchase bundled medical debt portfolios that have gone through collection agencies for months or years. Using third-party credit data providers, it targets debt incurred by people facing financial hardship, and then forgives it. On average, \$1.00 is leveraged to abolish \$100.00 in medical debt.
- RIP Medical Debt is a 501©3 nonprofit organization with a mission to forgive oppressive medical debt at pennies on the dollar. RIP forgives debt of individuals who a) make less than two times the federal poverty level; b) pay out five percent or more of their annual income for out-of-pocket medical expenses; or c) are insolvent.

- More information can be had at www.ripmedicaldebt.org.

RIP
MEDICAL
DEBT

Findings: The Social Justice Committee found that both organizations serve well, approaching the problem of healthcare shortcomings from different angles. Locally, for the uninsured, the Clinic is the answer. For those locally who are drowning in medical debt, and suffering financially as a result, RIP seems the logical choice. The SJC could not find a reason to fault nor prefer one organization over the other. Rather, we want to inform people that both organizations exist, and are available.

Additionally, RIP, after communicating with Rosemary Hagen (hahanewcat28@yahoo.com) has a dedicated fund for abolishing debt in Charlotte, Desoto and Collier counties. For those who would like to assist RIP in their undertaking, a check can be sent to:

Rip Medical Debt
80 Theodore Fremd Ave.
Rye, NY 10580

A note should accompany stating that the donation is to be directed to the Charlotte, Desoto and Collier Counties Fund.

For credit card donations, go to this link: <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/flohum/>

Library News

Did you know that you can check out books from the UUFCC Library during the pandemic?

The UUFCC Library Catalog may be accessed from the new UUFCC Website under the "How to Plug In" menu item.



Here is a direct link to the catalog <https://www.librarycat.org/lib/maryjanewms>

During the pandemic, while you do not have access to the building, email the office (or call) to request a book and we will arrange for you to safely pick it up. There is never a time limit on a checkout. If someone else requests the same book, you may be notified to return it so that another reader may use it.

Your friendly office administrator/librarian can suggest titles or assist you with searching the catalog if you have any trouble finding a book.

Book Group

The UUFCC Book Group will be meeting on Zoom until it is safe to meet in person again. All of the books chosen for this season are readily available at the public library or inexpensively from Amazon. Mary Jane often has the book in Kindle format and can lend you a reader with the book on it if you can pick it up at the Fellowship. Contact her if you want one of the books in electronic format. The link will be emailed to members of the Book Group prior to the meetings each month. Contact the office at office@uufcc.org if you would like to receive the Zoom link or to be added to the email list.

Book Group Schedule for Fall 2020 thru Spring 2021

- December 2 at 1:30 p.m.** March (a graphic novel) by John Lewis
- January 27 at 1:30 p.m.** The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead
- February 24 at 1:30 p.m.** So You Want To Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo
- March 24 at 1:30 p.m.** Gilead by Marilynne Robinson
- April 28 at 1:30 p.m.** The True Believer by Eric Hoffer
- May 26 at 1:30 p.m.** The Dutch House by Ann Patchett

Zoom Calendar

Weekly Events

Mondays – Spanish for Beginners – 4 pm
Wednesdays – Happy Hour with John Lee – 7 pm
Thursdays – Choir Chat – 6 pm

- Nov. 2** Moran Chalice Circle 2 pm
- 4** Immigration Justice Committee 5 pm
- 5** Buddhist Meditation 4:30 pm
- 8** Who are UU? 11:30 am (see p. 2)
Social Justice Committee 12 pm
- 9** Shaw Chalice Circle 2 pm
- 10** Azar Chalice Circle 4 pm
- 11** Caring Committee 1 pm
- 13** Whitehill Chalice Circle 3:30 pm
- 15** Who Are UU? 11:30 am (see p. 2)
- 16** Moran Chalice Circle 2 pm
- 17** UUFCC Board Meeting 6 pm
- 18** Immigration Justice Committee 5 pm
- 19** Buddhist Meditation 4:30 pm
- 23** Shaw Chalice Circle 2 pm
- 24** Azar Chalice Circle 4 pm
- 25** Book Group 1:30 pm
- 27** Whitehill Chalice Circle 3:30 pm

To access most activities,
log in to Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/93526372148?pwd=aWxpWHk1ODMyZnFmdTgvRW1aUWRXZz09>

Members of Chalice Circles should
already have their Zoom links.

Immigration Justice Committee

<https://zoom.us/j/97789863043?pwd=c2tUenpGMmhjSExaUIN0L3VHNIk5UT09>

Program Council

<https://zoom.us/j/92402639114?pwd=OFZuUExqOGJFdUdOdHRzNIFJSTYwQT09>



Mark Ellefson	11/5
Nancy Weaver	11/6
Frank Wilmer	11/8
Linda Quinn	11/8
Kay Azar	11/17
Mary Jane Williams	11/22
Ted Zawistowski	11/27
Lore Frighetti	11/28