



## Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Charlotte County

1532 Forest Nelson Boulevard, Port Charlotte, Florida 33952  
941.627.4303 — [www.uufcc.org](http://www.uufcc.org) — [www.facebook.com/uufcc](https://www.facebook.com/uufcc)

# COMMUNIQUE

### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM promotes SEVEN PRINCIPLES

as strong values & moral guides:

1st Principle:

The inherent worth and dignity  
of every person;

2nd Principle:

Justice, equity and compassion  
in human relations;

3rd Principle:

Acceptance of one another and  
encouragement to spiritual  
growth in our congregations;

4th Principle:

A free and responsible search  
for truth and meaning;

5th Principle:

The right of conscience and the  
use of the democratic process  
within our congregations  
and in society at large;

6th Principle:

The goal of world community  
with peace, liberty, and  
justice for all;

7th Principle:

Respect for the interdependent  
web of all existence  
of which we are a part.

### SUNDAY SERVICES

are at 10:30 a.m.

Services are hybrid:  
in-person &  
on YouTube.

[www.youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)  
UUFCC Port Charlotte

## YOO-HOO: UU AND YOU!

### *Your UUFCC newsletter is new!*

It's for UU and you and *by you* too!

Send in ideas, pictures, and art,  
A wish list of things dear to your heart.  
Feedback is welcome. What don't you like?  
Above all ...

### **We invite YOU to write!**

Articles should consist of no more than 150 words (count limit does not include title and author). Submission deadline is one (1) week prior to the last day of each month. Send ideas and/or articles to [editorialboard@uufcc.org](mailto:editorialboard@uufcc.org).

1. Try to stick to UUFCC's purpose and mission and vision.
2. Provide ways to connect with UUFCC. Nothing political. Nothing divisive. Help members and friends stay in touch with each other and with UUFCC leaders and vice versa. Provide info about UUFCC happenings, upcoming events, changes or important notices.
3. Offer some ways to reflect.
4. Dare to share a review for UU. Found a new restaurant? Seen interesting art, a movie, a concert, a play? Read a good book or poem? Heard a funny joke? Write if you might especially if about UU or UUFCC, or if written, created or performed by a UU or a UUFCC member or friend.
5. By all means, let's have some fun! How about sending in a *Where am I?* photo?

Anything and everything may be submitted for possible publication. The editors will respond and let you know whether there is interest or space. If so, articles will not be abridged, edited or altered (aside from grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors) without your express consent and your entry will be attributed to you.

DISCLAIMER? Read at your own risk. Views expressed are not necessarily the views of UUFCC, its directors, officers, employees, members or friends and they make no representation or accept any liability for its accuracy or completeness, unless expressly stated to the contrary. No purchase necessary. Editors reserve the right to delete, edit, or alter in any manner they see fit, in their sole discretion content deemed obscene, offensive, defamatory, threatening, in violation of trademark, copyright or other laws, or as otherwise unacceptable. Any resemblance to actual people, living or dead, or events, past, present or future is purely coincidental. Some names may be changed to protect the innocent. No animals were harmed during the production of this product. Use only as directed. Do not eat. Not a toy. Flammable. May be slippery when wet. Colors may fade. Opinions expressed herein subject to change without notice.

## Caring Committee Spins Off New Hospitality & Social Team — An Amicable Separation (by Rev. Kathy Schmitz)



### **The former Caring & Hospitality Committee has become two (2) separate groups.**

Recognizing a post-COVID need for an increased focus on opportunities to be together for fun and socializing, a *new* Hospitality & Social Team has been created. The new team will take lead on coordinating and supporting social events, overseeing coffee hour after worship, and monitoring a new social activities google list (in creation – stay tuned).

The Caring Committee will continue to lead the Fellowship's direct caring for individuals through calls, visits, rides, meals, and cards.

The two groups will collaborate to assist with receptions following Celebrations of Life and other special events, as requested by the family and leadership.

While these two groups will coordinate the activities in their respective areas, it is expected that the actual hands-on activities will be carried out by members and friends of the Fellowship. New ways to express your interest in both areas will be forthcoming. In the meantime, for more info or to join, email the appropriate group:

**[patientadvocacy@uufcc.org](mailto:patientadvocacy@uufcc.org)**

-or-

**[hospitalityandsocial@uufcc.org](mailto:hospitalityandsocial@uufcc.org)**

**Unitarian Universalists include, but are not limited to, agnostic, atheist, Buddhist, Christian, earth-centered, Hindu, Humanist, Islam, Jewish, Muslim, Pagan, Taoism, believers in God, and more.**

—[www.uua.org/beliefs/who-we-are](http://www.uua.org/beliefs/who-we-are)

## Dear Ones

I recently realized that I have been a Unitarian Universalist for over 48 years and that a quarter of those years have been spent as a member of UUFCC. During those 12 years I have served on the Fellowship's Board of Trustees as a trustee, secretary and now, much to my amazement, am beginning my third term as president. Consequently, I feel confident that I have a strong grasp on what are UUFCC's major strengths.

One of our greatest strengths is our history. We have existed as a liberal religious community in a rather conservative community for 53 years. The people who created this Fellowship struggled, invested and

worked very hard to create their dreams and nurture them to fruition.

We, like the folks that came before us, are dreamers and the results of our struggles, investments, hard work and commitment will grow our faith beyond our expectations. So many of us passionately embrace and attempt to live lives based on love, service, justice, spiritual growth and peace. These values create natural bonds which are quite contagious.

Together we own almost two beautiful acres just a block off the major artery in a growing city. We also own a 4,500 square foot building which is mortgage free and in good shape. Additionally,

we have funds invested to care for our property and significant rainy day savings.

Finally, we are a community of action with high expectations and a deep hunger for community and justice. Think about the time, energy, talent, thought, labor, and, of course, money we invest in the creation of worship, music, art, care and hospitality, social, racial, and immigration justice.

Given these strengths, UUFCC will be able to face significant challenges with dreams energized through our investments, creativity and grace.

In faith and gratitude,

Dennis Shaw, President  
UUFCC Board of Trustees



## SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Social Justice Committee works to make the world a better place. Needless to say, our work is never done. But that never stops us from making the effort.

There are so many causes. Nutrition, by donating to food banks and the BOGO Box. Health care, by encouraging vaccinations, and supporting the Virginia B. Andes Free Clinic as well as Planned

Parenthood. Safety, for students, abused individuals, and minority sectors often left less protected.

The only way to make these things happen is to give financial support. I have said it so many times, but it merits repetition. UUFCC's primary characteristics are its caring and its generosity. We understand that things don't happen by sending

thoughts and prayers. They happen by giving.

One might think that the pandemic would have stalled or diminished the process. Quite the contrary. In the face of adversity, we step up.

Thank you always.

Herb Levin  
Chair, UUFCC SJC



## VOLUNTEERS TUTOR CHARLOTTE COUNTY ELL STUDENTS



The UUFCC **IMMIGRATION JUSTICE COMMITTEE (IJC)** is helping to launch a new **English Language Literacy (ELL)** program in the school district for children who have not mastered English language proficiency. The IJC is working with Charlotte County Public Schools (CCPS) administration to set up this program. Program goals are English acquisition, tutor training and retention, school and community partnership.

The IJC offered to recruit tutors for the program and get completed volunteer forms to Carmel Kisiday, Director of Elementary Education. Volunteers will be processed by the Charlotte County Public Schools Administration HR to: schedule background checks, set up tutor training—August 23rd (tentative), provide resources/curriculum to prepare lessons and activities for tutoring sessions. Location of school and student selection will be assigned as per volunteer's application.

It was decided to start this new program with a small group of volunteers (10-12) for now in order to work out

the kinks. Once the program moves forward, another group of volunteers will be recruited at a later date.

All that is required from a prospective tutor volunteer is your willingness to donate two hours or more of your time to make a difference in the lives of these students. No previous teaching experience required.

CCPS have students who speak Korean, Vietnamese, Russian, Ukrainian, Spanish and others as their native language. With focused attention from adult volunteers, these students are given the help they need to achieve English Language Literacy in their speech, reading and writing. These fundamentals are necessary to be successful in both their school careers and in life.

If interested, please send your name, email, phone number(s), and time commitment to:

Betty Barriga and the Immigration Justice Committee  
[immigrationjusticeuu@gmail.com](mailto:immigrationjusticeuu@gmail.com)

## We'll show you ours if you'll show us yours!

COMMUNIQUE editors came up with a list of content and article ideas. They stopped at 50. Ideas included columns for a minister (if any); the Board President; Committee updates; Upcoming Services for the Month; Meet & Greet Member/Friend/famous UUs/Committee Chair Profiles; UUFCC or UU History; Q&A; Jokes; Poet/Writer corner; Music Musings; Regional UU updates; neighboring UU activities; and so much more.

**Your turn. Show us yours.**

**Unitarian Universalism**  
*is a liberal religion*  
*characterized by a free*  
*and responsible search*  
*for truth and meaning.*

**Unitarian Universalists**  
*assert no creed,*  
*but instead are unified*  
*by their shared search*  
*for spiritual growth,*  
*guided by a dynamic,*  
*living tradition.*

—[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unitarian\\_Universalism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unitarian_Universalism)



### CONGREGATIONAL COVENANT

*"Covenant" is Latin for "walking together."  
This Covenant is a living, dynamic document  
describing how we intend to live the Principles  
we value in our religious community.*

We, the members of UUFCC, covenant to support and cherish all our members and friends and encourage each other to honor these high standards of relationship.

We value a free, open, and mutually respectful exchange of ideas. We honor all voices and encourage thoughtful freedom of expression.

We respect each other's views, backgrounds, and spiritual ideas. We listen to each other without judgement or interruption and speak directly with a person instead of about a person. We will address issues and behaviors, rather than people and personalities.

We will be considerate but courageous in name behavior that diminishes our community. We offer forgiveness and understanding and expect that from each other. In all situations, we strive to honor everyone's dignity and wellbeing.

We trust this Covenant will help us work well together to make decisions, solve problems, and express differences of opinion in a considerate, respectful, and genuinely caring way.

Adapted 2011 from the  
Covenant of Right Relations from the  
Unitarian Fellowship of Ontario, Canada

## SUNDAY SERVICES IN JULY

### Theme: Regrouping

- 07-04-22 "Why UUFCC" by UUFCC Fans  
07-11-22 "For Memory Will Keep What It Has Heard" by Rev. Bruce Bode  
07-18-22 "The Importance of Storytelling" by Rev. Kathy Schmitz  
07-25-22 "Forgiveness in a Time of Recovery" by Sharon W.

### Meet Your NEW Treas\$urer : Richard Schwarz

Dick is a graduate of Northwestern University and a CPA. He retired from Dun and Bradstreet as Senior Vice President after 25 years, serving in various positions in finance and management.

After retirement, Dick moved and served as President of his Property Owner Association in Carolina Trace, North Carolina. He was also

Treasurer of their 36-hole golf club at Trace for three years.

Moving to Florida, Dick served as Treasurer of their Property Owner Association within Burnt Store Marina.

Joanne and Dick feel they have a very special community here at UUFCC. According to Dick: "I wish to give something back by serving as Treasurer."



### IJC SUPPORTS PLANNED PARENTHOOD

We are in a long hard fight to regain the fundamental right to abortion for all women. Please join the **Immigration Justice Committee** in supporting Planned Parenthood. —Laura Anderson

### UU HUMOUR submitted by Herb Levin

The copy machine broke down at the Unitarian Universalist church. Since it was Sunday, no repair person was available, and they desperately needed more copies of the order of service. After fluttering around the machine in

distress, a member more mechanically inclined than the rest found the problem.

"It's just out of paper. See the flashing box right there: 'Replace Paper in Tray 2.' Sheesh, can't anyone here follow directions?"

Another member retorted, "If we were the kind of people who followed directions, we wouldn't be Unitarian Universalists!"





## UUFCC Reaches Out to Support LGBTQ+ Community by Lorrie Douglas

With the increasing intensity of negativity towards the LGBTQ+ community, a handful of our fellowship decided to strengthen our connection in support of the LGBTQ+ community in the Charlotte County area through our connection with ARAY (All Rainbow and Allied Youth, Inc). After further discussions with them and providing a safe space for their first post-pandemic in-person meeting/social at UUFCC (MARVELOUS), we learned that one of their biggest needs was how to support parents and other family members who do not know what to do when loved one "come out."

We focused on PFLAG (Parents, friends, families of LGBTQ+), an organization that does just that. We quickly knew this was something we could do! Not only do many of

our congregation identify as LGBTQ+ folks, but we also have a multitude of parents, grandparents, relatives, and friends of LGBTQ+ people in our Fellowship.

Our very own Alice and George C joined PFLAG in 1985 after two of their children came out. In fact, it was the PFLAG meetings in a UU basement that introduced them to UU!

Laura Anderson and I proceeded to find out what was involved and reached out. We spoke to National, Regional, and nearby Sarasota PFLAG groups. Within a couple of months, we had lots of info and a plan.

This last Sunday, PFLAG President Carol Miller, and Secretary Sheila Weiss joined us to speak at our service and then at our first "Interest" meeting after services.

Eighteen people attended! Energy was high, and we each shared our motivation, saw two short and moving videos and then participated in a discussion about next steps. Carol shared extensively challenges the U.S. and particularly Florida face, including the Florida legislature's plan to pull Medicaid support for transgendered residents.

Many eager volunteers will follow up, decide on a Board, form an official non-profit organization, and reach out to other local like-minded faith groups and organizations for more diversified support. Our next meeting will be in the Updates!

<https://www.allrainbowandalliedyouth.org>  
<https://www.pflag.org/comingout>



## SCHOLARSHIP TO BE AWARDED IN MEMORY OF SONIA WATERS

Each year the Democratic Women's Club of Charlotte County awards scholarships to young Democratic women who are graduating from a Charlotte County high school. Their applications must demonstrate the values of civic engagement, support of equal opportunity, concern about women's rights, and scholarship.

Our standing scholarship is named in memory of Betty Gissendanner, a strong member of the Democratic Women's Club who fully lived the values we look for in our scholarship recipients. Very often we can also provide a scholarship in memory of other remarkable Charlotte County Democrats who have passed away.

For 2023, the club is planning to honor Sonia Waters by awarding a scholarship in her memory. Sonia, who passed away in February, left behind a legacy of service to the government. She was a large supporter of the Florida Democratic Society, being named Democrat of the Year at one time. She dedicated much of her life to volunteering and humanitarian services.

Any one wishing to contribute to Sonia Waters' memorial scholarship should **make a check out to DWC Scholarship Fund** and **mail it to the DWC Treasurer, Charlotte Co. Democratic Club, 3596 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte, FL 33952.**

Please include a note indicating you are donating in Sonia's memory or write her name on the memo/for portion of the check. Donations can also be dropped off at the Democratic Club or Party during the hours of 10-noon, M-F. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

For more information about DWC Scholarships and to read about the Scholarship recipients, please go to **[dwccharlotte.com](http://dwccharlotte.com)** and click on the Betty G. Scholarship link.

**Kay Blue, DWC President**  
**[dwcofcharlottecounty@gmail.com](mailto:dwcofcharlottecounty@gmail.com)**

*A Unitarian  
 Universalist dies  
 and on the way to the  
 after-life encounters  
 a fork in the road.  
 The left path has a  
 sign "To Heaven"  
 and the right  
 has a sign  
 "To a Discussion  
 about Heaven."  
 Without pausing,  
 the UU turns right.*



**Mission:** UUFCC offers a caring and diverse religious community. We are guided by reason and conscience, encourage intellectual inquiry, foster individual spiritual growth, and promote social justice and environmental responsibility. UUFCC PPM.

**Purpose:** UUFCC is a religious community committed to diversity and social justice where spirituality, reason, compassion, service and fellowship meet. UUFCC Bylaws Art. III (03.27.22).

**Welcoming:** UUFCC strives to practice non-discrimination by embodying what UUFCC hopes to see in the world—a just, loving community in which people are free to be themselves fully and without fear. UUFCC Bylaws Art. IV (Adopted 03.27.22).



## UUFCC MEMBERS TAKE A STAND

The Supreme Court overturned Roe vs Wade. Consequently, women will likely lose the right to a safe and legal abortion in about half the States. Poor women and victims of abuse, rape, incest and human trafficking will bear the burden of this decision. The Court's decision violates the worth and dignity of all women by allowing State governments to make family planning decisions that should be the exclusive right of the women.

Members of UUFCC, the Secular Community of SW Florida, and the

Democratic Club gathered to protest the Court's decision in May and June in both Port Charlotte and Punta Gorda. They waved signs and chanted slogans to communicate their disappointment and determination to make a change. They believe women should have reproductive rights including the right to have an abortion. Without such rights, women will not be able to enjoy the liberty, freedom and happiness they deserve.

Joseph Fenty & Betty Barriga

### ◀ TO SEE PHOTOS of UUFCC MEMBERS TAKE A STAND

use this link:  
[https://](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1dZevBDna6LgczeWA_DNN3k4qg3McO71Z?)

[drive.google.com/drive/folders/1dZevBDna6LgczeWA\\_DNN3k4qg3McO71Z?](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1dZevBDna6LgczeWA_DNN3k4qg3McO71Z?)

*Unitarian Universalists gather in community to support one another's individual spiritual journeys, trusting that openness to one another's experiences will enhance their own understanding of their own links with the divine, with history, and with one another.*

—“Elevator speeches” quoting UU Rev. Jonalu Johnston, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
<http://archive.uuworld.org/2003/06/affirmations.html>

### UUFCC CONTACTS

artcommittee@uufcc.org  
board@uufcc.org  
bookgroup@uufcc.org  
bookoflife@uufcc.org  
buddhistmeditation@uufcc.org  
choir@uufcc.org  
editorialboard@uufcc.org  
hospitalityandsocial@uufcc.org  
membership@uufcc.org  
minister@uufcc.org  
office@uufcc.org  
patientadvocacy@uufcc.org  
pflag@uufcc.org  
president@uufcc.org  
socialjustice@uufcc.org  
sundaytech@uufcc.org  
worship@uufcc.org



**To be included, Contact Editor Stephanie Garrett**

### JULY BIRTHDAYS

6th Cheryl Deuley  
7th Delmar Wooden  
11th Lorrie Budlong  
14th Carolyn Kellar  
15th Jack Osborne  
21st Sharon Whitehill

### UUFCC COMMUNIQUE EDITORIAL BOARD

Stephanie Garrett, Herb Levin & MaryLou Proudfoot Kennedy  
Articles no more than 150 words (count limit does not include title & author).  
Submission deadline is one (1) week prior to the last day of each month to:  
[editorialboard@uufcc.org](mailto:editorialboard@uufcc.org)