



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Charlotte County

A Place where Religion and Reason Meet

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Greetings!

I have always wanted a Menorah even though I'm not Jewish. I've seen so many beautiful ones with their branches reaching upward and their candles flickering. It's one of those things that felt weird to me. I would decide not to buy one for fear of being accused of cultural appropriation. I have a terrible time deciding when my honest admiration and interest in another culture, my desire to celebrate everything in life, and my pantheistic beliefs get all jumbled up.

Basically, I'm asking my Jewish UU friends. Can I get a Menorah and light it. Please advise.

All of this is a "stream of unconsciousness" flowing toward me saying "Happy Hanukkah" to all who celebrate or honor that tradition. I found (and lost) a recipe for potato latkes funnel cakes that I'm thinking about making if I can locate the recipe again.

We have a wonderful book in the UUFCC library

Jewish Voices in Unitarian Universalism, call no. 289.132 H32.

If you'd like to check it out or any other book just let me know by phone or email and I'll make sure you get it.

The picture last week of baby pandas inspired a couple of suggested captions that I thought were too good to ignore:



From Linda Himes we have: "for once we really fit in", "why?", "because it's pure panda-monium out there".

From Linda Quinn: "Stop squirming: I have to make sure I get the tick's head out."

peace to all - MJ

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT UUFCC?

Zoom News!

<https://zoom.us/j/93526372148> is the ONLY Zoom link you need for most gatherings. If you have the Zoom app on your computer or phone, or if you simply use a web browser for Zoom, the numbers are all you need. Enter 935 2637 2148, the code for the Meeting ID and you are ready to meet on the line.

Thursday, December 10:

6 p.m.: Choir Chat

Friday, December 11:

10:30 a.m.: Whitehill Chalice Circle

1:30 p.m.: Southern Leadership Study Group

Sunday, December 13:

9 a.m.: Conversation Among Friends always uses the following link:

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

10:30 a.m.: Worship Service

"Spiritual Disciplines -- Journaling" by Rev. Dan Lambert

Worship Associate: Ken Brennen

<https://zoom.us/j/93632314034>

Social Hour immediately following the service on the Worship Service zoom link.

noon: Art Committee <https://zoom.us/j/95216690932>

noon: Social Justice Meeting on the Worship link

Monday, December 14:

4 p.m.: Spanish for Beginners always uses this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81408957224?pwd=cUhGejBuOVVRckUOL1R2SkM2SXhZQT09>

Tuesday, December 15:

6p.m.: UUFCC Board Meeting

Wednesday December 16:

5 p.m.: Immigration Justice Meeting

7 p.m.: Happy Hour with John Lee

Thursday, December 17:

10 a.m. Policies and Procedures Meeting

4:30 p.m.: Buddhist Meditation

6 p.m.: Choir Chat

To request a zoom meeting, please send an email to the office at office@uufcc.org. Your request will be handled by either the Office Administrator, Mary Jane Williams or the Connections Coordinator, Lori Bell.

When you click the blue links, if you have never used Zoom before, you will be prompted to install the Zoom program. Please allow your device to do that. Other helpful hints -

- Use headphones for best sound
- Keep your "Mute" on unless you are speaking

Remember that Rev. Dan is available via email (minister@uufcc.org) or phone & text (561-628-6954). Please let him know how he can help.

[UUFCC AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS](#)

[OTHER UU ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS](#)

[HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...](#)

[WORKSHOPS TO CULTIVATE RESILIENCE](#)

Carol Burkett 12/3
Samara Mc Michaels 12/8
Florence Martin 12/13

Introducing Monthly Workshops to Cultivate Emotional Resilience

Are you dreading the thought of getting through the next few months?

UC Davis-certified life coach and First Unitarian Church of South Bend congregation member Becky Lindstrom will be offering free Zoom workshops on the first Sunday of the month from 4-5:30pm EST, starting November 1st through the first Sunday in March. They're open to anyone who wants to become more skillful at navigating uncertainty through the cultivation of emotional resilience.

In order to participate you'll need:

- Access to Zoom by phone or computer
- To be at least 16 years old (a parent or guardian must also be in attendance if you're under 18)

For more information and to sign up to participate, please visit <https://www.everpresentlife.com/emotional-resilience-workshops/>



DONATING TO UUFCC and PLEDGES

We are working on coming up with some simple ways for our generous community to continue to financially support UUFCC and our community. Right now, you may mail checks and pledges to the office, drop them in our mailbox, or call the office to make other arrangements. We appreciate your on-going support.

We are equipped to handle donations through the phone app **Venmo**. Payments should be made to "**UUFCC Offering**". If you want your donation to apply to anything other than UUFCC Operations, such as the Minister's Discretionary Fund, please indicate so in the notes field.

Our mail address is: UUFCC, 1532 Forrest Nelson Blvd., Port Charlotte, FL 33952

COMMUNICATING WITH THE OFFICE

For the foreseeable future, while UUFCC is closed, the office email and phones will continue to be monitored but probably not everyday. Rev. Dan may be reached at 561-628-6954. Mary Jane will be in the office Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and most Friday mornings.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE - Info about food assistance

SOCIAL JUSTICE MEETING- Sunday December 13th at noon

The Social Justice Committee will meet on the virtual porch this Sunday, the 13th, at noon. The ZOOM site is the same as for the service. Just hang around till noon. All are welcome. The minutes from the November meeting may be found [here](#). The agenda for the December meeting may be found [here](#).

THE AUCTION IS NOW OPEN!

Obviously this years auction will be different and done virtually. It will happen over several months or more and include, hopefully, lots of services and things folks can use, especially baked goods, family dinners and the like. We hope to be able to have one bigger live Zoom auction later in the season that includes some bigger items and entertainment.

The auction is open - for donating and for bidding! **We need you to donate.** Considering the holidays,

baked goods and meals might be particularly helpful. Can you help with gardening or cleaning up outside areas for returning snowbirds? Be creative with your talents. You have them, you know you do.

Here's all you need to do:

- (1) Login at www.uufcc.net
If you haven't logged in before or don't remember your log-in, there is a link to do so.
- (2) Click on **MyStuff > Items**
- (3) You should then see a link you could use to create a new item to donate.
- (4) You can see, and/or edit, all items you create by clicking on **MyStuff >Items**
- (5) To see all items available, not just your items, click on **Auction > Biddable items**. You may bid on any item listed by clicking on the item number.
- (6) **Repeat often!**

It's really easy! Just do it. If you don't have access, call me at 574-360-9186 and I will be happy to get your item entered. Pictures will help sell your item.

item entered. Pictures will help sell your item.

We are working on getting this link and info onto the website, too.

Items that are currently available on the auction website:

Homemade apple pie by Ginger Abraham

Hand made journal from Laura Anderson

Kayak pickup and delivery by the Deuleys

Tray of Baklava from Kay Azar

Iridescent glass heist as ornament by Kay Azar

Framed bathtub print from Lorrie Douglas

Handyman services from Gabes Handyman and painting Service

Poinsettias for UUFCC

Harry Chapin Mobile Pantry distributes EVERY Thursday at 10 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church, 211 Charlotte St. in Punta Gorda.

Click [here](#) for a list of all the available Food Pantries in the Charlotte County area.

UUFCC MEDITATION LABYRINTH

We are excited to announce that our UUFCC Meditation Labyrinth is open! You'll find it in the parking lot on the east end. Look for the orange cones. You'll find instructions in the information box at the entrance to the labyrinth, if you'd like to use them. There is a guided meditation for December, and we plan to change that every month.

This is intended for you to enjoy alone on your own time. Come and go as you please, and take as long as you'd like.

We hope this new labyrinth will be just one more tool to help you on your spiritual journey.

Rev. Dan

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership committee is revived and looking for additional members. There are several things that need to be accomplished and brainstormed to be effective in our growth during this virtual time.

Please contact Lori Bell at uufcccloribell@gmail.com if you would like become involved.

"TOYS FOR TOTS" - for children awaiting asylum hearings - Last Day to drop off money or checks is Monday December 14th

Campaign "Toys for Tots" is launched! Send holiday gifts to the children at the Matamoros, Mexico Encampment where families are awaiting asylum hearings.

Due to the difficulty in paying taxes on physical products entering Mexico, it will be most effective to contribute

entering Mexico, it will be most effective to contribute money that can then be used to purchase toys in Mexico for the children.

This effort is coordinated by Team Brownsville.

Checks should be made out to "Team Brownsville" with "Toys for Tots" on the memo line.

You may bring money and/or checks to the UUFCC office Friday or Monday morning or drop them in the Fellowship mailbox at the sidewalk closest to Forest

Nelson. Please make the check out to "Team Brownsville." The Immigration Justice Committee will mail all checks. If the morning drop off times do not work for you, please call the office to make other arrangements.

FROM YOUR UUFCC WEB SITE TEAM

Laura Anderson and Laura Liermann

The UUFCC website continues to grow and provide more connections and details about us. Have you noticed? Several committees are working on increasing their presence and there is new information for visitors. We have a new calendar! The most change happens on the front under the heading, Living Our Values. In this section you will find the most current Information from our most active fellowship.

GOT A MATCH, FRIEND?

Ken Brennan had a match. He initiated the recent wonderfully successful UUFCC Matching Campaign for the Social Justice Committee. That Matching Campaign raised over \$6000 which was shared equally amongst three area food bank organizations. Thank you, Ken. Thank you all who met Ken's challenge. Because of your outstanding generosity, we were able to significantly help our community.

Outstanding generosity is still needed. Many continue to experience difficulty in putting food on the table. SJC wants our efforts to carry on.

The Challenge - So here's the idea I put on your table. Not everyone can individually match Ken's outstanding effort. But several individual smaller offers to match can. Add them together, create one whopping (yes, I said whopping!!) offer, and now, "You've got a match, friend!" For example, say six people each offer \$50 to match donations. Combined that's a \$300 Match Offer. That means \$300 of donations is matched by \$300 of offers, thereby providing \$600 to area food banks! Match offers don't have to be \$50. They can be from \$5 up, all will be gratefully accepted, and will be combined with others to create one whopper of an offer.

So, Have You Got a Match, Friend?

- Email me the dollar amount of your MATCH OFFER!

- Prefer anonymity? If so, just let me know.
- Offers will be combined to form one larger MATCH amount.
- The Fellowship is then informed and challenged to meet the MATCH offer (say by December 21st).
- Match Offer checks need not be sent in till equaled in its entirety by donations.
- Match Offer checks sent to the UUFCC office should be annotated "matching effort."

Standing on the side of love, let's continue to help those in need. Your Matchmaker, Herb Levin Chair, Social Justice Committee. engsp1@gmail.com

CHECK OUT THE *NEW OUTLOOK*, UUFCC'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER!

It's packed with a listing of activities, social functions and a calendar of exciting events happening at UUFCC over the next month. We send it out via email at the beginning of each month. Please fill out an information sheet on the membership desk in the fellowship hall if you are interested in receiving our Updates. The latest issue (December 2020) can be found [here](#).

SECOND HELPINGS THRU DECEMBER

We want to remind everyone that all Second Helping contributions thru December will be split evenly between Harry Chapin Food Bank, C.H.A.P.S, and Meals on Wheels. You may contribute at any time of the month, and as often as you wish. If writing a check, be sure to annotate "for Second Helping", to assure it is channeled in the correct fashion.

Click [here](#) for a Newsletter from C.H.A.P.S. Food and Hygiene Pantry.

PROCEDURES FOR ZOOM MEETINGS

Our philosophy at UUFCC is that zoom links that are posted on public media will require a waiting room for security reasons. Zoom links that are distributed locally via the Weekly Update or emails from the fellowship will contain embedded passwords. If you use the short 10 digit number to gain access, perhaps through a locally installed version of zoom, you will need to type in the password yourself. If you need a password, please contact either the office@uufcc.org or uufcccloribell@gmail.com

Privately scheduled meetings on people's personal zoom accounts are not under these guidelines so contact the person scheduling the meeting for any questions about those links.

