



NEW OUTLOOK

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

A spiritual home where religion and reason meet

JULY/AUGUST 2018

Kindred Spirit

Living Congregations

Living congregations always have a parking problem; dying ones don't.

Living congregations are constantly changing their methods; dying ones don't have to.

Living congregations have lots of noisy kids; dying ones are quiet.

Living congregations have expenses that always exceed their income; dying ones take in more than they ever dream of spending.

Living congregations are constantly improving and planning for the future; dying ones worship the past. Living congregations grow so fast you forget people's names; in dying congregations, folks have known everyone's names for years.

Living congregations move forward and out in faith; dying ones operate totally by sight.

Living congregations support community work heavily; dying congregations keep it all at home.

Living congregations are filled with healthy pledgers; dying ones are filled with tippers.

Living congregations dream great dreams of beloved community; dying ones relive nightmares.

Living congregations have the fresh wind of love blowing; dying ones are stale with bickering.

Living congregations don't have "can't" in their vocabulary; dying ones have nothing but.

Living congregations are energized; dying ones are fossilized.

(The above was originally located in the Pilgrim United Church of Christ newsletter and adapted by UU minister, the Reverend Sam Trumbore. It was modified further by the Rev. Amy Kindred.)

On Sunday, June 3, I talked about "prayer" or "pause" beads with the children. Here is the wording a child may use while picking up rocks or beads just as people might have done many years ago, long before the creation of Rosaries (Catholicism) and Mala Strands (Buddhism).

Counting Your Blessings, An Activity for Children

Created by the Rev. Amy Kindred, Minister,
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Port Charlotte, Florida

I do my best. (Pick up a rock.)

I speak with care. (Pick up another rock.)

I pause to cherish (Pick up a third rock.)

Food, family, earth, air

and...(Pick up a rock for each item listed *including other items a child may wish to add.*)



Dear Ones



On Sunday morning June 24, folks gathered to watch the screening of the General Assembly's Sunday service. I am eager to hear from our delegates. GA is a treasure house of resources with so many opportunities to learn and grow in faith.

ANT CAMP was a great success due in great part to the creativity and knowledge of our volunteers. Fifteen children, ages 4 through 12, gardened, danced, sang, made puppets, practiced yoga, made arts and crafts. I am so grateful for the generous contributions of time, talent, wisdom, and energy.

Thank you - Jennifer Rose, Gudrun Matthaus, Rev. Amy Kindred, Fossil Bill Howat, Ginger Abraham, Lynn Richie, Nancy Weaver, Kathleen Strong, Sara Salovitz, Laura Tooker, Marion Menna, Katy Brown, MaryHolly Allison and Elizabeth Clark. Special thanks to junior counselor, Sierra Hansman, who devoted the week to helping our youngest children.

I am grieving and so are many of you. We need to grieve. We have lost thirteen deeply valued friends in the past year. Nancy Weaver, on behalf of the Board, is arranging for grief counseling for our community through Tidewell Hospice (see page 6). We will probably begin with an early evening gathering on Tuesdays. The exact time and frequency of meetings will be arranged with the therapist and begin as soon as possible. Watch out for a commencement notice in the weekly updates and orders of service announcements.

At the Board's retreat on June 9th at Rev. Amy's home, we decided to celebrate our Fellowship's 50th birthday on Saturday, January 12th with a special party. We also decided to give ourselves a birthday present, a large deck spanning the entrance wall. We are currently searching for a design and construction company. Suggestions are welcomed. If you wish to plan and participate in any facet of these goals, talk to me or Don Liermann.

In faith,
Dennis G. Shaw, President
UUFCC Board of Trustees



This poem was written by children at ANT CAMP under the guidance of Marion Menna.

REPTILE

*Hard shell
Green and brown
Lives in a pond
Four-legged creature
Baggy skin - sharp jaws
Little pointy tail
I lay eggs
I'm a slow poke – love me!*

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 - 6:15 pm

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

<i>July</i>	<i>August</i>
<p>July 1 – “Through a Glass Darkly - Another View of Freedom” - James Abraham</p> <p>When a group of well-meaning Rochester residents invited Frederick Douglass to give a Fourth of July speech, what he delivered shocked them and still resonates with power and relevance.</p>	<p>August 5 – “When the Spirit Says” The Rev. Amy Kindred</p> <p>"You got to laugh when the Spirit says laugh..." These are the lyrics of a song from <i>Singing the Journey</i>. Why not include laughter in the menagerie of one's spiritual practices? To love, to laugh, to learn seems like worthy goals.</p>
<p>July 8 – “Green Dot” – Chris Hall</p> <p>Green Dot is a movement promoting cultural change in our community. It empowers people to safely intervene in matters of power based personal violence which includes domestic violence, sexual assault, child/elder abuse, stalking and bullying. When we all do what we can to stop violence, we will see a decrease in its occurrence. No one has to do everything, but everyone has to do something.</p>	<p>August 12 – “Covenantal Not Creedal” The Rev. Amy Kindred</p> <p>Every Sunday morning, we recite this passage: Love is the spirit of this church, and service is its law; this is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace, to seek truth in love, and to help one another. (James Vila Blake, 1894) How often do we consider what it means to be a community that promises to cherish each other?</p>
<p>July 15 – “How to Find Joy in Challenging Times” Peg Stunkard</p> <p>What can we do to manage and avoid stress in challenging times? Come learn what attitudes can help!</p>	<p>August 19 – “A Piece of Fruit” The Rev. Amy Kindred</p> <p>Rotten apples don't <i>really</i> spoil the whole bunch! Join us for a story about opposing perspectives</p>
<p>July 22 - "What Are Hu-an-imals?" Sharon Whitehill</p> <p>Are animals <i>persons</i>? This is more than a semantic question. Whether we answer yes or no, it's an issue with deep legal, scientific, and moral implications. It's also a place for UUs to start as we consider our First Principle Project: should we change that principle from “The inherent worth and dignity of every person” to “The inherent worth and dignity of every <i>being</i>”? Perhaps you can glean from my title where my own sympathies lie.</p>	<p>August 26 - My Two Hands: Living Generously The Rev. Amy Kindred</p> <p>Maya Angelou wrote, "Making a living is not the same thing as making a life." What are the ways we might enrich the lives of others AND our very own at the same time? It's a hands-on endeavor.</p>

Reflections from the Membership Coordinator

Lynn Ritchie



The seasons of life are more on my mind as I write this, than those on the calendar. I am relatively new to this congregation and it is with heavy hearts that we move forward considering all the losses we've experienced this past year. We miss all our beloveds, many of them founders and leaders of this Fellowship, and are determined as a community to find our way together through the grief, to honor our memories of them and their contributions to this place.

In May, we held a New to UU Breakfast. I am so thankful for the friendliness and support of all who participated. And we have welcomed two new members since April when I began keeping track of you all in my new role.

Some of you are coming forward with interest in membership. Please identify yourselves to me if you have not already and want more information. I would be happy to schedule a summer New to UU breakfast and New Member Sunday. I can also plan a private membership book signing if that is what you prefer.

Wherever you find yourself this summer please relax, recharge, and savor your experiences. May you know peace.

With gratitude and love,
Lynn Ritchie

FAMILY FUN NIGHT July 20 and August 17

Come join the fun as we play games for all ages, enjoy snacks and beverages and a lot of laughs! The fun begins at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, July 20 and August 17. For information contact Alice Clattenburg at Bluhead1@gmail.com.



Happy Birthday to you!

July

Cheryl Deuley 7/6
Delmar Wooden 7/7
Lorrie Budlong 7/11
Carolyn Kellar 7/14
Jack Osborne 7/16
Sharon Whitehill 7/21

August

Linda Himes 8/4
Norma Jock 8/20
Phil Brown 8/21
"Fossil" Bill Howat 8/23
Joanne Murphy 8/23
Rosemary Hagan 8/25
Maureen Peters 8/30
Ellen Mc Gill 8/31



UU Endowment of Charlotte County

It continues to be a time of loss and grief in our beloved community and also a time of celebration - a celebration of the long and rich lives lived by our members and the stories we share to hold them in our hearts, "... a time to be born and a time to die."

The trustees of the UUE would like to share that the long-awaited plans to develop a new **UU Endowment Honor Board** are progressing. This will be a way of recognizing those who have passed on, special honorees as well as the contributors to the Endowment. The idea is to do this electronically and have a monitor displaying a running document of three major categories:

- **In Memoriam** (those who have passed on)
- **Honorees** (those who have served the Endowment)
- **Donors** (those who have given greater than \$500 before 2012 and more recently greater than \$1,000.)

Eventually the plan is to include all members of the **UUE Society** (anyone contributing to the Endowment). We hope you will be as pleased about this as the Trustees are. Watch for this display in the coming months.

The UU Endowment exists to promote growth and support of Unitarian Universalism. Your gifts live in perpetuity. Gifts are received to honor the memory of those we love, to recognize special ones still living and to receive bequests from the estate of those who have passed on.

We have had many losses this past year and you have been generous. May and June brought more losses. We express sympathy to family members and loved ones.

In the month of May, we lost both Bill Wharton and Richard Dick.

Stephanie Garrett writes:

Glad that the Endowment trustees were able to recognize both Bill Wharton and Richard Dick at our April UUE Reception.

Bill was a part of the framework of UUFCC in terms of very early sermons given by him and Charlotte and his eye on all things requiring maintenance. He was a part of our Fellowship prior to our having our own roof.

Richard Dick, a recipient of the UUA Humor Award, nominated by our Fellowship, made laughter part of our religious experience on a regular basis. A memoir of his life and wife Sarah's, handwritten in perfect cursive is found in our UUFCC library. A great read and lots of laughs.

I feel blessed to have known the Whartons and the Dicks. I can't be sad for all lived rich lives leaving behind healthy seeds for our future growth as a congregation.

In June, there was the passing of Robert Hansman, the founder of this Endowment, a long time UU and an extremely generous member of our Fellowship. He served on the UUFCC Board, hosted welcoming events for all new ministers and shared his gifts of song at many special events. We also lost our beloved Annie Shea-Ross who touched so many with her love and light, served as a Worship Associate and sang in the choir.

There have been many, many gifts to the Endowment these past two months to honor these special members. The trustees are full of gratitude.

In memory of:

- **Mary Wolff** - Dave and Florence Martin
- **Delight Tepaske** - Dave and Florence Martin
- **Bill Wharton** - MaryHolly Allison and Ben Crosby, George & Alice Clattenberg, Laura Flachs, Stephanie Garrett, Carolyn Kvam, Dave and Florence Martin, Peg Stunkard, Nancy Weaver
- **Richard Dick** - MaryHolly Allison and Ben Crosby, Laura Flachs, Stephanie Garrett, Carolyn Kvam, Maureen Peters
- **Robert Hansman** - MaryHolly Allison and Ben Crosby, Joanne and Ernest Alphin

If you would like to make a donation simply write your check to the **UU Endowment** and indicate on the memo line who you are recognizing. If you have any questions regarding the UUE, please do not hesitate to contact any one of us.

With gratitude,
MaryHolly Allison, Stephanie Garrett, Don Liermann, Delmar Wooden
UUE Trustees

Grief Counseling

The fellowship will provide a space to gather and support each other as we move through this period of grief following the deaths of a number of UU community friends and family. We have coordinated with Tidewell Hospice to obtain a professional grief counselor to facilitate meetings and provide information. The meetings will start Monday, July 9th. Starting on Tuesday, July 24th we will meet every other week. All meetings will be held at the fellowship starting at 5:00 p.m. Please come and share with others as we move through this sad time. Contact Nancy Weaver (nancyxweaver@gmail.com) if you would like more information.

Tidewell
HOSPICE

**CELEBRATION OF LIFE:
ANNIE ROSS-SHEA
Sunday, August 5th @ 1 pm**

The Celebration of Life service for Annie Ross-Shea will be held on Sunday, August 5th at 1 pm. Come help us remember our beloved friend and member.

**CELEBRATION OF LIFE:
ROBERT HANSMAN
Saturday, August 11th @ 5 pm**

Please join us for the Celebration of Life of our dear member and friend, Robert Hansman, on Saturday, August 11th at 5 pm.

Tomatoes, Fair Food Program, Wendy's - Where Are We?



For six months now, members of the Social Justice Committee of UUFCC have demonstrated in front of local Wendy's restaurants, asking them to pay a penny a pound more to the pickers in Immokalee, and to join the Fair Food Program, assuring safe working conditions in the fields. We are doing our part in a national effort to bring Wendy's into the Fair Food Program, which already includes Taco Bell, McDonalds, Burger King and Subway, as well as Wal-Mart.



Not only had Wendy's refused to follow suit with their fast-food brethren. They went one step further in the wrong direction, opting to purchase all their tomatoes from Mexican sources, where working conditions and wages are far worse than in any U.S. farms not participating in the Fair Food Program.

Recently, Wendy's publicized a change in sourcing of tomatoes. They will now move to purchasing their tomatoes from greenhouses in North America, which all you geography buffs know includes Canada, The United States, *and Mexico!!!!*

So, what has changed? Not penny a pound more for the backbreaking work of pickers. No guarantees of the best-in-class human rights protections as workers in the supply chains of Wendy's competitors. And still sourcing in Mexico. It is not the big deal that Wendy's is making it out to be.

This continues to be a social justice issue. UU's across the country are joining in the protests against Wendy's. We have joined forces with the United Congregational Church in Punta Gorda in this effort. We hold up posters in front of Wendy's on Cochran and on Jones Loop, encouraging people to boycott Wendy's everywhere until they enter the Fair Food Program.

The thing is, social INJUSTICE doesn't go away for the summer. Wendy's continues to screw the people in CIW in Immokalee and in all other locales not protected by the Fair Food Program. Sure, it's hot out there. But the problem doesn't go away. How would you feel about giving two hours of your time once a month –always the third Thursday of the month—to let the passers-by and those about to enter a Wendy's that social justice is needed for these workers? Human Rights Protection!!

Our next demonstration will be on Thursday, July 19th, on the sidewalk in front of the Wendy's in front of Home Depot, from 11a.m. to 1p.m. Parking is plentiful in the Home Depot lot. We have posters all ready. All you need is a hat, water, and the desire to speak out for social justice. Talk to Herb Levin or Gudrun Matthauss for more information.





The Immigration Justice Committee hosted a postcard writing event on Wednesday June 20, 2018 at 5 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Charlotte County. We, like many other Americans, felt compelled to write to our government officials to tell them that the Trump administration's policy of separating children from their parents at the border was appalling, cruel and immoral.

To our surprise, an hour before our event, President Trump signed an executive order temporarily stopping the separation of families at the border. We think the President's actions were in response to the mass outpouring of opposition.

As the postcard writing event got underway, people started arriving, including many from other organizations, and before we knew it, we had a full house -- about 35 to 40 outraged voters. By the end of the night, we had written and addressed 270 personal postcards.

Please note that the executive order only temporarily stops the separation of families. Plus, this order does not guarantee unification for those families that have already been separated. So, there is still more work to be done!

The Immigration Justice Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in this event. We meet the first Wednesday and the third Wednesday of the month. This July, the 1st Wednesday is a holiday, so we are meeting instead on Thursday July 5th. Our second July meeting, will be on Wednesday July 18, 2018 at 5 pm. We hope to see you in the future.

Transforming Lives

When: Sunday, August 26

Time: 11:30 am

Topic: Discussion of Article in UU World Magazine, "Coffee Hour Central"

Discussion Leader: Judith Fincher

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Charlotte County is inviting conversation about how to focus on the "business of transforming lives." (See '*Coffee Hour Central*' by Seth Fisher in UU World, pp 34-37, summer 2018. The article is also available on www.uufcc.org under UU WORLD.)

The Rev. Seth Fisher talks about the many challenges Unitarian Universalist communities are encountering, including UUFCC, such as an aging membership, the passing of older members who were the financial mainstay of our congregations. Fisher offers ideas for how to use a congregation's strengths to remain more relevant in a changing society.

Fisher writes, "We're not in the business of getting people to sing hymns and listen to sermons. We're in the business of transforming lives."

Let's meet in a party atmosphere. Invite your friends and neighbors. Let's mingle and then sit down to discuss our plight and envisage a way forward. All ideas are welcome. There are no right or wrong questions or pre-determined answers.

Book Group

The Book Group meets at the UUFCC on the last Wednesday of the month 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.

July 25 - ***The Selected Works of T. S. Spivet*** by Reif Larsen (fiction)

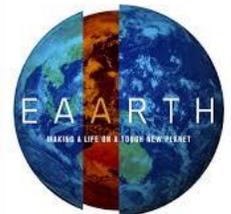


When twelve-year-old genius cartographer T. S. Spivet receives an unexpected phone call from the Smithsonian announcing he has won the prestigious Baird Award, life as normal—if you consider mapping dinner table conversations normal—is interrupted and a wild cross-country adventure begins, taking T. S. from his family home just north of Divide, Montana, to the museum's hallowed halls. There are some answers here on the road from Divide and some new questions, too. How does one map the delicate lessons learned about family or communicate the ebbs and flows of heartbreak, loneliness, and love?

August 29 ***Earth: making a life on a tough new planet*** by Bill McKibben (nonfiction)

Twenty years ago, with *The End of Nature*, Bill McKibben offered one of the earliest warnings about global warming. Those warnings went mostly unheeded; now, he insists, we need to acknowledge that we've waited too long, and that massive change is not only unavoidable but already under way. Our old familiar globe is suddenly melting, drying, acidifying, flooding, and burning in ways that no human has ever seen. We've created, in very short order, a new planet, still recognizable but fundamentally different. We may as well call it Eearth. That new planet is filled with new binds and traps. A changing world costs large sums to defend—think of the money that went to repair New Orleans, or the trillions it will take to transform our energy systems. But the endless economic growth that could underwrite such largesse depends on the stable planet we've managed to damage and degrade. We can't rely on old habits any longer.

McKibben is the most effective environmental activist of our age. As ever, he remains in making a difference on a world that has forgotten. —The New Yorker



Bill McKibben
author of *The End of Nature*

Mark your calendars!

Maker's Fair	UUFCC Sanctuary	Saturday, 3 Nov, 2018	Hours 10 AM - 3 PM
Jewelry	Wood Turning	Hand Painted Items	Soaps, Lotions
Fabric Arts	Photography	Handbags	And much, much more
Beverages, snacks and lunch will be available for purchase.			

WEEKLY EVENTS

Mondays, July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Aug. 6, 13, 20, 27 – Conversational Spanish 5 pm

Thursdays, July 5, 12, 19, 26, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 – Meditation 5 pm

- | | |
|---|---|
| July 4 Gulf Coast Acoustic Guitar Society 7 pm | Aug. 5 Celebration of Life – Annie Shea-Ross 1 pm |
| 5 Immigration Justice 5 pm | 7 Staff Meeting 11 am
Grief Counseling 5 pm (See p. 6) |
| 7 Yoga for Life – 9 am | 8 Caring and Hospitality 10 am
Worship Committee 4 pm |
| 8 Artist Reception 12 pm
Social Justice 12 pm | 10 Café Serendipity 7 pm |
| 9 Grief Counseling 5 pm (See p. 6) | 11 Chalice Circles 2 pm
Celebration of Life – Robert Hansman 5 pm |
| 10 NAMI Group 6 pm | 12 Social Justice 12 pm |
| 13 Café Serendipity 7 pm | 14 NAMI Group 6 pm |
| 14 Chalice Circles 2 pm | 15 Immigration Justice 5 pm |
| 15 Art Committee 12 pm
Mystical Experiences 12 pm | 17 UUFCC Game Night 6:30 pm (See p. 4) |
| 17 UUFCC Board Meeting 7 pm | 18 Yoga for Life 9 am |
| 18 Immigration Justice 5 pm | 19 Art Committee 12 pm
Mystical Experiences 12 pm |
| 20 UUFCC Game Night 6:30 pm (See p. 4) | 21 Grief Counseling 5 pm (See p. 6)
UUFCC Board Meeting 7 pm |
| 21 Yoga for Life 9 am | 22 Healing Oasis 6 pm |
| 24 Grief Counseling 5 pm (See p. 6) | 25 Chalice Circles 2 pm
Meatless Meal 5:30 pm |
| 25 Book Group 1:30 pm
Healing Oasis 6 pm | 26 UU World Article Discussion 11:30 (See p. 8) |
| 28 Chalice Circles Meatless Meals | 29 Book Group 1:30 pm |
| Aug. 1 Immigration Justice 5 pm
Gulf Coast Acoustic Guitar Society 7 pm | 31 Art on the Wall Take Down 10 am |
| 3 RE Team Meeting 6 pm | |
| 4 Yoga for Life 9 am | |