



NEW OUTLOOK

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

A spiritual home where religion and reason meet

DECEMBER 2019



Chalice Chatter from Rev. Dan

Friends,

Well, here's December! This time of year is filled with joy and laughter and exuberance for some, and with sorrow, pain, and anxiety for others. We honor everyone as we each experience the winter holidays in our own way. There are about 20 holidays and observances from various religions and cultures between late November and early January. As a liberal religious fellowship, we'd like to recognize as many as possible.

With that in mind, we have some opportunities to share and a couple of volunteer requests to help make it all happen.

1) Holiday Decorating -- I understand that UUFCC has a tradition of decorating a tree for the sanctuary. I'm a big fan of that idea, and we want to make sure that everyone is included who wants to be. If you have a special winter holiday ornament or symbol or decoration that could go on, under, or around a tree, please bring it in anytime you come to the fellowship. We also could use help decorating!!

2) Poinsettias -- We invite you to bring in poinsettias to decorate the chancel steps for December. Bring them in anytime December 8 or after. Any color is fine!

3) Holiday Dinner -- On Christmas Day, Wednesday, Dec. 25, we will have a Holiday Dinner at UUFCC at noon for anyone who'd like to join us. I'm roasting a turkey, plus we'll have vegan options, plenty of side dishes, and of course desserts! Please sign up on the sheet in the hallway so we know how many to count on.



And of course, we have most of our regular monthly and weekly activities happening as well. I love that UUFCC is such a fun and busy place. We have a vibrant community of people who genuinely enjoy spending time together. I'm glad we can count you as part of our sacred community!

Remember to be a blessing to everyone you meet!

Rev. Dan



Dear Ones

On November 18th, the UUFCC Board of Trustees gathered for a six-hour retreat. During the gathering, we focused on several important aspects of our Fellowship's life.

First, we shared our thoughts and feedback on the recent changes to the Sanctuary. Apparently, most folks really like the freshly painted chancel and its minimalist furniture. Many thanks to Laura and Don Liermann for brightening this sacred space.

Other ideas that will improve the room's aesthetics include screening the storage unit on the back wall, hanging decorative banners that depict our core beliefs and rehangng and identifying the stained glass symbols from the World's religions.

Additionally, we intend to meet with the Charlotte County Fire Marshall regarding increased occupancy in the Sanctuary. Our hope is with the addition of an exterior door, we will be able to add 20 more chairs.

Finally, we decided to improve our exterior lighting in both the front and back parking lots. It's dark out there!

I am happy to report that the Board has reversed its previous decision regarding food and drinks in the Sanctuary. You can bring both into the room without breaking an unenforceable, impractical law. However, spilled coffee is hard to remove from the rug. Covered containers help solve this problem.

Another area that needs immediate attention is the creation of new Mission and Vision Statements. Our intention is to have these prepared for a congregational vote at our annual meeting on March 30th. We also need to prepare for our annual pledge drive which will begin on March 1st and end March 23rd. Start thinking about what you can contribute.

The Nominating Committee will begin the process of recruiting folks to run for vacancies on the Board of Trustees. We need to elect a new president, vice president and three trustees. We will also vote for three General Assembly delegates and replacements for the retiring Nominating Committee members.

Finally, I want to thank Dan Lambert for his vision, enthusiasm and trust in our beloved community. It is so good to have an inspiring minister again.

In faith and gratitude,
Dennis Shaw, President
UUFCC Board of Trustees

*Birthdays
of the
Month*

Carol Burkett 12/3
Samara Michaelson 12/8
Florence Martin 12/13

Please contact Stephanie Garrett at garwalsr@gmail.com if you would like to receive a birthday shout out.

Many Paths...

Sundays

9:00 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 - 6:00 pm

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

Sunday Services

Dec. 1: Winter Holiday Musings

Worship Team Members



Between Thanksgiving and early January there are over 20 holidays observed by various faith traditions and cultures. Join us as we consider the ups and downs of the holiday season.

Dec. 8: Winter Holidays: Bodhi Day

Rev. Dan Lambert

The Buddhist holiday that commemorates the day that the historical Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama, experienced enlightenment.



Dec. 15: Winter Holidays: Yule

Rev. Dan Lambert

Observed by ancient Germanic tribes, pagans, and many others, Yule honors the god Odin, the winter hunt, and other elements.

Dec. 22: Winter Holidays: Hanukkah

Rev. Dan Lambert

A Jewish festival commemorating the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem. It is also known as the Festival of Lights.



Dec. 24: Winter Holidays: Christmas Eve

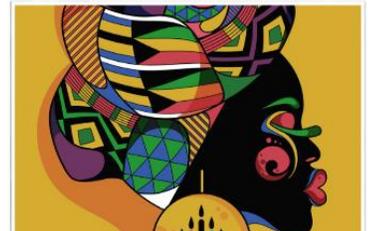
Rev. Dan Lambert

The Christian holiday commemorating the birth of Jesus.
The service will start at 5:30 pm.

Dec. 29: Winter Holidays: Kwanzaa

Ginger Abraham

An annual celebration held in the United States and other nations of the African diaspora in the Americas to honor African heritage in African-American culture.





Message from Membership

Lynn Ritchie

Lots of activities are going on here at the Fellowship. Our new minister is attracting curious newcomers as well as lapsed members and friends to come, learn about, and experience our community. With the uptick in visitors on Sunday mornings it will be necessary to reconsider how we meet, greet, and welcome them. Like raising a child, it will take a village to nurture those early engagements into relationships.

We are developing a Membership Team that will augment the presence of the friendly greeters at the door and the person at the Welcome Desk. We have new leadership and are looking to update our Mission and Vision Statements as a Fellowship. I think it's also time to update our approach to attracting and welcoming new people into our community.

You might be thinking, yikes! not another committee. But I think this one could be leaderless, and divided into small tasks and projects to see what is effective and what is not. In any case, I seek your ideas and will share mine. Please contact me in person, or by email at uufcc.connection@gmail.com if you are interested and when might be a good time to schedule a meeting. Thank you.

New Member Sunday

Are you ready to take the plunge and become a member of UUFCC? If you've been attending for a while and feel that our UUFCC family is your kind of people, choosing to become a member affirms and deepens your relationship to our community. We are having a New Member Recognition on Sunday, December 8, so now the perfect time to join! Contact our Membership Coordinator, Lynn Ritchie (UUFCC.connection@gmail.com), to learn more.

In closing and in acknowledgement of the double-digit number of celebrations that take place between November and January, I sincerely wish each of you, your families and loved ones, Happy Holidays!

May all be well.
May all be free.
May all be safe.
May all know peace.

Lynn

Racial Justice

The Racial Justice Committee is again planning to have our Monologues this year as part of Black History Month celebration. We hope to expand our base of stories to the community. As many people have difficulty committing stories to paper, we are going to try having folks who will collect oral stories and put them in writing. If you are willing to be a part of this story collection effort, please contact Kay Azar or Samara Michaelson at rmstories2020@gmail.com. Think of this as our own Story Corps for UUFCC. JOIN IN THE FUN!



UU the Vote!

A message from UUA President Susan Frederick-Gray

These are difficult and dangerous times. One of the challenges is that in times of change and uncertainty, there is a tendency for people to withdraw and grow fearful. This is why the rhetoric of hate, scarcity, and isolation grows in this country. However, it is exactly in such times that we need bold spiritual imagination and audacious leaders and communities that are showing a new way forward.

We are less than twelve months away from the most critical elections in our lifetimes. We must not be on the sidelines. Core Unitarian Universalist values—values of interdependence, democracy, human worth and dignity, the richness of pluralism and diversity, and the inborn right of all peoples to self-determination and agency—are on the line. When we show up as people of faith, with these values front and center, we are offering a viable alternative to narratives and policies of domination, supremacy, scarcity, and exploitation that threaten and diminish our lives and future.

Each of us will choose our candidates as individuals, but as a religious movement, we can organize for collective impact. In that spirit, I ask you to join me in our Association's new electoral organizing campaign: "UU the Vote" (uua.org/UUtheVote).

Voter mobilization is not just political. For Unitarian Universalists, this is faithful, moral action because democracy and the right of all people to have a voice and a vote are at the very heart of our Seven Principles. This work is about the inherent worth and dignity of every person; it is about restoring right relationship with the planet; it is about our commitment to justice and equity for all people. We are called to courageously embody the deepest values of our faith with our hearts, bodies, and spirits while building toward an abundant future in which all are free and flourishing.

What happens in November 2020 matters. And what we do today will shape what happens on Election Day. Our voice, our values, our willingness to show up matter right now. We are small, but we are mighty—and that mighty love and spirit-centered courage is exactly what is needed today.

DINE AROUND!



Build fellowship friendships by getting to know each other better! It's time to sign up for UUFCC's annual Dine Around!

Participating couples attend three different dinners with different people each time. Each participating couple hosts one dinner and attends two others. Hosts coordinate the date, determine the menu, provide the entree (in consideration of guest food allergies/restrictions), and let guests know what to bring (e.g., salad, appetizer, dessert). Not able to host? Not a "couple"? You can still participate! A single is paired with another single to form a couple and attend one dinner. A non-hosting couple may attend a dinner.

While groups of six are formed, hosts are encouraged to invite extra guests if room permits ... like the new minister and his wife, the Board Chair, Board members, Committee members. What a great way to thank them for all they do *and* to get to know them better!

Have an enjoyable evening, meet new people and get to know each other better! The **Dine Around**  sign-up sheet will be on the Social Hall Bulletin Board or see MaryLou Kennedy.

Service Auction

Kay Azar



The 2020 Service Auction is none too far away. This year the Auction will be on Saturday, February 7th and the theme is Lady and the Tramp. This is the best party of the year at UUFCC, fills your social calendar for the year, helps you find some needed help and gives back to the Fellowship. Now is the time to start thinking about what you can offer, giving suggestions for desired services and to think about volunteering. There are lots of fairly small jobs to be done.

I know for sure Rev. Dan will be auctioning off a sermon topic. The auction can only be successful if there are plenty of items up for bidding. Think about what you do best. Is it cooking, gardening, kayaking or, just as good, getting local

businesses to donate gift cards or merchandise to be auctioned. There will again be a silent auction of handmade items and objects of value. I encourage folks to think about events that might occur at any time during the year as we have an increasing large number of folks who live here year-round.

To volunteer or ask for more information, contact Kay Azar at kayazar1@gmail.com.

FASHIONISTAS ALERT!!!

Some of you got on the last t-shirt train before it left the station and are appropriately UUFCC garbed (see pictures). But for some reason, not everyone who should have and could have purchased the latest UUFCC top did so. Well, have no fear, the train is passing through once more before the holidays! Thus, the unidentified still have a chance. All sizes and styles, for men and women! Twenty dollars (up front, thank you) will assure you of that sense of pride and affiliation as you wear your tee in and out and about. Look for Helen in the Social Hall before and after service starting December 1. For a limited time only. "Leaving on the UU train, don't know when it'll be back again....."

Sponsored by the Justice trio: Social, Immigration and Racial.



Jazzy Fundraiser



There has been a change in plans for this fundraiser. The CCJS has agreed to what we consider an even better arrangement than what we had in place for the originally scheduled concert on December 9th.

Ticket prices will continue to be discounted to \$10 each from their standard price of \$20 for non CCJS members. Additionally, the CCJS has allocated us up to 50 tickets and they will allow those who purchase tickets to attend a concert of their choice from the four remaining concerts after the December 9th concert. The dates for those remaining concerts are Jan. 13th, Feb. 10th, March 9th and April 13th. All CCJS concerts are held at the Charlotte County Cultural Center in Port Charlotte and begin @ 7.00 PM.

We will begin hosting an information/signup table in the Social Hall beginning immediately after Sunday services on Dec.1st and each Sunday thru Jan. 5th or until we sell all of the tickets allocated to us. If you have any questions, please call George Clattenburg @ 978-314-3908.

Each year the CCJS hosts monthly concerts featuring nationally and International known musicians from October thru April. They also host seven monthly jam sessions for local musicians. Annual membership in the CCJS is currently only \$50.00 per person and your membership gives you free entry to both the 7 monthly concerts and the 7 Jam sessions with local musicians. A real bargain when one considers you can experience up to 14 separate musical events for a total cost of only \$50.00.

Book Group

Mary Jane Williams

The Book Group meets at the UUFCC on the last Wednesday of the month October through May at 1:30 p.m. except for the November and December discussions which were combined and already held in November this year. For further information contact Mary Jane Williams maryjanewms@comcast.net If you would like to receive email notifications of future book choices and meeting reminders, please contact Mary Jane and you will be added to the group email list.

Please note the change in book selection for February 2020 from *White Fragility* by Robin Diangelo to *Ella Minnow Pea* by Mark Dunn. The change was necessary due to a variety of future programming that will include discussions of the *White Fragility* book.

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| January 29 | <i>Daring Democracy</i> (a UU congregational read) by Frances Moore Lappe and Adam Eichen |
| Feb. 26 | <i>Ella Minnow Pea</i> by Mark Dunn |
| March 25 | <i>A World Made New: Eleanor Roosevelt and The Universal Declaration of Human Rights</i> by Mary Ann Glendon |
| April 29 | <i>The Sandcastle Girls</i> by Chris Bohjalian |
| May 27 | To Be Announced |

WEEKLY EVENTS

Mondays – Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, 31- Conversational Spanish 5 pm

Thursdays – Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26 - Meditation 5 pm, Choir Practice 6:15 pm

- Dec. 4** Conscious Dance 4:30 pm
Immigration Justice 5 pm
Gulf Coast Acoustical Guitar Society 7 pm
- 7** Yoga 9 am
- 8** Social Justice 12 pm
- 10** NAMI Group 7 pm
- 11** Caring & Hospitality 10 am
- 13** Café Serendipity 7 pm
- 14** Chalice Circles 2 pm
- 17** UUFCC Board Meeting 6 pm
Sierra Club 7 pm
- 18** Conscious Dance 4:30 pm
Immigration Justice 5 pm
- 20** UUFCC Game Night 6:30 pm
- 21** Yoga 9 am
- 24** Christmas Eve service 5:30 pm
- 25** Holiday Dinner 12 pm (see p. 1)
- 28** Chalice Circles 2 pm
Meatless Meal 5:30 pm
- 31** Art Take Down 10 am

Save the dates!

Saturday, February 8th, 2020
UUFCC Annual Banquet and Service Auction

It's never too early to plan ahead. Make sure to plan on celebrating with everyone on February 8th when we will have our Banquet and Service Auction. The theme this year will be Bella Notte - Lady and the Tramp.

Saturday, March 7, 2020
Racial Monologues

This is a presentation sponsored by the Racial Justice Committee sharing personal stories about race in a reader's theater format. The stories are shared and published anonymously. If you have a story you would like to submit, please email it to rmstories2020@gmail.com. Stay tuned for more information in future newsletters.

Saturday, March 14th, 2020
UUFCC Rummage Sale

Got too much stuff!? We're having another rummage sale on Saturday, March 14, 2020, so put aside the "stuff" you no longer need or want so we can have a successful sale! We will need volunteers, so please contact Alice Clattenburg or Debbie Conrad for further details! Thank you!