



# NEW OUTLOOK

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

*A spiritual home where religion and reason meet*

MAY 2020



## *Chalice Chatter from Rev. Dan*

Dear UUFCC Family,

I'm tired of this pandemic and I'm tired of doing everything virtually on the internet. We all have lived through different types of adversity before, but nothing like this. The tension, fear, exhaustion, and grief are real. We cannot ignore those emotions, but we also mustn't dwell on them too long every day.

As UUs, we are a part what is referred to as The Living Tradition. That means that we value those people and events from the past who shape who we are today. There is so much to learn from those trailblazers, philosophers, and innovators who have gone before us.

In addition to the 7 Principles of Unitarian Universalism, we have the 6 Sources of the Living Tradition. These sources provide insight, wisdom, and encouragement for how we live out our faith today and in the future. The 6 Sources have a lot to teach us about how can approach our current situation. I will be dedicating most Sundays in May & June to discussing these sources and what we can learn from them.

**"HOW OUR SIX SOURCES PROVIDE GUIDANCE & COMFORT,"** is the topic of my sermons for the next couple of months. In addition, we have Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day to talk about. Plus, Hal Trejo, a key leader of ARAY and the local LGBTQ+ community will share one Sunday about how this pandemic has disproportionately impacted folx in that community and how ARAY and others are trying to help.

Finally, a couple of reminders: 1) We have so many creative ways to keep connected right now. Please be involved with one or more of our UUFCC Zoom activities so we can see your face and know that you are alright. 2) We encourage you to find a candle or something to use as a chalice for when we gather on Sundays for worship, or for any other occasion during which you would like to remember that you are part of a loving UUFCC community.

I miss you all and you are on my hearts daily, often even in the middle of the night when I awaken at 2:30 a.m. and can't get back to sleep, hoping that you're okay.

You have all my love.

Remember to be a blessing to everyone you see in stores and wherever you're able to go. Most importantly, be good to yourself right now.

Blessings!

Rev. Dan

# Dearly Beloved

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I write to you from an altered experience...not from chemicals, or a change in role, but from an unusual space apart:

- fleeting minutes of electronic connections that trigger memories of warmth
- delightful direct phone connections that allow the more natural one-to-one connection, that starts hesitantly, then moves to its own rhythm, and stops as unevenly as it started
- stolen moments from our inward places, reminding us of those rich, luscious, shared times together in each other's physical presence. How my heart aches for those...

My first weeks in the role as your new board president were hectic and filled with the urgency of jumping on a moving train, as we (your staff; your board, your committees, your volunteers, and many of you) all worked hard - many worked non-stop - to figure out:

- the day-to-day activities, the Annual Meeting, the election, the budget, the changing roles, the leaky roof, the overflowing plumbing; the pledging...oy...expenses continue, donations need to find new ways in...(Rev. Dan, Mary Jane, Nancy, Lynn, Board, Finance, Stewardship, Building & Grounds Comm)
- the location of everything, the closing of the building, the opening of all of the alternative communication, the electronics, the AV equipment, the moving of important pieces of the ongoing flow from our building to homes and airwaves, the worship service & music - maybe this will work, let's try that...(Jim, Linda, Tom, Worship Committee)
- and of the utmost importance, the location of all of you! (no, this was not Hurricane Charlie again, Stephanie, but yes, some of the same feelings were sneaking in from place to place).
- the lists of people and places matched with the efforts of the Caring Committee and some 40+ and still coming volunteers, still working to track down and contact each person in our collective community
- the multitude of incoming calls (many thanks to Rev. Dan and Mary Jane for your dedication in responding to the incredible influx of calls and emails)

How can we help, what is needed, how can we reach them...here are some resources...and then the virus. At the same time, we gave our all, we all felt the presence of what we could not control.

Two more weeks pass, we begin to settle into bumpy new norms. Many of us start getting connected to some of the resources we need. We take stock, (I step on the scale...oy). We look in, we reach out, we try something new, we hide under the covers, or surrounded by snacks and screens. We step out, we create, we move.

So, like all of you, I struggle with moving forward in faith, taking a deep breath, in the knowledge that this very presence of holding space for each other, holding up each other in love, is exactly what we need to stay strong in spirit and in body to move through these times...until...we can hold each other again in community.

In gratitude for your vote of faith,  
Lorrie Douglas  
Your New Board President

P.S. And our precious worms were not forgotten, thanks to our Green Sanctuary leader, Bill S, and a trickle of compost fairies who stop by with morsels of leftovers for them to eat.

# Sunday Services - by Zoom Worship Series

"How Our Six Sources Provide  
Guidance & Comfort"

*April 26*

Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life.

*May 3*

Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love.



*May 10*



"Mothers, Miracles, and Migraines" – It's Mothers' Day!

*May 17*

How the Pandemic is Affecting the LGBTQ Community with guest speaker Hal Trejo of ARAY



*May 24*



Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life.

*May 31*



Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves.



*June 7*

Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit.



*June 14*



Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

*June 21*

"Fathers and Other F Words" – It's Fathers' Day!



*June 28*



Live Worship from General Assembly (probably)



## Money Matters

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Hello Fellowship family,

Hard to believe we were rocking and rolling on Forrest Nelson in February and the first part of March, and now we are all sheltering in place. It's surreal.

I am elated that the membership seems to be adjusting to our temporary normal with the on-line Sunday service and other zoom business and social activities in place, so we still know that we are never alone.

Many of you have been very generous with mail-in donations during the past month. We are receiving your checks at the Fellowship! This is helping us make up for the loss of the weekly basket collections. Please know that whatever you can do to help during this time is greatly appreciated.

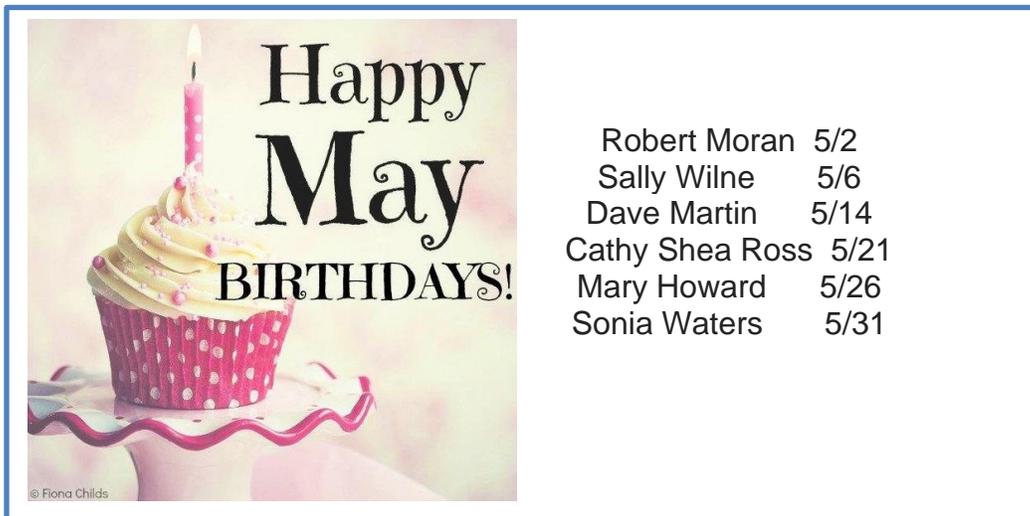
Now, we also have the ability to donate on our website with the phone app Venmo. Venmo doesn't charge any fee if you donate with a debit card or put funds in a Venmo or PayPal account. You can also use a credit card, which is fee based. Setting up this app on your phone can be a little tricky, but once you have it set up it's a breeze. Let us know if you need help.

PayPal is still in process – we are trying to get the non-profit paperwork together so that the Fellowship does not have to pay a fee for your contributions on this platform either. We will keep you informed.

I am pleased to share that we are doing well with our extended 20/21 pledge drive, with almost enough pledges to meet our base goal of \$120,000. If submitting your pledge for this year has slipped your mind due to the quarantine or for any other reason, please consider submitting it at your earliest convenience. Additional commitments will enable us to bring down the expected deficit. It would be wonderful to break even or end with a small surplus in these Corona times.

Thanks again for all you do. As I've heard many times over the past month: "We will get through this." I am looking forward to celebrating with all of you in person when this over.

With respect and gratitude,  
 Nancy Weaver  
 UUFCC Treasurer  
[nancyxweaver@gmail.com](mailto:nancyxweaver@gmail.com)  
 303-241-0309



# UUFCC Bylaws Committee Needs Two Volunteers ASAP!

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UUFCC Bylaws were last reviewed and amended three years ago. They are due for review to assess whether they represent our fellowship, members, friends and goals. To do this, a UUFCC Bylaws Committee is being formed to consist of three (3) Board members and two (2) Non-Board members.

Are you in “Stay Home, Stay Safe’ mode? Tired of cleaning closets and drawers? Tired of watching Covid-19 news ad nauseam? Experiencing binge-watching overload? A tad analytical? Like to read and write? Have prior experience with drafting/reviewing/amending bylaws—not required, just asking?

## The UUFCC Bylaws Committee needs YOU!

The Committee is tasked with reviewing UUFCC Bylaws to determine whether amendments are needed. The Committee will work together to assess the current Bylaws and draft any needed amendments for proposal to and acceptance by the Fellowship, as required by UUFCC Bylaws.

If you wish to be considered for the UUFCC Bylaws Committee, please submit your name for consideration ASAP. Include contact info and a brief description of what you bring to the table.



Then send your information via email to [www.office@uufcc.org](mailto:www.office@uufcc.org) ASAP.

## A Word from the Art on the Wall Committee

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It was with great sadness that we were forced to close down our most recent exhibit. I hope all will agree the stunning photo/jewel collaboration of Myrna and Ginger was beautiful as well as the jewelry creations of Kay and Ginger. Also cancelled are our spring exhibits, but hopefully these will be rescheduled at a future date.

I know we all share the loss of our time shared in fellowship; the inspiration, the music, the art. Rev Dan has come up with the great idea for an exhibit and celebration when we return of your art work, music, poetry and short writings created during our time in isolation.

So, get your creative juices flowing, express your thoughts, feelings etc. Have fun with it! When we return, we can have a celebration of hope with readings, music and art. Stay well and safe but keep busy and CREATE.

Trudy Gerhardt  
Art on the Wall Committee co-chair

# Social Justice

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## Who Could Imagine?

Who indeed could imagine our current circumstances? Over fifty thousand souls lost. Commerce debilitated beyond our imagination. People unemployed in numbers approaching those of the Great Depression.

The result is some very worrisome circumstances. Many of our workforce are now unemployed. So many of these had been living paycheck to paycheck before the pandemic. And many of those now unemployed are feeding kids, and elderly besides themselves. Hunger is at so many doorsteps in our community and is working its way into homes everywhere.

The Social Justice Committee of UUFCC understands that food is the primary necessity of the moment, and it will be for much longer than a moment. We have decided to direct to and share equally among the Harry Chapin Food Bank, C.H.A.P.S., and Meals on Wheels our Second Helpings of May 10, June 14 and July 12. These organizations are just satisfying needs currently, but all know that shortly they will be unable to do so without help from people like us.

Those of us fortunate enough to have a fixed and steady income monthly will hopefully consider the needs of those soon to confront hunger, and give a lump sum or whatever they can in each of the next three months, that we might help those who are unable to feed their families during this pandemic. If you wish to write a check each month, make it out to UUFCC, and annotate "Second Helping". If you use Venmo, please do the same, to assure it is directed correctly.

On behalf of SJC, our profound gratitude for your help at this time.

Herb Levin  
Chair, Social Justice Committee, UUFCC



**Harry Chapin Food Bank**  
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA



**Meals on Wheels**  
*of Charlotte County*

# Immigration Justice

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#FreeThemAll – END DETENTION! HELP DEFEAT COVID-19

Even before the outbreak of COVID-19, thousands of immigrants (including many children) died in custody. Now, the COVID-19 Pandemic has added a new dimension to the story.

For a while, the Immigration Justice Committee has been concerned about those locked up in immigration detention centers without access to lawyers and justice. Today, we are deeply troubled about this situation and know that these conditions provide an arena for the spread of infectious diseases. UUs are dedicated to equity, inclusiveness and love, and it is in that spirit that we ask you to take action **now** to help/save thousands of people who have come to our borders in search of better lives.

Rather than re-invent the wheel, we refer you to an article written by the New Sanctuary Coalition (national immigrant assistance organization) that offers specific suggestions and plans for actions. Included will be a call to release people now in prolonged custody; eliminate routine ICE check-in; prioritize health and well-being of those in custody; etc.

## HOW TO ACCESS THIS ARTICLE

1. Google “#FreeThemAll.”
2. Scroll to “COVID-19”
3. Scroll to “How You Can Help.”



Data as well as specific instructions for action (letter writing etc.) are offered.

It is important to take action **now** – not only for the lives of those seeking asylum and residency but for the moral life of our nation. And it is important for the medical health of our nation as well. Once the virus is unleashed in a detention center, it will spread beyond that population – to government personnel, to lawyers, to protesters, etc., and that portends an extended national disaster.

ACT NOW!!!!

## Library News

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This may be a very good time to discover the on-line catalog for our UUFCC Library. It is found at <https://www.librarycat.org/lib/maryjanewms> and there is a link to it from our website, [uufcc.org](http://uufcc.org) under the **Home** tab. The easiest way to find a book is to type in a key word such as an author’s last name, a word from the title, or a subject word. To check out a book at this time, call or email the office and you will be contacted on how to pick up the book if it is available. There is no set time limit on checked out books but do keep in mind that if someone else requests that title, you may be contacted to return it. We have approximately 592 books in our library so you probably could find something calming, inspirational or elucidating at this time.

# Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Organizations

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Charlotte County has a long history of working for justice. We have four committees actively working toward justice - Racial Justice, Social Justice, Immigration Justice, and Climate Action. There are groups of UUs at the state, national, and international levels that are working on these as well. Here are several groups that you could learn more about how to get involved.



Are you familiar with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)? UUSC is an organization committed to advancing human rights and social justice. They work with grassroots partners and advocates around the world -- not on their own. The UUSC says, "Our work is grounded in the belief that all people have inherent power and dignity." Talk about walking the talk!

The UUSC started in 1939 with Reverend Waitstill and Martha Sharp who worked to help refugees escape Nazi persecution in Europe. You know the story about the chalice and how it started? It's this story. It's these people.

The UUSC has several initiatives that are ongoing. As mentioned, they work with other organizations at the grass roots level instead of recreating the process with each human rights issue. They also share a wealth of information - how to find elected officials, petitions to sign, educational materials, posters to download and print, links to partner groups, advice on how to mobilize effectively, resources on advocacy. There is lots of good stuff here: [uusc.org](http://uusc.org).

Side with Love is another organization, grounded in UU values. This group is also founded solidly in UU theology - which principle says love is the answer? The Side with Love campaign is used to amplify voices of oppressed peoples. Currently Side with Love is supporting the work of BlackPAC, an organization to engage people politically to change systems - economic, justice, and political. They are working with EqUUal Access, an organization supporting people with disabilities. They are calling for people to ask that the Wamponaog Tribe not be terminated. These are just a few of the organizations supported by the Side with Love organization. They too provide resources for people interested in getting involved in justice work: [sidewithlove.org](http://sidewithlove.org)



In Florida, members and congregations have formed the Unitarian Universalist Justice Florida ministry. Again, they work with other organizations to amplify our voice for justice. UU Justice Florida is an organization that works to make Florida a more compassionate place and works to promote justice in public policy. They have a network of people who work with legislators to advocate passage of bills consistent with UU values. This group is active year-round but especially during the legislative session to convey immediate action to take regarding government initiative through action alerts. Check out: [uujusticefl.org](http://uujusticefl.org)

# General Assembly 2020

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## A message on the UUA Website from LaTonya Richardson, the UUA's General Assembly and Conference Services Director

General Assembly, the annual conference that gathers thousands of Unitarian Universalists, is a tradition beloved by many. It is a time of celebratory reunion, participatory governance, and leadership development. The UUA Office of General Assembly and Conference Services (GACS), along with a group of dedicated volunteers who form the General Assembly Planning Committee, scout cities, make commitments, and execute contracts years in advance to plan each conference.

In February, GA 2020 planning was off to a remarkable start. Almost 2,000 people registered early and the number of program proposals and guest speakers broke recent records. Then COVID-19 became a national pandemic and a state of emergency was declared. Everyone—including Unitarian Universalists and those of us planning GA—had to quickly assess how to stay socially and spiritually connected despite being physically distant. I am proud of our creativity and flexibility during this time of hard choices and difficult transitions.

As Director of GACS for the UUA, the safety and well-being of all GA participants was my paramount concern as I monitored federal and state regulations, meeting and convention industry predictions, and the status of other faith-based assemblies. The decision of what to do about GA was complex, with a variety of scenarios to consider and much collaboration between the Planning Committee, UUA staff, and UU identity and affiliate groups. A thorough analysis of our contracts was also necessary to determine our legal and financial obligations, and what penalties we would incur should we breach the contracts.

Everyone involved in GA in some way, from presenters to exhibitors to speakers and staff, were feeling the anxiety that comes with uncertainty. Thankfully, the investment of time and effort on the front end paved the way for us to come to a mutually agreeable resolution with our partners in Providence. Then, the UUA Board passed a resolution authorizing a 100% virtual GA for 2020. The Board's decision alleviated much of the anxiety and gave the UUA's Internet Technology Services team and program presenters time to plan a more robust and rewarding virtual experience.

A 100% virtual GA comes at a time when many UU congregations have embraced virtual meetings and virtual Sunday services. Although this pandemic has been challenging for many, a silver lining is that UUs are adapting to and seeing the value of incorporating technology into their religious lives. With so many UUs already online, this year's GA could well be our highest-attended Unitarian Universalist gathering in history! It will be accessible to a more diverse and global audience. It will also help reduce our carbon footprint, which aligns with our commitment to care for the earth and environment.

Join us as we experiment in previously unimaginable ways! If you are already registered for GA, your registration has been converted to virtual and you will receive a survey regarding the options for applying your refund. If you have not registered for GA, [please click here to do so now](#).

May we be ROOTED in our revolutionary and living faith tradition, INSPIRED by this opportunity to live our mission in innovative ways, and READY to celebrate in June...virtually!