



NEW OUTLOOK

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

A spiritual home where religion and reason meet

DECEMBER 2020



Chalice Chatter from Rev. Dan

It probably goes without saying that this year's holiday season will be extremely difficult, but I'm going to say it anyway -- This year's holiday season will be extremely difficult! We will miss gathering for Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas Eve, Kwanzaa, holiday parties, and family get-togethers.

We have to spend this very special time concerned about getting and spreading a virus that has dominated our lives for 9 months and is likely going to be a factor for at least 9 more. COVID fatigue is real for most of us. But because we want to be careful, to be healthy, and to keep from getting others sick, we must continue to keep a physical distance.

So how can we celebrate this holiday season? I have a few suggestions.

- ❖ Send your separated family members some type of "Make Your Own" kit and do it together on Zoom. Gingerbread houses, holiday cookies, even ugly Christmas sweaters come in kits now!
- ❖ Bake treats and/or go caroling with just 2-3 people. Singing is fun, so Make some cookies or cupcakes, set them down by the neighbor's front door, ring the doorbell, back up 20 feet, and sing a couple of your favorite songs!
- ❖ Gather the family on Zoom and share stories of your favorite holiday memories. Families should be doing this anyway!
- ❖ Make your own Advent calendar. Use 25 of your favorite pictures, favorite memories, favorite songs, etc.
- ❖ Gather the family on Zoom to for the 8 nights of lighting the menorah candles for Hanukkah.
- ❖ Gather on Zoom and play a game together. Good Housekeeping has some great ideas. <https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/life/entertainment/g32098665/best-games-to-play-on-zoom/>
- ❖ Come together on Zoom to light the Kwanzaa candles on the kinara and discuss the Nguzo Saba, the 7 principles.
- ❖ Exchange and share special holiday food recipes. Everyone can make something using the recipes and share the results with each other via phone or Zoom.
- ❖ Play Reindeer Ring Toss: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08CWPGKC3?linkCode=ogi>

There are so many ideas for making this unprecedented holiday season at least a little better with some effort. (By the way, "unprecedented" is the Oxford Dictionary's 2020 Word of the Year!)

Make more phone calls than usual and write more holiday cards than you have in a while. After all, what else do we have to do?!?

Remember to be a blessing!

Rev. Dan

Dear Loving Community



Here I sit at home on a beautiful fall day in Florida - sunny, fluffy clouds, good breeze, palm trees and blossoms abound. At the same time, our delightful Fellowship grounds continue to be lovingly cared for by our Grounds Crew, and several unidentified drop-in weed-pickers. We move into this unusual holiday season with the bar raised for creativity! We are a community with not only dedicated members and friends, but also an abundance of creative thinkers and do-ers. We will NOT be stopped by a nasty virus, from sharing the excitement, love, and commitment of our talented & loving fellowship!

Our WebWeavers and the Art Committee have been leading the way, with “Art on the Web.” Starting with Dennis’ fine exhibition and then the addition of our Pandemic Art Exhibit, we can continue to enjoy the talent of our community. Next, we move to the Immigration Committee who has managed to find a way to reach out to the community at large, to share our determination to achieve justice. They successfully aired, virtually, two important films, followed by moderated discussions. Not only did the people who participated benefit, but those who read the press release, & widely shared email links received a clear message of our concern for immigration justice, indigenous peoples, and climate change.

Watch for creativity continuing to abound through this month and beyond! Jim, Linda, & the rest of the choir have been working hard on a Holiday Surprise. The Auction Team has joined with the Caring & Hospitality Committee for a delightful reach out to those most isolated by this virus. This will undoubtedly warm the hearts of all who participate! Speaking of creativity at work, the Auction Team is really stepping forward from now through February. Get ready for our first virtual auction experience, which in addition to being fun, is our biggest fundraising event of the year!

Finally, talk about creative...we are blessed to have a delightful & hard-working staff who have double-backed throughout this pandemic to keep our systems rolling and new ideas coming: Rev Dan; Administrator Mary Jane, Communication Coordinator Lori Bell, and Music Director Jim Boyle! Through this Thanksgiving time, and throughout the year, I am immensely grateful for each of you in our fellowship who collectively make all of this possible. We have an incredibly generous and loving community; that alone increases the resiliency of us all!

As we have learned directly from those who completed the survey, we deeply miss connecting with each other in-person, but we value our health. Although there are still gaps, we have gradually developed a rhythm of ways to connect and embody our mission, until such time as we can safely gather again.

Yours in faith,
Lorrie Douglas
 Board President

Sunday Mornings on Zoom

Conversation Among Friends - 9 am -

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

Worship - 10:30 am - <https://zoom.us/j/93632314034>

Log in a few minutes early. You will need to be admitted through a waiting room.



December 6 - Spiritual Disciplines – Serving Rev. Dan Lambert

Finding ways to serve and help others is an important aspect of spiritual growth, especially during a pandemic.

December 13 - Spiritual Disciplines – Journaling Rev. Dan Lambert

There's a reason so many of us turn to the writings of ancient and modern thinkers. Writing our thoughts is itself a spiritual discipline.



December 20 - Spiritual Disciplines – Nature Rev. Dan Lambert

We seem to know inherently that being in nature, whether that's at the beach or in the mountains, on a hike or sitting outside, nourishes the soul.

December 27 – The Leadership Experience

The nine people who immersed themselves in the UUA Southern Region Leadership Experience for the past three months will share their learnings and inspired vision.



Immigration Justice Committee



There are hundreds of children waiting with their parents for asylum hearings. Because of the new government order, "Wait in Mexico" these refugee families have been forbidden to enter the United States where they would at least have been housed in enclosed facilities. On the contrary, these refugees had to find materials to build tents, toilets and kitchens. It is truly a deplorable situation that has gone on for more than one year.

The Immigration Justice Committee of the UUFCC has embarked on a "Toy for Tots" campaign for the children at this camp and we ask you to join this effort. Drop off gifts and/or a check (made out to Team Brownsville, "Toys for Tots" on the memo line) at the UUFCC office any day that MaryJane is there. Suggested gifts (other than money): socks, headbands, masks, light up pens, pencils, finger

puppets, light up necklaces, rubrics cubes, kaleidoscopes, plastic mini tea sets, mini checkers, mini puzzles, mini dolls or teddy bears, etc. Please deliver your gift before December 10th.

The Immigration Justice Committee will mail all collected items to Team Brownsville. Join this effort! Put our precious Seven Principles to work!

The Immigration Justice Committee is launching a campaign to **Stop Funding "For profit" Immigration Detention Centers**. Recently, Homeland Security reported 75% of detained immigrants are held in these "for profit" centers, and 175% more grievances are filed from these "for profit" facilities. It must be noted that these facilities are not compelled to follow government safety and health regulations resulting in the proliferation of dirty, overcrowded and medically unsafe facilities.



Two of the largest companies that run for-profit detention centers are the GEO Group and CoreCivic. The two largest portfolio management groups that buy these jailers' stocks are the Vanguard and Blackrock groups (iShares is a Blackrock subsidiary.) We are asking everyone who holds stock either directly in these two companies (GEO and CoreCivic) or in these two management funds (Vanguard and Blackrock/iShares) to withdraw their investments and align their money with their moral commitment.

For a complete list of stockholders and a detailed call to action, please visit the UUFCC website at uufcc.org.

Social Justice Committee



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 until 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

UU Endowment

The Unitarian Universalist Endowment of Charlotte County, a separate but affiliated entity of the Fellowship and the UUA Boston has as its objectives growth, membership expansion and being a greater force for liberal religion, social and environmental influence. The Endowment investments are made in socially responsible initiatives through the UUA Boston Common Endowment Trust.

Contributions to the Endowment are made through donations of general support, in memory of members and friends of UUFCC and matching UUA grants. All financial contributions are acknowledged and are tax deductible.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of two members of the Fellowship who were initiators and supporters of UU programs but may not be known to recent members.



Barbara Longely joined UUFCC in 1985 shortly after the completion of the Fellowship building. A retired nurse, she was active on the then Hospitality Committee setting up and cleaning up after the numerous welcome brunches, auction dinners and coffee hours. She was also a leader of the Pastoral (Caring) Committee which prepared meals, ran errands, did light cleaning and maintained contact with members who were infirm. Barbara was a very quiet person, always there with a comforting smile, a touch on the shoulder and a willing hand that could be counted on in time of need.

Herb Jenkins, a retired professor at McMaster University in Hamilton Ontario, was a snowbird for over 30 yrs. He and his wife Adair were attendees of the Elderwise program at the Fellowship for a decade prior to attending a Sunday service. The Elderwise Program was an adult education initiative open to the public covering courses ranging from Shakespeare, Florida gardening, philosophy, cultural anthropology to introduction to digital cameras. The instructors were UUFCC members. After joining the Fellowship in 2011, Herb and Adair became active members of the Racial Justice Committee with a focus on a fair wage for Immokolee farm workers which led to picketing local Publix supermarkets. Following a presentation by a guest speaker on Patient Advocacy, Herb and Adair took a required course and received certification to serve as patient advocates for members of the Fellowship in making and following up on health care needs.



Donations to the UUE made in memory of Barbara and Herb were suggested by their families. Checks should be addressed to the UU Endowment and sent in care of UUFCC at the Fellowship mailing address.

UUE Trustees

Kenneth Brennen, Stephanie Garrett, Mary Howard, Jack Osborne, Delmar Wooden



Auction Time!

Kay Azar

Well, Fred Parmenter has done it again. He has made a program that we can use to have an online auction. He's done his job, now it's time for you to do yours. Obviously, this year's 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.

We will start in December with at least 10-15 items that 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 to donate an item for December, and each auction, I think, thereafter.

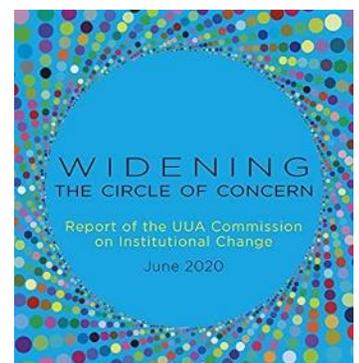
- (1) Login at www.uufcc.net
If you haven't logged in before or don't remember your log-in, there is a link to do so.
- (2) Click on **MyStuff > Items**
- (3) You should then see a link you could use to create a new item to donate.
- (4) You can see, and/or edit, all items you create by clicking on **MyStuff >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.

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.

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

Be Part of Widening the Circle

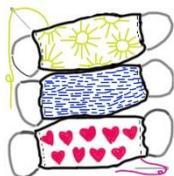
Last summer a major report, titled *Widening the Circle of Concern*, was published by the UUA Commission on Institutional Change. It challenges us to look deeply at ourselves to identify how we need to decenter whiteness wherever we find it.



Our UUFCC Racial Justice Committee is coordinating a group to study this report, meeting weekly for 11 weeks beginning in January. Ginger Abraham has volunteered to facilitate the group. The ultimate goal is to come up with action steps that our congregation can take to be part of this important change. Please consider being a part of this important work and contact Ginger at gm55uu@gmail.com to let her know that you are interested in participating or if you have questions. Let's get this done!

News from the Art Committee

We hope by now you have had a chance to view Dennis Shaw's virtual art exhibit as well as the Pandemic Art exhibit. These can be found via a link on our new UUFCC website. Tom Deuley, the artists, and the website Committee have done a great job getting these up and running.



Up next, we would like to display your Creative Masks. These can be purely art pieces or fully functional masks. They can be yours or friends or family. Be sure to take a good photo and get permission to post on the internet. Details to follow. Contact Trudy Gerhart at tg4art@embarqmail.com or Tom Deuley at tpdeuley@aol.com for details. If we gather enough images, we can organize them into a virtual exhibit.

We are also looking for interesting ideas for other virtual exhibits. Please contact Trudy or Tom with any suggestions.

Introducing: Music Corner!

Samara Michaelson

Welcome to our new Music Corner. I woke up with the idea this morning to share links to some of my favorite videos of songs. Let's do this as a monthly project. I have named myself the December curator, who would like to do this next? Please contact Ginger Abraham at gm54uu@gmail.com to get next month's slot as the curator for the Music Corner!



- *This Joy*. Arranged and performed by The Resistance Revival Chorus. This was the song we tried to play at the beginning of the November 22 service on Embodying Gratitude and Joy. Now you can really watch it!

[shttps://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1TbDPwA09Bc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1TbDPwA09Bc)

- *River*, a song by Roberta Flack, arranged and sung by Dr Glen Thomas Rideout. We shared this with you during the November 22 service. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jmtw3Fq2mxo>

- *Keep Going On Song* by The Bengsons. This is the song I shared at the end of my talk on Nov. 22.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cs-ju_L9pEQ

- *Pulls Out* by the Bengsons. This song pulls out my heart, puts it back in, and always, always gets me dancing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vRfwWXCLDEs>



- *Change is Coming* by Molly Bajgot, arranged by Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout. This song was shared at the end of Rev Dan's talk on October 25.

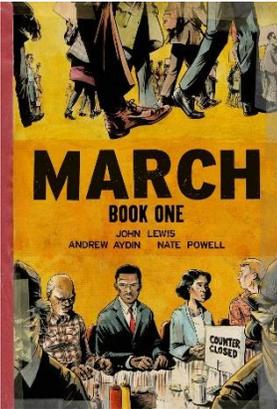
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TDLMe42OYqE>

May this music keep you good company, Samara.

Book Group

The UUFCC Book Group will be meeting on Zoom until it is safe to meet in person again. All of the books chosen for this season are readily available at the public library or inexpensively from Amazon. Mary Jane often has the book in Kindle format and can lend you a reader with the book on it if you can pick it up at the Fellowship. Contact her if you want one of the books in electronic format. The link will be emailed to members of the Book Group prior to the meetings each month. Contact the office at office@uufcc.org if you would like to receive the Zoom link or to be added to the email list.

Upcoming meetings:



December 2, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.

March (a graphic novel) by John Lewis

March is a vivid first-hand account of John Lewis' lifelong struggle for civil and human rights, meditating in the modern age on the distance traveled since the days of Jim Crow and segregation. Rooted in Lewis' personal story, it also reflects on the highs and lows of the broader civil rights movement.

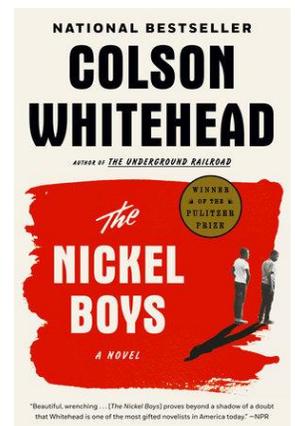
Book One spans John Lewis' youth in rural Alabama, his life-changing meeting with Martin Luther King, Jr., the birth of the Nashville Student Movement, and their battle to tear down segregation through nonviolent lunch counter sit-ins, building to a stunning climax on the steps of City Hall.

January 27, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.

The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead

When Elwood Curtis, a black boy growing up in 1960s Tallahassee, is unfairly sentenced to a juvenile reformatory called the Nickel Academy, he finds himself trapped in a grotesque chamber of horrors. Elwood's only salvation is his friendship with fellow "delinquent" Turner, which deepens despite Turner's conviction that Elwood is hopelessly naive, that the world is crooked, and that the only way to survive is to scheme and avoid trouble. As life at the Academy becomes ever more perilous, the tension between Elwood's ideals and Turner's skepticism leads to a decision whose repercussions will echo down the decades.

Based on the real story of a reform school in Florida that operated for 111 years and warped the lives of thousands of children, *The Nickel Boys* is a devastating, driven narrative that showcases a great American novelist writing at the height of his powers.



Zoom Calendar

Weekly Events

Mondays – Spanish for Beginners – 4 pm
Wednesdays – Happy Hour with John Lee – 7 pm
Thursdays – Choir Chat – 6 pm

- Dec. 1** Worship Committee Retreat 11 am
- 2** Book Group 1:30 pm
 Immigration Justice Committee 5 pm
- 3** Buddhist Meditation 4:30 pm
- 7** Moran Chalice Circle 2 pm
 Shaw Chalice Circle 2 pm
- 8** Azar Chalice Circle 4 pm
- 9** Caring Committee 1 pm
- 11** Whitehill Chalice Circle 10:30 am
- 13** Art Committee 12 pm
 Social Justice Committee 12 pm
- 15** UUFCC Board Meeting 6 pm
- 16** Immigration Justice Committee 5 pm
- 17** Buddhist Meditation 4:30 pm
- 21** Moran Chalice Circle 2 pm
 Shaw Chalice Circle 2 pm
- 22** Azar Chalice Circle 4 pm
- 31** Buddhist Meditation 4:30 pm

To access most activities,
 use this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/93526372148?pwd=aWxpWHk1ODMyZnFmdTgvRW1aUWRXZz09>

Members of Chalice Circles should
 already have their Zoom links.

Immigration Justice Committee

<https://zoom.us/j/97789863043?pwd=c2tUenpGMmhjSExaUIN0L3VHNIK5UT09>

Program Council

<https://zoom.us/j/92402639114?pwd=OFZuUEXqOGJFdUdOdHRzNIFJSTYwQT09>



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

If you would like a birthday recognition
 contact Stephanie Garrett
 at garwalsr@gmail.com.