



NEW OUTLOOK

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

A spiritual home where religion and reason meet

JANUARY 2021



Chalice Chatter from Rev. Dan

Confession – I love New Year’s Day and New Year’s Resolutions. (It also helps that January 1 is Tess’ birthday!)

I think we all can use an opportunity to look in the mirror sometimes and tell ourselves that we deserve a “do-over.” And, yes, I am fully aware that we can do that any time of the year, and that critical self-reflection should be an on-going practice, etc., etc., so forth and so on. But still, January 1 simply invites us to start fresh.

Of course we all know the failure rate of New Year’s resolutions, but is that a reasonable excuse for not trying? Usually the problem with these resolutions is that we make ones that are too lofty, too unrealistic, or too “not us.”

The key to successful resolutions is not just to say that you want to make a change, but to have a plan that includes action steps and intermediate goals.

We can tell by the commercials and junk mail that losing weight is the most popular New Year’s resolution. That’s a great goal, but *how* will you lose weight? What eating habits will you change? What will you do to burn more calories? How much do you want to lose during the year (or month)? Who can hold you accountable or be a partner?

It’s too easy to say, “I resolve to. . .” without thinking through what comes next. No goal succeeds without a plan. No plan succeeds without a strategy. No strategy succeeds without action steps. No action steps succeed without actually taking action.

What is it you see when you look in the mirror? What would you like to change? It doesn’t have to be something major. Maybe it’s something to learn or a hobby to begin or a person to understand better. Most of us want to forget about the year 2020. I, for one, am very happy to have it my rearview mirror. Yes, change is coming, but what kind of change? If you don’t work to make changes the way you want them, then changes will simply happen all around you and to you. There is certainly a lot you cannot control, but there’s also a lot more you *can* control than you may think.

Don’t let 2021 be another 2020. Prepare yourself for a better year by making a New Year’s resolution and creating a success plan. It’s the perfect time for new beginnings!

Remember to also dedicate 2021 to being a blessing to everyone you meet.

Rev. Dan

Dear Loving Community



For the past four months, nine of your fellow dedicated, congregants have been entrenched in UU leadership and congregation development discussions with the UUA Southern Region folks. This virtual environment that we have been living in gave rise to this opportunity at a cut rate while staying comfortably in our own homes!

Eighty plus people from the 13 congregations in the Southern region took on this Leadership Development Experience. Many of us came back with a wealth of information, ideas, and excitement about how this may be of use to our fellowship. After four months of application specifically to our congregation, we have some clear ideas and direction (some of you many have heard our presentation on the 27th of Dec.).

UUA and most organizational experts recommend that if your congregation has had more than a 20% turnover of people, or significant new leadership (minister or new minister or lay leadership) that it is time to re-examine our commitments, direction, and goals. Well, being that we have experienced all these changes in recent years, clearly it is time. The Board and Rev. Dan agree.

The Leadership Experience team is helping to organize and create opportunities so that everyone in the fellowship can be involved. At the same time, there will be opportunities to deepen our understanding of issues of equity and inclusion as it applies to our fellowship through the Widening the Circle group.

Your participation in these activities is vital to move us forward in creating the vision and work that we collectively want to do as a fellowship in transforming our community and the world.

Last, but NOT least, your participation in the Pledge campaign will be the underpinnings to support our efforts and fund the directions we as a community wish to take in the coming year!

So, to begin, I invite you to start by thinking about your Core Values and how you may move into our future discussions: *What timeless, transcendent qualities of our religious community will we carry forward to guide our future?*

Next, if you are not already, please become familiar with our current Covenant (found on next page). This is the document which holds our commitment of how we wish to be in relationship together. This year, we will begin updating this, our vision and mission, and our priorities as a community.

I look forward to an exciting year of sharing and joy, as we together support each other, our community, and the world to become kinder, more just, and loving.

In faith,
Lorrie Douglas
President,
UUFCC Board of Trustees

Our UUFCC Covenant

We, the members of UUFCC, covenant to support and cherish all our members and friends and encourage each other to honor these high standards of relationship.

We respect each other's views, backgrounds, and spiritual beliefs.

We value a free, open, and mutually respectful freedom of expression.

We listen to each other without judgment or interruption and speak directly with a person instead of about a person.

We will address issues and behaviors, rather than people and personalities.

We will be considerate but courageous in naming action that diminishes our community.

We offer forgiveness and understanding and expect that from each other.

In all situations, we strive to respect everyone's dignity and well-being.

We trust this covenant will help us work well together to make decisions, solve problems, and express differences of opinion in a considerate, respectful, and genuinely caring way.

Poinsettia Elves

Laura Anderson

In a missive to the Worship Associates, in October, Reverend Dan asked for ideas to make the upcoming holidays more festive and cheerful. One idea was to deliver something to each member/friend who is in the area. In a Council meeting, we learned that poinsettias are on sale the day after Thanksgiving at Home Depot.



I volunteered and Lorrie Douglas offered to help. We were chatting in another meeting and Laura Lierrman said she would help. Betty Barriga wanted in on the fun and volunteered as well. My husband, Cliff offered to help deliver them and my sister Judy bought a few for the UUFCC Poinsettia Project. We all headed to the nearest Home Depot (with masks on and properly social distancing) and bought 90 poinsettias. In the meantime, MaryJane Williams shared the address database and Lori Bell helped organize the list into groupings of logical delivery routes. I made stickers for the plants (in case someone wasn't home, they would know where the plant came from) and we recruited a few more to help with delivery. Lori B wanted in on that action so she took some. I asked Ted Z,

Gudrun M, Lynn Ritchie, and Helen S who all agreed. Jackie W and Don L also joined in on the fun. Perhaps you received a poinsettia. Perhaps you also received the message of the project which is that we miss you and hope you remember that you are part of this UUFCC community, always, but especially this holiday.

Do you remember a few weeks ago when Rev Dan gave a talk about giving and how it only counts when you don't get something in return? This project gave all of us an opportunity to spread cheer without expecting anything in return.

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.



January 3 – Living our Values: Team Brownsville Immigration Justice Committee

The Immigration Justice Committee host speakers who have been working on justice at the border.

January 10 - A Vision for 2021 – Rev. Dan Lambert

Rev Dan will share his vision for the hopes and promises of 2021.



January 17 - Flesh-Colored Crayons & Nude-Colored Panty Hose - Rev. Dan Lambert

A look at why marketing messages have such a hard time with color

January 24 - Of Frogs & Genocide – Rev. Dan Lambert

Why the Holocaust still matters as we approach the International Day of Remembrance



January 31 - Would You Please Stop Saying I'm Privileged?!? Rev. Dan Lambert

As difficult and annoying as it may be to continue to hear how privileged we are, we still need to hear it.

Message from the Treasurer



Hello UUFCC Members and Friends,

2020 is one for the record books – for lots of reasons. 2021 brings us hope that COVID will be extinguished, and we will be together again in our sacred space. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I've been working on the 2021/22 Budget and have reviewed it with the Finance Committee several times. Although I'll continue to tweak it until we baseline it for the annual meeting in March, it is close to final. The baselined version will be delivered as part of your pledge package, which will provide plenty of time for a preview. As always, I welcome your comments, questions and concerns. Feel free to give me a call or send me an email. I always enjoy talking with you!

Mary Jane and I will be working on letters in early January to show progress toward pledging commitments through the first 75% of the pledge year (April – Dec 2020). Only three months to go! Since most of us take the standard deduction instead of itemizing these days, and in an attempt to save paper, we will not automatically send you information on calendar year pledges and donations. If you do itemize and need a complete accounting of your 2020 giving for tax purposes, please contact Mary Jane, and she will email you a personalized report. We are thankful to have fully implemented our integrated office system, *Breeze*, which has significantly improved our record keeping and reporting. If you see anything that looks out of order in our accounting, please let Mary Jane or me know so we can continue to improve our processes.

This year, there are two things to think about from the 2020 COVID related CARE Act: 1) Everyone who does not itemize can take an “above the line” deduction for up to \$300 for charitable contributions. Remember to take this into account as we approach tax season. 2) If you do itemize, there is no annual limit for charitable contributions. Previously, you could only deduct 60% of AGI; this year up to 100% can be deducted. If you are fortunate enough to be in this population, confer with your tax advisor. Both of these relaxations of the tax code are in place for 2020 only.

And don't forget about Qualified Charitable Distributions (also called IRA Charitable Rollovers) while you are planning next year's donations. If you are required to take money out of an IRA or inherited IRA and are at least 70½ years of age, you can automatically donate all or part of it to UUFCC and/or other charitable organizations directly from your IRAs. The money can be put to good use and you don't have to pay any taxes on the withdrawals that are usually taxed as income. Sometimes this strategy makes it possible to fall into a lower tax bracket. Once again, although I can answer simple questions about this, if this sounds like an option for you, consult your tax advisor.

Regardless of methodology, thank you for all the gifts you give to UUFCC, our local community and other important causes with both your hands and your hearts.

Take care and stay safe,
Nancy Weaver
UUFCC Treasurer
nancyxweaver@gmail.com
303-241-0309

Immigration Justice Committee



The Immigration Justice Committee urges you to stop buying shares in GEO and CoreCivic, two of the largest private, for-profit businesses that build and manage immigrant detention jails. These two companies have made enormous profits from building unsanitary, unmonitored facilities, where COVID-19 runs rampant and surgery is frequently performed on young women without informed consent. The financing for these companies comes from investment groups who buy and sell GEO and CoreCivic shares; the two largest investment groups buying and selling shares are the Vanguard and Blackrock companies.



Your portfolio might include investments in Vanguard and/or Blackrock. If it does, we ask you to write and tell them that you do not want your money invested in companies that profit from human suffering. Tell them that if they persist in investing in Geo and CoreCivic, you will divest.

BlackRock

Align your money with your morals! (Find sample letters and addresses at: uufcc.org.)
Information: 941-258-8473

News from the Art Committee

If you haven't seen the Pandemic Exhibit, follow this link to view at your leisure:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxq47fa0lww&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=UUFCCPortCharlotte.
Thanks to the artists who participated: Dennis Shaw, Tom Deuley, Linda Himes and Sue Taylor.



Now we need you to send us your photos for the next virtual exhibit. Answer the question "How are you staying safe during the holidays and into the New Year?" Photos might include creative masks on you or friends, funny pictures with family or pets. Be creative. We will choose 25-30 photos to uplift everyone's spirits. Submit photos by Jan 10. If we receive enough, we will post it in Jan-Feb. Please include a caption or description. Send to Tom Deuley (tpdeuley@aol.com) Think light-hearted! Thanks for participating in the next virtual art show.



It's Auction Time



LET'S JUST DO IT - ONLINE THIS YEAR

The auction is open. Donations are being donated and bid on. So besides the obvious, what is different and how?

First, the auction is **online**.

Second, it is a "**rolling auction**", meaning items are entered for a specific period of time.

You, as a donor can set that period of time when you enter the item online. If you don't change it, the default period will be 2 weeks. As a bidder, you need to pay attention to how long the item you are bidding for will remain active.

Next, we need you to **donate** baked goods and meals, offer to help with gardening or cleaning up outside areas for returning snowbirds? Be creative with your talents. You have them, you know you do. And if your talents include soliciting local businesses for donations of gift certificates or merchandise, we need those, too.

Here's how:

Go to <uufcc.net> .

* If you remember your password from last year, great.

* If you forgot, just click on the the link **Email me my username and password**. You will be asked for your email and then will receive your login credentials.

* If you never used the site before, enter **UUFCC** in the username field and

Is The Best in the password field. These entries are not case sensitive. Then click **Submit**. On the next screen you will supply your email address. Following that you will be asked for some contact information. Then your username and password will be emailed to you.

Once there, click on **MyStuff** , then **Item** to donate.

- You will see a link you could use to create as many new items as you have to donate.
- You can see, and/or edit, all items you create by clicking on **MyStuff >Items**
To see and bid on all available items
- click on menu item **Auction > Biddable items** to see what is available. You can donate an item for the auction by clicking on menu item **MyStuff > Items**.

Just do it. If you don't have access, call me, Kay, at [574-360-9186](tel:574-360-9186) or Fred Parmenter (fred.parmenter@gmail.com or call [508-359-2611](tel:508-359-2611)).

And we will be happy to get your item entered. **Don't forget, Pictures will help sell your item!**

Kay Azar

Auction Committee, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Charlotte County

UU Endowment

The UU Endowment grows based on contributions from members and friends in memory of those who have passed and for general support of the Endowment Trust. Contributions are invested in socially responsible portfolios through the general Endowment Fund of the UUA Boston.

We, the UUE Board of Trustees, would like to thank the following individuals for their generous donations in memory of UUFCC past members and friends who have transitioned over the past six months:



In Memory of Herbert Jenkins
Mary Holly Allison and Ben Crosby
Myrna Charry
Stephanie Garrett



In memory of Barbara Longley
Mary Holly Allison and Ben Crosby
Myrna Charry
Stephanie Garrett



In memory of Bonnie Southland
Mary Jane Williams

Contributions to the Endowment can be made at any time in care of UUFCC and are tax deductible.

With deepest gratitude

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



Have you tried our meditation labyrinth yet? It is sure to give you good vibes for the new year. Many thanks to Rev. Dan who designed and painted this on our parking lot which is getting so little use otherwise these days. It will hopefully be a permanent feature even after we start having more cars coming in and out.

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.

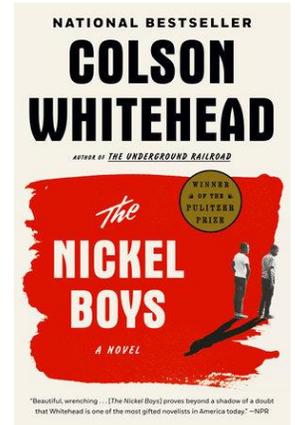
The link will be emailed to members of the Book Group prior to the meetings each month. Contact the office at office@uufcc.org if you would like to receive the Zoom link or to be added to the email list.

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.



Book Group Schedule thru Spring 2021

February 24 at 1:30 p.m.

March 24 at 1:30 p.m.

April 28 at 1:30 p.m.

May 26 at 1:30 p.m.

So You Want To Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo

Gilead by Marilynne Robinson

The True Believer by Eric Hoffer

The Dutch House by Ann Patchett



Music Corner

Ginger Abraham

Welcome to Music Corner. Each month we invite someone to share their love of music. Please contact me at gm54uu@gmail.com to get next month's slot as the curator for the Music Corner!

I don't know about you, but music has been a real lifesaver for me while spending so much more time at home during the pandemic. My Mothers' Day present (as requested) was AirPods so that I could enjoy my Pandora shuffle list of varied artists without disturbing my husband who favors a quiet environment while working from home. While cooking, cleaning, relaxing I have had the company of my favorite musicians.

I also have discovered some new artists via YouTube. One such group is Infinity Song, a talented quintet of siblings who harmonize as only family genes allow while covering many of my favorite artists such as the Beatles, the Jackson Five and great groups from the 80s. If you love UU hymns, check out Jesse Huetteman and don't forget that all of the UUFCC choir recordings are available on our UUFCC channel. For a real treat, look for Black Violin for some incredible sounds from strings. And if you love strings, you must take a listen to the Kanneh-Mason family also! I could go on and on, but I think that gives you a start. So, who's going to be next to share their love of music?

Zoom Calendar

Weekly Events

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

- Jan. 4** Moran Chalice Circle 2 pm
 Shaw Chalice Circle 2 pm
- 5** Worship Committee 1 pm
- 6** Immigration Justice 5 pm
- 8** Whitehill Chalice Circle 10:30 am
- 10** Art Committee 12 pm
 Social Justice 12 pm
- 12** Azar Chalice Circle 4 pm
- 13** Caring Committee 1 pm
- 14** Bylaws Committee 10 am
 Buddhist Meditation 4:30 pm
- 18** Moran Chalice Circle 2 pm
 Shaw Chalice Circle 2 pm
- 19** UUFCC Board Meeting 6 pm
 Communications Committee 1 pm
- 20** Immigration Justice 5 pm
- 21** Bylaws Committee 10 am
 Reopening Committee 4 pm
- 22** Whitehill Chalice Circle 10:30 am
- 26** Program Council 11:30 am
 Azar Chalice Circle 4 pm
- 27** Book Group 1:30 pm
- 28** 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=OFZuUEExqOGJFdUdOdHRzNlFJSTYwQT09>



Doug Lowndes – 1/3
 John Lee – 1/6