



NEW OUTLOOK

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

A spiritual home where religion and reason meet

FEBRUARY 2021



Chalice Chatter from Rev. Dan

February marks 11 months since the pandemic hit, causing UUFCC to close our building and do almost everything online. I've been thinking about all the committees and groups that have continued to meet and the new *ad hoc* working groups we have dedicated to special projects.

Even though we're meeting virtually, mostly using Zoom, almost all of our regular groups are functioning. The number of people involved in all of these activities is impressive. Just out of curiosity, I tried to count how many volunteers it takes to carry out the various ministries of UUFCC.

Any guesses as to how many? I'll wait. . . (still waiting) . . .

By my count we have about 20 boards, committees, and *ad hoc* working groups active right now. Those groups have a total of about 140 volunteer positions that are being filled by roughly 65 different people.

Did you guess anywhere near 140 volunteer spots? Or that about 65 different people fill these roles? These groups include the Board of Trustees, Worship Team, Caring & Hospitality, Art on the Wall (or Web), Finance, Endowment, Social Justice, Racial Justice, Immigration Justice, Shared Ministry, Nominating, Stewardship, Green Sanctuary, Climate Action Team, Communications, Auction, and Program Council as on-going committees.

Add to those the current *ad hoc* working groups we have, including Bylaws Revision, Policy & Procedure Manual Revision, and Reopening committees.

Those groups don't include individuals who help in many other ways such as landscaping, Zoom Directors, and decorations.

Plus, we have several groups meeting regularly including over 30 people in four different Chalice Circles, about 20 people in the Widening the Circle of Concern discussion group, and several more meeting for meditation, Conversation Among Friends, John Lee's Wednesday Happy Hour, Choir, and the Book Group.

And I am sure I have missed some. My apologies if your group or activity isn't included. That was NOT intentional.

Here's my point – The UUFCC community is not about to let a measly pandemic slow us down. We have about 30 different committees, groups, and activities happening every month that keep us moving, active, and engaged.

There is a lot happening here, and there is no sign of us slowing down anytime soon. How exciting is that?!?

Have a wonderful February and remember to be a blessing to everyone you meet.
Rev. Dan

Dear Loving Community



We have just lived through one of the most stressful times in our country...particularly considering our strongly held beliefs in democracy, social justice, and equality. We held each other's virtual hands as best we could...and we paced and swore and prayed and meditated and ate and drank and shared and ranted and did our best to soothe ourselves and each other. Then most of us experienced the most wonderful healing of the safe inauguration and the incredible uplifting and hopeful activities that followed. With such fear, anger, and agitation, followed by such joy, relief, and hope, it is incredibly difficult for many of us to settle into any kind of day-to-day calm...especially in a pandemic. The edginess and frustrations of the leftover threats to our health and what is important to us weigh heavy.

Now is the time to turn to the strength of our community and hold up each other and our beliefs. We are in a community of faith that stretches beyond our Charlotte/Sarasota counties and throughout our state and region, throughout our country and beyond with our Unitarian Universalist values and principles. Ours is a community that joins with many other faiths and groups of like-minded people who are holding up democracy, peace, justice, anti-racism, and inclusivity for all.

Now is the time to breathe, have patience, understanding and love for ourselves, and share the same with others. Now, we need to give ourselves time to pick up the pieces and re-center.

As a community, we are moving into the time where we look at where we have been this last year and get ready to plan for our next year as a fellowship. We have strongly held thoughts and feelings about how we wish to make a difference in our community and world. We now move to decide the concrete steps that we need to take to make these things happen.

Please join us as we move forward in this process of taking stock of ourselves, choosing paths of action, funding our directions, and supporting each other in health, justice, and love as we make a difference!

"For there is always light,

if only we're brave enough to see it

If only we're brave enough to be it"

From "The Hill We Climb" by Amanda Gorman

In faith,
Lorrie Douglas



p.s. Watch for the upcoming congregational survey so that your voice can be heard!

Message from the Treasurer

Nancy Weaver

Hello UUFCC Members and Friends,



All current members should have received a letter thanking you for your pledges and letting you know what we have received vs. what you pledged at the beginning of the year. Let Mary Jane or me know if you should have received one and did not, have questions or need additional information for your 2020 taxes.

Just a continuing reminder to make UUFCC your designated charity on Amazon Smile. This little bonus added to our donations is increasing so I know some of you have already listened to this suggestion. Every time you order something using the Amazon Smile site, we will get a little contribution from your purchase. It's super easy to set up. The first time you get on Amazon Smile it will help you set up the charity you want to choose. You do have to type in the full Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Charlotte County! After that just remember to use the Amazon Smile web site and that's all you have to do.

Also, it's time to remind you of Venmo. It's super easy to use once it's set up. Here are the steps for success (which will also be available on our website):

1. Search for the app and download on your phone.
2. The app will walk you through adding a credit or debit card or directly connect to a bank account. *Any choice is fine but the best choice for us is a Debit card or direct to your account. UUFCC is charged a fee for a Credit Card.*
3. Once you are set up, click on "Pay or Request".
4. Under "Add Recipients" type in UUFCC and "UUFCC Offering" should pop up. Select that and fill in the amount. Make sure you add a note in the appropriate field on the app on how you want the money to be distributed. You can divide your donation into several buckets.
5. Once you complete a transaction on Venmo, anyone you have paid or received money from will be listed and available for a quick click.
6. I've been using Venmo for almost a year and have had no issues. It is owned by PayPal, a company that has excellent credentials for handling consumer money. I love the app and also use it to exchange funds with anybody who has it (friends and family, especially my millennials!)

Please free to reach out for help with any of this. Thanks for your continued generosity! Take care and stay safe wherever you are.

Nancy Weaver
 UUFCC Treasurer
nancyxweaver@gmail.com
 303-241-0309



Auction Time!

Kay Azar

LIVE AUCTION COMING FEBRUARY 13th.

Ready, Zoom, Fun. There will be new auction items auctioned off by our own **Rev. Dan**. Come for the entertainment, stay for the auction fun, leave with lots of goodies. To make this happen...

1. The current online auction will close temporarily on Feb. 1
2. Keep bidding on the items in the auction until then using the UUFCC.net site.
3. **Start offering your best food, items, services starting February 1st still on the UUFCC.net site**
4. **Join us for the festivities on Feb. 13th.** 

Here are some ideas to offer for the auction:

- dinners delivered to bidder,
- Zoom concerts,
- goody baskets,
- gardening or home cleaning services,
- dance classes on Zoom
- delivery of a dozen bagels or donuts (especially if they're from Abby's)
- Gift certificates from local businesses you frequent

Call or email Kay Azar for more information (574-360-9186 or kayazar1@gmail.com)

A Community Still, Singing in the Rain

What we have learned, and what we have faced over the last year, has changed how we function as a community. What we know is we are still a community that loves and relies on each other. The theme for the 2021 Stewardship Drive to support the operating budget at UUFCC will be, "A Community Still, Singing in the Rain". The stewardship committee is made up of co-chairs, Alan and Jeri Searle, Alice Clattenburg, Dennis Shaw, and Laura Liermann, with assistance from Lorrie Douglas and Rev. Dan. Expect to receive more information about the drive towards the end of February.

In the meantime, If you'd like to brush the dust off your singing and dancing shoes, there could be Zoom stardom opportunities for you. More later.

And for those among us who may not remember, have never seen, or may not have appreciated it for a while, here is the link to Gene Kelly "Singin' in the Rain" (1952) [Singing In The Rain - Singing In The Rain \(Gene Kelly\) \[HD Widescreen\] - YouTube](#)



Alan and Jeri



Don't you just love those "Buy One, Get One" items at the stores? Well, now we are going to give you yet another reason!

The Social Justice Committee has initiated a BOGO collection, utilizing a tub that has been placed and labeled at the main entrance to the Fellowship. It's really simple. Since you are getting one item for free, and may not really need or want that second item, you can help a local food pantry by depositing it/them in the BOGO BOX, at the main door of the Fellowship.

This collection will be ongoing and until further notice, so any dry goods, cans or bottles of edibles will be most welcome. The box is accessible 24/7, so when you are driving by or nearby, slide in and help those who can use what you don't need. As always, deepest gratitude for your generosity.

The Peace River Speaker Series, sponsored by the Social Justice Committee, gets off to a very fine "better later than never" start, on Zoom, on Sunday, February 7, 2021, at noon, immediately following the social time after the service.



Our speakers will be Neil Volz and Lance Wissenger, co-founders of the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition (FRRRC). Lance spoke to us last year and returns to speak of returning citizens (ex-felons) who could take advantage of Amendment 4. Neil joins him, and his bio which follows will speak to his activities.

Neil Volz serves as the Deputy Director of FRRRC and has more than 25 years of experience working as a public servant and community advocate. This includes work as the Chief of Staff for a Member of Congress and Staff Director for a full Congressional Committee, as well as the Outreach Director for one of the fastest growing Churches in the country. He ran a homeless shelter, worked as the program director for a leading Non-Profit Organization that housed formerly homeless veterans and served as the Chair of the Homeless Coalition in Lee County, Florida.

Additionally, Volz's career includes working as an entrepreneur, leading numerous social and media campaigns and successfully representing clients as a lobbyist at two top 100 law firms. Before joining FRRRC, Volz worked for a leading homeless services and drug and alcohol addiction ministry program in Southwest Florida.

While in Washington, Volz helped negotiate and secure passage of the Help America Vote Act, which has improved voting accessibility and accuracy for millions of people. He is the former President of the Board of Directors for Be the Light, an anti-human trafficking organization, and also served on the board for the Freedom and Virtue Institute and Habitat for Humanity of Lee, Hendry and Glades County. Volz is the author of the book "Into the Sun" and speaks to local, state and federal organizations about his work on Amendment 4 in Florida, and the experiences that led to and followed his felony conviction. He is a former guest lecturer at the U.S. Naval Academy, was named a "Top Hired Gun" in The Hill Newspaper's annual list of top lobbyists and named to Roll Call Newspaper's List of "50 Most Powerful Capitol Hill Staffers" numerous times during his career on Capitol Hill.

Volz received his Bachelor of Sciences degree from The Ohio State University. He currently lives in Fort Myers, Florida, with his wife, Pam.

Of course, November saw a very contested election. Well, another is on the horizon, and these gentlemen have their work cut out for them, as FRRRC will work harder to broaden the impact of Amendment 4. Please join us for this presentation. If you stay for conversation after service, just stay on screen. If for some reason you don't, just sign on at noon using the Sunday service Zoom link, and you will hear these two fine presenters.

Climate Realities

Climate Action Team



Sea level. It is going up, isn't it?

Yes, it is. Globally, the current rate of sea-level rise is 3.3 mm per year. The width of my nail on my little finger is 10mm, so every 3 years sea level increases by one nail width, or 1cm. There are about 30 cm in one foot, so every 90 years sea-level will go up one foot. Assuming, of course, that it isn't accelerating (it probably is), and you don't live in Miami Beach (over 6 inches of rise in last 25 years), Jakarta, Indonesia (one foot per year, but that's not really all a climate change thing) or Alaska (where sea-levels are decreasing because of rebound of the land after the last ice-age. Yes, it's hard to think of land rebounding, but that's what's happening). On this part of the Florida peninsula, we are increasing at around 3mm per year.

The rise comes from expansion of seawater as it warms up (90% of the solar energy that reaches earth is absorbed by the oceans) and melting of land-based ice. However, local factors such as land sinking and ocean current changes may be important.

Want to learn more? NOAA.gov and NASA.gov both have a wealth of information about climate change. Want to do more? Consider Citizensclimatelobby.org – we have members in our Fellowship.

Alan Searle

Music Corner!

Dave Martin



Years ago, we had Music Listening Groups where members were invited to a home to listen to music chosen by the host and discuss with wine and cheese. Perhaps this could be revived post COVID.

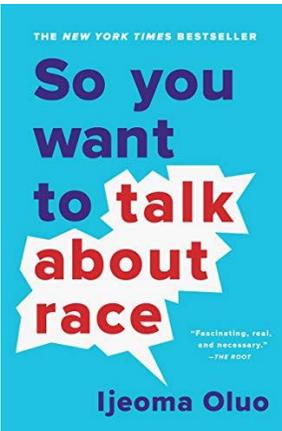
I would like to suggest a way to fortify your music experience. We invested in a Yamaha receiver which can link directly to the web (or Bluetooth) with a tablet or laptop. Thus, Spotify and Pandora can be heard at high fidelity and concert volume. Going one step further, the receiver is connected to our TV. If a laptop is then connected to the TV by HDMI, you can SEE and HEAR concerts (and movies) almost like being there!

Tip for some interesting listening: John Schaefer is a New York musicologist with a show that brings music that you have not heard before. It will open up your mind; you will find some percentage unlistenable. Give it a try: it is archived at newsounds.org. There is much free music (of variable quality) on YouTube. Both the Blue Note and the Village Vanguard clubs make some live concerts available online if you like jazz. The Boston Symphony experimented with live programs on the web, getting better and better. The last, American Promise 3, was outstanding, but no longer available. Keep your eye out for more.

*Thank you to Dave Martin for stepping up as this month's Music Corner curator. Who's next?
Please contact Ginger Abraham at gm54uu@gmail to get next month's slot.*

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.



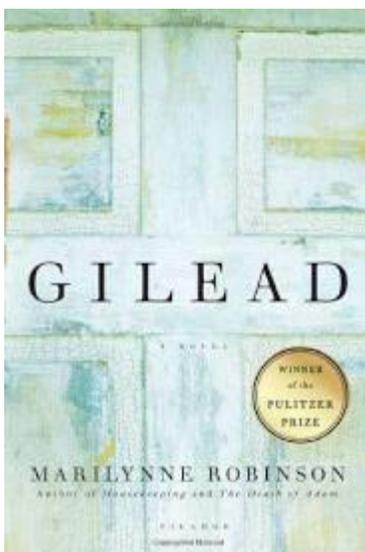
Upcoming meeting:

February 24 1:30 pm - So You Want To Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo

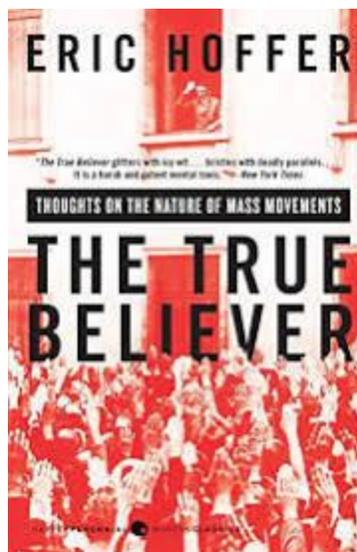
Ijeoma Oluo guides readers of all races through subjects ranging from intersectionality and affirmative action to "model minorities" in an attempt to make the seemingly impossible possible: honest conversations about race and racism, and how they infect almost every aspect of American life.

Widespread reporting on aspects of white supremacy -- from police brutality to the mass incarceration of Black Americans -- has put a media spotlight on racism in our society. Still, it is a difficult subject to talk about. How do you tell your roommate her jokes are racist? Why did your sister-in-law take umbrage when you asked to touch her hair -- and how do you make it right? How do you explain white privilege to your white, privileged friend?

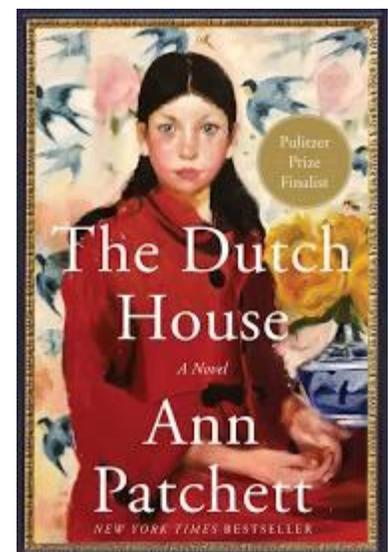
Book Group Schedule thru Spring 2021



March 24 at 1:30 p.m.
Gilead by Marilynne Robinson



April 28 at 1:30 p.m.
The True Believer
by Eric Hoffer



May 26 at 1:30 p.m.
The Dutch House
by Ann Patchett

Zoom Calendar

Weekly Events

Mondays – Spanish for Beginners – 4 pm
Wednesdays – Happy Hour with John Lee – 7 pm
Thursdays – Widening the Circle Discussion 4 pm,
 Choir Chat – 6 pm

- Feb. 1** Moran Chalice Circle 2 pm
 Shaw Chalice Circle 2 pm
- 3** Immigration Justice Committee 5 pm
- 9** Policies and Procedures 1 pm
 Azar Chalice Circle 4 pm
- 10** Caring Committee 1 pm
- 11** Bylaws Committee 10 am
 Buddhist Meditation 4:30 pm
- 12** Whitehill Chalice Circle 10:30 am
- 14** Social Justice Committee 12 pm
- 15** Moran Chalice Circle 2 pm
 Shaw Chalice Circle 2 pm
- 16** UUFCC Board Meeting 6 pm
- 17** Immigration Justice Committee 5 pm
- 21** Art Committee 12 pm
- 23** Program Council 11:30 am
 Azar Chalice Circle 4 pm
- 24** Book Group 1:30 pm
- 25** Buddhist Meditation 4:30 pm
- 26** Whitehill Chalice Circle 10:30 am

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=OFZuUEXqOGJFdUdOdHRzNlFJSTYwQT09>

Links can also be accessed through the
 calendar on the UUFCC website.



Peg Stunkard	2/1
Stephanie Garrett	2/2
Jim Kellar	2/3
Helen Sokalski	2/5
Sara Raines	2/9
Que Burges	2/14
Joan Osbourne	2/21
Herb Levin	2/26
Mona Azar Johnson	2/23

Those who would like a birthday shout-out
 should send an email to Stephanie
 Garrett, garwalsr@gmail.com