



NEW OUTLOOK

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY
A spiritual home where religion and reason meet MARCH 2021



Chalice Chatter from Rev. Dan

A year. A whole, entire year! This month marks a year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Do you remember what our last in-person event was at UUFCC? I'll give you a moment to think about that. . .

Our last event where we gathered in person was the Yard Sale on Saturday, March 14, 2020. In the few days before that, many universities had closed their campuses, sporting events either had been stopped or would soon be halted. Stores and restaurants were closing. And we were all left hanging, uncertain of what the pandemic would become, how long it would last, or when we could gather with friends and family safely again.

Since that time there have been over 110 million positive cases confirmed worldwide, with 2.5 million deaths. In America, we are approaching 30 million cases and over 500,000 deaths.

And, while many of us have received the COVID-19 vaccine so far, most have not. That means we still don't know when we will gather in person as a UUFCC family again. Will it be Memorial Day? That's looking very unlikely. Maybe Labor Day? Possibly, but it depends on vaccine availability and the local positivity rate. It might even be January, 2022. We just don't know, and it's too soon to predict accurately.

One thing we do know for sure is that staying home so much and being out of all of our routines has raised our stress level to a place where we're just not used to it being on a daily basis. Little annoyances that we used to be able to ignore make us short tempered. We overreact more often and more easily. Picking on, picking at, or picking fights with those we live with is much more common than it used to be.

Our nerves are frayed, our patience is shot, and our anxiety is bubbling just below the surface in every moment. Knowing that we can get vaccines soon helps, but we're not even sure what's safe for those who are fully vaccinated.

So, how do we continue to cope in ways that are as healthy as possible? I strongly recommend practicing activities that you know have always helped to calm you down, and to practice them more often. Maybe for you it's a series of deep breaths several times a day (or when faced with adversity and you feel yourself getting agitated). Maybe it's taking a longer walk in the morning, or adding an evening walk to your routine. Maybe it's reading or painting or calling friends on the phone. Maybe it's starting a new hobby.

Regardless, I encourage you to recognize the fact that you are more stressed day in and day out than you have ever been for this long of a period of time. That stress is real, and it's normal, and it's okay.

Yes, it's been a year. It's been a crazy, trying, unprecedented, unpredictable year. But you've made it. The role of the UUFCC community has changed from what we were used to a year ago, but we're still here. We're still learning from each other, still sharing in Sunday worship, still doing social justice work, and still trying to put our 7 Principles into practice every day.

So, take a deep breath in... and let it out. We have survived this past year together, and together we will continue to thrive.

Amen and Blessed Be.

Rev. Dan

Dear Loving Community



Dear Loving Community,

There is much to celebrate with our successful online auction last month (special thanks to Kay & Fred & all of the assists at the event)! Those of us who were present at the live event had little tastes and memories of our pre-pandemic lives that we are so grasping at to return. As we are coming up on our year anniversary of virtual service and activity, little did we think that so many would have become active in this way! Let us celebrate every way that we can connect...be it phone, writings, meditative intent, distanced & protected chats.

In this year, we have been continually faced with change and questioned our resilience. As our theme for the pledge drive proclaims, "A Community, Still, Singing in the Rain!"

I wish to share with you some of the underpinnings which shore up the resilience of our community. Seventy-seven people in our fellowship took the time to respond to our recent survey! **Statistics can be interpreted in many ways, but some things were clear from those responses.

Many of us strongly value and support our continued working on inclusivity, anti-racism and equity (9.18/10 aver.); social justice (which includes immigration & racial justice) (9.07/10); being a visible, LGBTQ+Welcoming community (8.9/10) and climate action (8.71/10). These shared values & commitment are our foundation. The continued energy and funds that we have are transforming what we believe into action.

For now, let us look at the larger part of this focus; inclusivity, anti-racism, and equity in our community going forward. As Ginger Abraham directly asked in a service last month, "**Who are we not welcoming at our table?**"

*Inclusivity is beyond Accessibility; **Inclusivity is...***

- ...being able to hear the voices and music.
- ...being able to connect with your community when you cannot drive, when you are out of state, when you are too sick or in too much pain to sit through the service, when you must work on Sundays.
- ...being able to wheel up to the table where your friends are.
- ...reaching the sink and the toilet and the drinking fountain like the rest of your fellowship.
- ...seeing others that look like you.

- ...belonging to a fellowship that has events low fees, no fees, sponsored tickets, and in-kind payment options.
- ...not having to wait for someone to get you through the door to the bathroom before it is too late.
- ...being able to read the words without having to worry about trying to hold the book up or holding the order of service still enough to read.
- ...being able to watch the concert/event recording even though you had to work or watch the kids when it was live.
- ...hearing someone say, come sit with us!
- ...getting up to the chancel when it is your time.
- ...meeting others in their safe place in the larger community & inviting them into ours.
- ...fill in your examples:

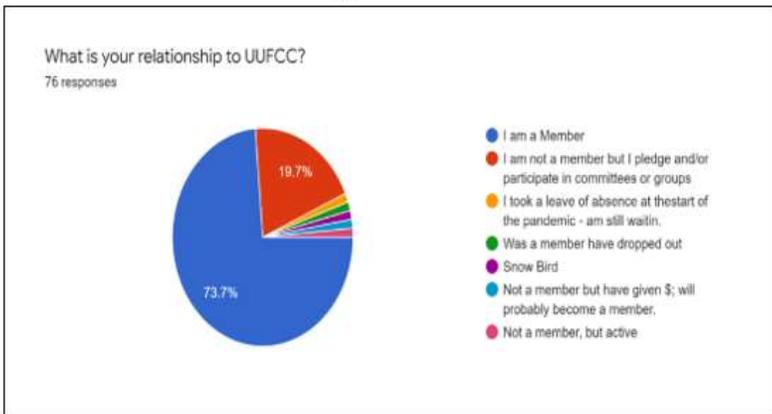
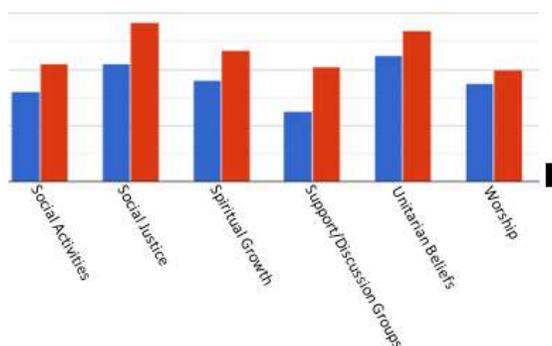
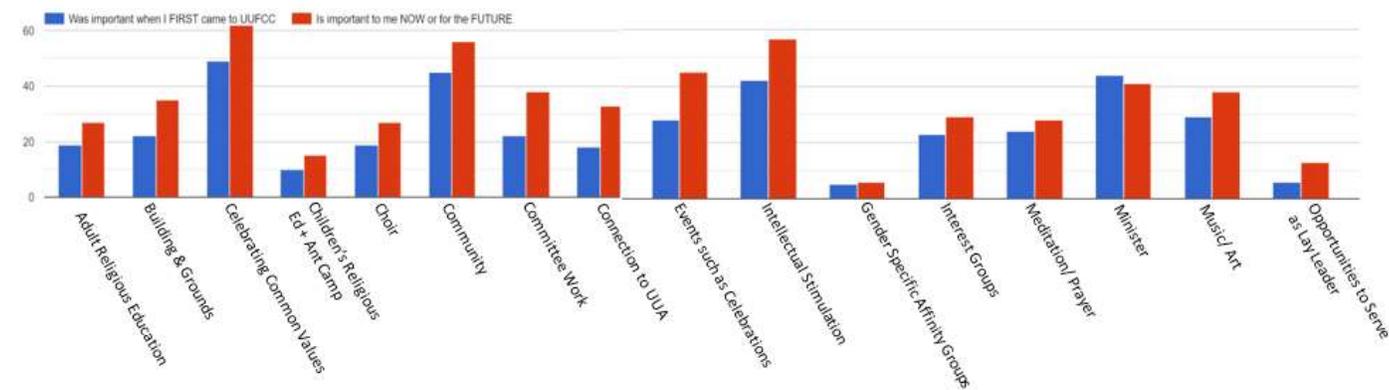
As we move ahead into our new fiscal year, let us turn to our principles & values as we set our goals and make our decisions.

You can look forward to more interesting survey results in the future. (Special thanks to our 2.2021 Survey Team: Linda Himes, Laura Anderson, Herb Levin, Ginger Abraham, myself).

In faith,
Lorrie

p.s. At least 58 people support a fully working and active Membership committee. (which means we will have plenty of volunteers – smiley face).

**



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.

March 7 – Pledge Kickoff –A Community Still “Singing in the Rain” - Rev. Dan Lambert Worship Associate: Dennis Shaw

Celebrate the many ways that UUFCC is continuing to thrive despite the pandemic as we kickoff the 2021-22 Pledge Drive.



March 14 – Brain Injury Awareness - Rev. Dan. Lambert Worship Associate: Kay Azar

Traumatic Brain Injuries are rarely visible, but their effects are dramatic. During this service we'll hear from some of our own UUFCC family who live with TBIs every day and how it impacts their lives.

March 21 – Importance of Service – Dennis Shaw Worship Associate: Laura Anderson



Dennis Shaw will share about how acts of service shape his life and have shaped the UUFCC community.



March 28 – Walk the Walk to Antiracism – Rev. Dan Lambert Worship Associate: Samara Michaelson

This is the sermon title Rev. Dan sold at the auction. The discussion will be about how it's not good enough to not be a racist, but that our goal has to be to actively work to be "Antiracist."

Message from the Treasurer

Nancy Weaver



Greetings UUFCC Members and Friends,

I am thrilled that many of us have been vaccinated or are at least closer to the head of the line. This good news supports the fact that we are gaining on this horrible pandemic and approaching the end of our isolated existences. Yay! It is hard to believe we are almost into year two of closing our doors and nearing the second instance of an Annual Meeting without gathering in person.

By now, you should have received a pledge package for our next Fiscal Year in the mail. As we march toward the virtual Annual Meeting on March 28th, you have a lot of materials for review, including the 21/22 budget. It is tricky predicting an uncertain future, especially where it comes to a budget, but I think that we have done a pretty good job after a year of experience with the pandemic and hopes that we will open in the late summer or fall. We have set a budget goal where we can comfortably meet the financial needs of the Fellowship for the next year. Although it is an increase from last year's budget, it's achievable with all of your help, so pledge as generously as you can.

I am ready to address any questions on our budget development process or about any of the details it contains. Feel free to give me a call or shoot me an email with any questions or concerns. I am so grateful for the continued generosity and compassionate caring of this Fellowship I have grown to love and rely on, especially in these times.

“See you at the Annual Meeting.”

Nancy Weaver

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

A Community Still, Singing in the Rain



March 7th is the official start of this year's stewardship drive, and you should have received information packets about this by now.

The theme this year is - A Community Still, Singing in the Rain. So, we'd like to see you 'Singin' in the Rain'.

If you'd like a little more inspiration to help you contribute a picture/movie of you singing and/or dancing in the rain/sunshine/snow (or any picture/movie will do - we just want to see you doing anything other than living on a Zoom screen!) check out this -

<https://1funny.com/movie-stars-dancing-to-im-so-excited/?fbclid=IwAR14G1JvtOUti2XDpVbOwg1oZnegYs2xTzsH0RrrnI4OgdL3hG7ZdKdAnOg>

Send your contributions to the office and we'll show them during the drive.

Save paper and make a pledge online at our website: www.uufcc.org

Alan and Jeri Searle - Stewardship co-chairs.

Art in the Future



Yes, the Art Committee continues to hold virtual meetings, discussing future exhibits when we're able to meet at the Fellowship and enjoy our art wall. In the meantime, we invite suggestions for virtual exhibits. Tom Deuley is working on a virtual show highlighting work that was featured in past exhibits, so if you have some interest there, contact Tom. Keep tuned to the UUFCC website.



Climate Realities – Climate Action Team

Sea levels are rising, more frequent and severe storms are occurring, intolerably hot days are increasing, sunny day flooding is already a feature of some developed coastlines in Florida and wildfires are ravaging parched landscapes. These changes affect all of us but they affect black people, indigenous people and people of color disproportionately. And YES, these disasters, large and small, are fueled by human induced climate change, especially by emissions of greenhouse gasses. Carbon dioxide and methane are the primary culprits. Solutions to many of these problems reside in developing resilience, supporting the clean energy sector and changing our policies at a government level.

So, what can be done besides paying higher insurance rates and making personal lifestyle changes? Part of the answers are:

1. Developing resilience and rebuilding to harden our infrastructure to damage from heat, wind and water, both fresh and salt.
2. **Mitigation, Mitigation, Mitigation** Efforts to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and methane are the most feasible and realistic means to limit increasing global

temperatures. Individuals making lifestyle changes are important but the most significant changes must come from industries in concert with government oversight.

3. YOU CALLING! Check out Citizens Climate Lobby at CitizensClimateLobby.org. They are supporting a bipartisan climate change solution with The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (HR 763 in the last Congress). This policy will drive down America's carbon pollution and support technology innovation and ingenuity. Check it out and please consider calling your legislators monthly to indicate support for it. You could place their names and numbers in your calendar. EASY!

So, please call! Leave your name and encourage them to support The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act!

Senator Marco Rubio - 202-224-3041 Senator Rick Scott - 202-224-5274

Representative W. Greg Steube - 202-225-5792

Thank you for taking the time to read this. NOW is the time for ACTION!

Joe Oyer, Climate Action Team

Music Corner!



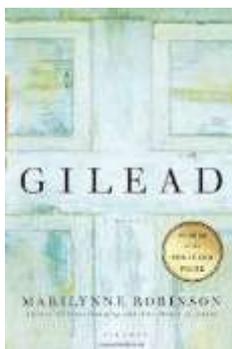
Heart-felt appreciation goes out to Linda Himes, Jim Boyle and all the participating choir members. You enrich our Sundays exponentially and bring us back into community with the very first note.

Please contact Ginger Abraham at gm54uu@gmail.com to curate next month's Music Corner.

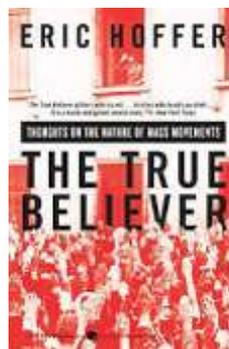
Book Group

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.

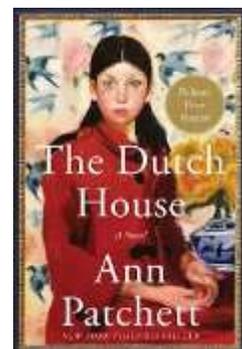
The link will be emailed to members of the Book Group prior to the meetings each month. Contact the office at office@uufcc.org if you would like to receive the Zoom link or to be added to the email list.



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

- March 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** Communications Committee 1:00pm
 UUFCC Board Meeting 6 pm
- 17** Immigration Justice Committee 5 pm
- 21** Art Committee 12 pm
 UUFCC Presents Movies – Seeding
 Change
- 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=OFZuUEXqOGJFdUdOdHRzNIFJSTYwQT09>

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



Trudy Gerhardt	3/2
Marty Wilmer	3/9
Debbie Conrad	3/10
Betty Munford	3/16
Ken Brennen	3/18
Myrna Charry	3/31

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