



**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Charlotte County**  
1532 Forrest Nelson Boulevard, Port Charlotte, Florida 33952  
941.627.4303 — [www.uufcc.org](http://www.uufcc.org) — [www.facebook.com/uufcc](https://www.facebook.com/uufcc)

# COMMUNIQUE

**Can you say kuh-myoo-nuh-kay?**

**UUFCC—founded in 1969**

## **UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM**

promotes

## **SEVEN PRINCIPLES**

as strong values & moral guides:

### **1<sup>st</sup> Principle**

The inherent worth and  
dignity of every person;

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Principle**

Justice, equity and compassion  
in human relations;

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Principle**

Acceptance of one another and  
encouragement to spiritual  
growth in our congregations;

### **4<sup>th</sup> Principle**

A free and responsible search  
for truth and meaning;

### **5<sup>th</sup> Principle**

The right of conscience and the  
use of the democratic process  
within our congregations  
and in society at large;

### **6<sup>th</sup> Principle**

The goal of world community  
with peace, liberty,  
and justice for all;

### **7<sup>th</sup> Principle**

Respect for the interdependent  
web of all existence  
of which we are a part.

## **SUNDAY SERVICES**

are at 10:30 a.m.

Services are hybrid:

in-person and

on YouTube.

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

## **LETTER FROM UUFCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

To All Members and  
Friends of UUFCC

I am grateful and honored  
to have been chosen to be  
your new president.

At the same time I feel  
overwhelmed by the  
responsibility of this  
position. That being said, I  
will be asking for your help.  
I don't think of this as a  
one-person show.

I want this Fellowship  
to be a place where  
all of us  
can enjoy and contribute to  
the love, the free spirit,  
and the friendship  
that is at the root and the  
foundation of our community.

I have found that  
the most valuable part of the  
Unitarian Universalist community  
is the diversity.

It's a place where we all can  
be heard,  
be proud,  
be valued  
and, even though different  
in looks, thinking, and lifestyle,  
be real.



**ROBERT MORAN**  
**President**  
**2025-2027**

I had a person tell me at a  
service recently that this  
Fellowship is where she can  
share her views with  
everyone and feel safe.

This Fellowship is full of very  
smart, inspiring, intelligent  
people, all with different  
ideas. I don't expect  
everyone to agree to  
everything that the Board of  
Trustees decides. Of course  
we are going to disagree.

Now I'm going to make a very  
important request:

When we have a disagreement  
with anyone or to anything  
the Board decides,  
please place the  
health of this Fellowship  
over personal frictions.

This is no small task.

Not taking things personal  
is the most powerful lesson  
I have ever learned!

And I'm still learning. Everyday.

Thank you for this opportunity to  
serve you wonderful people.

**You are this Fellowship.**

— Robert Moran, President  
UUFCC Board of Trustees



# UUFCC ANNUAL MEETING 03-23-25



**Here's What  
YOUR UUFCC BOARD  
Has Done This Fiscal Year,  
Thanks to YOUR SUPPORT &  
GENEROSITY**

**Transparency**

- Open Board Established
- Board Minutes Posted on Website
- Quarterly Town Halls Held
- Opinions/Solutions Solicited and Shared at Town Halls
- Congregation Vote Sought on Amendment 4 sign
- Board Members Contributed to Newsletter, Leadership Council, Sunday Door Greeting, & Weekly Update
- Board Members Identified by Name Tag Color

**Policies and Procedures**

- Balance Budget Maintained
- In-Kind Donation Defined, & Implemented Policy
- Envelopes Produced & Available for Cash Donations
- Bathroom Signs Adjusted
- Protocol for Handling Performance Requests Created
- Executive Board Authorized to Make Decisions Regarding Discretionary Fund Requests
- Fire Codes Observed
- Interim Pledge Letters Sent
- Right Relation Team Procedures, Training, & Boundaries Formed

**Discussions**

- Hurricane & Flood Insurance
- Covid Monitoring
- Annual Program Fund Donation
- Rev. Bob's GA Humanitarian Statement of Immediate Witness
- Membership
- Dry Land-Locked Land Sale
- Trespassing Issues
- HR Issues
- RR Issues
- Payroll & Tax Off-site
- Confidentiality & Security Online and w/YouTube

**April 2024 - Feb 2025**

**2064 Attendees**

**1214 YouTube**

**>2000+ on Website**





Nyna Sykes

# ETHICAL EATING

## APPLYING UU PRINCIPLES TO OUR FOOD CHOICES

Presented Sunday, April 20, 2025



Joseph Fenty

"Thousands of people who say they love animals sit down once or twice a day to enjoy the flesh of creatures who have been utterly deprived of everything that could make their lives worth living and who endured the awful suffering and the terror of the abattoirs."

— Dame Jane Morris-Goodall, English zoologist, primatologist, anthropologist, DBE recipient (Dame [Commander of the Order of the] British Empire), UN Messenger of Peace, 86-year-old activist, vegetarian for over 50 years, and a vegan since the early 2000s

### UU 7th PRINCIPLE

Respect for the  
interdependent web  
of all existence of  
which we are a part.



**Our UUFCC  
GREEN SANCTUARY  
ACCREDITATION  
requires promoting  
eating less meat.**



Environmental impacts, health benefits, transitioning to healthy eating and so much more was addressed.

Nyna noted that JAMA reports that most premature deaths are due to our diets.

Joseph said watch for related UUFCC programs already being planned for the Fall.

Check out the new UUFCC Vegan Committee!



Try [www.21daykickstart.org!](http://www.21daykickstart.org!)

**Caring for one another is a core spiritual practice for Unitarian Universalists.  
Pastoral care is the term we use for the way  
we offer support and compassion to each other in community.**

## **FROM OUR PASTORAL CARE SPECIALIST**

May is a month of blooming flowers, longer days and graduations. It is a time for renewed hope for a world being reborn in the northern hemisphere as the southern hemisphere moves into the winter season. Life is constantly changing around the world. This week saw the death of the Bishop of Rome which will change the face of the Roman Catholic Church in ways not yet known. President Trump is playing his usual games with tariffs and the stock market responds in kind. War continues in Ukraine with even more devastating attacks on civilians. It can leave us feeling off balance and concerned for our own personal lives.

**What shall we do as individuals  
and as a community  
in challenging and changing times?**



**Rev. Ann Barker, D. Min.  
Pastoral Care Specialist  
941-235-0269 -or-  
revannbarker@gmail.com**



For years, my family's favorite ride at Disneyworld was the Tower of Terror. We would wait in line for as long as it took, enjoyed the venue and the details that made it exciting, and then were locked into our seats. Off we went to be dropped and pulled up, dropped and pulled up, until the ride was over. Then, if the lines were not too long, we went again. We judged the quality of each ride by the "air time"; the time our bottoms were pulled off the seat by the randomized drop sequence. No two rides are the same.

**The trick is to go with it instead of  
fighting to remain in the seat.  
I suggest that we can learn from that  
to go with the challenges  
even if they seem scary at the time.  
As a community we can continue  
to be a place of caring, openness and  
welcome in the wider community.**

**So, buckle in and enjoy the ride.**

# EMANCIPATION DAY 2025

JOIN US FOR A VERY SPECIAL EMANCIPATION DAY  
PROGRAM AT THE BLANCHARD HOUSE TO CELEBRATE

Three Years of the Re-Opening of the Blanchard House Museum  
11 to Save Program by the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation (2024)  
Relocation of the Jean Cleveland House to its Permanent New Location  
Future Opening of Florida's First Cultural Heritage Center



**SATURDAY, MAY 17 | 10:00 AM - 12:00PM**

406 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BLVD.  
PUNTA GORDA, FL 33950

CELEBRATING FLORIDA'S EMANCIPATION DAY, MAY 20<sup>TH</sup>



## CINCO DE MAYO is a holiday that's important for Unitarian Universalists.

Each year, some congregations remember Benito Juárez and the Mexican people and their resistance to oligarchy and imperialism.

**This year, the national Unitarian Universalist Association will host a special gathering on May 5th.**



**BACKGROUND: Benito Juárez** was an indigenous person (Zapotec) who became the President of Mexico during the 1850s. He defended human rights. Authoritarians on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean were enraged, and there were arguments, in several places, that democracy and social reforms weren't needed in Mexico. French imperialists arrived in 1862 with plans to establish a monarchy. Powerful people in Mexico endorsed the European invasion.

The French army moved from the Gulf of Mexico towards Mexico City. The invaders were defeated on May 5, 1862. After that, there was a civil war that continued for several years. The reformers defeated the imperialists. The Juárez government remembered its Cinco de Mayo victory.



**Benito Pablo Juárez García**  
26th President of Mexico  
from 1858 until 1872



**Rev.**  
**Robert (Bob) Murphy**  
Unitarian Universalist  
Community Minister  
Florida

In some villages, Cinco de Mayo became a holiday for reform-minded people.

### INVITATION:

7:30 pm (Eastern time)

Monday, May 5th, 2025

Unitarian Universalist Association  
will celebrate May 5th  
with a Zoom program about  
housing justice

RSVP: [socialjustice@uua.org](mailto:socialjustice@uua.org)

Our housing justice discussion will support liberal religion, land use reform, tenant rights, and related topics. Registration for this UUA housing justice discussion is required.



People come to religious buildings to ask for sanctuary.

**How can congregations be helpful in today's world?**

Congregations in Florida are calling for Unitarian Universalist support for housing justice. The proposal is called:

**"Housing:  
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion"**

I can provide information.

[murphydalzell@aol.com](mailto:murphydalzell@aol.com)



### Join us for the 7th Annual Paula Hess Scholarship Luncheon

#### Yearly scholarship to a deserving Charlotte County High School student

Eligible applicants were those who are specifically seeking post-secondary education in social work, psychology, human services, nursing, law enforcement, or any other course of study related to assisting survivors of domestic violence or sexual assault. Join us as we celebrate the impact Paula Hess made and continues to make through this scholarship!

- May 14, 2025
- Isles Yacht Club
- 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
- \$50 per guest; please purchase tickets before May 6
- Questions? Call (941) 639-5499

[https://carefl.org/events/paula-hess-scholarship-luncheon/?blm\\_aid=15643](https://carefl.org/events/paula-hess-scholarship-luncheon/?blm_aid=15643)

**Our Contact Information**  
Center for Abuse and Rape Emergencies  
PO Box 510234  
Punta Gorda, FL 33951-0234  
9416395499  
<http://www.carefl.org>



# LGBTQ+, PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE ORDER and our UUA RESOLUTION

— Stephanie Garrett



***The Times They Are A-Changin'*** (Bob Dylan, 1964). It feels like a world order that came, went away, and is now back in full force. The new world shift is toward one common understanding of acceptance. One understanding of what is good or bad. This need to comply with the defined norm impacts religion, politics, categories of people (disabled, racial groups, sexual orientation, gender, queer).

**Then there are  
the imagined assumptions,  
not necessarily based on fact,  
known as truth by the believer.**

Initially in this country, the original people and African slaves were thought of as savages, unable to learn, inferior to their European counterparts. The same was true in South America, indigenous people, their religion and culture versus that of the Spanish and Portuguese.

Catholicism and Christianity, the primary European religions of the colonizers, set the rules for who and what was acceptable. Unfortunately, these rules which had been equally applied to most are now being challenged and undone. Primarily in the name of religion, social acceptance is being challenged, without a factual basis, toward the "Other."

I am speaking of the lack of understanding between sex and gender and how they are often defined differently.

**As Unitarian Universalists, we affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person.**

There may be discomfort due to lack of contact, and what some terms mean. Educate yourself by reading, having open discussions and inclusion.

Same sex male attraction refers to being gay while women are termed lesbian. A straight individual is attracted to those of the opposite sex. Gender and how one relates to the internal sense of being is expressed outwardly.

Our predominant culture dictates that one's biological sex, gender identity and gender expression will align stereotypically. We know this not to be true. Trans people have always been a part of humankind but have only recently taken the leap to be visible.

**Our diverse community is  
now under attack because  
of perceived differences.**

Our predominate culture dictates that there are only two sexes. Trans people are banned from serving in the military. Gender-affirming healthcare has been restricted. Trans athletes can only play in sports aligned with their biological, rather than gender, self. Bathrooms and informative books for children have become an issue. (The children's book for young grades that was at issue depicted a variety of family compositions.)

**In 2024, the UUA General Assembly passed a resolution declaring that our religious tradition unequivocally supports the defense and expansion of protections for the Queer community as a matter of faith.**

<https://www.uua.org/pressroom/press-releases/uus-pass-resolution>

The UUA has a number of courses on LGBTQ+ awareness and acceptance. [www.uua.org/lgbtq](http://www.uua.org/lgbtq).

**Who are we to judge?**



**CHARLOTTE COUNTY NAACP, YMCA AND THE SISTAH'S  
CELEBRATES UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY**

# JUNETEENTH

Gather For a Day of Culture, Food and Fun

BBQ - Mexican - Fish Fry - Hot Dogs  
Hamburgers - Sweet Treats, and Much More

Plenty of activities for the family including vendors,  
games, face painting, information booths, voter  
registration, raffles, health screenings



**DJ, and Live Music By The Collaboration Band**  
**Motown, R&B, Disco, Funk & Soul**

**June 21, 2025**  
**11:00 AM - 7 PM**

**Cooper Street Rec Center**  
**650 Mary St. Punta Gorda, FL 33950**

CONTACT: [NAACP5093b@gmail.com](mailto:NAACP5093b@gmail.com)

Dear Ones,

I am writing as the new chair of UUFCC's Worship Committee. For the last several years, I have shared this responsibility with **Laura Anderson**. Because of expanding responsibilities, including a new granddaughter, Laura will no longer be serving in this role. I wish to express my deepest gratitude for all the time, talent and energy she has invested in creating so many brilliant worship services.

**The Soul Matters' theme for the month of May is "The Practice of Imagination."**

Speakers will include Rev. Ann Barker, Rev. Chrystal Reinhard, Jordan Beutel, and me.



**Second,  
we will be responsible for  
an additional service each month  
since the Social Justice Committee  
will not be conducting "Second Helping"  
services until next October.**

**Finally,  
in addition to our usual planning,  
we need to develop  
themes for July and August.**

"Soul Matters" materials are available from September through June.

Despite our decline in attendance during the summer, we will continue to create services that teach, inspire and expand our imaginations.

**The Worship Committee  
also has a new meeting time.**

We will gather from 4 to 6 PM on the second Sunday of each month. Our next meeting is on May 13th and if you wish to learn more about becoming a Worship Associate, please attend.

Currently we have several challenges.

**First,  
we need additional Worship Associates.**

Several of our members are leaving the area for the summer. If you are interested in becoming a Worship Associate, please contact me.



**Come  
and  
join us.**

**In faith,  
Dennis Shaw,  
Chair,  
UUFCC  
Worship  
Committee**



**Richard E. Patrick, Esq. presents**

# ATTACK ON DEI

**As Sunday, April 13, 2025 UUFCC Guest Speaker**



Attorney Richard Patrick is a nationally known employment litigation lawyer, representing companies and individuals in a variety of employment and labor law matters.

His legal career began in the communications practice of a major Washington, D.C. law firm. He's worked as an aide to a U.S. Congressman, and as general counsel to an international export-import company, among others.

He specializes in litigation and advising small businesses. He developed a significant practice in the areas of corporate/small business counseling, employment and labor law; discrimination and civil rights law, including both trial and appellate litigation; and consumer law.

Mr. Patrick is active in that community, having served on Alexandria City Boards and the Board of Directors of several community organizations. He previously served as Counsel to the Virginia State Conference, NAACP, and was Chair of Virginia Advisory Committee of the United States Civil Rights Commission. Mr. Patrick is a member of the bars of the Commonwealth of Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia, and practices in the federal and local courts of those jurisdictions.

He's quite active in our community too, serving as:

- NAACP Charlotte County Second Vice President and Chair of their Political Action Committee (He was also instrumental in reactivating the local chapter.)
- LULAC of Charlotte County FL  
Past President and current Board Member
- Active with Florida Rights Restoration Coalition
- Charlotte County Democratic Party Member of the Executive Committee and Chair of the DEI Committee

In his free time, he likes traveling and running.

Whew! Wonder whether you're doing enough? Fear not. He's got ideas for us all. He spoke of NAACP's history of success stories and of the special need for success stories today when DEI is under attack.

All were encouraged to get involved and to be active.



## **NAACP 5093-B CHARLOTTE COUNTY FL CHAPTER**

**General Membership  
Branch Meetings**

**6:30—8:00 pm**

**4th Thursday  
each month**

**Cooper Street  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950**

**[https://  
naacpcc5093b.org/](https://naacpcc5093b.org/)**

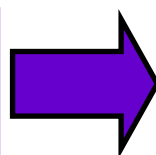
# UUFCC Art Committee ART ON THE WALL

## ART SHOW



The UUFCC Art Committee  
March 21, 2025, Reception  
Six Artists from the  
**VISUAL ART CENTER**  
**2D OPEN STUDIO**

**PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD:**  
You got to vote for your favorite!  
And you chose **JOANNE COLLINS!**





## UU SOURCES OF OUR LIVING TRADITION

UU congregations “live out [their seven] Principles within a ‘living tradition’ of wisdom and spirituality, drawn from sources as diverse as science, poetry, scripture and personal experience. These are the six sources our congregations affirm and promote:

- “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;
- “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;
- “Wisdom from the world’s religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- “Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God’s love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- “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;
- “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.”

<https://www.uua.org/beliefs/what-we-believe/sources>



Martha Bireda, Ph.D. (above right) with her son Jaha Cummings (above left)

## MARTHA BIREDA, Ph.D.

addresses UUFCC Sunday, March 30, 2025

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8Zp-jBchWUOLPiFzmc739Q>

Martha Bireda, Ph.D., is the President of the Blanchard House Museum of African American History of Charlotte County, and a fourth-generation Punta Gorda. She has over 30 years of experience as a lecturer, consultant and trainer. She’s also an author and a living history performer.

Dr. Bireda spoke of Punta Gorda as “the little town that unity built.” Despite Jim Crow laws, blacks and whites worked together, respectfully. She noted:

- April 16, 1862 President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Act freeing those enslaved in the South
- May 20, 1865 Florida proclaimed Emancipation in Tallahassee — 11 days after the end of the Civil War
- May 17, 2025 Blanchard House Museum Celebrates Reopening; Florida’s Emancipation Day; Relocation of Jean Cleveland House; and, Future opening of Florida’s 1st cultural Heritage Center

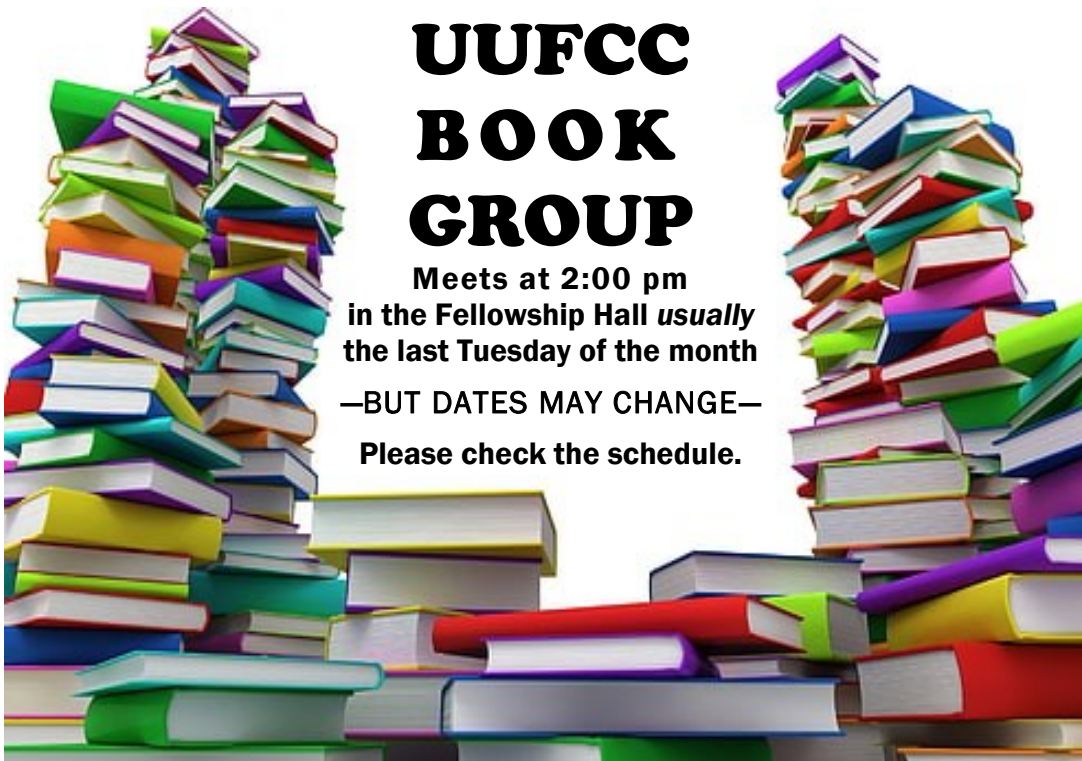
In 2025, the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation identified **“11 to Save”** locations as places important to Florida communities to raise awareness about the need to protect Florida’s historic resources, highlight Florida’s unique history, and empower local preservationists and community groups.

**Blanchard House Museum in Punta Gorda was named one of Florida’s “11 to Save”!**









# UUFCC BOOK GROUP

Meets at 2:00 pm  
in the Fellowship Hall *usually*  
the last Tuesday of the month  
—BUT DATES MAY CHANGE—  
Please check the schedule.

## 2024-2025

...DATE...	GENRE	TITLE	AUTHOR	MODERATOR
10-31-24	Kid Lit, Fantasy	The Golden Compass	Philip Pullman	Roundtable
11-26-24	Environment/ Food Science	Comfortably Unaware --What We Choose to Eat Is Killing Us & Our Planet	Dr. Richard A. Oppenlander	Aubrey Sykes
12-31-24	Historical Fiction --community efforts to halt proposed displace/eliminate native American tribes in 1950s	Night Watchman	Louise Erdrich	Nancy Weaver
DATE 01-21-25 CHANGE	Nonfiction UUA 2024-2025 Common Read	Authentic Selves: Celebrating Trans & Nonbinary People & Their Families	Peggy Gillespie Jazz Jennings Jeannette Jennings	Laura Anderson
DATE 02-18-25 CHANGE	Historical Fiction— Inspired by story of midwife Martha Ballard 1735-1812	The Frozen River	Ariel Lawhon	MaryLou Kennedy
03.25.25	Nonfiction-Philosophy-Ethics-Morals —How 4 core sources of judgment & clear-thinking work together	The Road to Wisdom: On Truth, Science, Faith & Trust	Francis Collins	Mike Krzykowski
04.29.25	Thriller, Spy Fiction, Humor	Slow Horses	Mick Herron	Betty Pritchard
05.27.25	Memoir	The Girl with Seven Names -Escape from North Korea	Hyeonseo Lee	Linda Quinn

Like to read?  
Like to discuss  
what you read?  
Like to make  
new friends?

## JOIN US!

Get to know  
Fellowship  
members & friends.

Explore a  
variety of topics  
and a wide  
range of genres:  
fiction & nonfiction,  
UU-related,  
religion & spirituality,  
social justice,  
historical fiction,  
racial issues,  
banned books,  
history & biographies,  
the environment,  
classics, & more!

## An Elevator Speech

Unitarian Universalists  
gather in community  
to support  
one another's individual  
spiritual journeys,  
trusting that openness  
to one another's experiences  
will enhance  
their own understanding  
of their own links  
with the divine,  
with history, and  
with one another.

—UU Rev. Jonalu Johnston,  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
[http://archive.uuworld.org/  
2003/06/affirmations.html](http://archive.uuworld.org/2003/06/affirmations.html)



## *Spring is upon us.*

When I think of Spring, childhood memories come flooding back to a kinder more gentle time in my life.

Elementary School. We learned how to dance around the maypole holding long ribbons, boys moving clockwise and girls counter-clockwise. No one told us where the ritual came from and none of us kids thought to ask.

Spring meant a new suit of clothes including hats for the girls. You wanted to look good at church on Easter Sunday when you stood up to say your Easter poem or Bible verse. This was the Black Baptist Church. Easter Baskets, colored hard boiled eggs, chocolate bunnies, yellow peeps and jelly beans were part of the fare ending with an extended family dinner, usually roast lamb with green mint jelly as the center.

Some cities had Easter Parades, although I don't remember any in my home town. I did hear recently that the Dunbar community in Ft. Myers, Florida, a predominately black community, has had their parade every year since 1944. Over 80 years of tradition.

With age, at least for me, comes curiosity, questioning, and then new understanding.

Many Christian practices and beliefs transitioned from ancient recognition of the solar calendar and the season's impact on all life. The practices of pre-Germanic Pagans, today's Wicca, included celebration of Beltane, the spring equinox when day and night are of equal length. It is a time of a new beginning, for plants a resurrection of what appeared to be dead. Flowers, trees and shrubs are reborn, animals, birds and even fish reproduce. I learned that the Maypole dance was initially a fertility rite with the interweaving of masculine and feminine energy. I learned that the name Easter probably came from the pagan Goddess of Spring, Eostre, or Estera. She was associated with bunnies and colored eggs, bunnies being prolific reproducers, and eggs, well you understand, little tweets.

**“Welcome Sweet Springtime,  
We Greet Thee with Song,”**

— Anton Rubinstein (1892),  
first heard on the Andy Griffith Show  
(Barney and the Choir), 1962.

[https://mayberry.fandom.com/wiki/Welcome\\_Sweet\\_Springtime](https://mayberry.fandom.com/wiki/Welcome_Sweet_Springtime)



**Stephanie Garrett**

### **BENTLEY**

**(recently adopted by  
Mary Jane Williams to  
keep Teddy company)**

**“Welcome Sweet Spring”**



**Unitarian Universalism  
is a liberal religion  
characterized by a free  
and responsible search  
for truth and meaning.**

**Unitarian Universalists  
assert no creed,  
but instead are unified  
by their shared search for  
spiritual growth, guided by  
a dynamic, living tradition.**

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/  
UnitarianUniversalism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UnitarianUniversalism)



# NOTICES FROM THE PASTORAL CARE SPECIALIST

**This is a reminder of my purpose here at UUFCC.**

I am available, on an appointment basis, to meet with members and friends of the community regarding issues of concern to them, be it a spiritual questions, personal matter or need for some support. I can visit the hospital, rehab center or nursing home if required. If you have a question about what it might mean to be a UU I can think with you about that. These are things I trained to do and really care about doing. If you would like to contact me, just call the office and the confidential message will come to me.

**I will preach on June 1, 2025, and then begin a two-week vacation.**

Chrystal and I will spend six days in private retreat with the Benedictine Sisters of Florida, and then spend a couple days at SeaWorld, ending with a short visit to Dunedin.

**I will be back to work on Monday, June 16, 2025.**

I thank you for this unpaid time off to recharge and refocus.



**Rev. Ann Barker, D. Min.  
Pastoral Care Specialist  
941-235-0269 -or-  
revannbarker@gmail.com**

**Unitarian Universalists include, but are not limited to, agnostic, atheist, Buddhist, Christian, earth-centered, Hindu, Humanist, Islam, Jewish, Pagan, Taoism, believers in God, and more.**

**[www.uua.org/beliefs/who-we-are](http://www.uua.org/beliefs/who-we-are)**



# GO VEGAN



COMPASSION



NONVIOLENCE



FOR THE ANIMALS



FOR THE PLANET



FOR THE PEOPLE

## GARBANZO GANACHE

**This vegan spread is great on crackers or in a sandwich with other greens. I have served this at UUFCC Art on the Wall receptions lately where it has been a big hit and I have had many requests for the recipe. Easy and inexpensive!**

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 ribs celery
- 1/4 c onion
- 1/3 c fresh parsley
- 1/2 c chopped cucumber
- 1/2 c vegan mayo
- 1 TBS spicy brown mustard
- 1/2 c sweet relish
- 1/2 c sundried tomatoes
- 15-oz can garbanzo beans, rinsed & drained



**Sandy Telander**

### DIRECTIONS

Smash garbanzo beans. Or pulse in food processor. Do not puree. Leave chunky.

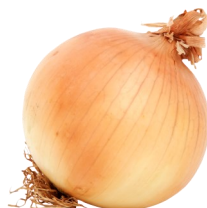
Chop sundried tomatoes into small pieces.

Add sweet relish, sundried tomatoes, celery, onion, parsley and cucumber.

Mix together mustard and mayo.

Mix in with garbanzo beans.

Refrigerate.



**LOOK  
AT THIS**



**UUFCC  
GENEROSITY!**

**MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE**

## SECOND SUNDAY SECOND HELPING

On the Second Sunday of each month, a second basket is passed to collect for a worthy community organization, to intentionally support their good work.

**JANUARY 2025  
Donations Totaled  
\$1,072.00**



Helping victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other violent crimes in Charlotte County.  
Helping create safety in our community by helping survivors and by promoting non-violent and healthy relationships by education and example.  
**941-627-6000 or <https://carefl.org>**

**FEBRUARY 2025  
Donations Totaled  
\$1,265.00**



**COALITION OF IMMOKOLEE WORKERS**  
Dedicated to eradicating forced labor, sexual violence, and other abuses in US agriculture. Mission is to establish a just agricultural system where workers have fair wages, safe working conditions, and a voice in decisions that affect their lives. Its Fair Food Program fosters a Worker-driven Social Responsibility model.  
**(239) 657-8311 or <https://ciw-online.org/>**



## ENDOWMENT

Honor beloved Fellowship members and friends **AND** help UUFCC.

Endowment funds assure UUFCC's financial future and further UU principles and practices.

Make contribution to:

**UUFCC Endowment Fund**  
and on check memo line write  
"In Memory of [beloved's name]"

## PEACE GARDEN ENGRAVED PAVERS

Honor beloved UUFCC members and friends **AND** help UUFCC.

\$75 buys one paver of which \$45 gets donated to UUFCC

Use **ORDER FORM**  
in **WEEKLY UPDATE**





# MAY THEME and SUNDAY SERVICES

## THE PRACTICE OF IMAGINATION

### CONGREGATIONAL COVENANT

*"Covenant" is Latin for "walking together." This Covenant is a living, dynamic document describing how we intend to live the Principles we value in our religious community.*

*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 value a free, open, and mutually respectful exchange of ideas. We honor all voices and encourage thoughtful freedom of expression.*

*We respect each other's views, backgrounds, and spiritual ideas. We listen to each other without judgement 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 name behavior that diminishes our community. We offer forgiveness and understanding and expect that from each other. In all situations, we strive to honor everyone's dignity and wellbeing.*

*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.*

### 05-04-25 IMAGINEERING AT UUFCC

Walt Disney *Imagineers* created Disneyland & Disney World by imagining things never before dreamed. Begin with a story, create a vision, & bring it to life. Space Mountain, Avatar Flight of Passage, Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge, and my personal favorite, The Tower of Terror make us believe we've entered a different & exciting world. Can we apply that same technique to UUFCC? Let's imagineer a future for this community.

Speaker: Rev. Ann Barker

Worship Associate: Jackie Williamson

**POTLUCK will be after 05-04-25 services**

### 05-11-25 CULTIVATING OUR IMAGINATION

Speaker: Dennis Shaw

Worship Associate: Shelly Canterbury

### 05-18-25 IMAGINATION: JUST HOW FAR CAN IT GO?

"You unlock this door with the key of imagination. Beyond it is another dimension of sound, a dimension of sight, a dimension of mind. You're moving into a land of both shadow and substance, of things and ideas. You've just crossed over into ... the Twilight Zone." Opening words while awaiting the WDW Tower of Adventure ride that Ann and I both used to enjoy. How far can our imagination go? What is possible? What is no longer within our imagination?

Speaker: Rev. Chrystal Reichard

Worship Associate: Ted Zawistowski

### 05-25-25 EXPRESSING IMAGINATION

Speaker: Jordan Beutel

Worship Associate: Lorrie Douglas

## THE BOOK OF LIFE



To have announcements read from the pulpit Sunday mornings:

1. Write them in the red book at the back of the sanctuary; or,
2. Email [bookoflife@uufcc.org](mailto:bookoflife@uufcc.org) by 6 pm Saturday; or,
3. Call the worship associate directly if past Saturday's deadline for emergent/urgent announcements. Please see *Weekly Update* info.

— Your UUFCC Worship Associates Committee





05-02 Robert Moran      05-14 Dave Martin  
 05-06 Sallie Milne      05-20 Sue Goldson  
 05-10 Joseph Oyer      05-26 Mary Howard

For Birthday Shoutouts, contact Caring Committee:  
[office@uufcc.org](mailto:office@uufcc.org)

### Weekly Events

**Sundays**    09:00 am Conversation Among Friends  
               09:30 am Choir Rehearsal  
               10:30 am Worship Services  
**Wednesdays** 07:00 pm Happy Hour with John Lee

### Links

Use **UNIVERSAL ZOOM** for most activities  
<https://zoom.us/j/93526372148>

To add to **SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS** or **BOOK OF LIFE**  
 email [bookoflife@uufcc.org](mailto:bookoflife@uufcc.org) by Saturday night

**Azar Chalice Circle**  
<https://zoom.us/j/92886172999>

**IMMIGRATION JUSTICE COMMITTEE**  
<https://zoom.us/j/97789863043pwd=c2tUenpGMmhjSExaUINOL3VHNik5UT09>

**UUFCC Social Group Sign-Up**  
[social-uufcc@googlegroups.com](mailto:social-uufcc@googlegroups.com)

**Spanish for Beginners**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81408957224pwd=cUhGejBuOVVRckU0L1R2SkM2SXhZQT09>

### MAY 2025 EVENTS

05/01	Thu	01:30 pm UUFCC BOARD MEETING 04:30 pm Buddhist Meditation 06:30 pm AA
05/02	Fri	09:30 am BOBBIE COLE CELEBRATION OF LIFE
05/04	Sun	11:30 am Potluck Sunday
05/05	Mon	01:30 pm Shaw Chalice Circle
05/06	Tue	08:00 am Men's Coffee 02:00 pm Women's Support Group
05/07	Wed	Noon Brown Bag Luncheon 04:00 pm Immigration Justice Committee 05:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 06:30 pm OA
05/08	Thu	09:00 am Port Charlotte Garden Club 04:30 pm Buddhist Meditation 06:30 pm AA
05/10	Sat	09:00 am Democratic Club – CC
05/11	Sun	11:45 am Social Justice Committee
05/13	Tue	08:00 pm Men's Coffee 04:00 pm Worship Associates Meeting
05/14	Wed	10:00 am Caring Committee 05:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 06:30 pm OA
05/15	Thu	04:30 pm Buddhist Meditation 06:30 pm AA
05/16	Fri	06:00 pm JIM BOYLE CONCERT
05/17	Sat	12:30 pm Stamping with Nancy
05/18	Sun	11:30 am Leadership Council
05/19	Mon	10:00 am Art Committee 01:30 pm Shaw Chalice Circle 06:00 pm PFLAG Port Charlotte Support
05/20	Tue	08:00 am Men's Coffee 02:00 pm Women's Support Group
05/21	Wed	05:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 06:30 pm OA
05/22	Thu	04:30 pm Buddhist Meditation 06:30 pm AA
05/25	Sun	Noon PFLAG Steering Committee 03:00 pm Secular Community of SWFL
05/27	Tue	08:00 am Men's Coffee 02:00 pm Book Group
05/28	Wed	06:30 pm OA
05/29	Thu	04:30 pm Buddhist Meditation 06:30 pm AA Group
05/30	Fri	10:00 am Art Exhibit Take Down

**MISSION:** UUFCC is a liberal religious community committed to justice, a place where spirituality, diversity, reason, compassion, service, and fellowship meet. *(Adopted at 03-24-24 Annual Meeting.)*



**PURPOSE:** UUFCC is a religious community committed to diversity and social justice where spirituality, reason, compassion, service and fellowship meet. *UUFCC Bylaws Art. III (Adopted 03-27-22).*

**VISION:** Using our Covenant as a guide, we will provide expanded opportunities for ministries, programs and fellowship that inspire and support our life journeys. We will affirm: Love is the spirit of this Fellowship, and service is its law. This is our aspiration: To dwell together in peace, To seek truth in love, And to help one another. In the larger community, we will continue to be a strong, relevant voice serving justice and equality. *(Adopted 03-24-24.)*

**WELCOMING:** UUFCC strives to practice non-discrimination by embodying what UUFCC hopes to see in the world—a just, loving community in which people are free to be themselves fully and without fear. *UUFCC Bylaws Art. IV (Adopted 03.27.22).* [UUFCC: FOUNDED IN 1969.]

### NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS INFO

**COMM **UU** NIQUÉ** welcomes submissions of 300 words or less.

Submissions may be edited for spelling, grammar, punctuation, clarity, legal ramifications, length, or general taste at the editors' discretion. Editors reserve the right to refuse to publish submissions for the same reasons. While acceptance rules are lenient, the editorial board will reject that deemed potentially libelous, racist, hateful, or a personal attack.

Anonymous submissions are not accepted.

### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT SUGGESTIONS & IDEAS

Yes, we'd like to get to know you if we could ... (Spanky & Our Gang flashback?)

Tell us about you. What is your background? Where are you from?

Tell us about your life journey. What brought you to Florida and when?

Tell us about your career paths. Accomplishments? Interests? Hobbies?

How did you come to UUFCC? What keeps you here?

Tell us about current and past UU roles or involvement.

Something else? You decide! You tell us what you want us to know!

UUFCC directory/archives picture is used unless another is provided.

### REALITY CHECK — DISCLAIMER — THE FINE PRINT

Views and opinions expressed in submissions are personal and belong solely to the author/submitter.

Views and opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the official view, policy, Principles, Covenants, or positions of UUFCC or its newsletter editors.

Views and opinions expressed are not intended to malign any religion, ethnic group, organization, individual, or anyone or anything.

Guarantees are not made as to completeness, accuracy, usefulness, or timeliness.

### SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER'S INDIVIDUAL SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS

Content is not intended to be negative, divisive, and/or diminishing.

Encourage and value a free, open, and mutually respectful exchange.

Uphold one another's First Amendment right to free speech.

Take all content kindly and in the spirit in which it was intended.

Cherish our Beloved Community.

### UUFCC CONTACTS

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### UUFCC

## COMM **UU** NIQUÉ

Can you say kuh-myoo-nuh-kay?

### EDITORIAL BOARD

Stephanie Garrett

MaryLou Proudfoot Kennedy

Herb Levin

300-word limit articles due

1-wk before last day of month:

[editorialboard@uufcc.org](mailto:editorialboard@uufcc.org)

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