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Connection

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice

A welcoming, caring congregation encouraging spiritual growth, seeking meaning and pursuing justice.

Issue No. 2055

Venice, FL

April 2021

Sundays at UUCOV

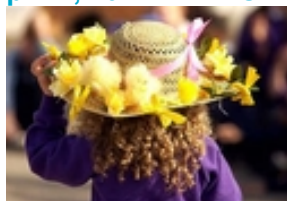
Sunday Services

April 1, 2021: LIVE Online Service: Tenebrae - As Shadows Fall" 7:30pm



Rev. Khleber Van Zandt. During this 'Tenebrae' - a service of shadows - we'll read from the Passion narratives, recite the names of those who have died recently, and partake of Communion in our tradition: bread and wine shared in silence at a table open to all.

April 4, 2021: LIVE Online Service: Rolling Stones



Rev. Khleber Van Zandt. *Easter.* As UU minister Dick Gilbert has written, "A tomb is no place to stay/ When life laughs a welcome..." Don your Easter bonnet and come celebrate life with us today!

April 11, 2021: **Beach Service: Shifting Sands

Rev. Khleber Van Zandt. *Beach Service at Maxine Barritt Park.* The beach is one of my favorite places on earth. Come join us under the Maxine Barrett Pavilion and then go for a stroll along the beach.



****MAXIMUM ATTENDANCE 50 PEOPLE** - CDC PRECAUTIONS REQUIRED BY SARASOTA PARKS & REC DEPT. Masks REQUIRED. Minimum 6 ft Social Distancing.

Please reserve your space by emailing with the names in your party.

April 18, 2021: LIVE Online Service: TBA

April 25, 2021: LIVE Online Service: Interdependence Day

Rev. Khleber Van Zandt. *Earth Day.* Our 7th Principle speaks of "the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." Let's affirm and promote this important principle this fine Earth Day.



Special Offering

April 11, 2021: All Faith's Food Bank

The economic impact of COVID-19 has increased food insecurity in our community. Business closures have affected lower-income families and people with hourly wages

in particular. For every \$1 given the food bank can purchase 5 meals. Please make checks out to UUCOV with 'All Faith's' in the memo.



Minister's Corner

How to Contact Us

Pausing for Wisdom

Here's a recent column by Rev. Shari Woodbury, Minister of First Unitarian Church of Omaha, that expresses many of the things I've been thinking recently:



"We made it to our final dinner with out-of-town relatives before one of my in-laws went off on a political tangent. My heart began to race. I glanced around the table. It was clear that no one else was going to engage. I was tempted to just put another forkful of spaghetti in my mouth and wait for someone to change the subject.

"But I don't believe that checking out is the solution. Nor did I want to go on attack mode. Whether a conflict occurs in my family, my church, or my country, I believe I will be most effective if I can choose a different path than the aggrieved one that was being trod by my relative.

"I noticed the agitation welling up in me. My thinking was suddenly clouded; my jaw clenched; my foot tapped. I took a deep breath and resolved not to make harsh assumptions about this relative - but not to remain silent either. My child was at that dinner table, listening. How could I model another way?

"Buddhist teacher Pema Chödrön invites us to "not bite the hook." Can you see the fish in the stream, startled by the dangerous gleaming hook that has just appeared, ready to attack? But the angry fish who bites the hook will only hurt itself.

"Chödrön describes four R's for transforming this urge to bite the hook: 1) recognizing what is going on in us; 2) refraining from embracing those feelings; 3) relaxing with the underlying urge to react; and 4) "resolving to interrupt the momentum like this for the rest of our lives."

"For myself, I'll add a fifth R: rechanneling that energy to other, better uses. That's the reward I get for putting space around my instinctive response: I get to choose how to use the energy that would have been expended thrashing on the hook, so that it might instead be spent well.

"I did my best to open a dialogue, sharing my perspective with my kinsperson. While my ranting

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relative carried on with the diatribe, the other detractors at the table entered an earnest conversation with me that included mutual listening. Because I had paused before speaking up, my words carried a bit more wisdom, a bit less reactivity.

“So here’s my prayer for today: Spirit of Life, help me to notice when I am hooked - or better yet, to notice the hook coming, and to take pause. Thus may my wisdom grow stronger, my energy better channeled. Let my example be worthy of emulation by young people, so that in the family, the community, and the nation, we learn to engage conflict constructively. So may it be, and amen.”

See you in church, not if, but when,



Khleber

From the Board

Outdoor Campus Reopens

The Board of Trustees with the recommendation of the Covid-19 Task Force has voted to OPEN the OUTSIDE campus for groups **following all CDC guidelines of masking and social distancing**. This includes Adult RE Programs, Committee Meetings, Fellowship Groups and small discussions. Please bring a chair and your mask. **All buildings will remain closed**. We wish all to remain healthy and look forward to everyone receiving the vaccine.

President’s Message

This is the beginning of a new year for the church. I wish to welcome our new Board member Serena Cannarelli as Trustee. As we begin a new year, I look forward to being able to reopen the Sanctuary for Sunday Service. This will only begin when we all can be safe and done in stages. We will have our first live action Sunday April 11, 2021 at Maxine Barritt Park. Then we will start to have services with a few people while continuing to live stream.



The number of people who can attend will gradually increase while following all CDC guidelines of mask wearing and social distancing. Even the fact that many of us have received a full regiment of vaccines will not eliminate the need for precautions.

We will be creating a system for reservations to attend service. I know many are anxious to return and others would rather stay home. We wish to provide service to both desires. We are all looking forward to seeing friends. Many things have changed. We all got a year older, we lost some dear friends through death or just moving away. We have some new members many have never met and for some plans have changed.

I welcome Spring, although in our climate there is not a huge change, a few more wildflowers some different birds and a larger gaggle of golf carts on the court. We go from wearing a sweater to carrying it in the car because the grocery store air conditions is too

cold.

Pamela Palmer, *President*

Treasurer's Report

April 1, 2021 marks the start of a new fiscal year at UUCOV.

The past year was something we never dreamed of

Khleber left for a six month sabbatical which started in Italy and was shortly ruined. We enjoyed six months of Dennis McCarty, a real change of pace and one who flipped us to on-line services a year ago. And through this turbulent time, you generously supported us.



It appears, as of late March, that we will achieve our pledge goal for this past year and finish the year with a slight surplus. Who'd have dreamed it could happen? So thank you one and all!! Due to you, our staff is still in place and ready to support you in person when that day of opening arrives.

Dave Lyon, *Treasurer*

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting

Click here for the minutes of the February 11th, 2021 meeting - <https://uucov.org/images/phocadownload/UUCOV%20BOT%20February%202021-1.pdf>
Claire Harrison, *Secretary*

Minutes of the Coordinating Council Meeting

Click here for the minutes of the March 2nd, 2021 meeting - <https://uucov.org/images/phocadownload/cc%20meeting%20notes%20March%202021.pdf>
Jack Head, *VP and Chair of Coordinating Council*

From the COVID-19 Task Force

IMPORTANT NEWS From the Covid 19 Task Force: Please read – by clicking on the link below:

<https://uucov.org/images/phocadownload/Dear%20Members%20and%20Friends-Covid%20Task%20Force%20Communication.pdf>

Want to increase your chances of getting COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible?

Register on surrounding counties health department website.

SARASOTA COUNTY – Go to www.Sarasota.floridahealth.gov website to complete application for an Everbridge account or call 941-861-8297 (7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. for assistance).

MANATEE COUNTY – Go to www.mymanatee.org website to register for the standby pool on www.vax.mymanatee.org or call 311 (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for assistance).

CHARLOTTE COUNTY – Go to www.Charlotte.floridahealth.gov website or call 866-200-9160 (no time listed for assistance).



Sunday Service at the Beach



“Shifting Sands”

In celebration of Earth Day and Spring we will be meeting

Sunday, April 11, 2021 10:00 am

at the pavilion Maxine Barritt State Park.

Attendance is limited to **50** persons: You **MUST** register to attend. Please email with the names of in your party, by **Friday, April 9th**.

Reservations will be on a first come basis.

We are required to follow all CDC guidelines: Masks required, practice social distancing (6 feet), and, if you are ill, please do not attend.

Virtual Office Hours

The office at Waters Hall is closed. No one is there to answer the phone. All business is conducted via email at office@uucov.org.

‘Virtual Office Hours’ are every Monday and Wednesday, 8:30am – 9:30am. You may enter the ZOOM session at any time during the hour to speak with Salli regarding questions, requests, assistance, UUCOV publications, etc.



Oct 1st thru April 30th: Any email received after 3:00pm Mon-Thurs will be answered the next day. Any email received after 3:00pm Friday will be answered Monday.

May 1st thru Sept 30th: Any email received after 12:00pm Mon-Thurs will be answered the next day. Any email received after 12:00pm Friday will be answered Monday.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84352749746>

Meeting ID: 843 5274 9746

Password = office

Laurel Civic Association - Hand Up Program Update

UUCOV undertook a four-month fund raising initiative in the spring and summer of 2020 and was proud to donate over \$20,000 to the Laurel Civic Association Hand Up Program. The Hand UP Program was designed to provide financial education and resources to people economically distressed and who are underserved by the banking industry. In early August 2020, Khleber Van Zandt, Pam Palmer and Rosemary Hagan, representing the congregation, presented the check to Michael Fluker, Executive Director of Laurel Civic Association (LCA).



August also saw LCA awarded Business of the Year Award - Not for Profit by the Venice Chamber of Commerce for their work in Sarasota County.

In October LCA was awarded a \$30,000 grant from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation for the Hand Up Program. Our initial donation to express community support for the new program was instrumental in this award from Bank of America.

Throughout the fall LCA worked to enter into a contractual agreement with the Manatee Community Federal Credit Union (MCFCU) who has changed its name to Financial Access Federal Credit Union. This name change reinforces their commitment to expand their services beyond Manatee County. Those negotiations have been completed and a working agreement established. The \$50,000 raised for this program will underwrite \$500,000 worth of credit.

LCA has also found support for the Hand Up Program from Capital Good Fund which is a non-profit social change program out of Rhode Island that targets its work with citizens struggling with poor credit ratings. They work in many states including Florida with the same goals as the Hand Up Program.

Covid restrictions and the increased community needs due to Covid delayed the initial implementation date for the new Hand Up Program. However, LCA has identified a lead staff member for this program and hired an assistant with Spanish language to increase its outreach to Spanish speaking families. A curriculum for Hand Up classes has been developed as well as a program concept. A brochure has been developed and printed to present the program to the public. A copy of the brochure is available through the following link <https://uucov.org/images/phocadownload/Hand%20Up%2012.10.pdf> and will be available in print to the congregation on the lanai once we return to our buildings.

March continues to find LCA limited in its face-to-face contacts with clients and, at the same time, very much involved in crisis response to families struggling with loss of jobs due to Covid, adult children returning home due to loss of job and school age children struggling with on-line schooling. The pandemic and the issues that it has inflicted on Laurel families has delayed the start of the Hand Up Program. However, several families/individuals have been identified through crisis management services for referral to the Hand Up Program. Thus, client identification has begun.

The donated monies from all sources have yet to be taped but will be in the coming months as the program launches. In the meantime, Laurel has applied for a grant to provide ten new laptops for the Hand Up Program to allow the classes to be held in local libraries or other places that will be convenient to the clients served. As the Hand Up Program launches UUCOV members will be kept up to date.

Laurel Civic Association has been selected as an organization eligible for matching funds from the Louis & Gloria Flanzer Philanthropic Trust for 2021. If anyone is interested in donating to LCA you may wish to donate through this trust and earmark your donation for LCA. The contact for the Trust is www.Flanzertrust.org. You are given the opportunity to designate LCA as recipient of your donation and you may further designate the Hand Up program.

How very fortunate this congregation is to have the opportunity to help start this program and help it grow. We look forward to seeing this program become reality for our neighbors.

News from the Caring Team

The Caring Team is always on the lookout for UUCOV members and friends who would like to be added to our list to be called when a meal, a phone call, or a ride to a doctor appointment is needed. You may not be called often, but when the need arises, it is comforting to know we have a group of caring, concerned people to call on. Please contact Eileen Leapley at to be included on the list.



Please remember that all UUCOV members and friends can keep their personal data stored in a **Confidential Ministerial File**, to be used only in case of emergency. The file includes who should be called in case of emergency, your health and professional services

providers, your personal wishes, and final arrangements. Contact Caring Team leader Eileen Leapley at for a copy of the form, which will be kept in a sealed envelope in the minister's confidential file.



If you are interested in pre-purchasing a plaque for the UUCOV **Memorial Wall**, located in our beautiful Memorial Garden, please contact Eileen Leapley at eileapley44@gmail.com.

If you have any questions about the Memorial Wall, Eileen will be glad to talk with you.

During these trying times, your UUCOV **Pastoral Care Team** stands ready to provide a listening ear, as a representative of our congregation, to support you regarding any concerns you may have. Please don't hesitate to email ; someone from our Team will contact you.

Grief Support Group: During the past two years, our beloved UUCOV community has experienced a great number of deaths. Those of us left behind are grievors, and we are on a continuum, from obvious grievors, such as family members, to disenfranchised grievors, friends whose emotional relationships may not be readily recognized. The Covid-19 pandemic has caused further isolation of people experiencing grief, as we cannot be together in person to share our feelings. In order to support anyone experiencing grief, wherever you may be on the Grievors Continuum, the Pastoral Care Providers will offer a Zoom meeting on **Thursday, April 15th at 11 a.m.** Ginny Chappelle will facilitate the meeting. If you have any questions, please email Ginny at gchapp@comcast.net.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88507014210>

Meeting ID: 885 0701 4210

Passcode: Caring

Occasionally, members of our UUCOV family need a ride to a doctor's appointment. Although this service is not needed often, our UUCOV Caring Team has a small roster of people who provides these rides. The team would very much like to add to their list, so if you are interested in very occasionally driving one of our members to an appointment, please send an email to Francie Storey, rides coordinator, at



During this time of isolation, it is more important than ever to keep the lines of communication open among the members of our congregation. When you have a few minutes, go through the UUCOV directory and make a call to someone, even if you don't know them. You may be surprised at the interesting conversation you will have, and you just may make a new friend.

We don't want anyone in our congregation to feel alone, and we all have a lot of love to share.

Fellowship Groups are still going strong, despite this time of lengthy isolation. Many of our groups are meeting via Zoom, and even though our congregants are spread out over various parts of the country, they can participate in lively virtual discussions. This contact is more important now than ever. If you are not presently in a UUCOV Fellowship group, you are urged to contact Wendy Voigt at wendyvw1126@gmail.com.



Meet Our Congregants

This column is to introduce both new and not so new members, friends and visitors to each other. During this pandemic when we can't be together it just seemed like a good idea to introduce each other to each other.

Kindra Muntz - One of 39 charter members of UUCOV, Kindra served on the public relations committee, site committee, membership committee, choir, social justice



committees, and the board. She met John Meneilley at the second UUCOV service in November 1998. They lived together from 2000 until 2006, when a major heart event left him paralyzed from the waist down and led to his death in 2007.

Kindra was born in Chicago, attended high school in Delmar, New York, and college at Radcliffe/Harvard. After working in publishing and medical research, she spent 18 years in management at GE Aircraft Engine Division in Lynn, Massachusetts and 5 years at Merrill Lynch before retiring to Venice in 1997 while caring for her mother.

A lifelong UU, Kindra loves that ours is a faith “with a spiritual center and a civic circumference.” By publicizing UUCOV in our early years, starting UUCOV bio books and connecting with UUs on the Gulf Coast, she helped UUCOV grow. Expanding our UU connections, she became president of the Southwest Cluster of UU churches, member of the Florida District board, and finally president of UU Justice Florida, our statewide justice action network. She drafted a four-year Congregational Study Action Issue (CSAI) entitled “The Corruption of Our Democracy” which our UUCOV board proposed to the UUA in 2016, was adopted at General Assembly in Columbus and ran in UU congregations nationwide until 2020.

Kindra formed the Sarasota Alliance for Fair Elections in January 2006 and led a petition drive for paper ballots that passed countywide and was implemented statewide in 2007. For that, she won the Jim Barrett Social Justice Award of the Florida District UUA in 2007, and the Nelson Poynter Award of the ACLU in 2008. After leading a petition drive in 2018 for single member districts for electing County Commissioners, she won the Control Growth Now Award in 2019 and the Thomas Payne Award from Florida Veterans for Common Sense in 2020. In 2021 she was just thrilled to make phone calls with UU the Vote on January 3rd with 186 UUs from 27 states, to help voters in Georgia learn how to get to the polls.

Her hope is that UUCOV will continue to engage in the good work of the UUA, UU Justice Florida and UU affiliates, as we keep doing charitable work locally.

Ken and Ruth Boysworth - Ruth is from DC via Washington State and Ken is from Virginia. When Ken came home to Virginia from Vietnam we got married (1968) and traveled from southern California to Oregon, working our way up the coast. Marc, our only child, was born in Oregon. Shortly after that we moved back to DC. I went to nursing school for two years.



We stayed in the same house for 30 years- I got a BS in nursing and worked in the same ICU all that time. Ken managed Facilities Maintenance Contracts in many of the iconic office buildings in DC, Virginia, Maryland and federal courthouses in Georgia & Florida.

We moved to Venice 5 years ago and immediately joined UUCOV for a place to meet like-minded people. We dislike being so far from our son and DIL and two teenage grandgirls but love the warmth, free beaches, Black Gold and lack of snow. At UUCoV Ken is on the Board of Trustees and I manage the coffee time and the Waters Hall Library and help with the Family Promise & Book Group.

Pathways



Are you interested in hearing more about Unitarian Universalism and UUCOV? Are you interested in becoming a member? Join us for a two session group meeting to learn more. You will also meet and get to know other newcomers, the Minister, and Membership Team. Future meeting dates and times will begin in April and will be scheduled to accommodate participants. To register, email Richard Cannarelli at

Message from the Director

I read Braver/Wiser every week, something that Jaye Williams put me on to over a year ago. I have found such wisdom in those relatively short emails that show up in my mailbox every Wednesday. This past week (March 17) was titled, "Pausing for Wisdom" by Rev. Shari Woodbury. It spoke of how to react when faced with a tirade.



In our ever-changing world, I have found myself in conversations where these words would have been great guidance. I felt I handled myself well enough. Now I have a better idea how to avoid what the author calls "the hook". Explained this way, it reminds me not only to think before I speak but also recognize the hook. My emotions have gotten the better of me in the past and I hope this reminder helps me communicate in a more sincere and succinct way.

As always, if you have any suggestions about another meeting you'd like to see offered, please attend our ARE moderators meeting, send an email or text.

I would love to hear from you!

Kathy Avery
Director of Lifespan Religious Education
Ph: 941-270-6187

ARE Moderator Meeting

Tuesday, April 12th, 11:00am – 12:00pm

Come join us to get comfortable with the zoom platform, talk about possible RE offerings or volunteer to teach a class. Currently we are looking for zoom moderators, we will provide the tech help of a host! Moderators meet the second Tuesday of the month. Contact Kathy Avery at or 941-270-6187

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97023905366?pwd=c1N1QnUxaG1VRHg3RVlYQlQzaGUyUT09>

Meeting ID: 970 2390 5366

Passcode: ARE

Youth Religious Education



On Sundays at 10:00 am through Zoom, we breakout into groups and use the 'Soul Matters' curriculum. If you are interested in attending, have a topic you'd like to share or know a kid who would like to join, please contact Kathy Avery at or 941-270-6187.

Interest Groups

Plato's Circle

April 7th, 1:30pm - 3:00pm

A gathering where people of different backgrounds discuss important ideas and issues. Each 90-minute session begins with a topic that forms the basis for thoughtful discussion reflecting participants' unique experiences and perspectives. The gathering provides an opportunity to have an intelligent and stimulating conversation in an atmosphere of support and respect. All are welcome! Contact: Phil Haxel -



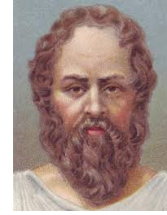
Topic for April Plato's Circle will be: **"Recovery: Adapting to the new normal brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic."**

*****New Meeting Location*** Venice Audubon Rookery - Located on Annex Road, behind the R. L. Anderson Administration Building in Venice. (4002 S Tamiami Trail, South Venice, FL 34231)**

Socrates Café

April 21st, 1:30pm – 3:00pm

A gathering where people of different backgrounds discuss important ideas and issues. Each 90-minute session begins with a topic that forms the basis for thoughtful discussion reflecting participants' unique experiences and perspectives. The gathering provides an opportunity to have an intelligent and stimulating conversation in an atmosphere of support and respect. All are welcome! For more information contact: Richard Palmer - or (508) 982-7266



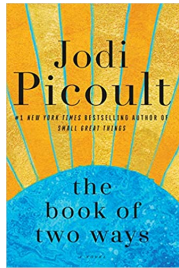
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97047078103?pwd=NniEMGHVSUVESkxoZUxIMENGGeGNKdz09>

Meeting ID: 477 531 7382

Passcode: socrates

UUCOV Book Club



Thursday, April 8th, 1:00 pm

April Book selection is **The Book of Two Ways** by Jodi Picoult.

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER - From the author of Small Great Things and A Spark of Light comes a "powerful" novel about the choices that alter the course of our lives.

"A thrilling adventure . . . With Picoult's stories, there is always something new to learn, and The Book of Two Ways is no exception . . . A fun and interesting read, one that will lead readers to both learn a lot and also ask themselves key questions about how to create happy lives for themselves during the short time we have on earth." - Associated Press

All are welcome. It is understood that our chalice is lit and we are in covenant with each other. Patience is needed. Join us, a few minutes early if possible, so that we can all get set up. In the spirit of getting comfy with zoom. we will try to all stay muted and raise our hands to speak. I will try to call on you and you can break in and remind me that you are ready to speak if I don't. We will begin with a very short bio of the author then will go around the circle to quickly tell our names - we have some newer members -and what we thought of the book. Then we'll have a general discussion.

For more information speak to Barbara Smith at 941-786-8559 or . Book Club meetings are scheduled for the second Thursday of the month.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85216887362>

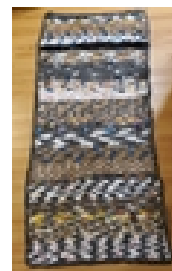
Meeting ID: 852 1688 7362

No passcode required

Mat-making for the Homeless

Saturdays April 3rd and 17th, 10:00 a.m.

Mat-making continues to meet and socialize via ZOOM on the first and third Saturdays of each month from 10:00am – 12:00pm. Salli is delivering finished mats to the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition. Finished mats can be left at Waters Hall with her name on them. If you'd like to join us for a friendly chat, contact Janet Knudsen at or 781-424-0660 to request the ZOOM link.



(Photo: Completed sleeping mat for the homeless. The mats are crocheted from 'plarn' [plastic yarn] made from recycled grocery bags.)

shOUT

The UUCOV donation wheelbarrow - 'No-Contact Donations!'

Tuesday, April 27th 11:00am – 1:00pm

Covid-19 has created a greater need than ever for our clients. The number of new clients has grown most notably in North Port and Venice – as South Sarasota County is now the largest area we serve.



Salli will be in front of Waters Hall so that members who so wish, can bring items intended for CHAPS, (Charlotte HIV/AIDS People Support). Please place your donations in your trunk, remain in your vehicle when you arrive - and 'pop' the trunk open when you arrive - she will be happy to unload it for you! Checks will be happily accepted and should be made out to UUCOV with 'CHAPS' in the memo line. Contact Salli at with any questions. Thank you!

Community Outreach



Volunteer Opportunities at the Laurel Civic Association

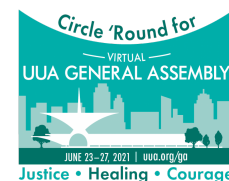
Volunteers from UUCOV continue to provide homework assistance to students via Zoom. Some of us will also be boiling eggs for LCA's Easter party. If you want to learn more, please contact Janet Knudsen at or 781-424-0660.

Denominational Affairs

UUA General Assembly June 23 - 27, 2021

Last year more than 10,000 screens tuned in to the watch the **Sunday Morning Worship** at GA!

Please join us again this year on **Sunday, June 27** at 9:00am Pacific / 10:00am Mountain / 11:00am Central / noon Eastern for the largest annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists in worship.



The service will be streamed on www.uua.org and on the UUA's YouTube channel; members of the public are welcome!

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor

Comments, questions, concerns, musings - all welcome. 325 word maximum. Send yours to

Publication Deadlines

Connection: Articles and announcements for the *Connection* are due on the 20th of each month for the next month's edition. Please email your submissions to .

UUCOV Happenings: Events submissions are due at Thursday 9:00am for inclusion in *UUCOV Happenings*. Please email your submissions to .

UUCOV Mission and Covenant

A welcoming, caring congregation encouraging spiritual growth, seeking meaning and pursuing justice.

In a climate of joy, goodwill and trust this congregation covenants

- to treat one another with kindness and respect,
- to listen with openness and acceptance,
- to support and protect the environment of which we are all a part,
- to solve problems responsibly as we grow and change,
- to encourage learning and nurture the growth of diverse human spirits, and
- to dedicate time, talent and resources in an effort to make a difference in local and world communities.

In the spirit of our free religious heritage, we promise these to one another.

UU Principles

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

UU Sources

The Living Tradition we share draws from many sources:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of spirit and an openness to the forces that create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men 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.

Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.

If you do not wish to receive the *Connection*, please [click here](#) to unsubscribe.