



Connection

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice

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

Issue No. 2044

Venice, FL

August 2020

Sundays at UUCOV

Sunday Services

August 2, 2020: Video Online Service: Taking It to the Streets

David B. Smith. People have been taking their demands for change out onto the streets of America. David B. Smith, Executive Director of Worship at All Souls Unitarian, Tulsa OK, shares a message for the times, calling all of us to do what we can to Be the Change.



August 9, 2020: Video Online Service: Justice in This Life



Rev. Anastassia Zinke. Because Unitarian Universalism is a non-confessional faith, we often overlook the fact that the vast majority of us hold certain core beliefs, among them that there is no comparable afterlife. Beliefs, such as this one, have shaped our perceptions and have encouraged us to be justice makers.

August 16, 2020: Video Online Service: Return from a Far Country

Rev. Khleber Van Zandt. With his travel plans in shambles, Rev. Van Zandt chose to return early from an overseas trip. Still, there must be sabbatical experiences that stick out for him and Linda.

August 23, 2020: Video Online Service: Fear Not

Rev. Khleber Van Zandt. Fear is a gift from the universe, an evolutionary benefit that works to keep us safe from actual danger. But it also can work against us when it keeps us in a state of unwarranted anxiety and makes us forget that we are loved.

August 30, 2020: Video Online Service: Poverty at the Doorstep

Rev. Khleber Van Zandt. Matthew Desmond's 2016 book, Evicted, follows the money in a heartbreaking portrait of families struggling to make ends meet. In a system set up against them, most pay so much for rent that they are perpetually only one missed paycheck away from ruin. And that was before COVID-19.

Special Offering

August 9, 2020: All Faith's Food Bank

This month's Special Offering is the All Faiths Food Bank. Sandra Frank, CEO of All Faiths Food Bank, says the hunger in our community has not let up since schools let out for Spring Break in March. She describes an "intense, continued need for food; a massive and urgent fight against hunger like nothing else in our history." From where

she sits, the economic devastation for local working families is only just beginning (Herald Tribune, June 20, 2020). All Faiths is not yet set up to start taking edible contributions again, but your check, made out to UUCOV, with All Faiths in the memo line, is much needed.



Minister's Corner

How to Contact Us

Home Again, Home Again

Buongiorno! We're back!

And what a glorious six-month sabbatical it has been! Two months in Rome, one in Florence, and several weeks touring Britain in an RV and navigating our own narrowboat around the canals of England.



But of course that didn't happen. A tiny little virus put the kibosh on most of our plans along with most of the world's plans. Oh, and managed to make millions sick. And kill 140,000 Americans. And ruin the world economy. And change the way all of us live day to day.

But we're back at UUCoV! And we're thankful to be so.

Actually we've been back in the area since March 27th. It's a long, sad saga, but suffice to say we've been floating among AirBnB situations in South Venice and Englewood. We learned early on not to mention where we were coming from; whenever people found out we were coming from Italy, then the epicenter of the outbreak, they treated us like pariahs. But we stayed safe, quarantined ourselves over many weeks, studiously wore masks if/when we went out in public, and spent a lot of time (to say nothing of all the soap and water) washing our hands.

Of course, now Florida is the COVID-19 epicenter, and so Linda and I rejoin a congregation that has moved many of its functions online. A hearty Thank You! to everyone who has helped make that transition to online programming happen. Being online-only may not be as inclusive as we would like, it may not be as welcoming to people we haven't met yet as we wish it was, but it's been the best we could make it in a bad situation. And we will be working hard to make it the best it can possibly be.

I myself am still trying to catch up with all the changes that have been imposed by the pandemic. I've spoken to many members and friends, visited a few in their homes, and attended meetings (using the frustrating magic of Zoom) of the Board and Coordinating Council and Care Team. With so much that's happened, it's going to take me awhile to get back up to speed.

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I've said it before, though it seems like it was in a previous universe and in completely different circumstances: it's such an exciting time to be part of this community.

We're home again, home again, jiggety-jig! And I look forward to seeing each and every one of you, whether that 'seeing' is digitally or for real,

Khleber



From the Board

President's Message

We both gratefully and sadly said goodbye to Rev Dennis McCarty and released him back to his former life, hoping we gave him a little joy and happy memories. We start the first full month under the wonderful and reinvigorated leadership of Rev. Khleber Van Zandt. We extend our virtual open arms to him and Linda.



The recent surge in new cases of the COVID-19 Virus has caused us to rethink any possibility of reopening and to postpone the planning of a Vigil in support of the end of systemic racism. We hope to join with VICA to plan an activity in the future.

I enjoy that so many of us have been able to remain connected. I am grateful to those who are ensuring that the Sunday programs are available, and I have personally enjoyed cohosting 2 of the UUCOVfee Hour hours on Zoom. Many of our Northern members have been keeping in touch via Zoom.

We are hoping to plan some future activities in the, hopefully live but perhaps in the unreal world of virtual reality. Perhaps a drive thru Thanksgiving Dinner? Can we plan a fundraising Auction on-line? Do you have any ideas?

I would like to hear from more people about their joys and concerns via Happenings and to let us know about what you are doing during the Covid-19 Age.

I am encouraged that we met our goal for the Laurel Empowerment Program with generous donations from many of our members and friends and a ceremonial check will be presented. We look forward to the success of this program. We were pleased to have announced that the donating of hygiene items and food to the CHAPS food bank has restarted and that we are continuing to fund our charities with the monthly designated gifts.

May everyone remain safe and know that you are loved in this community.

May we make it through another month,

Pam MacFarlane, *President*

Treasurers Report

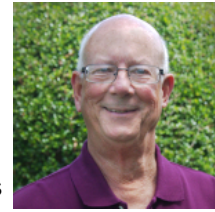
Last month I reported that the Board adopted a new budget due to loss of income from rentals, travel and fundraisers. Both income and expenses were reduced by \$56,000.

I am pleased to report that, in June, our expenses were 13% under our new budget. On the income side we welcome pledge payments at any time. The bank is never closed.

Any extra money this month? We can surely use it.

Our Social Justice charity for June was CHAPS. We had 4 congregants donate a total of \$105. This is not typical of our past generosity.

Dave Lyon, *Treasurer*



Board Minutes

The Board of Trustees minutes of our June 11, 2020 meeting are available via direct link <https://uucov.org/images/phocadownload/UUCOV%20BOT%20June%202020.pdf>

Claire Harrison, *Secretary*

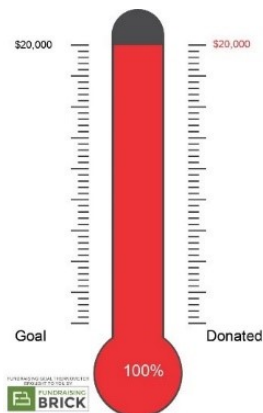
UUCOV COVID-19 Task Force



Our group is continuing to meet via zoom on a monthly basis, focusing on reviewing current information from UUA, the CDC, the Florida Department of Health, and various other sources. Our guiding principle continues to be on staying informed and working to ensure that our UUCOV congregation remain connected while being cautious and diligent in maintaining the safety of our staff, our congregation, and our community.

Our recommendation to the Board is to continue holding video Sunday services and meeting via ZOOM at this time with no firm scheduled date for resuming in person services and meetings onsite. We believe following the guidance of science along with our UU values is the responsible way for us to continue operating.

UUCOV/Laurel Civic Association Empowerment Program Update (Hand Up Initiative)



UUCOV is proud to announce that we succeeded in meeting our goal to provide seed money for the Laurel Civic Association (LCA) to fund the Hand Up initiative (formerly called LCA Empowerment), an empowerment banking program with the Manatee Credit Union. Donations from our members and friends made this happen.

Our neighbors in the Laurel area of town are economically challenged and have been systematically denied access to resources that we take for granted. Many UUCOV members have volunteered at the Association with their after-school program or helped sort food at their food drive. So, we know LCA.

The Hand Up initiative will underwrite the beginning of this program so Manatee Credit Union can bring banking services to our neighbors. They want to provide access to banking services that you and I take for granted – bank loans, credit cards, checking accounts and even check cashing services. There will also be an education program to help families learn banking skills. Michael Fluker, Executive Director of LCA, and his board calls this empowerment.

We expect to be able to say our congregation started a program that made a significant difference in people's lives and we responded with a yes, when asked to help. We hope that this program improves the lives of people of color in our community and we hope that you feel a great sense of pride that you made this happen.

We have been promised some stories and some data as this program comes alive, so

stay tuned as we hear about what we have helped make possible. We do hope this is just the beginning of some increased dialogue with LCA on how we can make a difference.

Thank you, thank you!

The Board of Directors & The Social Justice Team

Congregational Life

Remembering Marsha

Marsha French has been a vital and true steward to this congregation for many years. Her passing on July 6th reminded us of what she meant to this congregation. She started her membership in 2004 and in her 16 years as a member she has served on the Board of Trustees, has served as Treasurer in FY 2007 and 2008, been an active member of the Finance Committee and served as Chair of the Endowment Committee.



Marsha was co-chair of the Social Activity Team working with Lynn Jordan for several years. She has been a member of a Fellowship Group led by Lynn Jordan for over 15 years and early on Marsha helped Pat Schwing with the monthly meetings of the Fellowship Group Leaders.

Marsha also was involved in 2009 with the Ministerial Search Committee that brought Don Boudreau to UUCOV as a contract minister.

Most recently, in the past several years, she has worked with Dave Williams to do the recording and depositing of all pledge payments and donations on a weekly basis. This past year Marsha also served on the Sabbatical Planning Committee.

Marsha stepped up continuously to support this congregation and she will be truly missed. Her steady guidance and energy to grow this congregation has been a gift for which we are grateful.

From the Venice Gondolier:

“Marsha Docking French, 78, of Venice, passed away on July 6, 2020. She was born October of 1941, in Washington, D.C. She was the daughter of Robert M. Docking and Julia L (Julee) Docking nee Robey.

Marsha met her future husband, the late Robert B. French in Massapequa, N.Y. After living in many places across the country, they relocated in 2004 to Florida to be near her mother. Marsha was an active member of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice. She was an avid reader, bridge player, and book club member.

Survived by her mother, Julee Docking of Sarasota, brother Budd Docking of Atlanta, four daughters: Julia French (Jeff) of Renton, Wash.; Janet French-Bast (Kermit) of Wind Lake, Wis.; Molly French (Joel) of Albuquerque, N.M., and Robin French (Brian) of Tewksbury, N.J.; her cat Cheddar, and her many close friends.”

Campus Updates



While the campus buildings have been closed, the Campus Team has been busy on some outside projects.

The new entryway to Waters Hall has been finished. The screening has been removed, the new door color, compliments of Pam



MacFarlane, and new flooring has made the entryway very inviting. Also new handicapped parking signs and striping in front of the sanctuary.

Virtual Office Hours

'Virtual Office Hours' are every **Monday and Wednesday from 10:00am – 11:00am**. You may enter the ZOOM meeting at any time during the hour to speak with Salli regarding questions, requests, assistance, UUCOV publications, etc. Feel free to sign-in and say hello!



Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84688135320>

Meeting ID: 846 8813 5320

No password is required

Life and Music in the Times of Covid

Even though I haven't seen your faces in months you have been in my mind in every recording I've made. Instead of seeing you and the choir in person, I have been embedded in my music studio at home. There I've spent hours researching copyright law, how to get the best recordings while dodging the noise of lawnmowers and trash trucks and searching for musical moments that might enrich each service. Oh, yes... and practicing, because recordings capture every flaw forever. If learning things keeps you young, I should be at least 10 years younger by now!

Life and music are grounded in similar lessons. Both are filled with challenges, transitions, and questions, like it or not! And Covid has challenged us in so many ways. As much as you may prepare, there are still moments out of your control. The words of Louis Pasteur come to mind – “Chance favors the prepared mind”. So, I prepare.



But control is an illusion and preparation can only take me so far. Rilke tells me to “Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves... Do not now seek the answers, which cannot be given you because you would not be able to live them... live everything. Live the questions now... live your way into the answer.” Life and making music have to be allowed to emerge.

Pasteur's and Rilke's advice go hand in hand, asking me not to struggle with the unknown, but live the moment, working and preparing in the moment, and trusting that when I am sufficiently prepared, the answers will become clear. Many thanks to Dennis for being open to this emergent process. With Khleber's return, we will not transition back, because nothing will be the way it was. We begin to prepare, awaiting the time when the vision will become clear.

The choir has experienced the emergent process in our rehearsals. When set in an open and prepared mind, listening to and allowing the moment to unfold can open the door to wonderful moments and insights. But chance brings with it a loss of control, where trust is imperative.

The loss of Ray Goins just before Covid had a huge impact on the choir and this loss was quickly followed by the cancellation of Music Sunday just 10 days before the service. The choir put in so much work and never got to see it to its conclusion. Thankfully, prior to Covid, we were able to gather at my house for a wonderful time of community and amazing food.

So, as I step back for a while, I will strive to be patient. Live the questions. Live everything. Prepare and trust the emergent process, trusting that when the time is right the answers will become clear. Maybe you will give it a try!

Be well.

Marcie Leonard, *Director of Music*

Pluses of COVID-19

In a speech given in June of 1966, Robert Kennedy said living in interesting times held danger and uncertainty but also offered opportunities for creative energy. COVID-19 definitely qualifies for all of us as one of those times. In an effort to try to focus energy on capturing some of the positives, we're hoping UUCOV members and friends will share via Connection what some of them have been for you. Whether serious, funny, eccentric, or maybe even a little bit weird, please send them in to Salli at office@uucov.org.

Here are a few we received from **Barbara Smith** -

- Hearing the voices of those attending the Men's Group in the next room on Zoom, I notice that even without knowing what is being said, I recognize the voices of each of them. It's a good feeling, raises an appreciation of the unique quality of each individual voice, as well as an appreciation of my good hearing in spite of my advanced age.

- I realize that Zoom should not be considered a substitute but a continuing addition to UUCOV's programs. The Book Club has had attendees from all over the country. In September we hope to have Aliza Fogelson, Serena and Rich Cannarelli's daughter-in-law, join the Book Club from New York as we discuss her recent book, "The Lending Library," a nice opportunity.

- As a handicapped person (it's hard to put that on the table but it's the truth), I am excluded from the sociability of the coffee hour because I can't stand very long. I do have my buddies in our little chair circle which I have dubbed the 'Gimp Group' and have gotten to know them well. However, I have gotten to know many UUCOVers via the Sunday Zoom UUCOVfee hour. It's a mixed group as well who might not normally congregate. A plus!

And from the **Office Manager** –

- My 'commute to the office' has gone from 30 minutes to under 1 minute, with a minimal risk of traffic or accidents.

- I have to wash a load of pajamas once a week in order to have clean 'work clothes' – but other than that, there is very little laundry! (and absolutely NO ironing!)

News from the Caring Team

It would be very helpful to our minister to have emergency contact information on file for all our UUCOV members and friends. Therefore, please email to Eileen Leapley, at the name and phone number of a person whom you would like to be contacted in case you become ill or injured. This information will be kept in a secure location to be accessed by the minister if necessary.



UUCOV's **Pastoral Care Training Program** is well underway, thanks to the leadership of Rev. McCarty. Since Rev. Van Zandt's return from sabbatical, he has also proven to be a vital leader in both organizing and training our pastoral care providers. We are confident that we will soon have a well-trained team available whom you can call upon should you need the company of a caring individual who represents your UUCOV community.

UUCOV's own Bev Morrison was instrumental in the conception, planning, and construction of our **Memorial Wall**, which is situated in the beautiful, serene Memorial Garden on the UUCOV campus. The purpose of the Wall is to recognize our members and friends in perpetuity. If any member or friend would like to purchase a plaque, please email Eileen Leapley at eleapley44@gmail.com.



The Caring Team would like to remind any member or friend who is confronting a life challenge that their UUCOV family is ready and willing to help you. The team can provide meals, rides, phone calls, visits, and anything else you may need during a difficult time. Please call Eileen Leapley at 941-525-4328 or email her at to let the team know how we can help.

The Caring Team's mission is to coordinate support for those confronting life's challenges. If you'd like to help the team in any capacity, you are encouraged to call Eileen Leapley at 941-525-4328.

Meet Our Members

This is the start of a new column to introduce both new and not so new members 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. Will start with some of our newer members but will look for some not so new members to share their BRIEF introductions also.

Barbara Murphy - After retiring in 2010, Barbara and her husband "Murph" rented a condo in Venice. By November 2012 they became seasonal residents when they purchased that same condo. They now spend fall/winter in Venice and spring/summer at their home in Rochester, Michigan.



I enjoy yoga, meditating, biking, walking/hiking and gardening and along with my husband I love to travel! I have attended UUCOV for the last three years and have volunteered for sprucing up the grounds, The Promise, and mat making - learning the skill of producing "plarn"!

While we were sheltering in place this past winter we raised approximately 40 monarch butterflies on our lanai. It was a great form of entertainment and very gratifying to release them into the world!

After this past year of Covid 19, in the fall, I'm hoping to meet more people at UUCOV and lend a hand when and where I'm needed.

Bill Wolfers - I was born during the Coolidge administration (look it up) in Buffalo NY, and my mother died when I was a few months old, and I was subsequently adopted by the Wolfers family. We lived in a railroad neighborhood and most of our fathers worked on the various railroads nearby. I started out to be an aircraft mechanic, studying airplanes at a vocational high school. I worked briefly at an airplane factory and was drafted in early 1944 into the army, serving in the south and going to Europe at the end of 1944 and returning home in late May 1946 after time in Belgium, Germany, France and Holland.

I studied philosophy at the University of Buffalo, doing my BA and MA there and then teaching there for almost 3 years. I then worked as a technical writer at the Bell Aircraft Corporation from 1952 to 1955. Then began my 33 plus year teaching career as a high school and college mathematics teacher, finishing in 1988. At the end, I was teaching what we called Computer Math, teaching students how to write computer programs. We became Florida snowbirds about 2000 and full time Floridians after 2013.



My life-long hobby has been writing and I self-published a kind of memoir in the 90's which sold several hundred copies. I had about 15 short stories published online and recently had a novel published by a small house. Carol and I found UUCOV early in our snowbird years and have been forever grateful that we did. It is our oasis of liberal thinking here in conservative Florida and our main source of like-minded friends.

Carol Wolfers - I also was born and grew up in Buffalo, NY., in fact just a few blocks away from where Bill lived. We went to the same UCC church where we had a wonderful pastor and we attended the same elementary school. Since he was closer in age to my older brother, he met the rest of my family before we became acquainted when I was in high school. My parents were older, so I decided not to follow my two brothers to college and spare my parents that expense. I went to a 2 year college and got a degree as a secretary and started on that career, ending up as a legal secretary in a large law firm Shortly after that Carol and Bill were married and here we are 67 years later soon to be 68 in August.

My greatest joy was and is my children. Jeff, who we lost to cancer in 2018, which was a devastating experience for us. He went to college and worked his way up to become VP of the bank, HSBC at the home office in London, in 1999. He had been promoted and moved to the UK with his wife and 2 daughters. The girls finished their schooling there and have both married and given us great-grandchildren, two Brits and one Welsh.

Our daughter Meg became a computer programmer, got disillusioned with the corporate world and re-trained to become a high school math teacher, now recently retired. Our youngest, Tim, went off in a different direction and has a very successful business driving his van to lovely estates in the Phil. area where he and his wife groom pets. Their son Sawyer recently graduated from college and is now a golf pro.

Christina “Tina” Putney - I've been drawn to UU from my 20s. After Al and I married (38 years ago), he and I joined the UU Congregation of Flint Michigan. Five years ago, we began spending winters in Venice and attending UUCOV.

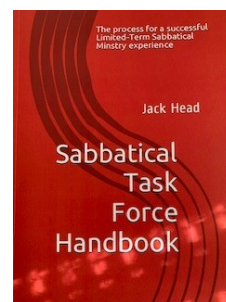
I earned an M.A. in Teaching College English; Al in Environmental Engineering. We are interested in the environment, and we were co-chairs of the Green Sanctuary Committee in the Flint congregation. I'm a political Twitter addict, too, and have attended three protests, so far.



Sabbatical Task Force Handbook

The UUCOV Sabbatical Planning Team was asked to document their successful planning for our sabbatical period. Not much is written on this subject and our Sabbatical Planning Committee did such a great job it was felt that they should capture their work to help other congregations.

Jack Head, already an accomplished author, has just announced the publication of “Sabbatical Task Force Handbook.” It is available on Amazon to other congregations about to start this process. We will have a copy in our library for members to read.



A thank you to Jack for this quick and amazing work and to the committee that we are very grateful for – Dick Smith, Marsha French, Dale Povenmire and Peter Hurley.

The UUCOV donation wheelbarrow now has four wheels! ‘No-Contact Donations!’

On the last Tuesday of each month, between 11:00 am and 1:00pm, Salli will park her silver Toyota wagon in front of the garage at Waters Hall so that members can place items intended for CHAPS, (Charlotte HIV/AIDS People Support), into the back of her vehicle. Those who are participating should park in one of the slots and not approach until the person ahead of them has finished loading his or her items. If you prefer to remain in your vehicle, place your donations in your trunk - and 'pop' it open when you arrive - she will be happy to unload it for you!



Collection will take place this month on **August 25th, between 11:00am and 1:00pm only**. Personal hygiene and home cleaning supplies, all available at Dollar Tree, are badly needed. Suggestions are: toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, shampoo, toothpaste, razors, body lotions, body wash, soap, deodorant, disinfectant liquids or spray, bleach, laundry detergent, dryer sheets, and trash bags. Non-perishable food donations will also be gladly accepted. Contact Salli at with any questions.

Thanksgiving - November 26th

Thinking about how to celebrate Thanksgiving in this most unusual of years? We are contemplating having a drive thru Turkey Dinner with some tables set up outside. If you choose to stay and chat, with appropriate social distancing that would be fine, or take it home if you prefer.



Are you interested? Cost would be approximately \$16.00 per person. Please let Pamela MacFarlane know at or 631-413-5775.

Lifespan Education

Message from the Director

Prayer

"Remind us that when the weight of the world is too much, we need to rest our wings a bit. For the spirit of a new day is waiting to renew us and subsume all that we are holding for good."

-Braver/Wiser, 7/1/20, Jami A. Yandle

Greetings,

What a strange summer this has been. No travel, no friendly gatherings and a huge change in my family structure. As we enter into August, we are usually preparing for a new school year. Buying supplies and new clothes. As I write this, we are finalizing what school will look like for Sarasota County. Many parents deciding what is best for their kids and their family. This is no easy task and my warm wishes to all who need to walk this path.



I was recently talking with a friend from childhood. I was explaining how grateful I am for our congregation. She told me her Catholic congregation wasn't coming together as we are. Her and I don't see eye to eye about many things. My response to her took the form of our first principle. I told her how I believe in the inherent worth and dignity of all people. I further explained that I honor her beliefs although I don't agree. It was evident that in her other conversations she's encountered either those who agree or those who argue. My stance took her a second to understand. In that moment I knew my choice in religion was exactly what I need. I am extremely thankful for you all! Thankful you all made me feel welcome.

As always, I am working with others to create a place for you all to visit and deepen community. We have a few options for you to get involved in already scheduled and we are always looking for new topics to present, classes to teach or social opportunities to join.

Please call, text or email me. I would love to hear what interests you!

Kathy Avery, *Director of Lifespan Religious Education*

Ph: 941-270-6187

Youth Religious Education

Currently there is a short service for the kids on Sundays at 10:00 am through ZOOM. 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 me.

Adult Exploration

A new ARE steering committee is in the process of being formed. Phil Haxel and I are hosting a meeting August 11th at 10:00 am.

ZOOM - ARE Steering Committee Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://zoom.us/j/4775317382?](https://zoom.us/j/4775317382?pwd=WGJtby9INmRNSzZBVmFZOEQwRmFvdz09Meeting)

[pwd=WGJtby9INmRNSzZBVmFZOEQwRmFvdz09Meeting](https://zoom.us/j/4775317382?pwd=WGJtby9INmRNSzZBVmFZOEQwRmFvdz09Meeting)

ID: 477 531 7382

Password: ARE

PLEASE spread the word and encourage anyone interested to join!

Afternoons to Ascertain

August 27th at 2:00pm

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://zoom.us/j/93279697315?](https://zoom.us/j/93279697315?pwd=SGILaEQyQXRJeW43Z25qL04xK0IRQT09)

[pwd=SGILaEQyQXRJeW43Z25qL04xK0IRQT09](https://zoom.us/j/93279697315?pwd=SGILaEQyQXRJeW43Z25qL04xK0IRQT09)

Meeting ID: 932 7969 7315

Password: learn



Interest Groups

Virtual Plato's Circle

Wednesday August 5, 1:30pm

All are invited to the July Plato's Circle. The topic for Plato's Circle on August 5th will be "Books that Changed your Perspective". Participants are invited to come prepared to share the title of a book that changed their perspective and a brief summary of how the book affected them. This is a perfect time to get some recommendations for books to read during our social isolation time. If you don't have a book to discuss, feel free to join in anyways and come with a pencil and paper to jot down some books you might want to read.

Contact: Bill Dowling –



Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86551017426>

Meeting ID: 865 5101 7426

There is no password or waiting room.

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,86551017426# US (Germantown)

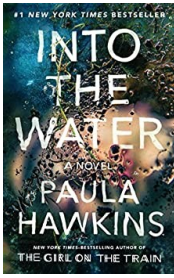
+13126266799,,86551017426# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location -

Meeting ID: 865 5101 7426

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdwj2mdRbt>

ZOOM Online UUCOV Book Club



Thursday, August 13th, 1:00 pm

The book selection for the August meeting of the UUCOV Book Club is *Into the Water*, by Paula Hawkins. With the same propulsive writing and acute understanding of human instincts that captivated millions of readers around the world in her explosive debut thriller, *The Girl on the Train*, Paula Hawkins delivers an urgent, twisting, deeply satisfying read that hinges on the deceptiveness of emotion and memory, as well as the devastating ways that the past can reach a long arm into the present.

Beware a calm surface—you never know what lies beneath.

All are welcome. 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 password needed

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,85216887362# US (Chicago)

+16468769923,,85216887362# US (New York)

Dial by your location

Meeting ID: 852 1688 7362

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kc7hS16vEq>

Mat-making for the Homeless

Saturdays August 1st & 15th

Mat-making is meeting via ZOOM on the first and third Saturdays of each month from 10:00am – 12:00pm. If you'd like to join us for a friendly chat, contact Janet Knudsen at or 781-424-0660 to request the ZOOM link.



Social Justice

Headline News

August 10th, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Social Justice is holding its next Headline News Meeting. Come join us! Hosted by Pat Wellington.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84483368056>

Meeting ID: 844 8336 8056

No password required



Justice Action

A pause to say thank you.

As the August 18th Primary Election in Sarasota County fast approaches, we realize it is the first in what is sure to be a heated election season in 2020. People elected locally, statewide and nationally may or may not bring justice, equity and compassion to public policy. As we work to elect leaders who will strive toward those goals, let's pause to thank people in UUCOV who are doing what they can to help along the way. Thank you to

- All those who take the time to follow local and national issues and consider how they may be of service.
- Those who use social media for social justice and post or add their comments to posts of others.
- Those who help register others to vote, make phone calls, help with data inputs, work at the polls or at Early Voting or learn about Neighbor to Neighbor programs to understand what issues matter most to people you meet.
- Those who try to diffuse hate and division and find common ground with others.
- Those who add their voices in Letters to the Editor to our local newspapers, or submit letters with which they agree, drafted by others.

Here's a shout-out to UUCOVers who have submitted letters that have been published in the Herald-Tribune or the Venice Gondolier-Sun in recent months: (If your name is missing, please let us know, and we will thank you as well):



Brad Hardin
Dee Hardin
Sal Salorenzo
Pat Wellington
Bill Wolfers
Matt McHugh
Dennis Higdon

**THANK
YOU**

Marty King
Jay Adams
Lynn Jordan
Kindra Muntz
Becky Leas

Everyone, please know you can join the letter writing group by emailing Brad Hardin at or kindramuntz@verizon.net. Let's empower the voice of our UU values in the public arena.

As John Lewis said, *"When you see something that is not right, not just, not fair, you have a moral obligation to say something, to do something."* And *"Every generation leaves behind a legacy. What that legacy will be is determined by the people of that generation. What legacy do you want to leave behind?"*

Kindra Muntz, Chair, Justice Action, UU Congregation of Venice
<https://uucov.org/home/social-justice/justice-action>

Community Outreach



Backpack Kids continues to be on hiatus during the coronavirus pandemic.

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.