



Connection

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice

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

Issue No. 2050

Venice, FL

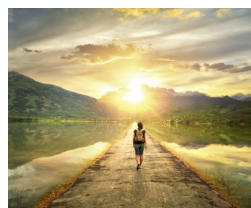
December 2020

Sundays at UUCOV

Sunday Services

December 6, 2020: Video Online Service: Room for Mystery

Rev. Khleber Van Zandt. Many of us fall prey to the belief that we can know all there is to know. Yes, our base of human knowledge expands each day, but it often seems the more we know, the less we understand. Instead of fearing the mystery, perhaps we can celebrate it.



December 13, 2020: Video Online Service: The Gift



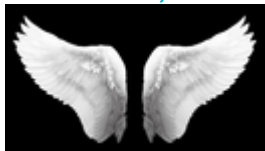
Rev. Khleber Van Zandt. *Hanukkah.* In this darkest time of year, Hannukah recalls God's gift of miraculous light in the temple and Christmas celebrates the coming of new light into the world. While we're running to and fro' in the dark gathering up gifts for everyone else, we need to take time to notice the light, and the gift that is ours for the taking.

December 20, 2020: Video Online Service: Dark Matters

Rev. Khleber Van Zandt. *Winter Solstice.* This Sunday, we honor the winter solstice and celebrate our dip into the rich darkness as well as the journey back into the light.



December 24, 2020: Video Online Service: Angels in Venice - 6:00pm



Rev. Khleber Van Zandt. *Christmas Eve.* Clearly there have been angels among us and we have too often remained unaware. This Christmas Eve service will include the story of the Tagalong Angel that Grace Grote and Lori Baribeault performed a couple of years ago.

December 27, 2020: Video Online Service: In This Delicate Turning

The Reverend Marta I. Valentín. *Professional Development Director of the UUA.* After exploring el poder de nosotros / the power of we, what are we ready to do / ¿que estamos listo para hacer? Let's not be servants of the past in new cups. Let's all get free by planting faithful seeds of change and together turn to free the faith we love.



Special Offering

December 13, 2020: Open Door/Family Promise

Family Promise of South Sarasota County's Open-Door Program offers families with children facing homelessness a chance to get back on their feet. They do this by helping with rent payment if the family falls behind, or by helping pay 1st, last, and security deposit on a rental home, or by paying for 1-3 days of emergency shelter in a motel while housing is being secured. These and similar contributions can make sustainable independence a reality for families with children in the South Sarasota County area. Please make checks payable to UUCOV with 'Family Promise' in the memo line.



Minister's Corner

Are We Having Fun Yet?

It's December already, Thanksgiving has come and gone, and we're still keeping an eye out for hurricanes forming in the Atlantic. The 'Third Wave' of the pandemic has spiked infections and hospitalizations, especially in the Midwest, and the numbers are not good here on our own coast, either. The political situation in our country remains unstable and no one seems able to step up and quell the unpredictability.



So what are we doing for fun these days?

Well, on the morning of November 19th, a dozen church leaders assembled at the sanctuary for a "trial service" designed to test the safety and effectiveness of the systems we will use when we begin meeting again for Sunday services someday.

This is the first "pseudo-live service" we've done together since March. So how did it go?

We did it. We got through it. It went. But not particularly well, and not without a few stumbles, a few breakdowns, and a few glaring glitches.

Hey, we haven't done this since March, so we ought to expect some rustiness.

Here's a sample of some of the problems we encountered:

Traffic noise. We opened the glass doors all around the Sanctuary to allow maximum exchange of air and keep each of us as safe as possible. Surprise, surprise, though: garbage trucks, diesel pickups, and tricked-out motorcycles make a lot of racket, and the open doors make it difficult to hear.

Wind. On a lovely autumn morning, Venice breezes

How to Contact Us

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wafting through open sanctuary doors can be delightful. But they can also blow sheet music off the piano and manuscripts off the pulpit, they can be loud blowing through the trees, and they can make it feel a little too cool in the pews for some people.

Safety. A few people said it felt too soon to be in a partially enclosed space with others. And as socially distanced as we were, it's hard to shake the thought that gathering with others is exactly how the virus spreads.

On the other hand, there's no denying that sitting in the Sanctuary again, being there with fellow members of your congregation, is exactly the kind of fun many, many of us are craving right about now.

It is not time to re-open. Infection statistics are too high, we care too much about each other, and it is not yet "safe enough" to warrant taking the inherent risks.

But make no mistake: we're closer than we've been to being able to reopen when the time comes. And we will continue building the capacity to safely provide all the services we can to those who need them the most.

See you in church, not if, but when,

Khleber



From the Board

President's Message

As we end a year of various stages of quarantine, caution, depression, fear and some hopefulness we are looking forward to the future. We do not know when UUCOV will reopen, but we are sure it will and we are making plans to ensure most people will be safe and comfortable.

Many of us are longing to make personal connections, missing friends, longing to meet new people, and wondering what we can do to help ourselves, our neighbors and UUCOV.

Our committees are continuing to meet via Zoom, and you are welcome to join by obtaining the meeting invitation on the UUCOV Calendar, Happenings or Connections. The Campus team has short term and ongoing projects to maintain our Campus and welcomes help. Fellowship groups continue on Zoom and meeting outdoors. If you wish to be in a fellowship group, contact Wendy Voigt. The Book Club, Mat-making and other Adult RE programs are continuing via Zoom. If you have an idea for a new activity contact Kathy Avery or Pamela Palmer and we will help you organize.

If you do not know how to use Zoom contact the office and we can help you become more comfortable with the program. If you do not want to use Zoom contact the office and we will attempt to find another solution.

Pamela Palmer, *President*



Treasurers Report

December, the last month in this torturous year AND the last month for Charitable Giving. Please consider paying on your pledge to UUCOV or if in the festive mood, perhaps an outright financial gift. If you have financial investments that have done well this year, giving stock or mutual funds to UUCOV avoids capital gains tax and

creates tax deductions for gifts to charity. This has a real impact on your income tax bottom line.

Our donations this past month were \$130 for CHAPS and \$520 for Family Promise/Open Door.

Pledge payments are at 75.8% of the total amount pledged. Yea!



As a personal note: Please consider Season of Sharing in your charitable giving plan. This organization consists of the Sarasota County Community Foundation, the Patterson Foundation and the Herald Tribune. They provide financial assistance for everyday living expenses that could otherwise leave families without a roof over their heads. Funds are all spent locally in this region. There are many heartwarming stories frequently written in the Herald Tribune about the good these funds have achieved.

Dave Lyon, *Treasurer*

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting

Click here for the minutes of the October 15th meeting -

<https://uucov.org/images/phocadownload/UUCOV%20BOT%20October%202020.pdf>

Claire Harrison, *Secretary*

Congregational Life

Minutes of the Coordinating Council Meeting

Click here for the minutes of the November 3rd meeting -

<https://uucov.org/images/phocadownload/November%203%202020%20Coordinating%20Council%20minutes.pdf>

Jack Head, *Board VP and Chair of Coordinating Council*

Facebook

“Don’t use social media less. Use it more intentionally. Follow people who inspire and motivate you. Engage with experts you can learn from. Create genuine, positive friendships. Just stop mindlessly scrolling, complaining, hating and engaging in negativity and bitterness.” - Quote from UU Post

UUCOV has three Facebook Pages!

First we have our official congregation Facebook Page “**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice**” <https://www.facebook.com/uucov/> that is public and provides an opportunity for those in the community to learn about us. We post times of services, events, etc. To post on this submit your post to Erin Fangboner.



We have an open Facebook page “**In Touch - Justice Action**” (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/InTouchJusticeAction/>) that is public and provides an opportunity for political justice posts. You are free to post directly on this page. This is an immediate way to share information.

We have a closed Facebook page “**In Touch**” (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/InTouchUUCOV/>) that is closed and only available to members and friends. This provides a relatively secure place to share congregation events both announcing them and after providing pictures on the event. This is an immediate way we have of sharing information. It has provided a place for members/friends to ask questions about an event also. Originally “In Touch” was created as a way of keeping informed of happenings even when some were up north during the summer months. Once you have been admitted to the group you are free to post directly. This is a politics free group.

We do ask that all posts be respectful, as these are not created to replace face to face dialogue but rather to provide a vehicle for sharing of information on a timely basis.

If you are hosting an event please remember to use all of our communication avenues – Connection, Happenings, Website, Facebook pages and bulletin boards. And most important – please utilize these communication vehicles to keep involved and up to date with what is happening in this congregation.

Looking to Connect and Be Part of UUCOV?

Consider joining one of our Teams in a volunteer capacity. You might consider volunteering with a friend and serving together. Current openings include ---

Administration:

Personnel Committee Chair- a person to coordinate a small group to deal with personnel issues and work with our minister. Contact Pamela Palmer - 631-413-5775,

Volunteer Coordinator – an outgoing person to liaison with the Team Chairs to identify volunteer needs and to actively work with the members/friends to meet those needs. Contact Pamela Palmer - 631-413-5775,

Caring Team:

Neighborhood Coordinator- a volunteer(s) with computer skills and organizational ability to maintain the lists of neighborhood groups and encourage their small group connections. Ideally two people sharing this would be a fun project. One to maintain a list of volunteers (we have a long list now) and one to receive the calls for the needs and link volunteers. Contact Eileen Leapley-941-525-4328,

Communication Team:

Communications Team is always looking for good people with writing and creative skills. When the pandemic is over, we will be back to writing articles for the local newspapers, Herald- Tribune and Venice Gondolier. We also design the flyers and brochures for the congregation. Presently, we are looking for a person (when we open up) to be in charge of the bulletin board in the lanai. Not a big job, but a job that needs attention. Contact Tom Voigt- 419 212 2595

Fiscal Team:

Fund Raising Coordinator- a person(s) to coordinate and encourage creative events to raise funds for the congregation. Contact Joel Morrison, 941-303-6376,

Social Justice Team:

shOUT Volunteers- interested volunteers to support our education and outreach efforts with the LGBTQ community. Contact: Steve Doublestein-269-686-6235, stevedoublestein@yahoo.com.

Green Sanctuary Volunteers –volunteers to help promote ecological friendly practices and educational events as well as support legislative efforts for our planet. Contact: Dave and Donna Jewett – 508-737-4831, ,

Lifespan Education:

Zoom Hosts - ARE needs people comfortable with Zoom to assist ARE presenters with their Zoom events. The presenter will host the content, but it is helpful to have someone else handling the Zoom part. Training is available if you are willing to help. Contact: Kathy Avery, DRE,

UUCOVfee Hour – Hosts (still!) needed!

Sunday, after the church service, we would often meet on the lanai for coffee, sweets, and friendship. We used this opportunity to exchange intellectual banter, family updates, and remind each other how grateful we are for our congregation. Since we are currently virtual, the coffee hour is as well. We are seeking someone to host future virtual Zoom Coffee Hours. If interested in being a host, check out

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b4da9a72da4f58-uucov>.



Virtual Office Hours

'Virtual Office Hours' are still every Monday and Wednesday – but have changed to 8:30am – 9:30. This is to make more morning timeslots available for meetings. You may enter the ZOOM meeting at any time during the hour to speak with Salli regarding questions, requests, assistance, UUCOV publications, etc. If you need to speak with her at another time or one-to-one, email her and she will set up a private Zoom meeting.



Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 843 5274 9746

Password = office

From the Caring Team

The Caring Team would like to thank the many Team members who have been helping our UUCOV friends in need. You are very much appreciated!

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's 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 eleapley44@gmail.com. If you have any questions about the Memorial Wall, Eileen will be glad to talk with you.

These are stormy times - in myriad ways - for all of us. Over the summer, a handful of committed UUCOV members have been meeting and training to be part of a **Pastoral Care Program**. A pastoral visitor will "walk with you" as a representative of our congregation, ready to listen to and support you with your concerns. Feel free to email someone from the Pastoral Care Program will contact you.



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.

Do you care if UUCOV is a caring congregation?

On **Thursday, January 14th, 2021 at 1:30pm**, an open Congregation Conversation will be held, via Zoom, to discuss our Caring Team. This is a follow-up to our Congregational Conversation held April 25, 2019 to plan for the Caring Team. All are welcome as we brainstorm and plan our next steps for the Caring Team. Please put the date on your calendar!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86333142051>

Meeting ID: 863 3314 2051

Passcode: Caring

Reflections from Centenarians

UUCOV members who are centenarians have been invited to share with their congregation their lives over the last century. This is a gift to their congregation.

Grace Grote – Born in Cincinnati, Ohio in the winter of 1920. Was five years old when I memorized a poem called, "The Gingham Dog and the Calico Cat" and recited it loudly whenever asked and even when not asked.

My parents were middle-aged, my sister and brother in their teens. They all, including my good Aunt Annie, nurtured me with books, music, dancing and elocution lessons, trips to the zoo and up the Ohio River on a big paddle-wheel boat. With it all, I was acting and writing plays.

Fast forward: Teaching degree from the University of Cincinnati and a year later Broadway bound. I'd had several

years studying acting with the Cincinnati Actors Guild, and so I fully expected to meet hard times. Eight years: scratch-and-starve, broken by deeply satisfying work on the road and in stock.

One summer I was hired to direct plays at a children's camp. The man in charge was not happy to see an unexpected woman. However, it worked out: we were married nineteen years. Donald was a science teacher and artist. Through him, I was hired by the Stratemeyer Syndicate, producers of the Hardy Boys, Nancy Drew and many series books. I was Pen-of-all-work -- story-making, editing, traveling for research. Eventually I ghost wrote The Bobbsey Twins.



After I was widowed, I moved to Venice, Florida where I wrote a column for the Sarasota Herald Tribune called, "Old Lady at Large." Well, the column is gone but the old lady is still at large in her memories.

I am grateful for all the joys, traveling with my husband, my work and the kind friends who warm my life.

Especially our UU's. They bring guidance, help, fun – real support. Thank you for all we have done together and your patience listening.

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.



Lynn Jordan - I was born and raised in Poughkeepsie, New York located on the Hudson River, halfway between New York City and Albany, New York. My first marriage ended in divorce but produced two wonderful children. I now have three grandchildren and two and three quarters great-grandchildren.

I met Fred, my second husband, at a dance and two years later in 1985 we married and spent 30 wonderful years together. Fred and I first attended an UUCOV service when they were being held at a mobile home park on Center Road in 2002. When we left that Sunday, I said "I've finally found a Church for me." And I have been attending UUCOV ever since. I had already dropped the Presbyterians on Sunday mornings and was hiking mountains on the weekends.

We volunteered to usher and found that a good way to meet the members. Later I was in charge of organizing the ushers for Sunday services. Eventually we joined Fellowship groups and I soon became a facilitator and after 15 years I still am. Later I was asked to organize Social Activities. I had a co-leader because we planned a social activity for each month.

In 2019 I coordinated a new group, named "Active Elders" which barely got started when the corona virus appeared and everything was put on hold. UUCOV is a very important part of my life and always will be. It's comforting to have a Spiritual Home. And I've made many friends.

Charlene Pratt - I was born in New Haven, CT and both parents have passed on. Three brothers remain in New Haven with one sister in North Carolina. I have two adult daughters, seven grandchildren with four as adults. I have worked in construction, hospitality (restaurant, travel, hotel), and academics. I'm a writer (cookbook reviewer, poet, romantica, songwriter) Currently, blog writer, cookbook author, result-oriented coach/mentor, Shamaness, and Priestess.



I was introduced to UUCOV through Lori Baribeault at the Daiquiri Deck bar when Khleber and some other UU's were celebrating during the summer of 2017. Khleber's energy was so inviting that I had to discover more.

Married, divorced, and currently in a fun adventure with George Dills (Handyman) and Lily, part dingo and part fox terrier and Fiji, my all black cat.

I am a new member of UUCOV and just completed Pathways in November 2020 during a pandemic. I have been

volunteering with UUCOV for several years. I served on a Social Justice Committee and have been involved with the Caring Team and I currently send out cards for the Caring Team.

I'm recently retired. Who knows what I'm going to create next?

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 be scheduled to accommodate participants. To register, email Jan Lemoine and Nancy Wilson at



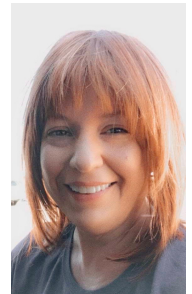
Lifespan Education

Message from the Director

"Courage is not having the strength to go on; it is going on when you don't have the strength." - -- Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919), 26th President of the United States

I kept the quote from last month because it is still so relevant for me.

We are in full swing of the holiday season and I'm struggling. This time of year was my mom's favorite. By now she had piles of gifts ready to give. She shopped all year, giving us all gifts throughout but also saving some of her favorites for Christmas. As I'm writing, I have Emmy's 7th birthday in a week, my birthday the following week and Christmas looming closer every day. With everything that's happening it's hard to find motivation to get excited and celebrate. I miss my mom every minute and not being able to gather makes her absence more prominent.



We are all feeling lonely for our own reasons. Which makes it more important for us to be present for each other. Here are some suggestions I needed reminding of: call a friend and check on them, send a card, make a date to watch a movie on video chat, read a common book to discuss throughout reading and be sure to add to your grateful list.

It doesn't change our yearning to be with others, but it reminds us that our world is bigger than us and we ALL need each other!

Also consider contacting the Pastoral Care Team if you want to share. The members are ready and willing to support you.

Youth Religious Education



We have started our new year of curriculum. On Sundays at 10:00 am through Zoom, we breakout into groups and use '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.

Our 'Little Lending Library' Needs Books!



During the pandemic, our 'Little Lending Library' has been very popular! At the moment, however, it is low on books. If you have any you have completed and would be willing to donate, you may add them directly to the library, which is located by the large tree on the immediate left when you enter the UUCOV driveway. Thank you!

Telling Your Tale: Following the Oral Tradition

Monday, December 14th at 2:00pm



Take part in a Zoom Meeting using the 'Ancient Art of the Oral Tradition of Storytelling.' Each session will have a spark to get you started in telling about who you are and how you got here. Remember everyone's story is interesting and another's story might bring back a memory. Contact Pamela Palmer (MacFarlane) 631- 413-5775 or

The suggestion or spark for a story is, *"Tell about a memorable meal: Was it the food, the place or the company?"*

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91749373701?pwd=VmNPbTFBeGpZZDBGtZzA3c3E3Y0FTUT09>

Meeting ID: 917 4937 3701

Passcode: Stories

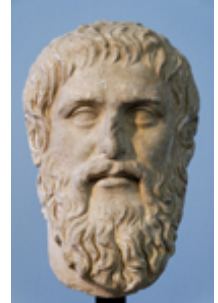
Interest Groups

Virtual Plato's Circle

December 2nd, 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: Bill Dowling - or Linda Underwood -

The topic for December is *"Crossroad decisions: personal and historical that perhaps didn't go as planned?"*



Join Zoom Meeting

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

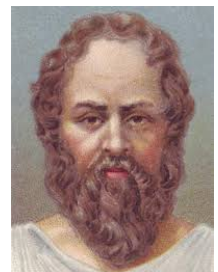
Meeting ID: 865 5101 7426

No password required.

Virtual Socrates Café

December 16th, 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!



Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97047078103?pwd=NnlEMGhVSUVESkxoZUxIMENGeGNKdz09>

Meeting ID: 477 531 7382

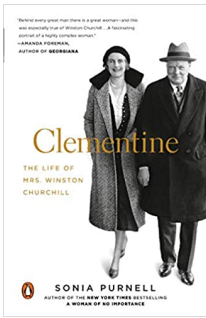
Password: socrates

ZOOM Online UUCOV Book Club

Thursday, December 10th, 1:00 pm

In December, our selection is **Clementine: The Life of Mrs. Winston Churchill**, by Sonia Purne

"Sonia Purnell has restored Clementine Churchill to her rightful place in history. Behind every great man there is a great woman—and this was especially true of Winston Churchill. Clementine is a fascinating portrait of a highly complex woman who only ever showed a brave and elegant face to the world. At last, thanks to Sonia Purnell's excellent book, we see her true nature."



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.

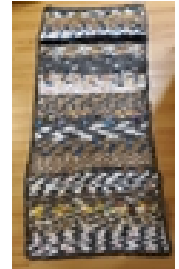
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85216887362>
Meeting ID: 852 1688 7362
No password required

Mat-making for the Homeless

Saturdays December 5th and 19th, 2020 10:00 a.m.

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.

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



Afternoons to Ascertain

We will skip December as this meeting falls on a holiday.

Social Justice

The UUCOV Donation Wheelbarrow - 'No-Contact Donations!'

*****Date Change*** December 15th 11:00am – 1:00pm (only)**



Owing to the Christmas holiday, we have moved the date of our monthly collection up by 2 weeks – this way we can be assured our donations are at the pantry in time for the Christmas distribution. We are unable to hold our traditional “Reverse Advent Bag” drive during the month of December, but are greatly in need of hygiene supplies for our clients. CHAPS clients have suppressed immune systems, owing to their HIV status, and are extremely vulnerable to the COVID 19 infection. Many, many of our clients are struggling this holiday season, after months of unemployment or reduced hours. We have new clients signing up for assistance every month. Food prices, as we know, having been soaring. Availability of papergoods and cleaning supplies are still limited. Please consider dropping off hygiene or non-persihable food items. Every bit helps. **THANK YOU!**



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 gladly accepted and should be made out to UUCOV with 'CHAPS' in the memo line. Contact Salli at with any questions.

Justice Action



UU the Vote!

Get out the vote for the Georgia runoff elections. Sign up to phonebank. You will be providing nonpartisan information about deadlines, voter registration, absentee ballot requests, early voting and more. Training is provided. Information and sign up at <https://secure.everyaction.com/ESSqYAYfTESY8wGwDprXOW2> . Contact Barbara

Buehring at if you have any questions.

Headline News

Friday, December 18th - 4:00pm

"Buying Medical Debt"

Hosted by Pat Wellington with Rosemary Hagen

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89281407085>

Meeting ID: 892 8140 7085

No passcode required



Community Outreach



Interested in Helping with Homework at LCA?

Laurel Civic is trying different socially-distant approaches to providing homework assistance for a limited number of students this Fall. They would like to schedule a get-together to explain the different ways that volunteers can be involved, and their new safety protocols. This information session will be helpful to those who have participated in this program before and to anyone considering participation. They will provide the session in person or via Zoom, depending on the comfort level of participants. If you're interested in taking part or have any questions, call or email Janet Knudsen at 781-424-0660 or janet@knudsen3.com.

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

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;

- to dedicate time, talent and resources in an effort to make a difference in local and world communities.
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

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

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.

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