



Connection

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice

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

Issue No. 2053

Venice, FL

February 2021

Sundays at UUCOV

Sunday Services

February 7, 2021: Video Online Service: The World We Dream About

Rev. Khleber Van Zandt. Rev. Kim Hampton reminds us that “Unitarian Universalism has to be more than a spiritual emergency room.” Our faith communities have to spur deeper religious growth and principled engagement to get us to the world we dream about.



February 14, 2021: Video Online Service: Wiser To Be Sad?



Rev. Khleber Van Zandt. Some scholars believe that Abraham Lincoln suffered from bouts of clinical depression, or what was called ‘melancholy’ at the time. Was depression a fertile soil for his evolution into the greatest of our leaders?

February 21, 2021: Video Online Service: A Savior of Her People

Rev. Khleber Van Zandt. *Purim.* One of the superstars of Jewish legend, the widow Judith used her feminine wiles to overcome adversity in the form of Holofernes, the Assyrian general besieging the Hebrews. Her exploits beg many questions, among them: what is homeland security worth?



February 28, 2021: Video Online Service: Back to What Future?



Rev. Khleber Van Zandt. The church is a business and must practice fiscal responsibility. But it is not only a business: it is a liberating community with a distinct mission in the world. Perhaps we need to re-consider all our re-sources and all our activities through the lens of a missional imagination.

Special Offering

February 14, 2021: CHAPS (Charlotte HIV/AIDS People Support)

CHAPS is an all-volunteer organization whose purpose is to provide supplemental food and hygiene products at no cost to persons in need living with HIV/AIDS and their dependents in ***South Sarasota County. All monetary donations from UUCOV are directed to purchases for clients residing in South Sarasota County.**



Hygiene products cannot be purchased with food stamps, and they can be vital to a person with a compromised immune system, thus enhancing their lives through healthier living, as well as helping them maintain their dignity and self-respect. When CHAPS provides supplemental food and hygiene products to persons with limited funds, they are then able to use their own money to purchase fresh meat, dairy, and produce, or for medical care, which they otherwise might not be able to afford. If writing a check, please make it out to UUCOV with 'CHAPS' on the memo line. Thank you!

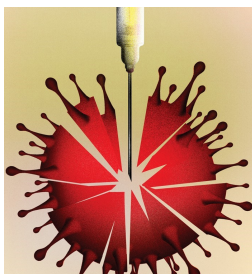
* Venice, North Port, Englewood, Nokomis and Laurel

Minister's Corner

How to Contact Us

Good News, and Not-So-Good

I've talked to several people recently who are excited to have received the first dose of COVID vaccine. And I'm excited for them. Such a promise of the return to "real life" lifts the spirits, no doubt.



And the rest of us should be glad that the medical community has done a miraculous job of identifying and producing a number of vaccines, even if governmental efforts of getting the medicine into our collective arms has been – how shall we put it - somewhat less than effective, at least so far.

This is so much good news, of course! However, it doesn't mean we can let down our guard just yet.

When our government does begin to function again, it will still take many months to vaccinate the 80% of people it will take to achieve herd immunity.

And then there are the effectiveness questions. As with any medication, these don't work instantaneously. A first dose of the Pfizer vaccine takes 21 days to become 50% effective. So you can't get a shot one day and throw caution to the wind the next.

And the second shot, some 3 weeks later, takes yet another 21 days to achieve its full effectiveness, about 95% - which is, as I said, miraculous, but still leaves one with a 1-in-20 chance of having it not work.

And what does 'working' mean in terms of this vaccine?

At best, it doesn't mean you can safely gather with large groups while taking no precautions. It means that if you are exposed to the virus, you have a 95% chance - not of not getting sick, but of having a milder case than you would have had.

And now statistics are showing that among those already vaccinated, reinfections are occurring at a rate of about 10%. So the vaccines are not a panacea; they will not take your risk of infection to zero.

Mailing Address: UUCOV
1971 Pinebrook Road
Venice, FL 34292-1563

Website: www.uucov.org

Minister: Rev. Khleber Van Zandt V
Email:
Phone: 314-223-0551

Office Administration: Salli L. Clarke
Phone: 941-485-2105
Email:

And that's about you. What about your ability to transmit the virus to others even after you've been vaccinated yourself? Just because you are protected somewhat doesn't mean you can't pick up the virus somewhere and then pass it along to others. It's too bad, but we're going to have to remain vigilant for the foreseeable future about who we come in contact with and how.

So, some good news, and some not-so-good news.

One glimmer of good news: the AV Team and I plan to begin live-streaming worship services on Sundays in early February. When that happens, you will be able to join us (virtually) for a live service at 10am each Sunday. Or you can view the recording of that service anytime over the next few weeks.

We can't get together again quite yet, but in the meantime, stay safe. And get a vaccine when you can.

See you in church, not if, but when,

Khleber



From the Board

President's Message

Here we are starting the second and shortest month of a New Year. So far, the New Year has given us both sadness and joy privately and nationally. We have lost our first member to Covid-19 but look forward to the possibility all will receive the vaccine soon.

I always think of this month as the month of love. May we start a new era of speaking with respect and love for all. May our first principle be uppermost in our hearts as we attempt to reach unity and empathy for everyone. May we practice those things which can bring us together.

I have always believed that empathy can allow us to be and do our best. Without empathy we cannot love completely because we can only love how we want others to be and not who they truly are. To understand and accept others lets our love be deeper and more meaningful.

We will continue to make plans for our eventual reunion as a fully active congregation and we look forward to being able to plan a gala welcome back party.

Pamela Palmer, *President*



Treasurer's Report

As you read this, our Pledge Campaign is in full swing. Your generosity is appreciated. I am so proud of how our Congregation has handled this pandemic. Who knew last year we would be connecting with Zoom. So many groups are using ZOOM and our northern members have been able to stay connected year-round.

In early February I will be sending gentle reminders on pledge balances owed for this current year. Currently we have \$36,226 in outstanding pledges. Some of this will be paid by members contributing monthly or quarterly. But there are some that will receive my email reminder. We are counting on everyone to fulfill their pledge.

Donations statements for 2020 were emailed in late January. If you did not receive one, please email me at



Dave Lyon, *Treasurer*

From the Stewardship Committee

Your Support is Needed –



Once a year your congregation asks for your pledge to financially support your congregation. This campaign takes place in February and ends in March. You will be receiving this year a letter both through the mail and email and you will be able to reply in whichever is easiest for you – mail or email.

Please be aware that all we do to support our community and our congregation is made possible by your pledges. In the past we have been able to hold additional fund raisers through the year to complete our fund raising but with the pandemic those activities such as the travel group, auction, etc., have not been possible and we are unsure when they will resume. That means this pledge drive is very important to us all. Our goal this year is \$300,000.

With your support, we are planning on increasing the technology in our sanctuary to enable live streaming, better visual presentations and we are exploring additional hearing augmentation. This along with our regular Team expenses for Caring Team, Campus Team, Social Justice, etc., and maintaining our existing staff requires your financial support.

Please respond during February with your pledge of support that reflects what this church community means to you.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting

Click here for the minutes of the December 10th meeting - <https://uucov.org/images/phocadownload/UUCOV%20BOT%20December%2010-2020.pdf>

Claire Harrison, *Secretary*

Minutes of the Coordinating Council Meeting

Click here for the minutes of the January 5th meeting - <https://uucov.org/images/phocadownload/January%202021%20Coordinating%20Council%20minutes.pdf>

Jack Head, *VP and Chair of Coordinating Council*

From the COVID-19 Task Force

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

Register on surrounding counties health department websites.

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. Several Publix supermarkets in Charlotte County are or will soon be offering the vaccine as well. For info, go to www.publix.com/covid-vaccine/florida



Looking to Connect and Be Part of UUCOV?

(THANK YOU to the members who 'stepped up' this past month and have filled some of the openings -- the below positions still need to be filled)



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

Administration:

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,

Office Volunteers – persons to assist office manager anywhere from 2 -10 hours per week. Computer experience helpful, but NOT required. Reception, phones, printing, filing, clerical work, assisting with mailings. All training provided. Flexible days and hours. Contact Salli Clarke – or 941-485-2105. (beginning when campus reopens).

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. 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, .

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,

Sunday Morning Experience Team:

UUCOVfee Hour Hosts - 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 every Monday and Wednesday, **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



News 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 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 . 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.

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



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 .

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.

Laraine Bortner - My name is Laraine Bortner and my husband is Jan Bortner. We moved to Venice from central Pennsylvania two years ago. I taught special education, English as a Second Language and was a Reading Specialist and school counselor for grades K-8. My husband was the men's tennis coach and an associate athletic director at Penn State.

We have three children and five grandchildren so visiting our children and grandchildren is one of our favorite pastimes. I also love reading, walking, training our one-year-old Yorkie, Barkley, doing all kinds of needlecrafts, playing pickleball and traveling. Jan plays tennis almost every day so we're really enjoying the sunshine and warm temperatures here. My mother lives in Englewood, and we also help her in any way we can.



Before the pandemic, I started mat making with UUCOV, did some food banking with Helping Hands, joined the Audubon Society, became active with the Venice Democratic Club and volunteered in our community, the Venetia. We have felt very at home with the welcoming UUCOV community and hope to meet more of you in person one of these days!

Thom Reeves and Pat Wellington – Thom and Pat, both widowed, met in Venice via “Match.com” and married at UUCOV in 2018, with Marianne Koerner playing the piano and Khleber leading the service. We found out both of us had lived in Wyckoff, NJ: Pat for 32 years while she and her husband Duke were raising their 3 sons. Thom grew up there from 5 th grade until he went to college. What a coincidence! Thom even went to the same high school as Pat’s 3 sons. They also have compatible interests in photography and art, progressive politics and biking/golf.



Pat has been a member of UUCOV since about 2002 and was Social Justice Chair for 10 years. Prior to becoming a UU she was an elder in the Presbyterian Church. Born in New Orleans, high school in Dallas and Ridgewood NJ, college at Cornell U and Ramapo College of NJ. Pat retired from IBM and prior to IBM, she worked at the Fair Housing Council of Northern NJ. After leaving IBM she worked for the Resource Council in Hackensack, NJ. Her 51-year marriage to Duke Wellington

yielded 3 grandchildren (in Atlanta area) of whom she is a proud grandma!

Thom graduated from Susquehanna U. in PA with a degree in sociology, then obtained a master’s degree in theology from New Brunswick Theological Seminary. After 3 years as minister of a Reformed Church in Irvington NJ he left the ministry and went to electronics school. He was hired by HBO as it was just starting as a company and he became a manager in installations for the rest of his working life.

Thom and his husband of 45 years, Doug Smith, owned Catalina sailboats for years and that was the nucleus of their social life in LI. After retiring and moving to Florida they became active in the First Congregational United Church of Christ Sarasota where Thom recorded the sermons and became their “go to guy” for electronics. Thom realized his religious views were more closely aligned with Unitarianism Universalism than Christianity and he has recently joined UUCOV. Thom has already gotten involved in helping Khleber and Dick Smith with recording and editing the Sunday services for online distribution. He looks forward to getting to know more UUs.

Patricia Franks - I was born and raised in Central Illinois and lived all my formative years on a farm. I did all the chores commonly done by farm children...milked cows, fed hogs and chickens, gathered eggs, drove livestock, drove trucks and tractors, helped to bale hay, etc.

After my senior year of high school, I became a camp counselor at a red feather agency campground, then went off to college, got married and moved to New Jersey. After 20 years of marriage and two wonderful girls and working to finish my undergraduate and graduate degrees, I got divorced. I earned a Ph.D. in Zoology, and with my thesis work, I was the first to demonstrate that some behaviors in mammals are heritable. I did my postdoctoral work at University of WI where I was the first person in my department to be awarded a grant from the Environmental and Health Sciences department within NIEHS. During these years, I met my 2nd husband and moved to Toronto, Ontario Canada. I spent most of my post-doctoral years working in the pharmaceutical industry where I managed teams that tested the efficacy and safety of drugs on human beings.



After retirement at age 70, I began to explore the natural world of New Jersey which is abundant despite the size of the state. I moved to Florida in 2014 to escape the icy winters which trapped me indoors and found that it is instead, the summers that are trapping so many of us indoors down here. I have five grandchildren, three of whom are successfully and gainfully employed, one who has just entered college and one who is in the last years of high school.

I found my way to this Unitarian Church through Rosemary Hagen when I met up with her at the Humanists. Currently I am a member of the Finance Committee, the Caring Team, the Gardening

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



UUCOV Volunteers in the Community



It is a well-known fact that *many* members/friends in our congregation volunteer in towns throughout SWFL. Multiple non-profit organizations, political organizations, charities, healthcare facilities and other agencies are the grateful recipients of the time and efforts of our congregants. Many of you sit on the of Board of a community foundation or agency.

Where do you volunteer and what type of work do you do there?

In the March issue of Connection, we would like to have an article to recognize the many folks from UUCOV that give of themselves and their time to their community(ies). Just a brief paragraph, please, to tell us where and what you do, and what it means to you.

Please send your submission to with 'Volunteer' in the subject line. Thank you!

Lifespan Education

Message from the Director

All you need is love (all together now)

All you need is love (everybody)

All you need is love, love

Love is all you need.

"All You Need Is Love", Song by The Beatles



This is usually our busy season, but we have maintained a higher level of participation throughout this year because of YOU! Your interest! Your time! Your participation! Your love!

I want to take this time to thank everyone that shows up. Whatever it is you show up to, in whatever way, thank you!

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

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

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.

Adult Exploration

Afternoons to Ascertain

February 25th 2pm – 4pm

Come learn something new and interesting. Afternoons to Ascertain meet on the 4th Thursday of the month from 2-4pm. For more information, contact Kathy Avery at

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93279697315?pwd=SGILaEQyQXRJeW43Z25qL04xK0lRQT09>

Meeting ID: 932 7969 7315

Password: learn



The Spoken Word - Poetry Alive

Friday, February 12th 02:00pm - 04:00pm

Why do people join poetry groups?

People join poetry groups for different reasons. Some join to read their own poetry while others join to learn more about poetry because they are thinking about trying to write it themselves. Still others join to hear "great" poetry or to hear poetry from people they know.



Who can join?

We welcome anyone! We hope some sessions will be intergenerational.

Are there special events?

We would like to be able to do a poetry service with people from our group reading our own work or reading a poem that has meant something to them.

What do we do in meetings?

We learn more about poetry and discuss this if people are interested. We read poems and appreciate them to the reader. We critique them if people wish this kind of feedback. Before each session we will provide digital links to poets reading their own works as well as links to art associated with poetry: photographs, essays ... Moderated by Richard Palmer - or (508) 982-7266.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84648682548>

Meeting ID: 846 4868 2548

Passcode: Poetry

Telling Your Tale: Following the Oral Tradition

Monday, February 1st 02:00pm - 04:00pm



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) at or 631 413-5775.

"Did you ever break something that belonged to someone else?"

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82719658344>

Meeting ID: 827 1965 8344

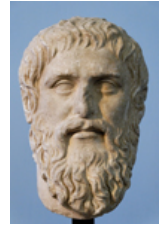
Passcode: Stories

Interest Groups

Plato's Circle

February 3rd, 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 -



Topic for February Plato's Circle will be: *Rules- What is an early memory of breaking a rule? Are order and rules important to you now? Are there things that you break rules for or that you can conceive of in the future?*

Join Zoom Meeting

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

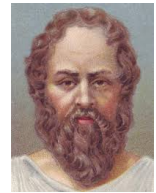
Meeting ID: 865 5101 7426

No passcode required.

Socrates Café

February 17th, 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 Kathy Avery at



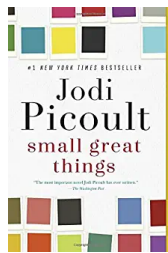
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97047078103?pwd=NnIEMGhVSUVESkxoZUxIMENGeGNKdz09>

Meeting ID: 477 531 7382

Passcode: socrates

UUCOV Book Club



Thursday, February 11th, 1:00 pm

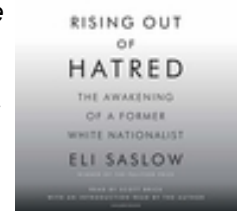
In February, we will have *two* book selections!

The first selection is Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult.

“With richly layered characters and a gripping moral dilemma that will lead readers to question everything they know about privilege, power, and race, Small Great Things is the stunning new page-turner from Jodi Picoult.”

The second selection is Rising out of Hatred, The Awakening of a Former White Nationalist, by Eli Saslow.

“Rising out of Hatred tells the story of how white-supremacist ideas migrated from the far-right fringe to the White House through the intensely personal saga of one man who eventually disavowed everything he was taught to believe, at tremendous personal cost. With great empathy and narrative verve, Eli Saslow asks what Derek's story can tell us about America's increasingly divided nature. This is a book to help us understand the American moment and to help us better understand one another.”



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>

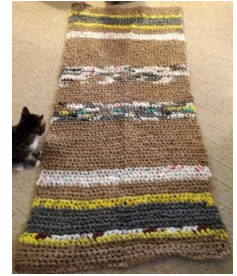
Meeting ID: 852 1688 7362

No password required

Mat-making for the Homeless

Saturdays February 6th and 20th, 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, made by Marilyn Haas, for the homeless. The mats are crocheted from 'plarn' [plastic yarn] made from recycled grocery bags.)

From Salli - "The Homeless Coalition has asked me to sincerely thank all our mat-makers. That mats are highly valued by those they serve and there is a waiting list to get one!"

Social Justice

Social Justice Congregational Conversation

February 9th, from 2 pm - 4 pm

All invited! Hear about our committees, give us your suggestions for a renewed, nonpartisan political action committee, and let us know which of two charitable endeavors you prefer to engage in as a congregation: Good Samaritan Pharmacy & Health Services (www.goodsamrx.org) or RIP Medical Debt (www.ripmedicaldebt.org).

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87016727858>

Meeting ID: 870 1672 7858

Passcode: Justice

Justice Action

Headline News



Monday, February 22nd 4:00pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88615410831>

Meeting ID: 886 1541 0831

Passcode: 753061

shOUT

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

Tuesday, February 23rd 11:00am – 1:00pm (only)

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 service.

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. Thank you!



The collection on January 26th was HUGELY SUCCESSFUL!!! By 11:30am, the car was nearly full and we were having to get very creative in the utilization of space! CHAPS is extremely grateful to UUCOV for their generosity. Thank you to each and every person who stopped by with a donation, and thanks again to Steve Doublestein and John Mohler for their invaluable assistance.

Family Promise

“Neighbors Helping Neighbors”

Greetings to all our UUCOV members!

At our monthly virtual meeting with all the Family Promise Coordinators on December 8th, we were presented with a plan to help out families in the Family Promise programs that involve UUCOV.



This plan is being done throughout the country by other Family Promise groups. It is called 'Neighbors Helping Neighbors.' Jennifer Fagenbaum, our Executive Director, sent us an email with the concept, and we'd like to share it with you.

Included below are the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Kit instructions. As presented, these are “baskets” that will be given to current and past Bridge Clients as well as Open Door clients who are in need. The baskets are items which families would need to get set up in housing: Cleaning supplies, Kitchen Basics, Kitchen Essentials, Office/School Supplies, and Bathroom Supplies. We support both of these programs through our charitable giving as a congregation.

We thought perhaps Spiritual Fellowship groups, Neighborhood Gathering groups and others might want to try this. Please follow the link below to get more information.

[Neighbors Helping Neighbors Kit](#)

Thank you from the Family Promise Committee,

Philip Veach and Steve Batchelor, *Coordinators*

Community Outreach

Volunteer Opportunities at the Laurel Civic Center

A small group of UUCOV members toured the Laurel Civic Center in early December. LCA has many opportunities for volunteers, whether in-person or remote. If you want to learn more, please contact Janet Knudsen at or 781-424-0660.



Denominational Affairs

UUA General Assembly June 23 - 27, 2021

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through



democratic process. Anyone may attend. Congregations must certify annually to have voting delegates.

Last year, GA had more than 4,900 registered attendees participate from remote locations around the world. Although we give up the face-to-face interaction and hugs that are prevalent when we meet in-person, we retain our dedication to community and make our experience more accessible and more environmentally sustainable.

Registration is now open! Registration for virtual GA 2021 is \$200 per person. Financial support for registration as well as a payment plan are available. General Assembly registrants receive access to the 2021 Online Participation Portal, including live, 'simulive', and on-demand video content, the virtual exhibit hall, chat features, support, and a (new!) GA mobile app. <https://www.uua.org/ga/registration>

The UUA Board of Trustees has passed a resolution making the 2021 UUA General Assembly a 100% virtual event. Let's reach record-breaking attendance June 23-27, 2021!

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.