



# Connection

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice

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

Issue No. 2043

Venice, FL

July 2020

## Sundays at UUCOV

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### Sunday Services

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#### July 5, 2020: Video Online Service: When Democracy Stumbles

*The theme Rev. Dennis McCarty has chosen for the month of July is "Religious Witness." As part of this theme, he intends to preach from the Sanctuary floor this month, rather than from the pulpit, to witness for several of his colleagues who would be unable to reach our pulpit to preach from it.*

**Rev. Dennis McCarty** will mark the 4th of July Weekend with "When Democracy Stumbles." According to polls, two-thirds of Americans think our democracy is headed the wrong way. But this is nothing new, democracy does sometimes lose its way. Rev. Dennis' own father was caught up, "blacklisted" during in the infamous "witch hunts" of the 1950's. Rev. Dennis will re-examine that era and the rise and fall of notorious Senator Joseph McCarthy, for whom "McCarthyism" is named, and seek insights for our time.

#### July 12, 2020: Video Online Service: What Does One for All and All for One Even Mean?

**Rev. Dennis McCarty.** In his final regular Sunday service, Rev. Dennis will ponder a question which has haunted him since last winter. He finds UUCOV to be a lovely, warm congregation, with many wonderful people and significant strengths. Yet are we as good as we think we are? Are we as "welcoming" as we believe we are? Rev. Dennis will deliver this month's services from the Sanctuary floor, rather than the pulpit, as an "act of religious witness" for colleagues for whom the pulpit is inaccessible. "What Does One for All and All for One even Mean?" if we pick and choose those to whom it applies?

#### July 19, 2020: Video Online Service: Hello Goodbye Again

**Rev. Dennis McCarty & Rev. Khleber Van Zandt.** This will be Rev. McCarty's last Sunday with us as Sabbatical Minister, and Rev. Van Zandt's first after being away for 5½ months. Has anything important happened these past few months?

#### July 26, 2020: Video Online Service: Our Broken Contract

**Rev. Khleber Van Zandt.** More than 400 years after the first African slaves were brought to these shores, the social contract that is the American Experiment remains broken for far too many of us.

### Special Offering

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#### July 12, 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

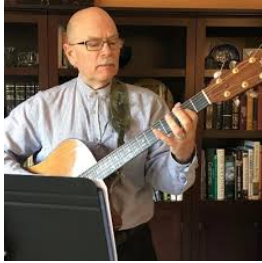
motel while housing is being secured. These and similar contributions can make sustainable independence a reality for families with children in the South Sarasota County area. Please make checks out to UUCOV with 'Family Promise' in the memo line.



## Minister's Corner

## How to Contact Us

### Notes From Your Sabbatical Minister



As my time with you grows short, I find myself reflecting on what a "trip" it has been. Not so very "long," of course, but certainly "strange," to steal a Grateful Dead lyric.

Interviewing with your Sabbatical Team almost a year ago, I told them I felt "ready for a new adventure." I didn't dream it would consist largely of electronic communication, camcorderd services, and hiding from the coronavirus.

That's the way life is, though. Back in Divinity School, Meadville Lombard Theological School's campus was about a block from the University of Chicago. I enjoyed visiting the museum at the University's Oriental Institute, but alas, they were doing renovations in one wing, so I could only look at about half the exhibits.

One that really fascinated me, crated up so that I could only see a few inches of cuneiform writing on the back, was a 40-ton lamassu, a huge statue of a winged bull with a human head and crown.

Then I walked in one day, glanced down the hall, and there it was, uncrated, standing there in all its glory—surrounded by people in white lab coats. Excited, I asked one of them if they were finally putting it back on display.

"No," he replied. "We're from the engineering school. We needed a large object to calibrate our laser on, and we got permission to use that statue."

To me, that was a real "aha" moment. That's the nature of our existence. When the King of Assyria commissioned that statue nearly 3,000 years ago, neither he nor his priests, in their wildest dreams, could have guessed it would someday be used to calibrate a laser on a continent none of them even knew existed.

Scientists have been predicting a pandemic for decades. But I never would have guessed I'd be your minister during one. It has been worrying and frustrating at times, struggling with new ways of doing things. But it has also been deeply rewarding. Best of all, I've gotten to know some really fine people, hopefully made some lasting friendships.

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

**Website:** [www.uucov.org](http://www.uucov.org)

**Sabbatical Minister:** Rev.  
Dennis McCarty  
Email:  
Phone: 812-606-3594

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

I've also found Rev. Van Zandt, your Called Minister, to be a fine man and a dedicated professional. As I hand your pulpit back, I will leave with very warm feelings. Appropriate for summer in Florida, I suppose. Thanks for the opportunity.

Yours in non-theistic Faith,

Rev. Dennis

## From the Board

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### President's Message

Here we are in another month of shutdown, wearing masks and missing friends and family. Although much of the state has reopened for business, concern for the health and safety of our family has made us continue to be closed. We have been reaching out virtually to make some of those connections that we sorely miss. Many Fellowship groups have been meeting via phone or Zoom.



A group of socially distancing UUCOVERs have been meeting at Service Beach Wednesday evenings for conversations, all are welcome. The Campus Team has returned to beautify the entrance of Water's Hall. Mat makers who had continued to weave at home can now have a Bee via Zoom. Book readers can discuss a book and thinkers can espouse their thoughts at Plato's Café.

Many of us have been disturbed by the recent events in the news and are wondering what to do. Some of us are encouraged by what currently appears to be a change in America's desire to discuss and diminish the hate. We all can do something if that is only to act upon UU's first principle and accept the worth and dignity of every being and to speak up to fight racism or any ism.

I encourage you all to learn about UUCOV's Fund Raising effort to improve the access to banking for our Laurel neighbors. I believe that this is the kind of thing we all can do to make other people's lives a little easier.

I hope we all continue to be well and avoid any part of the Pandemic and that we can spend time with loved ones soon.

Pam MacFarlane, *President*

### A Year of 'Firsts'

***This month, July, our congregation has yet another first. We survived our first sabbatical!! And did very well.***

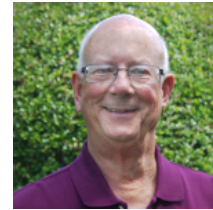
***We say good-bye and a sincere thank you to our first Sabbatical Minister, Rev. Dennis McCarty. A thank you, also, to the Sabbatical Planning Committee who has worked with Rev. Dennis through these months to help ensure success. The Committee is Jack Head, Dick Smith, Dale Povenmire, and Marsha French.***

***On Sunday, July 19th during the Sunday service Rev. Dennis will return the pulpit to the congregation and the congregation will in turn return it to Rev. Khleber. We welcome back our Called Minister, Rev. Khleber Van Zandt.***

***We wish Rev. Dennis success and good health in the future and we hope to see him back as a guest minister. He led us through another first for this year - a pandemic.***

## **Treasurers Report**

COVID-19 has had devastating effects on plans and programs at UUCOV and subsequently our budget as approved in March 2020. Your Finance Committee started re-examining our budget in late April when we realized our income from renting the sanctuary, the travel group and fundraising activities including the auction could not be planned on. Also, pledges are \$29,000 under the budgeted amount. This loss to budget amounted to \$56,000.



So, we went to work on expenses. First, we reduced the lawn mowing to every other week; a \$5,000 reduction. The Campus Crew has changed their focus to only maintenance with no projects. This is a \$6,000 reduction. Most recently we have adopted a policy of no guest ministers and no guest musicians thus saving \$8,000. Team budgets and other budget items were reduced from 50-75%.

This is a very aggressive budget which currently projects a small loss for the year. In spite of these cuts, we have maintained our pay for all of our staff. Your Board of Trustees approved this new budget, aptly titled "COVID-19 Budget" on June 19. With everyone's support we can financially survive this fiscal year. I will keep you advised throughout the year.

Dave Lyon, *Treasurer*

## **Board Minutes**

The Board of Trustees minutes of our May 14, 2020 meeting are available via direct link <https://uucov.org/images/phocadownload/UUCOV%20BOT%20May%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**

Dear Members & Friends,

In these troubling times many of us who are part of the UUCOV family are asking, "what can I do to help those in our own community who are Black, Hispanic, or who are marginalized in some way by us or by our society?"

The Laurel Community Association (LCA) has identified a pressing need and a tangible way we as a congregation can assist many of the folks they work with by financially supporting them in establishing a program providing access to banking services. The total "price tag" for this program is \$20,000 and as of June 21, UUCOV has received a little over two-thirds the amount LCA requires to undertake this new venture. The goal is to reach the full \$20,000 amount by the end of July to get the project going in the not too

distant future.

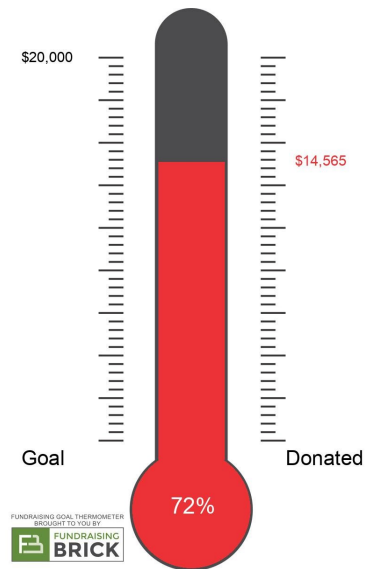
Many of us are hoping that this can truly be a fully funded UUCOV project but in order to do that, your help is needed. Would you please consider making a tax-deductible donation to assist us in reaching this goal? Your checks should be made out to and mailed to UUCOV with 'LCA' noted on the memo line.

If your donation is in honor of or in memory of someone and you would like an acknowledgment of your gift, please be sure to include the name(s) and address of who to send it to.

A detailed description of the project can be found in June's edition of Connection. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Linda Underwood at [lwu429@gmail.com](mailto:lwu429@gmail.com)

Sincerely,

Your Board of Trustees



## Congregational Life

### Your congregation has been busy in June

***Just because the buildings are closed, doesn't mean our support to each other stops.***

- Video Sunday Services with music are available weekly.
- ZOOM Coffee Hour is held live every Sunday.
- Both the Board and the Coordinating Council have been meeting monthly through ZOOM.



Which is the picture of UUCOV?



The buildings may be closed -We love you too much to put you in harm's way.

**But the Congregation is OPEN!!**

- The Book Group hosted by Barb Smith and Plato's Circle hosted by Bill Dowling have been meeting monthly through ZOOM.
- Lunch and Learn has been meeting monthly through ZOOM, hosted by Kathy Avery.
- Several of the Fellowship Groups have been meeting either bi-monthly or monthly.
- Office hours are being held through ZOOM bi-weekly.
- The Lecture on Wills and Trusts was held via ZOOM, hosted by the RE Team.
- The Caring Team's Pastoral Visitation volunteers are taking on-line training and meeting to discuss through ZOOM.
- Social Justice Team "Headline News" ZOOM discussions hosted by Pat Wellington.



- Lots of emails going back and forth amongst Team members working on goal-setting this month.
- Cards are going out to people recuperating from illness.
- A Congregational Conversation was held to answer questions about the empowerment banking program for Laurel Civic Association to support people of color.
- Our youth have a weekly Sunday morning ZOOM class and our older children are involved in a Coming of Age Program.
- The Campus Team installed new handicapped parking signs and visitor parking signs. The paver walkway and sodding behind Asta Linder have been completed also. They are currently applying handicap parking lane lines and making enhancements to the front entrance of Waters Hall.
- All our social media has been current in keeping people up to date and our weekly Happenings and monthly Connection emails have been provided to all members and friends.

If you are feeling disconnected with your congregation during this time, it is understandable. But reach out to any Team Leader or Committee Leader and they will be happy to involve you in their activities.

ALL July events are listed on the calendar at [www.uucov.org](http://www.uucov.org). Even those through ZOOM. If you click on an event in the calendar the ZOOM connection will come up.

## VICA Needs Volunteers



Venice Interfaith Community Association (VICA) needs help with some of its efforts to fulfill the mission of “Fostering Respect, Understanding, and Cooperation” among faith groups in the Venice area.

You may be aware of the winter lecture series conducted over the last two years: American Racism: Yours, Mine and Ours. The lectures were well attended and hopefully some discussion about the issue of systemic racism extended beyond the evenings of the lectures. Of course, with the events of the last month this issue has taken on even more importance.

In early July VICA will be conducting via Zoom a Town Hall Meeting to discuss the most recent events and what can be done to combat racism in our community. Watch for announcements.

Meanwhile, VICA has other areas of need. Consider how you might use your talents to assist with: Communications, Publicity, Program Planning, Delineating policies and procedures, Archivist. Working with the organization you not only represent UUCOV to enable others to learn about us, but you have the opportunity to meet others working hard to make Venice an even greater place to live!

Are you aware that VICA was created through the efforts of the first UUCOV Minister, Suzanne Nazian? Rev. Suzanne met with other faith group representatives to organize VICA. UUA awarded a \$7,000.00 grant to support the development of the organization. VICA has been a vibrant part of the Venice community ever since. Here is a chance to offer your expertise to a wider community.

If you are interested in working with VICA please contact UUCOV’s representative to the VICA Board, Bev Morrison, by email () or by phone (941-303-6376).

## Host a ZOOM meeting or Activity!

During this time of social distancing, UUCOV is making available to all the congregation the use of ZOOM. If you have a group you would like to host a ZOOM chat with please

check the online calendar for availability and then contact Salli, our Office Manager, to have your meeting put on the calendar.



You might like to chat with other crafters, perhaps discuss with others a social justice issue you are involved with, perhaps you would like to share a cooking recipe with others. Or you may share a skill with others. You can invite a specific group, such as the “Mat Makers”, or open it to all.

Host anything that might interest you and other UU’s!! Let’s not lose our connections. In fact, you may discover some more connections you didn’t even know about.

## Virtual Office Hours

The office is holding ZOOM virtual office hours, twice weekly.

‘Office Hours’ will be 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 Hi!*



### Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 846 8813 5320

**No password is required**

## News from the Caring Team

Members of the Caring Team, along with our Minister and Sabbatical Minister, have initiated the process of putting together a **Lay Pastoral Visitation Program** at UUCOV. Our goal is to train several members of the congregation to assist the minister in providing pastoral care to any of our members and friends who request it. This care can take the form of a phone call or a home visit, or a series of calls or visits.

The U.U. Leadership Institute has developed a training program in which several congregants have enrolled, and Rev. McCarty is providing training as well. Rev. Van Zandt will also provide ongoing training and support upon his return from sabbatical.



It is the Caring Team's hope that a Lay Pastoral Visitation program at UUCOV will offer the gift of care and love that we all need and deserve. In accepting responsibility for the well-being of every person in our congregation, we seek to affirm our first principle, the inherent worth and dignity of all.

More information will be forthcoming as our training proceeds.

Do you remember our **Neighborhood Gathering Groups**? This was a wonderful program put together by our own Bev Morrison a few years back. She worked tirelessly to put all UUCOV members and friends in groups according to where they live, and many of us got together in these groups for parties at each other’s homes, at the beach, at restaurants, etc. Several of our Neighborhood Groups continued to gather, until the pandemic forced us to put the meetings on hold.

Good news! Linda Underwood has graciously agreed to revitalize our Neighborhood Gathering groups, to add our new members to groups, and to form new groups as they are needed.

This is a huge endeavor, and the Caring Team very much appreciates all the work Linda is putting into it. We are so looking forward to the time when we can once again gather with our friends and neighbors, and we will have Linda to thank for updating this very worthwhile program!

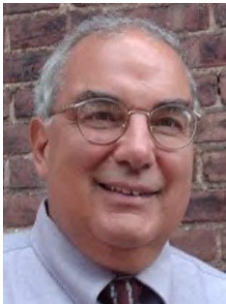
## Meet Our Members

*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.*

**Anne Harrison and Laurie Priest** divide the year between Amherst, MA and Venice. Both are retired college professors and administrators who enjoy biking, kayaking, hiking and gardening. Annie grew up along the gulf coast of Florida, and moved to New England for college, and remained there ever since. Laurie grew up in Ohio, and since high school has spent family vacations in Venice.



Retiring to Venice feels like coming home to both of us. We joined the UUCOV to find a spiritual community that is committed to social justice. We got engaged early on in UUCOV activities and met many wonderful people and we look forward to returning this fall to continue to deepen our engagement in this vibrant community.



**Bill Colagrande** - I was born and raised in Orange, NJ, graduated Seton Hall University and completed a MS degree from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. My wife Margit and I have been married for twenty-three years and, when not wintering in Venice, live in Phoenicia, NY, a small rural town in the Hudson River valley region. I'm a retired private-practice Psychotherapist, while Margit still works part-time as a Spiritual Counselor.

We enjoy going to the beach to read, observe the local flora and fauna and occasionally fish. Reading, writing, fishing, socializing, cooking, following baseball, volunteer work and making hand-painted tee shirts are also things I enjoy.

As a recovering Roman Catholic, I am so happy to have discovered UU in general and UUCOV, in particular. In the community, I've found the spiritual freedom and acceptance that I have needed for a long time. I particularly appreciate the warmth and friendliness with which I have been met and look forward to getting to better know others I meet there.

## From the Legacy Friends

In these difficult times, UUCOV is providing critical support to those in need. After these times have passed, we will still be providing critical support to those in need, including those in need of a congregation with liberal values.



How can you support UUCOV in its mission, both now and into the future? It's easy – join the Legacy Friends by including a donation to the Endowment Fund or the Futures Fund in your estate plans. What's the difference between these two funds? The Endowment Fund supports UUCOV's operations in perpetuity with its earnings. The Futures Fund provides its earnings to UUCOV as well, but the principal is also available for Legacy Projects, such as buildings.

More information is available in the new "Planned Giving" brochure that we recently distributed, and copies of the brochure are available by contacting John Spitzer, chair of Legacy Friends. John's phone number is 319-331-5914 and his email is



## Message from the Director

### Prayer

*As we cross the threshold of each new day, may we find strength in the confidence that we're moving together. May we rest assured that yesterday's unknown will be a little more familiar tomorrow. And may we remember that right now we just have to live today. - Braver/Wiser, 4/1/20, Aram Mitchell*

### Greetings and Happy Summer!

Summer is usually a time of travel in my family. My children have wanderlust and are itching to hop in the car. Although we are planning to stay home this summer, we are working to strengthen the community we are part of through video conferencing and phone calls. Staying in touch helps the kids feel like we aren't alone in our world.



Likewise, 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*

## YRE

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 at or 941-270-6187.

## ARE

Sunday ARE is still postponed.

## Lunch and Learn is now 'Afternoons to Ascertain'

**Thursday July 23rd at 2:00pm**

**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\*\*** Lunch & Learn is now called – 'Afternoons to Ascertain.' It is switching to the **FOURTH THURSDAY** of each month, at **2:00pm**.

**The topic for July is Suffragette Movement, in preparation for the 100th commemoration in August.**

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93279697315>

Meeting ID: 932 7969 7315

**No Password Needed**

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,93279697315# US (New York)

+13017158592,,93279697315# US (Germantown)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/abahrtn5Zv>

## Interest Groups

### Virtual Plato's Circle

**Wednesday July 1, 1:30pm**

All are invited to the July Plato's Circle. The topic will be "The Value of Listening to Others' Stories and Telling Our Stories as a Way of Connecting."  
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)

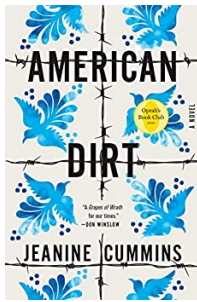
+13126266799,,86551017426# US (Chicago)

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, July 9, 1:00 pm**

The book selection for the July meeting of the UUCOV Book Club is American Dirt, by Jeanine Cummins. American Dirt will leave readers utterly changed. It is a literary achievement filled with poignancy, drama, and humanity on every page. It is one of the most important books for our times. Already being hailed as "a Grapes of Wrath for our times" and "a new American classic," Jeanine Cummins's American Dirt is a rare exploration into the inner hearts of people willing to sacrifice everything for a glimmer of hope. También de este lado hay sueños. "On this side, too, there are dreams."

*"This book is not simply the great American novel; it's the great novel of las Americas. It's the great world novel! This is the international story of our times. Masterful."* -Sandra Cisneros

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

**Saturday July 18th**

Mat-making is meeting via ZOOM on the first and third Saturdays of each month from 10:00am – 12:00pm. Please



contact Janet Knudsen at for sign-on information, as the meeting is NOT using the UUCOV ZOOM account.

## Social Justice

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### How to be a genuine and not fake ally

Those of us white, straight, privileged people often think of ourselves as kind, loving people who despite our privilege are doing good things for “others”. But are we?? How do we know that our intentions are actually connecting for the purpose we intend?

Whether we intend to support women, citizens with disabilities, persons of color, citizens who identify as LGBTQ or another group, are we actually helping? Being an effective ally takes some self-awareness.

Here are ten points to strive for as you work to be an ally to whatever group of people you choose –

- Shut up and listen. This isn't about you.
- Ally isn't a noun. Think of it as a present verb!! Not what you did yesterday or what you might do tomorrow, but what are you doing at this moment?
- Ally isn't a self-proclaimed identity. It is a choice whether “others” trust us to call us an ally.
- Allies don't take breaks.
- Allies need to learn constantly. You don't just understand and stop being open to learn more.
- You can't be an ally in isolation. You need to be in active dialogue with the “others” you wish to work with. You need to be part of the group.
- Allies don't need or seek the spotlight. You are a minor player not the leader.
- The most important thing an ally can do is to engage those who share your identity to think and act differently.
- This is tough and you will make mistakes. Listen, apologize, and learn from your mistake.
- This is not easy work, but do not take the energy from those you are attempting to support. This isn't about you.

Synthesized from article by Jamie Utt, Everyday Feminism

### Justice Action

This month is all about voting.

All registered Sarasota County voters are encouraged to vote in the August 18 Primary, even if you are “up north”. Just make sure you have notified the Supervisor of Elections (at 941-861-8618) of your northern address, because Vote by Mail ballots are not forwarded!

Remember, it's not a Primary election for School Board candidates: it's their final election!

The School Board races are non-partisan, and countywide, so Independents and voters



with No Party Affiliation as well as Sarasota County voters of all political parties can vote in those elections, for candidates in both School Board Districts 2 and 3.

For perspective on the School Board candidates, here is the June 14, 2020 front-page article in the Herald-Tribune: <https://www.heraldtribune.com/news/20200614/sarasota-school-board-races-pit-known-entities-vs-newcomers>

For other important information on the candidates, please email [kindramuntz@verizon.net](mailto:kindramuntz@verizon.net). These School Board elections are two of the critical ones this year at the local level. Public education is at risk. As Christina Greer, Associate Professor of Political Science at Fordham University said, "It is the down-ballot races that determine much of what happens."

The League of Women Voters of Sarasota County will hold a Zoom forum for School Board candidates on August 3 at 5:30 PM. Registration for the forum can be made at the web site [www.lwvsrq.org](http://www.lwvsrq.org) beginning June 29.

Here are key dates:

July 9—Vote by Mail ballots go out

July 20—last day to register to vote

August 8—last day to request a Vote by Mail ballot (Call 941-861-8618)

August 8—August 16 Early Voting for the August Primary

August 18—Election Day—Primary Election Polls open 7 AM-7 PM

Vote by Mail ballots must be returned to the Supervisor of Elections office by 7 PM

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

## shOUT

Steve Doublestein is stepping down as shOUT committee chair. We are grateful for all his hard work over the past 3 years. Thank you, Steve! The committee is in need of a chairperson to guide it in the future. If you are willing to step up, please contact Social Justice team leader Barbara Buehring, [barbara.buehring@gmail.com](mailto:barbara.buehring@gmail.com)



## Community Outreach

**Backpack Kids** continues to be on hiatus during social isolation.

## Letters to the Editor

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### Letters to the Editor

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

### Publication Deadlines

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**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**

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**UU Principles**

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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.

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

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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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