



Connection

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice

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

Issue No. 2041

Venice, FL

May 2020

Sundays at UUCOV

Sunday Services

May 3, 2020: VIDEO ONLINE SERVICE: The Beauty of Change

Rev. Dennis McCarty will address "The Beauty of Change." Our Soul Matters theme for May is "Thresholds." It's natural to ponder the future and make plans. But as "the law of unforeseen consequences" dictates, even our most well-considered actions can produce events that are totally unexpected. This is not necessarily a bad thing, though, as Rev. Dennis will explain. Change can be a beautiful manifestation of the creativity in the cosmos, if we just take the time to appreciate it.

May 10, 2020: VIDEO ONLINE SERVICE: Charles Darwin's Love Life

Rev. Dennis McCarty. *Mother's Day.* Darwin is famous, of course, for bringing us across the most important threshold in biology, the discovery of evolution. But for Mothers Day—what about the woman in his life? In no case is the cliché more true that there's a great woman behind every great man. Rev. Dennis McCarty will examine a love story for the ages—with a surprising relationship with American Unitarianism—the story of Emma and Charles Darwin.

May 17, 2020: VIDEO ONLINE SERVICE: Valkyrie' and the First Principle

Rev. Dennis McCarty. The Second World War ended in Europe 75 years ago this month. Rev. Dennis McCarty will mark that anniversary by pondering "'Valkyrie' and the First Principle." Our First Unitarian Universalist Principle, "the inherent worth and dignity of every person," is easily our most challenging. No events cast it more starkly into relief than the Holocaust and the career of Adolf Hitler. Rev. Dennis will struggle to draw meaning from these complex issues and events.

May 24, 2020: VIDEO ONLINE SERVICE: Sophie Scholl and Ethical Defiance

Rev. Dennis McCarty. Continuing with the most cataclysmic event of the last century, Rev. Dennis McCarty will mark Memorial Day Weekend with the short, remarkable career of anti-Nazi German activist, Sophie Scholl. In "Sophie Scholl and Ethical Defiance" he will relate how, while powerful men were enabling the ghastly crimes of the Nazis, some naive college kids risked their lives opposing the regime. This is a sad story in one sense, but inspiring in another: that in a world where the powerful continue to ignore evil taking place right in front of them, youth will speak out for what's right.

May 31, 2020: VIDEO ONLINE SERVICE: TBA

Rev. Patrice Curtis

Minister's Corner

Notes From Your Sabbatical Minister

How to Contact Us

Mailing Address: UUCOV
1971 Pinebrook Road

This column marks the halfway point of my time as your Sabbatical Minister. In keeping with May's service theme of "Thresholds," we have definitely crossed into a world none of us expected back in January. One can only suspect that the world, in which we find ourselves after this shadow has passed our door, will not be the same as the one we knew before the novel coronavirus appeared.



We can only try to adapt as best we can, learning as we go. Frankly, I've been impressed by this Congregation's willingness and ability to do this. Who would have dreamed I would be videoing services on a swimming pool deck, and we would be meeting via ZOOM Sunday mornings?

To me, this time of change—and our theme for May—is also an opportunity to leap across thresholds and try things we haven't tried before. For my part, I'm contemplating other kinds of recording, more religious content, for the inspiration (I hope) of all "shelter-at-home-ers." I'll provide you with details when I've figured them out myself. (Applause here for my live-in cyber-guru-and-better-half, Kate, and also UUCOV's resident sound-and-video authority, Dick Smith.)

But it's an opportunity for everyone. If you haven't tried ZOOM, SKYPE, or other virtual interaction tools, there's no better time than now. I grant that they CAN be a little confusing or frustrating. (There's a growing number of folks willing/able to talk you through it.) But they're also a means by which we can stay in touch with one another.

Above all, be safe and continue to care for one another. Arriving in Venice, I was impressed by this Congregation's warmth, and also by your caring toward one another. That doesn't seem to have changed, just become more complicated.

I'm still glad I'm here. I'm honored to meet the challenges of being your minister during the most unusual times of my life. I intend to stay here and do my best until my contract ends in late July. Thanks for the opportunity.

Yours in non-theistic Faith,

Rev. Dennis

**“COVID-19 May Have a Religious Silver Lining”
by Rev. Dennis McCarty**

Venice Gondolier Published April 18, 2020

I grew up Christian, but later became Unitarian Universalist, a faith which respects all sincere religious

Venice, FL 34292-1563

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Office hours: By appointment.

Office Administration: Salli L. Clarke
Phone: 941-485-2105
Email:
Office hours: Monday - Friday 10:00am -Noon



journeys.

The COVID-19 pandemic didn't just dampen Easter. It's affected religions the world over. In the past week or so, Easter,

Passover, and Buddha's Birthday all had to go online. Ramadan is coming, and will need to adapt, as well.

Perhaps these changes aren't all bad, though. Whatever faith we claim, we might use this "shelter at home" time for deeper reflection on what faith and spirituality really mean to us.

For one thing, we have a chance to compare how our public faith compares with what we really hold in our hearts. Jesus cautioned his followers that their religion was what went on inside, more than what they showed the public.

"When thou doest alms," he said, for example, "let not thy left hand know what thy right hand is doing. That thine alms may be in secret."

Nor were we to pray or fast in public. "When thou pray, enter into thy closet. ... Be not like the hypocrites [who] love to pray standing in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen. ..." He cautions against showing off our faith as better than others, and most of all, against using church as a place to make business connections. "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon the earth, . . . for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

That's good advice for anyone. I have to admit, though, that being human, I've tripped over that advice more than I like. (Well, except for making a show of fasting. I've never been any good at fasting, public or private.) But the others—as Luther would say—I too often find I'm just another sinner.

I wish I were immune to showing off my faith, but I'm not. But in my long life, I've known plenty of people just as worried about public appearances over inner sincerity.

So, there's a religious silver lining around this COVID-19 cloud hanging over us. Looked at a little differently, for all the loneliness, worry, and real danger to the vulnerable, this can also be a rich time spiritually.

For example, take Jewish Passover. I've never been Jewish, and what I don't know about that tradition outweighs what I do. But reflecting on our present danger, staying inside to let the cloud of disease pass by—might give us all a chance to appreciate Judaism a bit more. Jews have lived off and on with this kind of danger—and worse—for two thousand years.

I'm also pondering one of my favorite aspects of the Gospels, which is their insight into human nature. Jesus had plenty to say about the mind games we play with ourselves. He came down hard, for example, on the

ease with which we judge others when we should really be looking in the mirror.

Buddhist teachings cover a lot of the same ground. "The mind is a clever monkey," they say. Jesus understood the shadowy, self-deceiving side of human nature. So did Buddha. Again, maybe this time can give one tradition a chance to slow down and appreciate what they have in common with the other.

Whatever religion we profess, I think most of us want to, as Micah suggests, "act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God." Each in our own way.

I don't think the details matter as much as the walk. We can respect other traditions and even learn from them. It seems to me that's good spiritual exercise in this time of national danger.

From the Board

President's Message

The last few weeks have been a deep learning curve for both me and the congregation. As we adjust to our new stay at home life and prepare for a return to a more normal day and planning more fun and interesting activities, I hope we are all thinking what we truly want and need to do.



I have been reading posts about how people quarantined during the plague years did their best thinking and developed scientific theories that influence our lives even today. I hope that is true for some, I am just happy that I watched the last season of "Veep" which I recorded over a year ago. I salute those of you who are learning to bake bread, sewing masks and taking online classes, but also those who are doing crossword and jigsaw puzzles and checking on friends and neighbors.

I quote from an article by Paul Ollinger that Linda Underwood posted on IN TOUCH UUCOV, "we may use the coronavirus quarantine to achieve something "extraordinary" with our lives. Each of us should have in mind only one goal: to arrive on the other side in one piece."

I enjoy that so many of us have been able to remain connected by telephone and video. I thank all those who are ensuring that the Sunday programs are available, and I have personally enjoyed the Sunday morning UUCOVfee Hour Chats on ZOOM.

The addition of joys and concerns to Happening has helped keep us in touch with what is happening in the community and I hope more people let us know about what they are doing during the Covid-19 Age.

I am encouraged that several Fellowship Groups and the Book discussion group have been using Zoom to keep active.

I wish all good health and Joy.

Please be aware that my new email address is

Pam MacFarlane, *President*

From the Board

Due to health reasons, Richard Palmer has stepped down from his position of Vice President on the Board, and Jack Head has been appointed to fill his position.

From the Treasurer

As of March 31, 2020 the fiscal year for UUCOV ended. Well, how did we do you ask? Not well. We spent \$15,000 more than our income. We ended in the **RED**. Well, how did that happen?



Three primary reasons:

1. We did not have an auction. In the past this event has raised \$8-15,000.
2. We are paying for a Sabbatical Minister. Rev. Dennis has been presenting powerful, thought provoking sermons and has pulled our congregation together in this time of sheltering thru his online sermons and UUCoffee time. I personally feel he is worth every penny we are paying him but he still is an additional expense.
3. Pledges. For the past two years we have budgeted for a small increase in pledges. This hasn't happened. Pledge income has been flat and under budget. For this coming year, pledges to date total less than the previous year.

We have maintained all of our employees during the time the campus is closed. Rev. Dennis and Marcie have been busy preparing Sunday Sermons. Erin has been recording these sermons. Kathy Avery, along with her childcare workers, have been presenting ZOOM programs with our YRE. Salli is running our office from home. Ashley, our cleaning gal, has been washing windows, spot cleaning chairs in the sanctuary as well as disinfecting surfaces, switches and knobs. I feel the congregation would want to keep our staff employed and paid. However, this all costs money.

Most of us will receive a \$1200.00 stimulus check in late April. If any of you are like me, this is just additional money. Would you consider donating all or part of this money to UUCOV? We can certainly use it! Thank you in advance to those that choose to donate.

Dave Lyon, *Treasurer*

COVID-19: UUA General Assembly Update as of April 15, 2020



The UUA Board of Trustees has passed a resolution to make the 2020 General Assembly a 100% virtual event. This decision alleviates the anxiety and concern shared by many about how GA might proceed given the impact of COVID-19. It also gives the Association time to plan a more robust and rewarding virtual experience.

A virtual GA has many benefits, including a significant reduction in our carbon footprint and the possibility of higher attendance, since it is more accessible for delegates and anyone else burdened by travel costs or time.

Anyone wishing to attend virtually is invited to register at <https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/registrants>

Religious Educator Position Vacancy

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice located in Venice, Florida is looking to fill the position for a halftime (20 hours/week) Religious Educator. We are a congregation of 230 members with a small youth religious education program along with a medium sized adult program. We currently have 10-15 youth and about 50 adults participating in our various programs depending on the seasonal membership and attendance.

The goal is to envision, evaluate, and implement a diverse, robust, and fun lifespan religious program for all ages. This program will provide an understanding of Unitarian Universalism and inspire congregants to develop their own religious identity or spirituality.

The primary duties are:

1. To provide overall vision and work collaboratively with RE committees in developing, programming and using curricula.
2. To develop a yearly calendar in collaboration with the Minister and the RE committees.
3. To lead recruitment, annual training and development of capable volunteers to teach and/or facilitate RE programs.
4. To oversee the administration of the lifespan religious education program, including registration, safe congregation policies, procedures, and maintenance of database and finances.
5. To evaluate and implement age appropriate curricula across the lifespan, reflecting a wide variety of spiritual and social justice interests.
6. To administer and participate in a comprehensive and forward-thinking lifespan religious program that promotes the principles of Unitarian Universalism and draws upon curricula and materials provided by the UUA and others.
7. To plan occasional "intergenerational" Sunday services with feature involvement by the children in collaboration with the Minister.
8. To plan activities that bring all ages of the church together to promote a sense of spiritual or religious identities.

The Religious Educator will report to the Minister and work closely with the RE committees (Youth RE Committee and Adult RE Committee). The Religious Educator will collaborate with other committees and the Coordinating Council to maximize service to the community.

The Religious Educator should be familiar with UUA curricula, should have experience with multi age youth and adults, should have good communication and organizational skills. S/he should have experience with Microsoft Office and social media connectivity. College experience is preferred. The candidate must be able to pass a background check. Please submit three references. Compensation will be determined based on experience and qualifications.

Please send your letter of intent and resume to:

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice
1971 Pinebrook Road
Venice, Florida 34292

ATTN: *Religious Educator Search Committee*

Congregational Life

Ways to Stay Connected

****If you are new to 'ZOOM', see "[Simple 'ZOOM' Meeting Instructions](#)" at the end of Connection****

This is a challenging time, and no one needs a reminder that it is making people anxious. Anything we can do to stay in community is important.



Weekly, we have changed the format and purpose of Happenings. It now has more information and will provide you an opportunity to share your "Joys and Concerns" as you would have done on Sunday Mornings. We want to keep current in our collective lives, so please send to by Thursday at 9:00am things you would like to share.

Also know that our website is current and has videos of our Sunday services and that can be found at www.uucov.org. You can also see our Sunday services on You Tube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tJ_vWUKGbaQ&t=73s.

Our Facebook Pages, *In Touch-UUCOV* and *In Touch- Justice Action*, are providing a quick easy way to stay in touch and are being used more this period than normal. That is a good thing.

Please consider emailing your Fellowship Group or giving people a call. Send a card and remember those who are living alone. This will be our new norm for a period of time, and we will need some new ways of staying together.

With Our Thanks

While this is a very loving and caring congregation, technology is not our strong suite. For that reason, I am particularly thankful for the energy and expertise of Erin Fangboner, Karen Griffin, Kate Ellis, Kathy Avery and Salli Clarke. Collectively they have engineered our ZOOM Coffee Hour, got our sermons on the web and You Tube with words and our fountain spliced in, reworked Happenings to be a weekly newsletter and have supported our congregation to stay in touch during this period of quarantine. And Kathy Avery has a children's ZOOM Sunday program. Thank you!

News from the Caring Team



During this time when we are being asked to limit our travels and gatherings, the UUCOV Caring Team has set up a "Phone Tree" system. Don't be surprised if you receive a call from a UUCOV friend, just to chat, to see how you're doing, and if you need anything. We want to make sure that everyone in our UUCOV family, despite these uncertain times, has a friend or two to talk to.

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

The UUCOV Active Elders

Because of current health concerns, meetings and trips have been suspended. However, if you are age 80+, the group would love for you to join them in the future, so please contact Lynn Jordan by phone or email fredlynnjordan@gmail.com.

Fellowship Groups

Please note that, following CDC guidelines, the UUCOV COVID-19 Task Force is recommending that all group meetings be discouraged. This includes the UUCOV Fellowship Group meetings, unless utilizing the ZOOM video conferencing format. Fellowship Groups are encouraged to stay in contact with each other by phone and email.



What have YOU been up to?

In these days of 'Safer at Home' – keeping busy and staying active can be quite a challenge. Here's what some of our congregants told us they have been doing:

Janet Knudsen: "I've become a big fan of ZOOM. I play mahjong with friends via Zoom, play Trivia with my trivia team via ZOOM, and even host a weekly cocktail party with neighbors via ZOOM."

Pat Wellington: "I have been saving shells for many years (as most of us have!) and they have been taking up space in the garage. I made a large cone tree from pieces of

"lightning whelks" and a wreath for our door out of mostly scallop shells.

I have completed a mirror I painted white, adding sea glass and white shells. This has been a fun way to spend some time creating!"



Lifespan Education

Message from the Director

Oh Holy one, you who are with us in the midst of our powerlessness, help us to let go of what we cannot control. Help us to shift our focus to what is possible, to what really matters. Bless those heroes who are risking their lives right now to look after the sick, to bring food to the hungry. Help us to seek your presence among those considered the "least" among us. -- Rev. Myke Johnson, April 8, 2020, Braver/Wiser

Hello All,

It's a thrilling time for us all. Every day is a new adventure. I am excited to find ways for us to connect and create a deep sense of community!

YRE

I am currently hosting a short service for the kids on Sundays at 10am 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.



Lunch and Learn is scheduled for **May 21st at 12-1:30pm**. Make your lunch, log in to ZOOM and we will learn something new together. Please know that you do not need a camera or even a computer. I can help you call in to be a part of our meeting. This month, we will watch (or listen) to a Ted Talk and discuss. Then we will discuss other topics. Please let me know if you have any

topic ideas for a Lunch and Learn OR if you have an idea for a different kind of group. Lunch and Learn will be the third Thursday of each month through September.

ZOOM information:

Topic: Lunch and Learn

Time: This is a recurring meeting Monthly, from 12-1:30pm

[Join ZOOM Meeting](#)

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5152088219?pwd=c2FiQ0Z0Z6eHJLSEJ6VkZZZ3VUYkV5QT09>

Meeting ID: 515 208 8219

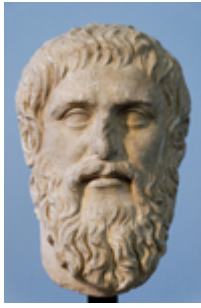
Password: 074539

Kathy Avery, *Director of Lifespan Religious Education*

Virtual Plato's Circle

May 6th at 1:30pm

All are invited to participate, through ZOOM on your computer, in Plato's Circle discussion on "The Value of Values." Have you thought about what your core values are? What is a core value? Have they changed over time? The stories we tell about our values. The



meeting will begin with a TED Talk and then we will join together virtually to discuss this topic.

Hosts: Linda Underwood and Bill Dowling

Simply click on the ZOOM link below and follow the instructions. The ZOOM link, meeting ID number and password is in red below. Unitarian Universalist is inviting you to a scheduled ZOOM meeting.

Topic: Plato's Circle

Time: May 6, 2020 01:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join ZOOM Meeting

ZOOM Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89409681362>

Meeting ID: 894 0968 1362

Password: 454951

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

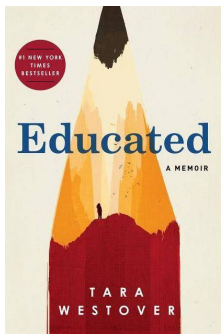
Meeting ID: 894 0968 1362

Password: 454951

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kiaAZIR8s>

ZOOM Online UUCOV Book Club

Thursday, May 14, 2020 1:00pm - 3:00pm



The UUCOV Book Club will meet by Zoom, Thursday, May 14, 1:00 PM. The book selection is **Educated**, by Tara Westover. An unforgettable memoir about a young girl who, kept out of school, leaves her survivalist family and goes on to earn a PhD from Cambridge University.

This book has been a best seller so copies should be reasonably available and should be available for Kindle, etc. Also, you may be able to obtain an electronic version from the Sarasota Library.

Be sure to email Barbara Smith at , to obtain connection information.

Social Justice

Justice Action

Urgent request for help—deadline May 11

New local candidates of both political parties are struggling to gather their needed candidate petitions to qualify to be on the ballot in 2020, because of restrictions on group meetings due to the coronavirus. The deadline is NOON, May 11 for them to deliver all petitions to the Supervisor of Elections. (637 for County Commission candidates, because of single member districts passed in 2018; 3184 for School Board candidates, because they are still elected at-large, county-wide). They need the petitions in hand by May 8 if at all possible. We must make SURE the County Commission candidates qualify by petition. Any registered Sarasota County voter of any political party in any County Commission or School Board district can sign a petition for any of these candidates.



Will you help? This is not a commitment to vote for the candidates—it just helps them get on the ballot and saves them thousands of dollars in qualifying fees. Helping in this way in these extraordinary times ensures full candidate involvement in our local elections and encourages high voter participation. It is a tribute to our 5th principle which affirms and promotes the use of the democratic process in our congregations and in society at large.

Time is of the essence. Please do it now: download, fill out and take a photo of the completed petitions and email each to the respective candidate, or mail it to them by snail mail. See the candidates here, sign their petitions, and thank you for your support:
<https://sarasotavision2050.blogspot.com/2020/04/print-sign-and-email-petitions-to-help.html>

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

President, Sarasota Alliance for Fair Elections
<https://www.keepdemocracysafe.org>

shOUT



CHAPS is participating in the 2020 Giving Challenge. During the Challenge, The Patterson Foundation will provide a **1:1 match** for each individual donor's online contribution – **up to \$100**. Every individual person who makes a donation of \$25 to \$100 will be matched. (Husband & wife or partners are each able to give even with same credit card number because each person is an individual).

CHAPS also has an additional matching grant of \$1,000 which will essentially triple your gift.

The need for food and hygiene supplies has never been greater than today.

WHEN: April 28 NOON to April 29 NOON

HOW 1. Search for **Charlotte HIV-AIDS People Support, Inc. (CHAPS)** on the home page of www.givingpartnerchallenge.org

2. Make a donation with a major credit card or debit card.

Each gift is 100% tax-deductible.

The 2020 Giving Challenge is presented by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County with giving strengthened by The Patterson Foundation



Florida Department of Agriculture & consumer Services Registration No. CH 10575

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Simple 'ZOOM' Meeting Instructions

Before your first Zoom meeting

1. You will need: a device with an internet connection, a camera, and a microphone. This can be a smart phone, tablet like an iPad, laptop, or desktop computer with a web camera.

2. Note: If your internet connection is weak, or you do not have the necessary computer equipment, you can always use a phone to call into a zoom meeting. The call-in phone number will be provided in the meeting invitation sent to you by the meeting host. When calling-in, you will be prompted to enter the meeting ID, also provided by the host followed by the # sign. When asked to enter the participant ID just press #.

3. Test your equipment. Go to <http://zoom.us/test> to experience a test meeting and test your equipment. When starting the test meeting you will be asked to download the Zoom

app. For the best quality experience download the Zoom app. (See the troubleshooting tips at the end of this document if you experience problems during the Zoom test meeting.) You can also test your microphone and camera at onlinemictest.com.

At meeting time

4. Log into the meeting 10 minutes before 11:00 -- just click on the link in the Happenings newsletter. You may be prompted for a password – also found in Happenings.
5. If you don't have the Zoom program installed on your device, you may need to do that the first time, but the Zoom program will tell you how to do that, and it only takes a minute.
6. When the Zoom meeting screen comes up, test your microphone and speaker and select whether to join with your computer audio or phone audio. Your name should appear in a square on the screen with video of the other members of your group, just like Hollywood Squares!
7. Your camera and microphone will be turned off when you first join the meeting. Move your mouse to the upper right corner of your own picture and click on the blue "Mute" button that will appear. Go ahead and turn on your camera if you have one, and unmute your mic when you wish to speak.
8. Click on the participant list and change your "name" to something that makes sense.
9. When you are not speaking during the meeting, you can mute your microphone.
10. When the meeting is over, you can simply leave by clicking "Leave Meeting" which is in red letters in the lower right corner of your Zoom window. If you move your mouse into that area it will appear.



Troubleshooting Zoom

Equipment Issues:

If you do not own zoom compatible computer equipment, you can always use a phone to call into a zoom meeting. You will not be able to see the other participants, and they will not see you, but you will still be able to participate in the discussion.

Internet Connection Issues:

If your internet connection is weak, you may want to connect to the zoom meeting via computer to view the video, but also call in by phone to hear what is being said in the meeting and to speak. If you do this, you will appear twice in the zoom meeting, as both the video of yourself and a phone icon. You will need to mute your video connection on zoom and continue to talk and listen via phone. It is often helpful to also turn off your speakers on your computer. This relieves the problem of missing large parts of the conversation due to internet connectivity issues.

Software Issues:

If your computer's operating system is not compatible with Zoom. Often you can still use zoom in a browser, such as Chrome or Safari. Use this URL join.zoom.us or select "join from your browser" after clicking the join meeting link. You will be prompted to enter the meeting ID provided in the meeting invitation.

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.

