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# Connection

## Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice

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

Issue No. 2045

Venice, FL

September 2020

## Sundays at UUCOV

### Sunday Services

#### September 6, 2020: Video Online Service: Markers and Meanings

**Rev. William Sinkford.** Former UUA President Bill Sinkford preached to his congregation on their youth group's Sunday and had some questions for the adults in attendance as well as for himself.



#### September 13, 2020: Video Online Service: Are You Optimistic?

**Rev. Khleber Van Zandt.** Richard Palmer says, with all that's been going on, he's been asking people whether or not they are feeling optimistic. It's an excellent question for all of us to consider.

#### September 20, 2020: Video Online Service: TBA

#### September 27, 2020: Video Online Service: TBA

### Special Offering

#### September 13, 2020: CHAPS (Charlotte HIV/AIDS People Support)



**Food  
&  
Hygiene  
Pantry**

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**. 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!

### Minister's Corner

#### CONNECT with YOUR MINISTER via ZOOM

**Thursdays, 5pm to 6pm.**

Enter the ZOOM meeting at any time during the hour, either to ask specific questions or simply to check in and chat. Alternatively, you can reach him at other times by emailing .

### How to Contact Us

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

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

**Minister:** Rev. Khleber Van Zandt V  
Email:



**Join Zoom Meeting**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81877591915>  
Meeting ID: 818 7759 1915  
**No password required**

Phone: 314-223-0551

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

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## LCA Empowerment Program – Hand Up Initiative

On August 24th, Khleber Van Zandt, minister, Pam MacFarlane, President, Board of Trustees, and Rosemary Hagan presented a \$20,320 donation check to provide the initial start-up funding for a banking empowerment program in the Laurel community. Hand Up will be initiated in early October through a partnership with the Manatee Credit Union, a CDFI banking institution. The joint program with the credit union and LCA will bring banking education and access to checking accounts, automatic deposits of work and retirement checks, check cashing, saving accounts, credit cards and loans.

This drive, accomplished during the COVID closure of our buildings, is a significant accomplishment for this congregation. Congratulations on making a significant impact in people's lives. This exemplifies our congregation's mission and our principles. Stay tuned for updates as this program evolves. Khleber, Pam and Rosemary present UUCOV's donation to Michael Fluker, Executive Director of Laurel Civic Association.

## Treasurers Report

For July our Income was \$9,640 while our expenses were \$30,763.

Pledge income was very low this past month. Please keep those pledge payments coming and consider paying your pledge year.

We had 3 pay periods for our staff in July which resulted in a +\$4K net.

We completed our contractual agreement with Rev. Dennis which was a \$7.4K expense.

While we certainly enjoyed having him with us during the sabbatical, we are now free of that added expense.

Social Justice totals for July: Family Promise-Open Door \$130.00, CHAPS \$155.00.

Dave Lyon, *Treasurer*

## UUCOV COVID-19 Task Force

The COVID-19 Task Force last met via zoom on August 18th. Members of the group agreed that we have all grown weary that prevent us from physically being together with one another in community. It is challenging finding ways of balancing that strong sense of connection with one another that is a central part of UUCOV while doing all we can to keep others

Guidelines set in March at the start of the pandemic relating to UUCOV services, meetings, and gatherings along with e discussed at our meeting. Recommendations of current guidelines to follow were forwarded to the Board of Trustees for the COVID-19 Task Force is scheduled for Tuesday, September 22 at 10:30 a.m.

The COVID-19 Task Force: Serena Cannarelli, Linda Underwood, Pam MacFarlane, Claire Harrison, Reverend Khleber

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## Your Congregation Is Alive and Well ---

Just because the buildings are closed doesn't mean we do not support each other. In September all sorts of opportunities

- Sunday Services with music are available weekly at [www.uucov.org](http://www.uucov.org)
- Zoom Coffee Hour is held live every Sunday at 11:00am. Zoom address in Happenings and on calendar.
- Both the Board and the Coordinating Council will be meeting through Zoom.
- The Board will be sharing the Congregational Goals in September.
- The Book Group hosted by Barb Smith will be held on Sept. 10th and the group will be reading discussing The Lending written by Rich and Serena's daughter in law, Aliza Fogelson.
- Plato Circle (1st Wed of the month at 1:30pm) and Socrates Café (3rd Wednesday of the month at 1:30pm) will host Hazel in September through Zoom.
- Virtual mat making will take place the first and third Saturday of September.
- Ascertaining Afternoons will meet September 24th at 2:00pm through Zoom hosted by Kathy Avery.
- Many of the Fellowship Groups will be meeting in September. We have more Fellowship Groups meeting this summer
- Virtual Office hours will be held every Monday and Wednesday through Zoom.
- The ARE Steering Committee will be meeting September 15th at 10:00am. Anyone interested in moderating is invited program ideas!
- The Caring Team's Pastoral Visitation volunteers will be meeting in September.
- Social Justice Team "Headline News" Zoom discussions will be hosted by Pat Wellington on Sept. 15th at 4:00pm
- Cards are going out to people recuperating from illness.
- Our youth will have their weekly Sunday morning Zoom class and our older children are involved in a Coming of Age f
- Richard Cannarelli will lead a discussion at 10:00am on Sept. 22nd on good books that you have read.
- The monthly drop off donations for CHAPS will take place September 29th, 11:00am – 1:00pm
- On Sept. 30th at 11:00am anyone interested in working with the children is invited to a teacher's meeting led by Kathy
- Our weekly Happenings and monthly Connection emails have been provided to all members and friends.
- UUCOV members have been calling each other and even meeting informally outside safely and will continue in September
- And this September the congregation has a wedding to celebrate! Congratulations to Richard and Pam.

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

ALL September events are listed on the calendar at [www.uucov.org](http://www.uucov.org) . If you click on an event in the calendar the zoom c events will be listed in Happenings along with their zoom address.

## Virtual Office Hours

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

### Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 846 8813 5320

**No password is required**

## Deadlines for Our Weekly and Monthly Newsletters

Summer is normally our 'quiet season' at UUCOV. Oddly enough, even though we thought the pandemic would decrease, the opposite has happened! Meetings/Events/Activities that usually go on hiatus for the summer months are all in full swing and events and activities have been created. Our 'seasonal members' who go north have remained active due to the availability and they are scheduling online activities and programs that require an increase in office work. The volume of daily email is high.

While it is wonderful to see the congregation remain active and it is very important to stay connected, engaged and supported, it does present some challenges...

The office is in full swing! There is an incredible amount of scheduling, calendar management, ZOOM trainings and other tasks. Our weekly newsletter, HAPPENINGS, and our monthly newsletter CONNECTION are more important than ever, as the communication throughout the congregation. There have been many new features and informative articles. Both published in the last few months.

Deadlines for submissions to either newsletter have always been somewhat flexible. Unfortunately, this can no longer be done. Submissions are coming in way beyond the set deadlines – and, as our newsletters are entered into pre-set templates, (so they can generate automatically), they must be entered in a specific order and by a specific date.

Beginning with the September 4th issue of HAPPENINGS and the October issue of CONNECTION, the deadlines are as follows:

**HAPPENINGS – Every Thursday morning by 9:00am.** If it is a holiday (short) week, the deadline is Wednesday at 9:00am.  
**CONNECTION – The 20th of each month by the noon.**

A reminder will continue to be sent each month for Connection. These are the deadlines that were actually put in place to allow enough time to get everything done when submissions come in 'drips and drabs' for up to a week after the deadline. The addition of graphics and placement into the template. Print versions need to be prepared, printed and mailed to a group of users, in a timely fashion.

Thank you for your cooperation!

## A Special Wednesday Evening at the Beach



The Wedding Ceremony of Pamela MacFarlane and Richard Palmer will take place at sunset at the Sun Pavilion on Wednesday September 2nd, at 7:00pm.

On behalf of the UUCOV family, we wish them every happiness in their future together!

## Pluses of COVID-19

*In a speech given in June of 1966, Robert Kennedy said living in interesting times held danger and uncertainty but also energy. COVID-19 definitely qualifies for all of us as one of those times. In an effort to try to focus energy on capturing some of the positives, UUCOV members and friends will share via Connection what some of them have been for you. Whether serious, funny, weird, please send them in to Salli at [office@uucov.org](mailto:office@uucov.org)*

Here are a few we received from **Linda Underwood** -

- "I have watched grandparents enjoy the opportunity to spend more time with their grandchildren as they are pressed in a world struggling to both work and parent. Several friends have said they know their grandchildren on a much deeper level now."
- Without the ability or inclination to run to the grocery store, I have learned to cook with what is at hand. Some new experiences, some not so much but it has been empowering to be more daring. I now even cook okra!!
- I appreciate fruit more. We have always eaten a lot of fruit, but it goes bad so quickly and we can't get to the store as fast. I have had some gorgeous ripe bananas and ripe strawberries to last the week!!
- I have learned the world does not end should you spend the day in your P.J.'s. Also, I need more P.J.'s!!

- I worried about surviving the sabbatical. Now we have survived a sabbatical during a pandemic! I have learned this co

...and from **Claire Harrison** -

“Being home a whole lot more has given me time to go through piles of old paperwork - a task I’ll admit I have put off for records I discovered that she was a Belgian citizen when I was born. This discovery has led me to exploring whether I r Not sure where it will lead but it is an interesting process and has me once connecting with a part of my heritage.

Also, like lots of folks, I have been taking advantage of free online classes. Next up - a three-week webinar exploration where that may lead.”

## **News from the Caring Team**

The Caring Team is continuing to collect names and phone numbers of those people whom you would like to be contacted. Please call Eileen Leapley at 941-525-4328 to let her know this information, which will be kept in a secure location to be necessary.

UUCOV’s Lay Pastoral Care training program is progressing nicely. A curriculum is being developed, and our first trainee will be announced in the near future. UUCOV’s Lay Pastoral Caregivers will be available to anyone who needs the company of an individual who represents your UUCOV community.

The Caring Team would like to remind any member or friend who is confronting a life challenge that their UUCOV family is willing to help you. The Team can provide meals, rides, phone calls, visits, and anything else you may need during a difficult time. Do not hesitate to call Eileen Leapley at 941-525-4328 or email her at [leapley@uucov.org](mailto:leapley@uucov.org) to let the Team know how we can help.

The Caring Team’s mission is to coordinate support for those confronting life’s challenges. If you’d like to help the Team by bringing a meal, making a phone call, driving to an appointment, or visiting someone outdoors in their driveway, you are encouraged to call 941-525-4328.

Speaking of phone calls, check your online directory, pick out a name, and call one of our UUCOV members or friends. It’s a conversation, and perhaps even make a new friend.

UUCOV Fellowship Groups are still going strong, despite this time of lengthy isolation. Several of our groups are meeting. If our congregants are spread out over various parts of the country, they can participate in lively virtual discussions. They can meet over Zoom. If you are not presently in a UUCOV Fellowship group, you are urged to contact Wendy Voigt at [wendywv1126@gmail.com](mailto:wendywv1126@gmail.com)

## **From the UUCOV Coordinating Council**

While we continue exhibiting stellar individual personal caring for ourselves and our loved ones, church work continues. We find ways of carrying on their team activities for the good of the congregation. Their efforts and accomplishments enhance the church. These teams meet monthly to coordinate collective efforts to maintain that light (chalice flame).

The UUCOV Coordinating Council (CC) is charged with coordinating the committees that do the work of our congregation. They have different responsibilities and perspectives but commit to working together.

Historically, monthly, the Board Vice President calls the Team Chairs together for a Coordinating Council meeting. While we are now taking advantage of Zoom to conduct these meetings. They occur on the first Tuesday of the month and are held in Connection. Realizing the hardship we are all suffering under, the CC will now post reports in Connection.

The great works that these teams continue to accomplish are captured in their monthly reports. As Coordinating Council reports are shared with the UUCOV Board at their monthly and on the UUCOV web page.

All teams are interested in your concerns and ideas. For information on the UUCOV teams and committees, visit the UUCOV website and tap on the tab Members & Friends. A drop-down menu appears. Click on the Committee news. On that page, a list of our accomplishments will appear here. Have an idea or concern? They are always open to hearing from you.

Click here for the minutes of the August 4th meeting - <file:///C:/Users/uucov/Desktop/Documents/BOT%20&%20CC%20Monthly%20minutes/Coordinating%20Council%20Meeting%20Minutes%20August%204th%202020.pdf>

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

## Meet Our Members



**Paul Casavant and Rick Williams** met at a mutual friend's July 4th cookout in 1979. At the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and Rick was a Transportation Supervisor for the Boston

In March 1986 while on a weekend getaway to Maine they came upon a shuttered up conv nailed onto the side of the building and they decided to call the number and get the information to purchase the existing store and home. That June began their 15 year history of ownership in York Beach, Maine. (It was only supposed to be a 5 year adventure).

At the beginning of their 15th season they decided to see if they could sell, and by July 1st they had a buyer and they celebrated on Veteran's Day, 2000. They once again returned to Boston where Paul began a career in Real Estate in the city and Rick worked at England Baptist Hospital in the Mission Hill District. In 2012 they sold their city condo and moved to Venice. Paul continued to become interested in UU in the summer of 2013, attended services and have become proud members of the UUCOV in connection with UUCOV. Rick and Paul have been active members, often found behind the bar at social events, supporting Promise with meal coordination and overnight stays, and being strong stewards of UUCOV.

**Elise Haberman Cohen** - Elise grew up in Milwaukee on the shores of Lake Michigan, home of her much-loved world's largest festival, Summerfest. She relocated to Atlanta and attended Emory University, where she received her degree in Economics.

She has enjoyed a wide variety of work experiences utilizing her innovative bent, from running a healthy snacks vending machine, transit planning and real estate sales. Currently, Elise enjoys inventing and is focused on copyrights and provisional patents including an audit system for voters, and a hair accessory device.

She has dreams of finding a second home out West some day...

Currently, Elise lives in Venice with her remarkable cat Izzy. She finds Venice well-kept and quaint, and loves UUCOV - UUers for generations!



**Charles and Marilyn Amick** migrated down from the Sarasota UU church when they knew Nancy (Stone) were busy forming a Venice UU congregation. It suited Chuck and Marilyn to be involved with anything designed to further the central part of Gulf-side Florida. Marilyn played the piano at the very first service before there was a sanctuary in November 1998 as a Trustee and assisted Kenny Waters in putting in the drainage irrigation system and worked with the landscape architect.

"We were new to UU-ism but very happy to have found a life-affirming, joy-promoting, equality-loving and democratic organization that could counteract the rigidity of conventional organized religion in this area and have tried to do our part in making it strong and enabling it to grow. We're in it for the long haul and we hope to see we've never had better company!"

Marilyn and Chuck have been long term members of the Legacy Friends group and, as such, plan to support UUCOV in

## The UUCOV donation wheelbarrow now has four wheels! 'No-Contact Donations!'

**September 29th 11:00am – 1:00pm (only)**

On the last Tuesday of each month, between 11:00 am and 1:00pm, Salli will be in front of Waters Hall so that members can drop off items intended for CHAPS, (Charlotte HIV/AIDS People Support). Please place your donations in your trunk, remain in your car - arrive - and 'pop' the trunk open when you arrive - she will be happy to unload it for you!

Personal hygiene and home cleaning supplies are badly needed. Non-perishable food donations will also be gladly accepted than ever due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Contact Salli at with any questions.

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## Message from the Director

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." - Mahatma Gandhi

## Greetings,

This month has been full of plans. One of our YRE teachers, Becca, is moving to Spain for a year to teach English, we programs for you all to attend and we are planning what curriculum our youth will receive this year. Some days I feel excited about what's in the works. Other days I feel like we need more. We need to reach more people. We need to pro classes. We need to get our youth more involved.

More is such an interesting concept. It simply means a greater amount. Although, how do we know when or what more interests me most is what more is to you. Feel free to tell me what interests you. I want to know MORE about you!

As always, I am working with others to create a place for you all to visit and deepen community. We have a few options scheduled and we are always looking for new topics to present, classes to teach or social opportunities to join. Please c hear what interests you!

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

## Youth Religious Education

Currently there is a short service for the kids on Sundays at 10:00 am through ZOOM. If you are interested in attending know a kid who would like to join, please contact me at or 941-270-6187

## YRE Teacher's Circle

**Thursday, September 03, 2020 11:00am - 01:00pm**

We are looking forward to starting curriculum for the youth of our congregation in October. Come help us plan how to d welcome! Contact Kathy Avery for more information at or 941-270-6187.

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92791972654?pwd=WIFSOTI6Qys1QVhRdWRCNnVFNmNTdz09>

Meeting ID: 927 9197 2654

**Passcode: teachers**

## School Aide

School begins August 31th! As it is, many of us aren't sure what this year will look like but we know that schools require that might need assistance in obtaining these supplies, we have identified funds of \$35 per school-aged child to help, if

Please contact Rev. Khleber if you have an interest in receiving funds for school supplies. When the funds are available them up.

## Adult Exploration

### ARE Moderator Meeting

**Sept 15, 2020 10:00 am**

The new ARE moderator committee had a great first meeting. Phil Haxel and I are working to find people willing to coh lessons.

Some of the topics we came up with are: zoom how-tos, racism, art, cooking, 7 principles, separation of church and sta you are interested in hosting, we NEED YOU!!!

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97023905366?pwd=c1N1QnUxaG1VRHg3RVlYQlQzaGUyUT09>

Meeting ID: 970 2390 5366

**Password: ARE**

## Afternoons to Ascertain



**September 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://zoom.us/j/93279697315?pwd=SGILaEQyQXRJeW43Z25qL04xK0IRQT09>

Meeting ID: 932 7969 7315

**Password: learn**

## Book Talk with Richard



**Tuesday, September 22nd 10:00am**

If you have read a particularly good book lately and you think that other UUCOVERs might be interested to participate in an ARE/ZOOM meeting. Richard Cannarelli will be leading the discussion and an presentation of their book and engage in a short discussion is welcome. There are no limits to topics including science fiction, sports, history, etc., but since this is an ARE activity, books that are re

especially welcome.

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://zoom.us/j/4775317382?pwd=bXFOVndQd096ZFR4aURRMk54c2dGQT09>

Meeting ID: 477 531 7382

**Password: booktalk**

## Interest Groups

### Virtual Plato's Circle

**September 2nd, 1:30pm**

A gathering where people of different backgrounds discuss important ideas and issues. Each 90-minute session begins with a presentation of a book and the basis for thoughtful discussion reflecting participants' unique experiences and perspectives. The gathering provides an intelligent and stimulating conversation in an atmosphere of support and respect. All are welcome! Contact: Phil Haxel  
The topic for Plato's Circle will be 'Surviving a Pandemic.'

**Join Zoom Meeting**

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

Meeting ID: 865 5101 7426

**No password required.**

### Virtual Socrates Café

**September 16th, 1:30pm – 3:00pm**

A gathering where people of different backgrounds discuss important ideas and issues. Each 90-minute session begins with a presentation of a book and the basis for thoughtful discussion reflecting participants' unique experiences and perspectives. The gathering provides an intelligent and stimulating conversation in an atmosphere of support and respect. All are welcome! Contact Phil Haxel

**Join Zoom Meeting**

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

Meeting ID: 477 531 7382

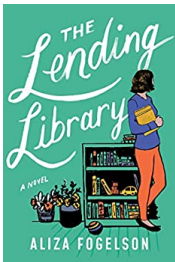
**Password: socrates**

## ZOOM Online UUCOV Book Club

**Thursday, September 10th, 1:00 pm**

In September, our selection is The Lending Library, by Aliza Fogelman. A heartwarming debut novel about a daydreamer's amazing gift: a lending library in her sunroom. Aliza is the daughter-in-law of Serena and Rich Cannarelli.





All are welcome. For more information speak to Barbara Smith at 941-786-8559 or . Book Club meeting 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 September 5th and 19th**

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

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## Headline News

**September 16th, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

The monthly Headlines News discussion took place August 10. Participants discussed current events and social justice from climate change to the need for local engagement. Members of the congregation and of the community at large part meeting washeld via Zoom, and people in several different states joined the discussion. All people interested in social j headline news are invited to participate. Join us at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87471217288>, Meeting ID: 874 7121 7288

## Justice Action

As UU the Vote says, “The stakes couldn’t be higher in the 2020 elections.”

If you join UUCOV Justice Action’s efforts, you will be participating in a long UU tradition “working to expand democracy and shape a world in which all people are free and flourishing.”

Whether you join **UU the Vote** ( <https://www.uua.org/justice/vote2020> ) or the efforts of your local political party to regist all eligible voters and encourage them to vote in the November 3 elections—I.e. ALL elections from the top to the bottom of the ballot!—you will be providing a service grounded in UU values and principles.



I was thrilled to be able to make Get-Out-The-Vote phone calls with a local political party for August 18th in Sarasota County, and to encourage other UUCOV members and friends to using the automated online system called Mobilize was fast and easy. Once it was set up ( minutes with personalized help), it worked like a charm. Because I knew how important the committed to calling as many hours as I could in the last critical days on Monday August 1 PM on Election Day. I used a system called “the 20/20 Stretch”: call for 20 minutes, stretch 20 seconds, then call again for 20 minutes. I kept a hash-tag record of my calls during each

calls in 20 minutes, leaving many messages using the short script provided, although I made many fewer calls when I r to talk with them briefly, help when needed, and motivate them to vote.

It was eye-opening to realize how many people need just a little extra help to encourage them to vote, because they ne process. Many people are consumed with concerns about their health, their jobs, their families. Voting is not a priority for them, although we know their votes can

make for their lives. I am struck by the fact that we can help each other, teach each other, and show compassion for all When you think about it, that is a very UU thing to do! (“Support the inherent worth and dignity of every person” and “...the use of the democratic really enjoyed helping voters understand what they could do, and how to be able to vote, when they were in doubt. The people from North Port to Newtown made me realize they are all our neighbors. We all are connected. We are all “famil play Our Town, by Thornton Wilder, in which I played the role of Emily as a teenager. This quote came to mind: “Oh, ea to realize you. Do any human beings ever realize life while they live it -- every, every minute?”

If you want to help register voters and get out the vote for these important November 3rd elections, please join UU the \ and <http://cdpsarasota.org>. Call or text me at 941-266-8278 with any questions and to find out how to help locally. Your

and your spirit will be lifted by what you can do.

Kindra Muntz, *Chair, Justice Action*

<https://uucov.org/home/social-justice/justice-action>

## shOUT

### ShOUT Welcoming Committee Task Force forming.

Are there any volunteers that would like to work on a final submission for our Welcoming Status Application? We will on the paperwork and UU application to submit soon. It may only take a couple of meetings after that we will meet again to activities. Please contact me at with your name, phone number and email address so I can try to arrange this meeting r

Thank you, stay safe, stay engaged and don't worry, this too shall pass!

Steve Doublestein, *Chair, shOUT LGBTQ*

## Community Outreach

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

### Did you know -

- 8 million Floridians struggle with food insecurity, and 800,000 of those are children;
- 69% must choose between food and transportation;
- 51% eat food beyond the safe expiration date;
- 73% must choose between food and paying utilities; and
- 79% also purchase unhealthy, inexpensive food to fill the need gap.

The story told by these statistics hits close to home. New Hope Community Food Bank in North Port reports an increase of 2500 monthly clients over last year's monthly average of 7500. In Sarasota, All Faiths Food Bank Chair, Nelle Miller, inc "hunger in our community has risen 120% in just the last few weeks."

Let's be clear. COVID-19 has caused a huge increase in food insecurity. And we are just beginning to experience the full impact of the \$600 unemployment stimulus. Americans worry about negotiations with landlords, mortgage holders, utility companies, and other companies. Those who are new to and unfamiliar with food insecurity may be reluctant to admit a need for help.

[www.FeedingFlorida.org](http://www.FeedingFlorida.org)

## Helping in a Time of Need

The following organizations have been vetted by the [Venice Interfaith Community Association](#). We hope you choose one on time of need.

### Center of Hope

Center of Hope Neighborhood Church is a Bible based Christian church emphasizing service to families and to the local community who believe and those who are seeking" to worship and Bible study. The Church is affiliated with the Faith Christian Fellowship. It is located at 2395 Shamrock Dr. Venice 34293. Phone: 941-412-9044. [www.centerofhopechurch.org](http://www.centerofhopechurch.org)

### CHAPS

Charlotte HIV/AIDS People Support is a 501c(3) nonprofit, all-volunteer organization that provides food and hygiene items to people with HIV/AIDS and their dependents in the South Sarasota County towns of Venice, Nokomis, Laurel, Englewood and Nokomis. CHAPS Food Pantry, 18200 Paulson Dr., Unit A-1, Port Charlotte, FL 333954. [www.chapsfoodpantry.com](http://www.chapsfoodpantry.com)

### Coffee Talk

Coffee Talk is a nonprofit ecumenical organization that provides food, clothing, hygiene products, bus passes, and fellowship.

us at the Venice Train Depot every Tuesday and Thursday.

Contributions can be sent to Roy Smith, Treasurer, 367 Turtleback Xing, Venice, Florida 34292. [www.coffeetalkvenice.c](http://www.coffeetalkvenice.c)

### **Family Promise of South Sarasota County**

Family Promise of South Sarasota County provides housing support to children and their families in South Sarasota Co comprehensive services to ensure children and their families achieve lasting self-sufficiency.

We will be using funds raised for COVID-19 Response to pay families past due rent as well as move in costs to move in provide other funds for bills due like utilities and car payments, etc. Indicate COVID-19 on your contribution. Located at 34293. [www.familypromisessc.org](http://www.familypromisessc.org)

### **South County Food Pantry**

The South County Food Pantry is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization providing food for the needy. It is open weekdays 9 t \$18,000 worth of food per month or \$216,000 per year to those without food. It is located at 121 Warfield Avenue, Venic 408-2911. [www.southcountyfoodpantry.com](http://www.southcountyfoodpantry.com)

### **Venice Christmas Angels**

Venice Christmas Angels is dedicated to bringing miracles to families in need all over Venice during Christmas time and is providing Publix gift cards and groceries to families without resources during the COVID-19 Crisis.

Donations may be sent to Angela Hitts, 612 Glen Oak Road, Venice 34292. Call (941) 493-4174. There is a tote outside [www.venicechristmasangels.com](http://www.venicechristmasangels.com)

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## **Letters to the Editor**

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

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## **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 .

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### **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,

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### **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;

- 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.
- 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.

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

## 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.

If you do not wish to receive the *Connection*, please [click here](#) to unsubscribe.

