



Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Venice

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

CONNECTION

September 2023

Venice, FL

www.uucov.org

Community Chalice Lighting

In-Person services in our Sanctuary, as well as live, online service,
Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m.

Across the Distance

Across the distance, the light from within me shines,
sending love to all
Across the distance, your light is fuel that warms me
and helps to keep my own light burning
Together, we keep the flame of community.



audiofetch



We invite you to join us online for Sunday Service any time during the week!
Go to www.uucov.org and click on the arrow on the video

Please bear with your Board of Trustees and staff as we make arrangements to allow the work of the congregation to go forward while we hold our Office Administrator Salli Clark in support and love following her auto accident. If you have questions or needs which cannot wait, please contact:

Kathy Avery for general office questions

Bill Reynolds for billing/financial questions (he will direct you to the right person to answer you)

Steve Leapley for grounds/buildings questions

Linda Underwood for Connections questions

Rev. Amy for serious emergencies only (she is on vacation but available to take emergency calls)

Thank you all for your love, concern, and prayers at this time. Please understand that the information here is deliberately limited, as our newsletter is a public document, and we value Salli's privacy. If you have questions about Salli, please reach out to Kathy Avery or a member of the Board.

Warmly,

Rev. Amy

Update on Salli Clark: Salli has shared that she is now a patient at the Port Charlotte Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, 18480 Cochran Blvd. Port Charlotte, FL 33948. Cards are appreciated but no visits or phone calls please. She has many broken bones, and her current focus is pain management. She will keep us informed of her progress. Long journey ahead. She knows she has many fans sending her healing thoughts.



If you would like to donate flowers for our chancel for a Sunday service, please contact Kathy Avery at dre@uucov.org . If you would like to dedicate them for a birthday, anniversary or in memory of a loved one, it can be included in the order of service for that week.

CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS NEWS

You will be invited to a Cottage Meeting

Ministerial Search click here: [Search Committee Report - September Connections](#)

Thank You

Anniversary Time for UUCOV

Save the dates: November 5, 2023 & January 20, 2024

Click here for details: [Let's Celebrate](#)



The UUCOV Boutique is OPEN for Business!!!

<https://uucovboutique.com/>



Great gifts! Happy Shopping!!



Will your Legacy include UUCoV?? Click here [September President's Report](#)



Tom Hartley, Our New UUCoV Board Treasurer.

The church board is pleased to announce that Tom Hardley has accepted the UUCoV treasurer's position. He has been active on the finance committee and will continue that relationship in his new position. The Strategic Steering Committee recommitted that a risk management committee be formed, and Tom has volunteered to participate.

Tom brings a wealth of professional experiences from a career in the financial sector in England, the Bahamas, and the USA. He and his wife Paula moved to Venice during the pandemic. They found it challenging to meet other members of the congregation. The sun is out, the pandemic is less threatening, and they enjoy meeting other members.

The Board will officially welcome him at our next board meeting on the 14th of September. When you see him, thank him for taking on these responsibilities.



New Look for How We All Support our Congregation and our Community

Florida Needs our Voice!

How we all join together to support our congregation and all that it stands for will change. Instead of a one month focus on raising funds for our work, each of us will be invited to a "Shareholder Meeting". This term reflects our shared responsibility in supporting our congregation and its values. It also reflects our investment in our mission. These Shareholder Meetings will be held monthly and will start in January and continue all year, with each of us attending one meeting per year.

This change will be discussed at the Sunday Open Conversations starting in October and information will be shared in Connection and on In Touch on Facebook. Everyone will receive a personal email on this change.

If you would like to talk about this change, please feel free to contact any of the Task Force members: David Linemer, John Spitzer, Barbara Gundy, Joel Morrison and Linda Underwood.

Your support is needed to do the work that we must do in Florida. How we join together to express our generosity will change, but the goal is to provide a more meaningful exchange of ideas and to energize our support of UUCOV.



THIS MONTH'S FEATURED WISH LIST ITEMS

The featured wish items are a UUCOV identity sign at the corner of Edmundson and Pinebrook roads; and, a direction sign to UUCOV at the entrance from Edmundson Road.

You are being alerted to this, perhaps, because it might speak to you as helpful for people to find our congregation; or that you might want to donate in the memory of someone or to honor a birthday or anniversary...or just because you think its a good thing.

We have received a \$850 donation to cover the cost of the corner sign; and, \$2500 in donations toward the \$3100 cost for the direction sign, so far.

There is an offer to match donations up to \$300 which would cover the remaining \$600 needed. Please send your donation to UUCOV and identify it as "Signs".

Have a donation or other question? Contact Bill Dowling on the Finance Committee at 941-228-3716 or wbd429@gmail.com.

The Wish List is a good thing for the congregation.

Individuals and UUCOV Teams identify needs and aspirations. These are vetted through the Coordinating Council and the Board of Trustees; and, if accepted, are placed on the Wish List.

Our congregate budget has constraints and limitations. Therefore, new endeavors, generally, need funds. Their success measurably enrich and enhance our congregation; and, depend on your contributions.

Currently on our Wish List:

- Identity sign with "UUCOV Congregation" at corner of Edmundson and Pinebrook roads: ~~\$850.00~~
- Direction sign at Edmundson Road entrance to UUCOV campus: ~~\$2,900,~~ \$600
- Landscape Design for expansion of the Sanctuary patio into the Lynch Memorial area: \$900
- Paved handicapped parking area for Water's Hall: \$4,900



Green Tips from Donna Jewitt

Eco-friendly practices are a great idea any time of year. Here are a couple especially useful for this time of year from Donna Jewett and the Green Sanctuary:

Avoid plastic and paper products at your cookouts. These “disposables” end up in landfills and take years to decompose. When they do break down, they can release methane gas which contributes to global warming.

Let in natural light on sunny days and reduce the need to use electricity. Plus, having more natural light can also “lighten” your mood.

For more of these seasonal tips, click here to see Donna’s full report. [Green Tips](#)



News from UUA General Assembly

UUCOV’s 5 voting delegates to this year’s in-person and virtual G.A. have now returned home. You will be hearing more in the fall about their experience.

[The first woman to head Unitarian Universalists ends term full of historic turns](#)

President Susan Frederick-Gray has led the denomination throughout a pandemic, insurrection, racial reckoning, and the fall of Roe v. Wade.

Within two years the UA increased the number of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) staff to 30% of the work force.

- [Unitarian Universalism revisits identity, values at 2023 gathering](#)
Intense discussions at this year’s General Assembly took place as the UUA navigates how to continue implementing its commitment to anti-racism.
- [Unitarian Universalists elect first woman of color, openly queer president](#)
A womanist theologian, ethicist and minister, the Rev. Sofía Betancourt previously served as interim co-president of the UUA in 2017.
Pat Wellington, UUCOV Board of Trustees, Denominational Affairs

Congregational Life

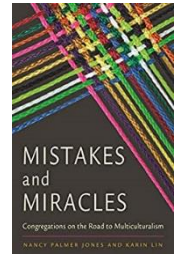


Meet our Congregant – Rosalie Danbury click here: [Rosalie Bio](#)

UUCOV Book Club will meet **October 12, 2023**, in **Waters Hall A**

Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism by **Nancy Palmer Jones & Karin Lin**

I have read the whole book and strongly recommend it for UUCOV for several reasons. One, we are in search for a new minister, and two this book discusses how UU can be proactive in the ever-changing diversity of our country. I like the book because it is a UUA read and provides ideas we can discuss and use to help us into the next phase of growing into a more progressive, liberal welcoming community." Our library has copies of the book.



Ellen Higdon

Social Justice



Click here for details: [Upcoming Social Justice Events](#)

Right to Read

Social Justice Alliance of Florida's Suncoast

A UUCOV sponsored monthly gathering of social justice-oriented individuals.



PLEASE HELP. THANK YOU!!

An opportunity for UUCOV members to aid an asylum-seeking Venezuelan family (mother w/two children) comes from the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Port Charlotte. The woman has completed her asylum application but may have a wait of several years for a court date. Meanwhile, her children are in school, and she is enrolled in intensive English classes.

Sponsorship is through the UUSC CAPAS Project (which stands for Congregational Accompaniment Project for Asylum Seekers). Its representative Betty Barriga is asking if any in our congregation might help with donations to furnish a small duplex where the family is moving. Needed items include: kitchen items, living room furniture, lamps, furniture and bedding for children and mom's bedrooms, bath towels and mats, cleaning supplies, and paper products.

To donate items or more information, contact Betty Barriga (931) 258-8473. Financial donations (specify CAPAS project on memo line of checks) can be sent to UUFCC, 1532 Nelson Blvd., Port Charlotte 33952.



Mat Makers Respond as Local Homeless Population Doubles

Over the last year the number of homeless has doubled in Sarasota and Manatee counties! Please join UUCOV's mat makers on September 2 and 16 in Waters Hall as we cut, tie and crochet plastic bags to create sleeping mats for our homeless neighbors. Coffee and muffins are served!

Classes

Blue Lotus Buddhist Meditation Center at UUCOV

Our mission is to "To promote individuals' peace within, compassion for all beings, spiritual growth, and an ethical way of life based on Buddhist principles."



2023 Classes at UUCOV - <https://uucov.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/updated-blue-lotus.pdf>

Moving into Silence

Full Day Retreat with Monk San

- Saturday September 9th
- 9 am - 4 pm EDT
- Cost is \$40, lunch is included
- Available on Zoom
- Registration required



Introduction to Mindfulness Meditation

Half Day Workshop with Monk San

- Saturday October 14th
- For beginners only, please
- 1 - 4 pm EDT
- Cost is \$30
- Available on Zoom
- Registration required

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

Phone: (941) 484-2105
Website: www.uucov.org
Office: office@uucov.org

Minister (Interim)
Rev. Amy Petrie Shaw
Email: minister@uucov.org
Call office or (513) 709-7058 (cell)
Please call, email or text to arrange Appointments as need,
to directly schedule in-person or Zoom use:
<https://calendly.com/revamypshaw> (If it is an emergency,
please use my cell number to call or text me 24/7)



Find us on Facebook! 

“Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice “
Or, for members only “ In-Touch-UUCOV”

