



Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Venice

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

CONNECTION

December 2023

www.uucov.org

Venice, FL

Community Chalice Lighting

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

May we remember that we never travel the world alone.

We rest on shoulders of brave and generous ones who
have gone before. May we remember that who we are
does not end at the edges of our own skin.

Rev. Scott Tayler



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



Minister's MUUsings

As we enter the busy season here at UUCOV, it's easy for anxiety to creep into the system.

Are we doing enough?

Are we doing too much?

Are we ready for search?

Will we get a minister?

It's important right now to remember to breathe.

We are doing a lot of things, and we are doing them well. We are putting together our search packet, and it looks great. We are preparing for the Right to Read Festival, and we are making sure it's done correctly. Eleven people took our newest Pathways Class, and the Finance and Stewardship Teams have done an amazing job of putting together a new approach to giving.

We are a living congregation, and of course there are going to be things that aren't going to go right, and things that don't go perfectly.

And that's ok. Because perfection is only possible if you are frozen in place, or dead.

We are definitely not frozen!

We need more volunteers right now.

We need to do a better job of spreading out the work, and on spreading out the financial burdens of the congregation.

And we will get there.

One step at a time.

Together.

As we approach the holiday season, take the time to enjoy all that UUCOV has to offer, and decide for yourself what you can offer in return. What gift of participation will you give to yourself in the coming year? Will you learn a new skill, or maybe a new game? Will you help to plant flowers, or learn to speak from the pulpit?

It's all there for you to take and learn and grow.

Your congregation is a wonderful one, and your community is amazing. May we learn and grow together, making mistakes along the way and getting better together every day.

Happy Holidays!

Warmly, Rev. Amy



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



November 2023 Board of Trustees Minutes: [Click Here](#)

November 2023 Coordinating Council Minutes: [Click Here](#)



Report from Board President, Learn about the Donate Button and more [Click Here](#)



Finance Committee: Although UUCOV's financial position is stable, the challenge continues to be to generate sufficient revenue every year to meet operating expenses. For details [Click Here](#)

The maintenance staff (Steve Leapley) politely request you return all hymnals to the bookcases provided at the rear of the Sanctuary after each service. This makes moving the chairs around about 50% easier. Thank you.



Ministerial Search Update

Thanks for all your help with the surveys, meetings, and workshop. Our congregational “resume” is complete and will be viewed by candidates starting in December. In January we will begin to review and interview candidates, and hope to present one to the congregation in late April. Please be patient and respect confidentiality during this process.



Choir rehearsals Thursdays@4 pm. Contact Jan Simon at jansimon2010@hotmail.com or 262-665-3066.



Caring & Remembrance Team is ready to assist you. [Click here for details.](#)

Congregational Life



Thank you to Bill Colagrande who has accepted the position of Social Activity Chair. Anyone interested in serving with Bill, please contact him at (bill@i4hd.com or 845-339-6250)

Honoring 25 Years of UUCOV - Moving forward in Love [Click Here](#) for schedule of events.



Meatless Monday

Monday, December 4, 2023 – Waters Hall

5 pm for Appetizers, Dinner at 5:30 pm

All are welcome

Come share meatless appetizers and dinner. Remember to bring a dish to share, beverage of your choice and your place setting.

Volunteers to help set up and clean up are always appreciated.



Please join us for UUCOV's Rockin' Holiday Party!

Wednesday, December 6th, from 5-8 p.m.

Sandalwood Park Clubhouse, 300 Sandpiper Drive, Venice, 34285.

Please bring an appetizer to share, and BYOB. Please also bring your tableware, to cut down on trash. (If you forget, we'll have some to spare.) Our beloved band, "ALIAS," featuring Mark Murray and Khleber Van Zandt, will entertain us for our listening and dancing pleasure! There is ample parking. Pull up to the front door of the clubhouse, and someone will help you out of your car. If you have any questions, please call Eileen Leapley at 941-525-4328. Sign up on the signup sheet on the lanai, so we know how many partiers to expect!



UUCOV Monday Walking Group has begun for the season! All are welcome. Meet at 9:00 am on Monday mornings. The group explores Venice area parks. Great way to get some exercise, discover new parks and enjoy friends. **Check InTouch or the UUCOV calendar for the park of the week.** Any questions contact DeDee Connor. (dedee.connor@gmail.com)



Anyone interested in a ZOOM FELLOWSHIP GROUP?

Are you a UUCOV member or friend who now lives too far away, only spends a limited amount of time in Venice each year, or who finds it difficult to attend an in-person Fellowship group? We are exploring the possibility of forming an ongoing zoom Fellowship Group. If this is something that you might be interested in joining, please let Claire Harrison at charrison327@gmail.com know.

Fellowship Group Advisory Committee



Meet our congregant.

Stephanie Zoernack is a gem, [click here](#) to get to know her poetic spirit.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



UUCOV Book Club is trying something different. [Click Here](#) for details. Next meeting is December 14th @ 1 pm in Waters Hall discussing *Dinners with Ruth* by Nina Totenberg.



The UUCOV Writer's Group meets on the first and third Monday of each month.

We welcome members and friends of UUCOV who wish to share (read) some of their writings. Readings may be up to 15 or more minutes, depending on the number of participants. Attendees are not required to read at each meeting and comments by other members must be constructive only. Readers may choose to receive no comments if they wish."

The UUCOV Boutique is OPEN for Business!!!

<https://uucovboutique.com/>



Great Holiday Gifts. Happy Shopping!

Social Justice

Social Justice Update:

New co-chairs Brad Hardin and John VanCamp are committed to encouraging participation by UUCOV members, including activities that don't require a great deal of time while giving the satisfaction of knowing we are contributing to an important cause.

They extend a huge thank you to Barbara Buehring who was the prior team leader for social justice. They say, "Barbara oversaw important projects that are a part of our UUCOV legacy of doing great things".

For more on activities including the upcoming Right to Read Fair planned for February 24th, [Click Here](#) to see how you can be involved.

Right to Read



The Right to Read: All Books for All People Festival on Feb. 24 being held on the grounds of UUCOV in partnership with the Social Justice Alliance of the Florida Suncoast will be a great opportunity to showcase so much of what we are all about. The day will include national and local authors reading banned books; speakers addressing the extent of censorship in Florida and the effects it is having on us; performing artists of many kinds; a children's corner; many vendors and food trucks etc. We will be giving away banned books to children. We anticipate that programming will be running simultaneously under the tent, in the sanctuary and in Waters Hall. We anticipate this will draw a very large crowd and lots of local and national attention due to the extent of book banning and censorship in Florida.

In order for this to be successful we are seeking donations to cover the following expenses:

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| 1. \$1500 to cover the costs of bringing in national authors | 7. \$1000 for audio/sound |
| 2. \$1000 for a 30'x60' tent | 8. \$2000 for advertising |
| 3. \$750 for a 16'x16' stage | 9. \$750 for the purchase of banned children's books to give away |
| 4. \$250 for 250 chairs | 10. Four donations of \$250 each to cover the costs of local performers |
| 5. \$750 for printing | |
| 6. \$500 for social media | |

Your donations made payable by check to UUCOV indicating it is for the Right to Read Festival will help us ensure a successful event. Or you may use the Donate Button on the Website. Click on Donate Button, then click on Social Justice Special Event and then on Right to Read.

For more information please contact

Nancy Menaldi-Scanlan at menaldiscanlan@gmail.com Or John Van Camp Jihnvancam@gmail.com

**Each month a special offering is taken to help local non-profit organizations.
Special Offerings Monthly Schedule. [Click here for details.](#)**



A big thanks from Good Samaritan who reached out to express their appreciation for UUCOV's recent donation of OTC health remedies and vitamins. Every product will be put to good use by one of their clients.

Join us for Mat-Mating on December 1 & 15, 10-12 am, in Waters Hall as we cut, tie and crochet plastic bags to create sleeping mats for our homeless neighbors. Coffee and muffins are served.

See Carol Wright or Janet Knudsen.

Lifespan Education

Kathy Avery, Director of Lifespan Education
dre@uucov.org or call 941-270-6187



Youth Education

Sundays at 10:00 am – beginning in the Sanctuary.

If you are interested in attending, have a topic you'd like to share, or know a kid who would like to join us, please contact Kathy Avery, Director of Lifespan Education.

Green Sanctuary



See last month's Connections for some Green tips for the holidays. On the calendar: We will be having a garden team/ green sanctuary work party on Thurs. **Dec 7 at 9 am** to help with the **Asta Linder Garden**. Thanks!

Donna Jewett

Denominational Affairs

Article II of the UUA Bylaws – What are they?? Come to UUCOV Dec. 12 @ 6:30 to hear all about it!

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>

Venice, FL 34292-1563

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Office: office@uucov.org

Mailing Address:

1971 Pinebrook Rd.

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)

Phone: (941) 484-2105



Find us on Facebook!

“Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Venice “

Or, for members only “ In-Touch-
UUCOV”

