



**Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Venice**

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

CONNECTION

January 2024

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.

We welcome new
beginnings that emerge
out of endings and appear
amidst continuity.
Welcome!!



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

Thanksgiving, Hannukah, Christmas, New Years, and, finally, Search.

That's a lot for one season, but here we are.

Our congregational information has been gathered and uploaded. Our Search Team is ready. And now we wait.

And wait.

And wait some more.

By April we will have an idea about where we go from here- have we found not the one who is right there, but the Right One. The minister who will accompany you on the next leg of your journey.

But while we are waiting there is so much more for us to do and enjoy!

Your social justice efforts are succeeding wildly. Visitors and guests keep coming and are welcomed by the Membership Committee. Your choir is flourishing under your new choir director. Adult RE is finding new footing, and the campus has sprouted new signs. Finance and Stewardship have reimagined the pledge process, and Marketing has made sure the city knows we are here. Small groups are meeting, and social events are happening, and whew, I could get tired just thinking about it all!

As we've travelled through this 25th Anniversary Year the Salutes have reminded us of how far UUCOV has come, and our Anniversary team has helped us to see just how many people have contributed to UUCOV's continued success.

I hope that each and every one of you have a joyous and happy holiday season, and that you begin the new year refreshed, reinvigorated, and ready to go Forward in Love toward whatever comes next.

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



December 2023 Board of Trustees Minutes: [Click here](#) for report
December 2023 Coordinating Council Minutes: [Click here](#) for report



Report from Board President [Click here](#) for Jack Head's message. As UU's we are measured by what we do and thanks to many of you we are making an impact.

Strategic Plan Results summarize major strategic priorities in five areas: increase membership, financial sustainability, maximize campus utilization and value, provide spiritual nourishment, create focus for social justice. [Click here](#) for details.

The maintenance staff (Steve Leapley) politely requests 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.



For update on the Wish list [Click here](#). Does something speak to you??

Dollar for Dollar Match for Sanctuary gathering area \$900 needed.

Waters Hall accessible parking area \$4,900 needed.

Contact Bill Dowling at wbd429@gmail.com or 941-228-3716.



Ministerial Search Update

Your committee and you have done all the preparatory work to fully prepare our “profile” and discuss our hopes and dreams for the future of UUCOV. Early in 2024 the committee will research and interview candidates who are interested in us. This will be an intensive and confidential process. Please be patient and think good thoughts!

The plan is to announce the committee’s unanimous selection for your consideration in April, and that candidate will visit us for a full nine days end of April, early May. If you are seasonal, you may want to delay your trip north to take part and vote in person. We hope to have remote voting, but to get the full sense of who our candidate is, please try to be here.

Finally, if you missed the Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop, it can still be viewed [on our YouTube channel](#). It’s an excellent way to get ready for decision day.



Caring & Remembrance Team is ready to assist you. [Click here](#) for information on the Memorial Wall in our serene Memorial Gardens and more.



Death and Grief Bereavement Support Group will meet Wednesdays, January 10th & January 24th @ 1:30 pm in Asta Lindar led by Cindy Bouman. [Click here](#) for more information.

Congregational Life



Contact Bill Colagrande (bill@i4hd.com), Social Chair with questions.

Lots of exciting things happening soon!! A great way to meet new people.
[Click here](#) for details.



Small Community Meals. Volunteer Hosts still needed. Sign-up January 7 on lanai.



Lip Sync Competition. Lip Sync to your favorite song, pretending to sing it while it plays in the background. Friday, January 26th doors open at 5, competition at 6.



Trivia Contest/Pizza Party in Asta Lindar, February 16, 6-8 pm. Form your team and sign up January 22nd.

Welcome New Members



UUCOV welcomed four new members in November. Shown, (left to right): Judy Chisholm, Anne Harrison (membership team chair), Anna Drallios, Jean Baxter and Diane Waters.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice
invites you to

Come Celebrate With Us!

FOUNDED IN LOVE 1998

FORWARD IN LOVE 2024

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice
Invites you to

JOIN US!

Please don't miss the final event celebrating our 25th Anniversary year; a special luncheon that will focus on our future as a liberal congregation. We were "FOUNDED IN LOVE" in 1998, and this year we have celebrated our history and current congregational life. Now we are ready to look at what happens next!

"FORWARD IN LOVE 2024"

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2024
11:30am-2:30pm
PLANTATION GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
500 ROCKLEY BLVD.
VENICE, FL

Lunch Reservations Requested
\$35 per person

Keynote Speaker: Bill Petraca (Director, Floridians for Democracy)
Message: Rev. Amy Petrie Shaw (Interim Minister, UUCOV)
Music: Lise Frank (UUCOV pianist)
Guest Message: ????? Special Surprise!

Sign up on the lanai or thru the
Donate button at uucov.org
Checks payable to UUCOV with Luncheon on memo line.
12/17/23-01/14/2024

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!



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



Meatless Monday

Not the 1st this time as it is New Year's Day, but hope to see you Monday, January 8, 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.



UUCOV Monday Walking Group has begun for the season! All are welcome. Meet at 9:00 am on Monday mornings. **Check InTouch or the UUCOV calendar for the park of the week (uucov.org)**. 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 far away. Are you interested in joining a Zoom Fellowship group please let Claire Harrison at charrison327@gmail.com.

Fellowship Group Advisory Committee



Here we meet some new members, friends and visitors.

[Click here](#) to meet Phil Veach & Steve Batchelor

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



UUCOV Book Club [Click Here](#) for details. Next meeting is January 11th @ 1 pm in Waters Hall discussing *Cutting for Stone*

by Abraham Verghese. Ellen Higdon sted0102@hotmail.com



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 Gifts. Happy Shopping!

Social Justice



Right to Read

The Social Justice team of UUCOV has joined forces with the newly-formed Social Justice Alliance of the Florida Suncoast to sponsor a book festival to combat the outrageous number of books that are currently banned in Florida --
-- more than any other state by far!!!

On **FEBRUARY 24, 2024**, the Alliance will be holding a **Right to Read Festival**:

All Books for All People from **10am-4pm** on the UUCOV grounds.

The event will feature speakers, both local and national, entertainment, book/merchandise/food vendors, and a Children's Corner.

3 easy ways that YOU can be a part of this important event:

DONATE to fund a program or help with operating expenses.

LOAN folding tables/chairs/small tents to accommodate participants.

VOLUNTEER to help on a committee and/or to work on the festival day.

SIGN UP ON THE LANAI AFTER SERVICES

Please help to make the festival a grand success!!!!!!.

[Click here](#) for more information or contact: Nandy Menadi-Scanlon at menaldiscanlon@gmail.com or John VanCamp at jihvancam@gmail.com

Each month a special offering is taken to help local non-profit organizations.

Special Offerings Monthly Schedule. [Click here for details.](#)



Join us for Mat-Mating on January 6th and 20th from 10-12 am, in Waters Hall. Please stop by to help us cut some plastic bags to create sleeping mats for our homeless neighbors and enjoy some coffee and muffins. 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.



Pathway to Membership Gathering, Sunday, January 14, 2024 in Waters Hall from 11:30-1:30 including light lunch. [Click here](#) for more information.

January is a WONDERFUL month full of fun and new programs. Please make sure to take some time to look at the calendar on the website uucov.org. Here's a list of continuing and beginning programs:

Adult Spiritual Enrichment: 1/7, 1/14, 1/21, 1/28 @9am

Book Club: 1/11 @ 1pm

Build Your Own Theology: 1/16, 1/23, 1/30 @2:30pm

Death and Grief Group: 1/10 & 1/24 @ 1:30pm

How do banned books affect the library? 1/9 @2pm

Mahjongg: 1/9, 1/16, 1/23, 1/30 @1pm

Sermon Chat: following each service in the sanctuary.

Socrates Café: 1/17 @ 1pm

Walking Group: Every Monday @ a different park. Check the website.

Writing Group: 1/1 & 1/15 @1pm

Please contact Kathy Avery for more information.

Director of Lifespan Religious Education

Dre@uucov.org (941)270-6187

Green Sanctuary



Green tips for 2024. How can we be better stewards of the earth? Here's some simple ideas: Christmas Trees, used batteries, recycling, composting and more. [Click here](#) for details.

Donna Jewett

Denominational Affairs

ARTICLE II OF THE UUA BYLAWS – WHAT IS IT?

The last discussion will be on Tuesday, February 6, from 2:00 – 3:00 pm in Asta Lindar. Come so you can be informed prior to a congregational vote in spring 2024. Sign up on the lanai.

UUCOV's members need to know what the changes are and be prepared to instruct our delegates to vote to accept them or not prior to June 2024 UUA General Assembly. The sessions will be led by Jack Head, UUCOV President, and Pat Wellington, UUCOV Board of Trustees member.

- https://www.uua.org/files/documents/coa/articleii/articleii_present.pdf

- <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission/final-proposed-revision-article-ii>

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>

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

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"

Website: www.uucov.org
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