



# CONNECTION



October

2025



Join us for our Sunday 10 am service live in our Sanctuary  
Or online at [www.uucov.org](http://www.uucov.org).

## MINISTERS MUUSINGS



From garden benches to inspiring summer services and a season full of opportunities, Rev. Amy invites us to bring our whole selves into this journey of love, hope, and courage.

[Click here to read the full message.](#)

Steve shares gratitude for volunteers and donors, updates on negotiations and board goals, and a look ahead at new leadership and community opportunities

[click here to read the full message.](#)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Sage Circles will be returning this fall!** Look for the sign-up sheet in the Lanai in October, or feel free to [contact Rev. Amy](#) if you have any questions.
- **An Art Journaling class** is set for November. Stay tuned for more information!
- **Choir rehearsals are back!** The first session will take place on October 30, from 4:00 to 5:30 PM, in the Sanctuary. All singers, whether new or returning, are welcome! Please RSVP or contact Marcia Smith at [Gundysmith@gmail.com](mailto:Gundysmith@gmail.com) with any questions.
- **A new monthly calendar is now available!** You can grab a hard copy at the welcome table or check the website/Breeze for details.
- **Pam MacFarlane has reserved three tables at Cafe Venice for Thanksgiving,** on Thursday, November 27, at 2:00 PM. Be sure to contact her to make your reservations. A sign-up sheet will also be available in the Lanai
- **We have a new Wi-Fi connection at Waters Hall.** For details, please ask Ayleen at the office.

## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS AND MINUTES

### Highlights from our Board of Trustees

- Our high priority is hiring a Director of Education and Engagement
- Classes are being planned in art journaling as a theological practice
- Our attorney has drawn up a license agreement for the use of our field by IVMS

### Highlights from Our Finance Committee

- Addressed campus maintenance requirements, considering a monitoring system and potential external contractors.
- Will create a structure for annual in-house financial reviews; no external audit is necessary at this moment.

### Highlights from our Coordinating Council

- Joel Morrison requests exceptions to sell his book Compendium at UUCOV
- Community Outreach seeks approval to hold a Dec 7 & 14 lanai collection for SPARCC

**[Click here to read all meeting minutes \(password protected\).](#)**

### OUR SUNDAY HOSPITALITY TEAM NEEDS YOU!



We appreciate  
The tasty goodies you bring for the Refreshments table,  
both regular and gluten-free.  
We'd also like you to consider taking a shift preparing, serving, and,  
cleaning up from Refreshments duty.  
Contact Jean B. for details or to schedule a kitchen run-thru at  
your convenience:

[Jean.ISeetheWorld@hotmail.com](mailto:Jean.ISeetheWorld@hotmail.com)

Please see the signup sheet on the  
Lanai table and take a turn!

***Thank You!***

### FLOWERS FOR THE PULPIT



Enhance the beauty  
of our services by  
donating flowers. It  
is a great way to  
honor a loved one.  
**[Click here for more  
information](#)**

### NEW PARKING MAP

We made the parking area easier  
to maneuver. If you are at the  
sanctuary during the IVMS pick-  
up and drop-off times, you may  
park in the north parking lot and  
exit onto Pinebrook, as indicated  
on the map.

**[Click here to see the map](#)**



### HOW MANY BAGS DOES IT TAKE TO MAKE A MAT?



Have you ever wondered how many plastic bags it takes to make a sleeping mat? Our own Judy Heipel recently kept count. It took 410 bags!

Learn more about the art of making sleeping mats for the homeless by joining us on **October 4 and 18 from 10 to noon** in Waters Hall. Refreshments are provided.

### UPDATE YOUR EMERGENCY CONTACT IN BREEZE



Our online directory, Breeze, lets members securely access contact information. Many listings are missing an emergency contact, which could create serious problems if a health issue arises. Please take a moment to **log in** and add your emergency contact information today.

### SPECIAL OFFERING FOR ALSO YOUTH OCTOBER 12



On Sunday, Oct. 12, **we will support ALSO Youth**, which helps LGBTQ+ youth and their families in Sarasota and Manatee Counties. Their services include peer support, scholarships, counseling, and social events.

Please donate generously. If writing a check, make it payable to UUCOV with "ALSO Youth" in the memo.

### SAVE THE DATES FOR UUCOV ARTS & CRAFTS!

Rev. Amy will lead us in a two session workshop on creating a journal using art to create the pages. More information will follow, along with a sign up sheet.



**FRIDAYS, NOVEMBER 7 AND 21, 12:30-2:30 pm**

### UUCOV BOOK CLUB



The UUCOV Book Group will gather in October to share book suggestions for the upcoming season. The following titles were suggested at the September meeting:

- All The Beauty In The World by Patrick Bringley
- Bite By Bite by Aimee Nezhukumatathil
- Tita Rosie's Kitchen Mystery Series by Mia P. Manansala
- Under Alien Skies by Philip Plait
- Unraveling by Peggy Orenstein

Members are encouraged to bring their favorite recent reads to the meeting on **Thursday, October 9th at 1 p.m. in Waters Hall.**



## LANAI COLLECTION FOR JESSY'S TOY BOX OCT 12 & 19

Jessy's Toy Box was founded by a young boy undergoing cancer treatments. His wish was that every child undergoing care should receive a gift of a toy to help alleviate their pain and fear.

The organization distributes toys to hospitals, emergency rooms, infusion centers and first responders all over the United States. To date they have delivered over 10,200 toys in Sarasota County.

**Please see Janet Knudsen for a list of specific items requested.**

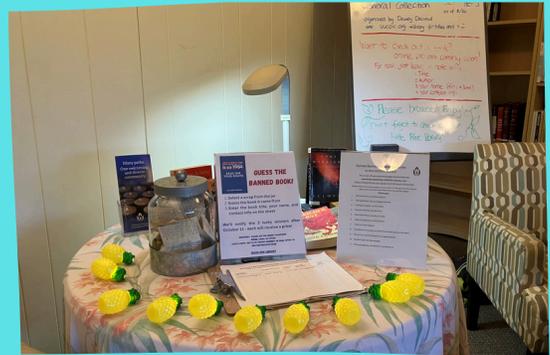
## UUCOV LIBRARY NEWS

Our library catalog is now complete, with over 500 items available for checkout! You can browse the collection online by [clicking here](#).

Donations of gently used UU-related non-fiction books are welcome again.

### Banned Books Needed!

Donate banned and challenged books  
to the UUCOV Library  
For a list of banned and challenged books and donation guidelines, [click here](#)



### Join us October 5–11 for Banned Books Week activities:

- **Speak Out:** share a one-minute video about your favorite banned book.
- **Guess the Banned Book:** read a mystery page and win a prize! Click here for details on this fun contest!

[Click here for full library update](#)



**Join Our Quarterly  
DEATH CAFE**



A Death Cafe is a group-directed discussion of death with no agenda, objectives, or themes. It is a discussion group rather than a grief support or counselling session.

All are welcome.

No registration needed!  
October 25 - 2pm  
Waters Hall

**[Click here for more information](#)**

**October Green Tip**



Green living is a sustainable lifestyle aimed at reducing our environmental impact. It involves mindful choices that consider our actions' effects on the planet and our connection to nature.

Arctic explorer Robert Swan noted, "The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it." What small step can you take to lessen your impact on the environment?

By Olga Hebert

**WISH LIST**

**THE WISH: Campus Water Supply**

Support our campus by connecting our irrigation system to the City of Venice's reclaimed water supply for a sustainable and reliable method of maintaining our grounds, even in dry seasons. For contributions or more information, contact Bill Dowling at (941) 228-3716 or [wbd429@gmail.com](mailto:wbd429@gmail.com).



**[Click here to see the full list.](#)**

**Meatless Monday**



Join us for a potluck-style Meatless Monday. Bring your vegetarian dishes to share!  
Monday, October 6, at 5pm in Waters Hall

**Halloween  
Party at  
UUCOV!**



Join us in the Sanctuary on Thursday, October 31, from 4 to 7 PM for an evening filled with food, fun, and festivities!

- We'll provide the main dish; please bring a potluck side to share.
- Enjoy games, music, and much more!
- Costumes are optional but highly encouraged.
- Don't miss out on this spooktacular celebration!

## October Calendar

All meetings and gatherings take place in Waters Hall, unless otherwise noted.

- Death & Grief Support Group: Oct 1 & 15 - 1:30pm
- Ladies' Open Gathering: Oct 2 - 12:30 pm
- Depression & Bipolar Support: Oct 2 - 7pm
- Mat Making: Oct 4 & 18 - 10am
- Blue Lotus Meditation: Saturdays - 10:30am (Sanctuary)
- Freethinkers of Venice Secular AA Meeting: Tuesdays - 6:30pm
- Morning AA Meeting: Thursdays - 5:45am (Sanctuary)
- Judy Houston Memorial Service: Oct 18 - 2pm
- Men's Open Group: Oct 11 & 25 - 10am
- Death Cafe: Oct 25 - 2pm
- Choir: Oct 30 - 4pm (Sanctuary)
- Arts & Crafts: Oct 31 - 12:30pm
- Halloween Party: Oct 31 - 4pm (Sanctuary)

### Special Collections

Jessy's Toy Box: Oct 12 & 19

ALSO Youth: Oct 12



## Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice

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



(941) 485-2105



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



[www.UUCOVBoutique.com](http://www.UUCOVBoutique.com)



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Services are Sunday at  
10 am at our Sanctuary,  
or live on our [website](#) or  
[YouTube](#) page

