



CONNECTION

December

2025



Join us for our Sunday 10 am service live in our Sanctuary
Or online at www.uucov.org.



MINISTERS MUUSINGS

[Click here to read Rev. Dr. Amy's message for this month](#)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

[Click here to read Steve Leapley's message.](#)



MEETING HIGHLIGHTS AND MINUTES

Board of Trustees Meeting Highlights – November 20

- We are having a significant increase in visitors. Our Pathways event on November 16 successfully welcomed six new members.
- The garden project is now fully funded.
- We will be sending the minutes from the Coordinating Council and Board of Trustees meetings to everyone in the congregation via email.

Coordinating Council Meeting Highlights – November 4

- More photos of UUCOV events in the Venice Gondolier.
- Joel Morrison's book is an excellent compilation of UUCOV's history.
- The UUCOV Boutique will be retired.

You can access the minutes from all our meetings in the [members-only](#) section on our website

DECEMBER WISH LIST

Sanctuary Safety Upgrade:

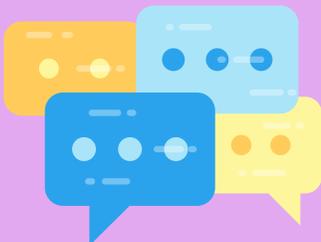
- **Wish:** Ensure safety for our congregation by protecting against targeted violence
- **Solution:** Install four protective bollards at the Sanctuary entrance.
- **Goal:** \$6000

Campus Irrigation Improvements

- **Wish:** Keep our campus thriving year-round.
- **Solution:** Connect our irrigation system to the City of Venice's reclaimed water supply.
- **Goal:** \$3500

[Click here for more information and to donate.](#) *Thank you!*

Communication Team News



Our seven-member Communications Team is up and running and always happy to welcome new volunteers! We're working on refreshed brochures, improved bulletin boards, and publicity for both congregational and public events.

[Click here to read more.](#)





Library News

Our refreshed UUCOV Library in Waters Hall is looking better than ever, thanks to the wonderful efforts of Cathay Keough, Bonnie Hurley, and Laura Olsen. The collection now includes Great Decisions CDs, banned books, LGBTQ titles, and many other engaging reads. Members may browse anytime they are on campus, visit during open hours on Tuesdays from 10–12, or [explore our online catalog](#) to see what's available.

UUCOV members can now reserve books and DVDs through their library account, an easy way to ensure your selected items are ready for pickup.

[Click here to read more.](#)

Calling all UUCOV Published Authors!

While celebrating our refreshed library, UUCOV would like to celebrate our published authors on Saturday, February 28, from 2 pm to 4 pm. If you are a UUCOV published author and would like to participate, please send your name, phone, email, and title or titles of books published by emailing [Cathay Keough](#)

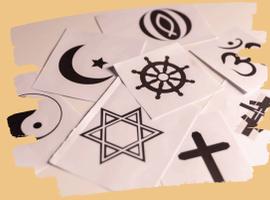


Our Halloween Party Was a Spooktacular Success!

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Halloween party such a joyful, spirited evening at UUCOV! The sanctuary and Lanai were filled with costumes, laughter, and connection as we enjoyed a scary story, treats, music, and time together.

We are especially grateful to all the volunteers who decorated, donated candy, helped with setup and cleanup, and made sure every guest felt welcome. Events like this remind us how lucky we are to have a community that shows up, for fun, for fellowship, and for one another.

Save the Date
UUCOV Christmas Service
Dec. 24 - 4pm
Sanctuary



**New Class with Rev. Amy!
Around the World in 12 Religions
Tuesday, Jan. 6 and Wednesday, Jan. 7
4PM at VOTI and UUCOV***

This course consists of two sections, so please plan to attend one or the other each week, not both. Each class is one hour long and will run for 12 weeks. We will delve into 12 faiths that are less commonly explored in Unitarian Universalism, including Mormonism, Baha'i, Sikhism, Jainism, Rastafari, Santería/Vodou, the Modern Church of Satan, Christian Science, Scientology, Zoroastrianism, Shinto, and the Unification Church.

*Please note: only the class on Jan. 6 will be held at VOTI



**UUCOV Creative Drop-in Time
Second Fridays
12:30 - 2:30 Waters Hall**

Looking to unwind while exploring your favorite creative medium? Connect with fellow UUCOVERs in a relaxed environment! Bring along any project you'd like to work on, along with supplies for clay, paint, coloring books, art journaling, knitting, or whatever inspires you. Feel free to pack your lunch and a drink, though it's not required. Come together for some creative inspiration, laughter, and engaging conversation.

Upcoming Dates:

Dec. 12, Jan. 9, Feb.13, Mar. 13, Apr. 10.

**Mat Makers
Dec. 6 & 20
10 AM**



Mat makers will meet on December 6 and 20 from 10 to noon in Waters Hall. All are welcome to stop by, share some coffee, and watch our process of turning plastic bags into comfortable sleeping mats for the homeless. No experience is needed, and all materials will be provided. This is a wonderful opportunity to make a real difference in people's lives, one mat at a time.

Join the "Sunday Hospitality Team"



If you'd like to help with Sunday refreshments at UUCOV, sign up on the sheet on the lanai table. Choose a date that works for you and arrive in the kitchen by 9:00 a.m. Jean B. is available to answer questions and assist new volunteers. Prepare baked goods from the freezer, accept any new donations, set items on plates for after the service, and help with cleanup.

Thank you for volunteering!

Best, Jean B.

Jean.Iseetheworld@hotmail.com



UUCOV Small Shared Dining

UUCOV Small Shared Dining Groups Are Forming for the 2026 Winter Season. Sign-ups for the groups will be available on the lanai. The deadline for sign-ups is Sunday, December 28th.

Small Shared Dining Options will take place on the following dates:

Wednesdays: Jan. 21, Feb. 18, Mar. 18, Apr. 22.

For any questions, please reach out to [Linda](#)

[Underwood](#)



Special Offering for Laurel Civic on December 14

This month's special offering on December 14 supports Laurel Civic, which operates a food pantry, provides after-school tutoring, hosts a summer reading program, organizes a life skills camp for teens, and offers workforce training at the Laurel-Nokomis Community Center. Donations by check should be made out to UUCOV with "Laurel Civic" in the memo line.



Special Offering for SPARCC on December 7 & 14



Community Outreach will hold a lanai collection for SPARCC (Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center) on December 7 and 14. SPARCC provides free, confidential services for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

For a list of needed items, contact Janet Knudsen or Marian Sawicki. Donations can also be made via check to UUCOV with "SPARCC" in the memo.



December Green Tip



Eat your GREENS. Isothiocyanates may inhibit the development of cancer, be anti-inflammatory and could protect us from damaging cell distortions. These phytochemicals are found in cruciferous vegetables, such as bok choy, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, spring greens, cabbage, kale, kohlrabi, mustard greens, and watercress, which are rich sources of isothiocyanates. Cooking, particularly boiling will reduce the quantity of isothiocyanates available to our bodies so eat raw or steam gently to maximise the benefits. Perhaps we'll see some of these greens at a Meatless Monday Supper, a good way to try something tasty and new!



Guest at Your Table: Plant Seeds of Justice!



During the holiday season, please consider donations to UUSC.ORG. Funds build justice across the globe in a time when many feel overwhelmed. UUSC used to make available little houses and envelopes for this donation. Now you can go online and donate.

Major actions support:

- Climate Justice leaders in Fiji
- Hope in wartime Ukraine
- Community protection grants located in areas of resistance and social justice

UUCOV SOCIAL JUSTICE UPDATE

The UUCOV Social Justice Committee actions and efforts so far have been focused on Immigration Justice. We have organized rallies, offered an educational forum on the Immigration Detention Crisis, and supported the immigrant community by distributing Legal Support handouts and Know Your Rights cards. Finally, we organized a trip to the Big Cypress Detention Center.

[Click here to learn more](#)

TRIP TO BIG CYPRESS DETENTION CENTER

On November 8, over 60 individuals gathered to support the Miccosukee tribe in their fight against environmental degradation and the closure of the Big Cypress Detention Center. The protest addressed serious issues like the detention of individuals without due process, inadequate legal access, poor living conditions, and constant bright lights.

[Click here to learn more](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

BLUE LOTUS BUDDHIST MEDITATION CENTER
PRESENTS OUR ANNUAL *New Year's Blessing*



- 🌸 SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 2026
- 🌸 4:00PM - 6:00PM ET
- 🌸 DONATIONS GRACIOUSLY ACCEPTED

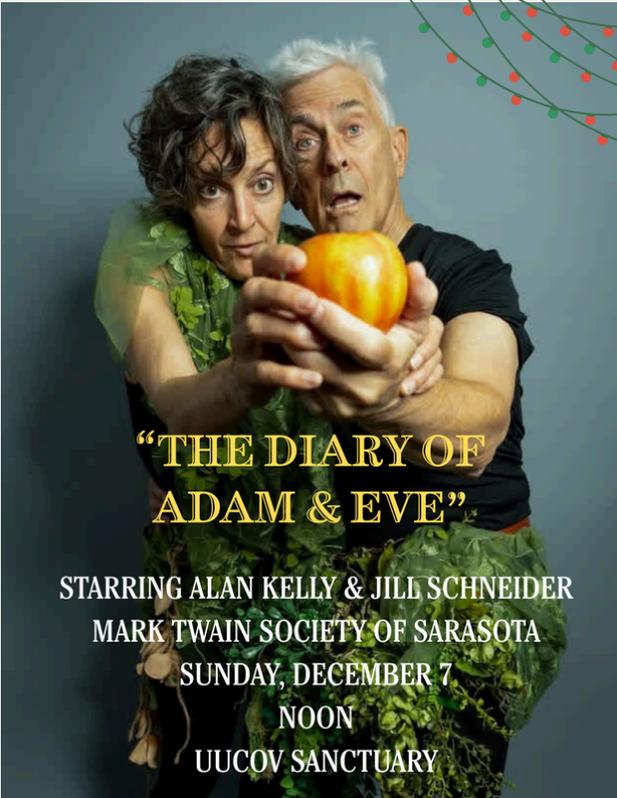
Join us for this sacred Buddhist ceremony to begin 2026 with a foundation of mindfulness and compassion. There will be chanting, a cleansing ritual, and distribution of bracelets.

Personal items will be collected for blessing so you can bring your everyday items like jewelry or statues.

Unitarian Universalist
Congregation Of Venice
1971 Pinebrook Rd,
Venice, FL



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"THE DIARY OF ADAM & EVE"

STARRING ALAN KELLY & JILL SCHNEIDER
MARK TWAIN SOCIETY OF SARASOTA
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7
NOON
UUCOV SANCTUARY



December Calendar

All meetings and events are held in Waters Hall unless otherwise specified.

For complete listings and further details, please visit [Breeze](#).

- Blue Fellowship: Dec. 1 & 15 - 10 am
- Meatless Monday: Dec. 1 - 5 pm
- Mahjong Learn or Play: Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 - 1 pm
- Stress & Life Transitions Group: Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 - 1:30 pm
- Freethinkers of Venice Secular AA Group: Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 - 6:30 pm
- Mat Making: Dec. 6 - 10 am
- Ladybird Group: Dec 4 & 18 - 1 pm
- Men's Open Group: Dec. 13 & 27 - 10 am
- Book Club: Dec. 11 - 1 pm
- Christmas Service: Dec. 24 - 4 pm (Sanctuary)

Upcoming Meetings:

- Coordinating Council: Dec. 2 - 9:30 am
- Board of Trustees: Dec. 18 - 9:30 am
- Social Justice Committee: Dec. 21 - 11:30 am (Sanctuary)
- Finance Committee: Dec. 16 - 2 pm

Non-UUCOV Events:

- Blue Lotus Meditation: Every Saturday at 10:30 am (Sanctuary).
- Venice Musicale Choir Rehearsal: Dec. 4 & 10 - 9:30 am (Sanctuary)
- Girl Scout Meetup: Dec. 8 - 5 pm



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice

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

 (941) 485-2105

 Office@UUCOV.org

 www.UUCOV.org

 www.UUCOVBoutique.com

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

