



# CONNECTION



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

## News and Announcements

- We are on the reclaimed water system. Venice's reclaimed water now supports our irrigation system for eco-friendly maintenance during dry seasons.
- Decorative boulders have been added at the Sanctuary's entrance for aesthetics and protection, enhancing the landscape. Thanks to all contributors for their efforts in campus care.
- Please ensure all doors, including the sliding glass door, are locked when leaving Waters Hall to prioritize community safety!
- Q&A Session on March 22 about Next Year's Charitable Contributions

## Ministers MUUsings

To read this month's Minister's Muusings, click Here



## Meeting Highlights

### Board of Trustees Feb. 19 Meeting

- A revised Policies and Procedures manual was approved
- UUCOV will be one of the sponsors of the Save Our Democracy event
- Renovations to Waters Hall will be explored

### Coordinating Council Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting

- Water fountains in the Sanctuary will be removed to create more usable space
- green visitor slips to be added in Waters Hall
- Annual Meeting set for March 29 after service

**To access all meeting minutes, click here**

## Message from Board President



This is Steve Leapley's last month as our Board of Trustees President. Click here to read his message to the congregation.

# CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

## Five Wishes: A Thoughtful Way to Plan Ahead



As Unitarian Universalists, we prioritize reflection, dignity, and alleviating burdens for loved ones. The Five Wishes advance directive is a compassionate tool for expressing medical decisions and personal values at life's end, serving as a legal directive in most states, including Florida. [Click here to read full article](#)

## Q&A Session on March 22 Regarding Next Year's Charitable Contributions

On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, a Q&A session will be held immediately after the service to present for discussion and/or questions the proposed charitable organizations to benefit from UUCOV's special offerings in fiscal year 2026-2027. These charities will be voted on at the upcoming annual meeting. We encourage you to attend this meeting to be better informed before the vote.

## Mat Makers Meeting March 7 and 21

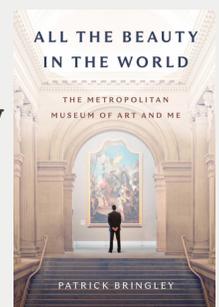
Mat makers need your help and your gently used plastic bags. Please consider joining us on March 7 and/or March 21 from 10 to noon in Waters Hall. The folding, cutting and tying that we do is simple, but the need is great.

## Bridge Games are Open

Bridge lessons are closed. Bridge games are now open at Waters Hall on Fridays from 1 pm to 3 pm. Try your skills and have fun with friends!

## Book Club March 12 - 1 pm

Join us for a lively discussion of *All the Beauty in the World*, by Patrick Bringley. Everyone is welcome, UUCOV members and friends alike.



Any questions, contact Eileen Leapley, [eleapley44@gmail.com](mailto:eleapley44@gmail.com)



# CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

## UUCOV Honors Bill Dowling & Linda Underwood



On Sunday, February 22, Linda Underwood and Bill Dowling were recognized with a plaque in appreciation of their ongoing contributions to UUCOV.

UUCOV Board of Trustees President Steve Leapley presented the award and conveyed heartfelt thanks to them. We truly appreciate everything you do!

## Learn More about Breeze

All members and contributing friends are encouraged to learn more about Breeze, allowing you to effortlessly look up congregants and events using our Breeze app, whether on your phone or computer. This initiative is led by Rev. Amy and Marcia Smith.

Don't have an account? Unsure about your status? Reach out to Anne Harrison at [annieharrison@comcast.net](mailto:annieharrison@comcast.net) for assistance.

Join us on Thursday, March 26, at 11 a.m. or on Sunday, April 19, at 11:30 a.m., both in Waters Hall.

Bring your tablets, phones or laptops!

## March Green Tip



I previously overlooked the plastic recycle bin at Publix, as I donate my plastic shopping bags to mat makers. I learned that various soft plastics, like bread bags and Ziplock bags, are recyclable but not accepted in county pickup bins. Trex collects these plastics to produce composite decking and outdoor items. Organizations can collect plastics for a NexTrex sweepstakes, while individuals can drop accepted plastics in Publix bins. More information is available at [NexTrex.com](http://NexTrex.com).

# CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

## The Fabulous February Auction Was a Success!



What a joyful evening! Our recent auction was a success, filled with laughter and strong support for UUCOV's mission, raising significant funds for our church. The event showcased our community spirit, thanks to everyone who donated, organized, and participated. Together, we are building a vibrant and caring congregation.



## A Beautiful Day for Books & Community



The UUCOV Library Ribbon Cutting and Book Signing on February 28 was a joyful celebration featuring 15 talented authors. The event fostered conversation and connection, highlighting the library's vibrant opening. Special thanks to Librarian Cathay Keogh and her team for their dedication and care, showcasing the creativity and community at UUCOV.

# CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

**UUCOV  
Annual  
Meeting  
March 29 -  
11:15 am**



Our Annual Meeting stands as one of the most significant events in our congregation’s life. It offers us the opportunity to reflect on the past year, vote on our leadership and budget for the upcoming year, and affirm the direction of our shared ministry.

This meeting is not merely a procedural formality; it symbolizes our covenant, shared governance, and collective commitment to the future of UUCOV.

## Wish List

### The Wish: Additional Guest Musicians



This new Wish List item was proposed by two UUCOV members who greatly enjoyed the music played by our guest cellist in late 2025. They suggested creating a special fund to support additional guest musicians in FY2026-27.

Our goal is \$1,000 and we have already received \$500 towards that goal. To contribute or for more information, contact our Treasurer, John Spitzer, at (319) 331-5914 or [john-spitzer@uiowa.edu](mailto:john-spitzer@uiowa.edu).

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**Special Food  
Offering  
Sunday, March 8**



Our food drive at the Sanctuary lanai is ongoing, and we welcome donations of nonperishable food items to support neighbors in need and spread UUCOV’s spirit of compassion. Most-needed items include Maseca, rice, beans, pasta and sauce, peanut butter, cereals, oatmeal, bread, soaps, detergents, hygiene products, diapers, and toilet paper. Donations can be dropped off in the collection area on the lanai before or after the service. Thank you for your support in embodying our values through these acts of care.



# UPCOMING EVENTS



**KARLUS TRAPP**  
THE ROOTS OF  
**BLACK MUSIC**  
IN AMERICA  
A MUSICAL JOURNEY THROUGH TIME

**KARLUS TRAPP**  
- SARASOTA'S MUSICAL TROUBADOUR -

**TAKE A MUSICAL JOURNEY THROUGH THE ROOTS OF AMERICAN POPULAR MUSIC!**  
Experience Blues, Rock n Roll, Motown, and the music of legends like Fats Waller, Muddy Waters, Little Richard, Marvin Gaye and many more!

MARCH 15, 2026 | 2PM - 4PM | 1971 PINEBROOK ROAD, VENICE

**- FREE -**

A dynamic, family-friendly blend of **EDUCATION** and **ENTERTAINMENT** for all ages!



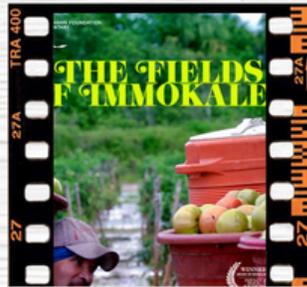
# UPCOMING EVENTS

## SOCIAL JUSTICE FILM FESTIVAL PRESENTED BY UUCOV

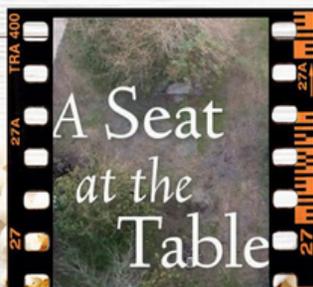
Short Films • Important Stories • Community Conversation



**TYLER**  
LGBTQ Identity



**THE FIELDS OF IMMOKALEE**  
Migrant farmworker justice



**A SEAT AT THE TABLE**  
Food insecurity & community gardens



**RISE OF ICE TOWNS**  
Immigration policy and community impact

Discussion follows each screening

**March 21, 2026**  
**1 PM - 4 PM**  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice  
1971 Pinebrook Rd., Venice, FL 34292  
**Free Event | All Are Welcome**  
[www.uucov.org](http://www.uucov.org)



# UPCOMING EVENTS



## SAVE DEMOCRACY FOR ALL CONFERENCE

Hosted by:  
Social Justice Alliance of the Florida Suncoast (SJAFS)

**March 28, 2026**  
**8:00 AM - 2:00 PM**  
Venice Community Center  
326 Nokomis Avenue South  
Venice, Florida

Admission is free, donations welcome.  
To register visit [sjafs.org](http://sjafs.org)

# MARCH CALENDAR

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

- **Mat Makers:** March 7 & 21 - 10 am
- **Blue Lotus Meditation:** Every Saturday- 10:30 am (Sanctuary)
- **Freethinkers of Venice Secular AA Group:** Every Tuesday - 6:30 pm
- **Death and Grief Support Group:** March 4 & 18 - 1:30 pm
- **AA Meeting:** Every Thursday - 5:45 am (Sanctuary).
- **Choir Rehearsal:** Every Thursday - 4 pm (Sanctuary).
- **Around the World in 12 Religions (VOTI):** Tuesdays- 4 pm
- **Around the World in 12 Religions (UUCOV):** Wednesdays - 4 pm
- **Men's Open Group:** March 14 & 28 - 10:30 am
- **Book Club:** March 12 - 1 pm
- **Venice Area Historical Society Lecture:** March 17 - 7 pm (Sanctuary).
- **Rummikub & Hugs Learn/Play:** March 5 - 12:30 pm.
- **Bridge:** Every Friday - 1 pm to 3 pm.

## SPECIAL EVENTS:

- **Karlus Trapp: The Roots of Black Music in America:** March 15 - 2 pm
- **Social Justice Film Festival:** March 21 1 pm to 4 pm
- **UUCOV Annual Meeting:** March 29 - 11:15 am (Sanctuary)
- **Save Democracy For All Conference:** March 28 - 8 am to 2 pm at the Venice Community Center.



## 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)

1971 Pinebrook Rd.

Venice, FL 34292-1563

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

