



CONNECTION

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

News and Announcements

April 8 Community Briefing

A community briefing session will take place on April 8 in the Sanctuary. Ayleen and Honor will provide updates on upcoming events, distribute information packets, and discuss the application of the DEE survey. Everyone is welcome to attend!

New Entry Codes for Doors

New door codes are now in effect. For those who need entry, please contact your Committee or Team Leader. Alternatively, you may stop by or contact the office during regular business hours.

Birthday Celebration Update

Our monthly birthday celebration has been rescheduled from Sunday the 4th to Sunday the 12th due to Easter. We look forward to celebrating with you! If it's your birthday month, please inform us and sign the birthday sheet on the lanai.

Special Offering on April 12 for South County Food Pantry

Our special offering on Sunday, April 12th will benefit the South County Food Pantry, which feeds about 1,200 people per month in Venice, Nokomis, Laurel, and Osprey.

Easter Goodies Needed!

We are looking for sweet and savory treats to make our Easter Sunday "Coffee & Conversation" hour extra special. [Click here to learn more](#)

Meeting Highlights

Board of Trustees Meeting- March 19

- Campus Improvements: Reclaimed water is operational, solar energy covers sanctuary electricity, and a new path from the northeast parking lot has been installed to reduce trip hazards.
- Waters Hall Renovations: Planning meetings will take place in mid-April to gather community feedback.
- Staffing Updates: Will Esty will serve as the summer minister for June and August, and a new Choir Director is scheduled to begin this November..

Coordinating Council Meeting- March 3

- Financial & Campus Wins: Solar power has lowered the electric bill to about \$32, and the reclaimed water project is complete.
- Engagement Opportunities: A "Checkpoint" meeting for new members is on April 12
- New Leadership: Drew Stuart has been nominated as the new Vice President, effective April.

[To access all meeting minutes, click here](#)

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Ministers MUUsings



To read this [month's Minister's Muusings](#), [click Here](#)

Good Friday and Easter Services



Please join us for the Good Friday Service, "The Way of Love," on Friday, April 3rd at 5 pm, and our Easter Service on Sunday, April 5th at 10 am. All are welcome!

Help Shape Our Future: DEE Community Survey

We invite your feedback through the new DEE Survey. Your thoughts are crucial for developing relevant programming for the upcoming year. Please take a moment to participate.

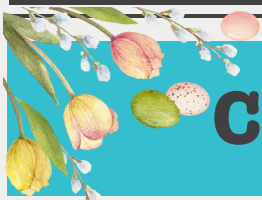
[Take the DEE Survey Here.](#)



2026 Annual Meeting Highlights

Our Annual Meeting on March 29 was a powerful celebration of our community's dedication, highlighted by the presentation of the well-earned Unsung Hero Award to Barb Gundy and Lifetime Achievement Awards to Kindra Muntz, Dale Povenmire, Steve and Eileen Leapley, Linda Underwood, and Bill Dowling. Steve Leapley officially turned over the president's gavel to Marcia Smith, our former Vice President. Following a successful vote to elect our new Board members, we are excited to move into a productive new year under this new leadership. For those who would like to review the full details, the official meeting minutes will be posted to the website soon.





CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Welcome Honor Posey: Our New Director of Education and Engagement

We are delighted to introduce Honor Posey, who has joined our team as the new Director of Education and Engagement (DEE). Honor will be leading our educational initiatives and community outreach efforts, focusing on strengthening our programs and our connection with the congregation.



Honor hails from the Front Range of the Colorado Rocky Mountains and inner-Beltway northern Virginia. With a passion for community and fascination with the "potential of potential," she seeks to create times and spaces that assist the evolution of "a more just and verdant world" wherever and whenever possible.

Her heroes include Barbara Ehrenreich, Madeline L'Engle, and Auntie Mame. When she isn't working, her hobbies include gardening, cooking, and 'splorin' with her rescue dogs and child in tow. She is an avid reader of Ray Bradbury and Beverly Cleary, and as a fun fact, Honor is an "Etch a Sketch savant." She will be at our April 8 Community Engagement meeting. Make sure to say hello!

Wish List Item: Waters Hall Renovation

Exciting news! A committee has been formed to plan the renovation of Waters Hall, built in 1972. You're invited to presentations on April 15 at 1:00 pm or April 19 after church. Proposed improvements include:

- Enhanced exterior with paint, landscaping, and signage
- Enclosed lanai for a combined large meeting/dining space
- Renovated kitchen and two bathrooms (one accessible)
- Enlarged Board Room
- Improved lighting, new flooring, and paint throughout

We hope to realize this "Wish List" item together. Sign-up sheets will be available on the lanai. Committee members: Pat Wellington (lead), Darryl Lang, Paul Miller, Moe Morison.





CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Library News



We are excited to welcome Barbara Pierce as a new UUCOV Library Volunteer! She has adapted well to cataloging and circulation tasks. An author, Barbara participated in the UUCOV Author/Library celebration on February 28. Her diverse background includes 16 years of sailing adventures from the Southern U.S. to Mexico and working as a licensed social worker in California, making her well-suited to assist UUCOV members in finding books.

Barbara's writing and self-publishing experience enriches her role at the UUCOV Library. Visit during regular hours on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. to welcome her, and say hello to Laura and Cathay as well! There is still one volunteer position available for those who enjoy books and helping others. If you have Tuesday mornings free and a tablet or laptop, contact Cathay at cathaykeough@gmail.com or text/call 941-233-2588, or speak to her in person on Sundays or during library hours.

Take a UUCOV author's book on your journey!

UUCOV authors are invited to participate in a program to distribute their books worldwide. Authors can donate books to the UUCOV Library for the Authors Book Summer Travel Program. The library will then distribute these books to travelers who will leave them at various locations, such as libraries and hospitals. Interested authors should contact the library at library@uucov.org for more information.

UUCOV Represented at the Save Democracy for All Conference on March 28

We are proud of our UUCOV members for their strong presence at the recent Save Democracy event, which was a great success. Special thanks to the Social Justice Alliance of the Florida Suncoast (SJAFS) for their hard work. It's been a busy month for Social Justice, and we appreciate the energy from our collaboration with SJAFS!





CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Marianne Koerner on WSLR!

Save the date! On Wednesday, April 8, at 9:00 AM, Marianne Koerner will be interviewed on WSLR Sarasota regarding the upcoming production of "***Building the Wall.***" Tune in for exclusive behind-the-scenes insights. Save the date! On Wednesday, April 8, at 9:00 AM, Marianne Koerner will be interviewed on WSLR Sarasota about the upcoming production of "Building the Wall." Tune in for exclusive behind-the-scenes insights. **[Click here to discover](#)** how the play came to life, thanks to the dedication and networking efforts of Marianne Koerner and Dave Williams, who contributed his woodworking skills to build the stage!

Help Our Local Wildlife

On April 12 and 19, Community Outreach will hold a lanai collection for the Wildlife Center of Southwest Florida, which rescues and rehabilitates injured and orphaned wildlife. You can shop from the short list below or visit their Amazon page at **www.wildlifewfl.org** for a longer list by clicking on WISHLIST. You can ship your purchases directly to WCSWF or to your address.

Food for Our Neighbors is an Ongoing Need

We collect food weekly for Neighbors in Need. Please consider food-insecure neighbors while shopping. Most needed items include Maseca, rice, beans, pasta, sauce, peanut butter, cereals, oatmeal, bread, soaps, detergents, hygiene products, diapers, and toilet paper.

Mat Makers Meeting on April 4 and 18

If you were intrigued or inspired by the mat making demo after church on Sunday, March 15th, please consider attending one of our mat making meetings this month to learn more. We'll meet on April 4 and 18 from 10 to noon in Waters Hall. Hot beverages and a sweet treat will be served.

APRIL GREEN TIP

Shopping for new clothes? If you need athletic wear, synthetic fibers have their place. But for everything else -- choose linen for the heat, tencel (made from wood fiber) for the feel, and pima cotton for the pieces you want to love for years. Your skin -- and the planet -- will notice the difference.



UPCOMING EVENTS

New!

Puzzle Exchange

on the shelves
in the UUCOV Library

Bring a puzzle ✨ Take a puzzle

No check out needed!

We welcome your gently used, complete sets of puzzles to share! Drop them off in the UUCOV Library's Donations Box.



Contact: library@uucov.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us for 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.

Please join us (no registration needed):

When: Saturday, April 25

Time: 2PM - 4PM

Location: Waters Hall



Death Cafes are free and respectfully offered:

- With no intention of leading people to any conclusion, product or course of action
- Alongside refreshing drinks and tasty treats (provided!)

Hosted by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice

Contact Cathay Keough (941-233-2588; away2gether@proton.me)



UPCOMING EVENTS



COMMUNITY BRIEFING at UUCOV

Wednesday, April 8, 2026
4:00 PM Sanctuary

Join us for a community briefing focused on what's ahead—and how we can work together.

Speakers

Ayleen Howe, Campus Director

Honor Posey, Director of Education & Engagement

We'll cover

- Upcoming events and potential collaborations
- Informational packets
- The Survey and how the DEE office is using it

All are welcome. Come to listen, learn, and take part in community conversation.

Questions or accessibility needs?
office@uucov.org dee@uucov.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

CUBA AT THE CROSSROADS: Sixty-Five Years after Revolution



Denis Rey
Center for José Martí Studies
Affiliate

Cuba is currently isolated and struggling to counter hostile U.S. actions. This presentation will explore how Cuba reached this point, the impact on its citizens, and the future of Cuba-U.S. relations, aiming to clarify the current human condition on the island.

April 15, 2026

4 PM

**1971 Pinebrook Rd.
Venice, FL 34288**

This event is free and open to the public

Light refreshments will be offered



PARTY FAVORS FOR PLANET EARTH



Rethinking Celebration in a Resource-Constrained World

Wednesday, April 22, 2026 - 4 PM

UUCOV Sanctuary: 1971 Pinebrook Rd., Venice, FL 34292

Simple choices can make celebrations more meaningful and far less wasteful.

Presented by Honor Posey, M.S.

Free toolkits, ideas, and resources for Earth Day 2026, and beyond

All are welcome. Curious minds encouraged.



UPCOMING EVENTS



BY ROBERT SCHENKMAN

**A Play Reading
Directed by Neal Cowan**

April 11, 2026 - 4:00 PM

1971 Pinebrook Rd., Venice, FL 34292

Free Event | All Are Welcome

Sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Venice and the Immigration
Justice Coalition of Southwest Florida



For more information: www.uucov.org



DEE CORNER

Introducing DEE Wednesdays!

We are excited to launch DEE Wednesdays, a new weekly series of afternoon events hosted by our Director of Education and Engagement. Every Wednesday at 4:00 PM, join us for a variety of engaging programs designed to spark conversation and community.



DEE Calendar of Events
April 2026

4pm; Wednesday, April 1, 2026
Movie Night and Discussion:
UUCoV
Fellini's "La Strada"

4pm; Wednesday, April 8, 2026
Community Briefing (+Q&A):
Honor Posey & Ayleen Howe
Upcoming Events & Collaborations

4pm; Wednesday, April 15, 2026
Special Guest Speaker (+Q&A):
Denis Rey, Co-Director the Center for Jose Marti Studies, University of Tampa
"Cuba at the Crossroads: Sixty-Five Years after Revolution"

4pm; Wednesday, April 22, 2026
Earth Day (DTC)

4pm; Wednesday, April 29, 2026
International Day of Dance (DTC)

Please refer questions to DEE@UUCOV.ORG




APRIL CALENDAR

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

- **Mat Makers:** April 4 & 18 - 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:** April 1 & 15 - 1:30 pm
- **AA Meeting:** Every Thursday - 5:45 am (Sanctuary).
- **Choir Rehearsal:** Every Thursday - 4 pm (Sanctuary).
- **Men’s Open Group:** April 11 & 25 - 10:30 am
- **Book Club:** April 9 - 1 pm
- **Rummikub & Hugs Learn/Play:** April 16 - 12:30 pm.
- **Bridge:** Every Friday - 1 pm to 3 pm.
- **MahJongg:** Every Tuesday at 1 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

1971 Pinebrook Rd.
Venice, FL 34292-1563

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

