



CONNECTION

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

Welcome Rev. Will Estes



Rev. Will Estes will be UUCOV's pastor for June and August, covering for Rev. Amy.

Will, a Meadville Lombard and University of Evansville alum, brings a background in the performing arts and a soul for social justice to UUCOV. A Milwaukee native and son of Nancy Bratt, Will's life is a mix of deep spiritual inquiry, "voracious" reading, and a love for gaming—both digital and analog.

When they aren't tending to their cats or a new craft project, they are dedicated to fostering solidarity and growth within the faith. Will has preached at UUCOV several times.

While Rev. Amy will be here in July, Will is excited to serve the UUCOV community while Rev. Amy is away in June and August.

Meeting Minutes

[May 21 BOT Meeting Minutes](#)

[May 5 Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes](#)

Ministers MUUsings



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

President's Message

[To read this month's President's message, click Here](#)





CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Meet Marcia Smith, BOT President!



As President of UUCOV's Board of Trustees, Marcia Smith brings a wealth of experience, dedication, and vision to the congregation. From leading the choir and serving on the Membership Team to helping guide campus planning and policy updates, Marcia has become a familiar and valued leader within our community. [Click here to read the full article.](#)

A Summer Thank You from the Fiscal Team

By Bill Reynolds

As summer begins, the Fiscal Team reflects on what makes UUCOV such a special community. From worship and music to social justice and fellowship, every part of congregational life is made possible through the generosity, participation, and commitment of members and friends. [Click here to read the full message.](#)



June Green Tip

PFAS, found in plastics, are a family of about 9,000 man-made chemicals that are extremely slow to break down, if they do at all. Researchers now say that virtually every American has bits of these plastics in their bodies. More and more of these chemical residues are being found in the country's water sources.

One switch to make is the dental floss you use daily. Most brands are coated with PFAS. Look for plastic-free and no-impact packaging. (I find it in Sprouts.)

Other steps to take are found [HERE](#)



Olga Hebert.



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

June Special Offerings:

Special Offering on June 14 for Laurel Civic



Our special offering on June 14 will benefit Laurel Civic. Laurel Civic runs a food pantry, after-school tutoring, a summer reading program, a summer life skills camp for teens, workforce development, and more to enrich the lives of local children and families. If you'd like to write a check, please make it out to UUCOV and write Laurel Civic on the memo line.

Lanai Collection for Streets of Paradise: June 7 & 14



Community Outreach will run a lanai collection for Streets of Paradise on June 7 and 14. Streets of Paradise provides outreach to the unhoused in Sarasota and Manatee Counties. They deliver over 150 hot meals per week, hygiene kits, clothing, blankets, and water. Their mobile unit provides showers and laundry facilities. Please see Janet Knudsen or Moe Morison for a list of specific items needed.

UUCOV's Mat Makers Stay Busy and Productive All Summer

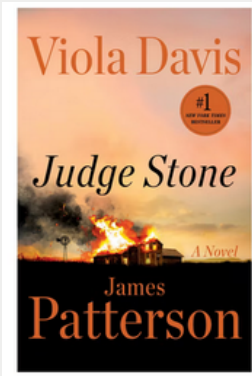


Come in out of the heat and join your UUCOV friends at mat-making this summer. We meet on the first and third Saturdays of each month (June 6 and 20) from 10 to noon in Water's Hall. Coffee and a sweet treat are served! We'll show you how to cut plastic bags into the strips we crochet into sleeping mats for the homeless.



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

**Book Club Title of the Month:
Judge Stone by Viola Davis & James Patterson**



“A respected Black female judge in a small Alabama town who must preside over the controversial case of a doctor charged with murder for performing an abortion on a 13-year-old girl, forcing her to confront deep-seated local politics and personal ethics.”
Join us on June 11 at 1 PM for an engaging discussion. Everyone is welcome!

New Game Day!

MahJongg will now take place on Mondays at 1 PM in Waters Hall, rather than on Wednesdays. Be sure to mark your calendars!



Birthday Celebration

Our June Birthday Celebration will be on June 14 after the service. Be sure to stay and grab a slice of cake! Sign up with Jean Barlow to be added to the birthday list!





Library News

Snowbird season often means downshifting to a slower speed, but not for the UUCOV Library! We are planning for a busy fall - more to come about this in the weeks ahead!

In May, we celebrated our Little Free Library with a display table in the lanai. Volunteers Barbara and Cathay engaged with UUCOV members about the library's mission and distributed free books, bookmarks, and puzzles.

Located near Waters Hall, the LFL is primarily stocked with fiction. Feel free to browse and take or share a book! If it's full, please donate directly to UUCOV's library in the Donations Box.



Library News

Pride



In June, the UUCOV Library celebrates Pride Month by offering a selection of LGBTQ+ books for our members.

Feel free to stop by, browse, and check out items to take home.

Check out our catalog of LGBTQ+ books here:

Featured titles include:

- The Stonewall Riots: Coming Out in the Streets by Gayle E. Pitman
- Heather Has Two Mommies by Lesléa Newman
- Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag by Rob Sanders

And if you are interested in volunteering, please let us know. We're looking for one more person to help with the fall projects.

If you have questions, please contact us at library@uucov.org or drop by on Tuesday mornings (10-12).

In the meantime, stay cool and have fun!

All our best,

Barbara, Laura and Cathay

Our Library Was Featured in The Venice Gondolier!

SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2026 PAGE B3



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY SALLY ERB
Barbara Pierce, a Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice library volunteer, invites Cindy Bouman to browse free books at the celebration of Little Free Library Day.

Celebrating Library Week, hiding books

STAFF REPORT

VENICE — The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice joined communities across the country in celebrating National Little Free Library Day and the launch of Little Free Library Week.

They had a free book giveaway at their library located at 2300 Edmondson Road in Nokomis.

As part of the national festivities, UUCOV participated in a special event tied to the release of "Remarkably Bright Creatures" on Netflix — hiding 150 copies of the beloved novel in Little Free Libraries across the United States, inviting readers everywhere to discover a free book and dive into the story.

The UUCOV Little Free Library is open to the public year-round. Community members are encouraged to take a book, leave a book, and share the love of reading.



The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice has a Little Free Library in its parking lot at 2300 Edmondson Road in Nokomis.

CHRIST VENICE CHURCH
Eric Ruff, Lead Pastor
Bob Haley, Executive Pastor

"Say Yes to Jesus"

Worship Service Times
8:00am Traditional
9:30am Contemporary
11:00am Traditional

Live Streamed
www.ChristVenice.com

1475 Center Rd, Venice
941.493.7504



SOCIAL JUSTICE CORNER



Our Social Justice Committee continues to advocate, educate, and empower our community!

In May, we welcomed Terry Kondo and Devon Oppenheimer to speak about fair elections and finding our place in the resistance.

We had a wonderful turnout for “Mr. Nobody Against Putin”, a film about the Ukraine war.

Keep an eye on the calendar for upcoming Social Justice events!

Would you like to join the Social Justice committee? Send a message to office@uucov.org.



UPCOMING EVENTS



CELEBRATING
MARILYN MONROE'S
100th Birthday! ♥

MOVIE SCREENING OF
THE MISFITS

JUNE 3RD 4PM

JOIN US
in our
SANCTUARY



Summer Dining

June 23 - 4:30 PM
Bodrum Restaurant

To join, sign up in the Lanai or
contact Pam Palmer.

Upcoming Dates:
July 28
August 25
September 22

JUNE CALENDAR

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

- **Mat Makers:** June 6 & 20 - 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:** June 3 & 17 - 1:30 pm
- **AA Meeting:** Every Thursday - 5:45 am (Sanctuary).
- **Choir Rehearsal:** Every Thursday - 4 pm (Sanctuary).
- **Men's Open Group:** June 13 & 27 - 10:30 am
- **Book Club:** June 11 - 1 pm
- **Rummikub & Hugs Learn/Play:** June 18 - 12:30 pm.
- **MahJongg:** Every **Monday** at 1 pm. (**New Time!**)



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice

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

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- 🛒 www.UUCOVboutique.com

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

