

# Unitarian Universalist Congregation



## Ormond Beach



### MINISTER'S COLUMN—The State of Our Congregation: Simply Remarkable

We are six months into our operating year, which began, fiscally, on July 1, 2020. The challenges of maintaining our institutional health have been great, and the learning curve is steep as the pandemic continues to bear down on us. Yet, what the Board of Trustees and you as the congregation have achieved in the last six months is simply remarkable. I believe we find ourselves in good health today because of one vital ingredient in our religious life together — your steadfast commitment.

Your commitment to be present to and connected with each other through attending Sunday morning Discussion Group and Worship Services has been exceptional. While other congregations are experiencing declines in attendance and membership, we have been steady-on, with an average of 60 people signing in on Zoom every Sunday. You are also showing up on Zoom for committee meetings, Soul Matters Groups, Lifelong Learning, FAITH meetings, and many other events which keep us growing intellectually and spiritually.

In addition to the gift of your presence to the congregation, you have also been steadfast in your financial support by fulfilling your pledge commitments which, in uncertain times, proves your sense of abundance and generosity. Further, by ratifying the recent capital improvements to our premises, you not only assure a safe and lovely religious home for us to return to, but you also extend a welcoming hand to seekers of our unique liberal religion who will come to us from the wider community and find themselves safe and comfortable in our spaces.

In terms of steadfast commitment, I want to give special thanks to our Congregational President Julie Hilburn, who has worked tirelessly to improve our institutional integrity. She is doing so, in part, by reorienting our functioning to our mission and vision, which state who we are and why we do what we do as a congregation. Julie will continue to work diligently with our other leaders to create written policies and procedures which ensure our work consistently serves our mission.

Lastly, I want to address the question I am sure is on all our minds at this time — when will be able to return to the building and once again enjoy in-person worship services? It is still too soon to say, but presently I am working with our Technology Team to launch the worship service from the sanctuary, starting again in February. We will work toward better production quality and live-streaming that will be accessible to a much wider audience. Live-streaming will facilitate our transition to in-person worship by allowing hybrid gatherings where folks will have a choice of whether to join in person or connect from home. And, of course, this way, our seasonal and relocated members can continue to stay connected to our community.

I close in thanking you all, members of this remarkable congregation, for your steadfast commitment to maintaining our beloved community in the face of tough and challenging times. You are awesome!

In faith and love,  
Rev. Kathy

## OUR PRESIDENT'S PEN—Our Shared Values

**“The courage to see beyond crisis, to do what is hard, to do what is good, to unite, to believe in ourselves, believe in our country, believe in what we can do together.”**

These are the words of Vice President Kamala Harris, on Inauguration Day this past January 20th, expressing her hopes for our shared future, the future of the United States of America.

We are living through a time of shared crisis. “Sharing” is the key word here. We at UU are working to serve others, keep ourselves safe and healthy, and continue the effort to follow our Seven Principles, in which we all share values in common although we each certainly express and live by them in our own unique ways.

February is Black History month in which we remember and celebrate those remarkable African-American men and women who have come to the notice of historians. However, let us also remember those unremarked African-Americans who have toiled and struggled, laughed and loved, created a home for family and lived everyday lives.

As Vice President Harris continued: "It is my honor to be here, to stand on the shoulders of those who came before, to speak tonight as your vice president. In many ways this moment embodies our character as a nation. It demonstrates who we are, even in dark times," she said. "We not only dream, we do. We not only see what has been, we see what can be. We shoot for the moon and then we plant our flag on it. We are bold, fearless, and ambitious. We are undaunted in our belief that we shall overcome, that we will rise up. This is American aspiration." May it be so.

--Julie Hilburn

## UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

### January 31— Cliff Jackson, “Aphantasia: When the Mind’s Eye is Blind”

The world changed for Cliff when he found out he has Aphantasia— the inability to form mental images. Recent research has revealed a continuum or wide variation among individuals in their ability to visualize familiar objects or people. Cliff will share facts, findings and his own experiences related to Aphantasia. He will explain the test and bell curve so that anyone who is interested can see where they fall on that continuum. He hopes to share new meaning to the UU phrase: “We need not think alike to love alike.”

### February 7<sup>th</sup> — Rev. Kathy Rickey, “We Need Not Think Alike to Love Alike”

In Unitarian Universalism, the tie that binds us is covenant rather than creed. Covenant is the promise to walk together in love while seeking truth and meaning for ourselves—from that sacred search, faith and Beloved Community emerges. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Francis David captured this idea in his proclamation, “We need not think (or believe) alike, to love alike.”

### February 14<sup>th</sup> — Rev. Kathy Rickey, “Thirty Days of Love”

Happy Valentine’s Day! Let’s look back on the last 30 days of the Unitarian Universalist Association’s “Side with Love” Campaign and how the UU Beloved Community is manifesting itself in the world.

### February 21<sup>st</sup> — Ellen Nielsen, “The Long Friendship: John Adams and Thomas Jefferson”

Two very different American patriots collaborated on writing the Declaration of Independence and later served together as diplomats for our new nation. However, partisan politics divided them. Their friendship seemed broken beyond repair after the bitterly fought election of 1800, but they renewed it years later. Their story reminds us that it is possible for painful political wounds to be healed.

**February 28<sup>th</sup> — Rev. Kathy Rickey, “The Work of Faith and Building Beloved Community”**

Our congregation is one of the founding members of FAITH (Fighting Against Injustice Towards Harmony), a community organizing non-profit for Volusia County. Let us explore community problems and the solutions that will be brought before civic leaders on March 22 at the Nehemiah Action Assembly.

**March 7<sup>th</sup> — Rev. Kathy Rickey, “As the Spirit Moves”**

The worship theme for March is Commitment. Rev Kathy will see what bubbles up with the question, “What commitments must we make in building and sustaining Beloved Community?”

**Although we will NOT be meeting in person as a congregation for these Sunday services, they will be live streamed on Zoom each appropriate Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Please join us and tune in then.**

**You can access the link for them on our website at <http://www.uuormond.org/>**

**UU VALENTINE CONCERT—Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m.**

In this time for love, through Zoom, we invite you to our UU Valentine Concert! We will have music, songs, poetry, readings, and a few singalongs. We look forward to all the love we’ll share on this day! We are aiming to include all those who wish to celebrate with their talent and heart as well as all those who will just enjoy the concert! (Every performer needs an audience!) Rev. Kathy Rickey and Ludy Goodson will co-host on Zoom for this event. For more information about the concert, please contact Ludy at [songsavor@hotmail.com](mailto:songsavor@hotmail.com) or text her a at (260) 416-9282. We’ll send out an e-mail with the Zoom link a day before the concert, so all of you can join in sharing a Valentine connection.

**RACIAL JUSTICE—Join Us for These February Programs**

**Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 p.m. — “Green Days by the River”** a Trinidad and Tobago Production (Kweli TV) presented by Reinhold Schlieper

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83868311349?pwd=SURFN25yZDkvVmwzT05Ma1ZSRDIBZz09>



**Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.— *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*** by Isabel Wilkerson; book discussion led by Ellen Nielsen

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86895548720?pwd=NTJzSnpmL2FqRUVsd1NFZXF4S1AwQT09>

**Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.— *And Still I Rise*** by Maya Angelou, poetry reading and discussion presented by Linda Kalaydjian

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86226091936?pwd=RDN2S2E1NnFBTDlnWVZvc0s1enpqZz09>

**Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.—“Widening Our Circle of Concern” *UUA Report from the Commission on Appraisal*** presented by Rev. Kathy

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81484998715?pwd=T3N4MXdLMFRYOUINdVJnckxoSm1odz09>

## **BOOK DISCUSSION— *Caste* on February 6**

On February 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. the UUCOB Racial Justice study group will offer a discussion on Zoom of *Caste*, by Isabel Wilkerson, led by Ellen Nielsen. This book, an Oprah's Book Club selection, is a detailed explanation of how and why the system of white supremacy in the United States came into existence, and how and why it continues to afflict our country today. Wilkerson compares the white supremacy system to the centuries-old caste system in India and also to the system set up in Nazi Germany during the 1930's, which resulted in the Holocaust.

“Caste is insidious and therefore powerful because it is not hatred, it is not necessarily personal. It is the worn grooves of comforting routines and unthinking expectations, patterns of a social order that have been in place for so long that it looks like the natural order of things.”

*Caste* is a big book—almost 400 pages, so if you plan to read it, get started right away. *Caste*, by Isabel Wilkerson, was published in 2020 by Random House (ISBN-13: 9780593230251). There is one copy of the book in Room Two in our UUCOB lending library.

–Ellen Nielsen

## **THE ALLIANCE—Active, Despite the Pandemic**

Despite the pandemic, the UUCOB Alliance has been able to participate in several community outreach opportunities. Our holiday project involved raising money to purchase gifts for students at a local elementary school who otherwise might have had a less cheerful Christmas. Even though there was no sock-decorated Christmas tree in our sanctuary this year, we were able to donate socks, clothing, and toiletry kits to homeless people through one of our Share-the-Plate partners, God's Bathhouse.

The Alliance met through Zoom on January 7. Members have been working with our Congregational President, Julie Hilburn, to improve communication between the Alliance and the Board of Trustees, as well as to transfer the Alliance funds to a cost center within the UUCOB bookkeeping system in order to protect the tax-exempt status of both the Alliance and UUCOB.

During January we have been raising money to purchase pet food for the pet food bank operated by Sophie's Circle. All contributions have been triple-matched by two generous donors from the Alliance. Next month, the Alliance will be raising funds and collecting food donations for the Jerry Doliner Food Bank, which serves hungry families here in Volusia County. Even though we are physically isolated from each other, we find joy in reaching out to people in our community whose lives have been disrupted by the pandemic.

The next Alliance Zoom meeting will be on February 11 at 12:00. If you wish to visit with us or to join the Alliance, please contact Jeanne Young or Ellen Nielsen to find out how to participate in our online meeting.

## **GOD'S BATHHOUSE— Accepting Donations**

God's Bathhouse is “on hold” in terms of homeless recipients meeting with us in our parking lot once a month. We will notify church members when we next connect with these individuals in person. In the meantime, I am accepting gently-used or new clothing, toiletries and food to distribute to them. I will be delivering donations to them during the first week of February. Our members and friends can leave their offerings at my home or in the donations basket in the sanctuary at UUCOB. If you have questions or want to help in other ways, please contact me (Helen Casoli) via text or e-mail.

--Helen Casoli

## SHOW UP FOR JUSTICE — The Work of FAITH Continues

FAITH (Fighting Against Injustice Towards Harmony) is the community-organizing non-profit of which our congregation is a founding member. FAITH works to solve community problems at their root causes, seeking justice by asking civic leaders to implement solutions that bring about systematic change in Volusia County.

When I say FAITH, I mean we—us, you, and me— because without the grassroots work of the people in over 30 congregations in Volusia, there would be no effort to end the school-to-prison pipeline, no housing the homeless, no saving lives with Narcan, no drug treatment programs for the incarcerated.

In the face of the pandemic, the work of FAITH continues. We have been meeting on Zoom for events like the Community Problems Assembly. The Housing and Youth Committees have been meeting via Zoom during the research process. Committee members have been meeting virtually with officials as we prepare for this year's Nehemiah Action Assembly on March 22. This year, we are working on an exciting venue for the Action that will be like going to a Drive-in theatre. Stay tuned for updates.

In the meantime, please put these important dates on your calendar and plan to show up for justice in Volusia County. These events will all be via Zoom except for the Action Assembly.

### February 22, 6:30 pm, Monday — FAITH Justice Ministry Network Meeting

Everyone in the congregation is invited, but especially those who attended a House Meeting in this past fall and committed to be a Justice Ministry Network Member. You will be getting a reminder from your Team Leader about your commitments and attending this meeting.

### March 1, 6:30 pm, Monday — FAITH Rally

Once again, all are invited but especially Justice Ministry Network Members as we prepare for the Nehemiah Action Assembly and hear about the issues and possible solutions. We will also hear about the civic leaders who will attend the Action Assembly.

### March 22, 6:30 pm, Monday — FAITH Nehemiah Action Assembly

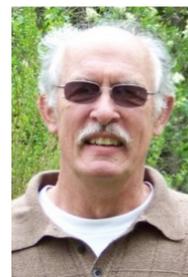
This is a public event to which all FAITH congregations, the public, and the media, all invited. The Action Assembly is the most important night of the year for our Justice ministries. That night FAITH congregations “show up for justice” by gathering the community together to address public leaders and ask them to act on issue of injustice in Volusia County. You will be able to join via livestream or in your vehicle at a location to be announced. Either way, your presence will be counted and showing up will make all the difference for justice in Volusia County.

See you there,  
Rev. Kathy, Co-Chair for FAITH



### Transitions

Our beloved member Peter Remington died on January 19<sup>th</sup> of a pulmonary embolism. Peter and his wife Lorell joined our UU in 2009, and Peter was active in helping to care for our building and grounds until Parkinson's disease limited his physical activities. The family will have a private memorial on January 30<sup>th</sup> and hold a Zoom memorial service at a later date. In lieu of flowers, contribution can be made in Peter's name to the Shriners' Hospital for Children, 2900 Rocky Point Drive, Tampa, FL 33607 or contribute at <https://lovetotherescue.org/>



## **OUR NEW WEBSITE— Join Us After the Sunday Service on February 7<sup>th</sup>**

Events in 2020 have forced us all to rethink the business-as-usual ideas that we hold dear and have required us to adapt rapidly and sometimes painfully to new ways of doing things. In keeping with that need, our congregation has used its time, money and energy planning for the future. We have painted and cleaned up our church, we have learned how to Zoom, and we have realized the importance of making our church activities available in the digital world, including a new UUCOB website.

Our new website is under construction. The Website Team will be demonstrating Phase 1 to the congregation on February 7<sup>th</sup> after church services. The new website is built on the WordPress platform, and is using the UUA recommended theme. The accompanying database is MySQL. That is all the “geek speak” for this article.

The first milestone is to have the new website up and running with basic information by the end of February 2021. At that time, information such as the *Jotter*, E-News and Calendar of Events will be active and available to church members. Between February and June 2021, the new website will be changing frequently as pages of information, photos and videos are added, and the overall website grows organically. During this time, members of the Web Team and also various members of church committees will be learning how to maintain and update the new website. The goal is to cross-train many members so that the website is easily maintained and so that no part of it is dependent on a single person.

The new website has many new functions, such as the ability to have a web page read aloud (for the visually impaired) or to choose which language the viewer may wish to use to read the website (12 languages are supported, including Spanish, Russian, Chinese, and Dutch). We believe that this sort of functionality will not only support our existing members, but will attract guests and new members. The website has also been optimized to present itself in the best possible way, depending what device (desktop, laptop, tablet or phone) viewers may be using to access it. Internet security will also be enhanced.

This highly visual website will make available many photos and videos that convey who we are as individuals and as a congregation. The overall layout has been designed to make it easy to navigate and help viewers find exactly the information they might be looking for via search box, menu or drop-down items. The Website Team invites you to join us on Zoom and preview the new UUCOB website on February 7<sup>th</sup> immediately after our 10:30 a.m. worship service.

--Kathryn Neel

## **STATEMENT OF CONSCIENCE—Make Your Voice Heard**

As an affirmation of our faith and values, our national organization, the Unitarian Universalist Association, often takes positions on important social justice issues. Presently, the UUA is conducting a survey as to a proposed Statement of Conscience on undoing Intersectional White Supremacy in the United States. In order for the proposed statement to be placed on the final agenda for the 2021 General Assembly, at least 25% of all certified congregations must participate in the voting. If they do, then delegates to the GA can discuss, debate and choose to amend the Statement or send it back to committee for further study.

Our UUCOB members can participate in the decision to include the statement for discussion at the GA this coming June. If you have not already participated in the vote, you can do so before the February 7<sup>th</sup> close. Research the issue at the UUA website (search: “UUA statement of conscience 2021”) and also contact our Denominational Affairs chair John Horner at [jhorner100@gmail.com](mailto:jhorner100@gmail.com) for a link to the survey.

## Calendar for February

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> Bag lunch w. Rev. Kathy: noon-1 pm <b>via Zoom</b>  Yoga: 5-7 pm	<b>2</b> Mah Jongg <b>postponed</b>  Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm <b>via Zoom</b>	<b>3</b> Racial Justice: 4 - 5:30 pm <b>via Zoom</b>	<b>4</b> Caring mtg. <b>postponed</b>  Spiritual Growth: 4:30 - 6 pm <b>via Zoom</b>	<b>5</b> Potluck: cancelled	<b>6</b> Music rehearsal: 10-11 am  Racial Justice: 10-11:30am <b>via Zoom</b>
<b>7</b> <b>Discussion Group:</b> 9:15-10:15 am & <b>Sunday Service:</b> 10:30-11:30 am <b>both via Zoom</b>  N. Anon: 7-8 pm	<b>8</b> Finance mtg.: 10:30am - noon <b>via Zoom</b>  Bag lunch w. Rev. Kathy: noon-1 pm <b>via Zoom</b>  Yoga: 5-7 pm	<b>9</b> Mah Jongg <b>postponed</b>  Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm <b>via Zoom</b>	<b>10</b> Worship mtg.: 11 am-Noon <b>via Zoom</b>	<b>11</b> The Alliance: noon-2 pm <b>via Zoom</b>  Spiritual Growth: 4:30 - 6 pm <b>via Zoom</b>  Democratic Club: 6:30-7:30 pm <b>via Zoom</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Music rehearsal: 10-11 am   <b>Valentine Concert 5-7 pm via Zoom</b>
<b>14</b> <b>Happy Valentine's Day</b>  <b>Discussion Group:</b> 9:15-10:15 am & <b>Sunday Service:</b> 10:30-11:30 am <b>both via Zoom</b>  N. Anon: 7-8 pm	<b>15</b> <b>President's Day holiday</b>  Bag lunch w. Rev. Kathy: noon-1 pm <b>via Zoom</b>  Yoga: 5-7 pm	<b>16</b> Mah Jongg <b>postponed</b>  Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm <b>via Zoom</b>	<b>17</b> Racial Justice: 4 - 5:30 pm <b>via Zoom</b>	<b>18</b> Spiritual Growth: 4:30 - 6 pm <b>via Zoom</b>  <b>Board of Trustees mtg:</b> 5:30- 7 pm <b>via Zoom</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Music rehearsal: 10-11 am  Racial Justice: 10 am- noon <b>via Zoom</b>  IONS: 1- 4 pm  <b>Jotter articles due</b>
<b>21</b> <b>Discussion Group:</b> 9:15-10:15 am & <b>Sunday Service:</b> 10:30-11:30 am <b>both via Zoom</b>  N. Anon: 7-8 pm	<b>22</b> Bag lunch w. Rev. Kathy: <b>via Zoom</b>  Yoga: 5-7 pm	<b>23</b> Mah Jongg <b>postponed</b>  Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm <b>via Zoom</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Membership mtg.: 2:30- 4 pm <b>via Zoom</b>  Spiritual Growth: 4:30 - 6 pm <b>via Zoom</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Music rehearsal: 10-11 am
<b>28</b> <b>Discussion Group:</b> 9:15-10:15 am & <b>Sunday Service:</b> 10:30-11:30 am <b>both via Zoom</b>  N Anon: 7- 8 pm						

## Upcoming Worship Services

Theme for February—Beloved Community

Date:	Topic:	Presenter:	Service Leader:
January 31--	“Aphantasia: When the Mind’s Eye is Blind”	--Cliff Jackson	--Rita Scheeler
February 7--	“We Need Not Think Alike to Love Alike”	--Rev. Kathy Rickey	--Cliff Jackson
February 14--	“Thirty Days of Love”	--Rev. Kathy Rickey	--Cliff Jackson
February 21--	“The Long Friendship: John Adams & Thomas Jefferson”	--Ellen Nielsen	--Cliff Jackson
February 28--	“The Work of Faith and Building Beloved Community”	--Rev. Kathy Rickey	--Cliff Jackson
March 7 --	“As the Spirit Moves”	--Rev. Kathy Rickey	--Carolyn West

Although we will not be meeting together in our church building for these services, you can still join us for them. They will be live-streamed on Zoom at 10:30 a.m. on each appropriate Sunday.

We appreciate our musicians and technical folks who are helping to facilitate these Zoom sessions!

You can access the Zoom link for the services on our website at <http://www.uuormond.org/>



*Terry Terranera -2<sup>nd</sup>*  
*Tom Hanson- 3<sup>d</sup>*  
*Dan Kennedy -6<sup>th</sup>*

*Chris Gruner - 13<sup>th</sup>*  
*Scott Macpherson -23<sup>d</sup>*  
*Harry White -28<sup>th</sup>*

### February Birthdays

## The Jotter

February 2021

### Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation Ormond Beach

56 North Halifax Drive, Ormond Beach, Florida 32176

Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey, Minister: [revk2rickey@gmail.com](mailto:revk2rickey@gmail.com)

Julie Hilburn, President: [juliehilburn26@gmail.com](mailto:juliehilburn26@gmail.com)

RE teachers: Debra Hanson/Mary Wentzel

Cathy Jackson: Office Administrator:

 Office: e-mail [uucob@aol.com](mailto:uucob@aol.com) or call (386) 677-6172

Like us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/%20%20www.uuormond.org/>

Website: <http://www.uuormond.org>

Carolyn West: *Jotter* [westwind273@bellsouth.net](mailto:westwind273@bellsouth.net)

Betty Green: *E-News* [bngreen@fastmail.us](mailto:bngreen@fastmail.us)

Sunday Children’s RE via Zoom

Sunday Discussion Group 9:30 a.m. via Zoom

Sunday Worship Services 10:30 a.m. via Zoom

(See our website above for links)

**Church administrator Cathy Jackson will be working from home; you can e-mail her or leave a message at 677-6172.**